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T E N N E S S E E S B A P T I S T & REFLECTOR

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this week's news

- ▶ Crossville couple helps Oklahoma tornado victims. — Page 2
- ▶ Southern Baptists give record amount to LMCO. — Page 2
- ▶ Howse Baptist Church overcomes adversity. — Page 4

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



WITNESSING TO A RESIDENT of a favela or slum in Rio de Janeiro is Tom Aiken, pastor, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Andersonville. He is accompanied by members of Igreja Batista Filadelfia (Philadelphia Baptist Church). Sinai, which he worked with during Crusade Rio '99. In inset photo, the resident, a former Catholic, hugs Aiken after making a profession of faith and showing him her Bible.

For Christ among Brazilians

Tennesseans see 5,000 decisions

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — The 337 Tennesseans who participated in Crusade Rio '99 helped lead about 5,000 Brazilians to make professions of faith in six days. In addition, hundreds of other Brazilians made professions of faith with the help of other volunteers and during a mass gathering of about 51,000 in the Maracana Soccer Stadium here.

The Tennesseans worked with Brazilian Baptists in 125 churches in Rio de Janeiro May 24 – May 31. Tennesseans al-

so saw 2,182 people rededicate their lives to God and witnessed to 7,498 people who said they were open to another visit from Baptists. They were participating in the largest effort of the Tennessee Baptist Convention held overseas.

According to Baptists in Rio, Crusade Rio '99 also was the biggest held by Baptists here. Jonanias Soares de Menezes, coordinator of the event and pastor, First Baptist Church, Freguesia, here, said the effort was "a crazy person's idea," because of the demands on Brazilian Baptists.

The local Baptist organization, the Carioca Baptist Convention, began prepara-

tion a year ago. The convention provided about 650 translators for a total 562 volunteers. Volunteers from other states and countries joined the Tennesseans. Local churches began preparation about six months ago.

The effort, which launched an evangelism emphasis for the year, was a success, de Menezes said. Brazilian Baptists will begin work to conserve the results, and will "still believe in the possibility of baptizing 50,000 by the end of the year," he added.

Continuing work of Tennesseans through — See Tennesseans, page 3

Tennessee Baptists continue strong pattern of CP giving

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists are continuing to show their support of missions, education, benevolent, and evangelistic endeavors through their strong support of the Cooperative Program.

In May, Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,584,531 through the Cooperative Program, more than \$300,000 over the amount given last May.

For the year to date (seven months into the fiscal year), Tennessee Baptist churches have sent \$18,859,905 through the Cooperative Program. The total is \$1,080,687 or 6.08 percent over

the amount given after seven months last year. The year-to-date Cooperative Program budget stands at \$17,779,217.

James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, expressed appreciation for the commitment Tennessee Baptists have shown through their Cooperative Program giving.

"Tennessee Baptists are responding to the challenging (\$31,467,034) budget they adopted at last year's annual meeting in Kingsport in a mighty way," Porch said.

"Once again, Tennessee Baptists are showing that when the need is great, they are willing to give sacrificially to meet those needs." ■

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Crossville couple aid Oklahoma tornado victims

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Two Tennessee Baptists worked in Moore, Oklahoma, May 14-17, along with other SBC Disaster Relief volunteers to aid the May 3 victims of a series of killer tornadoes, according to TBC State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

Rodney and Leigh Ann Smith, members of Central Baptist Church, Crossville, worked in food distribution in a warehouse in Moore, Ok, and did cleanup work in area homeowners yards.

"We abandoned our vacation plans in Texas when we heard about the tornado victims in Kansas," said Rodney Smith. "We called Bearden and he said go to Moore, Ok, where we reported to First Baptist Church of Moore."

In addition to the Oklahoma workers, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief staff member Gene Williams coordinated SBC Disaster Relief efforts in tornado devastated Haysville, Kansas, near Wichita. Williams was followed by Tennessee cleanup crews from the William Carey Baptist Association and the State Shower Trailer Unit.

The Tennessee Shower Trailer Unit remains at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Bridgecreek, Okla., where it continues in operation providing 30 people a day showers.

Donations are being accepted for "Mid-West Tornado Response" through the Tennessee Baptist Convention, MAI Group, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

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

Pros teach baseball and life at NAMB-sponsored clinic

Baptist Press

ROSWELL, Ga. — The Cincinnati Reds and Atlanta Braves had done battle on the field the night before and were scheduled to square off again that night. But on a recent May morning several players from both teams joined forces on a high school baseball field in suburban Atlanta for a united stand for Christ.

After coaching several hundred young fans in the finer points of baseball, the players also helped provide the far more important instruction in the skills of life.

"I just challenge everybody to find out the reason why you're here, find out a purpose and direction for your life," said Braves shortstop Walt Weiss.

"Once you find out your life

About IMB missionary

False e-mail rumor causing undue worry

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A false rumor circulating via e-mail is creating confusion and unnecessary concern for the well-being of a missionary in West Africa.

Missions supporters who e-mail prayer concerns to other intercessors unwittingly have been spreading a rumor that Mike Hutchinson, a Southern Baptist missionary in West Africa, is about to be tried for murder and is in danger of being hanged.

Like all rumors, this one contains a kernel of truth but the majority of its "facts" just aren't true, said Ron Hunt, an associate director of the board's work in West Africa.

"It is true that Mike was involved in an unavoidable traffic accident in which a 16-year-old boy was killed," Hunt said. "But there was no mob involved, he is not being tried for murder, and he is not in danger of being hanged."

On April 20 on a road near Fatik, Senegal, a teenage boy stepped in front of the Hutchinsons' vehicle without looking, Hunt said. Though Hutchinson was briefly detained and his passport and driver's license were taken, authorities

termed the event a "regrettable accident" and released Hutchinson pending a hearing.

When the hearing does occur, the charge to be considered will be "involuntary manslaughter," a standard charge in such cases, which are all too common in West Africa, Hunt said. There seems to be no indication from authorities that Hutchinson is at fault.

Even if Hutchinson was convicted on that charge, the most serious outcomes might be that he would be fined or deported. More likely, the charges will be dismissed.

IMB missionary Phillip Brown ministered to the boy's family after the accident, Hunt said. He attended the funeral with them the next day and was asked to read Scripture for those assembled. The Hutchinsons continue to carry out their ministries while awaiting the hearing.

"The fact that Phillip Brown had an opportunity to minister to the family is a great blessing," Hunt added. "The Hutchinson family is doing well, but naturally they are shaken."

"I know Southern Baptists will pray for them, as well as for the family who tragically lost their son. We just want them to know what the real needs are and not be misled by wild rumors circulating on the Internet." ■

Tennessee Baptists have given \$6,970,151

Lottie Moon offering reaches record amount

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists collected their largest-ever offering for missions during the 1998 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions. When the books closed May 31, total receipts for the offering were \$101,713,066.69, a sixth year of record receipts.

Through May 31, Tennessee Baptists have given \$6,970,151 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

IMB President Jerry Rankin praised God for his faithfulness and the dedication of Southern Baptists who gave.

"While we did not meet our \$110 million goal in 1998, we praise God for the largest amount ever received for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," Rankin said.

Southern Baptists surpassed the \$100 million mark for the first time with the 1997 offering. The 1998 offering is an increase of more than \$1.6 million over 1997.

Every dollar received through the offering goes to support the board's mission work overseas.

The record offering is added to a growing list of "first-overs" the board is experiencing. The 885 new missionaries sent overseas in 1998 represented a 33.4 percent increase over 1997 — more than double the highest net growth of any previous year in the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's 154-year history.

More than \$102 million of the \$110 million goal had been earmarked for overseas operations in the 1999 budget. The remaining \$8 million budgeted for overseas capital needs will be unfunded. IMB trustees will discuss how to handle the \$286,933 shortfall in the overseas operating budget during their July meeting.

"Having experienced unprecedented net growth in missionary appointments, we will have to explore other contingencies for providing the needed support and budget resources this year," Rankin said. ■



ATLANTA BRAVES shortstop Walt Weiss shows kids how to hold a baseball during an evangelistic sports clinic in Roswell, Ga. He later shared his walk with Christ.

means something and there's a reason for you being here, and that God has a plan for you ... it makes all the difference in the world. That's where true self-esteem comes from.

The evangelistic sports clinic was sponsored by the North American Mission Board and Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Ga. Instructors included Weiss, Rudy Seanez of the Braves and Reds players Eddie Taubensee and Scott Sullivan.

Weiss told those present about his life and career — including the process in which he discovered the truth of Christ.

He began an intellectual search that convinced him the Bible must be true.

"I asked a lot of questions and I came to the point where I became a Christian really through the apologetics angle," he said.

"Once I found out that the Bible was the true Word of God and Jesus was exactly who he said he was ... there was no reason for me not to live my life for him ..."

An evangelistic invitation followed his testimony, and about 40 students filled out commitment cards for later follow-up.

Thomas Hammond of the NAMB staff said sports clinics are effective. "People enjoy sports, they look up to the athletes and are interested in the lives of athletes. If an athlete says this is important to me, then people will listen." ■

Tennesseans see 5,000 decisions



Jesus Christ is the only hope

— Continued from page 1
the 1998-2000 Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership will help, said Terry Sharp, coordinator of the partnership for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"We still have to win the city," said Elizabeth Oates, missionary from Memphis, and local coordinator of the partnership.

De Menezes thanked Tennessee Baptists "because this was very important," he said. "They promised to come and they came and they've made friends and we want them to come back."

Work by Tennesseans

To conduct Rio '99, Brazilian and Tennessee Baptists visited Brazilians in their homes and led revival services. Tennesseans also spoke on church radio shows and in schools, prisons, and companies. And Tennesseans conducted street ministries, performed in shopping malls, and held open-air services.

The Tennesseans scattered out over a 100 mile area of Rio de Janeiro, which has a population of from 7-11 million, according to various reports.

Both ministers and laypeople served in various roles in the Rio churches, mostly as preachers, other speakers, and musicians. Laypeople even served as preachers.

In addition to church-based volunteers, Tennessee Baptists sent a seven-member creative arts team and a 35-member choir from Union University, Jackson. Both groups served churches and performed outside of churches to inform Brazilians about Crusade Rio '99.

Groups sent

Nine staff members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, based in Brentwood, participated. Several other entities sent large groups. Sweetwater Baptist Association, based in Madisonville, organized a team of 25 vol-

unteers, including eight from other associations, to serve in Campinas prior to the crusade where the association has served many other times. Then the group participated in Rio '99.

Other Tennesseans coordinated other work with the crusade. Jimmy Ramey and Herbie Ewers of Sullivan Baptist Church, Kingsport, served in Recife and in the crusade.

Big Hatchie Baptist Association, based in Covington, sent 17 volunteers. Several other associations coordinated and funded volunteers, including Robertson County Baptist Association, based in Columbia.

Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, sent 16 volunteers to participate in Crusade Rio '99. Other churches which sent large groups included Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, 12; University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City, 11; First Baptist Church, Smyrna, 10; Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison, 9.

Others churches included First Baptist Church, Ripley,

7; Goodsprings Baptist Church, Etowah, 7; Harmony Baptist Church, Jonesborough, 7; First Baptist Church, Dover, 7; Conasauga Baptist Church, Etowah, 6; and Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, 6.

Logistics, risks

The effort was successful despite the big task of organizing such an event, said Terry Sharp. For example, volunteers were transported by buses from downtown hotels, where they were lodged, to 12 areas where volunteers met before being transported to their churches.

Sharp also noted Tennesseans met the many demands placed on them. They worked long days, often returning to hotels after 10 p.m.

And they faced other stressors, added Sharp. Needed publicity for the crusade informed Rio citizens of the involvement of the volunteers, who were mostly from North America. That announcement also informed criminals here, which struggles with great poverty, noted Sharp. So safety was stressed.

Although some Tennesseans became aware of criminal ac-

tivity in areas in which they worked and at the beachfront hotels, all arrived home safely.

"God provided and performed many miracles here," said Sharp. *B&R*

Editor's note — For more coverage of Rio '99, see next week's issue.



TODD PENDERGRASS, center, associate pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, is introduced to members of Igreja Batista Boa Esperança (Good Hope Baptist Church). Campo Grande, by Pastor Marcelo Alcantara de Souza as Wagner Santa Rosa, interpreter, looks on.



PAINTING a flower on a girl's face is Shawnah Shingleton, First Baptist Church, Smyrna, during street ministry conducted by the creative arts team.



PARTICIPATING in a debriefing meeting before Tennesseans return home are, from left, Jonanias de Menezes, coordinator of Rio '99; Elizabeth Oates, partnership coordinator/missionary; Terry Sharp, TBC partnership office; and Larry Gilmore, TBC president.



MEMBERS OF a Rio church say goodbye to a team from Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, which included, Verlon Moore, second from left, pastor; Lori Cockrell, third from left; and David Heard, front center.



ABOUT 51,000 people gathered at the Maracana Soccer Stadium on Saturday for a mass meeting of participants in Crusade Rio '99 and other residents of Rio.

Congregation overcomes adversity; now debt-free

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

ATWOOD — In what could have been a devastating blow, members of Howse Baptist Church here refused to be stopped by adversity.

Four years ago fire destroyed what members had worked so hard to build. Instead of giving up, the church has responded admirably, said Pastor Billy Murphy.

On Sunday, May 23, Howse Baptist Church celebrated the fact it has new facilities that are now totally debt-free.

Eight years ago when Murphy accepted the role as bivocational pastor of the church, the congregation numbered about 35-40 in Sunday School and members met in a 1,800-square foot facility. Membership has since doubled.

As the church began to grow, members soon realized they needed more space.

Members began saving money to renovate their sanctuary and add a fellowship hall



WATCHING PASTOR Billy Murphy burn the note on facilities at Howse Baptist Church, Atwood, are members of the building and grounds committee. From left are Johnny Keymon, Murphy, Julian Peacock, and Gene Scott.

with educational space. With volunteer labor from within the church and outside mission teams, the church occupied its new facility, which almost tripled its space, in 1993. The church only had to borrow \$87,500 for the project which cost \$135,000 excluding labor, Murphy said.

In August of 1994 fire destroyed the facility.

"It was a blow to me," Murphy admitted. "I watched it burn and recalled all the hours of labor and sweat. It was devastating."

The next day Murphy was sorting through the rubble and discovered a gold-colored fiberglass cross which hung in the baptistry which was in the hottest area of the fire. The fiberglass baptistry tub had

been destroyed, but the cross remained.

That cross gave Murphy and the congregation the desire to keep going.

"You can destroy a lot of material things, but the power of the cross can't be burned by intensive fire," he maintained.

Fortunately, the new facility had been properly insured and the entire facility was rebuilt.

Members, however, continued to give to retire the \$87,500 note which had been financed for 15 years.

On Mother's Day of this year, someone provided the final \$4,000 needed to pay the loan off in only six years, Murphy related.

Members paid the note off early while continuing to give 30 percent of its general income to missions causes, including 20.5 percent through the Cooperative Program, he said.

"God has blessed this church tremendously," Murphy emphasized. ■



Shiloh DOM sets retirement

For Baptist and Reflector

ADAMSVILLE — John Bedford, director of missions in Shiloh Baptist Association based here since 1993, has announced plans to retire, effective July 1.

A native of New Albany, Miss., most of Bedford's ministry has been in Tennessee. Prior to becoming director of missions in Shiloh Association, he was pastor of Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Memphis for nearly 20 years.

During his tenure in Tennessee he served on the TBC Executive Board and in 1998 was named West Tennessee Director of Missions of the Year by Union University.



BEDFORD

Bedford and his wife, Hester, will move to Travelers Rest, S.C. where their son and family live. Bedford will become part-time pastor of Foothills Baptist Church, a new church in the area.

After June, Bedford can be reached by writing him at 111 Hunt Street, Travelers Rest, S.C. 29690. ■

TBC conference explores change

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Understanding Our Times: Change and the Generations" will be held June 26 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at East Ridge Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

The conference will be led by Jerry Chapman, discipleship coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"This conference will help participants understand the characteristics of Bridgers, Busters, Boomers, and Builders. If you want to better understand the people of your congregation and how to minister to them, this conference is for you," Chapman said.

The registration cost of \$20 includes materials and lunch. Registration deadline is one week prior to conference.

For more information, contact Chapman at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7932. ■

Round Lick Baptist Church has 'unusual' revival crusade

For Baptist and Reflector

WATERTOWN — Round Lick Baptist Church here recently concluded a revival crusade that was "unusual" in several respects, according to Pastor Terry Wilkerson.

First, he noted, the crusade was a pre-planned two week meeting during a time when many revivals are less than a week.

The evangelistic team which led the effort — evangelist Ronnie Owens of Tazewell and music evangelists Brent and Erica Murray of Acworth, Ga. — were the same team that led revival at Round Lick one year earlier.



WILKERSON

The "harvest" of souls was greater the second time with 51 people accepting Christ, compared to 41 a year ago, Wilkerson said.

Of the 51 people who made public professions of faith this year, 10 times as many of those did it during the second week of revival.

Wilkerson also noted that the attendance was higher the second week than on the corresponding nights of the first week.

Also, he said, the service with the most

first-time non-Christians during the revival occurred on the final night.

"I believe that these facts shed new light on the need for churches to return to revival meetings in general as an important tool for evangelism," Wilkerson said.

He also encouraged longer revival meetings to "give God time to warm the hearts of believers to effectively get the unsaved under the sound of the Gospel."

Wilkerson is convinced of the effectiveness of the longer revival meetings.

"In a day when many have almost given up on these types of evangelistic efforts, saying 'they no longer work,' God poured out his blessings in Watertown." ■

Tennessee messengers to SBC asked to bring gifts of canned food

By Diane Reasoner
For Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Georgia Baptists in Atlanta have been involved in "hugging" their city for Christ.

Georgia Baptists are now asking Southern Baptist Convention messengers from Tennessee and other states to participate by bringing canned foods with them.

Messengers and guests coming to the SBC meeting in June will find barrels placed outside gates C, D, and E at the Georgia Dome for food collection. Arms Around Atlanta is asking all who attend the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting at Wieuca Road Baptist Church and the Southern Baptist Convention to donate canned food. Volunteers will collect and distribute the food to ministry centers in the metro area.

Arms Around Atlanta, a Strategic Focus City project between the Georgia Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board, has been underway since April. This joint project has included block parties,

sports clinics, health clinics, building a Habitat for Humanity home, door-to-door evangelism during "Crossover Metro Atlanta," free concerts, inner-city evangelism, prayer teams, and other volunteer-led projects. During the summer, the two agencies will provide funding and volunteers to start 24 new churches.

Along with these ministries, a food drive is taking place. Georgia Baptist Medical System, Inc. has not only contributed to the health clinics and fairs, but has taken this food collection seriously. They have collected more than a vanload of canned goods, which was delivered to ministry areas in the city, and they aren't finished yet.

"This is a great opportunity for all Southern Baptists to minister to metro Atlanta by donating cans of food in Jesus' name," said Liz Pearson, Arms Around Atlanta coordinator.

For information on volunteering for any of the projects, call Liz at 1-800-RING-GBC or see the website: www.armsaroundatlanta.org for a complete list of opportunities. ■

Bereavement camp slated for children

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — The Baptist Trinity Hospice Bereavement Program has created the Mid-South's first children's bereavement camp, Camp Good Grief, to be held Aug. 9-11 at Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center in LaGrange.

The goal of the free bereavement camp is to give area children an enjoyable, accepting, and supportive environment in which they can freely express their feelings about the loss of a loved one. Any child between the ages of 7 and 14 who has suffered a loss in the last two years is eligible to attend. The camp is made possible by a grant received from the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation.

The deadline for application is July 1. For more information or to receive an application, call (901) 767-6767, ext. 767. ■

Battle over lottery is far from over

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

State legislators ended their session recently without taking action to legalize a lottery in Tennessee. While that is good news, it is probably only temporary.

HJR 2 was voted on twice this year and failed to get the 17 votes needed to pass. It must be read for a third time, which in reality, is the only vote that counts.

What does this mean? It means that HJR 2 can be scheduled for the third and final vote next year. If it passes, it will have to come back in 2001-2002 for a required 22 votes. If it makes it through that process, it will go on the gubernatorial election in 2002.

In addition, SB 808, which would call a Constitutional Convention to consider removing the word "lottery" from the state Constitution, remains in the Senate Calendar Committee waiting to go to the floor.

In other words, the battle is not over.

Can Christians ultimately win the battle?

We can only win if Christians wake up to the fact that a lottery will not be the solution to financial problems in Tennessee.

Surveys show that many Christians do not oppose a lottery. They do not see the harm in a person buying an occasional lottery ticket.

Whether that attitude is right or wrong really is not the issue.

The issue is once a lottery prohibition is

removed from the state Constitution, Tennessee is fair game for any and all forms of gambling — including casinos.

Many Christians who say they favor a lottery say they do not favor casinos and other forms of gambling. If we allow one, however, we open the door for all.

There are some who think the prospects for a lottery in Tennessee have dimmed considerably.

Larry Daughtrey, a columnist for *The Tennessean* who has covered politics for several years, is one of those.

He wrote in a column in the June 6 issue of *The Tennessean*: "Six months ago, the often-disappointed supporters of a Tennessee lottery had every reason to be optimistic. ... But a funny thing happened on the way to the ticket window. The issue of tax reform exploded on the scene, dominating discussion and altering voting patterns in the Tennessee legislature. When the General Assembly adjourned 10 days ago, the lottery had become a major casualty."

"Now, prospects for a lottery seem as dim as they have been in a decade."

Daughtrey went on to explain that "a state lottery has always faced a difficult road in Tennessee because an 1834 provision in the state constitution, placed there after bitter experiences with frontier scandals, specifically prohibits a lottery. Court decisions have extended the ban to most other forms of gambling as well."

"Changing that constitution is the most

difficult thing in Tennessee politics," Daughtrey wrote.

Let us hope and pray that he is right.

I believe, however, we are naive if we think the battle is over. The gambling industry pours millions of dollars into lobbying efforts in Tennessee. We do not have gambling because a handful of senators have stood by their convictions but that will change if only three or four senators change their mind, and they are being and will be bombarded by people asking them to do so.

In addition, some of these senators will be up for re-election in a year or so. They will be opposed by candidates who in all likelihood will be very supportive of gambling.

As Christians and Tennessee Baptists, we cannot be silent this summer. Continue to let your senators and representatives know your feelings about gambling and encourage others to do the same.

Thank those who have stood for what is right and kept gambling out of our state.

If you don't know how your senator or representative has voted on gambling issues, call their offices and find out. You have a right to know and you need to know.

Tennessee is one of only three states that does not have some form of legalized gambling. Let's do our part to keep it that way. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



Start with a smile

Sheriff on phone to superior: "We've got the serial killer trapped in a building and have all the exits guarded." Superior: "Fine, keep giving me periodic reports." Sheriff (20 minutes later): "Bad news. He got away." Superior: "How did he get through your tight security?" Sheriff: "He went out one of the entrances."

Take this truth

Remember to "touch all the bases" or a home run can turn into a "nothing."

Memorize this Scripture

"Be ... not slothful." — Romans 12: 10, 11

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to avoid stupid little errors." ■

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

Associational prayer movements are growing trend

Awaken Tennessee!

by Greg Frizzell, Memphis pastor



During the past two years I have been privileged to be in associational prayer conferences in nearly half our 50 states.

What I have witnessed fills me with glorious hope for a coming revival. Beyond question, more and more associations are calling their churches to fervent, sustained prayer! It should be no surprise that these are so often the associations that are seeing significant increases in baptisms, missions, and unity. We must

remember that no Great Awakening has ever come without united area-wide prayer movements.

To God's praise we are seeing growing prayer movements in several Tennessee associations. The Nashville Baptist Association has a myriad of strong prayer strategies and Shelby Baptist Association (Memphis area) has recently gone to monthly area-wide nights of prayer.

Perhaps most encouraging is what is happening in some smaller associations. The prayer movement in William Carey Baptist Association can only be explained by the hand of God. Thank God you do not have to be in a large church or huge association to call believers to united prayer. Increasingly, directors of missions are

discovering that serious prayer is by far the most "practical" thing we can do to impact evangelism, missions, and unity.

So how does an association embrace serious united prayer?

Generally speaking, three steps are essential.

► Directors of missions and key pastors must make the definite decision to embrace associational-wide prayer as a genuine top priority. Prayer events, prayer ministry training, and prayer activities must be scheduled, funded, and promoted heavily.

► Elect and train leadership to keep a sustained focus on prayer (such as an active prayer council or committee).

► Place huge emphasis on actual prayer events (such as

regular pastors' prayer meetings and periodic association-wide nights of prayer). We do not need more talk about prayer; we need more prayer.

Tragically, only a small minority of associations yet have powerful prayer strategies. As you honestly examine your own association, can you say there has been a dramatic increase in united prayer? If not, why not? Can society get much worse?

Beyond, question, God is calling his people to unite in prayer and now is the time to act! ■ — Frizzell is pastor of Georgian Hills Church, Memphis, and director of the Spiritual Awakening Council of Shelby Association and frequently conducts prayer conferences to assist churches and associations.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Church, Lenoir City





**national/global
news**

**SBC Cooperative
Program records
month, year increase**
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for May were up more than 7 percent and the fiscal year's total more than 8 percent compared to last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For May 1999, CP receipts totaled \$13,780,657 compared to May 1998 of \$12,835,511, an increase of \$945,146 or 7.36 percent.

For the SBC fiscal year, October through May, CP gifts total \$112,779,048 compared to the previous year's total of \$104,076,805, an increase of \$8.7 million or 8.36 percent.

Designated gifts for the month of May were \$18,570,071 compared to the same month in 1998 of \$18,294,230, an increase of \$275,841 or 1.51 percent. For the year to date, designated gifts total \$124,315,889 compared to the previous year's total of \$122,773,822, an increase of \$1.5 million or 1.26 percent.

For the SBC's Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the May CP receipts exceeded the required monthly budget figure — \$12,917,143 — by more than \$863,514, or 6.69 percent.

For the budget year to date, the required amount of \$103,337,148 was exceeded by nearly \$9.5 million or 9.14 percent. ■

**Texas board OKs
fifth CP giving option**
Baptist Press

DALLAS — A fifth option for Cooperative Program giving by Texas churches, which eliminates some Southern Baptist Convention entities, was approved by the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

At its May 18 meeting, the board endorsed the new giving option for its CP unified budget. The new option allows churches to channel 73 percent of their gifts to BGCT ministries with the remainder to four SBC entities and the Baptist World Alliance. The four SBC entities are the two mission boards, Annuity Board, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. ■

**Ouachita student
killed in Little Rock
airplane crash**
Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — It began as a two-week music ministry to Europe for 25 members of the Ouachita Singers. It abruptly ended in a crisis ministry amid the fiery crash of American Airlines flight 1420 just beyond the runway at Little Rock National Airport.

Among 145 people on board, nine have been confirmed dead, including James A. Harrison, 21, a member of the choir sponsored by Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. At least one passenger reported that Harrison helped her to safety prior to his death.

Crash survivor Dave Ozmun, assistant professor of communications at Ouachita, acknowledged "it's just a shock" that Harrison was among those killed in the

tragedy. Affirming that he saw Harrison repeatedly demonstrate "the strength of his commitment and faith" throughout the choir trip, Ozmun added, "He's with the Lord. He's out of pain."

Five members of the Ouachita group were among the more than 70 people hospitalized following the crash.

**Ratings system has
not improved TV
program content**
Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The television ratings system adopted in 1997 has done nothing to reverse the tide of sex, violence, and offensive language in prime time. In fact, the content of programs on broadcast networks has become much worse, according to a recently released study.

A comparison of the two-week November sweeps periods from 1996, just before the ratings system was instituted, to 1998 found the combined content of sex, violence, and foul language increased more than 30 percent, the Parents Television Council reported. Sexual content rose by more than 42 percent. Offensive language increased by more than 30 percent. Only violence, after peaking in 1997, had a slight increase from 1996 to 1998.

The PTC study covered six networks: ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, UPN, and WB.

ABC's content was the most offensive overall, with Fox a close second, based on a three-year average. ABC easily outdistanced all networks in sexual content. NBC outdistanced the others in foul language. CBS was first in violence but still was the least offensive network overall.

"Plainly put, television is the raunchiest it has ever been in spite of, or perhaps because of, the unintended consequences of the ratings system and those who abuse it," PTC chairman Brent Bozell said in a news conference on Capitol Hill.

Steve Allen, a longtime TV personality, is the spokesman for a PTC campaign to urge advertisers to steer away from "TV filth, vulgarity, coarse humor, pre-marital sex situations, violence, killings, and all the rest into American living rooms and children's bedrooms."

Letters of support for the campaign can be mailed to Steve Allen, Parents Television Council, Dept. 6RAC24, 600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 7000, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

"TV is leading children down a moral sewer," Allen said in a full-page ad in The New York Times May 23. "Are you as outraged as I am at how TV is undermining the morals of children ...?" ■

SBC set for 'webcast'
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — A live Internet "webcast" is planned for the complete June 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting and the pre-convention Pastors' Conference. It is the first time full convention proceedings have been available across the globe. The meeting can be accessed at www.sbc.net or www.namb.net. ■

CLASSIFIED

DOM: The Hardeman Baptist Association of Hardeman County is receiving resumes for the vacant position of Director of Missions. Resumes will be received at Hardeman Baptist Association, P.O. Box 475, Bolivar, TN 38008 until July 1, 1999.

DOM: Fayette Baptist Association is receiving resumes for Director of Missions. If you desire to recommend, mail biographical sketch to 12975 Hwy. 64, Somerville, TN 38068. Cut off date — June 30.

MUSIC: Antioch FBC is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. Send resume to 2601 Una-Antioch Pike, Antioch, TN 37013 or call (615) 832-7486. Dr. Sim Hassler, pastor.

YOUTH/MUSIC: Accepting resumes for full-time or bivocational. Fax: (615) 331-9630 or Woodbine Baptist Church, 29 Whitsett Rd., Nashville, TN 37210, Search Committee.

MUSIC/YOUTH: Accepting resumes for a Minister of Music/Youth. Send resume to Glenwood Baptist Church, 200 S. Alabama Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

PEWS: Church pews for sale — 22 upholstered pews, from 13' to 22', excellent condition. Make us an offer. (615) 641-5433.

BUSES: 1986 Falcon 30 passenger. 1977 MCI 40 passenger. Both buses have very low mileage and are in excellent condition. Audubon Park Baptist Church, (901) 324-5541.

ASSOCIATE/WORSHIP: Seeking a full-time associate pastor/worship leader. Fairview Baptist Church is experiencing revival, revitalization, and growth. We have a contemporary-blended worship style and use a video projection system. We are innovative in our methodology. A seminary degree preferred, but not required. Send resume with photo and references to Search Task Force, 310 Coles Ferry Pike, Lebanon, TN 37087.

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Saturday, June 19, 7 p.m., Texas Troubadour Theatre, Nashville

- The Senior Adult Choir of Brentwood Baptist Church, Nashville, directed by Tom McMinn
- Recording Artist Mona Faith (Mrs. Gene Fant)
- Gene Fant
- The Jubilee Band
- Enjoy old and new Gospel songs and a sing-along.

For tickets, \$15 - adults, \$5 - children, call (615) 885-0028.
Group rates available. To arrange for Mona Faith to perform in your church, contact her at (601) 925-5116.

**Children's
Ministry Position**

Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga., is seeking a Children's Minister to minister to children grades 1 through 6. Mount Vernon has approximately 1,900 members and ministers to approximately 125 to 175 children each week. If you have experience working with children in a church setting and you are interested in this position, please send your resume to

Mount Vernon Baptist Church
Attention: Walker Moore
850 Mount Vernon Hwy, NW
Atlanta, GA 30327

If you would like to have more information, please call (404) 255-3133 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Ask for Walker Moore

Life and Work Lesson

Renew covenant relationships

By Randy Adkisson

Focal Passage — Malachi 2:1-16

Leadership requires more than a position. God is searching for leaders: leaders for nations, for churches and for homes. Leadership requires godly character. Godly character must be evident in public and in private, in personal and professional relationships. God does not allow His people two sets of standards, one secular and one sacred.

Chapter two deals with three areas of national and personal character. If these areas are corrupt then the nation is corrupt. A check of current headlines reveal that much in Malachi's day parallels our own.

Character in leadership: So much depends upon leadership. God expects great things from His leaders (James 3:1). Malachi describes good leaders (priests) as ethical. They are characterized by consistent integrity (v. 6). Good leaders are effective teachers. They have studied the material well, understanding it rightly and applying it correctly (vv. 6-7). Good leaders are mature in their walk with God (v. 5). The Hebrew word for "peace" describes a wholeness of life. It is a quality of inner peace that grows from a walk with God. Because of these characteristics of life, people naturally gravitate to the godly leader. He is after all a "messenger of God." In Israel, religious and national leaders were to be of Godly character.

The leaders of Malachi's day exhibited the opposite characteristics. They were partial in judgment (v. 9). They were deceitful in instruction (v. 8). Their worship was meaningless and their character corrupt (v. 2).

God's judgment? "I will smear your faces with the intestinal waste of the sacrifices and then I will dump you along with that waste in the garbage heap (v. 3). I will take away your honor and cause the people to see you for who you are: filthy and lacking in integrity (v. 9)." The word pictures are gross. They were intended to leave a lasting picture in the minds of those who heard them. God is serious!

Character in Spiritual Commitment: Israel sought to maintain religious practice without spiritual commitment. God forbade His people to marry those who did not know Him (v. 11). This injunction had nothing to do with racial pedigrees. It was a matter of spiritual fidelity. One must choose God over mere pleasure or desire. Israel had been lead away from true worship by these unholy unions. Christians often ignore, to their own peril God's injunction against being unequally yoked (2 Cor. 6:14). Such unions lead believers away from fellowship with God.

Character in Personal Relationships: Divorce had become rampant and serial marriage was condoned. Yet God hates divorce. The words are strong and meant to startle. Hate is an expression of emotion. It is important to note that God does not hate divorcees. Indeed His hatred of divorce stems from His love for the injured divorcee.

In this passage, God hates divorce because it is a telling example of His peoples lack of integrity. If His people showed no character in the most intimate and meaningful of relationships there could be no moral character at all.

He hates divorce because of the devastation it brings upon people he loves. Divorce affects parents, spouses, children, and grandchildren. The harmful effects sometimes last for generations. God's dream for marriage is shattered by divorce. It is not surprising that He hates it. — Adkisson is senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville.

Original design

By Tony Crossnoe

Focal Passage — Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25

This week we will take an additional look at creation in order to gain a few more facts about the creation of everything around us, remembering that God created all things to glorify his goodness and love.

In Genesis 2:4 we are told this is the generations of the heavens and the earth. Here in the second account of creation, known as the levitical account, we better understand how that God was responsible for everything created and how that everything has responded and begun the process for which it was created. Genesis 2:5 shares with us that before man was created God made everything to grow and prepare the way for the creation of man. In verse six, we are given a glimpse of how the earth was watered.

Family Bible Lesson

Genesis 2:7 describes in more detail how God created man. Taking dust from the ground, God used his own hands to form the physical body of man. We must not forget that this dust was in existence because God had spoken it into existence (found in Genesis 1:9). Therefore, if man is formed from the Word of God, it gives him a special relationship with God. Just being formed by the hand of God was not enough. It took God breathing the breath of life into that body to make him a living soul. This living soul is the nature of God living in the body of man.

God planted a garden in the east of creation and called it Eden. There he made a home for man according to verse eight. God caused every kind of tree to grow in the garden (verse nine), but there were two special trees from which Adam could not eat — the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. In the creation account these trees do not seem very important but they will become very important later on. Verse 10 tells us there were four

rivers that went out of the Garden of Eden — the Pison, the Gihon, the Hiddekel or the Tigris, and the Euphrates.

These last two rivers can be found in today's geography. The Tigris is the eastern river of ancient Iraq. It also joins with the Euphrates to form the plain of Mesopotamia. This is why many people believe the Garden of Eden was in this area.

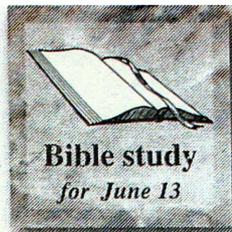
Genesis 2:18 lets us view God's concern for man and his loneliness. In verse 19 we are told that God formed all the animals and birds out of the dust of the ground, but he did not breathe the breath of life or a soul into any of these creatures. God set Adam above the animals and gave him the monumental task of naming everything.

In growing up I was always amazed while going with my dad to check on his cows. As we came to a certain field he would tell us to look for a certain color and size cow or calf. I never heard him call any of his cattle by name, although I think he had them named. Still, he knew where each of the cattle should be. Adam could not find contentment in the birds and animals of God's creation, but he could find that joy of knowing where each one belonged.

Although Adam found pleasure in God's creation he could not fulfill that special need in his own life (Genesis 2:20-25). All of God's creation had a helpmate except for Adam. So God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and God took a rib from Adam's side with which to create a helpmate for man. We read Adam's first recorded words in verse 23: "This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman."

Adam tells us in verse 24 that man shall leave his father and mother to cleave unto his wife. This seems a strange concept since Adam and Eve had no parents. Adam understood that God was going to be faithful to his promise to have Adam and Eve become the parents of all humans that would ever be born.

As God views all of his creation, Genesis 1:31 reads, "And God saw everything that he had made and it was very good." — Crossnoe is pastor, West Paris Baptist Church, Paris.



Family Bible Lesson

Discipline and forgiveness

By Bennie Creel

Focal Passage — II Corinthians 1:23; 2:8, 10-14

Probably a good number, if not all of those who read this lesson, have heard their father say, as I have, "Son (or young lady), disciplining you is going to hurt me much more than it does you." He assured me it was always because he loved me.

I never understood that, until I had children of my own, and it became necessary to discipline them.

Discipline is sometimes necessary, but must never be considered unless it is motivated by real genuine love for the person who receives it.

Failure to offer discipline apart from forgiveness does much more harm than good.

Confrontation or Reconciliation (Verses 1:23; 2:8): The Apostle Paul was trying, as hard as he could, to avoid a confrontation with the church. He knew this would happen if he visited the church this soon after sending the stern letter he had written to them from Ephesus.

In this letter, he had rebuked the church for not disciplining the person who had led the opposition against him in the church. This same person had become very injurious to the church's ministry as well.

This letter was very painful for him to write. It was so painful that it broke his heart, and brought tears to his eyes. He only wrote the letter to show them how much he loved them, and how much he cared about the

Explore the Bible Lesson

welfare of the church.

There is a great lesson to be learned here! Paul paints a beautiful picture of how discipline should be handled in the church.

If there is the need to rebuke an offender, it should be done unwillingly, as Paul had done. And for sure, it should be done in love with the hope of redemption for the person.

Barkley says that "when one's eyes are always focused to find fault, and whose tongues are always tuned to criticize, if we are habitually angry and harsh, and we rebuke more than we praise, the rebuke loses all its effect." It is discounted when it is done constantly.

This is a good point for believers to remember. There are times and reason for discipline to be sure. Just be sure that it is done at the right time, for the right reasons.

Hate the sin, but love the sinner (verses 7-8): Now the apostle admonishes the church to forgive this person who has been such a troublemaker. Paul had forgiven him.

There is no place for grudges in the life of a Christian. You did the right thing, he said, by bringing discipline to this person. Now he says, do the right thing by forgiving him.

Failure to forgive this person could shove him right into the hands of the

power of Satan. If possible, Satan would have the shame of one's sin to continue to defeat him, and cause him never to have victory in his life again.

It is our responsibility to help a fallen friend, who has shown godly sorrow for his or her wrong, to be restored to the fellowship of the family of God. When this happens, Satan loses his opportunity to keep him from personal victory over his wrong.

Too often, we are quick to rebuke one who has offended us, but wrongfully slow in being reconciled to that person who has erred in his or her way.

Conclusion (verses 12-14): Paul concludes the second chapter of this second letter on a triumphant note. He moves from this very moving lesson on how to go about administering discipline in the church to discuss the grandeur and dignity of an evangelical ministry.

In J.W. Shepherd's book, *The Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul*, verse 14 of chapter two is translated "But thanks be to God who always leadeth us in triumph, and makes plain through us ministers of his sweet smelling incense (the Gospel) in every place." Victory is assured in our walk with God, only when we allow God to walk with us. The victory belongs to them that can deal with problem people in churches and forgive them. Then, move on with the main ministry of the church, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. — Creel is director of missions, Sweetwater Baptist Association.

leaders

■ **First Baptist Church, Decatur**, has called **Greg Jones** as minister of music.

■ **Glen Petree**, director of missions, Campbell County Baptist Association, based in LaFollette, also has been named director of missions, New River Baptist Association, Oneida. He succeeds Dale Smith, retired DOM, New River, and Allen Matthews, interim DOM there.

■ **Leland Johnson**, pastor, New Prospect Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, is seeking the following books written by Vance Havner — *Consider Him; Peace Like a River; Pleasant Paths; Rest for the Weary; Truth for Each Day;*

Peace in the Valley; Seasonings; Not Peace But a Sword; Fourscore: Living Beyond the Promise; Entered Into Rest (reprinted as *Blood, Bread, and Fire*); *Amos, Prophet With a Modern Message*; and *Vance Havener Talks On*. Contact Johnson at (931) 762-7929.

■ **David Bartholomew** has been called as pastor of Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Huron, recently.

■ **Lane Scott** has been called as associate pastor for youth and education, Sand Ridge Baptist Church, Lexington.

■ **Lynn Walker** has been called recently as pastor, Union Grove Baptist Church, Beech Bluff.

■ **Billy Mills**, former pastor in Beckley, W.V., and a graduate of Carson-Newman

College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is available for supply, interim, or other church work. He may be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 98-1A, Decatur, TN 37322, (423) 334-9400.

■ **Jeff Simmons**, minister to students, First Baptist Church, Nashville, was named Youth Minister of the Year by the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association. The SBREA made

the announcement during its recent annual meeting in New Orleans, La.

death

■ **Pansy Dockery**, mother of David Dockery, president of Union University, Jackson, died June 2 after suffering a stroke. Mrs. Dockery lived in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

people

■ **Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson**, called **Liane Keaton** as secretary effective June 7.

■ **Smyrna Baptist Church, Evensville**, recently ordained **Bill Hamby** and **Kenny Price** as deacons.

■ **Jason Millsaps**, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Knoxville, has released the album "Children of God." For more information on Millsaps, who performs in churches, or the album, contact Darryl G. Monday at (423) 681-1816 or 525-8052 or at the Web Site at www.angel-fire.com/tn/jasonmillsaps/.

churches

■ **Bethel Baptist Church, Henderson**, celebrated its 152nd anniversary June 6 and began revival. David Skinner, professor at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, spoke and Ricky and Kim Mitchell led the music.

■ **First Baptist Church, Halls**, will send an 18-member mission group June 4-13 to Arizona where they will lead a revival and other missions work with Navaho Indians.

■ **Roellen Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, has erected a new steeple.

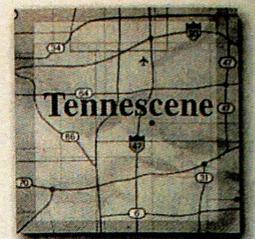
■ **Evansville Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, will

hold revival services June 30-July 3 with William Jarrett as speaker.

■ A coffee house named the H.O.U.S.E. is being offered by **Whitsitt Chapel Baptist Church, Nashville**. The church is located in the Hermitage/Antioch area. On June 19 songwriter Randy Thomas and country artist Rick Crawford will perform. Thomas is co-writer of "Butterfly Kisses." On July 10 Rob Brooks will perform. Hours are 7-10 p.m. For more information including costs, call (615) 366-7988 or e-mail thehouse411@juno.com.

■ **Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, celebrated its 111th anniversary May 23. As part of the celebration, the congregation honored retired pastor, Bob Mowrey, by naming him pastor emeritus. Mowrey served as pastor of the church for 35 years before retiring in 1995.

■ **Sunswept Baptist Church, Union City**, has begun a Hispanic Ministry with services on Saturday night. In three recent services, 12 of 22 people present made professions of faith. David Leonardo is pastor of the ministry.



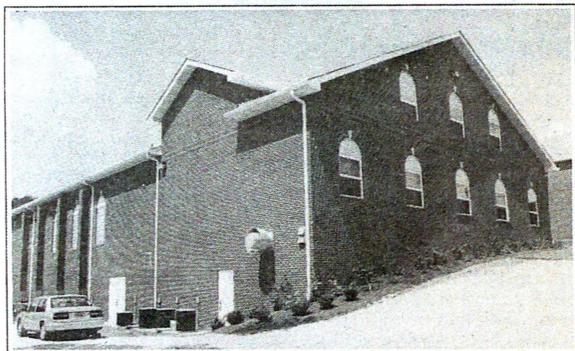
associations

■ A team from **Truett Baptist Association** will be serving in the Philippines June 21 - July 1.

■ **Big Hatchie Baptist Association**, based in Covington, commissioned volunteers May 13 who had recently served or who were going to serve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership. Seventeen volunteers from the association joined other Tennesseans to form a group of 337 who served in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, May 23 - June 1. Leading the service was Gary Rickman of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff. The association's Teddy Evans Mission Fund and churches help fund expenses of the volunteers.



PAUSING during the recent recognition of their service to First Baptist Church, Dandridge, are **Robert D. McCray**, pastor for 40 years, and **Mrs. McCray**. Speakers included **Cordell Maddox**, president, Carson-Newman College; and **Jerry DeZearn**, director of missions, Jefferson County Baptist Association.



THIS NEW building is the Family Life Center of Pleasant Grove Piney Baptist Church, New Market, which was dedicated May 16. Former pastor **Bruce Martin** spoke and **Rick Rogers**, former minister of music, lead the music during the dedication ceremony.



PRAYING before breaking ground May 23 at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, for a 1,200 seat Worship Center are, from left, **Nathan Kolbe; Gary Landers; Chares Fite; Chris Pardue; Glenn Denton**, pastor; and **Larry Parkerson**. The church leaders are members of the church's building committee.



STANDING in front of a church in Recife, Brazil, with new Brazilian friends is a 22-member team from Sullivan Baptist Church, Kingsport. The Tennesseans built the church, led Vacation Bible Schools, participated in services, and witnessed to Brazilians May 15-24. As a result, 96 people made professions of faith. **Jim Ramey** coordinated the effort.

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