

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

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Statewide Edition

June 28, 2000

New Disaster Relief unit established

Tennesseans team up to deliver food

By Marcia Knox & Lonnie Wilkey
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A new Disaster Relief unit, the first of its type, has been established for service and delivery, according to Tim Bearden, Disaster Relief director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He noted the purpose of the unit is to provide food delivery to the TBC state feeding unit and associational feeding units, equipment delivery, and vehicle maintenance and equipment service.

Fellowship Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, under the leadership of Pastor Tim Eldred, has formed a partnership with the men's ministry of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville, to operate the unit and to carry out various projects. The churches are located in three counties — Davidson, Wilson, and Rutherford — and three associations — Nashville, Wilson County, and Concord.

First delivery

The service/delivery unit made its first run last week when its 42-foot freezer and refrigeration trailer made its rounds to pick up 1,000 boxes of unused Y2K food and other canned goods to take to Copper Basin Baptist Association in Ducktown.

The association serves more than 550 families a month through the Copper Basin Crisis Center.

The bulk of the food was provided by Grace Baptist Church in Hartsville, which had gathered approximately \$50,000



TIM ELDRED loads food donated by Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes on a trailer to be shipped to Copper Basin Baptist Association. Eldred, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, directs Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief's new service/delivery unit.

worth of food last fall to prepare for potential Y2K problems.

"We wanted to be in a position to minister to the community," said Donny Martin, pastor of the non-Southern Baptist congregation. He noted that if the worst Y2K scenarios occurred they would have been able to help their community and if it didn't, "we'd still minister."

The church did so by contributing much of the food (300 boxes) to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes campus in Brentwood and to the effort to provide food in Copper Basin (600 boxes). The church retained some of the food boxes, which contained staple items such as canned vegetables and meats, rice, noodles, crackers, and other items, for local ministry, Martin said.

— See Tennesseans, page 4



PASTOR DONNY MARTIN, right, of Grace Baptist Church, Hartsville, hands a box of food to Steve York, a member of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, to be delivered to Copper Basin Association. The church donated 900 boxes of surplus Y2K food.



PEOPLE PREPARE to unload more than 1,000 boxes of food donated to the Copper Basin Crisis Center.

No paper next week; next issue is July 12

Remember why we celebrate the Fourth of July

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Next week Americans will celebrate the Fourth of July.

Hopefully, amid all the picnics and fireworks, Americans will remember why we celebrate the Fourth of July.

We can celebrate the Fourth because our ancestors fought for liberty and for freedom from government oppression.

As time moves on, I fear many Americans take for granted the freedom we have.

As Christians we need to especially be grateful for the freedom we have to worship in America. There are still countries in our world today where religious freedom does not exist.



Christians need to be wary, however. We live in an age where slowly, but surely, Christianity is coming under fire. It truly seems that everyone has civil liberties these days except Christians. A recent case in point is the Supreme Court decision last week that deems student-led prayers at high school football games as unconstitutional (see story on page 10).

We have to be constantly on guard. This Fourth of July, be sure to thank God for allowing us to live in a country where we can freely worship him and ask for his continued protection of that freedom.

We wish our readers a safe holiday season. Due to our production schedule, the *Baptist and Reflector* will not be printed next week. The next issue will be dated July 12. ■

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panies during VBS.

Page 3

"The Macedon-
Call." — Pages

Churches join
'family'

or Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The *Bap-
tist and Reflector* staff is hap-
py to welcome two new
members to the B&R "family
of subscribers."

Wallace Baptist Church,
Chattanooga, and First Baptist
Church, Donelson, recently
added names of subscribers
to the Church Leadership
Plan. Under this plan, church-
es send the paper to its
membership at a reduced sub-
scription rate of \$8.50 per sub-
scription. A one-year individ-
ual subscription is \$10.

Other congregation, First
Baptist Church, LaVergne,
has joined the B&R's Church
Leadership Plan.

LaVergne, will print
the church newsletter once a
month. Churches have the op-
tion of printing weekly,
monthly, or twice-monthly
letters under this plan.

We are excited that
churches are continuing to see
the advantages of providing
the *Baptist and Reflector* to
their membership," said Edi-
tor Lonnie Wilkey.

For more information about
subscription plans, call Susie
Harris at (615) 371-2003. ■

about your newsjournal

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Agency says Falwell interview may threaten SBC tax status

Compiled for *Baptist & Reflector*

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Convention's tax-exempt status could be jeopardized if its Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission airs a radio interview with Jerry Falwell taped June 12, according to a church-state watchdog group.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State Executive Director Barry Lynn said Falwell's comments made during a taping for the ERLC's nationwide "For Faith and Family" radio program were partisan. He said Falwell is attempting to help defeat Vice President Al Gore in the November presidential election.

In a June 14 letter to ERLC President Richard Land, Lynn urged Land not to air the interview because "many listeners of the SBC-produced program would certainly conclude that his partisan agenda has the official endorsement of the Southern Baptist Convention."

According to an article by the SBC's Baptist Press, Falwell said more than once during the interview that his comments on the presidential election were personal and not those of the ERLC.

Lynn wrote the letter after reading an ABP account of the interview conducted by Land in the SBC exhibit hall.

"The American people, I

think, sense something right now — that we are about to lose America," Falwell said. "Ronald Reagan would not have been president unless Bible-believing Christians in 1979 and 1980 by the millions said, 'We've had enough,' and threw Jimmy Carter out and put Ronald Reagan in, to put it bluntly."

"If we don't do the same thing Nov. 7 with Mr. Gore," Falwell said, "and get somebody in there to rebuild the moral values and fabric of this nation, we're going to be in the same mess or worse than we were in 1980."

In a copy of the letter obtained by ABP, Lynn told Land: "I can understand that Falwell may have been more partisan in his interview than you had expected. If his comments had been broadcast live, the commission and the Southern Baptist Convention would probably not be held legally responsible for his opposition to the Gore candidacy."

"However," Lynn continued "since the program was taped for later broadcast, airing it now — knowing of its partisan content — could put the SBC's tax-exempt status in jeopardy. Accordingly, I am writing today to strongly urge you to refrain from airing this interview."

In a June 21 Baptist Press article, Land called Lynn's letter a "threat" and said it will have no effect.

"This is an attempt to threaten us and to engage in prior re-

straint of our speech," Land told Baptist Press. "We are not going to impose censorship on our guests, particularly not as a result of such threats."

In his letter to Lynn released June 21, Land said the program's editing process "will in no way be influenced by what I believe any fair-minded person would perceive to be your heavy handed attempt to intimidate our ministry and our freedom of speech."

Land explained the interview taping, conducted in the agency's booth in the exhibit hall of the Southern Baptist Convention's June 13-14 annual meeting, ran for more than 40 minutes. He said the interview, which is tentatively scheduled for an early July airing, would be trimmed to approximately 18 minutes in the program's "standard and customary editing process." Land said as a matter of course he "would not air anything taped that would jeopardize the ERLC's tax status."

"Dr. Falwell's program will be edited according to our normal editing standards as every other program," Land said. "Barry Lynn's letter will have absolutely no impact whatsoever in our editing of Jerry Falwell's comments."

In his letter, Lynn urged Land "to refrain from airing this interview," noting that its "partisan content" might place "the SBC's tax-exempt status in jeopardy." He said that "federal tax



national
news

law prohibits any 501(c)(3) exempt group from endorsing opposing candidates for public office," claiming that during interview Falwell "outlined plan to help defeat Vice President Al Gore in the November presidential election."

Land said that in his position he has never endorsed a candidate and never will, adding "For Faith & Family," the radio program hosted by Land on more than 200 radio stations nationwide, is dedicated to discussing the issues of the day, advancing the cause of any political candidate.

"We have said on numerous occasions that Christians should not be endorsing candidates, instead should be looking for candidates that endorse the values and convictions and beliefs," Land said.

"Americans have a choice to make this November. They need to register to vote, get involved in the political process and pray about their vote. As believers, our allegiance is to God, not to any particular candidate." — This article was compiled from an Associated Baptist Press story written by Kenny Byrd and a Baptist Press story written by Dwayne Hanks.

Texas Baptists may leave SBC

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Baptist General Convention of Texas is openly discussing whether or not to sever ties with the Southern Baptist Convention and leaders have raised the possibility that the BGCT could create a new Baptist denomination at its annual meeting in October.

Clyde Glazener, president of the BGCT and pastor at Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, told the *Dallas Morning News* that he could not predict what would happen at the annual meeting, but many Texans were unhappy with the conservative leadership of the SBC.

"The truth is that, for some time now, a true Baptist could not support some of the agencies in SBC life," Glazener said. The BGCT claims 2.7 million members and 6,600 churches.

Glazener said he did not know if he could support the work of the International Mission Board or NAMB. "I don't know if we can do it with integrity," he said. "If they won't accept missionaries who don't

sign off on the Baptist Faith and Message it would be an interesting development."

James Merritt, president of the SBC and pastor of First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga., offered a word of reconciliation to the BGCT leadership. "I want us to open our arms to everyone in our entire convention and reach this world for Jesus Christ," Merritt said in response to the BGCT's intentions.

"I would hope that all Texas Baptists would realize that we do need each other and we have a world that is lost and needs to be saved," Merritt added. "This is the time for Baptists to pull together, to unite our efforts to get the Gospel out."

Merritt said the way to reaching the world is not by leaving the convention. "The way to reach the world is to stand for truth and that's what Baptists have done. We've never said you have to be in lock-step with everything we say or everything we believe," Merritt said. "I would hope that all Texans realize what is at stake in the SBC enterprise of missions and evangelism." ■

Charles Stanley should step down as pastor: Chuck Colson

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptists who have opposed no-fault divorce laws and criticized President Bill Clinton for his moral lapses should not remain silent on the divorce of Charles Stanley, Chuck Colson said in a nationwide radio broadcast June 13.

Colson, a Southern Baptist, is founder of Prison Fellowship.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and a former Southern Baptist Convention president, announced May 21 that he and his wife, Anna, had divorced. Stanley also is a popular television minister through his "In Touch" broadcasts.

Five years ago, during a legal separation, Stanley told his congregation if the conflict turned to divorce he would step down as pastor. But when the divorce was announced, Stanley indicated he planned to remain as pastor of the Atlanta church.

A church spokesman explained that "God has posi-

tioned Dr. Stanley in a place where his personal pain has validated his ability to minister to all of us."

"Stanley's decision places fellow Baptists in a difficult position," Colson asserted, noting that in 1998 the SBC passed a resolution calling on states to revoke "no fault" divorce laws. "Yet now a former president of the convention is using the very same laws to secure a divorce without consequences."

"If Charles Stanley can do this, then how can Southern Baptists presume to speak their neighbors about marital fidelity?" Colson asked.

Colson expressed personal admiration for Stanley as a minister, calling him a "good and faithful servant."

Colson noted that "Biblical standards for pastors are very high and rightly so."

"Given the already high divorce rate among Baptists, the last thing we need to do is give one of our own leaders a pass no matter how much we may respect him." ■

Children in VBS learn that pennies count

ist and Reflector

IN — For a number of years the U.S. Treasury has had a shortage of pennies and many people hoard-

ns that many Americans simply toss their pennies into the banks and cookie jars rather than carry them in their pockets and purses.

At the VBS, 249 children and adults who participated in the Bible School at First Baptist Church, here, helped collect a share of pennies back into circulation.

During their VBS, held at the children's response challenge placed before them, Ken Bush, minister of children and administration, encouraged them to bring in 20,000 pennies as a offering for missions and ministries supported by the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptists' unified plan.

During our VBS this year, the 'Ocean Odyssey' theme, we called our offering

emphasis 'Diving for Pennies,' Bush said. "Our best offering ever during VBS had been about \$150, so we thought 20,000 pennies or \$200 was a pretty challenging figure," he said.

The response was more than anyone anticipated. By the second day the children had already brought in more than 20,000 pennies, and it was then the children became really excited, Bush noted.

"Each day we took the offering during our worship rally and the children who served as ushers really had a hard time carrying the sand buckets we used to take the offerings.

"When we dumped the various sand buckets into a single bucket, the children would cheer to see how much they had brought in that day."

During the VBS commencement service participants learned they had collected 52,400 pennies or \$524. That represented more than 300 pounds of pennies.

During the service Bush informed the congregation



CHILDREN ATTENDING VBS at First Baptist Church, Martin, collected this wagon-load of pennies for their offering to the Cooperative Program. They brought in 52,400 pennies, weighing more than 300 pounds.

the offering would be sent to the Southern Baptist Convention in memory of Tommy Frey, a 38-year-old faithful member who died earlier this year.

Frey's parents, Tom and Thelda Frey, had brought a cookie jar full of pennies their

son had been collecting before his death, to add to the offering earlier in the week.

"Tommy loved this church, particularly the children, and this thoughtful gift by his parents just put an exclamation point to that love," Bush observed. ■



GSMO receives first estate gift

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Golden State Mission Offering has received a gift of \$20,117.32 from the estate of Ida Lee Dashney of Union City.

Under the terms of her will the gift was made payable to the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention with instructions that it be given to the GSMO.

The gift is believed to be the first estate gift left directly to the GSMO, said Carol Kelly, executive director of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Traditionally, individuals have left funds for missions offerings such as the GSMO but have channeled the gifts through the local church, she observed.



KELLY

"It was a delightful surprise to receive word of this gift. Though I never had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Dashney, I am impressed with her missions commitment and lifestyle. She has modeled for us what it means to invest in the future." ■

Clarksville FBC dedicates Good Samaritan Ministries

ist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — An open house and dedication was held at Good Samaritan Ministries on May 28.

Good Samaritan Ministries is a mission of the First Baptist Church here.

Opened in 1982 in a white-sided house, the facility provides medical and dental services for those who are not able to obtain any other way.

Physicians, nurses, dentists, assistants, technicians, counselors, and office staff all volunteer their time, talents, and skills. Patients are seen by appointment only and at no charge.

Since beginning 18 years ago, the ministry has assisted more than 8,400 patients, many of whom receive their primary



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CLARKSVILLE, recently dedicated this home used for Good Samaritan Ministries.

care from the center.

After extensive damage sustained during a January 1999 tornado, services were

temporarily provided in a rented office suite, while awaiting construction of a new building.

The facility now includes four medical exam rooms, four dental treatment rooms, a nurses' station, lab, and physician fulfillment center.

During the open house guests were treated to cookies and punch served by Coordinator Peggy Huddleston and other volunteers. The dedication service was held in the parking lot of the new building by William Prine, director of Good Samaritan Ministries, and Roger Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church.

Prayers of appreciation were delivered and the story of the Good Samaritan, as written in Luke 10 was told, according to Michele Rippy, assistant coordinator of the ministry. ■

VBA volunteers offer VBS 'American-style' in Africa

ist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Twelve very blessed, mission volunteers recently returned from southern Africa, where John Parrott, director of missions for Holston Valley

Baptist Association.

Parrott led the team in late April to Botswana, Africa. They had been invited by missionaries there to join them in their annual strategy meeting. Missionaries at the meeting came from Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. The volunteers presented special items and gifts from the churches in the association to the missionaries and families.

The mission volunteers also provided an "American-style" Vacation Bible School using the "Ocean Odyssey" theme for the children of the missionaries and an in-depth Bible study for the teenagers.

The team was involved in Bible study, worship, and fellowship each evening with the missionary families, Parrott reported.

He noted they also had ample opportunities to witness and share the love of Christ with the nationals as well.

"I was reminded once again of how God provides when we are willing to join him in missions," Parrott observed.

He noted that annual strategy meeting originally was to

take place in Gweru, Zimbabwe, but due to increased violence it was determined to be unsafe.

Four days before the team was to leave, they learned the meeting was changed to Francistown, Botswana, Parrott said, noting that meant a change in itinerary and flight schedules. Though it revolved around Easter weekend, everyone was able to re-adjust schedules and arrive safely, he said.

Team members included Parrott and his wife, Kathie; Robbie Jenkins, Delores Johnson, Jeanne Hughes, Della Sandidge, Sarah Tapp, Ashley Chinery, Linda Chinery, Mindy Huddleston, Judy Free, and Nina Love. ■



TEAM from Holston Valley Baptist Association recently returned from Botswana, Africa, where they provided VBS "American-style."

Newport church honors widows

For Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — Wilsonville Baptist Church here once again honored its widows and widowers on the second Sunday in June.

A dinner was held in their honor on Saturday night. Each person was presented a "book" with their life story, according to Pastor Adam Sanders.

The next day J. Harold Smith, 90 years old and a widower, preached the "Widows Day" message. There was one profession of faith and three rededications during the service.

The evening message was delivered by F.M. Blevins, 87 years old, who recently celebrated his third wedding anniversary with his second wife, Kitty.

"Our widows and widowers encourage and support our church and one another," Sanders said.

"They are self-sufficient, work, and do a wonderful ministry in the church and community," the pastor noted. ■



letters

about letters

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

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

More help

In a recent letter from David Myers, DOM in Hamilton County, shared some helpful information about a wellness retreat this summer sponsored by the MTM Foundation at Carson-Newman College for ministers who have experienced a forced termination.

Another ministry available for hurting ministers is the Wounded Heroes ministry founded by Evangelist Freddie Gage and now operated by LifeWay Christian Resources. Conferences are scheduled throughout the year where licensed counselors help church leaders begin a healing process through small group interaction as well as individual counseling sessions. This is a vital ministry as a recent study by *Leadership Magazine* found that 23 percent of all active ministers have experienced forced termination at least once in their ministry. As many as one-third never re-enter the ministry and are lost for the cause of Christ. Those who do re-enter the ministry find that it usually takes from 18 months to four years.

A Wounded Heroes conference helped me to move from bitterness to forgiveness and return to the ministry within 12 months following a devastating forced termination. Attending the Wounded Heroes conference hastened the process of returning to the ministry for me and perhaps even kept me from becoming a ministerial casualty.

More information about this vital ministry can be obtained by calling the LifeCare office at (615) 251-2173.

Nathan W. Livingston, pastor
Meadow View Baptist Church
Knoxville 37920

Unpardonable sin?

As a minister I was saddened to hear about the divorce of

Charles Stanley and Anna Stanley. Divorce always affects many more than the two divorcees. I hope Southern Baptists will see this as an eye opener. It goes to show that it takes two to make a marriage work but only one to break it.

Southern Baptists have held a high ideal when it comes to marriage as part of their attempt to preserve the family. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world. Many ministers preach a stern and often unmerciful sermon concerning divorce, but when they or one of their children go through a divorce they often change their theological tune.

In many Baptist churches there is only one thing that can keep one from serving in a church office, and that is divorce. This stems from a misunderstanding of I Timothy 3:2 & 12, "the husband of one wife."

It seems that it would be more permissible to have a murderer, liar, rapist, or homosexual for a deacon or pastor because they can be "forgiven" and after a time of proving they can occupy these offices. However, a divorced person is forever banished from some of the hard line churches even if that person did all they could within their power to keep their marriage together. Circumstances do matter in regards to this issue.

I have heard many begin to make justification for Rev. Stanley. The fact is that if they would read their Bible, they will see that the Bible does permit divorce for two reasons and they are never penalized for obtaining a divorce on the grounds stipulated by Scripture.

I will continue to support Charles Stanley. I just hope other ministers will wake up. What has happened to Rev. Stanley is not the unpardonable sin.

Randall J. Runions
Lawrenceburg 38464

Let the Spirit lead

II Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

After the diligent work, the many prayers, the probing into history, the intellectual discussions, the theological rhetoric, hearing many different opinions, and after the vote of the panel to revise our Southern Baptist statement of faith, I must ask this question. Who are we (Southern Baptists) to try to dictate and control the Holy Spirit's bidding in the lives of our sisters and brothers in Christ?

Erline Buchyett
Nashville 37211

Wake-up call

I was glad to hear that homosexual demonstrators at the SBC in Orlando were few and somewhat restrained. Southern Baptists are known for their unwavering faith and steadfast beliefs outlined in Scripture. In light of this, should they be the only ones concerned about this perverse lifestyle?

Homosexual and lesbian lifestyles contradict everything good about God and his purpose for mankind. When a man or woman changes his natural being into something it is not, that image is disguised from God. Masks, human mutilation, and perverted lovemaking will never attain the perfection that God requires of his children. Is it any wonder why our children are so confused and out of control today?

Profound love and mercy and kindness found in many Baptist communities can help sinners find true identity as children of God. If Baptists will show unconditional love, then the many faces of evil can be stripped away, all because they care. Sin must be eradicated, not the sinner.

We are ripe for a wake-up call

America. Homosexuality is so much a war against God, a war against the birth of God's children. As Isaiah so truthfully stated, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6 KJV). When we do nothing, nothing becomes a monster that cannot be tamed or destroyed. No one is born a homosexual; they are born as children. The lack of love and spiritual guidance changes their image into something no one wants to talk about. Maybe we have changed ourselves into something God does not recognize; after all, complacency is just another demon. Must this generation pass away before God reveals his promised land to us?

William C. Williams
Pikeville 373

Standard is the Bible

According to some, I have been "impersonating" a Southern Baptist all my life (I just turned 40). Evidently, some Southern Baptists were taught or have come to believe that "soul competency," "autonomy of the local church," "priesthood of the believer," etc., take precedence over the standard and parameter by which was taught to judge the truth and whether something was legitimate. That standard is the Bible.

My Southern Baptist heritage taught me that God will never lead you to disobey his Word to obey his will. I do believe that the God, the Jesus, and the Holy Spirit of the Bible are who we are to follow. If I felt a prompting or desire was of the Holy Spirit but I found that it was not in accord with the Word, then my "soul competency," and my congregation has the right to over-ride God's Word. I am among those who believe that the Bible does not allow for woman to pastor a church or to serve as a deacon in a church.

When I was growing up in Memphis, about the only differences between our Southern Baptist churches was size and location. But my children now go to school with classmates from a few other Southern Baptist churches whose pastors preach the opposite view of what I hold to on major issues and concerns of our day. We have a need to tighten up and revise some of our Baptist basics because of a diversity that has taken a good thing too far. Just because we have "Baptist freedoms" does not mean that we cannot set limits as to what is expected of those who are a part of a fellowship group of like-faith churches.

My church is not controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention or the Tennessee Baptist Convention, but in choosing to affiliate with them, they have a right and a responsibility to impose expectations upon their members of how far we can go in differing views.

Bobbie Mullins, pastor
Cherokee Baptist Church
Memphis 3811

Tennesseans team up to deliver food to Copper Basin ...

— Continued from page 1

TBCH donated their 300 boxes along with other canned goods to Copper Basin, when TBCH staff member Linda George discovered the needs in Copper Basin.

Fellowship Baptist took the tractor-trailer to TBCH and loaded up the food there. It was taken back to their church where 23 volunteers packaged the additional food boxes. Bobby McCreary of Fellowship served as the team leader for the church's drivers.

Continuing the partnership, Tulip Grove Baptist Church, led

by Steve York, took the trailer to Hartsville to collect the additional 600 boxes from Grace Baptist Church. The boxes were stored in a warehouse which had offered the space at no cost to the congregation.

Fellowship Church took over once again the next day and took the food to Ducktown, where Copper Basin Association is located. The trailer contained 1,000 boxes of food, amounting to 36,000 pounds. The shipment included some food donated by Concord Baptist Association, headquartered in Murfreesboro. The association has a partnership

Training set for service/delivery unit

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The first training meeting for the TBC Disaster Relief service/delivery unit will be held Saturday, July 22, from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet.

Three teams (service, drivers, and projects) are needed

for the unit, according to Tim Eldred, pastor of Fellowship Church and unit director.

Interested volunteers are invited to the meeting which includes registration and breakfast, introduction to TBC Disaster Relief, and service/delivery unit training.

To register, call Eldred at (615) 459-3612. ■

ship with Copper Basin.

Copper Basin Baptist Association ministers to a tri-state area with a wide-spread unemployment rate, said Director of Missions Al Patterson, who accepted the shipment of food.

The unemployment rate continues to increase in the area because of a series of layoffs from the copper mining plant and the sewing plants.

When the food boxes arrived

and were stored in the center's basement, Patterson said, "God just put it altogether for the people in Copper Basin Association. God does the extraordinary."

Currently, Fellowship and Tulip Grove churches are raising resources to purchase a service/delivery unit tractor/trailer.

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation is providing a matching grant to purchase the unit. ■



MEMBERS OF Fellowship Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, box food to be shipped to Copper Basin Baptist Association.

The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

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

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

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From your missionary

In a while we have the chance to participate in a big event, but rarely have the chance to re-

Tennessee Baptists have just

ance in 2001.

have invited Rio de

, Bra-partici-anoth-

ultane-revival,

5-14, 2001. Over 1,000

ary volunteers are to preach, sing, and

their faith. Please add our prayer list.

year, Tennessee Bap-

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In Christ,

Sharp

For "The Macedonian Call"

From Belmont University

Student athletes minister in Portugal

By Betty Wiseman

For "The Macedonian Call"

A total of 11 Belmont University student athletes with myself as team coordinator, worked May 15-24 doing Sports Evangelism in Portugal, which was the first time Sports Evangelism had been attempted in the country.

Before we arrived the IMB missionaries had no clue what Sports Evangelism was or how it worked. It didn't take long for the missionaries to see this type of evangelism value. After one day of ministry they were sold on this new kind evangelism.

Included on the team were: Omari Booker, Ray of Hope Community Church, Nashville; Natalie Brown, First Baptist Church of Portland; Wes Burtner, Jonathan Fulks, and B.J. Proffitt, all of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood; and Chasity Campbell, Salem Springs Baptist Church, Elkmont, Alabama.

Others were Jared Karnes, First Baptist Church of

Franklin; Jessica Matson, First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville; Candice Mitchell, First Baptist Church of Sparta; Brandon Owen, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Cross Plains; and Leah Primm, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

It was exciting to see the project unfold in the Mem Martins area. Our first morning of ministry was spent in a local school classroom, a religion and ethics class, where around 25 students attended. The students were studying the Scriptures, taught by Portuguese Baptist Convention missionary, Gabriela Lucena.

We shared in the class, which led to giving our testimonies. We learned later in the week that several new students requested permission to attend the class following our visit.

The afternoon was spent on a small concrete outdoor court sandwiched between tall apartment complexes in a local community. The "build it and



PLAYING a pick-up game of basketball in a community are Jared Karnes, second from left, and Omari Booker, second from right, of Belmont with residents.

they will come" theory worked for us. We had no itinerary and no scheduled activity planned, just "bounce the balls and they will come." Kids came out of nowhere. They were curious, apprehensive, but eager to get their hands on those basketballs. God gave us an awesome demonstration of His control as we spontaneously gave a clinic, and shared Christ with around 75 kids.

A little girl standing in a doorway nearby the court intrigued me. I used lots of smiles and my limited Portuguese to get her to come near me. Deborah and I became friends and she was 4 years old. Before the afternoon ended, Deborah's 17-year-old cousin, Kate, joined us at the court. Kate spoke some English and I told her why we were — See Student, page 6

Nashville church sends 29 to Rio to build, serve

For "The Macedonian Call"

A 29-member team from Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, worked May 12-21, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, constructing a chapel, doing Backyard Bible Clubs, street evangelism, school visits, and an eye clinic.

After six months of planning and preparing for a church-wide mission project to

construct a chapel in the Cinco Marias community just north of Rio de Janeiro, the departure date finally arrived.

"We were on our way, and little did we know what wonderful opportunities God had in store for us," said Myrna Deere, Woodmont Church team member.

"All of the Woodmont volunteers would respond to the various mission needs. Not only

did some members work in construction, but most of the volunteers rotated by working in other ministry areas."

Under the supervision of Chris Ponds, a North Carolina contractor, the chapel was begun and many that had never handled a hammer, a paintbrush, or blocks worked hard and contributed to finishing the building in one week.

J.L. (Pete) Ford, retired president-treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes and a skilled woodworker, was the leader along with his helper Arliss Roaden in building pews, pulpit, and altar table for the chapel. Wayne Reams and Carl Johnson were the electricians and installed lights and ceiling fans. Others who helped in the construction were: Pete Deere, Amy O'Dell, Betty Wayman, Jeff Castleberry, Al Herzog, and Alan Browning.

Construction on the chapel began Monday, May 15, with the foundation already laid, and it was finished Friday, May 19. The chapel seats

around 200 people and measures 22 ft. wide and 44 ft. long.

Jon Roebuck, pastor at Woodmont Church, preached a sermon Sunday, May 14, at the mother church, Jardim Maravilha. Roebuck also worked each day on construction of the Cinco Marias chapel. On Friday evening he preached the inauguration sermon in the chapel.

According to Deere, the most memorable experience the volunteers had was the Friday evening service. Hundreds of people packed the church and many stood outside. Several persons made decisions for Christ that evening.

Holly Hayes worked daily with Martha Haynie and Ebby Bennett, Dot Herzog, Janice Garrett, Laurie Gibson, and Aron Felts, to execute a Backyard Bible Club near the Cinco Marias mission in the neighborhood.

They held a BYBC Monday to Friday for half a day, reported Hayes.

— See Nashville, page 8



FINISHING the interior of the church are Toni and Steve Phillips, in background painting with rollers, and Wayne Reams and Carl Johnson in the foreground.

ive training ritutes remain

August 5

September 9

October 7

November 4

December 2

held at Baptist Center,
Brentwood

more information, contact
Sharp, TBC Partner-
Volunteer Missions Team
or at 1-800-558-2090 or
(615) 371-7935 or e-mail
@tnbaptist.org.

From Belmont University

Student athletes minister in Portugal ...

— Continued from page 5
there and shared the Gospel with her. Kate asked Jesus into her heart that afternoon as basketballs were bouncing all around.

The next day we took a train to downtown Lisbon where we prayerwalked the Lisbon area. On the train I asked a young woman who sat in front of me if she spoke English. She did and Anna was her name. Anna looked at the Portuguese tract which I had. She listened as I told her about Jesus and His love for her and her 4-month-old son.

Anna said, "I've thought there is another life after this. I just didn't know what or how to get there." I felt God's presence so powerfully, that this was a divine appointment. I introduced Anna to Sharon Ford, IMB missionary, and gave Anna a New Testament and Ford's phone number.

We saw the sights and learned the history of why Portuguese people are steeped so deep in ancient Catholicism when we prayerwalked. We walked and prayed for the country, the people, the gov-

ernment, and for God to open Portuguese hearts to the Gospel. We also prayed for other volunteers to come and share the Gospel.

An afternoon had been planned for youth from local Baptist churches on Saturday. The 175 people who attended ranged from six months old to older adults who came to watch and participate. Many who came were from the clinics and schools where we had been during the week. The missionaries and local pastors enjoyed playing with the team.

Sunday morning we split into three teams to go to three different churches. All members of our team reported sharing testimonies, singing, and leading Bible study and worship.

We spent two days at a couple of schools, who opened their doors to teach basketball, share testimonies, and hang out with the kids. The schools set aside each day a time when the entire school would come and watch an exhibition game between our players.

The exhibition games took place on outdoor courts in the middle of the day in the blazing sun. Opportunities for sharing testimonies before large groups were plentiful. One-on-one witnessing took place throughout the day. IMB missionaries Steve and Tommie Smith joined our team to help with translation.

Ana Paulo was the gym caretaker, and she spent the day watching and hearing as students came and went. Near the end of the day she asked for a witnessing necklace with the colored beads. She spoke some English and I asked her if she knew what the colors meant. I took her aside and used the necklace to share the Gospel.

When I asked if she wanted to receive Jesus, Paulo said that I had given her much to think about and that she couldn't make a decision at that time. Sharon Ford talked with Paulo and found out that she lived around the corner from a Baptist Church. She took Ford's phone number and I gave her my Portuguese/English New Testament.

Steve and Sharon Ford shared with us that the schools' doors had never been open to the missionaries before our visit. The Fords had tried to rent the school facilities for activities, but were always turned down for church/community activities.

Following our visits to the schools both principals invited the Fords to return anytime.

Missionaries praise sports evangelism work

For "The Macedonian Call"

Sports evangelism along with the help of 11 members of Nashville's Belmont University basketball teams opened inroads May 15-24 for the Gospel in the Mem Martins area in Portugal, according to IMB missionaries Steve and Sharon Ford.

The Belmont team, led by Betty Wiseman, taught basketball skills and played exhibition games at two different schools on Friday and Monday. In both schools, the team was able to share personal testimonies and their rela-

tionships with Jesus. "The reception was fantastic as the students mobbed the players for autographs and souvenirs," said Steve Ford. "Many students and even some teachers accepted 'eternity crosses,' necklaces with multi-colored beads depicting the plan of salvation."

The players led a similar program Saturday afternoon for Baptist youth and community members, sponsored by the Mem Martins and Rio de Mouro Baptist Churches where about 100 attended the Saturday event. They also visited a local park in Tapada

and put on a couple promptu clinics.

On Sunday team members visited sponsoring Baptist churches as well as the national Baptist Church in Lisbon where they shared testimonies and participated in worship services.

"Basketball is a relatively new sport in Portugal, but growing quickly in popularity," noted Steve Ford. Belmont players, six men and five women, were outstanding witnesses, making friends and opening the door for the Gospel. ■ — Edited from report by Steve and Sharon



THE BELMONT team plays an exhibition game at Escola Basica Visconde de Juromenia, Portugal. Crowds watch.

The second school told Steve Ford that their facilities were available to the church and community free of charge anytime.

The Fords also shared that their recognition and acceptance within the community had been nonexistent and they were discouraged.

While we were there the Fords began getting friendly "hellos" in their community. One night when Steve Ford was in a local grocery, someone yelled, "Hey pastor, where are your Americans?"

God continues to "wow" me. He takes ordinary people, puts us in unfamiliar places and does extraordinary things. He taught us so much on this trip. The missionaries now know Sports Evangelism is a mighty tool for sharing Christ, and people are receptive to the Gospel in Portugal. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

June - July

29 — Pray for a team of 50 members from Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, who will do construction July 7-15 on a new church in Menominee, Mich. Ask God to bless their efforts.

30 — Pray for Calvary Baptist Church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, as it opposes the building of a casino in its town. Ask God to bless the church.

July 1 — Pray for missionaries to Portugal Don and Rose McCain. The McCains are thankful for area pastors who are responding to church planting by cell groups and home Bible studies.

2 — Pray for missionaries Eddy and Brenda Hallock, Alton and Lauretta King, Ray and Sharon Fairchild in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who are helping with a new congregation at the Barra da Tijuca.

3 — Pray for Beth and Ron Edwards, former pastor of Mapes Baptist Church, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Mr. Edwards has Crohn's Syndrome.

4 — Pray for a 12-member Disaster Relief team from First Baptist Church, Jackson, who is building homes for victims of Hurricane Mitch July 1-9 in Nicaragua. — See more requests on page 8

Team Leader Training planned

For "The Macedonian Call"

Team Leader Training will be held July 21-22 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood and will focus on content and skills for volunteer mission team leaders.

Sponsored by the Partnership/Volunteer Missions team, this training prepares team leaders to effectively lead a team on a volunteer short-term mission project.

The training will begin Friday, July 21, at 9 a.m. and conclude Saturday, July 22 at 5 p.m. The training will offer study in the following 12 modules:

- The MAC Project
- What does it mean to be a Team Leader?
- Your Mission



- Building Your Team
- Funding Your Mission Project
- Training Your Team
- Getting there — Flight Travel Arrangements
- Security
- Planning Your Strategy
- Preparing to Return
- Debriefing
- Putting It All Together

Call 1-800-558-20 (615) 371-7927 to enroll. Deadline to enroll is July 15 and the training is limited to 30 people. ■

Memphis church sends team to prayerwalk in Portugal

The Macedonian Call

A total of eight prayer warriors on a trip with Broadmoor Baptist Church in Memphis spent March 11-18 with IMB missionaries Steve and Sharon Ford in concentrated prayer for the Northwest area of Portugal.

Portugal is a beautiful country," Vickie Wilder, Broadmoor Church member. "I think about the missionaries and it's such a huge project. There are so few missionaries.

We might not see any of prayerwalking results until we get to heaven. Missionaries need our prayers. It is impossible with man, God can

the missionaries are doing a great job but they have to cross a language barrier and there are few Christians there."

Others participating on the Broadmoor Church prayerwalking team were Gene and Kathy Land, Becca Land, D.C. Cobb, Robert Wilder, all of Broadmoor Church; Danny Spurlock and Sarah Spurlock, both of Ellen Baptist Church, Ellendale.

According to the Fords, it was a different kind of missions experience for them because the Broadmoor team left no buildings built or conversions made. "We are trusting in God that the time was well spent and benefited the advancement of God's kingdom among the Portuguese," said Steve

When the group arrived Saturday, March 11, they spent the day recuperating from travel and getting acquainted.

Sunday morning Cobb preached and Sisk sang; she was accompanied by Danny Spurlock on guitar at Mem Martins Baptist Church.

"We started the prayerwalk atop the Moorish castle in Sintra, which afforded an excellent view of our region of the country," said Steve Ford. "We could see downtown Lisbon in the distance, Mem Martins/Algueirao in the foreground, surrounded by Tapada, São José and other areas."

"We prayed from atop the castle walls asking God to bring down the strongholds, to create in the Portuguese people a desire to know Him through His word, and to turn from the worship of saints and idols."

The following day, Monday, the team drove to the Belem area to visit the Tower of Belem where Ferdinand Magellan and Vasco da Gama set sail over 500 years ago. There the team spent time in prayer for the nation, and its long, proud history and heritage.

"We journeyed up to the top of São Jorge's Castle to gaze down on the city of Lisbon, home to 850,000 people," said Steve Ford. "Throughout the day we prayed not only for the teeming masses, but also for the individuals with whom we crossed paths."

On Tuesday the team visited the Baptist Theological Seminary at Queluz where they heard from seminary president, Manuel Alexandre Jr., IMB missionary Glenn Watson, and ISC missionaries Aias and Gecina de

Souza, and lunched with the seminary students.

The team traveled on Wednesday to the walled city of Obidos and the fishing village of Nazare. IMB missionaries Don and Rose McCain joined the team on the trip and shared their work as church planters in the region north of Lisbon with the de Souzas accompanying them.

The team drove to the shrine to Mary in the city of Fátima. Fátima is the site where three shepherd children reportedly saw a series of visions of Mary in 1917, and it has become a shrine attracting millions of people. "We were saddened to see the people as they crawled on their knees, lit candles, and prayed to Mary for favors," added Steve Ford.

"We rolled up our sleeves on Thursday to visit the neighborhoods where we hope to begin new work," said Ford. "We prayed specifically for homes and neighborhoods and the people who lived in Mem Martins, São José, Algueirão and Tapada."

"I was surprised by how often we ran into people for whom we had been praying especially individuals with whom we had contacts. We truly felt the Lord at work that day as we intervened. In the afternoon we enjoyed a joint prayer meeting with the



THE TEAM from Memphis visits Cabo da Roca, Portugal, the most western point in continental Europe. They are, from left, front row, Sharon Ford, missionary; Cathy Land, Becca Sisk, and Sarah Spurlock; back row, D.C. Cobb; Robert and Vickie Wilder; Gene Land; and Danny Spurlock.

Mem Martins Church."

While the team prayed "on site," the Broadmoor Church's GAs back home joined in praying with them. The team had time on Friday for sightseeing, shopping, house cleaning, and debriefing. The team left Saturday at 5:20 a.m.

"We don't know what the results of this trip will be, and may not know this side of heaven, but the week made a lasting impression on me," added Ford. "Hopefully the others as well as us learned that we need to spend more time in prayer and rely on God through faith." ■ — Compiled from a report by Marcia Knox.

Tennessee foundation staff leads return trip to Brazil

Childs
The Macedonian Call

Through the generosity of several donors who supplied the construction materials, the Tennessee Baptist Foundation (TBF) sponsored its second mission trip to Rio de Janeiro May 19-28 to construct a church.

A total of 17 volunteers traveled to Rio de Janeiro for the purpose of building a church for a small congregation of the Sacred Heart Garden community, which was about an hour and a half from downtown Rio de Janeiro.

Turner served as team leader; and the construction foreman was Carl Catoe, a

member of First Baptist Church of Fort Mill, South Carolina. Don Mauldin, TBC Church Growth Development Family Ministries specialist, and Shirley and Tommy Strong, retired managers of LindenValley Baptist Conference Center, also served on the team.

Other volunteers and their churches were: Leonard Ball, First Baptist Church of Kingsport; Byron Ball, Presbyterian Church, Brentwood; Cameron Bare, Hickman Baptist Church, Hickman; Carla Catoe, First Church of Fort Mill, SC; Elizabeth Childs, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville; Eugene Grammar, Laddie Hillis, Frank Orr, Roy Renfro, Jack Robinson Sr, David

Turner, all of Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville; and Donald Mitchell, First Baptist Church of Jefferson City.

Upon arrival Saturday morning following the Federal Police checkpoint, baggage claims, and customs, we were taken by bus to our hotel, the Hotel Charles. After checking into our rooms, we drove to the construction site where a concrete slab had been prepared. We stood in a circle on the slab, joined hands, and prayed. We asked for God's help, His protection, and His blessing on the church on the hill.

On Sunday we went to a two-hour worship service at the mother church, First Baptist Church of Palm Gardens where Bruno Roa serves as pastor. It was the 21st anniversary of their women's ministry (WMU) and a young woman from First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro brought the message. None of us could understand a word she said, but it was evident God's spirit was there. It was truly a worshipful experience none of us will ever forget.

After lunch at the Bon Monche food court, we had an outdoor service in the Sacred Heart Garden community filled with exciting music, preaching, and singing. We had church again that night

where Mitchell preached. We were tired but happy when we arrived at our hotel around 11 p.m.

Monday morning we left the hotel early to begin working. We began each day with a devotional, translated for the nationals, followed with prayer and singing. We worked hard, long days, but the days were also satisfying as we saw the church begin to take shape.

We ate breakfast and dinner at the hotel, but our lunch was prepared on site by three members of the church. By 8:30 a.m. the smell of garlic hovered over the entire building. They were cooking black beans and rice. The food was great, but that was our lunch and dinner for a whole week.

We had a "hotdog supper" Thursday for the community where we prepared and consumed 600 hotdogs. The Jesus movie was shown with about 300 people present.

Friday we completed the building where a dedication service was held Friday evening. The church was full, and people looked in from outside the church. Two members of our group, Turner and Bare, gave their testimony during the service telling how the week had blessed them. I preached the dedication message.

It was exciting and humbling to sit in the church which just four and a half days earlier had been a slab and a dream. Only our Lord knows the full impact of 17 volunteers on a week-long mission trip. ■



WORKING on Sacred Heart Garden Church, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, are members of the team organized by the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, based at the Baptist Center, Brentwood. The building was completed in just five days.

The Macedonian Call

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
Portugal Projects				
West Central	PM12000106	Black Gospel choir to tour West Central Portugal in preparation for church planting.	October	open
Three Key Cities	PM12000100	Black Gospel choir to tour three key cities in Portugal in preparation for church planting.	open	open
Portugal	PM12000103	Video production person/team to produce promotional video to enlist prayer and volunteers.	open	4
Northern Region	PM12000102	Prayerwalk team for northern Portugal.	open	6 or less
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Projects				
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000957	Conduct medical clinics.	open	20
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000945	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000944	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000942	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000941	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000943	Conduct medical clinics.	open	15
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000956	Choir/large ensemble to perform throughout city.	open	open
Rio de Janeiro	PM42000920	Contemporary Christian band to perform in various locations.	open	open
Canada Projects				
Saskatoon, SK	00NOR003	Team to do five day revival with preaching and music.	Oct. 10-15	10-15
Salmon Arm, BC	00ALP001	Conduct sports clinic and do leadership training for adults.	Aug. 26 - Sept. 2	4-10

For more information about the above projects, call Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-1111.

Nashville church sends 29 to Rio to build, ...

— Continued from page 5

"Each of the children saw God's love for them in action through each person from Woodmont Church, who gave their time to help with the BYBCs. It was incredible to observe how God equipped each person in a unique way to serve Him in that very challenging environment.

"During the time that we were there, 13 of the children from the BYBCs publicly accepted Christ. Many more prayed the prayer of salvation with us as a group. It was very difficult to leave those children — we grew to love them so deeply in just a short time."

Julie McGlasson, Lesly Dossett, Steve and Toni Phillips, Linda Pilcher, and others from Woodmont Church were blessed as they went into the schools. According to Dossett, her favorite part of the trip was visiting the children at Escola Municipal.

"I enjoyed sharing about life in the USA and seeing the children's surprised faces when I talked about snow and the American diet," said Dossett. "God showed me that children are the same no matter what their nationality may be — full of innocence, joy, love, and curiosity. We were able to openly share that our reason for the

visit was our love for Christ. We took a mural showing pictures of Jesus' life, made by the fourth grade Sunday School Class at Woodmont Church and exchanged murals with the children at the school."

Steve Galloway, Blake Morgan, and others went door to door handing out pamphlets about Jesus and inviting them to the Jesus film, which was shown on Thursday evening. Among the group of more than 150 who viewed the film, several prayed and accepted Jesus as their Savior.

Keith Fowlkes and Steve Phillips led the team in singing for the mother church, new chapel, schools, and morning devotionals. There were 15 Woodmont Church Adult Choir members in the group, and other team members also joined in singing.

Each person who came to the eye clinic completed a form on whether or not he or she was a Christian. The Cinco Marias Chapel now has information to help follow up and witness to these neighbors. Myrna Deere and Audrey Johnson recorded 402 persons seen in the eye clinic and more than 300 pair of glasses dispensed.

God provided a unique location for this clinic in the



HUNDREDS of patients line up for an eye clinic led by members of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, near the new chapel being built by the Tennesseans.

Nunes' home, a Brazilian family who were members of the Cinco Marias Mission, who have only been Christians for a short time.

"We were richly blessed as this father, mother, and 3-year-old daughter gave so freely of their time, resources, and wonderful Christian spirit," said Deere. "Although they have few material possessions, they are rich in spiritual gifts."

"The most memorable faces are those who left with much needed glasses," said Jeannie Foster, who worked the eye clinic.

"This last day was difficult not in labor, but in heart. On Thursday morning, many were

in line for the eye clinic, but not all could be seen. Numbers were given to those left in order that they could return Friday morning. Even so, we knew there would be those who would come on Friday for the first time only to be turned away due to time constraints."

"From the beginning, God called us to that task, He empowered our journey, and He equipped us for ministry," Roebuck said.

"At Woodmont, we are grateful for the vision of Tennessee Baptists who have provided a very meaningful partnership with our Christian brothers and sisters in Rio. ■ — Edited from a report by Myrna Deere.

Tennessee Project

◆ **Gleason** — Teams to build new church sanctuary and coordinate BYBC. Contact: Jerry Esch, (901) 604-0408.

◆ **Nashville** — Home repairs for elderly and disabled residents. Nashville, Ne volunteers yearly. round. Contact: Paul Moris, (615) 776-2266.

Partnership Prayer Request

July

— See more requests on page 6

5 — Pray for a 20-member team from Una Baptist Church, Nashville, who will work July 17-24 at Fairview Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich.

6 — Praise God for a seven-member college team who surveyed Portugal June 19 for ministry sites.

7 — Pray for Kevin and Brenda Peacock, missionaries serving at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary.

8 — Pray for retired missionaries to Brazil Benny and Ann Sprouse. Mrs. Sprouse has a malignancy.

9 — Pray for missionaries Portugal Scott and Sandy George who work with the youth team there.

10 — Pray for missionary Janelle Ganey as she works with the deaf ministry of church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

11 — Pray for a 50-member team from Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, who will be building July 7-15 at First Baptist Church, Menominee, Mich.

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

churches

Leacon Baptist Church, Parsons, celebrated its 100th anniversary June 4.

Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville, will have a 30,400-square-foot facility and renovate its educational and administrative building. The new facility will include a fellowship hall and for children and youth. Dedication will be July 9 p.m. To prepare, the congregation has raised \$1.5 million and paid off its worship/education center built in 1990.

Cherokee Baptist Church, Memphis, will hold its 100th Anniversary 2000 Memorial Service July 1 at 7 p.m. Rob Calhoun, former professional baseball player with the Seattle Mariners and Chicago White Sox and head baseball coach, Crichton College, Memphis, will speak. Also the Jamie Baker Band and Posely Jones will perform. For more information, contact the church at (901) 683-7344.

Fairview Baptist Church, Paris, will observe its 50th anniversary July 28-30. For more information, contact the church at (901) 642-2191.

New Middleton Baptist Church, Gordonsville, will have homecoming activities and dedication of its new addition July 16. The new facility includes a fellowship hall, kitchen, two bathrooms, and utility room. Construction was completed by church members. Gary Akins, former

pastor, will speak and a luncheon will follow. Open house and dedication will be at 2 p.m.



THIS TEAM of Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, conducted sports evangelism May 12-20 in Curitiba, Brazil. The team played publically four times and shared the Gospel during halftimes. They also visited several high schools and shared the True Love Waits message and their testimonies. As a result, nearly 1,000 people made professions of faith.

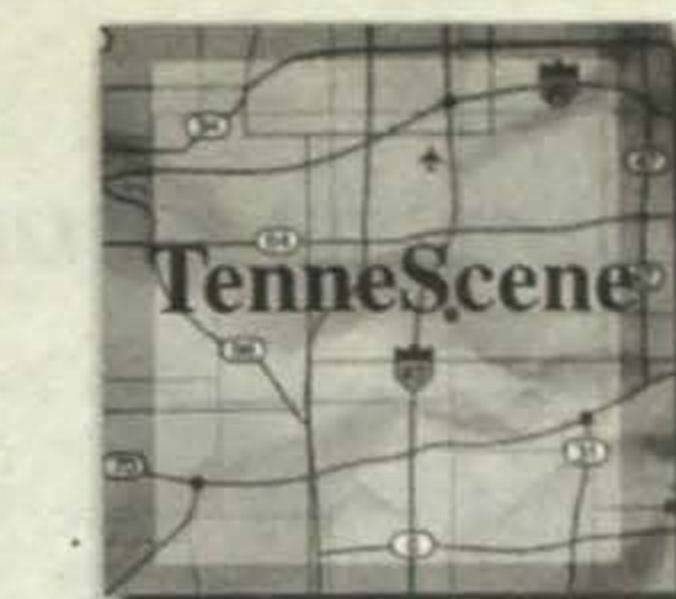
Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis, observed Senior Adult Day recently. Over 50 couples were honored for being married for more than 50 years in the morning worship service and with a reception. Also a joint assembly was held during the Sunday School period in which Marvin Fitts spoke.

Eugene Leamon, pastor, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, has retired. He served the church 12 years and as pastor, Lebanon Baptist Church, Maryville, for 28 years. Leamon is available for part-time ministry and can be reached at (865) 689-2364.



Jeff Keas, minister of youth and activities, First Baptist Church, Jackson, was honored recently for serving the church for 10 years.

Joe Mason, associate pastor/minister of seniors, First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., is retiring. He also served on the staff of First Baptist Church, Nashville. Mason, who will retire in Duluth, will be available to speak after Aug. 1.



Kerry Smith, collegiate ministry specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention at the University of Memphis, has resigned effective June 30 to serve as a church planting strategist. He has served the school for three years. Smith has been a North American Mission Board church planter; resort ministry director; and director of student activities at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Hyran Barefoot, former president, Union University, Jackson, has been called as interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Parsons.

James Nelson and Clint Marshall as deacons recently.



SMITH

New Stewardship Resources

The Tennessee Baptist Convention has partnered with neighboring state conventions to produce and provide new resources that will help churches encourage generous givers. Each resource is distinctly different from the other; both are available at no cost because of your gift through the Cooperative Program. Each resource can be used any time of the year.



New Century Giving!

The emphasis is intended for use on three consecutive Sundays using the normal church schedule. Resources are provided to make this emphasis especially effective when the church's annual budget is being presented and adopted. The emphasis can also be used for year-end giving promotion of a "catch-up" offering. The emphasis includes age-graded Bible study, drama, preaching, worship handouts, clip art, posters, offering envelopes, inspiration, celebration, and personal consecration. New Century Giving has optional budget development features.

Tithing Counts!

If you want to enlist tithers? *Tithing Counts* has been used by churches with outstanding success. This emphasis can be used any time of the year and is also intended for use on three consecutive Sundays using the normal church schedule. The plan includes age-graded Bible study, three dramas, testimonies, preaching, responsive reading, clip art, posters, stationery and envelopes, offering envelopes, inspiration, celebration, and personal consecration.



Order forms for both resources can be found at www.tn-baptist.org. Or, to request order forms, call Archer Morpe, Church Staff Leadership Group, (800) 558-1990, ext. 2017, or (615) 371-2017.

Position Openings

Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention

Applications are now being accepted for Collegiate Ministry Specialist positions at the University of Memphis, Memphis, and Tennessee State University, Nashville. Information concerning these positions may be obtained by contacting Garnette Hogan, Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728, (615) 371-2013. All candidates must submit an application to be considered.

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Supreme Court strikes down prayer at football games

By Kenny Byrd
For Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Opening high school football games with prayer violates the separation of church and state, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in an eagerly anticipated decision June 19.

While not banning all prayers at public schools, the court ruled 6-3 that a Texas school district's policy of allowing a student elected by a majority of classmates to deliver an invocation over the public-address system before home varsity football games is unconstitutional.

The policy of the Santa Fe Independent School District in Galveston County, Texas, amounts to state-sponsorship of prayer, which violates the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, the justices decided.

The First Amendment forbids the government from passing laws that either establish religion or prevent its free exercise. The school district argued that the student-led prayers were protected as private speech.

Writing for the majority, however, Associate Justice John Paul Stevens said electing a student under a policy set up by the school district to encourage prayer "is not properly characterized as private speech."

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Joined in the opinion by Associate Justices David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Steven Breyer, and Sandra Day O'Connor, Stevens said the policy violates the rights of students who do not wish to pray.

The Constitution does not ban all religious activities in public schools, however, Stevens said.

"Nothing in the Constitution as interpreted by this court prohibits any public school student from voluntarily praying at any time before, during, or after the school day. But the religious liberty protected by the Constitution is abridged when the state affirmatively sponsors the particular practice of prayer," he said.

The Santa Fe school board adopted the prayer policy in 1995. It allows students selected by their colleagues to deliver in-

vocations and benedictions at graduation ceremonies and a "brief invocation and/or message" during pregame ceremonies at home varsity football games.

An anonymous group of Mormon and Catholic students and their mothers challenged the policy in court.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist filed a dissenting opinion, joined by Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

Rehnquist said the tone of the majority opinion "bristles with hostility to all things religious in public life."

"Although the Court apparently believes that solemnizing football games is an illegitimate purpose, the voters in the school district seem to disagree," Rehnquist also opined. "Nothing in the Establishment Clause prevents them from making this choice."

Religious and civil liberties

groups on both sides of the case reacted quickly to the first ruling on school-prayer in nearly a decade.

Melissa Rogers, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee, said the decision "reaffirmed that prayer is none of the government's business." The BJC, along with Baylor University's J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists filed a brief against the Texas prayer policy.

Rogers said students may still pray at football games by gathering voluntarily in huddles or by praying during a neutral moment of silence.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said he was disappointed but not surprised by the

court's ruling. While Land he disagreed with the court agency did not file a brief cause of concerns "about less-than-ideal provision to ensure the opportunity for a diverse student expression."

Land told Associated Press the district went out way to meet constitutional guidelines, but "they did not provide adequately for minority expression." However, Land he does not believe the Santa Fe policy should have been overturned. ■



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Salvation

By Dan Milliken

Focal Passage: Ephesians 1:1-14

The Apostle Paul begins this epistle by praising the triune God for the glorious salvation and spiritual riches he has bestowed upon believers. This passage teaches that all three persons of the Godhead were involved in the work of redemption, that is, God the Father proposed it; God the Son provided it; and God the Holy Spirit propagates it. Verses three-14 is probably the greatest single sentence in all literature, comprising 264 words! In it, Paul praises God for choosing us (vv. 3-6); redeeming us by his grace through Christ (vv. 7-10); and for the sealing of our redemption by the Holy Spirit (vv. 11-14).

Family Bible Lesson

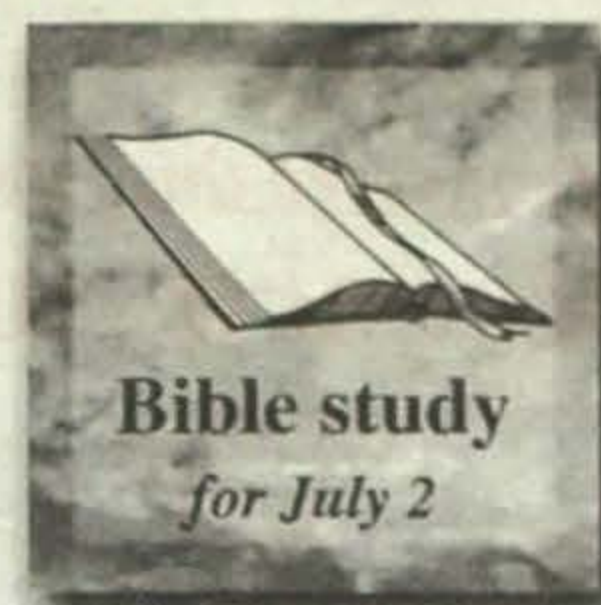
Chosen by the Father (vv. 1-6). Paul "blessed God as the source/origin of all of our spiritual blessings" (v. 3). How are they ours? "In Christ," that is, being in relationship with and living in fellowship with Christ. Paul wanted to make certain his readers understood this. The phrase "heavenly places" indicates though we live on earth, spiritually our lives are linked with Christ's in the heavenly realm. It is not the heaven of the future, but the heaven which lies now within and around the Christian. The key phrases in verses 4 and 5 are "hath chosen" and "having predestinated." "Hath chosen" means "select" (for oneself). In this context, it relates to God's purpose. God holds us responsible for the choices we make concerning him. "Predestined" is the most debated word in the passage. It means "to draw a circle of love around something or someone." The word does not mean that God coerces anyone into his Kingdom. Each person is free to decide to be "in Christ" or outside of Christ. Those in Christ are "adopted," meaning "a placing of sons," emphasizing the privilege which belongs to believers. Along with the privilege is a responsibility to "be holy and without blame before him" (v. 4). He

chose us not only to save us, but that we might live a righteous life.

Redeemed through the Son (vv. 7-10). "Redemption" means "deliverance from sin's captivity at the cost of the blood of Christ." Literally, it means to be "bought out of the marketplace; to purchase and set free by paying a price." This is what God, through Christ, did for us. Since, we are "in Christ" he then bestows upon us the capacity for comprehending "the mystery of his will." The word "mystery" is used of the thoughts and plans of God which must be divinely revealed. Paul was referring to something that cannot be known except as God chooses to make it known. God has chosen to make known to the redeemed in Christ what "he has proposed in himself." He has redeemed us in order that we might be one in him, and one with each other.

Sealing the spirit (vv. 11-14). "We have obtained an inheritance" can also be translated, "we have been made a heritage." The Bible teaches that Christians are God's special heritage, and that he promises us an inheritance as heirs of all things that belong to the Father. In verses 13-14 Paul uses two key terms of noting the security of the believer by the Holy Spirit. First, being "sealed" by the Spirit. There were a number of purposes of the seal in the ancient world, three of which were: to guarantee the genuine character of a document, to make ownership, and to indicate the completion of a transaction. Thus, the Holy Spirit secures our redemption. Secondly, the Spirit is the "earnest" (deposit) of our inheritance. Earnest is a legal and commercial term used of a deposit or down payment. The Holy Spirit is God's "earnest money" that he will save you and keep you saved eternally. You can have no greater guarantee than that!

God has chosen us, redeemed us in Christ, and sealed us with his spirit so that we may live to praise and glorify him. Our salvation comes through the power of the triune God. The riches we currently enjoy (and those of the future) are made possible by his power. What a privilege and responsibility to be his children, joint heirs with him, and beneficiaries of his love, grace, and riches. — Milliken is pastor of Hickory Hills Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet.



Judgment on the unrepentant

By Ray Fullilove

Focal Passages:
Revelation 8:2-3, 13:9-4,
11, 20-21

The study of prophecy has become a popular subject in recent days. The Book of Revelation is a book of prophecy. We now come to study these words of our Lord concerning future times as we look at God's judgment on the unrepentant. As we look at this study, there are some facts we need to consider.

First, it demands a significant pause. It tells us that some should stop and consider their condition "in the hands of an angry God," and to realize that even a loving God and Savior, reveals the wrath he is about to pour out upon the unrepentant (8:1-5).

Two, it reveals some significant prophecy. The need to study the prophetic Word of God is paramount and the reason why we look at Revelation. God now speaks to us in symbolism. Here is before us seven seals (the perfect number). They are broken down in four (the cosmic number) trumpets, and three (the divine number) trumpets. There are four trumpets of war and three trumpets of woes. It says that the judgment of God upon the unrepentant has come. The trumpet sound tells us of the fury which shall come (v. 7), the finality which develops (vv. 8-9), the foul pollution of the water which surfaces (vv. 10-11), and the forecast of complete

Explore the Bible Lesson

darkness which will consume the earth (v. 12-13).

Three, it leaves us with a significant plea. In chapter nine, verses one-21, the trumpets sound and the three woes are heard. What God is saying is that it may have been bad with the sounding of the last trumpets, but with the sounding of these prospective trumpets, that the worst is yet to come. Note the first woe which is heard (vv. 1-12). Satan is released with power to kill and destroy (vv. 1-2). Satan's instruments take over in form of locusts with scorpion power to leave suffering with no pity, no patience, or no stopping (vv. 3-6). There is savagery with determination, deceit, and with a dedication toward evil (vv. 7-12). The second woe comes with unparalleled war and destruction of life and land. The war clouds become furious and dark. The picture of destruction from our past wars should leave a forecast of the futility of these times. The army of Satan comes with freedom and with fierceness beyond our imagination. The door of hell is opened wide and it seems as if the gates of heaven are closed. Here is the judgment for the unrepentant.

After all of the continued waves of

judgment and condemnation, one would think that an unbelieving world would hear. But we note these resisted the God of heaven, continued to bow down before the god of hell, and became content with a closed mind, a calloused conscience, and a condemned soul. They would not repent of sin, but remain imprisoned to worship the gods of this world of malice, materialism, and meaningless. More than this, these continued to have no remorse toward their dreadful deeds of murder, or continued devotion to satanic worship, or lust in the slime of sexuality and shame, or even in the violence left in robbery and crime. Could there be a more exact picture of the sense of sin, the captivating power of Satan in a life, and the condemnation that these readily accepted even in the face of a God of wrath?

In reviewing this picture of the power of a God of wrath, the plight of a person in captivating sin, and the condemnation of the unrepentant, should not we, in Christ Jesus, become more dedicated and devoted to our God of grace and glory? The amazing grace of Jesus should become more amazing, the abounding grace of Jesus should become more astounding, and the abundant grace of Jesus should become more abundant. — Fullilove is pastor, Poplar Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis.

In Tennessee this summer

Record number of missionaries begin ministry



SERVING IN Ocoee Resort and Outreach Ministries this summer, above, are, from left, first row, Rebecca Freeman, Jennifer Watts, Chris Stewart, supervisor; second row, Kelly Henderson, Stephanie Warren, Annie Cain; third row, Michelle McCluskey, supervisor; Joshua Sack, and Lara Crook.



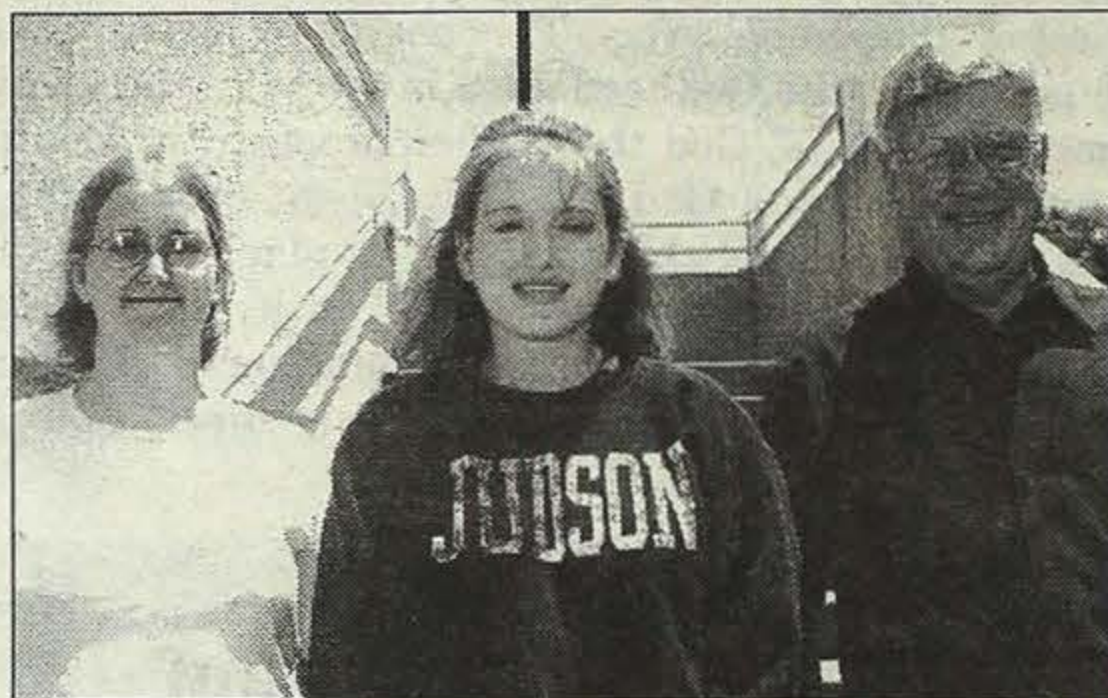
ABOVE, SMOKY Mountain Resort Ministries workers this summer are, from left, first row, Melissa Trahan, Amanda Miracle, Debbie Guerich, Magan Caillier; second row, Dara Parker, Jennifer Johnson, Stephanie Quattlebaum; third row, Pete Owen, supervisor; Cecil Newman, and Bryan LaFiette. **BELOW, AP-PALACHIAN** Outreach workers will be, from left, front row, Haley O'Briant, Mary Beth Yarbrough, Trista Stearns, Stephanie Bain; back row, Sara Gruver, Nathan Johnston, Landon Freeman, and Krystie Robinson, supervisor.



WORKING AT Montvue Baptist Church, Morristown; Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist Associations; Hale Community Ministries; Good Samaritan Clinic of First Baptist Church, Clarksville; and Western Heights and Montgomery Village Baptist Centers are, front row, Rachel Ayers, Lisa Sipes, Rachel Fuqua, Sara Holt; back row, Mary Hebert, Deborah Rainey, Jada Shadden, and Jamie Clark.

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A record 89 missionaries will serve 10-week terms



SERVING IN Loudon County Baptist Association with Director of Missions Ray Luck, right, are Chandler Dunaway, left, and Jennifer Allen.

in Tennessee this summer in a variety of ministries, including resort, home repair, inner city, VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, camps, ical missions, and language missions.

Sixty-six of the missionaries attended the Tennessee Summer Missions Orientation at the tist Center here June 5-7. Serving on the orien team were Tim Bearden, Bernie Baker, Kim Melanie Allen, and Beverly Smothers.

The missionaries come from 21 states, incl Tennessee, and will serve in 13 venues across state. Three teams, eXalt, Proclaim, and Ador will travel to a variety of locations. Sponsorsh the summer missionaries include state B North American Mission Board, and local as tions. ■



TEAM MEMBERS for eXalt include, from left, front row, Sheila Fisher, Kim Thomas, Kristin Duffy; back row, Penny Tyler, TBC staff; Jeff Brown, Dan Tatum, Kent Shingleton, supervisor.



SERVING AT Camp Agape are, from front row, Brandy Duke, Melissa Fluty, A Michael; back row, Ty Kays, Jeremiah E



PROCLAIM team members include, from left, front row, Alecia LeMay, Becca House, Kellye Rachel; back row, Bruce Edwards, supervisor; Andrew Moss, Matt Rogers.



ADORATION members include, from left row, Julie Roberts, Melanie Barnett, Col Isbell; back row, Bruce Edwards, super Chris Hollomon, Tim Maxwell.



BRINKLEY HEIGHTS STREET REACH this summer will be aided by the 1 ing summer missionaries. From left, front row, Peggy McCoy; second row, J Cox, Janna Lofton, Allison Holder, Jennifer Cox; third row, Sean Herma Cox, supervisor; Dave Cox, supervisor; Jerome King, and David Dickie.