

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

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Statewide Edition

May 5, 1999

this week's news

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TBC membership grows despite SBC decline

By Connie Davis & Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Although churches of the Southern Baptist Convention reported a membership decline for the first time since 1926, Tennessee Baptist churches reported an increase of 1.16 percent.

In actual members, the SBC lost 162,158 (1.02 percent) while the TBC gained 12,978 (1.16 percent), according to figures from the 1997-98 Annual Church Profile (ACP). Tennessee Baptist ACP reports for the last five years have shown an increase of members each year, about 1 percent.

TBC reports paralleled SBC findings on baptisms showing a slight decrease of 1.19 percent in the state and 1.16 in the denomination. The ratio of baptisms to total membership for both was 1 to 39.

TBC churches showed a drop in baptisms after reporting an increase the previous three years of 10.6 percent, 5.2 percent, and 5.3 percent.

The SBC and TBC both showed increases in Sunday School enrollment, Discipleship Training enrollment/participation, and music ministry enrollment/participation, while Woman's Missionary Union enrollment decreased less than 1 percent in both cases.

The TBC and SBC differed

in Brotherhood enrollment/participation. The SBC reported an increase of .64 percent, while the TBC showed a decrease of 1.64 percent.

The TBC Sunday School enrollment increase was better than the SBC increase — 1.33 for the TBC and .1 percent for the SBC. Enrollment among TBC churches has increased three of the past five years and the decreases were less than 1 percent. In the SBC, the program has increased three of the past four years.

Discipleship Training (DT) enrollment/participation in the TBC didn't show the increase of the SBC. The SBC showed 4.27 percent to the TBC's 1.6 percent.

The 1997-98 SBC total represents the highest enrollment/participation in the DT program since 1965, but the slump was shorter in the TBC as the 1997-98 total represents the highest report since 1990-91.

— See TBC, page 7

Average Tennessee Church in Four Categories

| With 1-200 resident members (1,384 or 53.5% of churches) | With 201-500 resident members (816 or 31.5% of churches) |
|---|--|
| ➤ Resident members106 | ➤ Resident members.....312 |
| ➤ Baptisms.....5 | ➤ Baptisms.....11 |
| ➤ Sunday School enrollment.....64 | ➤ Sunday School enrollment.....174 |
| ➤ Discipleship Training enrollment.....16 | ➤ Discipleship Training enrollment.....59 |
| ➤ Music enrollment.....18 | ➤ Music enrollment.....50 |
| ➤ WMU enrollment.....7 | ➤ WMU enrollment.....29 |
| ➤ Brotherhood enrollment.....3 | ➤ Brotherhood enrollment.....13 |
| With 501-999 resident members (272 or 10.5% of churches) | With 1,000-plus resident members (116 or 4.48% of churches) |
| ➤ Resident members694 | ➤ Resident members.....1,906 |
| ➤ Baptisms.....22 | ➤ Baptisms.....59 |
| ➤ Sunday School enrollment.....483 | ➤ Sunday School enrollment.....1,695 |
| ➤ Discipleship Training enrollment.....149 | ➤ Discipleship Training enrollment.....442 |
| ➤ Music enrollment.....116 | ➤ Music enrollment.....360 |
| ➤ WMU enrollment.....59 | ➤ WMU enrollment.....142 |
| ➤ Brotherhood enrollment.....30 | ➤ Brotherhood enrollment.....66 |

Data from 359 of total 2,947 churches was not included because churches did not report any resident members. Prepared by Nina Palmer of the TBC staff from Annual Church Profile data provided each year by Tennessee Baptist churches.

Tennessee Church Statistics

| Membership | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | % changed |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Total | 1,118,526 | 1,131,504 | 1.16 % |
| Resident | 808,187 | 810,904 | 0.33 % |
| Baptisms | 29,265 | 28,916 | -1.19 % |
| Sunday School | 570,168 | 577,753 | 1.33 % |
| Discipleship Training | 162,461 | 165,062 | 1.60 % |
| Music | 140,245 | 144,162 | 2.79 % |
| WMU | 67,757 | 67,639 | -0.17% |
| Brotherhood | 32,099 | 31,570 | -1.64 % |
| CP gifts | 30,046,448 | 30,837,906 | 2.63% |
| Designated gifts | 15,510,032 | 16,214,062 | 4.54% |
| Total gifts | 45,556,480 | 47,051,968 | 3.28% |



ELECTED to lead the Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Association at its annual meeting April 12-14 were, from left, Betti Owens, First Baptist Church, Millington, representative; Ann Beasley, First Baptist Church, Nashville, secretary/treasurer; Sue Belcher, Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Kingsport, representative; Susan Gamble, Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport, vice president; Sarah Farmer, Southwestern Baptist Church, Johnson City, president; and Donna Haskins, Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church, Crossville, representative.

TBC churches continue strong CP giving pattern

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — After six months of the 1998-99 budget year, Tennessee Baptists are continuing their strong pattern of giving to the Cooperative Program.

Tennessee Baptist Convention churches gave \$2,445,640 to the Cooperative Program in April.

For the year-to-date (November-April), Tennessee Baptists have given \$16,275,374 in CP gifts, an increase of 4.92 percent over the \$15,512,376 given over the same period last year.

— See TBC churches, page 7

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NASHVILLE TN 37203-3628

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- ▶ **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 48 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$10; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.50 per subscription; other plans available
- ▶ **Lonnie Wilkey, editor** — (615) 371-2046, lwilkey@tnbaptist.org
- ▶ **Connie Davis, assistant editor** — (615) 371-7928, cdavis@tnbaptist.org
- ▶ **Susie Edwards, administrative secretary** — (615) 371-2003, sedwards@tnbaptist.org
- ▶ **Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator** — (615) 371-7929, mnimmo@tnbaptist.org
- ▶ **Betty Williams, bookkeeper** — (615) 371-7930, bwilliams@tnbaptist.org
- ▶ **Office – Baptist and Reflector**, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027
- ▶ **Mailing address** – P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024
- ▶ **FAX** – (615) 371-2080
- ▶ **Web Site** — www.tnbaptist.org
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In East Tennessee

About 1,000 volunteers commissioned/recognized

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — The second Volunteer Missionary Recognition and Commissioning Service planned this year by the Tennessee Baptist Convention drew more than a 1,000 people to First Baptist Church, Concord, here April 29.

Participants learned volunteer missionaries in attendance had done work in 45 countries, 25 states, and at the Olympics.

Don Kammerdiener of the International Mission Board, based in Richmond, Va., spoke along with Tennesseans, including James Porch, TBC executive director.

Kammerdiener said the partnership between the TBC and the IMB should be celebrated.

"We celebrate that our task is not being wasted on fruitless labor. Last year 348,000 people were baptized into 40,000 churches. Four thousand new churches were begun.

"We must see each other as partners, not rivals; career (missionaries) and volunteers are being partners. We are not rivals of state conventions, associations, or churches," said Kammerdiener.

He referred to the risks faced by volunteers on the mission field.

"God may honor his name by preserving a life. He may also honor his name by accepting a sacrifice," he said.

Kammerdiener also challenged those present who had not served as a volunteer missionary to accept that challenge.



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS Don Kammerdiener, left, of the SBC International Mission Board and James Porch, TBC executive director, visit prior to a recognition and commissioning service for volunteers April 29 in Knoxville.

James Porch commissioned the volunteer missionaries.

"Volunteerism has been a part of Tennessee history for a long time as Baptists moved across the state for Christ. Since 1979 Tennessee Baptists have been active in partnerships around the world," he said.

Five volunteer missionaries also spoke. They were interviewed by Bennie Creel, director of missions, Sweetwater Baptist Association, based in Madisonville.

Music for the service was led by a choir and orchestra formed from members of First Church, Concord, and Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Terry Sharp, coordinator of



ABOVE, MISSION VOLUNTEERS from all across East Tennessee hold up candles to signify their willingness to share Christ's love with the world during a commissioning and recognition service April 29 in Knoxville. **BELOW, Terry Sharp, left, TBC partnership missions specialist, visits with Benny Creel, center, director of missions for Sweetwater Baptist Association, and Mario Azevedo, a layman at First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville.** — Photos by Tim Bearden



the event for the TBC, thanked the committee which planned the event. Committee members were Creel; Ray Luck, director of missions, Loudon County Baptist Association, based in Lenoir City; Doug Sager, pastor, First Church, Concord; Randy Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Morristown; and Steve Peek, minister of missions, First Church, Concord.

The third and last Volunteer Missionary Recognition and Commissioning Service to be held this year will be held Sept. 21 at Union University, Jackson. **B&R**

Y2K offers opportunity for ministry, new brochure reminds

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Y2K is an opportunity to prepare for ministry, not an occasion for panic, according to a new publication by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"Y2K" is shorthand for the year 2000 and surrounding concerns about possible disruption in communications, utilities, and food supplies due to computer failures. The brochure, "Y2K and Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Ministries," offers practical suggestions for churches and families regarding food, water, cooking, and finances.

"Rather than falling prey to a survival mindset, believers can operate from a servant mindset. At a time when alarmists predict an age of darkness, the church can be a lighthouse. At a time when some seek to profit from fear, churches can prepare for ministry," the brochure states.

Texas Baptist Men President Bob Dixon developed much of the material based on his experiences working for three decades in disaster relief as the mission organiza-

tion's executive director. Roger Hall, treasurer and chief financial officer of the BGCT, wrote the section on financial concerns.

By preparing for the Y2K disruptions that are possible, churches and families are one step ahead in preparing for those ministry opportunities they inevitably will face, such as local disasters and benevolence, Dixon reasoned.

If Y2K does create disruptions in delivery of goods and services in the middle of winter, basic winter storm preparations as suggested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be applicable, he said. If there are no serious power outages or food shortages, then churches and Christian families will be equipped for local natural disasters and for ongoing ministries to the poor.

"Y2K preparedness presents individual Christian families and churches the occasion to do basic disaster preparation applicable for any situation. More importantly, if the resources are not needed to deal with

Y2K-related difficulties, they will be readily available for ongoing benevolence ministries and future disaster relief ministries," the brochure states.

The brochure offers tips on what to do in regard to drinking water, food, and finances.

The brochure concludes with an admonition to be spiritually prepared. "Worry reveals lack of faith. Failure to prepare for contingencies reveals lack of wisdom. Y2K is not a cause for panic or anxiety. It is an occasion for each Christian family and each church to make the kind of preparations that will equip them for ministry in any disaster or for ongoing benevolence," the brochure states.

"Christians do not hoard resources for themselves. They save and plan in order to share and serve. Those are abiding principles, whether in the first century or the next millennium.

For more information on the brochure, write Texas Baptist Men, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, TX 75246-1798 or call (214) 828-5357. ■

Cross Plains teens reach out to Denver-area youth

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CROSS PLAINS — Yellow ribbons, letters, and prayer were the focus of the April 25 youth meeting at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church here.

Youth at the Robertson County church dealt with their emotions regarding the tragic school shootings in Littleton, Colo., two weeks ago.

"Like everyone else my heart has been touched by the impact of this horrible event," said Amy S. Jennings, minister to students.

"We all admit to being overwhelmed and burdened by the pain of these students and their families. The more I reflected on this tragedy, the more I realized how easily something like this could happen in any community, even Cross Plains," she said.

Jennings said that during their regular Sunday night youth meeting on April 25 the group "spent a large amount of time in prayer, voicing sentence prayers while holding hands in a large circle and interceding for the Colorado students and their families."

Jennings noted the youth then spent an additional hour writing letters to members of youth groups at Light of the World Catholic Church and St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church, both of which have students attend Columbine High School when the tragedy occurred.

Michael Kinney, a ninth grader at East Robertson High School, wrote:

"What has happened to you has caused me to open my eyes. ... It must seem impossible to cope with your losses, but remember you have many people

praying for you. This has made me more sympathetic."

Barrett Owen, an eighth grader at East Robertson Jr. High School acknowledged he has "never experienced a loss so tragic as yours. I have lost a loved one and I know how deeply it hurts. ...

"We want you to know God loves each and every one of you. God is also mourning over this horrible tragedy with you. God loves you and wants a relationship with you.

"Pray to him and talk to God — even your anger because God understands."

In her letter, Andrea Legros, another eighth grader, urged Littleton youth to "remember God will never leave you. God hears your prayers, cries, and anger. God loves you and he will carry you."

Hannah Clutts, a ninth grader, noted that though she is

hundreds of miles from Littleton the events of April 20 "has really made an impact on me.

"I realize that the world is full of hatred and death, but there is also those in the world who are loving and full of God's light. We can never know what kind of difference we can make in someone's life, and you and I will never know if we don't try. ..."

In addition to the letters, Mildred Swann, a member of the church, gave the youth yellow ribbons to wear as reminders to pray for the students, families, and churches in Littleton, Jennings said.

"I think this activity meant more to our students than one could imagine," she added.

"Our prayer is that God will use these letters and words of encouragement to help in a small way to heal their pain and brokenness." ■



Union trustees OK \$30 million budget

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University's board of trustees during their recent spring meeting approved a \$30 million budget for the 1999-2000 academic year, up from last year's budget of \$25.1 million.

"The significant growth in enrollment and enhanced programs at Union, as indicated by the trustees' unanimous approval of the



DOCKERY

\$30 million budget, is another confirmation to the Union family of God's continued goodness to the institution," said President David S. Dockery.

"This new budget will enable us to take another step forward toward becoming an excellence-driven university," he added.

Trustees also voted in favor of naming the first phase of Union's fine arts complex Jennings Hall, in honor of trustee Jim Ayers' grandparents, Wes and Laura Jennings. The courtyard outside the building will be named Anthony Ayers Plaza, in honor of Ayers' deceased brother.

In other trustee business, Dockery introduced three new members of Union's administration team: Bruce Edwards, a C.S. Lewis scholar, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Susan Jacob, dean of the School of Nursing, and Kimberly Thornbury, dean of students. ■

Worship conference set for May 17-18

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Power-source Worship Conference will be held May 17-18 at First Baptist Church, Franklin.

The event, sponsored by the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group, is for pastors, ministers of music, worship planning committees, and others involved in worship leadership.

Special guests include Jim Henry, Orlando, Fla.; Rick Ousley, Birmingham, Ala., and others.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. on May 17 and concludes at 4 p.m. on May 18. The cost is \$40 for pastors and ministers of music or \$30 each if both attend, and \$20 for additional persons from the same church.

For more information, call (615) 371-7909. ■

C-N chapel service honors retiring president

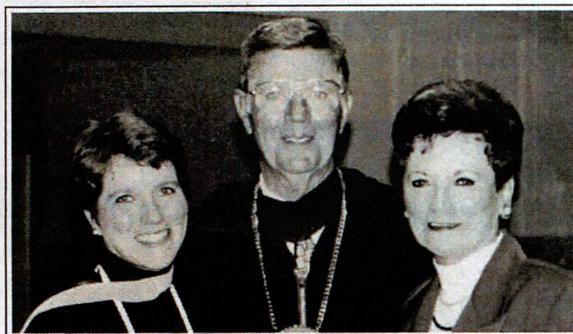
For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Faculty, staff, students, trustees, and friends of Carson-Newman College gathered April 15 at First Baptist Church here for a special President's Chapel entitled "A Celebration of Leadership: In Gratitude to God for the Life and Work of Dr. Cordell Maddox."

The service was the college's first event to honor Maddox since his announced retirement. He concludes his 22-year tenure at Carson-Newman July 31.

Marvin Cameron, vice chairman of the board of trustees and pastor of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, in Knoxville, noted Maddox has been "a protector and defender of faith for Carson-Newman."

He called Maddox a visionary who has also been on the front lines of preserving Carson-Newman, which he said is a "21st century paradigm of the Christian college."



CORDELL MADDOX, president of Carson-Newman College, is flanked by his wife, Brona, right, and daughter, Gayle Maddox Wells, during a special recognition service April 15 at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

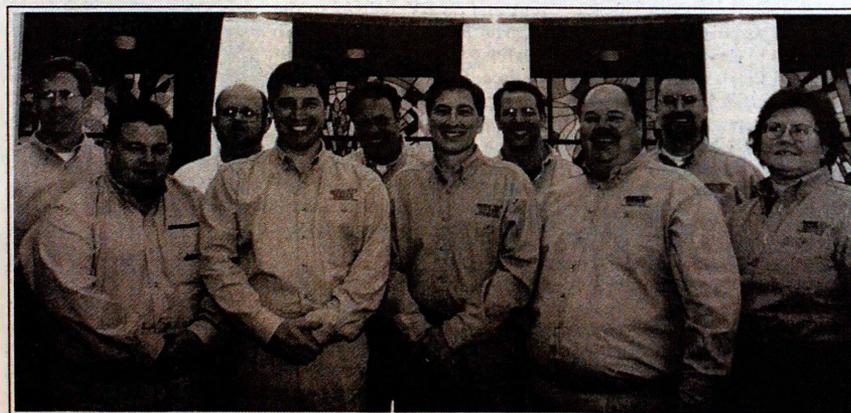
James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, saluted Maddox, observing that he came to Carson-Newman College and built on a rich heritage.

Porch said Maddox has been to Carson-Newman what the Old Testament leader Ezra was to God's chosen people: "a

man of understanding."

"I can recall no occasion when his intentional comments did not give priority to the needs of Carson-Newman College students," Porch said.

Since Maddox's inaugural year at Carson-Newman in 1977, student enrollment has increased from just over 1,500 to more than 2,100.



Youth consultants

State Regional Youth Consultants who will assist Bruce Edwards of the TBC staff in helping churches attended training at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, April 8-9. They are, from left, first row, Rick Wilburn, Memphis; Jeff Jones, Martin; Bill Stone, Cookeville; Joe Echols, Union City; Diane Tatum, Tullahoma; second row, Craig Carlson, Jackson; Pete Tackett, Bluff City; Bruce Edwards; John Davis, Oak Ridge; and Peter Marshall, Athens.

Baptists minister at Bristol Motor Speedway

By Marcia Knox
For Baptist and Reflector

BRISTOL — God has the green light at the Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, through the ministry efforts to thousands of raceway fans by Bristol Raceway Ministries and the management of the Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS).

"Besides the two major NASCAR races each year and the other races, all of the Speedway events are open to Bristol Raceway Ministries, which work under the umbrella of the BMS management," said Tom Elam, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Bluff City, and Bristol Raceway Ministries coordinator at the Holston Association. "It's the communication and the friendship that keeps this ministry relationship alive."

The Speedway provides an open door ministry policy to Bristol Raceway Ministries through the invitation of Jeff Byrd, BMS vice president and general manager. Byrd is one of several strong Christians on the BMS management team, and is also involved in Motor Racing Outreach, which ministers to the drivers.

"The greatest mission opportunity in America is available to Bristol Raceway Ministries to the tune of more than 140,000 people each year in the Bristol half-mile oval at two major NASCAR races," Byrd said.

Byrd's theory is that 20 years from now it will not matter who won the race, but that someone will remember the day that they found the Lord during a race and how many lives that were eventually touched.

"We're blessed here in Bristol because these two races are the major events for the community, which is different at other NASCAR tracts," said Wayne Estes, BMS communications director. "Everybody cooperates here from the Sheriff's Department to the local churches to make things run smoothly."

During the recent NASCAR Spring Race April 9-11, the Ministries operated three hospitality tents while holding worship services and concerts, and giving away free water, coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, Bibles, and tracts. They also counseled anyone open to the Gospel. Around 200 local volunteers worked in the tents giving out cookies, made by 20

area church congregations.

"At each race on the average around 20-30 different churches will participate as volunteers for the Ministries," Elam said. "The ministry is open to protestant denomination churches in the area. Southern Baptists are on the cutting edge, and the majority of leadership in the Ministries are Southern Baptists."

"You get caught up in something when God is at work. At the Ministries, we determine exciting ideas to draw people to the Lord and to keep the door open."

added in 1997.

Virginia Avenue Church continues to provide major leadership and support of the other ministries at the Speedway. Cass Ferrior, pastor of Virginia Avenue Church, is the Bristol Raceway Ministries director for the Holston Association. Virginia Avenue sponsors the Red and White tent ministry near the All-American Campground.

"Bristol Raceway Ministries is in a constant flux of change because the Bristol Motor Raceway keeps growing," Ferrior said. "The Speedway is

emergencies occur during the last few laps or immediately after the races. A chaplain sits in BMS race control, monitors all emergencies, and assigns a chaplain to each situation.

"Chaplains are there to meet peoples spiritual needs at the races. We have had race fans have heart attacks and die at the raceway. In addition to family traumas and problems, there are large numbers of spiritually sick people at the races. At least 60-70 percent do not know the Lord.

"The chaplains are stationed two in the radio rooms and two at each quarter mile turn. Then there are volunteer chaplains stationed at the hospitals. It is the strongest raceway chaplaincy ministry in the U.S. that I know about," Elam said.

At the Spring Race when two injuries occurred in the stands, chaplains assisted families to the hospitals. A chaplain took a family to the hospital after a family member had chest pains after the race.

Another family that had been to the race was helped at the hospital following a car accident. The chaplain helped them find lodging and a rental car.

The Speedway Campgrounds are other fertile fields for ministry, which may minister to 50,000 RVs, campers, and cars in some campground areas.

The Red and White Tent provides ministry to the All-American Campground and other camps on the south side of the racetrack where worship services and concerts were held during the Spring Race weekend.

The Yellow and White Tent, located at the Dragstrip, is the latest addition to the ministries which was provided by BMS including its water, power, and location.

The Chapel on Wheels is a tent and an RV, located in the Charlie Earhart Campground. Earhart is a member of First Church, Bluff City which leads the chapel.

"The races have such an impact on the area that most people will work around the race schedule or go out of town that weekend," he said.

"The upcoming Man/Boy (Family) Day is a great outreach opportunity for men in the churches to relate to their own children, but also to children from single parent families," said Tal Thompson, Holston Association director of missions. ■



Man/Boy (Family) Day

Tennessee Baptist Man/Boy (Family) Day will be held Saturday, June 5, at the Bristol Motor Speedway. Two featured races will be Dash cars at 7 p.m. and NASCAR Craftsmen trucks at 9 p.m. Deadline for ticket purchase is May 17. Five free children's tickets come with the purchase of a \$5 adult ticket. Call the Baptist Men's Ministries office for tickets at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2025.

Virginia Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol, started Bristol Raceway Ministries in 1993 when Bob Fleming, then minister of music, asked the church choir if they wanted to go outside the walls of the church to take the Gospel, according to Sharon Johnson, former Virginia Avenue Church secretary.

After several choir trips in the area, 130 church volunteers with the choir as the core group blanketed the August 1993 NASCAR race with support from the then owner of the Speedway. They gave out Kool-Aid from a tent and met people at the gates with handouts featuring drivers profile, information on the Speedway, and the plan of salvation. Initially three other Baptist churches along with the Holston Association participated in the Speedway ministry efforts.

From the start the ministry kept pace with the exploding growth of the speedway when the seating doubled, a change in ownership, and Byrd became BMS general manager. Elam said his entrance into the Speedway ministry came with the job of minister of music at Virginia Avenue along with the Holston Association Raceway Ministries coordinator. Soon the Speedway ministry expanded to other churches and chaplains were

considering the addition of 17,000 more seats for 2000, which means more churches are needed for the growing ministry."

"The faces of the NASCAR fans and the NASCAR atmosphere are changing.

"The presence of Bristol Raceway Ministries in their t-shirts has a calming effect and brings an inspirational atmosphere where people are presented the love of Christ."

At the Spring Race, around 100,000 people attended the Saturday race and 150,000 attended the Sunday race. There is an average of 60,000-70,000 people in the BMS area during the weekend, which translates to a large crowd ministry opportunity per square mile. With a total of 250,000 people for the weekend, there are numerous opportunities for a chaplain to serve.

Steve Playl, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Bristol and part-time Wellmont/Bristol Regional Medical Center chaplain, directs the Bristol Raceway Ministries Chaplaincy ministry that placed 12-15 chaplains in the stands during the Spring Race and at least 10 chaplains at a time for the other races.

"Chaplains start working a couple of hours before the race and linger around an hour after the race," said Elam. "We have found that most of the

Tennessee Baptists chosen for SBC committees, boards

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the four denominational boards (International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, and Annuity Board), Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the six seminaries, and the Committee on Order of Business have been selected by the 1999 Committee on Nominations. They will serve if elected by messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 at the Georgia Dome here.

Nominees from Tennessee include:

Executive Committee — Thomas R. James, pastor, Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown

International Mission Board — Richard D. Sisk, Memphis (second term)

North American Mission Board — David L. Thompson, pastor, Alta Loma Baptist Church, Madison

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary — Marion B. Smothers, Union University employee and member of Meridian Baptist Church, Jackson

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary — Glen R. Putman, Cordova (second term)

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission — Ben Wilkes, Union City (second term)

SBC President Paige Patterson also announced appointments to the Committee on Committees and Committee on Resolutions.

Tennessee Baptists selected for those committees are:

Committee on Committees — Stan May, Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis; Jon K. Walker, Parkway Baptist Church, Nashville

Committee on Resolutions — Bobbie Patray, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville

Patterson announced the appointment of the two committees April 30. SBC bylaws require the president to announce the appointments "at least 45 days in advance of the meeting." ■



Of all God's gifts, mothers rank near the top

Reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey,
editor



I admit that since I have never been a mother, I'm probably not the best person to write about the subject.

But I have observed mothers at work over the past 41 years — including my wife, Joyce, who is the mother of our two children.

Among the traits necessary for a good mother is that first and foremost, she should be a Christian, committed to God and committed to teaching her children Christian values.

Here are some other traits I think are common to all good mothers.

They can be both judge and jury. Joyce patiently listens to both sides of a Daniel-Joanna argument and tries to help them resolve their differences. If they don't, mom settles it. Case closed.

Moms have an uncanny ability to find things (if they are within the confines of the area

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



they are supposed to be in). Our son inherited his father's ability to find things, or not find things as the case may be. Joyce can tell both me and Daniel where something is and we can look and look and can't find it anywhere. Joyce comes in the same room, looks in the same place we did, and it magically appears. I have never figured out how she does that.

Moms are unselfish. I know many times Joyce would have liked the last piece of chicken or whatever it might be, but she made sure her kids (and husband) had first refusal.

Moms have a good sense of humor. Daniel, when he was

learning his Children's Bible Drill verses, quoted a verse of Scripture which reminded Joyce that she needed to be kind and compassionate as he was being chastised for not cleaning his room. Joyce paraphrased a Scripture for Daniel: "Honor your mother and father so your days on earth might be long."

Most of all, moms are love. Joyce loves our two children with all her heart and soul. When they are chastized or punished, our kids know all the while that it is done out of love.

A Christian mother loves her children no matter what. She may not like everything they do and at times a child may break

his or her mother's heart, but that mother never stops loving that child.

Sort of reminds you of God, doesn't it? No matter how much we sin or drift away, God still loves us.

My mother and my grandmother, who was like a second mother to me, have gone on to be with the Lord. I thank God for what they meant in my life, and I thank God every day for what Joyce means to me and to our two children.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9. Honor your mother in a special way Sunday and in the days ahead. Mothers truly are one of God's great gifts. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Lawyer to client who is an auto mechanic: "Did you find out what was wrong with my car?" Mechanic: "You and your alternator have something in common." Lawyer: "What is that?" Mechanic: "You both overcharge."

Take this truth

Most families today have budget trouble. Someone described it as "the high cost of living." Another was probably nearer the truth when he said, "It's the cost of living high."

Memorize this Scripture

"Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy." — Isaiah 56:2, NIV

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to seek first the things of God's kingdom." ■

Vital ingredients for ministry include integrity, love

making Christ known

by Bill Northcott
TBC staff



For a number of years I operated with the assumption that "leaders were born." Of course, they are born, but we all are born! Years ago, an old man was sitting on the front porch of a little country store. A tourist pulled up, stopped, and asked him, "Were any great men born in this little community?" The old man answered, "Nope, just babies." I have learned that leaders can be made. Granted,

not everyone will, can, or should be a leader. However, I truly believe that leadership is within many people's grasp. Of one thing I am confident: Every leader can learn how to be more effective. Our mission in the Church Staff Leadership group is to support staff leadership throughout the discovery and fulfillment of their God-given mission.

After nearly 30 years of serving in the local church, I am convinced that, next to the call to ministry, two of the most important ingredients in the minister's character are integrity and a love for people. You can be a powerful pulpiteer, a magnificent musician, an effective educator, an admirable administrator, a competent counselor (did I

leave anybody out?), but if you lose your credibility; if you sacrifice your integrity; if you lose your ministry. Peter Drucker, speaking to a group of ministers, said, "The final requirement of effective leadership is to earn trust. Otherwise there won't be any followers." Someone else said "if a leader doesn't have followers, he is just out taking a walk." Integrity, however, is not enough to assure success in ministry. Integrity must be combined with love. I have made plenty of mistakes in the course of my ministry, but my people were willing to forgive me.

Why? First, because I asked for it. Second, because I was believable and finally because they knew I loved them.

The objective of the Church Staff Leadership group is making Christ known by serving the staff in our Tennessee Baptist churches. While we can't market either integrity or love, we aspire to model them.

Furthermore, there are many services we provide. We have specialists who can help you with questions about worship, drama, strategy planning, retirement, insurance, architectural needs, career assessment, conflict mediation, bivocational ministry, single staff church needs, church secretaries, and money management.

We are in this "great thing" together. Call us at 1-800-558-2090. ■ — Northcott is leader of the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group.

Partnership Prayer Requests

May

- 6 — Praise God for a construction team from Broadmoor Church, Memphis, that worked April 24-May 1 in Cartago, Costa Rica.
- 7 — Pray for IMB missionary Elizabeth Oates and May Brazilian Crusade coordinator pastor Jonanias Soares de Menezes as they work with the details concerning the upcoming simultaneous revivals.
- 8 — Pray for a 39-member student choir from Union University, Jackson, that will participate in the May simultaneous revivals in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 9 — Pray for the nurses who have gone on strike in Saskatchewan, Canada. Ask God to bring about a resolution to the strike.
- 10 — Pray for Ken and Lygia Lovelace, IMB missionaries in Portugal who are seeking homes for Bible study in Porto Salvo and Sao Marcos.
- 11 — Praise God for the recent Sunday School growth campaigns held recently in several Michigan Baptist associations.
- 12 — Pray for the TBC college summer missionaries who will serve this year.

Don't worry, be happy! Right, easier said than done

that's life

by Linda Jackson
Roebuck



I went into the kids' bathroom one night and noticed a wristwatch masking-taped to the wall just below a piece of paper. It read "Spring Break Schedule" and began like this: 8:15-10:30 a.m. — wake up; 10:30-11:30 a.m. — eat breakfast and get dressed. After wiping my tears from the emotional and poignant realization that my kids were chips off the old

block, I went and found my Day-timer. Hmm. No entries were in there for a "waking up" time. Not one. I did, however, notice I had four things scheduled for Thursday at 2 p.m. Oops.

One afternoon during break they wanted to go to the park but I couldn't take them because of something on my calendar. Disappointed and asking why, they listened as I explained that changing plans that day was something I could not do. It was out of control. Although I clearly cramped their style, they were pretty good sports about it, and soon were back on course for a successful spring vacation.

Not worrying about things that are out of my control is a

little bit harder for me than for my children. For instance, we're waiting right now for our house to sell. But, you know, I'm just content and at peace knowing that it will sell when it sells and there's nothing more I can do about it. I'm just content and at peace knowing that it will sell (hey, give me a break. I think I'm starting to convince myself.) My husband is remarkably calm about things like this and it's a good thing. If I had married someone as high strung as myself, you'd find us both hanging from the ceiling with our claws dug in like a couple of startled housecats about five times a week. (I've never actually hung from a ceiling, but I'm thinking

that's probably not a good thing.)

So, although there are times I'd like to thump him silly just to see him fret, it's clearly a good balance of personalities and keeps me somewhat grounded. And I mean that literally.

It helps me to remember that ultimately someone else is in charge. Someone who cares about my concerns even more than I do and will take care of my tomorrows if I let him. I think I'll put my Daytimer away and go have lunch. I've got a real hankering for a tuna fish sandwich. ■ — Roebuck is a freelance writer in Nashville where her husband, Jon, serves as pastor of Woodmont Church.

Top Reported Baptisms for 1997-98

(for year ending Sept. 30, compiled from Annual Church Profile)

| Church | Ratios | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Resident Members | Resident Members/ Baptisms |
| First Baptist Church, Campaign | 32 | 1.33 |
| Primera Iglesia Bautista de Erwin, Erwin | 6 | 1.50 |
| Grace Baptist Church, Doyle | 109 | 1.73 |
| Church Of Jesus Baptist Mission, Nashville | 36 | 1.89 |
| Scott Avenue Baptist Church, Cookeville | 20 | 2.00 |
| River Oaks Community Baptist Church, Murfreesboro | 65 | 2.10 |
| Galilee Baptist Church, Cleveland | 10 | 2.50 |
| Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Tazewell | 60 | 2.61 |
| Blessed Hope Baptist Church, Kingsport | 22 | 2.75 |
| Woodcock Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville | 100 | 2.78 |
| Murfreesboro Community Baptist Church, Murfreesboro | 29 | 2.90 |
| Quebeck Baptist Church, Quebeck | 28 | 3.11 |
| Park Lane Baptist Church, Knoxville | 383 | 3.17 |
| Messiah Baptist Church, Nashville | 102 | 3.19 |
| Sky View Baptist Church, Memphis | 62 | 3.26 |
| Huberts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Bulls Gap | 10 | 3.33 |
| Sugar Tree Baptist Chapel, Holladay | 10 | 3.33 |
| Solid Rock Baptist Church, Pulaski | 67 | 3.35 |
| Shiloh Baptist Church, Kingston | 37 | 3.36 |
| Primera Iglesia Bautista, Nashville | 138 | 3.54 |
| Greater Hope Baptist Church, Union City | 32 | 3.56 |
| Community Baptist Church, Cleveland | 40 | 3.64 |
| McCloud Baptist Church, Rogersville | 22 | 3.67 |
| Snodderly Baptist Church, Maynardville | 75 | 3.75 |
| Alva Baptist Church, Cumberland Furnace | 38 | 3.80 |
| Mountain View Southern Baptist Church, Crossville | 130 | 3.82 |
| Henry Baptist Church, Henry | 318 | 3.88 |
| New Life Baptist Church, Red Boiling Springs | 75 | 3.95 |
| Lighthouse Baptist Church, Arlington | 20 | 4.00 |
| Rivergate First Baptist Church, Hendersonville | 110 | 4.07 |
| Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waynesboro | 115 | 4.11 |
| Dodson's Branch Baptist Church, Cookeville | 210 | 4.12 |
| Brotherton Baptist Church, Cookeville | 132 | 4.13 |
| Lighthouse Baptist Church, Memphis | 132 | 4.13 |
| New Life Baptist Mission, Columbia | 46 | 4.18 |
| Morley Baptist Church, Duff | 201 | 4.19 |
| Leatherwood Baptist Church, New Tazewell | 55 | 4.23 |
| Only Baptist Church, Only | 17 | 4.25 |
| Main Street Baptist Church, Martin | 82 | 4.32 |
| Bon Aqua Baptist Mission, Bon Aqua | 104 | 4.33 |

The Resident Members/Baptisms column represents the number of resident members required to win one person represented in the baptism column. Statewide resident membership to baptism ratio is 28.04 to 1, up from 27.62 last year.

Total Baptisms

| Church | Resident Members | Total Baptisms |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova | 20,060 | 811 |
| Central Baptist Church, Hixson | 5,168 | 225 |
| Concord First Baptist Church, Knoxville | 3,660 | 217 |
| Higher Ground Baptist Church, Kingsport | 2,599 | 204 |
| Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown | 5,462 | 201 |
| First Baptist Church, Hendersonville | 1,895 | 188 |
| Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville | 5,393 | 158 |
| First Baptist Church, Clarksville | 3,607 | 149 |
| Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville | 2,289 | 137 |
| First Baptist Church, Shelbyville | 1,147 | 136 |
| Greater Missionary Baptist Church, Clarksville | 895 | 133 |
| First Baptist Church, Dickson | 1,592 | 124 |
| Park Lane Baptist Church, Knoxville | 383 | 121 |
| Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown | 681 | 121 |
| First Baptist Church, Smyrna | 1,754 | 118 |
| Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville | 2,817 | 118 |
| First Baptist Church, Millington | 1,800 | 112 |
| Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville | 2,451 | 108 |
| Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison | 2,386 | 105 |
| First Baptist Church, Cleveland | 3,438 | 104 |
| Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis | 1,696 | 101 |
| West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson | 1,843 | 95 |
| First Baptist Church, Pulaski | 842 | 92 |
| First Baptist Church, Collierville | 2,254 | 89 |
| Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church, Shelbyville | 848 | 87 |
| Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville | 2,740 | 84 |
| Henry Baptist Church, Henry | 318 | 82 |
| First Baptist Church, Mount Juliet | 1,498 | 82 |
| Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro | 1,476 | 80 |
| Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland | 2,700 | 77 |
| Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga | 1,514 | 76 |
| Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson | 1,653 | 74 |
| First Baptist Church, Franklin | 4,566 | 74 |
| Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage | 1,816 | 72 |
| Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station | 741 | 71 |
| Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis | 2,289 | 71 |
| Hunter First Baptist Church, Elizabethton | 1,295 | 70 |
| First Baptist Church, Friendsville | 681 | 69 |
| First Baptist Church, Dyersburg | 899 | 68 |
| Second Baptist Church, Millington | 504 | 67 |
| Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett | 1,271 | 67 |
| Bethel Baptist Church, Palmyra | 443 | 67 |

Top Cooperative Program Giving for 1997-98

(for year ending Oct. 31, compiled from TBC records)

Per Capita Giving *

| Church | Amount |
|--|--------|
| Shiloh Baptist Church, Kingston | \$486 |
| Galilee Baptist Church, Cleveland | \$307 |
| Bethel Baptist Church, Greenbrier | \$193 |
| Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel | \$192 |
| Lighthouse Baptist Church, Arlington | \$189 |
| Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Fayetteville | \$187 |
| Eastanallee Baptist Church, Riceville | \$186 |
| Keeling Baptist Church, Stanton | \$174 |
| Brunswick Church, Brunswick | \$171 |
| Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood | \$164 |
| Bethel Baptist Church, Greenfield | \$160 |
| Tri Cities Baptist Church, Gray | \$158 |
| Southwestern Baptist Church, Johnson City | \$154 |
| First Baptist Church, Athens | \$149 |
| First Baptist Church, Paris | \$149 |
| New Hope Baptist Church, Bell Buckle | \$146 |
| Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg | \$136 |
| Cloverport Baptist Church, Toone | \$134 |
| First Baptist Church, Kenton | \$133 |
| First Baptist Church, Cookeville | \$133 |
| First Baptist Church, Grand Junction | \$131 |
| Central Baptist Church, Johnson City | \$130 |
| Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport | \$129 |
| Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett | \$128 |
| Northbrook Baptist Church, Humboldt | \$126 |
| Smyrna Baptist Church, Burlingame | \$126 |
| First Baptist Church, Tullahoma | \$126 |
| First Baptist Church, Jackson | \$122 |
| First Baptist Church, Covington | \$122 |
| First Baptist Church, Erwin | \$120 |
| Ararat Baptist Church, Jackson | \$120 |
| North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland | \$118 |
| Calvary Baptist Church, Rutherford | \$118 |
| Madison Heights Baptist Church, Madison | \$118 |
| First Baptist Church, Bradford | \$118 |
| Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Kingsport | \$115 |
| First Baptist Church, Counce | \$114 |
| Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga | \$111 |
| Clear Springs Baptist Church, Mascot | \$109 |
| Fairview Baptist Church, Oak Ridge | \$109 |

* Resident membership information from Annual Church Profile for year ending Sept. 30, 1998. CP information from TBC Treasurer's Report for year ending Oct. 31, 1998.

Amount of Giving

| Church | Amount |
|--|-----------|
| Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova | \$372,636 |
| Concord First Baptist Church, Knoxville | \$362,446 |
| Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood | \$331,270 |
| First Baptist Church, Clarksville | \$274,313 |
| Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga | \$243,592 |
| First Baptist Church, Hendersonville | \$228,503 |
| Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville | \$216,749 |
| First Baptist Church, Athens | \$210,006 |
| Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville | \$195,334 |
| Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland | \$184,880 |
| Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel | \$171,903 |
| Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville | \$171,333 |
| First Baptist Church, Millington | \$166,664 |
| Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville | \$164,197 |
| Central Baptist Church, Hixson | \$163,773 |
| First Baptist Church, Cleveland | \$159,008 |
| Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville | \$157,085 |
| First Baptist Church, Cookeville | \$155,034 |
| Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown | \$152,049 |
| First Baptist Church, Franklin | \$151,667 |
| First Baptist Church, Paris | \$151,263 |
| First Baptist Church, Jackson | \$150,190 |
| Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett | \$148,544 |
| Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga | \$146,827 |
| Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga | \$142,998 |
| Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro | \$141,146 |
| First Baptist Church, Mount Juliet | \$140,102 |
| Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis | \$139,893 |
| First Baptist Church, Morristown | \$137,351 |
| First Baptist Church, Kingsport | \$137,321 |
| First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro | \$136,627 |
| First Baptist Church, Powell | \$135,590 |
| West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson | \$134,294 |
| First Baptist Church, Smyrna | \$134,171 |
| Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage | \$132,395 |
| Central Baptist Church, Johnson City | \$131,592 |
| Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis | \$130,877 |
| Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Kingsport | \$126,833 |
| First Baptist Church, Dickson | \$125,770 |
| Judson Baptist Church, Nashville | \$123,543 |

Gallaway church finds ministry in schools

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

GALLAWAY — First Baptist Church, Gallaway, is the site of a ministry in which older teenagers and young adults go into public schools, community centers, and churches to teach a program on character and to minister.

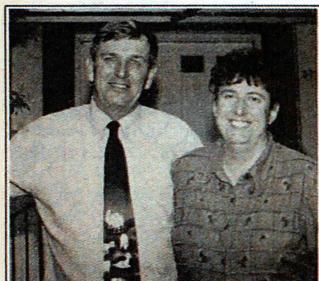
The teens and young adults are homeschooled so they can visit here for several weeks to several months to teach the Character First program. Or they are between high school and college. They include young adults from the area, including First Baptist Church, Somerville.

Operating for a year and a half, Ron Grunewald, assisted by his wife, Karen, and daughter, Eva, now coordinate Character First in 22 schools in six school districts, including Memphis. They are hosting 12 workers now, but have had as many as 17.

The Grunewalds have worked with school boards, mayors, and Christians to allow the workers to present the program in public schools. They currently work in elementary schools.

Efforts in schools, church

The young people, who are trained, make a daily presentation in a school, which lasts about an hour. Although no



RON and Karen Grunewald pause outside First Baptist Church, Gallaway.

spiritual matters are discussed, many of the stories and illustrations are drawn from the Bible, and certainly represent Christian standards, explained Karen Grunewald. And if the workers are asked spiritual questions, they can answer them.

The curriculum includes lessons on obeying and honoring parents and other adults and forgiveness. Teachers and principals often affirm the program, said Karen Grunewald.

The workers also spend time building relationships with the students on playgrounds, at lunch, and in tutoring sessions. Students often are amazed to learn they are doing the work without pay.

The workers also teach Character First at the Brownsville/Haywood County Community Center in Brownsville, at the Gallaway Community Center, and at the First Chinese Baptist Church, Germantown. They have taught it at the Douglas Street Community Center in Memphis.

And they serve First Church, Gallaway, drawing children and youth from the area to the church.

The church is a hub of activity. And the congregation is enjoying it, according to the Grunewalds.

When opportunities to teach Character First became available, a church member arranged for the church to rent two houses located near the church and parsonage to house the workers. And a church member gave materials to renovate the houses which cost about \$20,000. Ron Grunewald, a builder who serves the church as a bivocational pastor,

has done much of the labor.

The church has grown as children and youth from the area are drawn to the activity. One result has been the calling of Jason Greer, a college student in Memphis, as minister of music/boys.

Program

Bob Campbell, director of missions, Fayette Baptist Association, which is based in Somerville, praised the efforts of the Grunewalds and the Gallaway church. The association supports the efforts, he said.

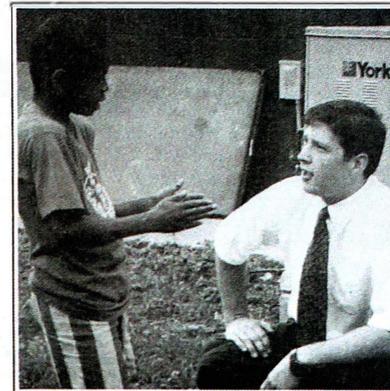
Character First is coordinated by



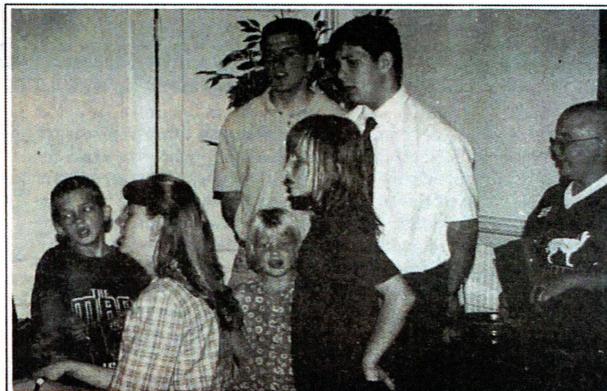
CHILDREN and Character First leaders sing a song at a community center led by Eva Grunewald.



GATHERED FOR an evening meal at the church are youth from the community, church members, and Character First workers. In the foreground are Bob Campbell, director of missions, Fayette Baptist Association, and Jason Greer, minister of music/boys.



VISITING with a child at the Brownsville/Haywood County Community Center in Brownsville is Christopher Bowen of First Baptist Church, Somerville.



THE CHILDREN'S and Youth Choir of the church led by Eva Grunewald, who is playing the piano, performs during an activity at the church.



the Advanced Training Institute of Oklahoma City, Okla. Although the institute is associated with Bill Gothard programs, Campbell said the young adults teaching Character First have helped many students and youth in the area. *B&R*

TBC membership grows despite SBC decline

— Continued from page 1

And Tennessee has shown DT increases for four consecutive years while the SBC reported gains only three consecutive years. In the four years of TBC increases, they have ranged from 3.4 percent and 6.6 percent.

Music ministry enrollment/participation in the state lagged slightly behind the national report — 4.27 in the SBC and 2.79 in the TBC. Both showed a decrease the previous year. In Tennessee, three of the last five years have shown increases.

Woman's Missionary Union enrollment decreased some in the SBC and the TBC, but the

TBC decline was less than the SBC — .17 percent in the TBC and .47 in the SBC. In the last five years in the SBC, the program has dropped two of the past five years. In the TBC, WMU enrollment has declined four of those years, but the loss has been less than 5 percent each year.

As mentioned, Brotherhood enrollment/participation in the SBC increased very slightly while in the TBC it declined a small amount. In the past five years in the TBC, Brotherhood has declined three of those years, but the overall decline has been small.

TBC resident members increased slightly as compared to

last year. In the past five years, the number of resident members have risen three of those years.

Nina Palmer of the TBC staff reported little change in an analysis of churches by four size categories as compared to last year. The number of churches increased from 2,944 to 2,947.

Palmer encouraged churches to report statistics each fall to their association office. This year 229 churches reported no statistical data as compared to 114 last year. And 124 additional churches reported no resident members although they turned in other statistics. Those reports were not included in the

"Average Tennessee Church in Four Categories," so the first category wouldn't be skewed by the incomplete reports.

Gary Rickman of the TBC commented on the data. "These statistics are just one measure for what is happening in Baptist life. However, I believe they do indicate that the church must find a way to reach across all generations and cultures if we are to see these figures change dramatically.

"Our mission field is white unto harvest and we must find a way to bring in the harvest. Small percentage gains will not get the job done," said Rickman. *B&R*

TBC churches ...

— Continued from page 1

The year-to-date budget needs are \$15,733,517.

The strong trend in giving is a further indication Tennessee Baptists are committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Tennessee and around the world, said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"We are excited about the level of commitment Tennessee Baptists are showing by supporting our mission and ministry calling throughout Tennessee and around the world," Porch said. "We give God all the glory and honor for what he is doing through our churches." ■

SBC meeting moves to two-day format

By Herb Hollinger
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — An abbreviated two-day session of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, approved by a messenger vote last year, is set for June 15-16 in Atlanta's Georgia Dome with the theme "His Tears ... Our Task!"

For a number of years, the annual meeting has been two and a half days, starting Tuesday morning and finishing Thursday at noon. However, as early as 20 years ago, the convention met for three full days and 50 years ago the annual meeting started Wednesday morning and finished with an evangelistic service Sunday night. The new schedule still allows for Wednesday afternoon free for messengers, with SBC seminaries' alumni and other groups planning meetings during that period.

An SBC official predicted 14,000 messengers would register for the 142nd session of the SBC in its 154-year history.

Messengers will hear preaching, singing, and reports from SBC entities and vote on a number of items, including recommendations not to change the name of the convention and not to move the convention next year from Orlando, Fla.

Also on the agenda is a testimony by Reggie White, professional football player, seen as a future National Football League Hall of Fame member, from Knoxville. White has raised some controversy with public remarks considered upholding traditional family values and calling the homosexual lifestyle not biblical. The black minister is pastor of a church in Knoxville which was destroyed in a fire officials said was

caused by arson.

Also listed as a program participant this year is Jerry Falwell, a nationally known pastor and chancellor of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va. Until last year when his church, Thomas Road Baptist in Lynchburg, began giving an amount to the SBC Cooperative Program, Falwell had been an independent Baptist. He is slated to give the benediction following the Wednesday morning service.

An election for SBC president will also be held, although tradition holds that a president serving in his first year is given a second one-year term. Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., was elected last year in Salt Lake City to a one-year term as president. No opposition has surfaced to Patterson's re-election.

Messengers will be asked to approve a record \$159,583,743 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for SBC entities for 1999-2000. Nearly \$5 million over the current year's budget, the proposed budget will retain the same distribution percentages to 12 SBC entities.

The two-day schedule for the annual meeting will mean messengers wanting to introduce resolutions for consideration must do so before the start of the Tuesday afternoon session. Messengers who want to have resolutions considered are urged to send them to the Resolutions Committee before the annual meeting.

Messengers will vote on a recommendation not to change the name of the convention. The SBC's Executive Committee discussed two proposals offered at last year's annual meeting but

decided in its February meeting there is "no compelling rationale" for a change and "is not justified when all factors are taken into account."

Also, the Executive Committee, acting on several referred motions from Salt Lake City last year to move the location of the 2000 session, will recommend not moving the annual meeting in 2000 from Orlando, Fla. The recommendation says messengers to the Orlando meeting will "meet the challenge presented by worldliness that the Southern Baptist Convention has met in other convention cities."

Orlando is the home of Disney World, thus the referred motions stem from the so-called boycott of The Disney Company endorsed by messengers to the 1997 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, challenging various "anti-family" and "anti-Christian" directions and specific practices at the entertainment conglomerate.

Another referral from the Salt Lake City meeting would add to the *Baptist Faith and Message* statement of Baptist beliefs, Article I, which includes a reference to Scripture's truth: "in every area of which it speaks." The Executive Committee declined to act on the referral following a recommendation of "no action be taken" from the Council of Seminary Presidents.

An addition to the *Baptist Faith and Message* statement last year regarding the article on the family, specifically husbands' and wives' relationships, drew widespread media interest and debate in religious circles following the Salt Lake City meeting.

The theme of the Atlanta

meeting, "His Tears ... Our Task!" is taken from Luke 19:41 in which Jesus "... beheld the city, and wept ..." In addition to Patterson bringing the annual message of the SBC president, the convention sermon will be preached by Ralph Smith, pastor emeritus of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas.

The two evenings of the annual meeting will feature missions presentations by the North American Mission Board on Tuesday and the International Mission Board on Wednesday.

The week prior to the SBC, an ambitious evangelistic project coordinated by NAMB, called "Crossover," will penetrate metro Atlanta. Then, a number of satellite meetings, such as the annual Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union meetings, will be held Sunday and Monday before the SBC meeting starts.

The registration area will be on the lower level, gate C of the Georgia Dome, said Lee Porter, just off International Avenue. Porter has been the SBC registration secretary since 1978. Registration will open at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 13, and at 8 a.m. on the following Monday through Wednesday. It will close shortly after 9 each night. ■ — See convention program on page 12



national/global news

Crossover to precede SBC

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — One of Southern Baptists' strongest, if recent, traditions surrounding their annual meeting has been Crossover — a short-term evangelistic blitz allowing convention messengers to lead thousands to faith in Christ during their convention visit.

This year, Crossover organizers hope the June 6-19 impact will be stronger than ever.

Although this year's Crossover will be different than last year's effort in Mormon-dominated Salt Lake City, the need is no less urgent, says Joel Harrison, director of missions for Atlanta Baptist Association.

While some perceive Atlanta as not being a mission field, few realize that approximately 60 percent of the people in the Atlanta metro area is unchurched, he said.

For more information about Crossover, call Don Smith of the North American Mission Board at (770) 410-6306. ■

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1999 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference and Luncheon

Held during Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting
Georgia World Conference Center Ballroom, Atlanta, Ga.
Tuesday, June 15, Noon

Theme: "Renewal on the Run"
Speaker: Jill Briscoe of Brookfield, Wis., executive editor of *Just Between Us*, a magazine for ministry wives; advisor, Women's Ministries, Elmbrook Church, Brookfield; author; board member, World Relief and *Christianity Today*
President: Lanese Dockery of Jackson

Ticket Order Form

Cost \$10 if ordered before June 1, \$12 at convention meeting.
 My check in the amount of \$10 per person and a self-addressed stamped envelope are enclosed. Please order before June 1.
Number of tickets _____
Amount enclosed _____

Name _____
Address _____
Cut out this form and mail to Mrs. Diane Newell, 8649 Autumn Green Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

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leaders

■ **Don Aycock**, pastor of McLean Baptist Church, Memphis, effective June 1, has been called as senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Palatka, Fla.

■ **Darrell Lingerfelt** recently began service as pastor of Oak Hill Church, Leoma.

■ **Tim McGehee** has resigned as pastor of Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, to accept a call as pastor of First Baptist Church, Camden. He will begin his ministry there May 23.

■ **Brian Huff** has been called as pastor of Hills Creek Baptist Church, Sevierville.

■ **Klay Aispenwall** is the new pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Sevierville. He and his wife, Amy, have two children.

■ **Kevin Maples**, associate pastor, was ordained April 25 at French Broad Valley Baptist Church, Kodak.

■ **Ramer Baptist Church** has called **Tim Tutor** of Dorsey, Miss., as pastor. His first Sunday will be May 9.

■ **Bluegrass Baptist Church**, Hendersonville, has called **Keith Christopher** as minister of music. He joins the church from First Baptist Church, North Spartanburg, S.C.

■ **Joe Johnson Jr.** of Antioch recently ended service as interim pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Hendersonville. A retired editor from Broadman & Holman of LifeWay Christian Resources, Johnson is available for full-time, interim, or supply pastorates. He can be reached at (615) 361-8627.

■ **Hickory Hollow Baptist Church**, Nashville, has called

James Twilbeck as pastor. He formerly was pastor of First Baptist Church, Monterey, La.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Savannah, has called **Brent Colley** of Belmont, Miss., as minister of children and youth.

■ **Adam Simpson** was ordained to the Gospel ministry in March at First Baptist Church, Selmer. He and his wife, Kristen, are awaiting appointment by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

■ **Bob Hatley** has been called as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vonore.

■ **Lakeside Baptist Church**, Vonore, has called **Chad Schaffer** as pastor. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children.

■ **Bill Roberts**, a former pastor of Union McMinn Baptist Church, Niota, is now serving as pastor of Poplar Bluff Baptist Church, Tellico Plains.

■ **Jamie Davis**, new pastor of Lamontville Baptist Church, Calhoun, was ordained in March at Five Point Baptist Church, Decatur.

■ **Greg McCosh**, new pastor of Lakeside Chapel Baptist Church, Ten Mile, was ordained in March at Marshall Hill Baptist Church, Niota.

■ **Ron Byers** recently began serving as pastor of Barfield Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

■ **Larry Spears**, pastor, Piney Baptist Church, Hohenwald, was called as pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, effective April 1.

■ **James Cordle** recently was called as pastor of Marshall Knob Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

■ **Mt. Pleasant Baptist**



EWTONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH broke ground March 28 for a new Family Life Center. The 9,600-square foot facility will include educational space, a gymnasium, and a stage area for dramas. Pictured are members of the Building Planning Team and Building Team. From left are Buck Farley, Beverly Key, Billy W. Davenport, Glenn Mooneyham, Ricky Swanger, Larry Miller, Tony Bell, and Pastor Brian Kearns.

Church, Rockvale, has called **Terry Carver** as pastor.

■ **Curt Waggoner** has been called as pastor of Milton Baptist Church, Milton.

■ **David Blanton** recently began serving as minister of education at Everett Hills Baptist Church, Maryville.

■ **Chris Dancer**, minister of youth at Friendship Baptist Church, Ramer, was licensed to the ministry April 18.

people

■ **Joey Cunningham** and **Dennis Poland** were ordained recently as deacons at White's Creek Baptist Church, Rockwood.

■ **Carl E. Johnson** has been called to serve at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Mississippi Baptist Convention, effective May 10. He has worked at Tennessee Baptist Royal Ambassador Camps since 1988 and currently is on staff of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and is a member of LaGuardo Baptist Church, LaGuardo.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Woodland Mills, recently ordained **Mark Hayes** and **Brennan Wicker** as deacons.

churches

■ **Evangelist David Ring** will speak at **Temple Baptist Church, Old Hickory**, May 25 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (615) 847-5091.

■ **Park Avenue Baptist Church**, Nashville, will celebrate its 111th anniversary May 23. Leading the morning worship will be former pastor **Bob Mowrey**.

■ **Mt. Hermon Baptist Church**, Murfreesboro, will hold revival services May 16-

19 with **Steve Flockhart**, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Millington, as guest speaker. **Flockhart** and **Pastor Kerry Smith** also will speak in local schools in the program called "Straight Up," which covers the downfall of drugs, alcohol, sex, and peer pressure with today's youth. For more information, call the church office at (615) 893-4885.

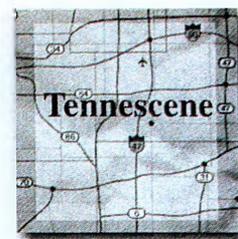
■ **Falcon Baptist Church**, Selmer, will hold revival May 23-26 with **Victor Ward** of Corinth, Miss., as guest evangelist.

■ **Eastview Baptist Church**, Ramer, dedicated its new fellowship building on March 21.

■ **Pleasant Site Baptist Church**, Selmer, will hold revival May 16-19 with **David Green**, pastor of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Bethel Springs.

associations

■ **Big Hatchie Baptist Association** will hold a commissioning service for volunteers to Brazil on May 13 at First Baptist Church, Ripley.



The service begins at 7 p.m. **Gary Rickman**, ministry coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be guest speaker.

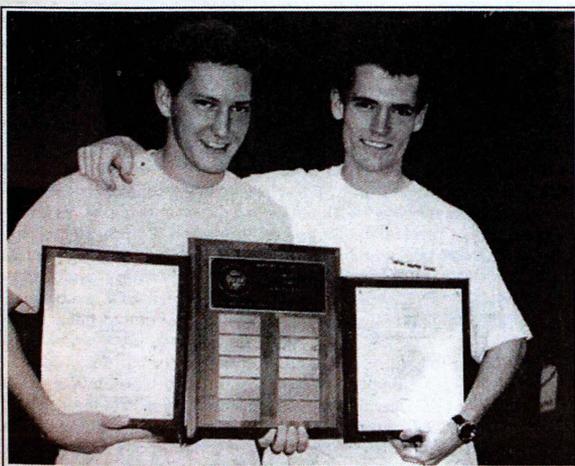
■ The **Shelby Singers**, a men's chorus made up of ministers of music from churches in **Shelby Baptist Association**, will present their spring concert on Thursday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis. The concert is free and open to the public.

state events

■ The **Powersource Worship Conference**, sponsored by the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group, will be held May 17-18 at First Baptist Church, Franklin. For more information, including costs, call 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7909.

■ **Tennessee Campers on Mission** will hold their spring rally May 21-23 at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in Bartlett. They will conduct a work project there May 17-21. For more information, call **James Jennings** at (615) 563-2424 or **Beverly Smothers**. TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group at 1-800-558-2090.

■ **Special Friends Camp** will be held July 26-30 at Camp Linden and Aug. 2-6 at Camp Carson. Camp staff is needed. Youth, ages 15 and older, who might be interested, can contact **Mark Anderson** of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes at (615) 371-2050 for more information. A camp training session will be held July 23-25 at Camp Linden.



CRAIG BRACKETT, left, a member of First Baptist Church, Madisonville, and **Chad Hartsock** of Bristol, Va., recently received the BSU Award of Excellence from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. Brackett served as worship chair for the Baptist Student Union at Carson-Newman.



STATE REGIONAL Special Education Coordinators will assist **Gene Nabi**, left, of the TBC in helping churches across the state. They are, from left, **Sandra Holly**, Lewisburg; **Sue Denney**, Johnson City; and **Carolyn Griffith**, Mt. Juliet. They received training April 8-9 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood.



SBTS trustees adopt \$70 million plan

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky.— Culminating four years of discussion, research, and planning, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. unveiled April 20 a \$70 million campus master plan of improvements and additions to the school's facilities.

Mohler detailed the 10-year plan during the seminary's April trustee meeting. The master plan is scheduled for completion in 2009, the seminary's sesquicentennial.

Capital improvement projects include the construction or renovation of more than 400 student housing units, 107 faculty offices, a 40,000-square-foot expansion to the library, a 21,000-square-foot facility for the Billy Graham School of Missions, and more. ■

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Attn: Youth Leaders Summer Outreach Opportunity
Camp Hope, a ministry of Woodcock Baptist Church, seeks to create an atmosphere through worship and ministry with the poor for students to experience God in a way that will permanently impact them by teaching application of these principles when returning home. Call Brett Stewart, Ministries Director, Nashville Baptist Association, (615) 259-3034.

'Awakening' yields 600 professions of faith since February

Baptist Press

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — An "Awakening" revival at Second Baptist Church here has resulted in 600 professions of faith in Christ and 406 baptisms. The revival ran from Feb. 2 through April 9.

Pastor Chuck McAlister called it a "powerful move of God" in the church and community. He said the purpose of the revival was "to bring something new to the city of Hot Springs."

The Arkansas pastor said he does not see the results of the long-running revival ending anytime soon. "The nightly services may end, but the Awakening will continue," he said.

"We have seen marriages restored, people delivered from alcohol and drugs, and many have responded to the need to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives," McAlister told the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine*. ■

Arab Christians endure attacks

Associated Baptist Press

NAZARETH, Israel — Christians in the Nazareth area of Israel face pressure following recent riots by Muslims, who attacked businesses owned by Christians and injured some individual Christians in their cars along the streets.

"We need a lot of prayer," said Philip Saa'd of Haifa, chairman of the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel. "We are under a lot of pressure — all Christian Arabs," he

said. Saa'd grew up near Nazareth and knows well its people and Christian situation.

Tensions have been building for more than a year due in part to a controversial proposal to build a large mosque near the Church of the Annunciation, a Christian landmark in

Nazareth. A city-owned lot near the church has been occupied by a Muslim group, which is proposing that the mosque be built on the site with a minaret taller than the church's steeple. ■

CLASSIFIED

HOUSEPARENTS: Married couples as full-time houseparents living on campus of children's home. Responsibilities include caring for children ages 5-17 who have experienced neglect, abuse, or abandonment. Salary and benefits include off-duty housing on campus. Contact Randy Harrison, Area Administrator, Baptist Home for Children, (904) 721-2711.

YOUTH: Bivocational Youth Minister. Resumes: Lynn Valley Baptist, 1367 Broad St., Elizabethton, TN 37643.

ASSISTANT: The Southern Baptist Historical Society, Brentwood, seeks part-time administrative assistant (30 hrs. per week). Expect move to full-time plus benefits in 2000. Strong organizational, administrative, communication, and PC skills essential. Call Charles Deweese at (615) 373-4854.

PASTOR: First Baptist Church, Caryville, Tenn., (250 members) searching for and accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 157, Caryville, TN 37714.

MUSIC: Seeking full-time Minister of Music. Please send resumes to Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 121, Martin, TN 38237.

ORGANIST: Ball Camp Baptist Church is seeking an experienced church organist. Send resumes to 2412 Ball Camp-Byington Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931. Telephone inquiries welcome at (423) 693-1641.

PASTOR: Second Baptist Church of Greenville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a senior pastor. Second Baptist is known as a progressive, growth oriented, mid-size church with an average Sunday School attendance of 195 and 270 in morning worship. The church is aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention. Please send resumes to Second Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 390, Greenville, Ky 42345.

FAMILIES: First Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky., is seeking a full-time Family Life Director. Major responsibility will be youth ministry and secondary responsibility is negotiable in the areas of children, recreation, singles, or administrative duties. Prefer studies and/or experience in youth work. Send resume to Search Committee, c/o Pastor Bob Swift, 118 W. South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

Collegiate Ministry Specialists

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention announces applications are being accepted for three Collegiate Ministry Specialist positions in the Christian Growth Development Group. Those positions are located at Dyersburg State Community College, Dyersburg; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville. Information on these positions may be obtained by contacting Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered.

Executive Board Positions

The Human Resources Office is accepting applications for the following Ministry Assistant positions:

- ▶ Administrative Services — Support Services Assistant and Baptist Center Receptionist/Switchboard
- ▶ Church Staff Leadership — Secretary
- ▶ Christian Growth Development Group — Administrative Secretary
- ▶ Communication Services Group — Communications Assistant and Temporary Part-Time Design Assistant

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DOM: The Cumberland Baptist Association of Clarksville/Montgomery Counties is receiving resumes for the vacant position of Director of Missions. Resumes may be mailed to P.O. Box 3837, Clarksville, TN 37043.

MUSIC: Accepting resumes for a full-time Minister of Music. Call (615) 794-5529 or send resume to Grassland Heights Baptist Church, 2316 Hillsboro Rd., Franklin, TN 37069.

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN: Accepting resumes for a part-time Minister of Preschool & Children. Send resume to Grassland Heights Baptist Church, 2316 Hillsboro Rd., Franklin, TN 37069 or call (615) 794-5529.

MAINTENANCE: Inglewood Baptist, Nashville, is taking applications for a maintenance person. Please call the church at (615) 228-2546 or fax resume to 650-1541.

YOUTH: Praying for Youth Minister, FBC, West Plains, Mo. Growing church in the heart of the Ozarks, south central Missouri. SS 700, youth 75-100. Should possess a B.A. degree, music a plus. We offer a competitive salary and benefit package commensurate with qualifications and experience. Interested candidates should send resume to First Baptist Church, 202 Walnut St., West Plains, MO 65775, www.fbcwp-townsqr.com, Dan Singletary.

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.

Who cares? We do.

By Roy Graves

Focal Passage — I Peter 4:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:15; John 4:9-14; Philippians 2:25-30

Jesus cares for us. In Mark 4:38 Jesus was asked the question by desperate men in a sinking boat, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus cares. He calmed the sea for those men and he will give peace and calm to your troubled life. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I like the reminder: people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Practice hospitality (I Peter 4:9-10). The hospitality we show others is a reflection of the hospitality God has shown toward us. Jesus was occasionally the recipient of hospitality as were the disciples. We might guess it easy to be hospitable to someone like Jesus. Yet, we are told to "be hospitable to one another." Everyone knows an "another" who is not like Jesus, nevertheless we are to be hospitable toward them.

Hospitality is a virtue to be seen in Christian leaders and community. Love is the motivation for hospitality. Hebrews 13:2 says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."

Provide kindness (I Thessalonians 5:15). In Ephesians 4:32 we read, "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." Scripture points up the truth that we are "not to repay evil for evil." People are treated less than kind outside and inside the church and they believe the only way to get ahead is to get even. We are to help break our society out of the "evil for evil" cycle. We are to lead people to the high ground of seeking "good for one another and for all men." One president of the United States said he wanted a "kinder and gentler nation" and I believe he meant it. God expects his children to show care by providing Christ-like kindness to all people.

Proclaim the Gospel (John 4:9-14). The litmus test of whether we care for people is revealed in sharing the Gospel. The Christian community is not a caring community if we are not carrying the Gospel to people dying of spiritual thirst. The Samaritan woman had a waterpot on her head and a pothole in her heart. She needed her heart filled with who Jesus was more than with what Jesus wasn't. Jesus wasn't a temporary fix for thirst. Jesus is eternal living water and if anyone drinks of his water will never thirst again. If we really care we will be concerned about people who are dying of spiritual thirst.

Present yourself (Philippians 2:25-30). Dr. H.A. Ironside used to tell about a group of believers who thought only of fellowship. They had little concern for reaching the lost or for defending the faith against its enemies. In front of their meeting place they hung a sign, "Jesus only." But the wind blew away some of the letters, and the sign read, "Us only." It is a telling description of a congregation of people who were not caring Christians. We are more like Jesus when we present ourselves as living sacrifices to God and for others. — Graves is pastor, First Church, Kingston.

Servanthood

By Tommy Ferguson

Focal Passage — John 13:1-17

When studying a passage, I read it several times in order to comprehend its meaning and application. I look for key words or phrases. In these verses the words *knew*, *know*, and *knowing* are used eight times in the context of servanthood. So I will utilize *know* and all its forms in the theme of this lesson. But also, when I read a passage I have several commentaries I use to glean from. Warren Wiersbe has a wonderful outline you need to read. I don't want to be guilty of plagiarism so I will give the main outline and selected commentary. Let's scan Warren Wiersbe first, then my thoughts-next.

Warren Wiersbe thoughts

In verses 1-5 we view humility with Jesus and the Father. Jesus is sovereign, yet he took the place of a servant. He had all things in his hands, yet he picked up a towel. He served his followers. It has well been said that humility is not thinking meanly of yourself; it is simply not thinking of yourself at all. True humility grows out of a relationship with the Father. If our desire is to know and do the Father's will so that we may glorify his name, then we will experience the joy of following Christ's example and serving others.

Family Bible Lesson

Verses 6-11 we see holiness with Jesus and Peter. When the sinner trusts the Savior, he is "bathed all over" and his sins are washed away and forgiven. However, as the believer walks in this world it is easy to become defiled. He does not need to be bathed all over again; he simply needs to have the defilement cleansed away. God promises to cleanse us when we confess our sins to him.

Verses 12-17 we notice happiness with Jesus and his disciples. Happiness is the by-product of a life that is

Conquest of doubt

By Jerry Reagan

Focal Passage — Psalm 73:1-6, 13-18, 21-26

Why don't the godly prosper and the ungodly suffer? The first verse of this psalm

is a conclusion reached after the psalmist has gone through a faith crisis. "Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart." He has come to the right conclusion. In the remainder of the psalm he describes how he came to this conclusion.

Almost and nearly — (vv. 1-14)

As long as the psalmist was looking back to facts and up to God in faith, he was convinced that God is good. But when he looked around without looking up, he allowed his short term observations to confuse his thinking. He perceived that the ungodly were getting along better than the godly.

He saw the prosperity of the wicked (vv. 3-5). The wicked didn't seem to suffer as much when they died. They were strong, well-fed, even fat. They don't seem to be troubled or plagued as much as the godly.

He saw the pride of the wicked (vv. 6-9). They are proud of their offensive, oppressive, and violent be-

Explore the Bible Lesson

havior. They have more than they will ever need. They openly speak against the heavens.

He saw the popularity of the wicked (vv. 10-12). The ungodly have people who are following their example in taking advantage of the godly and questioning God's knowledge and authority. They always seem to be at ease as their riches increase.

The psalmist seems to be thinking that his efforts to live right before God have been in vain. In spite of these efforts on his part he is still plagued and chastened on a daily basis.

Until and then — (vv. 15-22)

As the psalmist tried to sort out his thoughts, he thinks about what effect his doubts would have on others. If he expressed his doubts, would that cause others to doubt. His efforts to reconcile his doubts with his faith was a painful experience. It seems he is inspired to go to the house of God. All was in confusion, "Until I went into the sanctu-

lived in the will of God. When we humbly serve others, walk in God's paths of holiness, and do what he tells us, then we will enjoy happiness.

Verses 18-35, we observe hypocrisy. From the very beginning, Jesus knew what Judas would do, but he did not compel him to do it. Judas was exposed to the same spiritual privileges as the other disciples, yet they did him no good. The same sun that melts the ice only hardens the clay.

Things to know when being a servant

Purpose. Jesus knew he had a set time to carry out the Father's will. If Jesus is our example, we must "redeem the time" and complete the entrusted task. We must realize that the same God that allowed us to be born and born again, will require us to give an account of our time, talents, and tasks.

Passion. We see our Lord encountered the disciples with loving devotion not drudgery. Jesus took this "dirty dozen" and poured his life into them with immeasurable love.

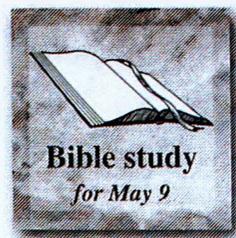
Predator. No servant of God is without opposition. If our sinless Savior had a Judas in his life, we must arm ourselves to likewise expect the same.

Power. Jesus understood his dependence and source of strength to carry out the task. Today we have the resources of heaven to carry out the Father's will just as his Son Jesus did.

Pretender. We have pretenders in our pews. Our Lord earlier eluded that there would be wheat and tares. This parable symbolized his true followers from the false.

Pattern. Jesus not only taught them a lesson in word but also in deed. Jesus said "you have to be willing to humble yourselves and do the most sacrificial, and even degrading task for each other if it advances the cause of Christ."

Perception. The world will know that we are his disciples when they see us love one another. In context with the previous verses, this means to serve one another.— Ferguson is pastor, Ivy Memorial, Nashville.



ary of God; then I understood their end." He had almost stumbled, he had nearly slipped because of his envy. In the sanctuary he was given understanding that though the ungodly

seem to have a firm footing they are standing in "slippery places" and are in danger. He realizes how foolish and ignorant he had been. He had behaved like a selfish beast before God.

Nevertheless and afterward — (vv. 23-28)

The psalmist begins to see what he has that the ungodly do not have. He has God's continual presence to hold, guide, and receive him to glory. God is his only need and desire.

He has an assurance that justice will be done, and he will experience the goodness of drawing near to God, trusting him, and declaring all his works.

When he entered the sanctuary, the psalmist was enabled to evaluate time while thinking of eternity. He was enabled to evaluate earth while thinking of heaven. He was enabled to evaluate life in view of death. True worship helps us to see life more from God's point of view. — Reagan is pastor, South Fork Church, Friendship.



Miller, Kaneshiro headline WMU event

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Addresses by noted author Calvin Miller and Hawaii pastor Paul Kaneshiro, along with the recognition of retiring WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, will highlight the June 13-14 Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

The yearly gathering of WMU members and guests

will be held at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta on Sunday and Monday prior to the SBC annual meeting. Sessions begin at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon and conclude Monday evening. The meeting will develop the theme, "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow."

Along with five plenary sessions, the WMU annual meeting also will include five one-hour sessions for leadership training. These sessions will be restricted to registered participants only. The cost is \$35 per person prior to May 21. The cost increases to \$50 per person after May 21.

Miller will speak during the Sunday evening session. He has authored 35 books and currently is a professor at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School here.

Kaneshiro, who represents

Hawaii on the SBC Executive Committee, will speak during the Sunday afternoon session.

O'Brien's recognition will be featured during the Monday evening session. She will retire as WMU executive director on Sept. 1, exactly 10 years after assuming the post. She will give her final report to the annual gathering during the Monday morning session. ■



O'BRIEN

SBC evangelists organize events

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A contemporary Christian concert and

Sunday morning worship — both in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park — are being organized by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in connection with the SBC annual meeting.

Contemporary Christian groups Smalltown Poets and Third Day will be featured in a free-admission concert at 7 p.m., June 12, in the park.

The Sunday morning worship service in the park will feature preaching by John Phillips of Wilmington, N.C., and Glenn Sheppard of Conyers, Ga.

A third outreach, "Praise in the Park," will be at 10 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, in Olympic Park, featuring Anthony Burger, pianist for Bill Gaither Homecoming gatherings, along with Southern Baptist music evangelists.

The annual business meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will be at 7 a.m., Tuesday, June 15, in Room W262 on level 2 of the Georgia World Congress Center. ■

DOM program to explore 'new century' leadership

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The theme of this year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions will be "Leading Your Association into a New Century."

The 475-member organization's 38th session will be Sun-

Pastors' Conference to remind: 'You Can Make a Difference'

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The 1999 SBC Pastors' Conference, to be held June 13-14 prior to the SBC annual meeting, will focus on "You Can Make A Difference."

Pastors' Conference speakers, by session, will be

Sunday, June 13, 2 p.m. — J. Kie Bowman, pastor, Austin, Texas; Fred Lowery, pastor, Bossier City, La.; Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville; Larry Burkett, Christian Financial Concepts, Gainesville, Ga.

Sunday, June 13, 6:30 p.m. — Bob Reccord, SBC North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.; Jay Strack, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.; John C. Maxwell, founder of Injoy, Atlanta

Monday, June 14, 8:30 a.m. — Mark Cortis, pastor,

Winston-Salem, N.C.; O.S. Hawkins, SBC Annuity Board Dallas; Ed Young, pastor, Houston

Among the featured speakers will be leadership speaker John Maxwell of Injoy, a Christian leadership ministry based in Atlanta; Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church, Lake Forest, Calif., and author of *The Purpose Driven Church*; Jerry Rankin, president, SBC International Mission Board; and O.S. Hawkins, president, SBC Annuity Board.

A continuing education session on "Using Computers in the Association" will be offered on Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ■

NAMB Vision Center to open during SBC

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ATLANTA — The North American Mission Board will host a grand opening for its new Vision Center on Wednesday, June 16, during the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. All SBC attendees are invited.

The Vision Center is an interactive, multi-media experience that will illustrate the past and future challenges of reaching North America for Christ.

The center will be open for regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Buses from the Georgia Dome will run Wednesday from noon to 3:30 p.m.

Free tickets for the grand opening will be available at the NAMB booth at the convention center and at the NAMB presentation on Tuesday evening. ■

Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

June 15-16, Georgia Dome, Atlanta

Editor's Note: The following is not a complete schedule. The major items in each session are highlighted along with approximate times.

Tuesday Morning, June 15

- 8:20 a.m. — Call to order, President Paige Patterson; Registration report, Lee Porter
- 8:35 a.m. — Committee on Order of Business
- 8:40 a.m. — Welcome, Truett Cathey, CEO, Chick-Fil-A, Atlanta
- 8:45 a.m. — Response, J. Robert White, executive director, Georgia Baptist Convention
- 9:00 a.m. — Theme Interpretation
- 9:20 a.m. — Crossover Atlanta report, Bob Reccord, NAMB
- 9:25 a.m. — Introduction of motions and resolutions. All resolutions must be presented before the Tuesday afternoon session.
- 9:45 a.m. — Committee on Nominations report, Rex Terry, chairman
- 9:55 a.m. — Executive Committee, Part I, Morris Chapman
- 10:55 a.m. — President's Address, Paige Patterson
- 11:35 a.m. — Benediction, Charles S. Kelley Sr.

Wednesday Morning, June 16

- 8:20 a.m. — Theme Interpretation
- 8:35 a.m. — WMU report
- 8:45 a.m. — Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 8:55 a.m. — Business
- 9:15 a.m. — Previously scheduled business
- 10:05 a.m. — Committee on Resolutions
- 10:55 a.m. — Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:05 a.m. — Committee on Committees Report
- 11:40 a.m. — Convention Sermon, Ralph Smith
- 12:15 p.m. — Benediction, Jerry Falwell

No afternoon session

Wednesday Evening, June 16

- 6:15 p.m. — Business
- 6:25 p.m. — Testimony — Reggie White, NFL player and Knoxville minister
- 6:40 p.m. — Previously scheduled business
- 6:55 p.m. — Theme Interpretation
- 7:10 p.m. — Committee on Resolutions (final report)
- 7:40 p.m. — Recognition of former SBC presidents, Paige Patterson
- 7:55 p.m. — Presentation of new officers
- 8:10 p.m. — International Mission Board report, Jerry Rankin, president
- 8:20 p.m. — IMB presentation
- 9:10 p.m. — Benediction, Junior Hill



"...He beheld the city and wept..."

Luke 19:41

Tuesday Afternoon, June 15

- 1:15 p.m. — Business, introduction of motions, reporting proposed resolutions
- 1:30 p.m. — Executive Committee, Part II
- 2:10 p.m. — Election of Officers (First)
- 2:25 p.m. — LifeWay Christian Resources report and presentation, Jimmy Draper
- 3:10 p.m. — YouthLink 2000 presentation
- 3:20 p.m. — Seminary report
- 3:30 p.m. — Seminary presentations from six SBC seminaries
- 4:20 p.m. — Election of Officers (Second)
- 4:35 p.m. — Introduction of New Motions (last opportunity), reporting proposed resolutions
- 5:00 p.m. — Benediction, Jeffery Singletary

Tuesday Evening, June 15

- 7:10 p.m. — Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:20 p.m. — Theme Interpretation
- 7:35 p.m. — Business
- 7:45 p.m. — Previously Scheduled Worship, Reporting proposed resolutions
- 8:15 p.m. — North American Mission Board report, Bob Reccord
- 8:25 p.m. — NAMB presentation
- 9:15 p.m. — Benediction, John Kuespert