

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST &amp;

# BAPTIST & REFLECTOR

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## Billy Graham Crusade draws 9,429 to God

Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

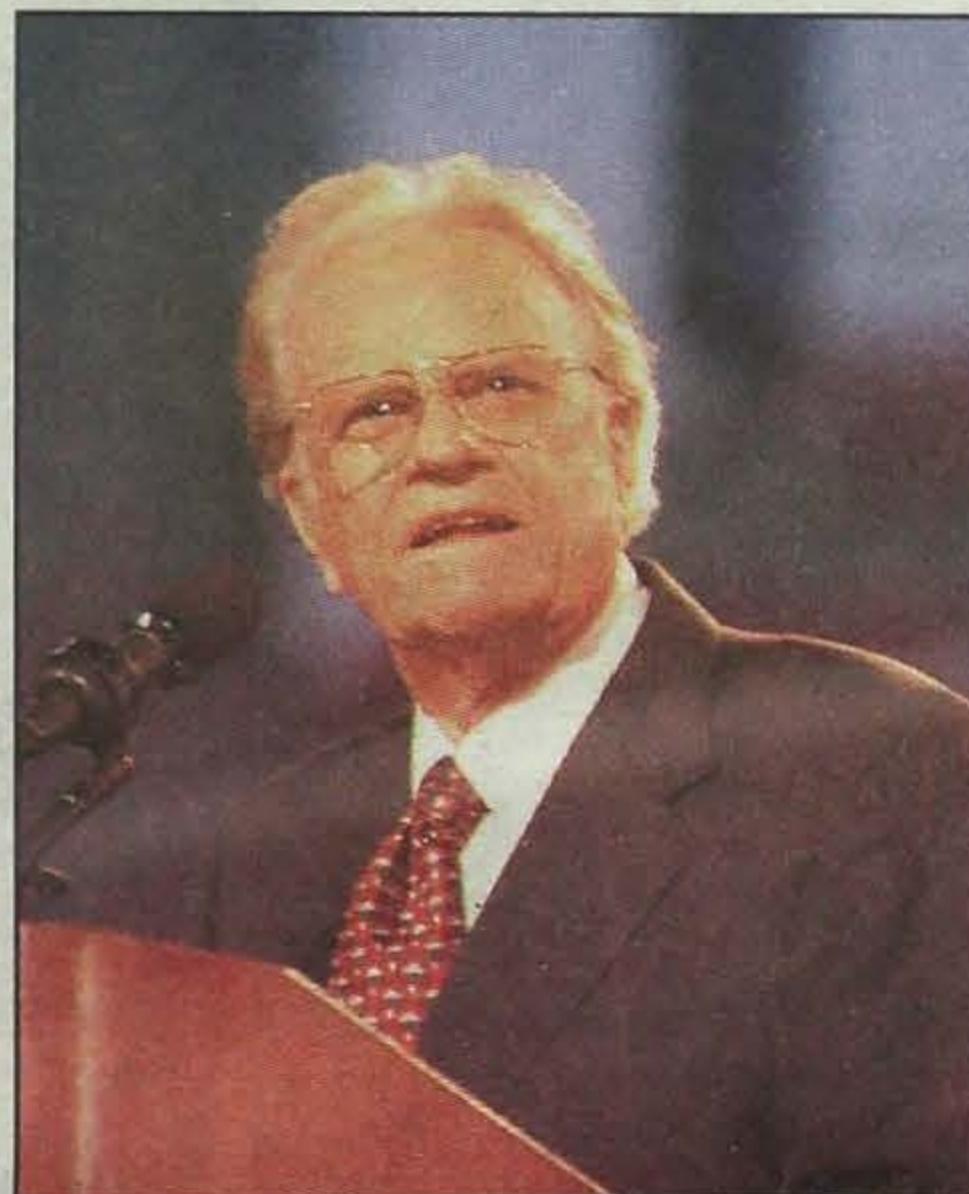
NASHVILLE — During the sessions of the Middle Tennessee Billy Graham Crusade, 9,429 people made spiritual commitments to God. Of those, 4,903 were initial professions of faith.

The June 1-4 crusade drew record-breaking crowd to the arena Coliseum here Saturday night of 71,800. The crowd was mostly teens drawn by contemporary Christian music. No night have attended but doors were closed. That night, 3,034 people filled all of the coliseum field to demonstrate their spiritual conviction.

Attendance at the other sessions was 45,000 Thursday, 10,000 Friday, 15,000 at the big on Saturday morning, 8,000 Sunday. At Kidz 51 people, mostly children made commitments.

### Saturday evening

Saturday evening teens "rocked" to a concert, heard musicians endorse him, and quieted quickly. Graham moved to the



**BILLY GRAHAM** speaks during a crusade session. — Photo by Morris Abernathy

podium, escorted by a grandson and his son, Franklin. Graham injured a muscle in his back Friday.

The world famous evangelist told the teens God loves them and time is short. He asked them if they were like the musician who was shown on M-TV kissing a bottle of prozac. "God loves you, whoev-

er you are, whatever your background, whatever the color of your skin, whatever your relationships are."

He said he couldn't believe he was 81 years old. "Some of you can't believe it either," he quipped.

This could be the most important moment of their

lives, said Graham.

"It's not a time to take charge of your own life; it's a time to give him (God) your life and let him take charge of it."

"You may be the only thing this whole crusade is all about because you are important to God."

After Graham led the people who made a decision in a prayer and turned to leave, young people across the coliseum stood. They were joined by others and adults to give Graham a standing ovation. He also received several other standing ovations during the crusade.

### Other messages

Graham opened the first night of the crusade by asking

a simple question. "Who is Jesus?" Millions don't know who Jesus is, Graham observed. "They don't have him in their hearts and lives."

Citing the "moral failure" in America today, Graham reminded those in attendance "God is our only hope."

The 81-year-old evangelist echoed that theme on the closing night. He compared today's world with the world in Noah's day — a world filled with evil.

"Jesus is going to come again," Graham said. "That is the hope of the world. I know of no other hope."

He reminded people that no one knows when, so it is urgent to be prepared.

— See Billy, page 3

## CP giving remains strong in state

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists continued their strong pattern of giving through the Cooperative Program this year in May.

For the month, TBC churches channeled \$3,335,346 through the Cooperative Program.

After seven months of the current fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$18,859,905. Receipts are 9.41 percent more than the amount given at the same time last year.

Year-to-date budget needs stand at \$19,631,366.

"We are excited that Tennessee Baptists are showing their commitment to missions, ministry, evangelism, and education not only in Tennessee but around the world," said James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"We continue to give all the glory to God," Porch stressed. ■



**LAUDING** music presented in the Thursday evening session are several Tennessee Baptists served as supervisory counselors including Kim Allen, left seat in third row, pastor, Little West Baptist Church, Clarksville; Joe Stackler, left seat in first row, pastor, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville; and Rick White, second seat in first row, pastor, First Baptist Church, The People's Church, Franklin. — Photo by Connie Davis



**DISCUSSING** her decision for assurance of her salvation is Lisa Humphrey, left, of Franklin, Ky., who came with her sister Dede Noe, right, of Franklin. The women are being counseled by Lorena Edwards, second from left, and Ann Davis of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville. — Photo by Connie Davis

## about your newsjournal

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## SBC Cooperative Program gifts rise

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Cooperative Program gifts for May increased 3.83 percent above that month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

For the first eight months of the fiscal year, receipts totaled \$118,479,606 compared to \$112,779,048, an increase of 5.05 percent or \$5,700,558. May CP gifts totaled \$14,309,091 compared to May 1999 of \$13,780,657, an increase of \$528,433 or 3.83 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date receipts totaled \$118,479,606 compared to the budget need of \$106,389,162, an increase of \$12,090,444 or 11.36 percent. For May, the monthly budget need of \$13,298,645 was surpassed by \$1,010,446 or 7.60 percent.

In designated gifts, the year to date totaled \$126,743,712 compared to the same period a year ago of \$124,315,889, an increase of \$2,427,823 or 1.95 percent. For May, designated receipts totaled \$14,179,998 compared to the same month a year ago of \$18,570,071, a decrease of \$4,390,073 or 23.64 percent. ■

## Harris, Swanberg to appear at SBC

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Grammy-winning musical artist Larnelle Harris and syndicated talk show host Dennis Swanberg will make guest appearances at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

Harris and Swanberg are scheduled to appear on Tuesday, June 13, in the convention hall and will meet messengers at the Executive Committee booth in the exhibit hall during the morning hours, said John Kyle, direc-

## Churches aid tornado, storm victims

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two Nashville churches responded to help victims of severe thunderstorm and torn damage last week.

A 21-member chainsaw team from Tusculum Hills Baptist Church assisted with cleanup duties in ALP Baptist Association. Several communities in the Centerville area were hard hit.

A team from Two Rivers Baptist Church assisted Concord-Grandview Baptist Church in Nashville with sustained flood damage. The church was flooded throughout with about three inches of water from Little Creek.

The Two Rivers team removed carpet and pews. They were assisted by Concord-Grandview members and staff member Gene Williams. ■ — Marcia Knox



ABOVE, Edgewood Baptist Church, Centerville, sustained minor damage from a tornado which hit the community May 25. RIGHT, a chainsaw crew from Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, helped clear debris in communities of ALPA Baptist Association. Serving on the team were, from left, front row, Gerald Richmond, Alan and Cathy Bartlett, Eric Davis, Bill Mullins; back row, Bill Slagle, Harold Dempsey.



tor of Cooperative Program development.

The CP presentation during the SBC also will unveil a new three-part CP Missions video series, highlighting celebrities on mission, missionary heroes, and a special surprise segment.

Harris is a five-time Granny Award winner and an 11-time Dove Award winner.

Swanberg is the host of the weekly cable variety show called "Swans Place." The show is produced by the ACTS/FamilyNet network and televised nationwide to 27 million households on the Odyssey Channel. Swanberg is a former Southern Baptist pastor and graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. ■

## TV spots target central Florida

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Central Florida Baptists may be surprised to hear their name called

while watching television in the coming days.

From June 5-13, television spots will offer the life-changing hope found in Jesus Christ — each concluding with the announcer saying: "A message of hope from central Florida Southern Baptists."

The media campaign is designed specifically to coincide with three emphases set to take place in central Florida in June — the Southern Baptist Convention's June 13-14 annual meeting in Orlando; Crossover Orlando, which will be held prior to the meeting; and "Through Every Door," a concentrated effort by Orlando Baptists to take the Gospel of Christ to every home.

But while much of these activities will take place in Orlando, the media spots will reach across the state to areas as far away as Tampa and Sarasota, Daytona Beach and Melbourne.

A tag line at the end of each spot will refer viewers to a toll-free number, 1-888-JESUS-2000, for further information and response. After calling this

number, viewers will have opportunity to speak directly with a central Florida Baptist prepared to share the gospel message and lead the person to a spiritual decision. ■

## IMB breaks ground

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — International Mission Board trustees received a positive evaluation of the board's 1997 "New Direction" reorganization and heard reports of meetings with national Baptist leaders all over the world, during a May 18-20 meeting here.

Trustees also broke ground for the \$23 million expansion of the board's Missionary Leadership Center in Rockville, Va.

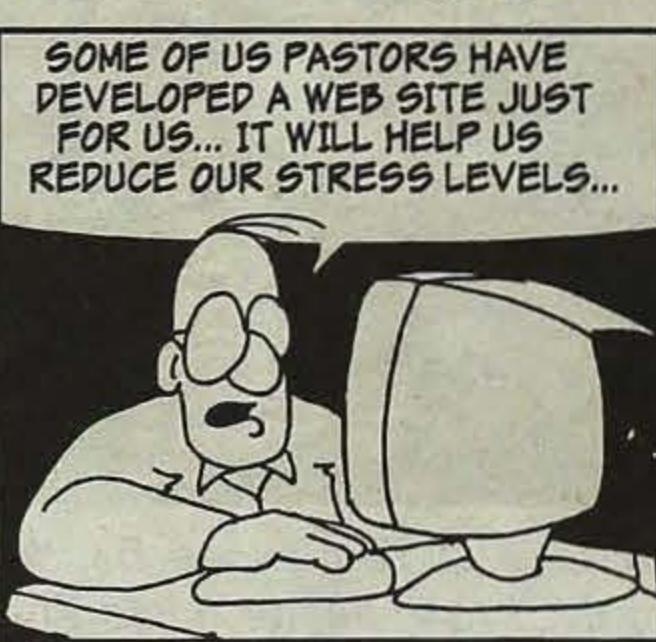
The report on New Directions, in its conclusion, said, "Overall, New Direction has been successful. The board focused on reaching all people through church-planting movements. The focus has shifted from countries to people groups so deeper penetration of the world's population is possible."

"The total number of churches, church membership, baptisms, and other key indicators are up substantially...."

Alongside the trustee meeting, the board conducted its annual emeritus week activities, including 67 missionaries who had retired in the last year and collective years of service since 1932. An appointment session also was held for 43 new and associate missionaries.

## Church of the Covered Dish

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



# Billy Graham Crusade draws ...

Continued from page 1  
Following are some brief re-  
views of the involvement of  
people in the crusade.

• • •  
In Sims, pastor, Brent-  
Baptist Deaf Church,  
wood, was chairman of  
the crusade committee providing  
deaf and hearing im-  
people.

Explained the commit-  
tee provided five kinds of inter-  
action of events — broad-  
cast FM frequency radio  
hearing aids via the loop  
real-time displayed  
sign, American sign lan-  
guage and English sign lan-

deaf and hearing im-  
also enjoyed a sign lan-  
guage choir made up of about  
members. And deaf Chris-  
tians were as counselors and  
counselors their own follow-  
ers each evening after a crusade  
session on spiritual decisions  
made by deaf/hearing  
abled people, said Sims. He  
counselors about 70 volun-  
teers for 10 months to conduct  
the crusade.

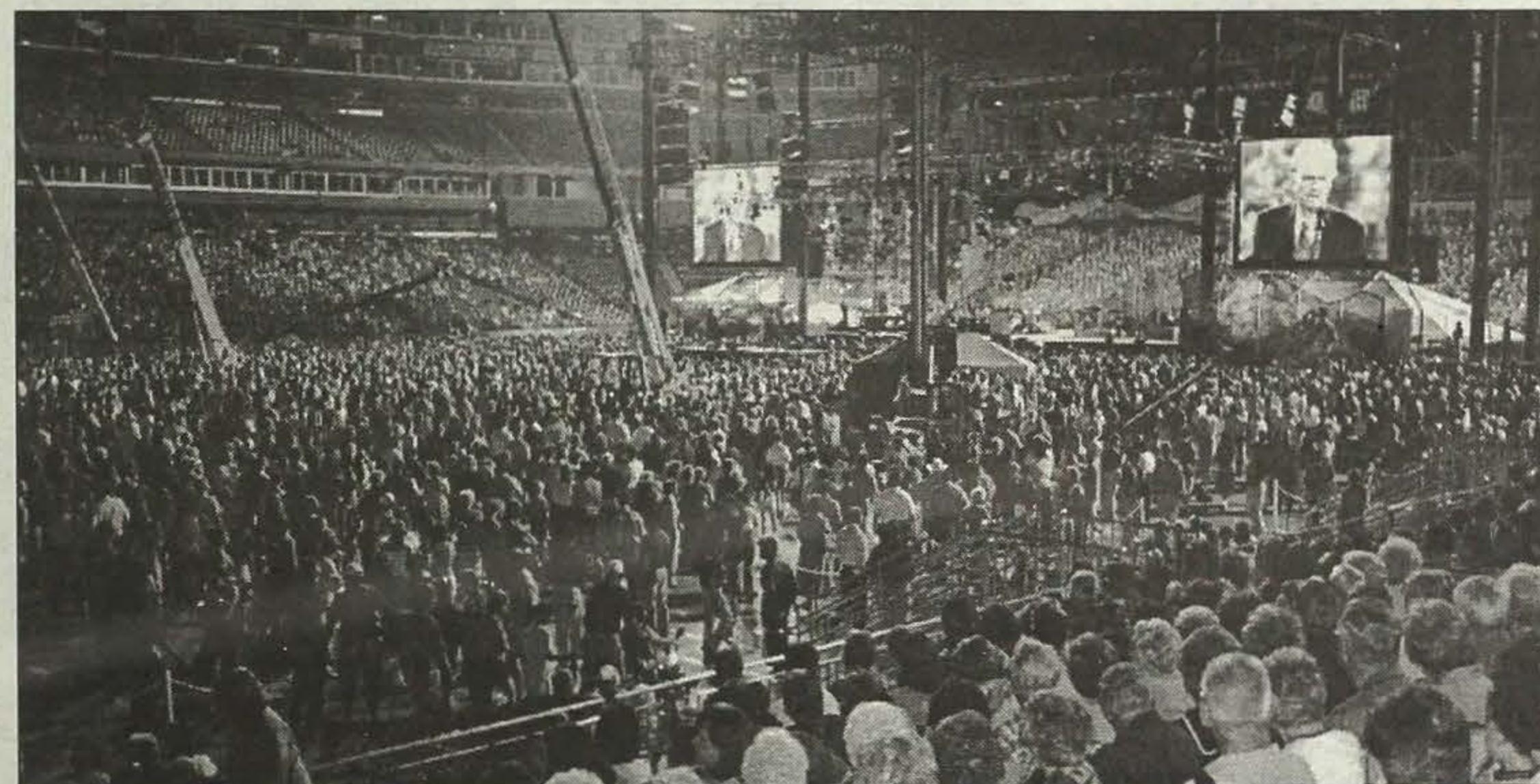
Guest to one session was  
Miss America Heather  
Stone.

• • •  
Mark Hobafcovich, mission-  
ary in Franklin and pas-  
tor, Romanian Baptist Church,

Donelson, helped lead the lan-  
guage committee. This com-  
mittee translated events into  
nine languages. Hobafcovich  
worked with about 40 volun-  
teers. Two translators were re-  
quired in each session for the  
languages being offered. Peo-  
ple heard the translation on  
radio sets tuned to different  
AM radio frequencies.

Hobafcovich relied on Bapt-  
ist pastors to provide the ser-  
vice. They were Don Choi,  
Nashville Unity Korean Bap-  
tist Church; Joel Bayluan-  
grath, Laotian Baptist Mis-  
sion, Woodbine Baptist Church;  
Simon Yokoi, Japanese Baptist Mission, Third  
Baptist Church, Murfreesboro,  
and Japanese Baptist Mission,  
Bluegrass Baptist Church,  
Hendersonville; David Ho,  
Nashville Chinese Baptist  
Church; Chamjok Wiitour, Su-  
danese Baptist Mission, Wood-  
cock Baptist Church; Paul Del-  
va, French Haitian Baptist  
Mission, Woodcock Baptist  
Church; Ruben Diaz, Hispanic  
Baptist Mission, Judson Bap-  
tist Church; Ngoc Ha, Viet-  
namese Baptist Mission, Im-  
manuel Baptist Church; Eliab  
Saenz, Hispanic Baptist Mis-  
sion, First Baptist Church,  
Nashville; and Chuy Avila,  
Tennessee Baptist Convention  
staff.

• • •  
Other Baptists were leaders  
of crusade efforts. Rachel  
Jones was chairman of the  
committee which provided  
Kidz Gig on Saturday morn-  
— See Billy, page 6



PEOPLE MAKING a spiritual decision and counselors gather on the covered field of the coliseum during the Thursday evening session.



## DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

SECTION 125



LOGAN HUBBARD of New Vision Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, holds a sign informing deaf and hard of hearing people of a section where they should sit.



IT 75 people who attended a crusade community festival near the James Cayce  
tony Sudekum Homes march across the Shelby Avenue bridge over I-65 to the Sat-  
evening crusade session. Participating were members of Woodcock Baptist  
h, Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, and Tulip Grove Baptist Church, which helps  
cock Church.



DARLENE JOHNSON, right, of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, visits with a girl after she received free food during a crusade community festival held by several churches including Woodcock Baptist Church and Shelby Avenue Baptist Church.



MEMBERS of Messiah Baptist Church perform at a crusade community festi-  
val held near the church and the J. C. Napier Homes on Saturday. The  
church and the crusade provided free food and a ride to the Saturday evening crusade  
session. The church also introduced its Project: Lazarus to the community.



DURING KIDZ GIG held on Saturday morning Linda Grinder, right, of First Bap-  
tist Church, Hohenwald, counsels Emily Thibodeaux of North Fork Baptist  
Church, Shelbyville, while her father David Thibodeaux looks on.



## letters/opinion

### about letters

The editor is not bound to print all letters that are submitted for publication. No letters will be published that contain known factual errors. It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the letter to meet guidelines. Notification of the failure to meet guidelines is not the responsibility of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Letters:

- Should deal with issues relevant to Tennessee Baptists and should not deal with personalities or attack people.
- Must not be libelous or potentially libelous.
- Should be 300 words or less.
- Must not be "form" or open letters.
- Will be accepted from writers once in a three-months period.
- Should be clearly marked they are intended for publication.
- Be signed and include address and phone number. Faxed letters are accepted, but must be signed. Letters that are e-mailed should be followed with a signed, mailed or faxed copy.

### Proud of dad

Rev. Vernon R. Webster died April 22 in Monteagle, where he lived with my brother, Carlton, and sister-in-law, Doris. He was 95 years of age and continued to research Bible topics and write sermon notes until a few days before his death.

He served many churches in Tennessee as pastor and was associational missionary for the Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association. My father worked tirelessly for many years in the service of the Lord with little or no recognition. Of course, his reward was in seeing the salvation of souls and the growth of churches. He usually served small congregations in need of building programs.

He was always involved physically in the building program, laying all the blocks by hand. Such was the case at Sylvia Baptist Church in Dickson. When my dad became their pastor he was "half time." Dad said he would come at \$50 a week as long as the church would commit to give regularly

through the Cooperative Program. They had \$600 in the building fund and Dad said, "Let's start." Since that time, we have made several additions to the church and are planning to build a new auditorium. The membership is now over 500 and my husband attributes the growth of the church to the initial and continued commitment to the Cooperative Program.

*Ida Sue Westerman  
Dickson*

### Agrees with revisions

As a pastor, I have had many people ask me questions about the new additions to the *Baptist Faith and Message* that will be proposed this year by a study committee. Let me share with you some of my initial convictions about this subject.

First, let me say that I can support each and every change or clarification proposed. When our annual convention was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, there was an amendment added to the document concerning the family. The amendment was taken clearly and literally from the family. I honestly don't see how anyone could not support the addition. While at one time I did not feel that it was necessary to restate the obvious, the questions and attention received from media and others led me to believe that the addition was necessary. If our commitment to what God's Word communicates about the family was unclear, it certainly was cleared up by the amendment! I believe the changes recommended this year by our study committee will seek to clarify and restate our positions rather than change them.

Second, one of the real additions to the document states that we do not believe women should be placed in the role of pastor of a local church. It does not say that women should not take part in the proclamation or propagation of the Gospel. Some women have suggested that this prohibits their carrying out their "God-given" call to ministry. I disagree! There is no New Testament precedent for women serving in the role of pastor. Biblical evidence communicates otherwise. Experience, regardless of how passionate, doesn't preclude the truth of God's Word.

Third, I have a great deal of confidence in Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue in Cordova, who chaired the study committee and all those who have served with him. I believe the committee seeks to strengthen our commitment to and reliance on God's Word.

*Jerry Tidwell, pastor  
West Jackson Baptist Church  
Jackson 37921*

### Four observations

I have four observations about the proposed revisions to

the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

First, the revision seeks to clarify Southern Baptist positions on issues. Since there are many other types of Baptists, perhaps it should be called the "Southern Baptist Faith and Message."

Second, the authors of the revision contend that removing descriptions of "soul competency" or the "priesthood of the believer" is necessary because of an increase in moral relativity. Then, however, they propose a change in the statement on the Lord's Day (section VIII). The proposed change states that "activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ." In other words, proper behavior on Sunday is relative. It seems that the proposal would remove "soul competency" in word but maintain it in practice — at least where it is convenient.

Third, many are concerned that Section VI bars women from the pastorate. In reality, the wording implies even more. In this document women are not even afforded status as human beings. This appears to be the case since outside of Section VI every use of the word "men" refers not to "males" but to "people" in the generic sense. Section II.C, for instance, says, "The Holy Spirit ... enables men to understand truth ... convicts men of sin ... calls men to the Saviour."

Lastly, I am disheartened by the statement "Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence" (Sec. XII). All this time I have been taught that Christianity is the faith of salvation. Emotionally, it sounds arrogant and insensitive to imply that non-Christians are uncivilized morons. Logically, if people without Christ are unintelligent, how will they comprehend our presentation of the Gospel?

The revision committee is made up of erudite people of faith. What they have produced, however, is deeply flawed. If Christianity is indeed the faith of enlightenment and intelligence, I'm afraid the proposed revised document does not offer evidence to the fact.

*Brad Bull  
Knoxville 37921*

### God is redemptive

My seminary days were filled with many unanticipated moments, not the least of which was one chapel experience. On this occasion a most respected professor of New Testament studies, Frank Stagg, stood before the student body and reaffirmed his basic beliefs in the Bible and Baptist principles. There were many rumors as to who was behind the pressure on Dr. Stagg to reaffirm his beliefs in light of criticism of his teaching by a small group of students

and at least one professor.

The spirit by which he shared his faith overshadowed the witch hunt of his accusers. His spirit of love transcended their spirit of judgement.

Little did I realize that what I was experiencing that day in chapel, the discrediting of people and their God given gifts to serve, would someday be played out across the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is sad to see "men" who bear the name of Christ find satisfaction in actions which serve only to further divide the body of Christ, like the revised *Baptist Faith and Message* statement. Jesus said that his disciples would be known for the spirit of love which existed between them. There is no wonder that the integrity of the Gospel is at risk, not because of what it says, but because of the narrow interpretations that serve only to reinforce the power and prestige of men.

Those who seem like giants in the land today will one day be no more. God is redemptive and works towards reconciliation not division. The prayer of Christ for us has always been that we might be one with each other, even as he is one with God.

*Caby Byrne  
Memphis 38104*

### Disagrees with letter

I am writing this letter in response to Bill Sherman's letter in the May 31 issue. Mr. Sherman states that Baptist life is rooted in "four cherished beliefs."

From this he develops a logical argument to support his conclusions. Unfortunately, he fails to state that the fundamental (essential) belief of Baptist is that of the authority of Scripture. In his attempt to develop his argument he totally walks around truth of God's Word and leads the readers to an existential theology. Not once does he cite the Word of God, rather he elevates personal feeling and discernment of the Holy Spirit devoid of any scripture. Did not John warn us to test the Spirits? (I John 4:1)

A simple reading of I Timothy 2:12 would allow anyone who is willing to understand exactly what the SBC is trying to protect. The verse states that women are not to "teach or have authority over a man."

The SBC is not trying to disregard, disrespect, or to undermine the value of women. It is trying to keep us from falling for the same bait cast by that wise old serpent long ago that got us in the mess we are in.

In a day and time where people are for the most part biblically illiterate we must lift high the banner of God's Word lest we fall into the trap of Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." In

closing I would like to remind Christians, the Holy Spirit contradicts the clear teachings of God's Word. When this occurs, you had better check behind the mask.

*Chris Gilliam, pastor  
Eastside Baptist Church  
McMinnville 37341*

### Only God knows

Let me preface this letter with a few facts. There has been a time when I have been involved in Baptist life, parents were Christian and I was not. I have been taught have studied for more than years about the love of Jesus and I have been a Christian many years. My life today revolves around my church spreading the Gospel to the world. All of this has prompted me to write this letter.

If I remember correctly, Jesus' first command after his resurrection was to some women. He told them to go tell the apostles that he had risen. Who were the apostles? Why did Jesus have to depend on so many women to be the first to share the wonderful news of his resurrection?

When Jesus came, he elevated the status of women so that we no longer have to endure low self esteem that women suffered before his coming. I have been told that at times our women missionaries have been known to preach the message of Jesus because there were men to do it. Could that be true? Should they be called heroes?

It seems that Jesus, in sending women to be the bearers of the good news of the resurrection to some men who had left the scene, was telling us that it does not matter whether it be male or female who is sharing the Gospel. Even Paul wrote in Galatians that in God's sight there is neither male or female.

In the process of sharing the Gospel, are our Southern Baptist leaders failing to let "the main thing be the main thing?" Only God knows who his Holy Spirit calls into special service for him.

*Ruth Spaulding  
Hendersonville 37075*

### Pamphlet available

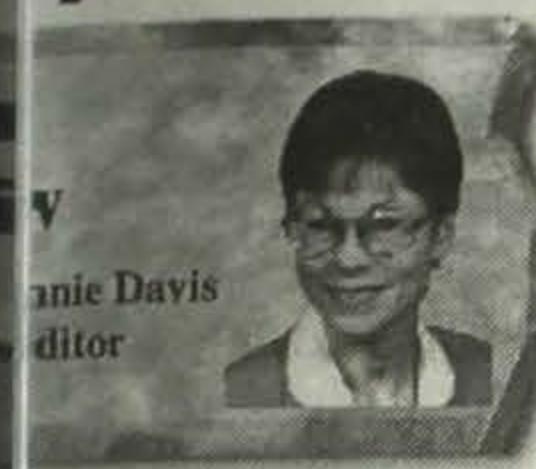
Your editorial "Let's not get 'priesthood of the believers'" in the May 31 issue is well written. We need to do whatever it takes to keep that historic Baptist principle front and center all Baptist doctrinal statements.

The Southern Baptist Historical Society has a pamphlet titled "Priesthood of All Believers." It contains three sections: The Biblical Foundation, The Reformation and the Priesthood, and Baptists and the Priesthood.

We will gladly send a copy to anyone who requests it. Simply write: Southern Baptist Historical Society, P.O. Box 100, Brentwood, TN 37024.

*Charles Dewey, executive director, SBF  
Brentwood 37024*

# Billy Graham shares openly at press conference



ern Baptists to witness to groups of people in the United States despite criticism. He said he chooses not to target racial or ethnic groups of people. When he speaks, he speaks so all can hear the message and understand, he said.

I asked him about the proposed change to the Baptist Faith and Message of the Southern Baptist Convention. I noted the new statement of faith did not include a reference to the priesthood of the believer. Graham, who is a member of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, said he didn't know enough about the issue to comment.

But he added, "Southern Baptists are a tremendous power for God in this country."

He wasn't asked about the proposed change to the Baptist Faith and Message which requires pastors to be men, but Graham reported on his daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, who "has become an evangelist," he said. She recently drew 10,000 to a meeting, he proudly reported. He also referred to her evangelistic work several times during the crusade.

Graham, 81, openly revealed

he had not preached in six months, but had spent much of that time being treated at the Mayo Clinic. He reported he has hydrocephalus, which affects his memory, along with Parkinson's disease. "But I haven't forgotten the Scriptures ... I can still quote most of the Scripture I know — I know less than I thought," he said.

What strength enables him to preach? asked a reporter. Graham contended, "It's an answer to prayer. People are praying." He said he will feel weak before he speaks and even as he moves to the podium, but when he begins "some new strength is given."

And if "I fall down," said Graham with a smile, Franklin, his son will step up to the podium to take his place. Graham asked Franklin to stand from his place seated without fanfare among reporters.

Graham also reported on other family members. He proudly noted his wife, Ruth, who has undergone two hip replacements this year, was able to attend an 80th birthday party held for her May 30 in Asheville, N.C.

The strength of his personal

ity was seen when he described the content of his messages. His description became his message — directed to the reporters. "God is a God of love. He's alive. He's coming back again. Repent of your sins and receive him because man's heart is the same," he said, referring to the time when he held a crusade in Nashville in 1979.

With an unusual honesty, Graham admitted his messages have remained the same for the 50 years he has led crusades. But he added, "people are doing the same old things."

The world famous preacher received quite a few laughs from the crowd. When talking about his health, Graham said another health problem is eating too many sweets which makes his suits too snug.

His memorable diction and clarity were apparent along with a winsomeness.

"We need a dominance of love in our lives and forgiveness.

"Everybody knows about Nashville. We love this city. We're here because we love you all.

"I know the future belongs to the Lord," said Graham. *B&R*



## just for today

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Eudora Church,  
Memphis



## Start with a smile

Husband: "I see that according to a survey women speak 30,000 words a day while men speak only 15,000 words. I wonder why." Wife: "That's because women have to repeat everything they say." Husband: "What?"

## Take this truth

The ability to listen well is an accomplishment as great as, probably greater than, the ability to speak well.

## Memorize this Scripture

"Listen ... harken, ye people." — Isaiah 49:1

## Pray this prayer

"Lord, help me to realize I'm not learning a thing when I am talking." — Wood can be emailed at [dfredwood@aol.com](mailto:dfredwood@aol.com)

## Partnership Prayer Requests

### June

8 — Pray for First Baptist Church, Nashville, as they work June 9-18 at the Prazeres Mission Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The team will lead a medical clinic, work as art teachers in the schools, and do evangelism.

9 — Pray for church strategists George and Carolyn Boujaily, who are serving in Quebec, Canada.

10 — Praise the Lord for a construction team from Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, who built a chapel in May for the Cinco Marias Mission Church in Rio de Janeiro.

11 — Pray for an eight-member student team, led by TBC Partnership Project Mission specialist Kim Huff, who will prayerwalk June 11-19 in Portugal.

12 — Pray for Nicki Chandler, an IMB journeyman, who works on the youth team in Portugal.

13 — Pray for Craige and Ellen Steele and Elizabeth Oates, retired IMB missionaries who served in Rio de Janeiro.

14 — Pray for Don and Rose McCain, IMB missionaries to Portugal. The McCains are thankful for area pastors who are responding to church planting by cell groups and home Bible studies.

## B&M study committee releases statement

**E**ditor's Note: Following is a statement released to Baptist Press on May 26 by the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

NASHVILLE — "We released our report May 18 to ensure that Southern Baptists have ample opportunity to review our commendation and respond to our call. Thus, we are thankful for the responses we have received and for the pouring of favorable response to our proposed revision of the Baptist Faith and Message. This response has verified the Herschel H. Hobbs' observation that Southern Baptists 'are a people united in faith in the basic body of beliefs commonly held by Baptists.'

Some very good questions have been concerning our report. Some have asked why we did not include more of the preamble. Our task was to compose a preamble specifically designed to introduce the Baptist Faith and Message to a new generation. Following the example of the committee, we included specific language from the 1925 preamble-historic documents that have won an honored place in Southern Baptist heritage.

We believe that the concepts of soul competency and the priesthood of all believers are cherished Baptist principles. We believe that these are included in and by the sixth article of our report, 'The Church,' where we state that 'each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord.'

We are following the example of the committee and its chairman E. Y. Mullins — who developed the concept of competency and was its first advocate. The committee's report, like our own, lets the article speak for itself, and does not insert language into the preamble. We believe that this principle 'means a competency under God, not a competency in the

sense of human self-sufficiency.'

"Others have asked why we changed language in Article I, 'The Scriptures.' Events in recent years have demonstrated that we needed to clarify that the Bible is not merely the record of God's revelation, but is itself God's revealed Word in written form. With Christians throughout the ages, most Southern Baptists believe in verbal inspiration. The Bible itself teaches that every word of Scripture was inspired by God, and is therefore completely true and trustworthy (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inerrant, infallible, and is our sole authority for faith and practice in the church. As Herschel Hobbs repeatedly declared to the Convention, this was all implied in the 1963 statement. We made these affirmations clear in our proposal.

"The closing sentence of the 1963 statement on the Scriptures has been a cause of controversy. Some have used the language defining Jesus Christ as 'the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted,' to drive a wedge between the incarnate Word and the written Word, and to deny the truthfulness of certain passages. We use stronger and more historic language in affirming the fact that 'all Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is himself the focus of divine revelation.' As Christ said of the Scriptures, 'these are they which testify of me' (John 5:39).

"In light of modern theological controversies, we have clarified that Southern Baptists believe in the unlimited omniscience of God, and in the essential fact of Christ's substitutionary death on the cross. We do not deny that other historic understandings of the atonement add to our appreciation for the saving work of Christ, but the central message of the New Testament is that Christ 'died for our sins, according to the Scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3).

"The secular media have directed their focus to the revisions in Article VI, 'The Church.' Why did our committee decide to

deal with the issue of women in the pastorate? Simply because we were driven by biblical authority, a sense of urgency, and the near unanimous verdict of our churches.

"First, we faced the fact that the Bible is clear in presenting the office of pastor as restricted to men. There is no biblical precedent for a woman in the pastorate, and the Bible teaches that women should not teach in authority over men.

"Second, the issue of women in the pastorate demands attention in our time, when other denominations are abandoning biblical teaching and calling women to serve as pastors.

"Third, we spoke to the issue because Southern Baptists are united in conviction. Far less than one percent of churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention have ever called a woman as pastor. For the sake of generations to come, we should state our convictions boldly.

"The 1925 committee chose to write an article on the social and moral demands of the Gospel. The 1963 committee revised this article, addressing selected moral issues of that day. Our committee has followed this precedent. We have added language calling upon Southern Baptists to defend human life from the moment of conception to natural death. We have also addressed the issues of homosexuality, adultery, pornography, and all other forms of sexual immorality. With great urgency, we make clear that racism is a wretched sin that has no place among the people of God. Southern Baptists cannot remain silent on these issues.

"In adopting our report, Southern Baptists will not be saying everything we would wish to say about every doctrine of the faith. But we will state boldly that these are convictions we affirm as revealed in God's Word — those cherished doctrines that define the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches." ■

# Billy Graham Crusade draws ...

—Continued from page 3  
ing. Jones is minister to children, The People's Church, Franklin. Bob Cook, pastor, The Church at Grace Park, White House, was in charge of counselors/follow up.

Brett Stewart of the Nashville Baptist Association staff was co-chairman of the inner city outreach which helped develop six Saturday crusade community festivals and provided transportation for residents to Saturday events. Bill Parsons Jr., of Forest Hills Baptist Church led a prison ministry in cooperation with Bill Glass ministries a couple of weeks prior to the crusade. Linda Leathers, minister to singles, First Baptist Church, Nashville, was in charge of singles and Mike Arrington, The People's Church, led arrangements.

Marty Dickens of First Baptist Church, Nashville, was co-chair of finances. Serving on the executive committee was Jim Freedman, executive director, Nashville Baptist Association; and Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers Baptist Church.

About 20 members of Concord Grandview Baptist Church, Nolensville, served as volunteers despite several obstacles. The church was flooded May 25 and the congregation is only about 100 members strong. The congregation has been strengthened by the experience, reported Jess Love, pastor.

Staff members of seven churches in Wilson County Baptist Association, based in Lebanon, met monthly for seven months to pray for the crusade, reported Mike Pearson, director of missions.

In addition to crusade community festivals, Woodcock Baptist Church, Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, and The Village Church helped involve about 300

children mainly from the James Cayce and Tony Sudekum Homes in Kidz Gig on Saturday morning, reported Tony Langton, associate pastor, Woodcock Church. The crusade provided transportation.

Stewart County Baptist Association, based in Dover, brought 225 people by bus to the Friday evening session and with help from the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes, about 100 youth and sponsors to the Saturday evening session, reported William Gray, director of missions. It took about 2 1/2 hours one way.

Most residents were astounded at the number attending. Stewart County has about 15,000 residents, he noted. And attending the event already has helped leaders understand the importance of planning. Attendance was up at a June 4 meeting in preparation for a crusade in Stewart and Houston counties, he reported.

Members of an adult class of First Baptist Church, Nashville, led by Donna Baumgartner helped take children from the Family Life Center, a

women's shelter, to Kidz Gig. Several children made professions of faith. On the following day, children reported to members of the church working with them, confirming their decisions. Many of the children not only understood their decision but had begun memorizing Bible verses, reported Becky Sumrall of the church and Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union staff.

Joe Stacker, pastor, Belmont

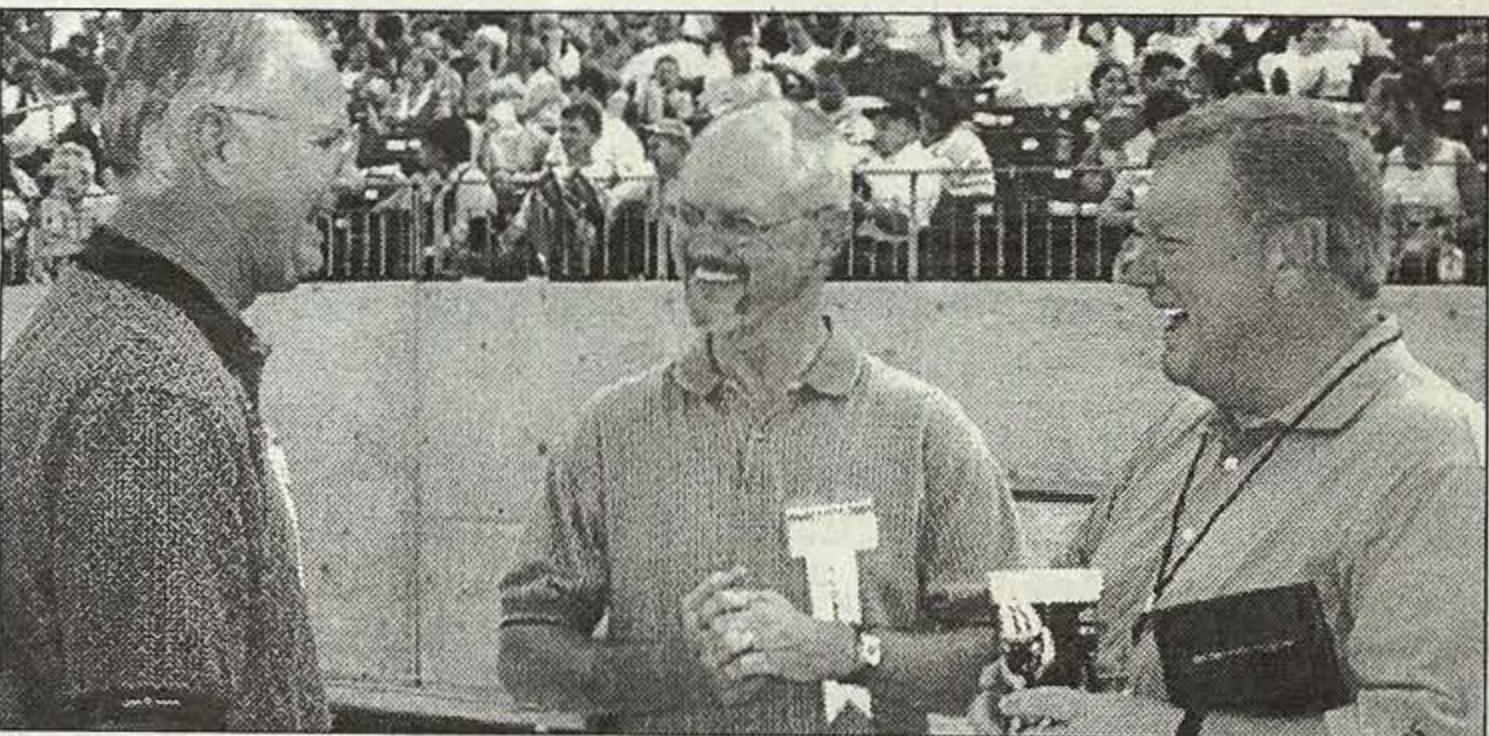


**GREETING** children arriving for Kidz Gig on Saturday morning is Sonja Cagle, Eastside Baptist Church, Burns.

Heights Baptist Church, reported as a supervisor counselor he was monitoring a counseling session directed by a young teen about 14 or 15 years old. The girl was counseling a younger child. The young counselor shared a "beautiful testimony" which was founded upon a "genuine faith," reported Stacker. The experience moved him emotionally and encouraged him, he said.



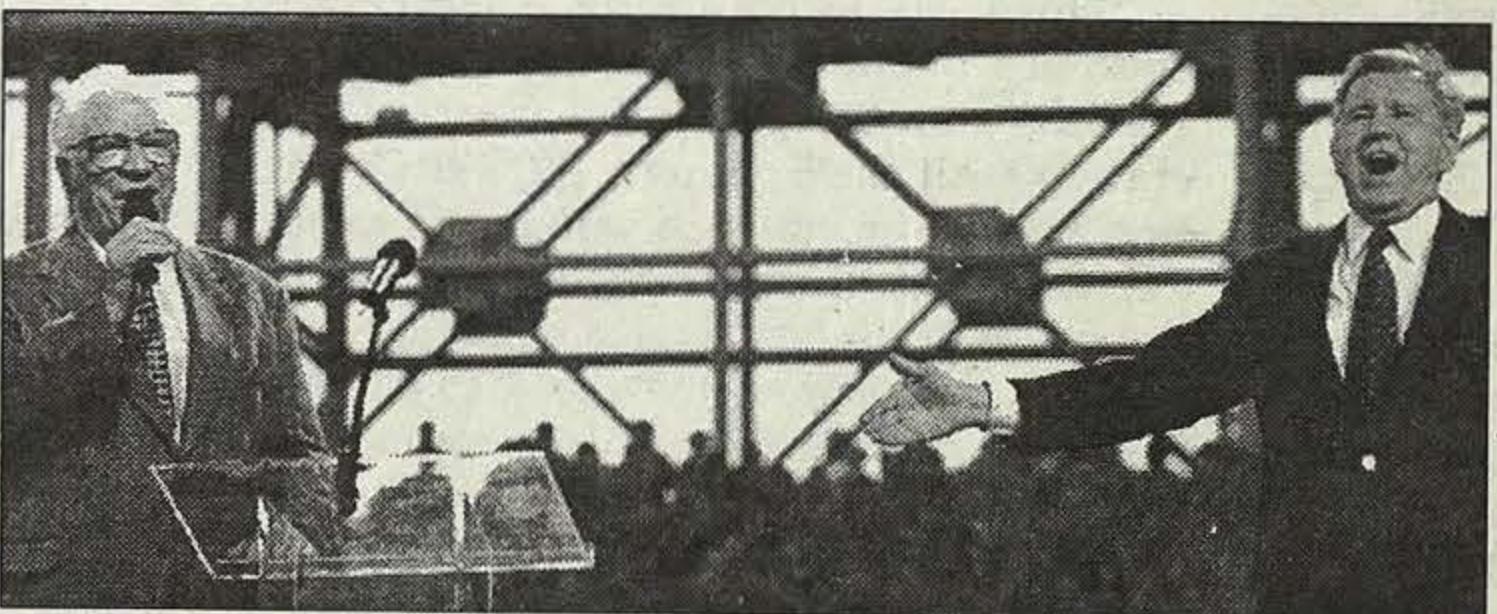
**CHRISTOPHER McCollum** of ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, and Toshia Schmidt of People's Church, Franklin, were part of a group of children who performed in Kidz Gig.



**VISITING** prior to a session are, supervisor counselors, from left, Mack Hannah, pastor, Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Franklin; Dean Sisk, pastor, Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; and Rick White, pastor, First Baptist Church, The People's Church, Franklin.



**BRIAN SIMS**, right, pastor, Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church, interprets sign language the Kidz Gig event along with Joan Hoffman of the church. The electronic display sign behind Sims' head was used for real-time captioning.



**PERFORMING** on Thursday night are George Beverly Shea, left, and Cliff Barrows, who leads the choir to join Shea in the chorus of a song. Shea and Barrows are members of the crusade staff.



A GROUP of directors of missions attend a session. They include from left, Phil Taylor, Charles Cheatham; Larry Kirk, TBC; Frank Hickman; Ron Davidson; Joe Wright; and Bill George, TBC.



**COUNSELORS** included, from left, front row, Sonja Corbett, Virginia White, Cragfont Baptist Church, Castalian Springs; second row, Ann Davenport, Carolyn Outland, and Phyllis Blalock, Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.



Tennessee features

Rick White, pastor, The People's Church, Franklin, reported as a supervisor counselor he was monitoring a counseling session directed by a young teen about 14 or 15 years old. The girl was counseling a younger child. The young counselor shared a "beautiful testimony" which was founded upon a "genuine faith," reported Stacker. The experience moved him emotionally and encouraged him, he said.

# SEEDS

Matthew 13:8

Summer 2000

a newsletter for church leaders from Union University

## Students discover meaning of Great Commission

"was all God." Four words that sum up all on junior Bryan Bell can say about his Egypt Trip group's harrowing experience at a slim mosque outside of Cairo.

One of ten different trips that were taken over break through the Global Outreach (GO) ministry, Bell was part of a group of eleven students whose mission was to prayer-walk through Cairo.

"Open ministry is not allowed there," explains Bell, "so the main extent of what we did involved prayer."

One of their walks took them to a place called Hussein Mosque, a worship center built by

Muslims in honor of the grandson of Muhammad, a mosque that supposedly holds the head of Hussein. According to Bell, this is a very sacred and important place to devout Muslims, which holds a room where the head of Hussein supposedly is located.

As Bell and five other members of his team prepared to go in to that room, they were stopped by a Muslim and told to wait until other Muslims had finished worshipping. As the group sat down against a wall to wait, another Muslim man approached them, demanding to know why they were there.

"Even after explaining that we were just students touring Cairo, the man was getting madder by the second, and started attracting a crowd," adds Bell. "Some of us in the group weren't sure if we were going to be attacked or if someone was going to pull out a knife or a gun."

Surrounded by 20-25 Muslims, some yelling for them to leave the country, the leader of the mosque appeared, dispersing the crowd and invited the group of Union students into his special room, where only he and



Below: Gabe Hart, junior, serves at J.O. Davis Elementary in Irving, Texas. Photo by Mykle Harchfield.

his assistants were allowed.

After visiting with him for a little while, Bell said they were able to get the man's name.

"To be able to get a name is such a huge thing because a lot of these Muslims have never had anyone pray for them. This experience provided such a window of opportunity," says Bell, though he admits it didn't feel that way at the time when they were surrounded.

"God says this is how persecution feels," he adds, "and a lot of us had never experienced that before. But God is sovereign and all-powerful and it was awesome to see how He worked through that situation. It was nothing we did. It was all God."

More than 210 students went on GO Trips this year, the largest group ever to participate, according to Brady. Ministry locations included the international sites of Poland, Honduras, Israel, and Egypt, as well as cities closer to home such as Phoenix, Irving, Arlington, Chicago, Hilton Head, and Naples.



to right: Laural Barkley, sophomore, Cassandra Watts, junior, and Bryan Jerry, senior, pour concrete during their mission work in Honduras. Photo by Mary DeVan Hammond.

## Union freshman leaves China to study piano and finds God

young girl, a talent and a dream. When Li-jia Zou, a freshman music major at Union University native of China came to the United States with hopes of studying piano, she had no idea of the eternal rewards she would uncover as well. Though she is a piano virtuoso, Zou has discovered something that means even more to her in music - a relationship with Christ.

Known as Cindy to her friends, Zou's home is Shanghai, China. A product of China's strict birth control policy, Zou, the only child in her family, lived with her mother in Shanghai before coming to Tennessee as a high school exchange student last year, where she attended Bolivar Central High School in Bolivar as a senior.

"At first it was really hard trying to adjust to making new friends in America," says nineteen-year old Zou. "Chinese people are more reserved and Americans are very open."

Zou's first host family had four daughters. Zou quickly learned to enjoy living in a big family, and liked "sitting down to dinner every night together and everyone talking about their day. I thought it really showed how they cared about each other."

Zou's first host family didn't have a piano, so her practice soon began to suffer. That's when a friend of hers suggested she come practice at his church, First Baptist in Bolivar, Tenn.

The church allowed her to practice three

hours every afternoon after school. Over time, Zou got to know the church staff and eventually walked into the church office and asked how she could become a Christian.

"They were so sweet and different. I had heard about Christianity in China and I wanted to know what that difference was so I could have it for myself," says Zou.

Someone led her in the plan of salvation, and she was baptized. Zou says her host family was instrumental in helping her understand what it meant to be a Christian, and the Chinese Bible that a missionary to China gave her has also been very helpful in her growth as a new Christian.

*Story continued on page 9.*

# Gorbachev and Bennett to speak at Union



Former Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev and former Secretary of Education William Bennett will be featured speakers for two major Union University events this fall.

Gorbachev will be the keynote speaker for the university's annual Scholarship Banquet, scheduled for Tues., Oct. 10, at the Jackson-Madison County Convention Center. He will speak on the decline of communism and the

Soviet Union. Gorbachev, who led the former world power from 1985 - 1991, is credited with streamlining and decentralizing the oppressive system he inherited, ending Communist rule in Eastern Europe. As a result of his extraordinary achievements, Gorbachev was the recipient of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize.

"Through this annual event, Union has established a tradition of bringing individuals to Jackson who have helped shape our world. Clearly, Mr. Gorbachev has been one of the pivotal figures of the 20th century, and his actions have changed the world for the better," explains Union President David S. Dockery.

The Scholarship Banquet is an annual event sponsored by Union's

Board of Presidential Associates for the purpose of raising funds to provide scholarships. More than 80% of all Union students receive some type of financial assistance from the university.

Bennett will be the keynote speaker for a Sept. 7 event that will raise money for the Germantown campus, which recently acquired new facilities. Bennett emerged as one of the national political figures during the 1980's while serving as President Reagan's chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Secretary of Education, then as President Bush's "drug czar." Since leaving government, Bennett has become a noted speaker and author, and is perhaps best known for his books "The Book of Virtues" and "The Children's Book of Virtues."

The Germantown campus is located at the corner of Hacks Cross Rd. and Poplar Pike which currently services more than 250 students in the fields of business, nursing and education.

For ticket information for either of these events and other questions regarding the Scholarship Banquet and Germantown Campus grand-opening, contact Union's Office of Advancement at (901) 661-5050.



## Alumni & Friends Dinner planned during SBC in Orlando June 13

The annual Union Alumni & Friends Dinner at the Southern Baptist Convention will be held on Tuesday, June 13 at 5:00 pm at the Omni Rosen Hotel. The Omni is located next to the Orlando Convention Center, site of this year's SBC session. The Union dinner will be held in the Signature One room on level one of the Omni.

Tickets are available at the Union exhibit at the SBC for a cost of \$16 per person. You can also purchase tickets in advance by calling 1-800-338-6644, and charging them to your VISA or MasterCard.

"This annual event is a popular time for our ministerial alumni and friends to enjoy a renewal of long-standing friendships and to hear the latest from their Alma Mater," explains Gary Williams, Executive Director of the Union Alumni Association. "We are expecting a sell-out crowd for this year's dinner, so we are encouraging folks to purchase tickets in advance."

## Union expands capital campaign to \$60 million

With more than 80% of its original capital campaign already committed two years ahead of schedule, Union University's Board of Trustees voted unanimously at their annual spring meeting to expand the campaign goal set in 1997 from \$35 to \$60 million by 2005 - the largest fundraising effort ever initiated in West Tennessee.

"We are especially proud of the hard work Dr. Dockery and the members of Union's administration and faculty have put forward in the last four years," said Gary Taylor, chairman of the board, who took a few minutes away from the meeting's agenda to specifically recognize Union's administration, staff and faculty.

"Their dedication and eagerness to serve day after day is the reason why this great university is becoming one of the leading Christian liberal arts institutions in the South."

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at Union University**



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## Pianist plays for new master

Story continued from page 7.

After her year as a high school exchange student came to an end, Zou and her mother made the scary discovery that the program did not include her airfare home.

"I didn't have any money to go home, and since I had wanted to come to America to study anyway, my host family helped me start looking at colleges and universities that I could go to," says Zou.

Eventually, she met and auditioned for the music faculty at Union, and was accepted on full scholarship.

"The music faculty at Union have been so wonderful to me. My piano professor, Dr. McRoberts, is hilarious. He lets me play things that I like to play."

Zou performed an hour-long recital earlier this spring, a rare occurrence for freshmen piano students. The pieces she performed included all three movements of Mozart's A minor sonata, pieces from Liszt, Debussy, Bach, and a Chinese piece which she opened the recital with, titled "Colorful Clouds Pursuing the Moon," a favorite song of her mother's.

Though Zou has not been able to see her mother since coming to the United States, her mother made her daughter a traditional Chinese gown to wear for her Union debut, which Zou wore proudly when she performed.

Many people have supported Zou during her stay, particularly a host family living in Middleton, Tenn., who she stays with during the summer. They will be taking her to her first international piano competition this summer.

"My host families have all been wonderful Christian people. God has been so good to me - He is awesome," says Zou.

*Pianist Cindy Zou hopes to return to China one day to share her faith and her talent with others.*



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# UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH GIVING REPORT

## • September 1, 1999-February 29, 2000 •

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
<b>BEECH RIVER</b>				Grand Junction, First	996.00	-	Clarksville, First	
Bear Creek	\$50.00	-		Middleton, First	-	480.00	(Cumberland)	90.00
Lexington, First	-	\$3,000.00		Saulsbury	150.00	-	East Rogersville	
Mt. Gilead	100.00	-		Shandy	-	50.00	(Holston Valley)	388.75
Sand Ridge	250.00	-		Toone	-	863.09	Ecru (MS)	50.00
Union	250.00	-		Trinity	150.00	-	Forest Hills (Nashville)	750.00
Wildersville	-	200.00		Walnut Grove	-	375.00	Friendship Sunday School	
	\$650.00	\$3,200.00		West Memorial	-	50.00	(Paris, First)	400.00
				Whiteville, First	600.00	-	Grace (Bledsoe)	200.00
<b>BEULAH</b>					\$1,946.00	\$3,321.69	Grace Covenant (Knox)	28.05
Martin, First	\$1,200.00	-		<b>HAYWOOD</b>			Hendersonville, First	
Mt. Olive	50.00	-		Allen	\$500.00	-	(Bledsoe)	780.00
Ridgely, First	1,639.96	\$1,000.00		Holly Grove	-	\$1,049.99	Jacksboro, First	
South Fulton	-	2,700.00		Poplar Corner	-	781.25	(Campbell)	320.86
Tiptonville, First	-	2,254.94		Shaw's Chapel	250.00	-	Kenner, First (LA)	100.00
Union City, First	1,950.00	-		Stanton	200.00	-	Knoxville, First (Knox)	1,317.35
Union City, Second	-	1,041.70		Woodland	-	1,500.00	Lakeview (FL)	1,183.00
Woodland Mills, First	300.00	-		Zion	-	1,220.19	Monte Vista (Chilhowee)	2,555.89
	\$5,139.96	\$6,996.64			\$950.00	\$4,551.43	Mt. Moriah W.M.U.	50.00
<b>BIG HATCHIE</b>				<b>MADISON-CHESTER</b>			Oak Ridge, First (Clinton)	974.57
Covington, First	\$2,000.02	\$6,999.98		Ararat	-	\$3,750.00	Olivet C.P. Missions	
Faith	300.00	-		Beech Bluff	-	2,014.49	(Savannah, TN)	200.00
Fellowship	300.00	-		Bemis, First	-	334.75	Pilgrim (Chilhowee)	55.51
Grace	220.00	-		Calvary	-	1,800.00	Salem (Salem)	1,739.77
Pleasant Grove	1,409.08	-		East Union	-	1,770.80	West Frankfort,	
Ripley, First	501.21	-		Englewood	-	10,999.98	Second (IL)	162.54
Smyrna	750.00	-		Jackson, First	-	10,075.00	Western District Baptist Association	
	\$5,480.31	\$6,999.98		Madison	\$360.00	-	Woodmont	
<b>CARROLL-BENTON</b>				Meridian	300.00	-	(Nashville)	1,626.61
Bruceton, First	-	\$1,331.49		North Jackson	-	1,500.00		179.00
Camden, First	-	540.00		Northbrook	450.00	-	\$11,691.02	\$4,904.05
Howse	750.00	-		Poplar Heights	-	1,410.00		
Huntingdon, First	-	4,215.02		West Jackson	-	18,020.36		
Trezevant, First	-	1,000.00			\$1,110.00	\$51,675.38		
	\$750.00	\$7,086.51						
<b>CROCKETT</b>				<b>SHELBY</b>				
Alamo, First	\$100.00	\$400.00		Ardmore	\$543.09	-	<b>I want to be a part of the work at Union</b>	
Friendship	201.50	-		Audubon Park	600.00	-	<b>University.</b>	
Maury City, First	1,250.04	-		Bartlett	-	\$499.98		
	\$1,551.54	\$400.00		Broadmoor	1,153.00	-		
<b>DYER</b>				Brookside	-	150.00		
Dyersburg, First	-	\$2,083.35		Cherry Road	1,000.02	-		
Finley	-	1,170.00		Leawood	433.32	-		
Fowlkes	-	500.00		Millington, First	-	2,405.00		
Macedonia	-	150.00		Mullins Station	834.41	-		
Newbern, First	1,083.14	4,332.54		Raleigh	-	874.00		
	\$1,083.14	\$8,235.89		Trafalgar Village	499.67	-		
<b>FAYETTE</b>					\$5,063.51	\$3,928.98		
Somerville, First	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00		<b>SHILOH</b>				
	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00		Adamsville, First	-	\$1,500.00		
<b>GIBSON</b>				Good Hope	\$300.00	-		
Antioch	\$500.00	-		Gravel Hill	750.00	-		
Bethpage	100.00	-		Mt. Zion	60.00	-		
Bradford, First	-	\$1,200.00		Selmer, First	-	3,499.98		
Calvary - Humboldt	258.06	109.31			\$1,110.00	\$4,999.98		
Fellowship	125.00	-		<b>WEAKLEY</b>				
Humboldt, First	-	3,333.31		Central	\$500.00	-		
Kenton, First	-	1,270.00		Dresden, First	-	\$498.70		
Milan, First	-	2,600.00		Gleason, First	-	200.00		
New Bethlehem	435.56	-		Jolley Springs	150.00	-		
Northside	500.00	-		New Hope	-	200.00		
Oak Grove	209.05	-			\$650.00	\$898.70		
Oakwood	300.00	-		<b>WESTERN DISTRICT</b>				
Poplar Grove	800.00	-		Maplewood	-	\$2,476.55		
Salem	-	1,802.19		Oak Hill	\$220.00	-		
Trenton, First	-	4,267.19		Paris, First	-	5,000.02		
West Side	-	30.00		Pureyear	600.00	-		
	\$3,227.67	\$14,612.00			\$820.00	\$7,476.57		
<b>HARDEMAN</b>				<b>OTHER CHURCHES/ORGANIZATIONS</b>				
Bolivar, First	\$50.00	\$1,450.00		Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, Bolivar	-	\$50.00		
Ebenezer	-	53.60		Carroll-Benton Baptist Association	-	459.51		
				Central (Clinton)	\$2,683.66	-		

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## leaders

**Joey Williams** was called as minister of youth, Calvary Baptist Church, Nashville, effective May 19.

**Harold W. Allen** retired 30 as pastor, First Baptist Church, Peachtree, Ga., after serving there 13 years. He formerly was pastor, First Baptist Church, Gallatin, and has been in Kentucky and Illinois for 38 years. Allen has returned to Nashville and is available for part-time service to his. He can be reached at 309-0816.

**John Box** has been called as pastor, Third Baptist Church, Nashville, effective May 21. He formerly was on church staff of Calvary First Church, Nashville.

**Ryan Wagers** was called as pastor, Bakers Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, effective May 28. He formerly served the church as pastor.

Byerley's Chapel Baptist Church, Knoxville, honored **T. Hamilton** recently for serving Sunday School for 52 years and for serving as a deacon for 51 years. Youth of the church bought Bibles in honor. Also a plaque was placed in the church and a meal was held for Hamilton.

Ardmore Baptist Church, Ardmore, has called **Michael Phillips**, a student at Mid-American

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ca Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, as youth coordinator.

■ **Ron Dyer**, a hospice chaplain, has been called as pastor, Colonial View Baptist Church, Cookeville. He will serve as a bivocational pastor.

■ **Glenn Gregg**, pastor, Everett Road Baptist Church, Knoxville, for five years, has retired. Gregg also has led other churches in the area for a total of 40 years. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Gregg also has published *Memories, A Celebration of Life* to aid pastors and other caregivers for families who have suffered a death. The book is available at bookstores through Ingram distribution, from the publisher at 1-800-321-5692, or at amazon.com or gainesandnoble.com.

## deaths

■ **Homer C. Salyer**, 83, pastor, Riverview Baptist Church, Elizabethton, died May 27. Salyer also served as pastor of Caldwell Springs Baptist Church, Elizabethton; Hunter Memorial Baptist Church, Elizabethton. He also had served as pastor of churches in Virginia and North Carolina.

■ **Robert Douglas (Doug) Cabbage**, 64, a former member of the executive board of Grainger Baptist Association, based in Rutledge, and a member of Mouth of Richland Baptist Church, Blaine, died May 16.

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**DAVE DAVENPORT**, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, leads an adult session of an Experiencing God Weekend at Charlotte Road Baptist Church, Nashville, May 5-7. Davenport is part of a state Experiencing God team coordinated by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The team is based in Clinton Baptist Association. For more information, contact team director Tim Fitzgerald at (865) 483-5875.

## churches

■ On June 11 **Bakers Grove Baptist Church**, Mt. Juliet, will hold Friend and Neighbor Day. Activities include a luncheon and 1:30 p.m. event featuring Ranson, a music group, and Eric Melton, kickboxing champion, who will speak. For more information, call (615) 883-5039.

■ The third annual Wagon Train/Trail Ride Revival will be held June 12-13 beginning at **Bethel Springs Baptist Church**, Bethel Springs. Participants will travel by horseback about 20 miles to **Good Hope Baptist Church**, Adamsville, and back to Bethel Springs. Services will be held at 7 p.m. at the two churches and are open to people who do not ride. Gene Williams of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff and Randy Smith, member, Bethel Springs Church, will speak. Participants may camp out one or both nights. For more information, call (615) 883-5039.

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nesseans also helped distribute 10,000 New Testaments, and more than 30,000 tracts were given to people.

## TBC events

■ **Youth Music and Drama Camp** will be held by the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport, July 17-22. Campers will participate in a senior high choir, junior high choir, senior high drama group, or junior high drama group, and other activities. Matt Plunk, minister of music, Liberty Grove Baptist Church, Jackson will be camp director. Deadline for registration is July 15. For more information, contact the TBC Church Worship/Music Team at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7908 or (615) 371-7908 or at [www.tnbaptist.org/csl/index.htm](http://www.tnbaptist.org/csl/index.htm).

■ **A Conversational English (English As a Second Language) Workshop** will be held Aug. 4-6 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood. The 16-hour workshop is designed to train volunteers to begin and lead Conversational English Ministries in churches. The cost is \$20. For more information regarding registration and schedule, contact Tim Hill, Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, at (615) 371-2032, 1-800-558-2090, or [thill@tnbaptist.org](mailto:thill@tnbaptist.org).

■ **Antioch Baptist Church**, Hornbeak, will observe its 125th anniversary June 25 at 10 a.m. Special music will be presented by "True Faith."

■ The Women's Enrichment Ministry of **First Baptist Church**, Joelton, is presenting "Willing Vessels," a women's conference, July 14-15. Kay Dekalb Smith and Annie Chapman will speak. For more information contact Bonni Skipworth at (615) 876-0527.

■ A team of **First Baptist Church**, Joelton, recently served in Ukraine where they saw 3,600 people make professions of faith. The team helped lead a crusade at a stadium, which they were allowed to use by the communist city mayor. They led meetings in orphanages and prisons. The Ten-

# Billy Graham Crusade draws ...

— Continued from page 6  
since the person lived in Franklin. The woman was ecstatic not just because of her spiritual decision, but because she had just seen her husband being counseled after making a spiritual decision after she made hers.

• • •

Mary Jo Fletcher, 75, a member of Eastland Baptist Church, has had two hip replacements, but walked up to the top section of the coliseum to attend the crusade. She also attended the 1954 Billy Graham Crusade in Nashville. She would have attended the one in 1979 but Fletcher believes she and her husband were working out of town. But she traveled to New Orleans to attend a crusade in 1955 or 1956. And Fletcher said she would travel again to hear him. "It was a pleasure as always to hear Dr. Graham. It's an inspiration," she said.

• • •

Youth of The People's Church, Franklin, used the internet to invite friends to the crusade. Darren Whitehead, a youth associate, said the idea to turn the youth group's new website into a tool for evange-

lism came a few weeks prior to the crusade. He had canceled the group's Wednesday night service, called Fusion. Then he decided to challenge the youth to use the time online.

In other words, Fusion was held live in cyberspace. Students logged onto the website, [www.fusionyouth.com](http://www.fusionyouth.com), and shared praise reports, prayer requests, and did outreach in a specifically designed chat room on the site.

"We had more than 100 kids in and out of the chat rooms during the event," said Whitehead, a native of Australia.

Whitehead called the event interactive evangelism.

One student used the chat room to invite a friend who was involved in Satanism to the crusade. Another student organized a group of teens that went to a local shopping center and invited people to the crusade.

• • •

Wes Turner, chairman of the crusade effort for First Baptist Church, Nashville, was serving as a counselor when he was assigned to counsel a man. He discovered he had a lot in common with the man. They both were Nashville attorneys. The man

made a profession of faith.

• • •

Jim Freedman, member of the crusade executive committee who closed the crusade with prayer, noted "this is not the end of the crusade, but is

only the beginning of what God is going to do in Nashville and Middle Tennessee," referring in part to follow up activities of churches. — Lonnie Wilkey and Todd Starnes contributed to this story. *B&R*



## Music is not universal language, says Gaither

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Music is not the universal language that some people think it is, says Southern Gospel leg-



**SOUTHERN GOSPEL** legend Bill Gaither addresses reporters during a press conference prior to the opening session of the Billy Graham Crusade June 1 in Nashville.

end Bill Gaither.

"Music has always been divisive," Gaither observed.

Gaither, who along with his wife, Gloria, has published more than 500 songs, includ-

ing "He Touched Me," "Because He Lives," and "The King Is Coming," participated in the opening session of the Billy Graham Crusade June 1 at Adelphia Coliseum.

He was joined at the crusade by the Gaither Vocal Band and his "Homecoming" friends.

Music is basically a matter of taste that develops early in a person's life, Gaither said in response to a question during a press conference before the opening night session of the crusade.

He said music can be

divisive because of people's varied cultural backgrounds. Many people have narrow views of music in terms of their likes and dislikes, I noted.

"That's OK as long as they keep it in a cultural context and not a spiritual context by labeling it as God's music."

He also observed that he has received criticism over the years that his performances are not more evangelistic in the sense that an invitation is issued.

"We want to reach the person the traditional church does not appeal to," Gaither explained, adding that many people say they have come to know the Lord through his music and videos. "I'm not called to mask evangelism," he concluded. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

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**June 14 in Orlando**

## Homosexuals plan civil disobedience at SBC meeting

By Todd Starnes  
For Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Homosexual activists planning acts of civil disobedience during the Southern Baptist Convention's June 13-14 annual meeting will receive gifts of water compliments of the SBC's North American Mission Board.

Shortly thereafter, the homosexual protesters will be placed under arrest and taken to jail for protesting without a permit, a spokesman for the Orange County Sheriff's Dept. told the *Orlando Sentinel* June 1.

"We intend to give them time to make a brief statement, inform them the assembly is unlawful and effect the arrest," Capt. David Black told the newspaper.

Martin King, a spokesman for NAMB, told Baptist Press the protesters would be given bottled water by NAMB staff members working with the Greater Orlando Baptist Association.

"These trained volunteers are called a 'kindness force' and they will share a bottle of cold water and the love of Christ with any pickets or demonstrators they encounter during the convention," King said.

Soulforce, a national network of homosexual activists, announced May 25 its intention to stage a national protest against the SBC during the Orlando convention. The group's Internet site encourages homosexuals to make preparations to be arrested during a planned civil disobedience at the Orange County Convention Center on Wednesday, June 14.

Chris Alexander-Manley, a homosexual activist based in Orlando, told the *Orlando Sentinel* that homosexuals want to respond to a proposed revision in the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message confessional statement that the Bible teaches homosexuality is a sin. "Orlando is ready for something like this, the gay community as well as the straight," Alexander-Manley said.

Activists and local law enforcement met May 31 to discuss the planned civil disobedience. Black said demonstrators would be transported to jail where they are expected to plead guilty or no contest and post a cash bond.

"They reassured us they were going to be civil in their civil disobedience," Black said.

Mel White, a founder of Soulforce, said the organization would not attempt to enter the

convention hall. "We have not come to swarm the platform or interrupt or disrupt, or cause anger or fear or consternation," White told the newspaper.

Paige Patterson, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the protesters will not be met with harsh words from Southern Baptists.

"It is my profound belief that if these homosexual and lesbian people come to the convention, they will be treated with the

greatest kindness and the most profound love that they've experienced," Patterson told Baptist Press on May 26. "Southern Baptists have long since proved that they are able to love the sinner even while they hate the sin."

Meanwhile, a group of former homosexuals announced plans June 1 to stage a counterdemonstration to the Soulforce action.

Tim Wilkins, director of Cross Ministry, said his organization would peacefully demonstrate to show support for the SBC's position on homosexuality. ■



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

**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, 37752, Attn. Search Committee.

**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.

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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.

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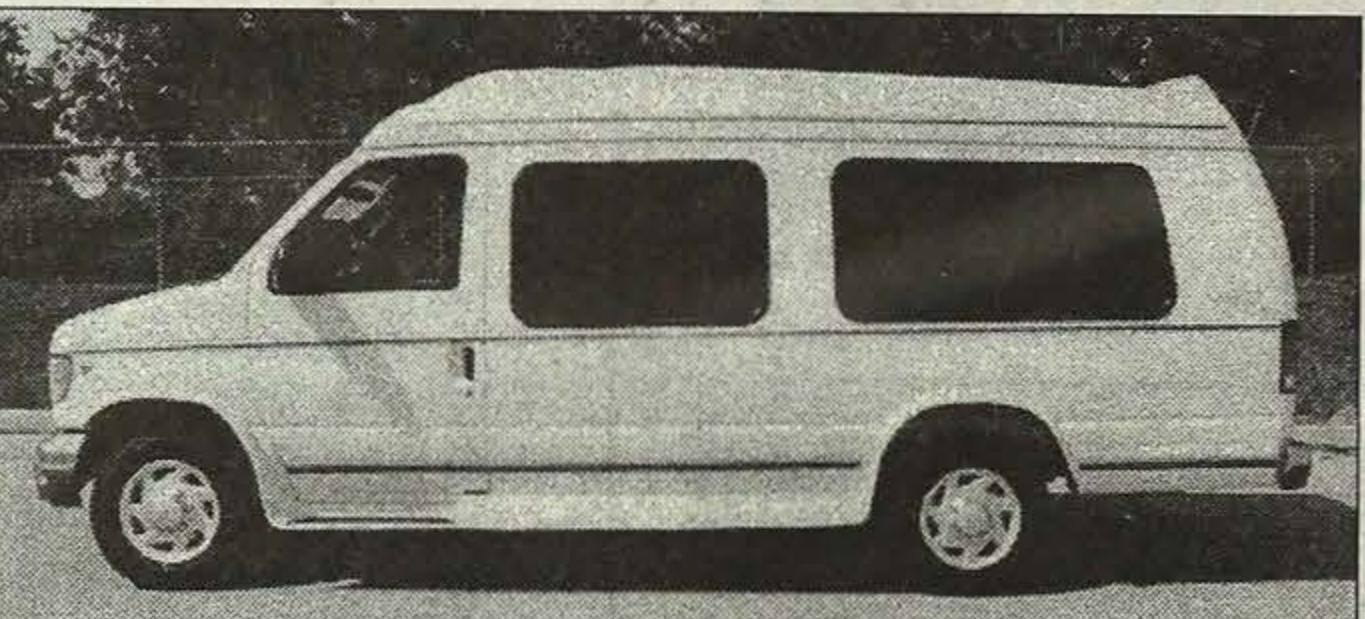
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## How do we know?

Steve Holt

**Focal Passages:** Ecclesiastes 8:16-17; Romans 12:1-8; Ephesians 4:17-18, 22-24; Hebrews 11:1-2

of the key steps in developing a biblical view is understanding the relationship between faith and reason. Both are means of knowing which has its proper place in our lives. This lesson focuses on the importance of keeping reason in the proper place as we seek to understand God's plan for our lives. Human nature causes us to use our ability to reason as our primary tool for interpreting the world around us. Reasoning alone can cloud our judgment and limit the limitations of our perspective on life.

**Human reason is limited** (Ecclesiastes 8:16-17). We use The Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes as grids to mark the stages of King Solomon's life, a natural progression emerges in one's understanding of the balance between faith and reason. The Song of Solomon pictures a young man driven by the passions of youth. The Book of Proverbs bears the stamp of a man in the prime of his life, a man who has transformed the passions of youth into a drive to gain the wisdom necessary to successfully navigate the sea of life. Ecclesiastes portrays a man in the twilight of his life looking back on all he has experienced. This man has seen it all, done it all, and comes with more questions than answers. Our focal point states that reason alone is incapable of comprehending the ways of God. There is just too much information in the world and about the world for a finite mind to completely grasp.

**Human reason is affected by sin** (Romans 1:18-32). Even if sin had not entered into the world, reason would still be insufficient to understand the ways of God. The presence of the world and its pervasiveness in our lives serves to further limit our understanding of God. Apart from the intervention of the Holy Spirit to live in us to convict us of sin and convince us of the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ, we are unable of truly knowing God.

**Christians are to be renewed in their minds** (Ephesians 4:17-18; 22-24). Have you ever been in a problem or situation that seemed unsolvable, to have someone come along and give you a new solution? The first two focal passages identify the limitations and inadequacies of human reason as a guide for understanding life. This brings us to the heaven-sent solution to our dilemma — faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul challenges his readers to let the Holy Spirit change the way of thinking by renewing their minds. Our minds are changed at the moment of conversion, there is also the ongoing process of sanctification that calls for us to examine our lives against the Word of God every day.

**Faith is the means of knowing spiritual realities** (Hebrews 11:1-2). There are some things we will never fully comprehend or understand outside of eternity. Not only is our understanding negatively affected by sin, but also by our limited mental and spiritual capacities as human beings. The void between our human reasoning and a true comprehension of truth and the world around us can only be bridged by faith in God and His Word. Our trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior brings an assurance that human reason can never provide. While it is impossible to make a case for Christ's messiahship based on historical evidence, there is no substitute for saving faith that results from encountering the Living Lord through the pages of His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. — Holt is pastor, First Baptist Church, Surgeonville.

# Having the mind of Christ

By Dan Milliken

**Focal Passage:** Philippians 2:1-13

The church at Philippi was a vibrant and joyful church. However, they were not exempt from Satan's attempts to wreak havoc within the fellowship. Several factors can threaten the unity of the church, some that occur from without, and some from within. From without, the Philippian church stood firm against wide-spread heretical teaching. However, they were not as successful dealing with disagreements that arose within the flock. Paul was heartbroken to hear of dissension within the ranks, thus he makes an appeal for harmony within the body of Christ. Let us look at the heart cry of Paul and notice:

## Family Bible Lesson

**An exhortation to unity and humility** (vv. 1-4). Paul presents a "four-fold" exhortation for unity and humility. Each of these four clauses begins with the word "if" (v. 1). The first one is "if there be any encouragement (or consolation) in Christ." Throughout his letters, Paul uses the expression "in Christ" to describe our experience in, and connection with Christ.

A second appeal is "if there be any consolation of love." Paul had in mind the unconditional love God has for us, thus this love he has for us should motivate us to Christian unity and humility (see I John 4:11).

Thirdly, Paul refers to the "fellowship of the Spirit." Fellowship is translated from the important Greek word "koinonia" which refers to a common sharing in the Spirit. This is the basic theological foundation of all Christian unity.

In his fourth statement, Paul speaks of "bowels and mercies" (KJV) or "affection and compassion" (NAS). We should be motivated towards unity and humility because of the compassion within the human heart.

In verses 2-4, Paul speaks against "strife" and "vainglory." There is danger within the body when people seek to advance themselves and their own agenda rather than advance the kingdom. Thinking less of ourselves and more of

others (v. 4) is the essence of humility, and the basis for unity.

**The example of Christ** (vv. 5-11). We must come reverently to perhaps the most magnificent and moving Scripture passages ever written about the deity and humanity of Christ! In his attempt to rebuke the spirit of haughtiness, Paul cites the humility of Jesus demonstrated by his incarnation and complete submissiveness to the Father both in life and in death. Instead of seeking royal treatment, he took upon himself the role of a servant (v. 6).

What happened to Jesus as a result of his attitude of humility? "God exalted him and gave him a name (Jesus) which is above every name," (vv. 9-11). Thus we must acknowledge him as Savior, Owner, Master, and Lord of our lives!

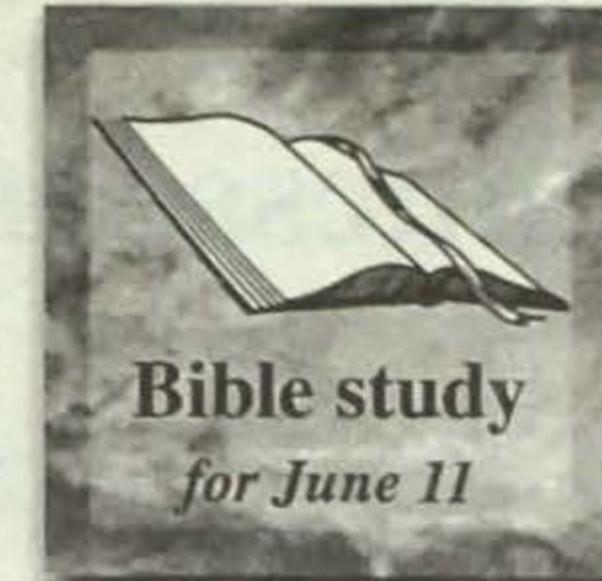
**Obey and cooperate with God** (vv. 12-13).

Obedience to God will always lead to blessings, and is certainly the key to unity and humility. He is not preaching a gospel of salvation by good works (v. 12). When he speaks of "working out our salvation with fear and trembling," it calls us to recognize God for who he is, the realization of his sufficiency, and our total dependence on him for everything, including our salvation. In verse 13 Paul firmly states that "God is at work in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." This means God's working power in us helps us get along, enables us to model and live out the example of Christ, and motivates us to obey and cooperate with God.

In our churches we must lay aside petty differences and selfish pursuits. That which unites us (Christ) and advancing his cause is far more important than anything that would divide us. One of the greatest evidences of unity and humility and its impending results was the ministry of the recent Middle Tennessee Billy Graham Crusade. When churches act like churches, and Christians act like Christians, great things happen! Striving for unity and humility in the body of Christ are a must if we are to see and experience life-changing results. — Milliken is pastor of Hickory Hills Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet.



MILLIKEN



Bible study  
for June 11

# Christ speaks to his churches

By Ray Fullilove

**Focal Passages:**  
*Revelation 2:1-7; 3:15-20*

The revelation of Jesus Christ given to the people of God according to the purpose of God and in the power of God has a message for all of us — leaders and laity alike. Christ speaks to his churches with purging words, but with praise; with prophetic view, but with positive hope; and with discipline, but with encouragement. Jesus, our conquering Lord is still our Chief Shepherd.

Our shepherd has a message for his churches. These are singular in meaning to each church in the past, but are practical in application to all churches today. We have a sovereign King who gives to his church his declaration, a Savior who directs with discipline, and the Holy Spirit who leaves us with his sufficient and enabling love and grace. The book of Revelation is written for our encouragement and edification. Christ may speak with the thunder of rebuke, but there is refreshing waters of restoration, and the calm assurance of his power and promises.

One, there is the message to Ephesus (2:1-7), the faithful but failing church. It looked good, but it was bad. A lot of activity, but no anointing. Leaned toward the sensational, but

## Explore the Bible Lesson



FULLILOVE

left their first love for Jesus. It leaves with us the admonition that in our loyal activity, do not forget to stay in love with Jesus. Two, there was Smyrna, a fearful church, (vv. 8-11). It had the right accents but felt the agony of compromise. It had material gain, but little miracle power. Tried to please everyone, but had little for anyone. Three, there was Pergamos, the faltering church (vv. 12-17). It wanted everything and got nothing. Tried to pacify everybody regardless of doctrine, and gained no one. Four, there was the false church of Thyatira (vv. 18-29). It became the victim of deception at its worse and felt its curse. It leaves us with the admonition to hold fast (vv. 24-25), to hold up (vv. 26-27), and to hold out (vv. 28-29). Sardis, the fruitless church was fragile, frustrated, and just about finished (3:1-6). It leaves us with the message to remem-

ber what we have in Jesus, realize who Jesus is to us, and get ready for our heavenly future with Jesus, our Conqueror. Philadelphia was a feeble church (vv. 7-13). It had let down its standard, tolerated the unregenerated

in its ranks, and lost their power. It lets us know, that in spite of this, that Jesus will still be with us, for us, and in us. Laodicea, the fashionable church (vv. 14-22) tells us that if we remain lukewarm and lethargic, we can lose our testimony. On the other hand, it tells us that we may need the rugged discipline of faith to walk through the fire victoriously, to put on the garments of righteousness and praise, and to stand up and tell the world that Jesus is still our Savior, our Lord, and our King.

But, saints of God, do not give up. In all of our difficulties, Jesus reveals to us his matchless mercy. In our dilemma, we are safe in the arms of Jesus. And in our doxology, may we join hearts and hands together that we may stay together upon his Word; stick together in his will; serve together in his work; and shout and sing together in the wonder of his grace and glory. Indeed, heaven will be worth it all. — Fullilove is pastor, Poplar Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis

# Tennesseans graduate from SBC seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

More than 40 students with Tennessee ties were among May graduates of Southern Baptist seminaries: Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS), Kansas City, Mo.; New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS); Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Wake Forest, N.C.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS), Louisville, Ky.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas.

Photos and information on graduating students were provided to the *Baptist and Reflector* by the seminaries. Information is listed in this order — name, name of home church and location (home town used when church not provided), school, degree.

Photos or other pertinent information were unavailable from the seminaries for the following graduates:

**Southeastern Seminary** — Jason Scott Bridger, Knoxville, master of arts, Christian education, and master of arts in intercultural studies; Michael Allen Hyder, Elizabethton, master of arts in counseling ministry; Becher Lawrence Johnson Jr., Knoxville, master of divinity; Gregory L. Owen, Morristown, master of divinity; Elton L. Smith, Soddy-Daisy, master of divinity with Christian education;

**New Orleans Seminary** — Robert Chris Stephens, senior pastor, Faith Promise Baptist Church, Oak Ridge;

**Southern Seminary** — Brady Cooper, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, master of divinity;



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**Larry Elrod**  
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master of divinity



**John Frost**  
Lebanon  
SWBTS  
master of arts  
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**Bradley Green**  
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**Harold Johnson**  
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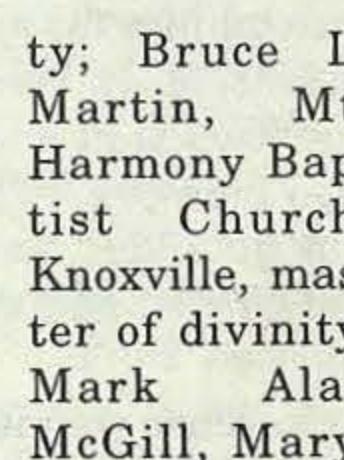
**Allen Krueger**  
Maryville  
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**Greg Stringfield**  
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SWBTS  
master of arts  
Christian educ.



**Byron Talbot**  
Englewood  
SWBTS  
master of divinity



**John Thielepape**  
Charlotte Road  
Nashville  
SWBTS  
doctor of ministry



**Alan Woods**  
Chattanooga  
SWBTS  
Dip. Christian  
education

ty; Bruce L. Martin, Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, master of divinity; Mark Alan McGill, Maryville, master of divinity; Mark Wesley Perkins, Greenfield, master of divinity; Glenn A. Wallace, Beaver Baptist Church, Brighton, master of divinity; Rusty Webster, Mill Springs Baptist Church, Jefferson City, master of divinity; and

**Southwestern Seminary** — Donald Boyd, Bristol, doctor of ministry; Scott Carter, master of divinity; Paul Dickey, master of

arts in Christian education; William Hughes, master of divinity with biblical languages; Mark Love, master of arts in marriage and family counseling and master of divinity with biblical languages; Christopher Moore, master of divinity with biblical languages; Vicky Reed, master of divinity with biblical

languages; Richard Ryan, master of divinity with biblical languages; Deborah Sloan, cert. of education and ministry; Gregory Steele, master of arts in Christian education; Jason Wilder, master of arts in Christian education; and Russell Wirt, master of divinity with biblical languages. ■



## Tennesseans graduate from Mid-America

For Baptist and Reflector

GERMANTOWN — The following students with Tennessee ties were graduates of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary on May 12.

David Howard Bickers, Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, master of divinity; Rance Brewington, Bartlett, a mate of divinity; Thomas R. Inner Jr., pastor, Grace I Church, Memphis, associate divinity;

Johnny Randall Coleman, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Marion, Ark., an of Geoff and Lynn Payne of Baptist Church, Rutherford master of divinity; Marlow Conard, Kirby Woods tist Church, Memphis, mas divinity; Michael Shane L run, intern, Kirby Woods tist Church, Memphis, mas divinity;

Robert Musili Ndonga, ter of missions, Briarwood tist Church, Cordova, doc philosophy; Robert L Owensby, minister of out and evangelism, Immanuel tist Church, Germant Chansamone Saiyasak, F lin Road Baptist Ch Murfreesboro, doctor of stry; and Richard A. Sul Open Door Bible Church, phis, master of divinity. ■

## Dad/Daught Weekends

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Men are created, relationships come stronger, and missions come alive at Dad/Daught Weekends sponsored by Tennessee Woman's Mission Union.

The event dates are June 17 at Linden Valley Baptist ference Center and June 24 at Carson Valley Baptist C ence Center. The registr fee is \$30 per person and includes one night's lodgin three meals.

Both events begin on June 17 at 5:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information call Tennessee WMU at 1-800-2090, ext. 2038. ■

### Dove Award winner

## Belmont grad finds God's promises are 'Without Condition'

By Joan Yarborough  
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — For a long time Ginny Owens has trusted in the promises in two of her favorite Scripture verses: Proverbs 3:5 and Jeremiah 29:11.

On the evening of April 20, as Owens received a Dove Award, recognizing her as New Artist of the Year, the truth of those promises resounded loud and clear.

Actually, Ginny's life seems to be a testimony to trusting God's promises. Totally blind by the age of two, Ginny learned to trust very early. At first, she trusted in her parents who were determined that she have the same experiences as other children. As a result, she learned to climb all trees, ride a bike and roller skate. Ginny sums it up with: "Growing up was a tremendous adventure!" Needless to say, she has never allowed her disability to stand in the way of anything she wanted to do.

Also at the age of two, Ginny discovered the piano and began to develop her keen ear for music. She says she figured out that

she could accompany herself singing "Jesus Loves Me" by playing Middle C and E throughout the song.

Ginny's love of music led her to Belmont University, where at the age of 18, she won a full scholarship to study in the School of Music. Because she had not sung much in front of people, performance was not Ginny's goal. Majoring in music education seemed like the natural course to follow. While at Belmont, in addition to her studies, Ginny wrote songs and often sang and led worship in local churches. She also sang and gave her testimony at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Following graduation, armed with her degree in music education and the desire to teach high school chorus, Ginny began to search for a teaching job. "People were just really afraid to hire a blind person to teach kids in their schools," she told the Belmont student newspaper. "I hated it, but I couldn't make them hire me."

Instead of teaching, Ginny continued writing songs and signed as a writer with BMG publishing. It was there that she was

introduced to famed producer Monroe Jones who agreed to produce a demo of three of her songs. Soon after Jones gave copies of the demo to several of his friends, Don Donahue of Rocketown Records called. He had liked what he heard and wanted to talk. Talking led to a contract in 1999. Ginny became the newest member of the Rocketown Records family.

Ginny said in an interview last year, "God has really opened some doors and shoved me through them." That is quite obvious — her very first record, *Without Condition*, placed her in the spotlight and helped her achieve the coveted New Artist Dove Award.

Her debut CD is also a testimony of Ginny's dedication to the Lord's leading her life. "*Without Condition* is the theme of my life," she declares. "Our Father's love, grace, and peace are offered to us without fail, hesitation, or condition. If we allow ourselves to live immersed in the love and grace that we are so freely given, the opportunities God will give us are limitless, boundless, and without condition." ■