

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

Volume 166/ Number 3

Statewide Edition

January 19, 2000

this week's news

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Tennessee Baptist senator

Elsa stands firm against state lottery

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Some things just will not go away.

Case in point is the issue of a state lottery in Tennessee.

Lottery proponents have been stopped year after year in their attempt to amend the state constitution in order to have a lottery, but they continue to fight for their cause.

The year 2000 is no exception.

Senate Majority Leader Ward Crutchfield of Chattanooga once again is pushing his lottery convention bill in the early going of the 101st General Assembly.

Ward told Chattanooga's *The Times & Free Press* Jan. 11 that he will push for a Senate vote on his bill early in this session.

"I'm not interested in anything else right now. My constituents aren't talking to me about an income tax, they're talking to me about a lottery,"

Crutchfield told the Chattanooga paper. He noted people in his area are going across the state line into Georgia to play the lottery.

Crutchfield also told the paper he plans a statewide media blitz to push for a lottery. He said he will ask current and former Georgia lawmakers to travel to Nashville and share their lottery success stories with Tennessee lawmakers.

Crutchfield's bill, which only needs a simple majority in both the Senate and the House, would call for a constitutional convention on the August primary ballot. Convention delegates would be elected in November, then meet in convention soon after to draw up the proposed constitutional amendment. A statewide referendum could be held in a special election or placed on the ballot during the next statewide general election, according to *The Times & Free Press* report. Crutchfield told the paper he is still three votes short.

While the lottery bill in past years has received the two-thirds vote it needs in the House of Representatives, it has continually failed to get the votes needed in the Senate.

A new wrinkle to the mix was a bill introduced Jan. 12 by Sen. Steve Cohen of Memphis that would call for a constitutional convention to consider both a lottery and a state income tax.

A report in *The Tennessean* said initial reaction to the proposal was "guarded but not negative."

One of the senators who has stood firm against the lottery is Gene Elsa, a member of First Baptist Church, Spring City.

Elsa opposes the lottery for several reasons.

First and foremost, gambling is wrong, he maintained.



ELSEA

And, while many Christians have said they favor the opportunity to purchase lottery tickets, Elsa said they do not understand the long-term effects of removing the word "lottery" from the state constitution.

"If we take the word lottery out, all it takes is a vote of legislature to bring in casinos and other forms of gambling," Elsa said, adding "and the legislature is prone to do anything at any particular time."

He said people have the misconception that a lottery is simply buying a \$1 ticket and waiting to see if they draw the winning number. "If that was all it was it might be all right. But in one spot while standing to buy a lottery ticket, a person could spend an entire pay check on "scratch off" tickets, Elsa said.

He acknowledged that some of the "hottest discussions" he has been involved in over his position on the lottery has been in church.

— See Elsa, page 2

Congress offers ministers opportunity to re-enter Social Security program

By Kenny Byrd
For Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Congress has opened a temporary window to allow ministers who previously opted out of Social Security back into the program.

Priests, rabbis, and other ministers may exempt themselves from paying Social Security taxes if they object to the program on religious grounds. Once a minister decides to opt out, however, it is irrevocable.

Several years ago, a number of ministers "got bad advice" on opting out of the program, said Deirdre Halloran, associate general counsel of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

As they near retirement, some ministers "wake up and smell the coffee," she said, and

realize that as a consequence of opting out, they will not receive Social Security benefits, including Medicare coverage.

Before adjourning last year, U.S. lawmakers enacted a measure in November allowing ministers who previously objected to participating in the Social Security system a two-year window to enroll in the retirement plan.

Halloran said only pockets of ministers opted out of the Social Security system in the first place, but advised they take the opportunity to re-enter the plan. "We don't believe that any future Congress is going to look kindly on reopening this issue somewhere down the road," she said. Congress last provided a temporary window to re-enter the program in 1986.

To qualify, ministers must

apply by April 15, 2002. They will still have to pay into the program for 40 quarters, or 10 years, before they are eligible to receive any benefits.

Tennessee Baptists who have opted out of the Social Security system should take a close look at this opportunity, said Richard Skidmore, church annuity specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Many times ministers do not get the complete story of the consequences of leaving Social Security," Skidmore said. He noted Social Security is more than retirement benefits.

"Disability benefits, survivor benefits for spouse and dependents, and assistance to surviving dependent children during their education are part of Social Security," he said.

— See Congress, page 2



Evangelists hold pre-conference session

The Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists held its traditional meeting Jan. 17 prior to the beginning of the Tennessee Baptist State Evangelism Conference. The evangelists met at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, site of the two-day State Evangelism Conference. New officers of the fellowship are, from left, Michael Duff, Springfield, vice president; Henry Linginfelter, Alcoa, president; and Dewayne and Natalie Howard, Athens, music coordinators.

about your newsjournal

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► **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

► **Convention Communications Committee:** Mattie Mullins, chairman; Benny Keck, vice chairman; Randall Cummings, Mark Gregory, Jerry Legg, Mark Mangrum, Wallace McGill, Bob Osburn, Vern Powers, Glenda Roach, Michael Smith, Joseph Sorah, Thomas Vinson, Ambers Wilson

► **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

► **Frequency of issue** — Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.



Printed on
recycled paper



IMB OKs expansion of MLC in Rockville

Baptist Press

AUBURN, Ala. — International Mission Board trustees have approved an immediate \$23 million expansion of its crowded Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., to handle the rapidly escalating numbers of Southern Baptists coming forward for overseas missions service. Funds for the expansion will be taken from the agency's capital reserves.

Approval for the expansion came during the trustees' regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 10-12 here. The action followed news that 902 new missionaries were approved in 1999. It was the seventh straight year for record appointments and puts the board in sight of its Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 missionaries by September 2000. After the Jan. 10 appointment service, the board's missionary total stands at 4,834.

In addition to the growth in new missionaries, trustees heard reports showing a surge overseas in the number of baptisms, churches, members, and preaching points recorded by Southern Baptist missionaries and their co-workers.

Churches overseas climbed from 47,224 in 1998 to 52,186 in 1999, an increase of 10.5 percent. Other increases — new churches, 4,748, 11.7 percent; membership, 4,917,088, 9.5 percent; baptisms, 363,703, 4.3 percent; and preaching points, 38,363, 21.5 percent.

Year-end figures also show that more than 25,000 Southern Baptists served overseas in volunteer mission projects lasting anywhere from a few days to several months.

All the growth is one more indication that God is stirring Southern Baptists and the nations for a remarkable spiritual surge overseas, said IMB President Jerry Rankin. ■

Mohler defends outreach to Jews on 'Larry King Live'

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE — Southern Baptist efforts to evangelize Jews are not based on anti-Semitism or intolerance but on a mandate from Jesus Christ, R. Albert Mohler Jr. told a national audience Jan. 12.

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was one of four guests on CNN's "Larry King Live" talk show who debated the issue of Baptist evangelism efforts, especially to Jews.

"In this endeavor, Southern Baptists are about what we've always been about from the beginning, and that is sharing the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ to all

persons, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, young and old," Mohler said.

Joining Mohler on the program were two Jewish rabbis — Marvin Hier and Schmuley Boteach — and David Brichner, executive director of Jews for Jesus.

Hier said he disliked Southern Baptists' methodology, claiming Baptists are being deceptive, a charge Mohler denied.

Boteach based most of his arguments against Southern Baptists on the classic liberal charge of "intolerance" and went so far as to brand Baptist actions as anti-Semitic.

Mohler called the anti-Semitism charge "especially disappointing, since American evangelicals are the best friends in many ways that the Jewish people can have. We defend their right of religious liberty," Mohler said.

Brickner, an ethnic Jew who believes in Jesus as the Messiah, expressed support for Baptists and applauded their efforts. ■

Broadcasters plan to fight FCC ruling

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A coalition of religious broadcasters, politicians, and special interest groups has mobilized a grassroots effort to fight a new ruling by the Federal Communications Commission that would restrict noncommercial television stations from airing religious programming.

The decision, released Dec. 29, ruled that broadcasts "primarily devoted to religious exhortation, proselytizing, or statements of personally-held religious views or beliefs" are restricted under the FCC's educational programming licenses. More than 125 noncommercial television broadcasters may be affected by the decision.

The commission also defined what content would count as educational and ruled church services would not qualify, unless it was the funeral of a national leader.

The FCC's decision has caused widespread concern.

"We are preparing a strategy to fight this ruling," said Karl Stoll, a spokesman for the National Religious Broadcasters.

Lowell "Bud" Paxson, chairman of Paxson Communications Corp., told Baptist Press the FCC's decision is a blatant violation of free speech.

"This is a very big deal," Paxson said. "It not only affects television stations, but 400 noncommercial radio stations. It affects every commercial broadcaster who carries a church service."

"We have an obligation to serve our communities with instructional, educational, and cultural programs. If I have a church service on Sunday and it is no longer considered educational, that is terrible," Paxson said.

U.S. Rep. Michael Oxley, R-Ohio, unveiled legislation Jan. 11 that would reverse the FCC's decision. He will introduce the bill when Congress reconvenes Jan. 24. ■

Elsea stands firm against state ...

— Continued from page 1

"When we have things like that happening in church, it makes me nervous," he said.

Elsea, who is entering his 10th year in the Senate, also opposes the lottery because he sees it as a "poor way to finance state government."

Despite grand estimates as to how much a lottery would provide to the state, the lottery would only bring in about \$125 million, Elsea said.

In contrast, a .25 percent increase to the state sales tax would bring in about \$130-\$140 million, he observed.

Elsea also opposes the lottery because of the negative effect it could have on children and families.

He referred to statistics that indicate 23 percent of the children in Tennessee live in poverty with 12 percent of those in extreme poverty. He also cited research which shows that two-thirds of the people who play the lottery are those who really cannot afford to.

If the lottery becomes available in Tennessee there will be less money to spend on those children because the money will be spent on lottery tickets,

he observed.

Elsea admitted he does not know if God will look harshly on people who purchase lottery tickets.

"I do think the good Lord will frown on people who take their pay checks and blow them on the lottery when they could use the money for their families."

Referring specifically to Crutchfield's bill, Elsea said he is opposed to a constitutional convention.

"If we bring people in for a constitutional convention who are not up-to-date with all the

facts, how can they do a better job than the 33 (Senate) who are already here?" Elsea asked.

He noted that if the constitution is amended, it needs to go through the amendment process and not through the convention process because it better protects the constitution.

His best advice, however, is "let's leave the constitution alone."

He noted a lottery once was legal in Tennessee. "They had to outlaw it because it had become so rotten," Elsea said. ■

Congress offers ministers opportunity to re-enter ...

— Continued from page 1

If a minister is not going to buy unusually high amounts of life insurance and disability coverage to replace those Social Security benefits, he is usually ill advised to drop out, Skidmore said.

Additionally, ministers should bear in mind that Social Security does replace a

substantial amount of income at retirement for most people, he observed. "Typically, 35-40 percent of a person's income is replaced by their Social Security benefit," he said.

Another significant income replacement for members of church staffs besides Social Security is the Church Annuity

Plan, Skidmore said.

"For most of these employees in our churches, the Tennessee Baptist Convention provides some disability and survivor benefits at no cost to participants."

"The Annuity Board is committed to being life partners with these servants of the Lord," Skidmore said. ■

Gideons International director

Tennessean values linking people, Scripture

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

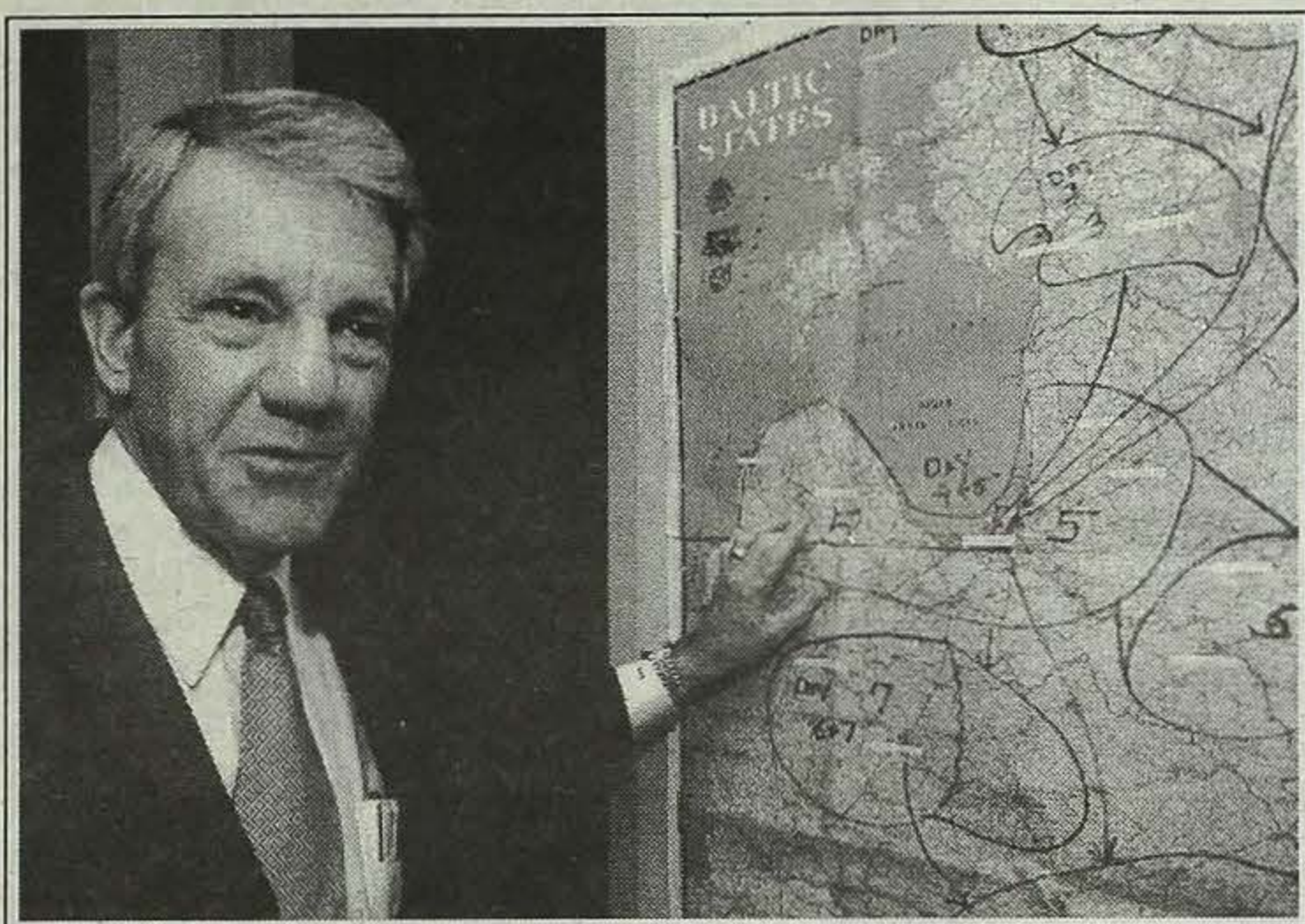
NASHVILLE — As director of work outside the United States for Gideons International, Ken Speakman has traveled in more than 70 countries.

Speakman, who also serves as chairman of trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, has presented Bibles to heads of state, including Mobutu Sese Seko, former head of the African nation of Zaire, and to the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

But while he is grateful for these and many other experiences, one of the most meaningful occurred last Sept. 30 during a visit to Latvia. It was the culmination of a story that began in 1996 when Speakman received a letter from a young woman, Ginta Pukis.

While hospitalized in Riga and contemplating suicide three years earlier, Pukis had received a New Testament from a Gideon visiting the hospital. After reading the Bible, she became a Christian and, 18 months later, led her husband, a member of the Mafia, to Christ.

As an expression of her gratitude to the Gideons, she wrote her testimony and sent it to international headquarters in



AS DIRECTOR OF work outside the United States for Gideons International, Ken Speakman has traveled in more than 70 countries. Speakman, a member of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, also serves as trustee chairman for LifeWay Christian Resources. — Photo by Morris Abernathy

suburban Nashville.

Speakman had been deeply moved by her testimony and had regretted that his January 1999 trip to Latvia would not take him to Liepaja where she lived.

In an October 1999 trip, Speakman was assigned to a car driven by a man identified only as Andris, and he soon learned his driver was from Liepaja. Speakman told Andris he had always wanted to go to Liepaja to meet a young

woman who had written a letter to his organization.

"I asked Andris how he came to Christ and he told me his wife led him to Jesus. He then told me that his wife was saved in a hospital in Riga in 1993 by reading a New Testament given to her by the Gideons.

"I replied by telling him that the lady who wrote to us was saved in Riga Hospital #6. He said his wife also was saved in Riga Hospital #6.

"I asked him for his wife's name. He replied, 'Ginta.'

"I knew then that it was really the hand of God who had assigned me to Andris," Speakman said.

Before Speakman left Riga, Andris Pukis brought his wife and two children to the city where Speakman got to meet her and hear her story firsthand. Today, Ginta and Andris work full time for the Christian ministry, Youth with a Mission.

When Speakman reports that members of Gideons International distributed 52 million Scriptures in 1999, he's not talking about crates of Bibles shipped to distant locations to be opened by unknown persons.

Every Scripture distributed by the 142,000 Gideons in 173 countries is passed from the hands of a Gideon to an individual in a school, hospital, prison, or other location.

"We don't mail or drop off Scriptures," he said. "We can't save anybody. The Word of God can and does. Our job is to get the Word of God to people who otherwise would never have a copy."

Founded in 1899, the organization of business and professional men was named after Gideon of the Old Testament, "a man who was the least of his



tribe but took 300 men and conquered the Midianites," he said.

Speakman, a Southern Baptist layman and member of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, became a Gideon in 1967 while working as a state manager for an insurance company in Nashville. He soon realized the ministry of the organization was becoming an increasing priority in his life.

"Going to churches and giving Gideons messages were the times that I was the happiest," he recalled.

With the support of Reba, his wife of 40 years, he reduced his salary by two-thirds in December 1968 to join the staff of Gideons International.

He recalled the anxiety he felt on behalf of his family with the major reduction in income, fearing he would lack the resources to send his three daughters to college. He considers the fact that all three have earned graduate degrees a testimony to God's faithfulness.

"Here I was worried about leaving my job, and look at all the ways God has blessed me," he said. ■

Non-competitive sports program offered through church

By Steve Butler
For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Sports legend and former Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi is credited with saying that winning is not everything — it's the only thing.

While that sentiment resonates in our competitive culture, experts differ on whether Lombardi ever said it.

And Murfreesboro's One Goal Sports definitely does not agree with it.

The three-year-old program for boys and girls ages 6-12 has been successful at running basketball, soccer, T-ball, and cheerleading programs while avoiding an emphasis on winning and competitiveness often found in children's sports.

About 1,300 young people have participated over the three years.

One Goal's programs stress fun while learning and active participation by all players. It does not stress victories or championships and does not pressure participants to meet other's expectations, said Lance Warren, who with fellow Middle Tennessee State University student Trevor Atwood coordinates the program. It is supported by Murfreesboro's Belle Aire Baptist Church, of which Atwood is a member.

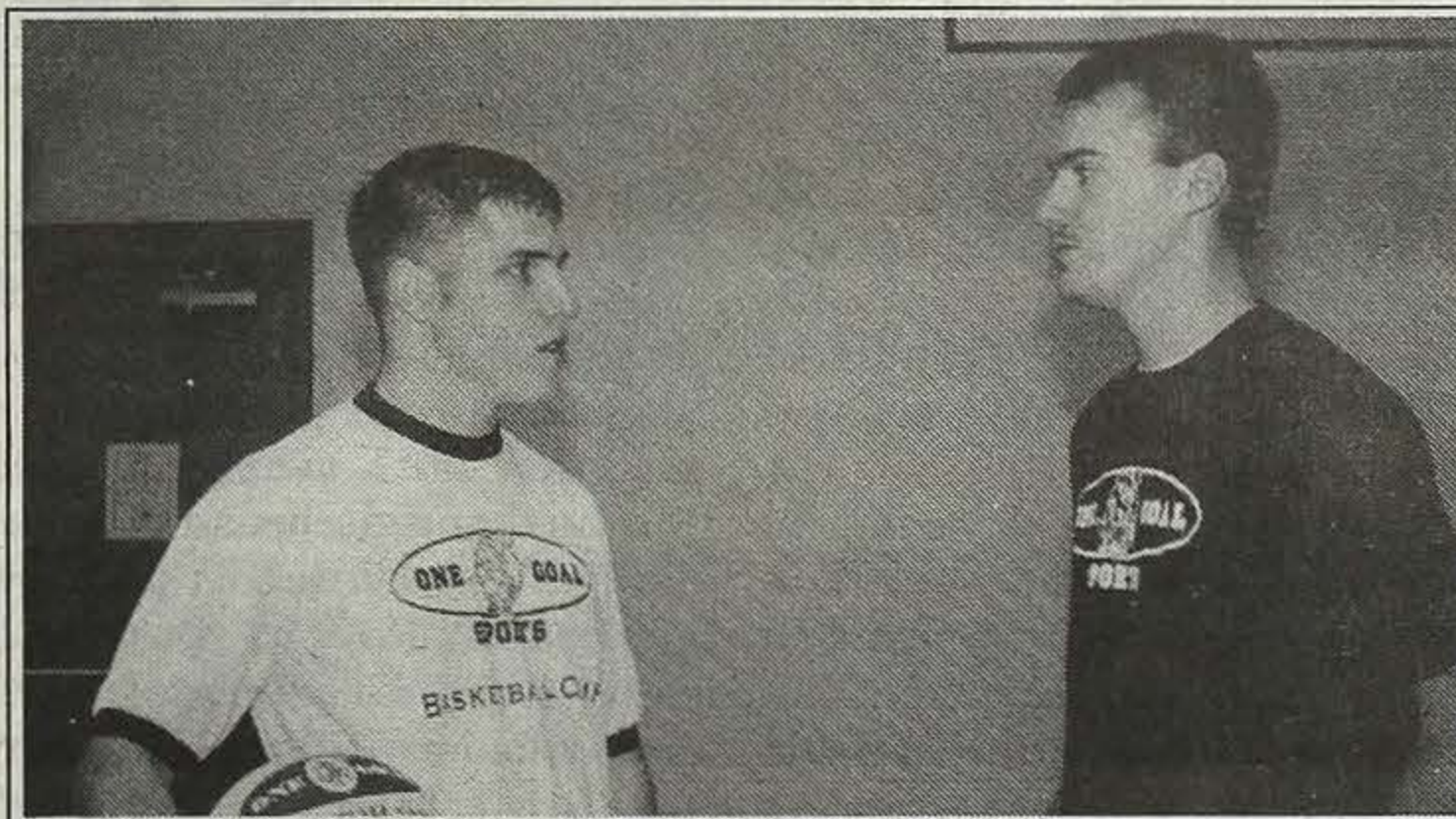
For example, score is kept only in the oldest age division, even there only to help participants gauge progress and performance. No tournaments are held; no championships awarded.

"If parents want a child to be a star and play all the time, then we're not the place for that child. If parents pressure and criticize children, or interfere with coaches, or have a win-at-all-costs attitude, then we're definitely not the place for them," Warren said.

"But if parents are looking for a wholesome, fun atmosphere where the focus is on player development and encouragement, sportsmanship, and equality, then we may be right for them."

Basketball season is underway, following completion of One Goal's first fall soccer program. Cheerleading will be next, followed by spring soccer and T-ball.

Current basketball players went through skill evaluations — not tryouts — to determine ability level and help organizers develop equality among teams. Similar procedures are in effect in all One Goal programs, which are subdivided by age.



TREVOR ATWOOD, left, a member of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, and a student at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, along with fellow student, Lance Warren, direct the non-competitive sports program One Goal.

They distribute the better players among the teams, said Atwood. All children play an equal amount through a system which also guarantees players will start at least once and play with every other player at some time during a season, he added. Team rosters are limited to make the equal playing time mandate manageable for coaches.

Another focus of One Goal is limiting the time required to participate. Under the current basketball format, once-weekly practices and games last about an hour each. Practice times

are coordinated between coaches and players, and games are between 9 a.m. and about 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Small fees cover expenses, a team jersey for each player, and end-of-season recognition.

"We believe no child should be prohibited from playing because of finances," said Warren. A scholarship program allows everyone to participate, he said, adding that contributions to this fund are most welcome.

Also welcome, Atwood commented, is help from parents or others in the areas of coaching, officiating, and concessions.

Basketball season runs through Jan. 15 with no games or practices the weeks of Christmas or New Year's Day.

One Goal is a non-profit subsidiary of Alpha Omega, a MTSU campus organization which utilizes area churches and their adult members to facilitate its program. The program was founded by Aaron Coe, minister of college students and young singles, Belle Aire Church.

While One Goal was begun at Belle Aire Church and most practices and games are held at First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, or First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, coordinators are quick to point out that all Rutherford County residents are welcome.

Participants reflect a cross-section of the community, reported Warren and Atwood, and include many people not involved in church. Part of the reason for this involvement may be the cancellation of another sports program. Short devotionals and prayers are part of each practice or game, they noted, which they hope will introduce some participants to God.

More information is available from One Goal at (615) 896-7309 during 1-5 p.m. weekdays. ■

Families moving from 'Ozzie & Harriet' model

By Bob Allen & Sarah Griffith
For Associated Baptist Press

CHICAGO — The American family is moving away from the traditional model of a stay-at-home mother and working father with children, according to a recent survey.

Dual-income and single-parent families are replacing the "Ozzie-and-Harriet family," said Tom Smith, author of "The Emerging 21st Century American Family," a report by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

Women in the work place, redefinition of the roles of husbands and wives, smaller families, and changing mores about marriage and sex are "fundamental changes" affecting American families, Smith said.

"Both family structure and family values have been changing and as a result of these changes, the American family is a much-altered institution," Smith said.

Among the most profound changes taking place in the last generation are the increased role of women in the work place and redefinition of gender roles by married couples, the study said.

"Women have greatly increased their participation in the paid labor force outside the home," the study said. In 1960, 42 percent of women ages 25-64 worked outside the home. That percentage grew to 49 percent in 1970, 59 percent in 1980, 69 percent in 1990, and 71 percent in 1995.

Women are bringing in a greater share of the family's joint income. By 1994, women had a higher income than their husbands in 22 percent dual-earner families.

That has contributed to a change in gender roles.

"Among the most fundamental changes affecting American society over the last generation has been the redefinition of the roles of men and women and husbands and wives," the study said.

According to survey

Christians more likely to divorce than non-Christians

For Associated Baptist Press

VENTURA, Calif. — Born-again Christians, and particularly Baptists, are more likely than non-Christians to have experienced a divorce, according to a new survey by the Barna Research Group.

According to a Dec. 21 report, 25 percent of all American adults have gone through at least one divorce in their lifetime. Among born-again Christians, the figure is higher, 27 percent, compared to 24 percent who are not born-again.

Barna researchers said the difference is significant, given a large sample size of 4,000 adults.

Baptists are the Christian denomination whose adherents have the highest likelihood of divorce. According to the survey, 29 percent of Baptists are now or have been divorced. The only Christian group with a higher rate is non-denominational churches, with 34 per-

cent of adults reporting at least one divorce.

Lutherans and Catholics have the lowest percentage of divorced persons, 21 percent, while atheists and agnostics are below the national norm, also 21 percent.

Mormons, known for their emphasis on family values, fare no better than the national norm, 24 percent.

George Barna, president of the Ventura, California-based firm that conducted the study called the national statistics "alarming" but said they have remained unchanged for half a decade.

Barna said the report raises questions about how well churches are ministering to families.

"The ultimate responsibility for a marriage belongs to the husband and wife, but the high incidence of divorce within the Christian community challenges the idea that churches provide truly practical and life-changing support for marriages," he said. ■

"A traditional perspective in which women were occupied in the private sphere of life centering around running a home and raising a family while men engaged in the public sphere of earning a living and participating in civic and political events has been rapidly replaced by a modern perspective in which there is much less gender-role specialization and women have increasingly been entering the labor force as well as other areas of public life."

Less than one fourth (21 percent) of American families contained an employed father and stay-at-home mother in 1998, compared to over half (53 percent) of families in 1972, according to the report.

While gender roles are becoming less traditional, Smith said, stay-at-home fathers in "Mr. Mom" households are still "a rarity."

The acceptance of women in politics has increased substantially over the last 25 years. In 1972, 74 percent of the population said they would vote a woman into presidency and in

1998, 94 percent accepted female candidates, according to the report.

Declining marriage and childbirth rates will mean fewer households will contain children in the future, Smith predicted. Also, fewer children will be living with their original two parents.

A Baptist ethicist said churches ought to minister to the needs of families as they exist today, not as they once existed.

"The changing structure of the American family requires churches to meet real needs that support dual-income families and single-parents, not political statements of faith that prioritize the husband as bread-winner and wife as household manager," said Robert Parham, executive director of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics, and member of

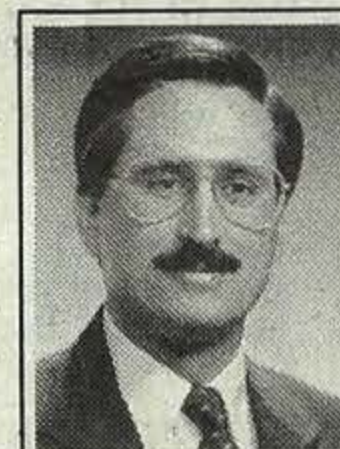
Woodmont Baptist Church.

Parham encouraged church leaders to "teach authentic biblical values, instead of baptizing the cultural model of Ozzie and Harriet as the normative Christian model for family structure."

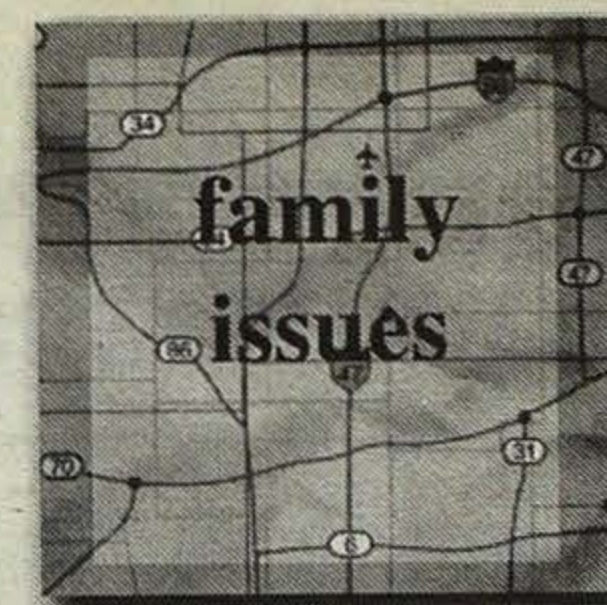
Other factors cited in the study include changing attitudes about:

► **Marriage.** "While still a central institution in American society, marriage plays a less dominant role than it once did," the study says. More people are delaying marriage, divorces have increased, and people are slower to remarry than before. More people are also living together without being married. In a 1994 study, 28 percent of married couples said they lived with their present spouse before marriage. Another 1994 study found nearly two-thirds of young men (65.7 percent) and women (64 percent) said their first union was cohabitation.

► **Children.** Childbearing has declined, from a peak fertility rate of 3.65 children per woman at the height of the Baby



PARHAM



Boom to a rate of 1.75 children in 1975. This is below the level needed for the population to replace itself. People prefer smaller families than in the past. In the early 1970s a majority felt the ideal number of children in a family was three or more. Today, most say the ideal number is two.

► **Sexual mores and practices.** Attitudes toward premarital sex have become more permissive. The percent saying unmarried sex is always wrong declined from 36 percent in 1972 to 24 percent in 1996. More than two thirds, however, say premarital sex between teenagers under 17 is wrong.

Approval of homosexual activity has never been higher. As recently as 1991, 77 percent said homosexual sex is always wrong. By 1998, only 58 percent said so.

Disapproval of extra-marital sex, meanwhile, has increased over the last generation. In 1976, 69 percent said it is always wrong. In 1998, 81 percent said extramarital sex is always wrong.

► **Neighborhoods.** One hallmark of the traditional family, rootedness in local communities and neighborhoods, has weakened over the last three decades. Social contact with neighbors has declined from 30 percent reporting spending a social evening with neighbors at least several times a week in 1974 to 20 percent in 1998.

"The American family has undergone a series of fundamental changes over the last generation," Smith said.

"Many of the changes have undermined the traditional family, as Sociologist Norval Glenn notes, 'If you watch what Americans do, traditional family relationships are in trouble.' ■

High court weighs parental rights in grandparents' visitation case

By Tom Strode
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court weighed arguments Jan. 12 in a case that has the potential to undermine parental rights, but the justices sent numerous signals their opinion would not do so.

Though the facts of the case involved grandparents seeking the right to visit their grandchildren, the two Washington state laws under consideration permitted a wide range of third parties to seek visitation rights over parental objections. One statute included language allowing "any person" to seek court permission "at any time" to visit another person's minor child.

During arguments, the high court provided plenty of encouragement for opponents of the Washington laws.

Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor described what she called "any person at any time" as a "breathtakingly broad provision."

The "whole tenor" of the justices' comments seemed to be "this statute is far too broad," said Kimberlee Colby, a Christian Legal Society lawyer who observed the arguments. "There seemed to be across the board an agreement that the Constitution supports parental rights."

The case began with Gary and Jenifer Troxel asking a court for visitation rights to two granddaughters. The Troxels' son, Brad, the father of the girls, had committed suicide in 1993. Tommie Granville,

the girls' mother, desired to limit the amount of time her daughters spent with the Troxels.

A judge issued a visitation order on behalf of the Troxels that included one weekend per month and one week in the summer, but the Washington Court of Appeals struck it down.

In 1998, the Washington Supreme Court invalidated the laws, saying they violated the constitutional rights of parents. The standard of "best interest of the child" in the laws did not provide the state with a "compelling interest" entitling it to interfere with parental rights, the court ruled. The state had to demonstrate children were being harmed before interfering, the court said.

In oral arguments, Mark Olson, who

represented the Troxels, told the justices the "best-interest-of-the-child standard" was sufficient to override parental rights.

Not so, said Catherine Smith, the lawyer for the mother, who has since married Kelly Wynn, who adopted her daughters. In custody cases, the "best-interest" standard might be sufficient, but otherwise the mother should have total control "absent evidence of harm," Smith told the justices.

Colby, of the Christian Legal Society, said she thought "it was pretty clear that the court is probably going to affirm" the decision of the Washington Supreme Court.

An opinion in the case, *Troxel v. Granville*, is expected before the court's adjournment this summer. ■

Board does its job — time to move on

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Last week's *Baptist and Reflector* carried the story regarding the TBC Executive Board's release of 1998-99 funds which had been held in escrow for Carson-Newman College, per convention action of 1998.

Due to convention action of 1999, those funds, and those funds only, were released to Carson-Newman. The Executive Board did what two-thirds of those messengers who voted in November asked them to do.

Board members, along with the convention's attorney, studied the matter and concluded that Carson-Newman's action in December fulfilled the condition of the release.

In December, C-N trustees agreed to suggest three persons for each trustee vacancy to the convention's Committee on Boards. That, in essence, says Carson-Newman will allow the convention to nominate and elect its trustees for the coming year.

Carson-Newman officials are well aware of all that is involved with the current convention-approved process for trustee selection. They would not offer to submit the names if they were not going

to see the process through until the end, in this case, the election of trustees. They know that the current process does allow for challenges and even removal of nominees.

The men and women who comprise the trustee board of Carson-Newman and those who serve on the Committee on Boards are intelligent. They undoubtedly know that whoever is recommended for Carson-Newman's board will undergo extreme scrutiny.

I cannot imagine C-N leadership or the Committee on Boards recommending anyone for election who could not withstand any potential challenge.

TBC President Jerry Tidwell of Jackson said during the board meeting in January that C-N fulfilled the intent of his amendment at the convention. His amendment to the original motion made by Leonard Markham of Hendersonville, was what messengers agreed upon.

That action is now behind us. It is time to move on and settle the issue for good.

Carson-Newman has said it wants to remain in the TBC family. TBC messengers have indicated they want Carson-Newman in the family. Messengers also have indicated they are not willing to give

up the right to challenge trustees and nominate from the floor. The colleges' desire assurance their entire boards could not be vacated upon the whim of a particular convention.

Leaders from both sides of the issue need to sit down and determine how all those elements can be meshed together into a reasonable solution that can be accepted by the majority of Tennessee Baptists. C-N is only part of the picture. It is quite evident there needs to be some changes to allow all the institutions to have more flexibility and voice in their trustee selection.

While we appear to be at an impasse, nothing is impossible with our Lord.

Threats of withholding or designating Cooperative Program funds will not solve the problem. Threats have come from both sides. Those actions only hurt the overall Kingdom work of Tennessee Baptists. It's time to move away from the threats and get to the business at hand.

God has the answer to this dilemma that seems impossible to us. It is up to individuals within our convention to put aside personal biases and opinions and seek to **work together** and **pray together** to find God's will in the matter. *B&R*



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

10-year-old boy to mother: "Mom, look what I found in the old family Bible. What is it?" Mother: "Why, it's a fig leaf. I wonder how it got there?" Boy: "Well, I guess it must be Adam's clothes in the garden of Eden."

Take this truth

Bargains show up in the strangest places. Take garage sales for instance. What is one person's trash is another person's treasure.

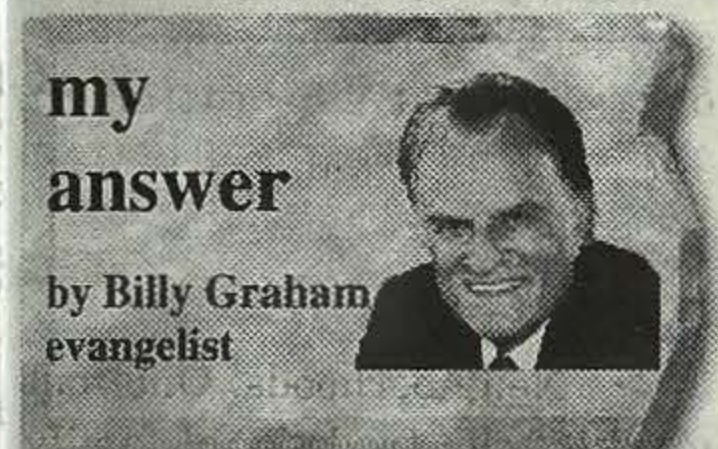
Memorize this Scripture

"Consider the lilies of the field ... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." — Matthew 6:28, 29

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to avoid being one of those who have eyes but see not." ■ — Wood can be e-mailed at drfredwood@aol.com

Problems don't vanish because one accepts Christ



my answer

by Billy Graham
evangelist

Dear Dr. Graham: I hear about people who gave their lives to God and all their problems vanish, but that hasn't happened to me. In fact, since I came to Christ, things have got-

ten harder. Am I doing something wrong? — B.T.

No, not necessarily. If you have truly given your life to Christ, then God has adopted you into his family forever, and nothing can change that.

God has not promised that all our problems will automatically vanish when we come to him and in fact Satan may begin to work even harder to try and discourage us! In other words, when we come to Christ and give our lives to him, we find ourselves in a spiritual battle

and that is one reason we need to turn to God daily in prayer and his Word, for we need his help. Jesus said, *In this world you will have trouble* (John 16:33).

But in the same verse, he immediately added, *But take heart, I have overcome the world*. Our problems don't necessarily go away when we come to Christ, but he is greater than any problem or circumstance we will ever face, and we need to remember that truth and turn to him whenever we get discouraged.

Whenever I rely on my own strength, eventually I feel weak but when I rely on Christ, he helps me through his Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul declared, *I can do everything through him who gives me strength* (Philippians 4:13). May this be your experience also as you commit every problem to him and ask for his wisdom and help. ■ — Write to Dr. Graham in care of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, P.O. Box 779, Minneapolis, MN 55440. Copyright 1999 Tribune Media Services Inc.

Paul gave good advice — keep your eyes on the prize



that's life

by Linda
Jackson
Roebuck

In sports lingo, it's gut-check time — time to see if those resolutions are holding up after all the excitement of a new year has worn off. It's not easy. January 1 is a day when we're full of hope and drive — feelings of solidarity with all of our brothers and sisters striving toward that lofty goal, that golden ring, that ultimate achievement that will catapult us to the heights of our human potential.

Two weeks later, nirvana is that luscious piece of cheesecake in the cafeteria serving line. Staying focused — that's the key.

My goal during the hectic holiday rush was to stay calm and patient while shopping. One day I was in a long checkout line in a little shop that sells bath

and after-bath products. You know, soap and shower gels and shampoos, plus the lotions and powders and splashes. I don't really know what splashes are, but they seem to sell and they come in all the popular fragrances, including my favorite which is freesia.

I like lotion for dry, winter skin and use it even when the winter isn't too bad, like this one. I keep hearing it's going to get cold and maybe even snow, but I sure haven't seen it yet. I don't think those weather people can really know for sure.

So, my point here is splashes, while popular, may not be the toiletry for you. No, wait. My point is being calm and patient. Here I was in a line of 17 people and a lady walked right past all of us and put her items on the counter to check out.

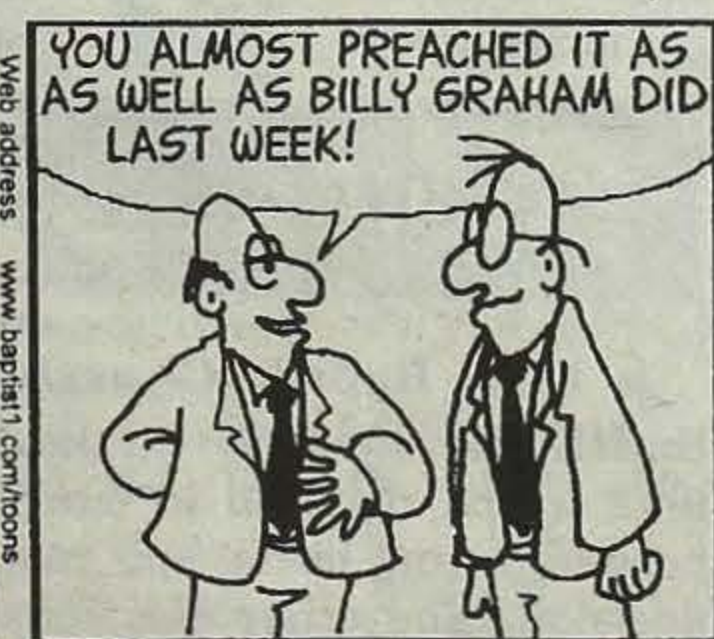
I felt my stomach tense, but I stayed focused. "Patience, Linda," I told myself. The older lady behind me asked if I thought that lady saw the 17 of us that were lined halfway to the back of the store. I said she did and then "Let's get her." But calmness prevailed, although we were con-

vinced that the two of us could take her with no problem.

I stayed on focus and reached my goal of calmness in the most stressful of circumstances. I also, however, rewarded myself for that show of tolerance with a big piece of butternut squash pie; hence my goal upon which I must stay focused today — the 15 pounds.

"Press on toward the goal for the prize." I hear ya' Paul. ■ — Roebuck is a freelance writer in Nashville where her husband, Jon, serves as pastor of Woodmont Church.

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



leaders

■ **Max Walker**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Selmer, was awarded the Robert E. Craig Service Award of Union University, Jackson, recently during the university's fall commencement exercises.



WALKER

The award is named for the school's former president. Walker served as a trustee from 1992-98.

■ **Jim Tom Pilcher** was called as pastor, Williams Baptist Chapel, Halls, effective Dec. 19.

■ Ebenezer Baptist Church, Knoxville, has called **David Houser** of Central Baptist Church, Loudon, as pastor.

■ First Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, has called **Charles Craig** as pastor.

■ Rocky Hill Baptist Church, Knoxville, called **Terry Kirby** as pastor, effective Jan. 9.

■ Smithwood Baptist Church, Knoxville, has called **Rodney and Jamie Russell** as directors of youth. Rodney Russell is a science consultant for Knox County Schools and Jamie Russell is a family practice nurse.

■ Valley Grove Baptist Church, Ball Camp, Knoxville, has called **Dennis Cooper** of Block Springs Baptist Church, Blaine, as minister of music.

■ **Lamar Frizzell** has resigned from the staff of Fort Sanders Baptist Church, Knoxville, to attend the University of Memphis.

■ Ooltewah Baptist Church, Ooltewah, has called **Stephen Passmore** of Rushden, England, as pastor, effective Jan. 24. He will be welcomed Jan. 23. Jerry Chapman of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff and interim pastor, will speak during the 10:30 a.m. service and David Al Myers, director of missions, Hamilton County Baptist Association,

will speak during the 7 p.m. service. For more information, call (423) 238-4831.

■ **Claude Babb** has been called as pastor, Clifton View Baptist Church, Johnson City.

■ **Joe Moran** has been called as pastor, Central Baptist Church, Erwin.

■ Snow Memorial Baptist Church, Johnson City, called **Ted Williams** as pastor, effective Jan. 1.

■ Grace Baptist Church, Johnson City, has called **Tim Arnold** as minister of youth.

■ The compact disk, "Beautiful Star," of The Centurymen has been nominated for the 2000 Grammy Award for Best Classical Crossover Album. The Centurymen is a chorus of about 100 ministers of music from Baptist churches and is directed by Buryl Red, a composer and music producer. The CD was recorded at **First Baptist Church, Knoxville**. Members of The Centurymen from Tennessee are **Dan Arterburn, Jim Austin, Don Bennett, Michael Bundon, Ricky Clark, Paul Clark, Bob Fleming, David Ford, David Glover, Eugene Hattaway, Doug Jewitt, Jim Justice, Jack Kay, Herman May, Lee Porter, David Richardson, John Baker Thomas, George Wadlington, Tommy Webster, and David Whipple**. The Grammy Awards Show will be Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. on the CBS Network.

■ West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, has called **Maurice Hollingsworth** as associate pastor of pastoral care and administration.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Troy, has called **Stan Brooks** of Sharon as pastor.

■ **Kevin Whitter** of Tiptonville has been called as minister of music, Wynnburg Baptist Church, Wynnburg.

■ Central Baptist Church, Brighton, has called **Scott Walker** as pastor and **Jeff Joy** as minister of music.

■ **Andy Nolen** has been called as minister of youth, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Covington.

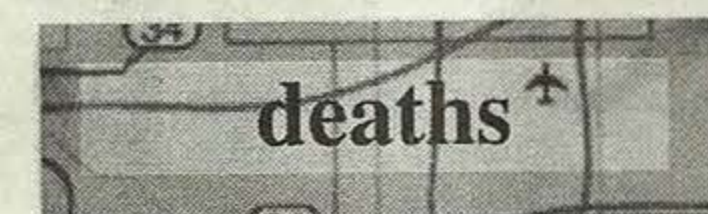
JAMES MORGAN, right, was honored recently by **Sidonia Baptist Church, Sharon**, on the 45th anniversary of ministry. The recognition occurred on the church's Worker's Appreciation Day. Morgan stands with **Barry Capps**, pastor of the church, whom Morgan led as pastor.



BRYANT MILLSAPS, new executive director, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, based in Brentwood, recently met with TBCH consultants. From left are **Herbert Higdon**, West Tennessee; **Burl McMillan**, southeast Tennessee; **Clarence Stewart**, Middle Tennessee; **Millsaps**; **Greer Ruble**, northeast Tennessee; **Johnnie Hall**, statewide for senior adults; and **John Rush**, TBCH vice president for development.

■ Lakeview Baptist Church, Selmer, has called **Dave Tribble**, a staff member of a church in Greenville, Miss., as minister of music. He is a graduate of Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ Westside Baptist Church, Halls, called **Tim Buffaloe** as minister of youth and children, effective Jan. 1.



■ **Mary Jo Shelton Geiger**, 61, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Chile, died Jan. 5 in Cordova. She and her husband, J. William Geiger Jr. of Cordova, served in Chile from 1966-93. She had several roles in Chile, including religious education promotion. Geiger, a native of Memphis, was a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas. She is survived by her husband; her mother, E. Louise Shelton of Memphis; four children; and four grandchildren.

■ **Paul Keener**, 80, retired director of missions, Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association, based in Whitwell, died Dec. 20. He served the association from 1971-84. Keener also conducted missions work in Indiana and Kentucky and was pastor, First Baptist Church, Whitwell, 1967-71. He was a member of Grace Baptist Church, Whitwell. He is survived by his wife, Dora, of Whitwell; six children; 20 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.



■ **First Baptist Church, Smithville**, held revival Jan. 9-12 which resulted in many people making initial spiritual decisions and other decisions

concerning apathy toward evangelism and callousness toward sin. Scott Carter, youth pastor, First Baptist Church, Sevierville, spoke and Roan Crain, youth pastor, the Smithville church, led the music.

■ **New Mitchell Grove Baptist Church, Halls**, sent Joe Trybone, pastor, to the Philippines during January with an evangelism/construction team.

■ The Women's Ministry of **Lakeview Baptist Church, Selmer**, will host **Johnnie Haines** speaking on "Secrets of a Hallelujah Heart" Feb. 4-5. Tickets are \$10 per person and includes meals. For more information, call the church at (901) 645-9777.

■ **Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will host recording artists **The Bishops** Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 444-5923.

■ **Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson**, will host **David Ring**, evangelist based in Franklin, Jan. 23 at 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. For more information, call (901) 668-1094.

■ **Tennessee Right to Life**, Knoxville Chapter, will host a **March for Life** Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. beginning at Tyson Park near the University of Tennessee campus. It will conclude at **Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville**. For more information, call the or-



LILLIE WALTERS was recognized recently by **Faith Baptist Church, Loretto**, on her 100th birthday. She was given several gifts by the church for being the oldest member. Walters, who attends church weekly, is known as Aunt Lillie and Granny by church members.

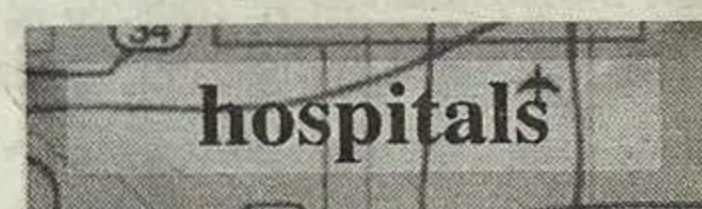


ganization at (423) 689-1339.

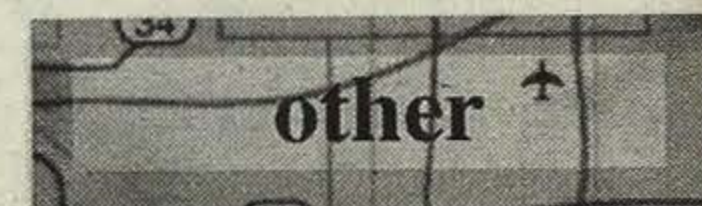
■ The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary East Tennessee Extension Center at **Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville**, will begin classes Jan. 31. It will offer on Mondays **Christian History, Part 1; Christian History, Part 2; and Family Ministry Education**. For more information, contact Dean Denton at (423) 983-5114.

■ The youth of **White's Creek Baptist Church, Rockwood**, will host a pancake breakfast Jan. 30 for the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions**.

■ **Birds Creek Baptist Church, Paris**, held a revival recently. As a result, 25 people made professions of faith or requested baptism and about 75 people made other spiritual decisions. The speaker was **Henry Linginfelter**, evangelist of Alcoa, and musician was **Carolyn Reed**, evangelist of Nashville.



■ **Baptist Hospital, Nashville**, has added Prudential health maintenance organization to its panel of participating health plans. The agreement will allow 70,000 members of the HMO to receive care at the hospital. For more information, call (615) 284-6062.



■ The **Odyssey Network** on cable TV will present two movies during the first quarter of 2000. "Mary, Mother of Jesus," and "Sarah, Plain and Tall," will be broadcast. Odyssey is partly owned by the National Interfaith Cable Coalition.





The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' four partnerships — Canada, Michigan, Rio de Janeiro, and Portugal including work in Tennessee

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

Phone — (615) 371-7935; FAX — (615) 371-2014; Internet — www.tnbaptist.org/services/missions/missopp.htm

From your missionary

Tennessee Baptists On Mission

This special issue of the "Macedonian Call" is designed to help you be on mission. Today as never before there are enormous opportunities for volunteer mission service.

You have heard of Partnership Missions, Disaster Relief, World Changers, Enterprisers, Innovators, Activators, Journeymen, US/C-2ers, International Service Corps, Students, Tentmakers, and many more.

I trust this special edition will serve as a valuable missions resource for years to come.

In Christ,

Leary



SHARP

IMB president considers 'loving the lost'

By Jerry Rankin, president, International Mission Board For The Macedonian Call

God is at work in unprecedented ways to win and disciple the nations and complete the unfinished task of the Great Commission. Nations and people groups previously unreached are being penetrated with the Gospel. The spiritual darkness is being dispelled.

As our witness extends to the ends of the earth, churches are planted with a passion that results in church-planting movements. But it begins with love for those who are lost.

The cry of the people — who don't yet know that God has provided a Savior — is that of the disciples on the storm-tossed sea, "Carest thou not that we perish?" Do we care that 1.7 billion people haven't yet heard the Gospel? Do we care that multitudes, locked in bondage to hopeless religious traditions, are bound for hell?

Before Jesus commanded us to "go," he commanded us to love the Lord our God and our neighbor as ourselves. Then he explained that our "neighbor" isn't necessarily someone like us, but includes those who are ethnically different. We cannot truly profess to love God without loving others.

If we are to be faithful and obedient in reaching the nations, we must not be motivated by guilt or obligation, but by our love for the lost and desire for them to know our God, who alone is worthy of their praise and worship. As Paul said in II Corinthians 5:14 (NIV), "Christ's love compels us."

Loving the lost means a heart of sorrow for those who do not know Jesus. We must see them as God sees them — alienated from God, without hope, wandering as sheep without a shepherd. Our hearts should be as broken and grieved as

God's heart is for a lost world.

Loving the lost also means a life of sacrifice. John 3:16 (KJV) tells us that "God so loved the world, that he gave." Jesus said in John 15:13 (NASB), "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." Love means to devote yourself to the needs, the welfare, and the happiness of the beloved. If we love the lost, we will give ourselves to them.

The opposite of love is to live for yourself. All peoples of the world could hear the Gospel if more of us were willing to give our lives in sacrificial service rather than hold onto our own plans and desires. If more Christians sacrifice time to pray for the nations and give sacrificially of their accumulated wealth, the Great Commission can be fulfilled. God gave his only Son as a sacrifice. What are we willing to give?

Finally, loving the lost becomes a means of salvation for the multitudes. When we are motivated by a broken heart for the lost and are willing to sacrifice our money and our lives to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we become the means through which the lost can find salvation in Jesus Christ.

However, the Great Commission was not restricted to those who respond to a special call to missionary service. The command of our Lord to go and make disciples of all nations was intended for all of God's people in every church and every



DECORATING a boy's face with paint in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is Shannah Shingleton of First Baptist Church, Smyrna. Shingleton and a creative arts ministry team served in Rio last year during a project which drew 337 Tennessee Baptists.

born-again believer.

In our efforts to promote giving and our annual missions offering it has often been said, "Not everyone can go, but everyone can give." However, that is not true. There are opportunities for practically anyone and everyone who is willing to participate in short-term volunteer projects overseas.

Working along side our missionaries in strategic volunteer projects, volunteers are able to interface with lost people of another culture to share their faith in Jesus Christ. They are able to provide ministries in massive numbers that go beyond what the missionary would have been able to do. Volunteers are also able to provide encouragement and support to struggling national churches and lonely missionary families.

What are the benefits of participating in a volunteer mission project overseas? It will be an eye-opening experience as you are personally exposed to the needs of a lost world. It will be a faith building experience as you see the marvelous way God is working to bring people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. It will be a life changing experience as you see God's Spirit use you in unexpected ways.

After his resurrection, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" When he said yes, Jesus responded, "Feed my sheep." Jesus is asking us, "Do you love me?" If we can say, "Yes," surely he is saying, "Then love the lost — feed them with the Gospel; be 'My witnesses' to the uttermost ends of the earth." ■

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With the formation of the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team of the Missions Involvement and Awareness Group, a listing of Tennessee volunteer opportunities is now available to you and your church.

Call our toll free phone number to receive a listing of exciting missions opportunities. Opportunities range in length from a weekend, a week, a summer, or longer.

Types of projects available are:

- Vacation Bible School



Tennessee Volunteer Opportunities

- Backyard Bible Clubs
- creative arts presentations
- resort ministries
- inner-city ministries
- rural ministries
- construction
- sports clinics
- food and clothing distribution

Projects exist for:

- Youth Groups
- Adults
- Senior Adults

- Individuals
- College

Need a Volunteer?

Contact Partnership/Volunteers Missions Team for a Volunteer Missions Project Request Form. Let us help you communicate with potential volunteers.

For a listing of Tennessee Volunteer Missions opportunities, call Kim Huff, Project specialist, or Heather Wilson, Partnership/Volunteer Missions ministry assistant. (See page 8 for phone numbers and e-mail addresses of TBC staff.) ■

The Macedonian Call

Acteens Activators/ Activators Abroad

Looking for a short term missions volunteer opportunity for the teenage girls in your church? Acteens Activators is just the program.

Acteens Activators is a volunteer program of missions involvement for Acteen girls and their sponsors. Through involvement, Activators have the opportunity to touch lives in the name of Christ through VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, inner city ministries, ethnic ministries, ministries to the elderly, personal witnessing, resort ministries, ministries to youth and children, and at camps.

Each year missionaries request Activator groups because of the training they receive. There is a minimum of 65 hours of required training. There is also a required training weekend, sponsored by the state WMU where teams meet other teams, fellowship, exchange ideas, and receive 15 hours of their training. The training includes: personal Bible study, personal witness training, project preparation, and cultural study. The Activator team is responsible for financing their own trip.

Acteens Activators is often the change agent as teenage girls decide to live a missions ministry lifestyle. They discover the world

around them and the needs in their own backyards.

Another volunteer program of missions involvement for older Acteens is Acteens Activators Abroad, sponsored by the state and national WMU in cooperation with the International Mission Board.

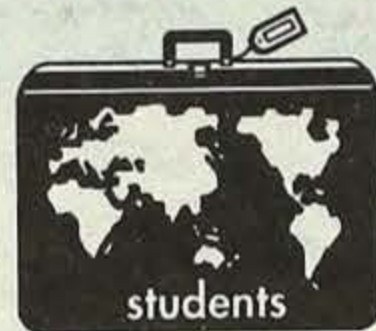
Activators Abroad must meet all the requirements of Acteens Activators plus be: at least 16 years old or have completed tenth grade; and able to serve at least two weeks. The team must include one adult and two Acteens who have had one year or more experience in the Activator program.

Requirements for Activators are:

- be an active Acteen
- be at least 15 years old or have completed the ninth grade

Activator applications are available from the state WMU office. Applications are due Jan. 31. This program is sponsored by state and national WMU with the cooperation of the North American Mission Board.

Please contact state WMU ministry specialist Amanda Day for applications. ■



Collegiate Summer Missionaries

Collegiate summer missionaries are students who have completed their freshman year in college and are available to serve in the summer for up to 10 weeks. Opportunities are available nationally and internationally for college students.

International (Options)

➤ BSU

Students who serve through their state collegiate missions program normally receive some or full financial support. Students serving internationally provide \$1,000 toward expenses. The balance of travel, shots, passport, visa, insurance, and in-country expenses are provided. For an application or available positions, contact your local BSU minister or Tim Bearden, Interim Collegiate Missions specialist, or Bernie Baker, Collegiate Missions ministry assistant.

➤ IMB/Partnership Missions

Students applying directly to IMB/Partnership Missions are responsible for the bulk of their expenses. Students provide their own travel funds and insurance. In some instances, the student is responsible for part of the expenses on the field.

For more information and a list of available positions, contact Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer

Missions Team leader, or Kim Huff, Project specialist.

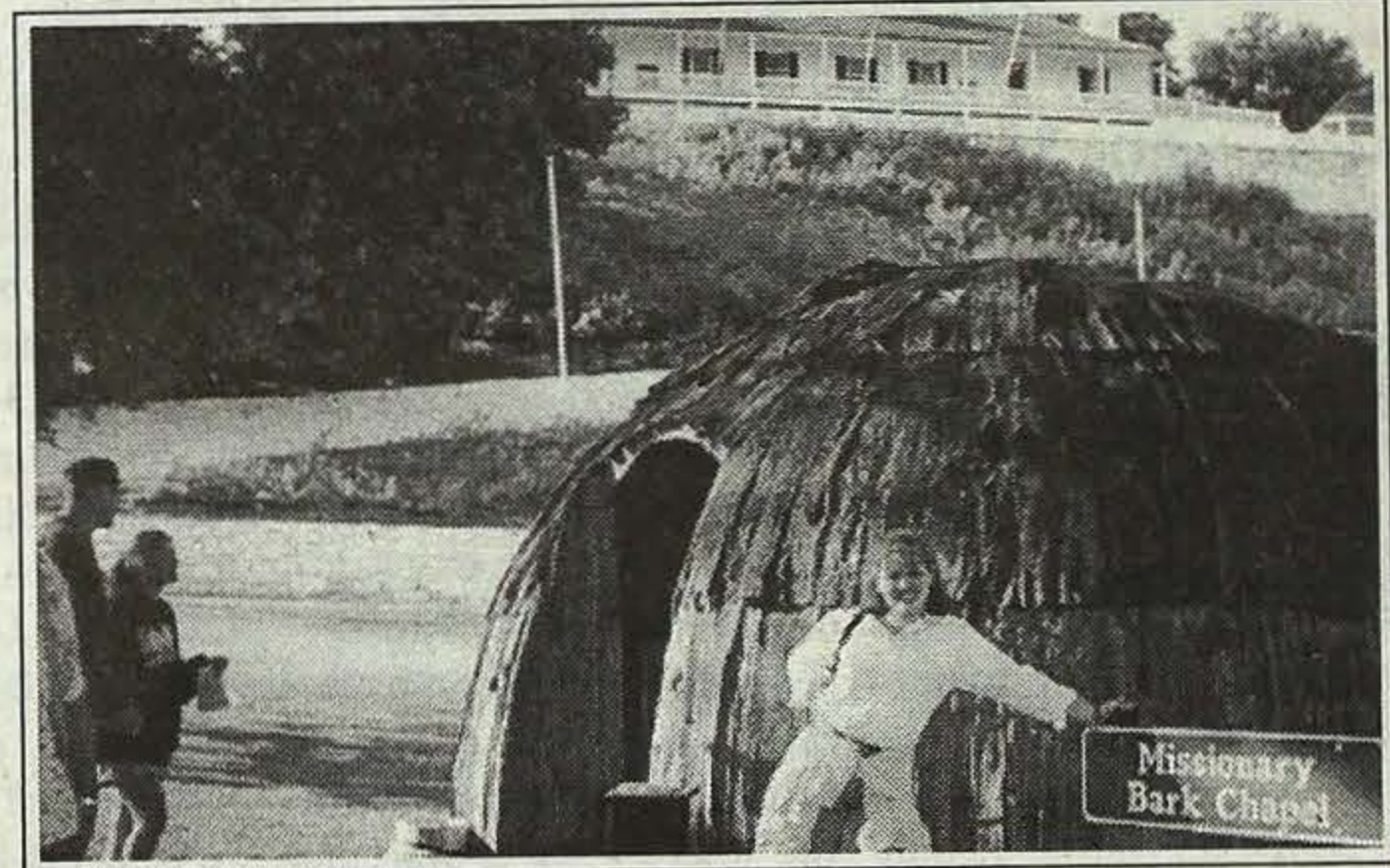
National (Options)

➤ BSU/NAMB

Students, who serve through their state collegiate missions program or NAMB, receive travel funds, a stipend, and insurance for each student. A stipend is provided by the Collegiate Mission fund, raised by BSUs, for positions of four weeks or longer. The local field to which a student is assigned is responsible for housing, meals, and local transportation while the student is serving.



For an application or additional information, contact Tim Bearden, Interim Collegiate Missions specialist, or Bernie Baker, Collegiate Missions ministry assistant.



HEATHER Sue Payne, a student at the University of Tennessee, Martin, sightsees last year in Michigan during her service there.

➤ Partnership

Students who serve in a partnership project will have travel funds, insurance, housing, meals, and local transportation provided by NAMB while the student is serving.

For additional information and list of available projects, contact Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader, or Kim Huff, Project specialist. ■

Collegiate Semester Missionaries

Students usually serve 15-20 weeks in the fall or winter/spring term. Students may extend for additional terms if requested by the local supervisor and approved by NAMB.

Semester missionaries assist local churches, campus ministries, area ministries, and North American missionaries. Their work involves helping in community ministries, ministering to teenagers, campus ministry, or assisting churches in outreach programs.

Requirements are:

- have completed sophomore year in college
- round trip transportation from home or school to the field is provided along with room and board, insurance, and stipend.
- actively involved in a Baptist church

➤ deadline Nov. 1 and July 1
For additional information or to apply, contact Tim Bearden, Interim Collegiate Missions specialist, or Bernie Baker, Collegiate Missions ministry assistant, or find a complete listing of needs for 2000 on the Internet at www.studentz.com. ■



Sojourners

High school students serve as Sojourners — summer missions volunteers in the United States and Canada. A Sojourner serves four to 10 weeks during the summer. They work in pairs, on teams with other Sojourners, or with college-age student summer missionaries.

They serve primarily in inner-city Baptist Centers, outreach programs, new church work settings, and resort areas. Sojourners serve under the supervision of missionaries or pastors who assign responsibilities and give directions.

Sojourners must be actively involved in a Southern Baptist church, display a genuine commitment to Jesus Christ expressed in a desire to work hard and pursue spiritual growth.

Qualifications are:

- junior or senior year of high school completed
- Christian maturity and unquestionable character



- an interest in missions
- good health
- parental approval and support
- single

Expenses are:

- housing, meals, and trans-

portation on the field are provided by the place of service

- transportation to and from the assignment location is provided by NAMB
- Sojourners serve without pay. The application deadline is March 10.
- NAMB provides limited insurance coverage, but it assumes no other financial obligations.

For more information or an application, contact Kim Huff, Project specialist, or find a complete listing of needs for 2000 on the Internet at www.studentz.com. ■

Contacting TBC Staff

- Tim Bearden, (615) 371-2026, tbearden@tnbaptist.org
 - Terry Sharp, (615) 371-7927, tsharp@tnbaptist.org
 - Kim Huff, (615) 371-2021, khuff@tnbaptist.org
 - Marcia Knox, (615) 371-2089, mknnox@tnbaptist.org
 - Heather Wilson, (615) 371-2061, hwilson@tnbaptist.org
 - Vicki Pearson, (615) 371-7935, vpearson@tnbaptist.org
 - Bernie Baker, (615) 371-7925, bbaker@tnbaptist.org
 - Amanda Day, (615) 371-7919, aday@tnbaptist.org
 - Becky Sumrall, (615) 371-7920, bsumrall@tnbaptist.org
- Outside the toll-free calling area, call 1-800-558-2090. ■

Innovators

Innovators are college students who participate in short-term missions service while working in secular jobs to support themselves. Innovators open many opportunities for witness with the secular world.

Resort areas are the prime targets. Year-round work is possible as are other short-term assignments during the school year.

Expenses are:

- students are responsible for

their transportation to and from their places of service and for local room and board.

➤ the local supervisor assists in providing or locating employment and low-cost housing.

➤ NAMB provides limited health and accident insurance coverage.



Requirements are:

- schedules usually include 40 hours on the secular job and 8-10 hours of supervised ministry on the missions field
- one completed year of college
- deadline to apply is March 10

For an application or additional information, contact Kim Huff, Project specialist. Or find a complete listing of needs for 2000 on the Internet at www.studentz.com. ■

The Macedonian Call

Missions Projects

Opportunities exist as never before for Tennessee Baptists to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost world. These opportunities are available for age groups spanning youth to retired people.

Through Partnership Missions, Tennessee has partnered for three years with Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Canada, Nicaragua, Portugal, and Michigan. Volunteers can serve from a few days up to four months.

Partnership Missions offers hands-on missions experiences in a prepackaged approach where all the logistics of travel, lodging, meals, construction, and other ministry related items are provided. We work in partnership with our missionaries and national leadership in providing strategic projects.

Partnership Volunteer opportunities include:

- ▶ evangelism
- ▶ church planting
- ▶ construction
- ▶ medical
- ▶ music
- ▶ social ministries
- ▶ church development
- ▶ Vacation Bible Schools
- ▶ Backyard Bible Clubs
- ▶ creative ministries (drama, puppets, mime, clowning)
- ▶ sports evangelism (basketball, volleyball, soccer)

These opportunities represent only a few of the many options.

Partnership Volunteers requirements are:

- ▶ personal commitment to Jesus Christ
- ▶ a willingness to work
- ▶ readiness to witness to faith in Christ
- ▶ flexibility
- ▶ active membership and participation in a Southern Baptist church
- ▶ 15 years of age and older
- ▶ good health

For a list of available projects contact Kim Huff, Project specialist, or Heather Wilson, Partner-

ship/Volunteer Missions ministry assistant.

Customized Projects

Did you know that we could assist you with a customized project? If we do not have projects that fit your interests, age group, or available dates, then allow us to work with the missionaries and nationals to customize a project that is right for you. We can help you even if you feel led to go to a country that is not one of our partnership countries.

To customize projects contact Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader, or Vicki Pearson, Partnership/Volunteer Missions ministry assistant.

Training

International Missions Training Institute — Each month 12 hours of intensive training is offered to volunteers serving on international mission trips. A joint effort for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the International Mission Board, institute topics include Cross Cultural Communication, Culture Shock, Engaging Other Religions, and other pertinent information.

Partnership Orientation

— Monthly orientation is offered to volunteers going to one of our partnership countries. This orientation includes Country Information, Travel Information, Customs of the Land, Working through an Interpreter, Insurance, the Religious Climate, and Witnessing to name a few.

Supervision Workshop 1, 2

— Each February, special training is offered to individuals who supervise missionary staff. Workshop topics include: The Ministry of Supervision, Models of Supervision, Covenants, Styles of Supervision, and Accountability.

Resources

Our team wants your mission trip to be a successful one. Let us help you find language materials such as the film, "Jesus," Bibles, and tracts to assist you in your ministry. In addition to the language materials, we can also provide you with information on any country in the world where you may be planning to serve.

For training and resources, contact Terry Sharp or Vicki Pearson. ■

World Changers is a coeducational mission program of missions education and missions involvement. World Changers is a ministry of the North American Mission Board.

World Changers offer hands-on missions experiences in a prepackaged approach where all the logistics of lodging, meals, construction, ministry, and worship are provided. World Changers partners with community agencies, associations of churches, state conventions, ministry centers, and local churches to meet needs in a community.

World Changers 2000: Go Beyond

Since 1990, the World Changers program has been committed to offering quality missions experiences to individuals and groups. A program that began with high school students and now after 10 years of ministry, the vision has grown to include mission opportunities for students and adults of all ages. World Changers seeks to provide Christian students and adults with opportunities to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others through practical learning experiences that teach servanthood and personal commitment to missions.

World Changers Construction Projects

Upon arrival students will be placed on work crews with others from all over the country. Daily crew chiefs with construction experience lead the crews in painting, roofing, and making repairs to the homes of residents in need. Evenings students will be inspired and challenged during worship celebrations, designed especially for them. All participants must be active members of a local Christian church or campus ministry. In order to prepare for their experience, participants must also complete a seven-session pre-project study based on the theme, "Go Beyond," and a local work project.

Senior High: Students who have completed grades 9-12. Cost: \$235 per participant

Junior High: Students who have completed grades 6-8. * Cost: \$195 per participant

Collegiate: Students who have graduated high school. Each senior high project will also have a "college track." Cost: \$150 per participant

All Youth: Students who have completed grades 6-12. * Work crews are separated for middle and high school. Cost: \$235 per participant

International: Students who have completed grades 9-12. Costs vary depending upon project and airfare is not included.

World Changers Community Projects

These projects are designed to expose participants to an exciting blend of community ministries and construction opportunities as they reach out in love to a city. This multifaceted approach will show students the wide variety of ways they can be used in mission service and educate them about the many critical needs in their own community.

Community Project teams are student-led. Adult



MEMBERS of a World Changers team repairs a house in the Hadley Park area of Nashville last year.

participants work alongside the students providing support and encouragement. Ministry projects may include construction, organizing food and clothing closets, children's clubs, senior adult ministries, street evangelism, sports camps, and more. Participants must meet the same requirements as construction project workers.

All Youth: Students who have completed grades 6-12. * Cost: \$235 per participant

* Group leaders are strongly encouraged to only bring sixth grade students who have already been a part of their youth ministry. World Changers should not be the first trip in which a sixth grader participates.

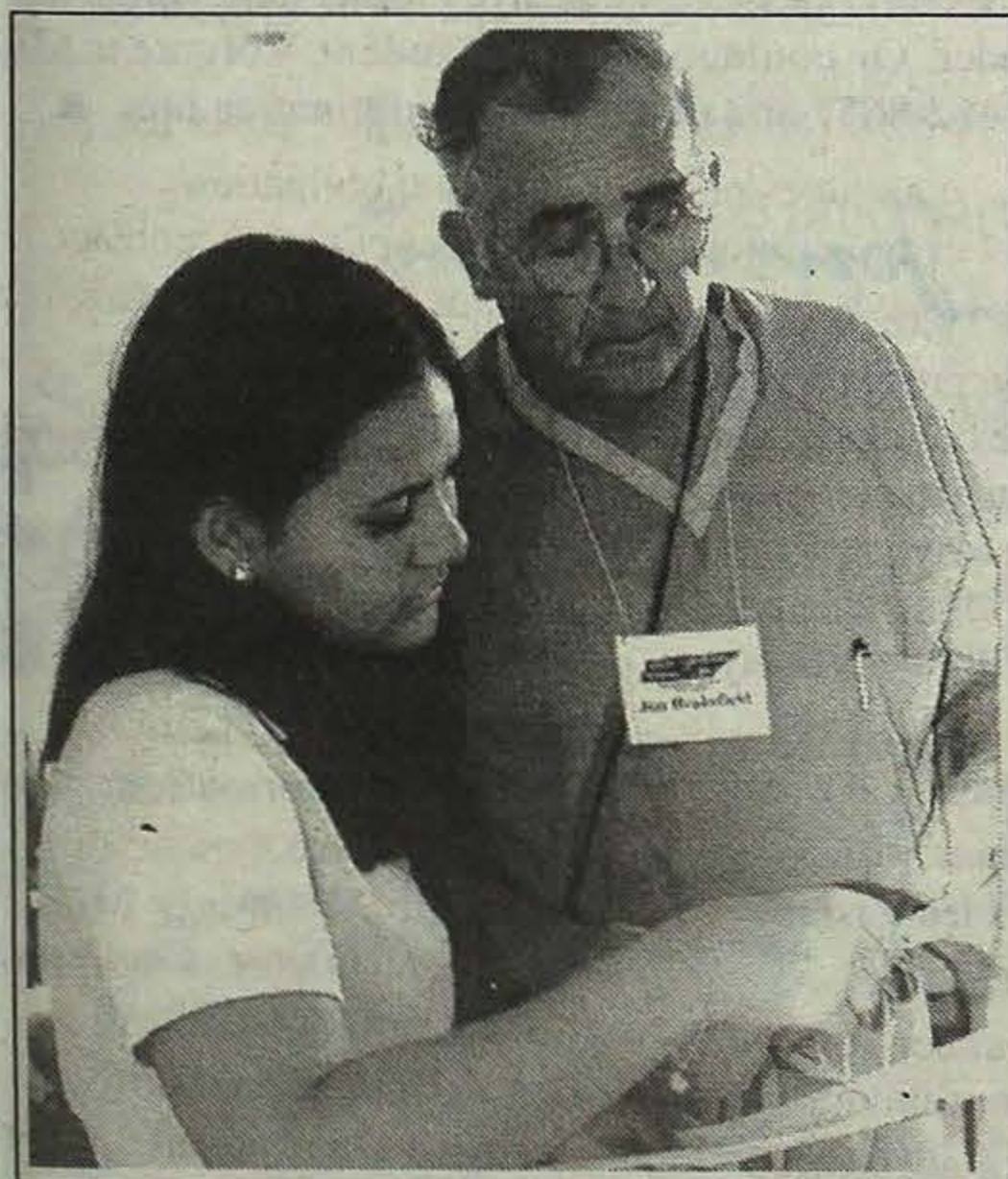
Requirements for Junior High, Senior High, Collegiate, Youth, International World Changers are:

- ▶ Christian youth
- ▶ youth groups must be accompanied by a counselor of the same sex for every 1-5 participants
- ▶ each project has different requirements depending on the World Changers events

Projects exist for:

- ▶ Young Adults
- ▶ Single Adults
- ▶ Senior Adults
- ▶ College Students

For more information regarding project locations or for a brochure and application, contact Kim Huff, Project specialist, or on the Internet at www.studentz.com. ■



RETIRED physician Jim Brakefield of Nashville works with an interpreter in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during his service there last year.

Student Mission Groups



Projects are available year round to groups of all ages from junior high through college. The length of projects can be one week or as short as a weekend. State, national, and international projects are available.

Work assignments may include Backyard Bible Clubs, VBS, construction, sports evangelism, etc. Assignments are available in resort, inner city, new church work, and construction work.

Contact Kim Huff, Project specialist, for information. ■

Families on Mission

Consider taking your family on a missions trip or get with another family or two to do a project. Most projects can be done by a family or a group of families.

Let us help you plan a family missions trip. Contact Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions team leader. ■



The Macedonian Call

Disaster Relief

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is Christian love in action, and meeting urgent needs of hurting humanity in crisis situations. Volunteers respond to disasters in a variety of ways. Disaster services involve providing personnel, equipment, and supplies.

A few ways volunteers can be involved:

- advisory/advocacy
- airlift kitchens
- chainsaw crew
- childcare
- clean-up team (mudouts or debris pickup)

- counseling/pastoral care
- elder care
- emergency medical
- evacuating
- feeding
- reconstruction

Requirements are:

- contact state Disaster Relief director
- complete necessary training (Tennessee offers ongoing training)
- be ready to serve
- Southern Baptists, male or female

For more information and future training dates contact Tim Bearden, State Disaster Relief director. ■



STATE Disaster Relief workers serve food to disaster victims. They can serve 50,000 hot meals per day from the state unit and helped hurricane and tornado victims last year.

Mission Service Corps



Missions Service Corps (MSC) enlists adult volunteers who will

provide their own expenses and serve full-time (20 hours per week) for four months or longer in home missions and evangelism areas.

MSC volunteers serve as:

- church staff

- apartment ministers
- student directors
- literacy missionaries
- camp cooks
- chaplains
- church and community ministry coordinators
- teachers
- church starters
- church construction workers
- resort workers

These opportunities represent only a few of the many categories of service.

What Are Tentmakers?

Tentmakers are MSC volunteers who fund their ministry often through employment. Tentmakers have an impact on a community not only through their ministry, but also through their jobs.

To obtain an MSC application or for additional information, contact Tim Bearden, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group director. ■



International Service Corps

Persons serving in International Service Corps (ISC) spend from four months to two years on the international missions field meeting priority needs in support of Southern Baptist missionaries.

ISC volunteers fill requests for teachers, youth workers, health care professionals, secretaries, and other critical assignments.

Requirements are:

- have a sense of God's leadership
- have education, skills and/or experience to match the job request
- be at least 21 years old
- be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- be an active member of a Southern Baptist Convention church for at least two years

International Mission Board funds are available on an as-needed basis up to full support.

You may choose to provide part or all of your support.

Contact Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader. Or contact the International Mission Board at 1-800-789-4693, or the Internet address at isc@imb.org. ■



US/C-2ers

US/C-2 missionaries serve nationally through the North American Mission Board for two years in one of the following areas: Church and Community Ministries, Church Planting, Student Ministries, Resort and Innovative Ministries, Evangelism and Internationals/Seafarers.

Qualifications are:

- four-year degree from an accredited college or university
- age 30 or younger at time of application
- active membership in a Southern Baptist church for at least two years prior to application

- conversion experience
- good physical, mental health
- interest in missions service

Benefits are:

- travel expenses to and from the place of service
- food, housing, and utilities allowance, based on local costs
- operating expenses including local transportation usually are covered by local groups
- miscellaneous funds for additional expenses
- life and medical insurance
- severance pay at the end of two years service
- a scholarship for seminary or graduate school after two years of service

For more information contact Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader. Or contact NAMB, Student Volunteer Mobilization, 1-800-462-8657 or namb.net/usc2/information.htm. ■



Enterprisers/Enterprisers Abroad

Enterprisers and Enterprisers Abroad, sponsored by the state and national WMU office in cooperation with the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board,

provide women an opportunity to be involved in home and foreign missions volunteer ministries.



A STATE Enterpriser Team served last year in Portland, Oregon, where they built a house for a needy family. Team members were, from left, John Palmer, Leigh Anne Dobbins, Christy Ikner, Juanita Hall, Kathleen Crawford, Clair Sumrall, Abbie Sumrall, Glenda Palmer, Colise Johnson, Marty Maddux, and Becky Sumrall.

The Enterprisers team participates in 50 hours of training. This training includes team building, witness training, spiritual development, cross-cultural training, ministry training, and Baptist doctrine. A plan for training is available from the state WMU office.

There are opportunities to participate in international and home projects.

Contact the state WMU office for more information about these projects. Contact WMU specialist Becky Sumrall for applications and training plans. ■



News, Reports, Photos Solicited

Submit Partnership/Volunteer Mission stories, photos, and reports to Marcia Knox, MAI

Communications Assistant. ■

Journeyman

The Journeyman program is available for single college graduates, who are willing to commit to two years of service overseas. Journeyman serve along side career missionaries filling a variety of assignments.

Applicants must be:

- growing Christians with a sense of God's leadership
- single
- at least 21, but under 30 prior to Journeyman training
- graduates of an accredited four-year college or university

- active members of a Southern Baptist church.

For more information, contact Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader. For applications, contact International Mission Board at 1-800-999-3113 or use the Internet address at journeyman@imb.org. ■



Contacting TBC Staff

For phone numbers and e-mail addresses, see page 8. ■

In overseas service

LifeWay missionaries find challenges, rewards

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — After 11 months on the mission field, the four church development missionaries sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention are in agreement on a key issue.

If they had to make the decision again about whether to leave their homes and positions in the U.S. to live and work in other countries, the answer would be an enthusiastic yes.

The four LifeWay employees left in January 1999 to pilot a new partnership with the International Mission Board where they work alongside IMB missionaries to provide help in witness training, discipleship, and other areas. Steve Cretin lives in Singapore and serves the Southeast Asia and Oceania region; Neal Cordle lives in Wiesbaden, Germany, and serves Central and Eastern Europe; Michael Woolridge lives in Nairobi, Kenya, and serves Eastern Africa; and Ernie McAninch lives in Quito, Ecuador, and serves Western South America.

Cretin was a member of First Baptist Church, Franklin; Cor-



CRETIN



CORDLE



MC ANINCH



WOOLRIDGE

dle and McAninch were members of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory; and Woolridge was a member of Miracle Baptist Church, LaVergne.

They returned to LifeWay in December for a time of evaluation of the project.

Cretin, who had made one trip to Singapore prior to his move, said he and his wife, Ann, "hit the ground running."

During the year, he has led 20 conferences, preached in about 15 churches, met with numerous book distributors, and spoken at three national conventions. He has visited seven of the 11 countries in the region.

Cretin, former director of LifeWay's FAITH Sunday School ministry department, has introduced the FAITH Sunday School evangelism strategy and "Share Jesus Without Fear," along with other concepts and resources.

In terms of lifestyle adjust-

ment, Cretin said Singapore "is more western than eastern." While English is the official language, the Cretins took a three-month course in Mandarin Chinese.

"We had a phenomenal year, personally and spiritually," Cretin said.

Woolridge, his wife, Evelyn, their five daughters, and mother-in-law have found an enthusiastic reception in Kenya. They have had to adjust to periods without electricity and phones. In addition to a warm welcome, they have been greeted with some curiosity.

"They had never seen a black missionary," he laughed. Woolridge is a native of Bermuda; Evelyn is from England. He said Kenyans regularly approach them speaking Swahili, assuming they are Africans. "I'm brown rather than black so they know I'm a little bit foreign."

He took a two-month crash course in Swahili, "for survival. It helped me to be able to communicate in everyday life. I'm able to understand more than I speak." His goal by the end of 2000 is to be able to lead conferences without an interpreter.

A major event for the year was witness training in three cities in eastern Kenya. Five LifeWay employees joined Woolridge for the event. He also assisted when 86 LifeWay employees traveled in October to the Lake Victoria region of Kenya for four weeks of witnessing.

Thousands of Kenyans have been led to Christ in recent years, so follow-up in starting churches and discipling new Christians is a critical issue. Woolridge also is working with churches on stewardship education.

For Cordle, living in Germany and ministering in eastern Europe is "like living in Tennessee and working west of the Mississippi."

He described 1999 as "exhausting, overwhelming, and very rewarding. Building relationships to establish the basis of our ministry has been the focus of this year's work."

With a region that includes

28 countries, 20 of which have missionaries, Cordle has visited 10 countries to talk with mission strategists and national leaders to learn about needs and how he can be of help.

Cordle, his wife Joan, and their two children have settled into Wiesbaden where, to their surprise, there is a large American community.

While Ernie and Lee Ann McAninch had learned Spanish while serving as missionaries to El Salvador before joining LifeWay, that didn't mean language was not a challenge when they returned to Latin America.

"It took prayer and practice for the language to come back to us," he said, adding that different nuances of Spanish in each country add to the learning curve.

The McAninches conducted 22 conferences in five countries during the year, partnering with distributors in providing LifeWay resources in Spanish, but the focus has been on meeting people and identifying needs. ■



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- ◆ Discover the inner strengths and abilities of your church to accomplish ministry.
- ◆ Help understand/accept the change and transition process in becoming equipped for accomplishing the work of the Great Commission.
- ◆ Plan the future ambitions or strategies of your church according to first century Biblical strategies.

Awareness Conference Schedule

10 a.m. - 12 noon every meeting

March 13 — Holiday Inn, Johnson City, Tenn.

March 14 — Cappuccino's, Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn.

March 16 — Ooletwah Baptist Church, Ooletwah, Tenn.

March 20 — Baptist Center, Brentwood, Tenn.

March 21 — Madison-Chester Baptist Association Office

Lunch is provided, no registration is needed.

For more information contact Jerry L. Chapman, LeaderFocus, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7932.



World Baptists say 'yes' to 21st century challenges

By Robert O'Brien
For Baptist Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — World Baptist delegates from all continents looked at a multitude of problems facing them in a new millennium — and nevertheless said, "Yes."

"Yes" was more than just part of the theme — "Jesus Christ Forever. Yes!" — of the 18th Baptist World Congress, Jan. 5-9 here.

It represented an overwhelming response by delegates to calls from world Baptist leaders to reach out in evangelism, heal racism and ethnic conflict, engage the power of prayer, minister to the hungry and poor, promote social justice, and encourage downcast, strife-torn people.

"The Gospel of Jesus is an invitation" both to salvation and to a moral vision to minister to the needs of suffering people, H. Beecher Hicks Jr. of Washington, D.C., told some 7,000 participants in the opening night's keynote address.

"We are not here for a theological tea party... Say 'yes' to the invitation," he charged, concluding with a litany of "yeses" in more than a dozen languages.

More than 6,100 registered delegates proceeded to say yes to BWA plans for renewed efforts in evangelism, racial and social justice, and long-range vision for 21st-century ministry. The total registered was down from the 8,000-plus congress delegates in 1995 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Delegates also elected South Korean Billy Kim to a five-year term as 19th president of the Baptist World Alliance. Kim, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Suwon, South Korea, will succeed Brazilian pastor Nilson do Amaral Fanini in July at a meeting of the BWA General Council in Cuba.

In other elections, Audrey Morikawa of Canada succeeded Mercy Jeyarajao of India as president of the BWA Women's Department, while Samson Ola Olaniyan of Nigeria succeeded Angel Baez of Paraguay as Men's Department president.

World Baptists also honored a Burmese man, known simply as "Rev. Simon." He was a college professor who voluntarily became a refugee in 1985 to join his fellow Karen people as a minister and teacher after government forces

drove them into Thailand.

Rev. Simon received the second BWA Human Rights Award but could not attend personally. The governments of Burma (now called Myanmar) and Thailand refused him visas despite pleas by the first award winner, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz urged Baptists to take direct action over the next 10 years to confront challenges ranging from refugees to racism to evangelism to Christian unity. "The new century brings with it many problems, sorrows, and challenges," he said.

Lotz underscored support for a congress resolution calling for world Baptist bodies to make the first decade of the 21st century a "Decade for Racial Justice" to actively oppose "all forms of racism and ethnic conflict."

Congress participants also assented to resolutions for action on human rights and social justice, faith and hope for the new millennium, and Christian renewal, growth, evangelism, and mission.

Lotz called for a summit

among Baptist leaders over the next five years to "consider the challenge of evangelization in the new century" — especially among the newer churches of Africa and Asia and among 1.3 billion people living in unreached portions of the globe known as "World A" or the "10/40 Window."

Looking toward the 100th anniversary of the BWA, formed in 1905, Lotz urged a 21st Century Committee to "examine the achievements of the past, the present success, and the future possibilities" of the BWA, made up of 43 million baptized believers in 160,000 churches in 196 Baptist bodies.

Christians enter a new millennium divided, he said. "Division between Catholic, Orthodox, ecumenical, and evangelical Christians is in some cases worse than at the beginning of the 20th century. Baptists must work for the unity of God's people."



Baptists of all stripes found unity in worship, fellowship, and colorful pageantry. The pageantry ranged from an opening parade of flags and an ancient spiritual dramatization by Australian aborigines to an International Festival of music, movement, food, and testimony initiated by Australian Baptists outside the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

Congress speakers and group leaders focused the multicultural Baptists on ways "to seek the mind of Christ" and minister in unity to spiritual and physical needs.

BWA sessions also addressed hunger, disease, and poverty as dramatic issues facing the 21st century. ■

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- How to develop a team-based approach to ministry in the church.
- How all Christians can serve together in mission.



Hal Burke

Choose a location and join us for a presentation by **Hal Burke, Consultant for Lay Mobilization**, Atlanta, Georgia

• Nashville •

Monday, February 7 - Noon to 1:30 p.m. - **Immanuel Baptist Church**, 222 Belle Meade Blvd., Nashville 37205 - Lunch - \$5.00

• Murfreesboro •

Monday, February 7 - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. - **Sanbyrn Hall Condominiums Activity Room**, 530 Sanbyrn Drive, Murfreesboro 37130 - Refreshments

• Cleveland •

Tuesday, February 8 - Noon to 1:30 p.m. - **Broad Street United Methodist Church**, 155 Central Avenue, Cleveland 37364 - Lunch - \$5.00

• Knoxville •

Tuesday, February 8 - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - **Central Baptist Church** - Bearden, 6300 Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville 37919 - Dinner - \$5.00

Reservations required for all meetings.

Reserve your place by calling the TCBF office by Wednesday, February 2 at 1-888-661-8223 or 615-907-8525.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a fellowship of Tennessee Baptist churches and individuals committed to fulfilling the Great Commission.

CLASSIFIED

HOUSEPARENTS: Missions-at-home job opportunity. The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in Chattanooga and Cleveland are seeking a Christian married couple (preferably Baptist) to serve as Relief Houseparents. Can have no more than two children living at home. High School diploma or GED required. Full or part-time employment. Contact Dr. Bob Segrest or Bill Dockery at (423) 892-2722.

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FBC, Snellville, GA

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TUESDAY
FBC Concord Choir

Wednesday, January 26



Dr. Johnny Hunt
FBC, Woodstock, GA

Sunday
thru
Thursday,
January
23-27

Special Guests Monday



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Services
nightly
at
7:00 pm
(Sunday - 10:45 am & 6:00 pm)

Tuesday, January 25



Dr. Fred Lowrey
FBC, Bossier City, LA

Special Music:
WEDNESDAY
Sevier Heights Choir

THURSDAY
FBC Sevierville Choir

Thursday, January 27



Dr. John Phillips
Moody Bible Institute

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Dr. Richard V. Holden, Pastor

Oak Ridge resident writes new Bible study

By Sammie Jo Barstow
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM — Responding to a growing number of requests for Bible study materials, national Woman's Missionary Union has published the first two books in a new Bible study series, "Timeless Bible Truths for the 21st Century Woman."

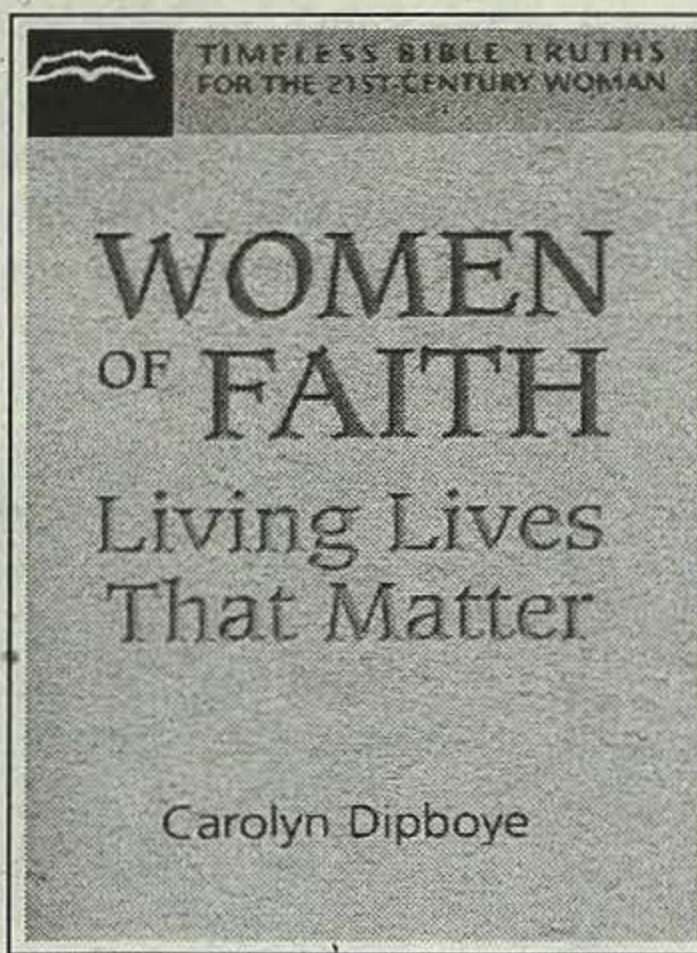
The first two titles are *Women of Faith: Living Lives That Matter*, by Carolyn Dipboye of Oak Ridge, and *Until Christ is Formed in You*, by Verna Darbo Stevens of Fort Worth, Texas. A third book will be released in the summer of 2000.

According to Jan Turrentine, WMU's managing editor for products, these books were pro-

duced in response to an expressed need for Bible studies written by women and for women. She said WMU recognizes that Bible study groups are growing not only in number but also in depth, and these books address those needs.

Women of Faith: Living Lives That Matter details the stories of several women of the Bible with a view to relating their examples to present-day women. According to writer Dipboye, contemporary women learn "how to be faithful in the time and circumstances in which we live" by studying women of the Bible.

Dipboye, whose husband, Larry, is pastor of First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, points out that the women studied are di-



verse: Deborah contrasts to Priscilla; Rahab to the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. Each woman, however, teaches a lesson in faithfulness, the focus of the book.

Dipboye believes that faith-

fulness "is about day-to-day learning and growing, being and doing. It is the journey inward into ongoing spiritual renewal and growth, but it is also the journey outward in Christian service." She expands these lessons of faith to teach contemporary women the value of faithfulness in today's world.

In writing *Until Christ is Formed in You*, Stevens hoped that studying Christian character traits "would inspire women to a newer and deeper understanding and appreciation of those qualities." She sees this study as a primer for Christian growth.

Virtues such as faith and wisdom, power and persistence, kindness and friendship, and mercy and forgiveness are addressed with contemporary anecdotes and applications.

Stevens recommends that groups study the characteristics in the order presented "because they build from self-worth to love like stair steps." After the initial study of the book, a woman could revisit the particular chapters that address a timely need in her life.

Turrentine said the books



may be used for individual study or by small groups, such as Bible study groups, Sunday School classes, or discussion forums. The format lends itself to group members studying one chapter per week and then participating in a discussion group with other students.

WMU is looking at possible topics for the future, but final plans will be based on the response to the first books, Turrentine added.

The Timeless Bible Truths series is available in LifeWay Christian Book Stores or through WMU's Customer Service, 1-800-968-7301. Each book costs \$8.99. ■

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Mark was surfing the net to learn more about rabbits...

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Pratt resigns DOM post for pastorate

For Baptist and Reflector

BROWNSVILLE — Charles Pratt, director of missions for Haywood Baptist Association for the past 13 years, has resigned, effective Feb. 29.

Pratt has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Kenton.

Pratt's wife, Linda, has served Haywood for the past 7 years as associational secretary. The Pratts have two grown children. ■



PRATT

CLASSIFIED

MUSIC/YOUTH PASTOR: Seeking full-time music/youth pastor. Send resume to First Baptist Church, ATTN.: Tammy Jackson, P.O. Box 10, Norphlet, AR 71759.

DOM: The Lake County Baptist Association is currently accepting resumes for a director of missions. Resumes may be mailed to 27 E. Pinehurst Blvd., Eustis, FL 32726.

MUSIC/YOUTH: Southside Baptist Church in Fulton, MO, is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, Southside Baptist Church, 501 Business Hwy. 54 S., Fulton, MO 65251.

MUSIC MINISTER: Interested candidates submit resume to Ivy Memorial Baptist Church, 425 East Trinity Lane, Nashville, TN 37207.



First BP director C.E. Bryant dies

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — C.E. Bryant, 82, the first director of Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service, died Jan. 7 here.

He had been hospitalized for 10 days with the flu and pneumonia.

Bryant, whose work in Baptist Press began in 1947, the year after it was founded, also was the first director of communications of the Baptist World Alliance, from 1957 until his retirement in 1982, and was a key chronicler of the BWA's history.

Bryant was described as a "trailblazer for modern-day Baptist journalists," by Bob Terry, editor of *The Alabama Baptist* newsjournal and executive secretary of the Association of State Baptist Papers. ■

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Three killed in van crash in New Mexico

TINNIE, N.M. — Three members of First Baptist Church of Alamogordo, N.M., were killed and 10 others injured following a Jan. 8 van crash that also took the life of the church's associate pastor.

Emmett Carson, 70, associate pastor of the church for 18 years, was among those killed when a tractor-trailer rig slammed into the church van as it was preparing to enter a cemetery for a funeral. Also killed were members Flo Otto and Vera Wagner.

A church spokesperson told Baptist Press the tragedy could not have come at a worse time. The church is without a pastor or youth pastor. "It's been very hard for us to deal with," the person said. ■

Starnes, Rosson join BP staff

NASHVILLE — Todd Starnes, a former minister to

students at First Baptist Church, Dayton, has been named a staff writer for Baptist Press, the official news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Starnes, 31, is a former assignment editor and producer at WTVC Newschannel 9 in Chattanooga. He also was a

member of a regional news team of the *Chattanooga Times* and was a staff writer at the *Fulton County (Ga.) Daily Report* and the *News-Observer* in Blue Ridge, Ga.

Starnes, who has earned several journalism awards, joined the BP staff Jan. 4 and will work under the direction

of Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news, and Art Toalston, BP editor.

In another staff move, Tammy Rosson has joined Baptist Press as office manager.

She is a graduate of Belmont University and attends Judson Baptist Church in Nashville. ■

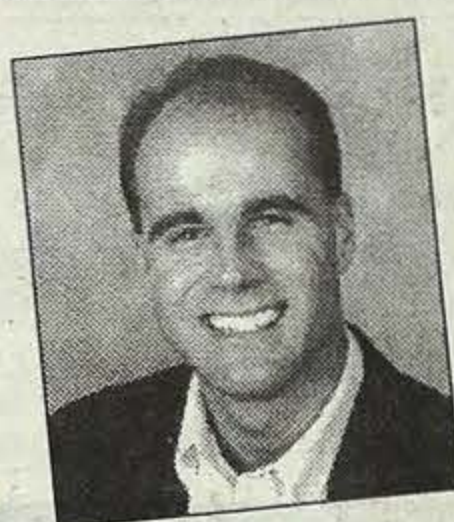
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Life and Work Lesson

Using your spiritual gifts

By Wayne Rowan

Focus Passages: *I Corinthians 12:1, 4-11; Romans 12:6-8*

Merri, our youngest daughter, was part of the Color Guard Unit while in High School. Her mother and I tried to attend every performance of the High School Marching Band. She was usually dressed in brightly colored costumes and performed in front of the band. As we watched from the grand stands, we could see the entire band. But, we kept a close eye on her and the Color Guard Unit of the band.

She was only one person in a band of over 100 members, yet her performance helped to make the band and field show complete. Christians could learn much from watching how a band works together to reach a desired goal.

We, too, as Christians and church members, are responsible for making our lives and our churches complete. Just as the band was graded in their performance by each members use of their special talents, so is the church and our lives linked together. We must all use our spiritual gifts in unison in order to complete the task before us.

Understanding the sources and purpose of the gifts (I Corinthians 12:1, 4-7). These verses give a word picture of the way the gifts are to function in the New Testament Church. Some may believe, as they did in Corinth, that some gifts hold a greater honor. This belief is dangerous. It is true that some gifts hold a greater responsibility, but all gifts are of the same importance in helping the church reach its goals. That goal is to be well pleasing to the Lord. Just as the High School Band had many members doing different things, they were all as important as the next when in action. We must use our spiritual gifts to the highest degree so the church and our communities can receive the greatest blessings.

Recognize and appreciate the diversity of the gifts (vv. 8-11). These verses reveal the variety of spiritual gifts. Each gift is specialized in nature and responsibility. They all are from the same spirit, so they will always compliment the other. Misuse of some gifts have caused great confusion in the church, and the Lord is not the author of confusion. Too many times people equate certain gifts with spiritual hierarchy. This is not the work of the Holy Spirit. As the church continues to grow and more people are gifted to the work, these special gifts will edify the body of Christ.

The use of your spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8). These verses tell us not only the diversity of our gifts, but also that they are to be used. Many Christians fail to use their gifts for fear of failure. If the Lord leads us and empowers us to use these gifts, we must obey him. We must work to identify each spiritual gift that we have been given and then use them for the glory of the Lord. Gifts are not for the lifting up of an individual, but for the edifying of the church. Just like one person in a marching band is not the whole performance, one member of the church is not the whole church.

However, just as one person in the band can cause the band not to perform well by their lack of proper use of the talent, so can the lack or misuse of spiritual gifts cause harm to the church and hold back blessings from the Lord. We must exercise the gifts within us for the glory of the Father and the edification of his church. — Rowan is pastor, Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Ripley.

Focus on Jesus' power

By Thomas James

Focal Passage: *Matthew 12:22-32, 38-40*

This week's passage deals with what's often referred to as the "unpardonable sin." We struggle with the very thought that there is one sin of which there is no forgiveness. I am often asked, "Preacher, exactly what is the unpardonable sin?" Many want to attribute it to a sin of the flesh such as murder. If so, then what shall we do with Moses and the Egyptian soldier? There is no doubt that God used him mightily after his sin. Is it the sin of violence against the church like what was witnessed in Fort Worth, Texas, recently? If so, then we have a problem with the fact that God used Saul of Tarsus, after many acts of violence against the church, to write a large section of the New Testament.

Family Bible Lesson

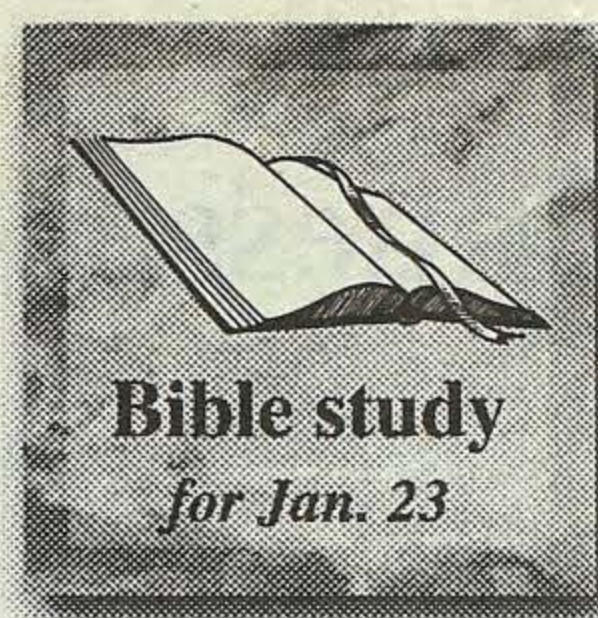
How then shall we define the "unpardonable sin?" Jesus in verse 31 calls it *blasphemy against the Holy Ghost*. The word blasphemy means to slander or insult. This word was normally associated with the spoken word but I believe Jesus applies it differently in this passage. In verse 23 the people begin to proclaim that Jesus must be the Messiah. They have witnessed his great power unleashed on the man demon possessed, blind, and dumb. The man was set free from possession and now able to see and speak. But in verse 24 the Pharisees attribute the work of the Lord to the devil. Notice that verse 25 begins *and Jesus knew their thoughts*. He is not concerned as much about what they say but the heart that they speak from. In verse 34 Jesus said, *for out of the abundance of the*

heart the mouth speaks. Jesus is saying here in the context of this passage, that this sin is a sin of the heart, not a sin committed with the lips.

Thus the "unpardonable sin" would be defined as the deliberate, willful, and repeated rejection of the witness of the Holy Spirit about Christ in one's life. In John 16:8 Jesus states it is the job of the Holy Spirit *to convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment*. As a life comes under conviction, as the Holy Spirit draws that person to salvation, the rejection of the Holy Spirit's conviction and drawing are thus the unpardonable sin. If we reject Jesus as Savior, there is no "Plan B." John 14:6 is clear that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

The unpardonable sin is first, **intentional**. It is not a sin one commits by accident but rather steadily over time. While the person may be unaware of the consequences, they know they are rejecting Christ. Secondly, this sin is **irresponsible**. Jesus proclaims in verses 25-29 that a house divided against itself will not stand. It is irresponsible to attribute the work of God to the devil. Since Satan is the author of sin, why would he then convict someone of sin? If the Holy Spirit convicts of sin it is irresponsible to reject him and attribute his work to the devil. Thirdly, this sin is **impractical**. The Gospel message is all about the love of God. We see the love of God in the healing of this demon-possessed man. We witness the love of God in Calvary's cross. To end one's life lost in sin is impractical as the love of God has paid the debt for all sin in full.

As you teach this lesson be sensitive that God may be desiring to show his power in changing a life and forgiving sin. This would be a great Sunday to share the plan of salvation and invite those in attendance to invite the Lord Jesus to come into their heart as Savior and Lord. — James is pastor of Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown.



Perfecting love

By Kevin Shrum

Focal Passage:
I John 4:1-21

Love and truth are the high-water marks of the mature Christian. In I John 4:1-21, the Apostle John outlines the various aspects of love. Let's be clear about the nature of love. Love is not pure emotion alone, yet it is accompanied by passion. Love is not something you "fall in and out of." Love is a decision I make to be sacrificially committed to another person. Yes, emotion comes with love, but it does not represent the totality of love. Secular, worldly love is characterized by pure emotion and feeling. This is why divorce rates are up and genuine commitment is down. What, then, is true, perfecting love?

Love begins by knowing Christ, (vv. 1-3). John was concerned that the believers in his day learn how to discern between godly things and ungodly things. This is why believers are to *test the spirits to see whether they are from God* (v. 1). The true believer is the person who believes *that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh* (v. 2). If a person denies the factors surrounding the incarnation they do not know God and, therefore, are not knowledgeable concerning God's love. Hence, true love is based in the person of Jesus Christ!

Love is rooted in an overcoming lifestyle (vv. 4-6). God's love in us through Jesus Christ overcomes the world because *the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in*

Explore the Bible Lesson

the world (v. 4). Those who overcome also listen to God's Word and are able to discern between *the spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood* (v. 6). Love not only relishes in the truth, but sustains love in its commitment to God. Love and truth are two sides of the same coin essential to the overcoming lifestyle.

Love makes the believer complete, mature (vv. 7-21). John mentions the word "complete" at least twice in these verses and implies it throughout the passage. The word for "complete" is "teleioo" and means to bring a thing to completion and to the intended goal of its purpose. In this sense, love is one indicator that a believer is reaching the goal for which God saved and redeemed him - to love God and man.

The source of love is God himself *for love comes from God* (vv. 7, 8). He is the fountain and source of true love. The example of God's love is Jesus Christ in that *he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him* (v. 9). The completeness that comes from love takes place in us *if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us* (v. 12).

Love is produced in us by the Spirit, as well. The Spirit of God not only produces in the life of the believer the

dimension of Christ-like love (v. 13 and Galatians 5:22), but the Spirit also empowers us to *testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world* (v. 14). If Jesus dwells in us by the power of the Spirit, then *we know and rely on the love God has for us* (v. 16).

Love also builds confidence and diminishes fear. First, love builds our confidence not in ourselves but in God because as the love of Christ indwells us *we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him* (v. 17). Because we have received the life-changing love of God in Jesus Christ we can stand before God on the day of judgment.

But love also diminishes fear. If we are confident in Christ then what do we have to fear? Fear and love are not good soul-mates because *love drives out fear* (v. 18). True love was initiated by God *because he first loved us* (v. 19). This kind of fearless love is free to love others. In fact, if a person does not love his brothers in Christ then the love of God does not dwell in him. Just as this passage states, *Whoever loves God must also love his brother* (v. 21).

Love is the missing ingredient in many churches these days. We have administrative expertise; we have programs; we have organization. But if love is absent we have nothing (I Corinthians 13). Let us love as Jesus Christ loved us and gave himself up for us *as an atoning sacrifice for our sins* (v. 10). — Shrum is pastor, Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

Tennesseans graduate from SBC seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

More than 30 students with Tennessee ties were among December graduates of Southern Baptist seminaries: New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas.

Photos and information on graduating students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Abbreviations of degrees are as follows: bachelor of arts (B.A.); doctor of education; doctor of ministry (D.M.); doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.); master of religious education (M.R.E.); master of divinity, (M.D.); master of arts in Christian education (M.A.C.E.); master of arts in communications (M.A.C.).

Others are master of arts in marriage and family counseling (M.A.M.F.C.); master of divinity with languages (M.D.L.); master of divinity with biblical languages (M.D.B.L.); master of divinity in missions (M.D.M.);



Rick Morton Jr.
Balmoral
Memphis
NOBTS
Ph.D.



Stanley A. Wafler
Ardmore
Memphis
NOBTS
Ph.D.



Michael N. Wetzel
Two Rivers
Nashville
NOBTS
D.M.



Glen Whatley
Smyrna
NOBTS
D.E.



Chris Brewer
Unity
Murfreesboro
SBTS
M.D.



Twyla K. Fagan
FBC
College Grove
SBTS
M.D.

master of church music (M.C.M.); master of music (M.M.); and master of divinity in Christian education (M.D.C.E.).

Photos were unavailable from the seminaries for the following graduates.

Southeastern Seminary — Charles Daniel Henderson, Loudon, bachelor of arts; Jason D. Groe, Murfreesboro, M.D.; Scott Allen Gleason, Estill Springs, M.D.; Matthew Scott Harding, Knoxville, M.D.; Gary M. McGhee Jr., Maryville, M.D.; and M. Shane Pierce, Cleveland, M.D.

Southern Seminary — John R. Farrar, Jackson, M.D.; Barry A. Purser, New Union Baptist Church, Dayton, M.D.; and Doug



G. Steven Holt
Pastor, FBC
Surgoinsville
SBTS
D.M.



Nathan Livingston
Southwestern
Johnson City
SBTS, D.M.



Tim Miles
Rome
Carthage
SBTS
M.D.



F. James Stillwell
Wallace Memorial
Knoxville
SBTS, D.M.



Allen Troxler Jr.
Church at
Hickory Hollow
Nashville
SBTS, M.D.

Williams, Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, M.D.

Southwestern Seminary — Michael Clark, First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, M.A.C.E.; Carey Dyer, Jackson, M.A.C.; David Freeland, Cross Plains, M.D.B.L.; Walter Norvell, Memphis, Ph.D.; Jennifer Reed-Martinez, First Baptist Church, Sevierville, M.A.C.E.; Jason Roberts, Waterville Baptist Church, Cleveland, M.D.; Charles Smith, Bellevue Baptist

Church, Cordova, Ph.D.; Thomas Tucker, Gearin's Chapel Baptist Church, Greenfield, D.M.; and Gregory Wisecarver, Morristown, M.A.C.E. The following students also listed Tennessee as their home state — Michel Boyer, M.D.; Darryl Hill, M.A.C.E.; Christy Marbury, M.A.C.E.; Lauri Nichols, M.A.C.E.; Don Phelps, D.M.; Chad Segraves, M.D. Leslie Anne Segraves, M.D.; and Gary Waters, M.A.M.F.C. ■



SBC, TBC entities benefit from will

For Baptist and Reflector

RICEVILLE — Three Baptist entities — an association, a TBC institution, and a SBC agency — reaped the benefits from the estate of the late Zeke and Ruth Melton. The Meltons were active members of Eastanallee Baptist Church here. Prior to their deaths (Zeke in 1992 and Ruth in 1999) the Meltons had a desire to leave their personal estate, valued at \$409,000, to the church and for the money to be used for Baptist causes, said Pastor Oran Creasman.

The church held a special service Dec. 12 to remember the Meltons and present their gifts to the respective agencies.

The Meltons' will called for the International Mission Board to receive \$88,099; the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, \$103,099; McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association international missions projects, \$2,500 and \$12,500 for other foreign missions programs sponsored by the church. The remaining funds were given to the church, Creasman said. ■

Tennessee pastors among new IMB missionaries

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — Three Tennessee Baptist couples, including two pastors, were among 38 people appointed by the International Mission Board Jan. 10 during a service at Lakeview Baptist Church in Auburn, Ala.

The new appointees join more than 4,800 Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers sharing Christ in 124 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

Clyde and Dinah Peregrino Fowler were appointed to serve as church planters in Santa Catarina, Brazil. The Fowlers visited Brazil last year and are excited to return for full-time service.

Fowler is pastor of Western Valley Baptist Church in Covington.

He is a former staff member of Speedway Terrace Baptist Church, Memphis.

Fowler holds degrees from Crichton College in Memphis and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

Wesley and Paula Lasley Rankin will serve in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he will serve as an urban evangelist in a city of more than 20 million people.

Since 1997 Rankin has served as pastor of Forest Hill Baptist Church in Maryville. He also served a pastorate in Kentucky



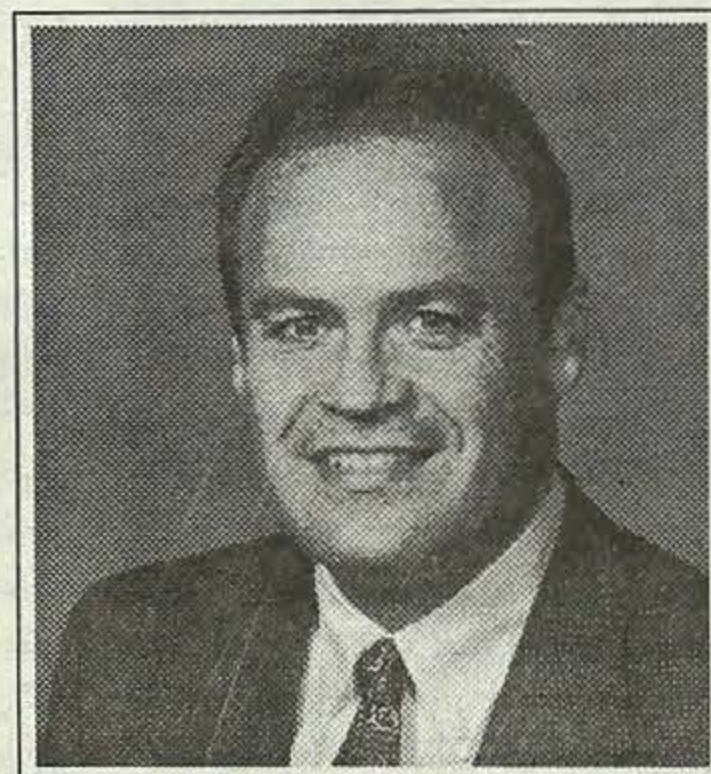
C. FOWLER



D. FOWLER



P. RANKIN



W. RANKIN

and was an intern at Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

A native of Lenoir City, Rankin is the son of Buford and Faye Rankin. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Mid-America Seminary.

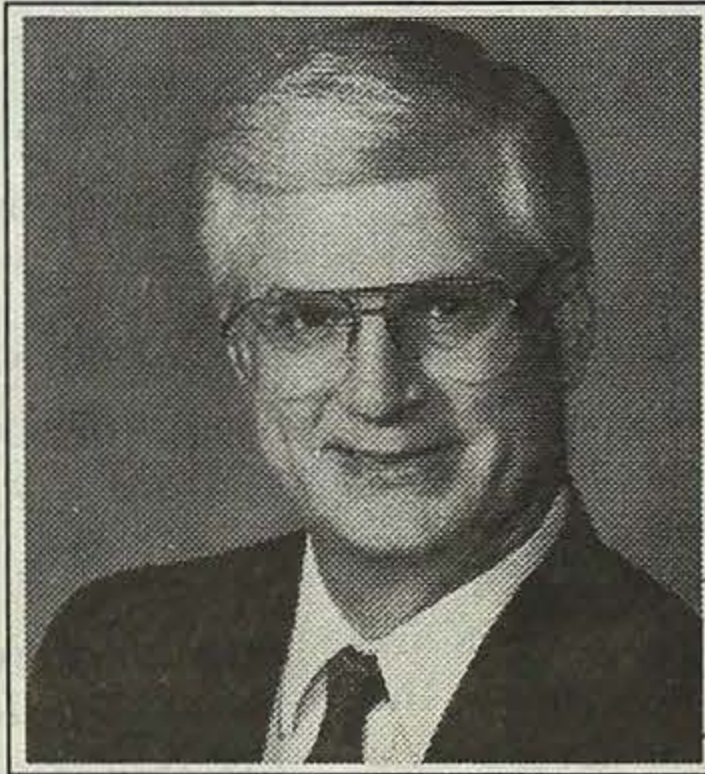
Mrs. Rankin is the daughter



D. ROYALS

of Bill and Betty Lasley of Jackson. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

John and Deborah Sansing Royals were appointed to serve in Brazil, where he will devise a strategy to develop a computer network to help evangelize eastern South America through e-



J.E. ROYALS

mail. The couple also will use their counseling skills in marriage and family enrichment to reach out to their co-workers and the community.

For 27 years, Royals worked for IBM in White House. He and his wife are members of First Baptist Church there. ■

Belmont to send about 50 to Rio for spring break

By Jared Porter
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The University Ministries office of Belmont University here plans to help send about 50 students and faculty to Rio de Janeiro during the school's spring break for ministry. The effort will support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership.

"We're going to try to touch as many people in as many different ways as we can in the five days we are there," said Matt Kerlin, university minister.

During the day the group will spread out over the city to conduct ministry activities. They will convene at night for group sessions.

Tonya Dean, university ministries assistant who served in Rio last summer, said the school will subsidize half of the cost of many of the participants.

For more information on the effort or to contribute to it, contact Dean at (615) 460-5543. ■