

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

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February 9, 2000

## Throughout state

# Tennessee Baptists launch prayer effort

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — At the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting last November, messengers approved a resolution on on "United Prayer for Revival and Spiritual Awakening."

The resolution called for four sustained initiatives of fervent prayer during the year 2000.

The first of those initiatives set aside four designated Wednesday nights throughout 2000 where all TBC churches would be encouraged and equipped to call fervent meetings of corporate prayer for revival and spiritual awakening.

The dates for the prayer meetings were announced recently by TBC President Jerry Tidwell of Jackson.

They are March 8 (in conjunction with the Day of Prayer for Spiritual Awakening already designated by the SBC), May 3 (in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer on May 4),

Sept. 13 (in conjunction with the Week of Prayer for State Missions), and Nov. 1 (in conjunction with the national presidential election and the TBC annual meeting later in November).

Last week each Tennessee Baptist church was mailed a booklet, *Biblical Patterns for Powerful Church Prayer Meetings*, written by Gregory R. Frizzell, pastor of Georgian Hills Baptist Church, Memphis.

Frizzell is the author of eight books on united prayer, spiritual awakening, and prayer evangelism.

In the letter which accompanied the booklet, Gary Rickman, ministry coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention noted, "Just passing a resolution at a convention does not accomplish anything unless the local church wishes to act upon the resolution."

"I am writing to you, a pastor, who is concerned about serious praying, urging you to lead your church in this call to united prayer."

Frizzell, who also has written

columns in the *Baptist and Reflector* concerning prayer and spiritual awakening, notes that "no church develops a powerful prayer ministry or dynamic corporate prayer by accident."

"Neither does a church experience genuine revival and explosive evangelism without prayer becoming a sustained, top priority."

Frizzell observed the same could be said of a national or state convention.

"Nearly all Great Awakenings occurred as past generations made the determined choice to seek God with all their hearts," Frizzell related.

"We must now choose whether we will embrace the type of prayer required for a massive move of revival. God is indeed watching to see what we do in prayer, not what we say about it."

Other initiatives called for in the resolution passed by Tennessee Baptists last November include:

➤ Throughout the year 2000, all

Tennessee Baptist churches will be encouraged and equipped to establish evangelistic church prayer ministries.

➤ Throughout the year 2000, all Tennessee Baptist churches will be encouraged and equipped to combine fervent prayer with all their evangelism strategies.

➤ The Tennessee Baptist Convention will seek to develop a state-wide network of continuous prayer for revival and evangelism.

Frizzell observed that the goal of the prayer resolution and initiatives was not "to create some complicated new program, but rather a simple way to undergird all we do with far greater prayer."

Rickman wrote: "It is the hope of the leadership of the Tennessee Baptist Convention that if we return to serious prayer and repentance, God will hear and send mighty revival, spiritual awakening, and sweeping evangelism." ■

**Statewide  
Prayer  
Meetings  
(on Wednesdays)**  
➤ March 8  
➤ May 3  
➤ Sept. 13  
➤ Nov. 1

## Tennesseans continue strong CP giving

For *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — In January Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,994,570 through the Cooperative Program.

After the first three months of the 1999-2000 budget year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$8,730,015 to meet ministry, missions, and educational needs not only in Tennessee but across the Southern Baptist Convention as well.

Gifts are 5.11 percent or \$424,791 more than was given after three months last year.

The year-to-date budget need is \$8,413,443.

"We are excited that Tennessee Baptists are showing their continuing commitment to sharing the message and love of Christ with those who do not know him," said James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer. ■

## Association's van helps its congregations

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

HUNTINGDON — When Lana Suite (pronounced suit) begins planning a trip for the senior adult women of McLemoresville Baptist Church, McLemoresville, one of the first things she does is call Debbie Roberts, secretary for Carroll-Benton Baptist Association, based here.

Suite wants to reserve the association's van.

The church had a van, she explained, but it was old and not reliable enough to take on long trips. Using the association's van, the group has visited the Hermitage in Nashville, Shiloh National Park, Land Between the Lakes State Park, and the birthplace of Alex Haley in Henning.

Suite explained the congregation, which draws about 100 people to a Sunday morning worship service, is saving money to buy a new van. It has saved more toward the purchase because it was able to sell its van after Carroll-Ben-

ton Association started providing a van to its churches, said Suite.

McLemoresville Church will still need the association's van for large events like its youth retreat held recently in Gatlinburg after it buys a van, she added. Finally, it will need the association's van because the church is growing, said Suite.

### Usage of van

Amazingly, said George Hill, the association's director of missions, the van is used almost every day of the week. It serves associational groups and the 30 churches of the association and one mission (beginning congregation). The association may be the first in the state to provide a van to churches.

Part of the reason the van is so busy is the association has so many churches, said Hill, and part of the reason is Baptists in the association are very active.

The association uses it to transport people from its churches to national events, such as training at Ridgecrest

Baptist Conference Center or to conduct disaster relief work; state events, such as those provided by the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and to area events, such as those held by the association.

The churches use it for various reasons, continued Hill. — See Association's, page 4



STANDING BY the van of Carroll-Benton Baptist Association are George Hill, left, director of missions; and pastors who have used it, Ken Zike, center, pastor, Missionary Grove Baptist Church, Camden; and Billy Murphy, pastor, Howse Baptist Church, Atwood.

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# Tennesseans reflect on future of church orchestras

By Todd Starnes  
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In the early 1970s Camp Kirkland pioneered a new field of music ministry in the Southern Baptist Convention when he became a church's full-time orchestra director. Nearly 30 years later, more than 100 full-time orchestra directors and nearly 70,000 volunteer instrumentalists have joined the ranks.

The church orchestra is once again on the upswing and that's good news for churches within the SBC, said Mark Johnson, instrumental consultant and editor for LifeWay Christian Resources.

"Instrumental music is a growing, evolving ministry. It reflects what I feel is a growing trend towards the inclusion of more musicians in the worship service," Johnson said. "Generally, we are moving away from churches [which] only use the piano and organ. Having additional instrumentalists allows more people to be included in ministry."

In the early days of the church orchestra, Johnson said only mega-churches had instrumental music programs, such as Camp Kirkland's at First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

All that changed in the late 1970s and 1980s when church orchestras flourished. Churches of all sizes began to pioneer instrumental music programs, and many churches created full-time staff positions to accommodate the growing interest in the ministry opportunity.

And while the ministries grew, there was also a challenge — finding instrumental music.

Now, however, Johnson said there are a large number of instrumental selections available, including hymn books.

While the future of the church orchestra is looking brighter, Johnson said the biggest challenge facing musicians is to experience growth proportionate to that of the 1970s and 1980s.

According to the Annual Church Profile count, between 65,000 to 70,000 people are members of a church instrumental ensemble and more than 100 directors are employed at SBC churches.

"There was a point several years ago that instrumental music was the fastest-growing facet of music ministry in the SBC," said Terry McNatt, associate pastor of worship and music at Germantown Baptist Church in Tennessee. "I first started in this back in 1986 and you only saw orchestras in fairly large churches. Now, there are guys starting orchestras in churches with 300 in Sunday School."

McNatt is also a member of the Metro Instrumental Directors Association, a group that initially started with five members and has grown to 60. "It's just a time for us to get together and fellowship together," McNatt said.

Orchestras have been a wonderful addition to the worship services at Germantown, McNatt reflected. "The orchestra provides a color and excitement in the music that you

cannot replace with any other instrument. You can't imitate it," he said.

And while many church orchestras play traditional hymns and worship choruses, McNatt said the church orchestra is also a springboard for the development of praise bands.

"We've had guys that we started using as players on Sunday mornings and as they got better we found that we could use them on Sunday night when we worship with a praise band," McNatt said.

But no matter what style of worship is used in the future, McNatt said he believes that church orchestras will remain a viable worship tool. "And most importantly, you are allowing people to be ministers. The church orchestra is a ministry opportunity."

No one should know that better than Jeff Cranfill, associate minister of music at Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga. Cranfill's conversion was the result of an invitation to join a church orchestra.

"For me, the church orchestra is what got me to church to begin with. A friend invited me to play in his church orchestra at First Baptist Atlanta and I thought it would be fun," Cranfill said. It wasn't long after that invitation that Cranfill accepted Jesus Christ into his life. Eventually, his entire family would be led to the Lord under the ministry of pastor Charles Stanley.

"If nothing else, the church orchestra can minister to those who are lost by bringing them into the group," he said.

Cranfill's orchestra ministry at Red Bank includes a sanctuary orchestra as well as a chapel orchestra. The chapel orchestra is primarily for younger players or less-experienced players of any age. "We have mostly teenagers in the chapel orchestra but one of our members is a 60-year-old man who always wanted to play the trombone. So he went out and bought one and now he's in the chapel orchestra," Cranfill said.

Rob Thomas, minister of music and worship at First Baptist Church, HENDERSONVILLE, said church orchestras are coming into their own. "I think it's a great time to have a church orchestra," he said. "These groups are like family. They watch out for one another. They minister to each other."

Thomas, who directed the orchestra at First Baptist Church Jackson, Miss., for eight years, said church orchestras serve a number of purposes. "Their playing fulfills a need they have to give their gift back to God," Thomas said.

In addition to orchestras being an outreach tool, Cranfill cites a biblical mandate for worship. "Spiritually speaking, you have to go back to Psalm 150 where it says to praise the Lord. Not to consider it. There is obedience to the Lord here."

"God has given us the ability to communicate emotions through music, and when you use that and let God speak to his people through the song people are going to be blessed," Cranfill said. ■

# Super Bowl MVP Warner credits Christ for his success

For Associated Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — National Football League quarterback Kurt Warner told a radio reporter he plans to use his rapid rise from obscurity to Super Bowl MVP as a platform to speak about his Christian faith.

Warner led the St. Louis Rams to a 23-16 victory Jan. 30 with a record performance in a Super Bowl described as the best in history. Warner completed 24 of 45 passes for 414 yards and two touchdowns, the last a 73-yard play that broke a 16-16 tie with 1:54 left in the game. An attempted comeback by the Tennessee Titans ended with a tackle one yard from the goal line as time expired.

Upstaging the game, even, was the "Rudy"-like story of Warner's career that sports writers commented would seem corny if it were a movie.

Five years ago, he was working in a supermarket. He grew up in Iowa, dreaming of playing at the University in Iowa. Instead, he settled for smaller Northern Iowa, where he didn't start until his se-

nior season and went undrafted by the pros.

Following a career that included stops in the Arena Football League and NFL Europe, Warner joined the Rams this year as a backup, earning a \$254,000 salary, and took over when superstar-prospect Trent Green went down with an injury.

Finally getting his chance, Warner was named the National Football League's regular-season Most Valuable Player and led his team to its first Super Bowl victory.

Warner has credited his wife, teammates, and his faith in Jesus Christ for his success.

"Who am I? I am a devout Christian man," Warner told 40,000 people at a Billy Graham crusade in St. Louis last fall. "I am not a football player. That is what I do. When I throw a touchdown pass now, my thoughts are on how I can use this success on the field as a platform to glorify and praise my Lord Jesus Christ."

"People often ask the secret of my success as a football player. It has nothing to do with how I work out in the off-season or my diet. The secret of my success is

simply Jesus Christ."

According to the Christian Web site Religion Today, Warner became a Christian four years ago after the parents of Brenda — then his girlfriend and now his wife — were killed by a tornado in Mountain View, Ark.

Warner watched as Brenda, a Christian, responded to the tragedy with grace. He knew she had dealt similarly with a crippling injury to her son eight years earlier, when as a baby he was dropped on his head. Today the boy, Zachary, is legally blind and brain-damaged but is a fifth grader who can read.

Three months after Brenda's parents' death, Warner became a Christian. Two months after that, he proposed to her and has adopted both Zachary and Brenda's daughter, Jesse.

Warner turned down an appearance on the David Letterman Show because it conflicted with his wedding anniversary.

He has his own breakfast cereal, Warner's Krunch Time, and proceeds go to a Christian camp for children with special needs. ■

# Clowning, church give man respite from pain

by Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

DICKSON — He jokes about how many toes he has, explaining he's not sure because he's never checked his right leg.

He explains he wishes he could ease that charley horse in his right foot, but he can't move just right.

Although Dayton Coles has a deadpan expression, the sparkle in his eyes lets most people know he is a jokester who has something different about him.

They don't have to wonder long to discover what is different. Coles isn't hesitant to explain he lost a leg to amputation. He's more hesitant to explain he's in constant pain.

Coles can be found joking almost any time, whether he's himself or Quakers, his clown character. But he has more fun when he becomes Quakers and is performing with the clown troupe, Good News Incorporated of Sylvia Baptist Church here.

The group performs regularly in the community to minister

to and evangelize people. And Quakers alias Coles is always there, drawing people, especially children, with his Donald Duck-type speech, colorful outfit, balloons which he shapes into gifts, and slow, approachable movements.

During a regular visit by the troupe to a Dickson library, Coles, who frequently gives up his cane when clowning, had been on his feet too long. His leg weakened so much he lost his footing and fell.

An on-looker saw him fall and then nimbly regain his stance. She asked him if that was part of his act. Coles said he took the comment as a compliment.

## Accident

While on the job driving truck loads of gasoline and other products of oil companies, Coles lost his footing on the icy footstep of a truck cab. He fell backwards onto pavement on his back. Since then, in 1989, Coles has had blood clots which have damaged his legs.

He's undergone 10 surgeries since then. And he faces more. But Coles has an unusual view of his situation.

"It's been rough. But the Lord makes it seem like it has been so easy. It hasn't been any problem at all, really," he said.

"The Lord's always helping me. I just praise him."

## Response to health problems

Soon after the accident, Coles became a Christian at the age of 52. But the two events weren't strongly related, he explained. He wasn't having a lot of health problems yet. And he was very influenced by his son, who was the first in the family to become a Christian.

Since he became a Christian, said Coles, his life has been great despite his health problems.

He is an active member of Sylvia Church and, when he could no longer work, became a regular volunteer for a community group home for handicapped men located near the church. Coles' led many of the residents of the home to participate in church activities.

Carmen Westerman, director of the clown troupe, said Coles and his wife, Gloria, alias Patches, are integral parts of the troupe. She said people, especially children, are drawn to Coles. And when the troupe visits hospitals and nursing homes, he has a special ministry to handicapped people, she added.

Coles said seeing children respond to him with a smile or laugh is very rewarding and makes him forget his pain. Clowning certainly is good medicine, he added. **B&R**



**CLOWNING BUDDIES** Dayton Coles or Quakers and Carmen Westerman or Lemonade are both members of a clown troupe of Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson. Coles wears part of his clown outfit.



## Churches to get tax help

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Is your church making timely reports as required by the Internal Revenue Service? Is your minister being penalized by receiving his financial support in a pay package? Does your church plan for ministry-related expenses comply with IRS rules for an accountable reimbursement plan? These and a variety of other related topics will be a part of a series of "Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers" meetings sponsored by the TBC Church Staff Leadership group.

Ministers, church employees, treasurers, budget or personnel committee members, and other interested lay leaders are invited to attend.

Meetings will be held Feb. 15 at Calvary Baptist Church, Morristown; Feb. 16 at Madison-Chester Baptist Association office, Jackson; and Feb. 17 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. The workshops begin at 10 a.m. For more information, call Richard Skidmore at (615) 371-2009. ■

# Holston, Watauga associations train youth for leadership roles

by Baptist and Reflector

ROGERSVILLE — Ask any youth minister what his or her greatest need is in the 21st century and the likely answer will be student leadership, submitted Mike Wilson, minister of youth, Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

That is why youth ministers in Holston and Watauga Baptist associations planned the first annual Fan the Flame 2000 — Key Youth Leadership Conference.

It was held Jan. 21-23 at the retreat center of Holston association here. The conference drew about 53 youth.

Wilson and Pete Tackett, minister of youth, First Baptist Church, Bluff City, led the meeting because they are youth ministry directors for their associations.

The conference was designed to guide youth to a higher level of leadership and obedience, explained Wilson. The vision of the ministers was to show youth "there is so much more out there,

if we can only learn to be obedient to God's guidance," said Wilson.

Each church in the two associations was invited to send two youth to the conference. It was led by Jeromy Deibler and Michael Boggs of Franklin, members of the recording group FFH. FFH was nominated for two Dove Awards this year.

Participant Shane Temple, 15, of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, said his life was changed because he got to know the speakers and felt they

cared for him. Tara Gouge, 13, Boone Trail Baptist Church, Gray, said she identified sin in her life which kept her from a better relationship with God and learned how to remove it.

Pete Tackett, co-director, predicted results of the event would be seen in the lives of participants and in churches because "God really led us to start something new and different."

Holston Association is based in Johnson City and Watauga Association is based in Elizabethton. ■



**YOUTH AND** leaders of the youth leadership conference of Holston and Watauga Baptist associations pause during the meeting.



**CO-DIRECTOR** of the event Mike Wilson, center, minister of youth, Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton, stands with conference leaders Jeromy Deibler, left, and Michael Boggs of Franklin who are members of the music recording group FFH.

# FAITH leader asks: 'Who would Jesus leave out?'

By Polly House  
For Baptist Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — "Think about drawing a circle. Inside the circle, write the groups of people you will try to reach through FAITH. Outside the circle, write the people you won't try to reach. Now think as if Jesus were drawing the circle. Would he leave anyone outside the circle?"

Doug Williams, retired associate pastor of evangelism and education at First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, and currently a FAITH consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources, offered this challenge during the National FAITH Institute Jan. 10-13 at the Florida church.

Williams was on staff at the Daytona Beach church when the strategy that became FAITH was conceived. Now a member of First Baptist Church, Oneonta, Ala., he led an institute session on prayer and practice.

FAITH is a strategy combining evangelism and Sunday School. It has been introduced to Southern Baptists by LifeWay and is endorsed by the North American Mission Board.

"There are some people who will be outside some churches' comfort zones," Williams said. But "that doesn't mean they are to be excluded from our ministry."

He categorized those often excluded by churches as Left Outs, Drop Outs, Opt Outs, and

Locked Outs.

The Left Outs, Williams said, could include people who make more money than you do, people who make less money than you do, people who need some sort of special instruction to understand the Gospel, those who are physically disabled, and those who have a hard time fitting in with other people on a social level.

The Drop Outs are members or attendees of some church in previous years. "Their names are probably on some church roll somewhere," Williams said, but have dropped out because their feelings were hurt, they did not receive needed ministry, or were caught in a church conflict.

He observed the Opt Out

group encompasses people who have made "a deliberate decision not to attend church." This group could include the agnostic, pleasure seeker, or the secular-minded who do not see the need for church.

The Locked Out, Williams said, are "often the hardest to include in our circle of ministry" due to dramatic differences in moral values and lifestyles.

To minister effectively and reach out with the good news of the Gospel requires Christians to get out of their comfort zones, Williams said.

"Think about Jesus drawing that circle and who he would leave out. You're free to leave out anyone Jesus would," Williams concluded. ■



## PK closes office in Tennessee

Associated Baptist Press

DENVER — Promise Keepers, a national men's ministry movement which began in 1990, has closed its eight regional offices in a major restructuring, according to a report by Charisma News Service. The work is being transferred to PK's national office here.

Among the sites closed was the south central region office, located in Nashville, which served Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The positions of Nashville staff members Kerry Woo, Marigrace Hewitt, and Richard Frankel were eliminated, effective in January.

Frankel, a member of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, had quit his job to join the staff of Promise Keepers just six weeks before he learned his position was to be terminated.

Promise Keepers downsized in 1998, due to a major loss in income after it stopped charging registration fees for its conferences, and has continued to suffer financial setbacks, according to the news service. ■

## Association's van helps its congregations ...

— Continued from page 1

The smaller congregations use it more than the bigger congregations, he explained, because they may not be able to afford to buy a vehicle. But the larger churches often take big groups and need to transport more people than they regularly transport, he added.

Churches which couldn't afford to buy enough vehicles to transport people to an event had to borrow or rent vehicles, Hill pointed out, or limit their efforts away from the church site.

"It's really been a blessing to all of our churches," said Hill.

### Purchase took sacrifice, patience

Hill said the association was in the position of many of its churches before buying the van. It had to borrow a vehicle or vehicles from churches for

association trips. But buying the van wasn't easy, said Hill. The association saved money for almost four years to buy the van.

Churches gave designated gifts to a fund and the association used its funds for it. The association raised the full price before buying the van to avoid paying any interest, noted Hill, to be good stewards of the offerings.

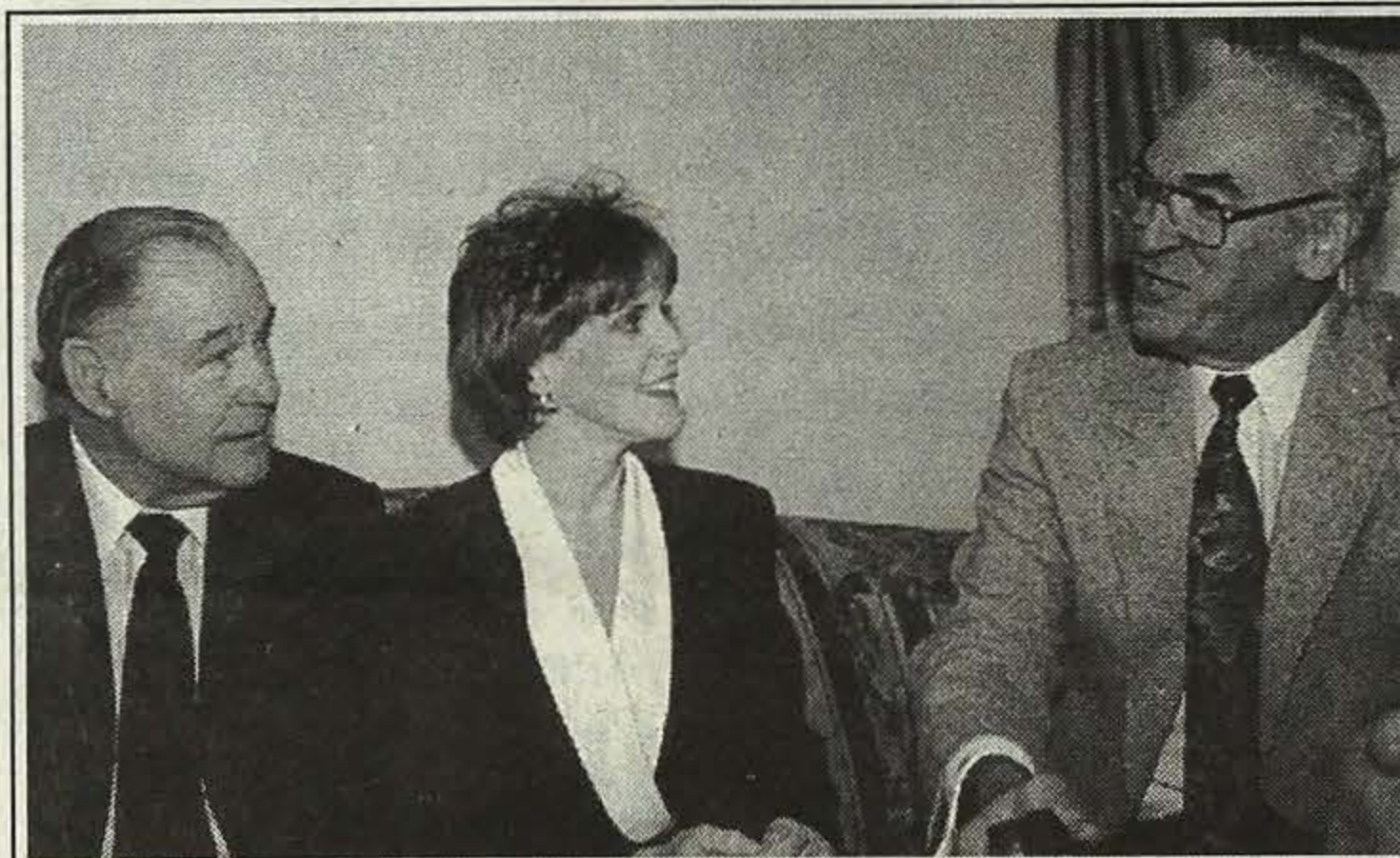
### Other benefits

Ken Zike, pastor, Missionary Grove Baptist Church, Camden, noted associational leaders give Hill credit for developing and pursuing the idea of buying the van. He said groups are so thankful they almost always return it clean. And he's personally thankful because his church has used it.

Billy Murphy, pastor, Howse Baptist Church, At-

wood, noted the van allows churches to conduct outreach

for groups such as youth and to conduct ministries. B&R



**DISCUSSING** benefits of the Carroll-Benton Baptist Association van are, from left, George Hill, director of missions of the association; Lana Suite, McLemoresville Baptist Church, McLemoresville; and Billy Murphy, pastor, Howse Baptist Church, Atwood.

## Baptist & Reflector

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### To Tennessee Baptists

This year I began my 30th year in evangelism and revival ministry. I have had the privilege of serving hundreds of churches in Tennessee, from Memphis to Mountain City. I thank the Lord and the pastors who have made it all possible.

Phil Glisson, 3638 Macon Rd., Memphis, 38122, (901) 324-3459



### Position Opening

Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

**Collegiate Ministry Specialist:** Christian Growth and Development Group. This position is at Cleveland State Community College Campus, Cleveland, TN and will also serve Lee University.

Primary Function: The position of Collegiate Ministry Specialist will coordinate the different aspects of collegiate ministry on the college campus as well as work with local churches in reaching college students for Christ. Skills Needed: This person should have demonstrated skill in team building, and group dynamics as well as effective communication skills. Experience in the collegiate ministry area helpful.

Information concerning this position 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.

## CLASSIFIED

**MUSIC MINISTER:** Seeking part-time music minister. Send resume to Grace Baptist Church, 3181 Walling Road, Springfield, TN 37172, (615) 384-3393.

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**YOUTH MINISTER:** Bivocational youth minister needed. Send resume to Brian Rainey, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357.

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# Let's expand race relations to human relations

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Southern Baptists will observe Sunday, Feb. 16 as Race Relations Sunday. And, well we should. Despite efforts we have seen in our denomination and our country to improve race relations, we definitely have a problem.

Anyone who has read the sports pages lately is well aware of the story of John Rocker of the Atlanta Braves. Rocker made some strong comments in a *Sports Illustrated* article that were critical of other races, primarily African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians.

Baseball, under commissioner Bud Selig, has given Rocker one of the harshest penalties ever handed out — a month's suspension and a \$20,000 fine.

As one would expect, there are mixed reactions — the punishment was too severe, it was not severe enough, etc.

Sure, Rocker has freedom of speech. Yet, he was interviewed for that article as a public figure, one representing his team and baseball in general. He spouted off and those comments have come back to haunt him and probably will for the rest of his life.

Agree or disagree, more than anything, Rocker's case illustrates there is indeed a problem of race relations in our country. As I've listened to people on talk radio shows, Rocker has a lot of support. That is troubling.

Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, has written: "Even though racism remains deeply rooted in our nation in the year 2000, we must commit to reach deep and pull out the racial and ethnic hatred that blunts our witness to Jesus Christ as Lord. There is available to us,

in Christ, the power to overcome this evil.

"If we are to be genuine in our faith, we have no choice. We must take the initiative and address this problem. As Tony Evans has said, 'Racism is not a skin problem, it is a sin problem.' And the answer to sin is repentance and obedience."

Amen!

The fact Southern Baptists are willing to have a Race Relations Day is a good first step. But, it is only a step. We, as Christians and Southern Baptists, must model not only race relations, but human relations as well.

Look in the newspapers and you will see examples of how human beings mistreat each other every day. We see examples of people being disrespectful to each other on television shows. Listen to your kids. My daughter told me about one girl at her school who was in tears recently because so-called "good kids" were being cruel to her simply because she was overweight.



## Race Relations Sunday

Feb. 16

"Of one blood all nations ..." Acts 17:26

Our country has a long way to go, not only in race relations, but human relations as well.

We would do well to heed the words of I John 4:7:

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." B&R



## just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church, Memphis



## Start with a smile

Tough old sergeant to private: "I suppose after you get out of the army, you'll be waiting for me to die so you can come and spit on my grave?" Private: "Not me, Sarge. Once I get out of the Army, I'm never going to stand in line again."

## Take this truth

The evil men do live after them. The good is often interred with their bones.

## Memorize this Scripture

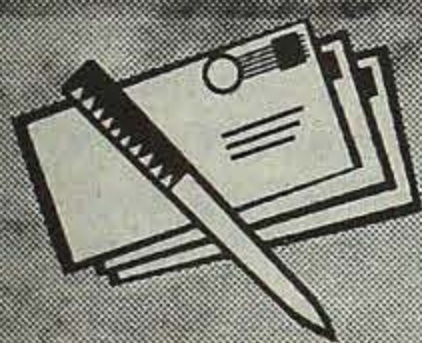
"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." — Romans 12:18

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, help all the bad people to be good and all the good people to be nice." ■

## Partnership Prayer Requests February

- 10 — Pray for Brenda Highfill and Leonard and Betty Quick, IMB ISC/journeymen who are serving in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ask God to bless their work.
- 11 — Pray for the officers of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan who were recently re-elected: George Fountain, Bob Beddingfield, Tom Fishell, August Peters, and Ken Render.
- 12 — Pray for Graca Church as it grows in its vision of building a community of faith across Lisbon, Portugal.
- 13 — Pray for churches in Michigan that are without pastors.
- 14 — Pray for a 12-member Disaster Relief construction team from First Baptist Church, Pulaski, that will work March 4-12 in Nicaragua building homes for victims of Hurricane Mitch.
- 15 — Pray for Garden Park Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, which recently held the "Fountain of Prayer" conference for the association of churches in Manitoba.
- 16 — Pray for David Fairchild, son of Sharon and Ray Fairchild, IMB missionaries to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. David has a malignancy.



## letters from readers

## Tres Dias response

I want to commend NAMB for alerting folks to Tres Dias in the Jan. 26 issue. From *The Essentials of Tres Dias* (1.0 Preamble) we quote, "TRES DIAS is based on the principles, the method, and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Cursillo movement....TRES DIAS is a Christian ecumenical movement."

One of the statements in the *Baptist and Reflector* article was almost an exact quote from *The Essentials of Tres Dias* which states that participants "shall stress those things which the Christian denominations have in common and respect those things which are different."

How interesting! Roman Catholic priest Charles M. Carty in *True Church Quizzes to a Street Preacher* states, "Yet more and more we notice Protestants borrowing Catholic teachings and practices, urging that it was a great mistake to abandon them at the Reformation!"

It's dangerous that there are many movements and efforts to break down barriers between truth and error — especially when such movements have success in giving good "experiences" in an environment where truth is at the very least compromised.

Have we forgotten that "experiences" are not the fi-

nal test of validity?

Sound, biblical doctrine is not an option! Much of the New Testament is spent defining and defending the truth. In a religious world that has no stomach for sound doctrine, we must earnestly contend for the truth. False doctrine and false teachers are pernicious at slipping into the church by stealth (II Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4; Jude 3, 4).

I would urge one and all to read *Getting the Gospel Right* by R.C. Sproul, published by Baker.

James M. Boice says of this book, "This book is must reading for all who care about Gospel truth in an age of theo-

logical compromise and confusion."

James Bell  
Gallatin 37066

## Address sought

Much appreciation goes to PCA International Inc. for making photographs of convention attendees in November.

We have a package of portraits for which no address was given. We need assistance in locating Glenn and Danielle Langner so that we may forward the portraits to them.

If you know their address please call 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2016 or (615) 371-2016.

Barbara Owen  
Brentwood 37024

## Church of the Covered Dish

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





## SBC CP shows month, year up

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — January receipts and budget year-to-date gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program were up compared to the same periods a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For January 2000, the SBC CP gifts totaled \$16,518,423 compared to January 1999 of \$16,269,698, an increase of \$248,725 or 2 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for 1999-2000, the year-to-date receipts total \$59,044,455 for the first four months of the SBC budget year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. That compared to \$56,233,784 for the same period a year ago, a \$2,810,670 increase or 5 percent.

In designated gifts for January, \$24,599,243 was received compared to January 1999 of

\$20,514,687, an increase of \$4,084,556 or 20 percent. For the four months of the fiscal year, designated gifts total \$34,075,816, compared to the same period a year ago of \$29,073,547, an increase of \$5,002,268 or 17 percent.

The required monthly budget figure of the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget — \$13,298,645 — was surpassed by \$3,219,778 or 24 percent. For the four months of the fiscal year, the required amount — \$53,194,580 — was surpassed by \$5,849,875 or an 11 percent increase. ■

## Church reaches out following crash

Baptist Press

MONROE, Wash. — When pastor Jim Shiner learned two local ministers were among those killed in the crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261, he couldn't believe the news. Shiner, pastor of First Baptist Church, here, is located just one mile down the road from The Rock Church Northwest, a charismatic church led by Joe and Linda Knight.

The Knights were among the 88 people killed when the Alaska Airlines jet plunged into the Pacific Ocean off the California coast Jan. 31.

"The church is just really devastated," Shiner said. "Joe and Linda served as co-pas-

tors, so they actually lost two ministers."

Shiner said a group of ministers met Feb. 1 to pray for the Knights' surviving children as well as the church. "We specifically talked about ways to minister to that congregation," he said. "There are only 26 churches in Monroe, so we frequently work together on things." Shiner said he has offered to provide grief counseling for members of The Rock Church. ■

## Wedgwood pastor focuses on God

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Though the memory of the Sept. 15 shooting still weighs heavy on his mind, Al Meredith, pastor of Wedgwood Baptist Church,

Fort Worth, Texas, remains focused on "what a mighty God we serve."

Meredith interspersed old hymns and new praise choruses celebrating the attributes of God during a message from Romans 5:9-11 delivered at the Louisiana Baptist Convention's evangelism conference in late January.

"I never would've dreamed a man would come into our church with 200 rounds of ammunition and unload it on 400 kids," Meredith recounted. "We'll get through this; we'll never get over it, but God will be there through all of it."

Meredith shared some of the many ways God has manifested himself though the tragic night when a gunman opened fire on 400 youth and adults, killing seven and wounding seven others before taking his

own life, during a See You at the Pole rally at the church.

Many people, especially reporters, have posed philosophical questions about God's goodness in the midst of tragedy, but noting God's speech in the Book of Job, Meredith said God needs no explanation of what he allows to happen.

"Why do bad things happen to God's people?" he asked. "Resign your position as general manager of the universe and let God be God," he said.

His reply to where God was in the tragedy: "Exactly the place he was when his own Son died." ■

## 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.

**SECRETARY:** Large church needs secretary, word processing, WIN 95, graphics, people skills, great phone presence very important. Apply in person with resume. Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, 3475 Lebanon Road, Hermitage.

**YOUTH:** Accepting resumes for minister of youth and children. Send resumes to Deerfield Baptist Church, 3 Paul Orton Road, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** The First Baptist Church of Hayti, Mo., is seeking God's man to fill the position of associate pastor. He is to be well-grounded in the Word of God; he must possess the ability to preach and fill the pulpit; he is to have a great emphasis in working with youth; and he is to have had some experience in working on a church staff. Resumes will be received through Feb. 15. Please send resumes to Associate Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 201 East Lincoln, Hayti, MO 63851.

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

**PASTOR:** First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking applicants for pastor. Please send resume to: FBC Pastor Search Committee, 1400 South Main St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

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## Expectations of faithfulness

By Wayne Rowan

**Focus Passage:** Revelation 2:1-5, 12-16, 18-22

We live in a very relaxed time. There is more open sin in our society than ever before. We have corruption in almost every area of life. From the political arena to the ethics taught in our school systems. Where will it end?

Our churches have even been infected with this worldly virus called complacency. We have become too tolerant of sin. What is acceptable today would have been expelled from our society and our churches 30 years ago. Why and how has this happened? The why is because of sin and the how is because we Christians have failed to stand up for the truth of God's Word and put into practice what we preach.

**Right convictions and a loving spirit (vv. 1-5).** These verses remind us of who we are and why we are here. We are the chosen of God and we have the authority of God's Word to us in fighting sin in our society and churches. Have we too forgotten our first love? We seem to have all the programs and material to do a wonderful job in bringing the folks into the church, but we have lost our convictions concerning sin. The church has become a gathering place for uncommitted, undisciplined, and unruly people.

This is not what the Lord intended. We work hard to do the right thing in the sight of man at the cost of failing to honor God and his Word. Church problems arise out of an attitude that no matter what someone is involved with, they can become part of the church and serve on a committee or in a leadership role. We must return to the Godly values found in God's Word and allow those values to be saturated with love and prayer. We must return to our first love.

**External steadfastness and internal vigilance (vv. 12-16).** These verses reveal to us the danger of tolerating sinful practice too active in the church. When we allow false teaching in the church, we resemble the church at Pergamum. With the many different movements in mainline churches today, we must avoid mimicking these for attendance.

If we begin to weaken our stand on doctrinal truths, we too fall prey to these types of destructive vices. We must never isolate ourselves from the world, but we must remain faithful when dealing with the world.

**Good works and sound teaching (vv. 18-22).** These verses warn us of the danger of confusing love with tolerance. We must be careful in selecting leaders of the church. Leaders should never be chosen because of their looks, money, or station in the community. When we tolerate sin in someone in order to elect that person to an office, we are as guilty of that sin. Christ expects his church to be faithful and clean before him. Our good works and sound teaching will become ineffective if we allow influence, not righteousness, to guide our selection of teachers and leaders in the church.

These leaders must be of sound doctrine, a humble spirit, and moral soundness. The church's future will depend on these decisions. Deacons should be men who hold to the strict doctrine of the Word. Teachers should know the Word they are teaching. Preachers should be above reproach.

They all must be accountable to the church and the Word of God. The Lord said he would visit the church that fails to keep these words and there would be an accounting made. — Rowan is pastor, Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Ripley.

## The joy of being prepared

By Thomas James

**Focal Passage:** Matthew 24:45-25:13

This week's passage is in the heart of what is commonly called "The Olivet Discourse." Jesus spends all of chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew answering the question posed by his disciples in Matthew 24:3 concerning the signs of his second coming and the end of the age. The Lord is teaching that it is now as much the question "when" that ought to concern us as it is "Are you ready for whenever that time comes?"

There are two distinct ideas dealt with in our focal passage. The end of Matthew 24 warns us about hazardous attitudes concerning his second coming. Verses 37-42 point out the danger of having cavalier attitudes. Many today are indifferent about the second coming and will not heed any prophetic warnings.

### Family Bible Lesson

In Noah's day many also refused to hear Noah as he warned about the coming judgment. When it started to rain, they listened but it was too late and their cavalier attitude proved costly. They were surprised and likewise when the Lord returns many will be caught surprised.

Verses 43-44 warn about the dangers of a careless attitude. The thief comes unannounced and by complete surprise because if a resident knew when he was coming he would be prepared. Yet many today have heard the warnings of the Lord's return but are careless with the truth.

Finally in verses 45-51 our Lord warns about having a calloused attitude. Procrastination is dangerous for the lost person. It is our job as the church to share with the lost around us the urgency of accepting Christ today.

Verses 1-13 share the Lord's parable of the 10 virgins.

Jewish wedding processions would occur at night and bridesmaids had the responsibility to light the roadway with their lamps. In verse 6 when the cry goes out that the bridegroom is coming these 10 bridesmaids began to take their place to light the way. Five bridesmaids had forgotten to make preparation by purchasing oil for their lamps and are now in a quandry. By the time they leave and purchase oil and return, it is too late. The doors to the wedding were closed and locked and they were left outside.

The Lord teaches three important lessons in this passage. First, it is impossible to predict the time of Christ's second coming. We are to watch as "no man knows the hour." All we know for certain is that he is coming back and we would be wise to be prepared. Second, we learn the importance of knowing our faith is genuine. Five bridesmaids made preparation and five had not. The five who were unprepared asked those who were prepared to share. They refused as their preparation only provided for themselves. We must ensure that we have a personal relation to Christ as that is something we cannot "borrow" from others at that time.

Finally, the Lord shows the inadvisability of waiting too long. When asked to be let into the wedding celebration the groom refused, saying, "I do not know you." These five were dressed like bridesmaids, had the trappings of bridesmaids, and even behaved like bridesmaids, but the groom said he did not know them.

It is not enough to dress like Christians, behave like Christians, and carry a Bible while attending church. Matthew 7:21-23 warns that many who have played church will be refused on that day, as their walk with the Lord was not real. All hope will be gone and they will know they are lost forever. What a joy for those of us who know we have made our preparation. What a task we have to help others be prepared! — James is pastor of Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown.

## Commitment to truth: be alert

By Kevin Shrum

**Focus Passage:**  
II John 1-13

There are three great lies that Satan attempts to bombard society with, the first of which is, as C.S. Lewis has so aptly pointed out, that Satan does not exist. The second lie is that God doesn't exist and that all of creation is accidental, random. The third lie is that all truth is relative, a by-product of the evolutionary development of humans to deal with their environment. The Word of God will have nothing to do with these three lies. Satan is the adversary, God is the Creator of all things, and these are absolute truths.

These issues must have been on John's mind as the Holy Spirit moved him to pen one of the latest books in the New Testament. Written around 90 AD, John reminds his fellow believers of the eternality of truth and the deception of Satan's lies.

**John greets the church (vv. 1-3).** John uses the term "elder" to describe his own ministry. Elder was a term that was often used as interchangeable with pastor or leader. So, the picture here is of an aging, weathered apostle dispensing Holy Spirit wisdom to a young and growing church.

John then refers to the church as *the chosen lady and her children* (v. 1). Some believe that John was addressing a particular lady within the church, but the context seems to fa-

### Explore the Bible Lesson

vor the idea that the church is the bride of Christ made up of its various members, the children of God. The church is made up of those *who know the truth ... which lies in us and will be with us forever* (v. 2).

John concludes his greeting by invoking two persons of the Trinity revealed in the *Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's son* (v. 3).

**John challenges the church (vv. 2-6).** Have you ever noticed how some believers are always looking for a new truth or a new spiritual experience? Yet, have you noticed that Scripture keeps emphasizing the same eternal truths? Believers do not need new truths revealed beyond Scripture. Rather, believers need spiritual power to live out and implement the already revealed truths in Holy Writ.

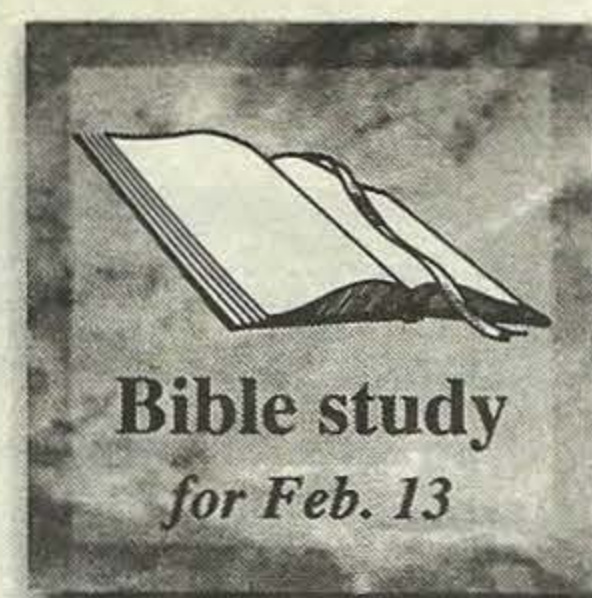
This is why John challenges his fellow believers, *And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning* (v. 5). And what is this same old truth? Verse 5 reads, *I ask that we love one another*. And how do we know that we love? Verse 6 answers, *And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands*. It's very sim-

ple. We are to love through obedience.

**John warns the church (vv. 7-11).** And why would John re-emphasize old, eternal truths? *Because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist* (v. 7).

The reformed concept of perseverance is introduced in verses 8 and 9. The believer that is truly saved endures to the end. Jesus said in Matthew 10:22, *All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved*. We are saved by God's grace, but we must respond through obedience that demonstrates that we have actually been saved to begin with. We must *continue in the teaching of Christ* (v. 9). In fact, they were not to even entertain those persons who did not hold to sound doctrine.

**John yearns for the church (vv. 12-13).** The last two verses give the sense that John is nearing the end of his life. Though full of wisdom, he did not want to use paper and ink to communicate his truth. He wanted to see the lady of his life face to face so that our joy may be complete (v. 12). He longs to see his fellow believers, his spiritual children. John would eventually hobble home through the doors of eternity. — Shrum is pastor, Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.



## churches

■ **Stewart's Chapel Baptist Church, Flintville**, will hold a marital team building conference Understanding the Love of Your Life Feb. 11-12. Cost is \$30. For more information, call (931) 937-4695.

■ A team from **Corinth Baptist Church, Darden; First Baptist Church, Decaturville; Flatwoods Baptist Church, Holladay; and Union Baptist Church, Lexington**, served in Belize beginning Jan. 22. They did evangelism, health care, and construction work.

■ **Northside Baptist Church, McMinnville**, will hold revival Feb. 13-16. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Nashville, will speak and Gary Miller will lead the music. For more information, call (931) 668-4777.

■ **Sand Ridge Baptist Church, Lexington**, will lead a team to serve in Mexico Feb. 25 - March 4. For more information, call the church at (901) 968-4597.

■ **Fairview Baptist Church, Paris**, will hold revival Feb. 20-23. Harold Hunter, evangelist of Nashville, will speak and Gary Miller will lead the music. For more information call (901) 642-2191.

## associations

■ **Dyer Baptist Association**, based in Dyersburg, will hold its Evangelism Conference Feb. 27 at Dyersburg State Community College Gym, beginning at 6 p.m. Charles Kelly, president, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, will speak. For more information, call 1-800-290-0925 or (901) 287-1800.

■ **William Carey Baptist Association**, based in Fayetteville, will hold an Association Evangelism Conference Feb.

28 at Parks City Baptist Church, Fayetteville, beginning at 7 p.m. Bob Pittman, pastor, Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, will speak. For more information contact the association at (931) 433-3631 or wcba@alscomputers.com.

■ **Cumberland Baptist Association**, based in Clarksville, will hold a Women's Prayer Retreat Feb. 19 at Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville. Kathy Major of Moms in Touch will speak. For more information, call (931) 358-9222.

■ Members of churches in **Sweetwater Baptist Association**, based in Madisonville, and churches in **Grainger Baptist Association**, based in Rutledge, will serve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Feb. 25 - March 4. The project will support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership.

■ **Truett Baptist Association** will hold a Dramatic Arts Variety Show entitled Created to be Creative #2 March 25 from 9 a.m. to noon at Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson. Deadline for performers to pre-register is March 10. For more information, call the church at (615) 789-4532 or Carmen Westerman at (615) 789-5630.

■ **Grainger Baptist Association**, based in Madisonville, will host an Associational Evangelism Conference March 27 at Noeton Baptist Church, Morristown, beginning at 7 p.m. Larry Robertson of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff will speak. For more information, contact the association at (423) 828-4001 or Xaltm@aol.com.

## schools

■ The recording "A Glen Campbell Christmas," which has been nominated for a Grammy Award, featured an ensemble of the Belmont Chorale of **Belmont University**, Nashville.

■ The Department of Music



**EWTONVILLE Baptist Church, Dunlap**, members placed more than 4,000 crosses on the church property and a sign to acknowledge the deaths of about 4,000 babies each day to abortion in the United States. The effort was completed Jan. 16 to observe the sanctity of human life. — Photo by Sue Harmon

of **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, will hold its Annual Church Music Conference Feb. 15 at the school. C. Michael Hawn, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas; and Timothy W. Sharp, Belmont University, Nashville, will lead it. For more information, contact the school at (423) 471-3328.

## state events

■ The Tennessee Baptist Convention will hold a **Conversational English Workshop** and a **Tutoring Children & Youth Workshop** March 3-4 at First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. The Conversational English Workshop is for people who would like to teach English to people with little or no English skills. It will be taught by Brenda Myers, literacy missions specialist. Cost is \$20. For more information, contact Tim Hill, TBC, 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-7916, thill@tnbaptist.org. The Tutoring Children & Youth Workshop will be led by Lee Hudson of Memphis. The cost is \$10. For more information, contact Beverly Smothers, TBC, 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-2044, bsmothers@tnbaptist.org. Register for both workshops by Feb. 18.

■ The Tennessee Baptist Convention provides a portion of the **Baptist and Reflector** on cassette tape weekly free of charge to people with visual handicaps. Volunteers from **Judson Baptist Church, Nashville**, record stories weekly at the TBC Baptist Center, Brentwood. For more information, contact Beverly Smothers, TBC, 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-2044, or bsmothers@tnbaptist.org.

## people

■ **Mike Kinney** of Covington

was recently ordained by **Liberty Baptist Church, Covington**, as a deacon.

■ **Joyce Bruce Vile**, secretary/clerk/treasurer, Nola-chucky Baptist Association, based in Morristown, will retire in March after serving 26 years. She will be honored March 12 from 2-3:30 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, Morristown.

■ **Kay Moore** of Richmond, Va., and a former member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, has written her second novel, *When the Heart Soars Free*. It includes a romance with biblical truths. Moore's husband, Louis, serves on the staff of the SBC International Mission Board. The book is published by Hannibal Books, 1-800-747-0738.

## leaders

■ **Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Cedar Grove**, has called **Bobby Crowe** as pastor.

■ **Cody Pritchard**, a member of Second Baptist Church, Union City, was called recently as pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, Obion, Jan. 23. He will be ordained to the ministry by Second Church March 5.



■ **Excell Baptist Church, Clarksville**, has called **Bill Morris** as minister of music.

■ **Cumberland Gap Baptist Association**, based in Harrogate, has called **Casper "Tip" Moore** as interim director of missions. He is pastor, Indian Creek Baptist Church, Harrogate.

■ **First Baptist Church, McKenzie**, called **Ben Pottorff** as interim youth minister, effective Jan. 17.

## deaths

■ **R.J. Akin**, 79, of Bradford, died recently. He served as pastor of seven churches in Madison-Chester Baptist Association, based in Jackson; Weakley Baptist Association, based in Dresden; and Gibson Baptist Association, based in Trenton. He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Bradford.

■ **Lois Cobble** of Knoxville died Jan. 21. She served as Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union president from 1952-57. She and her late husband, M.K., served as home missionaries in Norris and he was pastor, Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville.

■ **Mabel McClellan** of Nashville, 87, died Feb. 6. She was the wife of Albert McClellan, who retired as associate executive secretary, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in 1980. Mrs. McClellan was a leader of the Woman's Missionary Union of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, and Nashville Baptist Association.



**WOMEN ON MISSION** of First Baptist Church, Spring City, from left, Linda King, Wanda Looney, Jackie Monday, and Bessie Roop stand with about 40 shoe boxes of gifts sent during the holidays to the Samaritan's Purse program of Franklin Graham.



**PARTICIPATING** in a Royal Ambassador hike at Montgomery Bell State Park, east of Dickson, are members of Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville, from left, Lemuel F. Wade, pastor; David Young; Nickolas Humber; Lorin Judkins; and Carolyn Gray, park ranger.