

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 12, 1999

this week's news

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- ▶ Broadman & Holman to publish new Bible translation. — Page 2
- ▶ Pullout explores ministry with men, boys. — Pages 5-8
- ▶ Record crowd attends dramatic arts festivals. — Page 9

Disaster Relief teams sent to Kansas; tornadoes strike Tennessee — again

By Lonnie Wilkey & Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — On the same day Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief officials learned they were needed in Haysville, Kansas, remnants of the storm which devastated portions of Oklahoma and Kansas struck Tennessee.

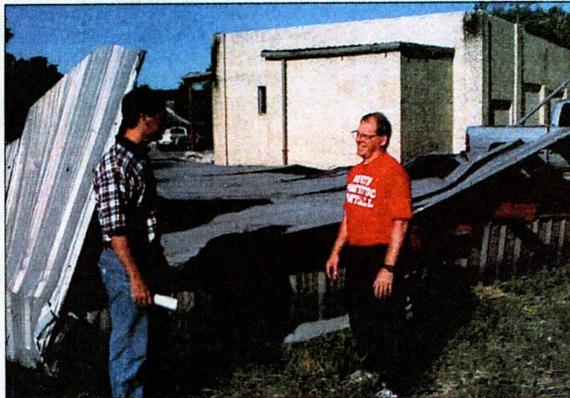
Late in the evening on May 5 tornadoes and straight line winds of up to 90 miles per hour struck the state, according to a report issued by Tim Bearden, TBC Disaster Relief director.

The fierce winds that killed four people in Tennessee and left sporadic damage across the state were part of the same storm system that roared through Kansas and Oklahoma May 3, leaving behind at least 45 dead, 10 in Kansas and 35 in Oklahoma.

In Tennessee

Tennessee Emergency Management Association reported that in the Nashville area alone, 50,000 homes were without electricity and 20 counties were affected by the May 5 storms.

Dick Staggs, a TBC Disaster Relief volunteer from West Tennessee, assessed the F4



PASTOR GARY DOZIER, left, and Youth Minister Danny Aldridge stand in front of the roof which was blown off the Family Life Center of First Baptist Church, Linden, and assess the damage.

(F5 is the most severe) tornado damage in the Linden area. A local shelter was set up at First Baptist Church there.

Pastor Gary Dozier reported the Linden congregation had just concluded their Wednesday night service when they learned a tornado was scheduled to hit the community around 8:35 p.m.

While some of the members had left for home, about 25-30 gathered in a small room in the basement of the church, he reported.

They were reading Psalm 121 and praying when the storm hit, knocking off their electricity, Dozier said, noting there was no panic. "It was a beautiful time for us," he said.

In the aftermath of the storm, First Church became the hub of activity.

An emergency medical shelter was set up at the church, but no one had to be treated there, Dozier related.

In addition, ladies of the church began cooking hot meals — See Disaster, page 3

TBCH president sets retirement

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Gerald L. Stow, president/treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, has announced he will retire from his post, effective Dec. 31.

Stow, who will be 66 in September, served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, before accepting the presidency of TBCH in 1984.

"We are grateful for the magnificent and fruitful leadership of Gerald Stow," said Ed North, T B C H



STOW

trustee chairman. North said a search committee has been named and will begin work immediately to find a successor. "It is our desire to have a person in place by early fall to work alongside Dr. Stow," said North, pastor of First Baptist Church, Humboldt.

The committee consists of Glenn Weekly, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville; chairman; Jerry — See TBCH, page 2

Youth speakers, drillers compete at state level



REGIONAL BIBLE Drill Winners competing along with the speakers May 1 were, from left, front row, Chrissy Hobcock, Walnut Hill Baptist Church, Bells; Erica Linkous, East Rogersville Baptist Church, Rogersville; Clinton Kee, First Baptist Church, Huntingdon; Brent Allred, Friendship Baptist Church, Culleoka; and Joyce Park, Korean Baptist Church, Collierville; back row, David Holsinger, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis; Ashley Baskin, Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; Katie Galloway, Eastanallee Baptist Church, Riceville; Justin Nipper, Mount Olive Baptist Church, South, Knoxville; and Kyle Fuller, First Baptist Church, Cookeville. Winner was Holsinger and runner-up was Kee.



REGIONAL SPEAKERS Tournament Winners competing at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, May 1 were, from left, front row, Charlene Whitstine, French Broad Valley Baptist Church, Kodak; Crystal Skelton, Bethel Baptist Church, Greenfield; April Ross, First Baptist Church, Scotts Hill; Lisa Mize, Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Vanessa Bond, Providence Baptist Church, McMinnville; back row, Cliff Tappan, East Ridge Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Mandy Baskin, Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; Melissa Ramsey, Bowmantown Baptist Church, Jonesborough; Daniel Holsinger, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis; Laura Lee Moore, Charleston Baptist Church, Stanton; and Michael Cothren, Kelly's Creek Baptist Church, Ardmore. Moore was the winner and Holsinger was the runner up.

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Broadman & Holman Publishers announce new Bible translation

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Broadman & Holman Publishers is producing a new Bible translation expected to be on bookshelves by 2004.

Named the Holman Christian Standard Bible (CSB), the translation will combine commitment to accuracy in communicating the original text and modern-day readability, said Kenneth H. Stephens, president of Broadman & Holman, the trade publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Up until now, every English translation of the Bible has been a tradeoff between accuracy and readability," Stephens said. "The more accurate it was, the harder it was to read, and the more reader-friendly it was, the more it drifted from a precise translation of the original text. With our Bible, we've eliminated the tradeoff."

The Holman Christian Standard Bible will be a fresh, precise translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek of the Old and New Testaments, using the latest research in textual criticism along with sophisticated computer technology to check the accuracy of meaning in each word, B&H officials stated.

The Gospel of John has been completed, with all four Gospels and the Book of Revelation set to be finished by the end of 1999. The New Testament is targeted for completion by the end of 2000, with

the entire Bible to be released by 2004.

Holman CSB general editor Edwin Blum of Dallas is working with a 78-person team of translators, lexicologists, stylists and other scholars around the world. A smaller six-person team is headquartered in Dallas. Team members represent 20 denominations, including Southern Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, Presbyterians (PCA), Congregationalists, Church of England, Church of God, Evangelical Free Church, Methodists, Evangelical Menonites, and Episcopalians.

Work on the new translation began in 1984 as an independent project of Arthur Farstad, who served as general editor for the New King James Version. Broadman & Holman joined forces with Farstad in 1998. Only months after beginning his collaboration with B&H, Farstad died. Leadership of the editorial team then passed to Blum, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary who had been an integral part of the team.

To reach people effectively, Blum said he believes a Bible translation should be accurate to the original text, but conversational.

"A conscientious translator has to render the meaning exactly, but present it in a form his readers find inviting and naturally expressive. We work using a word-for-word translation philosophy, but we always keep our contemporary American English reader in mind."

The new translation will maintain use of traditional,

theologically significant words such as "grace" and "justification" and it will offer word studies to help readers grasp their full meaning, Blum said. Additionally, it will provide footnotes to show alternate translations and alternate textual readings, cross references, and explanatory material.

In trying to make the Bible more reader-friendly, more relevant, and more politically correct, many contemporary translators have sacrificed accuracy and precision of the original text, said David R. Shepherd, vice president of Bible publishing for B&H.

"Some recent translations have reinterpreted the Bible to make it consistent with current trends and their own way of thinking," Shepherd said.

"Current trends in Bible translation have been a real wake-up call for everybody who's concerned about preserving the integrity of Scripture. The Holman Christian Standard will be under the stewardship of Christians who believe we should conform our lives and culture to the Bible — not the other way around," he added.

LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. said he sees a "serious need for a 21st-century Bible translation in American English that combines accuracy and readability."

"The Holman Christian Standard Bible is an accurate, literal rendering with a smoothness and readability that invites memorization, reading aloud, and dedicated study," Draper said. ■

Lottery passes House vote

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — State representatives approved HB 7, which calls for a Constitutional Convention, by a 56-41 vote on May 5. The Constitutional Convention is one method of clearing the way for a lottery and potentially other forms of gambling in Tennessee in the future.

The resolution now faces a vote by the Senate, where it has been defeated in years past.

Should the bill pass the Senate it may face a veto by Gov. Don Sundquist, who has said he is against using a constitutional convention to decide the lottery issue, according to a May 6 article in *The Tennessean*.

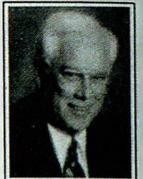
Tennessee Baptists opposed to a lottery and gambling in Tennessee should continue to contact state legislators. ■

Ray Newcomb elected to chair NAMB trustees

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Tennessee Baptist pastor Ray Newcomb was elected chairman of the board of trustees for the North American Mission Board during the agency's May 6 trustee meeting.

Newcomb has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Millington, since 1975.



NEWCOMB

He is a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and is a past president of the state convention.

In other business, NAMB trustees elected R. Phillip Roberts as vice president of strategic cities strategies.

Roberts, who already was on staff, will provide leadership of NAMB's partnership plan for reaching the megacities called Strategic Focus Cities.

Trustees also appointed 30 new NAMB missionaries to serve as church planters, associational strategists, and evangelism specialists in 11 states and Vancouver, British Columbia.

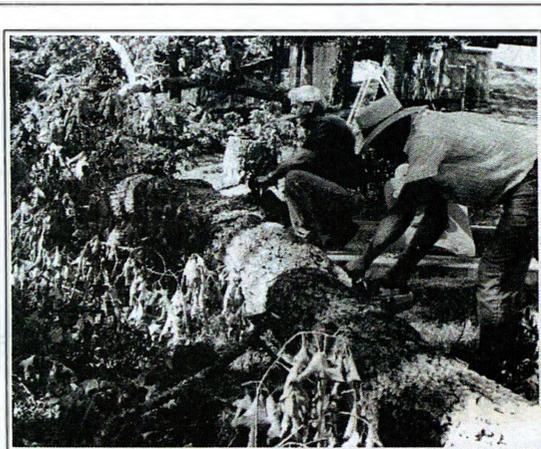
NAMB's Chaplain's Commission also approved endorsement of 63 chaplains to join more than 3,000 SBC-endorsed chaplains serving around the world in military, health-care, business, and institutional settings. ■

TBCH president ...

— Continued from page 1

Massey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris; Howard Houston, Ripley; Jean Sorrell, Brownsville; Garry Maddox, Franklin; Peggy Patterson, Brentwood; Edsel West, pastor, South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman; DeWayne Morrow, Cleveland; and Shelby Lord, Lenoir City. Ex-officio members of the committee are North and Nashville attorney Frank Ingraham.

The search committee will receive resumes of interested persons until June 30. Resumes should be mailed to: Glenn Weekley, First Baptist Church, 106 Bluegrass Common Blvd., Hendersonville, TN 37075. ■



Trees downed at Camp Linden

The tornado which struck Perry County May 5 toppled about 30 trees at Tennessee Baptists' Camp Linden. Camp Manager Tommy Strong, left, reported only minor damage, however, to the camp buildings. Helping Strong cut away the trees is staff member John Coblentz.

TBC Disaster Relief teams sent to Kansas ...

— Continued from page 1

in the early morning hours for victims, rescue and utility workers, and law enforcement officials. They continued cooking throughout Thursday and into Friday, Dozier said.

About 50 people slept at the church on Wednesday night as well, Dozier said.

Numerous volunteers from the church and community pitched in, helping provide meals and in clean up. Businesses and churches from ALPHA Association and elsewhere donated food and supplies.

The church itself received an estimated \$150,000 in damages as the roof was blown off the church's Family Life Center. The facility once was the old Linden City Hall, which the church has been renovating over the past two years. The church building itself received some damage to the roof as well, Dozier said.

The tragedy has opened doors for ministry, the pastor said. "What God will do ministry-wise remains to be seen. But he has been glorified through this tragedy."

In Kansas

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief staff member Gene Williams arrived May 7 in Haysville, Kansas, near Wichita, to help coordinate Disaster Relief efforts there. Relief cleanup crews and Shower Trailer Unit also were sent to aid in the recovery efforts following the killer tornadoes which struck Kansas and Oklahoma early last week.

SBC Disaster Relief is working with American Red Cross to provide food, cleanup, and aid in the recovery efforts. In Haysville, most of the town has been destroyed. Three shelters have been set up.



Pat Mulloy retires

Pat Mulloy, center, retired April 30 after 31 years on the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. Mulloy served as convention coordinator and worked with various committees of the convention. She was honored during a reception April 29 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. With her are two long-time colleagues in the Executive Office — Jane Garvin, left, and Phyllis Bates.

Know what to do when a tornado strikes

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — With tornado season back, it's a good time to review danger signs and know how to protect yourself, whether at home, in a car, or at the office.

Tornado season is generally March through August, although they can occur at any time of the year. They tend to occur in the afternoons and evenings. More than 80 percent of all tornadoes strike between noon and midnight.

Know the danger signs

► **Large hail:** Tornadoes are spawned from powerful thunderstorms which can produce large hail. Tornadoes frequently emerge from near the hail-producing portion of the storm.

► **Calm before the storm.** Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air become very still.

► **Cloud of debris.** An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado, even if a funnel is not visible.

► **Funnel cloud.** A visible rotating extension of the cloud base is a sign that a tornado may develop. A tornado is evident when one or more of the clouds turns greenish (a phenomenon caused by hail) and a dark funnel descends.

► **Roaring noise.** The high winds of a torna-



do can cause a roar that is often compared with the sound of a freight train.

Protect yourself

At home, go to a basement or lowest level of the building. If no basement is available, go to an inner hallway or a small inner room without windows such as a bathroom or closet. Go to the center of the room. Stay away from corners because they tend to attract debris. If in a mobile home, get out and find shelter elsewhere.

Whether at home or work, stay away from windows. Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a workbench or a heavy table and hold on to it. Use arms to protect head and neck. Always avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways, or shopping malls.

Never try to outride a tornado in a car or truck. Tornadoes can change directions quickly and can lift up a car or truck and toss it through the air. Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building.

If outdoors and shelter is not available or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. Be aware of the potential for flooding. Use arms to protect head and neck. ■ — Information from the American Red Cross reprinted in INFO, published by the TBC Communications Services Group.

Tennessee's Disaster Relief teams include volunteers from William Carey Baptist Association, based in Fayetteville, led by Don Pierson, director of missions. A replacement team from William Carey will relieve them later this week. A team from First Baptist Church, South Pittsburg, led by Pastor Jeff Lane, will join these teams.

Donations are being accepted for "Mid-West Tornado Response" through the Tennessee Baptist Convention, MAI Group, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

For more information, call 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2026. ■



SORTING THROUGH food at First Baptist Church, Linden, are, from left, Paige Dozier, Early Mae Jackson, and Tracy Aldridge. Volunteers from First Church prepared nearly 350 hot meals for victims, workers, and law enforcement officials following the F4 tornado which struck their community late in the evening on May 5.

Fayette Association DOM to retire

For Baptist and Reflector

SOMERVILLE — Robert W. Campbell has notified Fayette Baptist Association based here of his retirement as director of missions to become effective upon the call of a new DOM.

Campbell has served in Fayette Association since 1993.

During his tenure the association sold the old missions home and purchased two acres of prime land on Highway 64 at the western city limits of Somerville.

With the help of mostly volunteer labor from churches in the county, they erected a 3,000-square foot brick veneer

building which provided office space, work room, resource room, small conference room, and a large conference room which seats about 90 people.

Participation in volunteer mission projects also increased as more and more churches took on projects helping to build churches or other activities.

Campbell served as a pastor for 25 years, mostly in Tennessee, before leaving a 10-year pastorate at First Baptist Church, Rockwood, to serve as director of evangelism for the Baptist Convention of New England, under appointment of the Home Mission Board, now North American Mission Board. He later served in the board's evangelism section until his retirement there in 1993.

Campbell plans to remain active with revivals and supply and interim pastorates. ■



CAMPBELL



TBC's Julian Suggs sets retirement date

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Julian Suggs, a staff member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the past 21 years, has announced his retirement, effective Jan. 31, 2000.

Suggs joined the TBC in 1978 as program associate in the Church Music Department and became director of the department four years later. He is now church music/worship specialist for the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group.

Suggs has served on the staff of churches in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee, including First Baptist Church, Lenoir City, and First Baptist Church, Athens.

A native of Georgia, Suggs was reared in North Carolina.

He holds degrees from Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, N.C.; Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., and the doctor of musical arts degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was licensed into the ministry in 1957 and ordained in 1964.

Suggs is a former member of The Centurymen, a touring group of professional musicians. He has been director of the Tennessee Baptist Chorale, a group of state ministers of music, since 1982. Suggs also served on the music committee for the 1991 Baptist Hymnal.

While at the TBC Suggs led in establishing children's music camps and Saturday skill shops for bivocational ministers of music.

Suggs said he has fond memories of his ministry with Tennessee Baptists. "It has been a joy to meet and minister with countless numbers of people across our beautiful state.

"Following God's leadership has been and still remains the desire of my heart," he said. "I am open to whatever door God opens," added Suggs, who will be 62 in July.

Suggs and his wife, Frances, have three grown children and six grandchildren. They will continue to live in Arrington. ■



SUGGS

Associations — churches with common faith, shared mission

guest editorial

by Larry Kirk
Leader, Evangelism/Missions
Strategies Group, TBC

May 17-23 has been designated Associational Missions Week. We are challenged this year to "Discover the Adventure." And what an adventure the association has had. It began life (yes, it has life) in 1707 with the formation of the Philadelphia Association. Thus, the association predates the state and national conventions.

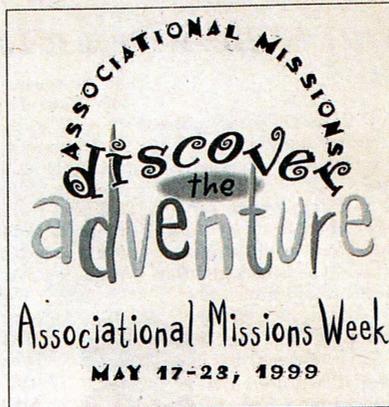
What is the purpose of our associations? Before one can answer this question, one must ask, "What is an association?" For some, it is an annual meeting; for others, it is programs or personnel; for still others, it is a building or resource center. All of these are pieces of an association, but none define it. J.C. Bradley, retired-Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board), defines it as "...a self-governing fellowship of autonomous churches sharing a common faith and active on missions in their setting."

I prefer to define the association simply as a "family" of churches. In this family, there is diversity of members with diversity of thought and size. But each makes a distinctive contribution to the fellowships and shared ministries. These members are not like marbles in a sack, touching, bumping, rolling along together, yet never really affecting one another. They are more like grapes in a sack that are changed by constant interaction. This changing produces a fellowship that is seen by arid society as a sweet, thirst-quenching juice for the soul. They sense a fellowship designed to be inclusive of their needs.

This naturally leads us into the purpose of the association — to be a fellowship with a common faith and active on a shared mission.

Fellowship speaks of a shared life, a mutuality, and koinonia. It is a fellowship that embraces the "stranger without the gate." It seeks to model the love of Christ toward a lost world.

A common faith addresses the doctrinal issues of fellowship. Each association is different, but each association must determine the particular doctrinal issues that are impor-



tant to their fellowship and must agree upon the amount of diversity that is encouraged or tolerated. No outside entity can do this for an association.

Active on a shared mission refers to God's mission for the churches individually and collectively. There is no conflict. God does not lead one church to be competitive with another. Without a sense of shared mission, those Baptist churches of an area become like the marbles in the analogy above. It is only by linking together that churches become greater than themselves — no matter how large or small.

Each situation is peculiar,

but by banding (and bonding) together churches of any area can do more for Christ, thus the basic purpose (and value) of an association.

Many aspects of the association have changed through these years of "adventure." Continual change must occur if the association is to remain relevant to its purpose. New methodologies must be added to the "tried and proven." For example, the association must call leadership that sees the value of being a mission strategist, not just a keeper of the fellowship. This leadership must be proactive, rather than reactive. In sports terms, he must charge the ball, rather than waiting safely for the ball to get to him. Waiting for the ball may keep one from making a mistake, but it will cause you to lose the game. Too much is at stake for us to lose the "ball game."

May God richly bless our 68 associations across our state. May we be faithful to his will. ■



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Marge (a high school sophomore): "Have you heard about Terry? She's been grounded. Her parents took away her TV and phone privileges." Tiffany: "That's tough." Marge: "It's not too bad. They forgot to take away her fax."

Take this truth

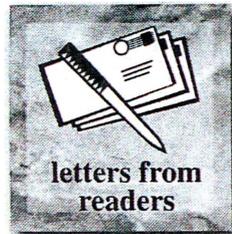
Wisdom is "touching all the bases." Resourcefulness is discovering when your "opposition" neglected to "touch all the bases."

Memorize this Scripture

"A discerning man keeps wisdom in view." — Proverbs 17:24, NIV

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to watch every detail of my life lest I overlook one of the most important." ■



Offers help

Tennessee has had an unusual number of tornadoes this year, some affecting Tennessee Baptists. Since LifeWay employees experienced the devastation of a tornado last year in Nashville, we know something of the emotions some must be experiencing this year. We want to help in any way we can.

Southern Baptist churches that have suffered disaster need only call LifeWay at 1-800-357-7029 to receive assistance. We offer a free quarter of replacement literature, as well as some significant discounts on replacement products and equipment not covered by insurance for Southern Baptist churches that have suffered a disaster.

Please address any questions to Mildred Heinicke at LifeWay.
James T. Draper, president
LifeWay Christian
Resources of the SBC
Nashville 37234

Forced fellowship

Every Sunday morning, just about every church has a period

of "forced fellowship." The pastor or music minister will say: "Now, for the next few minutes, greet each other with a smile and a handshake, and an 'I love you.'"

People begin to fan out, eager to carry out the instructions of the one in command. I think some people would do just about anything they are told to do by the man or woman in charge.

Most people think this "act" is indicative of a friendly church. Not so! Some people who show their pearls on Sunday will meet you on the street on Monday and act as if they don't know you.

This takes time from the service. Now, I can certainly understand that there are occasions when God the Holy Spirit moves in the hearts of the pastor and people inducing such a movement, and then there will be genuine tears, smiles, handshakes, and an embracing of each other that engenders a

blessed service. But, to do that on a rote fashion is just a trite, time-consuming act.

Sidney McKnight
Union City 38261

Appreciates article

I appreciated Richard Ross' article in the April 28 issue dealing with the challenges of bringing alienated youth into church youth groups (and ultimately saving their souls). I think that our youth can make a difference outside of church, in the schools, and community. Young people tend to interact with "their own."

They're not instinctively outreaching, especially to those who seem different. Still the Bible teaches us to extend unconditional love to others. Could we not help our young people understand that reaching out to others, and "leaving no strays" is a wonderful living testimony of faith?

If every Christian young person would make it a personal mission to become a friend to one person who seems alienated, what a difference it could make. Even just an "at school" friendship, if it is sincere, can make an enormous difference in the life of a kid who feels left out. It doesn't necessarily need to culminate in a "church and family" relationship for it to be beneficial.

Often the disenfranchised see students in school prayer groups as being "clannish." This kind of individual outreach might really make a difference in eliminating that perception too.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a "one-on-one" outreach by our children and youth could reduce or eliminate that feeling of alienation in our schools, and help head off occurrences like we saw in Colorado?

Dwight Gatwood
Martin 38237

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



Partnership Prayer Requests May

13 — Pray for James Jones, evangelism ministry leader for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, who will retire Aug. 31, and for the search committee who will look for his successor.

14 — Praise God for Patrick Beard who led a team of volunteers from Jackson recently to do lay leadership training in Portugal.

15 — Pray for Lewis Markwood, pastor of Cambrian Heights Church, Calgary, Alberta, who has retired from full-time ministry.

16 — Pray for the 268 Brazilian churches that have signed up to participate in the May 23-June 1 simultaneous revivals in Rio de Janeiro.

17 — Pray for a 15-member sports evangelism team from Belmont University who are teaching basketball from now until May 27 in Cartago, Costa Rica.

18 — Pray for Joan Bruce, business manager for the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

19 — Pray for Benny and Ann Sprouse, IMB missionaries in Rio. She is on medical leave in the U.S. with a malignancy.

Tennessee Baptist Men and Boys on Mission

Ministry of Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries Team, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, Tennessee Baptist Convention

Summer 1999

Twelve Tennessee Challengers earn national awards

By Marcia Knox

A total of 12 Tennessee Challengers were recognized with National Challenger Awards during the 45th RA Congress held April 1-3 at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

"This is the largest number of Challengers to be awarded these national recognitions," according to Tim Bearden, MAI Group Leader and Baptist Men's specialist. "We are very proud of these young men, their Challenger leaders, and their churches."

Those receiving awards were Logan Fitts, Travis Bullington, and Craig Simpson, all of Valley Grove Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Nathan Singleton, Craig Newman, Josh Copeland, Jonathan Smeltzer, Jason Dykes, Robert McDonald, Ben Altom, Todd Mills, and John

Ramey, all of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville. Challengers National Awards are presented to individual Challengers, based on completion of personal development activities, involvement in the Challengers program, and as recommended by Challengers leaders and state Brotherhood personnel.

Challengers receive the national award only once.

Challengers National Awards recipients must complete an equivalent of four years of First and Second Mile per-

sonal development. Since recognition of each level is based on 24 projects, this requirement equals 48 projects per year or a total of 192 projects over four or more years. ■



CHALLENGERS who received the award from Valley Grove Baptist Church, Knoxville, were, from left, Logan Fitts, Travis Bullington, and Craig Simpson. — Photos by Tim Bearden of the TBC



RECIPIENTS FROM Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, are, from left, front row, Nathan Singleton, Craig Newman, Josh Copeland, Jonathan Smeltzer; back row, Jason Dykes, Robert McDonald, Ben Altom, Todd Mills, and John Ramey.

Tennessee RA Camps offered

For Tennessee Baptist Men and Boys on Mission

There is still time to sign up young people for a week of TRAC™. TRAC™ is an acronym for Tennessee Royal Ambassador Camp. However, it is now more than just a summer camp program for Royal Ambassadors or boys.

Beginning with the 1999 season TRAC™ is offering two different weeks in two different locations for a coed youth experience for grades 7-12, and a special opportunity for young men in grades 7-12 in a high adventure week experience.

TRAC™ is also offering seven weeks in five different locations for boys and Royal Ambassadors. These week-long camp experiences are fun filled and based in Southern Baptist Missions Education.



TRAC™ can make a difference in the lives of those who attend. Since 1986 TRAC™ has had 7,288 campers where 1,354 decisions have been made for the Lord. TRAC™ is more than just a week of swimming pools, games, and fun activities. It is a place where God is at

work and spiritual decisions are made. SBC statistics revealed that 80-90 percent of today's Home and International missionaries say they first felt God's call to missions through the GA and RA programs.

The following is a listing of the 1999 TRAC™ offerings. For information, registration forms, or questions about these camps, call our office at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2025, 615-371-2025, or e-mail cdavidson@tnbaptist.org or bdavidson@tnbaptist.org. ■

TRAC™ '99

Date	Location	Type of Camp
June 7-11	Camp Agape, Benton	Regular week, boys grades 1-6
June 14-18	Camp Bay's Mountain, Kingsport	Regular week, boys grades 1-6
June 21-25	Camp Bay's Mountain, Kingsport	Regular week, boys grades 1-6
June 28 - July 2	Camp Linden, Linden	TRAC™ Camp Out Program, boys grades 1-6
June 29 - July 2	Camp Linden, Linden	TRAC™ Buffalo River Challenge, boys grades 7-12
July 5-9	Camp Sandy Stone, Cookeville	Regular week, boys grades 1-6
July 12-16	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	Youth Coed Missions Camp, grades 7-12
July 19-23	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	Regular week, boys grades 1-6
July 26-30	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	Regular week, boys grades 1-6
Aug. 2-6	Camp Agape, Benton	Coed Youth Adventure Week, grades 7-12

Over 885 attend RA Congress

(See additional photos and story on page 6)



PITCHING a tent for the Campcraft Rodeo competition are RAs of Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson, from left, Bobby Elmore, Michael Street, Robert Groves, and John Prentiss.



DEBBIE LAWRENCE, counselor, Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, demonstrates how to saw through a log for the Campcraft Rodeo competition. She sawed through logs in record time during the competition.

Men and Boys on Mission

A Word from Bob

By Bob Davison

How are you as a role model? I use *Stand Firm*, a Christian man's devotional magazine, published by LifeWay Press of LifeWay Christian Resources on a regular basis.

As I was reading the devotional for Wednesday, April 14, I felt its message was so important that I needed to share it. The following is a reprint from the April 1999 issue, used by permission.

Your Modeling Career
"My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you... Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart" (Proverbs 7:1, 3).

Home Field Advantage
In the wake of a public debate about children and their role models, Packers offensive tackle Ken Ruettgers wrote a book called *Home Field Advantage* to help fathers understand and make the best use of their power as role models.

In the book, Ruettgers shows that no matter how many kids look to a Mark McGwire or a Michael Jordan, it's Dad who has the lasting impact.

After all, public heroes come and go. A *USA Today* cartoon showed a boy taking a poster from his wall with O.J. Simpson's name on it. He's telling a friend, "That's where my Pete Rose poster was, and over there were my Darryl Strawberry and Mike Tyson posters."

Winning the Game
Solomon poured out his heart to his children in compiling the godliest wisdom of his life. Note the urgency in his sense of God's commands: "Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart." (Proverbs 7:3).

What if you were to sit down and write out the greatest wisdom you could pass on as a legacy for your children? What would they say?

Hopefully, the Bible would quickly come to your mind. But your kids have a chance to see the truth made flesh in the living of your life. Your example is the first Bible they will ever read even before they learn an alphabet.

Teach your children well — in word and deed.

Bottom Line
Write for your children the 10 most important truths that you wish them to know.

NBA star Charles Barkley in a TV commercial made a startling statement: "I'm not a role model... just because I can dunk a basketball doesn't mean I should raise our kids."

Public debate ensued. Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz said, "Charles, you can deny being a role model all you want, but I don't think it is your decision to make. We don't choose to be role models. We're chosen. Our only choice is whether to be a good role model or a bad one."

NFL's Sean Jones says, "These are your kids. If you're not going to be a role model for your own kids, then you force them into the hands of some people who don't deserve to be looked up to."

Stand Firm has five devotions per week and is produced monthly. It is written for men by men, and each devotional is directed toward different areas of daily life. I have found this piece to be one of the best men's devotionals I've ever used.

To receive *Stand Firm*, subscribe by faxing 615-251-5933 or e-mail customerservice@life-way.com. The most cost-effective method is subscribing in bulk for the men of your church.

By Marcia Knox

The 45th Annual Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress was held Thursday-Saturday, April 1-3, at Carson Newman College in Jefferson City. Over 885 participants and staff attended this year's Congress.

The RA Congress is open to boys and girls, young men and young women, and their leaders who participate in MissionKids, EZRAs, and RAs including Lads, Crusaders, and Challengers.

Sponsored by the TBC Baptist Men's Ministries Team, Congress is the statewide convention and competition for all RA chapters in Tennessee Baptist churches. A total of 60 churches were represented at Congress.

During Congress, RAs attended mission conferences, mission events, and worship services. RAs, leaders, and individual members competed for awards in competitions such as Campcraft Rodeo, Missions Bowl, Missions Speak Out, Project Hall, and RA Racers.

The largest competition was Campcraft Rodeo with 26 churches entered. Winners in the Campcraft Rodeo included Lads — East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville; Crusaders — tie between East Maryville Church, Maryville, and Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville; Younger Challengers — Wilsonville Baptist Church, Newport; Older Challengers — Browns Baptist Church, Cosby; and Counselors — Little Hope Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Winning teams in the Missions Bowl included Crusaders — East Maryville Church, Maryville; Younger Challengers — Everett Hills Baptist Church, Maryville.

Richard Alex Johnson of First Baptist Church, Sevierville, was chosen as the Older Challenger Speak Out winner. A videotape of his speech will be sent to the national competition where it will compete with others in other states.



RAs FROM Clingan Ridge Baptist Church, Cleveland, who attended the Congress include, from left, front row, triplets Caleb, Christian, and Corey Watkins; and back row, Charlie White, Drew Jones, Cody Watkins, Bobby White, and Brandon Jones.

Other Speak Out winners included Younger Challengers — Ben Burchfield of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge; Crusaders — Joshua Busman of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; and Lads — Tyler Edmondson of First Baptist Church, Dickson.

RA Racers winners included Lads — Justin Dossett of Friendsville Baptist Church, Friendsville; Crusaders — Mickel Woodall of Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield; Younger Challengers — Andy Ledbetter of Smoky View Baptist Church, Maryville; Challengers — Jeff Greene and Counselors — Andy Dossett, both of Friendsville Church. Overall RA Racers winner with the fastest time was Woodall.

A special Congress Missions Offering was raised through the 5K Walk/Run and Missions Carnival during the two-day sessions. Winners in the 5K Walk/Run included Older Challengers — Josh Bramley of Antioch Baptist Church, Humboldt; Younger Challengers — Lance Hickman of Wilsonville Church, Newport. Both winners not only placed in times, but also collected the largest dollar amount in donations.

Leaders of the Year Awards were given to Lad counselor — Mike Mikels of Stock Creek Baptist Church, Knoxville; Crusader counselor — Jim Crowder of Central Church, Fountain City, Knoxville; Church RA di-

rector — Joyce Ann Russ of Big Springs Baptist Church, Cleveland; and Miscellaneous leader — Doris Thomas, Brainerd Hills Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

Honor Chapter Awards were given to Lads — Dotson Memorial and Smoky View churches, both in Maryville; Crusaders — Dotson Memorial and Smoky View churches, and Central Church of Fountain City, Knoxville; and Challengers — Smoky View Church.

The total Missions Offering raised was \$1,884. The Missions Offering was given to a Tennessee Baptist ministry project, Disaster Relief for the April 1998 tornadoes.

This year's special guest was "The Amazing Nathan Dorrell," a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student who juggled and rode a unicycle, while sharing his testimony.

RA Congress recognizes RA chapters, leaders, and participants for exceptional work each year and reinforces their commitment to serve as Royal Ambassadors for Jesus Christ during their lifetimes.

Kris Daw and Nathan Barrett, both members of Brainerd Hills Church, Chattanooga, were re-elected as the 1999-2000 president and vice president respectively.

The next RA Congress is scheduled for April 20-22, 2000, at Belmont University, Nashville. ■

Final info on Man/Boy (Family) Day set at Bristol Speedway

► **What is it?** A special event sponsored by the management of Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS) and coordinated by Raceway Ministries, Holston Baptist Association, and the Baptist Men's Ministries Team, Executive Board Ministries, Tennessee Baptist Convention. The purpose is to reach the unchurched with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to build positive relationships between adults and children. It just happens that you also get to see two major auto races Saturday, June 5.

► **What's with the name?** This event is for everyone (men, women,

boys or girls), not just men and boys. The name changes next year to "Family Ministries Day at Bristol Motor Speedway."

► **What will the event include?** We begin with an exciting time, called the "Round Up" at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 5. (It is suggested that you arrive earlier than our start time to park and to get to the Round-Up area. BMS is a large area with lots of people. Suggested arrival is no later than 2 p.m. for those just parking, and even earlier for those camping.) The "Round Up" includes testimonies from NASCAR dri-

vers (some in the top 10 list) and crews, skits and puppet teams, music and other things. There will also be time to meet some of the drivers/crews and get their autographs.

► **What about tickets?** BMS has made available to us specially priced raceway tickets of \$5 per adult and children's (under 18) tickets free with restrictions. The restrictions are: the adult must be 18 years or older to receive the free children's tickets; and there must be one paying adult per every five children (no exceptions). Ticket purchase deadline is Monday,

May 17, and only through the Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries Team Office. If you do not have a registration form, list name, address, phone number, and how many adult, children, and meal tickets needed. Mail information and check to Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. For more information, call 1-800-558-2090.

► **What about food?** The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Feeding Unit will serve the evening meal. Meal tickets are available for \$3 per person — See Final info, page 8

Men and Boys on Mission

A Word from Gene

By Gene Williams

How do you like the looks of "Tennessee Baptist Men and Boys on Mission?" It has been a long time since we communicated to you on a regular basis. This is the second installment of what will be our primary communication tool with men, women, boys, girls, and families in Tennessee.

Please help us get the word to Tennessee that we have partnered with the *Baptist and Reflector* to bring news, events, and interesting articles about the success of others in Baptist Men's Ministry.

For the newsletter to be interesting and effective, we need your stories and pictures. If you have a RA chapter that

has had a memorable experience, send the story with pictures. If you know a man with a ministry that will encourage others, send the story with pictures.



WILLIAMS

At the present time, the newsletter is being sent to the entire *Baptist and Reflector* mailing list as well as our own team list. If you do not subscribe to the *B&R*, we encourage you to because in the future this free gift will end. The *B&R* is a must-read for all informed Tennessee Baptists so join us in this partnership.

I have already discovered some unique and fascinating stories that need to be told to the world. Send the stories and photos to: Marcia Knox, MAI Ministry assistant, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37211; fax, 423-371-2014; or email to: mknnox@tnbaptist.org.

Gene

Association leaders trained

The Missions Awareness and Involvement Group sponsored the first Associational Leadership Team Development for Missions Education training at First Baptist Church of Donelson in Nashville April 30 - May 1.

A total of 150 leaders from 24 associations who work with Baptist Men's Ministry, RAs, Challengers, Volunteer coordinators, Disaster Relief coordinators, WMU Leadership Team members, and Directors of Missions and Associational staff attended.

The special interest conferences were: Accountability Groups, Mentoring, How to Plan an Event, How to Lead a Conference, Promotion Ideas, Networking Ideas, Image of Missions Leader, Personalizing the Cooperative Program, Reducing the Risk, Project Help: Violence, Helping Churches Develop a Missions Strategy and Missions Prayer Options. ■

National conference on men's ministry held

"Thank you Lord; I have more hope for a spiritual awakening in our land by what I have seen among men of all faiths in the last few years than at any other time in my Christian experience," said Gene Williams, Adult Missions Awareness specialist, referring to a recent gathering in Tennessee.

Evidence of that hope, according to Williams, was the National Coalition of Men's Ministry (NCMM) decision to host the National Conference on Ministry to Men April 8-10 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Knoxville.

The conference is one result of men's ministry leaders from over 20 denominations repre-

sented more than 200,000 churches, and most of the para-church men's ministries in America.

Over 800 men attended the 1999 National Conference. Speakers included: Jack Hayford, Willie Richardson, Steve Farrar, Ed Cole, and Pat Morley. A total of 20 workshops were offered, which provided practical tools and resources needed to help create an effective and on-going ministry to men.

For more information about NCMM call toll free at 1-877-626-6266, fax at 303-933-0469, or visit the website at www.ncmm.org. ■

Manual on Men's Ministry offered

The manual that all have been anxiously waiting to define Men's Ministry to SBC churches has been finished by Sid Woodruff, LifeWay Christian Resources

Men's Ministry specialist, and sent to the printer.

The title of the new manual is *Drawing Men to God: Men's Ministry that Develops Disciples*; Drawing Men in through

Common Interests and the Development of Relationships; and Promoting Celebration of God's Victories.

Drawing Men to God: Men's Ministry Manual is a product of LifeWay Christian Resources and sells for \$12.95. The product number is 0-7673-9077-6. For information or to order call 1-800-458-2772, or fax 615-251-5933. The manual will be in LifeWay Christian Stores after June 1 or can be ordered on the web at www.lifeway.com. ■

Composing a Biblically-Based Purpose Statement; Preparing Leaders; Planning a Balanced

Ministry that Develops Disciples; Drawing Men in through



Missions Skills School scheduled Oct. 22-23

It is not just the new name for TALL, but it is a whole new concept. This Missions Skills School is set for Camp Carson Oct. 22-23.

The new Missions Skills School will offer a variety of "Mission Skills" training opportunities for those who want to sharpen their missions skills, or to develop mission skills in a new area. It will be valuable to individuals or groups wanting to prepare for mission trips.

New conferences such as Puppetry for Home and Overseas Trips, Block Parties, Construction for Overseas Mission Trips, Prayerwalking, Mission Survival Skills, and Adventure Recreation for Mission Trips will be offered. It is the place to receive training in the Men's Ministries age-graded areas of Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, and Baptist Men on Mission, as well as Disaster Relief.

Another change is the time

schedule, which begins with check-in between 4-6 p.m. Friday and concludes at 3:30 p.m. Saturday with a Commissioning Service.

More information and a registration form will be available in later editions of "Men and Boys on Mission" newsletter in the *Baptist and Reflector*, or call Baptist Men's Ministries office at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2025, 615-371-2025, or e-mail cdavidson@tnbaptist.org or bdavidson@tnbaptist.org. ■

Promise Keepers to meet in Memphis

Promise Keepers will hold their first event of the year for men June 4-5 at the Pyramid in Memphis. The conference

theme will be "Choose This Day" from Joshua 24:15.

Conference sessions will offer men hope and tools to help them: Lead a Godly Family in and Ungodly World; Overcome Sin and Temptation; Integrate the Power of Scripture, Prayer and Worship into Their Everyday Lives; and Transform their World for Christ.

For Conference registration call 1-800-888-7595 (Spanish 1-800-769-6855). Registration can also be made online at www.promisekeepers.org. The conference is free, but registration is encouraged to assure seating at the conference site.

Lunches, worship CDs or tapes, and T-shirts may be purchased. Ministers are invited to a special Friday morning clergy conference. Time and place may be found at the website.

Men, women, boys and girls ages 13 and over are invited to fill the 1,000 to 2,000 vol-

unteer positions, required for each conference. Volunteers can also register on the website.

Speakers for conference include: Bob Horner, James Ryle, E. V. Hill, Ron Blue, Henry Blackaby, Larry Jackson, Raleigh Washington, and Bill McCartney. ■

A Word from Max

By Max Thomas

Hellooo Tennessee!

My real name is Max Thomas although if you attended the 45th Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, you may know me as Max Campbell.



THOMAS

Or if you have known me a long time you might know me as Sam Swartzenburger. You might say I have multiple personalities. How you know me and us are unimportant. What we are about is very important.

This year on March 1, I and we retired from Norfolk Southern Railway after 42 years of service. Then on April 17, I and we completed 42 years as a Royal Ambassador/Challenger Leader. I and we feel that the Lord has called me and us to serve as your new Challenger leader for the State of Tennessee. Even with 42 years behind me and us, and I cannot do the job without your help.

Two of the most important goals as a Challenger leader should be to bring young men and young ladies to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to teach Mission Education.

Although these two goals should never change, the methods by which we accomplish these goals are changing constantly. Since we have different methods to accomplish any goal, we desperately need your help in sharing methods with other Challenger leaders across the state.

Send me your Challenger suggestions, activities, etc. to: TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

Please pray for our young people and our leaders as we work to bring Christ and mission education to the great state of Tennessee and to the World.

Your Brother in Christ,

Max

Men and Boys on Mission

World Changers to draw over 1,200 students

An update on the Summer '99 World Changers projects in Tennessee reveals that Tennessee churches need to get ready to host over 1,200 students coming to the state, and to pray for 1,700 Tennessee students going out of the state.

Current registration figures show that over 1,200 students from across the country will travel to Tennessee to serve through World Changers projects in construction June 26-July 3, July 10-17 in Nashville, July 17-24 in Lebanon, and in community projects July 10-17 in Memphis.

Also from Tennessee over 70 youth groups with over 1,700 students will be going out across the country, and several overseas to serve through ministry opportunities, provided through World Changers.

An opportunity to change a world near a student begins with World Changers. Since 1990, World Changers has provided individuals and groups the opportunity to

experience up-close and personal missions.

World Changers involves

students and adults in mission projects that stress hands-on participation. Through construction and renovation work involved in construction projects, participants experience and learn firsthand about helping community residents in need. Construction projects are available for high school stu-

dents, middle school students, and also combined project weeks.

World Changers Community Projects add another element of ministry through opportunities such as serving in food and clothing closets, Backyard Bible Clubs, street evangelism, sports camps, and much more. Community projects are open to all youth, who have completed the sixth grade through college.

For more information on how your student(s) can get mobilized contact Allen James, student volunteer mobilization specialist at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7935 or e-mail at ajames@tnbaptist.org. ■



World Changers Weekends draw nearly 200 students to Jackson, Ooltewah

World Changers Weekends, held April 16-17 at Highland Park Baptist Church in Jackson and April 23-24 at Ooltewah Baptist Church in Ooltewah, had an attendance of nearly 200 students both in Jackson and Ooltewah.

Over 10 churches participated in both weekends as World Changers did pre-project studies in missions education, celebrated in praise and worship, and worked light construc-

tion projects. This year's theme is "We Do Homework."

The World Changers worked Saturday, April 17, on two Habitat for Humanity homes in Jackson where two students led two residents to a personal commitment to Christ. Two homes were also repaired Saturday, April 24, in Ooltewah where the World Changers were partnered with the Hamilton County Association.

The weekends were filled with practical missions seminars for students and a time to put their faith into action on Saturdays through construction projects. The students were lodged at Highland Park Church and Ooltewah Church.

More World Changers Weekends (WCW) are being planned for the fall. For information, contact Allen James,

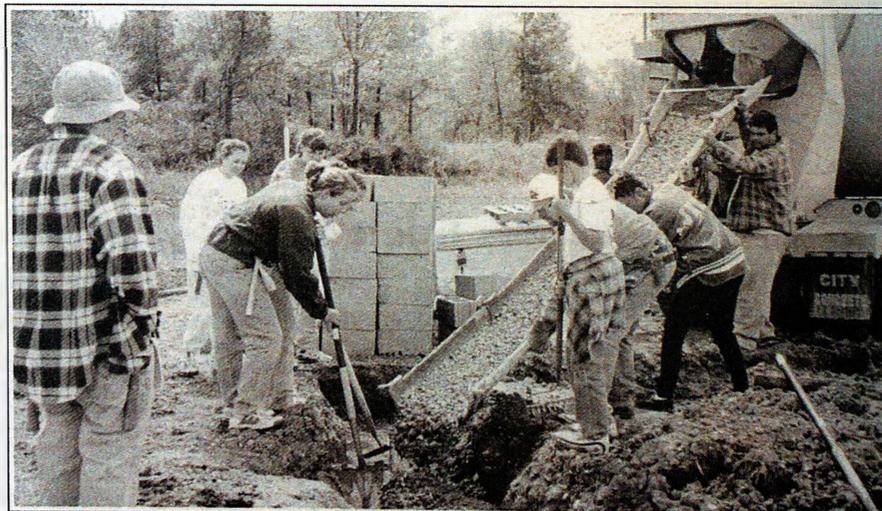
TBC student volunteer mobilization specialist, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7935 or e-mail ajames@tnbaptist.org. ■



STUDENTS construct the frame of a house in Jackson.



YOUNG PEOPLE work on a house in Ooltewah. The students were from Ooltewah Baptist Church, Ooltewah; First Baptist Church, Athens; First Baptist Church, Tellico Plains; Mars Hill Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga.



PREPARING a foundation for a house in Jackson are students from Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Columbia; First Baptist Church, Parsons; Mullins Station Baptist Church, Memphis; Brunswick Baptist Church, Brunswick; and First Baptist Church, Newbern.

Final info on Man/Boy ...

— Continued from page 6 (adult or child), and must be purchased at the same time as the raceway tickets through the Baptist Men's Ministries Team Office.

► **What about parking and housing?** Free parking and camping passes are provided courtesy of Charlie Earhart, a Baptist layman, businessman, and landowner with property adjacent to the speedway. The parking and camping passes along with an instruction sheet, written directions, map, and motel list will be sent with raceway/meal tickets. Pete Tackett, First Baptist Church, Bluff

City, co-pastor will direct those who want to bed down on local churches' floors. Contact Tackett at (423) 538-1118 or e-mail at bropeteym@aol.com. We suggest making arrangements to spend the night and to attend Sunday morning worship with a local church. It will be late (possibility midnight) leaving BMS.

► **What races will we see?** There are two races 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. The 7 p.m. race is the "Dash Series" (cars-All-Pro 100); the 9 p.m. race (main race) is the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series (Loadhandler 200). ■

leaders

■ **David Allen**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Crossville, has been called as pastor, West Ellisville Baptist Church, Ellisville, Miss.

■ **Pedro Cabrera**, pastor, Hispanic Baptist Mission, Erwin, which meets at First Baptist Church, Erwin, was ordained recently.

■ **Bill Duncan**, pastor, Clark Street Baptist Church, Johnson City, has resigned. He will be available to serve churches June 1.

■ **Steve Taylor**, former pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Clinton, has joined the support staff of First Baptist Church, Concord, as publications coordinator.

■ **Wynburg Baptist Church**, Wynburg, called **Ralph E. Buckley** as pastor, effective April 25. He formerly was pastor of a church in Jackson, Miss.

■ **Rick Cox** has been called as pastor, Woodstock Baptist Church, Memphis, recently.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Monterey, has called **Kurt Doering** as interim assistant to the pastor and **Barry Purser** as pastor. Doering began May 3 and Purser will begin serving in June.

■ **Mars Hill Baptist Church**, Knoxville, called **Terry Farrow** as minister of music,

April 21. Formerly he has served as minister of music, Grove Hill Baptist Church and Friendship Baptist Church, both in Knoxville.

■ **Wade Kelly** has been called as interim minister of music, Whites Creek Baptist Church, Rockwood.

people

■ **Ramble Creek Baptist Church**, Big Sandy, recently ordained **Mike Flowers** and **Ralph Hayse** as deacons.

■ **Sunrise Baptist Church**, Bluff City, recently ordained **Paul Carlyle**, **Danny Gross**, **Bob Hooyboer**, and **Gary Ingle** as deacons.

■ **Peyton Creek Baptist Church**, Carthage, ordained **Phillip Claywell**, **Wayne Lankford**, **Jackie Martin**, and **Jerry Wilmore** as deacons April 11.

deaths

■ **Betty Hearn**, wife of Jarvin Hearn, retiree of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died after a short battle with cancer May 6. Jarvin Hearn lives in Smithfield, Va.

■ **Elizabeth Wingo**, wife of the late Charles Wingo, former director of missions, Gibson County Baptist Association, died recently. Wingo was living in Bradford, N.C. Gibson County Association is based in Trenton.

■ **Vernon Turner**, retired minister of Big Sandy, died April 20 in Paris. He was 83. Turner was pastor of churches in Benton, Henry, and Wayne counties for 40 years. Turner and his wife began Faxon Baptist Church, Big Sandy, in 1979. He was a member of Ramble Creek Baptist Church, Big Sandy. He is survived by his wife, Lois Mai Thompson Turner, and other family members.

churches

■ **Balmoral Baptist Church**, Memphis, will hold revival May 23-26. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ **Cornerstone Baptist Church**, McMinnville, and **Central Baptist Association**, based in McMinnville, will host Fred Wolfe in its Regional Pastors' Conference May 23-24. Wolfe is president, Barnabas: A Ministry of Encouragement, and former pastor, Cottage Hills Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala. For more information, contact the church at (931) 668-9495 or at cornerstone@blomand.net.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Murfreesboro, will host Greg Buchanan, Christian artist, May 20 at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 893-2514.

■ **Nine youth of Macedonia Baptist Church**, Lawrenceburg, recently attended

the Drug-free Youth Institute held by the Tennessee Drug Awareness Council, based in Nashville.

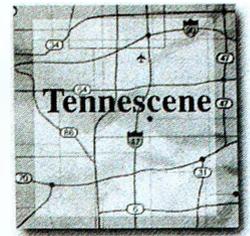
■ A team from **First Baptist Church**, Cookeville, will help construct a building for Steubenville Baptist Church, Monticello, Ky., June 21-25. For more information, contact Gary Harvey at (931) 526-7108 or Bob or Lois Weatherholt at 526-1937.

■ **Old Bethel Baptist Church**, Palmersville, will hold revival May 23-26. Wayne Perkins, director of missions, Weakley County Baptist Association, will speak. The association is based in Dresden.

state events

■ **A Dad/Daughter Weekend** will be held by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union June 18-19 at Camp Linden, Linden, and June 26-27 at Camp Carson, Newport. The event is for girls in grades 1-12 and their dad or dad substitute. Leading a conference for dads at Camp Linden will be Jerry Day, psychologist of Tucson, Ariz., and at Camp Carson will be Richard Everett, director of missions, Sevier County Baptist Association, which is based in Sevierville. For more information, including costs, contact Tennessee WMU, based at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, at (615) 371-2038 or cgrowden@tnbaptist.org.

■ **The 1999 PowerSource**



conference will be held May 17-18 at First Baptist Church, Franklin. Leaders include Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Geron Davis, song writer/musician of Nashville; Denny Dawson, minister of music of the host church and its choir and orchestra; Rick Ousley and Kelly Stephenson of Church at Brook Hills, Birmingham, Ala. The Monday evening session, which begins at 7 p.m., is open to the public. For more information, call the TBC at 1-800-558-2090.

hospitals

■ **The Baptist College of Health Sciences**, which is a part of **Baptist Memorial Health Care**, Memphis, will hold its first baccalaureate graduation ceremony at First Baptist Church, Memphis, May 14 at 2 p.m. The college opened in 1995. It offers a bachelor of science in nursing, bachelor of health sciences in radiological sciences, and bachelor of health sciences in respiratory care. In conjunction, an Alumni Homecoming Weekend May 13-15. For more information, call (901) 227-7141.

Festivals draw record 1,600

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 1999 Dramatic Arts Festivals which were held in three regions of the state recently drew a record 1,600 total people. The festivals have been held for 18 years.

Ev Robertson of the Tennessee Baptist Convention who directed the festivals reported participants represented 225 Baptist churches.

The festivals include training and presentation by special guests, faculty, and participants. They also of-

fered pre-festival events including the Adult Leadership Experience and Youth Mini-Camp.

The festivals were held at Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis; Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville; and Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol.

A total of 102 people served on the faculty of the festivals.

The events were funded through the Cooperative Program and registration fees. ■



A GROUP from Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, performs.



INTERPRETING a song with movement is a group from Bristol.



TOM Toombs of Maryville portrays the joy of serving God during a creative worship service.



LEADING a conference on clowning is Faye Youngblood of McMinnville as "Felicity" the clown.

SBC CP gifts up for month, year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for April were up more than 32 percent and the fiscal year's total more than 8 percent compared to a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For April 1999, CP receipts totaled \$15,741,149 compared to April 1998 of \$11,903,309, an increase of more than \$3.8 million or 32.24 percent.

For the SBC fiscal year, after seven months, CP gifts total \$98,998,390 compared to the previous year's total of \$91,241,293, an increase of more than \$7.7 million or 8.5 percent.

Designated gifts for April were \$10,954,707 compared to the same month in 1998 of \$9,193,432, an increase of more than \$1.7 million or 19.16 percent. For the year to date, designated gifts total \$105,745,818 compared to the previous year of \$104,479,592, an increase of more than \$1.2 million or 1.21 percent.

April CP receipts exceeded the required monthly budget by more than \$2.8 million, or 21.86 percent. ■

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Baptists respond to needs of tornado victims

By Dana Williamson
For Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Several Oklahoma Baptist churches opened their doors to victims, rescue workers, and clean-up crews May 3 in the aftermath of one of the worst tornado onslaughts in the state's history.

Nearly 1,000 people poured into the facilities of First Baptist Church, Moore, after a fierce mass of tornadoes — one that reached F-5 status, up to a mile wide with winds of 260 mph — leveled homes, churches, and businesses in Bridge Creek, Moore, southwest Oklahoma City, Del City, and Midwest City.

Also housing and feeding victims were First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, and First Baptist, Perry, which served as the central headquarters for those caught in the tornadoes that ripped through that part of the state.

Del City's First Southern members were mourning the death of retired associate pastor Jake Self, who lost his life after the tornado picked up a van and dropped it on his house where he and his wife were huddled in a closet. Self

suffered a head injury, but his wife survived.

Also destroyed was First Southern's missionary house which, at the time, was occupied by Steve and Patsy Ellis.

First Southern pastor Tom Elliff, who lost his home to a fire in February, was wiped out again; this time by the devastating tornado which leveled the townhouse in which he and his wife were living.

Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief units were set up at both First Southern and First Baptist, Moore.

Additionally, a feeding unit from Texas and one from Arkansas arrived May 5 in the Oklahoma City area, to be followed by a shower unit operated by the North American Mission Board from Albany, Ga.

In Haysville, Kan., a town of 9,000 near Wichita, where three people were reported killed — including a one-month-old baby — in another outbreak of tornado destruction May 3, the Kansas-Nebraska Baptist feeding unit has set up operations at First Baptist Church. A Missouri Baptist feeding unit and a cleanup and recovery unit arrived in Haysville May 5, followed by a shower unit operat-

ed by Tennessee Baptists and Tennessee Baptist clean-up crews on May 6 (see story on page 1).

The May 3 tornadoes claimed at least 45 lives in Oklahoma and Kansas, injured nearly 700 others, and destroyed an estimated 1,500 homes. In all, 76 tornadoes were counted by meteorologists in the two states and in Texas and Nebraska May 3. ■



national/global news

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HOUSEPARENTS: Arkansas Baptist Home for Children seeks couple to care for up to eight boys or girls in loving home environment. Housing, salary, insurance, paid vacation, and supervision. For more information, contact Royce Aston at (870) 367-5358.

HOUSEPARENTS: Couple needed in Little Rock, Ark., for Promise House. Provides residential care, prenatal and delivery services, adoption services, and counseling. Explore the possibility of becoming part of this redemptive ministry by calling Charles Flynn in Little Rock at (501) 376-4791, ext. 5167. A ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries.

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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.

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

CHILDREN/YOUTH: Full-time Minister of Children/Youth opportunity. Resume to PCBC, Box 376, Brownsville, TN 38012, or request job description.

CAMP: Accepting applications for Director of Living Waters Baptist Assembly Campground located in Loranger, La. Send resume to Dr. Earl Corkern, 2004 N. Oak St., Hammond, LA 70401. Deadline for applications is June 15.

STUDENTS: Minister to Students, full-time staff position in growing county seat town church; contributes to SBC and CBF; responsibilities with large youth and children's groups, grades 1-12; salary package commensurate with education and experience; send resumes to Mike Godbey, Personnel Committee, Stanford Baptist Church, 204 Church St., Stanford, KY 40484.

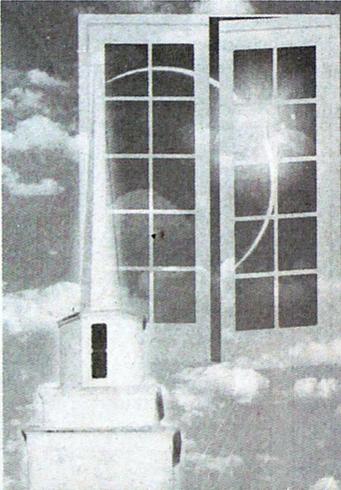
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Why trust?

By Roy Graves

Focal Passage — Exodus 18:17-23; Psalm 15:1-5; II Timothy 4:11

A few years ago I had one of those blessed pastoral experiences of going on a youth weekend retreat. Our young people were spiritually mature beyond their years. However, we all became involved in a "trust exercise" that had nothing to do with how spiritual they were, but rather, how physically strong they were and if I trusted putting my life in their hands. What I was asked to do was stand on a three foot high pedestal and with my back to a group of young people standing beneath me, simply fall. Fall into their awaiting arms. Arms I might add that had little evidence of muscle tone at their age. I had baptized most of these young people. I knew them well. So, I fell into a momentary mental state of uncertainty, and then I fell into their arms. After all, I really did trust them with my life.

Worthy of trust — Psalm 15:1-5. Tim Hansel writes in *Holy Sweat*. *One day, while my son Zac and I were out in the country climbing around in some cliffs, I heard a voice from above me yell, "Hey Dad! Catch me." I turned around to see Zac joyfully jumping off a rock straight at me. He had jumped and then yelled. I became an instant circus act, catching him. We both fell to the ground. For a moment after I caught him I could hardly talk. When I found my voice again I gasped in exasperation, "Zac! Can you give me one good reason why you did that?" He responded with remarkable calmness, "Sure ... because you're my dad." His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. He could live life to the hilt because I could be trusted.*

Co-Christian dependency — Exodus 18:17-23. Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, teaches us a valuable lesson on the fine art of trust and productive dependency. In a textile mill there is a sign that reads, "When your thread becomes tangled, call the foreman." A young woman was new on the job. Her thread became tangled and she thought, "I'll straighten this out myself." She tried, but the situation only worsened. Finally she called the foreman. "I did the best I could," she said. To which the foreman replied, "No you didn't. To do the best, you should have called me."

Christians are dependent "co-laborers." Our first dependence is upon the Lord and then we move toward dependency upon one another in accomplishing his ministry as we are "fitly joined together" (Ephesians 4:16). Jethro taught Moses to depend on others in order to enlarge his ministry.

Opportunities for grace — II Timothy 4:11. The apostle Paul saw an opportunity for administering grace when he wrote, "Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry." When Paul and Barnabas "separated ways" years earlier, because of Mark, Paul possessed grace then, so what is the difference now? Frankly, Paul and Mark both had matured in their walk with the Lord. Paul was living by grace and spirit more than law and flesh. A person who has been graced by God and lives by grace will seek every opportunity to grace others. Exercise the grace of our Lord and you will be amazed at what God will do through you. — Graves is pastor, First Church, Kingston.

Jesus the true vine

By Tommy Ferguson

Focal Passage — John 15:1-17

The vine's legitimacy, life, and limitations

Legitimacy. Jesus states that "he is the true vine," (ch. 14:6; Acts 14:12) implying there is a false vine that must be avoided. The false vine is earthly and Satanic (Revelation 14:14-20).

Life. Jesus is the only source of spiritual life. "Without me you can do nothing." Or, "Except you abide in me." You will not see branches dipping into puddles of water to get it's sustenance, the nourishment comes from the vine.

Family Bible Lesson

Limitations. This sounds strange but let me offer three thoughts on the vine's limitations. (1) The vine cannot produce fruit without the cooperation of the branches. Jesus needs men and women through whom to manifest himself and should we prove to be ineffective his purposes are hindered. (2) The vine cannot keep a branch healthy unless it imparts life. If the life channel is blocked and the sap ceases to reach the branch immediately the branch begins to deteriorate from the inside out. In verse three we find that the only medicine for the unhealthy branch is the applied Word of God. (3) The vine will not prevent the useless branch from becoming a castaway. If a branch is proven useless nothing can prevent it's removal by the husbandman, God the Father. We Christians should bear fruit for the Master, but if sin should ruin my fruit bearing, God will remove me from service lest I become a hindrance to others. Disease can easily spread among fruit trees and so much is at stake if the branch is not removed. This is what Paul had in mind in I Corinthians, 9:27.

Thank you, Lord

By Jerry Reagan

Focal Passage — Psalm 100:1-5

This psalm describes a procession of God's people approaching the temple and as they approach they are instructed in ways to appropriately worship God. They are instructed by the use of seven imperative verbs. Seven symbolizes completeness. Following these instructions will lead a worshiper in a well-balanced and complete approach to appropriate worship of God.

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands. The invitation to worship is universal and inclusive. "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!" No one is to be excluded. The approach of the worshiper is to be publicly expressed and vocal. "Make a joyful shout to the Lord!" The worshiper is to offer praise, "Make a joyful shout to the Lord!" The worshiper is to direct his praise to the Lord. "Make a joyful shout to the Lord!"

Serve the Lord with gladness. Worship is to be exciting, moving, and enthusiastic. Service refers to the activities involved with worship. Some of these activities require what we would call work. To the psalmist worship and work cannot be separated. The service for God is

Explore the Bible Lesson

to be done "with gladness." This pictures the mood in which the work is to be done. Service for God should never be "something I've got to do," but "something I get to do."

Come before his presence with singing. As the worshiper approaches the presence of God (the gates and courts) he is to approach God, as the apostle Paul would say, "making melody in your heart to the Lord," (Ephesians 5:19).

Know that the Lord, he is God. The psalmist wants the worshiper to know that the Lord, (Yahweh) he is (the only) God. We are told who God is, where we are from, and whose we are. "It is he who has made us, and not we ourselves." Since he has made us, we belong to him. He is our creator and our caretaker. "We are his people and the sheep of his pasture." He provides for and protects us.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. The worshiper is commanded to enter into the closest possible proximity to God accompanied by thanksgiving and praise for what

Branches

Relationship and reproducing is the branches job. As the branch abides in the vine it produces fruit in quality and quantity. The Christian that abides or has a strong relationship with the Savior will have a productive and purposeful life.

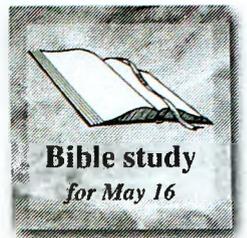
Fruit — vv. 2, 5, 8, 16

This passage reveals the progression of fruit bearing. No fruit to fruit (v. 2), more fruit (v. 2), much fruit (vv. 5, 8), and remaining fruit (v. 16). Fruit that our Lord is speaking of in the context of this passage is answered prayer (vv. 7, 16b); love (vv. 9, 10, 12, 17); joy (v. 11); and closeness with the Savior (v. 14). What other types of fruit are we to produce in our lives? Soul winning (Romans 1:13); holiness and obedience (Romans 6:22); fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22); good works and services (Colossians 1:10); and praise that comes from our lips (Hebrews 13:5). Fruit bearing is ongoing and increasing as we mature in our relationship with the Lord.

The husbandman or vine dresser

The husbandman is responsible for tending to the vineyard. Jesus said this is the work of the Heavenly Father. Professional vine dressers hired by vineyards sometimes go to school for up to three years. They must know when and how to prune and the proper method of cultivation.

Our spiritual husbandman has a time limit to give a branch time to produce fruit (Luke 13:6-9). The vine dresser will cultivate and prune to make the branch fruitful. The vine dresser prunes the branches in two ways. He cuts away dead wood that can breed disease and insects, and cuts away living tissue so that the life of the vine will not be so dissipated that the quality of the crop will be jeopardized. In fact, the husbandman will even cut away whole bunches of branches so that the rest of the crop will be of higher quality. The Heavenly Father is never nearer than when he is pruning us. — Ferguson is pastor, Ivy Memorial, Nashville.



God has done, is doing, and will be doing.

Be thankful unto him.

The worshiper is to have an attitude of gratitude. It has been said that a grateful person is not a complaining

person.

Bless his name. Praise God for his character and purpose. Praise him for his holiness and his ability to make us holy. Praise him for his redeeming love and grace.

The closing verse of this psalm tells us why we should worship and praise God.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all generations. God is good, and the source of all good. His goodness is shown through his everlasting mercy, his loyalty to his covenant commitment, and his enduring truth (faithfulness).

We are his children. God is good, we are to strive to be good. God is merciful, we are to be merciful. God is truthful, faithful, and dependable.

We are to be truthful, faithful, and dependable. As the late Old Testament professor, Billy K. Smith said: "God wants us to know him intimately, so that we can worship him appropriately, and acknowledge him openly." — Reagan is pastor, South Fork Church, Friendship.



Teen birth rates decline in 1990s

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Teen birth rates declined 16 percent from 1991 to 1997 in the United States, according to figures released April 29 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service.

The percentage of girls aged 15-19 giving birth fell 4 percent in 1997, the sixth year in a row that teen births have declined and the lowest rate since 1973.

The HHS study also found continued declines in out-of-wedlock births, record high levels of prenatal care, and the lowest rate ever of smoking by pregnant women. The overall national birth rate reached a record low in 1997, according to the study, of 14.5 births per 1,000 population, or 3.8 million total births. ■

Historic S.C. church ends ties with SBC

Associated Baptist Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. — First Baptist Church here voted May 2 to sever ties with the Southern Baptist Convention, a denomination it helped found in 1845.

The 168-year-old congregation voted 500-47 to accept a committee recommendation to "voluntarily and deliberately discontinue our affiliation" with the SBC. The vote does not alter the church's affiliation with the South Carolina Baptist Convention or the

Greenville Baptist Association.

The resolution adopted by the church does not list specific grievances but claims that SBC leadership for the last 20 years "has steadily guided that convention to embrace theological and ecclesiastical tenets which are vastly different from those which represent the heritage of First Baptist Church, Greenville."

While the church gave \$35,983 to state-mission causes in 1998, it ended financial support to the SBC in 1993.

FBC was organized in 1831. Its founder, William Bullein Johnson, whom some have called the "father of the Southern Baptist Convention," is considered a principal architect of the organization and was elected its first president at the inaugural meeting in Augusta, Ga., in 1845. ■

Illinois' Foster resigns as editor

Baptist Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Ferrell Foster, editor of the *Illinois Baptist* since 1996, will resign as editor, effective May 31.

Foster joined the staff of the Illinois Baptist State Association in 1987 as associate editor of the newspaper.

Foster said there were several factors involved in his decision to resign "but ultimately I just believed it was what God wanted me to do. No one asked me to resign or suggested it. It was strictly a decision made by me and my wife."

Foster and his wife, Trese, have five children, ranging in age from 1 to 17. ■

God's intervention saves missionaries

Baptist Press

LIBREVILLE, Gabon — International Mission Board mis-

sionaries Anne and Steve Seabertry were awakened in late April by five armed robbers. They watched as the robbers packed everything the couple owned, including their wedding rings, into their own car.

As the thieves were preparing to leave, one turned in the doorway, pointed his gun at them and cocked it.

"Oh, Jesus," Anne prayed out loud.

A bullet immediately fell to the floor. Shocked the man looked at his gun and realized that was his only bullet. He left the room and later two men came back and tied up the couple.

"We know that Jesus protected us. In looking back, we believe that our calm, thus God's peace, also helped save us," she said. "We did nothing to provoke them to harm us and probably surprised them with such calmness. God's grace is sufficient." ■

Virginia Baptists to study ties with UR

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Ties between Virginia Baptists and the University of Richmond will be examined by a task force named in mid-April in response to the university's decision to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy.

UR trustees expanded the school's non-discrimination policy in March to prohibit discrimination against gays and lesbians in student, faculty and staff recruitment, and promotion.

The seven-member task force was created by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board's executive committee. The task force will be presented at the board's Oct. 12-13 meeting.

BGAV Executive Director Reginald McDonough acknowledged the right of UR's trustees to make decisions "they feel are in the best interest of the school," but added that "Virginia Baptists must act in accord with our value system." ■

Annuity Board staffer dies in wreck

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Ellas D. Pantoja, regional director for special groups in the Annuity Board's Church Retirement Marketing department, died in an automobile accident April 30.

Pantoja, 49, joined the Annuity Board in 1993 after serving three years as an associate

in the missions department of the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

He is survived by his wife, Martha, and two children. ■

LifeWay's Veneman to join Union staff

Baptist Press

JACKSON — Jim Veneman, photo editor at LifeWay Christian Resources since 1986, will become director of visual communications at Union University here, effective June 1.

In his new role, Veneman will coordinate photography and graphic design activities at the 2,500-student university as part of the university relations team. He will also teach photography and photojournalism courses.



VENEMAN

Veneman has served as photo director of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings since 1986, as well as managing photography operations for the Baptist World Congress in Seoul, Korea, in 1990 and Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1995.

Veneman and his wife, Carol, have three children. They are members of First Baptist Church, Donelson. ■

Prayer for N. Korea is 'act of love,' says war veteran

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists will fast and pray for 22 million people of North Korea during the 1999 Day of Prayer and Fasting, scheduled from 6 p.m. Friday, May 21, to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 22.

By asking God to bring his peace to this former enemy, Southern Baptists will commit "an act of love" that testifies to God's power to change lives, says a veteran of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Ken Dupuy, a businessman from Longview, Texas, has learned firsthand the power of God's amazing love for North Koreans. He once fought them as enemies. Then he ministered to them through relief projects when famine struck the country. He saw his former enemies as real people who are loved by God.

When North Koreans asked why he was bringing them food from Southern Baptists, Dupuy answered, "Because God loves you." Southern Bap-

tists will fast and pray for North Korea for the same reason.

Intercessory prayer is "an act of love," Dupuy said. "The more you are involved in it, the greater the love you have, and the greater the capacity for love you have."

A free resource kit for the day of prayer emphasis is available by calling the IMB resource center at 1-800-866-3621. ■

Samford examines charges of racial discrimination

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Charges of racial discrimination have spurred Samford University officials to re-examine the school's 50-year-old H-Day program. H-Day, which gets its name from Samford's original name, Howard College, is a student-led program.

Samford President Thomas E. Corts announced in mid-April that the program's current spring semester activities have been canceled and that the program is being revamped for the fall.

The program was canceled after three African students were not allowed to preach in a few isolated churches in the state as part of the H-Day program because they are black.

Both black and white students are upset about the situation, but the school's administration has vowed to make sure this does not happen again. "We have a responsibility as an educational institution," Corts said, referring to the racially inclusive stance the university has claimed. ■

Seminary Extension passes 27 tests for collegiate status

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Students enrolled in Seminary Extension courses have taken thousands of tests over the years. But recently it was Seminary Extension's turn to be tested. And the Southern Baptist entity, which provides theological studies at the college level, passed with flying colors.

Seminary Extension had 27 of its college-level courses evaluated and approved for two or more credit hours by the American Council on Education.

Seminary Extension grants no degrees itself, but students completing any of the 27 courses can have them transferred to schools for credit. ■



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