

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

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May 24, 2000

June 1-4 at Adelphia Coliseum

Middle Tennessee prepares for Billy Graham

Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Much of the success of the Middle Tennessee Billy Graham Crusade here June 1-4 at Adelphia Coliseum rests on the shoulders of Southern Baptists, said Jim Freedman, executive director, Nashville Baptist Association, and secretary of the crusade executive committee. Southern Baptist churches — 157 — are the largest representation of a denomination participating in the crusade, he reported. Churches designated as inner Baptist churches have 70 participating while 69 United Methodist churches are involved.

A total of 579 congregations of 2,341 angelical churches identified within 120-mile diameter of Nashville are participating, noted Freedman.

All leaders needed

All leaders of all participating churches will be needed, said Freedman, who was one of four religious leaders representing the Nashville

community who personally asked Graham to hold the upcoming crusade. They were responding to an initial query by Graham, who told Freedman and the leaders he felt God directing him to hold a crusade in Nashville in 2000.

Volunteers are needed because projections, based on attendance at recent crusades in the United States, forecast 75,000 to attend the Saturday evening session, 60,000 to attend Sunday evening, and 50,000 to attend Thursday and Friday sessions. Adelphia Coliseum holds 66,000 people. The overflow crowd will be placed on a concrete esplanade on the ground level, explained Freedman.

The projections are taking into account the popular special guests who have been invited, including contemporary Christian artists who will perform Saturday evening in the Concert for the Next Generation — Jars of Clay, Kirk Franklin, and dc Talk.

Crusade volunteers will be needed, said Freedman. Already enlisted are



SIGNS SUCH as this one at First Baptist Church, Donelson, are sprinkled all across Middle Tennessee at churches of all denominations.

2,900 counselors; 3,336 choir members; 669 ushers and aisle/section captains; and 2,432 church leaders including age group leaders. Many of these leaders will conduct follow-up efforts.

To reach downtown residents

To involve downtown residents in the crusade, Brett Stewart of Nashville Association and Terry Hoff of the crusade staff have worked with five

churches located near government subsidized housing. Those churches include Messiah Baptist Church near the J. C. Napier Homes and Woodcock Baptist Church near the James Cayce Homes and Tony Sudekum Homes.

Free transportation to the crusade will be provided for residents of the communities by Metropolitan Transit — See Middle, page 11



BILLY GRAHAM

Nominations requested to honor pastors

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Nominations for Bivocational Pastor of the Year and Small Church Pastor of the Year in Tennessee will be accepted through June 30.

A bivocational pastor must have a full-time job in addition to his ministry to qualify for the award. The small church pastor must serve full-time in a church with an average Sunday School attendance of less than 100. Both must have held their positions within the last calendar year.

Awards will be given to pastors in each major region of the state.

— See Nominations, page 11

To Graham crusade in 1955

Invitation proved life-changing for Donelson pastor

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

DONELSON — Roy Fisher can attest to the importance of inviting someone who does not know Christ as his or her Lord and Savior to the Billy Graham Crusade scheduled for June 1-4 at Adelphia Coliseum in Nashville.

Fisher accepted Christ as his Savior 45 years ago — because a friend invited him to a Billy Graham Crusade.

As a boy growing up in Spalding, Lincolnshire, England, Fisher had graduated from high school at the age of 15 and was working as an advertising representative for two local newspapers. He was attending Spalding Parish Church and was a member of the Boys Brigade, a spiritual-

ly-oriented organization geared to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

Fisher recalls his life during those years was "unsettled."

A friend in the Boys Brigade invited Fisher to a Billy Graham Crusade in 1955. Graham was preaching in Glasgow, Scotland, at Kelvin Hall. The crusade was broadcast, via radio, not television, to satellite locations, including one at Spalding Parish Church, Fisher said.

"We just heard his voice."

While Fisher does not remember the entire sermon, he vividly remembers Graham reading Daniel 5:27. "He said you need a Savior."

"God spoke to my heart and I knew my deepest need was to know him personally," Fisher recalled.



PASTOR ROY FISHER of First Baptist Church, Donelson, professed faith in Christ at a Billy Graham crusade 45 years ago.

Fisher noted he went home and just "got on my knees. I felt so close to Christ."

The morning after the crusade Fisher went to work and co-workers began to see a change in his attitude, Fisher said.

"That was the beginning of my walk with the Lord."

Two years later Fisher was called into the ministry and began his education. His ministry moved him to the United States where he has held pastorates in Florida and Arizona. For the past 15 years he has served as pastor at First Baptist Church, Donelson.

"I dread to think where my life would have been without that invitation to hear Billy Graham," Fisher said.

Fisher, who has since met Billy Graham personally, is excited he is leading a revival in Nashville.

— See Invitation, page 11

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Tennesseans assist N.M. fire victims

By Marcia Knox
For Baptist and Reflector

GLORIETA, N.M. — At least three Tennessee Baptists and four others with ties to Tennessee have helped to serve and care for over 1,000 firestorm evacuees from New Mexico's Los Alamos area who were staying at Glorieta, a LifeWay Christian Resources Conference Center.

George and Elizabeth Horton, members of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, and their son John Horton, associate director of Glorieta Conference Center, are staying very busy at Glorieta which has had more than 1,000 unexpected guests, who were victims of May 11 firestorm in Los Alamos.

A "controlled" burn by the National Parks Service May 4 quickly got out of control, and three days later on Sunday evening, May 6, portions of Los Alamos near White Rock community were evacuated.

News reports indicated initially that around 200 houses were destroyed or damaged and more than 400 families homeless in the area. Evacuees who began arriving May 11, at Glorieta, were housed and fed free of charge, and their animals have been permitted to stay.

The American Red Cross preliminarily contacted John Horton May 10 about turning the conference center into an emergency shelter and has constantly stayed in contact.

"We were never officially designated an emergency shelter at Glorieta," said Horton. "We just became one. We opened the doors and said come on in."

Other LifeWay employees in Glorieta with Tennessee ties who helped with the evacuees were: Wendall Newman, manager of the event section, who is a former LifeWay Nashville location Church Recreation employee; his wife Mike Newman, temporary employee at LifeWay Christian Store, and former organist for First Baptist Church, Nashville; Brian Daniel, event planner, and



DONATIONS for firestorm victims in New Mexico have been sent in overwhelming quantities to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. The items are being distributed with the help of Tennessee Baptists.

former Lifeway Nashville location assistant editor in Discipleship; and Larry Haslam, conference center director, and former Lifeway Nashville location Church Recreation camping and retreat consultant.

Since the evacuees arrival George Horton has been unloading trucks filled with donations of bottled water, paper goods, clothing, and other food items. Elizabeth Horton has been organizing books, toys, and other donations.

"Glorieta looks like an outdoor Super Walmart," said John Horton, who is in charge of conference operations. "People have been donating items to Glorieta as far as Albuquerque, New Mexico. Fed EX and UPS trucks are arriving daily with gathered donations. These delivery companies have been volunteering their trucks to bring the donations, and their drivers have been volunteering their time."

George Horton, retired associate pastor of Haywood Hills Church and former pastor of Second Baptist Church, Union City, was on the schedule to preach encouragement to the firestorm evacuees May 15 when the electric power went off and the nightly ecumenical services were cancelled.

While the Hortons have been working with firestorm evacuees,

they have seen the evacuation numbers grow from 230 on May 11 to 300 on May 12. By May 12 the blaze had burned over 20,000 acres of land and forced the evacuation of 20,000 people from the Los Alamos area. At one point the conference center was located 45 miles from fire.

Evacuee numbers continued to grow to 600 by May 13, and 870 on May 14 predominately from Los Alamos and White Rock communities. Early in the week, conference center evacuee numbers peaked out close to 900, but the center serviced over 1,000 with people coming and returning to their homes, according to John Horton.

NAMB Disaster Relief reports indicated that most of Los Alamos was open May 16 for families to return to their homes, and that this may have an impact on the mobile feeding units.

"We have touched a lot of lives, and have shared the love of Christ with people who have asked why would you do this," said John Horton.

"We have definitely touched folks and planted seeds. For one woman the nightly services of encouragement became a personal turning point since she had been out of church for 20 years."

The center also has provided crisis counseling. ■



TBC churches, association join family of subscribers

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Five Tennessee Baptist churches have sent in names of subscribers the *Baptist and Reflector* through the Church Leadership Plan.

The churches are Midland Heights Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Parkview Baptist Church, Lewisburg, Hurricane Grove Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Charity Baptist Church, Fayetteville, and First Baptist Church, Cornersville.

First Baptist Church, Bruceton, also has joined the B&R's Church Page Plan. Once a month, the church will be printing its newsletter the *Baptist and Reflector*.

In addition, Madison Chester and Crockett Baptist associations is using the *Baptist and Reflector* for the next several months print its newsletter twice a month. Churches in these associations who already subscribe will find the associations' first newsletter on page 16 of this issue.

"We are excited that the churches and associations are seeing the need to provide a state Baptist paper to their members," said Editor Lonnie Wilkey.

Anyone interested in learning more about the various subscription plans offered the *Baptist and Reflector* may call Susie Edwards at (615) 371-2003. ■

Houston Baptist University declares autonomy from BGCT

Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Houston Baptist University trustees have declared their autonomy from the Baptist General Convention of Texas in an effort to stop the removal of some trustees who attended churches that "did not meet the threshold requirements of being a BGCT cooperating church."

University President E.D. Hodo told Baptist Press the 33-member board voted unanimously May 16 to protect its trustees and assure a broad-based representation among current and future board members.

"There was a meeting last Friday (May 12) dealing with the selection of new trustees," Hodo said. "Some of the trustees were disallowed because the church they attended did not meet threshold requirements of being a BGCT cooperating church. It was a financial reason."

According to a report in the *Houston*

Chronicle, the BGCT's decision would have had an adverse effect on minority trustees. "Some mainly minority churches cannot afford those contribution requirements to the state convention," Hodo told the *Chronicle*.

Keith Bruce, director of the BGCT's Christian Education Coordinating Board, told Baptist Press there is not a financial requirement to be considered a cooperating church.

"There is no specific minimum required from a church before a member can be elected to an institutional board. However, we do expect trustees to come from churches that positively support the ministry, mission, and budget of the BGCT," Bruce said.

BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade, in a prepared statement, questioned the university's action. "This unilateral action taken by the trustees of Houston Baptist University violates the constitution of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the principles

by which the university and convention have worked together," Wade said.

"It seriously challenges the trust, cooperation, and understanding that for more than 40 years have existed between the university and the Baptist General Convention of Texas."

Wade said the BGCT was shocked and caught off guard by the trustees' decision.

The vote puts in jeopardy nearly \$1.5 million that the state convention contributes to HBU's \$28 million annual budget.

Hodo emphasized that the university would continue to cooperate with the BGCT. Under the charter changes approved May 16, the state convention would appoint new board members and the board was expanded to 36 members. Previously, the convention appointed all trustees.

Hodo said if the board had not taken action at least six trustees would have been ousted from the university. ■

BFM study has 1925, 1963 elements

Note: See pages 4-5 for complete text of the proposed revision to the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

rb Hollinger

SHVILLE — The recommendations of the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee for a new edition of the historic document incorporate portions of the 1925 and 1963 editions, with some revisions, but no new articles, according to Adrian Rogers, chairman of the committee.

Included in the revisions is an addition to Article VI: The Church, which the committee speaks "clearly [the committee's] conviction that while men and women are gifted and called for ministry, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture." There are 18 articles in the statement which include an article on the family added in 1963 at the Salt Lake City convention.

The proposed statement includes a reference to "priesthood of the believer," found in the preamble of the 1963 state-

the solid rock of biblical authority.

"Our confessions represent statements of those doctrines revealed in the Bible. The Bible is the source of our authority, not merely a support for our historic doctrines."

The Southern Baptist Convention first adopted the

tists should hold themselves free to revise their statements of faith as may seem to them wise and expedient," Rogers said.

"We now propose a new edition of our honored confession. This generation must set forth its witness to the truths revealed in the Bible. Where nec-

position to Scripture. Likewise, Scripture cannot be set against Scripture.

(2) "In the context of modern denials of the omniscience, exhaustive foreknowledge, and omnipotence of God, we have reaffirmed the teachings of the Bible and the consistent teaching of our Baptist tradition, as reflected in Article II: God."

The committee noted a paragraph from Herschel H. Hobbs' book, *The Baptist Faith and Message* (1971), page 36: "God has all knowledge. He knows all things simultaneously. His knowledge is immediate, without the process of thought, reason, or inference. His foreknowledge of events does not necessarily mean that He predetermined them. He knows the workings of his natural, physical, moral, and spiritual laws which work toward definite ends. Man is free to choose in the light of them, but is responsible for his choices. God knows these choices beforehand, but does not predetermine them."

(3) "We have made clear our embrace of the substitutionary character of Christ's atonement in Article II. B.: God the Son.

(4) "We have clarified God's creation of human beings as male and female, both made in His image. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. This is reflected in Article III: Man.

(5) "Baptists must also make clear our affirmation of the blessing of racial and ethnic diversity, and acknowledge that all races possess full dignity by the creative intention of God. This is also included in Article III: Man.

(6) "Given the pervasive influence of a postmodern culture, we are called to proclaim Jesus Christ as the only Savior and salvation is in His name alone. Baptists thus reject inclusivism and pluralism in salvation, for these compromise the Gospel itself. Salvation comes only to those who call upon the name of the Lord, and come to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Article IV: Salvation, includes this clarification.

(7) "We reaffirm the New Testament heritage of Baptist congregationalism in Article VI: The Church, recovering the language of the 1925 BF&M and affirming the contribution of the 1963 statement as reflected in the last paragraph of the article. The church comprises all the redeemed, and will include 'believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.'

(8) "The Convention has spoken clearly [SBC resolution in 1984] its conviction that while both men and women are gifted and called for ministry,

the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. This is included in Article VI: The Church.

(9) "Our Baptist ancestors of a mere generation ago could not have imagined the need to address the issues of abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, and all manner of deviant and pagan sexuality. We answer with a clear word of biblical correction. This is found in Article XV: The Christian and the Social Order."

Rogers said other articles have minor clarifications and language adjusted to modern usage, and added phrases from the 1925 statement as appropriate.

Committee members

Study committee members, in addition to Rogers, were Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a member of Highview Baptist Church, Louisville; Steve Gaines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gardendale, Ala.; and Heather King, state WMU/women's ministries director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and member of Northside Baptist Church, Indianapolis.

Other members were Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church, Phoenix; T.C. Pinckney, member of Good News Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.; Susie Hawkins, member of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, and wife of SBC Annuity Board President O. S. Hawkins; Charles Kelley Jr., president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and member of First Baptist Church, New Orleans; and Roger Spradlin, pastor of Valley Baptist Church, Bakersfield, Calif.

Other members were Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Nashville, and member of ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin; Rudy Hernandez, Hispanic Southern Baptist evangelist and member of Primera Iglesia Bautista, Grand Prairie, Texas; Fred Luter, African American pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans; Max Barnett, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Oklahoma and member of Trinity Baptist Church, Norman, Okla.; and Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga. ■



Background

The BF&M Study Committee was authorized by messengers to the 1999 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. The convention authorized President Paige Patterson to name a committee to review the historic document and report back at the 2000 annual meeting. The 15-person committee met several times in the past

Rogers, longtime pastor

Bellevue

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recommendations before

June 13-14 annual meeting

Orlando, Fla.

We were guided by the rich

age embodied in the 1925

1963 editions of the

BF&M," Rogers said. "We have

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rengths of that noble her-

age, to clarify the truths

expressed, and to ad-

ress the needs of our own

times.

Baptists cherish our doctri-

neritance. We are a peo-

ple of the Book, who recognize

no other authority for faith

or practice but God's Word.

As we receive and affirm

these doctrines revealed in the

Scripture, and we are unembar-

assed to take our stand upon

BF&M in 1925 as a public statement of Southern Baptists' faith and doctrine. Nearly 40 years later, faced with new challenges and questions, Rogers said, the convention adopted a revised edition of the BF&M in 1963.

"Now, again nearly 40 years after the convention's last comprehensive action, a new generation must take up the stewardship of the faith 'once for all delivered to the saints' (Jude 3).

"Our generation faces the reality of a postmodern culture, complete with rampant relativism and the denial of absolute truth," Rogers said. "A pervasive secularism has infected our society and its corrosive effects are evident throughout the life of our nation. Moral decay and assaults upon cherished truths dominate the arena in which we must now minister, and to which we must now proclaim the Gospel.

"Our profound respect for the heritage of the previous statements is reflected in the intentional decision of our committee to incorporate language from both the 1925 and 1963 editions in our recommendation. Both of these historic statements speak to the present, as well as the past."

Preface explains

Rogers said the preface to the report sets forth the rationale and method.

"With the 1963 committee, we cite the principle set forth by our forebears in 1925: 'As in the past, so in the future, Bap-

essary, we have proposed changes and additions to certain sections. We have retained the structure of the confession and the substance of each article," Rogers said. "We have proposed no new articles. Several of the articles are presented without any revision at all. Our recommendation is intended to clarify our doctrines for this present age, and to define our beliefs against the backdrop of modern confusion.

"Our hope is that a rising generation of Baptists will recognize the significance of our biblical doctrines, embrace our Baptist heritage, and own this confession of faith for themselves."

Summary of articles

Rogers released a nine-point summary of the revised articles included in committee's report:

(1) "We have sought to clarify the intention of both previous editions of the BF&M as reflected in Article I: The Scriptures. We have made the total truthfulness and trustworthiness of the Bible even more explicit, and we point to Jesus Christ as the focus of divine revelation.

"We have removed the statement that identified Jesus Christ as 'the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted,' because it has been subject to misunderstanding. Jesus Christ cannot be divided from the biblical revelation that is testimony to Him. We must not claim a knowledge of Christ that is independent of Scripture or in any way in op-



ROGERS

1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement with 1988 Amendment

Editor's Note — Scripture references which follow each section were omitted because of space limitations.

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

1. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in his attitude toward all men.

2. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, partaking of the nature of God and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

3. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church.

Proposed Baptist Faith and Message Statement

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1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement with 1988 Amendment

He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

III. Man

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence; whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin, and as soon as they are capable of moral action become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfil the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

1. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.

2. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

3. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Proposed Baptist Faith and Message Statement

ness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

III. Man

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Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

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V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation, members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual — See next page

Proposed Baptist Faith and Message Statement

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

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Continued from page 4.
both public and private, refraining from worldly pleasures, and resting from employments, work of hands, and mercy only being

X. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

X. Last Things

In His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every Christian to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all

— Continued from page 4.
both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

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that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

XIV. Co-Operation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure co-operation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should co-operate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary co-operation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Co-operation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such co-operation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and his truth.

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war

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spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents. ■

spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

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One word that describes Billy Graham — faithful

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

A Christian icon is coming to Middle Tennessee — Billy Graham.

Two words immediately come to mind — evangelism and faithfulness.

To many people, Graham is a worldwide symbol of evangelism. He has preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to more people in live audiences than anyone else in history — more than 210 million people in more than 185 countries and territories. Add to that millions more who have heard him through radio and television broadcasts of his crusades.

In addition, through films, *Decision* magazine, and the "Hour of Decision" radio program, along with a syndicated newspaper column, millions of viewers, readers, and listeners have been encouraged in their growth in Christian faith and prayer.

Only God in heaven knows for sure how many lives have been affected by the preaching of Billy Graham.

For countless others, the name Billy Graham brings to mind the definition of a true, steadfast Christian — faithful to God, faithful to God's Word.

Billy Graham has been preaching God's Word for nearly 60 years. He preached his first crusade in 1949 and founded his evangelistic association a year later. He has found different ways to deliver God's Word.

Middle Tennessee Billy Graham Crusade

June 1-4 at Adelphia Coliseum

He uses different people who have Christian messages to help attract "crowds" to hear the Word of God proclaimed. But one thing over all these years remains the same and that is the message itself. The Word of God has not changed and Billy Graham makes no bones about it. He preaches straight from "the Word" without compromise.

As with all great leaders, Graham has not been without critics. He has been criticized for not publicly taking stands on social concerns and other issues over the years.

Graham basically has taken the approach of sticking to what God has called him to do — preach the Word and help evangelize a lost world. He has kept from being distracted. He says it best: "My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship

with God, which, I believe, comes through knowing Christ."

As Southern Baptists we can take pride that Graham is "one of us." Yet, Graham transcends denominational barriers.

The upcoming Middle Tennessee crusade at Adelphia Coliseum June 1-4 is a prime example. More than 575 churches representing 48 denominations throughout the region have participated in a year-long effort to bring about this crusade.

No doubt, Middle Tennesseans (along with others from throughout Tennessee and surrounding states) will turn out in droves. Let's face it — Billy Graham is 81 years old and will not be able to continue doing crusades forever. Though this is his seventh crusade in Tennessee, it is his first since 1979 and it could be his last appearance in the Volunteer State.

Don't go just to say you heard Billy Graham in person. Go expecting him to say something that will change your life. Most importantly, don't go alone. Take someone who does not know Christ or who has drifted from Christ with you. Statistics show that many who make decisions at a Graham crusade were there because someone invited them or took them.

Pray for Billy Graham and the entire crusade team along with the thousands of volunteers who are working to make this crusade a success. Pray for people to attend who need to be there.

The Kingdom of God stands to gain. **B&R**



just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Eudora Church,



Start with a smile

Jane (in a crowded office on a hot day when the air conditioning was broken): "Uh, I'm afraid someone's dead. It isn't working." File CL "Can't be me. I'm not wearing any."

Take this truth

Rules are made for every not merely your friends neighbors. In other words one is above the law.

Memorize this Scripture

"First, take the log out of your own eye and then you be able to see clearly to the speck out of your brother's eye." — Matthew 7:5, TEV

Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to remember my actions speak so loudly I seldom hear what I am saying." ■ — Wood can be e-mailed at drfredwood@aol.com

Children across state hide God's Word in hearts

guest column

by Liz Lee
TBC Christian Growth Development Group

In April more than 1,000 boys and girls in grades four-six all

across Tennessee gathered at various locations to share their knowledge of the Bible during the state Bible Drill competitions.

The children competed in four types of Bible memorization — from looking up books of the Bible, locating key passages, quoting verses when the reference is given, and completing verses when a portion of the verse is given and giving the ref-

erence. "Easy," you think. These responses must be done within a 10-second time period.

While this seems like a lot of work, the real reward comes later when a driller comes to you and says, "At school, my best friend's cousin was killed. I didn't know how to help until I remembered some of the verses I learned in Bible drill." Emphasis is given upon "the hiding of

God's Word." An added bonus of the drill is the multitude of leaders who help the children learn the verses and the 66 books of the Bible.

At a time when children have such turmoil around them, the learning of God's Word can bring peace. For more information about all aspects of Bible drills, including training, call me at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2081. ■

Believers need to explore depths of truths already known

The Word on the world

by Kevin Shrum



Editor's Note: Kevin Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville. He will write this new column on a regular basis.

My dad has a basset hound Sabastian. Basset hounds have an incredible sense of smell. The only problem is that Sabastian loves to put his nose to the ground and go wherever it leads — even if the trail is long since cold.

Sabastian reminds me of many modern-day believers who love to seek after supposed new truths, their spiritual noses leading them down long since cold trails of theological inquiry. The smell of being "enlightened" is too enticing for some modern believers who don't want to appear unsophisticated and archaic to a world so well-informed and up-to-date.

In the process, various biblical truths have often been wa-

tered down or abandoned altogether. For example, the recent claims of the Jesus Seminar that Jesus never really said the vast majority of the things recorded in the Gospels is a now disproven and discredited remake of the quest for the "real, historical Jesus."

Further, many mainline denominations cannot declare a clear position on such issues as homosexuality, adultery, the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, and the basic parameters of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Many believe that there must be new truth claims in relation to these significant areas of concern. Surely

there are no fixed, eternal truths, some would say?

The problem is that the church functions in a world that despises any kind of certitude. If one declares a position of conviction on a particular subject that person is labeled narrow-minded, unsophisticated, even bigoted. On the other hand, open mindedness, a search after truth whether one discovers truth or not, and a desire to be tolerant are supposed evidences of a mature adult.

But has this 'Sabastian type' of truth-seeking been productive for the church? Of course, God wants his children to seek truth. Truth sets people free (John

8:32). But is it new truths that we need to discover? Or, new dimensions to truths already known? Believers must continue to seek and explore the depths of already known truths, discovering new ways to apply already revealed truth.

Let's resolve that we will not be "Sabastian type" truth seekers who love the search for truth more than truth itself.

Let us be thoughtful seekers of further understandings of truths already revealed and known. Let's let Sabastian know that the trail to enlightenment is long since cold and leads only to fruitless, destructive non-truth claims. ■

Church of the Covered Dish

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



Partnership

Prayer Requests May

- 24 — Pray for Community Hope Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, which has moved into a new building downtown.
- 25 — Pray for a Messianic Jew church start in Flint, Mich.
- 26 — Pray for Art and Dot Dennis, IMB ISC Nicaragua Disaster Response Volunteer coordinators, as they schedule recovery projects to help victims of Hurricane Mitch.
- 27 — Pray for churches in Michigan without pastors.
- 28 — Pray for Tina Butts, IMB missionary to Portugal. She has been diagnosed with a cyst which is affecting her vision. Pray for healing.
- 29 — Pray for a vision to reach all the language groups, which may become part of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.
- 30 — Pray for Immanuel Fellowship Church in Vancouver as the church seeks a pastor.
- 31 — Pray for Craig and Ellen Steele, IMB missionaries to Brazil, who are on stateside assignment in the



The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

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

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

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

From your missionary

Works with missionaries

Tennessee missionary serves in Portugal

By Marcia Knox
For "The Macedonian Call"

A TBC/NAMB Missionary based in Tennessee recently led a volunteer missionary supervision conference and consulted with IMB missionaries in Portugal on using Tennessee Baptist volunteers.

Bill Black, Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries director, traveled April 5-16 across Portugal visiting missionaries in their work areas and made suggestions on how to use Tennessee volunteers in their work.

"By making suggestions on using Tennessee volunteers to the missionaries, it gave the missionaries a whole new possibility and energy level for their ministries," Black said.

Black visited missionaries Steve and Tommie Smith in Lisbon where he based his observations on the main people areas of transportation, business, sports, and tourism centers. Black suggested street ministry in the transportation centers where buses and trains depart, shopping visitation in the business centers downtown, sports camps with volunteer teams interacting with fans at sports stadium events, and performance ministry in the tourist areas.

During the Conference on Volunteers April 11-12 in Bombarral, Black taught

the missionaries orientation, supervision skills, volunteer management skills and resources, how to generate ideas for volunteer teams, and how to generate excitement about the overall project.

When Black visited with missionaries Don and Rose McCain in Bombarral, he participated in a baptismal service on the beach for a young woman from Ireland who had become a Christian through contact with the McCains.

According to Black, this baptism was a significant moment for Don McCain, a national pastor, and himself because it symbolized the blending together of a local Portuguese church, a new cell church, and a Tennessee volunteer.

Black also visited with missionaries, Norman and Gunita Harrell, who work in



IMB MISSIONARY Don McCain baptizes a young woman from Ireland on the beach in Portugal. Bill Black participated in the service.

the Algarve region, which serves as a major beach resort with 5 million visitors per year. It was Black's recommendation that all resort and beach ministries could be used in the area.

"The Harrells were doing everything right, but were seeking help in terms of work direction and work load," Black noted. "I suggested why not have Tennessee volunteers do it for you." ■

Fairview group returns, pray for new Rio friends

By Marcia Knox
For "The Macedonian Call"

"When I pray for people now in Brazil, it has taken on a new meaning in my life from what it has meant to me in the past," according to a TBC employee, who worked April 28-May 7 in evangelism and helping with a revival.

Dianna Hughes, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group Administrative Assistant to the Group Leader, her husband Harry Hughes, Diane and Ricky Campbell, and team leader and youth minister Shawn Stutz, all members of First Baptist Church, Fairview, have a new perspective about people in Rio de Janeiro since they have visited there.

This is especially true for Dianna Hughes and other members of the MAI team, who gather almost every weekday morning to pray for the many partnership prayer needs. She now has names and faces to put with her Rio de Janeiro prayer requests.

"Christ's love to me is the

same in any language," she said. "God used a lot of the experiences that we've had in the past to share Christ's love with the people we met in Rio de Janeiro, and to show them how Christ's love has helped us work through things."

One of the many Brazilian families that the Hugheses are praying for is a Christian mother with cancer and a newly disciplined husband who accepted Christ when they visited the family. There are also two Christian children in the home and a grandmother, who did not accept Christ.

Another home that they are praying for is the home of an elderly diabetic man who has had parts of his leg removed three times. In the home, the man, his daughter, and nephew accepted Christ on their visit.

The last person the Hugheses expected to meet in a home and pray with was a lady spiritist, who had the front part of her hair dyed purple and sunk in eyes.

The spiritist also had a rest-

less blackbird in a cage and a hairless dog in her home.

When they talked the woman was distracted and never made eye contact. The spiritist became uncomfortable with the Hugheses' questions about salvation and invited her neighbors over to meet them. The neighbors happened to be Christians.

"She told us she was glad that we brought Jesus into her house, but that she had her own religion," Hughes noted. "We joined hands and prayed for her as we left her house, and I hugged her."

These are only some of the 51 decisions that the Fairview team experienced in Rio de Janeiro as they led in nightly revivals at the First Baptist Church of Barros Filho. In addition to these, there were several decisions made at a school, which the team visited.

Stutz preached nightly through an interpreter and team members shared

their testimonies. The Tennessee team was also supported on their daily visitation by First Church of Barros Filho staff, members, and youth.

"Going to Rio de Janeiro has changed my prayer life on how I look at missions," said Dianna Hughes. "Missions has become real to me." B&R



VISITING the Christ Statute in Rio are, from left, Harry Hughes, Diane Campbell, Dianna Hughes, Ricky Campbell and Shawn Stutz all of First Baptist Church, Fairview.

In Christ,

Lerry

The Macedonian Call

Highland Church, Pulaski, prayerwalks in Portugal

By Marcia Knox
For "The Macedonian Call"

"I will never be the same person who left Pulaski, Tennessee, on March 31, 2000," according to a Partnership/Missions volunteer, who recently returned from a prayerwalking trip to Portugal.

Dot Solomon, a member of Highland Baptist Church, Pulaski, had never been out of the United States on a Partnership/Missions trip when she prayerwalked March 31-April 9 along with 13 others in Portimao and Lagos, Portugal.

"I will forever be thankful to the Lord for allowing me to serve him in this place," said Solomon. "My life will forever be changed. My spiritual being has been enriched by this experience."

"I had been feeling led by the Lord to do a Partnership/Volunteer Missions project when I attended the 1999 Tennessee Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church, Franklin," said Joe Evans, pastor of Highland Church and team leader. "I talked with IMB missionary to Portugal John Butts in the exhibit area at the convention and also to Nell and Bobby Franks, members of

Highland Church."

This nuclear group decided to pray about the mission trip; and the project was offered to all the churches in the Giles County Baptist Association.

Others responding to the prayerwalking project were: Madge and Chris Atkinson, pastor of Elkton Baptist Church, Elkton; Rose Cartee, Becky Evans, wife of Joe Evans, Robin Hood, Barbara Hottenstein, Wanda and Mike Siniard, and Charles Solomon, all of Highland Church; and Linda Smith, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Goodspring.

When the team arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, they traveled around 150 miles by bus to Portimao where they were to prayerwalk with IMB missionaries Norman and Gunita Harrell of Portimao, journeyman Rebecca Porter, and British pastor and wife team of David and Valerie Redaway from Hereford Baptist Church in England.

"Portugal is a mix of 98% Catholicism, and the rest witchcraft, voodoo, Satanism, and demonic activity," said Joe Evans. "We saw hopelessness, despair, and discouragement in people's faces."

"We were advised by the missionaries to pray as we

were walking and to keep our eyes open so not to cause concern. Praying with our eyes open was different for us."

Since Nell Franks underwent cancer surgery prior to the trip, the team opted out to stay at a bed and breakfast in Portimao where a variety of meals could be served. The owner of the bed and breakfast was a German woman, who was witnessed to by the team. Several members of the team felt an unknown presence in the home.

The team worshiped Sunday, April 2, at the International Church in Portimao. During the English service in the morning Joe Evans spoke, and in the Portuguese service at night Chris Atkinson spoke.

The next day the team used the church as a kind of headquarters to depart from while working in prayerwalking teams of three as they prayed in the vicinity near the church which had apartment buildings, schools, hospitals.

One prayer group stayed in the church and prayed for Portimao and for the other prayer teams as they left the church. The team also distributed church publicity to many hotels in the Praia da Rocha area, a

tourist area with a beach.

The team traveled Tuesday, April 4, to Lagos, a city of over 20,000 that does not have a Baptist presence. The team discovered that Lagos is a city full of social problems with drugs, skinheads, and evil.

The missionaries had asked the team to pray around the old portion of the city, which had an ancient wall. The team followed the wall all the way around to dedicate everything inside and outside to the Lord.

"Brother Harrell, Dot, and I stood on the hilltop by the wall looking down on the city of Lagos with its beauty and the harbor while praying for the people," said Charles Solomon. "What a beautiful thought it would be if the lives of the people there were as beautiful as the city and its harbor."

"We began to sense the veil of darkness being lifted in both cities of Portimao and Lagos," said Evans. "We didn't do any harvesting; we did sowing."

The next day in Lagos, the team visited the storefront building where the Harrells hoped to establish a new ministry center near the beach. The team was on hand when the missionaries received the key and helped clean up the building, dedicate it, and do a

spiritual cleansing. Charles Sullivan and Mike Siniard installed the light fixtures for the new ministry center.

"We thought it was significant that the week we were in Portugal was the week that the missionaries moved into the center, and we held a worship service," said Evans.

"Because we had stayed at the bed and breakfast we saved over \$300 in American money which we gave to the mission as a down payment for the ministry center, which amounted to \$7,000 in escudos."

A group of six ladies including Gunita Harrell traveled Friday, April 7, to Monchique a town in the nearby mountains to climb to the top of a mountain to pray for the entire area.

"When we went to the mountains of Monchique, we got to the very top and Madge Robin, and I climbed on the rocks to get to the highest point," said Wanda Siniard. "We had an awesome experience from up there where we saw what God created. When we went down the mountain with the people, we saw how man has corrupted what God has given."

"Now that we have returned, we all want to go back to Portugal," said Evans. ■

Belmont students minister in Rio during spring break

For "The Macedonian Call"

It's not how you get there on a mission trip, it's what happens to you that makes the trip worthwhile, according to a Belmont University BSU S.P.O.T.S. team, who were rerouted to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, through Caracas, Venezuela, and twice through Atlanta, Georgia.

"In spite of the difficulty getting to Rio de Janeiro, and the challenging work we faced there, ask any team member in Belmont's Rio 2000 mission trip if they would do it again and they would say, 'in a New York minute,'" said Matthew Kerlin, Belmont University minister.

"Mission trips are not easy, glamorous, restful, vacations, and all fun and games. We worked a 120-hour week and returned exhausted."

The Belmont team of 35 students and six staff members had boarded their plane and prepared to depart Nashville International Airport March 10 when their pilot informed them that on the previous flight their plane had been struck by lightning on the nose and which had exited out the wing.

Photos of the wing were sent to Atlanta for instructions concerning repair and approval for take-off from Nashville. Several faxes, a couple of strips of metal tape, and two hours later, the team flew out of Nashville to Atlanta to make a connection to Rio de Janeiro.

The plane arrived late in Atlanta;

and the team found out that they missed the flight to Rio de Janeiro. New arrangements were then made to travel on to Rio de Janeiro; and the team spent the night at the Atlanta Airport Days Inn.

The next day in Atlanta 36 members of the team were given boarding passes to Caracas and then to Rio de Janeiro. Four members of the team were rescheduled to travel on the plane that they missed the night before to Rio de Janeiro. The team's photographer John Bamber, a Belmont student, made all his flights and arrived in Rio de Janeiro to wonder what happened to the team.

When the 36 arrived in Caracas to board their flight to Rio de Janeiro, the gate attendants had no record of the team's existence. Stranded in the Caracas airport, the team practiced their drama presentations, worshiped, and told travelers about Jesus. At 2 a.m. the team was taken to the Eurobuilding Hotel to spend the night.

Meanwhile the group of four arrived in Rio de Janeiro Sunday morning, found the photographer, and went to work serving with the churches. Then the 36 boarded a plane to return to Atlanta and finally connected with a flight to Rio de Janeiro. Travel duration from Nashville to Rio de Janeiro was three nights and four days for 36 people.

For five days, five teams of six to eight students fanned out over the city in churches, neighborhoods, slums, schools, orphanages, country clubs, lep-

er colonies, malls, grocery stores, and flea markets.

"We made over 100 home visits and spoke in nearly 20 schools including elementary schools, high schools, universities, and a seminary," added Kerlin. "We worked with eight different churches to lead in 16 separate worship services with reaching around 800 people."

Ministry activities included music, puppets, balloons, preaching, drama, visitation, testimonies, clowning, prayerwalking, panel discussion, sports, and recreation.

"Many students had their first opportunities to preach and had expressed how fearful they'd been about the trip before they left for Rio de Janeiro. How calm they were once they arrived in Brazil and even as they proclaimed God's word through a translator to a group of people who did not speak their language."

A total of 10 team members had preached sermons, and dozens led in worship with dramatic skits, instrumental and vocal music. All of the students had opportunities to share the Gospel, and share their testimonies, and most were able to lead someone to Christ.

"There were over 50 Brazilians who



WORKING with children in Rio are Belmont University members, from left, Jennifer Creason and Teresa Cutter.

prayed to receive Christ as a result of our ministry. Many students told stories of how people they'd spoken with came to Christ with some demonstrating great emotion," said Kerlin.

"Ask any of the trip's adult sponsors if they would trade the hassle of our trip for a leisurely vacation, and they say, 'not in 1000 years!'"

Several students expressed that God might be calling them to the mission field as a career. Five students have planned to return to Rio de Janeiro for mission work this summer.

"Ask me if God changes lives through missions trips, and I'll say either through laughter or tears, and perhaps both absolutely." (From a report by Matthew Kerlin, Belmont University Campus minister, and Tonya Dean, University Ministry program assistant.)

The Macedonian Call

APSU students spend their spring break in Portugal

For "The Macedonian Call"

A 3-member BSU S.P.O.T.S. team from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville served in Porto, Portugal, March 4-12 working in evangelism and construction at a Baptist orphanage.

This was the first American team to go to the Portuguese Evangelical Home, an orphanage started by a Baptist pastor and his wife, according to Jim Alexander, Collegiate Ministry Director at Austin Peay. The team did evangelism at the orphanage and also worked with the children during Carnival while they were out of school.

Jim Alexander, the team included: Stellex Alexander, wife of Jim Alexander, both of FBC, Clarksville; Jim Chambers, First Baptist Church of Clarksville; Justin Slivensky, Grace Baptist Church, Clarksville; Kirsty and Joe Donahue, both of Grace Baptist Church, Nashville; Krista Hampton, Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, Jacksonville; Ronald Morgan, Oakland Free Will Baptist Church, Ashland City; Norman Morris, Grace Bible Church, Clarksville; Sarah Neal, New Vision Fellowship Church, Clarksville; Elisa Thomas, Maryville Evangelical Church, Clarksville; Stephanie Wilson, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville; and Rebecca Lee, Trenton Baptist Church, Trenton, Tenn.

There were 13 of us on the team who periodically show up at Austin Peay State University's Baptist Student Union, Clarksville," said Slivensky. "All of us were in desperate need of a break, but we did not take that break. We went to Porto to keep getting up and to keep working hard, to keep staying up late, and to keep sharing the love."

After a day full of airport hassles and an eight-hour flight, we landed in Lisbon, Portugal, only to load up on a



JUSTIN SLIVENSKY, left, of Tennessee just finished painting the face of this child who is a resident of the Portuguese Evangelical Home.

train to travel for another three and one-half hours. It was the beginning of one of the most beautiful and memorable weeks God has let us experience."

The Portuguese Evangelical Home is a combination of a children's home and a new senior home in separate buildings. The team lived at the senior home for the week, which opened two weeks before their arrival.

"Our project was to paint the living quarters of the children's home," noted Slivensky. "This is the home of 85 children who range in age from infancy to adults whose parents are not able to afford them, are not well enough to care for them, do not want them, or are no longer alive."

"The children's stories may sound tragic, but the love and care that is given to them through the orphanage staff is directly from God. The first night we were there, we went along with them to their church service at Third Baptist Church, Porto. We couldn't understand one word of their prayers or songs, but we prayed with them and tried our best to sing along."



APSU STUDENTS pause during activities with residents of the Portuguese Evangelical Home in Porto, Portugal. Students are, from left, back row, Ronald Morgan, Elisa Thomas and Krista Hampton.

The students started to work the next morning, which was the first day of the Lent week. "There was more time for us to spend bonding with the children and letting them know why we were there. We started painting in the orphanage with children running everywhere screaming Portuguese phrases at us and trying to make us understand them. With help of some of the staff and the older children who could speak a little bit of English, we started to pick it up pretty quickly."

Monday night the team participated in Carnival activities, which was a program full of funny skits, dances, and lip-synchs. Tuesday night was a worship time, and Slivensky presented his testimony.

Wednesday night, Third Church held their worship service at the home; the APSU team performed two skits centered on God's love and salvation, and Chambers gave her testimony.

"The kids realized that we were not there by our own will, but that we were there because God chose to share his love with the kids through us," said

Slivensky.

"Even though there were a few of the children at the home who had been following Christ, Christians were a minority among the group. There were a lot of children left to reach with our service on Thursday night, which God worked that out beautifully." Joe Donahue gave his testimony and presented an illustration of the Gospel and of faith.

"After we ended the meeting, God's Spirit really started moving. A few of the children accepted Christ that evening, and the sincerity of some of the children's concern showed that God has already started his work in them."

"Our eyes are filled with tears because we really miss those kids. Our hearts are filled with joy because we got to know those kids. Our spirits are filled with thanks, wonder, and awe from witnessing God share his love with those kids through a week of our lives that he allowed us to spend with them." (From a report by Justin Slivensky) ■

Alabama health care team returns to Rio

By Marcia Knox
For "The Macedonian Call"

A 25-member medical/evangelism team from Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, recently returned from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, having treated 2,365 patients during a Tennessee Baptist Partnership/Volunteer medical project.

led by Birmingham physician Jim Isobe, the team consisted of members of seven different Alabama churches including Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Brookwood Church, Roebuck Seventh Day Adventist, New Covenant Fellowship Church, Brookwood Baptist Church, all in Birmingham. Steve Danzey, Brookwood Baptist Church Minister of Education and Outreach, led the evangelism teams and worship teams.

Included in the 25-member team were: three physicians, two dentists, one physical therapist, four nurses, one x-ray technician, one EMT, and two teenagers, spouses, and laypeople.

The teams worked March 22-April 2 at Primeira Igreja Baptista in Jacarezinho where they were able to set up an all-purpose clinic, which made the work easier for the group and gave them a better flavor of the area, according to Isobe.

"The medical team treated skin diseases, upper respiratory infections, hypertension, and diabetes, and provided medications," said Isobe. "The local church worked with the patients to schedule follow up visits. Those that were treated on Monday were assigned church members to visit by Wednesday."

Two patients that im-

pressed Isobe were a college student with a two-month-old baby and an older lady with hypertension. The college student, Olivia, came in for dental work and also because her baby was not eating properly. "Volunteers were able to give their testimonies, and she received spiritual counseling," Isobe said. "She became a believer."

"The other lady, Marcia, had headaches and was afraid to have spiritual counseling. Thousands around her heard the testimonies, but she did not become a believer. All we can do is pray for her."

"It is so sad to see their lifestyles. Some hear and become believers, others do not. However, we can plant the seeds and spread the love of Jesus Christ."

"Sometimes it is frustrating, but it makes you want to return to Rio de Janeiro." ■

Missions training institutes offered

For "The Macedonian Call"

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

The remaining Institutes will be offered July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2.

The Institutes will offer: prayer, praise, music and testimony; Biblical basis of missions, strategic utilization of volunteers; international travel tips, culture shock survival guides; and sights, sounds, and foods of other countries. Other highlights will be: how worldview helps or hinders ministry; how to share your missions ministry experience; and developing personal testimonies to share across cultures.

To attend any of these Institutes make reservations two weeks prior to the meeting of your choice. For information contact, Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader at 1-800-558-2080 or 615-371-7935 or email tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

The Macedonian Call

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
Portugal Projects				
Central/West	PM12000112	Travel through Central West Portugal drawing and painting landscapes and people while witnessing.	July 15-29	4
West Central	PM12000106	Black Gospel choir to tour West Central Portugal in preparation for church planting.	October	open
Three Key Cities	PM12000100	Black Gospel choir to tour three key cities in Portugal in preparation for church planting.	open	open
Portugal	PM12000103	Video production person/team to produce promotional video to enlist prayer and volunteers.	open	4
Lisbon	PM12000111	Team to paint and lay tile in new church building.	open	5
Northern Region	PM12000102	Prayerwalk team for northern Portugal.	open	6 or less

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Projects

Rio de Janeiro	PM42000955	Teams to do simultaneous revivals, evangelism, witnessing.	Sept. 17-26	45
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000957	Conduct medical clinics.	open	20
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000945	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000944	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000942	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000941	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000943	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000956	Choir/large ensemble to perform throughout city.	open	open
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000920	Contemporary Christian band to perform in various locations.	open	5

Canada Projects

Ottawa, OT	00ONT002	Teams to help rebuild church gutted by fire.	open	open
Georgetown, PEI	00ATL008	Teams to build new church from foundation.	July 15 - open	1-30
Calgary, AB	00MID003	Team to build and install cabinets.	June	3-5
Prince AB	99NOR044	Evangelistic team for Indian people.	open	1-2
Halifax, NS	99ATL007	Orchestra team to perform at waterfront.	July 21-31	15-30
Fairview, AB	99MID036	Conduct evangelistic services and survey community.	July 8-17	6
St. Albert, AB	00MID001	Conduct evangelistic services and survey community.	July 30 - Aug. 6	5-10
Saskatoon, SK	00NOR003	Team to do five-day revival with preaching and music.	Oct. 10-15	10-15
Halifax, NS	99ATL010	Conduct revival, drama presentation.	Oct. 19-23	2
Penticton, BC	00ALP002	Conduct evangelistic outreach in different communities.	June - August	open
Victoria, BC	00CAP001	Conduct sports camp and youth outreach programs.	July 9-15	5-12
Salmon Arm, BC	00ALP001	Conduct sports clinic and do leadership training for adults.	Aug. 26 - Sept. 2	4-10
Saskatchewan	00NOR002	Conduct children and youth VBS programs.	July 9-15	5-10
Mississauga, OT	99ONT002	Conduct BYBC and do literature distribution.	June 2-16	5-10
Ontario	00ONT001	Conduct VBS and campground ministries.	July 29 - Aug. 7	8-15

Michigan Projects

Midland	B-2	Conduct BYBC.	June 17-23	open
Detroit	GD-2B	Team to repair and remodel classrooms and church offices.	June 25 - July 1	open
Woodhaven	GD-1A	Teams to build addition to existing church.	July 2-8	open
Woodhaven	GD-1B	Teams to build addition to existing church.	July 9-15	open
Woodhaven	GD-1C	Teams to build addition to existing church.	July 16-22	open

Tennessee Projects

- ◆ **Benton** — Kitchen/Dining Hall Staff to work with kitchen supervisor and staff in meal preparation, set-up, serving, cleaning of kitchen and dining hall. June-August.
General Maintenance — Light maintenance, lawn care, maintain equipment and help with other ministries. June-August.
Contact: Debbie Brock, Camp Agape 423-338-4153.
- ◆ **Chattanooga** — Teams of 12-50 to roof and paint inner city widows homes with optional afternoon and evening ministries.
June 25 - July 1 July 2-8
July 9-15
Contact: Stan Braley, Hamilton County Baptist Association, 423-267-379.
- ◆ **Columbia** — Teams to do new church construction starting in May. Contact: Fred Hawkins, 931-388-5267.
- ◆ **Elizabethton** — Teams of 12-16 to do day camps in the morning and BYB in the evenings with local churches.
June 11-17 July 9-15
June 18-24 July 16-22
June 25 - July 1 July 23-29
July 2-8 July 30 - Aug
Teams of 10-20 to do BYBC at local state park during the day and home improvements in the evenings. Project open for summer.
Teams of 2-20 to do home repairs for the elderly, disabled, and single-parent families. Project open for summer.
Contact: Becky Brumitt, Hale Community Ministries, 423-547-2560.
- ◆ **Gleason** — Teams to build new church sanctuary and conduct BYB
Contact: Jerry Esch, 901-648-0408.
- ◆ **Franklin** — Teams to do new church construction in June.
Contact: George Temple, 615-790-8515.
- ◆ **Harriman** — Teams to do BYBC, sport clinics, and block parties in multi-housing areas.
June 5-9 July 10-14
June 12-16 July 17-21
June 26-30 July 24-28
Contact: David Acres, 865-882-6446

For more information about the above projects, call Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2

Middle Tennessee prepares for Billy ...

Continued from page 1

Authority buses.

To conduct the outreach, flyers have been distributed to residents, prayerwalks have been conducted, and community festivals have been planned for Saturday afternoon, June 3.

Woodcock Baptist Church and The Village Church plan to take a group to "Kidz Gig," a Saturday morning crusade event for children, and need teens and adults to accompany the children. The church also will lead a march along Shelby Avenue to the Saturday evening crusade session, reported Stewart.

The Saturday afternoon community festivals will be held following Kidz Gig in all communities, said Stewart. They will begin with a picnic provided by Feed the Children.

Stewart gave credit to the involved churches and Hoff for leading the effort.

People wishing to serve as volunteers in the downtown resident outreach may call Stewart at (615) 259-3034.

To reach entertainers, government leaders

Crusade leaders also are trying to reach entertainers and government workers during the crusade by holding receptions and providing special catering for them, said Freedman.

Invited to the reception for government workers are state legislators, state employees, and the mayors of cities and towns in the Middle Tennessee area, he said.

Those invited to the reception for entertainers include members of the three professional teams based in Nashville — Tennessee Titans football, Nashville Predators hockey, Nashville Sounds baseball, and Nashville Kats arena football. Also invited are members of the music community.

Freedman asked Christians to pray for these efforts so these community leaders will be influenced for God through the crusade.

To reach children

Rachel Jones, minister to children, First Baptist Church, The People's Church, Franklin, is leading the crusade children's committee which will provide Kidz Gig (see more information in box below).

To prepare for Kidz Gig, the committee held an unusual event — a prayer meeting for and by children.

Efforts of churches

Freedman asked Christians to pray for good weather. He said the only time a Graham crusade in a U.S. city didn't

meet its budget was in Boston when it rained during most of the crusade sessions.

People find it difficult to understand why an event must have such a large budget, he said. The budget for this crusade is \$2.5 million.

But the cost is only \$8 - \$10 per person when considering the total projected attendance will be 260,000, he noted. Of course, that computation does not consider the repeat participants at crusade meetings, but Freedman said the cost is still reasonable when considering all factors.

One unexpected expense was for a ground covering to protect the turf used by the Tennessee Titans team. The

crusade staff found a Florida business to provide the special covering. Thankfully the owner was a Christian, so he provided it at a discounted price, said Freedman. The crusade is one of three groups which will use the coliseum this summer including its turf area.

Giving is "A-OK" at this point, he added.

Optimism

"It's been very exciting," said Freedman. "It's been quite a ride," he said.

"We have the strongest Saturday night in the history of crusades — the top contemporary Christian artists who attract the most teens," he said, referring to musicians leading the Concert for the

Next Generation.

He also has seen crusade planners address two weaknesses he identified when visiting the Indianapolis crusade to invite Graham to hold a crusade in Nashville, said Freedman.

Downtown residents have been targeted and involved and African-Americans have become involved and are leading crusade preparation, said Freedman.

As the crusade approaches, Christians should "keep working and praying for the crusade," he concluded. B&R



REEDMAN

To make final preparations for the crusade

► **Thursday Session** — 7-9 p.m. Special guests are the Bill Gaither Vocal Band with Homecoming Friends and Steven Curtis Chapman. MTA shuttles available beginning at 5:30 p.m. from downtown area.

► **Friday Session** — 7-9 p.m. Special guest is Titan's Running Back Coach Sherman Smith; special feature is a Country Celebration with Point of Grace, the Charlie Daniels Band, Ricky Skaggs, Connie Smith, and Marty Stuart. MTA shuttles available beginning at 5:30 p.m. from downtown area.

► **Saturday Session** — 6:47-9 p.m. Special feature is the Concert for the Next Generation with Jars of Clay, Kirk Franklin, and dcTalk. MTA shuttles available beginning at 4:30 p.m. from downtown area.

► **Sunday Session** — 7-9 p.m. Special guests are Michael W. Smith and CeCe Winans. MTA shuttles available beginning at 4:30 p.m. from downtown area.

► **Kidz Gig** — with "Psalty" and Friends and a 4,000-voice children's choir, Adelphia Coliseum, 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. MTA shuttles will not be available. Pick-up/Drop-off spots will be clearly marked.



► **Parking** — All parking spaces available at Adelphia Coliseum are reserved. Over 18,000 satellite parking spots exist in the downtown Nashville area. Prices range from \$0 - \$15 (some state lots and metered parking areas are free). The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) will provide shuttle service from satellite parking to the coliseum for a round trip cost of \$4 (infants ride free). Shuttle service will start at 5:30 p.m. on June 1 and 2, and at 4:30 p.m. on June 3

and 4. To locate downtown satellite parking locations exit I-40 at either Charlotte Avenue, Church Street, Broadway, or Demonbreun. Head towards downtown. Parking lots are straight ahead with MTA shuttle service to the coliseum. Shuttle pick-up points will be clearly marked. Individuals may pre-purchase MTA shuttle passes by calling (615) 862-5950. The MTA shuttle routes will include wheelchair accessible buses.

► **Love-in-Action** — Bring non-perishable food items to the crusade. They will be distributed to the hungry of Nashville. Sign up as a volunteer during the crusade services with local organizations which minister to people in need.

► **Usher Rehearsal** — Monday, May 29, Adelphia Coliseum, 7-9 p.m.

► **Counselor Rehearsal** — Tuesday, May 30, Adelphia Coliseum, 7-9 p.m.

► **Grand Choir Rehearsal** —

for all members, Wednesday, May 31, Adelphia Coliseum, 7-9 p.m.

► **Co-Labor Team Rehearsal** — Wednesday, May 31, Adelphia Coliseum, 7-9 p.m.

► **Language Interpretation** — Simultaneous translation will be provided through AM radios and headsets for the following groups — French (June 1, 4); Japanese (June 4); Korean (June 1, 2, 4); Laotian (June 1, 2, 4); Mandarin (June 1, 2, 4); Nuer (June 2, 4); Romanian (June 4); Spanish (June 1-4); and Vietnamese (June 1, 2, & Kidz Gig on June 3). Counseling materials also will be available.

► **Deaf/Deafblind/Hard of hearing** — Sign language interpretation, live captioning, and an Assistive Listening Device Loop will be provided.

► **Prayer requests from crusade office** — For all printed prayer requests, including arrangements team setting up coliseum and good weather.

Invitation proved life-changing for ...

Continued from page 1

"It will be an awesome opportunity to have someone of Billy Graham's stature coming to Nashville in your lifetime," said Fisher, who will serve as one of about 4,500 volunteers who will provide counseling to people who make decisions during the crusade.

"It's incredible to think that this (Billy Graham Crusade) is happening in Nashville where

I now live, 45 years after I accepted Christ," Fisher said.

"That pays great testimony to the faithfulness of Billy Graham and his team."

The Donelson pastor is a firm believer in inviting non-Christians to hear Billy Graham preach.

The invitation either to church or to a crusade is one of the keys to reaching people, Fisher is convinced.

"You can never underestimate the value of extending the invitation," he observed.

"My friend didn't know when he invited me to hear Billy Graham what I would be doing 45 years later. Nor did I," Fisher said.

"You never know what is taking place in a person's life. It was through my friend that God got me there and I was saved." ■

Nominations requested to ...

Continued from page 1

Recipients of the awards will be chosen by the selection subcommittee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Programs Committee.

This is the ninth year for the awards, which will be presented during the TBC annual meeting to be held Nov. 14-15 at Germantown Baptist Church, German-

town.

Application forms for submitting nominations may be obtained from local associational offices in the state or downloaded from the TBC Web site at www.tnbaptist.org/csl.

Completed forms should be mailed to Bill Northcott, TBC Church Staff Leadership Group, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■

leaders

■ **Doug Westmoreland** will celebrate his 25th anniversary as pastor of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, on June 4. A church-wide fellowship will be held in his honor after the morning worship services.

■ **Kristin Deshae West**, a sophomore majoring in communications and Spanish at the University of Tennessee, Martin, has been elected president of the university's Baptist Student Union. West is from Gallatin.



WEST

■ **Scott Cunningham** has been called as full-time minister of music and youth at Memorial Baptist Church, Crossville, effective June 1.

■ New Providence Baptist Church, Loudon, has called **Ronald D. Miller** of Clinton as minister of music and worship. He has served several area churches and is a vocalist in the group Trinity. He and his wife, Wendy, have two sons.

■ Head of Richland Baptist Church, Rutledge, ordained **Chris Morgan** as a deacon on May 21.

■ **David P. Gushee**, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy and associate Christian studies professor at Union University, Jackson, has been named Faculty Member of the Year.

■ **William E. Owens** recently celebrated his 20th anniversary as pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

■ **Greg Martin** has been called as pastor of Union McMinn Baptist Church, Niota.

■ **Eric Geren** is the new pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church, Decatur.

■ East Rogersville Baptist Church, Rogersville, has called **Bill Brown** as pastor. He and his wife, Janice, formerly served at Bethany Baptist Church, Mountain City.

■ Tennessee native **Dwight L. Huffman** of Memphis and his wife, Judy, have been appointed to serve as church planting missionaries in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada, by the North American Mission Board. Huffman is a graduate of Union University, Jackson.

■ Two Belmont University professors recently received special recognition. **Susan H. Tully**, assistant professor of English, was named Chaney Distinguished Professor while **Rosanna Gatens**, chair and associate professor of history, received the Presidential Faculty Achievement Award.

death

■ **Louise W. Matthews**, who served as organist at First Baptist Church, Oliver Springs, since 1950, died May 5 at the age of 68. She also had served as church secretary since 1965. She is survived by a son.

churches

■ **East Rogersville Baptist Church, Rogersville**, recently burned the note on its new worship center and educational complex.

■ **Shepards Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville**, burned the note on its new worship center, fellowship area, and new and renovated



IN APRIL the Shiloh Baptist Association WMU and Acteens met at the association office in Adamsville and cut and made bibs for patients at five area nursing homes. Participating in the project were *Ellyn Thomas, Christian Jones, Kate Ballard, Rachel Thomas, and Brooke Martin.*

educational facility on May 7.

■ **First Baptist Church, Franklin**, has copies of music they would like to give to churches with small choirs (30 or less). If interested, call Stacey Coleman at (615) 794-2812.

■ **Barker's Chapel Baptist Church, Friendship**, will hold its homecoming on June 11. The church also begins revival that day through June 14 with guest evangelist Terry Herndon.

■ **Central Baptist Church, Spring City**, has

eight light fixtures to give away at no cost. For information, call (423) 365-6385.

associations

■ Twenty-four churches in **Beech River Baptist Association** sponsored the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Crusade held April 30-May 4 at the Henderson County Fairgrounds. The attendance averaged over 4,000 each night. There were 166 professions of faith and 129 other spiritual decisions.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HICKORY WITHE, recently broke ground for a 22,000-square-foot building to be used as a Family Life Center/Fellowship Hall and additional educational and office space. Participating in the ceremony were, from left, Jack Ubell, Matt Jones, George Nail, Pastor Eddie Little, Don Wilmoth, Lathan Sowell, and Richard Stephens.

SBC MESSENGERS

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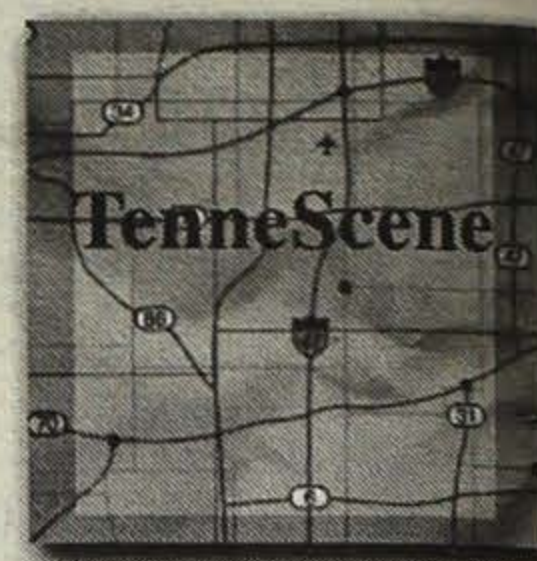
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Harold Hunter was guest evangelist and Gary and Kathy Miller directed the music. John Bos served as crusade director.

state events

■ Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union will sponsor its annual **Dad/Daughter Weekend** June 16-17 at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center in Linden and July 7-6 at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport. The conference at both weekends will be lead by Bill Choate, TBC collegiate ministry specialist. He is the father of two daughters, Hannah, 13, and Molly, 11. The cost is \$30 per person. For more information or to register, contact Tennessee WMU at (615) 371-2038.

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SENIOR MINISTER: First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC, is seeking a senior minister. Our church is a mission-minded and community-oriented congregation affiliated with the SBC and CBF. We affirm autonomy of the local church, corporate worship and stewardship. Send resumes to Senior Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 53476, Fayetteville, NC 28305.



A BAPTIST STUDENT UNION team from Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville, spent spring break in Burgaw, N.C., helping two families that were devastated by flooding which resulted from Hurricane Floyd last fall. The team, led by Steve Hixson, campus ministry specialist, put up new sheetrock in one home and painted another. Team members included, from left, front row, Jennifer Jones, Brandon Stone, Michael Claytor, Kendra Stone, Crystal Main; back row, Brock Webster, Stephanie Shelton, Stephen Brown, and Kelvin Blakely.

Prayers answered for kidnapped son

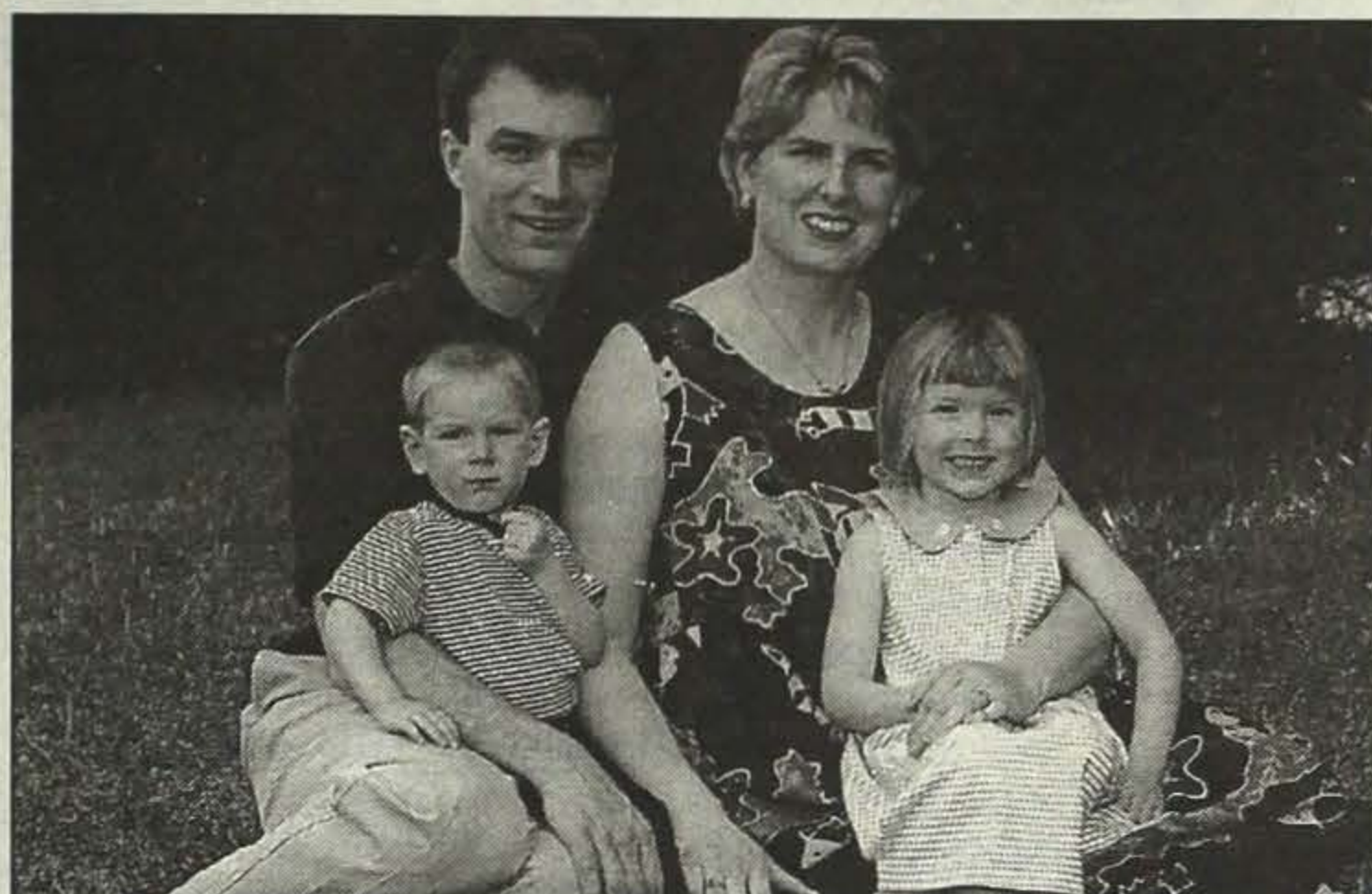
Mark Kelly
Baptist Press

COUAKÉ, Cote d'Ivoire — A Southern Baptist missionary in Cote d'Ivoire was wounded May 8 when gunmen hijacked his car and drove away with the missionary's son still in the vehicle. The miraculous resolution of the incident illustrates the importance of prayer for missionaries, noted Wanda Lee, leader of Woman's Missionary Union, of God's intention in the incident.

Travis Forsythe was driving home to Dabakala, where he and his wife serve among the Diouli people group. His 2-year-old son, Nathanael, was with him.

When Forsythe stopped for fuel late in the day at the city of Couaké, two bandits took the car from him at gunpoint. Forsythe clung to the open door of the vehicle, trying to convince the gunmen to let him get Nathanael out. The driver shot and wounded Forsythe, who chased the car as it sped away with his son in the back seat.

Forsythe's wife, Kim, and the 5-year-old daughter, Gloria, were not with him at the



UNION UNIVERSITY graduates Travis and Kim Forsythe, shown with their children, Nathanael and Gloria, are Southern Baptist missionaries in Cote d'Ivoire. Travis Forsythe was injured May 8 when gunmen hijacked his car and drove away with Nathanael still in the car. He was later returned unharmed.

time. Kim Forsythe was observing her 30th birthday at home, ordered to bed by her doctor because of complications in her pregnancy.

Forsythe is a native of Brownsville and both he and his wife are graduates of Union University, Jackson. The grandmother of Forsythe is Josie Wells, a member of Poplar Corner Baptist Church, Brownsville. His late grandfather, Earl Wells, was former director of missions, Haywood Baptist Association, and pastor of several churches in the association.

That the carjacking occurred on her birthday may

have been the saving grace for her husband and son.

Many Southern Baptist publications carry prayer calendars with the names of missionaries and their birth dates. Thousands of Southern Baptists were praying for Kim Forsythe as the gunmen were attacking her husband and kidnapping her son. The number of intercessors multiplied as word of the kidnapping almost immediately flashed through electronic prayer networks.

Forty-five minutes after the carjacking, the gunmen put Nathanael out of the vehicle and left him alone on a dark road in the village of Katiola.

Villagers put him in the care of a midwife, who fed and bathed the child and put him to bed while authorities located his parents.

Nathanael was back with his father by 1:30 a.m., just hours after his abduction. His father's injury was superficial, with the bullet miraculously

passing through his right side between the ribs without hitting any vital organs. His mother, however, was hospitalized because the shock of the carjacking and kidnapping exacerbated the complications of her pregnancy.

The incident highlights the importance of praying for missionaries and illustrates the power of those prayers, said Wanda Lee, the national executive director of Woman's Missionary Union.

"We never completely know what we are praying for when we pray for missionaries on the prayer calendar," Lee said. "It is humbling and exhilarating when we learn about experiences like the Forsythes' and know, in faith, that our prayers played a role in resolving it."

"We praise God for his provisions in the lives of Nathanael and his family," she continued. "We will continue to pray for them as they process this event. We also are praying for the hijackers. We pray that they will come to know Christ and be able to turn away from a life of crime."

Woman's Missionary Union is known for its emphasis on prayer for missionaries, Lee noted. "I've heard countless miraculous testimonies from missionaries about events that happened on their birthday," she said. "I've also heard them say they put off important decisions until their birthday because they know WMU members are praying for them."

All the organization's periodicals carry a daily prayer calendar or a section where prayer for a missionary family is encouraged, noted one WMU editor. "Praying for missionaries is the most important way to support them," said Joanne Parker, editor of *Missionsosaic*, WMU's magazine for women. ■



Henry Blackaby 'transitions' to new ministry

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Don't even suggest that Henry Blackaby is retiring. Rather, he is "transitioning" from being an employee of three Southern Baptist agencies to a new ministry called, appropriately, Henry Blackaby Ministries.

The 65-year-old best-selling author and speaker ended his unique joint employment relationship in April with LifeWay Christian Resources,



BLACKABY

the North American Mission Board, and the International Mission Board. Although his new ministry will work across denominational lines, he said he is still firmly committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, its organizational entities, and his local church, First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga.

Blackaby said he will continue to write and speak concerning revival and spiritual awakening through his new ministry, as well as focus on spiritual leadership development for pastors, denominational leaders, and lay leaders.

He and his wife, Marilyn, also hope to spend more time with their five children and 13 grandchildren. ■

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VAN: First Hispanic Baptist Church, located in Clarksville, Tenn., is in need of a van. We are preparing to do work with the migrant workers all summer and need transportation. If you can donate a van please call Rev. Mike Vidal, (931) 648-2680. * * *

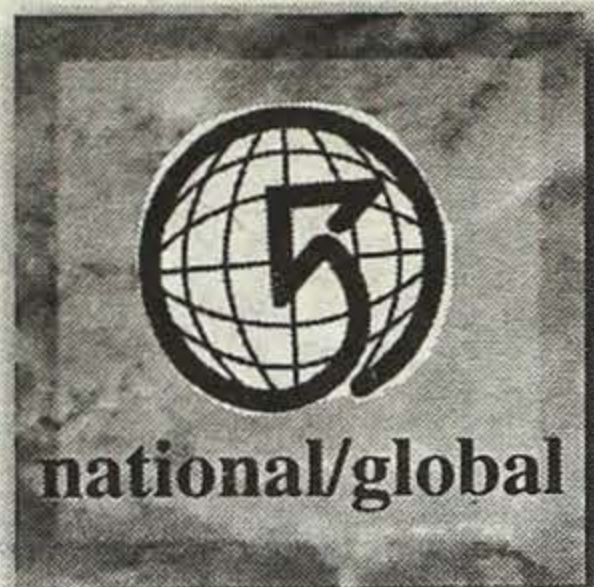
MUSIC/YOUTH: Seeking full-time minister of music/youth in growing area, Western Fayette County near Highway 64. Send resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 17675 Highway 196, Hickory Withe, TN 38043.

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Tellers, credential committee members selected to serve

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Members of the Credentials and Tellers committees for the June 13-14 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here have been named by SBC President Paige Patterson.

Tim Christian, pastor of Island Pond Baptist Church, Hampstead, N.H., will chair the Credentials Committee. No members were named to the committee from Tennessee.

J.K. Minton, pastor of Oakwood Baptist Church, New

Braunfels, Texas, will chair the Tellers Committee.

Corey Gearrin, a student from First Baptist Church, Dayton, was the only Tennessean selected to the committee. ■

Worldviews clash on ABC segment

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — A segment of ABC television's news program "20/20" demonstrates the continuing clash between worldviews in American culture, noted a Southern Baptist missionary interviewed for the program which aired across the country Friday evening, May 12.

"It's evident our society does not want to hear that the Bible says there is only one way to God," said Jim Sibley, an interfaith evangelism missionary for the North American Mission Board. "The Jewish rabbi on the program said, 'It is our view that there are many paths to God.' And another person said, refer-

ring to our evangelical beliefs, 'That kind of religious exclusivity just doesn't belong in today's society anymore.'"

The segment, by ABC News religion correspondent Peggy Wehmeyer, centered on a 12-year-old Jewish boy in the Dallas area who made a profession of faith in Christ last year at a Southern Baptist church youth rally and subsequently declined to proceed with his planned bar mitzvah. After his parents and Hebrew school principal counseled with him, the youth recanted the conversion and, according to the program, plans to proceed with the ceremony later this year.

NAMB President Robert E. Reccord, who was interviewed with Sibley, said May 15, "The [ABC] story, I believe, demonstrates the noose that is tightening around the neck of religious freedom in America. In a country founded on religious freedom

principles, in which Jewish people have had the greatest freedom of anywhere in the world, it's ironic the response would be so negative."

Reccord and Sibley were interviewed for three hours in March for the program which included less than 90 seconds of their interview.

"Some people who saw the broadcast thought that although we were given an opportunity to present our beliefs about evangelism, the program seemed heavily weighted to those critical of those beliefs," Sibley said.

ABC News posted a brief synopsis of the program on its Internet website following the program's airing and included a reader poll asking if it is "acceptable for evangelicals to try to convert children under the age of 13." By mid-day Monday, May 15, 60 percent of more than 5,300 respondents said yes, and 40 percent answered no. ■

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

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STUDENTS/ACTIVITIES: First Baptist Church, McKenzie, Tenn. seeks full-time minister of students and activities. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, c/o Search Committee, 619 N. Stonewall St., McKenzie, TN 38201. Resumes received no later than June 15.

PASTOR: First Baptist Church, Piggott, Ark., is seeking mature, experienced full-time senior pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 365, Piggott, AR 72454.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS: Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, located in Claiborne County, Upper East Tennessee, is seeking a full-time director of missions. As we seek God's will in our ministry, he may be speaking to you. Please send your resume to Cumberland Gap Association, P.O. Box 147, Harrogate, TN 37752, Attn. Search Committee.

SHEPHERD: Do you love sheep (people)? Castlewood Baptist Church is looking for the shepherd after God's own heart, who will lead us with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:1. Please send resumes for full-time pastor to Pastor Search Committee, 124 Pajaro Way, Vallejo, CA 94591.

FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR: Full-time director of family life at conference center. Send resume to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Student Affairs, 300 Clear Creek Rd., Pineville, KY 40977.

MUSIC/EDUCATION: Highland FBC, seeks to find the right person to serve as Associate Pastor — Music and Education. This will be a new position for our 100-year-old growing church. Blend style of worship. Age and experience left to God. Please send resume to FBC-Highlands, P.O. Box 625, Highlands, NC 28741 fax (828) 526-5441, e-mail fbcnc@dnet.net.

Faithful to the End

by Gentry

Passages: II Samuel 23:1-7; I Kings 2:1-4
 A primary professor always encouraged his students to use Mark 13:13 as the basis of their challenge to believers. The one who endures to the end, saved. The Christian faith is just that: a life end. It demands a lifetime commitment of obedience to the Lord. Someone rightly described eternity as a marathon and not a sprint. As he makes the journey in Christ from this life to the next, some, if not all, wonder how they can have their lives count before God. This final lesson in David's chronicle, which deals with the end of his life, will help believers "endure to the end." David's life was some distance from perfection. He can be described as a life that was faithful to the end. So how does one be faithful to the end? The passages in II Samuel 23 and I Kings 2 answer this question.

Close to the Lord (II Samuel 23:1-2). This passage is entitled "David's Last Oracle." It is, however, his last words as the word "oracle" in an oracle is a speech used for revelatory extensions of atypical relevance. David is designated in various ways. As a "son of Jesse," he is linked to the line of Judah, from which Messiah would come. He is exalted by the Most High, suggesting he has been chosen by Jehovah. He is "anointed by the God of Israel," asserting a connection with Jacob who chose a people David was to rule. The people called him "Israel's singer of songs" (NIV) or the "father of the Strong One of Israel" (NRSV), which is a reasonable translation. In addition to this, he is considered to be a prophet in the declaration "The Lord spoke through me." All these designations suggest someone who is close to God. If they are to "endure to the end," they are to stay close to the Lord.

Channel of blessing to others (vv. 3-4). These verses reveal two primary demands of the Lord: righteousness and fear of God. David meets these and thus could rule the people in a manner consistent with the Law, under the authority of God. He is, therefore, a source of blessing to the people as a result of his faithfulness. Believers who seek to maintain these qualities will be a blessing to others. God provides innovative occasions for blessing through his followers as an environment is created to advance people to their full potential in Christ.

Confident to God's promises (vv. 5-7). David attests to the fact that God does provide both physically and spiritually. He could anticipate God giving him "every desire," provided his heart is aligned to the Lord's will. Further, God promises that evil will be vanquished. Christians, like David, maintain steadfastness by holding firmly to the promises of God. Not all of these promises are "pie in the sky in the sweet by and by." It is important that some of the Lord's promises will not be retracted until one's faith becomes sight. Many of them, however, are for the claiming right now.

Challenge future generations to be faithful (I Kings 2:1-4). Shortly before his death, David addressed Solomon, the next king, according to verses 1 through 9. This section is in two paragraphs. In the first, verses one through four, David encourages his son to keep the Law and thus be faithful. Connecting to the various nuances of "what the Lord requires," Solomon will be able to walk in the ways. There is to be a continuity between generations. Believers are to encourage all to be faithful. As the lyric declares, "May those who come behind us find us faithful." They will if we "endure to the end." — Gentry is pastor Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield.

From confrontation to growth

By Joe Sorah

Focal Passage: II Corinthians 13:1-13

The story is told of Senator Hubert Humphrey on the campaign trail. He was delivering a speech on the various issues that concerned the nation. A heckler in the crowd hurled an overripe tomato, which hit the senator in the face. The audience watched to see how he would respond. Humphrey was undaunted. He wiped his face and said, "Speaking of agriculture..." and continued his speech. The audience responded with a loud ovation.

How do you respond to criticism? Paul faced continual criticism throughout his ministry. In the book of II Corinthians, the first nine chapters were addressed to the majority of the Corinthian church who had been reconciled to Paul. The remaining chapters were written to Paul's critics. In their opinion, Paul did not qualify as an apostle because he was not an impressive speaker, nor did he perform signs and wonders they thought he should (10:10; 12:11-13). Our focal passage features his response to his critics.

Family Bible Lesson

Paul began by extinguishing the criticism (vv. 1-4). The Apostle had visited Corinth on two occasions: the establishing of the church and "the painful visit" (ch. 2:1-2). He was returning for a third visit. He did not want another visit like the last but, should there be a confrontation, he called for the strict legal requirement of Deuteronomy 19:15. Paul warned that, since they wanted to see a more forceful person, they were going to get what they wanted. He pledged not to spare anyone.

Paul launched his offensive battle by identifying two proofs of Christ's presence in a person. The first is that the person will speak God's Word (v. 3). The proof will be reflected in lives being changed. The second sign is that

the person will serve God's people in a Christ-like way (v. 4). The person who claims to speak for Christ will give evidence of Christ's presence in his life by humbly serving others. The call to follow Christ is not a call to power, prestige, or prominence. It is a call to servanthood. Paul's opponents misunderstood the nature of ministry.

Thus, Paul continued by extending a challenge (vv. 5-8). Paul turned the tables on his critics. He asked them to put themselves to the same tests they were putting to him. The Apostle hoped they would pass the test. In doing so, they would serve as evidence of Christ speaking through Paul. He prayed that they would do the right things, not for his sake, but for their sake. His only desire was to serve the Lord and do his truth.

Paul concluded by expressing his concern (vv. 9-13). He was not concerned about outward appearances. While some may have thought he was weak, he was not worried about such. He was concerned about the spiritual growth of the Corinthians. Paul expressed his concern in his prayers (v. 9). He explained his concern through his purpose (v. 10). Paul was in the building business — the business of building up other believers. As he had experienced the ministry of encouragement from Barnabas, he was an exhorter as well.

Paul expressed his concern through the statement of a promise (v. 11). The promise was that God would be with the believers, but four conditions must be met. They needed to be growing spiritually. They needed to listen to Paul's appeal. They needed to be in unity. And, they needed to put an end to the internal conflicts. When these four conditions were met, God would bless with his presence.

Another has said, "It's easy to avoid criticism. All you have to do is say nothing, do nothing, and be nothing." As we serve the Lord, we will be criticized. May God help us turn confrontations to opportunities for growth — Sorah is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

Doing your own thing

By Garry Miller

Focal Passages:
 Judges 17:1-8, 12-13;
 18:30-31

A voice came over the intercom, "Good morning ladies and gentlemen. This is your captain speaking. Welcome aboard Delta flight 1266 from New Orleans to Cincinnati with connecting flights to Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, New York, and points east. We will be cruising at 35,000 feet with an airspeed of 450 miles per hour. Our ground speed is 530 miles per hour indicating an 80 mile per hour tail wind. Our directional indicator, commonly referred to by laymen as a 'compass' is subject to a temporary malfunction. Our ETA in Cincinnati is 1:15 p.m., Central Daylight Time. Although we do not know for sure what direction we are headed, we're making exceptionally good time. Have a wonderful flight." In case you are wondering we did make it Cincinnati and on to New York and Moscow, and then back home.

In our lesson for this week, the children of Israel were making exceptionally good time, but they did not know where they were going. That is because... *every man did that which was right in his own eyes* (17:6b; 21:25b). I Samuel 3:1 gives a pretty good commentary on the times: *And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision. As the Bible says, "Where*

Explore the Bible Lesson

there is no widespread revelation, the people go off in all directions" (Proverbs 29:18a, Millerized Version). It is not so much that they did not have a guide book to provide them with a moral compass. They just did not pay any attention to instructions they did have.

The Bible gives us instructions and directions on how to live a life that is pleasing to God (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; and many other passages). It provides us with a recipe to make life much more palatable. We may not always like what the recipe says, but if we expect to consistently get the result promised we need to follow the directions.

While attending college at Union University I served as pastor of Avondale Baptist Chapel (now Avondale Baptist Church), a mission of First Baptist Church in Humboldt. There was a lady who was a member of First Baptist Church whose sister visited regularly from Tupelo, Mississippi. The sister was envious of the live-in housekeeper/cook's biscuit recipe. She tried every way she could to get it out of her. But there was just no way the cook would give it up.

Finally, after years pleading, cajol-

ing, begging, and attempted bribery, the cook at last succumbed. Her recipe was as follows: "I take some flour, lard, baking powder, salt, and milk, put it in a bowl, mix it up, and bake my biscuits."

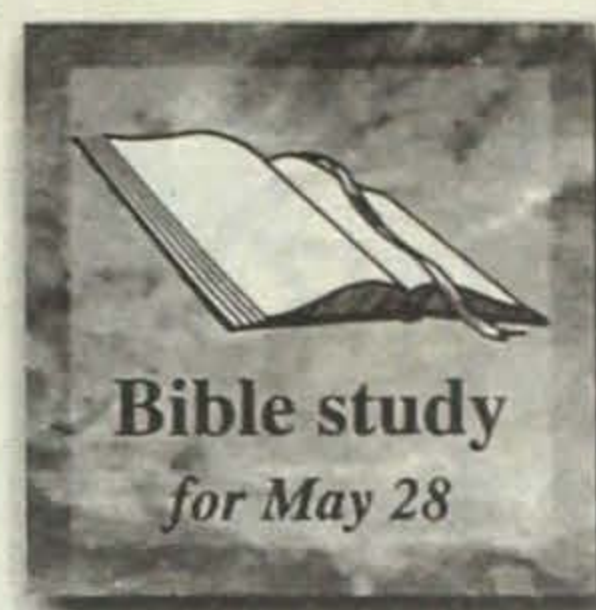
"No! No! No," the sister protested. "You've got to be more specific. How much flour do you use?" Cook - "You see these two hands. I take these two hands and stick them down in the flour sack and I get just as much flour as I can get in these two hands and I put it in the bowl."

Sister - "How much lard do you use?" Cook - "You see these three fingers. I take these three fingers and I reach down in the lard bucket and I get just as much lard as I can get on these three fingers and I put it in the bowl." Sister - "How much baking powder do you use?"

Cook - "You see this hollow spot in the palm of my hand. I shake just as much baking powder out of the baking powder box that will fill up that hollow spot and I put it in the bowl."

Sister - "How much salt do you use?" Cook - "You see these two fingers and this thumb. I stick these two fingers and this thumb down in the salt box and I get just as much salt as I can get between these two fingers and this thumb and I put it in the bowl." Sister - "How much milk do you use?" Cook - "About a mouthful."

Don't do your own thing. Do God's thing. — Miller is pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Humboldt.





Wedgwood victim among graduates of Southwestern

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — As 378 seminary graduates were commissioned for ministry, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Kenneth S. Hemphill urged them to keep a sense of balance in their ministry by pursuing righteousness and fleeing temptation.

Jeff Laster, who was wounded during the shootings at Wedgwood Baptist Church Sept. 15, was one of the graduates, receiving his diploma and graduate diploma in Christian education during the 199th commencement exercises May 12 at the seminary here.

Laster was scheduled to graduate in the fall, but his graduation was delayed after he was shot and spent one month in the hospital recovering from his wounds.

"It feels really good," Laster said of his graduation, "especially considering in September there was a question as to whether I would graduate or not."

He expressed his appreciation to the seminary for allowing him to finish his class work and to faculty members who were "real good, real patient about working with me."

Laster plans to walk across the stage in the future with a master's degree. After that, he said, "Wherever God puts me, that's where I'll go." ■

California agency reaches out to Arizona Baptists

Baptist Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Directors of the California Baptist Foundation agreed April 7 to assist the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention with some of the financial services formerly provided by the now-defunct Baptist Foundation of Arizona. The action came in response to a request from ASBC leaders, according to California foundation officials.

California foundation board members adopted a resolution during their regular spring meeting listing financial ser-

Super Dude to teach teens about C

Baptist Press

WINTER PARK, Fla. — The Southern Baptist Convention's newest teenage superhero will make his debut at the SBC's annual meeting June 13-14 in Orlando, Fla. He's Super Dude — "defender of the faith, defeater of evil, and dressed in dapper duds."

"Super Dude and the CP Squad" is a new resource to teach boys and girls about missions and evangelism, said David Hankins, vice president for the Cooperative Program with the SBC Executive Committee.

The Super Dude and the CP Squad materials include colorful activity books, a comic book-style witnessing tract, skit books, Super Dude toys, and a four-week Bible study guide featuring the Super Dude characters.

"Our state conventions have been asking for some new, creative ways to communicate the CP missions message to children," said John Kyle, director of Cooperative Program development. "We feel Super Dude provides a fun, imaginative way for three groups to learn about CP missions simultaneously — youth, adults, and children."

"Adults learn as they help prepare the

Super Dude Bible studies," Kyle said, "the youth prepare as they perform the Super Dude skits, and the children learn through watching the skits and working through their activity books."

"Kids love heroes and Super Dude is a missions hero who will make learning about missions and missionaries fun," Kyle added. In addition, children who complete the activity books and Bible studies will have the opportunity to become a member of the CP Squad along with Super Dude.

Super Dude is among a number of projects initiated in connection with this year's "Partners in the Harvest" celebration of the Cooperative Program's 75th anniversary. CP is the channel

by which Southern Baptists finance missions and ministry endeavors of state Baptist conventions and the SBC's national and international outreach.

The Super Dude story line: David Hicks, an ordinary Southern Baptist teenager, wins a Bible Drill competition. His prize is a Bible that hasn't been opened in 700 years. When he opens the Bible and begins to read Scripture, David receives a visit from an angel named Fred who gives David the opportunity to

become a Christian superhero.

David joins forces with An Faithful Sidekick, Katie, Tater the puter guy, and Fred. Together, the Super Dude and the CP Squad. The mission is to show kids how they can the Gospel of Christ to the world.

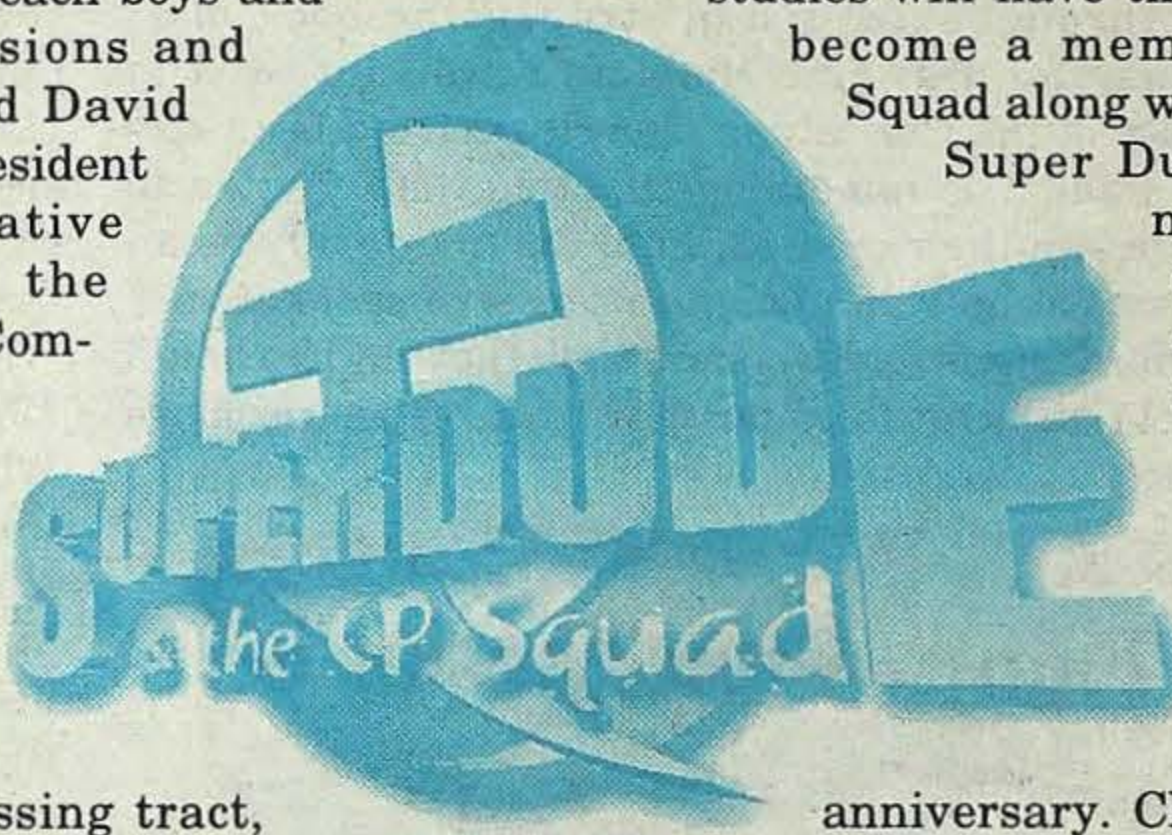
"One of the best things about Super Dude is that he really is one of said Daniel Brown, CP production manager and illustrator of the project a young person interested in missions and is involved in spreading the news of God's love through CP M. It shows them they can be a hero someone as they pray for and share missions."

Super Dude and the CP Squad created by Todd Starnes, assistant of Baptist Press, the official news of the SBC.

The characters were adapted from a collection of plays written by Starnes called, "The Great Adventures of Super Dude."

Super Dude and the CP Squad featured at the Cooperative Program exhibit during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Orlando. The youth drama team will perform a stage version of the Super Dude skit. Super Dude will make a special appearance at the SBC Day Camp.

For more information on how to order the Super Dude project, contact the state Cooperative Program office or the national CP office at 1-800-722-9407. ■



vices the California Southern Baptist Convention agency will provide for Arizona Baptists. Services named in the resolution are estate planning, church financing, and trust management. The resolution authorizes creation of a "task force of ASBC and CBF representatives ... to coordinate a plan for informing Arizona Baptists about this cooperative effort."

The California foundation's role in Arizona will be one of ministry to individuals, not damage control, said Phil Kell, the agency's executive vice president.

In a related action, the California foundation board authorized spending up to \$45,000 from a foundation trust fund "to provide some of the funds needed for assistance to the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention." That money and funds from ASBC will be used to hire someone to represent California foundation services in Arizona, an official said. ■

Martha Gaddis dies

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Martha T. Gaddis, 67, longtime administrative assistant with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, died

May 17 in Baptist Hospital here. Gaddis began an extended medical leave from the Executive Committee in 1992 and retired in 1997.

"Martha Tanner Gaddis was a remarkable person," said Harold Bennett, Executive Committee president and treasurer from 1979-92. "She will be missed by many, many persons, not only by her family and close friends, but by the many other friends she had across the convention."

Gaddis, a native of Waycross, Ga., joined the Executive Committee staff in 1968 as professional secretary to Porter W. Routh, then-executive secretary of the SBC office. Following Routh's retirement, she became Bennett's administrative assistant.

Gaddis, a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, is survived by her husband, Bob, and two children. ■

Kentucky agency drawn into court

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A lawsuit over the firing of a lesbian employee has been filed against the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children by the employee in conjunction with the

American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The lawsuit targets an estimated \$12 million to \$15 million in state funding received by KBHC.

Most of the children in the care of KBHC have been placed by the state, which has had a contract with the Baptist agency since the late 1970s.

The lesbian employee, Alicia Pedreira, was fired in October 1998 after a picture with her homosexual partner — and with Pedreira wearing an "Isle of Lesbos" T-shirt — was displayed in a photo contest at the Kentucky State Fair in August.

A news release distributed nationally by Americans United for Separation of Church and State called the case "ground-breaking" because it will "test the boundaries of tax aid to church-run social services."

Bill Smithwick, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist agency, said KBHC will defend itself against the suit.

Homosexuals are not good role models for the Baptist Homes' children, many of whom have been sexually abused or are sexually confused, Smithwick told the media.

State officials are contem-

plating whether to terminate ties with the agency when the contract expires June 30.

Smithwick said losing the contract would hurt the agency financially but that he would not abandon it over its stance on homosexuality in order to keep its state contract.

CP theme song wins major award

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The "I Will Follow" song for the Cooperative Program's Partners in the Harvest campaign, "I Will Follow Christ," recently won the Award for Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year.

Written by Clay C. Smith, member of First Baptist Church, Collierville, Tenn., the song has been an important part of CP missions and audio instrumentals for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The "I Will Follow" music video also has been honored with a 2000 Telluride award given to showcase outstanding non-network commercial CP video was selected more than 10,000 entries to win the honor, according to a recent notice from the competition. ■