

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

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May 26, 1999

this week's news

- ▶ International Mission Board makes changes in prayer calendar. — Page 2
- ▶ Manchester congregation provides "Jesus" videos to the community. — Page 3
- ▶ Tennessee Baptist secretaries attend national meeting. — Page 12

Member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church

Macedonian answers 'call' from native land

By Marcia Knox
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The country of Macedonia is a victim of the current Kosovo crisis not only in humanitarian ways, but also in economic means, according to a Tennessee Baptist.

Irena Vodenska is a native Macedonian with a mission to help her country survive a humanitarian disaster due to the influx of Kosovo refugees by asking churches to answer the modern day Macedonian Call.

"Macedonia is a victim of this war," said Vodenska, a J.C. Bradford assistant vice president and Securities Trading specialist, who is a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville.

Vodenska sees the influx of 250,000 ethnic Albanian refugees into Macedonia who are Muslims in a different light than most Tennessee

Baptists.

Her family lives in Stip, Macedonia, and they are struggling to survive in a country that was already economically underdeveloped.

"Due to the war, Macedonian factories have stopped working; and the Serbia and Yugoslavia trade channel does not exist," she said.

"Macedonia was the first country neighboring the province of Kosovo to help the refugees. The people of Macedonia have given their resources to the refugees, and the resources have not been replenished. Now Macedonia is close to having zero resources.

"The disaster in Macedonia has become a humanitarian catastrophe since the economic system has collapsed.

"Without humanitarian help from developed countries, the people of Macedonia are sentenced to a long period of

suffering," she said.

The current economic situation has affected Vodenska's family in Macedonia since her parents are retired living on pensions that barely cover their expenses. Her brother is a journalist who has not received a salary in four months. Her sister-in-law has been laid off by a pharmaceutical company. Her brother's family has moved in with her parents.

In her native country, Vodenska was raised in the Macedonian Orthodox Church. She came to America five years ago to pursue a MBA degree in International Finance at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, where she graduated in 1996.

While in graduate school, Vodenska visited many churches in Nashville, but was impressed by the friendliness at Belmont Heights Church.

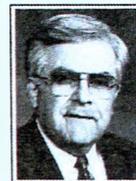
— See Macedonian, page 3

Record number of Tennesseans leave for Rio revival effort

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The largest number of volunteers to ever participate in a single Tennessee Baptist partnership project is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this week to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Nearly 350 Tennessee Baptists have joined additional volunteers in simultaneous revivals and other evangelistic efforts as part of Rio '99. The volunteers come from 127 Tennessee Baptist churches and include a 35-member choir from Union University in Jackson.



PORCH

Leaders of the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio have a goal of volunteers visiting 500,000 people and witnessing 300,000 professions of faith.

On Saturday, May 29, Tennessee Baptists will participate in a crusade in a 200,000-seat soccer stadium.

"It is exciting to note so many Tennessee Baptists are participating in this significant event, not only for Rio Baptists, but for the Tennessee Baptist Convention as a whole," said Executive Director James Porch.

"Once again Tennessee Baptists are responding in a mighty way to the great missions and evangelistic needs that are prevalent in Rio de Janeiro," he continued.

Porch encouraged Tennessee Baptists to pray diligently for the volunteers and that the Brazilian Baptists would be receptive to hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it is presented to them this week.

News Editor Connie Davis is in Rio this week and will report on the efforts in the June 9 and 16 issues. The teams will return June 1. ■

Other staff assume new roles

Connie Davis named B&R news editor

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Connie Davis, assistant editor of the Baptist and Reflector for the past 14 years, has been named news editor.

The position replaces the associate editor's post vacated by Lonnie Wilkey when he was named editor of the paper last September.

"The title news editor more accurately reflects the duties and responsibilities of the position," Wilkey said.

"Connie Davis is uniquely qualified for this role. She brings a wealth of experience to the position. In addition, her long tenure with the paper has enabled her to develop relationships that will prove to be invaluable as we work together to report the work being done by Tennessee Baptists."

Davis, a native of Oklahoma, is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and holds a master's degree in communications from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro.

In addition, two other staff members will take on other responsibilities.



DAVIS



EDWARDS



NIMMO



WILLIAMS

Susie Edwards, a 14-year staff member now serving as administrative secretary, will take on the title of circulation/executive assistant.

In her expanded role, she will work to increase circulation of the Baptist and Reflector through the Church Page Plan and other subscription plans. The Church Page Plan enables churches to print their newsletter in the Baptist and Reflector. "She will be able to show the churches the benefits of using their state paper for their newsletter," Wilkey said.

Edwards, a native of Texas, is a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, where her husband, Mark, is minister of music.

Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator, will continue in that role while also adding

some additional administrative secretarial responsibilities.

A native of Kentucky, Nimmo has been on staff for eight years. Her husband, Darrell, is minister to senior adults at Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville.

They are joined on the staff by Betty Williams, who will continue her role as bookkeeper. Williams was recently recognized for 40 years of service with the Baptist and Reflector.

"Tennessee Baptists are fortunate to have these four individuals who are committed to the paper's goal of producing a quality newsjournal," Wilkey said.

"Each one views their role as more of a ministry than just a job. They are committed to helping tell the story of Tennessee Baptists." ■

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST. STE. 400
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-2425

about your newsjournal

➤ **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, news editor** — (615) 371-7928, cdavis@tnbaptist.org

➤ **Susie Edwards, circulation/executive assistant** — (615) 371-2003, sedwards@tnbaptist.org

➤ **Mary Nimmo, church pages/administrative assistant** — (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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IMB changes prayer calendar to protect missionaries

Baptist Press

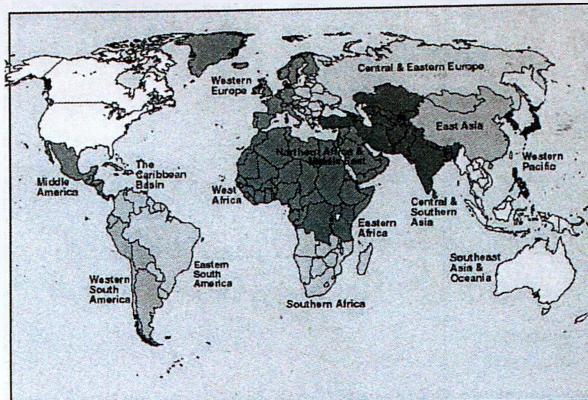
RICHMOND — The need to protect missionaries in sensitive assignments made a recent change in the missionary prayer calendar necessary, said International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

Generations of mission-minded Southern Baptists have prayed for missionaries on their birthdays, using prayer calendars printed in materials published by Woman's Missionary Union and LifeWay Christian Resources. Those prayer calendars listed missionaries' names and the countries in which they served.

Current calendars, however, list missionaries according to the IMB region in which they serve. Each region covers anywhere from a half-dozen to more than two dozen countries. The IMB removed references to specific countries to protect missionary security and to reflect dramatic changes in the way missionaries work overseas today.

Taking the Gospel to people who have had little or no access to the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ made the change necessary, Rankin said. Some faithful prayer supporters, however, have expressed unhappiness with the switch.

"Over the years I have



THIS GRAPHIC shows how IMB work is divided among 14 regions.

stored up knowledge about countries, have become acquainted with missionaries to these countries either personally or through reading, and have practiced praying much wider than just the missionary having a birthday," wrote Nan Owens of Junction City, Ark.

"That's impossible to do with the broad listings. For one thing, I can't use the news sources to zero in on problems a missionary might be facing. I can't intercede for specific political leaders and entities. I don't know with whom else the missionary is interacting."

While he understands the frustrations of intercessors used to knowing the country to which a missionary is assigned,

two pressing issues forced the IMB to list missionaries only by region, Rankin said.

First, Southern Baptist workers today are sharing the Gospel in places hostile to Christian missionaries. Publicly identifying those workers and the places they serve as IMB missionaries would jeopardize their safety and ministry and expose believers in those places to danger. There are, in fact, some IMB workers whose assignments are so sensitive they are not listed at all in the prayer calendar.

Second, the board has shifted its focus from working in countries to working among ethnic people groups. Recognizing that the Gospel spreads

most readily within a people group — and that tribal relations often cross political borders — Southern Baptist missionaries have begun organizing themselves around the people groups they are trying to reach.

These "people group teams" are not restricted to working in any one country, and the place a missionary lives may have little to do with his or her work, Rankin said. While 4,570 IMB missionaries live in 126 countries, they are involved in strategies reaching more than 336 people groups in 184 countries.

The board has required missionaries to make enormous adjustments, and their supporters will have to make adjustments as well.

Mission supporters can compensate by leading their churches to adopt missionary families so sensitive information can be shared without having to resort to published media, Rankin said.

To order an 8 1/2-x-11" world map showing how IMB work is divided among 14 regions, e-mail your request to the IMB Resource Center at resource.center@imb.org or call toll-free, 1-800-866-3621.

Please be specific in requesting the IMB Regional World Map. ■

Gambling commission OKs 'impact statements'

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A federal commission nearing the end of its work voted to recommend state and local governments require "gambling impact statements" when gambling is being introduced or significantly expanded.

The recommendation of such statements, similar to environmental impact statements now required of businesses, was one of nearly 70 proposals approved by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission during its May 17-18 meeting in Washington. The nine-member panel considered more than 200 recommendations in its latest deliberations. The commission, which was established by Congress in 1996, will conclude its two-year study with a report to be released June 18.

The "gambling impact statements" would seek to predict the economic and social effects on the region. They would be conducted by independent organizations.

It is "one of our most important recommendations," commissioner Richard Leone, who made the proposal, told reporters. "I think a lot of uninformed decisions are being made, and

they're being made in circumstances where the big picture is not being considered."

Among the other recommendations approved were:

- Betting on collegiate and other amateur athletic events, even in states where sports wagering is now legal, should be prohibited. (Sports betting is legal in Delaware, Nevada, and Oregon, with Nevada the prime location for gambling on athletic contests.)

- Legalized gambling, as well as loitering in gambling areas, should be banned for those under 21 years of age.

- Internet gambling should be outlawed.

- The federal government should encourage foreign governments not to harbor Internet gambling operations.

- State-sponsored lotteries should be blocked from adding casino-style instant games.

- Convenience gambling, such as video poker in neighborhood stores, should be outlawed in states where it exists, and states without convenience gambling should refuse to introduce it.

- Automated-teller machines

Legislature considers gambling bills

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — As the current legislative session draws to a close, Tennessee Baptists can expect legislators who want gambling in Tennessee to make a concentrated push in the next few days, predicted Gary Anderson, public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

An effort to revive the state racing commission in order to allow horse racing in Shelby County is set for floor action in the Senate this week.

SB 808, which calls for a

constitutional convention on the lottery, is in the Senate Calendar Committee, waiting to be moved to the Senate floor.

HJR 2 and SJR 346, resolutions calling for a referendum on the lottery, was to be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 25.

Anderson urged Tennessee Baptists to contact their senators and representatives on the bills concerning gambling.

"One vote on the bill calling for a constitutional convention will make a difference," he predicted. ■

and devices activated by credit or debit cards should be banned from casino floors and other areas where gambling occurs.

- Warnings of the risks of gambling and, where feasible, the odds of winning should be prominently posted in all gambling facilities.

- Students of elementary

age to college age should be warned of the dangers of gambling.

The panel also approved numerous proposals calling for further research, including one calling for state and tribal governments to require gambling operations to fund research and treatment on problem gambling. ■

Macedonian answers call from native land ...

— Continued from page 1

"When I first visited the church in 1995, a woman asked if I would like to sit with her. It was all I needed, no other area churches had welcomed me like that."

Vodenska entered Belmont Heights Church under "watch-care" and later joined the church.

She is an active member of the singles ministry, sings in the choir, and takes her turn in extended session.

"We are here to support Irena, and encourage her in the church," said Joe Stacker, pastor of Belmont Heights Church.

"This Macedonian concern has given our church a new perspective in international missions. She is here and concerned about her native country."

Belmont Heights Church has run special announcements in their church newsletter asking for help for people in Macedonia, and encouraged people in the church to donate to the TBC "Kosovo Refugee Relief Fund." Vodenska has also made presentations about Macedonia at Belmont Heights Church, the SBC Executive Committee, and other churches. She is available to speak by calling her at (615) 463-2441.

"We are offering her a window of opportunity by helping the refugees and supporting her family through the state convention by designating the money to a Macedonian fund," said Stacker. "This is very personal for us to focus on since she is from there. We are sending money to TBC and to IMB when designated."

Vodenska is also in touch



IRENA VODENSKA

with IMB missionary Kyle Kirkpatrick who is working in the Macedonian refugee camps which are currently feeding 1,400 refugees in 10 villages and 75 Macedonian families in severe need.

Besides Disaster Relief feeding, IMB needs two onsite coordinators to work in Albania

and Macedonia to give overall leadership to warehouse operations, conducted by IMB field personnel.

IMB has requested one team of eight people to serve in the Macedonian capital of Skopje, Sept. 4, in developing and delivering food boxes. Two teams of 10 people are also needed to serve in Tirana, Albania, Aug. 15-24 and Aug. 24-Sept. 4 in warehouse developing and delivering food boxes for families.

Volunteers available to go need to contact: Tim Bearden, TBC State Disaster Relief coordinator at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2026.

Donations may also be made to the "Kosovo Refugee Relief Fund" at: Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■



Manchester church distributes 'Jesus' videos to community

For Baptist and Reflector

MANCHESTER — Members of First Baptist Church here are in the process of distributing about 600 "Jesus" videos, a feature-length film on the life of Jesus.

The project began last December when the church gave away the videos to families who attended the church's live, interactive outdoor presentation of the Christmas story through an effort called "Merry Christmas, Manchester," said Pastor Brenton Cox.

The church gave away approximately 250 videos to the more than 800 people who attended the drama over a two-night period, Cox said.

He noted church members gave over and above their regular offerings

to purchase about 600 of the videos. It is the same film Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers have used overseas to share the message of Christ, Cox said. The video project is a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

The church has targeted about 16 neighborhoods and apartment complexes in Manchester and members are visiting the areas and offering the videos as a free gift, Cox said.

Cox acknowledged the church basically is sowing seeds as he does not know of any direct decisions or baptisms as a result of the effort to this point.

Regardless of the results to date, the effort has been good for the members of First Church, Cox said.

"We have visited people we would not have met otherwise," Cox said, noting that prior to this effort the church's visitation program had been geared to people who had visited the church.

"It has been a good way to visit. It is neat to be able to give them something," Cox related. ■



COX

Trenton congregation responds to Colorado tragedy

For Baptist and Reflector

TRENTON — Members of White Hall Baptist Church here felt empty and confused the week after the fatal school shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., said Pastor Bryan Ray.

"I think everyone's unspoken question was "Why?" he related.

Ray said the youth group at White Hall has grown recently in number and discipleship, but they were not prepared for the tragedy "that continues to have devastating effects on our country," the pastor observed.

"God led me to a specific text that I feel needs to be preached with conviction and power if it hasn't been preached lately — II Timothy 3:1-4:5."

Ray acknowledged it is a long text, but emphasized the message is appropriate especially today. "Jesus is still the answer. He is the answer during these 'perilous times' or 'dangerous seasons.'"

During his message on April 25, Ray cited some of the negative effects of ungodly music and television.

"I used an article from a recent *HomeLife* magazine that educated me about the rock group K.O.R.N. I shared how they talked about killing peers and other horrible actions," Ray said. "God really spoke to our congregation that morning, especially the youth," Ray related, adding that he encouraged parents to not allow the viewing of ungodly TV shows or music.

One of the church's youth, Brooke Doss, came to youth director Terry Hickerson and Ray afterwards and shared that she felt God was telling them to destroy music, clothing, and other items harmful to their witness.

On Sunday, May 2, the church held a bonfire and burned items such as K.O.R.N. CDs and other tapes, New World Order wrestling memorabilia and T-shirts, and other such items. "This was an awesome and powerful time at our church," Ray said. ■

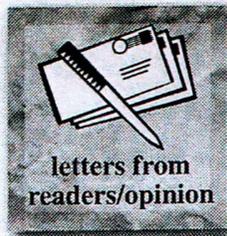


MEMBERS OF White Hall Baptist Church, Trenton, recently held a bonfire to burn music and other items deemed harmful to a Christian witness.

Walnut Hill Baptist Church celebrates sesquicentennial

Walnut Hill Baptist Church in Bells celebrated its 150th anniversary on Sunday, May 22. The theme of the day's activities was "Experiencing God's Faithfulness for 150 years." In photo below, Larry Murphy, director of missions for Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist Associations, presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Pastor David Brown. In photo to right, Brown and his wife, Margaret, left, welcome guest speaker T.T. Crabtree, a former Tennessee Baptist pastor and retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., and his wife, Bennie. Walnut Hill is Crabtree's home church.





about letters

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

A people problem

Violence is everywhere. It is not just killings in school and not just with guns. People are the problem.

America was founded as a nation under God by people of God. They, by God's help and believing in his laws and word, laid the foundation for the greatest nation in the history of the world. That foundation has been and is still being eroded away. Man's wisdom is replacing God's wisdom revealed in his word, the Bible. This is a terrible mistake. In any building project it is terrible to disregard the plans and act as they never existed. This is still happening. When God's laws are set aside and no longer honored and obeyed, it follows that man's laws are no longer of much value. This is where we are right now.

The Ten Commandments are banned from public schools by the United States Supreme Court, along with prayer and Bible study.

Our country has been and still is being turned into a secular society.

We have become a barbaric nation.

Some people are so demented in their thinking that they don't know why men and

women are made different and how men and women should relate to each other. Animals on farms or forests know better than that.

For America, it is back to God or else. The problem is with the ungodly hearts and motives of people. When people are changed the whole picture will change.

John Stair
Seymour 37865

Response to letter

Thank you for letting me respond to the letter of April 28 which referred to "attacks on the personal integrity and Christian life of Christlike people." The religion faculty of Carson-Newman College are the victims of these attacks, according to the letter writer.

I have searched my files and I have found one personal reference to a faculty member at Carson-Newman. This man was called "a wonderful, dynamic teacher." Other information has been shared concerning doctrinal differences, but I repeat the only personal reference was to "a wonderful, dynamic teacher." I offer my apology for such a personally crushing description.

Until all Tennessee Baptists refrain from unkind judgmental terminology such as "evil"

when describing brothers with differing views, we will not solve our problems.

If there have been "evil" actions, go to the brother individually and be reconciled. If we perceive "evil" attitudes, let us ask God to remind us that he alone can judge the intent of heart.

We can learn and grow through disagreements if we respect those with which we disagree. Trust is not built with name calling and we need to learn to trust each other again.

We will continue to call attention to inequities where they exist and we will continue to participate in the convention proceedings. We will continue to promote complete cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention and support nominees who share that conviction. We will continue to stand on the inerrant word of God and ask for religion professors who share that conviction. If that is a description of "evil" — guilty as charged.

Charles D. Bailey
Louisville 37777

The letter referred to did not mention the names of any individuals or groups. — Editor

Thanks for fathers

Father's Day is a special day on which the people of many countries express gratitude and appreciation for their fathers. Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday in June and became a national holiday in 1972.

Although every day is special and all people are special, this is a day that we honor fathers. We should be grateful for our own father and fathers everywhere with prayers for life, health, and love.

Fathers, remember that never before in all history have your children needed godly advice and attention of loving parents as in these days of extreme moral and spiritual decline within our society.

Your children are molding a life that you are the model for. Whether it's good or bad depends on the kind of life that you live before your children. One of the greatest gifts God has blessed people with is the precious gift of loving, Christian parents.

I pray for Christian fathers worldwide and their commitment to a living faith in God. A father's greatest gift to his family is to follow Jesus every day.

Frank Stoffle
Seymour 37865

Pray for pastor

The Boy Scouts of America is an excellent organization. They took a survey of 47,386 teenagers by asking, "What kind of career do you want as an adult? Here are the results in order of their responses.

Top 10 most wanted —

- (1) attorney
- (2) doctor
- (3) accountant
- (4) psychiatrist, psychologist
- (5) computer programmer
- (6) business manager
- (7) professional athlete
- (8) architect
- (9) pilot
- (10) military

Top 10 least wanted —

- (1) utility worker, librarian
- (2) railroad worker
- (3) youth worker
- (4) appliance repair person
- (5) insurance sales
- (6) factory worker
- (7) choreographer
- (8) telephone specialist
- (9) parks & recreation worker
- (10) minister, religious educator

The world never will appreciate the ministry of the humble servants of God, but we all know SOMEONE who does. Pray for your pastor every day. Let him know that you care.

Jim Crowden, pastor
Hillcrest Baptist Church
Nashville 37203

Donating organs is an expression of faith for pastor

guest opinion

by Frank Crawford
pastor
Calvary Baptist Church,
Kingsport

I am an organ donor. I have in my wallet a card granting permission for the use of any organs or tissue from my body after my death. This is an expression of my faith.

It is important to help people in the name of Jesus. About 13 people die each day waiting for a transplant because the number of organs donated falls critically short of the need. As of January 1999, there were more than 64,000

people waiting for organ transplants. In 1997, the last year for which statistics are available, only 5,475 donations were made. These figures suggest that about 90 percent of the people awaiting transplants will not have an organ available to them. Most likely, they will die.

When I am dead, I will not need my heart, my liver, my corneas, my lungs, my kidneys, my pancreas, nor any

other part of my body.

There is no biblical rationale prohibiting organ donation. I will not need these organs for a bodily resurrection. The apostle Paul will certainly experience that final resurrection, and his body and organs have been dust for centuries.

When I die, I want my life to have mattered for someone. When I die, I want my death to bring about benefit for someone as well. What a marvelous thought it is that a grandfather might teach his grandchild to fish because my heart is in him, or a mother might read Bible stories to her daughter because she has my liver. If every possible organ or tissue in my body is usable at

the time of my death, I can extend or benefit the lives of 200 people!

You may cringe at the thought of having something removed from your body after death. Your family may think it will affect the funeral. Rest assured that organ donations will not affect the appearance of one's body in the casket. Unless a person is told about it, he or she would never know you donated.

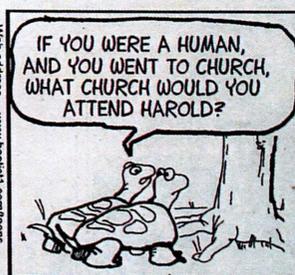
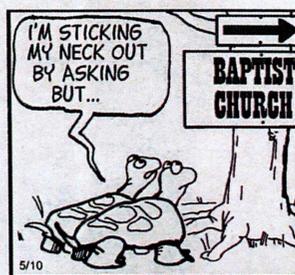
This is a decision that every person needs to make for himself or herself. It is a decision that should be shared with family members. It is now required by law that hospital officials ask the family about organ donations at the time of a

death. There is no need to be unprepared for that moment. Let your family know your wishes about organ donations in the event of your death.

As for me, they can take anything and everything that is usable. I will need none of it in heaven. The Lord Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). He called me to follow the way, speak the truth, and give life. It is a blessed opportunity to be able to give life even after death.

For more information about organ donations, call 1-888-562-3774. ■ — This column appeared in the "The Open Door," the newsletter of Calvary Baptist Church. It is used with permission.

Church of the Covered Dish By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City



Movie director gives good advice: get a life

Reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey,
editor



I continue to be amazed by all the hoopla surrounding the new movie "Star Wars, Episode 1 — The Phantom Menace."

It is projected the movie will gross more than \$100 million in its first five days on the big screen. To put that in perspective, that is about the same amount as the Cooperative Program budget for Tennessee Baptist ministries for three years.

It just strengthens my theory that our society in general does not grasp what really is important in life. We are becoming, if we have not already become, a society that deals with the trivial.

The marketing surrounding this movie is incredible. Star Wars figures, toys, and other items were all over the place before the film officially aired last week. I even walked into a convenience store and discovered a soft drink cooler shaped

like one of the robots in the first three Star Wars movies.

I saw the original Star Wars films, first as a teenager, and then over the years on television and video. While I enjoyed them I don't think my life would have changed for the worse had I never seen them.

What's more astounding and disheartening is the number of people who reportedly stood in line for weeks to get tickets. Where is reality in this situation? Did people actually take vacation time or sick leave to do this? Where are their priorities?

I can't help but think about the larger cities where people have camped out for tickets.

No doubt while they were standing or seated waiting to buy tickets, they were surrounded by homeless and hungry people. Did they notice?

Even the film's director, George Lucas, is amazed at the reaction of some Star Wars buffs. In an interview with the *New York Post*, Lucas said: "It's only a movie. People should get a life."

Truer words have never been spoken.

Equally sad is the fact many people are turning to this movie

for religious "truth." The only truth we have come from God and his Holy Word — not from a Star Wars film.

John Wood, a Baylor University religion professor, notes that spiritual themes in Star Wars do not match the Bible. In an interview with Associated Baptist Press, Wood observed the Star Wars saga agrees with the Bible's assurance that good will triumph over evil.

The movie is flawed from a Christian perspective, Wood counters, because of the method by which good prevails.

In the movie, evil is defeated through violence. That is not the Bible's viewpoint, Wood said in the article. The New Testament teaches that a loving God overcame evil by sacrificing his only Son, Jesus, to save the souls of "whosoever believes," he observed.

Phil Boatwright, a Baptist layman and editor of *The Mission Reporter*, frequently writes movie reviews for Baptist Press. He penned one recently about the new Star Wars flick.

He expressed concern that the conception of Anakin Skywalker, the future Darth Vader, is suggested to be the result of

an immaculate conception.

Boatwright wrote: "This, of course, causes members of the Jedi council to wonder if the child is the 'chosen one,' the future savior of the galaxy.

"In the past, I have defended the Star Wars mystical proponents. Many had problems with the continuous reference to the Force, but after reading interviews with George Lucas and examining the series, I didn't believe there was an attempt to lead young people into occultism or Eastern philosophies. I believed, and still maintain, that these movies are parables concerning good versus evil. ...

"However, this latest development of proclaiming a movie warrior to be of virgin birth may cause some to think the film's creator is trifling with the significance of Jesus Christ and his entrance into human form.

"My suggestion: Parents, if you are allowing the kids to attend, you should view this film with them. Make sure they understand the difference between the film's 'Force' and the real Force, Jesus Christ."

Amen! And don't forget, it's just a movie! **B&R**



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Officer to soldier who complained about the cold weather in New York: "You will be glad to know I have arranged for you to transfer south." Soldier: "That's great, sir. Where?" Officer: "South Korea."

Take this truth

Someone once said, "Be careful about what you pray for because you might get it." Don't pray for your church to be like the early church. All those members put their property together and divided with the poor. Would you like to do that?

Memorize this Scripture

"Ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss." — James 4: 2-3

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to realize the green always looks a whole lot greener on the other side of the fence." ■

Christians should honor, accept God's timetable for answers

heart talk

by James Porch
TBC executive
director



The divisions who rallied to David at Hebron included "men of Issachar." The Scripture writer accorded the chiefs and their relatives as "men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do..." (I Chronicles 12:32). These soldiers possessed an honorable combination and worthy balance of traits for living purpose-

ful and productive lives.

But what about life's seasons when we do not understand the days and do not know what to do?

Quite honestly, the atrocities in Kosovo, carnage in Colorado, devastation in the midwest and parts of Tennessee, plus the shadows of fear haunting students and parents, challenge us to wonder about the perplexity of our times and admit the haunting question — What do we do? Basically, such thoughts reveal a confession. We start here. We admit that our times exceed our grasp and our answers fail to satisfy our questions. But to stop here would be tragic. Confusion of such inadequacy can be a mere emptying

or cleansing. Even worse, feelings of inadequacy to comprehend the times and chart a course of response, can generate apathy or surrender to helplessness. Currently, Americans are vulnerable to such a condition. Only time will reveal how the Spring events of 1999 may intensify our growing malignancy of numbness. We could arrive at a point where we are beyond being shocked.

Or, we can, on our knees, lift up to our caring heavenly Father our lack of understanding and recognition of indirection, "Father, this does not make sense to me, and I do not know what to do."

His answer?

I believe he personally attends to each cry!

I believe we must honor and accept his timetable for answers!

I believe we may live out our lives and only find total understanding of the times in his presence and beyond our earthly lives!

I believe his grace is sufficient even if we just have to live with unanswered questions!

Our times do resemble the personal days of Job. Remember, he also was a man of much confusion. Even more, he was a man of much more affirmation. "And as for me, I know that my redeemer lives, and at the last he will take his stand on the earth." — Job 19:25. ■

Pastor's daughter eager to share food with starving children

A funny thing happened on the way to the pulpit

by Daryll Smiley

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

interested in hearing from our readers. If you have a story to share, write: Daryll Smiley, 635 Country Estates Drive, Winchester, TN 37398.

It's never easy to be a parent and at times it's a challenge to do so with a straight face. When our girls were growing up we always tried to keep them up to date on the work of the ministry throughout the world. We would tell them about certain missionaries who would be profiled in *Missions* magazine, and try to educate our girls on how the people in the rest of the world lived in comparison to our own way of life.

Sometimes we would use those opportunities for learning to instruct our own value systems as we taught our girls what we believed. One day we were having dinner, and our oldest daughter was not eating very well. My wife had fixed what she believed to be a good dinner, and our little girl was less than enthusiastic about eating the fresh vegetables that we felt were necessary for her proper growth and nutrition.

My wife had coaxed and cajoled as long as her patience could endure, and finally, in frustration, she reminded our little darling about the story we had just read about starv-

ing children being ministered to by some missionaries in Africa. And she said, "You need to clean your plate because there are starving children in Africa."

With a defiant shove of her plate across the table, our dear little daughter announced, "Then send this to them!"

Well, I wish I could tell you we patiently corrected her. But on that day, the biblical instruction to "spare the rod and spoil the child" was not ignored. After she had eaten her dinner, standing up for greater comfort to herself, she was excused to her room. Then and only then did her mother and I look at each other and laugh. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

May-June

27 — Pray for the staff of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

28 — Pray for 10 members of a medical team that will work June 5-15 in South Zone, Costa Rica. The team will be led by Joe Sorah, pastor of Calvary Church, Elizabethton.

29 — Pray for the 200,000 people who will attend today the citywide crusade in the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is a part of the May simultaneous revivals led by Tennessee volunteers.

30 — Pray for ministries of Detroit's HOPE Baptist Center, a ministry of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

31 — Pray for all Tennessee Baptist GAs, RAs, Acteens, and Challengers who will attend camps this summer.

1 — Praise God for the 350 Tennessee volunteers who served May 23-June 1 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2 — Pray for ISC missionaries, Rhett and Lisa King, who will lead July 9-18 the Tennessee "Youth Changing the World" project in Heredia, Costa Rica.

Congregation finds help to construct building

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

SPRINGVILLE — It was a sight to see, recalled Kenneth Basham, pastor, Russwood Baptist Church here. About 30 RVs were scattered in front of the construction area and on one side of the current church building.

The RVs had been driven all the way from Texas by 60 members of Volunteer Christian Builders of Texas. They would frame the church's new facility.

As the summer of 1998 continued, Tennesseans also descended upon this resort area near Paris Landing State Park.

They represented different Tennessee groups, including Tennessee Baptist Men; Tennessee Volunteer Baptist Bricklayers for Christ; Sevier County Baptist Association, based in Sevierville; Western District Baptist Association, based in nearby Paris; Nolachucky Baptist Association, based in Morristown; and others.

Another visit was made by the Volunteer Christian Builders of Texas to install insulation and drywall. The Texas Baptist Bricklayers also worked on the building.

And all the groups worked with members of Russwood

Church. Volunteers completed most of the construction. Only a few of the jobs were subcontracted, reported Basham.

The result, after almost a year of labor, is something to be pleased with, said Basham, because volunteer construction labor is at least equal to that which is bought.

Another result of the experience was new friendships among volunteers. And members and volunteers saw some amazing things occur during the effort, said Basham.

Amazing workers

In just seven months, the members saw a slab of concrete be transformed into a building with walls bearing drywall.

They saw a volunteer from Texas and two local helpers who were young men apply 180 squares of shingles to the roof in two weeks.

They saw 60 people lay 45,000 brick in five days.

Senior adults up to 80 years of age participated as much as those much younger.

Those involved learned many members of the builders' groups had learned construction skills after retirement.

Construction of the new building was completed in about the same length of time it would have taken a construction company. And it was built for about 55 percent of projected costs using a contractor.

Amazing outcomes

Russwood Church took a

risk building the facility, explained Basham. Just a year ago Russwood drew about 50 to Sunday School. But the risk taken by the church has paid off because currently it draws about 85 to Sunday School. And because of the help of volunteers and their own hard work, they have a debt members can manage, added Basham.

The small congregation has made a huge transition, not just from a 100-seat sanctuary to a 265-seat sanctuary. For example, the new facility has closed circuit TV for workers who care for children during worship services. It has a cry room with a one-way mirror. And it has up-to-date education space.

Members not only took the overall risk to build the worship center, but they continued the construction effort despite obstacles, explained Basham.

The congregation learned at one point land recently acquired for something else, was needed for a septic system. They changed their plans and

were thankful, said Basham, because the land was offered at a very good price.

Additional help given

Russwood was given a \$25,000 grant from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and a loan from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, based at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. And the congregation was assisted by several TBC workers who helped assess the potential for growth and helped them raise money to pay for the building.

Members are ahead of schedule in paying off the building debt.

Russwood also was helped by a fellow church which allowed them to borrow their ar-

chitectural plan without charge.

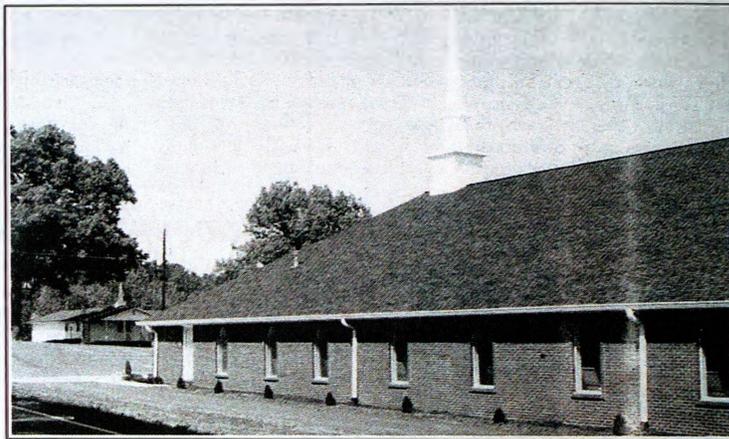
Members of the building committee who led the effort were Tom Wilson, chairman; Perry Cartwright; Eudell Hayes; Maxine Raines; and Mary Lee Washam.

"This is one of the sweetest experiences I've ever had in a church," said Basham. Church members got people from the community involved and they "worked hard and demonstrated faith and prayed and cooperated together," he concluded.

B&R



BASHAM



THE NEW WORSHIP center of Russwood Baptist Church dwarfs the former church building, in the background on the right, which is located across a street in the residential area of the Paris Landing State Park resort area.

Memphis pastors confront growing problem of declining churches

For Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — Representatives of Memphis-area churches gathered recently at Cordova Retreat and Conference Center here to seek wisdom and understanding in how to confront the

growing problem of urban church decline.

Harvey Kneisel, a key church strategist and executive director of Corpus Christi (Texas) Baptist Association was the guest speaker.

In his book, *New Life for De-*

clining Churches, Kneisel identified several factors that have contributed to the process of decline. He shared those factors with those attending the Shelby Baptist Association-sponsored conference. They include:

➤ loss of vision and pur-

pose by leaders.

➤ inflexibility and unwillingness to change.

➤ irrelevant programs and methods for the present situation.

➤ staff-run churches with a salary-centered budget (50 to

70 percent) on staff salaries.

➤ routine prayer — praying things will change without planning to change.

Kneisel also suggested some solutions to the problems. He suggested churches get a new vision and purpose.

Be flexible and willing to change when necessary, he said.

Kneisel offered that churches must develop appropriate methods or ways of doing things in the present.

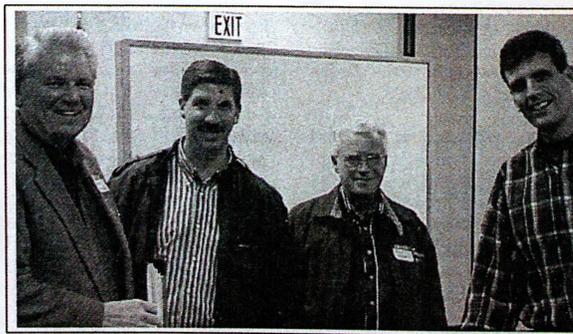
In addition, he suggested churches become a lay-run, missions-centered budgeting church.

Churches also must pray and hear what the Holy Spirit is saying, he said.

And, finally, Kneisel suggested that declining churches become inclusive and develop appropriate outreach and ministries-needed for the now community. ■ — By Greg Spears, Shelby Baptist Association



LES COLLIER, left, church administrator, Cherry Road Baptist Church visits with representatives of Frayser Baptist Church, from left, Howard Farris, deacon; Steve Jacobson, pastor, and Jim Kirkpatrick, deacon, about change and the future during a recent Shelby Baptist Association conference.



VISITING DURING a recent conference at Cordova Retreat and Conference Center are, from left, Howard Bickers, missions minister, Kirby Woods Baptist Church; Danny Sinquefield, pastor, Faith Baptist Church; Ronnie Wilburn, executive director, Shelby Baptist Association; and George Siler, missions minister, Faith Church.

SEEDS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHURCH LEADERS FROM UNION UNIVERSITY

Union University Pastors School presents 'Leading the Church'

"Leadership is perhaps an overused word in our world today," says Union President David S. Dockery. "While overused, the practice of leadership is under-utilized. Leadership is the need of the hour in our churches."

Church leadership will be the focus of the 1999 Union University's Pastors School Aug. 2-5. Titled "Leading the Church," the four-day conference is sponsored by the R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry and will be held on Union's campus in Jackson, Tenn.

The annual event will offer worship time, fellowship with pastors and their wives and addresses from the following speakers:

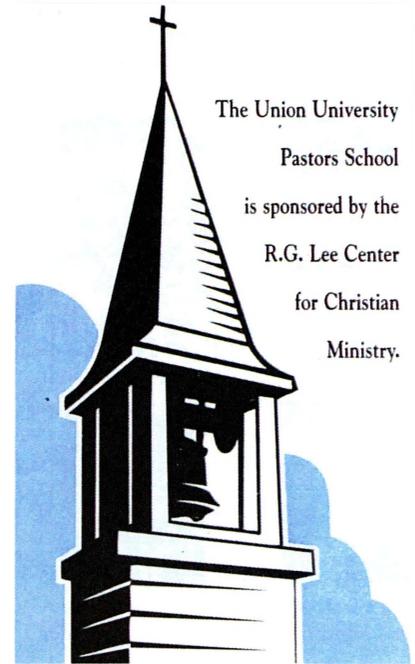
- Franklin Pollard, pastor, First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.;
- John Phillips, author and teacher of Encounter Ministries in Wilmington, N.C.;
- Harry M. Piland, former director of the Sunday School Division of the Southern Baptist Convention;
- Michael Duduit, executive vice president at Union and editor of *Preaching* magazine;
- Paul Barkley, family counselor in Bartlett, Tenn.; and Rhonda Barkley, teacher in Bartlett, Tenn.

"It's not so much a particular style as it is a way of life," Dockery says describing leadership. "Leaders can be assertive or mild-mannered; they can be aggressive or laid-back. Leaders can be old or young, short or tall. Styles are different like the differences between Moses and Joshua or Paul and Timothy."

The gifted and godly speakers for the program will shed insight that can help today's church leadership conform to God's image as a servant leader who influences the church and society with the good news of the Gospel message.

"We hope that many pastors and their families will take advantage of this week to relax, refresh and reflect," director of denominational support and planned giving and acting vice president of church services, Paul Veazey, says.

This year's school will meet simultaneously with Union's Senior Adult conference. To register for the conference, complete the registration form below and return it to Union University. For more information, call Joanna Moore at (901) 661-5162.



The Union University Pastors School is sponsored by the R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry.



Worship Leader
Dr. Franklin Pollard
Pastor, First Baptist Church
Jackson, Miss.



Winter Bible Study for 2000
Dr. John Phillips
Encounter Ministries
Author & Teacher
Wilmington, N.C.



"Leading The Church"
Dr. Harry M. Piland
Former Director of the
Sunday School Division
of the Southern Baptist
Convention



"Shaping The Sermon"
Dr. Michael Duduit
Executive Vice President,
Union University & Editor
of *Preaching* magazine



"Your Marriage-Duel or Duet?"
Dr. Paul Barkley
Family Counselor
Bartlett, Tenn.



Mrs. Rhonda Barkley
Teacher
Bartlett, Tenn.

Registration for Pastors School

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Please make room and meal reservations as follows:

Room and Meals:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple
Meals Only:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple
Children's Meals:	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Lunch & Dinner</i>
8 Years and Under	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.35
Over 8	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3.65

Registration Fee Must Be Enclosed: (Includes Meals & Room)
 \$30.00 Individual \$45.00 Husband & Wife

Were you enrolled in the Pastors School last year?
 Yes No

Make checks payable to Union University and mail with this registration form to:

Union University Pastors School
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305-3697

Conference aims to plant seeds of prosperity

Union University will host its fourth annual Senior Adult Conference Aug. 2-4 in the Penick Academic Complex (PAC) on the university's campus.

The theme of this year's conference, "Planted - Growing - Prospering," comes from Psalm 1:3 which says, "And he shall be like a tree...his leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." "With this year's program we hope we can help senior adults grow in and prosper from all aspects of their lives," conference coordinator Paul Williams says.

The conference will consist of sessions that will be held in the G. M. Savage Memorial Chapel in the PAC and small group conferences that will be held in

classrooms located in the same building.

The sessions will feature inspirational leaders such as Buddy Griffin, Christian humorist, musician and inspirational speaker; Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss.; John Phillips, widely known prolific writer; and James Pulliam, retired minister of music and senior adult coordinator of First Baptist Church in Bolivar, Tenn.

Additional sessions will feature a variety of subjects including:

- The Virtues of Aging by Roger Abington
- Take Time to Laugh — It's Music to the Soul by Jerry Drye
- Building a Growing Senior Adult Ministry by Don Mauldin
- Cooking for One or Two by Mary Katherine Hurley and Mickie Allen
- Art for Fun by Nell Agee
- Values of Wills and Trusts by Paul Veazey

The following professors in the Department of Christian Studies at Union will lead Bible studies in addition to the general sessions: Paul Jackson, Kelvin Moore, Hal Poe and George Guthrie.

Each participant will be able to choose three of 10 special interest conferences to attend.

Excellent arrangements have been made for motel accommodations close to the Union campus. Reservations should be made directly with the motels. For a list of motels or other information, contact Joanna Moore at (901) 661-5162.

Registration Form for Senior Adult Conference

Individual Husband & Wife

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Total number in your group: _____

**REGISTRATION FEE
(Includes cost of Extravaganza Banquet)**

Option I: Banquet only- \$20

Option II: Banquet and five meals- \$38

Breakfast- \$3 Lunch/Dinner- \$4
(Make checks payable to *Union University*)

Mail registration form and fees to:

**Senior Adult Conference,
Union University,
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson TN 38305**



Frank Pollard
Worship Leader



Buddy Griffin
Banquet Speaker



James Pulliam
Music Coordinator



John Phillips
Bible Study Leader

Don't miss Union at the SBC

Sixteen hundred square-feet of exhibit space will become home to Union University and her friends during the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention June 14-16 in Atlanta.

Providing information to conventioners, Union representatives will be available to answer questions and distribute literature about the university throughout the three-day event. A variety of events are planned for the exhibit including book signings by Union authors. A complete schedule of events will be posted in the booth.

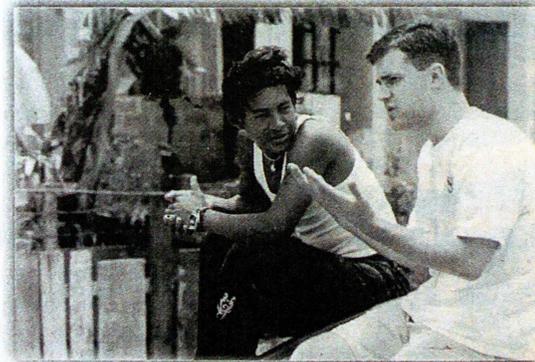
Union's Office of Alumni Services in conjunction with the Georgia Alumni Chapter will host its annual dinner for alumni and friends on Tuesday, June 15 at 5 p.m. in Room W265 (Level II) of the Georgia World Congress Center. The cost of dinner is \$18 per person. Reservations should be made with the Office of Alumni Services by Tuesday, June 8. Dinner tickets will also be on sale at the Union University booth until Tuesday at noon. For more information about the alumni and friends dinner, call 1-800-338-6644.

Union mission teams serve throughout the world

One hundred and forty-eight Union University students participated in the university's Global Outreach program, traveling throughout the world to serve in short-term projects.

Each year Union GO Trips are sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministries and take place during the university's spring break. This year's teams traveled to seven different destinations, including Chicago, Dallas, Costa Rica, Israel, Kansas City, Detroit and Jackson, Tenn., during the week of March 26-April 3.

The teams participated in various activities during the week, including worship services, backyard



Senior Spanish major Brad White shares the Gospel with a young man during the April 1999 GO Trip to Costa Rica.

Bible clubs, door-to-door evangelism, construction and clean-up, street evangelism and ministry to the homeless.

"GO trips make an impact in two ways. The teams make a difference by the good they do on the field. These trips also change the lives of the

team members by allowing them to see what God is doing and how He is at work in the lives of people," Todd Brady, minister to the university, said.

Plans are underway for the first GO Trips of the next millenium. Next year's mission locations will be announced during the university's GO Week in September.

news seeds

Jones and Ridenour Join Campus Ministries Staff

The Office of Campus Ministries welcomes Jenny Jones and Jay Ridenour to its staff. Jones will serve as director of student outreach; Ridenour will be Union's director of discipleship ministries. Both positions are new to Campus Ministries.

Christian Studies Faculty Welcomes Patterson

Jim Patterson, widely recognized Baptist theologian, will join Union's faculty in the fall as professor of Christian studies. Patterson has taught at the International Academy of Modern Knowledge in Obninsk, Russia, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the Princeton Theological Seminary, where he received his doctorate. He comes to Union from the faculty of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Veneman Joins University Relations Staff

Former LifeWay Christian Resources photo editor Jim Veneman joined Union's Office of University Relations as director of visual communications, June 1. Veneman is photo editor at this year's Southern Baptist Convention, a post he has held since 1986. He managed photography for the Baptist World Congress in 1990 and 1996 and served as president of the Baptist Communicators Association in 1997-98.

Union Named One of America's Best Christian Colleges

Union was recognized as one of America's best Christian colleges by the Student Guide series for the second consecutive year. Union will appear in the 2000 edition of the publication, America's Best Christian Colleges, with only 92 other colleges and universities. Among the schools, the average entering fall 1997 freshman had a grade point average of 3.16 on a 4.0 scale, an SAT score of 1065 and an ACT score of 21. Union's fall 1998 freshman class had an ACT average of 24 and a median grade point average of 3.4.

Alumnus Wins First Dove Award

Union alumnus Chris Rice ('89) took home his first Dove award for Male Vocalist of the Year at the Gospel Music Association's 30th annual Dove Awards in Nashville, Tenn., this spring. Rice stunned the crowd by taking top honors over popular competitors Bob Carlisle, Steven Curtis Chapman and Michael W. Smith. Rice also walked away with a second Dove for his role on the Special Event Album of the Year, "Exodus."



Alumnus Chris Rice won his first Dove Award for his album, "Past the edges."

LifeWay to open on Union's expanding campus

LifeWay Christian Resources' only bookstore on a college campus is set to open this summer at Union University. The 9,000-square foot bookstore will reside on the first floor of Hammons Hall. Hammons Hall is currently under construction; its completion is scheduled for Aug. 1. The building is named after the late Dr. Edward P. Hammons of Forrest City, Ark.

Hammons Hall is part of the university's Campus Master Plan, which was announced in December 1997. The first five-year phase of the plan began with the construction of a new varsity soccer field and a baseball/softball field complex. The first phase will also include construction of Jennings Hall (an academic building to house the departments of Christian studies, communication arts and music), a science building, a bell tower, a new athletic convocation center and a series of campus improvements relating to the Master Plan.

The upcoming science building was made possible through a \$2 million gift from Memphis businessman Roy White as part of its "Building a Future" campaign. With White's recent commitment, Union has reported more than \$20 million in gifts and pledges toward the \$35 million campaign goal, which was announced last fall. The White gift is the third largest in Union's history.

White, a member of Union's Board of Trustees, is the owner of Third Party Solutions, a company that serves as a liaison between pharmacies and

insurance companies, allowing patients to receive their prescriptions without delay.

"Roy White is a model of a successful Christian business leader as he demonstrates both entrepreneurial genius and a deep commitment to the cause of Christ," says Union President David S. Dockery. "We are fortunate to have him on our Board and are tremendously grateful for his love of Union, as evidenced by this generous gift."

Union's "Building a Future" campaign seeks to raise \$35 million for new facilities, expanded endowment and other needs over the next five years. The campaign is the largest ever among colleges and universities in the West Tennessee region

outside of Memphis. Dockery announced the effort at a November dinner for Union friends and supporters.

Dockery also said the campaign generated more than \$15 million in gifts and pledges during

the year-long preparatory phase. At their April 9 meeting, Dockery told Union Trustees more than \$5 million in additional gifts and pledges has been received since the campaign's announcement, raising the campaign total to more than \$20 million.

Union has received the four largest gift commitments in its history during the past year. The university's top four gift commitments are: \$3.1 million from Benny and Norma Fesmire of Jackson, Tenn.; \$2.1 million from James Ayers of Parsons, Tenn.; \$2 million from White; and \$1.65 million from an anonymous Jackson, Tenn., business leader.



Hammons Hall, which will house a LifeWay Christian Bookstore, is scheduled to open Aug. 1 as the first new building of Union's Campus Master Plan.

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Each month Union faculty, staff and administration represent the university at businesses, community and church-related events. Below are some church-related speaking engagements scheduled through September 1999.

Rev. Todd Brady, Minister to the University Ongoing Interim Pastor

First Baptist Church, Jackson, TN
May 31-June 4 Serving as Camp Pastor for Youth Camp
First Baptist Church
Amarillo, TX

Dr. David P. Gushee, Associate Professor of Christian Studies

Sept. 19 Evening Service
Englewood Baptist Church
Jackson, TN
Sept. 26 Evening Service
Englewood Baptist Church
Jackson, TN

Dr. George H. Guthrie, Associate Professor of Christian Studies

July 14-16 Explorers Bible Study
National Training Retreat
Dickson, TN
July 25-28 Summer Bible Study, "Hebrews"
First Baptist Church
Dyersburg, TN
Aug. 2-4 Senior Adult Conference
Union University

Gary Williams, Executive Director of Alumni Services Ongoing Interim Minister of Music

Maple Springs Baptist Church
Paul Veazey, Acting Vice President of Church Services
June 13 First Baptist Church
Gleason, TN
July 18 Ararat Baptist Church
Jackson, TN
Aug. 1-6 Pastors School & Senior Adult Conference

The Churches On This Page Make Dreams Come True



"Before coming to college, I looked back on my life and realized that the most influential people outside my family had been my teachers," reflects Jennifer Merwin.

Jennifer is a senior elementary education major. She will soon be in a similar position to influence young minds once she graduates.

A member of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn., Jennifer says she loves the personal relationships that she has developed while at Union. Specifically, she says she has a wonderful adviser who is a tremendous role model. "Ms. [Ann] Singleton always has time for me," Jennifer says. "She so attentive and encouraging. I feel like my ideas are really valuable."

Thanks to the generous support of churches, Union University is preparing students to have a positive influence in their worlds.

For more information on how you or your church can make dreams come true, mail this coupon or call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 1-800-338-6644 or (901) 661-5000.

I'd like to make a student's dream come true at Union University.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Please charge my gift of \$ _____

Visa MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Church _____

Please send me more information on:

How my church can set up a scholarship fund for our young people.

Including Union University in my will.

I would like to recommend the following student for admission to Union University:

Student Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Please mail this coupon to:

Office of Institutional Advancement
Union University
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305-3697

Union University Church Giving (9/1/98-2/28/99)

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED		0.00	1,259.59
BEECH RIVER			Zion	\$350.00	\$3,065.84
Bear Creek	50.00	0.00	MADISON-CHESTER		
Beech River Association	0.00	1,544.00	Ararat	0.00	3,750.00
Lexington, First	0.00	2,900.00	Beech Bluff	0.00	1,115.57
Mt. Ararat	300.00	110.00	Bemis, First	0.00	100.00
Mt. Gilead	100.00	0.00	Calvary	0.00	1,500.00
Parsons, First	0.00	12,500.00	East Laurel	0.00	300.00
Sand Ridge	125.00	0.00	East Union	0.00	1,399.46
Union	250.00	0.00	Englewood	0.00	10,466.64
	\$825.00	\$17,054.00	Jackson, First	0.00	12,062.00
BEULAH			Madison	360.00	60.00
Martin, First	1,500.00	250.00	Madison-Chester Association	0.00	50.00
Mr. Olive	50.00	0.00	Malesus	0.00	4,175.00
Ridgely, First	1,681.98	1,000.00	Maple Springs	0.00	800.00
South Fulton	0.00	2,800.00	Meridian	600.00	65.00
Tiptonville, First	0.00	2,044.06	North Jackson	0.00	1,500.00
Union City, First	1,950.00	0.00	Oakfield	0.00	134.00
Union City, Second	0.00	1,041.70	Parkburg	0.00	230.00
Woodland Mills, First	300.00	0.00	Poplar Heights	660.00	13,705.00
	\$5,481.98	\$7,135.76	Wards Grove	0.00	100.00
BIG HATCHIE			West Jackson	0.00	19,917.81
Big Hatchie Association	0.00	400.00		\$1,620.00	\$71,430.48
Charleston	300.00	0.00	SHELBY		
Covington, First	2,000.03	6,999.96	Ardmore	510.97	0.00
Faith	291.66	0.00	Audubon Park	600.00	0.00
Fellowship	300.00	0.00	Bartlett	0.00	499.98
Grace	150.00	0.00	Broadmoor	121.00	0.00
Henning	166.97	0.00	Brookside	100.00	0.00
Pleasant Grove	1,466.17	0.00	Brunswick	0.00	525.00
Smyrna	750.00	0.00	Cherry Road	833.35	0.00
	\$5,424.83	\$7,399.96	Faith	0.00	150.00
CARROLL-BENTON			Leawood	519.21	0.00
Camden, First	0.00	648.00	Millington, First	375.00	1,310.00
Carroll-Benton Association	0.00	288.00	Mullins Station	1,026.29	0.00
Howe	750.00	0.00	Raleigh	0.00	728.00
Huntingdon, First	0.00	5,816.45	Trafalgar Village	396.14	0.00
McKenzie, First	0.00	1,500.00	Whitten Memorial	0.00	200.00
Trezevant, First	0.00	1,000.00		\$4,481.96	\$3,412.98
	\$750.00	\$9,252.45	SHILOH		
CROCKETT			Adamsville, First	0.00	1,500.00
Alamo, First	300.00	1,150.00	Good Hope	300.00	0.00
Friendship	232.00	0.00	Gravel Hill	750.00	0.00
Maury City, First	1,250.04	0.00	Mt. Zion	60.00	0.00
	\$1,782.04	\$1,150.00	Selmer, First	0.00	3,499.98
DYER				\$1,110.00	\$4,999.98
Dyersburg, First	0.00	3,700.02	WEAKLEY		
Finley	0.00	780.00	Adams Chapel	0.00	70.00
Macedonia	0.00	100.00	Bethel	0.00	500.00
Mt. Tirczah	0.00	63.00	Central	600.00	0.00
Newbern, First	1,350.59	5,402.39	Dresden, First	0.00	502.00
Southside	0.00	250.00	Jolley Springs	150.00	0.00
	\$1,350.59	\$10,295.41	New Prospect	0.00	75.00
FAYETTE				\$750.00	\$1,147.00
Somerville, First	4,000.00	5,000.00	WESTERN DISTRICT		
	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	Maplewood	0.00	2,376.68
GIBSON			New Hope	0.00	500.00
Antioch	500.00	0.00	Oak Hill	220.00	0.00
Bethpage	100.00	0.00	Paris, First	0.00	5,000.02
Bradford, First	0.00	1,200.00	Puryear	600.00	0.00
Calvary, Humboldt	340.26	0.00	Union Friendship	0.00	75.00
Chapel Hill	0.00	50.00	Western District Association	0.00	1,203.00
Fellowship	125.00	0.00		\$820.00	\$9,154.70
Gibson	0.00	50.00	OTHER CHURCHES		
Humboldt, First	0.00	8,000.02	Clarksville, First (Cumberland)	0.00	100.00
Kenton, First	0.00	1,250.00	Dorrisville (IL)	0.00	396.51
Marantha	0.00	100.00	DuQuoin, First (IL)	0.00	633.00
Milan, First	0.00	2,500.00	East Rogersville (Holston Valley)	160.02	0.00
New Bethlehem	477.86	0.00	Eastside (Nashville)	0.00	1,490.00
Northside	500.00	0.00	Fairview, First (Nashville)	0.00	100.00
Oak Grove	222.21	0.00	Forest Hills (Nashville)	0.00	900.00
Oakwood	600.00	0.00	Golden Grp. of Gospel Mission (KY)	0.00	100.00
Poplar Grove	400.00	0.00	Gospel Mission (KY)	0.00	125.00
Rutherford, First	500.00	0.00	Grace (Bledsoe)	0.00	200.00
Salem	0.00	1,673.74	Grace Covenant (Knox)	14.08	0.00
Trenton, First	0.00	2,806.06	Henderson, First (KY)	0.00	200.00
	\$3,765.33	\$17,629.82	Hendersonville, First (Bledsoe)	0.00	3,349.17
HARDEMAN			Jacksboro, First (Campbell)	64.81	0.00
Bolivar, First	0.00	300.00	Mississippi Bapt. Conv. Board	0.00	250.00
Grand Junction, First	996.00	0.00	Monte Vista (Chilhowee)	341.81	0.00
Saulsbury	150.00	0.00	Oak Ridge, First (Clinton)	641.81	0.00
Shandy	0.00	50.00	Pilgrim (Chilhowee)	72.74	0.00
Toone	0.00	963.97	Robertsville (Clinton)	244.18	0.00
Trinity	150.00	0.00	Waterloo, First (IL)	0.00	300.00
Whiteville, First	0.00	900.00	Woodland (IL)	0.00	209.55
	\$1,296.00	\$2,213.97		\$1,539.45	\$8,353.23
HAYWOOD			UNRESTRICTED	\$35,347.18	
Poplar Corner	0.00	781.25	RESTRICTED	\$178,695.58	
Shaw's Chapel	150.00	0.00	TOTAL GIVING	\$214,042.76	
Stanton	200.00	0.00			
Woodland, Brownsville	0.00	1,025.00			

people ↑

■ **Third Baptist Church, Nashville, ordained Jason Welch as a deacon May 16.** Bruce Grubbs spoke.

■ **New Hope Baptist Church, Paris, ordained Dwayne H. Maxey to the ministry May 16.**

■ **Clear Springs Baptist Church, Athens, will ordain Tracy Harmon, Carey Wilcox Jr., and Eddie Harris as deacons June 6.**

■ **Michael Eldridge of Estill Springs and George Shaver III of Maryville received honors on their graduation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.** Eldridge received the Southern Baptist Religious Educators Association Award for his commitment to a vocation in religious education. He earned the master of divinity in Christian education and leadership. Shaver received the American Bible Society award for achievement in biblical studies. Shaver earned the master of divinity degree.

leaders ↑

■ **Richard Dugger, pastor, Third Baptist Church,**

Nashville, has been called as church planter/pastor, Ivy Lake Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada. His last Sunday at the Tennessee church was May 23.

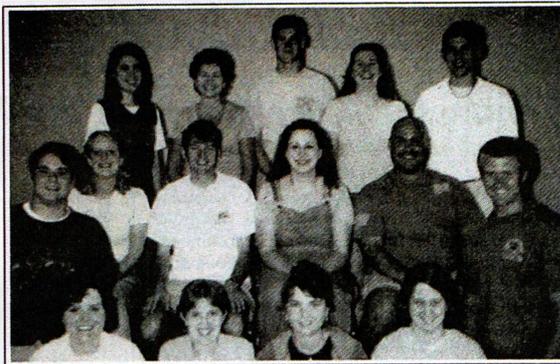
■ **Ed Newton** has been called as minister of recreation and single adults, Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett. He also is a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

■ **Woodstock Baptist Church, Memphis, has called Rick Cox as pastor.** He has served on the staff of churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Texas.

■ **David Simmons** has been called as minister of music and education, Hickory Ridge Baptist Church, Memphis. Simmons is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown. Also **David Anglin** has been called as associate pastor/minister to students for the church. Anglin and his wife, Janet, also are Campus Crusade workers at the University of Memphis.

■ **Randy Stumbaugh of Andalusia, Ala.,** has been called as minister of education, Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis. He has served churches in Alabama and Oklahoma.

■ **First Baptist Church, Collierville, has called Sam Nichols, a member of the**



ELECTED to lead the Baptist Student Union at the University of Tennessee, Martin, recently for 1999-2000 were, from left, back row, Lorrie Dillon, Sunny Hammonds, Ryan Whitford, Kristen Gerbman, Matt Taylor; middle row, Drew Sutton, Fowler Franklin, Dan Newsom, Mandy Vinson, Dave Crutchfield, Jeremy Cagle; front row, Shari Thomas, Kelly Castleman, April Reed, and Holly Salmons. The BSU is a ministry of the TBC, Beulah, Carroll-Benton and Weakley County associations.

church and a businessman, as minister of children and missions.

■ **First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, has called John Lemonis, who led a concert/crusade ministry, as minister of worship and evangelism.** He will continue to write and publish music.

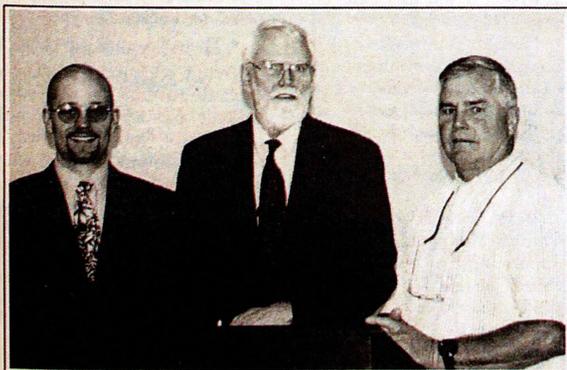
■ **Maurice Hays, collegiate ministries specialist at Jackson State Community College, Jackson, recently was re-elected to serve on the Jackson City Council.** He was unopposed for his District 1 seat. Hays is the only remaining member of the first City Council elected in 1989.



HAYS



ENTERING the new 12,000-square-foot multi-purpose building of First Baptist Church, Centerville, are, above, guests and members. Leading the May 2 dedication and open house activities were, below, from left, Jay Lauritsen, pastor; Jim Griffin, chairman of the building committee; and Eddie Pigue, director of the construction project. Most of the construction was done by volunteers.



associations ↑

■ **Shelby Baptist Association, based in Memphis, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, held a Youth Missions Conference recently.** The event drew more than 500 youth who were challenged to participate in missions work. Jeff Parker, missionary to Zimbabwe, Africa, spoke and Chad Grigsby led worship. Youth leaders received materials and training.

■ **Shelby Baptist Association, based in Memphis, will hold an Urban Church Council Leadership Conference May 28-29 at Monument of Love Baptist Church, Memphis.** Ronnie Wilburn, association director of missions; Robert Ndonga, and Victor Myles will speak. For more information, contact Effort Alexander at (901) 398-5000.

churches ↑

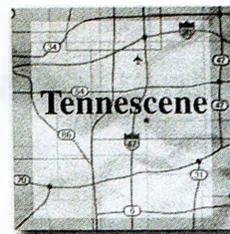
■ **Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waynesboro, will hold homecoming activities May 30.** Russell Flatt, former pastor, will speak during the morning worship service. A luncheon and afternoon musical program also will be held.

■ **White's Creek Baptist Church, Rockwood, held a baptismal service in a lake and a fellowship picnic recently.**

■ **Valley Grove Baptist Church, Knoxville, will dedicate its new \$5 million Family Life Center June 13.**

■ **Temple Baptist Church, Memphis, will celebrate its 90th anniversary June 27.** Special activities will be held during the 10 a.m. service, which will be followed by a pot luck luncheon. For more information, call the church at (901) 756-4872.

■ **The Senior Choir of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, will perform at the Mona Faith Country and Gospel Jubilee '99 June 19 at the Texas Troubadour Theatre,**



Nashville. Other guests include Mona Faith, recording artist of Clinton, Miss., (Mrs. Gene Fant), Gene Fant, and The Jubilee Band. For tickets, call (615) 885-0028.

■ **South Woods Baptist Church, Germantown, will hold an Evangelism Conference June 11-13.** R. F. Gates of Shreveport, La., will speak. He has been a pastor and evangelist. For more information, contact the church at (901) 758-1213 or at www.southwoodsbc.org.

■ **Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, is offering 99 pews (1,650 lineal feet) free of charge.** For more information, contact Gerald Owens at (423) 624-2606 or Chris Frazier at 1-800-289-7397.

■ **The Grove Music Academy of Second Baptist Church, Memphis, and the Memphis City Schools will hold the third annual Summer Strings and Piano Clinic June 28 - July 9.** The clinic is open to students of string instruments or piano ages 8-18. It will offer beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes. Instruments will be provided in some cases. For more information, call the church at (901) 682-3395.

■ **Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, is helping build a Habitat for Humanity house.** Members are partners on the project with two Methodist churches.

■ **Cornerstone Baptist Church, McMinnville, held a tent crusade recently which resulted in 16 people making professions of faith.** A tent provided by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, based in Brentwood, was used. The site was the church's parking lot. Jackie Kay of Bartlett and Scott Andrews of Sevierville spoke.

schools ↑

■ **Belmont University, Nashville, has named Andrew Johnston, director of student activities, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, as dean of students, effective June 28.** The university also has named George E. Simms, professor of history and associate provost, as interim provost, effective July 1. Simms has been chair, Department of History/Political Science.

Tennessee secretaries attend national conference

By Ed Rowell
For Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N. M. — "Life in the church office isn't what it used to be," Gayle Hilligoss told more than 800 ministry assistants, including about 60 from Tennessee, who gathered at the LifeWay Conference Center at Glorieta, N.M.

Hilligoss, editor of *PROfile*, a newsletter for church secretaries published in Overland Park, Kan., was one of the key speakers at Ministry Impact 2000, held April 27-May 1, and hosted by LifeWay Christian Resources.

"Our purpose — ministry — remains constant. But our methods are different, our equipment is different, we are different."

Hilligoss reflected on the role of technology in the transformation of the church office.

"Change will happen whether or not we do anything to initiate it," she noted. "Growth demands our active participation. Change is inevitable; growth is optional. Your work has been transformed because you have grown in professionalism, knowledge, commitment, and excellence."

Quoting from a survey conducted by her newsletter, *PROfile*, Hilligoss said one area of growth for the ministry assistant has been in compensation. In 1983, the median hourly wage for a full-time church secretary was about \$4.50 and the position seldom offered benefits of any kind. The 1998 median salary was \$10.10 and the majority receives a benefits package of some kind.

In the 1998 *PROfile* survey, more than half of those responding have a different title, but many still hold proudly to the title "church secretary." One secretary from Ohio noted, "For me, no title describes the work better." Hilligoss explained "just as the word clergy encompasses those who hold a variety

Tennessee secretary cited for 48-year tenure

For Baptist and Reflector

GLORIETA, N. M. — Frances Hill, secretary at Parkview Baptist Church here, won the prize for the longest tenure as a church secretary at the National Conference for Ministry Assistants in Glorieta in April.

More than 800 church, association, and agency secretaries gathered in Glorieta for three days of training, fellowship, and worship.

The SBC Annuity Board offered a prize to the secretary with the longest tenure.

Hill captured the honor with 48 years of service at two churches — First Baptist, Lewisburg, for 28 years and Parkview for the past 20. She has served with 12 pastors.

Hill says she is called of God to work with people and that has been her commitment over the years. She also is involved in the area of youth Bible Drills and Speakers Tournaments. She is the Bible Drill coordinator for her region. ■



FRANCES HILL of Lewisburg won the prize for the longest tenure as a church secretary at a national meeting in Glorieta, N.M. in April.

of titles (chaplain, pastor, rabbi, priest) the word secretary is commonly used to respectfully include office professionals regardless of title."

Hilligoss traced the history of the profession, beginning with biblical models such as Baruch, son of Neriah (found in Jeremiah), and Tertius, who writes a postscript to Paul's letter to the Romans (chapter 16).

Even until late in the 19th century, secretaries were always male. Many educated young men began their business careers as secretaries to wealthy leaders, and moved up from there.

Yet when the YWCA trained eight young women as typewriters in 1873, people protested. Surely, they reasoned, this new technology which allowed a trained user to write 57 words per minute would "cause the women's minds to snap." It took just 35 years for the gender trend to change completely. Today's secretaries number some 14 million, with more than 98 percent women.

What will the future look like for those who serve the church office, and who will suc-

ceed in that environment? Hilligoss said, "As you prepare for the 21st century, your success will be determined by your ability to continually adapt." She then described three trends that will have direct implications for the church secretary:

(1) A move away from one person wearing many hats to each person a specialist. "The church secretary's specialty will be administration."

(2) An increasingly complex and diverse society will challenge the ministry assistant to grow in her ability to give and follow instructions, listen, understand and act on information, and constructively manage stress. "Apart from technology, your common sense and caring attitude will be your greatest assets," she said.

(3) As moral values continue to fall away, all who serve the church must do so with a high degree of personal integrity. "In addition to excellent communication tools and skills, we need a message worth communicating, not by how we say it, but by how we live it."

Hilligoss closed her seminar with a challenge for the participants to not only accept change, but to grow in the midst of it.

"Not content to merely change, you see life as a continuing opportunity to grow — an occasion to explore, inquire, learn, practice, innovate, and create. As you grow, claim the promise of Proverbs 3:6 'In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.'"

Lana Rose, church secretaries specialist for the

Tennessee Baptist Convention, said the meeting provided an opportunity for networking and sharing ideas.

Approximately 60 secretaries and ministry assistants from Tennessee attended the meeting, second only to Texas in number who attended.

"It was exciting that Tennessee had the second highest number in attendance. We have never had that kind of response to a national conference before," Rose said.

Including those who attended a state secretaries conference in Brentwood earlier in the month, more than 200 church secretaries received training in April, Rose noted.

Church secretaries who attended cited a number of reasons why the conference was helpful.

Janice Nanney of Leewood Baptist Church, Memphis, particularly liked the computer training.

"Churches must stay abreast of advances in equipment and software to be able to minister more effectively. Quality promotion and data resources are musts in a growing church setting.

"We need to learn to break out of the boundaries of 'we've always done it this way' and broaden our vision to the many marvels of technology that are available to aid us in our ministry," Nanney said.

Barbara VanNeste of First Baptist Church, Millington, noted the conference was both worshipful and educational. "I especially appreciated the fact that the conferences I attended were led by top professionals in their field."

Betti Owens, also of First Baptist, Millington, enjoyed the opportunity of meeting other church secretaries from all over the United States.

"What a great group of ladies!" ■

Workshop leader offers tips on church benevolence

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — A workshop leader offered several tips for church secretaries on how churches can offer assistance when needed while lowering the possibility of being taken advantage of.

Many churches are just not ready for the increasing needs of both church members and indigent persons, said Joan Hostetter, a church administrative assistant from Landisville, Pa., who addressed secretaries and ministry assistants during the recent Ministry Impact 2000 Conference held here.

According to Hostetter, churches should:

- Establish policies and procedures and set up rules that simplify the process. Among them are to never give cash, let people know the church only helps once, and make arrangements with local grocery stores or gas stations to provide help up to a certain limit that will be reimbursed by the church.

- Keep a card file on people who request help.

- Exchange information with other churches to discover people "who are making the rounds."

- Treat each person with dignity and kindness.

- Be prepared to respond. Know phone numbers and directions to area food banks, clothing banks, and cooperative community aid programs.

- Act as though you are not alone. Don't hesitate to call the police if you feel uneasy.

- Never give anyone a ride. If someone cannot get to the food bank in their own car, ask police for help.

- Have a security system.

"While it's important to be a good steward of the Lord's resources and try to screen out con artists, you can't always know the intent of those who ask for help. Don't confuse Christian charity with poor judgment. At the same time, be willing to err on the side of grace. It is better to be taken by a con artist than not to help someone who is truly in need," she said. ■



APPROXIMATELY 60 secretaries and ministry assistants from the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and TBC churches attended the recent Ministry Impact 2000 Conference held at LifeWay Conference Center at Glorieta, N.M. Tennessee had the second largest group represented at the national meeting, second only to Texas.

Salem Baptists call Gresham as new DOM

For Baptist and Reflector

LIBERTY — Charles Gresham of Central City, Ky., has begun serving as director of missions, Salem Baptist Association based here, effective May 3.

Gresham was pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Central City, for almost 16 years.



GRESHAM

He also has served as pastor of Kelley's Baptist Chapel, Waynesboro; First Baptist Church, Etheridge; Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Lebanon; Calvary Baptist Church, Smithville; and West End Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

Gresham is a native of Lawrenceburg. For the past seven years he has served as a trustee of the SBC International Mission Board.

He and his wife, Gail, have three children. ■

Tennessee students graduate from SWBTS

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Students claiming Tennessee as their home state graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during Spring commencement May 15.

Degrees were conferred on 324 students at the commencement.

Tennessee graduates, hometowns, churches if known, and their degrees are as follows:

David K. Bates, Memphis, master of arts in theology; Marcus E. Bowen, Memphis, master of divinity with biblical languages; Andrew M. Dennis, First Baptist Church, Antioch, master of divinity with biblical languages; Michael W. Edwards, Hendersonville, master of arts in marriage and family counseling; Christa S. Friel, First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, master of divinity with biblical languages; Philip B. Gowen, Memphis,



BATES



BOWEN



DENNIS



EDWARDS



FRIEL



GOWEN



GRIGGS



JENKINS



JONES



JOYNER



KRUEGER



McKEE

diploma in theology and graduate diploma in theology; Grant D. Griggs, Columbia, master of arts in Christian education; Mark A. Jenkins, Memphis, doctor of philosophy; James E. Jones, Nashville, master of music;

Patrick S. Joyner, Memphis, master of divinity with biblical languages; Allen S. Krueger, diploma in Christian education and graduate diploma in Christian education; Steven P. McKee, First Baptist Church, Smyrna, master of arts in church and community ministries; Bradley A. Pollard, Maryville, master of

divinity with biblical languages; Jay C. Sample, Ooltewah, master of divinity with biblical languages; and David O. Shedd, Knoxville, doctor of ministry. ■



POLLARD



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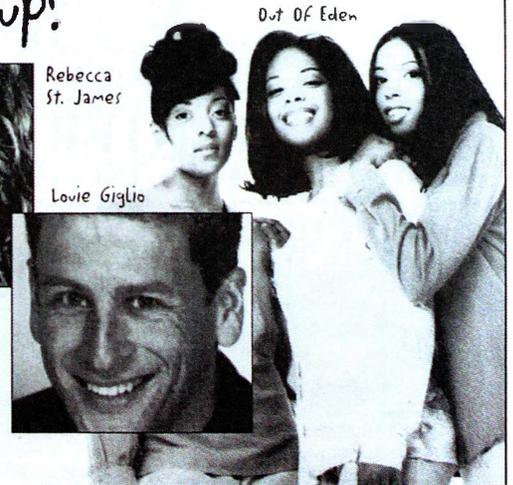
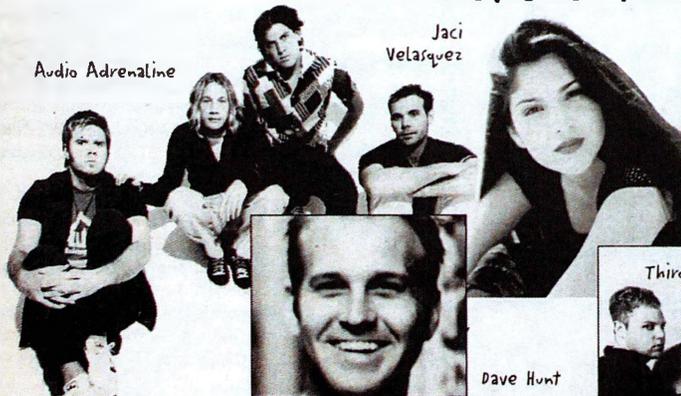
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Remember, rates go up Aug. 1

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national/global
news

N.C. general board affirms shared leadership plan

Baptist Press

ASHEBORO, N.C. — In an emotional session May 18, the Baptist Convention of North Carolina's general board voted overwhelmingly to approve in concept an unprecedented proposal designed to foster increased cooperation between moderate and conservative Baptists in the state.

The plan calls for a new method of electing both convention officers and general board officers. The proposal would significantly increase the likelihood that representatives from the two groups would share in leadership.

The plan calls for officers of the convention and the board to be elected from the convention floor in alternating years. When convention officers are to be elected, one vote would be held for president. The top two vote getters would become president and president-elect. They would serve for two years. In the second year the president-elect would become president and the president would become past president.

A single vote for vice president would result in the two

leading candidates becoming first and second vice presidents, also for a two-year term.

All four officers would serve as a nominating committee to recommend the 15-member Committee on Committees, which must be approved by the general board.

In alternate years, a president, president-elect, and two vice presidents of the general board would be elected by convention messengers in the same manner and would serve for two years. All eight elected officers would serve on the general board's executive committee, which conducts much of the convention's business and hires convention employees.

The proposal will require a two-thirds majority for approval by N.C. messengers at their November annual meeting. ■

CLASSIFIED

YOUTH: Seeking interim minister of youth. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 299, Waverly, TN 37185.

YOUTH: Large youth-oriented church seeks a Minister of Youth with experience. A passion for the lost is required and a seminary degree is preferred. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 331 Cleveland Street, Clearwater, FL 33755.

SINGLE ADULTS: Single Adult Minister, Village Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. Church staff experience required. Send resumes to Single Adult Search Committee, 10600 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Georgia pastor to be nominated for SBC vice presidency

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Frank Cox, pastor of North Metro First Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, Ga., and a former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, will be nominated for first

vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting June 15-16 here.

Cox will be nominated by James Merritt, a Snellville, Ga., pastor, and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

Paige Patterson, SBC president, will be nominated for a second one-year term, apparently without opposition. He will be nominated by Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartsville, Ala.

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 Bruce McIver
 Jess Moody
 Jack Robinson
 Foy Valentine
 Charles Wellborn
 W.J. Wimpee

If you cannot attend and your life was touched by this movement or any of its leaders, please share your testimony with us to the attention of President Thomas E. Corts at the address below.

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E-mail: wrobrien@samford.edu

Election of officers is scheduled for the afternoon session on June 15. ■

CLASSIFIED

FURNITURE: Baptistry (13' long), Lord's Supper Table (5' x 2'), pulpit (40" x 38"), complete railing for 30-seat choir, 2 2' pulpit pews. \$700 total. Call Antioch First Baptist Church, (615) 832-7486.

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

PEWS: Liberty Baptist Church of Sparta, Tenn., is wanting to purchase pews for their new sanctuary. If you have any, please call Bro. Elmore Judd at (931) 761-5236 or Herd Sullivan, (931) 761-3171, 836-3203.

PASTOR: First Baptist Church, Newport, Tenn., is searching for and accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 36, Newport, TN 37822.

PASTOR: Henard's Chapel Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Mail to 145 Henard's Chapel Road, Rogersville, TN 37857, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

PIANO: Baby grand piano, 5' 7", ebony, like new. Call (901) 668-7147 or 668-3519. If no answer, please leave message.

SECRETARY: Wanted church secretary, 30 hours per week, computer experience, Hillhurst Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. Send resume to Willard Dawson, 3257 Knobview Dr., Nashville, TN 37214 or call (615) 883-7241.

STUDENTS/MUSIC: Big Spring Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn., seeking full-time Minister to Students/Music. Send resume to Doug Jenkins, Search Committee, 1415 Hardwick St., Cleveland, TN 37311-6910.

CENTER DIRECTOR: Position open for Child Development Center Director at Grace Baptist Church. Please send resume to 1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207.

MUSIC: Small church needs leader for choir of older members. Reply to Hillcrest Baptist Church, 1601 Martin St., Nashville, TN 37203.

MUSIC: Seeking interim Minister of Music. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 299, Waverly, TN 37185.

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Life and Work Lesson

Did I say that?

By Roy Graves

Focal Passage — Colossians 3:8-9; James 3:1-12; I Peter 3:8-10

Vance Havner was fond of telling about the "old country doctor" who would begin his examination by saying, "Let me see your tongue." Then Havner would say, "That's a good way to start the examination of anybody ... especially Christians." The Bible has a lot to say about our tongue, our lips, and our speech. "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from trouble" (Proverbs 21:23). It is a strange thing that the tongue can praise God or curse God. Havner also would say, "What is down in the well will come up in the bucket."

The headings that follow (I am not certain of the source) clearly point to the power of the tongue:

The power to direct (James 3:3-5a). James illustrates masterfully how small bits in a horse's mouth and a small rudder on a great ship can change their direction. "So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things" (v. 5). The tongue "boasts" that it can change the direction of a person's life. Direction is important. Godly direction is of utmost importance.

"In November 1975, 75 convicts started digging a secret tunnel designed to bring them up at the other side of the wall of Saltillo Prison in northern Mexico. On April 18, 1976, guided by pure genius, they tunneled up into the nearby courtroom in which many of them had been sentenced. The surprised judges returned all 75 to jail." Going wrong and in the wrong direction is futile and can be fatal. The tongue has the power to direct.

The power to destroy (James 3:5b-8; Colossians 3:8-9). In James the tongue is described as having the destructive power of fire and poison. In Colossians the destructive power of "anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, and lying" come from the mouth. Whether you use illustrations like "fire and poison," or specific words like "slander and lying," the tongue is recognized as potentially deadly.

Winston Churchill and Lady Astor of Britain were constantly dueling each other with their tongues. On one occasion Lady Astor said to Churchill, "If I were your wife I would put arsenic in your tea." To which Churchill replied, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it." The tongue can be a deadly poison and destroy.

The power to delight (James 3:9-12; I Peter 3:8-10). James shows the hypocrisy of a person who speaks a truth and a lie from the same mouth. In doing so he shows the power of the tongue to delight if the choice is made to delight. We can choose to be a blessing instead of a cursing and a fountain of fresh water instead of basin of bitter water. Then Peter writes that we are "called for the purpose" to be a blessing that we might inherit a blessing. Peter's words remind us that we are to speak, act, and be like Jesus.

The body of Christ is in many ways "held in the balances" by the strength or weakness of the tongue. We can direct, destroy, or be a delight to the body of Christ. A tongue directed by the Spirit will delight and not destroy. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person" (Colossians 4:6). — Graves is pastor, First Church, Kingston.

Jesus prayed for disciples

By Tommy Ferguson

Focal Passage — John 17:1-9, 11b, 15-24

Warren Wiersbe summarizes chapter 17 this way: "In this high priestly prayer, Jesus prayed for himself, his disciples, and all of his church."

This prayer reveals our spiritual priorities: glorifying the Father (v. 1), the sanctity of the church (v. 17), the winning of a lost world (vv. 18, 19), and the unity of the church (vv. 21-23). Are these priorities in your life?

It also reveals the gifts he has given his people.

Eternal life (vv. 2, 3)

Eternal life is experiencing God through the Lord Jesus Christ. This isn't just talking about intellectual information, but an experiential relationship with the Lord.

With this in mind, your eternal life should bring you into a personal relationship with the Father. You say, "Preacher, I thought salvation is a free gift." Salvation is a free gift. You don't have to have created a relationship for salvation, but eternal life will produce a relationship.

Family Bible Lesson

The Word (vv. 8, 14) and his glory (v. 22)

But note that believers are the Father's gift to him (vv. 2, 6, 9, 11, 12), just as Jesus is the Father's love gift to us. It is all of grace.

The word "world" appears 19 times in this prayer, for this prayer tells us how to overcome the world. We must seek God's glory first, experience him, be sanctified by the Word, seek to win the lost, and encourage the unity of God's people.

Glory is another key word. Christ laid aside his glory to come to earth, to glorify God on earth, and was glorified when he returned to heaven. Christ is glorified with

Praise God!

By Jerry Reagan

Focal Passage — Psalm 150:1-6

In this psalm there are 12 imperative calls to praise the Lord. Praise is telling others about the greatness and goodness of God. When a person praises God, he usually attempts to describe him. One of the root words from which we get the word praise can also mean boast. Praising God can mean that a person is bragging about God, and the way God has been good to him.

Where to praise God

— v. 1

"Praise God in his sanctuary."

God is to be praised where his people gather to worship him. For the psalmist, this probably meant the Temple in Jerusalem. For other Jews who did not live close enough to the Temple, they would probably praise God in a synagogue. For Christians, praise should be offered to God when we gather in our local churches.

"Praise him in his mighty firmament."

The firmament refers to the heavens. Some have made a distinction between the earthly sanctuary and the heavenly sanctuary. The point is that both heaven and earth and their inhabitants are to praise

Explore the Bible Lesson

the Lord. We are to praise God anywhere and everywhere.

Why we are to praise God

— v. 2

We are to praise him for what he has done.

"Praise him for his mighty acts."

God is to be praised because of his mighty acts that have created and preserved his people throughout history. From the viewpoint of the Christian, God is to be praised for his love, grace, and mercy which was supremely shown in the life, death, and resurrection of his son.

We are to praise him because of who he is. *"Praise him according to his excellent greatness."*

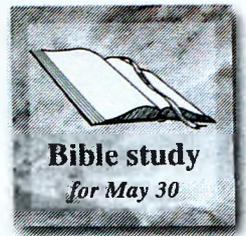
How to praise God

— vv. 3-5

We are to praise God through music.

"Praise him with the ... trumpet ... the lute and harp ... the timbrel ... stringed instruments and flutes ... with loud cymbals ... with clashing cymbals."

We are to praise God through movement. *"Praise him with the timbrel and the dance."* It is obvious



the church. We already have the glory, we are just waiting for it to be fully revealed.

The New King James Commentary reveals:

"The celestial glory that Jesus had from the beginning was temporarily hidden (veiled) during his earthly life. At the ascension of Christ, Jesus was both glorified and transfigured. Illustration: It is interesting to contrast the post-resurrection appearances of Christ with the post-ascension revelations. In the former, Christ often concealed his glory to the point that he was not recognized, such as by the disciples at Emmaus, or by Mary Magdalene who thought he was the gardener. The post-ascension revelations involve his radiant appearance. The difference between John's meeting with Christ in John 21 and in Revelation 1 was that of seeing the resurrection body (not glorified) and of later seeing the transformed and celestial body (glorified). Application: Someday Christians will also be glorified together with Christ.

The cross must be the focus of our glory. May we say like the apostle Paul, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

May we realize that we can have diversity without breaking unity. I'm not talking about diversity that violates the Word of God. But if a brother disagrees with me over philosophy of ministry, I must be willing to agree to disagree, and go forward with the direction that God is leading.

I'm to be in the world but not of the world. I live on this planet but I pray that I'm not contaminated by it. I want to live for the yonder world, heaven. I'm only here temporarily and I must not put my stakes in deep.

Just as the Lord desired that his followers see his glory, when we get to heaven we will be known as we are known. This is good and bad. It all depends on how we live our lives. — Ferguson is pastor, Ivy Memorial, Nashville.

from the reading of this psalm that the psalmist expected worship to be interesting, exciting, energetic, and enthusiastic. How long has it been since we have been excited about God?

How long has it been since we honestly expressed that excitement? Perhaps we need to re-examine our worship. Being silent, does not necessarily mean that we are reverent. Being active does not necessarily mean that we are spiritual. Which direction do we need to move?

Who is to praise God

— v. 6

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Everyone and everything that has breath is to praise the Lord. The psalmist begins and ends with "Praise the Lord." All the material between these two Hallelujah book-ends gives us instructions about how God is to be praised. Nature praises God just by being what God created it to be. Mankind has a choice whether to praise God or not. God, who breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life, should be praised for his gift of life in time and life in eternity. We are commanded to use the breath he gives us to praise him. — Reagan is pastor, South Fork Church, Friendship.



Pre-SBC event features family of slain student

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The father and brother of one of the students slain at Columbine High School will speak at a contemporary Christian concert June 12 and Sunday worship service in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Daryl Scott, father of Rachel Joy Scott, and his 16-year-old son, Craig, will travel from their home in Littleton, Colo., to address the two events, said Jerry Drace, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (CSBE).

Rachel Scott was among at least three students gunned down April 20 for answering "yes" when two gun- and pipe bomb-wielding classmates asked if they believed in God.

The Saturday concert begins at 7 p.m. and the worship service will be held on Sunday at 9:15 a.m. The CSBE is the prime organizer of the free youth concert and of the Sunday worship service. The North American Mission Board is assisting with the two events. ■

Tennessean named to Tellers Committee

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Paige Patterson, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has named members for the Tellers Committee for the June 15-16 annual meeting of the convention.

Robert L. Baker, a Portsmouth, Va., pastor, will serve as committee chairman.

Serving on the committee from Tennessee is Donald Owens, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lebanon. ■

SBC becomes target of anti-homosexual agitator Fred Phelps

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Convention has become a target of anti-homosexual agitator Fred Phelps for failing to condemn churches Phelps identifies as "openly and notoriously promoting the modern militant homosexual movement" in America.

Phelps, pastor of a Baptist church in Topeka, Kan., not affiliated with the SBC, plans to picket the SBC annual meeting June 15-16.

Among the alleged activities Phelps has listed as prompting his picketing are the same-sex marriages performed by Wake Forest Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., support for homosexuals at Broadway Baptist Church, Kansas City,

Mo., and the membership of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore in SBC churches.

"These are but a few of the hundreds of instances demonstrating by clear and convincing evidence that the Southern Baptist Convention is gay," Phelps' media flyer reads.

Bill Merrell, vice president for convention relations with the SBC Executive Committee, has tried to correct faulty information Phelps is distributing, informing him that Southern Baptists denounce homosexual practice as sinful and that Southern Baptists affirm Holy Scripture which declares homosexuality to be an abomination before God.

While first explaining that Southern Baptist churches are autonomous, Merrell has told Phelps SBC bylaws declare that a church which affirms or endorses homosexual practices is, by those acts, demonstrating it is not in friendly cooperation with the convention.

While many of the targets of Phelps' protests have clearly stated their conviction that homosexuality is a sinful behavior, he usually remains unsatisfied with their rebuttal.

Merrell said, "It is a lack of integrity, not a lack of knowledge on the part of Phelps. 'His group appears to have an agenda which is not affected by the truth,' Merrell stated, calling that 'a serious breach of Christian ethics. If Phelps shows up at the SBC annual meeting, he will be treated kindly, Merrell said. 'And we'll refute his groundless accusations. We have an obligation to set the record straight.' ■

Henderson named as Kentucky editor

Baptist Press

CEDARMOORE, Ky. — Trennis Henderson was elected unanimously May 3 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board to become the next editor of the *Western Recorder* newsjournal.

Henderson, 40, has been editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsjournal* since 1992. He formerly was managing editor of the *Word & Way* in Missouri.

A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Henderson succeeds Mark Wingfield, now managing editor of the *Baptist Standard* in Texas.

Henderson will begin his work at the *Western Recorder* in mid-July. ■

FAITH Awareness luncheon set at SBC

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A FAITH Awareness luncheon, sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources' Sunday School group, is planned for June 15 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in Ballrooms III and IV of the Georgia World Congress Center.

Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, will speak. The FAITH strategy linking School School and evangelism grew out of the ministry of Welch's church, and he has been a key leader in promoting the initiative across the country.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the FAITH exhibit in the Georgia World Congress Center on June 14 and the morning of June 15. ■

FBC, Nashville to host Church Music Conference June 6-8

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will be June 6-8 at First Baptist Church here.

Among the featured musical groups during the conference will be the capella choir of Carson-Newman College, the Arkansas Jubalhears, the Tennessee Baptist Chorale, and the Mississippi All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra.

A forum to discuss the 750-member conference's future will be at 9:30 a.m. on June 8, according to Rob Hewell, president of the organization.

Bill O'Brien, director of Samford University's Global Center in Birmingham, Ala., will speak three times on the conference theme, "Let the Nations Be Glad and Sing for Joy!"

NAMB, LifeWay join forces for collegiate ministry

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board have entered into a new partnership in collegiate ministry that promises to build on the strengths of each in evangelism, discipleship, missionary mobilization, and mission education.

LifeWay's National Student Ministry now has responsibility for collegiate ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention structure, and under the partnership will continue overall coordination. It will also continue to coordinate ministry and discipleship strategies.

In the past, the NAMB coordinated with LifeWay on mobilization of volunteer missionaries and that role will continue.

One of the most significant areas of change and growth promises to be in the area of collegiate evangelization, according to both agencies.

"The partnership gives us the ability to work with LifeWay, state conventions, and other partners to pour even more evangelism into the college campuses," said Len Taylor, NAMB director of student evangelism. ■

Six SBC seminaries schedule convention-related meetings

Compiled from Baptist Press reports

ATLANTA — Southern Baptists' six seminaries will hold meetings for alumni and friends in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention to be held here June 15-16.

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will host alumni and friends during a luncheon June 16 in Room 260W, Level 2 in the Georgia World Congress Center at noon.

Seminary President William O. Crews will give a "state of the seminary" report.

Tickets may be purchased at \$15 per person from Golden Gate Seminary, Office of Alumni Affairs, 201 Seminary Drive Mill Valley, CA 94941 or by calling (415) 380-1496.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Mark Coppenger will be the keynote speaker at the seminary's National Alumni Association meeting at noon on June 16 in Room W268 on Level 2 of the Georgia World Congress Center.

The cost is \$15 for advance reservations and \$17.50 after June 9. Reserva-

tions can be made by contacting Kevin Prewett at Midwestern's alumni office at (816) 414-3738.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion will be a luncheon meeting at noon on June 16 in Ballrooms I-II of the Georgia World Congress Center.

President Chuck Kelley will give a "state of the seminary address."

Tickets are on sale now at \$12 per person. Cost at the door will be \$15. To order by mail send a check, made payable to NOBTS, to the Alumni Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Tickets ordered after June 1 may be picked up at the seminary's booth in the SBC exhibit hall.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will hold its annual alumni and friends luncheon June 16 at 12:30 p.m. on Level 2 in Rooms W264-266 at the World Congress Center.

President R. Albert Mohler Jr. will speak. Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$20 at the door. Contact the seminary's office of advancement at 1-800-626-5525,

ext. 4143. Advanced tickets must be purchased by June 9.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary will hold its National Alumni and Friends Luncheon at noon on June 16 in Ballrooms 3 and 4 of the World Congress Center.

Paige Patterson, president of the seminary and SBC president, will speak. Tickets are \$12 and a limited number will be available for purchase at the Southeastern booth. To purchase tickets in advance, call the SEBTS alumni office at (919) 556-3101.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will hold its national alumni luncheon June 16 at 12:30 p.m. at the Omni Hotel in Atlanta. The hotel is located in the east end of the CNN Center, one block from the Georgia Dome. President Kenneth S. Hemphill will present a progress report on the seminary.

To order tickets, send a check made payable to Southwestern Seminary, for \$15 per person to Jennette Briggs, Southwestern Seminary, P. O. Box 22480, Fort Worth, TX 76122, or call (817) 923-1921, ext. 7260. ■