

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

Volume 166/ Number 16

Statewide Edition

April 19, 2000

this
week's
news

Germantown's Charles Baker celebrates 40 years with Baptist Memorial in Memphis. — Page 2

Jim Henry encourages Baptists to watch ABC Easter special on Jesus. — Page 2

First Katharine Bryan scholarship presented at Annual WMU Get-Together. — Page 3

Learn about Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes — Pages 5-8

LindenValley conference center dedicated

New facility propels camps into 21st century

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

LINDEN — Last Saturday about 200 people gathered "in recognition of a major milestone in Tennessee Baptist life," said James Porch, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director.

They attended the dedica-

tion of a new addition to LindenValley Baptist Conference Center here. The facility, which is the first building addition to the center since 1983, has 40 private rooms and several conference rooms.

William Maxwell, TBC administrative director, who directed the project, thanked many different groups, includ-

ing volunteers who are building a riverwalk; a business in McMinnville which donated plants and trees for landscaping; the city of Linden which helped the center access city sewer services; and the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff which includes the staff of LindenValley. He also

thanked groups from First Baptist Church, LaVergne, and East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg, who were joining dedication activities while at the center for church events.

The first group to use the new — See New, page 3



PAUSING BEFORE the ribbon cutting of the new building are, from left, Lloyd Blackwell, manager, his wife Jodi and daughter Brook; William Maxwell, TBC; Jewell Jennings, TBC Conference Center Development Subcommittee (CCDS), Lebanon; James Porch, TBC executive director; Otis Hinton, CCDS, Paris; Hinton Climer, CCDS, Bells; Shirley Strong, retiring food services manager; and Tommy Strong, retiring manager.



GUESTS attending the dedication enter the lobby of the new facility. — Photos by Connie Davis

Spread the good news — the tomb is still empty

y Lonnie Wilkey, editor
Baptist and Reflector

Cartoonist Thom Tapp, pastor of Oral Baptist Church in Lenoir City, in his cartoon vividly describes how many Christians view Easter.

It's so true that on Easter Sunday thousands and thousands of people throughout the state will attend services. Christ will be glorified through music and messages straight from God's Holy Word on Easter Sunday.

And even before this special Sunday in the life of Christians, hundreds and hundreds of Tennessee churches have reminded us through cantatas, dramas,

and other musical programs of how Christ died on the cross at Calvary, was buried, and then arose. The grave could not contain our Lord. The tomb is still empty.

As Christians, however, we cannot let the story end on Easter Sunday and forget it until Christmas. The story of Jesus is the greatest of all time — the story of how God sent his only Son to live on earth and die a painful death so that all who would confess their sins and profess Jesus Christ as Savior would have eternal life.

A once or twice a year emphasis is not enough. God expects and deserves more. **B&R**

CHURCH OF THE...

COVERED DISH

by Thom Tapp

ttapp@bellsouth.net

Web Site:

www.botcw.com/thom

(c) 2000 by Thom Tapp



CHOIRS WILL LIFT THEIR VOICES TO HEAVEN...



...THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING EMPTY IN THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN WORLD TODAY!



THIS EASTER SERVICE IS GOING TO BE EXTRA SPECIAL MARTHA!



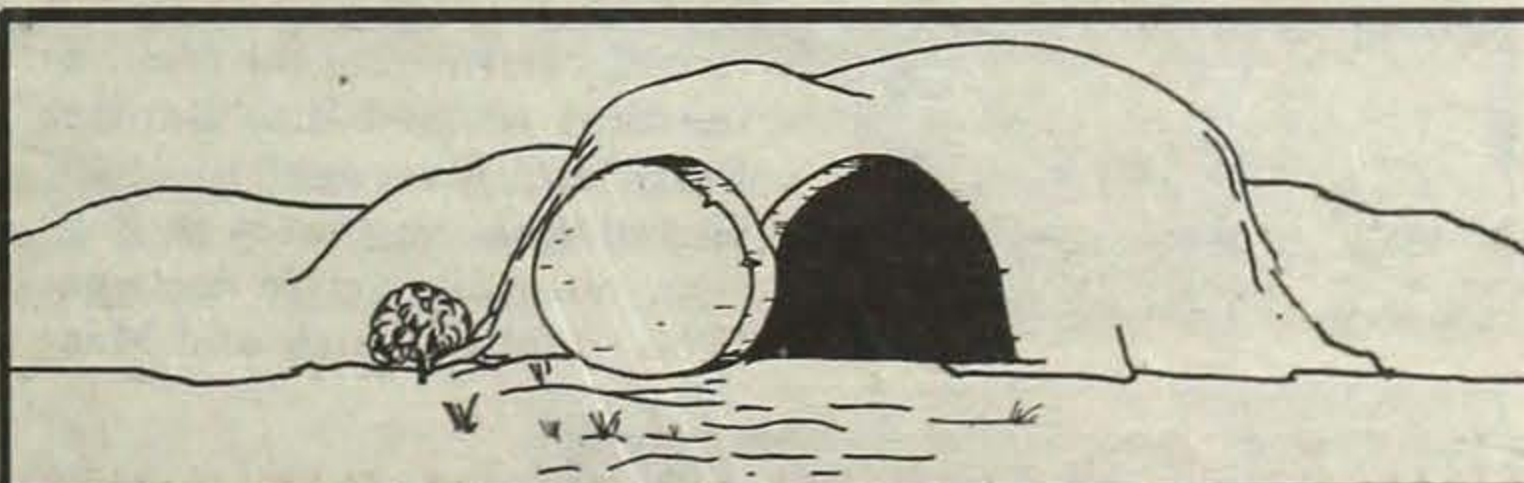
VOCALISTS WILL TOUCH THE HEARTS OF MANY...



... THERE WILL BE UPLIFTING MUSIC...



PASTORS WILL BOLDLY STAND AND PROCLAIM A RISEN SAVIOR...



about your newsjournal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

► **FAX** — (615) 371-2080

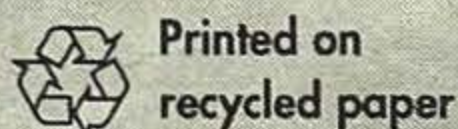
► **Web Site** — www.tnbaptist.org

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

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

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

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



Printed on
recycled paper

Baptist Memorial in Memphis

Baker marks 40 years with hospital

For *Baptist and Reflector*

MEMPHIS — Charles Baker's first day of work at Baptist Memorial Hospital here was April 18, 1960, the day after a five-alarm fire decimated Russwood Park, located across the street from the medical center.

"I shoveled glass, swept water, and my associates say I haven't worked since," said Baker, now Baptist's executive vice president.

Baker's humor is legendary but colleagues say his vision and perseverance have helped Baptist meet the mid-South's health care needs.

"For 40 years, Baptist has

benefited from the talents and counsel of Charles Baker," said Baptist Memorial Health Care President and CEO Stephen Reynolds, who describes Baker's influence on the Baptist system as "profound."

Baker, a member of Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, first supervised the hospital's progressive computer program. Under his direction, Baptist merged all of its investments and endowments. In addition to a great business sense, Baker also has an amazing insight into the human heart, according to those who know him best.

"Mr. Baker is the kind of individual a minister would go to

when seeking guidance," said Joseph Powell, Baptist's president emeritus.

Baker has always maintained Baptist employees make the difference, once saying, "One of the greatest assets that the hospital has isn't on its balance sheet. It's our people."

This philosophy makes Baker a valuable counselor and colleague to the hospital system's leadership who "have relied on Charles Baker for his powerful insight into how we can make Baptist's mission live and breathe," said Bob Gordon, Baptist's executive vice president and chief administrative officer. ■

Al Mohler critiques 'soul competency' doctrine; SBTs staffer criticizes 'Experiencing God' study

By Mark Wingfield
For Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — An emphasis on "soul competency" in the 20th century has "infected" the Southern Baptist Convention with an "autonomous individualism" that undermines biblical authority, contends a seminary president.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, offered his critique March 30 in an annual Founders' Day address at the campus in Louisville, Ky.

Mohler, who often appears on national TV as a spokesman for SBC positions, analyzed the influence of his predecessor E.Y. Mullins, the seminary's fourth president, who served from 1899 to 1928.

Mullins was the most visible Southern Baptist spokesman of his day. He was a denominational statesman, a shaper of Baptist theology and the driving force behind the "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement adopted in 1925.

Mohler currently serves on a committee charged with proposing revisions to the current "Baptist Faith and Message" version. The yet-to-be-released rewrite is scheduled for consideration at the SBC annual meeting in June.

Soul competency is the name given to a belief that individual Christians are responsible to God for interpreting and following the Bible. It underlies Baptists' congregational form of church government, in which both clergy and laity are viewed as "priests" and equal before God.

Both Mullins and Herschel Hobbs, chairman of the committee that revised the "Baptist Faith and Message" in 1963, viewed soul competency as Baptists' most distinctive doctrine. "The 'Baptist Faith and Mes-

sage' of Southern Baptists is based upon the competency of the soul in religion," Hobbs wrote in a 1971 book about what Baptists believe.

In contrast, many of today's SBC leaders tend to emphasize the importance of correct doctrine and view the senior pastor as a spiritual authority in the church.

In his address, Mohler charged that Mullins steered Southern Seminary and the SBC off the course charted by their founders by making personal experience more important than biblical authority.

"In Mullins' theology, we see a shift from biblical revelation to religious experience as the starting point," said Mohler, who has a Ph.D. in theology.

Mohler's view, however, is strongly disputed by Russell Dilday, distinguished professor at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary and former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Dilday, who wrote his doctoral dissertation on Mullins, has countered Mohler's previous comments on Mullins in speeches and writings.

"To suggest Mullins makes experience his source of authority or puts it above the Bible ... is an inaccurate reading of Mullins," Dilday said. "He makes it very clear the Bible is the ultimate authority."

Mohler's comments on Mullins' legacy came on the heels of even stronger statements published in the Winter 1999 issue of the seminary's theological journal.

"For over 70 years, Southern Baptists have harvested the shallow discipleship and vapid theology that resulted from sowing Mullins' theological seeds of experience," wrote Sean Michael Lucas, a seminary archivist and

associate director of the seminary's Center for the Study of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lucas also criticized the popular *Experiencing God* discipleship materials produced by LifeWay Christian Resources as "imbalanced" and having "little doctrinal content."

Although *Experiencing God* has been the best-selling product of the SBC publisher in the last decade, it wrongly follows Mullins' emphasis on personal experience, he suggested.

And incorrect discipleship will lead to incorrect theology, he wrote. "It would not be a far leap from discipleship with little doctrinal content to salvation with little orthodox doctrinal content."

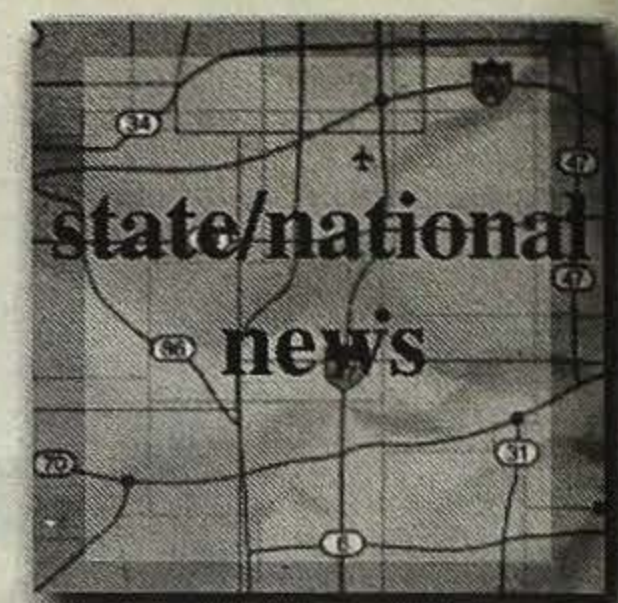
LifeWay President Jimmy Draper said he has not read the article assailing *Experiencing God*, but he has heard similar criticism from others.

Draper said he doesn't want to get into a fight over it, but any suggestion that LifeWay promotes experience over Scripture is misguided.

"My own experience or anybody's experience always is measured by the Word of God. But there are people who seem to feel God doesn't reveal anything to us."

"To imply that *Experiencing God* says experience is more valuable than the canon of Scripture is simply not true," Draper said. "Such a claim takes *Experiencing God* out of the context in which it exists."

"When you got saved, you had an encounter with God. You experienced it. That wasn't just doctrine. *Experiencing God* is about helping people come to grips with God's purpose and will for their lives. Anybody who tries to simplify it to a doctrinal treatise does not understand it." ■



Henry supports ABC special on the life of Jesus

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention has joined in a call for Southern Baptists to support the ABC-TV animated Easter special on the life of Jesus, "The Miracle Maker" — publicly breaking with the SBC's boycott of The Disney Company, if only for Easter Sunday.

Jim Henry, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., and SBC president from 1994-96, joined in an April 17 statement issued by The Dove Foundation supporting the special on ABC, a Disney subsidiary.

Henry said: "Having seen 'The Miracle Maker,' I found it to be a true depiction of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is extremely well done, persuasive, and powerful."

"This two-hour made-for-TV movie could impact millions of people, especially children," Henry continued.

Using claymation and two-dimensional animation, "The Miracle Maker" presents the life of Jesus through the eyes of a sick 12-year-old girl who encounters the Messiah through different stages of his life. The ABC Easter special is scheduled at 7 p.m. Eastern time, April 23.

The Southern Baptist Convention, at its 1997 annual meeting in Dallas, adopted a resolution urging Southern Baptists to refrain from patronizing Disney theme parks and retail outlets, as well as the entertainment conglomerate's numerous subsidiaries, to protest Disney films and corporate policies regarded in many Christian circles as "anti-family" and "anti-Christian."

Viewing "The Miracle Maker," however, may not put a Baptist at odds with the boycott, Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said April 17.

Land said the boycott "never meant not watching ABC Television, although I have not found much, other than sporting events, worth viewing on that particular network in recent years. So, given my understanding of the convention's vote on the resolution, which encouraged a boycott of The Disney Company, there is no need for any disposition or lifting of the call to boycott for a concerned family to watch a particular program on ABC-TV," he said. ■

LindenValley conference center dedicated

New facility propels camps into 21st century

Continued from page 1
 will arrive next
 ed, Maxwell reported.
 Climer, a busi-
 an in water treat-
 a member of Bells
 pt Church, Bells; and
 mer of the TBC Con-
 e Center Develop-
 Subcommittee; spoke
 the importance of
 -year-old Tennessee
 t camps/conference
 ers in Linden and
 ort. The centers, he
 id provide a place for
 to rest, learn, and "
 out of the world, and
 they leave to be bet-
 eared to go back
 e world."

Carol Kelly, executive di-
 ct, Tennessee Baptist
 on's Missionary Union,
 wood, reminded the
 Tennessee WMU led the



PEOPLE attending the dedication visit outside the new facility, which has 40 private rooms.

Tennessee Baptist Convention to develop the two conference centers and gave one of the first gifts for the new facility. A similar facility is being built at CarsonSprings Baptist Con-

ference Center, Newport, and is scheduled to be completed in July.

The gift given by Tennessee WMU was land intended for a conference center in Middle Tennessee, said Kelly. It sold for \$300,000.

The facilities will allow "adults to withdraw ... and have a

chance to renew," she said. "We look forward to the future that we share," she concluded.

James Porch said the vision for the new facility recognizes "the need for a place of Christian focus" and provides for God's vision for Tennessee Baptists.

"God sees changed lives and, after all, that's what it's all about," he concluded. **B&R**



LINDENVALLEY staff stand before cakes celebrating the dedication. They are, from left, Shirley Strong, retiring food services manager; Tommy Strong, retiring manager; Connie Coblentz; John Coblentz; Loy Qualls; Joy Gordon; and Linda Carrington.



RECEIVING a replica of stained glass crosses in the new building are Tommy Strong, left, retiring manager, LindenValley conference center; and Shirley Strong, retiring food services manager; from William Maxwell, TBC.

WMU annual Get-Together draws 1,740 people to Gatlinburg

For Baptist and Reflector

GATLINBURG — The Annual Woman's Missionary Union Get-Together drew 1,740 people to Gatlinburg on Saturday, dozens re-

sponded to Bible study led by Jaye Martin, director of Women's Evangelism, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., by making spiritual commitments. Other speakers were Deborah Nichols, Uruguay; Rick and

Cindy Jenkins, Mexico; Debbie Cannada, West Virginia; and Rollin DeLap, NAMB.

The first Katharine Bryan Scholarship was awarded to Tambi Swiney, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, who is a student at Bee-

son Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala. Bryan is the retired director, Tennessee WMU now of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Participants contributed 30,700 soup labels to help buy a van for Samaritan House of

Jefferson City. They experienced Kindred Groups of women with similar lifestyles and a prayer tower. They attended a missions fair and numerous conferences. The WMU members also elected new officers. ■



WMU OFFICERS are joined by Carol Kelly, left, director, Tennessee WMU. Officers are, from left, front row, Bobby Turner, recording secretary; Candy Phillips, president; Norma Stock, promotion director; Dottie Sampsel, Elaine Pearson, and Joyce Reynolds, vice presidents; back row, promotion directors Martha Haynes, Ruth McNabb, Dorothy Adams,



PRESENTING the first Katharine Bryan Scholarship are, from left, Alan Medders, WMU Foundation; Bryan, retired Tennessee WMU director now of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Tambi Swiney, scholarship recipient and member, First Baptist Church, Nashville; and Carol Kelly, director, Tennessee WMU.



Senator's death delays lottery vote until May 1

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The expected action by the Senate on SB 808 which would issue a call for a Constitutional Convention on the lottery has been delayed due to the death of Sen. Pete Springer of Centerville.

Springer died unexpectedly last week. The Senate cancelled several committee meetings as well as a scheduled floor session.

The Senate and House also are in complete recess this week.

Next week there will be no floor sessions, but several committees will meet.

Senate Bill 808, which would call for a Constitutional Convention to consider a state lottery, tentatively has been moved to May 1.

The delay could prove to be a blessing for Tennessee Baptists, said Gary Anderson, public affairs consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "It gives us additional time to let our elected officials know that we do not want a lottery in Tennessee."

He urged Tennessee Baptists to contact their state senator and ask them to vote "no" on SB 808. ■

Thank God for the service of senior adults

By Kevin Quinn

Think of the great and wondrous works God can accomplish through the life of a 65-year-old. Or the tremendous number of things he is able to do through someone who is graced with life into their 70s, 80s, or 90s. And, thanks to the miracles of better diet and health care, each decade finds increasing numbers of Tennessee Baptists living into their 100s.

Tennessee Baptist senior adults have served as missionaries, pastors, deacons, Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School leaders, custodians, choir members, prayer warriors, kitchen workers, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassador sponsors, committee members, nursery attendants, Discipleship Training coordinators, and oh so much more.

God continues to use each person who answers his call, regardless of age, utilizing their knowledge and experience and willingness to work to accomplish his ministry around the world. The first Sunday in May (this year May 7) is set aside as

Senior Adult Day on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar to celebrate the special place seniors hold in churches across the SBC. This year's theme is "Serve with Gladness."

This year, the TBC Executive Board senior adult ministries staff, headed by Don Mauldin, and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, led by President C. Kenney Cooper, are joining together to encourage Tennessee Baptist churches to plan a special time of celebration for the tremendous contributions by senior adults to the growth of God's work in the 20th century and to encourage their continued participation in the life of the church and community in the new

Senior Adult Sunday

May 7

"Serve with Gladness"

millennium.

Here are some recommendations for making May 7 special for senior adult men and women across our state.

► Establish a high attendance goal for senior adults in Sunday School.

► Provide service and recognition opportunities for se-

nior adults.

► Involve seniors in planning and conducting worship services that day.

► Schedule banquets and fellowships with guest speakers when possible.

For more information on programming a Senior Adult Day, call Mauldin or Cooper at 1-800-558-2090. ■ — Quinn is director of development for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, based in Brentwood.



editorial/
opinion

just for
today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Eudora Church,
Memphis



Start with a smile

Baby camel to mother can "Why do I have these hump three-toed feet?" MC: "To you stay on top of the soft sand when we walk across the desert." BC: "Why do I have these long eyelashes?" MC: "Keep the sand out of your eyes." BC: "Why do I have these humps on my back?" MC: "Help you store water." BC: "Where are we in the San Diego Zoo?"

Take this truth

"The best made plans of men and men often go astray."

Memorize this Scripture

"I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now)." — Romans 1:13, NIV

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to remember that God's delays are not denials. Many times he often has, if always, a better plan than anticipated." ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

April

20 — Praise God for Nathan Dorrell, a Tennessee volunteer and seminary student who juggled and told the Gospel story during Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

21 — Pray for a team of four ladies from Michigan who are working April 21-May 1 in Siberia — Jan Arble, Marylyn Hopkins, Dorothy Sample, and Julie Scheving.

22 — Pray for Friendship Church in Headingley, Manitoba, Canada, as the church seeks a pastor.

23 — Pray for Marvin and Peggy Emmons, IMB missionaries, as they lead Bible studies with African men in Lisbon, Portugal.

24 — Pray for Gateway Church in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, as the church seeks a pastor.

25 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Executive Board meeting being held today in Southfield.

26 — Pray for Art and Dotti Dennis, IMB ISC Nicaragua Disaster Response volunteer coordinators, as they schedule recovery projects.

Our Heavenly Father constantly seeks our presence

heart talk

by James Porch
TBC executive
director



During the first hour of my first day in first grade, Ms. Ola, my teacher, announced, "At the end of the year, I will give a prize to each person who does not miss a day of school."

On award day, the Martin

twins, David and Dana, and I received recognition for perfect attendance — a five cent Baby Ruth candy bar and a pair of socks. Believe it or not, I still remember my disappointment. In adult language, this cruel joke proved my effort to be present extended beyond my teacher's value of my attendance.

Our Heavenly Father, as seen through Jesus our Savior and master teacher, values our constant presence with him. According to John's Gospel, following Jesus' resurrection, the

risen victorious Christ appeared to his disciples (John 20:19). But John carefully noted Thomas' absence. Later, Thomas revealed his personal doubt of Jesus' resurrection.

However, eight days later the risen Christ appeared again and intentionally, specifically, and personally, spoke to the doubter (John 20:27). Through his earlier absence, that chosen disciple had missed the original joy and wonder of witnessing the risen Lord.

Assuredly, he experienced

an agonizing week as a result of not being present with the other disciples at Jesus' initial appearance. Hope, amid his own doubt, probably prompted his attendance a week later. He must have wondered, "maybe Jesus will appear again." He did! And Jesus' appearance again immediately liberated Thomas from his doubt. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus' appearance was in quest of Thomas' presence.

Our Lord constantly seeks our presence with him. Are we aware of his presence with us? ■

I think I'll just buy a subscription to Better Homes and Gardens

that's life

by Linda
Jackson
Roebuck



My neighbor across the street has a beautiful yard. Her grass is brilliantly green and flowers speckle the house with vibrant reds, yellows, pinks, and purples. I see Miss Ann out quite often tending to her lawn and plants. My new yard looks quite nice, but quite plain. I decided it might be fun to do some planting myself, so one day while I was sitting on Miss Ann's lawn talking and watching her work, I asked for advice on my potential garden.

Leaning on her long-handled hoe she thoughtfully surveyed my front yard.

"Are you thinking of planting some bulbs?" she asked. Bulbs, bulbs.... "OK, that's those little dirt clods you

bury?" She moved on. "What about some easy flowers you just plant with a little smart soil and mulch?"

"Now," I responded, "you're talking about like, getting in the dirt and digging and stuff, right?"

Miss Ann turned her head and looked at me as if someone should smack me if I just weren't so pathetic.

"Linda, pay somebody to come over there and plant you some pretty shrubs."

There's nothing quite so humbling as being too pathetic to be smacked by someone 10 years older and thirty pounds lighter.

Motivated by my startling ineptitude, I set off toward the mecca of all master gardeners;

the home supply super store. Trying not to be overwhelmed by the 20 acres of plants, tools, flowers, soil, trees, fertilizers, tillers, and pots, I wandered, wide-eyed and more intimidated than ever until I came to a large selection of gardening self-help books. "AHA!" I exclaimed as I began perusing the book, *Gardening for Dummies*. In less than a minute I returned the book to its place. Not because its 742 pages of small print were making my biceps ache, but because after failing to understand the table of contents, I realized I really was just too pathetic to be smacked.

After a few more minutes and an unsuccessful quest to find where they stock the kudzu, I picked out a few flow-

ers that were pretty and had 1-2-3 planting instructions written in crayon on the label, then came to one conclusion: This isn't gardening; this is work.

It seemed if my yard was going to look like Miss Ann's I was going to have to work like Miss Ann. Being the patriotic American that I am, I was being tempted by the "get something for nothing" theory that gave this proud country the most powerful industrial economy in the world.

No; looks like something worthwhile is going to take some effort, some time, and some hard work. ■ — Roebuck is a freelance writer in Nashville where her husband, Jon, serves as pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church.

Wilson's Church Interiors, since 1982!
Pews = New + Refinishing + Upholstering
Steeple, Baptisries, Furniture,
Carpet, Chairs
Call 1-800-844-1911
www.pews.net
e-mail: wilway@peop.tdsnet.com

PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS
NEW PEWS • CARPETING
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
1-800-289-7397
Church Interiors Inc.
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialists
827 E. Broadway Blvd., Jefferson City, TN

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



Mother's Day Offering 2000

A Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Feature

Serving children in crisis since 1891

For FREE offering envelopes or bulletins, go to www.tbch4kids.org/form_mom.htm

Tennessee Baptists past, present make children's future brighter through Mother's Day Offering

Tennessee Baptists love children!

And they chose to make a commitment to needy children in 1926 by establishing an offering to help what was then Tennessee Baptist Orphans' Home (now Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes).

In the 1920s, like today, individual Tennessee Baptist churches were involved in specific food and clothing projects to help children. The state's denominational history records how churches at that time were encouraged to remember special annual emphasis days by collecting offerings for the Home's children. But more help was needed.

Helping Others while Honoring Mothers

In 1926, the Tennessee Baptist Convention established a unified means of support for children in crisis by setting aside the third Sunday in December for collecting an Orphans' Home offering statewide. For the next thirty-six years, the offering was shifted from Thanksgiving to Christmas and back again.

So how did the offering make it to Mother's Day?

Certainly with divine inspiration and the needs of children as top priority. And perhaps through the influence of Ana Jarvis who received national attention in 1914.

How Mother's Day Began

According to www.holidays.net, in 1907 Jarvis began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. During the Civil War, her mother, Anna Maria Reeves Jarvis, organized Mother's Day Work Clubs to help with a variety of needs in her community. When Mrs. Jarvis died, her daughter Ana persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia, to honor not only her mother but mothers across the country by celebrating "Mother's Day" on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the second Sunday of May, 1907. In 1908, the day was also recognized in Philadelphia. With the support of ministers, businessmen, and politicians enlisted by Jarvis and her supporters over the next seven years, the day she longed for was eventually established. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday in 1914.

Today's Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' Mother's Day Offering

By 1963, Mother's Day was chosen as the date for a statewide offering for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. (Tennessee Baptist Orphans' Home became Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in 1953; the name change reflects the decrease in numbers of orphaned children and the increase in the numbers of children who have experienced neglect, abandonment, abuse or parental misfortune.)

Sadly, the numbers of abused children and children victimized by misfortune have increased across the years. According to Tennessee's Department of Children's Services, approximately 30,000 children are reported abused or neglected each year in the state.

While other fine Tennessee children's homes offer these young lives nutritious food, clean clothes, and a good education, Tennessee Baptists offer children at TBCH these benefits as well as the One who gives real hope for the future. Because TBCH does not accept government support, Tennessee Baptists intentionally introduce these children to Jesus Christ, the One who will never leave them or forsake them.

As you prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, please pray that God will provide for the 2000 Mother's Day Offering goal so that other children may find lasting hope and a future at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. **To meet some of our children and help, just turn the page!**



**MOTHER'S DAY
OFFERING
2000:
GIVE FOR THEIR FUTURE**

Facts about the Mother's Day Offering for TBCH:

- According to Tennessee's Department of Children's Services, approximately 30,000 of our state's children are reported abused or neglected every year. Of this number, DCS served a total of 17,679 children in state custody last year. The state places these children in various residential care facilities including TBCH. TBCH also receives children from individual and ministerial referrals.
- Last year, TBCH supported more than 450 children at 13 TBCH locations statewide.
- The Mother's Day Offering provides one-fourth of the funds needed annually to support this ministry to children in crisis. The MDO 2000 goal for the children is \$1,500,000.

from your TBCH President-Treasurer



Good gift =
Good measure

Dr. Bryant Millsaps

According to Luke, Jesus had a very specific view of how and why his disciples should give. Jesus said in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

In this lesson, Jesus teaches his followers a principle and makes them a promise. The principle is generous giving. That is giving that shows a grateful heart for the blessings that the Lord pours out on each of us daily.

The Lord clearly expects us to be generous in our giving. And since 1926, Tennessee Baptists have given a special offering for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes out of their love for God and all His children.

God calls us to give cheerfully, freely, and with maximum impact from the rich blessings of life that God has provided.

The promise is that, if we give as the Lord instructs us, our lives will be blessed as well. If we give freely, we receive freely. If we give generously, we are blessed generously. If we give with an angry spirit, or if we give just to be able to say that we live by the law, it becomes impossible for God to replenish our blessing basket with the full force of His Grace to us.

This year, as Tennessee Baptists give to the first Mother's Day Offering of this millenium, consider first the measure to which God has blessed you? Consider not only your financial blessings but your family, your health, and your spiritual blessings as well? If you do, and if you respond in your giving as the Lord has taught, an eternal impact will be made on the lives of more children who desperately need the hope and future He provides.

Please give generously. It is the heart of both God's principle and His promise of good measure.



Kima Megorden poses on the Memphis campus of TBCH where she lived and excelled during her high school years.



Today, Kima is a cadet at the United States Air Force Academy with plans to pursue both a Masters degree and become a lawyer.

From Children's Home to Air Force Academy, former resident learns unconditional love

Kima Megorden had it all figured out.

"Block out the past, make good grades, win everything and succeed." It was a tough strategy that helped her rise above an otherwise troubled childhood.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Kima was an only child. She, her father and mother lived in Kansas and Virginia before the family settled in Jackson, Tennessee. But no matter where they went, abuse was a regular part of the household.

Kima learned to cope through extracurricular and academic activities. Her mother "put a high amount of pressure" on her to make outstanding grades, be competitive, and take honors classes. So Kima made straight A's each year, played competitive sports such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, and swimming, and was in regular piano competitions. The activities kept her away from home and her focus off her family problems.

"My family was not very stable," Kima recalls. "My mother (who has mild mental problems) was emotionally abusive. My father was physically and emotionally abusive to me and sometimes to my mother. At age 13, the courts took me from my parents and I went into state custody."

The state placed Kima at a shelter and a foster home before she came to live at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Memphis campus. At TBCH, Kima found the new beginning she had "waited my entire life for."

The change was not without adjustment. Not only was she in a new school, a new home, and a new town, but she also had 7 new "sisters." Again she tried to cope by being an overachiever. And for the first two years at the Children's Home, "my life was full of empty success" Kima admits. However, she still wondered what else there was in life.

In her junior year, Kima's houseparents' Will and Bobbi Moore began to help her find the answer. The Moores met Kima's "tough girl mentality" with something she had never had before--unconditional love.

"At first, it seemed very odd to me that they did not rejoice in all of my awards and accomplishments," Kima says. "They thought that these awards were nice, but they loved all the girls just the same. . . . They showed me unconditional love through their actions."

Kima credits the Moores with the change in her understanding of what love was. Instead of trying to preach at her, the Moores "prayed for me." "They showed me love and I reluctantly learned to receive (it)."

Today, Kima is a cadet in the Air Force Academy. Her achievements now are the result of her own happiness and the pursuit of her dream--to be a lawyer. She has received a research grant from the Institute of National Security and will travel to Israel this summer as one of ten cadets selected to attend the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. She also is interested in the possibility of teaching philosophy at the Academy one day.

She is no longer in contact with her father although she has found her mother to be very supportive of her life at the Academy. Kima refers to wherever the Moores are as her home.

Whatever her future holds, Kima says she will be happy and is thankful for her days with the Moores (who retired from TBCH during Kima's freshman year at the Academy). She visits them during her Academy breaks.

"The Moores showed me spiritual leadership through love," Kima says. "They helped me to understand God's love and hope."

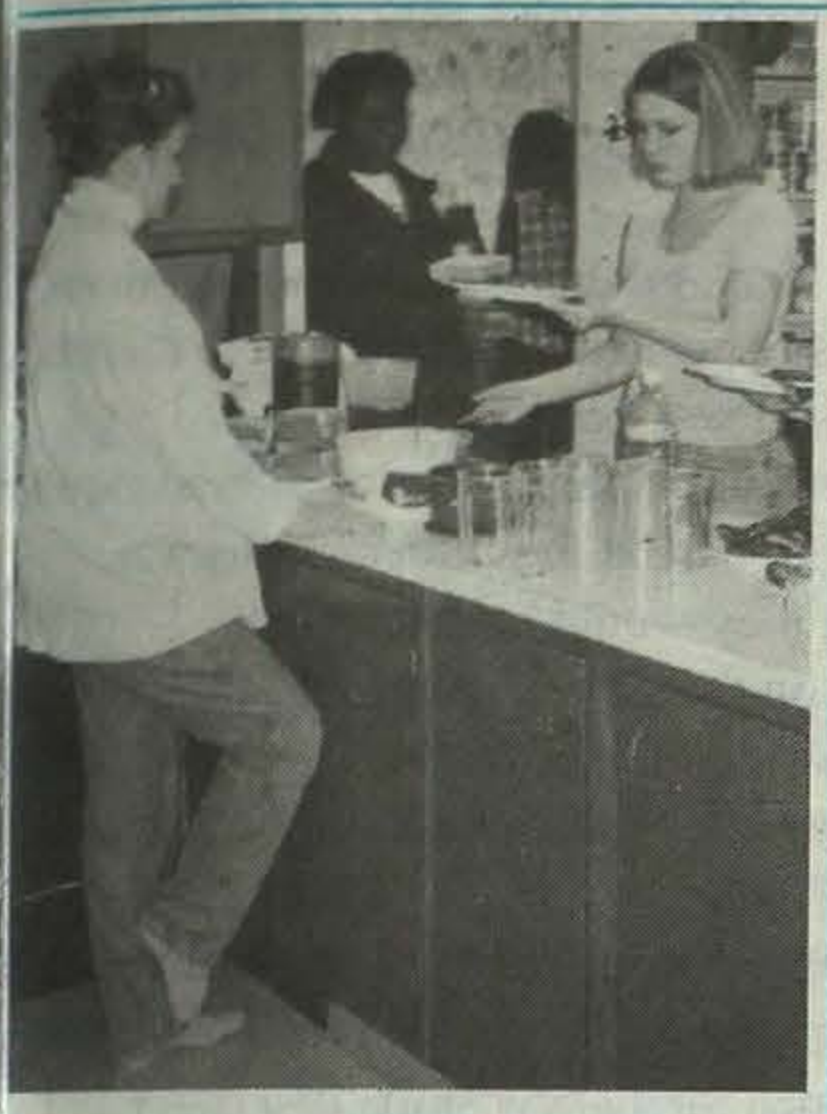
MOTHER'S DAY
OFFERING
2000



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes
P. O. Box 2206, 1310 Franklin Rd.
Brentwood, TN 37024
www.tbch4kids.org

To order FREE Mother's Day Offering envelopes or bulletins for your church, call TBCH at 1-800-624-8591 or order on-line at www.tbch4kids.org/form_mom.htm. To receive Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes quarterly newsletter free of charge, call TBCH at the toll-free number above or e-mail mbelew@tbch4kids.org. TBCH encourages churches to reprint this material in educating the church about the Mother's Day Offering. Permission to reprint as written is granted for all content but credit must be given to this publication.

Writer/Designer: Kim Burke, TBCH Communications Specialist



Mother's Day brings special meaning to Heather Ward, housemother at Horrell Cottage on Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Franklin campus, a ministry owned and operated by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. In her role, Ward serves, loves, and gives spiritual guidance to the seven pre-teen to teenage children of her cottage. She and her husband David are members of Nashville's Creevewood Baptist Church and are expecting their first child May 29.

Expectant mom helps children in need of *A Mother's love*

This twenty-five year old mother-to-be has 7 "children" ranging in age from 11 to 16 years of age.

When Mother's Day 2000 is observed May 14, she and her husband will be fifteen days away from welcoming a new addition to their already growing family--a baby girl whose name will be Kennedy Lynn.

Like many couples who are expecting, their "home" already includes a variety. Unlike many expectant couples, their home is on the Franklin campus of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, a residential care ministry provided by Tennessee Baptists for children in crisis. And within the walls of their home are four other girls and three boys.

Heather and David Ward are TBCH houseparents. Though younger than most TBCH houseparents, the Wards bring their many talents to the job and are well-grounded for the responsibility. Heather's mother and father still live in her hometown of Cairo, Georgia. She attended Cairo's First Baptist Church and credits the church with her "Godly grandmother for sifting me out of the world at 15." She is not only a TBCH housemother but also was formerly a staff youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Brownsville, Tennessee, a youth intern in Pennsylvania and Georgia, and a student summer missionary with the North American Mission Board, SBC. She is a cum laude graduate of Union University.

Her husband David is also the product of a stable Christian family, receiving spiritual guidance from his home church (Two Rivers Baptist in Nashville), and outstanding educational training at Union University where he was a magna cum laude graduate.

But the most important gift the Wards bring to the Horrell Cottage table are great hearts touched by God for children in need.

"I remember my mother and how she seemed to want things for me even more than I ever wanted them," Heather recalls. "Then, I thought it was my mom trying to live through me but I realized this past week, while waiting at a modeling audition with one of my teenagers, that it was an undescrivable love that mom's hold in their hearts for their children."

"I want my teenagers dreams to come true, I want them to have the best. I want them to be at not what our children deserve?"

The Wards are well aware of the heartaches from which these children come and the challenges both they and their housechildren face as a result. Heather knows that she can only "fill in for a child in need of a mom's care and love."

"I will never be any of my (house)children's mother but there is a void in each of them that someone must fill. . . ." she acknowledges. "Someone must care if the children are doing their homework, getting three meals a day, have clean clothes to wear, and know that Jesus loves them."

Tennessee Baptists have a major role in assisting TBCH houseparents and staff with the spiritual needs of the children in their care. Each year, their gifts to the Mother's Day Offering provide one-fourth of the funds needed annually to support

Someone must care if the children are doing their homework, getting three meals a day, have clean clothes to wear, and know that Jesus loves them.

A typical school day in the life of the Wards

- 5:30 a.m. Prepare breakfast for seven children
Help them get ready for school
- 6:45 a.m. See that one child gets on the bus
Take the other six children to Franklin's Page High School
--a 30 minute drive from the campus
- 7:45 a.m. Return from delivering the children to school
- 8:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Take kids to appointments and numerous meetings, help with campus work projects, and attend to personal needs.
- 2:15 p.m. Leave to pick up high school students from school.
- 3:15 p.m. Begin helping children with school homework assignments, see that their elementary student gets in from riding the school bus, and prepare dinner. The children's homework is usually completed before dinner.
- 5:30 p.m. Eat dinner and share as a family the events of the day.
- 6:15 p.m. Begin meal clean up as a family.
- 7:00 p.m. See that children get to their on-campus activities.
- 8:30 p.m. Children return and have family devotion time.
- 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. Children go to bed.

* TBCH houseparents live in the cottage they serve and work round the clock for sixteen days before being relieved for 4 days.

not only the Wards, their housechildren, and their cottage but thirty-six other TBCH homes and ministries caring for approximately 450 children statewide. Because TBCH does not accept government funding for its support, the ministry is free to share the love of God with the children in its care.

The Wards admit that helping their housechildren learn about God is sometimes difficult. Many of the children have been deceived by the adults in their lives and, as a result, struggle to trust anyone. They also often come to TBCH knowing nothing of God or being afraid of knowing Him.

But the Wards have witnessed how a child's life can change for the better when he or she experiences God's love. Recently, two of their children accepted Christ as their Savior and are growing personally and spiritually with His unconditional love for them.

Heather believes that children need unconditional love and that God created parents to help model it. "But somewhere along the way these parents made some poor choices and the children are the ones who pay," she says.

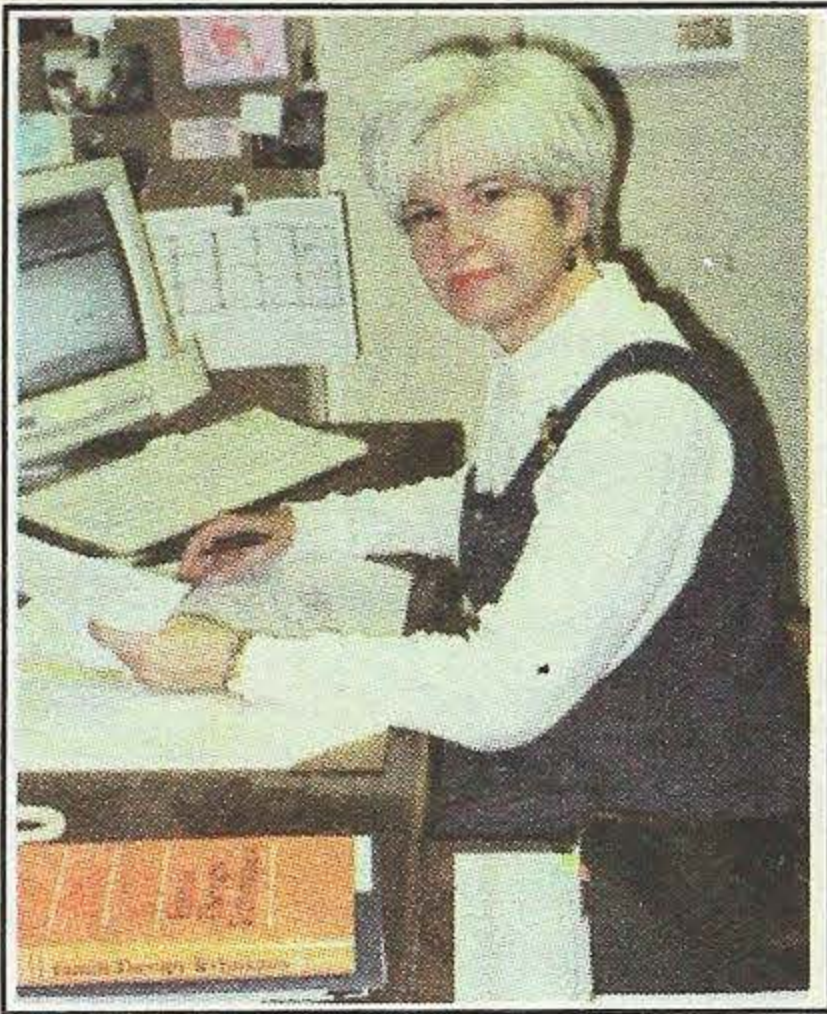
"However, just as I have, each one (of the children at TBCH) will walk out into this world one day and know that someone loves them very much. It is a love that no words can describe and only the Lord God Almighty can give."

Heather also believes she is better prepared for motherhood for being a houseparent. She loves each of her housechildren and praises them for the hands-on parenting experiences they provide. Her housechildren are so much a part of her life that she plans to take a shorter than normal maternity leave so that her cottage "family" can help welcome the baby.

"The children of my cottage have taught me what a mother's love should be," she says. "They show me the needs of their hearts and I know where I must not fail with my own little one."



Because of the Mother's Day Offering, children can gather around the dining room table at Horrell Cottage on the TBCH Franklin campus where the Wards serve as houseparents.



Sherry Johnson, Franklin Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes campus program director, has been a TBCH employee for seventeen years and oversees the daily schedules of ten houseparents, two social workers, and thirty-two children. Johnson's own family consists of her husband Pat and son Adam.

Director says children sometimes don't want a Home but need what it can give

Sherry Johnson knows that most of the children she sees Monday through Friday would rather not know her.

It's nothing personal.

The children would just rather be with their parents or other family members instead of living on the Franklin campus of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

But for many children at TBCH, a parent could be out of their lives or out of contact for a long time. And as the months pass, the children's need for stability, trust, and guidance multiplies.

That's where Johnson, a TBCH program director, becomes an advocate for these children. At the Home, Johnson counsels children, their TBCH houseparents, and other staff in dealing with feelings and actions caused by the abandonment, neglect, and loss a child feels when his or her parents are not around.

According to Johnson, most children come to TBCH when a parent or grandparent voluntarily places a child at the Home. "Sometimes families need assistance or intervention due to family crisis. The children who come here don't really want us, but they need us," Johnson explains citing a quote from popular

Bible teacher and speaker, Beth Moore. Moore once said of a child "He never wanted us less or needed us more." "That one sentence is the (best) way I know of expressing what the work of TBCH is all about," Johnson says.

A native Nashvillian, Johnson is a B. A. graduate of Belmont University. The year after she graduated she met her husband, Pat; they were married the following year. In 1981, their son Adam was born.

Then one day in 1983 after the morning worship service at First Baptist Ridgetop, their pastor told them that the TBCH Franklin campus was looking for houseparents and asked if they would be interested.

"I thought my husband would fall on the ground laughing at the prospect of taking care of eight of someone else's children," Johnson said (at TBCH houseparents care for up to eight children). "When he didn't fall down laughing, I knew we were in trouble."

That same year, the Johnsons became houseparents of the Jarman Cottage on the Franklin campus; during that time period, nineteen children called the cottage home. "Pat and I both developed many new skills in a hurry," Johnson recalls, "and we learned about how much pain there is in the world that we previously knew very little about."

In 1984, Johnson became a TBCH caseworker while studying for her Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Tennessee. Since completing her degree in 1992, she regularly supervises ten houseparents, two social workers and thirty-two children as TBCH program director. She and her husband are members of Grassland Heights Baptist Church in Franklin.

Johnson uses a rubics puzzle to demonstrate what often happens during typical day at TBCH. "Sometimes a child may be sick and the houseparent has to stay home," Johnson says, moving one piece and leaving a hole that another piece will need to fill. "Or the Health Department comes to inspect the campus and someone needs to accompany them. If one person has a meeting or a need, we all have to move around to accomodate them."

She enjoys the diversity of her job at TBCH which can include tasks from paperwork to helping a child rake leaves or do community projects when they have been sent home from school due to bad behavior. Johnson and other TBCH staff work to teach the children in their care such life skills as responsibility, respect, and commitment.

"Working here has made me have an even greater appreciation for my own Christian home and diligent, loving parents," Johnson says. "I tell people that this job is like the Peace Corp, 'the toughest job you'll ever love.'"

On behalf of the children at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, we express our thanks to all our houseparents for their service to the Lord:

TBCH Franklin Campus:

Mike & Diane Casey
Tom & Donna Diamond
Dan & Diana Dover
Jerry & Carol Dyer
Don & Gail Gallimore
Gaylon & Wilma Mays
Mark & Kim Robinson
David & Shelley Swindler
David & Heather Ward

TBCH Boys Ranch:

Stan & Lisa Bolding
Mike & Tracy Chesser
Jeff & Lisa Epps
George & Denise Miller

TBCH Northeast Region:

Brian & Kimberly Coats
Ronald & Trudy Coleman
Paul & Ida DeLong
Randall & Linda Jarnigan
James & Samantha Norman
Robert & Abbie Rogers

TBCH Memphis Campus:

Ed & Shirley Caram
Bill & Dani-Ga Chester
Ricky & Jayne Frazier
Randall & April Holland
Johnny & Bea Mayhan
Ron & Brenda Reynolds
Dan & Heather Wilson

TBCH Chattanooga Campus:

Tom & Diana Albright
Bill & Joan Bailey
Don & Edna Farmer
Jose & Janice Mares
Glen & Karen Robertson

Though my mother and my father forsake me, the Lord will receive me. Ps. 27:10



Please remember the children of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in your prayers. And please be in prayer about how you can help them through the Mother's Day Offering.



TBCH Services

Residential Care
Foster Care
Adoption
Visiting Family Program
Homes for unwed mothers
Homes for single parents & their children
Family Services Program
Boys Ranch
Independent Living
Counseling Program

TBCH Locations

Memphis
Union City
Millington
Franklin
Clarksville
Chattanooga
Cleveland
Knoxville
Oakdale
Kingsport
Greeneville
Elizabethton
Johnson City

Union awards bachelor's degree to Pauline LaFon Gore

Sara Horn
for Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Union University awarded a bachelor of arts degree to Pauline LaFon Gore, the 87-year-old mother of Vice President Al Gore, at an April 10 private luncheon here. Union officials also announced friends and family of Mrs. Gore have established the Pauline LaFon Gore Scholarship Union to benefit needy stu-

dents from West Tennessee. Mrs. Gore is a former student at Union and is a native of Weakley County. She was reared in Jackson, where Union is located.

Al Gore attended the non-political event in honor of his mother and cred-



GORE

ited Union with starting his mother on the road to her life's accomplishments.

After two years at Union, she entered law school at Vanderbilt University at a time when students were allowed to enroll in law or medical school after only two years of undergraduate study.

"We are pleased that Union

was able to serve as a foundation for Pauline LaFon Gore's later academic success," said Union President David S. Dockery. "Union University is pleased to have the opportunity, as part of this non-political event, to bestow a long-awaited degree in recognition of Mrs. Gore's years of service to Tennessee and the country." ■

CLASSIFIED

PRESCHOOL WEEKDAY DIRECTOR: Experience in lead classroom teaching and supervision of staff required. Degree in Early Childhood Education desired. Successful applicant will have an ability/desire to mentor staff. Benefits include insurance and pension. Resume and cover letter to First Baptist Church of Goodlettsville, 613 S. Dickerson Rd., Goodlettsville, TN 37072, phone: (615) 859-1346.

PASTOR: Bloomfield Baptist Church, Bloomfield, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a pastor. Bloomfield Baptist is a growth-oriented church with an average attendance of 250 in morning worship. MDiv. is minimal requirement. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Bloomfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 217, Bloomfield, KY 40008.

MUSIC MINISTER: Maplewood Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please call or send resume to Maplewood Baptist Church, 812 Tiny Town Rd., Clarksville, TN 37043, (931) 431-4378.

YOUTH MINISTER: Maplewood Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please call or send resume to Maplewood Baptist Church, 812 Tiny Town Rd., Clarksville, TN 37042, (931) 431-4378.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER: First Evangelical Church of Tupelo, Miss., is searching for an individual who is called to children's ministry and has a vision for a strong children's program which points to Jesus Christ. Full-time position, paid vacation, benefits, 401K. Send resume to FEC, 2094 McCullough Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38801, Attn. Kerry Cocke, www.firstevan.net.

Position Opening Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Regional Church Starter Strategist (East Tennessee): Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group. Highly motivated individual needed to work with churches and associations to start new churches, missions, and preaching points in East Tennessee. The candidate for this position should demonstrate a strong commitment to reaching the unchurched through new church starts. Also, the candidate should possess strong skills in the following areas: visioning, strategy development, communication, relating to various people groups, organization, and leadership.

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

Education ministers: Southern Seminary has a professional doctorate for you!

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is now offering the Doctor of Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min.) degree. Ministers who have earned the M.R.E. or the M.A. in Christian Education and want to earn a professional doctorate can begin *this summer* through Southern's School of Christian Education and Leadership.

FEATURES

- **Convenient:** Seminars meet only twice a year (June and January)
- **Ministry-oriented:** Applied ministry experiences follow each seminar
- **Practical:** Four year degree program is designed with full-time ministry in mind
- **Relevant:** Four functional majors are available in: Discipleship and Educational Ministry, Church Leadership, Evangelism and Church Growth, and Missions Administration

Applications for the Summer 2000 class are being accepted now!

For additional information call toll free 1 800 728-7044 or check-out the D.Ed.Min. at: <http://celead.sbts.edu>.



**The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary**

2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280
1 800 728-7044 • Visit us on the web: www.sbts.edu



Head of Upper School Head of Elementary School Elementary School Teachers General Maintenance Worker

Due to rapid enrollment growth of approximately 15% annually for the past three years, vacancies and anticipated vacancies exist for the 2000-2001 school year. These positions are full-time, permanent positions of the academy. Administrators must be active members of a Southern Baptist church, must hold a master's degree in educational administration, and must have a minimum of three years classroom teaching experience. Teachers must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and a state teaching certificate or its equivalent. Administrators and teachers must demonstrate excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to articulate a biblical worldview from the perspective of personal experience. Preference will be given to candidates for the maintenance position who possess carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and other general maintenance skills.

Send resume to or request application from:

Office of the Headmaster
The King's Academy
202 Smothers Road
Seymour, TN 37865
Telephone: (865) 573-8321
Fax: (865) 573-8323

The King's Academy is a division of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, a Tennessee Baptist educational institution.



SoulQuest MINISTRIES

Evangelist Ronnie Coleman

What Others Are Saying

I count it a joy and privilege to recommend Evangelist Ronnie Coleman to you. Ronnie is a man of God with a heart for souls. He is a man of personal integrity and humility with whom you will find it a joy to work. Our church has placed their stamp of approval on His Ministry by calling him as Staff Evangelist. Though we have several fine preachers in our church, our people always request to hear Ronnie when I am away and he is home. Your people will be blessed and souls saved when you have Ronnie in a meeting. I can recommend no young evangelist to you more highly than Ronnie Coleman.

Dr. "Skip" Parvin
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Milan, Tennessee

Dates Still Available For Summer & Fall 2000

Ronnie Coleman has the call of evangelism on his life. When you hear Brother Ronnie preach, you will sense an urgency, a passion, and a boldness to call people to Christ. When Brother Ronnie extends a challenge in the invitation, God blesses and people respond to God's call to salvation. I encourage you to prayerfully consider inviting him to come and lead in an evangelistic campaign in your church, town, or association. Again, I recommend very highly Brother Ronnie Coleman to you as a God-called evangelist.

Dr. Don Whitt
Director of Evangelism, State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

I heartily endorse and recommend the evangelistic ministry of Ronnie Coleman. Ronnie preaches with a passion and intensity, spiritual fire and fervency that I have seldom seen in such a young preacher. If you have been longing for a revival where you will see many people saved and see many of your church members get back on fire for Jesus, I encourage you to schedule Ronnie Coleman to preach at your church.

Dr. Bobby Mullins
Pastor, Cherokee Baptist Church, Memphis

For Revivals or Crusade Information, write or call SoulQuest Ministries, P.O. Box 605, Milan, TN 38358, (901) 723-9630 or (901) 988-5535.

SBTS reconsiders plan to close campus child-care center

By Trennis Henderson
For Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Plans to shut down Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Child Development Center prompted sharp outcries from concerned parents and staff members last week and a swift response from seminary president Albert Mohler.

Seminary officials announced plans April 4 to close the school's child-care program effective July 31. Three days later, however, Mohler pledged to keep the center open at least one more year while seminary leaders study long-term options to meet the seminary community's child care needs.

The child-care center, founded

in 1971, currently serves 69 children, including 60 from the seminary community. The center is located in a two-story building that once housed the seminary's school of church music. The facility reportedly needs more than \$1 million in renovation.

Calling the April 4 action "a painful decision," Mohler said, "it was just a business decision. We could not come up with a business plan with adequate income for the center. We're in a competitive market like everyone else."

Mohler said the child-care center is an auxiliary service designed to pay its own way, but has "not broken even" for several years, according to Mohler.

Mohler said the latest decision was made after meeting with parents and child-care center staff members who voiced "some significant, very responsible statements of concern and urgency." He acknowledged those two groups were not consulted by administrators prior to the earlier announcement.

Mohler said he would ask seminary trustees to form a task team "to develop a long-term plan for meeting the child-care needs of the seminary community."

The aim of the team "is to point toward the goal of having an ongoing program in child care," he said. ■



CLASSIFIED

MUSIC MINISTER: Bakers Grove Baptist Church is seeking a part-time music minister, Heritage/Mt. Juliet area. Send resume to Bakers Grove Baptist Church, 3562 Earhart Rd., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 or call (615) 883-5039. * * *

MUSIC MINISTER: Lucy Baptist Church (near Memphis) is seeking a part-time bivocational music minister. Send resume to Search Committee, Lucy Baptist Church, 4005 Lucy Rd., Millington, TN 38053. * * *

YOUTH/CHILDREN: Part-time minister of youth/children needed. Contact Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Martin, TN, (901) 593-5939. * * *

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church is presently seeking a part-time music director. Please submit resumes to Mr. Kerry Lett, 1701 Gillespie Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917. * * *

CHURCH PLANTER: Church planter needed to assist a team sponsoring churches in a church plant near Richmond, Va. Should be a self-starter, team-builder, and excellent communicator. Please send terms describing the new work area: innovative, seeker-sensitive, worship-based, contemporary, rural/suburban, growing population, strong resource base. Send or e-mail resume with cover letter by April 28 to Doug Frazier, Church Planter Strategist, Dear Baptist Association, 1200 W. York Ave., Glen Allen, VA 23060. e-mail: dfrazier@netzero.com

PASTOR

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church is currently seeking God's replacement for our retiring pastor. We are a small congregation of 40 resident members with a stable, active, and growing core group of around 70. Our yearly budget and tithes have shown a steady increase over the past several years. Our historic building is located in a fast-growing suburban area which is conveniently close to both schools and businesses in north Jackson. Yet our congregation still has the closeness of small, rural churches. That closeness is maintained through cooperation, frequent fellowship, and ministry. If God is calling you to join us as we continue to grow, share these gifts with the unchurched and unsaved in our community, you may send your resume to: Pastor Search Committee, 25 Leisure Lane, Jackson, TN 38305.

IMB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

China- Summer



50 Teachers are urgently needed for 7 weeks

It is not necessary to be a teacher by profession. All the training required is provided. Cost includes Los Angeles orientation.

Call Today: 800-809-4637

**June 27 to
August 15.
Cost: \$3,780**

**Pews, pulpits,
baptistries,
steeple, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors,
carpet**

**VAN WINKLE
CHURCH FURNISHINGS
& PEW UPHOLSTERY**

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
in MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof, and electric step.

Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today!

1-800-330-3622

Buses! Vans! People Movers!
www.tri-statevanbus.com



LIFEWAY'S EXCLUSIVE BUS SOURCE

Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.

328 Southgate Court, Brentwood, TN 37027



Available in 20' to 37' models
(12 to 47 passengers, New & Used)

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287

- LifeWay Discount
 - We rent new buses
 - We buy used buses
- www.carpenterbus.com

Since 1953

"We specialize in church buses"

CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE

SPRING PASTORS' CONFERENCE



Dr. Don Garner

O.T. Professor
Chairman of C-N's
Religion Department

Bible Study Leader
The Book of Job:
Grasping Job's Humanity



Dr. Jim Netherton

President
Carson-Newman College
Luncheon Speaker



Dr. Jerry Tidwell

TBC President
Pastor, West Jackson
Baptist Church

Featured Preacher
Finding the Rainbow in
the Rain (Gen. 9:8-17)

APRIL 27, 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

CALL 865-471-3218 (WWW.CN.EDU)

Please register by April 20, 2000. Held in Thomas Recital Hall in the Music Building.

Life and Work Lesson

Great day in the morning!

Jimmy Gentry

Focal Passages: John 20:1-8, 11-19, 21

The Christian faith is founded first and foremost on the centrality of Easter. If the New Testament confirms any truth it is that Jesus died and rose again. It further establishes that Easter is much more than a single day celebrated one Sunday out of the year. Easter is a life-changing event that sustains believers on a daily basis. It is true that the first resurrection was "a great day in the morning," but it is equally true that its reality enables life to be a great day every day, even in the midst of hardship. One of the four Gospel writers acknowledges the reality of resurrection. In addition to reading John's account in chapter 20, believers would benefit from reading the other three accounts which appear in Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, and Luke 24:1-10. Likewise, Christians will benefit from reading the oldest New Testament text on resurrection found in I Corinthians 15. John's account provides some foundational truths about Easter that empower believers to faithfully live a life of resurrection.

The burial place is vacant (vv. 1-8). While the Gospel writer tells the story somewhat differently to target a community, all affirm the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. John emphasizes the role of Mary Magdalene whose devotion to Jesus is unquestioned. Seven demons were cast out of her by the Lord and she, along with some of the other women, supported Jesus financially according to Luke 8:1-3. John 19:25 says she stood faithfully with the other women and John at the cross during the crucifixion. This scene, however, captures not only the reaction of Mary Magdalene, but also the reactions of Peter and John. One quickly observes that none of them were expecting resurrection. John is at his own belief in verse 8; yet, verse 9 suggests he merely believes Mary's report that the tomb is empty. And it is. Resurrection calls believers to expect the unexpected.

The Lord Jesus is alive (vv. 11-18). Although Peter and John return to their homes, Mary remains at the tomb. She returns to the empty tomb, perhaps concluding there must be more to this than she realizes. Little did she know! A natural reaction to the empty tomb is weeping. This man had made her life whole. Not grasping what has happened, she surmises someone has stolen Jesus' body. Two angels, in the tomb, ask her why she is weeping. Then, Jesus appears to her. She does not realize it is the Lord, mistaking the person to be the gardener. After dialogue, Jesus calls her by her name. She realizes it is the Lord and goes to tell the rest of the disciples who have seen him. Easter is a reminder Jesus calls his followers by name. That is comforting in such an impersonal world.

A continuing commission (v. 19, 21). This great day in the morning would soon turn into a great day in the evening. As the disciples gather for the first Easter Sunday evening behind closed doors for fear of the antagonists of Jesus, they are suddenly blessed by his presence. He offers them a blessing of peace. To extend this blessing was and is a significant near eastern custom. At the moment, however, it takes on pronounced profundity. Christ's resurrection brings the ultimate peace. Because it does, disciples are to go and share it with others who are scared and don't even know it. Easter is about a God who sends. He sent his one and only unique son; now, he sends his adopted sons and daughters with a message that brings peace to those who will receive it. — Gentry is pastor Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield.

Confident hope

By Joe Sorah

Focal Passages: I Corinthians 15:20-27, 35-44

Several years ago my wife and I joined my parents for a performance of the Smoky Mountain Passion Play at Townsend. As the story unfolded, the sky grew black and thunder roared in the background. When Jesus was placed upon the cross, it began to rain as hard as we had ever witnessed. Everyone headed for shelter. The play was over for us that night. I remember driving home that evening with an empty feeling in my stomach. There was something not right about leaving Jesus upon the cross.

Family Bible Lesson

God apparently felt the same way. He was not about to leave his Son in the grave. Our hope as Christians is totally dependent upon that truth. The Apostle Paul wrote to encourage some believers who had been told the resurrection was a lie. He attacked the false teachings with a vengeance for he understood the Gospel was at stake.

Paul began with the testimonies of the resurrection (vv. 1-11). He listed the implications had Christ not risen (vv. 12-19). The Apostle insisted upon the resurrection in today's focal passage. From these verses we can identify three reasons we can have confident hope as believers.

We have confident hope because we have a risen Savior (vv. 20-23). Paul emphatically stated Christ had indeed risen from the grave. As an eyewitness, Paul was certain of the resurrection. "Firstfruits" refers to the practice of waving the first bundles of harvested grain and offering it to the Lord as a thank offering. As the firstfruits were a promise of the harvest, Christ's resurrection guarantees the resurrection of believers. "Adam" represents all of sinful mankind. In Adam, we have no hope, but in Christ, we have the assurance of the resur-

rection. The most important issue for anyone is to be "in Christ" (v. 22), if we are to have confident hope. We are born in Adam but we must choose to be in Christ. This choice determines the measure of hope we have.

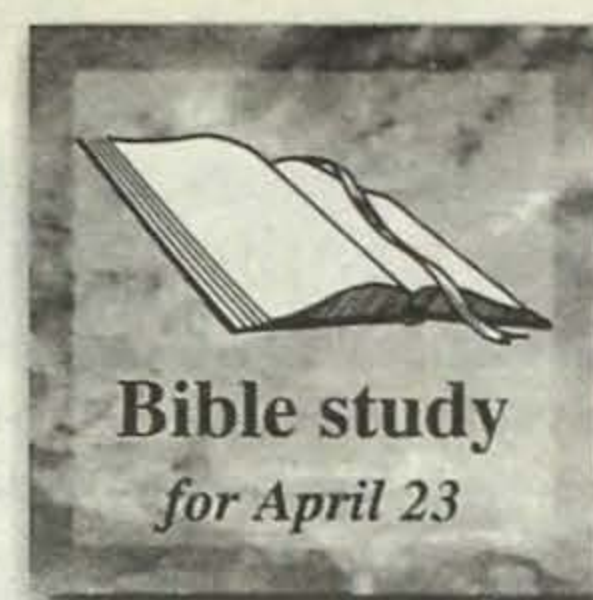
We have confident hope because we have a reigning Lord (vv. 24-27). Our Lord did not limp from the grave. He rose triumphantly! Paul asserts that he shall destroy all enemies. The Apostle is not giving a detailed account of the sequence of events in this passage. Rather, he is stating a truth. Jesus shall reign. He reigns presently. God has put everything under his authority. Jesus has destroyed death. Until this time, death had always kept her victims. Jesus changed that with his glorious resurrection. The author of Hebrews instructs us that Jesus presently sits at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). We can have confident hope for our Lord reigns!

We have confident hope because we will have a resurrected body (vv. 35-44). Paul anticipated the question concerning what kind of bodies we would have in the resurrection. He used the analogy of a seed being planted to teach a spiritual truth. We must die. Our bodies are planted (buried). Just as Christ arose with a resurrected body, we will also be raised with a new body.

Paul tells us that our bodies will be different in three ways (vv. 42-43). The resurrected body will be "incorruptible." Whereas our present bodies suffer decay and deterioration, our new body will not.

The resurrected body will be "raised in glory" as opposed to dishonor. This speaks of how our new bodies will glorify God throughout eternity. The resurrected body will be "raised in power" even though we will be "sown in weakness."

Our present bodies wear out, but our new bodies will last forever. We have confident hope in knowing as Christ was raised with a new body, so shall we. — Sorah is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton.



Making disciples

By Garry Miller

Focal Passages: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

What more can be said about "The Great Commission?" I would simply like to focus on a single term found in the opening phrase of verse 19 — "disciples." First, it is a noun. Second, it is plural in form. A noun is defined as "a word used as the name of a person, place, thing, quality, or event" (*The World Book Dictionary*). In the context of our verse, "disciples" are persons for whom Christ died, who need to be introduced to the One who shed his blood for them in order that their sins could be forgiven and they could be reconciled to God. People that we know — family members, neighbors, friends, acquaintances, etc.

Disciples are made one at a time. I remember hearing Billy Graham say in a Crusade of the Americas rally more than 30 years ago, "If everyone won one, and everyone who was won won one, everyone would soon be won." That is the miracle of multiplication. At a rate of only one disciple made per year, following the formula above it would take just over 30 years to win the entire world to Christ.

At the end of the first year there would be two. Second year, four. Third year, eight. Fourth

Explore the Bible Lesson

year, 16. Fifth year, 32. Sixth, 64. Seventh, 128. Tenth, 1,024 ... 15th, 32,768 ... 25th, 33,554,432 ... 30th, 1,073,742,744 ... etc. You can do the math on the rest.

Now, I would like for you to think about the one person who is not a Christian that you would most like to see come to Christ. Here is a strategy I would suggest that you adopt as a plan to make them a disciple within the next year. It is built on the acrostic V-I-S-I-T.

Verify their spiritual condition by building relationship bridges.

Investigate their openness to the Gospel by sharing your faith. You can use the "Romans Road," "Four Spiritual Laws," "Steps to Peace with God," a marked New Testament, your personal testimony, or anything else you want to use. Just witness to them out of a heart of love and deep concern.

Study the Bible together in Sunday School, Home Bible Study, etc.

Invite them to special events, i.e., fellowship meal, revival services, VBS, etc., with the understanding that you are ultimately not inviting them to a place or to a program, but

to a person, Jesus Christ.

Talk to the Lord about them regularly in prayer. Because prayer is mentioned last does not mean that it is the least important. Prayer is the first priority, not the

last resort. Without prayer, the other elements of the strategy will fall flat, powerless, and fruitless. Prayer first, last, and always, ready to be a part of the answer yourself.

Who knows, you could be the one to get the ball rolling and start a new wave of spiritual awakening in your Sunday School class, in your church, in your community, that will reach around the world. Simply because you were willing to be the one that would make the effort to win one, who would win another, who would win another, and so on, and so on.

Making disciples is an unfinished task that was begun two thousand years ago by Jesus, who passed the responsibility on to his disciples, who passed it on to their disciples, and so on down through history to the present day. It only takes one generation of disciples with lock jaw to wipe out the successes of the preceding two millennia. Let it not be said that our generation was guilty of being that generation.

Now, let's go discipling! — Miller is pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Humboldt.

people

■ **Toby Wilson**, a seventh grader at Jacksboro Middle School, recently received a nine-year perfect attendance pin from Oak Grove Baptist Church, Lake City. Childhood diseases did not prevent Toby from attending Sunday School.



Wilson

■ **Ruth Heizer**, a member of West Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville, departed March 30 for Russia, where she will be teaching a course on "Cults" at the Baptist Seminary in Moscow during the month of April.

leaders

■ **Thurman Reed** recently observed his 50th anniversary as a choir director at Byerley's Chapel Baptist Church, Mascot. He began leading the choir in 1950 at the age of 21. He has served under 13 pastors including current pastor Arthur Pedigo. The church held a special service in his honor and a reception on March 11. More than 220 people attended. Reed was given a plaque and gifts in appreciation for his service. He and his wife, Mary, have one son.

■ **Cory Cain** has been called as associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Centerville.

■ **Hillview Baptist Church**, Franklin, has called **George Temple** as associate pastor. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry on April 2.

■ **Jeff Rafferty** of Louisville, Ky., has been called as

pastor of Erin Baptist Church, Erin, effective May 28.

■ **Blooming Grove Baptist Church**, Woodlawn, has called **Ron Downey** of Kentucky as pastor.

■ **David Irby**, emeritus professor at Union University, Jackson, has returned to Tennessee. He and his wife, Marilyn, are now living near Elizabethton. He can be reached at (423) 542-6499.

■ An appreciation reception for **Ralph and Elaine Brown** was held March 26 at Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville. Before moving to his new position as minister to families, Brown served the church for 18 years as minister of music.

■ **Chuck Robinson** and **Daniel Martin** recently were licensed to preach at Lamontville Baptist Church, Calhoun.

■ **Leeanne Keck** is the new full-time associate minister of families and FAITH coordinator at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage.

■ **Stephen T. Hale** has been called as pastor of Springview Baptist Church, Maryville. He formerly served as a pastor in Kingsport. He and his wife, Sarah, have two children.

churches

■ **First Baptist Church, Andersonville**, recently broke ground for a new Family Life Center.

■ **Evangelist Wyman** Copass of Owensboro, Ky., will lead a "Reclaiming the Power" crusade May 7-10 at **Ardmore Baptist Church, Memphis**.

■ **Marty Comer** will speak at revival services May 14-17 at **Bethel Baptist Church, Henderson**. George Weeks of



HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH, Cleveland, recently installed a new elevator with the Brotherhood of the church doing most of the work. Workers included, from left, seated, Les Casteel, Shurdan Collins, Jack Stanley, Ben Denton; standing, Boyd Hutchings, Eddie Cochran, and Danny Johnson. Several other men also participated in the project.

Gardendale, Ala., will lead the music.

■ The choir of **First Baptist Church, Decatur**, will present "Champion of Love," April 23 at 9:45 a.m. Breakfast will be served from 9:30-10 a.m.

■ **Whitehall Baptist Church, Trenton**, recently hosted a revival with Ronnie Coleman and SoulQuest Ministries. There were many decisions made during the revival including 20 for salvation.

■ **First Baptist Church, Red Boiling Springs**, will hold revival services April 23-26 with evangelist Hugh Callens of Memphis. Callens is a former pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon. For more information, call (615) 699-2886.

■ Revival services are set for April 30-May 3 at **Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison**. Len Turner will serve as evangelist. Special music will be provided by Jim Murray, original lead tenor for the Imperials quartet. For information, call the church at (423) 344-8327.

■ **Macedonia Baptist Church, Ripley**, has opened an English as a Second Language school. The school has an opening enrollment of 32 with eight North American Mission Board-

certified teachers. The church membership has been active in the opening of the school.

■ **Calvary Baptist Church, Kingsport**, will be in revival April 30-May 3. The guest evangelist will be Ken Cavey, associate director of evangelism for the Maryland-Delaware Baptist state convention.

■ **First Baptist Church, Bon Aqua**, recently paid off its building debt. A note-burning ceremony will be held on Easter Sunday.

■ **Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida**, recently completed its spring revival with guest evangelist Morris Anderson of Maryville. There were 29 professions of faith and more than 50 people who responded during the five services were counseled.

■ **First Baptist Church, Dayton**, recently reported the results of a Celebrate Jesus 2000 revival service. There were 120 registered decisions, including 69 first-time decisions. The church baptized people each night with 11 total baptisms. Ronnie Hill was guest evangelist and Kelly Michalaski served as worship leader.

■ **Harmony Baptist Church, Whiteville**, will hold



JAMES WALKER, left center, chairman of the deacons at Kagley Chapel Baptist Church, Maryville, presents keys to a car to Pastor Fred Garner in appreciation for 16 years of ministry with the congregation. Other deacons participating, from left, were Kenneth Ledbetter, Tommy Ensor, Olin Hurst, and Norman Griffiths. Ensor and Ledbetter recently were ordained as deacons at the church.



revival services April 30-May with Maurice Hays as guest evangelist.

■ **New Market Baptist Church, New Market**, will present a drive-through passion play "Trail to the Empty Tomb" April 20-22 from 8-9:30 p.m. each night.

■ Members of **Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield**, voted recently to build an addition to the church and to renovate the existing facilities. The church will enter a capital stewardship campaign.

■ **Sunswept Baptist Church, Union City**, will hold revival services April 30-May 3 with guest evangelist Michael Duff.

TBC events

■ **A Legal Issues Seminar** will be held May 22 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Conference leaders include TBC attorney, Randle Davis; William Maxwell, TBC Administrative Services director; and Karl Williams of Guide One Insurance. The cost of the conference, sponsored by the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group, is \$5 and includes lunch. For more information call 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2053.

■ **Divorce Recovery Workshops** are slated for April 24 at the Stone Baptist Association office in Cookeville and April 25 at the Bill Hatchie Baptist Association office in Covington. Scheduled from 7-9 p.m., the workshop will present basic steps to recovery from divorce, as well as how to develop a church-based recovery ministry. For more information, contact Don Mauldin of the TBC Christian Growth Development Group at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2047.

■ **A Disaster Relief Rally** is scheduled May 12-13 at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center. The rally, designed for people who already have received Disaster Relief training begins at 3 p.m. on Friday and concludes with lunch on Saturday. The cost is \$40 per person and includes meals. Commute cost is \$20 per person. For more information, call the TBC Missions Awareness and Involvement Group at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7926.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Crossville, recently broke ground for a new church facility. The new building will be located on 55 acres on Highway 127 South in Crossville. Members participating in the groundbreaking included, in the foreground, from left, Raymond Langlois, interim pastor; David White, chairman, building committee; and Craig Williams, chairman of the deacons.