

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

Volume 166/ Number 4

Statewide Edition

January 26, 2000

B&R welcomes Memorial Baptist to Church Page Plan

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Memorial Baptist Church in Crossville is the newest member of the *Baptist and Reflector* Church Page Plan.

Beginning this issue, Memorial Baptist will print a monthly newsletter in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

The church has not had a newsletter up to this point.

"I commend Pastor Bill Roberts and the lay leadership of Memorial Baptist Church for seriously considering the *Baptist and Reflector* as the avenue for publishing their first newsletter," said Editor Lonnie Wilkey.

Wilkey met with church leadership last fall and explained the Church Page Plan.

In his first column in Memorial's newsletter, Roberts wrote: "Our goal is to do a better job of informing our people about what is going on at MBC." Roberts also encouraged the congregation to read the *B&R* to stay informed about Baptist work around the world.

The Church Page Plan is not just for large churches, Wilkey noted. Small to medium churches that do not have a newsletter now may want to investigate the possibility of using the *B&R* as a communications tool, Wilkey said. For more information about the Church Page Plan, call Susie Edwards at ((615) 371-2003. ■

Committees seek recommendations

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards are seeking nominations for TBC boards and committees for next year.

Tennessee Baptists are asked to submit recommendations by March 1. See page 4 for more information. ■

Evangelism Conference speakers challenge:

Get out of church and into the streets

By Lonnie Wilkey & Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — To be more effective in evangelism, Christians must get out of the church and into the streets, speakers at the State Evangelism Conference agreed.

The conference, which was held Jan. 17-18 at Brentwood Baptist Church here, drew about 900 participants over the two days, according to Larry Robertson, TBC evangelism specialist.

Conference speakers addressed the four primary components of evangelism in the four preaching sessions — prayer, personal witnessing, proclamation, and preservation.

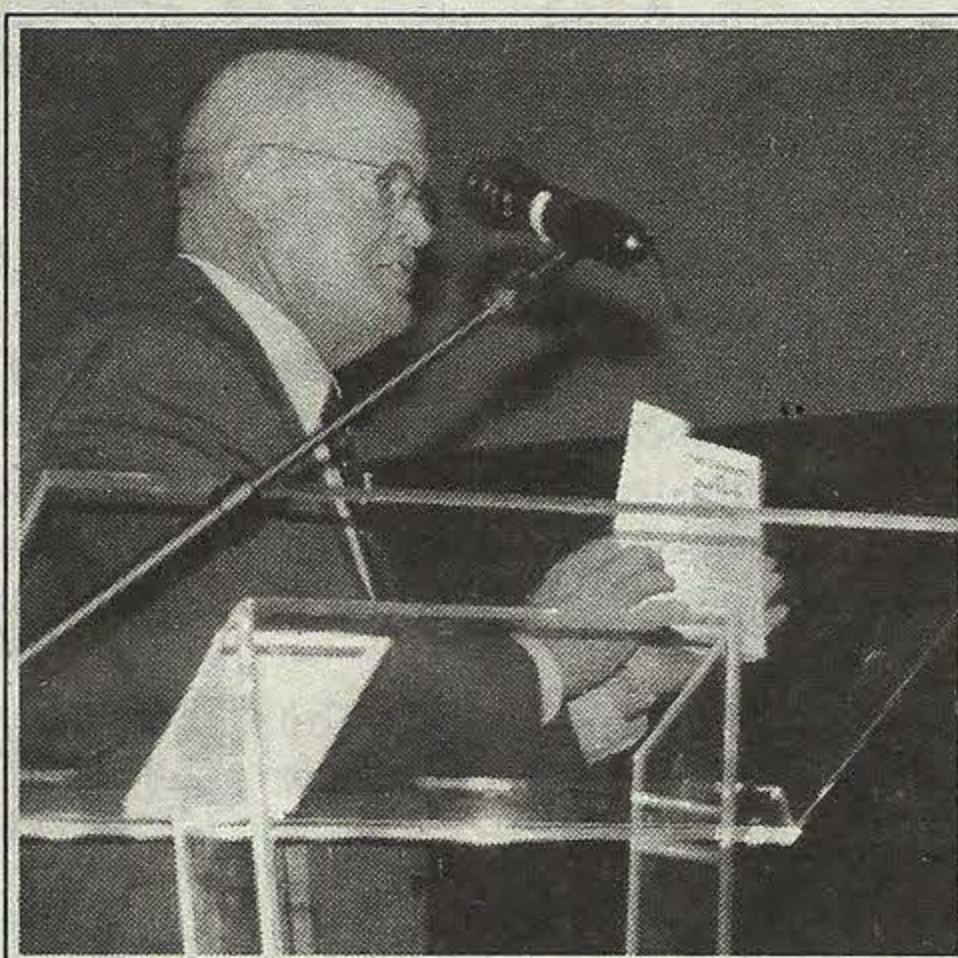
In the opening session Monday afternoon, Nashville pastor Walter Jackson of Judson Baptist Church encouraged those in attendance to take the message of Jesus Christ "out of the sanctuary and into the streets where it belongs."

It will require change, he acknowledged. "We cannot just sit in our sanctuaries and continue to do what we do and say they'll come. They will not. We have to go get them."

Paul Powell, retired president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, spoke twice during the conference.

On the first night, he re-emphasized the fact that "lost people are not coming to church."

"If we're going to win the world for



RICHARD JACKSON goes over a marked New Testament with participants at the State Evangelism Conference. Jackson gave away copies of the New Testament to those in attendance and explained how he uses them to involve people in evangelism.

Christ, then we must get out where they are and share the good news of Christ," he challenged.

He also emphasized the importance of prayer. "Prayer was always the first inclination of Jesus, not the last resort of Jesus."

"Until we get a burden on our heart to pray and ask for God to raise up an army to share their faith, we will never win the world to Christ," he said.

Speaking again on Tuesday, Powell



TIM HILL, right, accepts an award during the conference from Jimmy Furr, North American Mission Board, as the State Interfaith Coordinator of the Year. Hill, TBC interfaith witness specialist, was honored by NAMB for his creative leadership in interfaith evangelism.

challenged ministers to preach with power. To do that, he said, one must preach prophetically, passionately, plainly, positively, and prayerfully.

Powell said the characteristic of preaching which is most lacking is passionate preaching. He warned ministers to avoid speaking as a counselor to the "felt needs of people."

Positive preaching is necessary because the church and Christians often present — See Get out, page 6

WMU elects Wanda Lee as new executive director

By Teresa Dickens
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Woman's Missionary Union executive board unanimously elected Jan. 22 their national president Wanda Lee to serve as the seventh executive director of the 111-year-old organization.

Lee, 50, national president of the organization since 1996, succeeds Dellanna W. O'Brien, who retired Sept. 1, 1999, after 10 years at the helm of WMU. Lee, who currently lives in Columbus, Ga., with her husband Larry, will assume her new position March 1.

A new national WMU president will be elected in June during the WMU Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

In making the announcement, the executive board pointed to Lee's exemplary leadership as national WMU president, especially during the interim period following O'Brien's retirement. As chair of the WMU executive board, the responsibility

fell to Lee to assume more leadership of the national headquarters following O'Brien's departure.

"Wanda Lee brings to the position her experience as president both at the state level and national level," said Ann Coffman of Sanford, Fla., chair of the search committee.



LEE

"She has experience as a pastor's wife and an international missionary."

"She also has a heart for missions," added Coffman, noting that Lee has used her nursing skills on several missions trips during her WMU presidency.

"Wanda's vision and leadership will determine the direction of Woman's Missionary Union as it enters the new century," she said.

Tennessee WMU President Candy Phillips, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, called Lee an "excellent choice to lead Woman's Missionary Union into the new millennium."

Phillips noted Lee "comes from the grassroots work of WMU. Her experiences range

from working with Acteens to serving in her association, to being on the mission field, and then as a state WMU officer.

"She is a wife, mother, and career woman. Her background and love for missions has been a part of her life. She will set a wonderful example for other women. WMU's future looks bright," Phillips said.

Lee's involvement with WMU began during her husband's first pastorate at Gilgal Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (1973-79), where she worked with Acteens and Baptist Young Women. She also held several associational leadership positions during that time, including WMU director.

— See WMU, page 2

about your newsjournal

► **Subscribe** to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 48 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$10; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.50 per subscription; other plans available

► **Lonnie Wilkey, editor** — (615) 371-2046, lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

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

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

► **Mary Nimmo, church pages/administrative assistant** — (615) 371-7929, mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

► **Betty Williams, bookkeeper** — (615) 371-7930, bwilliams@tnbaptist.org

► **Office** — *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027

► **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024

► **FAX** — (615) 371-2080

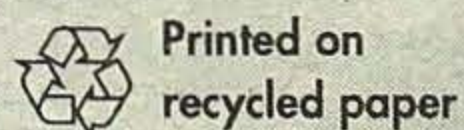
► **Web Site** — www.tnbaptist.org

► **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

of 5,000 missionaries

NAMB reaches BMT thrust goal

By James Dotson
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — One of the most significant goals of the 1976 Bold Mission Thrust initiative was reached right on schedule this past year as the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board reached the level of 5,000 active missionaries.

The number was actually reached in November, but because missionary counts are released only once each year the count on Dec. 31 was officially recorded as 5,025.

One of the original goals of Bold Mission Thrust — a comprehensive long-range plan for denominational growth — was that the number of home missionaries would reach 5,000 by the year 2000.

Of the total number of missionaries approved and appointed, 3,264 are missionaries and their spouses operating under various levels of cooperative funding with state conventions and local associations. Another 1,761 are long-term volunteers with two or more years of service operating under the Mission Service Corps program.

The number of appointments for the year is also up sharply over the last few years, from 154 in 1996 under the former



Home Mission Board to 327 in 1999.

Interviews of potential missionaries rose from 240 in 1997 to 411 in 1999.

Robert E. Reccord, NAMB's president, called the expanding missionary force a "two edged sword."

"It is an exhilarating opportunity while at the same time being an overwhelming challenge," Reccord said, adding that credit for the achievement extends far beyond the agency.

"It takes everybody doing their part

and working in cooperation to make it happen. That's the strength of Southern Baptists. I thank God for our partnership with our seminaries, state conventions, associations, and local churches to see this wonderful milestone reached," Reccord said.

"With the long-term impact of Youth-Link 2000 — which resulted in thousands of commitments to missions service — I believe we will see an even further explosion in the missionary force of the future both in North America and around the world," Reccord added.

Bill Graham, manager of NAMB's missionary personnel unit, said much of the jump has been due to more dollars made available for missionary support because of efficiencies gained from the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1997.

NAMB was formed in 1997 from the former Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission.

"The intent of the restructuring has been to put money forward in the field, and I think we are seeing the results of that action," Graham said. "And the commitment that the agency is making is showing up in the numbers." ■

WMU elects Wanda Lee as ...

— Continued from page 1

After moving to Columbus, Ga., she held similar positions during her husband's pastorate at Waldrop Memorial Baptist Church (1981-90) and currently serves as Acteens Advisor at First Baptist Church, Columbus. From 1993-96, she served as president of Georgia WMU which made her a member of the national WMU executive board.

Lee and her family served as Southern Baptist missionaries in St. Vincent, Windward Islands, 1979-81. The family returned to the U.S. due to the asthmatic problems of their youngest child, Matthew.

Currently, Larry Lee is director of Pastoral Care for the Columbus Regional Health Care System. He is an endorsed chaplain by the North American Mission Board. They have two children.

In accepting the position, Lee recounted the events of the past year in the life of WMU. She spoke specifically of the spiritual journey that she and her family had traveled and her struggle in recent weeks with the sacrifices that her election would bring for her husband and children.

But, she said, "I remembered another time in our lives when he asked us to do that very thing, and I was reminded of how God provided everything we needed during our time as missionaries. I knew he would do it again."

"Woman's Missionary Union in the local church and in my association made it possible for me to learn about missions and try my hand at leadership," she said. "Because of WMU, I heard God's call to missions and was appointed. I am who I am today because God was able to use this organization to teach me and create the atmosphere where I could hear him speak."

"I don't believe for one moment that we have completely accomplished the task he has called us to do," she continued.

"As a matter of fact, I believe God is issuing that call more loudly than ever before and he is waiting to see if we will allow him to work through us to accomplish his will. I believe he is asking us to recommit ourselves to follow his direction for this new day." ■



TENNESSEE WMU President Candy Phillips, right, greets Wanda Lee, left, and Ann Coffman following Lee's election as the new executive director-treasurer of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. Phillips, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, serves on the WMU Executive Board which elected Lee. Coffman served as chair of the search committee.

Tennessee's Wamp drafts GOP platform

Baptist Press

OAK RIDGE — The Republican Party's prosperity principles should be based on a biblical worldview, according to Rep. Zach Wamp, a Tennessee congressman who has been asked to develop a draft for the GOP's national prosperity platform.

Wamp, a member of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, said the national principles of prosperity statement will become a major component of the GOP's political platform and would shape the Republicans' 2000 presidential campaign.

News of Wamp's work to frame a draft was reported Jan. 12 on the on-line newspaper, Chattanooga.com.

The Tennessee congressman told Baptist Press the formula for developing the platform should be based on Scripture. "That formula should be based on a biblical worldview — not a humanistic worldview," he said.

"If we make our plans based on God's Word and his principles, then I think we will be blessed."

Under Wamp's plan, the GOP would support a five-point prosperity formula.

"First, prosperity comes with a price, and that price is responsibility for others," Wamp said. "The biblical foundation is, 'To whom much is given, much is required.'"

He also said that the prosperity principles include a respect for all levels of work and emphasis upon competition as the "fuel of prosperity." The Tennessee congressman said he is adamant about incorporating biblical views into the platform.

"I don't want our party to be associated with a prosperity agenda that is not grounded in these biblical truths," Wamp said. ■

Tennesseans express views on 'Tres Dias'

By Todd Starnes
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "Tres Dias" is not a secret organization, nor is it a "charismatic" ministry, even though some participants experience "charismatic" manifestations ranging from laughter to healing, according to leaders of Tennessee's Tres Dias movement.

"Tres Dias is not charismatic," said Wilson Burton Jr., of Brentwood, a member of Tres Dias' international board. "It is an encounter with the Holy Spirit. The ministry is ecumenical in nature and actively seeks the participation of persons from all Christian denominations."

Burton, who is a member of a Church of Christ congregation, was referring to the North American Mission Board's advisory discouraging Southern Baptist participation on Tres Dias as well as other spiritual renewal weekends. That advisory, reported in a Dec. 29 Baptist Press story on how the Tres Dias movement was causing some concerns in Southern Baptist churches, has generated nationwide response within the SBC.

Despite Burton's affirmations, the North American Mission Board stands by its words of caution. "We want to reiterate that these weekend retreats often create more problems for a church than they resolve," said Tal Davis of NAMB's interfaith witness team. "There are plenty of Southern Baptist programs that can provide solid discipleship ministries."

The Dec. 29 BP article cited concerns of a former Georgia Baptist pastor that participated in one of the Tres Dias retreats and also quoted **George Osment**, a lay leader at **First Baptist Church, Scottsboro**, who said the secrecy surrounding the organization has caused division in their congregation.

Tres Dias is one of several spiritual renewal weekends based originally on the Roman Catholic Cursillo movement. Cursillo is a three-day learning, sharing experience in Christian community, or a short course in Christianity. The United Methodist Church sponsors two of the more well-known Cursillo-type renewal weekends, "Chrysalis," and "The Emmaus Walk."

Davis said over the past 10

years his office has fielded a number of complaints from pastors and laypeople about the spiritual renewal weekends, including Tres Dias.

"In some cases, it almost split churches. Are we supposed to say those churches are overacting? When you see a pattern like that, there needs to be a concern," Davis said.

However, some Southern Baptists strongly support the Tres Dias movement, such as **Mike Pennington**, a former missionary and currently director of missions for **Bledsoe Baptist Association, based in Gallatin**.

"I have never felt more affirmed and appreciated as a pastor than I was on my Tres Dias weekend," Pennington said. "Rarely have I ever seen men and women serve others with such enthusiasm, fulfillment and joy as they do on a weekend. They are all encouraged to go and do likewise in their local churches."

Pennington acknowledged there have been moments on the weekend when some participants' charismatic tendencies have made him uncomfortable. Those moments, however, were

not a part of corporate worship, he stressed.

Concerning the question of secrecy on Tres Dias weekends, both Pennington and Burton stressed that the weekends entail more "serendipity moments" than secret moments.

Unlike the United Methodist Church Cursillo, Tres Dias is interdenominational. Baptist, Lutheran, Church of God or Catholics, among others, may be represented on any given weekend. Burton said the movement does not preach one theology. "We stress only those things which the Christian denominations have in common and respect those things which are different."

Davis, on the other hand, said some of the doctrine used during the renewal weekends differs from Southern Baptists, particularly the issue of charismatic manifestations. "I think we need to uphold the integrity of our own theology," Davis said. "I am a Southern Baptist because I believe in Baptist theology. While I'm not being derogatory towards other denominations, I believe what I believe."

Billy Hill, pastor of Rich-

land Baptist Church, Nashville, and head spiritual director for Tres Dias in middle Tennessee, said he believes the Tres Dias movement has changed his life and the life of his church. "The church people who have gone on the weekends have come back with servants' hearts. You can see the difference in their service to the church," Hill said.

Burton acknowledged that Tres Dias "is not for all church members. The ideal person to sponsor is one who is a potential leader, someone with qualities and/or desire to become a shepherd. Tres Dias is not a quick fix for deeply wounded people, however those who attend may experience release from guilt, past sins, and abuse that frees them to be the leaders God created them to be."

Davis said it is important for churches to be alert. "The other side of this is that our churches need to be aware and concerned about the spiritual training of the membership," he said. ■



Bivocational pastors, Hispanics hold own evangelism conferences

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — For the second year in a row bivocational ministers from across Tennessee met for their own evangelism conference.

Because of their other vocation, many bivocational pastors cannot attend the traditional conference.

Approximately 176 bivocational ministers and spouses attended the weekend meeting at Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville.

Participants were challenged to "Celebrate Jesus 2000" by Fredrick Brabson, pastor of New Covenant Baptist Church, Knoxville; Johnny Carr, pastor of Shephard's Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville; Phil Glisson, evangelist, Memphis; Billy Murphy, pastor, Howse Baptist Church, Atwood; Gary Rickman, TBC ministry coordinator; Larry Robertson, TBC evangelism specialist; and Bill

Stafford, evangelist, Chattanooga.

There also was a number of breakout conferences which offered a varied selection of topics.

The Hispanic Evangelism Conference was held for the first time and was unique in that everything, from messages and breakout seminars to the printed program, was done in Spanish.

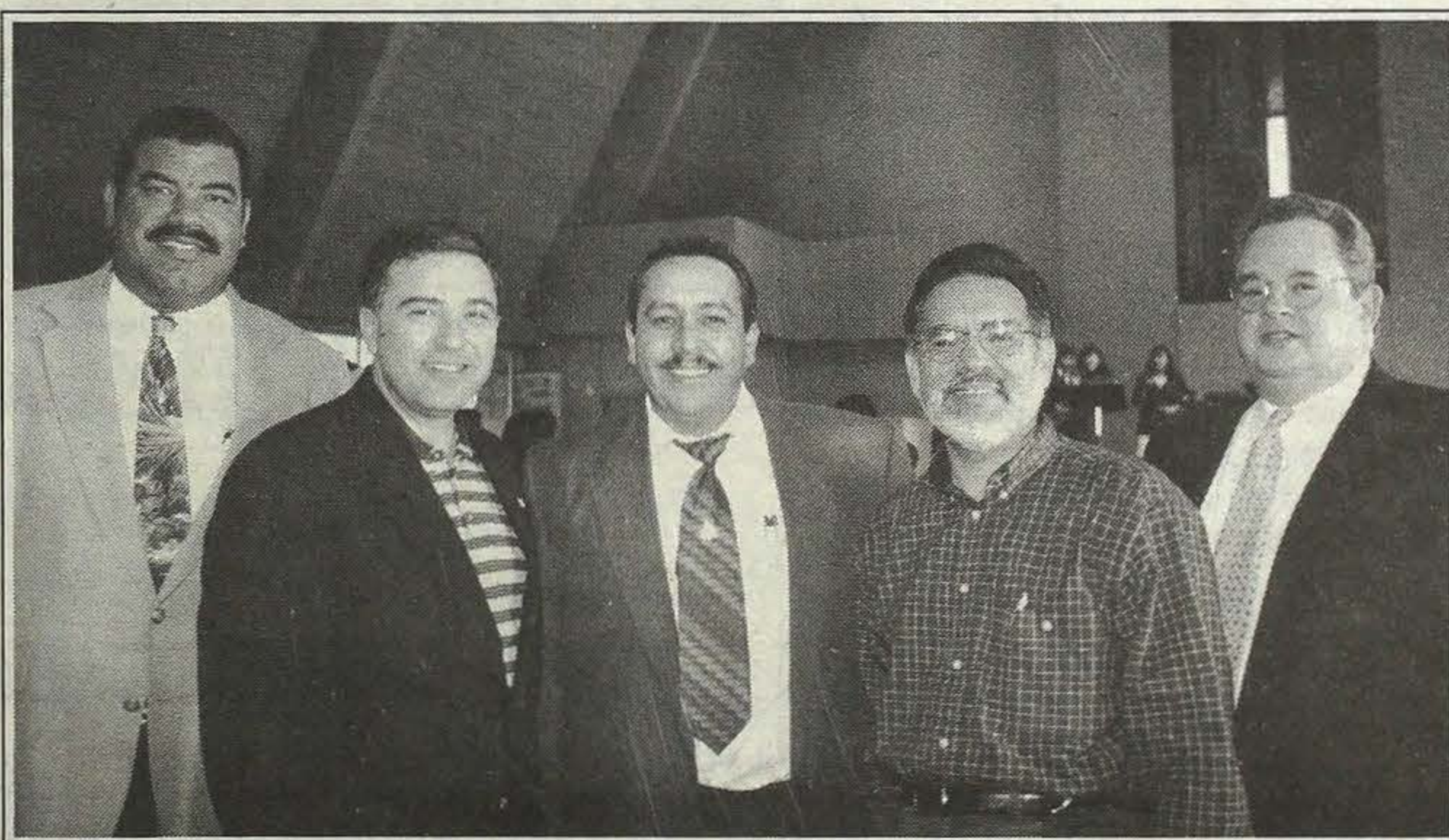
The theme for this conference was also "Celebrate Jesus 2000."

The weekend meeting at Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, drew 120 people each day. During the sessions, 15 Hispanics surrendered to the ministry. The guest speaker was Rolando Lopez, evangelist and pastor of Multicultural Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

Breakout sessions were held on how to celebrate Jesus in one's life, family, ministry, and the Great Commission. ■



BILLY MURPHY, center, pastor, Howse Baptist Church, Atwood, and outgoing president, Bivocational Ministers' Council, congratulates new president **Johnny Carr**, pastor, Shephard's Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville, left, and **John Davis**, pastor, Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Baxter, vice president. The men attended the Bivocational Pastors' Conference held Jan. 14-15 at Gladeville Baptist



LEADERS IN THE Hispanic Pastors' Conference, held Jan. 14-15 at Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, were, from left, **Estrberto Britton**, missionary to Latin America; **Jess Fairbanks**, Multicultural Department, LifeWay Christian Resources; **Chuy Avila**, Hispanic Church Start Strategist, Tennessee Baptist Convention; **Rolando Lopez**, evangelist and pastor, Multicultural Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas; and **Luis Arenquren**, director, International Department, LifeWay.



Date changed

At the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting in November, the Tennessee Drug Awareness Council (formerly United Tennessee League) distributed brochures about our Youth Retreat scheduled for April 2000.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it necessitates a date change to April 27-29, 2000.

For more information about this retreat, call our office at (615) 385-2251.

Wayman Jones,
TDAC executive director
Nashville 37204

Expresses appreciation

We just want to express our heartfelt appreciation to fellow pastors, to return missionaries, to ladies from our WMU, and to others from separate churches who were so faithful to share God's love with those coming through Nashville Baptist Association's annual toy store. As in previous years, you were so precious in your commitment.

Two of our spiritual counselors remained with us all four days. And one of our coun-

selors has already called to say that she has written each of those she counseled with during the week, encouraging them to enroll in a Sunday School and church in the area where they live! And we are blessed each year with a great staff, under the supervision of Pat Malone, our director.

So far, we have registered 130 individuals, largely mothers, who prayed to receive Christ as their personal Savior. To God be the glory!

Marion & Pattie Smith
Nashville 37216

Frustrating

It is extremely frustrating to hear the majority of press and television spokesmen referring to 2000 as the beginning of the new century/millennium. It is not! It does not begin until Jan. 1, 2001.

And the fact that so many will be disturbed to find out that even our Baptist publications are pressing this error when they try to implement or promote "firsts" or records after Jan. 1, 2000, only to find them disallowed by official records maintainers, is even more frustrating.

Please do not contribute to the confusion. Your front page article on the Dec. 15 issue is my point! We, or at least I, expect our Baptist publications to be correct.

Thomas A. Fenton
Oxford, Ohio 45056

Committee approves guidelines for letters to the editor in B&R

The TBC Executive Board's Convention Communications Committee approved new guidelines for letters to the editor and advertising at their January meeting.

The *Baptist and Reflector* officially relates to this committee as does the TBC Communications Services Group.

Editor Lonnie Wilkey said the committee's action was needed in light of the fact that the paper now relates to the Convention Communications Committee.

Before last year when the changeover occurred, the Executive Committee of the Executive Board also served as the board of directors of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

"Since this is the committee that relates to the *Baptist and Reflector*, it makes sense that they have input in what we do," Wilkey said.

The new guidelines are not meant to be more restrictive, but to help to clarify what is appropriate for the letters forum, Wilkey said.

In fact, the new guidelines lengthen letters from 250 words to 300 words, he noted.

"We believe the letters to the editor offer Tennessee Baptists an opportunity to express themselves and we want this to be an avenue that will be fair to everyone."

Members of the Convention Communications Committee include: 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, and Ambers Wilson.

Guidelines are printed below and will be repeated occasionally as letters to the editor are used.

Guidelines

Letters to the Editor provide a public forum for individuals to express their views in print. The editor is to use his discretion and is not bound to print all letters that are submitted for publication. All letters must meet the guidelines listed below (Also, no letters will be published that contain known factual errors.) It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the letter to meet these guidelines. Notification of the failure to meet these guidelines is not the responsibility of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Guidelines are as follows: Letters:

► Should deal with issues relevant to Tennessee Baptists and should not deal with personalities or attack people.

► Must not be libelous or potentially libelous.

► Should be 300 words or less

► Must not be "form" or open letters.

► Will be accepted from writers once in a three-months period.

► Should be clearly marked they are intended for publication.

► Be signed and include address and phone number. Faxed letters are accepted, but must be signed. Letters that are e-mailed should be followed with a signed, mailed or faxed copy. ■

Tennessee Baptists encouraged to send nominations for boards, committees

At right are replicas of the forms which have been developed for Tennessee Baptists to use to make nominations for people to serve on TBC boards or committees. Please DO NOT use the replica forms.

Each year the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees conduct a lengthy process to select nominees to the convention for positions on the boards and committees of the convention. This process is dependent upon Tennessee Baptists nominating qualified people for these positions.

Forms for both the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees processes are being mailed to each church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Additional forms are also being mailed to directors of missions. Your prayerful attention to this opportunity to recommend Tennessee Baptists for positions is encouraged.

The completed form should be mailed to the Executive Leadership Group, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024-0728 by March 1. Also, forms may be faxed to the Executive Leadership Group at (615) 371-2093.

Each recommendation form is copied and submitted to each member of the respective committees.

Tennessee Baptists are reminded that numerous recommendations are presented and all recommendations are given consideration. ■

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Executive Board/Boards of Trust, Committee on Committees, TBC 2000

East Middle West

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Boards. A separate form should be used for each committee recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Boards, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or fax to 615-371-2093. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Boards. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for submitting recommendations is March 1, 2000. All members of Tennessee Baptist Convention churches are encouraged to submit recommendations by March 1, 2000 of trustees of institutions, Executive Board, and committees. Recommendations received after March 1, 2000, will be considered as vacancies occur. (This form will be copied for all committee members. To insure legibility, please type or print as neatly as possible.)

Recommend for the _____ Board/Committee.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE:

<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Belmont University	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Homes
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Committees	<input type="checkbox"/> Carson-Newman College	<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Home
<input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Health System, Memphis	<input type="checkbox"/> Union University	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Baptist Foundation
<input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Health System, East Tennessee	<input type="checkbox"/> Harrison-Chilhowee Academy	

Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Approximate Age _____ Sex _____ Marital Status _____ Lay Person _____

Church Membership at _____ Association _____

Address _____

Average Sunday School Attendance 0-25 _____ 25-50 _____ 50-100 _____ >100 _____

Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have the nominee's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
2. List the nominee's present and/or past experience on any TBC Board(s) and dates of service.
3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist and SBC causes in 1998 \$ _____
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific.
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?
7. Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: () _____

Church Name: _____ Association: _____ Layperson _____ Minister _____

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Convention Committees, TBC 2000

East Middle West

Please use this form to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Committees. A separate form should be used for each committee recommendation. Mail all recommendations to Chairman, Committee on Committees, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or fax to 615-371-2093. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Committees. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The deadline for submitting recommendations is March 1, 2000. All members of Tennessee Baptist Convention churches are encouraged to submit recommendations by March 1, 2000 of trustees of institutions, Executive Board, and committees. Recommendations received after March 1, 2000, will be considered as vacancies occur. (This form will be copied for all committee members. To insure legibility, please type or print as neatly as possible.)

Recommend for the _____ committee.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE:

<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Boards	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Resolutions
<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Audits	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Constitution & Bylaws	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Committee
	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Credentials	

Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Approximate Age _____ Sex _____ Marital Status _____ Lay Person _____

Church Membership _____ Association _____

Address _____

Average Sunday School Attendance 0-25 _____ 25-50 _____ 50-100 _____ >100 _____

Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____

Please respond to the following questions.

1. Do you have the nominee's permission to submit this recommendation? Yes _____ No _____
2. List the nominee's present and/or past experience on any TBC Board(s) and dates of service.
3. Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist and SBC causes in 1998 \$ _____
4. Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific.
5. Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended?
6. What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?
7. Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: () _____

Church Name: _____ Association: _____ Layperson _____ Minister _____

Guest editorial

TBC president urges support of CP, prayer effort

By Jerry Tidwell, president
Tennessee Baptist Convention

I truly feel honored and blessed to be able to serve Tennessee Baptists as president this year. But to be honest, I feel like the man who fell off the 10-story building who was asked as he passed the fifth floor how it was going. He replied, "So far, so good!" For those of you who are wondering how the year is going, let me simply say, so far, so good!

As we begin a new millennium as Tennessee Baptists, I do believe we stand at the threshold of making some giant strides in the area of missions and evangelism. I hear every week about more and more churches who are beginning new commitments toward partnership missions that allow their people to be involved in "hands-on" mission work. I am also very excited about the opportunities given to us because of our TBC staff's cooperation with other state conventions in the area of partnership missions.

Relationship with schools

I would ask you to continue to pray for our Education Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as they seek a new formal relationship with our colleges and universities. Some have told me that Bylaw 5 should be presented in its present form again at the 2000 convention in Germantown. I respectfully disagree. A square peg will not fit into a round hole no matter how many times you try. But I do perceive the necessary changes as minor to the overall scope of what is trying to be accomplished. I certainly applaud the spirit of what the Bylaw is attempting to do and would ask all Tennessee Baptists to offer appreciation to our Education Committee and Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their hard work in trying to please a lot of different people.

Cooperative Program celebration

There are two areas of participation for every Tennessee Baptist that I am especially excited about this year. One is the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Cooperative Program. This celebration revolves around how God has made us together, Partners in the Harvest.

We are also claiming that at the national and state levels of Southern Baptists, our greatest years of cooperative effort are ahead of us. Toward this challenge, I have made a commitment to ask my church to increase its cooperative giving by at least one percent next year.

Believe me, I know what it is like to have to stretch the church operating dollar. We are still paying for a relocation project at West Jackson. But we made a commitment when we began that we would not cut our giving to the Cooperative Program and missions in order to pay for our buildings. God has honored that commitment! Every year, even while we were under construction, we were able to give more to missions than we did the year before.

I believe God will bless my church and your church to an even greater level if we increase our commitment to missions and the cooperative effort. Join me in challenging your church to increase its giving to the cooperative effort by at least one percent this next year.

Prayer and spiritual awakening

The other area of participation for us is the Resolution of United Prayer for Revival and Spiritual Awakening that we adopted at our last convention. There are four sustained initiatives that we voted for

and agreed to support this year. They are:

(1) On four designated Wednesday nights during the year 2000, all TBC churches will be encouraged and equipped to call fervent meetings of corporate prayer for revival and spiritual awakening.

(2) Throughout the year 2000, all TBC churches will be encouraged and equipped to establish evangelistic church prayer ministries.

(3) Throughout the year 2000, all TBC churches will be encouraged and equipped to combine fervent prayer with all their evangelism strategies.

(4) The Tennessee Baptist Convention will seek to develop a statewide network of continuous prayer for revival and evangelism.

I want to encourage you to join me and the members of my church in designating these **four Wednesday evenings, March 8** (in conjunction with the Day of Prayer for Spiritual Awakening already designated by our National Convention); **May 3** (in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer which is May 4); **Sept. 13** (which will be in conjunction with the Week of Prayer for State Missions); and **Nov. 1** (in conjunction with the National Presidential Election and the upcoming 2000 State Convention Meeting) as times when our churches gather together for cooperative prayer for the sole purpose of revival and spiritual awakening. **Revival has not always come when God's people prayed, but one thing is for certain, it has never come when God's people did not pray!**

Once again, I want you to know that I consider it a privilege beyond words to serve Tennessee Baptists as president this year. I do appreciate your prayers! ■ — Tidwell is pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson.



TIDWELL

Success doesn't justify traveling down wrong road

heart talk

by James Porch
TBC executive director



Two four-lane highways extend out from Jackson, Miss. Interstate 55 provides a primary thoroughfare to New Orleans. State highway 49 rambles through the piney woods to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Several years ago a friend of mine left his office in Jackson around noon intending to arrive on the Gulf Coast late in the afternoon. About two hours into his trip, he suddenly realized he was on the road to the crescent city — New Orleans. He later laughingly remarked, "but I was making such good time, I was reluctant to turn around and go back."

Success, good fortune,

or fast progress does not justify traveling the wrong road. The responses our Heavenly Father makes to erroneous traveled roads in life includes travel on, stop, and/or turn around.

Our choice to travel a specific road in life is just that — our choice. In other words, a life-road decision merits much more than that expressed in the old country song, "I Feel Like Traveling On." God promises no guarantee to allow

us to travel on up to a certain point on our life map and stop us short of disaster.

Still our Heavenly Father may, and often does, act to stop a journey that may conflict with his divine purpose.

God's power and action to redirect our life travels exists as our greatest hope. This celebrates the grace of his saving power.

The Jonah story testifies to the Gospel of God's redirecting power. That rebellious son of

Amittai fled away from God's chosen road for him to travel. Apparently, the first part of the journey went uninterrupted. Then the Lord took extreme action. He needed Jonah to go to Nineveh and God would not be denied.

Overall, I believe our God likes to travel. The Word of God reveals that it is part of God's desire to travel on with his people.

We do well to carefully choose our roads. ■

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp, pastor, Oral Baptist Church, Lenoir City



just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Law professor to student: "Mr. Jones, why did you decide, at the age of 30, to become a lawyer?" Jones: "Because of my hands." Law professor: "What do you mean?" Jones: "I took a look one day and there wasn't any money in them."

Take this truth

"Ambition should be made of sterner stuff." What we want to do is not always, if ever, as important as why we want to do it.

Memorize this Scripture

"Whatever you do ... it is the Lord Christ you are serving." — Colossians 3:23-24, NIV

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me not only to keep my goals correct, but to keep my motives pure." ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

January/February

26 — Pray for Dolly Bradford, Christian Women's Job Corps consultant as she provides training for site coordinators at the HOPE Baptist Center in Detroit, Mich.

27 — Praise God for Jerry Beasley and Gary Witherow, volunteers from FBC, Pulas-ki, who worked Nov. 27-Dec. 5 in Nicaragua building homes for hurricane victims.

28 — Pray for Wendy Stout, IMB ISC missionary in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who recently returned to the United States.

29 — Pray for Eglise Evangelique Ebenezer in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, as they seek a praise team.

30 — Pray for Michigan Baptists' new international partnership with Siberia and for the five teams scheduled to go there this year.

31 — Pray that God will raise up Portuguese Christian leaders to begin new Bible studies in many towns and for God to bless those leaders.

Feb. 1 — Pray for new pastors who are now serving in churches in the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

Feb. 2 — Pray for Eric and Ramona Reese, who are designated to serve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ask God to bless these new missionaries.

Get out of church and into the ...

— Continued from page 1

themselves as angry. He reminded the crowd Jesus didn't come to condemn people and neither should Christians.

Finally, prayerful preaching is important, said Powell, because ministers should attain a "personal holiness." People want ministers they can admire, he noted.

Ministers should spend their time praying, visiting with people, and studying, said Powell.

"If you have a Bible, you have all the substance you need to preach with power," said Powell.

Arkansas evangelist

David Miller, vocational evangelist, Heber Springs, Ark., spoke in two sessions. Miller, who suffers from a muscle disease, spoke from a wheelchair.

On Monday afternoon, Miller encouraged participants to focus on the glory of Jesus.

"The glory of Jesus is the sum total of all his attributes and deeds which distinguishes him from all other beings," he said.

Miller noted he has staked his "hopes for eternity on the veracity and reliability of who Jesus is and what he has said."

The Arkansas DOM observed that "God was the first evangelist. He sent his son and his son defined the grace and love of God."

"Why should you and I, the recipients of that grace, do any less?" he challenged.

During the final session, Miller spoke on the book of Jonah.

He said the theme of the book is not the whale incident, but "the missionary, evangelistic heart of our God."

One of God's purposes during that period was to "enlarge the theological horizons" of the Israelites and to teach them prejudice is wrong, said Miller.

Jonah saw from 600,000 to 1 million people make commitments to God in one day, said Miller.

"Two thousand years later most Baptists won't walk across the street to tell a neighbor about Jesus Christ," he said.

Different approach

Richard Jackson, retired pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church and now an evangelist in Brownwood, Texas, took a different approach during his session on Monday evening.

Jackson took on the role of teacher explaining how over the years he has seen so many Southern Baptists who do not share their faith.

Noting that when evangelism training programs, such as FAITH and others are offered, normally only 10-20 percent of a congregation partici-

pates.

What about the 80 percent of the "Sunday morning crowd" who does not take any training? Jackson asked.

Jackson, with financial backing, developed a marked New Testament (New American Standard version) entitled *The Covenant of God's Love*, that he now uses. Instead of preaching revivals, he normally speaks at what is billed in churches as "Bring a Friend Day." The Bibles are available from his ministry (Jackson Center for Evangelism, (915) 643-4092) on a cost recovery basis.

Jackson gives everyone a marked New Testament, shows how simple it is to use and challenges them to give it to someone. The person who gives the Bible away can easily walk someone through it, or just leave it with someone.

"Eighty percent of those who come on Sunday may never come to FAITH training, but they can give away the Word of God," Jackson challenged.

"I pray that God will use you to help that Sunday morning crowd to believe they can share their faith in the normal traffic path of their lives," he said.

Tennessee speakers

In addition to Walter Jackson, who opened the conference, several other Tennessee Baptists spoke during the two-day event.

Phil Hoskins, pastor of Higher Ground Baptist Church, Kingsport, shared four things Southern Baptists cannot afford to lose.

The first is convictions. "We as Southern Baptists have some convictions over some things we're not willing to compromise," he said, including the conviction that "the Bible is the inerrant, infallible Word of God."

Southern Baptists also must not lose their character. He noted character is tested on a daily basis.

Hoskins also noted Southern Baptists cannot afford to lose Christ-centered services and compassion.

He noted that if a church loses its compassion, it might as well turn off the lights, lock the doors, and put up a "for sale" sign because "nothing will avail."

TBC Executive Director James Porch shared the story of his late wife's (Lynn) battle with cancer.

He said he learned from her that a person's witness is a continuing process.

"God expects me to keep developing my witness and letting it grow and grow until he calls me home," Porch said.

Don Womack, vocational evangelist based in Memphis, and 1999 president, Fellowship

of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists, asked the crowd to define the Gospel or Good News.

Womack directed them to I Corinthians 15:1-4, noting everything in the Bible is not the Gospel although it is the Word of God.

God demands perfection of people, he noted, but measures people more by who they are than by their deeds.

The Good News of God "is energized by the Word of God," said Womack, which leads to the salvation of people, the product of the Gospel, he continued.

"God has to get through our pride, self-sufficiency, and good works to get us to come to a saving position," he said.

Christians should acknowledge that what God says is important, he continued. They should believe it and act on it. They can rely on continual power from God through the Holy Spirit.

"Let's continue to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel until the day the nail-pierced hands of Jesus will swing open the gates of heaven to us," concluded Womack.

Tommy Vinson, pastor, Leewood Baptist Church, Memphis, spoke in the final session.

Vinson said to preserve converts church leaders can follow three principles which stem from the three parables of Luke 15.

From the parable about the lost sheep, Christians should learn to avoid the ignorance of the sheep. From the parable of the lost coin, Christians should learn to avoid neglect of the things of God. And from the parable of the prodigal son, Christians should learn to pray and wait, said Vinson.

He encouraged ministers to "keep the message sovereign" rather than letting the audience be sovereign.

Ministers should warn people to follow God because a "sinful heart" is often repulsed by a "redeeming message," he said.

Finally, he noted prayer is not like a domestic intercom to God but a walkie talkie which is used by workers.

Other speakers

Kenneth Hemphill, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke on the "power of the spirit" and offered suggestions on how to unleash God's power.

Prayer is needed foremost, Hemphill said, explaining that prayer is "total surrender" to God. He observed, however, that "most of us do not pray until we come to the end of human resources."

He also noted that for the power of God to be unleashed, people must be obedient and willing to serve. "You can't win someone to Christ, but the

spirit of Holy God working through you can," he reminded.

In the closing session on Monday night, William Fay, author of *Share Jesus Without Fear* and *Share Jesus Without an Argument*, focused on the opportunity Tennessee Baptists have to extend life to people who are "dead in sin."

Fay shared portions of his personal testimony of a life of corruption that was saved as a result of people sharing Christ with him along the way. He said he never forgot anything a witness ever shared with him even though he did what he could to humiliate and abuse people who shared Christ with him.

Fay emphasized "the sin of silence." "If we don't share, we sin," he told participants at the conference.

Fay also led a breakout seminar on Tuesday on how to "Share Jesus Without Fear."

Waylon Moore, author, former pastor, and founder, Missions Unlimited, Tampa, Fla., addressed the gathering during the final session.

Moore said churches don't need people like the Apostle Paul and Peter to be evangelistic. Instead, they should consider Barnabas and Andrew as role models for church leaders.

Although Paul and Peter won large groups of people for God, Barnabas and Andrew were very effective evangelists, noted Moore.



He encouraged ministers to choose two people in their church, men or women, to mentor for 12 months to fill the roles of Andrew and Barnabas in their church.

Moore also asked the crowd to consider preserving converts in the faith by developing "velcro churches" rather than "teflon churches."

Moore reported new converts must establish six friends within four months of their decision or within 14 months they will leave the faith.

Church leaders should think of new Christians as spiritual babies whom they must love, feed, protect, and train, he said.

For example, church members should visit a new convert within 48 hours of their decision and provide them with spiritual baby food.

Moore said giving a new convert a Bible, which is good spiritual food, may be like leaving a baby at a supermarket.

He encouraged church leaders to assimilate new converts by spending time with them, being an intercessor for them, modeling the faith, and providing an evangelistic environment. ■ — Larry Robertson contributed to this report.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is now offering the Master of Arts in Christian Education

degree at the Nashville Extension Center. For details, call (615) 251-2290.

The **Master of Divinity** degree is also offered at the Nashville Extension Center as well as at Extension Centers in Knoxville and Jackson. For details, call 800 626-5525, ext. 4390.



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280
1 800 626-5525 • Visit us on the web: www.sbs.edu

Leading Tennessee church music/worship

Julian Suggs reflects on 21 years of ministry

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — He has traveled Tennessee so much he knows the exit numbers of the main interstates by memory. He also knows a lot of ministers of music by name.

Julian Suggs has led church music/worship for the Tennessee Baptist Convention for 21 years. He will retire Jan. 31.

Changes he has seen in worship

When Suggs started serving on the TBC staff, churches either had a formal or informal worship style. Now churches worship in many styles, he said, including liturgical, traditional, blended, praise/worship, and seeker-oriented.

He's seen some orchestras develop into praise bands and some ensembles transformed into praise teams. He's seen contemporary Christian choruses, often projected, added to the use of hymns in some worship services. Some churches have changed pews to theatre-type seats in their worship centers. Synthesizers have replaced some organs and "hi-tech" media may be used.

"I have realized that Baptists are as opinionated about their choice of music as they are about their choice of foods," said Suggs. "The buffet table is full of many choices."

He cautions churches against trying to duplicate the traditions and cultures of other communities if the congregation is

happy and comfortable with its worship style. Often the church models are located in communities totally different from the other church's setting.

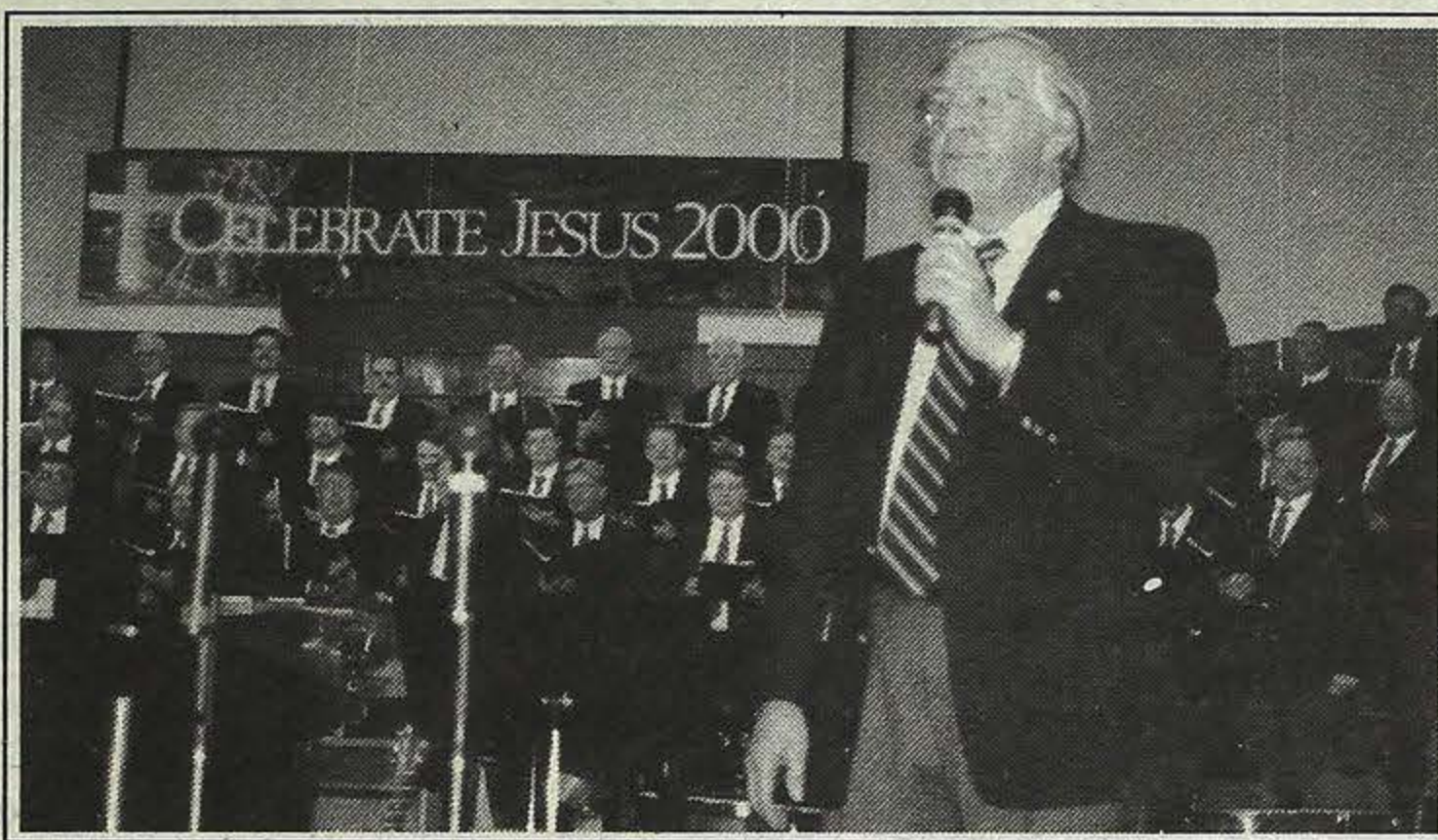
Worship should not be used as a vehicle for church growth, noted Suggs. Instead, true worship empowers "the bride of Christ — the church" to disciple, evangelize, and minister to people in their neighborhoods and that results in church growth, he said.

He believes people seeking a church should choose one in which they can worship and serve God rather than choosing one based on the preacher or music program.

And Suggs noted Christians are given instructions about worship. "In Colossians 3:16, believers are instructed to sing psalms, which are direct Scripture, or paraphrases of Scripture; hymns, which are poems addressed to God; and spiritual songs, which are songs of personal testimony. We should always seek to give God our very best in worship."

Changes he has seen in Tennessee

Suggs has continued some of the work of Frank Charton, his predecessor, including the Youth Music Week at



JULIAN SUGGS speaks during the last performance of the Tennessee Baptist Chorale he will direct. The performance was for the State Evangelism Conference Jan. 17-18 in Brentwood.

Camp Carson. Suggs began offering a Children's Music Week at Camp Linden in 1980. He has seen choral festivals grow and wane, but hopes opportunities will be developed for choirs to hear each other sing and fellowship together again.

He has focused on training church musicians and leaders in smaller and medium-sized churches. He began offering Saturday Skill Shops in 1995 to train leaders in music reading, song leading, and worship planning.

One of the highlights of his work has been leading the Tennessee Baptist Chorale. During the 1960s while serving as minister of music at First Baptist



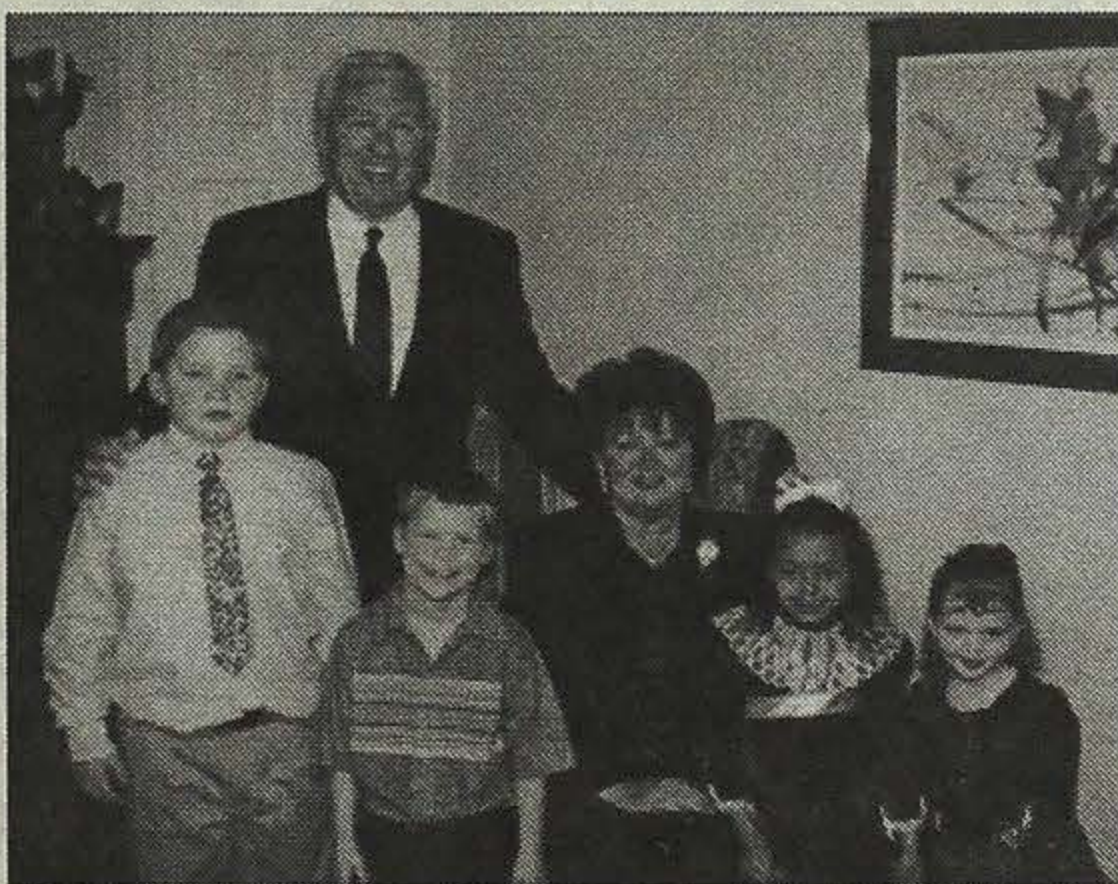
Church, Lenoir City, and First Baptist Church, Athens, Suggs was a member of the chorale. The group has performed at Ridgecrest, Glorieta, the SBC Church Music Conference, in several states, and Canada. The chorale continues to be one of the strongest state singing groups in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Another thrilling experience for Suggs was to lead a 1,300-member choir and 125-member orchestra for a 1985 missionary commissioning service in Nashville. And Suggs served on the committee which developed the 1991 *Baptist Hymnal*.

One of his favorite recollections is learning from a lady that her granddaughter referred to the hymnal as her "sing Bible." He believes the hymnal is second to the Bible in importance for teaching theology and doctrine. "People have memorized Scripture through hymns which has shaped their Christian development."

Suggs and his wife, Frances, will remain in Arrington, where they will enjoy their six grandchildren, three children, and their church, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville. **B&R**

The trustees and staff of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes welcome Dr. Bryant Millsaps, TBCH President/Treasurer.



Dr. Millsaps and his wife Robbie enjoy visiting with TBCH children and are thrilled to serve this Tennessee Baptist ministry. Dr. Millsaps came to TBCH as assistant to the president in 1998. He succeeded Dr. Gerald L. Stow effective January 1, 2000, following Dr. Stow's retirement. Dr. Millsaps invites Tennessee Baptists to his office located in the TBCH State Office Building in Brentwood and to visit the ministry's 13 locations statewide.

Dr. Millsaps:

- is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University (B.S., M.Ed.) and the George Peabody College of Education of Vanderbilt University (Ed.D.)
- was formerly Secretary of State and Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- is a member of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville
- surrendered to the call to ministry in 1997 and was ordained in 1999
- loves serving God in ministry to children and their families
- is the father of one son and two daughters and the grandfather of one granddaughter

Thank you Tennessee Baptists for welcoming Dr. Millsaps and remembering him as he leads your ministry to children in crisis.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes - Serving children in crisis since 1891

www.tbch4kids.org • E-mail: office@tbch4kids.org

1310 Franklin Road, Brentwood, TN 37027

615.376.3140 • 1.800.624.8591

Our Locations: Brentwood, Chattanooga, Clarksville, Cleveland, Elizabethton, Greeneville, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis, Millington, Oakdale, and Union City

Tennessee
Baptist
Children's
Homes
welcomes
our new
President/
Treasurer!

Tips offered for protecting children on Internet

By Daniel Walker Guido
For Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — As your kids begin to use the computer with Internet access purchased for them this Christmas, beware the grinch that paces to and fro on the World Wide Web, seeking to devour your kid with photos and videos so vile they defy description.

With the Internet awash in nearly 300,000 pornographic sites that the U.S. Department of Justice has done little to combat, Christian parents must protect their families from thousands of horrific images of child pornography, homosexuality, bestiality, sadomasochism, torture, and rape, said Donna Rice Hughes.

Rice Hughes is the author of *Kids Online: Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace* (1998, Fleming H. Revell, a division of Baker Books). She currently volunteers for "Enough is Enough," a nonprofit Internet safety group for which she formerly worked as vice president of communications, having resigned her paid position this past summer to accept a paid consultancy with FamilyClick.com, a filtered Internet service provider. She also maintains an Internet safety

website at www.protectkids.com which has links to several other groups involved in fighting Internet pornography.

As personal computers continue to steadily expand their influence on society, becoming as common as the telephone, the TV and stereos — and increasingly capable of replacing all three — 62 percent of parents of American teenagers said they were unaware their children had accessed objectionable websites, according to one recent study. Most children are lured to such sites by unsolicited e-mails, or are inundated with sex-related subject heading links when searching for information on an unrelated topic. According to the same study, 91 percent of children accessing objectionable websites did so unintentionally.

Among statistics and facts regarding kids and Internet porn:

- Children ages 8 to 15 have become the largest single group of Internet users, according to an October 1999 Arbitron New Media Study.

- Arbitron found the majority of children in that age group's on-line use at home occurs right after school, when working parents are not at home.

- Pornographers often disguise their sites into "stealth

sites" with common brand names such as Disney, Barbie, and ESPN to entrap children.

- 30 percent of all unsolicited e-mails are pornographic, according to an October 1999 study by Choose Your Mail.com.

Parents concerned about shielding their young children, teenagers, and themselves against on-line sexual predators should investigate the risks and set standards for the family's Internet use, said Rice Hughes.

"Parents must realize they are the first and best line of defense in saving their children from the filth and degradation of the ultra hardcore pornography available on the Internet," she said.

She notes parents can greatly reduce the threat to their children's well-being from Internet porn by implementing a seven-step program.

- (1) Place the family computer in the family or living room, so that all usage of it by family members takes place in the open. That way parents can monitor their children's on-line time while they themselves demonstrate safe Internet use.

- (2) Use the Internet together with your children and develop the same lingo they use to describe their on-line activities. If

you don't have Internet experience, sign up for a class, or have a friend or relative teach you the basics and walk you through on-line basics before giving your children Internet access.

- (3) Use an Internet service provider that filters out pornographic sites, controls e-mails sent to children by sending them first to the parents' Internet address, and limits kids' ability to download sites from the World Wide Web. Most ISPs have parental control functions that can limit children's access to the Internet.

- (4) Make sure children never give out their names, addresses, phone numbers or load pictures of themselves on the Internet. Doing so encourages nothing but trouble as it opens the kids up to being contacted by anyone in the world with a computer, modem and Internet access.

- (5) In addition to frequently reminding your kids not to release personal information, tell them not to ever agree to meet someone they meet on-line face-to-face. Parents have reported children missing after such encounters. Several rapes have been reported along with a few abductions of gullible young children by on-line pen pals they had never before met and knew

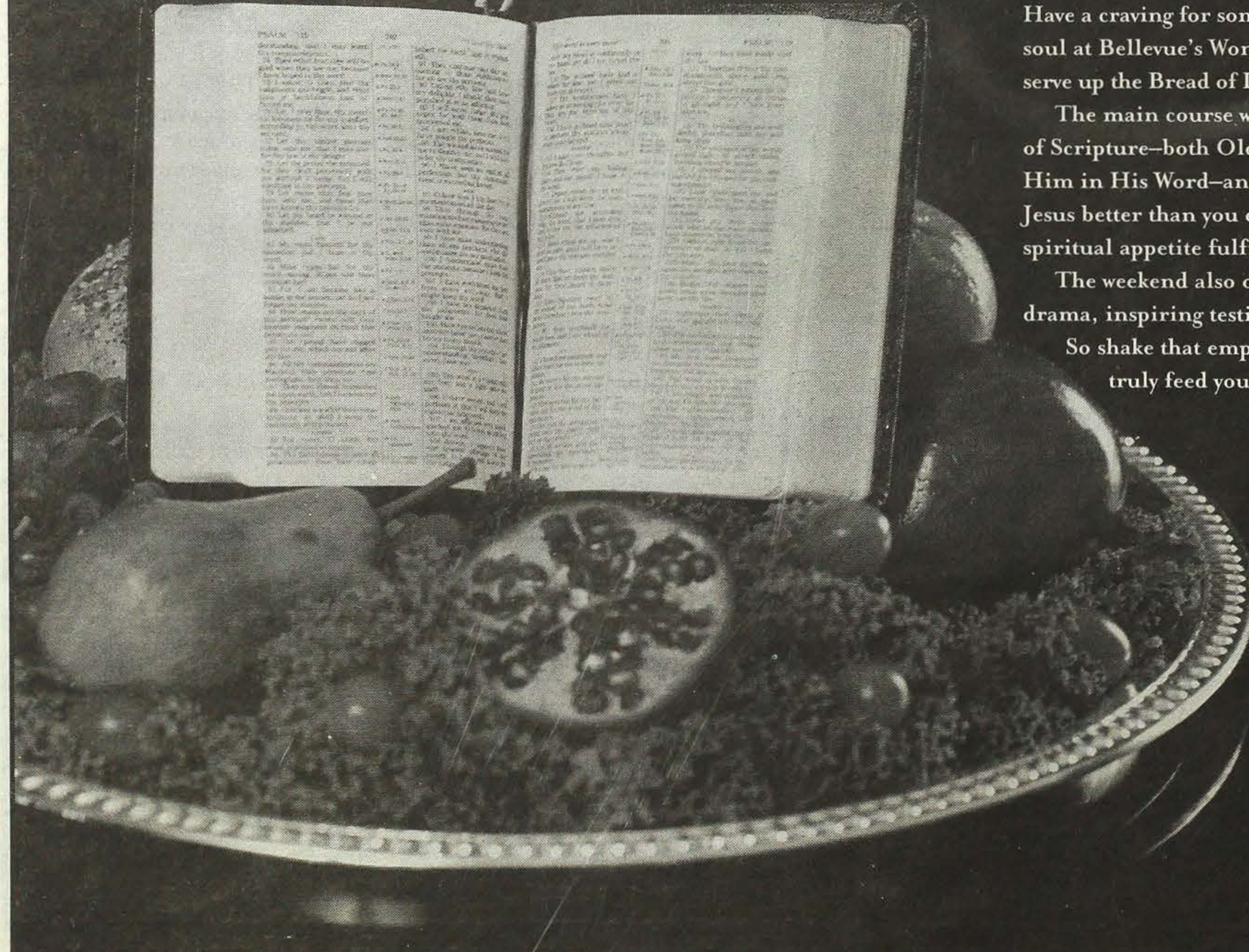
nothing about except via the Internet. Make sure your children understand that such people often are not who or what they claim to be; that most on-line predators will pretend to be someone near the child's age to solicit information from them or to expose the child to e-mailed porn and/or sexual fantasy talk.

- (6) Make sure your child knows to report all offensive, threatening, sick and/or bizarre e-mail to you immediately. "Make sure they understand they must never respond to such e-mails," Rice Hughes said. Often such e-mails are sent out in a broadcast mode in which thousands of on-line addresses are culled from teen chat rooms and other on-line sources by paid employees of pornography services.

- (7) Report all child porn and other illegal activities to either the CyberTipline at www.missingkids.com/cybertip or to the National Center for Missing or Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678. Also contact your local police. ■



Come feast on the Word.



Have a craving for something truly divine? Then come nourish your soul at Bellevue's Wonderful Weekend for Women. Kay Arthur will serve up the Bread of Life in a way you can really sink your teeth into.

The main course will be a look at how we see Jesus on every page of Scripture—both Old and New Testaments. You'll "dine" with Him in His Word—and discover the experience of getting to know Jesus better than you ever have before. You'll emerge with your spiritual appetite fulfilled and yet craving more.

The weekend also offers warm fellowship, thought-provoking drama, inspiring testimonies, and uplifting praise and worship.

So shake that empty feeling and come enjoy a weekend that will truly feed your hunger for God.

Feasting on the Word

WONDERFUL WEEKEND FOR WOMEN 2000
MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2000
BELLEVUE BAPTIST CHURCH
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

For more information and registration, call the Bellevue Women's Ministry at (901) 385-5730.

SPECIAL GUEST KAY ARTHUR

Our featured speaker will be Kay Arthur, an internationally known Bible teacher, conference speaker, and former missionary who has made major contributions to the Christian community around the world. She is also the host of several national radio and television programs.



 **Bellevue**
Baptist Church

2000 Appling Road • Cordova, TN 38018
Dr. Adrian Rogers, Pastor

associations

■ **Central Baptist Association**, based in McMinnville, will hold a Celebrate Jesus 2000 Rally Feb. 6 at the McMinnville Civic Center. David Ring, evangelist based in Franklin, will speak. For more information, call (931) 668-3690.

■ **Hamilton County Baptist Association**, based in Chattanooga, will hold a training conference for leaders of the program, Share Jesus Without Fear, Jan. 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. at East Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga. For more information, call (423) 267-3794.

churches

■ **New Concord Baptist Church, Kenton**, sent Johnny Witherspoon and his wife, Susan, on a missions effort Jan. 12-25 in the Philippines.

■ **Riverview Baptist Church, Columbia**, held a revival recently which resulted in six people being saved and 20 people rededicating their lives to God. The church has an average of 65 people in morning worship. Leading the revival were evangelists Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa and Carolyn Reed of Nashville.

■ **Bethlehem Baptist Church, Westpoint**, has

Position Openings

Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Receptionist/Switchboard Operator: Administrative Services Group
Primary Function: Receive and direct all phone calls and faxes to the Baptist Center Staff, greet and direct guests entering building, and coordinate room, audiovisual, and transportation schedules. Skills needed: Some computer skills required as well as good communication, telephone, and interpersonal skills.

Design Services Coordinator: Communication Services Group
Primary Function: Create and develop professional quality graphic design and art solutions for selected products and publications; produce and/or out source high quality layouts and visuals and facilitate the preparation of materials for printing or production. Skills needed: Advanced technical expertise with computer graphics hardware and software (i.e., QuarkXPress, Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Pagemaker, or comparable programs).

Database Administrator/programmer: Administrative Services Group
Primary Function: Administer Executive Board databases and computer-based information processes to ensure correct and essential information is available to Executive Board staff. Skills needed: Two to four years experience in Access programming; two to four years experience in database management; completed Microsoft Access training through the advanced level and Microsoft Access programming training highly desirable.

Information concerning these positions may be obtained by contacting Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered for a position.



BESSIE ROOP, Woman's Missionary Union director, First Baptist Church, Spring City, gives gifts to representatives of Rhea County law enforcement agencies, including, from left, Don Janow, police officer; Bobby Clevenger, state trooper; and Bob Hadsock, county deputy. The gifts were given during the Christmas season. The stuffed animals were for children in crisis.

about 50 people in worship each Sunday morning and members give about \$500 each week in offering. However, members gave \$6,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

■ **Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville**, will host

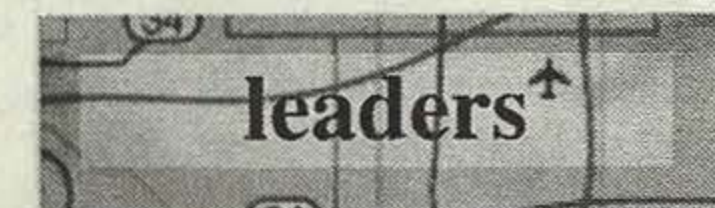
CLASSIFIED

GMC BUS FOR SALE: Beautiful one-owner GMC model 4905 motorcoach, 47-passenger, like brand new inside and out. This coach has very low mileage. Asking only \$39,500. For photos and information call (606) 278-7224.

MCI COACH FOR SALE: Really nice MC-9 motorcoach, 47-passenger, TVs, low mileage, asking only \$59,500. For photos or information call (606) 278-7224.

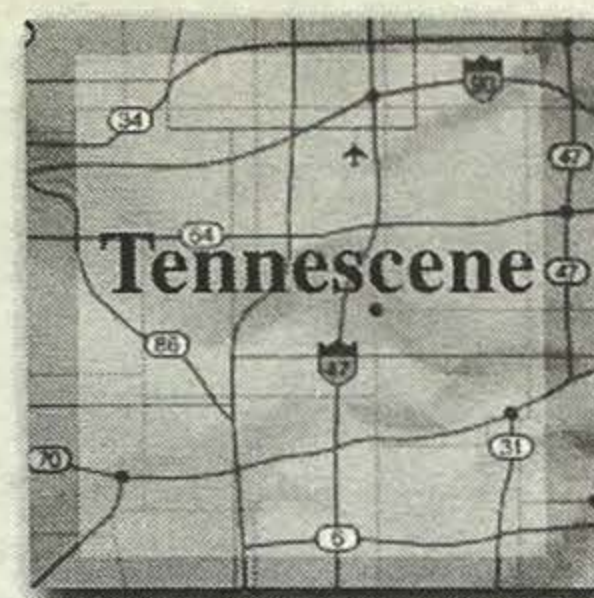
a workshop, Christian Estate Planning, Feb. 6 from 1-2:15 p.m. It will be led by Gary Coltharp of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood. For more information, contact the church at (615) 255-0468.

■ **First Baptist Church, Martin**, will dedicate the new wing of its facility Feb. 6. Open house will be from 2-4 p.m.



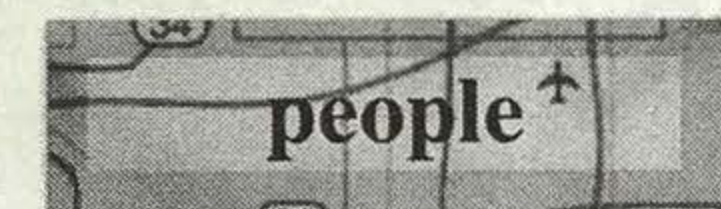
■ **Kevin Horner** has been called as youth director, Hornbeak Baptist Church, Hornbeak.

■ **Brogan Avenue Baptist Church, Fayetteville**, has



called **Dalton Warden** as pastor.

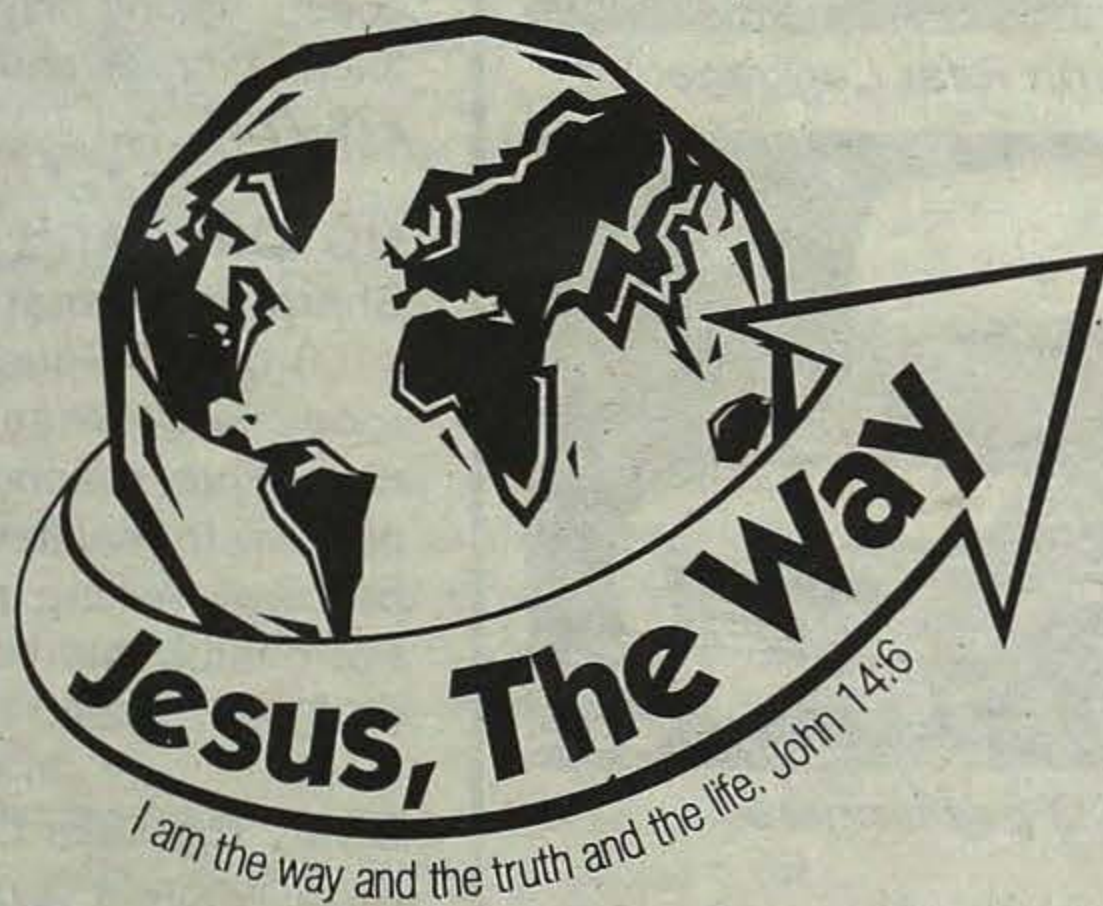
■ **Poplar Corner Baptist Church, Brownsville**, has called **Jason Varnick** as minister of music and **Chris Dancer** as minister of children and youth. Varnick is a student at Union University, Jackson. Dancer is a graduate of Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Camilla, Ga.



■ **Lillie Walters** was recognized recently by Faith Baptist Church, Loretto, on her 100th birthday and for being the oldest member of the church. She is not able to attend church regularly, as reported in the Jan. 19 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, but members visit her often.

■ **Neva Calder**, organist, Poplar Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, will retire after serving 46 years. She will be honored Feb. 13. Activities include a dinner after a special morning worship service.

missions2000.sbts.edu



Missions 2000 February 18-20

This Conference will provide students with the opportunity to experience missions ethnically with opportunities to worship Gen-X style, Latin American Style and go underground for a real catacomb experience. Free housing is available on campus and with area churches. Cost is \$15 for single students, \$20 for couples.

Registration deadline is February 14, 2000.

Call 1 800 626-5525 x4617



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280
1 800 626-5525, x4617 • Visit us on the web: www.sbts.edu

BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL PRESENTS

The 8th Annual
WILLIAM E. CONGER, JR.
LECTURES ON BIBLICAL PREACHING

HADDON W. ROBINSON

HAROLD JOHN OCKENGA DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF PREACHING
GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, SOUTH HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

February 29-March 1, 2000

"Preaching an
Unchanging Message
in a Changing World"

A DISCUSSION LUNCHEON WILL FOLLOW WEDNESDAY'S LECTURE. THE COST OF THE LUNCHEON IS \$5 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

The worship service and lectures, held in Beeson Divinity Chapel starting at 11 a.m. each day, are open to the public at no charge.

For more information or to register
for the Discussion Luncheon,
call 800-888-8266 or (205) 726-2991.

Beeson is affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals and is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution.



BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
Birmingham, Alabama 35229-2252
http://beeson.samford.edu

leaders

■ **New Hope Baptist Church**, Paris, called **Jesse Hawkins** as pastor recently. **Jerry Lee** was interim pastor.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Knoxville, has called **Jud Reasons** of Augusta, Ga., as associate pastor.

■ **Eric Allman** has been called as youth intern, **First Baptist Church**, Martin.

association

■ **Campbell County Baptist Association**, based in LaFollette, voted recently to support Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, during 2000. Its goal is \$16,000 which will build a dormitory room which will house two students.

■ **William Carey Baptist Association**, based in Fayetteville, will hold a Conversational English Workshop or English as a Second Language Workshop Feb. 11-13 at the association's Ministry Center. For more information, contact the association at (931) 433-3631.

■ **Western District Baptist Association**, based in Paris, will hold a Youth Retreat Feb. 4-5 at Paris Landing Inn. Jay Ridenour of Union University, Jackson, will speak. For more information, contact the

association at (901) 642-4641.

■ **Robertson County Baptist Association**, based in Springfield, will hold an Evangelism Rally Feb. 6 at Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, at 6 p.m. For more information, call (615) 384-8197.

churches

■ **First Baptist Church, Smithville**, has completed renovation of its basement for a children's area and youth area. The ground level floor now includes Sunday School classes, office, library, and bathrooms. The sanctuary was renovated in 1998.

Pilgrim Tours

Quality Touring with Friends
Athens, Corinth, Delphi Deluxe from \$1,150; Footsteps of Paul Tours — many to choose from, Israel Holy Lands — many departures, Spring Break Athens March, \$950; Antebellum Gardens, Tulips in Holland Barge Cruise, Australia-New Zealand, Switzerland Alpine Tour, Nova Scotia-PEI, California, Hawaii, Canadian Rockies, Yellowstone, Scandinavia, Malta, Ireland, Scotland, Paris, London, and many others.

Call for a Complete Listing
Pilgrim Tours
(800) 322-0788
www.pilgrimtours.com

■ **Puryear Baptist Church**, Puryear, distributed 400 videos of the movie, "Jesus," to homes recently.

■ **First Baptist Church, Martin**, raised \$1,228 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions through a pancake breakfast.

■ **First Baptist Church, Columbia**, broke ground for a new facility at a new site Jan. 16.

■ **Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield**, plans to buy 900 copies of the video of the movie, "Jesus," and distribute them, will give \$3,000 to the Middle Tennessee Billy Graham

Crusade, and will spend \$2,500 on outreach materials during the next year.

■ **Georgian Hills Baptist Church, Memphis**, held an open house Jan. 23 of its renovated facilities.

■ **Clear Springs Baptist Church, Athens**, will hold an "Old Time Singing School" Feb. 21-25. For more information, call Hershel Elkins, (423) 745-7879.

2000

A Time to Build (Ecc. 3:3)

Thomas L. Anderson Architects, Inc.
AIA, CSI & NCARB
(A Design & Build Company)
With two decades of experience, we help growing churches fulfill their vision and build their dreams.
"Making Kingdom Visions Reality"
303 South Main Street
Goodlettsville, TN 37072
(615) 859-4221
e-mail: TLAARCH303@BellSouth.net



BAPTISTRIES

HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

LIFEWAY'S EXCLUSIVE BUS SOURCE

CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.

Since 1953



Capacity: 39 adults or 35 with Rear Luggage



20' to 33' Models, 15 to 33 passengers

- LifeWay discount
- 12 to 47 adult capacity
- 15 passenger vans
- We buy used buses
- Over 40 buses in stock
- "No-CDL" buses and Raised Roof Vans

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287

www.carpenterbus.com

Check our web site for new and used inventory.
328 Southgate Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

"We specialize in church buses"

Here's a Doctor of Ministry in Evangelism and Church Growth that fits your ministry schedule!



Dr. Thom Rainer, Dean
Billy Graham School

The Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth now offers a Doctor of Ministry in Evangelism and Church Growth that is...

Practical: Seminars and study focus on "real-life" church and leadership issues.

Convenient: Each seminar meets for one week. Only four-and-one-half weeks of on-campus time are expected over the three-year degree program.

Balanced: The disciplines of evangelism and church growth are each examined biblically, theologically, historically and methodologically throughout the program.

Relevant: Faculty members, including Dean Thom Rainer and Timothy Beougher, have served as leaders in growing churches.

Affordable: The cost is reasonable, and a convenient monthly payment plan is also available.

Two Tracks of Study: Pastor/Church Staff Leadership track and Church Consultation track.

"The Graham School D.Min. program blessed my life tremendously, both personally and professionally. Instead of taking away from my day-to-day ministry activities, this program has been very complementary and practical."

Steve Holt - First Baptist Church, Surgoinsville, Tenn.

Join us in this challenging program. Applicants are now being accepted for the Summer 2000 class.



**The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary**

2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280
1 800 626-5525, ext. 4108 • Visit us on the web: www.sbt.edu



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.

CREDIT CARD STRESS? Lower payments. Reduce and eliminate interest. Non-profit. Free confidential consultation. American Credit and Debt Management, 1-800-422-9243.

YOUTH MINISTER: Central Baptist Church, 300 North Roan St., Johnson City, TN 37601, seeks youth minister with seminary degree, 25-35 years old, 2 years professional experience. Mail resume to YMS Committee.

EAGLE BUS FOR SALE: Very nice one-owner Eagle model 15 motorcoach, TVs, a beautiful coach. Asking only \$79,500. For information or photos call (606) 278-7224.

MOTORCOACH FOR SALE: Sharp one-owner GMC model 4108 bus, 39-passenger, rest-room, low mileage, like brand new. This coach is very inexpensive to maintain. See to appreciate. Asking only \$49,500. For photos and information call (606) 278-7224.

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.

ACCOUNTANT: Accountant/Financial secretary. Experience in weekly payroll, quarterly payroll taxes, accounts payable, budget, Shelby System preferred. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 86, Joelton, TN 37080.

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.

Your money, your church

By Wayne Rowan

Focal Passage: II Corinthians 8:1-15

One of the most difficult things for a minister to do is ask for money. As a pastor, it seems that too much of our time is spent on trying to raise enough money for the budget, the new building fund, or to pay off the existing debt. The cold hard fact of any church's ministry is that it can flourish or wither away based upon the funds available.

We are to be good stewards of all that God has given us and we are to spend church money in a very wise and prudent way. But too often it is a lack of concern by the church family to see the need for giving that causes these problems. Too many people view giving as a hardship and not part of true worship.

I taught my children to be tithers and givers of an offering from the very first Sunday that I attended church as a Christian. Tithing is a natural part of a Christian's worship and should be taught in our homes as well as our churches. But often it is the parents' fault because they have never tithed or they give God some of what is left instead of giving first to him. What are you teaching your children about giving by the way you give to the church? The church suffers and people miss the rich blessings of the Lord. Everyone loses.

Giving is a privilege (vv. 1-4). These verses show the joy and eagerness of the church at Macedonia to help the work elsewhere. They gave freely and voluntarily even though they were not wealthy people. You do not have to be a wealthy person to be able to support the church. Their giving was through the divine grace of the Lord. They gave because the Lord gave his all for them. Did not this same Jesus give his all for each of us? Are we not partakers of the grace of God just as they were? Then are we, too, bound by the same spirit of giving as the Macedonian church? Of course we are.

Giving is a spiritual activity (vv. 5-7). These verses tell us that if we want to excel in our Christian walk and continue to grow as a Christian, we must learn to give earnestly. I believe that our attitude toward giving reflects our true spiritual nature. Just as we study the Bible, sing songs of praise, and pray. Giving is just another part of our Christian growth. A good spiritual barometer of a church member is the way they view money and the giving of money to the church. Paul urged the Corinthians to excel in giving as they did in other areas of worship.

Giving demonstrates love (v. 8). This verse reveals how strongly Paul felt about the need for church members to give faithfully. Love is an action word. You must show people that you love them because words at times are so empty. We demonstrate our love for the church and the Lord by our giving. Jesus was not hesitant toward us in giving his all for us. Why should we be hesitant in giving back to him what is already his? Does your giving really reveal how much you love the church and the Lord? I am convinced that we give the most to the things we love the most.

Giving helps meet other's needs (vv. 10-15). These verses ask us to do for others what they may have trouble doing for themselves. The church has a responsibility to help those in need. We are many times hindered due to lack of funds. Even when we do not have the means to give, if we have the willingness to do so, God will make a way. We are taught that to whom much is given, much is required. Are you really giving as the Bible teaches or are you just giving the Lord and his church a small morsel that has to be spread very thin? — Rowan is pastor, Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Ripley.

Focus on rewards

By Thomas James

Focal Passage: Matthew 20:1-16

Shortly before his death, Charles Darwin, the author of evolutionary theory, said to a friend concerning evolution, "I was a young man with uninformed ideas. I threw out queries and suggestions. To my astonishment, they took like wildfire!" He then asked that friend to speak to a meeting of his servants, tenants, and neighbors. "What shall I speak about?" the friend asked. "Christ Jesus and his salvation. Is not that the best theme?" Darwin responded. Many who knew Charles Darwin said he professed his faith in Jesus Christ in his last days of life. Whether or not he really did we do not know, but the possibility of it gets to the heart of this passage. It takes the same amount of God's grace to save no matter when one comes to Christ and that grace covers the same amount of sins — all!

Family Bible Lesson

Notice in verses 1-7 Jesus does not renounce the idea of rewards for service but rather stresses that rewards should not be our motivation for serving the Lord. The people hired throughout the day all received the same wage, no matter if they worked one hour or all day. The reward received should be more the concern of the vineyard owner than the laborers. Our task in serving the Lord is to be faithful to him who has called us, not for the reward promised but out of gratitude that he would let us labor for him. God's not as concerned with our length of service or what we "accomplish" as he is with whether or not we were faithful to what he called us to do in the time frame he gave us to do it.

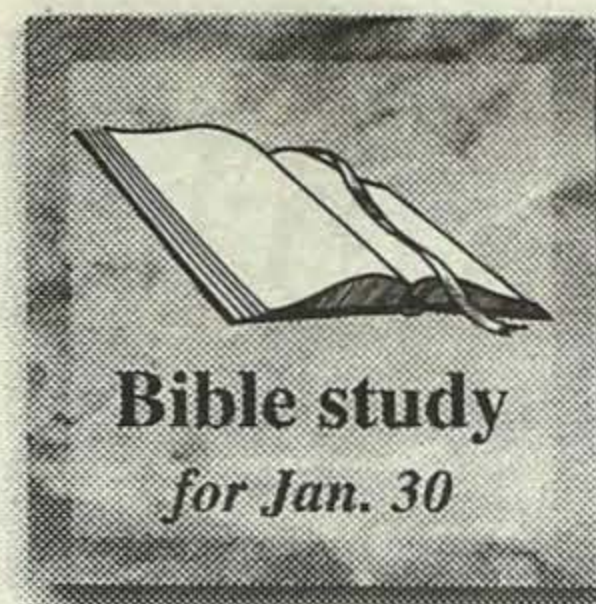
Verses 8-12 are key to our understanding of this para-

ble. The Lord points out that each worker is equally valuable to the vineyard owner. The workers who worked all day recognize this and in verse 12 they grumble, *thou hast made them equal unto us.* They complain to the owner that the last workers who worked only one hour received equal pay to theirs.

Their problem was that they took their eyes off of the task given them by the master and instead looked at the labors of others. How often are we guilty of the same thing? It is very tempting to compare our services to what others around us are doing for the Lord. We congratulate ourselves for our wonderful service in comparison to others and run the risk of disillusionment when they receive equal reward one day. We must remember that the Lord's rewards are because of his grace not our merit.

In verses 13-16, the Lord points out that the vineyard owner did exactly what he promised he would for each worker. The Lord stresses that it is the owner's prerogative to reward as he sees fit. That he chose to give a full day's wages to the worker who worked one hour speaks more about his graciousness than it does their labors. But he was faithful to fulfill exactly what he had said he would do for each worker he hired.

This lesson reminds us of the difference between mercy and grace. Mercy has been defined as "God not giving us what we deserve." The Bible says, *there is none righteous, no not one.* We all deserve death and hell yet God is merciful and does not send those who accept Christ to hell. Grace has been defined as "God giving us what we don't deserve." Not a one of us deserves to go to heaven, but praise his name he gives us that reward when we leave this life a born-again believer. It's not a matter of how long we serve or what we accomplish, it's all about his grace. — James is pastor of Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown.



Strengthening faith

By Kevin Shrum

Focal Passage: I John 5:1-12

Do you ever feel like you're standing in front of a 50-foot tidal wave and that life is overcoming and overwhelming you? This is a common feeling among many people, even believers. But are there any spiritual factors that can assist the believer to live an overcoming life?

We do know that God has called every believer to live an overcoming life. Remember, in I John 4:4 John had written *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* But what are the key issues to living an overcoming life?

The overcomer personally believes (vv. 1, 9-12). Overcoming begins through belief for *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ* (v. 1). The believer accepts the testimony of God which he has given about his Son (v. 9). That is, God doesn't have any grandchildren; he has only children. You cannot transfer faith from your parents or grandparents. The individual must believe. Personal belief is essential to living an overcoming life.

The overcomer passionately loves (v. 2). If personal belief is present then love for God and others should be the spiritual outcome of such belief. This is why verses 2-3

Explore the Bible Lesson

state everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, earlier John had reminded his fellow believers that *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.* Love is the outcome of belief!

The overcomer particularly obeys (v. 3). If belief produces love then love should produce obedience. This is why verses 3-4 read, *This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world.* The high-water mark of a mature believer is obedience. The believer demonstrates his love for God through faithful obedience.

The overcomer lives by faith (vv. 4-12). Faith used as a subject means that one has made a declarative statement of belief in God. Faith is the volitional, intentional choice of choosing to trust God. This is why verses 4-5 read, *This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.* In fact, as He-

brews 11:6 reminds us that *Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

The subject and content of our faith is outlined in verses 6-12. The content of our faith is 1) *Jesus Christ who came to us through baptismal obedience, his own atoning blood, and by the testimony of the Holy Spirit* (vv. 6-8). Further, 2) the revelation of Jesus Christ is validated by the testimony of God the Father who verifies his Son (vv. 9-10). In other words, John is being very Trinitarian: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are all involved in God's redemptive plan. As a result, 3) the person who believes that *God has given us eternal life, and this is life in his Son.*

The overcoming lifestyle is a by-product of saving, obedient faith. Overcoming doesn't mean that life always goes smooth; it doesn't mean that we have all of our questions answered; nor, does it mean that we are immune from trials. It does mean, however, that if we trust God then nothing can overwhelm us to the point that we lose hope. So, whether in death or life, trouble or trial, the believer will overcome because our life is found in Christ, the ultimate overcomer! — Shrum is pastor, Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.



B&H to publish Stewart biography

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Broadman & Holman has secured the rights to publish the authorized biography of popular pro golfer Payne Stewart, who died in a plane crash in late October.

The book is targeted for release in June and is being written by Stewart's widow, Tracey Stewart, with the help of author Ken Abraham.

Tracey Stewart said of the book: "I see this as an opportunity to share qualities that really defined who Payne was. I think he would want people to know that it was the conviction and commitment to his faith and to our family that made him a joyful and energetic competitor on the course — and in life." ■

Registration opens for SBC day camp

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Children attending the Southern Baptist Convention day camp in Orlando, Fla., June 13-14 will explore the theme "Kidz 2000 - Celebrate" through a combination of field trips, missionary testimonies, games, Bible studies, and other activities.

The camp is held each year during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting for children who will have completed grades one through six by June. It is contracted through the mission education team of the North American Mission Board. The director is Duane Ortego, a childhood education consultant and former missionary to South Korea.

The day camp schedule is Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to noon. Parents will be required to sign a medical release for their children.

Registration begins immediately, and will be offered to the first 200 children on a first-come, first-served basis through June 1. The cost is \$75 per child, which includes a T-shirt, snacks, the noon meal on Tuesday, and field trips. Registration information is available by contacting Ortego at (770) 704-0267 or via e-mail dpaco@juno.com. ■

Amazon.com pulls 'kiddie porn' book

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The world's self-proclaimed largest bookstore has one less book on its shelf following a nationwide protest launched by Charles Colson, a noted evangelical author and founder of Prison Fellowship.

Amazon.com will no longer sell or stock a book that promotes pedophilia, called, *Varieties of Man/Boy Love: Modern Western Contexts*.

Amazon.com's spokesman told Baptist Press the company was originally not aware of the book's content.

"When we physically examined the book, we were offended by the pictures on the cover," said spokesman Bill Curry. "It was so close to kiddie porn that we removed the book from our catalog."

Colson told Baptist Press he was pleased with the company's response. "I'm glad we blew the whistle on that," he said. "It's a good example of how Christians can make their case. We didn't make the case that what they were doing was a sin. We made the case that it was illegal and that's what did it."

Although Amazon.com pulled the book from its catalog, the company continues to sell a number of other books deemed pornographic, including pedophilia fiction.

Concerned Women for America is continuing its nationwide crusade against Amazon.com until the company agrees to remove all child pornography from its site. ■

Blackaby joins B&H on new translation

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — *Experiencing God* author Henry Blackaby and Broadman & Holman have joined forces to release a book that combines devotional notes with a new translation of the Gospels.

In *Experiencing the Word Through the Gospels*, Blackaby uses the new Holman Christian Standard Bible translation of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to give readers a way to "actually experience" the Bible, said David Shepherd, vice president at Broadman & Holman.

In spring 1999, Broadman & Holman, the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced it intended to produce a new translation of the Bible that would be both accurate

Comprised of six principles

Baptist state paper group adopts statement

By Linda Lawson
For Baptist Press

KONA, Hawaii — The Association of State Baptist Papers adopted a statement of principles, pledging "to uphold the inviolability of the free flow of truth," during their annual meeting, Jan. 12-15, in Kona, Hawaii.

"These standards are intended to be supportive and redemptive, the positive benchmarks for which we strive," the preamble to the document states. "As an association, we commend them to the various governing bodies of our member publications. We recognize that each of these bodies is responsible for determining how it will use this document. However, we believe all of our members should strive to exemplify these principles."

Six principles are delineated:

(1) Kingdom-building: "Our relationship to Christ will guide us in the performance of our responsibilities. We seek to involve our readers in kingdom-building through our ministry of information, inspiration, interpretation, and opinion."

(2) Truth-seeking and truth-telling: "We strive to seek and report the truth. We strive to be honest, fair, and courageous in gathering, reporting, and interpreting information. Accuracy and balance will characterize our work. We will guard against bias and distortion."

(3) Relationships: "We seek to engender trust and to trust others, particularly the Baptist readers we serve."

(4) Accountability: "Even as we strive to produce materials of the highest quality, we will welcome questions and criticism of our work. We will admit mistakes and correct them promptly. We will attempt to hold the news services upon which we rely to the same high standards we set for ourselves."

(5) Independence: "We will strive to avoid conflicts of interest and to remain free of associations and activities that may compromise or damage our integrity. The guidance of God's Holy Spirit and convictions growing from diligence to our task will guide us in editorial writing."

(6) Advertising: "In accepting advertising, our publications assume a responsibility not to defraud or mislead readers by what we publish. The products in the ads we publish will not conflict with the purposes of our publications."

In business session, editors authorized a study of the qualification of membership in the organization.

Elizabeth Young, editor of *Portraits* in Arizona, was elected president-elect of the organization. Don Kirkland, editor of the *Baptist Courier*, will become president of the group April 1, succeeding Mark Wyatt of the *California Southern Baptist*. ■

and readable. B&H assembled a team of more than 80 translators, editors, and stylists to complete the task. *The Holman Christian Standard Bible* translation is set for release in its entirety in 2004, with the New Testament scheduled for release in 2001.

Experiencing the Word Through the Gospels is the second and largest section of the *Holman Christian Standard Bible* to have been released, Shepherd said. *The Gospel of John* was released last summer and given to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Blackaby said he has been looking forward to the new translation release of the Gospels because it is one of his favorite parts of the Bible.

On every page of *Experiencing the Word*, either a word study or a spiritual challenge is introduced, Shepherd said. In the word studies, the meanings and applications of Greek words found in the Gospels are explained. ■

Metro Atlanta Baptists plan Super Bowl ministry

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — When thousands of sports fans descend on Atlanta for Super Bowl XXXIV, metro Atlanta Baptists plan to be part of the

enthusiastic crowd.

Volunteers from nine metro Atlanta associations will be sharing the Gospel in a variety of ways, from staffing hotel information booths to helping fans play interactive games at the "NFL Experience" in the Georgia World Congress Center to distributing evangelistic sports magazines.

The ministry, which began Jan. 22, will spread across eight days as fans from around the nation plan their week around the mega-event.

To kick off the outreach, the parking lot at Turner Field will be turned into a block party with volunteers distributing 15,000 bags of groceries to the needy. About 700 volunteers are staffing the event, "Operation Blessing-Supper Bowl," which is being sponsored by Christian Broadcasting Network. The NFL-sanctioned street festival is held annually in the host city to benefit economically challenged families.

But that's not all. Joel Harrison, director of missions for the Atlanta Baptist Association, said Metro Atlanta Baptists will be hosting 183 viewing sites in area churches and homes.

The sites are where Christians can invite unchurched friends and neighbors to enjoy the game in a relaxed atmosphere. The gatherings will include the showing of a halftime video in which Christian athletes share their faith.

Harrison said 168,000

copies of *Sports Spectrum*, an evangelistic sports magazine, have been distributed to churches for use during the weeklong emphasis, as part of a partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board. Many of the magazines are being distributed in door-to-door campaigns and as part of a church's visitation program. ■

Californians will define marriage in vote on March 7

Baptist Press

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — A clear and present danger looms in California to the traditional definition of marriage, and the president of the California Baptist Convention is urging Baptists to take a stand.

On March 7, Californians will determine the state's definition of marriage by a vote on a 14-word Proposition 22 that declares, "Only marriage between man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Sponsors of the bipartisan initiative are counting on a mobilization of Southern Baptists to push the proposition to victory and Larry Dotson, convention president, said he believes that may happen. He has written every Southern Baptist church in the state advising them about Proposition 22. ■