

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

Volume 166/ Number 10

Statewide Edition

March 8, 2000

this week's news

CP giving to SBC increases. — Page 2

Union students form prayer groups. — Page 3

New column begins on marriage. — Page 4

Find out what's going on in partnership missions.

See *The Macedonian Call*. — Pages 5-8

Tennessee Baptists continue strong giving pattern

By Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — After the first four months of the 1999-2000 fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have shown a continuing commitment to fund missions and ministry causes in the state and around the world, according to James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Tennessee Baptist gifts through the Cooperative Program in February totaled \$2,822,811.

For the year-to-date, TBC churches have channeled \$11,552,826 through the Cooperative Program. Gifts are up \$558,047 or 5.08 percent over the same time period last year.

The year-to-date Cooperative Program budget stands at \$11,217,923.

"We are excited and grateful to God that Tennessee Baptists see needs that exist not only in our state, but around the world.

"They demonstrate a willingness to meet those needs when they give their gifts through the Cooperative Program," he added. ■

Through pregnancy center in Athens

Churches, association help expectant women

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

ATHENS — When Cindy came to the older brick house in downtown Athens which houses Full Circle Pregnancy Resources, she was homeless, pregnant, and was thinking about getting an abortion.

The workers helped her and her other child get into temporary housing, then permanent housing, and encouraged her to have the baby, which Cindy did. She regularly attends support groups at the Full Circle center so the workers have provided many of the items she needed for her child.

Cindy, an African American woman, has gained from these experiences some understanding of God's love for her for the first time, said Freda Crews, director of Full Circle and a member of First Baptist Church, Athens. And Cindy is in training for a professional job.

But she stopped by the center recently just to cry, report-

ed Crews. Cindy explained she didn't think it was good to cry in front of her children and niece who helps her. Crews and Zortman, assistant to the director of Full Circle and member of Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland, explained many of the clients of Full Circle are enduring difficult times.

Zortman recalled another client, Susan. She asked First Baptist Church here for help when the ministry was just beginning. Susan, who had been sleeping in her car, asked for \$10 for gas. When Carlos Peterson, pastor, learned Susan was pregnant, he called Zortman for help.

Although Susan only stayed in Athens for a couple of weeks, she recommitted her life to God during a service of First Church. Peterson said he didn't recognize her when she



VISITING AT Full Circle Pregnancy Resources center in Athens are, from left, Carlos Peterson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Athens; Jane Zortman, assistant to the director, Full Circle; and Freda Crews, director.

arrived at the front of the sanctuary. She had a different appearance after getting cleaned up and putting on new clothes and she had a transformed attitude, explained Peterson.

Part of the reason for the changes was that Zortman, along with Full Circle worker Meta Carriker of First Church, helped Susan. They

helped her find a temporary home, wash her clothes, deal with a traffic ticket, correct her vision to prevent another traffic offense, and find a home at the residence for unwed mothers of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in East Tennessee.

Susan left the home to travel to California, but she regularly — See Churches, page 3

From Memphis to Trenton

Mississippi River Ministry headquarters relocated

For Baptist and Reflector

TRENTON — The Tennessee headquarters for Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) has relocated from Memphis to the Gibson County Baptist Association based here.

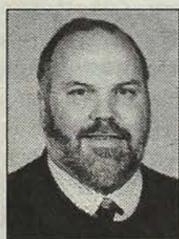
MRM is a cooperative effort of seven Baptist state conventions (Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, and Illinois) to reach out and meet the physical needs of the impoverished in the Mississippi River Delta area.

For the past five years the MRM office has been located at Brinkley Heights Baptist Church in Memphis. Tim Cox, pastor of the church, also served as MRM coordinator for Tennessee.

Cox stepped down in January as coordinator. "Tim Cox was instrumental in bringing attention to Mississippi River



ALLEN



COX



KEMPER



SMOTHERS

Ministry, both nationally and statewide," said Beverly Smothers, church/community ministries specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention who works closely with MRM in the state.

"He will be missed in his leadership role for MRM," Smothers added.

Cox plans to devote more time to his pastorate at Brinkley Heights and ministry in inner city Memphis. ▽

Moving the headquarters to Gibson County Baptist Association makes it more centrally located among the 21 counties in

West Tennessee, Smothers said.

Mike Kemper, director of missions for Gibson County Baptist Association, said the association's members are delighted that MRM headquarters will be housed in the association's office.

"Gibson County is located very close to the middle of what we identify as West Tennessee and since West Tennessee is the target area for MRM, this really makes good sense," Kemper said.

He noted having the office based in his association will "give us a direct connection to

the ministry and outreach" of MRM.

"We are looking to a long and healthy relationship with MRM," Kemper said, "and our desire is not only for us, but that this strategic location will facilitate expansion and a greater awareness of MRM among West Tennessee churches."

Leslie Allen, USC/2 missionary, who has been serving as assistant coordinator for MRM in Tennessee since last year, will continue in the same role and also has moved to Trenton.

Allen, a native of Birmingham, Ala., assists in matching volunteers with needs and in promoting MRM among churches.

Allen can be contacted at Mississippi River Ministry of Tennessee, P.O. Box 470, Trenton, TN 38382 or by calling (901) 855-2470. ■

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SBC CP gifts show increase last month

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — February 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 February 2000, the SBC CP gifts totaled \$14,134,992 compared to February 1999 of \$13,967,070, an increase of \$167,922 or 1.2 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for 1999-2000, the year-to-date receipts total \$73,179,448 for the first five months of the SBC budget year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. That total compares to \$70,200,855 for the same period a year ago, a \$2,978,593 increase or 4.24 percent.

In designated gifts for February, \$45,957,182 was received compared to February 1999 of \$43,951,225, an increase of \$2,005,957 or 4.56 percent. For the five months of the fiscal year, designated gifts total \$80,032,998 compared to the same period a year ago of \$73,024,773, an increase of \$7,008,225 or 9.6 percent.

The required monthly budget figure of the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget — \$13,298,645 — was surpassed by \$836,347 or 6.29 percent. For the five months of the fiscal year, the required amount — \$66,493,226 — was surpassed by \$6,686,222 or 10.06 percent. ■

ERLC's Land labels attacks 'despicable'

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Party presidential candidate John McCain's criticisms of Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell as "agents of intolerance" and as an "evil influence" are part of an attempt "to divide people by religion [that] is despicable and un-American," said Southern Baptist ethics agency head Richard Land March 1.

McCain, a United States senator from Arizona who is battling Texas Gov. George W. Bush for the GOP nomination, described Robertson and Falwell in a speech in Virginia Beach, Va., as "on the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance," comparing them to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan

and liberal New York activist Al Sharpton.

A day later, McCain told reporters in California the two conservative Christians have an "evil influence" over his party and likened them to "the forces of evil," according to a March 1 report in *The New York Times*.

Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, responded March 1, "I don't agree with Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell about many things, but to compare them to Louis Farrakhan and Al Sharpton, who are racists and hate-mongers, and then to follow it up by calling these two ministers an evil influence is disgraceful behavior by someone who claims the title of being a uniter and not a divider." ■

Baptists minister in wake of latest school shooting

Baptist Press

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Pastors from two Southern Baptist churches are among those reaching out to comfort and counsel children affected by the fatal shooting of a 6-year-old girl by a classmate Feb. 29.

Kayla Rolland, 6, was allegedly shot and killed by a six-year-old boy inside Buell Elementary School in the Flint, Mich., area, according to the Associated Press. The two students may have been involved in a scuffle or quarrel on the playground in which one child slapped another, the AP also reported.

Denzil Green, pastor of Galilean Baptist Church and chaplain of the Flint Police Department, was one of the first pastors called to the scene of the shooting.

Green said family and members of Rolland's church, Calvary Assembly of God, had gathered at the hospital in the moments after the shooting. "We offered our complete services to the family and Kayla's church," Green said.

Green also is the vice president of the local critical stress management team and he said the team will be available to help families of students at the elementary school where the shooting occurred.

Randy Wheeler, pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Flushing, said a number of the children at Buell Elementary are participants in the church's AWANA program. "During our Wednesday night services, we plan on talking to the children and trying to dispel any fears they may have," Wheeler said March 1. In addition, Wheeler said several child psychologists and social workers are members of West Side Baptist and will be available on an as-needed basis. ■

Ex-pastor's son admits to arson at Tennessee church

Baptist Press

HIXSON — A man who was angry with his father burned down the church where his father was pastor in 1998, according to arson investigators.

Steve Nichols, 37, of Maryville, was indicted Feb. 22 with one count of arson. Investigators said Nichols set the fire that destroyed Hixson Baptist Church, where his father, Bill Nichols, was pastor. The elder Nichols resigned from the church shortly after the fire.

Lt. Robert Lackey, with Chattanooga's Fire Investigation Division, said the younger Nichols confessed to being angry with his father in committing the crime.

The church not only has a new pastor, but a new name. Steve Cape, pastor of what is now called Hillside Baptist Church, said the news of Nichols' arrest is devastating.

"I came here one month after the fire," Cape told the Chattanooga newspaper.

"Only a handful of people currently in the church were here at the time of the fire. Those people are very shocked, saddened, and upset, if the charges are true." ■

Group files articles of incorporation

Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The foundation has been laid for a new convention of Baptists — to be based in Texas — to encompass churches in North, Central, and South America, according to articles of incorporation filed in the Texas Secretary of State's office by a group of individuals who have been critical of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Articles of incorporation for "The Baptist Convention of the Americas" were filed Oct. 16, 1998, by Herbert H. Reynolds, identified in state documents as the new convention's registered agent. No media reports appeared about the filing at the time; Baptist Press received a copy Feb. 29 of this year from the Texas Secretary of State's office.

Reynolds is the former president of Baylor University who orchestrated the secession of Baylor from the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He has also been critical of the leadership of the SBC. Reynolds, a layman, is also listed as a member of the new convention's board of directors.

Conservative Texas Baptists have, in the past, expressed concern that moderates were planning to create a new national Baptist convention. A

proposed amendment to the BGCT's constitution to allow out-of-state churches to join the BGCT, requiring a two-thirds majority to pass, will be voted on during the November BGCT annual meeting.

Also listed as members of the Baptist Convention of the Americas board of directors are John F. Baugh of Houston; W. Winfred Moore of Waco; and Paul W. Powell of Tyler.

Baugh told Baptist Press March 1 the Baptist Convention of the Americas isn't a convention. "It was suggested as a possible alternative to that which we are involved in now," he said.

Powell, retired president of the SBC Annuity Board, said the articles of incorporation were filed to "simply preserve a name. That's all it was," Powell told Baptist Press. "Nothing has ever gone beyond that initial step. No plans, no schemes, just that the name has been preserved."

However, the articles of incorporation go far beyond just preserving the name. Article Four states: "The enduring purposes for which the Convention is created are purely eleemosynary [charitable], including, but not limited to religious, missionary, educational, and beneficent work."

While both Baugh and Powell stressed that no further action has been taken on the new convention, Baugh said "something will happen eventually." ■

Baptists to assist with Crossover

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptists are being asked to help their counterparts in Orlando, Fla., this June with "Through Every Door" — an unprecedented effort to reach every home in the metropolitan Orlando area with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The door-to-door campaign of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be just one of the opportunities for volunteers willing to share their faith during the June 8-15 Crossover Orlando, held before and during the June 13-14 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando. Crossover is held each year as a way of helping Southern Baptists make a lasting impact on their convention host city.

While many have committed to taking part in Crossover Orlando, organizers say there is still a great need for more volunteers — particularly for the "Through Every Door" effort.

Individuals and churches interested in being part of Crossover should contact the Greater Orlando Baptist Association, (470) 293-0450. To simplify processing and assignments, registration is requested by May 1. ■

200-plus Union women gather each week for study

Sara Horn
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — It all began with a question — “How can I grow in God as a woman?”

This question, posed to Union University junior Kristin Wicker, a freshman student, was the catalyst that set the wheels in motion to develop what has become the largest college women's ministry in Union's history.

“Each of us struggle with knowing who we are, especially women,” said Wicker, a Christian studies major, “and there's a deep learning in the heart to know who we are, because to know who we are is to know who we belong to. The young women that are coming want to know God.”

More than 200 young women are currently attending the weekly “Klemata” Bible studies, with more attending each week, Union.

“‘Klemata’ is a Greek word for branches,” Wicker said. “It's taken from John 15:5.”

After Wicker was approached

with the question of growing in God, she and her roommates began a woman's Bible study in their dorm room.

“That's really where the idea came for Klemata,” Wicker said. “Just this small group of girls searching for God's will for our campus.”

Klemata is not only a Bible study, but also a time of encouragement, praise, and prayer. After a brief time of Bible study and teaching, the group is divided into small groups for prayer, encouragement, accountability and “a shoulder to lean on.”

“It's exciting to see how God is using Klemata to challenge me and help me grow in my relationship with him,” said Union student Lisa Bradfield from First Baptist Church, McKenzie.

“The small groups allow sisters in Christ to worship together as we desire to grow closer to him,” Bradfield said.

The small groups are led by faculty and staff women or the wives of faculty and staff at Union who are called “Titus 2”

women, derived from Titus 2 that teaches that the elder women are to “train the younger women.”

One of the Titus 2 women is Lanese Dockery, the wife of Union's president, David S. Dockery.

“The girls who attend Klemata all have life experiences that they bring with them, not only from the Scriptures themselves but from their own homes and families,” Dockery said. “I've been real impressed with how they are accountable to each other and hold each other to the Scriptures.”

One of the reasons this Bible study is so important to these college-age young women, Dockery said, is that this is the time that permanent decisions are being made.

“They're making life decisions about so many things like who they're going to marry, and what profession they're going to pursue,” she said.

“When they have God's Word as their basis for making those

choices and decisions, that's going to affect their choices. They'll be better selectors because of that.”

Dana James, whose husband is pastor of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, is leading the study that is centered on the book, *Woman of Influence* by Janet Wicker. The book discusses and uses examples of women in the Bible and the leadership roles they held.

Said Dockery, “The goal from this study is to learn about being godly women today by learning from the holy women of the past.”

“I think in the long run many of these young women will marry and some will be homemakers and they will be more satisfied in their roles because they know God has called them to do that,” said Dockery, who has enjoyed her experience so far as a Titus 2 woman.

Open to college-aged women all over the Jackson area, Klemata meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Coburn Dining Hall at Union. ■



Lottery votes set for next week

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Two bills which would clear the way for a state lottery are scheduled to be on the March 13 floor calendar.

The two bills are HJR 0002 which deals with constitutional amendments and SJR 0346 which also would change the constitution to permit a state-run lottery.

Tennessee Baptists opposed to having a lottery in Tennessee should call their state senators this week and urge them to vote against those bills, said Gary Anderson, TBC public affairs consultant. Removing the lottery prohibition from the constitution could pave the way for other forms of gambling, he added. ■

Churches, association help expectant women ...

Continued from page 1
rly calls Zortman and others met at Full Circle, Zortman reported.

The experience was the first time First Church could do more for someone in Susan's situation than give them money, said Peterson.

Full Circle center

Full Circle Pregnancy Resources was begun about two years ago by First Church. Soon the Minn-Meigs Baptist Association, based here, became a sponsor along with the Tennessee Baptist Convention through its Golden State Missions Offering and churches and individuals from the community. The North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.; Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Heartbeat International, Columbus, Ohio; are used as resources.

The Full Circle center is in a former parsonage of the church located across the street from First Church. It is open three days a week and relies on about 20 volunteers from 11 area churches, most of which are Baptist.

About 12 women a month visit the center for the first time. Workers offer them confidential and free services, said Crews, who is the ministry's only paid staff member.

Those services include free pregnancy tests, information on pregnancy and prenatal development, peer counseling, placement in temporary and long-term housing during pregnancy, and referral services for adoption and education/vocation opportunities.

The center also offers mater-

nity and infant clothing, formula and baby food, counseling, Bible studies, and support groups for women following abortion, for mothers, and on finances.

The goal of all of the activities is to share the Gospel, workers emphasized. For example, during counseling with clients, counselors ask if they can share their faith with them. As far as Crews and Zortman know, no client has refused to listen to such a witness.

One result of the emphasis is that two women became Christians last year through the ministry.

Views of workers

Freda Crews said she does a lot of praying and she often feels emotionally and physically drained, but the results “are better than chocolate.”

Zortman agreed, recalling a meeting with a woman and her husband who came in because they feared she was pregnant. The woman was undergoing treatment for breast cancer which would negatively affect the baby so the couple felt she should seek an abortion.

Zortman said while waiting on the pregnancy test she told the couple she didn't believe in abortion. But as she went to

Pastor never thought family would use services

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

ATHENS — Carlos Peterson, pastor, First Baptist Church here, said he never thought a member of his family would use the services of Full Circle Pregnancy Resources.

Then his daughter Emily became an unwed mother. She turned to Full Circle center for help.

Since then Emily has married the father of her child and is expecting a second child. Her husband, Jesse, has made great strides in overcoming a difficult childhood. The couple is strong spiritually. And Emily is still attending

activities of Full Circle.

Peterson is very proud of Emily and Jesse, and he is especially glad Full Circle was available because he doesn't think he could have helped them as well as Full Circle did.

The experience “doesn't change my belief about sex outside of marriage, but when you have it in your family you change your concept of what families go through,” he said.

Emily was wrong and she knows she was wrong, but God has forgiven her, he said. And although it was a difficult time, explained Peterson, God led Emily and Jesse and the extended family through it. *B&R*

check on the test she felt she “was more on pins and needles,” she said, than they were. When they learned of the negative result, “they all cried” with joy, said Zortman.

Crews does the work despite many other responsibilities. She and her husband have three children, ages 17, 19, and 21, and they operate several businesses. She has interrupted an educational program to direct Full Circle. Zortman and her husband also have three children, ages 18, 15, and 4, and she operates a dressmaking and alterations business.

God provides

God has provided everything the ministry has needed in amazing ways, reported Crews and Zortman. Workers have been willing to be trained and serve. Often they arrive to serve just when they are needed.

And items have been given miraculously. For example, an

IBM employee in New York gave a new computer designated for a charity although the company resisted giving the machine to the ministry.

Physicians in the community place materials from Full Circle in their offices. School counselors share materials and refer women to the center. And many others help such as professionals in social and legal services.

Need for the ministry

“The sin of abortion is hush hush,” said Zortman, but one in four women in the United States has had one by the age of 45 and one in five U.S. Baptist women has had one.

However, no sin is worse than any other sin, Zortman and Crews agreed.

“We try very much to speak the truth in love,” said Zortman. “The truth is what sets you free and the love is what gets them (clients) to listen to us,” explained Crews. *B&R*

Corrections

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — As a point of clarification, the upcoming “Missions Educators for the 21st Century” conference scheduled for March 17-18 at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lebanon, is sponsored by the TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement group. It offers conferences for both men and women and those interested in partnership missions. The cost of the conference is \$15 and includes conference materials and lunch on Saturday. Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union is taking reservations for the meeting. To register, call (615) 371-2038.

Also, please note the following corrections to “Men's Ministries Team names trainers” in “Men and Boys on Mission” pull-out in the Feb. 16, issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. These corrections are a result of an updated file not available to the *B&R* at press time that week.

Aubrey Wilson's phone number which ran as 901-784-2873 should be 901-784-2973.

Kevin Hale's address which ran as 323 Hillside Court should be 334 Byrd Avenue, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Joe Vinson's address which ran as 325 Hogan Drive should read 925.

Herschel Wells' phone number which ran as 901-785-8033 should read 901-758-8033.

Tom Howard's phone number which ran as 931-528-2105 should read 931-528-8386.

Also, in the “Shield of Faith” protects county's youth” story in the Feb. 23 issue, the web site is www.shield-of-faith.com. ■

Christians must choose what really matters

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Whenever I get to the point that I think nothing will surprise me, all I have to do is pick up the daily newspaper.

And, after living in Tennessee nearly all of my adult life, I especially should not be surprised by anything our state legislators do.

Yet, last week I was.

In the same week we had a 6-year-old kid killing a classmate, gas prices skyrocketing, and budget and TennCare crises in the state, our legislators were worried about whether the Tennessee state flag is flown right side up.

Granted that was not the only thing they did, but they spent enough time on it that it was the page one headline story in the March 3 issue of *The Tennessean*.

Basically, Sen. Bob Rochelle of Lebanon introduced a bill that proposes manufacturers label the flags so there will be no confusing which side should be flown up.

According to *The Tennessean* article, Rochelle told the state senate that the Tennessee flag, with its three white stars inside a blue circle, is flown upside down about half the time.

Now, I want the flag to be flown correctly as much as anyone, but is it really necessary that our state lawmakers take valuable time to debate the pros and cons of putting a label on a flag? There seems to be more pressing matters of concern at this time.

Perhaps this little episode is a reminder of how all of us sometimes are guilty of ignoring the big problems and focusing on the minute. We see it in business, in our homes, and even in our churches.

How many marriages have split up over "nitpicky" issues?

How many church business meetings have been spent wrangling over what color of carpet to buy?

It is hard to deal with big problems that require thought, effort, and much, much

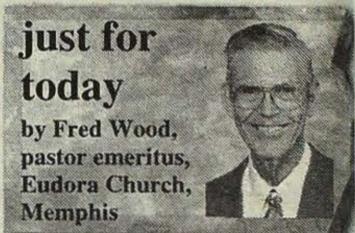
prayer. At the same time, it's easy to focus on the trivial matters.

Our world today is in trouble. The incident in Michigan where the 6-year-old shot his classmate is a heartwrenching story and it needs to be a wake-up call to America once again. Not only was an innocent child killed, but from all accounts, the little boy who pulled the trigger is a victim as well.

Incidents like what happened in Michigan occur because Americans are more concerned about materialism and being "politically correct" than we are about what is ultimately important — the spiritual condition of our country.

Christians have to take a stand and remind people over and over that the only hope for our nation today is Jesus Christ. In today's world that will not be the popular thing to do, but we have to do it.

As Christians, let's quit focusing on the trivial and deal with what really matters — sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. **B&R**



just for today
by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis

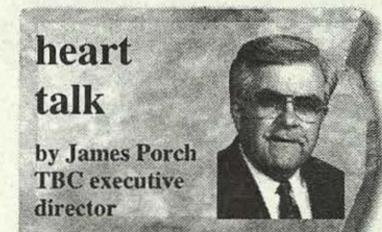
Start with a smile
Five-year-old Becky to census taker: "Daddy's not here. He's gone to perform an appendectomy." Census taker: "That sure is a big word for such a little girl. Do you know what it means?" Becky: "Sure, it means \$1,500 and that doesn't ever include the anesthesiologist!"

Take this truth
You can't kid the kids. If you think your child doesn't know the difference between right and wrong, try being wrong. You'll hear about it!

Memorize this Scripture
"From the lips of children and infants, you have ordained praise." — Psalm 8:2, NIV

Pray this prayer
"Lord, help me to realize the child is the father of man." ■

Remember the biblical model of servant leadership



heart talk
by James Porch
TBC executive
director

A respected pastor in our state offered me a rather surprising confession. "People across our state think I'm on the cutting edge as a contemporary pastor, but I often feel I'm ministering on the fringes." Additional conversation revealed that he was hanging on by his finger tips quite a distance from his core values and sense of original calling.

I think he bravely sounded a

wake-up call that can liberate other staff members.

Two ministry models emerged over the past two decades from our corruption of Paul's statement, "be all things to men." I speak of what I label cafeteria and circus churches.

I enjoy dining in a cafeteria. The restaurant offers a wide selection of attractive food and requires immediate choice. Most local churches in Tennessee however offer only the basics. And, that is OK. Most of our churches remind me of the school lunch room that offered me one menu of nourishing and wholesome basic Southern fare each day of my education grades 1-12.

That primary menu with no frills was compatible to the ba-

sic fundamentals of my reading, writing, and figuring education. Recently, I heard from a number of school friends. By the way, they are doing quite well. The basics have served us well in life.

I applaud churches with a wide range of offering of ministry but please remember the basics of the Gospel.

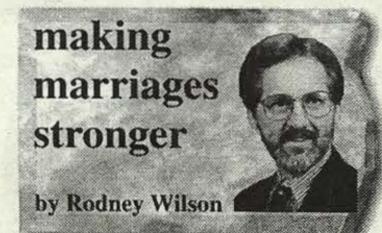
Our second model, the circus, may have peaked in popularity. The problem with a circus church centers in the essential requirement to keep from doing the previous acts to hold the spectators.

If I go to the circus and the acts remain the same, I will soon grow weary and seek other entertainment. After all, I've only invested the price of a ticket.

Church ministry today faces the temptation and vulnerability to put on a bigger and better show. Yes, we have often allowed ourselves to be seduced by secular marketing and management techniques. Subsequently, the New Testament teachings of servant leadership and sacrificial ministry have been replaced.

Now an encouraging word for my confessing friend. I believe in you and your ministry. You have taken an essential first step in honestly honoring your feelings. Our Heavenly Father applauds your integrity. Such candor just may free some of your fellow pastors and staff ministers who struggle out on the fringes also. Friend, pastor, you are not alone! ■

Celebrate your marriage — take your wife on a date



making marriages stronger
by Rodney Wilson

So the famous "Love Month" has once again come and gone. It provided a good opportunity to celebrate the blessing of marriage. And how did you observe it this year? Candy? Flowers? A Valentine or two?

May I offer a creative response to celebrate your marriage year-round?

It involves a simple date. No, dating was not a stage of life that you graduated from when you got married. Your marriage is a relationship that needs to be fed from time to time with some undivided attention from the two of you. Keep dating alive or resurrect it in your marriage. Here's the game plan:

Get your calendars togeth-

er. Set a date just for the two of you. The anticipation, regardless of how simple the date is, can make the evening much more special when it finally arrives.

Decide what to do. I'm talking an evening where you both can share some things with each other (so a movie is out this time). Dinner? Possibly, but my personal favorite is getting a dessert, taking it home, sitting on the living room floor, and sharing the evening with my wife.

Talk to each other. Now, we might have just come to the hard part for you. Talk about what? Keep it simple. Answer these two questions. (1) What originally attracted you to your spouse? (2) Name one thing that you like about your spouse today. (Be generous with your affirmations at this point.)

For some, answering these questions in the presence of your mate will be a gigantic step. For others who are more verbal, you may want to move on to other areas such as shar-

ing your dreams for 2000 or setting goals together. Note: If you are the "talker" in the marriage, don't drown your spouse by talking all the time. Work at listening to your partner and you will learn something.

Thank the Lord together. If you have never prayed with your spouse before, try it. And, don't feel alone. Many couples have never prayed together and have missed the joy of experiencing God in this way. All I can say is that when my wife and I consistently pray together it changes our relationship for the better. There is an intimacy and an honesty that cannot otherwise be reached. If you have never prayed with your spouse, pray along these lines: "Lord, thank you for our marriage. Thank you for (spouse's name). Help our marriage to grow and to bring glory to you in 2000. Amen."

Remember to keep your date simple, even short, if necessary, and have fun with it.

Recently, I spent some time in the home of a couple who had

been married for 66 years. I've heard Paul Harvey speak of such couples but to visit with a "real one" was inspiring. I asked them how they had stayed married all these years. Both of their responses were filled with things of the Lord. They pray together several times a day, they read God's Word together, and they go to church together as often as they can.

Theirs also is a marriage that has been fed with lots of dating, sharing with each other, and celebration of what God had joined together. Nothing will tear that marriage apart, not because it's so old, but because it's based on Jesus Christ.

I want a marriage like that. I can have it, too. You can as well. In Christ, all things are possible. Let's feed our marriages with Godly things — celebrating, sharing, and talking together with the Joiner of our union. ■ — Wilson is minister of marriage and family enrichment at First Baptist Church, Smyrna.

Partnership Prayer Requests

- March**
- 8 — Pray for the IMB missionaries that live in the state of Rio in Brazil as they work on strategy. Ask God to bless the people they may reach.
 - 9 — Pray for a team of eight volunteers from Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, who will prayer walk March 10-18 in Lisbon, Portugal.
 - 10 — Pray for Brenda Hallock, IMB missionary in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who is serving as the new Tennessee volunteer coordinator. Ask God to give her true wisdom in helping churches receive Tennessee teams.
 - 11 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's regional youth evangelism conferences to be held in March.
 - 12 — Pray for Scott and Sandra George, IMB missionaries to Portugal who are on the youth team in Lisbon.
 - 13 — Pray for churches in Michigan that are without pastors.
 - 14 — Pray for 41-member BSU S.P.O.T.S. team from Belmont University that is working this week in Rio de Janeiro doing creative ministry and BYBCs.
 - 15 — Pray for Capilano Association in Canada which met recently to determine its future.



The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' five partnerships — Canada, Michigan, Rio de Janeiro, Portugal, and Tennessee

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

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

From your missionary

By now most New Year resolutions or intentions have long been broken or adjusted. Good resolutions or intentions have a way of getting put on the back burner with the busiest of everyday life.



SHARP

However, there is still time for you to fulfill a promise to make this year — the year of your first missions trip. Why not call us and allow us to assist you in fulfilling a life long wish? We have several projects that need you. That's right, you don't have to get a team of five or 10 in order to go. Several teams are forming that could use you so what are you waiting for? Give us a call and let us tell you about one of them. This year can be the year!

In Christ,

Terry

Scheduling missionaries

For "The Macedonian Call"

Tennessee speaker coordinators Howard and Joyce Clark, retired IMB missionaries to Spain, will schedule missionary speakers in churches.

To secure a missionary speaker, contact Terry Sharp, 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-7935, or tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

Training set for missions ministers

For "The Macedonian Call"

The first Ministers of Missions Conference will be held March 29-31 at First Baptist Church of Nashville, sponsored by the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team.

The conference will introduce Ministers of Missions to the new International Missions Training Institute, meeting with IMB personnel, and other coordinated events.

For information on the conference, contact Terry Sharp, 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-7935, tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

With states, countries

TBC leader recalls partnerships' beginning

By James Porch
For "The Macedonian Call"

Tennessee Baptists became acquainted with the Partnership opportunity as early as 1979 when a special Convention Committee was appointed to study our response to world hunger. Earl Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Memphis, chaired this committee.

The Committee report recommended that the Convention assist with World Hunger and specifically recommended that we help Upper Volta in Africa, which is known today as Burkina Faso. This invitation came from the Foreign Mission Board.

Upper Volta was in a drought. In addition to carrying the Gospel, we went to dig water wells to help the people in a time of great drought and famine. The call went out across the state, and crews were formed. Over the next few years, Tennessee Baptists dug a number of wells, and conducted other mission projects in the country of Upper Volta.

Tennessee was the first state to enter into a foreign country partnership, sponsored or endorsed by the Foreign Mission Board. I have always thought that the volunteer state was the appropriate state to begin volunteer missions.

About the same time, Tennessee Baptist leadership began discussion with the Baptist leadership in Michigan. Out of these discussions came an agreement between Tom Madden, TBC executive director-treasurer, and Robert Wilson, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, that a partnership would be formed whereby Tennessee Baptists and Michigan Baptists could work together in evangelistic and construction work in Michigan.

We recognized that the two states had great points of compatibility since a number of people in Michigan had roots and family in Tennessee. As the partnership over the past 20 years has developed, we have found increasing evidence of the roots between Tennessee and Michigan.

When we began the partnership ministry, I was serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Tullahoma. I came home from the 1979 Convention and began to share my concerns about our possible involvement. A little later, when the Michigan partnership was developed, our church recognized we could very easily become involved in this ministry.

At that time, organizationally Tennessee had what were known as Cluster coordinators. Directors of missions were responsible for coordinating work in the Michigan partnership with a number of

associations in their vicinity. Our Cluster Coordinator encouraged us to linkup with Northland Baptist Association, which included churches in the upper half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan encompassing about 21 counties.

The work in Northland Association was very new since there were a few struggling churches. We felt this was certainly an appropriate area for us to

serve for a long period of time. We as a church wanted to develop more than just a contact with a church. We wanted to have an ongoing relationship with an association and/or churches.

We launched our work in the summer of 1980 by partnering with Northland Association and working with Pelleston Baptist Church which is in extreme northern Michigan. We sent a small youth group and a few adults who worked to convert a motel-type structure into a worship facility. From 1980 through 1992, I had the privilege to lead groups every year into Michigan from First Church, Tullahoma.

Michigan Baptist leadership have repeatedly said that there hasn't been a — See TBC, page 6



PORCH

In Tennessee

Celebrating 20 years of partnership missions

By Marcia Knox
For "The Macedonian Call"

Tennessee Baptists are celebrating 20 years of Partnership/Volunteer Missions and are continuing to serve as a Total Missions Resource Center for the millennium, according to Terry Sharp, Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader.

Tennessee Baptists approved the first TBC partnership with Michigan at the 1980 TBC Annual Meeting. During the 1981 TBC Annual Meeting, Tennessee Baptists asked Michigan Baptists to join with them to partner with Upper Volta from 1981-1985, which eventually became Burkina Faso. The partnerships have continued over the years as seen in the box on this page.

The Partnership/Volunteer Missions program, which started as a TBC part-time position, has continued to grow into a fully staffed mission

team. This transition did not take place over night, but began with a new strategy on April 25, 1997 at the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions 21st Century Meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

"The TBC made a deliberate shift in missions strategy at the 21st Century meeting for all churches, pastors, and director of missions," said Sharp. "At the meeting we dialogued to discuss our future vision of missions."

Attending the meeting besides Sharp were: Jerry Rankin, IMB president; Elmer Goble, NAMB Adult Volunteer Mobilization manager; Jim Ferguson, IMB Volun-

teer In Missions Department director; James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer; state Baptist University professors, and others.

In the meeting, the foundation was laid for TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions to

Tennessee Partnerships

Michigan	began in 1980
Burkina Faso (Upper Volta)	1981-85
Venezuela	1986-88
Philippines	1989-91
Chile	1992-95
Canada	1995-2000
Poland	1995-97
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	1998-2000
Costa Rica	1997-1999
Nicaragua	1999-2000
Portugal	2000-2002

become a Total Missions Resource Center, and it has been serving in that capacity since 1997.

Some objectives that came from the 1997 meeting were: to help volunteers go on missions wherever God leads them; and to help volunteers to know where to secure religious materials to take with them on missions.

Another objective, an aimed directive change from regional

volunteer coordinators to encourage local associations to elect or appoint a local or associational volunteer coordinator, set the precedent for the state convention.

Other meeting objectives were: to be on the World Wide Web to promote and give information about partnership countries; to increase training for volunteers, team leaders, and to train in practical subjects; to further develop the "Macedonian Call" and Church Needs Form; to develop a database of volunteers; and to pray for unreached people groups.

"Since the 21st Century meeting, we have continued to try to improve the way we serve churches by adding new staff and resources to our Total Missions Resource Center," said Sharp.

Objectives met were: the development of the Partnership/Volunteer Missions web site; the special issue "Macedonian" — See Celebrating, page 6

The Macedonian Call

TBC leader recalls partnerships beginning ...

— Continued from page 5

new Church Start in Michigan without the help of a Tennessee church, association, or group of churches. I perceive that as their way of expressing appreciation for the comprehensive efforts that have been made over a period of 20 years in this partnership.

I saw in our efforts from First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, the development of a generation of mission-minded people. They became mission-minded through hands-on missions effort. We attempted to perform a variety of mission activities on our trips, thereby, enabling people with varying skills to be included. This included people doing Backyard Bible Clubs, cooking, performing construction work, canvassing, singing in choirs, participating in handbell choirs, puppets, and a variety of other ministries.

We saw entire families participate in these mission events. For a number of years, the preparation for the actual trip and the follow up encompassed an extended period of time in the church's ministry year.

An added feature has been the relationships that have been developed between those churches and our church and association. In the mid 90s, groups from Michigan began to come into our area to help build church buildings, conduct Backyard Bible Clubs and minister in other areas. It was indeed a joy to see us move to a point where the partnership was reciprocal.

Additionally, one of the greatest benefits was the impact these mission ventures had on youth. During that era in which First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, was going to Michigan, sometimes two

and three times a year, a number of youth committed themselves to vocational Christian service. Each of these went on and finished college and seminary. I believe God used those mission ventures to stir their hearts and help them capture a sense of ministry that influenced their call.

I'm thankful also that each member of our family had the opportunity to be involved in the partnership. Our son, Scott, spent an entire summer working in construction at Roger City. Later, our daughter, Terri, worked with a wonderful family, Bob and Bonnie Galey, at a church in the Northland Association. My late wife accompanied me on as many trips as possible. I have a great treasury of wonderful memories from those weeks.

Administratively the partnership ministry work began as a part-time assignment given to the TBC Convention Ministries office. Tennessee Baptists are indebted to Carroll Owen, Convention Ministries director, and Gerry Mayes, Convention Ministries administrative assistant, for helping us get this work started in an efficient manner.

While the Michigan partnership continued year by year through the current year, we've had opportunity to respond to a variety of needs literally around the world. After the Upper Volta partnership, we were asked to assist Baptists in Venezuela. Our family spent a week in Venezuela in the summer of 1985.

Following the Venezuela partnership, we moved to the Orient and accepted responsibility to work in the Philippines. Next, the Foreign Mission Board asked us to assist Chilean Bap-

tists for a three-year partnership.

When I became Executive Director, we were in the process of completing the Chile partnership. Next, Tennessee Baptists began work with Baptists in Poland and Costa Rica. Simultaneously, we also accepted responsibility to assist with partnership work in western Canada.

Currently, our work continues in Portugal; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Canada; and Michigan. We will also be involved in a potential effort entitled, "Impact Northeast," which joins several state conventions together to help increase mission work in the New England area.

Also early in March, Tennessee will join with Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and other southern states to plan a ministry in response to the needs in the North Central area, states including Iowa, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Not only has the philosophy of Partnership Missions changed over the 20-year period, but also we believe it has changed for the better. In addition to inviting churches and associations to participate in the partnership sanctioned by the Convention, it is our desire as the volunteer missions team to assist any church and/or association or groups of churches to respond to mission opportunities wherever they fill God is leading them.

This means we have accepted responsibility to become the statewide resource center for Baptist missions. Our staff has increased from originally one person part-time to currently four people working to respond to countless requests from all over the state. It is our

desire to resource churches and/or association to do mission work.

This includes travel information, securing passports and/or visas, providing orientation for groups, plus dealing with the countless number of question and/or procedures necessary to implement a mission trip.

I have a strong commitment to support each ministry of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Each ministry is valuable. My commitment to partnership/volunteer missions revolves around my conviction that this ministry provides a statewide cohesive influence on our Baptist ministry.

A person who does volunteer missions work returns more committed to the Cooperative Program. A person of mission, whether close at home or halfway around the world, captures a large dimension of what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. He begins to live the Great Commission.

Partnership/Volunteer Missions activity keeps us at the heart of our calling to go into all the world. Our desire is to assist each person who goes. We want that venture to be spiritually uplifting and enjoyable. We hope each person will come home a different person, a better person for Christ.

We will continually reach out to each association, each church throughout Tennessee to provide resources for their mission ventures and opportunities for missions work. I believe this is of God and believe Tennessee Baptists. The Baptists of the volunteer state will continue to respond to God's great call even unto all the world. ■

Celebrating 20 years of partnership missions ...

— Continued from page 5

Call," Volunteer Challenge 2000, Anchor Churches, the Church Needs Form, the volunteers' database; and the prayer warriors network.

The TBC web site www.tnbaptist.org has current information on all partnership countries and mission projects.

The special annual edition of the "Macedonian Call" puts the volunteer missions puzzle together to help unravel volunteers' questions and informs churches of all the opportunities available for state, national, and international missions. Issues of the "Macedonian Call" are published in the *Baptist and Reflector* and on the web site.

Volunteer Challenge 2000 combined volunteer recognition and commissioning services to affirm the value of volunteer missionaries with personal recognition and certificates signed by TBC, IMB, NAMB presidents, and challenged every church to send out at least three volunteers on a missions project. (See story, "Consider participating in Volunteer Challenge 2000.")

Anchor Churches are churches that commit to two or more projects per year and provide opportunities for smaller churches to network with them.

The Church Needs Form now

known as Volunteer Needs Request Form is distributed to directors of missions and is available on the web site. This form promotes churches' mission projects and also gives a venue for volunteers seeking service to state their missionary interests.

The Partnership/Volunteer Missions database contains over 5,000 Tennessee volunteers.

The prayer Partnership/Volunteer Missions monthly newsletters and weekly prayer requests in *Baptist and Reflector*, are sent to a network of prayer warriors across the state, in the nation, and internationally. The prayer requests are also posted on the TBC web site.

Currently half of the TBC associations have established a volunteer coordinator who are helping churches know how and where to volunteer and are developing a mini-resource center.

In addition to these objectives other innovative programs that have been introduced are: counseling by Sharp with anyone interested in becoming a missionary whether career, journeyman, or ISC, etc; development of Volunteer In Missions Day package of materials which is sent to all TBC churches each year; and hosting the first annual Minister of Missions Conference. (See story, "Training set for missions ministers.")

Other new programs were: beginning the Sister Church Program, which identifies and introduces Tennessee churches to churches in Michigan from 1996-2000 (possibly in operation in Canada from 2000-2005) to make them mutually supportive; and the customization of mission projects, which works for churches who need other dates and specialized projects for mission trips and benefits missionaries and the churches.

Additional new programs were: Partners in the Harvest emphasis to assist churches as they commit to the Partner in the Harvest Challenge to be involved in a volunteer mission project; IMB mission scholarships, which have been requested by more Tennesseans than any other state convention; and Supervision I and II Workshop, which is special training for individuals who supervise missionary staff.

Four pilot programs being marketed in Tennessee by the IMB are: introduction of the Missionary Speaker coordinators to provide missionary speakers to churches; International Missions Training Institute, which provides over 12 hours of training to equip volunteers in cross cultural missions; MAC Training, which trains those leading teams overseas in

how to be an effective leader; and One Mission with God, Acts 1:8 Association, which challenges the association to act, commit, tell and support missions emphasis. (See stories, "Scheduling missionaries" and "Institutes set.")

Statistics reveal the number of Tennessee volunteers serving internationally since 1989 have quintupled over the last nine years. "This year we should see for the first time over 2,000 volunteers serving internationally," said Sharp. "For 1999, over 1,050 volunteers served in four partnership countries and Disaster Relief Responses to Kosovo and Turkey. These figures are in addition to the thousands that served last year in Tennessee and Michigan."

"We are currently being used as a Total Missions Resource Center as evidenced by the 421 contacts since November of 1999 to February of 2000, and we have responded to over 562 in writing by mail during February."

Stateside partnership vision continues with the TBC being asked to extend their agreement with Canada until 2005; developing a possible partnership relationship with Impact Northwest; beginning a study with the North Central states; and beginning discussions with Las Vegas, Nevada. ■

Institutes set

For "The Macedonian Call"

A total of nine International Missions Training Institutes will be held this year at the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood. The Institutes are designed to equip mission volunteers for cross-cultural ministry in strategic locations throughout the world.

The nine Institutes will be March 31 - April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2. Schedule for the first institute will be Friday, 4-6 p.m., registration; 6:30-9:30 p.m., conferences; and Saturday, 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., conferences.

The Institutes will offer: prayer, praise, music and testimony; biblical basis of missions, strategic utilization of volunteers; and international travel tips.

To attend make reservations two weeks prior to the meeting by contacting Terry Sharp at 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-7935, or tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

The Macedonian Call

Women of First Church, Powell, prayerwalk in Portugal

Deb Dougan
The Macedonian Call

A team of nine women from First Baptist Church, Powell, prayerwalked Oct. 3-12, in the coastal city of Santa Maria da Feira, located three hours north of Lisbon, Portugal.

Making up the Powell team besides herself were: Carol Abba, Kathy Baker, Cathy Jones, Marilyn Lyle, Pam McGill, Kathy Patton, Janet Roach, and Ginger Wright. The daily walks throughout Feira and other neighboring cities were coordinated by IMB missionary to Portugal, Michael Johnson. Johnson, his wife Janice, and their two children, have lived in Portugal for three years, but the family has been in Santa Maria da Feira for one year.

When Johnson was approached about the possibility of coordinating a prayerwalk in Feira, he welcomed the chance. This would provide an opportunity for a team to "pray onsite with sight." Hopefully, the prayerwalk would be the beginning of a spiritual awakening in the country.

Several weeks before leaving for Portugal, the Powell Church team began their preparations spiritually and emotionally. They knew they would be fac-

ing intense spiritual warfare and they prayed for discernment and wisdom. In addition, they studied Ephesians 6 and read several books.

Each day the prayer warriors walked the city streets praying that the hearts and minds of the Portuguese people would be open and receptive to the Gospel and that Satan would not be allowed to hinder the work.

On street corners, the team saw recycling bins, which are used daily to collect hundreds of liquor and beer bottles. This is a reminder of the rampant drug and alcohol problems that exist in Portugal and other European countries. Substance abuse was the focus of many of the group's prayers that week.

They also prayed at schools and municipal buildings asking God to allow them to be used for Bible studies, church services, and other religious purposes.

The prayerwalkers were fortunate to see God at work in a very tangible way. One day the Johnsons and the team walked in a rural area of Feira where they met an elderly woman who had been visiting the Johnsons' church, Santa Maria de Feira Baptist Mission.

The woman was visibly upset and

spoke to the two missionaries in rapid Portuguese. The Johnsons talked with her and said a brief prayer.

After the team walked away from the woman's house, Michael Johnson explained that the woman was upset because her monthly pension check was stolen. The team dug for Portuguese money from their purses.

Michael Johnson counted the money and took it back to the woman, who began to cry and thank the Lord for His goodness. The team had no idea how much money they had contributed; they had just given what they had.

When he returned to the group, Johnson told the ladies that the woman's check had been for \$50,000 in escudos about \$275 in US currency,



MISSIONARY Michael Johnson stands with the prayerwalking team of First Baptist Church, Powell.

and that the amount they had contributed was \$275. God was truly at work!

In May 2000, an evangelistic crusade is planned for the city of Santa Maria da Feira. Please join the Powell team and the Johnsons as they pray for a Great Awakening in Portugal. We serve an awesome and mighty God who is able to do all things. (Deb Dougan is executive secretary, First Baptist Church, Powell.) ■

Baptist Hospital, East, team treats residents of Rio de Janeiro

For The Macedonian Call

A nine-person volunteer medical mission team from Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Knoxville, recently worked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where they treated over 1,000 in a week.

This Oct. 10-19, 1999, project was an expression of the Christian mission of Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee (BHET) and also a desire to be part of the partnership between the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio de Janeiro.

The medical team was comprised of two doctors, David Rankin and Chris Sawyer; a pharmacist, Jim Koren; a

chaplain, Dan Hix; and five nurses, Raycene Brewer, Jan Irwin, Alicia McCampbell, Edith Mynatt, and Phyliss Smith. Three of the nurses are also nurse practitioners.

The group team worked in the community of Dona Marta, one of the largest slums in Rio de Janeiro and an area with tremendous needs. The Baptist Hospital group ministered with local Brazilian Baptists and IMB missionaries Sharon Fairchild, Elizabeth Oates, and Angie Findley. Oates, who is now retired and is a Tennessee native, recently visited Knoxville and spoke at Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

A medical clinic was established in the Baptist Mission in Dona Marta. Over 1,000

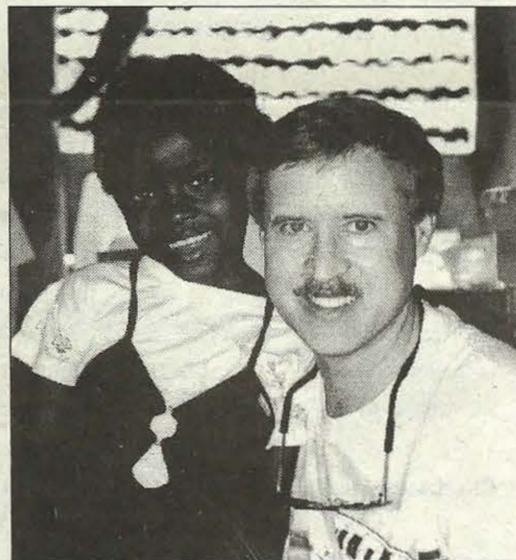
people were seen, received care and medicines, as well as the opportunity to hear the Gospel. The team took over nine trunks of medicines and supplies, most of which were donated by local physicians. Other donors included BHET and King Pharmacy in Bristol.

Many patients accepted Christ as their Savior while others desired to know more about Christianity and asked the pastor of the mission to make a home visit. The dual goals of providing medical care and strengthening the work of the Baptist Mission in Dona Marta were accomplished. The primary response of the team was that although they had the privilege and opportunity to do some good in the name of

Christ, they were the ones who received the greatest blessing.

Upon leaving the mission on the final day, the Dona Marta Baptist Mission pastor and congregation presented the BHET team with a framed picture of Dona Marta inscribed with the caption "Don't exist place where the love of God can't reach."

(Complied from a report by Gretchen Church, Public Relations manager, Baptist Health System.) ■



PHYSICIAN Chris Sawyer of Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee works with a new friend at a clinic.

Men work in Nicaragua

For The Macedonian Call

Two men from First Baptist Church of Pulaski recently traveled with a five-state convention Disaster Relief Response team to build houses in Nicaragua for victims of Hurricane Mitch.

Bill Beasley and Gary Witherow, both of Pulaski, joined a Disaster Relief Response team Nov. 27-Dec. 5 made up of four other state conventions volunteers to build permanent concrete houses in Nicaragua.

In addition to building houses, the Pulaski men also participated in worship services that were held in the streets and worked with IMB volunteer missionary coordinators Art and Dottie Dennis.

Other state conventions that participated in the trip were: Arkansas Baptist Convention, Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware, Missouri Baptist Convention, and Baptist General Association of Virginia. ■

Consider participating in Volunteer Challenge 2000

For The Macedonian Call

Volunteers continue to be an important strategy in reaching Tennessee, our nation, and our world with the Gospel, according to Terry Sharp, MAI Partnership/Volunteer Missions team leader.

"Imagine what would happen if every Tennessee Baptist church sent out at least three volunteers on a Partnership/Volunteer Mission project," said Sharp.

"Imagine the impact on your church. Tennessee volunteers are still making a difference!"

The Volunteer Challenge 2000 call that was given over two years ago by Doug Sager, pastor of First Baptist Church of Concord,

Knoxville, during the 1998 Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting continues to build momentum into the millennium.

The Volunteer Challenge is: to serve in a Tennessee, national, and international missions project during 2000; to send one volunteer from each church to a Tennessee, national, and international missions project; and to be a Partnership Anchor Church.

A Partnership Anchor Church commits to two or more missions projects per year and provides link up opportunities for other churches. Last year 96 churches responded to be an anchor church. A total of 266 churches committed to send one volunteer, 340 would attend a commis-

sioning service, 17 would send volunteers on national and international projects, 24 would send volunteers on Tennessee and international projects, and 49 would send volunteers on Tennessee and national projects.

Also from last year's response, 101 people committed to do mission projects in Tennessee, 30 committed to do national projects, 92 committed to do international projects, and 127 committed to do all three.

Now that the millennium is here, there is still time to commit to the Volunteer Challenge 2000. Contact Vicki Pearson, Partnership/Volunteer Missions ministry assistant, at (615) 371-7935, 1-800-558-2090, or email at vpearson@tnbaptist.org. ■

The Macedonian Call

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
Portugal Projects				
Different cities	PM12000102	Prayerwalk teams for northern Portugal	Fall 2000	6
Three key cities	PM12000100	Black Gospel choir to tour three key cities for church planting.	open	open
West/Cntrl. Portugal	PM12000111	Paint/lay tile in new church.	open	8-10
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Projects				
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000960	Teach at annual music congress.	July 5-17	5
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000940	Conduct medical clinics.	Aug. 31-Sept. 9	40
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000966	Conduct medical clinics.	Aug. 31-Sept. 9	10
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000955	Teams to do simultaneous revivals - evangelism, witnessing.	Sept. 17-26	45
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000936	Construct chapel for the Missao Batista Bandeirantes.	open	20
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000945	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000944	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000942	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000941	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000937	Construct chapel for the Araujo Mission.	open	20
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000921	Bluegrass/Country band to perform in variety of locations.	open	8
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000932	Construct chapel for Carioca Baptist Convention.	Oct. 7-22	25
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000956	Choir/large ensemble to perform throughout Rio.	open	open
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000920	Contemporary Christian band to perform in a variety of locations.	open	open
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000957	Conduct medical clinics.	open	20
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000943	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000939	Conduct medical clinics.	Aug. 4-13	15
Canada Projects				
Bird River, MB	00KEY001	Team to renovate and possible new construction at associational children's camp.	May 21-27	10-50
Saskatchewan	00NOR002	Conduct children and youth VBS programs.	May 21-27	5-10
Mississauga, OT	99ONT002	Conduct BYBC and literature distribution.	June 2-16	5-10
Fairview, AB	99MID036	Conduct evangelistic services and survey community.	July 1-17	6
Victoria, BC	00CAP001	Conduct sports camp and youth outreach programs.	July 9-15	5-12
Halifax, NS	99ATL007	Orchestra team to perform at waterfront.	July 21-31	15-30
Ontario	00ONT001	Conduct VBS and campground ministries.	July 29-Aug. 7	8-15
St. Albert, AB	00MID001	Conduct evangelistic services and survey community.	July 30-Aug. 6	5-10
Charlottetown, PEI	00ATL004	Conduct BYBC and door-to-door survey in preparation for church planting.	Aug. 12-18	10-20
Salmon Arm, BC	00ALP001	Conduct sports clinic and do leadership training for adults.	Aug. 26-Sept. 2	4-10
Halifax, NS	99ATL010	Conduct revival, drama presentation.	Oct. 19-23	2
Penticton, BC	00ALP002	Conduct evangelistic outreach in communities.	June-August	open
Saskatchewan	00NOR001	Conduct BYBC and do light construction.	open	5-10
Charlottetown, PEI	00ATL001	Conduct BYBC and door-to-door survey.	July 1-17	10-20
Salmon Arm, BC	00ALP003	Conduct VBS.	July 9-15	8-10
Michigan Projects				
Saginaw	B-1B	Team to construct Fellowship Hall and do plumbing of new church.	June 10-17	open
Detroit	GD-2B	Team to repair/remodel classrooms and church offices.	June 25-July 1	open
Portage	SC-1B	Teams to do VBS and work with youth.	July 9-15	open
Portage	SC-1A	Teams to install roof.	July 9-15	open
Brighton	H-1	Conduct BYBC, sports clinics, choir concerts and drama.	July 22-29	10-20
Midland	B-2	Conduct VBS.	June 17-23	open
Woodhaven	GD-1A	First rough-in for church addition.	June 5-10	10
Woodhaven	GD-1B	Electrical/plumbing for church addition.	June 11-17	10
Woodhaven	GD-1C	Drywall/painting for church addition.	June 18-24	10

Tennessee Projects

- ◆ **Benton** — Kitchen/Dining Hall Supervisor to coordinate and plan menu. Purchase food, supervise kitchen staff and help with other ministries. May 15 - Aug 15
- Kitchen/Dining Hall Staff to work with kitchen supervisor and staff in menu preparation, set-up, serving, cleaning of kitchen and dining hall. May 15 - Aug 15 (2-week minimum to all summer).
- General Maintenance - Light maintenance, lawn care, maintain equipment and help with other ministries. Dates are May 15 - Aug 15.
- Camp Nurse - Serve as nurse for summer camps, mission groups and retreats. Maintain medical supplies, handle medication for campers. May 15 - Aug 15. Contact: Debbie Brock, Camp Agape, (423) 338-4153.
- ◆ **Cleveland** — Teams of 12-15 per site with no more than 80 per week to do roofing, painting and light construction for low-income housing. High school seniors or college students.

June 11-17	July 9-15	June 18-24	July 16-22
June 25 - July 1	July 23-29	July 2-8	
- Creative ministry teams of 12-30 to serve at outposts along the Ocoee River in city parks and campgrounds.

June 11-17	June 25 - July 1
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- Contact: Michelle McCluskey, Ocoee Outreach, (423) 476-5493.
- ◆ **Columbia** — Teams to do new church construction in April. Contact: Fred Hawkins, (931) 388-5287.
- ◆ **Covington** — Teams to do VBS, visitation with possible revival, random acts of kindness and some small work projects. Dates open for summer. Contact: Howard Wayland, Lifeway Baptist Fellowship Church, (901) 492-5555.
- ◆ **Franklin** — Teams to do new church construction in June. Contact: George Temple, (615) 790-8515.
- ◆ **Humbolt** — Brick layers to build new church sanctuary in May. Contact: Charlotte Cole, Smyrna Baptist Church, Humboldt, (901) 686-9653.
- ◆ **Chattanooga** — Teams of 12-50 to roof and paint inner-city widows homes with optional afternoon and evening ministries.

June 4-10	June 11-17	July 16-21	June 18-24
July 23-28			
- Contact: Stan Braley, Hamilton County Baptist Association, (423) 267-3799
- ◆ **Gatlinburg** — One team per week of 8-15 to conduct daycamps in the morning and family evening programs in area campgrounds.

June 11-17	July 9-15	June 18-24	July 16-22
June 25-July 1	July 23-29	July 2-8	July 30-Aug 6
- Contact: Bill Black, Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries, (423) 436-4076.
- ◆ **Gleason** — Teams to build new church sanctuary and conduct BYBC. Contact: Jerry Esch, (901) 648-0408.
- ◆ **Harriman** — Teams to do BYBC, sport clinics and block parties in multi housing areas.

June 5-9	July 10-14	June 12-16	July 17-21
June 19-23	July 24-28	June 26-30	
- Contact: David Acres, (865) 882-6446.
- ◆ **Millington** — Teams to construct interior of a 16,000 sq. ft. family life center in May. Contact: Mike Owens, Big Hatchie Baptist Association, (901) 835-2143.
- ◆ **Elizabethton** — Teams of 12-16 to do daycamps in the morning and BYBC in the evenings with local churches.

June 11-17	July 9-15	June 18-24	July 16-22
June 25-July 1	July 23-29	July 2-8	July 30-Aug 6
- Teams of 10-20 to do BYBC at local state park during the day and home improvements in the evenings. Project open for summer.
- Teams of 2-20 to do home repairs for the elderly, disabled, and single-parent families. Project open for summer. Contact: Becky Brumitt, Hale Community Ministries, (423) 547-2560.
- ◆ **Jackson** — Teams of 10-40 to repair, paint and roof elderly and needy homes and assist small churches with BYBC in low-income housing communities.

June 4-9	July 9-14	June 11-16	July 16-21
June 18-23	July 23-28	June 25-30	
- Contact: Amy Brady, Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist Association, (901) 668-5690.
- ◆ **Jefferson City** — Teams of 10-15 per team to remodel low income homes and conduct BYBC in low-income housing and Boys/Girls Club.

June 4-9	July 9-14	June 18-23	July 16-21
June 25-30	July 23-28	July 2-7	July 30-Aug 4
- Contact: Shannon Washam, Appalachian Outreach, (423) 475-5611.
- ◆ **Johnson City** — Teams of 6-10 to do BYBC for preschool children.

June 4-9	July 9-14	June 11-16	July 16-21
June 18-23	July 23-28	June 25-30	
- Contact: Ginger Dalton, Holston Baptist Association, (423) 929-1196.
- ◆ **Nashville** — Teams of 15 to repair elderly and disabled residents homes. Volunteers work year round. Contact: Paul Morris, Nashville Baptist Association, (615) 776-2266.
- ◆ **Nashville** — Provide year round transportation for families of inmates and from prison for visitation. Contact: Linda Knott, (615) 883-2186.
- ◆ **Nashville** — Teams in May to do masonry and electrical work on existing church building. Contact: George Lang, (615) 661-3626.
- ◆ **Memphis** — A team of 6-10 to conduct BYBC in single-parent housing area for June 17-24. Contact: Roger Hagan, Audubon Park Baptist, (901) 324-5541.
- ◆ **Memphis** — Teams to do BYBC and church construction from March 2000 to August 2000. Contact: Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

For more information about the above projects, call Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-202.

churches

■ **Sharon Baptist Church, Savannah,** will dedicate its new prayer chapel at 2 p.m. on April 2. T.W. Hunt, noted Southern Baptist prayer leader, will conduct both morning services at 8 and 10 that day.

■ **Copperas Branch Baptist Church, Leoma,** will

hold revival March 8-12 with evangelist Milton Taylor of Greenville, S.C.

■ **Whitten Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis,** will host a Creation Our Foundation seminar March 12-15, led by Grady McMurtry, a biblical scientific creationist. For more information on times, contact the church at (901) 386-5444.

■ **Liberty Baptist Church, Somerville,** will hold revival March 12-15 with evangelist Eddie Little.

■ **First Baptist Church,**



TULIP GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Old Hickory, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. A recent service honored charter members. Guest speaker was TG-BC's first pastor, John Kurtz, left, with current pastor Ken Clayton, center, and Jerry Rankin, minister of music.

Somerville, will hold revival March 19-22 with evangelist Jim Kinney.

■ **Kirk Baptist Church, Collierville,** has revival scheduled March 26-31 with different speakers each night.

■ **Raleigh Baptist Church, Memphis,** will conduct a "Celebrate Life" revival March 19-22 with evangelist Steve Hale of Woodstock, Ga.

■ **Cookson Creek Baptist Church, Ocoee,** recently sent an eight-member team to Wheelwright, Ky., to assist a church on its missions building.

■ **Southern Gospel recording artist Ivan Parker,** who is

frequently seen on the popular Gaither Homecoming shows, will be in concert at **South Fulton Baptist Church, South Fulton,** on March 10 at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but a love offering will be taken.

■ **Mansker Valley Community Church,** a new mission of Nashville Baptist Association, held a "sneak preview" service Feb. 27 at Millersville Elementary School with 72 in attendance. There were two rededications and more than \$5,000 received in an offering. A second preview service will be held March 19 and the "grand opening" will be April 19. The church is now meeting for weekly worship at the school on Sundays at 10 a.m. Joel Tilson is the church planter/pastor and Mike Headrick is the bivocational minister of worship.

■ **Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waynesboro,** will



hold revival services March 19-22 with Cal Hampton, pastor of Green River Baptist Church, Waynesboro, as guest evangelist.

associations

■ **Riverside Baptist Association,** based in Livingston, held its associational evangelism conference on March 7 with speakers David Lynch, a layman from First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville, and Larry Robertson, TBC evangelism specialist.

■ **Duck River Baptist Association,** based in Tullahoma, will hold its evangelism conference March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Manchester. Guest speaker will be TBC President Jerry Tidwell, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTER OF MUSIC: First Baptist Church, Joelton, 15 miles north of Nashville, needs full-time minister of music. New sanctuary seats 1,000, new choir suite. Needs skills in praise/worship and handbells. Dual a.m. services. Send resume to P.O. Box 10, Joelton, TN 37080.

DOM: Resumes are being sought from those who desire to be considered as director of missions for the Madison Baptist Association in Huntsville, Ala. 82 church with 48,000 members. Send resumes to Dr. Walter G. Nunn, chairman of search committee, 107 Speake Rd., Huntsville, AL 35816. Deadline is March 15.

DRIVER COACH: Very nice, one owner bus in excellent condition. Comfortable reclining seats, rest room, air conditioned, large luggage storage, easy to drive, and expensive to maintain. The best reliable transportation a church can own. For information photos, please call David at (36) 278-7224.

ENGLIS MINISTER: Large, multi-ministry oriented church seeking minister of singles with experience. Must be able to relate to a wide-range of ages and have a passion for evangelism and building small groups. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 331 Cleveland St., Clearwater, FL 34755.

NEEDED: Missionary-minded couple to serve the Lord in a Christian home (not a behavior modification facility) that has been meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Competitive salary and compensations include housing, food, insurance, and retirement. Call Jerry Taylor, Palmer Home for Children, (601) 28-5216.

PASTOR: Seeking full-time pastor. Seasonal San Juan Mt. Community. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 519, Lake City, CO 81235.

MINISTER: Ararat Baptist Church seeking a full-time youth, children, and activities minister. Send resume to Pastor J.V. Davis, 3608 Brownsville Hwy., Jackson, TN 38301.

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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.

DOM: Union Association will accept resumes for DOM through April 23. Send to the association office at 705 Hutchings St., Sparta, TN 38583, ATTN.: Cheryl Pruitt.

NEEDED: Bivocational pastor for Woodstock Baptist Church. Send resume to Pulpit Search Committee, 2315 Fite Rd., Memphis, TN 38127.

YOUTH MINISTER: Bivocational youth minister needed. Send resume to Billy Harrald, Grace Baptist Church, P.O. Box 483, Millington, TN 38083.

YOUTH PASTOR: First Baptist Church of West Jefferson, Ohio is searching for a full-time youth pastor. You may send resumes to the church at 686 West Jefferson-Kiousville Rd., West Jefferson, Ohio 43162, Attn: Search Committee.

YOUTH MINISTER: First Baptist Church, Gleason is in search for a bivocational youth minister. The search committee will begin reviewing resumes March 15. Please send resumes or names to Kenny Carr, 216 Orchard St., Gleason, TN 38229. Phone (901) 648-5387 (home) or (901) 648-5601 (church).

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN: First Baptist Church is seeking full-time minister of preschool/children responsible for organizing activities of infants through sixth grade. Requirements include personal and organizational skills, college/seminary or equivalent, relocation required. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, Attn. Personnel Committee, 1400 W. Jackson St., Ozark, MO 65721 by March 31.

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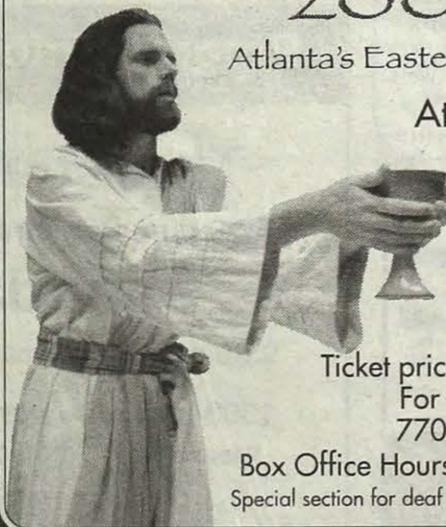
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leaders

■ **Russell Caldwell** has been called as minister of business administration at First Baptist Church, Athens.

■ **Connie Cooper**, an Acteen from First Baptist Church, Dickson, has been chosen to serve on the six-member 2000 National Acteens Panel. The panelists will be featured in the May/June 2000 issue of *Accent*, the



COOPER

magazine produced by SBC Woman's Missionary Union for Acteens. Three other Tennessee Acteens also earned national recognition. **Ellie Anderson** of First Baptist Church, Dresden, and **Cheri Perkins** of Cottage Grove Baptist Church, Dresden, were



PERKINS

named 2000 National Acteens Top Teens. Selection of the top teens and panelists is based on accomplishments in Mission-sQuest, the individual achievement plan for Acteens, involvement in Acteens and other church activities, and achievements in school, scholastically and socially. Both Cooper and Perkins serve as Tennessee WMU state panelists. Also, **Kristel Joy O'Malley**, a member of Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, was one of two people selected to receive the Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship. She will receive \$1,000.

■ **Hillcrest Baptist Church**, Jackson, has called **Kyle Riddle** as minister of youth and **Andrew Baskin** as minister of college & career.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Mt. Juliet, recently ordained **Steve**

Morse to the Gospel ministry. He is serving as minister of youth at a church in Franklin, Ky.

■ **Leslie Bruce** has announced his retirement as pastor of First Baptist Church, White House, effective June 25.

■ **Jon Atchley** has been called as youth minister at Mars Hill Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ **Benny Taylor** and family were recently honored on his 20th anniversary as pastor at Southside Baptist Church, Savannah.

■ **Lyda Edwards** recently celebrated her 15th anniversary as secretary for Big Emory

Baptist Association, based in Harriman.

■ **Whitten Memorial Baptist Church**, Memphis, has called **Mark Branson** as minister of music. He served at Eudora Baptist Church, Memphis, for 11 years.

■ **Ken Cox** is serving as part-time recreation specialist for Shelby Baptist Association. He is a member of Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett.

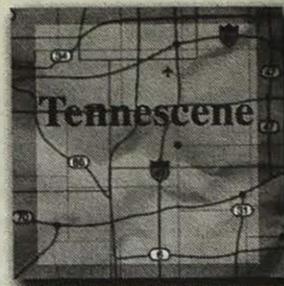
■ **Olive Hill Baptist Church** East, Olive Hill, has called **Gregory Chandler** of Knoxville as pastor. This will be his first pastorate.

■ **Clyde Tilley**, who is retiring March 12 as pastor of Piedmont Baptist Church,

Dandridge, is available for supply preaching and interim pastorates. He can be reached at (865) 579-0929.

■ **Robert W. Massey** has been called as pastor of Scenic Hills Baptist Church, Memphis. He is presently teaching Bible at Briarcrest Christian School and will continue in that position.

■ **John C. McCoy** has retired as pastor, Daysville Baptist Church, Rockwood, after serving more than 16 years. He and his family were honored with a luncheon.



Thank You Tennessee Baptists

The Board of Advisors and I would like to take this opportunity to praise the Lord and thank Tennessee Baptist churches and pastors for the privilege of serving you in full-time evangelism for the past five years. We wish to give glory to God for allowing me to complete 50 years in the Gospel ministry this past January. We look forward to serving you in evangelism for many years to come. If we can be of service to you, please contact us at:

William P. Oakley
Mantle Ministries
P.O. Box 1633
Dyersburg, TN

Phone: (901) 285-7710; E-mail: w.p.oakley@worldnet.att.net



President

The Board of Trustees of Baptist Foundation of South Carolina seeks a President.

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The heart of harmony

By Joe Sorah

Focal Passage: I Corinthians 2:1-2, 4-13, 15-16

In the early morning hours of Friday, Feb. 25, a small fire turned into a blazing inferno that shocked our small town of Elizabethton. The building that housed North American Rayon was engulfed in flames. Firefighters from surrounding towns and states merged upon the scene. Over 500 firemen rallied around one goal: to put out the fire in order to keep the community safe. Despite the differences of skills, training, opinions, and backgrounds, the force unified around their goal and successfully completed their mission.

The purpose of the church is similar. Our goal is to keep people safe from the fire as we introduce them to Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul kept his goal clear. The heart of harmony for the church resides in understanding that God has saved us, called us, and commissioned us. God has equipped us with three sources to help us fulfill our mission.

Family Bible Lesson

We have a powerful message (vv. 1-2, 4-5). Paul came to Corinth after a less than successful venture into Athens. He had attempted to engage the philosophers at Mars' Hill. It was one of Paul's few failures in ministry. When he came to Corinth, it was as if he had said to himself, "from now on I will preach nothing but the cross!" Acts 18 records Paul's ministry in Corinth. He began by preaching the Gospel in the synagogue. After being thrown out, he devoted his attention to the Gentiles. Paul gave himself to the preaching of the Gospel throughout his 18 months in Corinth.

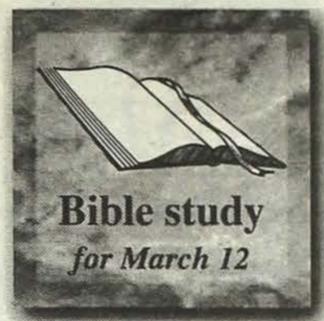
Paul had discovered, through personal experience, that the Gospel was powerful. The people of Corinth did not need to be impressed with eloquent speeches or deep insightful, philosophical arguments. They needed to hear the

truth of the Gospel. The Gospel has the power to change lives. Within the Gospel, we find forgiveness, hope, life, love, transformation, and freedom. We have a powerful message in which we, as believers, can unify around. It is at the heart of harmony.

We have a perfect wisdom (vv. 6-9). Our wisdom is not the wisdom of this world. Our wisdom has been revealed to us through God's spirit. Isaiah 55:8-9 instructs us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are his ways our ways. In God's wisdom, he chose before time began to give his son to die upon a cross for the sins of man. Our sovereign God was in control of it all. Man's fall did not catch God by surprise. The cross was not an accident. In God's perfect wisdom, God had prepared a way for sinful man.

We have a perceptive spirit (vv. 10-13, 15-16). Paul acknowledged that the source of his information was not of his own doing. The Holy Spirit had taught him the wisdom of God. When a person comes to faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit proceeds to instruct him in the truth of God. The Spirit enables the believer to discern the things of God; thus he has a perceptive spirit. The spiritual person realizes that only God can judge him. With that knowledge in mind, he can ignore the opinions of those who do not know the Lord.

When I began preaching many years ago, one of the first pulpits I stood behind had an engraved plate placed on it. The words on the plate were taken from John 12:21, *Sir, we would see Jesus.* The Greeks' request to Andrew remains the heart cry of lost persons today. The world needs the Gospel. We have been given the resources of a powerful message, a perfect wisdom, and a perceptive spirit. These resources equip us to take the Gospel to the world. The heart of harmony is joining together around our resources to accomplish the mission God has appointed for us. — Sorah is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton.



What about Satan?

By Jimmie Gentry

Focal Passage: Revelation 12:1-5, 7-12, 17
What about Satan? He is the author of evil. There has always been a struggle between good and evil. Some questions about Satan are answered in Revelation 12 as good and evil are pitted against each other.

The archenemy of Christ and his church (vv. 1-5). Through a vision of a dragon chasing a woman and a child being snatched away to God, John shows that Satan is the enemy. The dragon is Satan. The woman is Israel or a faithful remnant of Israel. The child is Jesus who was descended from Israel. Satan has great power as indicated by the number seven; although it is limited. Jewish rabbis taught that at some point in the past, Satan's revolt led to the fall of many angels (see Genesis 6:2; I Peter 3:19-22; and II Peter 2:4) which seems to be the indication of verse four since stars usually symbolize angels in Revelation. John uses this teaching to show the enemy's defeat. The foremost disgust of Satan and his angels was Jesus' earthly mission. Their disgusting revolt failed and at the moment of Jesus' exaltation (v. 5), his kingdom was notified of its defeat. In this vision one readily observes who the enemy of God's people and his Christ is. Satan is evil and seeks to frustrate the ministry of the church.

The day they threw old Satan out (vv. 7-9). At the exaltation of the Sacred Child-Conqueror, John envisions a celestial combat with the outcome firmly established at the cross. The particulars of the war are not detailed; it may have been a verbal exchange. Michael, the guardian prince of God's people, and his forces cast down Satan's forces. Symbolically, Michael, who is mentioned only here and include 9 in the New Testament, represents the heavenly victory won by Christ in his death and resurrection. Satan's position of privilege in God's court is once and for all ended. No longer will he accuse believers before God as he did Job and others. At Satan's ultimate defeat will take place when Christ returns. He is still roaming the earth, tempting God's people to renounce Christ. But he has been defeated through Christ's action on the cross. Since there is no place for him in heaven, there is no place for him in our lives. Be bold in declaring, "Get behind me Satan!" and throwing him out.

Resisting the evil one (vv. 10-11). This section encourages believers to resist the evil one. Satan is viewed as a heavenly prosecutor, accusing believers before God. Those accusations have now been silenced through the victory of Christ. Satan's defeat doesn't put an end to persecution on earth as these verses suggest. Rather, believers overcome him by testifying to the world of Christ's victory on the cross and his victory in their lives, even to the point of death. Satan can be resisted.

Satan's anger is unleashed on believers (vv. 12-17). Because he has lost out and knows it, Satan is an angry creature. His attack on Christians, which is the focus of verses 12-17, explains the intense persecution of Christians which is one of the themes of Revelation. His only prey now is the rest of the woman's children who obey God and bear witness to Jesus (v. 17). Christians are "the rest of her children" and are identified by their faithful obedience and bold witnessing, especially in great distress.

Heed Luther's words: "And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us: We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us." — Gentry is pastor Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield.

Preparing for victory

By Garry Miller

Focal Passages: Joshua 3:5; 4:20-24; 5:8-10, 13-15

A line from a song, "I'll never forget old 'What's-Her-Name,'" demonstrates just how flawed, faulty, and frail the human memory really is. According to those who are supposed to know, the human brain is capable of recognizing, processing, and storing 8,000,000,000 pieces of information per second. It seems that the problem is not with the hardware, but with the retrieval system.

To prepare his people for victory, God gave them and their leader, Joshua, three important reminders of who they were and whose they were. The first was a **memorial pile** of stones. The second was the reinstating of a **medical procedure** that had implications not only for their physical health but for their spiritual health as well. The third was an encounter with a **memorable person**, which I believe to be a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.

The crossing of the Jordan River closes the parenthesis on the wilderness wanderings. This sorry episode in the history of Israel began when Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea, on what could have been a journey of less than two weeks into the land of Canaan. But because of their lack of faith they were made to roam around the desert for 40 years, one year for each day the 12 spies had

Explore the Bible Lesson

spied out the land.

Entering the promised land the same way they had exited the land of bondage emphasized the end of an era and a new beginning. Joshua was instructed to have one man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel pick up a stone from the river bed as they crossed over. These stones were to be erected at Gilgal as a memorial of God's faithfulness. He also placed 12 stones from the land in the midst of the Jordan at the place where they crossed as a testimony to the power and glory of God.

For whatever reason, the generation that left Egypt had failed to circumcise their sons in direct violation of the covenant God had made with Abraham (Genesis 17:9-14). To remedy the situation, those who had been born in the wilderness were sealed as God's people by undergoing the painful rite with flint knives. Then whenever they carried out the tasks of daily personal hygiene or had marital relations with their wives they would be reminded of the covenant relationship with God.

As they waited for the incisions to heal, Joshua saw "a man" with his sword drawn standing nearby. Natural curiosity got the best of Joshua, so he approached the "man" and asked,

Are you for us or for our adversaries? (ch. 5:13). The man's response was both poignant and awe inspiring. He said, to paraphrase, "I'm not here to take sides. I'm here to take over!" Then

Joshua bowed in worship and was instructed, as Moses had been at the burning bush, to remove his sandals because he was only holy ground.

We also have reminders of our relationship with God in Christ. Baptism is our reminder that we are new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17), for we have died to the old way and have been raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:8).

The Lord's Supper reminds us that Jesus gave his body and shed his blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Not only that, it is also a testimony to our hope, confidence, and expectation that he will return to gather us to himself so that we can enjoy the glory of his presence forever and share in the blessings of his victory over death, hell, and the grave (I Corinthians 11:23-16).

Of course, the only way we can have the assurance of our participation in that victory is to prepare for it by accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior and yielding to his lordship. Are you prepared for victory? Are you preparing your family, friends, fellow workers, neighbors, and acquaintances to be victorious as well? — Miller is pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Humboldt.



Investors could soon receive money from failed foundation

Baptist Press

PHOENIX — Investors in the Baptist Foundation of Arizona could expect to receive about 40 cents on the dollar as early as June under a liquidation plan filed Feb. 18 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. That announcement comes the same day foundation officials filed a \$400 million lawsuit against their former executives, lawyers, and the foundation's longtime accounting firm, Arthur Anderson.

A spokesman for the BFA estimated the foundation's assets will bring between \$215 million and \$220 million when sold. That falls short of the \$590 million the foundation owes to about 11,000 investors, many of whom are senior citizens.

However, that amount could increase considerably, possibly by enough to repay the entire \$590 million owed to investors, if the lawsuit against former BFA officials and their lawyers and accountants is successful.

"Obviously, our hope is that everybody will get everything back, but I can't speculate on how the lawsuit will turn out," said Jock Patton, chairman of the foundation's restructuring committee.

The new proposal has been praised by investors, who called the first redistribution plan a "scam." ■

Registration begins for SBC childcare

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Registration for on-site childcare for preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention is now being accepted, Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance of the Executive Committee and SBC convention manager, has announced.

This year's SBC annual meeting will be June 13-14 at the Orlando (Fla.) Convention Center.

Registration material is available by writing to SBC Preschool Childcare, Janine Pflibsen, 1022 South Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka, FL 32712.

The material will include information about childcare policies, hours of operation, fees, and registration forms.

Childcare registration will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents are advised to write for registration materials immediately.

The cost of childcare services is \$5 per child per session. ■

75 people protest youth conference

Baptist Press

BRANDON, Fla. — About 75 people holding signs protested peacefully on the sidewalk in front of a Southern Baptist church where a conference on homosexual issues facing youth was held Feb. 26, according to a report in the *St. Petersburg Times*.

The "Love Won Out" conference, sponsored by Focus on the Family, was attended by about 700 people at Bell Shoals Baptist Church here.

Conference organizers sent out water and soft drinks to the protesters, who gathered as participants were leaving the conference around 5:30 p.m., the *Times* reported.

Five uniformed deputies and plainclothes security guards were present, and the protesters were not permitted on church property, the newspaper reported. The protesters initially had gathered in a park at the University of Tampa.

According to the *Times*, "both sides seemed intent on keeping their interactions quiet and polite." ■

Baptist seminary student killed in riot

Baptist Press

KADUNA, Nigeria — Dozens of people — including a Baptist seminary student — were killed when riots between Christians and Muslims broke out Feb. 21 in Kaduna, Nigeria.

The next morning, a mob breached the wall of the Baptist seminary compound there and set all the buildings ablaze.

The student died when violence broke out between Muslim youth and thousands of Christians peacefully protesting calls for strict Islamic law to be implemented in the northern Nigerian state. Neighboring Zamfara state implemented "Sharia" law in January, and other northern states are considering similar moves.

"When, where, and how the

200-member church

Congregation raises nine times its budget

By Amanda Phifer
For Baptist Press

WEDGEFIELD, S.C. — While most churches' capital needs campaigns raise one to three times their normal budget, a rural South Carolina church with less than 200 members and a bivocational pastor reached nine times its budget.

At the same time, Wedgefield (S.C.) Baptist Church increased in worship and Sunday School attendance, missions giving, and designated gifts to other causes.

Pastor Darryl Davids just shakes his head and gives a perplexed smile, expressing his own pleasant surprise. "It's just God, is all I have to say" he said. "He's just really working in our church and community."

The church, located in the small community of Wedgefield, about 15 miles southwest of Sumter, began its capital needs program last August, with the goal of raising \$550,000 for a new sanctuary and classroom space, using Challenge to Build, a capital needs program developed by the state Baptist convention, and a convention-trained consultant, Jackie Branham.

Davids admits he was nervous.

"Our church had never done commitment cards before, and there were some real fears about that," said the pastor, who is also a human resources manager at nearby Gold Kist Inc. "And there were anxieties about the size of the campaign. We're a pretty small church.

violence broke out is uncertain," reported Southern Baptist missionary Ray Davidson, who is stationed in Abuja, federal capital of the massive country in West Africa. "Mosques, churches, and businesses have been burned. Hundreds of vehicles have been destroyed or damaged."

The seminary campus was attacked the morning of Feb. 22. A gang began throwing firebombs into the seminary compound about 9 a.m. Within an hour, all classrooms, the administration building, and the chapel were burning, said Southern Baptist missionary Don Copeland. ■

Local Baptists challenge bingo parlor in Arkansas

Baptist Press

TUMBLING SHOALS, Ark. — Baptists and bingo are clashing in Cleburne County, Ark., after an associational moral concerns committee filed complaints with the county sheriff.

Six organizations are holding bingo games in the county. County Sheriff Wayne Milligan is investigating them and will file a report with the prosecuting attorney when all investigations are complete. The prosecuting attorney will then de-

termine whether to file charges.

Two years ago Little Red River Baptist Association elected a moral concerns committee to address issues that were a problem around Greers Ferry Lake and throughout Cleburne County. Barry King, pastor of Tumbling Shoals Baptist Church, was elected chairman of the committee.

King, who had previously served on the state's interdenominational Christian Civic Action Committee (now the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Committee) that successfully fought casino gambling in Arkansas, said three major areas of concern were pornography, gambling, and alcohol.

After helping close down several pornography-related businesses, the association set its sights on gambling. In Arkansas, the only commercial gambling that is allowed is pari-mutuel betting at racetracks. Any other form of gambling is illegal.

Seven bingo halls were operating in Cleburne County at the time, but King said the then-deputy prosecutor would not help prosecute the bingo operators. When a new deputy prosecutor took over, King asked him what was needed to move forward.

"He said we needed to file a complaint," King said. "I filed a complaint with the county sheriff calling for enforcement

Also, any given Sunday, half of the people in worship are under 18 years old — not exactly those who make the greatest financial contributions."

But God handled every concern, said Tim Maggard, the deacon chairman of the campaign's steering committee. "We just wore out our knees in prayer, and we encouraged everybody who was nervous about making pledges to just pray about it, and God took care of all those fears."

Adapting the capital campaign materials to their church, the committee launched into the program last September. At a kick-off banquet, they presented a booklet to church members of proposed building plans.

"We wanted everybody to know everything up front, answer their questions as soon in the process as we could," Davids recounted. "I think that made a big difference when we started talking about prayer and testimonies and commitment cards."

The results were astounding: \$225,000 was given before commitment cards were turned in, while 95 commitment cards at the conclusion of the program netted \$271,000. Wedgefield thus will begin a \$550,000 project with \$496,000 already accounted for.

In addition, "extra" money was given through the Challenge to Build program for various items.

The total amount raised throughout Wedgefield's capital needs emphasis: \$585,000 — 10.6 times regular undesignated gifts. ■

of the gambling laws."

Milligan said he did not want to shut down the bingo parlors, but King pointed out that under state law if a complaint is filed and the sheriff fails to address it, he is subject to a \$100 fine and immediate removal from office.

"I don't agree with violating the law, but I think we have bigger problems that need our attention," Milligan told the *Heber Springs Sun-Times*. "Things like drugs, alcohol, things like that have had a lot higher priority. As far as I know, bingo has never hurt anybody in the county. We've never gotten a call on a bingo parlor."

Still, Milligan ordered the bingo parlors to cease operations by Feb. 1. As of March 1, they were still in operation. ■

Baptist college offers free tuition

Special to Baptist & Reflector

BILLINGS, Mt. — Trustees of Yellowstone Baptist College have voted to offer a tuition-free year of attendance beginning with the 2000 fall semester in order to increase the college's visibility.

Campus housing is not included in the free offer, but dormitory housing is available on campus. For information, call 1-800-487-9950. ■