

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

Volume 166/ Number 20

Statewide Edition

May 17, 2000

## Stats better than reported

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist participation churches last year based Annual Church Profile reports is somewhat better than reported in last week's issue, said Mike Overcash of Tennessee Baptist Convention staff.

Instead of declines in all areas, baptisms for 1998-99 went up (1.8% to 29,445) compared to last year and resident members increased (1% to 810,962). Other areas of participation declined, but less than reported. Total members were down (1% to 1,130,909), Sunday school participation fell (2.1% to 65,443), Music fell (21.8% to 12,721), WMU was down (1% to 64,831), and Brotherhood was down (13.3% to 2,369). Discipleship Training decreased more than reported (14.2% to 141,544).

Incorrect totals were reported because churches and mission congregations not affiliated with associations were left out along with some reports, said Overcash. ■

## During TBC Executive Board meeting

# C-N returns portion of escrowed funds

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Carson-Newman College has returned to the Tennessee Baptist Convention a portion of escrowed funds which were released to the college in January.

During the TBC Executive Board meeting May 9 at the Baptist Center, C-N President James Netherton presented a check in the amount of \$233,247.52 to TBC Executive Director James Porch.

The presentation was among actions that took place during the board's spring meeting. Board members also approved a new partnership venture with Nevada Baptists and established a goal of \$1.4 million for the 2000 Golden State Missions Offering.

Netherton said Carson-Newman received about \$298,000 from churches during the 1998-99 fiscal year while TBC funds were held in escrow for the college, according to convention action in 1998.

Some of those funds came



CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE President James Netherton presents a check for \$233,000 to TBC Executive Director James Porch and Executive Board President John Holland during the May 9 meeting of the TBC Executive Board.

directly from individuals or special offerings and other allocations, Netherton shared with Executive Board members.

"As best as we could determine, after checking with the churches, we received more than \$233,000 that otherwise would have been channeled through the Cooperative Program," he said. "To receive that money and the full release

of escrowed funds might be unfair," Netherton observed, noting that some would term that "double dipping."

He later told the *Baptist and Reflector* that C-N trustees unanimously approved the decision to return a portion of the funds.

"It is our hope this is one more step in the building of mutual trust and goodwill between the convention and Car-

son-Newman College, he said.

During the meeting board members later approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee that the returned funds be placed back into the Cooperative Program for distribution according to the existing budget.

## Loving Las Vegas

Board members unanimously approved a recommendation from the Convention Ministries Committee to enter into partnership with the Southern Nevada Baptist Association and the Nevada Baptist Convention through the "Loving Las Vegas" initiative of those two entities and the North American Mission Board.

The partnership would extend at least through 2001 with the possibility of it being extended into a statewide partnership in 2002.

Board members were given information noting Las Vegas is a city of approximately 1.3 million people of whom 750,000 (68 percent) are not associated with any faith.

— See C-N, page 3

## Youth compete at state Bible drill, speakers' tournament



BIBLE DRILLERS competing May 6 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, were, from first row, Andrea Raley, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova; Brittany Toomey, East Mens Baptist Church, Athens; Clinton Kee, First Baptist Church, Huntingdon; Brentwood, Friendship Baptist Church, Culleoka; and Brooke Bowen, First Baptist Church, Shiloh; back row, J. R. Byrd, Dumplin Baptist Church, New Market; Devin Stokes, Wood Baptist Church, Knoxville; Michael Alcorn, First Baptist Church, Cookeville; Cannon Beels, Riverdale Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; and Shellie Jackson, Copas Branch Baptist Church, Leoma. The winner was Devin Stokes and the runner-up was Andrea Raley.



SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT participants competing May 6 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, were, from left, first row, Jennifer Stinson, Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown; Ashley Baskin, Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; Natalie Isbell, Friendship Baptist Church, Culleoka; Dawn Stoika, East Athens Baptist Church, Athens; and Crystal Skelton, Bethel Baptist Church, Greenfield; back row, Vanessa Bond, Providence Baptist Church, McMinnville; Clint Smith, First Baptist Church, Lexington; Courtney Jamison, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova; and Will Kilgore, Piney Baptist Church, Oakdale. The winner was Courtney Jamison and the runner-up was Crystal Skelton.



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➤ **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

# Dual conferences train church planters

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — In what is thought to be a first for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the same conference was offered at the same time and place in two different languages.

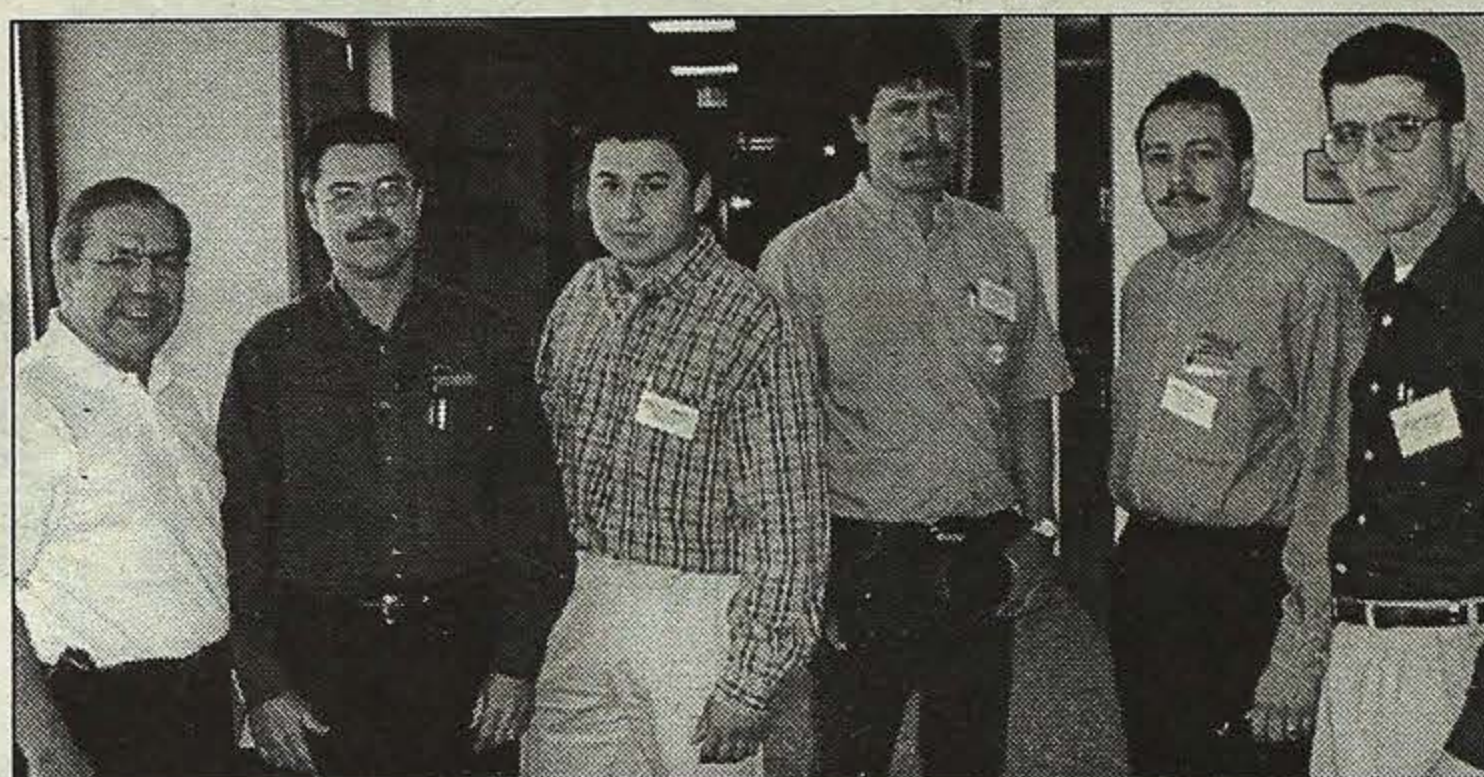
Approximately 75 people recently attended "Basic Training for Church Planters" at the Baptist Center here. At the same time the conference was offered in English, it also was provided for Hispanics.

The training was designed to assist new church planters in successfully planting a church, said Bill George, TBC new church extension specialist.

The meeting drew church planters who are within the first six months of a church start and prospects who are considering becoming church planters, George said.

Each church planter was encouraged to bring his "team" which includes the spouse and a mentor, George said.

"Each team gave a time line of what they need to do when they return home," George said, noting that the teams prayed



**ATTENDING** a meeting for mission pastors and church planter prospects were, from left, program leaders Bob Sena, North American Mission Board; Tim Hill, TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group; church planter prospects Miguel Ibanez and Tomas Lara of Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville; Chuy Avila, TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group; and Rafael Blanco, mission pastor, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

for each other and their specific needs and ministry.

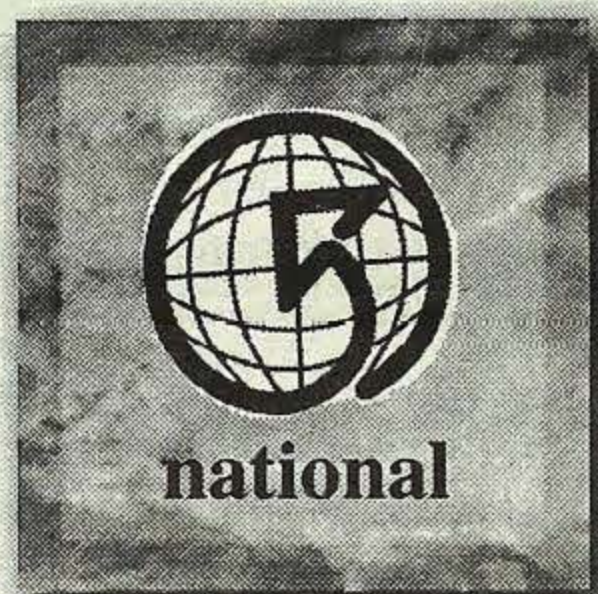
"It was a warm and spirit-guided service," he observed.

George said the conference was especially helpful for the spouses. "Some wives for the first time understood what church planting is all about. They gained a new understanding about what their husbands are involved in and were able to bring into what

their husbands are doing," he said.

TBC Executive Director James Porch said the conference points out "how we are responding to the church start needs of our Anglo, African American, Hispanics, and other ethnics.

"We are appreciative of the opportunities we have to bring these church starters here for intentional training," he said. ■



## NAMB applies divorce policy to new SBC chaplains

Baptist Press

**FORT WORTH, Texas** — Trustees of the North American Mission Board have broadened the agency's divorce policy to include chaplains applying for endorsement by the SBC Chaplains Commission. The change was approved during the agency's May 3 meeting at NAMB's Broadcast Communication Center here, where trustees also appointed 33 missionaries, endorsed 24 chaplains, and elected officers for the coming year.

NAMB's policy on divorce previously applied to those persons appointed and approved as missionaries. The policy now applies to chaplains seeking SBC endorsement after May 3.

The policy states "divorced people will rarely, and only under unusual circumstances, be appointed, approved, or endorsed for mission service." Sexual unfaithfulness and desertion are cited in the policy as biblical rationale for possible divorce exceptions.

Kelley Burris, NAMB trustee from Virginia Beach, Va., and

chairman of the task force that studied and brought the recommendation to the full board, acknowledged the policy was a sensitive issue. But, he said, the action was necessary in order to "apply biblical principles consistently to missionaries and chaplains alike."

Robert E. Reccord, NAMB president, told Baptist Press, "The key goals here were to make sure what we do is biblical, and that we're consistent. Although our society has abandoned biblical standards, we are committed to holding to those standards." ■

## CBS rejects ad from Christian Internet site

Baptist Press

**NEW YORK** — CBS has rejected commercials by the Christian Internet site iBelieve.com during the May 14 and 17 segments of its highly touted "Jesus" miniseries — as well as iBelieve ads for any episode of "Touched by an Angel."

CBS spokesperson Dana McClintock said the commercials were rejected because they were not "consistent with the expectations of a diverse audience" and would "commercialize" the miniseries.

iBelieve.com's proposed commercial offered viewers a free Christian music CD if they registered at the company's web site. iBelieve was prepared to pay \$450,000 to run two ads during the miniseries, said Jeff Fite, president of the Christian company.

Fite said the company

thought ads during the miniseries would reach people interested in their site.

CBS officials rejected the commercial on grounds that the ad's content was too similar to the program and might confuse viewers. CBS told the company they would allow the company to purchase ads as long as it was not during Christian programming.

Fite said that argument doesn't make sense, especially when athletic companies are allowed to advertise during sporting events. ■

## Glorieta shelters firestorm evacuees

Baptist Press

**PICO, N.M.** — More than 300 evacuees from a massive firestorm that continues to burn across portions of Los Alamos, N.M., have been relocated to Glorieta, a LifeWay Christian Resources conference center about 45 miles from the fires.

As of May 12, the conference center was housing 330 evacuees, mostly from the town of White Rock. "We may be receiving more depending on what the Red Cross decides to do," said John Horton, associate director of Glorieta. The center could accommodate up to 1,500 people with lodging and food.

"This is an opportunity to have a positive impact on our community," Horton said.

The blaze has burned more than 20,000 acres of land and forced the evacuation of 20,000 people. ■



## TBCH recommits to 'live within means'

By Kim Burke  
For Baptist and Reflector

**CHATTANOOGA** — The trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes affirmed the agency's new president and applauded the ministry's commitment to reject government assistance and live within its means during their bi-annual meeting May 2 on the TBCH campus here.

In his first report as president, Bryant Millsaps announced the ministry's executive staff was evaluating all TBCH programs, plans, and resources to be certain they were being used in the best interest of the children served by the agency.

"Before we can plot out a meaningful strategic plan for the next five years, we must first be confident that we have laid the proper groundwork for the future growth and development of TBCH," he said, noting he hoped to have a plan ready for the board to consider at their December meeting.

Trustees affirmed Millsaps and the executive staff for their work on the agency's future.

TBCH legal counsel Frank Ingraham, a member of First Baptist Church, Franklin, reminded trustees of TBCH's heritage in refusing financial assistance from the government and praised Millsaps for continuing that heritage.

Millsaps pledged his commitment to the ministry's dependence on God. "Ladies and gentlemen, I submit to you that it would be abhorrent for us to turn our backs on God's people and be dependent on our state government. We have made the decision to live within our means so that we do not need to take financial support from our government."

Millsaps announced an upcoming meeting with TBC leadership to explore how TBCH along with the TBC Executive Board and other TBC entities might work together to meet the growing needs of families in Tennessee.

"This effort represents a new era in relations with the Executive Board staff of the convention," Millsaps said. "I encourage you to be in prayer for all of us as we seek to find ways to minister to families." ■



MILLSAPS



# Tennessee dodges lottery bullet — for now

By Bonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

ASHVILLE — Tennessee's state senators stayed the course they have set for the past few years and once again derailed efforts to bring a state lottery to Tennessee. Only one day after one of the largest lottery payoffs in history (more than \$350 million), the Senate defeated SB 80 by a 18-13 margin on May 10. All the Republicans in the Senate who were present voted against the bill along with four Democrats. The bill needed 17 votes for passage. The bill was sponsored by Ward Crutchfield of Chattanooga, who made an impassioned plea before the Senate to pass the bill which would have

allowed voters in August to decide whether a constitutional convention should be held in which delegates could propose an amendment which would allow a lottery in Tennessee.

"I think the people of Tennessee ought to have a chance to participate," Crutchfield was quoted in a May 11 article in *The Tennessean*.

After about 30 minutes of debate the bill was defeated, according to Bobbie Patray of Tennessee Eagle Forum and member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville. Patray, an active opponent of the lottery in Tennessee, thanked those "who stayed the course and continued to contact their senators urging them to oppose this bill. I think you will agree the victory is worth all the ef-

fort over the past two years."

Gary Anderson, TBC public affairs consultant, also worked behind the scenes to defeat the bill. "Surely the hand of the Lord was in this vote," he said.

A bill is still active in the House and Senate that could be approved in the next two years, but it would require a two-thirds vote of both the Senate and House in 2001 and 2002.

"This was the bill we need to rejoice over," Anderson said.

He cautioned Tennessee Baptists, however, not to become complacent.

"Now is the time to thank

God but not the time to relax. Lottery proponents will be back next year."

Anderson encouraged Tennessee Baptists to contact the senators who voted against the bill to thank them.

Voting against the bill were Marsha Blackburn, Brentwood; Tim Burchett, Knoxville; Charlotte Burks, Monterey; Bobby Carter, Jackson; Bill Clabough, Maryville; Rusty Crowe, Johnson City; Gene Elsea, Spring City; David Fowler, Chattanooga; Tommy Haun, Greeneville; Doug Henry, Nashville; Roy Herron, Dresden; Tom Leatherwood, Bartlett; Randy McNally, Oak Ridge; Jeff Miller, Cleveland; Curtis Person, Memphis; Ron Ramsey, Blountville; Mike Williams, Maynardville; and



ANDERSON



Andy Womack, Murfreesboro.

Supporters of the bill were Steve Cohen, Memphis; Jerry Cooper, Morrison; Ward Crutchfield, Chattanooga; Lincoln Davis, Pall Mall; Roscoe Dixon, Memphis; John Ford, Memphis; JoAnn Graves, Gallatin; Thelma Harper, Nashville; Joe Haynes, Nashville; Rosalind Kurita, Clarksville; Jim Kyle, Memphis; Bob Rochelle, Lebanon; and Janice Springer, Centerville. Not voting were Lt. Gov. John Wilder and Ben Atchley of Knoxville who was absent due to heart surgery. ■

## Tennessee women participate in WMU's first MissionsFEST

By Todd Deaton  
For Baptist Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — It will be Rainbow Row and the Berry in Charleston or Market street or even Fort Sumter at the historic harbor that 26 women from 19 states will remember most from their April 30-May 6 visit to the historic South Carolina city. Instead, they will recall the faces of 471 lives they touched through the first Woman's Missionary Union MissionsFEST.

Working with Charleston Outreach, a ministry of Charleston Baptist Association and missionary Jack Little, the women were involved in more than 20 missions projects in North Charleston and with the association's Seafarers Center.

The host state had the largest contingency with 59 participants. Tennessee, however, wasn't far off that mark with 57 women. Rounding out the top five states were North Carolina, 29; Texas, 26; and Alabama, 19. Some came from as far away as Arizona, Oregon, and Washington.

"For these women, MissionsFEST is an avenue of ministry opportunities to become involved in," said Sandra Tapp of South Carolina's WMU staff. "There are so many needs, and we should be involved in as many creative ways as we can think of to help others know about Jesus Christ."

"MissionsFEST is an opportunity to be Christ's hands," Wanda Lee, new executive director of the national WMU,

told the women in the opening worship service. "Whenever someone asks you 'What is WMU?' I want you to think MissionsFEST," she urged.

"Yes, we actively support missions with our prayers for the missionaries. And, yes, we are supporters of missions through our promotion and giving to the missions offerings," Lee said. "But the heart of who we are in WMU is found in doing missions. We have heard God's call to touch a hurting world and share his love with those we meet."

Among missions opportunities from which participants could choose were construction on inner-city homes, teaching sewing, leading adult Bible studies, reading to school classes, prayerwalking, visiting nursing homes, delivering furniture to needy families,

distributing bread to the hungry, holding backyard Bible clubs, repairing bikes, and hosting block parties.

WMU leaders hope that the 264 MissionsFEST participants will return home excited about missions. Each night at services hosted by Charleston's Highland Park Baptist Church and at the celebration service, the women eagerly shared how God was at work through their lives. About 70 decisions for Christ were reported.

**Jeannette Thomas of Knoxville**, who visited nursing home residents, told of a woman who said she had been praying for three weeks for someone to come and bring her a Bible.

"MissionsFEST was an opportunity to see the power of God at work and how obedience affects the lives of oth-

ers," said Debra Berry of the national WMU staff in Birmingham, Ala. ■



TENNESSEE BAPTIST volunteer Robin Reynolds of Milan, center, and Ernie Brown of Yorges Island, S.C., repair a bike for a young man at one of the MissionsFest sites in Charleston, S.C.

## C-N returns portion of escrowed funds ...

Continued from page 1  
Golden State offering

Executive Board members established a goal of \$1.4 million for the 2000 Golden State Missions Offering. The goal was \$1,375,000.

Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union President Candie Phillips, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, made the recommendation which included the allocations of the funds, noted many hours and hours of study and hard work went into the recommendation.

Phillips acknowledged that increasing the goal to \$1.4 million is "ambitious."

The ministries of Tennessee are important and they need financial support," she stressed.

The goal and recommenda-

tion allocations were approved with no opposition.

### Other business

In other matters of business,



RECOGNIZED FOR years of service on the staff of the TBC Executive Board during its May meeting were, from left, Susie Edwards, Baptist and Reflector; Connie Davis, Baptist and Reflector, both 15 years; Mike Overcash, Administrative Services Group; Bernie Baker, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group; and Jennie Peery, Christian Growth Development Group, all five years. Not pictured is Amanda Day, Woman's Missionary Union, five years.

Executive Board members:

► Approved a change in the program statement of the *Baptist and Reflector*, reflecting the newsjournal's relationship with the Executive Board's Convention Communications Committee.

► Approved a recommendation from the Budget and Program Committee recommending that the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts for budget year 2000-2001 be: TBC, 62.5 percent and SBC, 37.5 percent. A second recommendation also was approved that any overage in 2000-2001 receipts be shared according to the existing budget allowance.

► Increased Union University's debt ceiling to \$21 million.

► Approved the sale of two acres of property owned by the

Executive Board, adjacent to the campus of Pellissippi State Technical Community College in Knoxville, to the state of Tennessee for \$70,000. Proceeds from the sale will establish the Leamon and Anita Bridges Endowment Fund to benefit the ministry and missions programs of the school's Baptist Student Union. The Bridges originally gave the land to the board to be used to build a BSU center.

► Moved the location of the September Executive Board meeting to Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport.

► By common consent, expressed appreciation to C-N President James Netherton and the board of trustees for their "good faith" gesture in returning funds to the convention. ■



# Baptist associations share Christ cooperatively

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

The week of May 22-28 is recognized on the denominational calendar as Associational Missions Week.

There are undoubtedly people in Tennessee Baptist churches across our state, who could not tell you what Baptist association their church is in. Many could not name their local director of missions.

By the same token there are members who are unfamiliar with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

They simply classify themselves as Baptist or Southern Baptist without fully understanding what that means or involves.

Does this mean that the association or state convention is not important? Of course not. It simply means we have to do a better job of informing our constituency of the resources they have in their local associations and in the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Baptist associations are comprised of churches in a general area that often combine their resources and skills of members

## CHURCHES IN ASSOCIATION: GOING WITH THE GOSPEL

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS WEEK  
MAY 22-28, 2000

to reach their community with the Gospel.

In Tennessee we have 68 associations that comprise about 3,000 churches and missions. Associations range in size from six in Hiwassee Baptist Association to 153 in Nashville Baptist Association (based on figures in the 1998 convention journal).

Each association in our state is uniquely different according to those who comprise its membership.

Beverly Smothers of the TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group has worked on the staff of Holston Baptist Association in our state. From her vantage point she notes that it is important for associations to find ministries within their specific geographic boundaries that churches can involve themselves in.

Through associations, churches can form partnerships to do local ministries

that one church could not do alone, she says.

In other words, the association is another rung on the "cooperation" ladder. The rungs continue to the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cooperatively, Tennessee Baptists can do so much at all levels. As churches grow it's easy to think "we can do it alone." That's not true. No matter what size the church; no matter how many resources one church may have, partnering with other churches at all levels (association, state convention, SBC), enables that church to do even more.

If you don't know what association your church is in or who your director of missions is, take time to find out. You may be surprised at how much your association has to offer.

Tennessee Baptists are blessed to have dedicated, hard working directors of missions committed to helping their churches share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities. They need our prayers and support. **B&R**



just for  
today

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Eudora Church,  
Memphis



### Start with a smile

Lady to man who looks to be at least 85 years old, sitting on a porch in a rocker: "You look like you have had a long life. Would you tell me your secret?" Man: "I drink every day, smoke all I want, and run around every night." Lady: "How old are you?" Man: "I be 28 next Thursday."

### Take this truth

Byron said it best, "The thorns I reap are from the seeds I planted. They have torn me and I bleed. I should have known what flowers would spring from such seed."

### Memorize this Scripture

"Be sure your sin will find you out." — Numbers 32:23

### Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to watch my personal life carefully so my memories may be sweet." — Wood can be e-mailed at fredwood@aol.com



### Grateful for influence

I am grateful for the influence of good and Godly pastors in my life. One such man was H. A. Hunderup Jr. Bro. Hunderup served as President of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and encouraged many young seminarians while pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

He came to First, Millington in 1962 where he served as pastor for over 10 years.

I was still in high school and an eager young "preacher boy." I remember asking Bro. Hunderup for a good Bible study guide. He replied, "It usually comes in a leather binding and has the words 'Holy Bible' printed on the cover."

Later, before accepting a call to my first pastorate, I confided in the Preacher (as many called him) that I was fearful and felt unprepared to serve a church — I was only 19. He said, "Good, when you come to the place you think you can handle it, you won't depend on God."

A few years ago our association was debating a bylaw change requiring churches to elect a certain percentage of laypersons to the Executive Board. Discussion ended and the change was voted down when the Preacher, our elder statesman, reminded us, "No Baptist body can tell a local church what to do."

No one is indispensable but from time to time God uses individuals to perform an indispensable service — such was the ministry of Bro. Hunderup in my life and the lives of many others. His is a legacy of love for the Lord and a ministry of faithfulness. He passed away on April 17, 2000. He had conducted prayer meeting the previous Wednesday and taught his Sunday School class the day before.

Faithful to the end — he is now with the Lord.

L. Joseph Rosas III, pastor  
Union Avenue Baptist Church  
Memphis 38104

### Needed word

As I was reading the April 29th selection in Oswald Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*, part of it impressed me as a message that Southern Baptists need to hear at this time.

I quote: "When we become advocates of a creed, something dies; we do not believe God, we only believe our belief about him. Jesus said, 'Except ye ... become as little children.' Spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God, but uncertain of what he is going to do next. If we are only certain in our beliefs, we get dignified and severe and have the ban of finality about our views, but when we are rightly related to God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy. 'Believe in me,' said Jesus, not 'Believe certain things about me.' Leave the whole thing to him, it is gloriously uncertain how he will come in, but he will come. Remain loyal to him."

I am reminded of a story about a pastor who was teaching the notes in a reference Bible more than the Scripture. He was admonished by a deacon who said, "Pastor, there is a line across the page in that Bible.

Everything below that line is the word of man, everything above it is the Word of God. Don't get them confused."

Tom Brown  
Murfreesboro 37130

### No truth but Christ

All we like sheep were led to believe that the problem was too many people did not believe the "Baptist Faith and Message" anymore. Now we are told that those who wrote it were misguided because they elevated experience over the Bible (*Baptist and Reflector*, April 19, page 2).

Please Dr. Mohler, cease and desist from elevating anything above my experience with Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. There is no truth but Christ."

Larry Maples  
Cookeville

### Help for ministers

Allow me to share one of my concerns related to a growing plague among our churches. Perhaps you serve with or know a minister that has been terminated or is facing termination.

Across the Southern Baptist Convention alone, nearly 150 ministers are terminated each month. Beyond that, there are many others who leave under pressure. Each of these ministers and their families experience a tremendous amount of pain because of these experiences.

One of the best responses you can make is to let him or her know about a wellness retreat designed specifically for those persons. The Wellness Retreat sponsored by the Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc., is designed to enhance the healing process in dealing with the hurt, guilt, anger, and self-esteem associated with this loss. In a

small group setting led by professionals who donate their time, the weekend retreat has components dealing with those issues and other related topics.

Ministering to Ministers Foundation, of which I serve on its board, is based in Richmond, Va. Charles Chandler, the executive director, following termination from the pastorate, developed this ministry in response to the growing number of persons from all denominations he found having similar experiences.

As a director of missions, I have seen the devastation caused by forced termination. Many good ministers have been hurt and others lost to the ministry. Many churches have suffered through a repeated pattern of terminating ministers.

A Wellness Retreat is scheduled in Tennessee this summer at Carson-Newman College. For more information about this retreat and this ministry, call me at (423) 267-3794.

David Al Myers, DOM  
Hamilton County  
Baptist Association  
Chattanooga 37405

### Not newsworthy

I'm sorry, but I do not consider the announcement of Brad Hoffman as a candidate for first vice president of the SBC (*Baptist and Reflector*, May 3, page 12) as being newsworthy.

We are not politically (?) interested in this type of thing. I was hoping "nominations," letters to pastors to support certain persons and agendas were a thing of the past.

I trust the messengers are spiritually mature to be led, not by promotional hype but by prayerful contemplation. Too idealistic, right?

Lloyd Shelton, pastor  
Piperton First Baptist Church  
Collierville 38017

## CLASSIFIED

**EDUCATION/STUDENTS:** Terrill Road Baptist Church of Scotch Plains, NJ is seeking a minister education and students. The church ministers in a suburban town of 25,000, 25 miles west of New York City. Having recently celebrated 33rd anniversary, the church looking forward to future ministry and growth in partnership with the Lord has for us. Most of religious education preferred. Interested persons may submit summary of their education and experience by July 1 to Search Committee Chairman, Terrill Road Baptist Church, 1340 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. All submissions will be confidential.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC:** Part-time working with adult, youth, and children's choirs. Send resume to Music Minister Search Committee, Smyrna Baptist Church, c/o F. Carey Cash, 7512 Hwy. 59, Burlison, TN 38015.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC:** Oak Valley Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational minister of music. Resume to P.O. Box 681177, Franklin, TN 37068-1177 or call Karen Harp for details (615) 794-7403.



## Men and Boys on Mission

Ministry of Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries Team, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, Tennessee Baptist Convention

Spring 2000

## BC staff report

## 2000 State RA Congress has many successes

"Men and Boys on Mission"

NASHVILLE — With 755 attendance April 20-22 at Belmont University, Nashville, at the 2000 Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress, its 46th session, many participants said, "it was the best ever." Baptist Men's Ministries Team felt it was one of the better Congresses.

However, not all of the issues are in and to date many of the Congress evaluation forms have not been returned. We need you to express your thoughts, suggestions, concerns concerning Congress overall, and not just this Congress. We have formed a Congress Review Committee to review everything that is done during Congress. This committee needs to hear your thoughts and set the direction for future Congresses.

If you do not have an evaluation form, write your thoughts and mail them to the Men's Ministries Team Office, or e-mail them to [revision@tnbaptist.org](mailto:revision@tnbaptist.org). This is your opportunity to say what this event will look like

in the future. The only thing that is unchangeable in Congress is the evangelistic and mission education efforts, which is the purpose of Congress. That is not to say that there cannot be changes in the way these things are done, or when these things take place during the event. You may want to suggest a new name that better fits for those that attend. The review process may take some time. The committee is taking this review very seriously and will be evaluating every part of Congress.

This year's mission offering was the highest amount at \$2,427, collected since 1997. This total was collected with \$562 at the Mission Carnival and an additional \$1,865 during the Friday night session. On the way home two participants made professions of faith and were counseled by their church leaders.

Receiving the Challengers National Award were: Paul Rosser and Chris Newman, both of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Knoxville. Kris Daw of Brainerd Hills Baptist Church,

Chattanooga, earned the Challengers National Award and the Challengers Leadership Award. Receiving the Challengers Leadership Award were: Ben Alton, Josh Copeland, Jason Dykes, Todd Mills, Craig Newman, John Ramsey, and Jonathan Smeltzer, all of Central Church of Fountain City.

Only four out of 10 leadership categories were submitted for the 2000 Tennessee Leader of the Year Award; and eight names were submitted for the four categories. Anyone can submit a name for these awards; and more information can be found in the "Congress Information Packet" on page 24.

Those winning Leaders of the Year awards were: Lads — Wes Thomas; Crusaders — Jerry Wolfe, both of Central Church of Fountain City; Church RA director — Johnny Randolph, South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman; and Older Challengers — Steve Johnson, Central Church of Fountain City.

Winning Honor Chapter/Group Awards for the Level



RECEIVING both Challenger National and Leadership awards was Kris Daw, center, 1999-2000 outgoing president of the 2000 Royal Ambassador Congress. Daw is a member of Brainerd Hills Baptist Church, Chattanooga. He stands with, from left, Max Thomas and Jan Williams, Daw's leaders; and Patty and Dave Stovall, Daw's parents.

of Merit were: Marshall and Julia Duncan — Lads, and Hugh Redmond — Challengers, both of Central Church of Fountain City; Tyler Martin — Crusaders and Dale Ledbetter — Crusaders, both of Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson; and Tri Husks — Lads, and George Husks — Crusaders, both of South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman. Winning the Level of Excellence were: Ben Booz — Lads, and Lawrence Stewart — Crusaders, both of Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville; Mark and Helen Cald-

well — Crusaders, Central Church of Fountain City; and Fred Davis — Crusaders, and Brian Hayes — Challengers, both of Smoky View Baptist Church, Maryville.

Every chapter/group can obtain this award if they document their activities and submit them to the Men's Ministries Team office by March 1 of the current year. The requirements are available in written form, and can be requested from the Men's Ministries Team office by calling 1-800-558-2090, 615-371-2025, or e-mail [cdavidson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:cdavidson@tnbaptist.org). ■

## As raise funds for Disaster Relief

"Men and Boys on Mission"

The Royal Ambassadors of White Baptist Church, Cookeville, raised \$312 for disaster relief by holding a Penny Face Contest.

The RAs sent the money to the North American Mission Board, based in Alpharetta, Ga., which coordinates Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts. ■

## Welcome, new B&amp;R readers

If you don't regularly receive the *Baptist and Reflector*, you may be receiving it from Men's Ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Men's Ministries is providing this issue to a group of people to allow them to receive Men and Boys on Mission. The staff encourages readers to subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector*. To subscribe for a year, send \$10 to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027. ■

## TBC hosts National Disaster Relief Roundtable

By Marcia Knox  
For "Men and Boys on Mission"

Tennessee Baptist Convention hosted April 25-27 the eight annual National Disaster Relief Roundtable 2000 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood where 125 people attended from across the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Disaster Relief leaders from the 41 state conventions and fellowships came to evaluate this past year and plan for the future in policies and procedures," said Mickey Caison, North American Mission Board National Disaster Relief director. "American Red Cross and International Mission Board representatives also attended the national meeting to discuss our partnerships with them."

A three-person Roundtable standing committee made up of Cal Jones of Louisiana, Jim Parrish of Northwest Baptist Convention, and Reggie Quimby of Alabama, planned this year's three-day meeting, which is also held in

different locations.

"Through the Roundtable, we develop stronger relationships with other agencies and conventions, and it helps us facilitate the use of volunteers during disaster responses," Caison added. "There are a total of 239 Disaster Relief mobile units in the United States, which are staffed by almost 20,000 trained volunteers. Last year we had 97 responses, used nearly 16,000 volunteers, and prepared 1.6 million meals."

These figures compare to last year's state figures with Tennessee Disaster Relief responding eight times, sending 450 volunteers, and preparing almost 87,145 meals. Over the past five years the NAMB State Baptist Convention Activity Report 1995-1999 revealed averages of 84 disaster responses a year and 8,400 disaster volunteers responding a year. Also during the five-year span, Disaster Relief volunteers prepared 720,000 meals in 1994 compared to an increase of 1.6 million meals in 1999.

"This is the largest attended Roundtable we've had," Caison noted. "We continue to grow each year in capabilities and the type of responses that we do. God continues to use our volunteers to touch and change lives of those effected by disasters while sometimes changing volunteers."

"Our volunteers have a real sense of call to work for Disaster Relief. These are people

who are willing to clean out homes of families, hold the victims, and pray with them. Disaster Relief has an impact on both the volunteers and the victims."

"We are currently working in pilot projects in Oklahoma and North Carolina, which are similar to World Changers programs, to use youth after disasters in recovery, rebuilding, and construction." ■



LEADERS of the roundtable were, from left, Tim Bearden, TBC Disaster Relief director; Elmer Goble, NAMB Adult Volunteers manager; and Mickey Caison, NAMB National Disaster Relief director.



## A Word from Gene

I believe we can design success into our Men's Ministry Units. If we take a look at the way men involve themselves in other activities, we can glean some insight into reaching our goal of success in Men's Ministry.

A hunting trip or a baseball game is an attractive activity for many men as well as fishing and golfing. We should readily notice some applicable facts.



WILLIAMS

First, these activities are always short-term. Usually an evening is all that is required, and rarely more than a weekend. Men do not enjoy long-term commitments. They like the challenge and quick sense of accomplishment whether or not they bag a trophy. They can stamp conquered, finished, done that, and relish the memory of the activity.

I believe we can channel their enthusiasm toward Men's Ministry if we do not ask them to commit for a lifetime. We can have a prayer blitz for one week, or a construction trip for one weekend. We can invite them to two nights of training in witness-

ing, or one night of an evangelistic "wild-game dinner." We can offer them a variety of short-term events that does not wear them out.

Secondly, the other side of the same coin is celebration. If we want to build success into our Men's Ministry, we need to celebrate the participation of our men in our short-term activities. Most men are goal oriented. If we challenge them with the short-term event, we need to give them an appropriate trophy to hang on the wall or display on their shelves. We need to design the activity to end with a period of congratulations or thanksgiving.

By ending the activity early, we assure success. How many times have we enjoyed the initial high participation rate of an exciting activity, and then endured the never ending repeat of that activity until only a few are still participating. Quit early while the memory is still positive. We cannot celebrate after the excitement dies. If the group consents, we can repeat the activity, or move on to another challenge.

Success in just about any activity is possible if we make it short-term. Think about it.

*Gene*

## Man begins Anglers for Chris

By Tony Sellars  
For "Men and Boys on Mission"

My name is Tony Sellars of Morristown where I am a member of Calvary Baptist Church. I was saved as a 10-year-old at Holt's Baptist Church where my grandfather Calvin Helton was the pastor.

It was an Easter Sunday night and the message was about Jesus dying on the cross. The thought crossed my mind that if Jesus loved us enough to die for us; we should love Him enough to live for Him. I am so glad that I had that childlike faith.

My grandfather took me fishing and my parents took me to church; but I never realized what this would mean for me. I always enjoyed church and being a Christian, but I didn't know what living a fulfilling Christian life was until last year.

I'm a businessman and a professional fisherman. I had heard about a new tournament-fishing trail, called Fishers of Men. Being a fisherman and a Christian, this ministry peaked my interest. I went to a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, to learn about this new organization. As I left the meetings Al Odom, the National Fishers of Men director, asked if I

might be interested in starting a new division in East Tennessee. I told Odom that I would pray about it.

The Lord gave me a very definite and clear vision. I knew there were people that could be reached through the sport of fishing. I thought that with the Lord's help, we could do it.

We got ready during the winter for our first tournament in March 1999. Friday night before the tournament as with every tournament, there was a pre-tournament meeting held at a local church. The fishermen were fed a meal and listened to an inspiring message and great music.

At the end of the first Friday night service, five men accepted Christ and many rededicated their lives. It was evident the Lord was in this ministry and that these tournaments were what the fishermen needed.

After our first year, 12 men accepted Christ and over 50 rededications were made. Nationwide almost 100 were saved and almost 200 rededications were made.



SELLARS

Through this ministry I have gotten closer to my family, my church, and my Lord. I have learned that there are people dying and going to hell because people aren't willing to come up with creative ways to reach people for Christ.

Because of Fishers of Men, know decisions can be made and lives can be changed. Besides being a Fishers of Men director, I am also the president of the East Tennessee Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Anglers Society and have started a new ministry called "Anglers for Christ Ministries."

This ministry is comprised of eight professional fishermen from Tennessee to West Virginia. We conduct kid's fishing camps, speak at Fellowship of Christian Athlete meetings, revivals, GA and I functions, men's meetings, and youth rallies.

With the Lord's guidance and support of my church and family, these ministries have become successful. Because of my involvement, I have realized what being a Christian is all about in life.

For bookings and information on Anglers for Christ Ministries, call Tony Sellars at (423) 581-6326 or e-mail at [tonys@lcs.net](mailto:tonys@lcs.net). ■

## To reach men

### Baptists hold wild game suppers

By Marcia Knox  
For "Men and Boys on Mission"

A Tennessee Baptist church and an association have found that Wild Game Suppers are a good way to reach men who normally do not attend church, according to recent reports sent to the Baptist Men's Ministries Team.

Bayside Baptist Church in Harrison held a Wild Game supper Feb. 19 at the church, which was attended by over 600 men and boys, according to Tom Watson, minister of music at Bayside Church.

Hunters in the church donated the wild game for the meal, which included deer, bear, turkey, ducks, pheasant, rabbit, and squirrel.

"Men who would not feel comfortable in a church setting attend this banquet at Bayside Church hoping to meet some new hunting buddies, to hear a hunting expert share his experiences in the field, and to win prizes," said Watson. "What they get when they come to the supper is a warm welcome from the men in our church, some great food, a lot of laughter, and a special message from our speaker for the evening."

In return, the church gets a list of prospects, which is used by an outreach ministry of Bayside Church. Watson reported eight men accepted Christ as a result of the hunting banquet. Two other men who attended were visited by a

Faith team also received Christ and later joined the church.

Beulah Baptist Association in Union City also held a Wild Game supper March 28 at First Baptist Church of Union City which was attended by over 300 men and boys, according to Tom Menees, associational brotherhood director.

A total of 23 out of 42 Beulah Association churches were represented at the supper including men from seven other denominations in the area.

The men feasted on deer, fish, raccoon, squirrel, turtle, and duck. They also won door prizes, which were donated by 11 businesses in the area.

Kyle Woodfin, founder of Legacy Outdoor Ministries and a bivocational minister from Georgia, spoke. Ten men made decisions for Christ and more than 40 more submitted prayer requests.

"The Beulah Association wild game supper has proven to be a successful event which grows every year since hunting and fishing are extremely popular in the area, which is located near Reelfoot Lake," said Menees. "God truly had his hand in this year's event, and I am praying that next year's event will be as successful."

For more information call Gene Williams, Missions Awareness and Involvement Adult specialist, at 1-800-558-2090 or (615)-371-2064. ■

## Fishermen hold tournament

For "Men and Boys on Mission"

East Tennessee Division of the Fishers of Men (FOM) recently held three tournaments and already two teams are tied for first place in the point standing, according to Tony Sellars, East Tennessee FOM Division director. Teams of Lee/Holt and Rose/Robison are tied in the total point standing at 581.

The opening fishing tournament had a rough beginning Saturday, Feb. 12, on Cherokee Lake. "The weather cooperated about as well as the fish," said Sellars. "The temperature at blast off was in the low 40s, with rain and the threat of thunderstorms in the area."

The team of James Simmons and Chuck Simmons took first place with 4 fish weighing 10.49 lbs.

The pre-tournament meeting was held Friday night, Feb. 11, at Calvary Baptist Church in Morristown where around 150 people attended. FOM favorite speaker Chris Wells of Sumter, South Carolina, brought the inspirational message. After the sermon, five people accepted Christ and 15 rededications were made.

Calvary Baptist Church in Morristown and their pastor, Sid Nichols, served as hosts for the first tournament.

The second stop on the Fishers of Men-East Tennessee Division Tournament Tour was held Saturday, March 11, at Watts Bar Lake. "The weather was even worse than the first tournament

with heavy rain and storms in the area," noted Sellars.

The weather didn't seem to slow down Bud Rose and Claude Robison who took first place. They came in with four fish weighing 15.72 lbs. The weight was anchored by an 8.25 lb. large mouth.

The highlight of the tournament was the pre-tournament meeting on Friday night, March 10, at White's Creek Baptist Church in Rockwood. Nichols of Morristown brought the message.

The church "made a bunch of fishermen feel welcome," added Sellars. "They also rejoiced as we did in the fact that four souls were saved and at least five rededications were made."

A total of 43 boats competed Saturday, April 1, on Boone Lake in upper East Tennessee. "The anglers contend with low water conditions, but the weather wasn't a factor. The boats blasted off from Winged Deer Park 6 a.m. under clear skies and cool temperatures."

The team of Billy Holt and Dan Lee bested the rest of the field with fish limit weighing 15.65 lbs.

At the Friday Night pre-tournament meeting, hosted by Mountain View Baptist Church in Johnson City, the fishermen were fed a barbecue dinner. Gene Williams, TBC MAI Adult Missions specialist, was the speaker. Four people made first time decisions, and two rededications were made. ■



# Men and Boys on Mission

## A Word from Bob

those that work in Children's Ministries, especially in the area of Royal Ambassadors, realize that evangelism is the first priority in what we do. Royal Ambassadors is a missions education program.

Sharing Christ is not part of your approach, then you may want to take a second look at what you are doing. Every program that we do in church should have its first priority in evangelism regarding the program.

A magazine article that drives his point home is "The Ability of Accepting Christ" from Barna Research Group of Ventura, California. The data shows that if a person does not accept Jesus Christ before the age of 14, the likelihood of them ever doing so is slim. The percentage of those accepting Christ as Saviors between the ages of 5 to 13

was 32%, 14 to 18 were 4%, and those 19 or older was 6%.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me . . . for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14, NIV).

Please take my encouragement to evangelize those who God has put into your care. Let me also say that I'm not promoting infant baptism. Children, like anyone else, must know and understand what they are doing before they can experience a real conversion. Don't be concerned about numbers for the sake of numbers; but that those you lead to the Lord know and understand what they are doing.

As the saying goes "The reward is out of this world." If you have not heard the song "Thank you for giving to the Lord" by Ray Boltz, find it and listen to it. This song will be all the encouragement you need to share Christ with your little ones.

*Bob*

## Man claims he is 'for the birds'

Archie King  
Men and Boys on Mission

got involved with RAs in 1971 at the age of 11, which was my first summer to work at a TRAC™ camp. At that time

Archie King served as TBC State Brotherhood Director. RAs has been in my life ever since.

In 1997 I was director of the First Baptist Church of North Hill in Murfreesboro. We had 10 boys in our chapter. In the spring we studied the life of birds and realized their numbers were low in our area due to the loss of habitat. We began a conservation project to build and erect bluebird nest-boxes. However, we couldn't find a birdhouse kit for birds so we decided to make our kits from durable 1/2 inch cut cedar.

In our monthly report, we presented our project to the congregation. To our surprise, members to buy birdhouses began to build in, and our first order was for 45 houses. We then realized that we had a fundraiser in our hands.

We came up with some miscellaneous projects that the boys wanted to do with the profits. The first was to fund a mission project to send garden seeds to missionaries in Haiti. The missionaries could teach the people in Haiti how to grow their own food. We sent over 100 pounds of seeds to Haiti.

The second project was to

pay for TRAC™ at Camp Linden for any boy of the church that wanted to go, which enabled new boys to be introduced to the excitement of the RA program that were not already involved.

The third project was to fund a church-wide man and boy campout at Camp Cherokee on Center Hill Lake. We had a campcraft rodeo with father and son teams. By having this event away from the church setting, some dads joined us that had not yet gotten involved in the church. The relationships that were started that weekend sparked their interest in the church.

God used the beautiful little bluebird to do much more for our church than we could have imagined. One outreach story of the birdhouses was when I gave one away to an elderly woman who lived alone. I put the birdhouse outside her bedroom window. When she died two years later, her family asked me to place her birdhouse next to her headstone at the cemetery. It was a blessing to see how a small gift of love could mean so much to someone as the late Lola Black of First Church of Walter Hill.

I now attend Third Baptist Church of Murfreesboro. However, RA chapters that would like to start their own projects with these bluebird house kits can call me at (615) 473-6068 or email Wind1Fire@aol.com. ■

## TRAC™ still open to campers

For "Men and Boys on Mission"

There are still openings at the 2K TRAC™ Missions Camps, but don't wait much longer to register because availability is closing fast. This year TRAC™ is offering the largest selection of mission camps, available in five locations across Tennessee.

The different opportunities include: Boy's Missions Camps, Coed Children's Missions Camps, Coed Youth Missions Camps, and a high adventure camp for young men in grades

7-12 known as TRAC™ Buffalo River Challenge.

The theme for the Boy's and Children's Missions Camps is "Missions X-treme;" for the Youth camps "That's All the Lumber???" and for the Buffalo River Challenge "Spiritual Outdoor Adventure Recreation."

For information, cost and registration forms call the Men's Ministries Team Office at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2025. There is discount pricing for early registration and limited scholarships. ■

Type of Camp	Location	Date
Boy's Missions Camp	Camp Coldstream, Adams	June 5-9
Boy's Missions Camp	Camp Tanisi, Westmoreland	June 12-16
Boy's Missions Camp	Camp Bays Mountain, Kingsport	June 19-23
Boy's Missions Camp	Camp Linden, Linden	June 26-30
Buffalo River Challenge	Camp Linden, Linden	June 26-30
Children's Missions Camp	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	July 3-7
Children's Missions Camp	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	July 10-14
Youth Missions Camp	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	July 17-21
Youth Missions Camp	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	July 24-28
Boy's Missions Camp	Camp Smoky, Gatlinburg	July 31 - Aug. 4

## Baptist Family Day set at speedway

For "Men and Boys on Mission"

The May 19 deadline to register is nearing for Tennessee Baptist Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS). Family Day at BMS to be held June 3 is a spectacular event where the Gospel message is shared with a large number of people, followed by a major auto race.

Last year over 4,000 men, women, and children attended and several decisions for the Lord were made. The Family Day program is evangelistic, but will also offer times of praise. This year's program will be in the Kulwicki Grandstands, a section of the main grandstands, beginning at 4 p.m. The evangelistic program will be 50-minutes and features Kevin Shrum, pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville,

and other special guests.

This special seating in Kulwicki Grandstands will be only for the participants of this event. Others attending the race will not have access to this special seating area. Once Family Day participants enter the seating area they will be able to stay for several races.

There is around 1 1/2 hours between the end of the Family Day program and the beginning of the first race. Participants will have time to purchase their meals through BMS concession stands.

This year the races will be dirt cars. BMS is bringing in more than 14,000 cubic yards of earth to cover the speedway's concert racing surface. The races begin at 6:30 p.m. with a Support Division 15-lap feature, at 7 p.m. Hav-A-Tampa Hot Laps race, and at 8

p.m. two 20-lap Hav-A-Tampa Last Chance races. The main race begins at 9:30 p.m. with the Eco-Quest 'Living Air 100,' a 100-lap feature for Hav-A-Tampa late models.

The cost of tickets is \$5 per adult (18 years and up) with up to five free children's tickets per adult. Parking is free; camping tickets are available. Let us know your camping needs when registering. Upon receipt of registration form, you will receive a Confirmation Form stating how many adult and children's tickets ordered. Take this form to the entrance of the Kulwicki Grandstands.

This event is made possible by the management of BMS, Bristol Raceway Ministries, Holston Baptist Association, and the TBC Men's Ministries Team. ■

### Tennessee Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 each adult) for Adults Tickets and  
\_\_\_\_\_ Free Children's Tickets (under the age of 18).

I also need \_\_\_\_\_ Free Parking and \_\_\_\_\_ Free Camping Passes

Registration form and fees MUST reach our office by May 19.

Tennessee Baptist Men's Ministries Team

Attention: Carol Davidson

P.O. Box 728

Brentwood, TN 37024-0728



# Men and Boys on Mission

## Two congregations host DR training

By Marcia Knox  
For "Men and Boys on Mission"

Two Tennessee Baptist churches hosted TBC Disaster Relief Training on March 25. Around 70 people attended Disaster Relief Training held at First Baptist Church of Nashville; and 17 people attended the training at Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, according to State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

In Nashville, the participants took "Introduction to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief" and then trained in either "Mass Feeding Unit Operations" or "Chainsaw Training and Cleanup."



**BILL AND JOYCE** Curington, mass feeding unit operations trainer of Roseberry Baptist Church, Mascot, lead a training session.

Bearden taught the Introduction course; Morris Wilson, a member of Chewalla Baptist Church, Chewalla, taught Chainsaw Training; and Bill Curington, a member of Roseberry Baptist Church, Mascot, taught Mass Feeding.

In Bartlett, Mike Stricklin, Disaster Relief Co-Childcare coordinator and a member of Hopewell Baptist Church in Savannah, led "Introduction." Roman Walters, the new Disaster Relief director for Faith Church, organized the Bartlett training.

According to Stricklin, Walters became aware of the need for Disaster Relief when he lived in East Tennessee

and experienced the 1997 snow and ice storms. He saw how Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief helped in times of trouble.

When he moved to Bartlett and joined Faith Baptist Church, Walters had no idea that God would lead him to become a Disaster Relief leader. After a few years, he felt God leading him to be-

come more involved and to direct the Disaster Relief program.

Walters told Stricklin the Faith Church training was the first of what Walters hopes will be additional training sessions. Walters wants to be sure Faith Church is ready to respond when a disaster strikes and help is needed.

In Nashville, Curington not only discussed the operation of the State Disaster Relief Feeding Unit, but he also explained the various equipment functions from cooking to transporting the food. He answered questions from new volunteers about what to expect in a disaster situation.

"Things happen in a disaster, and you just have to adjust to it," said Curington. "People get along on a disaster relief site." Tennessee is the third largest SBC Disaster Relief Unit. He pointed out that it is funded by the GSMO.

The newly trained volunteers were served beef stew, cooked by Disaster Relief leaders at First Baptist Church of Nashville. Beef stew is a staple of the State Disaster Relief Unit.

The Missions Awareness and Involvement Group offers periodically Disaster Relief Training across the state. To schedule Disaster Relief Training contact, Bearden at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2026. ■

## Nashvillians help fellow residents after tornado

For "Men and Boys on Mission"

Twenty Disaster Relief volunteers from Tusculum Hills Baptist Church in Nashville helped clean up damage from the Feb. 6 North Nashville F. tornado.

The church has just organized and developed a new Disaster Relief team for cleanup when the tornado struck. At Tusculum Hills Church over 40 people have signed up to work on the Disaster Relief team. The church has also purchased a new bus and trailer for its Disaster Relief Unit. This unit is equipped with all the necessary materials for doing mud-outs and cleanups from tree falls and other debris.

The church team has received training in Southern Baptist Disaster Relief from State Disaster Relief director, Tim Bearden, Red Cross First Aid and CPR, Disaster Relief Chain Saw Training. Bill Highsmith, Tusculum Hills Church Recreation Activities/ Senior Adults director, heads up the church's Disaster Relief Program. Doug Westmoreland is the pastor of Tusculum Hills Church.

## 2000 Tennessee RA Congress draws 755 to Nashville

By Marcia Knox  
For "Men and Boys on Mission"

A total of 755 participants and staff attended the 2000 Tennessee Royal Ambassador Congress in its 46th session held April 20-22 at Belmont University, Nashville.

This year's special guests were "Surfer Bob and Penny" from the International Mission Board's Video series "Kids on Mission" as they traveled the globe to see where God is at work. "Surfer Bob and Penny" appeared during the Friday night worship session.

The Saturday morning worship session featured Kevin Shrum, pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville and three guests. They were: Jamie Slocum, Christian musician from Nashville and a member of Inglewood Church; Edwin Florida, Parts Store owner from Murfreesboro and a member of Northside Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; and Lillian Long, 95-year-old retired Metro school teacher and librarian for Inglewood Church.

Each of the guests was interviewed by Shrum who centered on questions about their daily walks with Christ and gave their testimonies. Slocum told Congress participants how God called him into Christian music.

Florida, who was challenged by a ministry need, risked his parts store business by closing

on Saturdays. His employees had maintained that they could not attend church because Sunday was the only time they were able to be with the family. By closing on Saturdays, Florida still was able to break even his first year. He determined that he had not lost any business. His employees began to attend church; and some employees received Christ.

Long spoke on her calling as a schoolteacher, which developed when she began teaching Sunday School at the age of 14. Speaking from her 95 years of experience, which included teaching at Isaac Litton High School and becoming a widow at 65, Long said, "Jesus has been with me all the time, and you just can't do any better."

RA chapters, Challenger groups, leaders, and individual members also competed

for awards in competitions such as Campcraft Rodeo, Missions Bowl, Missions Speak Out, Project Hall, and RA Racers.

Overall Campcraft rodeo church winners were: Lads - East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville; Crusaders - Dotson Memorial Church, Maryville; Younger Challengers - Wilsonville Baptist Church, Newport; Older Challengers - Brown's Baptist Church, Cosby; and Adults - Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge.

This year's Missions Bowl winners were: Crusaders and Older Challengers - both of East Maryville Church.

Missions Speak Out winners and their churches were: Lads - Austin Tatum, Central Church, Oak Ridge; Crusaders - Michael Arwood, South Harman Church; Younger Chal-

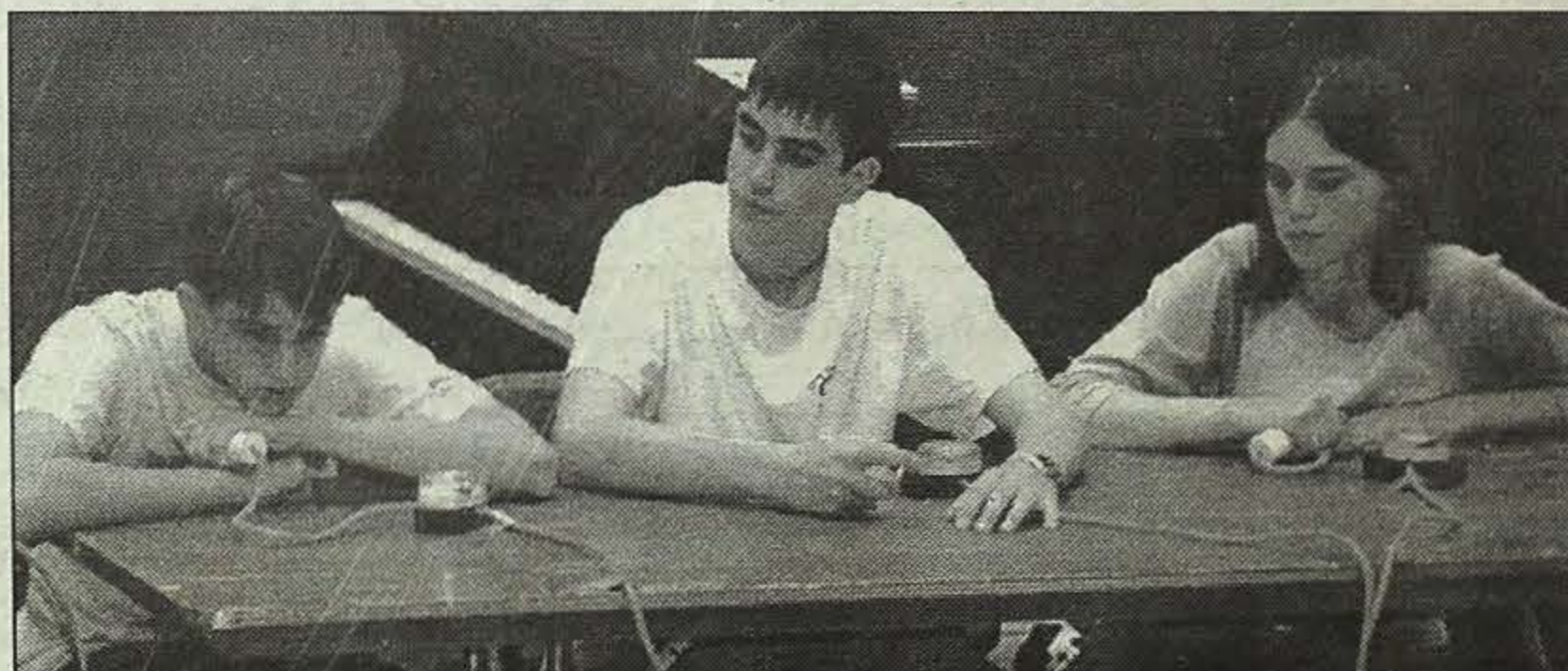
lengers - Joshua Busman, Central Church of Fountain City; and Older Challengers - Jimmy Raines, Riverview Baptist Church, Newport.

"Project Hall contained superior quality projects this year, which more than made up for the lesser number of projects entered," said Max Thomas, Project Hall special worker.

Winners of the RA Racers were: Adults - Rodney McNabb, Lads - Jared Latham, Crusaders, Chris Lewis, Younger Challengers - Colton McNabb, all of First Baptist Church,

Friendsville; and Older Challengers - Josh Tuck, South Baptist Church, Newport. Colton McNabb was the overall winner with the fastest car 2.4825 out of a field of 321 entrants.

Next year's Congress will be held April 12-14 at Union University in Jackson. ■



**CONSIDERING** a question during the Mission Bowl competition is Trey Brewer, while Daniel Brooks and Melissa Brinley wait. They are Older Challengers from East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville.



**TOP** Lad Speak Out winner was Austin Tatum of Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge.



**LILLIAN LONG**, 95-year-old member of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, is interviewed during the congress by Kevin Shrum, pastor, Inglewood Church.



# 'Mainstream' Baptists form nationwide network

Byrv Knox  
Associated Baptist Press

LANTA — Southern Baptists opposed to the potential "fundamentalist domination" of churches and state Baptist conventions have formed the Network of Mainstream Baptists to strengthen their cause. Slightly more than 100 representatives from 15 states, including Tennessee, participated in a "mainstream Baptist convention" here April 25-26. Participants at the meeting adopted the label "mainstream"

to signal their affinity for what they call historic or traditional Baptist beliefs.

The mainstream Baptists disavowed any interest in forming either an alternative national convention to oppose the SBC or a political apparatus to recapture control of the SBC.

"We have no desire to create a massive organization," stressed John Baugh, a Houston layman and leader of the mainstream movement.

Instead, consultation participants expressed a desire to prevent their churches and state

conventions from following the rightward political/theological path taken by the SBC during the past two decades.

The new network is not a seed of the Baptist Convention of America, said Herbert Reynolds, chancellor of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, who proposed the hemispheric con-

vention in 1998.

The network is needed "in order to coordinate and collaborate our efforts to a greater degree," Reynolds explained.

The network also is not a competitor to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of so-called moderate Baptists that began providing church resources and sponsoring missionaries apart from the SBC in 1991, Reynolds added.

"They're not competitive at all. The CBF has not attempted to go into the states to help them extricate themselves from fundamentalist control or prevent fundamentalist control, tasks taken on by mainstream organizations," he said. ■

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## Life and Work Lesson

### Driven by devotion

my Gentry

**Focal Passage: I Chronicles 22:1, 5-13, 17-19**

Following the turbulence of the Bathsheba affair and its implications, David's experience with the results in a life that is driven by devotion. I and II Chronicles is a survey of the history of God's people, from creation to the beginnings of the Persian Empire. David's reign is examined extensively in I Chronicles 22-29. Most of these narratives are paralleled in Samuel. Notwithstanding, chapters 22-29 do duplicate in Scripture. From these ancient writings, Christians discover the importance of being driven by devotion to God.

**David gives his best to God (vv. 1, 5).** David sought to give his best to God. Realizing he was the one to build the Lord's house, he is afforded the opportunity, under the leadership of the Spirit, to select the place where the temple would be erected. There is significance to the locale. I Chronicles 3:1 says the site was Moriah, a holy place for the Hebrews since it was here that Abraham offered Isaac as sacrifice (see Genesis 22:2). It was the Lord's choice and it is affirmed through David. As a result of David's devotion it seems that the temple was prefabricated by the "man after the Lord's heart" as verse 5 indicates. David realizes that Solomon, lacking experience, so David puts in place events that will result in Solomon continuing the temple to the glory of God. In all of this, David readily observes a person who desires to give his best efforts to God's desire.

**God may have a different plan (vv. 10-13).** In these verses one observes a connection between the Moses-Joshua saga. The parallels are intriguing which suggests a continuity throughout the Scriptures. While David cannot build the temple, he can do all the necessary preparations for its construction. Just as Moses could not lead the Hebrews into the Promised Land, why is David not permitted to build it? His life had been characterized by warfare and even though it was in the Lord's service, this disabled him from building. In Solomon's reign, however, would be distinguished by peace. It is interesting that the name "Solomon" is a cousin to the Hebrew word for "peace." As verse 10 indicates, under his rule Israel would know peace. Note that the text doesn't condemn David for warfare. The victories resulted in a time of peace for Solomon, of peace so the temple could be built. Logically, David should have built the temple, but God has a novel design. A few centuries later, Isaiah would say to the Exiles in Isaiah 55, "My ways are not your ways and your ways are not mine," says the Lord. Believers are to be open to ways which could very well be different.

**Know the secret of your success (vv. 11-13).** In his tender invocation, a father encourages his son, defines the task ahead, and assures of God's assistance. Once again there is a connection between Moses and Joshua (see Deuteronomy 31:23 and Joshua 1:6-9). Later Solomon will pray for wisdom (I Kings 3:9) to do the work. How does one attain success? A believer who is driven by devotion knows that faithful obedience to the Lord is the standard by which it is measured. David and Solomon were faithfully obedient.

**Hopelessly devoted to God (vv. 17-19).** After a private commission to Solomon, David addresses the leaders of Israel. The essence of his message is that they are to help Solomon and to remember that God has been, is, and will be with them. The primary thrust, however, is that they are to be hopelessly devoted to the Lord God. — Gentry is pastor Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield.

## From reluctance to joyful giving

By Joe Sorah

**Focal Passage: II Corinthians 9:1-13**

A certain minister was trying to help his church overcome her financial problems. One Sunday before the sermon he announced, "Members, this morning I have three sermons — it's your choice. The first takes an hour and a half and is worth \$1. The second takes 45 minutes and is worth \$10. The third takes 15 minutes and is worth \$20. Will the ushers please come forward to take up the collection."

Many Christians have not experienced the joy of giving. Jesus said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive* (Acts 20:35). The Corinthian believers were encouraged to give financial assistance to the struggling believers in Jerusalem. II Corinthians 8-9 serve as excellent teachings for the church on the subject of giving. Let's take a look at chapter nine.

### Family Bible Lesson

**Paul begins with a gentle reminder (vv. 1-5).** A year earlier the Corinthian believers had pledged to help the Jerusalem believers. Paul had boasted of their intention. However, they had not gotten around to taking the offering. The Apostle sought to encourage the believers to spring to action. He stated that he aimed to visit soon and, should any Macedonians accompany him, it could be an embarrassing situation.

Good intentions do not pay bills, send missionaries to the ends of the earth, nor support ministries. Many believers have pledged that they would someday give as they should but have never gotten around to actually giving as they promised. If you are one of those, Paul has

some things he wants you to hear.

**Paul continues with some giving instructions (vv. 6-13).**

The Apostle outlined three ways in which we should give: *We should give generously* (v. 6). Some call this the echo principle. You reap what you sow. The more you sow, the more you reap. If you want more, you must sow more. From my father's garden, I can testify this principle works with green beans.

*We should give purposefully* (v. 7). The Apostle instructed that a person ought to choose for himself what he ought to give. Giving ought not to be a matter of impulse, but something we have carefully and prayerfully thought out. Giving should flow as a natural result of the relationship we have with the Father. God's Word has already set the minimum a person should give as the tithe. Beyond that, we begin to give our offering.

*We should give cheerfully* (vv. 7-9). We can have one of three attitudes as we give. We can be a tearful giver ("grudgingly"). We can be a fearful giver ("of necessity"). We can be a cheerful giver. One pastor sought to help his members become cheerful givers. When the time came for the offering, he instructed everyone to stand and reach forward to the person standing in front of them and get out their pocketbook. Then he added, "Now open the pocketbook and give as you always wanted to, but felt you couldn't afford." You might want to try that in your class this Sunday. I know it would make your pastor happy.

Verses 10-13 report four results of giving generously, purposefully, and cheerfully. The giver will be blessed (vv. 10-11). Needs will be met (v. 12). Thanksgiving will be expressed (v. 12). Praise will be lifted up (v. 13). With such results, may our reluctance to giving give way to joyful giving. — Sorah is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

## Living irresponsibly

By Garry Miller

**Focal Passages:**

**Judges 13:2-5; 16:16-21**

Samson is one of the truly tragic figures of the Old Testament. In my opinion, he had more potential for success and personal achievement than any of the other judges. But he squandered his opportunities, one after another, until finally he ended up grinding in the prison house. His problem was that he was plagued with a condition, not uncommon in humans of this current era, that I call "Ego Optimetric Syndrome," EOS for short. I am not sure that EOS is a recognized medical or psychological disorder, but I am sure that a lot of people have it.

What it consists of is a series of symptoms that are simply summarized in the philosophy of "Looking out for Number 1." As you read through Judges 13-16 you might be surprised to find the number of times Samson uses the first person pronouns "I," "me," "my," and "mine." No less than 48 times we find these words coming from the mouth of Samson.

In his very first recorded statement in Judges 14:2, the first word is "I." You might say, He had "I" trouble. "I" is the middle letter in sin and pride. Even in his final prayer in Judges 16:28 he was more focused on what he wanted God to do for him than on what he could do for God. His last recorded utterance, *Let me*

### Explore the Bible Lesson

*die with the Philistines* (v. 30) is a sad commentary on his life of irresponsibly, gratifying his own desires and his unfaithfulness to his Nazirite vow, rather than glorifying his God and being obedient to the one who had blessed and used him many times in spite of irresponsibility.

I do not visualize Samson with a muscular, brawny, "Victor Mature-esque" physique depicted by the Hollywood screen writers. In my view Samson was probably a pretty ordinary, not too distinguished looking (except for the flowing locks) Danite. That would have made his feats of heroism and strength even more astonishing. If he appeared to have the ability to, let's say, kill a lion and tear it apart with his bare hands (Judges 14:6); slay thirty men in Ashkelon and take their garments (v. 19); catch 300 foxes, tie their tails together two-by-two with a torch between each pair, and turn them loose in the Philistine's standing grain (Judges 15:4-5); kill 1,000 men with the jawbone of a donkey (v. 15); or carry the doors of the gate and the two gateposts of the city from Gaza to the hill that overlooks Hebron, a distance of 38 miles (Judges 16:3), then those feats could be at-

tributed to his innate abilities. But it was not Samson's strength that allowed him to do these things. It was because *the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him* (14:6, 19; 15:14).

The real tragedy of Samson's life is not that he died in the temple of a Philistine god after he had been captured and blinded by his enemies. No, the real tragedy is that *he did not know that the Lord had departed from him* (Judges 16:20c, NKJV). Unfortunately, Samson's situation was not much different than many believers in Baptist churches today. Vance Havner used to say that the Holy Spirit could remove himself from 95% of the Baptist churches and nothing would change. It would be business as usual because the people and the leaders were not depending on him anyway. I can think of no more irresponsible way of living than living out of touch with God's Holy Spirit. He is the one Jesus promised to send from the Father, called along side of us to comfort, convict, challenge, teach, direct, and intercede for us, as well as to shed his love abroad in our hearts. The single most responsible action we can take is to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit so that he can equip, enable, and energize us to live our lives to the glory of God. Do you know that God's Spirit is with you and in you? I pray that you do. — Miller is pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Humboldt.





## leaders

■ **James Mayes** has been called as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Gray.

■ **Union Baptist Church**, Knoxville, in Knox County Baptist Association, has called **Craig Cummings** as pastor to succeed **John Thomerson** who recently retired.

■ **Gene Stafford** has been called as pastor, New Union Baptist Church, Medon. He was pastor of Woodville Baptist Church, Ripley.

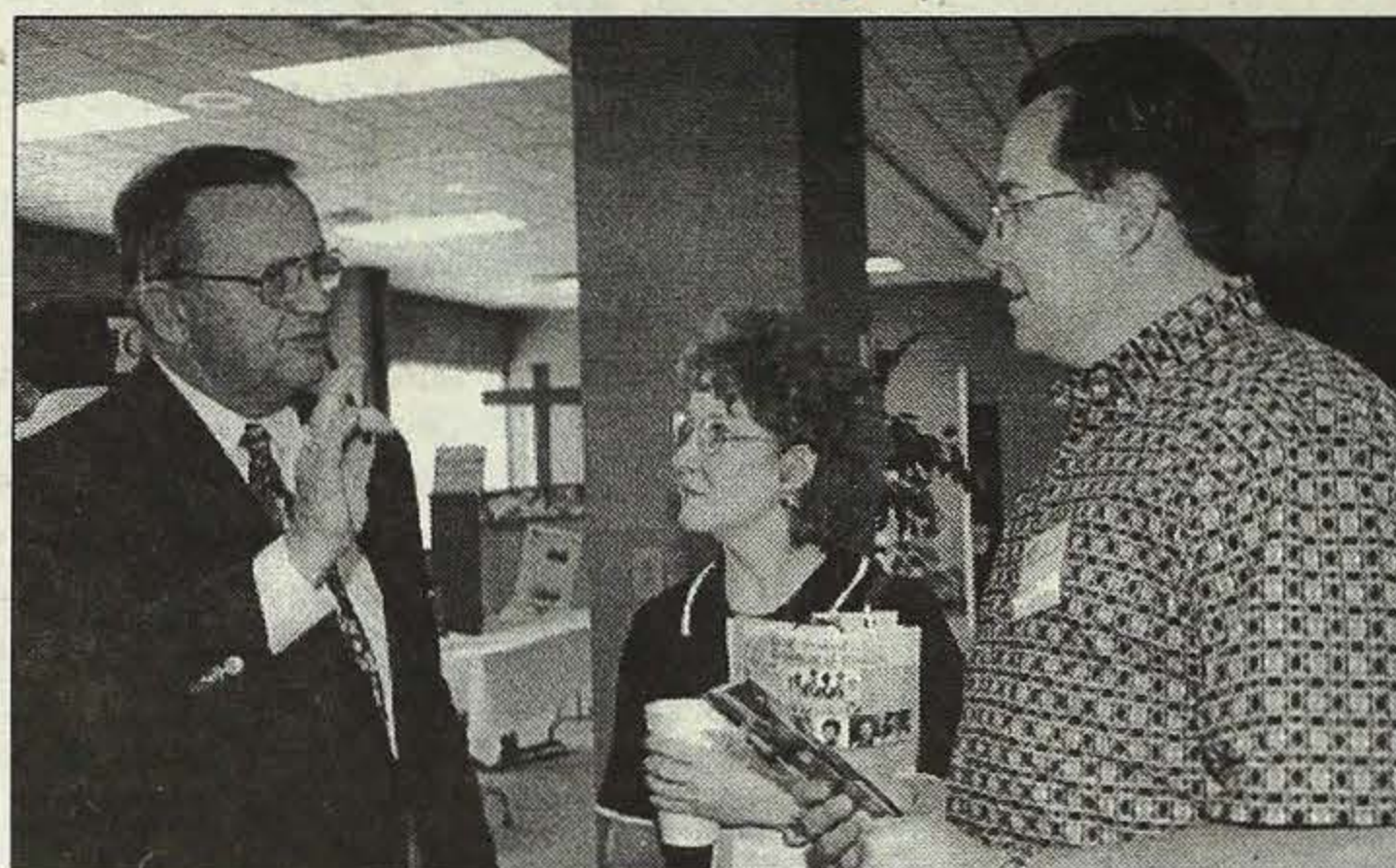
■ **Randy Nelson** has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Ethridge.

■ **Jim Snyder**, director of missions in Tennessee Baptist Valley Association, headquartered in Dayton, since last August, has resigned to become director of missions in Chilhowee Baptist Association, effective June 1. Prior to becoming DOM in Tennessee Valley, Snyder served as associate pastor/education at Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville, for nine years.

■ **James Lane** has been called as associate pastor of

## New church staff attend TBC orientation

For Baptist and Reflector

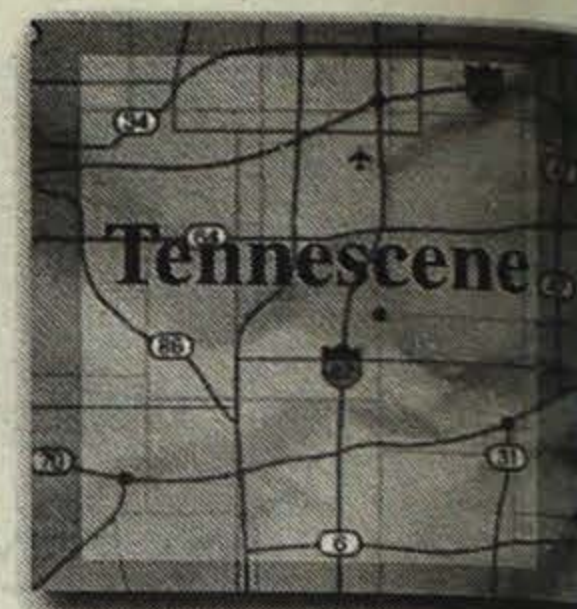


**ABOVE**, Johnnie Hall, left, of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes visits with Chris and Kelly Millett of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, where he serves as minister of music. **RIGHT**, Mary Nimmo, left, of the Baptist and Reflector, visits with Ed Anderson, center, pastor of First Baptist Church, Summitville, center, and Desiree King of New Bethel Baptist Church, Middleton, where her husband, Ernie, serves as pastor. They attended a recent orientation for new church staff in Tennessee at the Baptist Center.



**BRENTWOOD** — Forty-six new state Baptist ministers and their spouses participated in the annual New Church Staff Orientation May 1-2 at the Baptist Center here.

The event is held to acquaint ministers who are new to the state with the ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and its related institutions. ■



day and crusades each night. They anticipate working with 300 young people each day.

## associations

■ **Knox County Baptist Association** will dedicate Associational Ministry Center on May 20 at 2 p.m. The building will contain office space along with rooms for conferences and training. The large meeting room will accommodate up to 200 people. The facility also includes a full equipped kitchen.

■ **Holston Baptist Association** has a new 15-passenger van for use in association-related programs and ministries. Purchase of the van was made possible by member churches.

■ **Bledsoe Baptist Association** will host evangelist Frank Harbor of Fort Worth, Texas, at its spring evangelistic conference June 1, from 8 a.m.-noon, at First Baptist Church, Gallatin.

■ **Camp Agape of Polk County Baptist Association** based in Benton, will host annual camp for children who have cancer Aug. 19-20. A fundraiser, which will include an auction and a Gospel Jubilee, will be held June 19. Anyone interested in contributing items for the auction or participating in the jubilee should call (423) 384-09.

■ **Western District Baptist Association** is sponsoring a mission project July 24 with Copper Basin Baptist Association's Crisis Center Ducktown. Among their tasks will be working in the center and conducting Backyard Bible Clubs.

## Partnership Prayer Requests

### May

- 17 - Pray for Abundant Life Christian Fellowship Church, Penticton, British Columbia, Canada, which has bought land for a new building.
- 18 - Pray for a 13-member Belmont University basketball team led by Betty Wiseman which will lead sports evangelism May 15-24 in Castelo Branco, Portugal.
- 19 - Pray for a 12-member group from First Baptist Church, Paris, which will do electrical work May 20-28 at a children's home in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 20 - Praise God for Brazilian Baptist churches ministering in a country which recently celebrated its 500th birthday on April 20.
- 21 - Pray for Jorge Sedaca, language ministry leader, for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. He is helping three new congregations.
- 22 - Pray for Beaverly Christian Fellowship Church in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada. It needs funds for a building and land.
- 23 - Pray for Steve and Sharon Ford, missionaries to Portugal, who are holding Bible studies in their home.

Clear Branch Baptist Church, Lake City.

■ **Tuppertown Baptist Church**, Oliver Springs, has called **Don Pride** as pastor.

■ **Bill Brown** recently accepted the pastorate of East Rogersville Baptist Church, Rogersville. He previously served at Bethany Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

■ **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**, Mountain City, has called **Jim Norman** as pastor.

■ **White Hall Baptist Church**, Trenton, ordained **David Gipe** as a deacon on May 7.

■ A new slate of officers has been elected for Nashville Baptist Association's Woman's Missionary Union. They are **Nelda Brown**, director; **Janice Cox**, assistant director; **Marsha Lowry**, secretary; **Linda Walton**, churchwide missions consultant; **Josephine McLeod**, missions involvement consultant; **Judy Scott**, adult consultant; **Lynnda Ryan**, youth consultant; **Beth Tareco**, children's consultant; **Barbara Hoskins**, preschool consultant; **Martha Hodge**, coed resource consultant; **Anne Towns**, cross culture consultant; and **Clara Huff**, missions growth catalyst.

■ **Donald Ramage** has been named professor emeritus at Belmont University in recognition of his 30 years of service with the Nashville-based school. He will retire

May 31 as a biology professor. He formerly served as dean of the School of Sciences for 15 years before resigning in 1998 to teach full time.

■ **Jordan Thomas** is the new minister to college and career at Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett.

■ **White Station Baptist Church**, Memphis, has called **Bryan Lark** as youth minister.

■ **James Moore** has been called as associate pastor and minister of youth and children at Tri-Cities Baptist Church, Gray.

■ **Kathy Martin** is the new full-time director of preschool at Higher Ground Baptist Church, Kingsport.

■ **Wade Taylor** is now serving as pastor of Leclair Baptist Church, Memphis.

■ **Silverdale Baptist Church**, Chattanooga, has called **Tony Walliser** as senior pastor, succeeding F. Bobby Atkins. Walliser has served the church for the last five years as associate pastor and minister of education. He and his wife, Susan, have four children. Walliser was ordained to the ministry in 1988.

■ **Dan Hickson** is the new assistant manager/maintenance at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport. He and his wife, Teresa, have two sons. He began his new duties on May 8.

■ A reception was held for **Kenneth Tramel** on May 7 in

recognition of his 25 years of ministry as pastor of Shop Springs Baptist Church, Lebanon.

## churches

■ Evangelist David Ring will speak at **First Baptist Church, Centerville**, on May 30 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (931) 729-3577.

■ **Boone Trail Baptist Church**, Gray, will soon move into their new 3,000-square-foot educational building, completed recently at a cost of \$72,000. The new facilities will provide six additional rooms for Sunday School.

■ The youth of **Clear Branch Baptist Church, Lake City**, have planned a seven-day mission trip to Jamaica for the last week in July. The group will lead Vacation Bible School during the



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, Pinewood, in Nunnally recently broke ground for a new building. The new complex will connect to the existing church building and provide classrooms, a multipurpose area, a larger kitchen, and will allow for expansion of the existing sanctuary. To symbolize a unified body of Christ working together, each person participated in the groundbreaking ceremony by breaking ground with a shovel.