

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

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Statewide Edition

July 26, 2000

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Pages 7-10

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Baptist Press

ANKLIN — Longtime  
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## From LifeWay Christian Resources

# Talbott pastor receives national honor

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

TALBOTT — A Tennessee Baptist pastor has been selected as one of two outstanding small church pastors of the year by LifeWay Christian Resources.

George Miller, pastor of Magna View Baptist Church here, and John Ryan, pastor of Summit Community Church, St. Charles, Mo., were selected as recipients of the award by LifeWay's pastor-staff leadership department.

James Williams, director of missions, for Nolachucky Baptist Association, nominated Miller for the award, noting that the church has "experienced great growth in all areas" under Miller's leadership.



TALBOTT PASTOR George Miller of Magna View Baptist Church has been selected as an outstanding small church pastor of the year by LifeWay Christian Resources. With him is his wife, Cecelia, and daughters, Lydia, left, Hollie, right, and Abigail.

Miller, who was reared in Knoxville and later Jefferson County, became pastor of Magna View about two years

ago. He also has served as pastor of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Talbott, and Bulls Gap Baptist Church, Bulls Gap.

When he came to Magna View, attendance was declining. Worship attendance has since increased from 60 to more than 150.

Last summer the church sponsored a mission trip to Idaho to help construct a church.

In addition to his duties as a pastor, Miller serves as associational Sunday School and VBS director. He also teaches an off-campus religion course for Carson-Newman College while pursuing his master's degree through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"God is doing some amazing things here. It's nothing that I am doing," Miller said.

He noted that he has tried "to be patient and let God build the church."

— See Talbott, page 4

## From Appalachian Outreach project

# Blindness doesn't deter missions volunteers

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Not being able to see might keep some folks from doing mission work, but it didn't seem to

bother members of the Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind.

The organization met July 14-16 for its annual meeting at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center.

A new twist to the meeting was participation in a mission project, according to Beverly Smothers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group. "They wanted to be in-

involved in a ministry," she said.

Smothers noted that leaders of Appalachian Outreach, a ministry of Carson-Newman College which receives funding from the Golden State Missions Offering, helped to design a ministry project specifically for the blind volunteers.

Appalachian Outreach is included in Appalachian Regional Ministry, a multi-state effort at meeting ministry and evangelism needs in the area.

The group worked at Samaritan House, a homeless shelter in Jefferson City. The home currently houses 12 homeless people who can stay at the facility for up to 45 days while looking for a job and housing.

"It's a Christian environment and we work hard to make it a home for families and not just a shelter," said Jean-Ann Washam, director of the Samaritan House.

Members of the blind fellowship helped the facility by dividing laundry detergent and bread into smaller bags.



JEAN-ANN WASHAM, right, director of Samaritan House, a homeless shelter in Jefferson City, visits with Sharon and Warren Bragg of Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville. Bragg is program chairman for the Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind. During the organization's recent annual meeting, the group worked on a mission project at the Samaritan House.



DONNA ARNOLD, a member of First Baptist Church, Loretto, divides a bucket of laundry detergent into smaller bags for distribution at the Samaritan House, a homeless shelter in Jefferson City.

Emmie Waters, Summar Library  
UNION UNIVERSITY  
Jackson, TN 38305  
— See Blindness, page 4

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state/national news

## Attacks on Christians mount in India

Baptist Press

NEW DELHI, India — Another day, another bombing.

That's the impression being created, at least, by a mounting wave of attacks on Christians and churches in India.

Blasts from time bombs planted in churches have injured Christians in at least three states. Several Catholic priests have been murdered. Another was defended from a mob by his courageous landlord, a Hindu woman who fended off the attackers with boiling oil.

Indian church leaders charge that many of the attacks are a part of a campaign by Hindu extremists bent on intimidating Indian Christians and driving missionaries out of India. Some government officials and Hindu groups counter that most cases are local quarrels exaggerated by Christians to foment hysteria — or are plots instigated by Pakistani Muslim agents to hurt

India's international image. But few deny the increasing frequency of anti-Christian incidents. ■

## Missionaries aid Filipino survivors

Baptist Press

QUEZON City, The Philippines — Their "promised land" was a fetid dump, but thousands of Filipinos lost even that when the huge mountain of trash came crashing down.

Southern Baptist missionaries and local Baptists are helping relief workers feed, clothe, and comfort survivors of the July 10 collapse of the massive Lupang Pangako ("Promised Land") trash dump on the edge of Manila, the Philippines.

Typhoon rains and wind toppled part of the 50-foot-high, 25-acre-wide mound, which buried several hundred shanties in an avalanche of garbage. By July 18 more than 200 bodies had been recovered, with more still missing. Many of the victims were children. Up to 80,000 people make a living scavenging through the garbage for scraps to sell. Residents there continued searching for items to sell even as workers and bulldozers unearthed corpses.

A missionary team drove two vans loaded with food and relief supplies to Payatas-Hope Baptist Church near the dump site

July 18. There they joined church members to pack 300 relief bags for shantytown families being housed at an evacuation center set up in a local school. The supplies included rice, canned food, soap, clothing — and 300 copies of the Gospel of John.

They delivered the supplies to the evacuation center and met with community workers and government officials coordinating relief efforts.

"There are 475 homeless families — 2,000-plus people — living in the 12-room elementary school within sight of the mountain of trash [that] collapsed on their houses and families," reported missionary Mark Harvey, who coordinates ministry to Manila's urban poor. "The only word that came to mind was overwhelming: overwhelming tragedy, overwhelming need, overwhelming opportunity to make a difference for the glory of God."

Southern Baptist disaster relief funds helped pay for the supplies delivered by the missionaries, along with contributions from Philippine Baptists, Briarlake Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., and First Baptist Church, Oveido, Fla.

The missionaries plan to continue relief efforts at the center for about a month until the families have been resettled in government housing. After the move, they hope to start an evangelistic Bible study which could lead to a new church. ■

## KBHC dispute settled for now

Baptist Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — when it looked as though tucky Baptist Homes for children's contract with the would expire, uprooting cl and forcing massive lay call from the governor init reprieve until both side able to reach an agreement

The difficulty in reaching a contract is connected to K hiring policy that bars ho uals from employment agency's firing of a lesbian er has landed it and two cabinets that contract KBHC in a federal lawsuit

The day after KBH nounced it would not sign tract, Kentucky Governo Patton asked agency offic reconsider, said KBHC dent Bill Smithwick.

Smithwick said new n tions with the governor's resulted in two significant opments which would no state social workers from ing kids to KBHC.

Smithwick stresse agency did not change its policy in order to reach an ment. "We have not mov bit in our family values, employment policies reg homosexuals. We're righ where we started," Smi said. ■

## IMB, NAMB appoint missionaries with ties to Tennessee

Compiled for *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Southern Baptists' two missionary-sending agencies — the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., and the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga. — recently have appointed missionaries with ties to Tennessee.

David and Carla Warner Bickers have been appointed by the IMB to serve in Mangochi, Malawi. They will help start churches among the Yao people group of Southern Africa.

Bickers is the son of former IMB missionaries Howard and Arleen Bickers of Cordova. The senior Bickers is minister of missions at Kirby Woods Baptist Church, where the couple are members.

He is a graduate of Crichton College, Memphis, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

Mrs. Bickers, a native of Memphis, is the daughter of Elizabeth Warner and the late Carl Warner. She is a graduate of the University of Memphis.

The Bickers have three children.

Sonny and Sherry Blaylock Sledge have been appointed by the IMB to serve in Tanzania. He will serve as a business manager and will be assisted by his wife, who will also serve the community through her home



C. BICKERS



D. BICKERS



H. SLEDGE



S. SLEDGE



J. CLARK



B. FREEMAN

and church activities.

They have served in Tanzania since 1997 through the International Service Corps, a missions program through the IMB.

Sledge is the son of Herman and Mary Katherine Sledge of Chattanooga while his wife is the daughter of Temple and Maureen Blaylock, also of Chattanooga.

The couple first met as toddlers at Chamberlain Memorial Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

The Sledges have one son.

NAMB missionaries include one who will serve in Tennessee. Jamie C. Clark of Stockbridge, Ga., will serve a two-year term as a US/C-2 missionary at Montgomery Village Baptist Center in Knoxville.

Other missionaries with state ties include:

Brent Freeland, a Tennessee native, and his wife Sabrina, will serve as missionaries in Norfolk, Va., where he will serve as a church planter intern and pastor of New Hope Baptist Church. Freeland is a graduate

of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Tennessee natives Michael and Jennifer Laughrun will serve as church planting associates in Las Vegas, where he will serve as associate pastor for a "flagship" church plant being sponsored jointly by First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga., and NAMB. Both are graduates of East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. Laughrun, who also is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary, served as a student ministries intern since 1998 at Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis. They have one son.

Brent and Lacey Maragni have been appointed to serve in Orange Park, Fla., where he will serve as a church planter intern and pastor. Since 1997 Maragni has been pastor of Guaranda Drive Baptist Church in Johnson City. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and



THE LAUGHRUNS



THE PITMANS

Southern Baptist Theo Seminary, Louisville, K Maragni is a native of J City and is a graduate son-Newman College, Je City.

Vance and Kristi I have been appointed to s Las Vegas where he will s pastor of the "flagship" sponsored by First C Woodstock, and NAMB.

Pitman has been as pastor of Kirby Woods since 1998. He also has h toral and church staff p in Selmer, Memphis, and Shoals, Ala.

The Pitmans have th dren. ■

# FBC, Smyrna, responds to murders

ie Davis  
nd Reflector

RNA — First Baptist here has responded to murders of three employees at a Smyrna fast-food restaurant July 11. Pastor Pat Hood reported the community shock after the crime, the occur in the 137-year-old community, which is 20 miles southeast of

Church has been able to the Snell family, which their son and brother, a high school student of three employees. Two other men were the incident — a resident of Nashville and a man training in Smyrna Memphis.

day of the murders received a phone call from him Snell was one of

names of the victims had been released and a of the church realized was the brother of Snell, 20, an active of First Church.

initial response Hood arrived at the home, many members of ng adult group of First

Church were already there. The young adults were providing support to their friend, Heather, and to the rest of the family, including Troy's parents, a 13-year-old sister, and a 22-year-old brother, said Hood, who has served the church for seven years.

Then the Snell family decided to ask Pat Hood to conduct the funeral, which he did. It was held at a local funeral home.

### The funeral

The service drew about 450 people. They filled all of the rooms of the funeral home and stood outside, said Hood. Attending were government officials, representatives of the business involved, school leaders, classmates of Snell, family, friends, and people of the community who didn't even know the family but wanted to show support, said Hood.

He tried to present comfort through the hope of God's promises, he described.

Hood explained he had never led such a service. As youth minister of churches for about 10 years he has led the funerals of teens who died of illnesses, but not of youth who died accidentally and certainly not

of crime.

Family and friends of people who die of illnesses usually have time to prepare, he noted, and those of accidents have the knowledge that accidents occur. But the family and friends of these three men had no such time or knowledge and probably have some bitterness and anger stemming from the violence involved, said Hood.

Funerals are a "heart-wrenching part of the job," he said, and this one was very difficult.

### Continuing response

Church members and especially members of the young adult or college group have continued to try to help the Snell family, said Hood.

The young adults have continued to support Heather, who has been a member of the church for less than a year. She works in the area but took vacation this year to participate in a missions effort of an area church.

"The college students have just shown overwhelming sup-



PAT HOOD shares how First Church, Smyrna, has responded to the recent murders in Smyrna.

port for the family," said Hood. "They have been there," he added.

First Church members also have taken food to the Snell family.

On the Sunday following the crime, Heather Snell attended a morning worship service. Ken Hubbard, senior pastor, asked her to come to the altar and for members to surround her to show their support while a deacon said a prayer for her and her family. She has attended all of the available services since then,



Hood said, which shows the need and the comfort God can give.

### Through media

Because of Hood's involvement, he has been interviewed by reporters from two newspapers and his remarks at the funeral were quoted in *The Tennessean*.

One reporter asked him how he felt about the people who committed the crime. Hood told the reporter God loves the people who did this as much as he loves you or me.

These people simply have a "troubled heart that needs to be touched by Jesus," he explained.

Hopefully that will be a witness to the community as it mourns, said Hood, who noted the focus of the church will be Snell family.

They need to know although Christians don't have all the answers, they "care about them, but more important, that Christ cares about them," said Hood. *B&R*

# Tennessee, Southern states cited targets of homosexual activists

Hinkle  
ist Press

HVILLE — Homosexual activists who led a Massachusetts workshop that has expanded into a national scandal because it used \$100,000 in federal dollars to teach children how to engage in homosexual acts have made public schools in Tennessee a priority in their nationwide quest to have homosexuality taught in classrooms.

Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), whose controversial March 25 workshop at Tufts University ignited a firestorm in Massachusetts, graduated 15 homosexual activists from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas from its Leadership Institute in College Park, Md., last month. Iso, it recently opened an Atlanta field office to promote toleration of homosexuality.

The institute "is a critical part of the work to combat homophobia in Southern schools," GLSEN said in a news release announcing the activists' graduation. "Change in Southern schools has been slow."

Established in 1994 and now with 85 chapters nationwide, GLSEN describes itself as the nation's largest organization combating anti-homosexuality in America's schools.

Nationally known author and former homophile John Paulk says GLSEN's real agenda is to normalize homosexuality to children, kindergarten through grade 12, and to put homosexuality on an equal level with heterosexuality. Paulk, a member of the board of Exodus International, a national organization that assists homosexuals in desiring a lifestyle change, said GLSEN is making strides by creating Gay/Straight Alliance clubs in schools.

As the Southern Baptists have already said, "It's too long the church has been quiet," said

Clyde Lewis, pastor of Concord Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., who led opposition to the establishment of a GSA chapter at nearby McKinley High School earlier this year.

Lewis, who pastors the African American congregation of about 60 members, praised the principal at McKinley High for taking a Christian stand on the issue despite orders from superiors. For now, GSA is meeting at the school, but after school hours. Lewis is organizing a rally for the start of the new school year in August in an effort to draw more attention to the situation.

GLSEN caught the eye of concerned parents in March by sponsoring — with Massachusetts Department of Education funds — a workshop that gave educators and children — some as young as age 12 — descriptions of homosexual acts laced with graphic language and accompanied with diagrams. Another class criticized "the religious right" and featured a video that likened the views of conservative Christians toward homosexuals with those of Nazis against the Jews.

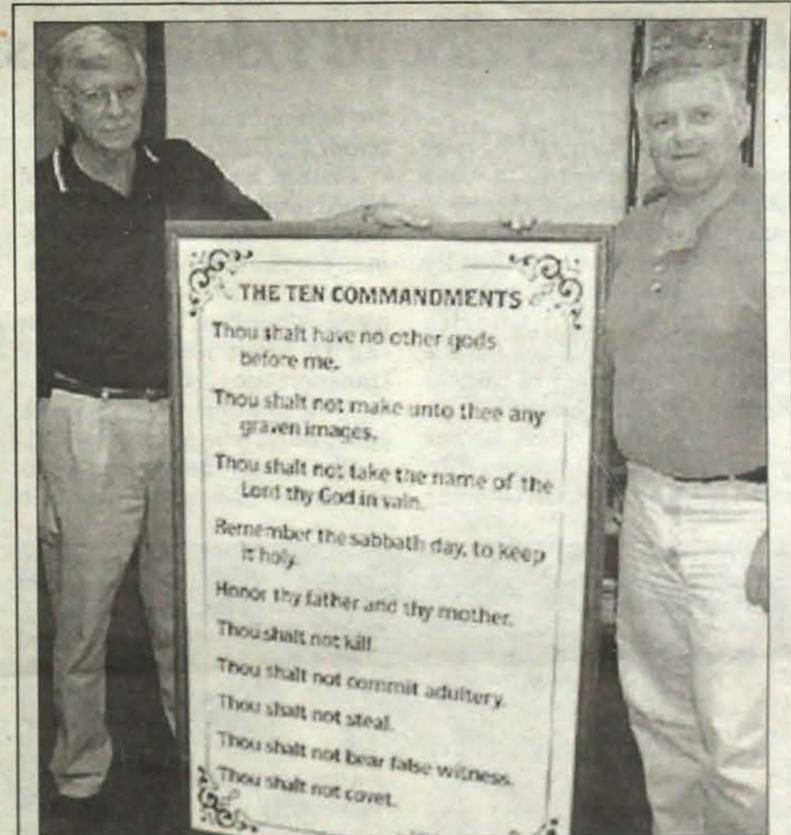
Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called the workshop "perverse." He said it qualified "as child abuse" and was a flagrant disregard for the rights of children and their parents. He added that if the children were there by parental consent, "then they are unfit parents."

"This is a clear violation of what a public government agency ought to be doing," Land said.

When the actual content of the workshop became public, outraged parents called for an investigation of the state Department of Education. Two of the presenters — both education department employees — were fired.

Land called GLSEN's work "appalling" and urged parents and students to "contend with them in public policy."

"Parents can still have control over their schools," Land said. ■



### Ten Commandments on display

On July 7, the Ten Commandments were hung in the Gibson County Courthouse in Trenton. Pictured are Tony Michael, right, pastor of Bethpage Baptist Church, Kenton, and chairman of Gibson County Baptist Association's social action committee, and Ronnie Riley, Gibson County executive. In the May Gibson County Commissioners meeting, commissioners approved a resolution presented by the GCBA social action committee requesting the public display of the Ten Commandments. In addition, more than 400 yard signs stating, "We stand for the Ten Commandments" have been displayed in Gibson County yards.

# Former editor Al Shackleford dies in ...

— Continued from page 1

According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, several passengers in one of the other vehicles were injured, none fatally.

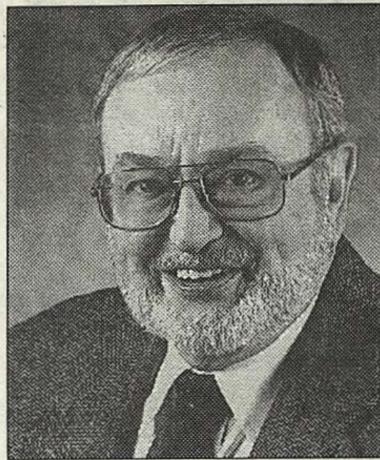
Shackleford served as editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* from 1976-87, coming to the post from *The Indiana Baptist* where he served as editor from 1965-76.

Tom Madden, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention during most of Shackleford's editorship, said: "I always felt Al was called to be a journalist. He represented both sides of an issue to the best of his ability. He was a supporter of all Baptist causes. I enjoyed working with him and feel a distinct personal loss."

James Porch, current TBC executive director who served on the *B&R* board during Shackleford's editorship, recalled that Shackleford came to the editorship of the *B&R* "to contribute to the paper's legacy of focusing on Baptist happenings and truths."

"He possessed a rare balance for appreciation of heritage and a sense of vision for the future," Porch said.

"His editorials revealed an unapologetic conviction about the Gospel and Baptist distinctives. He labored intently to stay in touch with Tennessee Baptist families and continually confirmed our role in mission and ministry to fulfill the Great Commission," Porch continued.



AL SHACKLEFORD

"I pray God's grace and peace upon his family."

Susie Edwards, one of two current staff members hired by Shackleford (the other, News Editor Connie Davis, is in Canada on assignment), remembered him as one "who always had time to listen."

"Even on press day, if something important came up, he would drop everything to take care of things. He had a generous heart and caring spirit for 'the least of these,'" she said.

Retired *B&R* Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen, who succeeded Shackleford, called Shackleford "a kindred spirit. We worked for our denomination for many years and I admired his high moral standards. He also was a family man and was faithful to

his local church. He was a dedicated Christian journalist," Allen said. "He was one of my mentors and it was an honor to follow him as editor of the *B&R*," Allen added.

After leaving the *B&R*, Shackleford served as vice president for public relations of the SBC Executive Committee from 1987-1990. He was dismissed from his position along with Baptist Press news editor Dan Martin during the height of the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Harold C. Bennett, former president of the SBC Executive Committee and Shackleford's supervisor at Baptist Press, said: "I deeply regret this tragic accident. Al was one of the most gracious and skilled workers in Southern Baptist life."

"I admired him when he was editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*. That impressed me to ask him to come to work at Baptist Press where he worked hard and diligently and with great integrity," Bennett said.

Shackleford, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, held several part-time positions before joining LifeWay in 1992 as editor of *Mature Living*.

"For eight years, Al Shackleford led Southern Baptist work with senior adults through the pages of *Mature Living* as part of our senior adult ministry

team," said Selma Wilson, director of LifeWay's discipleship and family magazine department where Shackleford worked.

"He loved senior adults and was in his element when speaking to them and sharing with them. He equally loved children and taught five year olds in Sunday School every week. Al loved his family and his colleagues," Wilson said.

LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr., said of Shackleford: "I was very pleased when he accepted our offer to come to LifeWay eight years ago. He did a superb job as editor of *Mature Living*."

"I loved and appreciated Al for many reasons, including his strong belief system and commitment to the truth of God's Word. I know I speak for all who knew and worked with him when I say we will miss him greatly and are praying for his family as they deal with their grief and for the healing of those injured in the accident."

A native of Franklin, Ga., Shackleford was a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., the University of Georgia, Athens, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

In addition to his wife, Tommye, Shackleford is survived by his daughters, Dee Cochran and Tina Shackleford, and two grandchildren. ■ — Editor Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story.



## Talbott pastor

— Continued from page 1  
The pastor observed during his tenure the theme "has been to Christ and allow him to

He acknowledged the award was a "great and that it was a privilege for him to represent smaller churches."

Miller said the award really should go to outstanding small churches.

"Members of Magnolia have been gracious and kind to me and my family,"

"I thank God for the life he has put on not only for me but the life of my family," Miller said. His family includes his wife, Cecelia, daughters Holli, 6, and Abigail, 16 months.

The award from LifeWay included a trip for his family to attend the National Conference for Church Leaders in Ridgecrest, N.C., a play book and resources for LifeWay. ■ — Hilary Palmer contributed to this story.

# Blindness doesn't deter missions volunteers from Appalachian ...

— Continued from page 1

The opportunity for the blind to minister to others is important, leaders of the organization agreed.

"Blind people traditionally are used to having things given to them," said Charles Couey, TBC consultant for the Blind and a member of Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville.

"I felt it was critical for our group to become involved in missions and outreach — doing

for others," said Couey, who is blind.

Sharon Bragg, a member of Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville, and program chairman for the fellowship, agreed.

"A lot of time our group has people giving to them or helping to meet needs such as transportation," Bragg said.

"We needed to give back spiritually," she said.

She noted that in the organization's 17-year history this

was the first time such a project was attempted.

"We thought it would create more interest and help our group grow — and it did," Bragg said. Thirty-six people attended the weekend event.

Bragg observed that people who have handicaps sometimes tend to feel inadequate.

Society and family encourage that to some extent, she noted, because everyone wants to "do things for you."

Being able to participate in a missions project and do something for others is a way "to improve that self-concept and self-esteem," she said.

The group's efforts did not go unnoticed.

Randy Moser, director of church ministries at Radnor Church, transported about 14 members to the meeting.

"It's amazing that though they cannot see physically, they can see spiritually the

needs of others," he said.

Angie Tullidge, volunteer manager of the Samaritan House and a member of the Baptist Church, Danbury, noted the group was making a difference just by reaching out and bread into smaller bags.

"This is a very time-consuming task. It's great to see many hands working on this project," she noted. "They did a great job."

Tullidge also shared that the group inspired other residents who are blind. "It has inspired her to see this work."

"It's also encouraging to see the willingness of so many people to help. We have a lot of good Samaritan volunteers," she said.

Tullidge noted that the Samaritan House was something new for the blind. "It's a new opportunity to see more such groups," she said.

Washam, who helped lead the project for the blind, agreed.

"I think it sets a very good example," she said.

"These people are out of their comfort zone and are eager to help anyone in need." ■



REPRESENTATIVES OF the Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind, along with other helpers, divide bread into smaller bags for distribution at the Samaritan House in Jefferson City. From left to right are Marie Roberts, Nashville; Herbert and Janie Mooneyham, Nashville; Debbie Hunt, White House, and Megan Taliaferro, Hendersonville.



MEMBERS OF the Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind gathered at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center for their annual meeting July 14-16. They were joined by friends and family members along with Beverly Smothers, second from left on front row, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group.

# Sometimes we just have to be intolerant

by Donnie Wilkey, editor

page 3 of this issue is a story that concerns, if not frightens, every Christian state.

Homosexual activists in the North have they intend to make the South a priority effort to have homosexuality in classrooms.

organization, Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Education Network (GLSEN), has opened an Atlanta field office to promote tolerance of homosexuality, according to Baptist Press story on page 3. GLSEN sees itself as the nation's largest organization combating anti-homosexual bias in public schools.

organization also attempts to create Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs in schools, according to the article.

It challenges the imagination to think that such organization can infiltrate our public schools when Gideons cannot even pass out Bibles on public school campuses any more. But these clubs are being formed on

high school campuses.

As Christian parents and grandparents we must know what is happening in our schools. We need to know if this organization does indeed come into Tennessee schools.

How can we find out?

The best way is to talk to our children and find out what is going on in their school. The next best way is to be involved in the schools. Get to know principals and teachers.

We also have many Christian teachers in our public schools who can be "watchdogs" for organizations like these and others that might be detrimental to our children.

We must pray and be on vigil to keep clubs such as the one mentioned in the page 3 story from infiltrating our schools.

We also must take strong stands and let our government leaders know we will oppose any efforts to legalize civil unions for homosexuals such as was approved earlier this year in Vermont.

As I write this, I know homosexuals will call me intolerant.

I am not intolerant to homosexuals as in-

dividuals. They have every right to make the choices they make. They ultimately must be accountable to God.

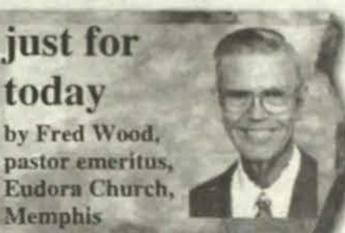
I do not believe homosexuals should be discriminated against or subjected to physical violence or abuse.

I am intolerant, however, when I see homosexual activists and even government leaders insist that society condone their behavior and give it a "stamp of approval." I am intolerant when I see these organizations attempt to "educate" our children and teenagers who could be vulnerable to their "sales pitch."

As Christians we have no choice but to be intolerant on those issues.

I've said many times that our country today is teetering on the brink of becoming another Sodom and Gomorrah. There are days when I feel we already have plunged headlong into the wickedness that plagued those Old Testament cities.

We know the fate of those cities. What will be our fate if we stand idly and do nothing? **B&R**



## Start with a smile

Carl to painter giving a bid: "What, \$600 for painting those two small rooms? I could do it for \$200." Painter: "Are you going to do it?" Carl: "No." Painter: "If I wasn't going to do it, I could do it for \$200 too."

## Take this truth

You never can evaluate properly another's decision until you stand in that person's shoes.

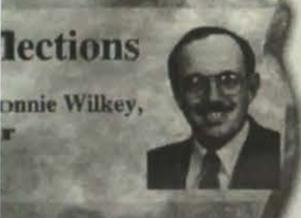
## Memorize this Scripture

"Judge not, that ye be not judged." — Matthew 7:1

## Pray this prayer

Lord, help me to realize if I were in my neighbor's body, I would probably do exactly what he did. ■

# Former editor served God faithfully, effectively



phone call I received late one night that former *B&R* editor Al Shackleford had been elected earlier that day came as a shock (see story on page 3). I never worked for Al, but we became friends over the years. And, once we did talk about the possibility about me joining his staff. The timing was perfect then and I just did not know what was God's will at the time. I understood my reasoning

because he understood the importance of being in God's will.

In 1987, Al left the *Baptist and Reflector* to become vice president for public relations at the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

The controversy in the SBC was approaching its zenith and there was considerable opposition to Al taking this position.

When the vote was tallied, he was called by a 32-26 margin.

In his editorial following his election, Al wrote:

"... I reminded the Lord that he had given me a definite indication in 1976 to come to Brentwood. So I asked God for a clear, unmistakable indication if I should allow my name to be nominated as vice president for public relations for the SBC Executive Committee.

"As you know, our God is faithful. He gave me a firm impression that his will for my life was to allow my name to be placed in nomination. ...

"Therefore, my acceptance of the position — regardless of the narrow 32-26 vote — was an easy decision.

"God impressed me that he knew what this vote would be long before I was ever asked to consider this position. And I did not feel that I had any choice but to accept a position to which he had led and to which I had been elected."

In 1990 Al and Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press were fired from their positions while the Executive Committee met behind guarded, closed doors.

Al Shackleford accepted his fate that day the only way he knew how — with dignity, courage, and class.

Times were hard for Al after the dismissal. He worked odd jobs to make ends meet. But God proved faithful to one who had been a faithful servant of his.

In 1992, Al became the editor of the Baptist Sunday School Board's (now LifeWay Christian Resources) *Mature Living* magazine. He once again was able to use the gifts God had given him for the Lord's service.

Al Shackleford leaves behind a legacy that should encourage those who knew him well. He faced adversity head-on and continued his walk with the Lord. He was faithful to the end.

Pray for Al's wife, Tommie, and their children and grandchildren during the days ahead. Al will be missed by all who knew him, and his death will definitely leave a void in their lives. **B&R**

# Churches need a balanced educational ministry



popular TV commercial "Reggie, have you had chunky soup?" For one to be considered healthy, you must eat a balanced meal from the food groups. So what does Christian education ministry mean? Creating a healthy diet of spiritual and proteins, fruits and vegetables, breads and grains, dairy products have in common. Balance! A regular balanced Christian education ministry leads to a healthy, growing church. The *SBREA Journal*, a quarterly publication of the Baptist Christian Educators Association reported the results of a survey of 805 churches. The churches surveyed showed an obvious imbalance in carrying

out the work of Christian Education.

"For example, it was found that churches of every size give Sunday School work high priority; but, only 56% of the churches with less than a hundred members have a Discipleship Training program for adults and even fewer offer Discipleship Training for youth (40%), children (33%), and preschoolers (19%). A similar proportion of small churches offer missions education for women and girls, but fewer than 30% have missions education programs for men and boys.

While balance in educational programs tended to increase with church size, there were significant gaps in the programs of even larger churches" (*SBREA Journal*, Oct-Dec. 1998).

The future of Christian education is in need of a real dose of balance. "Christian education is a way to accomplish the purposes of the church; it is not a purpose in itself" (*Christian Education Handbook*, Powers). Spiritual transformation is the goal

of Christian education. "Spiritual Transformation is God's work of changing a believer into the likeness of Jesus by creating a new identity in Christ and by empowering a lifelong relationship of love, trust, and obedience to glorify God" (*Transformational Discipleship*, Sneed and Edgemon). To accomplish spiritual transformation, Tennessee Baptist churches must have an educational ministry that balances open, evangelistic Bible Study groups and closed discipleship groups.

An open, evangelistic Bible study group is a small group designed to reach people, assimilate them into small groups and minister to them. These groups need to reproduce themselves as quickly as possible in order to continue reaching lost people. Sunday School is a strategy built on open, evangelistic Bible Study groups. For the majority of Tennessee Baptist churches, Sunday School is still a priority. Is your Sunday School assimilating and ministering to people in your community?

A closed discipleship group is purposed to develop disciples and to help them grow in their faith. These groups result in helping members find their place of ministry and service within the church. The statistics above indicate that many churches have chosen against having an active Discipleship Training ministry. For so long, discipleship has been associated with a program, not a process.

What's your strategy for providing discipleship experiences that lead to spiritual transformation? Bill Easum says that "making disciples is the bottom line for a church in any age" (*Bill Easum, Net Results*, December 1996).

How's your diet? Every Tennessee Baptist church, whether traditional or non-traditional, needs a balanced small group ministry in order to be a growing, healthy church. ■ — Miller is a ministry specialist in the TBC Christian Growth Development Group. He can be reached at (615) 371-2048.

## Partnership Prayer Requests July/August

- 27 — Pray for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Pastor/Staff and Spouse Retreat which was held this week.
- 28 — Pray for Janelle Ganey, who is witnessing to a group of exotics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 29 — Pray for Michigan Baptists' Hispanic Fellowship Retreat, Church Growth, which is being held July 28-30.
- 30 — Pray for Shan and Soogie An as they lead Dixie Southern Church in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, to start a new Korean congregation in Toronto.
- 31 — Pray for Terry Sharp and the staff of the TBC Partnership Missions office.
- 1 — Pray for Le Roy Church in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Canada, as they hold a Backyard Bible Club this week. Ask God to bless the children who attend.
- 2 — Pray for Gabriel Hallock, son of IMB missionaries Eddy and Brenda Hallock, who is witnessing to an atheist friend. Ask God to bless his efforts.

**In Covington area**

# TBC helps new congregation secure building

For Baptist and Reflector

ATOKA — What does a beginning congregation do without a place to meet? That was the problem facing Pastor Howard Wayland, church planter/pastor, Life Way Baptist Fellowship in Atoka.

"You generally wait as long as you can before you build, but in our case that wasn't an option," he said.

The congregation was meeting in a garage which could hold about 30 people, but more than that were attending. The driveway parking didn't lend itself to any more cars which would be required even for a second service. No commercial buildings were located within seven miles, a distance most people will travel to a new location, that could hold a small congregation.

Leaders of the congregation checked with a school, but the principal refused to let the congregation meet in its facilities. Another school was located in the area but a Baptist congregation was already meeting in it.

**But it had land**

Thankfully, the congregation had eight acres of land bought for it in May 1999 by the Big Hatchie Baptist Association, based in Covington. Association leaders realized the area, which is located north of Memphis, was growing in population. The commu-

nity is part of the second fastest growing area in the tri-state region.

Because the association leaders acted when they did, they were able to buy the land at a cost substantially under the appraised value, reported S. Ray Jones, director of missions of the association, and under the current price of the land, which is escalating as the population grows.

Wayland, who moved to West Tennessee from Texas with his family in August 1999 to help the association start the congregation, knew with so much invested in the congregation a solution could be found. He recalled when

the only members were his family.

He started researching the purchase of a modular commercial building and discussed it with Jones and Bill George of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, based in Brentwood. George recommended Homestead 2000, a company in Troy owned by Mike Scott, a Baptist deacon.

Wayland learned Life Way Fellowship could buy a 2,500-square-foot building for under \$80,000 which included set up. The building would provide a worship area which could seat 102 people, three classrooms, office, kitchenette, and storage room.

**Tennessee Baptists help**

Then George offered a \$25,000 grant for the building from the TBC's Golden State Missions Offering. And First Baptist Church, Covington,

Life Way's sponsoring church, helped Life Way secure a loan for the balance of the cost.

On Feb. 20 Life Way Baptist Fellowship met for the first time in its new building and 66 people attended. A recent high attendance was 102. Since then, 11 people have made professions of faith and five people have been baptized, reported Wayland.

**Alabama Baptists help**

Life Way Fellowship also has been assisted by the Mississippi River Ministry, a consortium of seven states directing ministry. MRM sent a team from Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., last summer to help prepare the community for the congregation, reported Jones.

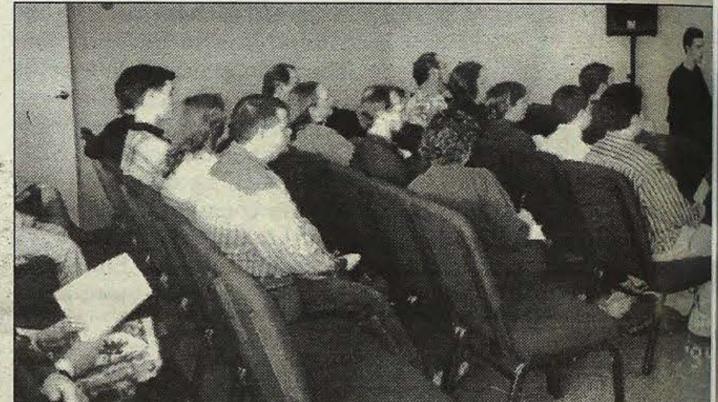
The church returned this summer. They and helpers from First Baptist Church, Covington, held a block party



WAYLAND



NEW BUILDING of Life Way Baptist Fellowship, Atoka.



A WORSHIP SERVICE of Life Way Baptist Fellowship on a Sunday morning.

## Korean youth of three states gather for second year

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The second annual Korean Youth Rally drew 230 youth, their leaders, and some parents to the Baptist Center June 29 - July 1. The youth were from 12 churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. It was led by Baptists but drew youth from six Protestant denominations, reported Don Choi, pastor, Unity Korean Baptist Church, Nashville.

One result of the rally was that about 12 youth made professions of faith, about 35 youth rededicated their lives, and many others made other spiritual decisions.

Choi speculated the meeting was the largest Christian meeting for ethnic youth ever held in Tennessee, and certainly the largest Baptist meeting for ethnic youth ever held in the state.

Baptists are the only Protestant group holding such

meetings for youth, he reported.

"We didn't know there were so many Korean kids out there," he said.

One reason for the good turnout was speaker Joseph Kim of Korea, noted Choi. Kim could relate to the youth who are bilingual and live in a multicultural situation because he is bilingual and multiracial — Kim's father is Korean and his

mother is American. His father is Billy Kim, president, Baptist World Alliance. Joseph Kim is a pastor and chaplain at a Christian school.

Kim also brought a group of students who performed the martial art, tae kwon do, for the rally.

Choi thanked the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Korean Baptist churches for making the rally possible. ■



MEMBERS of a tae kwon do martial arts group from the Central Christian Academy in Suwon, Korea, performed for the youth rally.



LEADERS of the youth rally were, from left, Don Choi, pastor, Unity Korean Baptist Church, Nashville; Joseph Kim, speaker of Korea; Tim Hill, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Paul Kim, pastor, One Heart Korean Baptist Church, Clarksville; and Elijah Whang, pastor, Blessed Korean Baptist Church, Nashville.

## Bill Smith to retire after 25 years

For Baptist and Reflector

PARIS — Bill Smith, director of missions, Western District Baptist Association, based in Paris, will retire Nov. 1 after serving the association for 25 years.

Smith formerly served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Decaturville, and of churches in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Michigan. He and his wife, Betty, have worked in various ministries starting at Western District in 1975. They have been state Disaster Relief workers for 12 years.

He has helped start churches in the association and has been a certified counselor and Sunday school growth consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Smiths plan to retire in Paris and continue resort ministry. ■



SMITH





**TENNESSEE  
BAPTIST  
CONVENTION**

# Christian Growth Development Group

## Greetings!

The Christian Growth Development Group celebrates the year of our 10th anniversary with a conference event in association with these 32



**HOLCOMB**

events in East Tennessee, we will meet our goal. Over the last two years, we have trained over 7,000 leaders.

We have been encouraged by the participation of our regional consultants. These regional consultants are Tennesseans serving in churches across our state. They have given their time with small financial reward to develop Sunday

School and Discipleship leadership. They have established a new mark for competency and we thank them for their assistance.

For 2001, you will notice a different training design. We have asked Directors of Missions to customize their training needs and let us assist them in developing these Sunday School and Discipleship events. You will note numerous

possibilities for 2001. Along with these 40 training events, we will continue to provide VBS training, Bible Drill, and Speakers' Tournaments leadership and a more intentional focus on Sunday School growth. Sunday School growth emphasis will include the starting of new Sunday School classes, as well as a renewed emphasis on enrollment.

Thank you for your support. Each and every event we conduct is a product of your generous Cooperative Program gifts.

*Jim Holcomb*

## A Winning Spirit

### Locations

- August 7 – Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis, 7-9:15 p.m.
- August 8 – West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, 7-9 p.m.
- August 10 – First Baptist Church, Martin, 7-9 p.m.



The following are a list of conferences for "A Winning Spirit." Not all conferences will be offered in every location.

### General Officers

**Forum**

Forum is designed for all General Officers. Design your own conference. The conference leader will facilitate the group to discuss issues that pertain to your ministry. A brief overview of the new teaching book: *Teaching the Jesus Way: Building a Transformational Teaching Ministry* will be presented. This conference is designed for all general officers, pastors, Sunday School Directors, and Ministers of Education. They will be led through a timely overview of the new teaching book: *Teaching the Jesus Way: Building a Transformational Teaching Ministry*. This new and exciting resource will provide ample opportunity for discussion of the new curriculum choices and other information as it relates to leading Sunday School for a new century.

### Children

**Winning Spirit for Laying Foundations to Faith**

Overview of the new teaching book for children's leaders. A book for helping children's teachers strengthen their teaching skills.

**Winning Spirit for Teaching Grades 1 & 2**

Study of the new book: *Teaching Children: Laying Foundations for Faith*. Special skill emphasis for teaching 1 & 2 grades.

**Winning Spirit for Teaching Grades 5 & 6**

Study of the new book: *Teaching Children: Laying Foundations for Faith*. Special skill emphasis for teaching 5 & 6 grades.

**Winning Spirit for Teaching Grades 3 & 4**

Study of the new book: *Teaching Children: Laying Foundations for Faith*. Special skill emphasis for teaching 3 & 4 grades.

### Youth

**A Winning Team ... Youth Leaders, Lessons and Lifestyles for Workers with Youth**

This conference will give an overview of the new youth teaching book, *Teaching Youth: Leaders, Lessons, and Lifestyles*. This new and exciting resource will guide youth leaders in teaching for spiritual transformation. Conferees will discover how youth learn, and to create a stimulating learning environment, and how to teach youth the Bible in ways that lead to spiritual conversion, which results in spiritual transformation.

### Preschool

**Kindergarten Connection**

Get acquainted with the new age groupings and materials for kindergarten fives and sixes.

**Bible and Me (Threes - Pre-Kindergarten)**

Get acquainted with the new age grouping and materials for threes, fours and pre-kindergarten fives.

**Early Bible Steps (Birth - Twos)**

Get acquainted with the new age grouping and materials for babies, ones, and twos.

**Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith**

Discover how to teach the Bible through activities that lay a foundation for life-long spiritual development.

### Adult

**Teaching Adults (75-up): A Guide for Transformational Teaching**

This conference will give you an overview and look at the new Adult Teaching book, *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*. This conference will give you practical and helpful tips on designing a top notch lesson plan that leads to changed lives.

**Teaching Adults (60-74): A Guide for Transformational Teaching**

This conference will give you an overview and look at the new Adult Teaching book, *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*. This conference will give you practical and helpful tips on designing a top notch lesson plan that leads to changed lives.

**Teaching Adults (40-59): A Guide for Transformational Teaching**

This conference will give you an overview and look at the new Adult Teaching book, *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*. This conference will give you practical and helpful tips on designing a top notch lesson plan that leads to changed lives.

**Teaching Adults (25-39): A Guide for Transformational Teaching**

This conference will give you an overview and look at the new Adult Teaching book, *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*. This conference will give you practical and helpful tips on designing a top notch lesson plan that leads to changed lives.

**Teaching Adults (18-24): A Guide for Transformational Teaching**

This conference will give you an overview and look at the new Adult Teaching book, *Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching*. This conference will give you practical and helpful tips on designing a top notch lesson plan that leads to changed lives.

### Special Interest

**Starting a Mental Retardation Ministry**

This conference is designed to train and equip workers in reaching, teaching, and ministering to persons with mental retardation and their families. Simple, practical ideas are given. Every church should have a special education ministry.

# Church Workers Tune-up

The following are a list of conferences for "Church Workers Tune Up." Not all conferences will be offered in every location.

## General Officers

### ► The Pastor and the Sunday School Director in the Small Church

This conference will help the pastor and Sunday School director develop skills to tune-up a smooth running organization.

### ► Develop a "Purpose Driven" Sunday School

A clearly defined purpose enables an organization run more smoothly. Participants in this session will learn how to develop a purpose driven Sunday School.

### ► Transformational Discipleship: What? and How?

What is Transformational Discipleship? This conference will help you with the basic steps in beginning and operating a Discipleship Ministry in your church.

### ► Six Months Ago I Couldn't Spell Sunday School Director--Now I Are One!

This conference will focus on what a Sunday School director is supposed to do. Skills will be presented to insure a smooth running organization.

### ► Discipleship Ministry: Some Creative Approaches

This conference will take you out of the rut of doing discipleship just one way. A variety of emerging and practical approaches to discipleship ministry will be examined which will help participants develop their own creative approach.

## Youth

### ► Tune-up Your Youth Sunday School

This conference will guide youth leaders through a major tune-up and diagnostic of their Youth Sunday School and an overview of the new Youth Sunday School curriculums for a New Century.

### ► Crusin' the Hood...Tune-up Your Youth Outreach

Reaching youth today is a challenge and youth ministry must be creative and innovative to reach this generation of young people. Conferencees will discover some tried and proven outreach methods and techniques.

### ► Tune-up Your Youth Teaching Skills

Good youth teachers can always be better! This conference will help youth teachers discover the ins and outs of preparing a Youth Sunday School lesson and how to make that lesson come alive.

### ► Youth Ministry and Legal Issues...ouch!

This conference will assist youth leaders in an understanding of current legal guidelines, laws, and principles that will protect their youth, leadership and church!

### ► Tune-up Your Youth Leaders, Lessons and Lifestyles

This conference will give an overview and look at the new Youth teaching book, *Teaching Youth: Leaders, Lessons and Lifestyles*. Conferencees will discover how youth learn, how to create a stimulating learning environment, and how to teach youth the Bible in ways that lead to spiritual conversion, which results in spiritual transformation.



## Tune-up Locations

Conference Time: 7-9 p.m.

- August 14 – Hamilton County Baptist Association, Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga
- August 14 – Sevier County Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Sevierville
- August 15 – Big Emory Baptist Association, South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman
- August 15 – Clinton Baptist Association, Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge
- August 15 – Holston Baptist Association, University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City
- August 17 – Watauga Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Hunter
- August 17 – Sweetwater Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Madisonville
- August 17 – Tennessee Valley Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Spring City
- August 21 – Bradley County Baptist Association, North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland
- August 21 – East Tennessee Baptist Association, Swannsylvania Baptist Church, Dandridge
- August 21 – Loudon County Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Lenoir City
- August 21 – Northern/Midland Baptist Associations, Clear Springs Baptist Church, Corryton
- August 22 – Chilhowee Baptist Association, Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville
- August 22 – Jefferson County Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Dandridge
- August 22 – Grainger Baptist Association, Central Point Baptist Church, Rutledge
- August 24 – Copper Basin Baptist Association, Mine City Baptist Church, Ducktown
- August 24 – McMinn–Meigs Baptist Association, Wildwood Baptist Church, Englewood
- August 24 – Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Whitwell
- August 28 – Knox County Baptist Association, Central (Bearden) Baptist Church, Knoxville
- August 29 – Holston Valley Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Church Hill
- August 29 – Nolachucky Baptist Association, Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown
- August 29 – New River Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Oneida
- August 29 – Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, Pump Springs Baptist Church, Harrogate
- August 31 – Campbell County Baptist Association, Indiana Avenue Baptist Church, LaFollette
- August 31 – Polk County Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Benton
- August 31 – Sullivan Baptist Association, First Baptist Church, Kingsport

## Adult

### ► Building A "Classic" Team

This class will look at ways to help your class/department work and function as a team. The participants will learn some new approaches to organizing your adult class for achieving the Great Commission.

### ► Teaching "Explore the Bible" Series

Practical workshop on teaching "Explore the Bible". The workshop leader will model appropriate teaching methods using all four elements of a good teaching plan.

### ► Travel in Style: Teaching with the new "Family Bible Study" Curriculum

Teachers will have a chance to observe and learn how to prepare and teach effectively using the new "Family Bible Study." Individual stops along the way will compare the old with the new.

### ► Detailing Sunday School for Today's Young Adults

Get a fresh vision for reaching and teaching

Generation X'ers, ages 18 - 34.

### ► Boomer Class Teacher Tune-Up

This conference will help teachers and workers tune up their teaching, reaching, and ministry to boomers, ages 35 - 59, in their church and community.

### ► Senior Adult Teachers and Workers - START YOUR ENGINES!

Start your engines and get ready to reach, teach, and minister to Senior Adults. The race must be won.

### ► Recharge Your Ministry with Single Adults

Whether you need a new battery or just recharging, this conference is designed to help you establish or strengthen your ministry with Single Adults.

### ► Teaching College Age Young Adults

Methods will be presented to involve college young adults in effective, application-oriented Bible study. Attention will be given to learning styles as well as teacher preparation and how to develop a teaching plan.

## Preschool

### ► Here We Grow!

Make your older preschool run like a well-oiled machine as you discover ways to enhance your teaching and environment. (for teachers of 3's, 4's, and kindergarten)

### ► Starting Off Right!

Make your younger preschool room run like a well-oiled machine as you discover ways to enhance your teaching and environment (for teachers of babies, 1's and 2's)

### ► Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith

Discover how to teach the Bible through activities that lay a foundation for life-long spiritual development.

### ► What's New in the Shop?

Get acquainted with a variety of resources as you consider your role in your church's preschool ministry.

### ► Bible & Me

Explore Family Bible Study resources for teaching Threes, Fours, and Pre-Kindergarten.

### ► Kindergarten Connection

Become familiar with Family Bible Study resources for teaching Kindergarten preschoolers.

### ► Bible Foundations

Get acquainted with Bible-teaching resources for preschoolers of all ages. These resources include foundational biblical concepts as well as missions emphases and may be used with all preschoolers for Sunday School and/or Discipleship Training.

## Children

### ► Tune-Up New Materials for Teaching Children

An introduction to the new Family Bible Study Sunday School materials for teaching children Grades 1-6. (Closely graded and multiple graded)

### ► Teaching Children: Laying Foundations for Faith

An overview of the new teaching book for children's leaders.

### ► Tune-up with Other Teaching Choices Teaching Children

An indepth look at the new material offered for teaching children using the Bible Foundations.

### ► Tuning-up Your Children's Discipleship Training

An overview of Children's TeamKid: the "to" for a quality program.

### ► Tune-up Your Organization by Developing Ministries for Reaching the Unchurched Child

Help provided in how to structure an organization for reaching unchurched children and opportunities to brainstorm specific events and activities.

### ► Tune-Up Your Teaching Skills

Teaching Children: Laying Foundations for Faith will be the base for helping children's teachers to strengthen their teaching skills.

## Special Interests

### ► From Tune-Up to Take-off; Making Your Media Library Run Like a Well-Oiled Machine

Is your library running on all cylinders? Need a tune-up? Learn how to make your library take-off.

### ► Road Map to Develop a Meaningful Family Ministry Program in Your Church

Each person attending will receive a copy of Phil Vaughn's book, *Leading Family Ministry in Your Church*. The conference will provide ideas to assess needs, materials meet needs, and promotion ideas.

# Mapping It Out!

The following are a list of conferences for "Mapping It Out!" Not all conferences will be offered in every station.

## General Officers

### Develop a "Purpose Driven" Sunday School

A clearly defined purpose enables an organization run more smoothly. Participants in this session will learn how to develop a purpose driven Sunday School.

### The Bivocational Pastor's Role in Sunday School and Discipleship Training

A car makes two stops ... bivocational pastors look at Sunday School and Discipleship Training resources. Helps for building an effective organization will also be a feature of this session.

### Winning for Service: Spiritual Gifts

Every member is a minister. Help your people discover their spiritual gifts and get involved in ministry for the Kingdom's sake.

### Mapping Out Your Discipleship Ministry

This conference will give the basic tune-up steps in making your Discipleship ministry run like it should. The New resource entitled Transformational Discipleship will be reviewed, Organizational structures will be examined and innovative approaches to do discipleship will be given.

### You Can't Hardly Find 'em - If You Don't Know Where They Are!

The Pastor and Sunday School director will develop skills in identifying specific ways of bringing people into Bible study and evaluate their processes for effective evangelism through the Sunday School.

## Children

### Choose Your Map: Other Choices of Materials for Teaching Children

A look at the new material offered for children using the Bible Foundations, FUNDamentals, TeamKid and Children's Bible Drill.

### New Map: New Bible Study Materials for Teaching Children

An introduction to the new Family Bible Study Sunday School materials for teaching children Grades 1-6.

## Locations

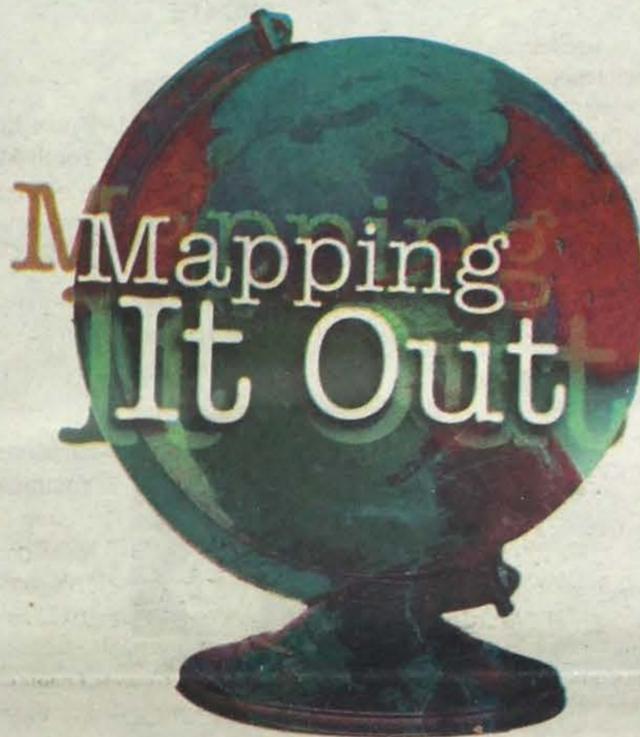
Conference Time: 7-9 p.m.

September 11 - First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg

September 12 - First Baptist Church, LaVergne

September 12 - Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville

September 14 - First Baptist Church, Cookeville



## Adult

### How to Grow Your Class

This conference will look at the approaches to organizing your class and making it grow.

### Travel in Style: Teaching with the new "Family Bible Study" Curriculum

Teachers will have a chance to observe and learn how to prepare and teach effectively using the new "Family Bible Study." Individual stops along the way will compare the old with the new.

### Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching

This conference will give you an overview and look at the new Adult Teaching book, Teaching Adults: A Guide for Transformational Teaching. This conference will give you practical and helpful tips on designing a top notch lesson plan that leads to changed lives.

### Finding Your Way Through College Ministry

Student ministers and college-age teachers will consider generational attributes of today's students, effective ways of reaching collegiates, methods of teaching, and ways of expanding the traditional concept of Sunday School to encompass a more complete ministry.

### Design Your Class For Ministry

People need friends. Organize your class to build relationships and ministry.

### Travel in Style: Teaching with the new "Family Bible Study" Curriculum

Teachers will have a chance to observe and learn how to prepare and teach effectively using the new "Family Bible Study." Individual stops along the way will compare the old with the new.

### All Systems Go! Reaching Adults through Sunday School

Is your class reaching adults? Learn practical ideas and suggestions for finding, enlisting, and visiting adults.

### Speed Limit? Keeping Pace with Today's Young Adults

Help for teachers of today's young adults, ages 18 - 34. What you need to know to effectively reach, minister and teach the Generation X'er.

### Teaching "Explore the Bible" Series

Practical workshop on teaching "Explore the Bible". The workshop leader will model appropriate teaching methods using all four elements of a good teaching plan.

## Special Interest

### How to Develop and Improve Senior Adult Programs

This conference will give a new vision for senior adult ministry in the church and association.

### Starting a Mental Retardation Ministry

This conference is designed to train and equip workers in reaching, teaching and ministering to persons with mental retardation and their families. Simple, practical ideas are given. Every church should have a special education ministry.

### Road Map to Effective Church Media Library Administration

This conference provides a road map for Church Media Library workers to lead them in the effective administration of their libraries.

## Youth

### Youth Teaching Skills Maintenance Workshop

Good youth teachers can always be better! This conference will help youth teachers discover the ins and outs of preparing a Youth Sunday School lesson and how to make that lesson come alive.

### Youth Ministry and Legal Issues ... ouch!

This conference will assist youth leaders in an understanding of current legal guidelines, laws, and principles that will protect their youth, leadership and church!

### Crusin' the Hood ... Hit the Road with Outreach to Youth

This conference will guide youth leaders through a major tune-up and diagnostic of their Youth Sunday School.

## Preschool

### Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith

Discover how to teach the Bible through activities that lay a foundation for lifelong spiritual development.

### What's New on the Map?

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## 2001 Field Service Dates

# Christian Growth Development Group Staff

### Southeastern Region

Aug. 13 Bradley Developing Age-Group Ministries  
 Aug. 14 Sequatchie Valley Developing Age-Group Ministries

### Eastern Region

March 12 New River Sunday School Director Workshop  
 April 9 Campbell Sunday School Director Workshop  
 May 14 Regional Developing Age-Group Ministries Leadership Training  
 July 30 Cumberland Gap Outreach/Evangelism for the Unchurched  
 Aug. 6 Sevier Associational Sunday School Age-Group Ministries  
 Aug. 13 Knox Pastor/Sunday School Director Planning Update  
 Sept. 10 New River/Campbell Developing a Repertoire of Adult Teaching Styles  
 Sept. 24-27 Big Emory Sunday School Age Group Consultation  
 Oct. 29 Knox Discipleship Leader/Director Workshop  
 Nov. 5 Sevier Associational Discipleship Training Leadership Conference  
 TBA New River/Campbell Developing a Ministry for Families Workshop and Divorce Recovery

### Central Region

Feb. 10 Concord Outreach/Evangelism for Unchurched, Reaching Generation NeXt, FAITH Discipleship Conference  
 March 26 Nashville Sunday School Growth Conference  
 April 17 Judson Sunday School Leadership Training  
 April 26 Stewart Outreach/Evangelism for the Unchurched  
 May 21 Robertson Discipleship Training Updated Resource Fair  
 Aug. 23 Cumberland Getting Ready for the New Sunday School Year  
 Aug. 27 Robertson Getting Ready for the New Sunday School Year  
 Aug. 28 Truett Getting Ready for the New Sunday School Year, Developing an Effective New Member Training Program  
 Sept. 11 Nashville Regional  
 TBA Nashville Developing a Discipleship Training Ministry

### NorthEastern Region

March 20 Holston Valley Making Sound Curriculum Choices  
 Aug. 13 (North) Getting Ready for the New Church Year - Regional Event  
 Aug. 14 (South) Getting Ready for the New Church Year - Regional Event  
 Aug. 28 Holston Valley Youth Trends for the 21st Century

### Eastern Central

Aug. 20 North Central Regional: Getting Ready for the New Sunday School Year, Outreach Evangelism for the Unchurched  
 Aug. 21 North Central Developing a Discipleship Training Ministry in Your Church, Discipleship Training Updated Resource Fair, CML: Beginning a New Church Media Library  
 Sept. 10 New Salem Outreach Evangelism for the Unchurched, Developing a Ministry to Families Workshop

### North Western

Feb. 20 Western District Outreach Evangelism for the Unchurched  
 Feb. 22 Beulah Sunday School Director Workshop  
 March 19 Carroll-Benton Sunday School Growth Conference  
 April 2 Carroll-Benton Discipleship Fair  
 April 3 Western District Discipleship Directors Workshop, Developing an Effective New Member Training Program, The How and Why's of Children's Worship  
 May 21 Weakley Sunday School Growth Conference, Beginning a New Church Library Ministry  
 Aug. 27 Dyer Getting Ready for the New Sunday School Year  
 Sept. 17 Gibson Youth Ministry in the 21st Century, TeamKid, Developing a Ministry to Families Workshop

### Southwestern

Feb. 19 Madison-Chester, Crockett Training Workshop  
 March 5 Shiloh Outreach Evangelism for the Unchurched  
 Aug. 16 Big Hatchie Training Workshop  
 Sept. 6 Shelby Training Workshop

### South Central

Jan. 13 William Carey Outreach/Evangelism for the Unchurched, Divorce Recovery Workshop, Developing an Alzheimer's Ministry to Caregiver  
 Feb. 9-10 William Carey Marriage Enrichment  
 March 24 Indian Creek Sunday School Director's Workshop  
 April 5 Giles Sunday School Growth Conference  
 May 15 Duck River Sunday School: Developing an Age-Group Ministry, Discipleship: Developing a DT Ministry in Your Church, Developing a Ministry to Families  
 July 23 Lawrence Outreach Evangelism for the Unchurched, Developing a Repertoire of Teaching Styles, Developing a DT Ministry  
 Aug. 2 Indian Creek Getting Ready for the New Sunday School Year  
 Aug. 13 New Duck River Getting Ready for the New Sunday School Year, Developing a Ministry to Families  
 Aug. 21 Alpha Sunday School: Developing an Age-Group Ministry, Outreach/Evangelism for the Unchurched, Discipleship: Developing a Discipleship Training Ministry  
 Nov. 5 Indian Creek Developing a DT Ministry in Your Church



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## Unique mission trip

# Kirby Woods sends dads/daughters to Guatemala

Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — A unique team of fathers and daughters from Kirby Woods Baptist Church here recently spent a week at the Agua Viva Child Home in Chimaltenango, Guatemala.

The purpose of the trip was to share the love of Jesus with children and adults in and around the orphanage through various ways, said Chris Gault, a member of Kirby Woods who led the trip.

The team did construction, carpentry work, property maintenance and improvement, and brought in needed supplies of tools and shoes, did personal evangelism both on and off campus, and evening devotionals for the children, shared in prayer and other activities with the children, and did whatever was needed around the orphanage's home, Gault shared.

Gault noted that he and another dad, Tim Sheehy, had been meeting and praying about the trip. They looked forward to finding the orphanage in Guatemala, he said. "The orphanage seemed like a perfect place for the fathers and their daughters," he said.



**DADS AND DAUGHTERS** from Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, recently participated in a mission trip to Guatemala. From left, first row, are Heather Parks, Jessica and Brad Denham, Holly and Glen Tedford, Lacey and Chris Gault; second row, Natalie Kimery, Morgan Parks, Lindsey Champion, Sara Rhoton, Audra Mathis, Jeannie Kilpatrick (missionary at orphanage), Christi Mathis, Caitlyn and Amanda Sheehy, Rosie Schmidt, Cassie Campbell; third row, Phillip Kimery, Tony Parks, Dennis Champion, Ty Mathis, Tim Sheehy, Rick Schmidt, and Dwight Campbell.

Days began with devotionals in the children's residences at 5:30 a.m., followed by mission team devotionals and breakfast. All team members then worked on a road construction project each day until mid-afternoon.

After the children were finished with school in the afternoon, the Kirby Woods team

joined them for outdoor games.

After the games, girls from Kirby Woods prepared skits, songs, and testimonies for that day's devotional service. Eight team members shared their personal testimonies throughout the week and two were able to do so in Spanish without a translator, Gault shared.

One of the team members ap-

plied his business skills to set up and network together eight computers that were shipped to the orphanage thanks to arrangements made by another member of Kirby Woods.

In nearby Antigua and in the capital city of Guatemala City, God allowed mission team members to pass out 2,300 Spanish tracts and 230 Spanish Bibles and to witness one-on-one with at least 115 persons, Gault said.

"It was neat seeing our daughters hand out tracts and Bibles," he observed.

The children at Agua Viva and the people in Antigua and Guatemala City clearly touched the hearts of the fathers and daughters from Kirby Woods, Gault said.

For all but four, team members, this was the first, but definitely not the last mission experience outside the United States, Gault said.

It was especially meaningful for him to participate with his daughter, Lacey.

Noting that he had participated on mission trips before and established a bond with team members, it was especially meaningful to have that relationship with his daughter.

"That will always be special for the two of us," Gault said. ■



## Tennessean wins \$1 million

For Baptist and Reflector

FORT WORTH, Texas — Do you know who dubbed in Audrey Hepburn's singing parts in the movie "My Fair Lady?"

And can you name a landlocked country that's entirely within the boundaries of another country?

High school math teacher — and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate — Kim Hunt nailed down both questions on his way to winning the million-dollar prize on ABC's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

Hunt, who received a master of divinity in 1989 from Southwestern, became the show's fifth millionaire winner on a July 6 telecast. A portion of his winnings, Hunt said, will be used for ministry.

"When I was at Southwestern, I was a member of Hope Community, so I called pastor Harold Bullock when I won the money to find out about some church planting projects I could help out," said Hunt, who now lives in Collierville and attends Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown.

Hunt said he's trying to keep his life as normal as possible after winning the big prize. He had the million-dollar check sent to his parents' address because he was heading out on a three-week trip to the western United States.

"This is a trip I was planning before I even went on the show," Hunt said. "Actually winning the money has made the trip shorter. It was going to be two to three months. But going back and forth to New York for the show and being on "Good Morning America" kind of delayed my trip."

Hunt intends to use most of the money for retirement, which means no big-money shopping sprees. "The only thing I have bought is a laptop computer and some hardware and software to go with it," Hunt said. "I may go buy a car today, but it will probably be a used SUV of some kind."

Hunt is hoping the millionaire hype will die down while he's on his trip. "That's kind of my strategy of getting back to a normal life," Hunt said. "I have already seen the people I need to see, and I think by the time I get back and school starts up it will be old news and things can just get back to normal." ■

## Tennessee Baptists help share Gospel in Chicago

James Dotson & Lee Weeks Baptist Press

CHICAGO — A group of young men from the Chicago Grace Place told lay evangelist Travis Johnson of San Antonio, Texas, they were afraid to come to a block party at the ministry center.

"They said the guys on Rockwell [Street] are shooting people," Johnson referring to the penalty for intrusion on another gang's turf in an area that has become known throughout the city for street violence.

But for several hours on July 8, the Grace Place's small fenced parking lot in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood became an oasis of hope for about 400 children and adults. There was food, Christian entertainment, and a constant witness to the life-changing power of Christ. By the end of the day, at least 141 individuals responded with a prayer of commitment to accept Christ as Lord of their lives.

That, in microcosm, was the spirit of SearchLight — a one-day effort that was one of the centerpieces of Southern Baptist Strategic Focus Cities evangelism and church planting emphasis in Chicago.

There were more than just block parties of course. Volunteers assisted local churches with door-to-door visitation, shared their faith on beaches, parks, and streets, distributed copies of the evan- gelic booklet "The Book of Hope," and led in a joint "Festival of Hope" on the front at the end of the day.

Ultimately, more than 1,150 people

made immediate professions of faith — including about 250 who accepted Christ at a July 11 evangelistic concert hosted by 26 Korean churches. More than 1,800 people attended the concert, featuring Korean recording artist Seung Jun Yoo and held in the northwestern Chicago suburb of Rolling Meadows.

Tens of thousands more across the city were introduced to more than 113 churches that participated in SearchLight. More than 103,000 copies of evangelistic materials were distributed, and more than 31,000 face-to-face evangelistic conversations took place.

"I'm gloriously exhausted," said SearchLight Coordinator Phil Miglioratti, taking a break during a contemporary Christian concert on the shore of Lake Michigan that closed out the day's activities.

The approximately 2,934 volunteers from outside the area was significantly lower than earlier goals of up to 100,000, but involvement of local Southern Baptist and evangelical churches boosted the number of volunteers to an estimated 5,271.

Strategic Focus Cities — which continues through the end of the year in both Chicago and Phoenix — is an evangelistic and church starting effort of the North American Mission Board in cooperation with local churches and associations to help channel volunteers and other resources to two major cities each year.

Several Tennessee Baptists participated on a NAMB ICE (Inner City Evangelism team) which was a part of the evangelism emphasis in Chicago.

Heosto, a 27-year old ice cream truck driver, did not hesitate in accepting a copy

of the New Testament written in Spanish when offered by N.T. Campbell of Central Baptist Church, Hixson. Campbell, 66, led Heosto through a Gospel presentation in the Book of Romans by asking him to read the verses underlined in his Spanish version.

Stopping several times to take care of his customers, Heosto returned each time to continue reading. Before pulling away from his Green Street stop, Heosto repeated the prayer for salvation written in the back of the Spanish New Testament.

Campbell, said he was glad he didn't allow his lack of knowledge of Spanish to prevent him from sharing the Gospel over a cup of ice cream. "I feel the least qualified here, but I don't have any excuse not to do it," Campbell said.

R.A. Sharpe, another member of the Hixson church, wore a wide-brimmed hat with the words "Jesus Saves, Jesus Is Lord, Jesus Is The Living Hope, He Loves You" painted across it.

Among the many people Sharpe shared the Gospel with was a 63-year-old man with the smell of alcohol on his breath. By the end of their conversation, Theodore Rogers prayed to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. With tears running down his face, Rogers said, "It's good to know somebody loves me."

Mark Martin, an ICE team member and minister of evangelism at Roaring Fork Baptist Church, Gatlinburg, said there was only one explanation for the tremendous responsiveness to the Gospel among those in Chicago.

"People are praying over these situations," Martin said. ■

## Tax form allowing ministers' return to SS now available

By Kenny Byrd  
For Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service has made available the form allowing pastors and other religious ministers to re-enter the Social Security program that, among other benefits, provides seniors with Medicare health coverage.

Ministers who previously opted out of Social Security because of religious objections but now want to re-enter must file Form 2031 by April 15, 2002. They can elect to make their re-entry effective in tax year 2000 or 2001 by filing the form titled "Revocation of Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners."

If pastors elect 2000, however, they will be liable for self-employment taxes this year. Ministers, who had previously opted out of the program, should file Form 2031 before filing their tax returns for the year they wish to make re-entry effective.

They can obtain the two-page form along with its instructions online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in the forms and publications section.

Congress opened a temporary two-year window for ministers wishing to re-enter the program in a measure approved in November 1999. ■

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## In capital punishment debate

# Baptists affirm diverse views

By Trennis Henderson  
For Associated Baptist Press

HAVANA — As debate over capital punishment escalates in the United States and elsewhere, how do Baptists view the death penalty? As with many moral and social issues, it depends on which Baptist you ask.

The Southern Baptist Convention in June adopted a pro-capital punishment resolution for the first time in history. A few weeks later, Baptist World Alliance participants from the U.S. and Sweden presented a contrasting view in a pair of papers opposing the death penalty.

The SBC action describes the practice as "a legitimate form of punishment for those guilty of murder or treasonous acts that result in death." The resolution declares that God "established capital punishment as a just and appropriate means by which the civil magistrate may punish those guilty of capital crimes."

"God's Word has spoken clearly on the issue of capital punishment," Resolutions Committee chairman Hayes Wicker told SBC messengers. "We believe it is time to speak since the

world is saying so much about it."

Meanwhile, the BWA's Christian Ethics Study Commission has been studying the issue for several months. Sven Lindstrom, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden, and Charles Johnson, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, presented papers affirming the principle of "restorative justice," even in capital murder cases.

"The question is not if they have done something they should die for," Lindstrom said. "The question is: Do we have the right to kill them? That is the ethical question."

Affirming the need to "work from a Christian perspective toward confession and reconciliation," Lindstrom said, "We as Christians need to emphasize the possibility of rehabilitation, recovery, and restoration."

"God himself is the only one who has the right to give life and

take life," he insisted. "We can go back to the creation and the dignity that is God-given regardless of the acts we commit."

Johnson presented a detailed 13-page paper contrasting Old Testament and New Testament views of capital punishment.

"The biblical material concerning capital punishment is varied and colorful," Johnson noted.

"As with most profound moral issues, the Bible contains a diversity of viewpoints with regard to death as a criminal and moral punishment."

Johnson cited 21 specific crimes in the Old Testament for which the death penalty can be administered. The offenses range from murder, kidnapping and adultery to witchcraft, homosexuality, and parental disobedience.

By contrast, Johnson said, Jesus "instituted the wonderful ethic" of selfless love. ■

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## CLASSIFIED

Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn, under the pastoral leadership of Dr. Jon Roebuck, is seeking a new staff member, minister of education and single adults. Qualifications include college and seminary degrees and at least 5 years of relevant and successful ministerial experiences. Responsibilities include leadership of all of the church's educational and training programs and leadership to the growing single adult programs and activities. Please address applications and recommendations to Arliss L. Roaden, Chairman of the Search Committee for Minister of Education and Singles, Woodmont Baptist Church, 2100 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37215. You may call (615) 373-8914, Fax (615) 371-5804, or e-mail [a.l.roaden@juno.com](mailto:a.l.roaden@juno.com).

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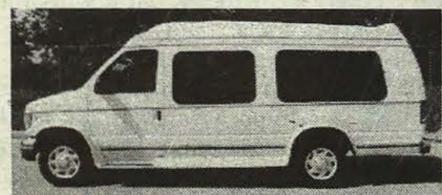


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## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

First Baptist Church, (C... Tenn., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. We are in Weakley County, N... Tennessee and last year average SS attendance 130. Send cover letter resume with housing need with full contact info current and pertinent re to Pastor Search Co... First Baptist Church, 1209, Gleason, TN 382... All materials must be received by Aug. 31.

### MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Antioch Baptist Church, (C... ing, progressive church... er County, Tenn., is seeking resumes for a bivocational minister. Send resume to Search Committee C... 1550 Baker Rd., Sevierville, TN 37876.

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

First Baptist Church, (C... lottesville, Va., is seeking time children's director. Presently we serve 40 children. Masters degree in related field or equivalent experience desired. Send resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 735 Park... lottesville, VA 22902 or [personnel@cvillefbc.org](mailto:personnel@cvillefbc.org)

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Progressive Virginia Baptist... gregation seeking full-time minister of education and administration to lead in conjunction with purposeful leadership. Send resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, Warwick Blvd., Newport, VA 23606.

## leaders

**Cross Roads Baptist Church, Bells, has called Mark Kemper as interim pastor.**

**First Baptist Church, has called Mike Wake as pastor, effective Aug.**

**Jerry Eggenberger, pastor, Highland Park Baptist Church, Jackson, has been called to serve a church in Georgia. Robert Tillery, associate pastor, has been called pastor.**

**Allan Lockerman, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Cleveland, for the last eight years, has been called as pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., effective Aug. 6. The church held a reception to honor the Lockerman family**

**July 16. Lockerman served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Las Metzger of the North American Mission Board staff is interim pulpit supply.**

**Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, Jackson, has called Les Seligman as pastor.**

**Jeffrey Lane has been called as pastor of Cumber-**

**land Baptist Church, Knoxville. He follows Herschel Chevallier who retired after serving the church for 25 years.**

■ **New Hopewell Baptist Church, Athens, has called Van Elkins as pastor.**

■ **Mike Kress of Bear Cove Baptist Church, Sparta, served for two weeks in Kiev, Ukraine. He worked with young people.**

■ **Donelson View Baptist Church, Donelson, has called Gordon Donahoe as pastor.**

■ **Shad Williams, evangelist based in Adamsville, will attend Amsterdam 2000 Conference along with the other nine Tennessee Baptist evangelists listed in the July 19 issue. He will lead the workshop, "Taking the Gospel to Where the People Are."**

■ **Glenwood Baptist Church, Powell, has called Russell Liles as minister of growth and outreach. He formerly served on the staff of First Baptist Church, Greeneville. Liles is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. He has served several churches since 1989.**

## churches

■ **Calvary Baptist Church, Rutherford, will hold revival**



**BURNING A NOTE** to represent the debt-free status of **McLemoresville Baptist Church, McLemoresville, July 9** are leaders, from left, Willard "Buddy" Chandler; James Kennedy; Ray Smith; Kevin Gallimore, pastor; William B. Younger; Jim Cox; and Troy Kelly. The debt was for a parsonage, which allowed the original parsonage to be used for classroom space. The \$80,000 debt was paid off in just three years. The church has an average Sunday School attendance of about 110.

July 30 - Aug. 2. James Brown will speak.

■ **Bear Cove Baptist Church, Sparta, sent Dave Shelley, pastor, and a team of eight members to First Baptist Church, Westcliffe, Colo. They led Vacation Bible School and two evening services at the church. The congregation set a record VBS enrollment and saw four people make professions of faith.**

■ **First Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky., will hold its bi-annual women's conference Sept. 22-23. It will feature speaker and author Jill Briscoe and musicians Cheri Keaggy, and Beverly Terrell. For more information, call the church at (270) 442-2728, ext. 210.**

■ **The 165th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, will be observed July 30. A church youth choir reunion will be held and Fred Kendall of Belmont University, Nashville, will speak.**

■ **River Rock Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, has renovated the house it has met in since its founding in 1988. The garage was expanded into a 170-seat worship center. Volunteers came from Belle Aire**

**Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station; and First Baptist Church, Tracy City. The project was completed without borrowing any money. Plans are being made for an adult educational wing.**

■ **Union McMinn Baptist Church, Niota, will celebrate its 175th anniversary Aug. 13 with the dedication of a new building. Activities will begin with a special morning worship service and include a luncheon and afternoon music program.**

■ **The East Tennessee Extension Center of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville, will begin its fall semester Aug. 21. The center will offer Elementary Greek, Greek Syntax and Exegesis, and Christology and Incarnation on Monday evenings. For more information, call Dean Denton, director, at (423) 983-5114.**



■ **Union University, Jackson, will host the annual 2000 Union University Pas-**



**tors' School July 31 - Aug. 3. Speakers include Jerry Tidwell, president, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and pastor, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; Glenn and Marcia Ellis and Al and Karen Hodges, missionaries; Jackie Kay, evangelist of Bartlett; and Ray Newcomb, pastor, First Baptist Church, Millington, and president, North American Mission Board board of trustees. For more information contact the R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministries at (901) 661-5217.**

## state events

■ **An Emerging Director of Missions 21st Century Orientation will be held Sept. 7-8 in Brentwood. The orientation, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will guide and train people interested in becoming directors of missions. The TBC will pay for lodging and meal. For more information, contact Barbara Causey at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7914, (615) 371-7914, or bcausey@tnbaptist.org. Deadline to register is Aug. 31.**

## hospitals

■ **The Baptist Health System, based in Knoxville, and the Mechanicsville Medical Clinic will hold a Community Health Fair Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Maynard Elementary School, Knoxville. For more information, contact Lara Collins at (865) 549-2611.**

## schools

■ **Union University, Jackson, will host the annual 2000 Union University Pas-**



**MEMBERS of the Properties Committee of Rocky Hill Baptist Church, Knoxville, break ground June 18 for a remodeling project. The project includes new windows to the sanctuary, a handicapped accessible front porch with cover, a 60-space addition to parking lot, and a new playground.**



**CELEBRATING** recently their 90th birthdays which will occur this year are members of Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Nashville. Members are, from left, Ruth Hudson, Margaret Pickler, Frances Linton, and Dorris Adams.



**BREAKING GROUND** recently for an educational facility are leaders and members of First Baptist Church, Allardt. Leaders are, from left, first row (and second row), Don Choate; Bill Potter (second row); Lois Rosenbaum; Gerald L. Huddleston; Billy King; Richard Voiles (second row); and Bob Stoner, pastor. The new building will include eight classrooms and a fellowship hall.



**LifeWay releases  
new BFM tract**

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The 2000 edition of the Baptist Faith and Message tract became available July 17 from LifeWay Christian Resources.

The tract is the edition adopted by messengers June 14 at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla.

While not a binding document or creed, the Baptist Faith and Message outlines basic Baptist beliefs related to subjects such as Scripture, God, man, salvation, the church, baptism and the Lord's supper, and religious liberty. The confessional state-

ment was first adopted by the SBC in 1925. A new edition was adopted in 1963 and amended to include an article on the family in 1998.

Copies are available at 20 cents each, a reduction in price from the previous edition, and may be ordered by calling LifeWay's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-458-2772. ■

**Baptist historian  
W.R. Estep dies**

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — One of the most prominent church historians in Southern Baptist life, whose work threw a spotlight on Baptist origins and church-state issues, has died.

William R. Estep Jr., 80, distinguished professor of church history emeritus at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Friday, July 14, at his Fort Worth, Texas, home.

Estep served at Southwestern

from 1954 until his retirement in 1990 and continued to teach until 1994. During that time, he wrote numerous works on subjects including Baptist and Anabaptist history, religious liberty, and world missions. Some of his most well-known works include *The Anabaptist Story*, first published in 1963; *Renaissance and Reformation*; and his history of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board), *Whole Gospel, Whole World*.

Estep is survived by his wife, Edna, and four children. ■

**Coca-Cola to give  
health benefits to  
homosexual couples**

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Coca-Cola Co. will extend health-care benefits to the same-sex partners of its employees, giving the homosexual rights movement

another June victory to go with the same actions by the big three auto makers earlier in the month.

Coca-Cola's decision — like those of General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Daimler-Chrysler Corp. — adds to a growing trend among American businesses of granting to the partners of homosexual workers health benefits previously reserved for the spouses of married employees. The soft-drink giant's policy, which was announced June 22, will take effect Jan. 1. The automakers' revision will be effective Aug. 1.

More than 3,400 private and public employers provide domestic-partner benefits, according to the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest homosexual political organization.

Other corporations that already provide domestic-partner benefits, according to HRC, include American Express, Avon,

Clorox, Eastman Kodak, General Mills, Levi Strauss, Mattel, Nike, Pillsbury, Procter and Gamble, Reebok, and Starbucks Coffee.

More than two-thirds of employers with domestic-partner benefits provide them not only to homosexuals but to unmarried heterosexual couples as well, according to HRC.

Last year, the newly merged Exxon Mobil Corp. bucked the trend. The company rescinded Mobil's domestic-partner policy. The only company previously to roll back domestic-partner benefits was Perot Systems Inc., according to HRC. That corporation, headed by Texas billionaire Ross Perot, reversed the policy in 1998, HRC reported.

While homosexual rights organizations hail each addition of the domestic-partner column, pro-family groups oppose such policies for equating homosexual relationships with marriage.

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# What's right and what's wrong?

By Holt

Passages: Psalm 9:7-8; 19:7; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-20; Romans 2:14-15

In this book, *You Can Experience a Purposeful Life*, James Emery White tells how the Chinese built their Great Wall to protect them from barbarians in the north. The wall is 30 feet high, 18 feet thick, and more than 1,500 miles long. Their plan was to build an absolutely impenetrable defense. But during the first hundred years of the wall's existence China was successfully invaded three times. During all three, the barbaric hordes climbed over the wall, broke it down, or went around it; they simply bribed a gatekeeper and walked right in through an open door.

Just like the Great Wall, God has given us a defense against our enemy - Satan. He has given us his truth and his moral standards to us in the form of his Word. His perfect standards have enabled us to successfully defend and protect untold millions of believers from falling into destructive patterns of sinful behavior. Unfortunately, many people refuse to accept God's standards. This lesson gives us insight into both the scope and extent of God's moral standards by showing how God's laws are for all people and are designed to give us the highest quality of life possible.

**God's standards apply to all people (Psalm 9:7-8; Romans 2:14-15).** One of the common phrases heard in today's culture goes something like, "That may be wrong for you, but I think it is right for me." That kind of statement is indicative of a lack of moral absolutes that exists in our modern world. Our society wants "to do its own thing" and is not accountable to no one - especially not to the Bible. God does hold all people every bit as accountable to his standard of righteousness as anyone else. Even those who have never heard the Gospel have the law of God "written on their hearts." Sadly, our sinful nature causes us to reject the promptings of our conscience and rebel against God's law. But God's rules apply to all of us, whether we choose to accept them or not.

**God's standards are best for us (Psalms 19:7-8).** When the people of a society reject God's standards as their standard of behavior there ceases to be any kind of moral order in that society. A kind of "moral relativism" of the day" morality comes to exist where acceptable behavior is determined by the media and/or public opinion. The result is cultural chaos. The Bible reminds us that "the ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous," which means that they do no change and they are always right for us. What would be wrong with a world where people loved and feared God, as well as loved and respected the people living around them? Would there be any crime, any reason to lock our doors at night, or worry if we were being cheated at the store? God's standards are not designed to rob our lives of pleasure, but in fact are given to us to make our lives better and insure that we have joy in our lives.

**God holds all people accountable (Ezekiel 18:1, 19-20).** The Jewish exiles in Babylon felt their captivity was the result of the sins of their forefathers, not their own disobedience. The prophet Ezekiel prophesied that God did not accept excuses and each individual must answer for his or her sins alone. In our day there are a multitude of excuses that we use to try to explain away our sins. We must all admit that the sin in our lives is the result of the choices we make of our own free will. Our culture needs to accept responsibility for its actions instead of looking for scapegoats to excuse away our disobedience to God's laws. — Holt is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Surgoinsville.

# Called to stand firm

By Dan Milliken

Focal Passages: Ephesians 6:10-20

It is a grave mistake to believe that after we become a Christian, all trouble and strife ceases. In reality, our conversion marks the beginning of a life-long warfare with the devil and his evil forces. Paul described this struggle in terms of a military combat. He challenges us to withstand the devil and emerge victorious. To do this, we must use the spiritual resources that God provides for us.

## Family Bible Lesson

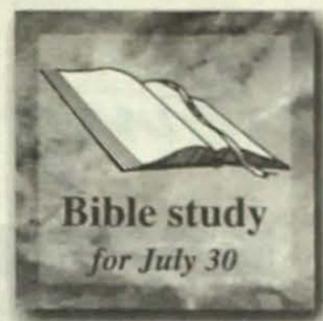
**Contest defined (vv. 10-13).** For military battle, a soldier must be trained and equipped. The same applies in spiritual warfare. Satan's power is not to be underestimated. Thus, we must "be strong in the Lord and the power of his might." If we fight the enemy of our souls in our own power, defeat is inevitable. Therefore, we are to put on the "whole armor" of God. We must use God's armor to "stand firm against the wiles (methods) of the devil." Satan and his evil forces attack believers as they seek to commune with the Heavenly Father and live a heavenly life. Since this battle is real, powerful and relentless, Paul says we must "take our stand" against the devil using God's resources, and thus stand victorious at the end of the battle, not lying prostrate in defeat.

**Character described (vv. 14-17).** Paul describes six characteristics of the armor of God. The order in which the pieces are described is the order in which the soldier would put them on. The first piece is "the belt of truth." The belt or girdle held up the robe/skirt of the Roman soldier. Truth is a lethal weapon for the Christian when he commits himself to know it and live by it. The breast-plate covered the soldier's vital organs against darts aimed at the heart. As Christians, we are to have an upright character. "Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace," parallels the Roman soldiers' boots which had hob-

nails in the soles protecting the feet and giving traction in marching. To live in peaceful and tranquil communion with God enables a man to

fling himself into battle with sure footing and a calm assurance. Next Paul lists the "shield of faith." The Roman soldier was virtually defenseless without this large, oblong piece made of bronze and often covered in cowhide. "Faith" is the heart of the Christian life, in which we rely on Christ for what only he can do. Unswerving commitment and trust in the Lord is the shield which wards off the darts of the evil one. Next he speaks of "the helmet of salvation." A soldier's helmet protects his head and brain. The Christian's salvation protects against death and destruction. Here Paul speaks of the power available to the saved to protect against sin's power. The "sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" is both an offensive and defensive weapon. As we rely on the Word and the Holy Spirit we can resist the tempting blows of the evil one.

**Communication directed. (vv. 18-20).** We must stand, not run. Thus, Paul says in verse 18 we must "pray at all times." Notice the Greek word for all is found four times in verse 18. We are to pray "always," that is, in all seasons or at every opportunity. All "prayer and supplication" refers to all kinds of praying (praise, thanksgiving, intercession, etc.); with "all perseverance" means to remain watchful and alert and pray with intensity. The fourth is "supplication for all saints." We must enlist the aid of our all powerful God, who comes as a mighty ally to stand with us and for others. In verses 19-20 Paul requested prayer for himself, not to be delivered from prison, but for "boldness to make known the Gospel." Paul was not superhuman. He wanted all the spiritual power possible to fight the forces of darkness, and so should we. Therefore, we must utilize all the resources he has made available. The battle is fierce, and the enemy is relentless. However, through God's power and putting on his full armor, Christians can have the assurance that "we have met the enemy, and he is ours!" — Milliken is pastor of Hickory Hills Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet.



# Wrath vs. blessing

By Ray Fullilove

Focal Passages: Revelation 15:1; 16:2-7, 10-11, 15-17

The conflict of the ages is now before us. The battlefields are found at Calvary. The battles have been Satan vs. Christ, revelation vs. judgment, and now we look at the battle of wrath vs. blessing. The God of judgment comes to the foreground as the Supreme Commander of righteousness with his wrath.

**First, there is the preparation of God's wrath (ch. 15, vv. 1-8).** One, there is the beginning of the end (vv. 1-2). It will be great and marvelous for this is God's final opposition to evil. Select messengers come as the ministers of judgment with the designed mission to deliver God's message and means of wrath.

Two, there is the blessing to the eternal God (vv. 3-4). It comes with song, praise, and glory. There is the combination of the song of victory over evil (Moses' song) and the joyful refrain over tribulation and sufferings (the song of the Lamb).

Three, there are the basins of judgment (vv. 5-8). These vessels filled with wrath come from God's dwelling place, given to the ministers of judgment waiting for God's command to act. It opens with the dwelling place of God and closes with the glory of God in judgment. God is glorified in judgment as well as in grace. This is God's wrath upon Satan and forces of evil.

**Second, there is the pouring**

## Explore the Bible Lesson

**out of God's wrath (ch. 16, vv. 1-16).** One, it comes at the command of God (v. 1). Because of the seriousness of this great announcement, it comes with the voice of God. It spells out the choices of wrath or love, destruction, or deliverance, the cup of wrath or the cup of salvation. It will be swift and sudden. Two, it will be the complete wrath of God (v. 2). The first bowl of wrath is not localized but covers the whole world. It is against the devil and his evil spirit upon the world. The second bowl is upon the sea not to be limited, but unlimited bringing complete destruction and death (v. 3). The third bowl will be upon the rivers bringing pollution and a complete paralyzed economy. The fourth bowl is poured out with the heat of the sun bringing destruction and death, but still the cry of rejection and refusal by these evil and defiant ones. The fifth bowl is the destruction of Satan at his seat of power. There will be darkness and pain, but still no sign of repentance once but only the cry of anger and antagonism. The sixth bowl will remove all opposition to defeat Satan and his demonic world of evil. In the middle of all this terror, God gives a

message of triumph to these saints in the tribulation that they are on the winning side. Even for us today, who think that these are our "tribulation times," God still stands by us, speaks encouraging words to us, and causes us to

sing even in our darkness. God may be a God of wrath, but we can praise his name that we know him as our God of love and mercy in Christ!  
**Three, it comes at the conquest of the God of glory (vv. 17-21).** God proclaims, "It is done!" Where there was turmoil and terror, calamity and crisis, the residing presence of God and the reigning power of God now brings this to an end with those final words of victory, "It is done!" The end of terror comes with God's wrath from heaven with certainty and finality. The sorrow at the end is the continuous cry of defiance of these unrepentant and rebellious ones. But, in Christ, we can say, "It is finished! The battle is over. It is finished! There'll be no more war; It is finished! The end of the conflict. It is finished, and Jesus is Lord!"

To these who were consumed by God's wrath could have come to know God as a God of love in Christ. It leaves us with a serious conviction, "Will we be ready for his coming as the faithful saints with a firm faith?" — Fullilove is pastor, Poplar Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis.

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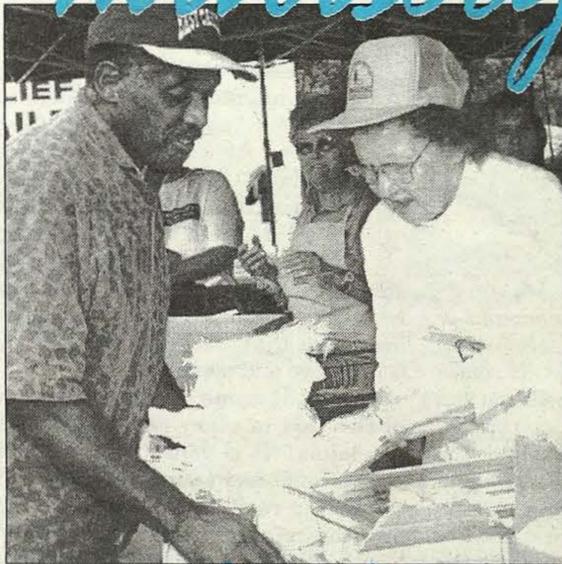


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