

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

Volume 166/ Number 34

Statewide Edition

August 30, 2000

C-N, B&R join forces to combat lottery in Tennessee

By Charles Key
For Baptist and Reflector

HERFORD CITY — Carson-Newman College and the Baptist and Reflector will cooperate for a half-day seminar on Sept. 28 to consider the problem associated with state-sponsored gambling.

The seminar will examine the role Christians and churches have played in fighting such initiatives in other states.

The free seminar will begin at 9 a.m. on Sept. 28 in Thomas Hall on the Carson-Newman campus here.

The American gambling explosion is nothing short of mind-boggling," said David Buchanan, director of church relations office. "Twenty years ago, there were only two states that offered legal-

ized gambling, Nevada and New Jersey. Now, only Utah and Tennessee offer no form of legal wagering. Therefore, we think it's very important to scrutinize the detrimental consequences of this issue."

B&R Editor Lonnie Wilkey agreed. "Although Tennessee has staved off efforts to legalize a state lottery in the past few years, we cannot rest on our laurels."

"My greatest fear is that Tennesseans who would not buy lottery tickets or wager in other ways might not do enough to stop the move to bring a lottery to our state," he said.

The seminar is important in that it will "focus attention on gambling to make sure we don't get blindsided by the forces of legalized betting," Wilkey added.

The editor observed that the

effort with C-N is believed to be the first time the paper has partnered with a TBC institution to inform Tennessee Baptists about a particular moral concern.

The Sept. 28

seminar will feature Bob Terry, editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, based in Birmingham.

Terry helped lead the fight to defeat a lottery referendum in Alabama last year. Terry has been recognized by the Evangelical Press Association and the Baptist Communication Association for his efforts in marshalling church leaders and laypersons to take up the fight.

"Study after study has shown that state-sponsored lotteries are little more than training ground for illegal gambling activities," he said.

"People learn that 'gambling is OK' by playing the lottery," he suggested. "If an individual citizen were to do in Alabama or Tennessee what it is recommended for the state government to do, that person would be arrested and put in jail. Running a numbers game is illegal."



TERRY

"There couldn't be a better choice to keynote this event than Bob Terry," said C-N President James Netherton. "Bob was instrumental in helping to defeat the lottery in Alabama and we know that he can provide important information for Tennesseans as we face this socioeconomic Trojan Horse."

"It slips in through the front door cloaked in the garb of budget relief and then proceeds to devour families. We want to provide the opportunity for education on this matter so our fellow Tennesseans can see it coming," Netherton said.

The program also will feature a panel discussion which will include Terry, Gary Anderson, TBC public affairs consultant from Waynesboro, and Ann Bennett, a layperson from Kingsport who is involved in efforts to inform Baptists about the lottery and other social issues. She serves as Christian Life Department director for Sullivan Baptist Association. The panel discussion will be moderated by Wilkey.

The seminar is offered at no cost. A buffet lunch, available for \$5 per person, will conclude the event. To register for the seminar and/or the lunch, call (865) 471-3218 or e-mail klawson@cncadmnt.cn.edu. ■

The seminar is offered at no cost. A buffet lunch, available for \$5 per person, will conclude the event. To register for the seminar and/or the lunch, call (865) 471-3218 or e-mail klawson@cncadmnt.cn.edu. ■

The seminar is offered at no cost. A buffet lunch, available for \$5 per person, will conclude the event. To register for the seminar and/or the lunch, call (865) 471-3218 or e-mail klawson@cncadmnt.cn.edu. ■

No issue next week; CP stats to be updated

By Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — In accordance with the publication schedule for the Baptist and Reflector, there will be no paper dated Sept. 6 due to the Labor Day holiday. The next issue will be published Sept. 13.

Also, in regard to the Cooperative Program report printed in the Aug. 23 issue of the paper, approximately 49 churches were omitted from the list provided in the Baptist and Reflector publication due to a computer software problem.

The names of those churches will be printed in the Sept. 13 issue, according to Editor Lonnie Wilkey. "We regret any inconvenience this may have caused."

Any other corrections or questions about the CP report should be directed to the TBC accounting office at (5) 371-2035. ■

BHEP prepares to open third Middle Tennessee home

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

HERMITAGE — Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons, based in Nashville, will open its third home in the Middle Tennessee area Oct. 1, reported Joy Nabi, president.

Nabi, a member of Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, and volunteers are renovating the home and making final selections of the eight women with developmental disabilities who will live there with houseparents and their children.

Helping renovate the house have been 10 men from Hillhurst Baptist Church, Nashville, led by Mike Overcash, board member who is also interim minister of music for the church and a staff member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. A total of about 20 volunteers have served, including Sonny and Irene Guest, Campers on Mission members of Old Hickory.

Management

The home will be managed by Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, based at the Baptist Center in Brentwood, which will provide services such as an activity director along with oversight of the houseparents. When the home is paid for by friends of

BHEP, ownership will be turned over to TBAH, noted Nabi.

Stoneway Acres, which includes two homes for 16 men in Lebanon, was also begun by BHEP. The homes were opened in 1990 and 1995.

Personal ministry

Nabi got involved in ministry to people with developmental disabilities because she has a son, Scott, 39, who is a resident of Stoneway Acres. He has lived there for 10 years and is employed at a sheltered workshop.

And her husband, Gene Nabi, leads special education work for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. He was special education consultant for 13 years for LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

sources, Nashville.

Joy Nabi explained her reason for getting involved in the ministry is to provide her son "as much independence as he could have" in a Christian home. And she wanted to provide that for the many other parents of children who have developmental disabilities.

A parent of such a child has one fear which is paramount, explained Nabi, and that is the child will be without a caregiver after the death of the parent. The homes relieve that problem.

She is very enthused about the new designation of Father's Day for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes paralleling the Mother's

er's Day offering for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

"Hopefully the Father's Day offering will build up the ministry and there will be more homes in the future," said Nabi.

To offer help

To assist BHEP, contact Joy Nabi at (615) 662-0327 or BHEP at P.O. Box 24821, Nashville, TN 37202. For information about the endowment for the BHEP homes, contact the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, based at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, at (615) 371-2029. ■



CAROLYN DOWLEN, left, and Katherine Holman of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, hang wallpaper in a bathroom.



PREPARING to hang a light fixture is Bill Easterling as he talks with Joy Nabi. Easterling is a BHEP board member from First Baptist Church, Portland.

UNION UNIVERSITY
Jackson, TN 38305

about your newsjournal

► **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 48 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$10; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.50 per subscription; other plans available

► **Lonnie Wilkey, editor** — (615) 371-2046, lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

► **Connie Davis, news editor** — (615) 371-7928, cdavis@tnbaptist.org

► **Susie Edwards, circulation/executive assistant** — (615) 371-2003, sedwards@tnbaptist.org

► **Mary Nimmo, church pages/administrative assistant** — (615) 371-7929, mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

► **Betty Williams, bookkeeper** — (615) 371-7930, bwilliams@tnbaptist.org

► **Office — Baptist and Reflector**, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

► **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

► **FAX** — (615) 371-2080

► **Web Site** — www.tnbaptist.org

► **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

► **Convention Communications Committee:** Mattie Mullins, chairman; Benny Keck, vice chairman; Randall Cummings, Mark Gregory, Jerry Legg, Mark Mangrum, Wallace McGill, Bob Osburn, Vern Powers, Glenda Roach, Michael Smith, Joseph Sorah, Ambers Wilson

► **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

► **Frequency of issue** — Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.



Printed on recycled paper

At Henrietta church

Fire destroys building but not spirit

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

HENRIETTA — An early morning fire on Aug. 26 destroyed the facilities of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church here, but it did not destroy the spirit of church members, said Pastor Clay King.

Preliminary reports from fire officials indicate old wiring may have caused the fire, King said.

At press time Monday, the estimate of damage was unavailable from the church's insurance company, but King said it appears the church is a total loss.

The fire occurred the day before King's first anniversary with the Mt. Hermon congregation.

Despite the tragedy, members had a good spirit when they met at the fire hall in Henrietta, King said.

"We had a powerful service on Sunday. There was one profession of faith and two families joined the church, he related.

King said he shared with the congregation that bad things will happen on earth. "We have two choices," he told members. "We can lay down and quit, or we can allow God



PASTOR CLAY KING stands with the communion table that was rescued from the fire at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church. Leaders hope the table can be restored and used in the church's new building.

to strengthen us through it."

Juanita Green, youth pastor at the church, met with the youth on Sunday evening on the grounds of the church while regular services were held at the fire hall. She noted the youth needed an opportunity to ask questions and talk

about what happened.

She shared how the steeple fell from the church as it was burning, but that the cross was not damaged. It was removed so it could be placed on the church when it is rebuilt.

"I believe that was a sign from God that even in this

LEFT, an early morning Aug. 26 destroyed the facilities of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in Henrietta, near Clarksville. **LOW**, Youth Pastor Juanita Green, center, with Bible, time with youth during an evening service on the grounds of the church.



time of trouble, he will care of us," she said.

King said church members will meet Wednesday Aug. 30, to consider whether to continue meeting at the fire hall or consider other options before beginning the rebuilding process. ■

'We Still Pray' aims to go national

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Gridlock struck here when thousands gathered for a "We Still Pray" rally — and thousands more were stuck in traffic trying to reach the high school football stadium.

As many as 35,000 people, by one newspaper's estimate, either at the Aug. 17 rally or stuck on local highways registered their protest of a key U.S. Supreme Court ruling against school prayer in June.

One of the national goals of their fledgling "We Still Pray" movement is to encourage "spontaneous prayer" at high school football games — by joining in the Lord's Prayer immediately after the National Anthem.

"This is not in defiance of the Supreme Court ruling," Wendell Runion, one of the interdenominational rally's organizers and owner of Christian radio station WKJV, told the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. "If the fans break out in a spontaneous prayer, there is no Supreme Court ruling against that."

The "We Still Pray" rally registered "an enormous turnout," a North Carolina State Highway Patrol officer in Asheville told Baptist Press.

"We had no idea that so many people would turn out," said Ralph Sexton, another rally organizer and pastor of an independent Baptist congregation in Asheville, Trinity Baptist.

The rally was scheduled with a couple weeks' notice and little publicity, the weekly *Asheville Tribune* reported, noting that every roadway leading to the Reynolds High School football stadium was blocked for hours — and dotted by impromptu worship services and prayer vigils.

The Supreme Court decision at issue: a 6-3 ruling June 19 declaring unconstitutional a school district policy permitting public prayer before football games. The Galveston County, Texas, school policy permitted the high school student body to determine if it wanted a student to speak over the public address system before football games. If so, the students elected the speaker, who determined whether he would pray or give some other message.

The "We Still Pray" movement is circulating petitions in behalf of H.J.R. 66 and offering to help organize rallies in other cities, Sexton said. The movement's Internet site is www.westillpray.net; its telephone number is (828) 252-6112.

Following the rally, a regional pagan group asked to use the same high school stadium, noting that because it was used by one religious group, it should be made available for all others.

As of Aug. 22 the group had not received a response from Buncombe County Schools, according to Ginger Strivellit, leader of the Appalachian Pagan Alliance. — Christopher Knight contributed to this report. ■

Sunday School page gets new look, name

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — In accordance with the lessons published by LifeWay Christian Resources, the *Baptist and Reflector* will now have only two Sunday lessons each issue — Family Bible Explore the Bible.

The Bible Study page has been renamed "Inspiration" and will feature commentary and other devotional thoughts in addition to the lesson commentaries.

Writing commentaries for the September-November quarter will be Mike Nail and Rick Roberts.

Nail, a long-time Tennessee Baptist pastor, currently is employed by LifeWay Christian Resources. He will write the Family Bible series.

The Mississippi native is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married and has one daughter. Rick Roberts, pastor of First Baptist Church, Rockwood, will write the Inspiration series.

Roberts holds the master of divinity degree from Southern and is currently completing work on the doctor of ministry in church growth and evangelism from the seminary.

He and his wife, Mary, have two children, Ericka, 6, and Jake, five months old.

Tennessean learns of persecution in Indonesia



Baptist and Reflector

KARTA, Indonesia — Persecuted Christians on Indonesia's Ambon island face deplorable conditions and the world is largely ignoring their plight, reported several Americans who recently returned from a visit to Indonesia, including Steve Farris, pastor, Pine Baptist Church, Spar-

many as 500,000 Christians have been driven from their homes and more than 2,000 have been killed by Muslim "Jihad" warriors who have publicly declared they will kill all Christians off the island or kill them.

Christians are fleeing into the mountains, flooding into refugee camps, and clogging the roads to wait for the few ships taking refugees off the is-

land. Meanwhile, an Indonesian government reluctant to confront the extremists is refusing to allow international intervention. Elements of the Indonesian army reportedly are assisting the jihad warriors.

Farris was in Indonesia with other Southern Baptists, including Mike England, music director, Laurel Hill Baptist Church, Sparta, July 12-25. He learned about the unrest before leaving because local coordinators had to move the location of the evangelistic effort to another island. He decided to go anyway. Farris has served on 14 overseas efforts.

He and 20 other Americans served on the island of Manado. They met Christians who were refugees staying at a Baptist convention facility. Many had lost family members

recently because of the persecution, reported Farris, and escaped with only the clothes they wore.

"The number of refugees grows daily and the Baptists there just do not have the funds to feed and shelter them," he told the *Baptist and Reflector* recently.

The United States media isn't telling the story of what is happening in Ambon, Farris explained. The Ambon atrocities are not receiving nearly as much media attention as those that happened in Bosnia or Kosovo.

He met people who told him Ambon is a war zone. Visitors are often wounded by snipers. Barricades separate the Christian and Muslim sectors. One man told him he witnessed killing, maiming, burning, and looting of Christians.

"It is a truly horrifying and

frightening sight. The Christians do not attack; they just defend their positions, and while under attack sing ... worship hymns."

Drew Stephens and Brett Ferguson, members of Riverside Baptist Church, Denver confirmed the reports. They were in a refugee camp on Ambon Aug. 1 just after Muslim fighters attacked the village of Waai, killing two dozen people.

"Villagers were coming into the camp after walking 10 hours on a trail through the mountains," said Ferguson, a broadcasting major who traveled there to document the persecution. "Many of them were malnourished. There were lots of children whose parents had been killed. One baby we saw died of exposure from the long night of walking in the rain over the hills."

Ferguson and Stephens, the church's media minister, trav-

eled to Indonesia with Imam Sugianto, a member of Riverside's Indonesian mission congregation.

An evangelical missionary reported his amazement at the faithfulness of Christians in the town of Ponegoro who were under attack by jihad forces.

Farris met with a group of about 20 refugees staying in a Baptist facility on Manado. They had lost 36 family members when a ferry leaving Ambon sank.

"It was a special time to look in their faces and to cry with them," said Farris.

He and the other Americans reported success despite the turmoil in the country. The volunteers saw 2,141 people make professions of faith.

Union Baptist Association is starting a fund to help the Indonesian refugees. To help, contact Cheryl Pruiett at the association at (931) 738-3250, or Farris at (931) 761-5959 or dfarris@Bloomberg.net. — Mark Kelly of the International Mission Board contributed to this story.



STEVE FARRIS, right; Chris Trout of Columbus, Ohio, second from left; and their translator, left; stop to witness to these laborers in Manado, Indonesia. All six made professions of faith.



STEVE FARRIS, right, visits with a Baptist leader in Manado.

Sate Experiencing God team serves despite physical disabilities

*Bonnie Davis
Baptist and Reflector*

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada — Several of the 8-member Tennessee Experiencing God Team who arrived here recently for the Tennessee/Canada Baptist Partnership did so despite physical problems, and even disabilities.

Four members are diabetic. Ron Huling, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, left behind his wife, Betty, who has muscular dystrophy, and two children.

Tim Fitzgerald, leader and member of Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, is legally blind. His lack of vision doesn't keep him from coordinating the group or from his job as a dispatcher for the Boeing company in Oak Ridge.

But Lynda Fitzgerald overcame more physical obstacles than any other team member. The group agreed, and more obstacles than most other missions volunteers, they proposed. He did it with God's help, Lynda Fitzgerald.

Her health miracles

Fitzgerald was told about three years ago she should prepare for her death. She has suffered eight heart attacks, several last year, because her heart has been weakened by an unusual kind of diabetes.

Her diabetes is so unusual she takes about 1,000 units of insulin a day rather than the 50-100 units an average diabetic takes, she explained. And in 1987 when she was expecting one of the couple's sons, she had to take 2,000 units of insulin.

In other words, she gives herself about 10 injections a day. She may be one of only several people in the United States with this form of diabetes, she explained. Fitzgerald also has lupus.

She is in constant pain, her friends report. However, she



TIM AND LYNDIA Fitzgerald pause during their missions service in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

doesn't mention that.

She likes to discuss the miracles which have occurred in her life.

Several years ago she had a very spiritual experience, said Fitzgerald. She had developed toxic shock syndrome and was in a coma.

She felt God holding her and rocking her, she said. Then she woke up, feeling well. And during her hospital stay she saw a nurse become a

Christian and a janitor decide to consider an earlier call from God, reported Fitzgerald.

Her family miracles

Fitzgerald not only deals with her health problems, but she and Tim are raising three sons — Steven, 13; Sutton, 12; and Seth, 7. Many miracles have occurred related to them also, said Fitzgerald.

Before Fitzgerald developed severe health problems, she had Sutton, who has had respiratory problems.

They adopted Steven, Sutton's best friend, at the age of four when they discovered his grandparents could no longer care for him. Steven has some learning and emotional problems.

Then Lynda had Seth, an unexpected child, prematurely. Seth has an immune deficiency which has led to several health

problems. At one point Seth had a tumor which miraculously disappeared.

Today all three boys are doing well and have become prayer warriors as they have prayed for each other and their mother, reported the Fitzgeralds.

The family's health struggles have caused a financial strain, said Tim Fitzgerald, but God has provided. The couple paid most of their expenses for this missions effort. Their church also helped them.

Her views

Lynda Fitzgerald said the toughest part of the missions trip was saying goodbye to her sons, not the physical strain of leading Vacation Bible School sessions at two churches here each day.

"It doesn't matter whether you're able-bodied or not. I feel this is what God wants me to do," said Fitzgerald.

For more information on the Experiencing God Team, contact Gene Williams of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2064 or (615) 371-2064. ■

GSMO enables ministry, evangelism in state

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

As we roll into September, Tennessee Baptist churches are preparing to enter the Season of Prayer for State Missions. In conjunction churches also will begin collecting the annual Golden State Missions Offering.

The theme for this year's emphasis is "As I Go, Who Will Know?" Undoubtedly, some people will think, "My church gives through the Cooperative Program. Why do we need another offering?"

The answer is the same as it would be for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions: The needs are so great that Cooperative Program allocations simply aren't enough.

Tennessee Baptists have been giving to a state missions offering since 1902. In that year W.C. Golden was elected state missions secretary (now executive director) of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. His wife, Mildred, served as corresponding secretary (now executive director). At her sug-



gestion, a week of prayer and an offering for state missions was established. Tennessee became one of the first state conventions to collect its own offering to be used exclusively for missions work in the state. That first offering netted \$800.

We have come a long way. Last year, Tennessee Baptists gave \$1,366,520. This year, the goal is \$1.4 million.

Let's look at some of the things that were accomplished because of the 1999-2000 GSMO:

- 56 WMU scholarships were granted to students preparing for careers in missions and or ministry.

- 24 professions of faith were reported through Appalachian Regional Ministries.

- 225 campers attended Special Friends camps.

- 62 volunteers were trained for literacy missions.

- 167 professions of faith were reported through weekday ministries /missions centers.

And, the list could go on.

We sometimes tend to forget that Tennessee is a huge mission field.

Approximately one-half of the residents of this state do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Golden State Missions Offering makes it possible for ministries to meet needs that otherwise would go unmet.

But the theme for the Season of Prayer reminds us, too, that simply giving money for someone else to do the ministry is not enough.

"As I Go, Who Will Know?" When we leave a grocery store, work place, Little League ball park, or wherever we may be, will the people we leave behind know that we are Christians? Will they be able to see Christ through us? Those are questions we must answer. Pray for state missions in September. Be willing to give to the GSMO, but most importantly, be willing to share the good news of Jesus Christ yourself. **B&R**

Reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic, and other vital things

that's
life

by Linda
Jackson
Roebuck



School is underway again and I've been exhausted since the first day.

That's not good. School sure does seem to start earlier than it used to. Who'd have thought there were two five-thirties in one day? It's just not right to get OUT of bed when it's still dark outside. There's something sinister in that. I can't help thinking that Moses came down off that mountain a little too swiftly and forgot to pick up Commandment

Number Eleven: "Thou shalt not rollest out of thy sleeping chamber before the sun hast riseneth." Catch a glimpse of yourself in the mirror at 5:43 am and tell me God did that on purpose. I don't think so.

My kids haven't exactly been hopping up like bunnies and skipping down to breakfast themselves. Actually, they're significantly more cheerful than my nature leads me to be in the morning, but still obviously have some of that "You've-got-to-be-kidding-my-bed-feels-so-warm DNA."

So, each morning after the sounds of yawns, showers, breakfast cooking, (yeah, right; breakfast popping up,) teeth brushing, backpacks zipping, and shoes squeaking, we all head out in different directions

for schools. And every morning I think, "I hope they have a good day," and then I pray that I have prepared them for whatever they might encounter.

What a ridiculous notion. You can't possibly prepare them for every situation they will face in life. Most things are learned through experience anyway — making new friends, getting along with the ones who are different, learning to compromise, saying no. Still, I pray that they will make friends who are good influences, who will encourage them to be their best and affirm their integrity rather than tempt them from it — so much to pray about.

My youngest child was just baptized. Like her brother and sister had done, she began asking about accepting Jesus as her

Savior a few months ago and recently decided she wanted to take that step. As she briskly walked the few steps down the aisle to pray with the preacher, her dad, I was overwhelmed.

Somehow, in spite of my daily failings, bad decisions, and poor modeling; the things Jon and I worry about constantly, and in spite of the influences on her that are out of our grasp, God spoke to her heart and she heard him.

There's so much more of life to come, but I know my kids have made the most important decision of their lives and the one that will help them with all the rest. Our God is an awesome God. ■ — Roebuck is a freelance writer. Her husband, Jon, is pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

Do good fences really make good Baptists?

the
Word on
the world

by Kevin Shrum



In a recent (8-7-00) *Christianity Today* piece entitled "Do Good Fences Make Good Baptists," the editors of *Christianity Today* have cautiously given their support to the recent changes in the SBC's Baptist Faith & Message. While noting concern that such a clear statement of faith may inhibit honest dialogue among individuals who gather under the same umbrella of belief, the larger affirmations made in the newly revised BF&M have closed down the "flea market" or "smorgasbord" type of theological affirmations where beliefs

are selected at random.

The genius of the newly revised BF&M is that it keeps its confessional nature, while giving further clarity to its affirmations. In this day of theological drift and uncertainty, such a statement of faith is essential if the SBC is to avoid the slow demise experienced by once stalwart denominations of faith.

Theological drift is inevitable if not guarded against. Just as we are prone to stray from God (Isaiah 53:6), we are also prone to drift in our thinking about God. Unless a concerted effort is made to remain faithful to the "faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3), then theological drift is inevitable.

Two objections arise to question such a focused statement of faith. First, does the clarification of the BF&M inadvertently cut off the academic and theological freedom to pursue truth?

The problem with this unbridled pursuit of truth is that it is often done without boundaries and, as a result, ends up leading its pursuer to affirm all kinds of beliefs that are dissimilar to historic Christian faith.

If the BF&M says all there is to say then what is left to say and what is left to seek? Plenty! The BF&M affirms the basic parameters of our belief as Southern Baptists, but leaves plenty of room to plumb the depths of such affirmations. It baffles me as to why the pursuit of truth must always be after supposed "new truth." Such an attitude strikes one as arrogant because it assumes that we know all there is to know about the truth that has already been revealed.

The second objection is that such a clear confession may offend the non-Christian. While the declaration of Christian belief should not deliberately cut

off the unbeliever, we must acknowledge that the Gospel and its antecedents are offensive to the unregenerate mind.

In other words, the Christian community cannot allow the unbelieving world to dictate its confession of faith. We do not stick our spiritual finger in the air to catch the way the wind is blowing and then determine what we believe. Rather, we seek the Word as to what we believe, presenting such belief to an unbelieving world with grace, love, and patience. This is why the BF&M builds good fences that mark a clear distinction in what the confessing community believes.

The fence we build is not tall enough to keep us from seeing the lost, nor they us. Rather, it is tall enough so that we can lean against its guardrails while we talk to our neighbor. ■ — Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.



editorial/
opinion

Partnership Prayer Requests

August/September

30 — Pray for a 100-member medical/evangelism team to be led by physician Dewey Dunn of Nashville, Aug. 31-Sept. 9 in the Rocinha community in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

31 — Pray for Steve and SI Ford, IMB missionaries to Portugal, as they contact organizers of the Feira de Mercies, a two-week October country fair in Lisbon where they hope to do outreach.

Sept. 1 — Pray for a 12-member team from William Carey Baptist Association, led by Gary Williams. They have been building homes since August and through tomorrow for victims of Hurricane Mitch.

2 — Pray for a seven-member team from First Baptist Church of Smyrna, Chattanooga, led by Pastor Jeff Vaters. The team is doing evangelism and church planting Aug. 28-Sept. 4 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

3 — Pray for Richard, Jani and Hunter Crawford who are in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Richard is the new Baptist Student Minister for college campus the greater Vancouver area.

4 — Pray for Randy and S Bond, MSC volunteers at Canadian Baptist Seminary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

5 — Pray for Andre Kani and his ministry to Russian Jews in the Flint, Michigan.

6 — Pray for a 106-member medical/evangelism team by physician Dewey Dunn. They have been working since August 31 and will continue through Sept. 9 in Rio de Janeiro.

7 — Pray for a three-member evangelism team from Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, to be led Sept. 10 by Tom Diamond in Rio.

8 — Praise God for Tim Fadden and Terry Sharp of TBC who recently led a mission team in Nicaragua.

9 — Praise God for the new Peninsular cluster, made of IMB missionaries to Portugal and Spain and led by leader Dwight Williams.

10 — Pray for a three-member evangelism team to be led by Pastor Tom Aiken of Pleasant Baptist Church, Heiskell, in Rio.

11 — Pray for the Week of Prayer for State Missions Sept. 13-20 in Michigan.

12 — Pray for a 10-member construction/evangelism team to Rio from First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, led by Randle Davis Sept. 8.

Canada
Michigan
Rio de Janeiro
Portugal

The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

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

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

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

From your missionary

As part of pilot program

TBC holds missions team leader training

By Marcia Knox
For "The Macedonian Call"

A recent participant in the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team Leader Training, held July 21-22 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood, is trying to learn all she can about mission trips, because she doesn't know where God is going to send her next.

"The more you know, the more you learn about taking mission trips," said Pam Owen, a member of First Baptist Church of Concord, Knoxville. "Who knows where God is going to send you next?"

Owen attended the second International Mission Board pilot program, Team Leader Training, offered this year by the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team. The training focused on content and skills for volunteer mission team leaders.

The first IMB pilot project, the International Missions Training Institute, to be held one more time this year, began

in March and is also scheduled for 2001. The only other state convention chosen by the IMB to market these pilot programs is the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

"Having limited mission trip experience, I found Team Leader Training to be very informative, well presented, with well thought out group participation," added Owen. "I feel much better equipped not only to be an effective team leader, but also to be a team member."

According to Owen, she first experienced her call to go on a missions trip in October 1999 at an IMB Global Missions Conference at her church. Since she knew that First Church was offering ESL training, she decided to take the course in January 2000 and to be ready when God



PARTICIPANTS and leaders of the meeting visit. They are, from left, Terry Sharp, TBC; Jeff Walters, pastor, Shyma Baptist Church, Chapel Hill; Jeff King, Campus Crusade for Christ; Ethelene Palmer, First Baptist Church, Nashville; Sonny Sweatman, IMB; and Tom Warrington, IMB.

called. When God called in April for a volunteer to go to Thailand and teach ESL, Owen was ready and went.

Owen attended Team Leader Training to be ready to lead a missions team.

"It all just works out," she said. "You don't have a trip planned, but you just know it's going to happen. Since I'm already equipped to lead, I am ready to go."

Around 30 people including TBC staff, ministers of missions, experienced partnership

missions team leaders, and inexperienced team leaders attended the Team Leader Training, which prepared team leaders to effectively lead a team on a volunteer short-term mission project.

Leading the Team Leader Training were Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader Terry Sharp; Janie Norris, Pat Stapp, Debbie Stephens, all members of First Church, Concord. Certifying leaders for the IMB were Sonny — See TBC, page 6

Brentwood team serves in Vancouver

For "The Macedonian Call"

A Tennessee Baptist Church and a Canadian Baptist Church recently became one VBS team with the goal of spreading the good news, according to team member Juanita Malone of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood.

"The two churches became one team with the goal of spreading the good news," said Malone. "David Maltsberger, pastor of Westlynn Baptist Church, asked the Brentwood team to come to Vancouver for two reasons, VBS and preparation of VBS for the next year."

In addition to Malone, 12 other members of Brentwood Church worked July 7-16, in North Vancouver, British Columbia, to help the members of Westlynn Church.

The nights were filled with music, crafts, and people of all ages learning about Christ's love. The Ocean Odyssey theme had a wonderful response, and enrollment grew each night. By the end of the week around 100 people were



TEAM members relax while in Vancouver. From left, front row, are, Juanita Malone; middle row, Stacie Reynolds, Bethany Bradford, Creely Wilson, Rachel Holladay, Brent Hoppe, Mildred Hoppe, Maureen Byrd, Robert Byrd, Saralu Lunn, Eddie Lunn; back row, Al Shackleford, recently deceased, and Gigi Burns.

enrolled including workers. The last night was a Family Barbecue night with food, games, and a VBS musical with over 200 people attending.

Brentwood Church workers paired up with Westlynn Church workers to teach VBS. Teaching from Brentwood Church were: Juanita Malone and Stacie Reynolds, preschoolers; Bethany Bradford, first and second graders; Robert Byrd, third and fourth graders; Creely Wilson, fifth

and sixth graders; and Gigi Burns, youth.

One of the most responsive groups was 17 adults who came to hear Al Shackleford, the editor of LifeWay's *Mature Living* and former editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Shackleford was killed in a car accident in Tennessee July 23. He spoke on sharing God's love and grace.

Every night the children worshipped and learned songs — See Brentwood, page 6

IMTI planned for Dec. 2

For "The Macedonian Call"

An International Missions Training Institute will be held Dec. 2 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. The Institute is designed to equip mission volunteers for cross-cultural ministry throughout the world.

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

To attend the Institute make reservations two weeks prior. For information contact, Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader at 1-800-558-2080 or (615) 371-7935 or email tsharp@tnbaptist.org.

In His Love,

Loray

The Macedonian Call

Tennessee student ministers prayerwalk in Portugal

For "The Macedonian Call"

A team of student ministers participated June 11-19 in an exciting eye-opening trip to Portugal, according to a Tennessee Baptist Campus ministry associate specialist.

"Even though the land of Portugal is about the size of Indiana, next year we hope to place 300 volunteers there," said Anna Lee Wiles, Tennessee Technological University Campus ministry associate specialist. "This number will include college students, construction teams, and other volunteers as we find more ways and methods to meet those needs."

"These Portugal fields are 'white unto harvest,' and we are excited about the possibilities."

Wiles was joined on the trip by her husband Joe Wiles, Tennessee Tech University Campus Ministry specialist,

and Kim Huff, TBC Partnership Missions Project specialist, who led the team. Other team members included: Ron Mouser, Central Baptist Church of Fountain City associate pastor; Scott Allen, Vanderbilt University Campus Ministry specialist; Jack Peeler, Cordova Baptist Church of Bartlett pastor; and Shane Woodlief, College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin, youth pastor.

The purpose of the trip was to help the student ministers understand the need for volunteer assistance to 13 IMB missionaries, who serve a country of around 10 million people.

While visiting cities and towns where people congregate for work and relaxation, the team also prayerwalked in many areas.

"We prayed for the people and the situations everywhere we went," said Joe Wiles. "We visited a number of towns in-

cluding Lisbon, Porto, and Fatima. While looking over the city of Lisbon, we could better understand Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem."

In Portugal there are around 60 Baptist churches and 5,000 Baptists. Of the 10 million people only 100,000 people are considered evangelicals.

"The others are lost in medieval-type worship where witnessing is most effective in one-on-one relationship witnessing," Joe Wiles added. "Portuguese people under 30 are more open to the Gospel and may offer the best avenue for success."

The team visited Portuguese people who were Christians during the recent dictatorship and had experienced persecution until 1974. According to Wiles, since persecution no longer occurs, the Portuguese people have become like people in the United



TEAM members were, from left, Jack Peeler, pastor, Cordova Baptist Church, Bartlett; Anna Lee and Joe Wiles, campus ministry specialists, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville; Kim Huff, TBC; Shane Woodlief, youth pastor, College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin; Scott Allen, campus ministry specialist, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; and Ron Mouser, associate pastor, Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.

States and are focusing on careers and the "good life" while little realizing that the "best life" is found in Christ.

The team also visited Baptist churches and saw the effects of Lottie Moon Christmas gifts, Cooperative Program gifts, and the stewardship of local Portuguese congregations.

"The Baptist Camp in northern Portugal near N is a functional facility, it can be useful in witnessing, discipleship, and retreats," said Wiles.

Construction work is now at the camp, and Tennessee Baptists could assist in projects." ■

Brentwood team serves in Vancouver ...

— Continued from page 5
with a worship team, which included Eddie Lunn, Saralu Lunn, and Mildred Hoppe, all of Brentwood Church.

Another activity the children enjoyed was crafts. Brentwood Church team leader Maureen Byrd and Rachel Holladay helped children make something related to what they learned. Brent Hoppe of Brentwood Church was the official floater, and he could be found anywhere from crafts to music.

"Every morning a different team member from Brentwood would lead a devotional," said Malone. "Every evening we would all meet for a chance to discuss that night's VBS. These times created wonderful opportunities for us to examine what creates a successful VBS and Sunday School programs. As with any mission trip, God

even used our down time to spread his love."

According to Maureen Byrd, Shackleford was asked to prepare lessons dealing with parenting, but he was told there might only be a few adults attend VBS. On the first day of the trip, Shackleford had been out prayerwalking in the neighborhood, when he sat down in the Westlynn Church sanctuary and then prayed about the week ahead.

Byrd continued, as Shackleford looked at the sanctuary's Ocean Odyssey raft, water, and fish, he felt that the Lord was telling him that he needed to change his lessons for the week from parenting to things dealing with water from Scripture such as the woman at the well. Shackleford ended up with adults ranging in age from 20s to 70s and very few of

them had children.

"The Lord had told him through prayer just what he wanted Al to teach," said Byrd. "Al gave a devotion during the week for the Brentwood team that dealt with listening to God. Al said that so much of the time when we're caught off guard, or we have to change course like on any mission trip, we always try to fall back on the talents and gifts God has given us, rather than to go to the Word and rely on it."

On another day three other team members went prayerwalking and saw some of the children that were attending Westlynn Church VBS and talked with their mothers. A woman from Westlynn enjoyed a visit from some team members with a guitar. They had a wonderful time worshipping with hymns.

One night during VBS a team member was given the opportunity to share the Gospel with a child's parent. While on a trip to a local lighthouse, Byrd left her purse behind. A man had found it, and she used the opportunity to send him a letter sharing the Gospel.

After the team left Vancouver, they spent the night in a bed and breakfast. The German woman who worked there was relying on a psychic for comfort and leading. The team was able to share Jesus with her and pray with her. Maureen Byrd sent her a German Bible.

"These examples show the truth of a mission trip," said Malone. "It is not only what you do on a trip, but what you are. If you are flexible, if you are aware, if you are open, if you are willing, God will use

you. One of our team members lived this willingness."

According to Malone, Shackleford made such an impression while in Vancouver that he was asked to return next to lead a conference. After he returned to Tennessee, Shackleford was involved in the fatal accident in Franklin.

"The impression Al left will always be in Canada," Malone. "He and the rest of our team made this trip successful. He and the team in Vancouver are an example will aid Westlynn Church in reaching more of their community for Christ. The teams from Brentwood and Westlynn Churches were willing God used and continues to use them. It truly was a News Odyssey." ■ — Continued from team reports.

TBC holds missions team leader training ...

— Continued from page 5
Sweatman and Tom Warington, both of IMB Volunteer Department.

"This year's two IMB pilot programs allowed us to try out new program materials, and at the same time certify leaders and receive IMB approval," said Sharp. "Both state conventions will evaluate the pilot program materials and report back to the IMB as to their effectiveness."

"These pilot programs allow us to serve all Tennessee Baptists, who are faithfully committed to missions wherever

they go. These programs are especially important to those volunteers who may travel in other countries that are not in partnership arrangements with the TBC."

The International Institutes are offered to all missions volunteers whether participating in partnership projects, or in non-partnership projects. The Institutes provide orientation materials and cross-cultural experiences.

"The Institutes are especially good for those who do not attend the regular Partnership Orientation Training

and for those who travel into countries not in the partnership agreement," said Sharp.

Team Leader Training will be held in 2001 on March 2-3, June 1-2, and Oct. 5-6. Team Leader Training offers study in 12 modules including what does it mean to be a team leader; the mission; building the team; funding the mission project; training the team; travel arrangements; security; planning strategy; preparing to return home; debriefing; and putting it all together.

Team Leader Training is for team leaders whether lead-

ing partnership missions trips, or missions trips not in partnership countries including Last Frontier countries. Much of the materials for the Team Leader Training came from the Macedonian Project, which was adapted from Campus Crusade for Christ.

"If the team leader leads a partnership mission trip, then much of the training materials will never have to be put in place because the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Mission Team will do it for them," added Sharp. "If the mission trip is outside the partnership

countries, then the team leader may need to add several issues such as how to form the team, cross-cultural differences, applications, forms."

"Team Leader Training participants found the materials to be excellent for those who led teams, and helpful in putting things in order, synthesizing the process of putting together a mission trip."

For information on upcoming conferences, contact Sharp at 1-800-558-2080 or 615-7935 or email tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

The Macedonian Call

BC, Jackson, continues DR work in Nicaragua

by Janice Hailey Jr.
The Macedonian Call

A 2-member team from First Baptist Church of Jackson worked July 1-9 in Nicaragua as a part of the Ten-Nicaragua Disaster Response to build houses for victims of Hurricane

which had previously sponsored two teams, provided funds for materials, and built 125 shelters in Nicaragua after the hurricane.

Besides myself, the team coordinator, team members included: Edward Deming, Joye Archer, Mike Sherrod, John Vickery, Bob Cook,

Janice Hailey, Lynn Edmonson, all of First Church, Jackson; Paul Jones, Northbrook Baptist Church; and Ray Hailey, West Jackson Baptist Church, both of Jackson; and, George Atwood, Trezevant Baptist Church, Trezevant.

We continued the work on 31 shelters that had been started by a previous team in a neighborhood referred to as Chorrotega, in Chaguitillo, a small village 10 minutes north of our hotel. We laid concrete block on 12 shelters and concrete capped eight.

The houses constructed were about 480 square feet with a dirt floor, concrete blocks laid up about half way of the walls around 4 feet, and tin roofs.

The recipient must provide something for the upper part of the walls, doors, and any inside partitions.

Several of the single mothers and men worked every day helping us build their houses by carrying heavy bags of cement, blocks, and water. There are several older settled areas in northern Nicaragua that have not had running water since reservoirs were destroyed by flooding caused by Hurricane Mitch in October 1998. In some areas of the country, people continue to live under a piece of plastic.

Our team brought about 400 pounds of children's clothing for

distribution in the area. The Chaguitillo Baptist Church will distribute these clothes to needy families.

Adam Martinez Norori, pastor of the Chaguitillo Church, helped coordinate the development of the homes along with the local officials. About half of the houses were going to families in an indigenous Indian people group.

On Wednesday evening, July 5, we showed the "Jesus" film on a dusty baseball diamond at the edge of the development. Around 250-300 viewed the film, at least two people accepted Christ. Many seeds were planted for local believers to cultivate and for the Holy Spirit to harvest.

Norori told us about a community in which his church had started a mission church. The community, Las Cardones, is located about 20 minutes by car from the mother church in Chaguitillo where around 50 families live in the area.

The pastor shared his vision to construct a church building on a selected site in the center of the community. The pastor was aware of a landowner who wanted to sell a 4,000 square foot parcel of land for \$100, but the mother church did not have the resources to purchase it.

We went out and looked at the land, and met the landowner's sister at the community water well.

This woman owned a small parcel of

land next to her brother's land that she also wanted to sell for \$100. Our team gave the \$200 to purchase the land which will be deeded to the Nicaragua Baptist Association. We want to help them with building a structure on the site.

While we were in Nicaragua two earthquakes occurred that killed four children and destroyed hundreds of homes about 62 miles from the active volcano town of Masaya, the epicenter of the earthquakes.

We visited some of the damaged area about a week later. Older homes that were not built with reinforced concrete, caved in when the tremors hit. Since many of the homes are built with sticks and mud and most have dirt floors, families had built temporary shelters covered with plastic in the edge of the streets and along roads.

The day after the earthquakes hit July 6 in Managua the national newspaper, *La Prensa*, headline said, "Mourning Again."

The trip to Nicaragua was only one of three International Missions trips, sponsored by First Church, Jackson, this summer. Some of us stayed over for a second week in Nicaragua, and worked with a youth team from our church doing evangelistic outreach in a portion of the capital city of Managua.

Chuck Frazier serves as pastor at First Church, Jackson. ■



DEMING of First Baptist Church, Jackson, carries water to mix concrete for a house in Nicaragua.

Team from First Church, Paris, helps homeless children in Rio

The Macedonian Call

A 2-member team from First Baptist Church, Paris, was able to accomplish everything that they planned to do in helping recently at a halfway house for street children in Rio de Janeiro, according to a Tennessee Baptist pastor.

"We were able to accomplish everything," said Jerry Massey, pastor of First Church, Paris. "Not only were we able to minister to the street children, but we were able to minister with the Baptist Convention social ministry by handing out clothing, blankets and New Testaments."

The team worked May 20-28 while they did construction on a halfway house for street children,

distributed clothing, witnessed in a slum, and planned for additional projects.

Besides Massey, other team members were: Bert Sutton, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes Boys Ranch director; Stan Wagner, member of the International Baptist Church in Memphis; Gerald Stow, retired TBCH president-treasurer; Edgar Brazelton, Glenn Bruce, Stephen Conner, Charles Elizondo, Herbert Hill, William Maddox, Larry Miller, and Richard Routon, all of First Church, Paris.

The project began as installing electrical work for the new halfway house for street children, but it evolved into other areas. Sutton served as translator for the team. Stow also preached May 21 at the First Baptist Church of

Rio de Janeiro.

"We were requested by the TBCH to work with them on this project, because we had worked with the TBCH last year on a similar project in Rio de Janeiro," added Massey.

At the new street children's halfway house, the team painted, rewired, and did other carpentry repairs at the site, and improved the water system. The new facility was provided by private funds through the TBCH. First Church of Paris provided basketball goals for the street children's home and another halfway house.

The team also assisted the director of the Carioca Convention Christian Social Ministries in planning for additional projects including job training, and relocation of main offices. ■



GERALD STOW stands with two boys who are street children in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

East Tennessee team teaches VBS, repairs three Michigan churches

The Macedonian Call

A team of eight people from the East Tennessee Baptist Convention traveled to Michigan June 10-17 to conduct Vacation Bible School, and help with repairs and construction on three churches in the Bay City area.

"Some people are amazed that we can put together a VBS team using people from different churches and even in different towns," said Deanna Barnett of Dixie Lee Baptist Church in Lenoir City. "It isn't a problem if you have

dedicated, dependable, people."

The team consisted of Jimmy and Karen Hawkins of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City; Jim and Verna Miller of Southwestern Baptist Church, Johnson City; Ron Kirk, Terri Swinney, and Bob Barnett, all of Dixie Lee Church, Lenoir City.

Five members of the team held the Good News Ocean Odyssey Bible School at Riverwalk Baptist Church, Bay City, Michigan, which is the sister church of Dixie Lee Church. Verna Miller was in charge of the crafts.

"We had one person for crafts, one for recreation, one for music, and two for Bible stories. Each day the children rotated through music, crafts, recreation, and Bible story," added Deanna Barnett.

A special Bible School was held for the youth in the evening on "Can We Really Believe the Bible is the True Word of God?" On the last day of Bible School, the whole school enjoyed a boat ride on Saginaw Bay aboard the Princess Wenonah.

A total of 40 students were enrolled for an average atten-

dance of 30. Riverwalk Church averages about 29 in attendance.

The construction team installed a steeple on Riverwalk Church, bathroom fixtures at Standish Baptist Church, Standish, and did some wiring on a new building under construc-

tion at New Morning Star Baptist Church, Saginaw. ■



TERRI SWINNEY, left, a member of Dixie Lee Baptist Church, Lenoir City, helps children play with water balloons during a VBS session.

The Macedonian Call

| Place | Project ID | Work | Dates | Volunteers Needed |
|---|------------|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Projects | | | | |
| Rio de Janeiro | PM42001901 | Team needed to do revivals at Jardim Colegio Baptist Church. | 3/30-4/8/01 | 4 |
| Rio de Janeiro | PM42001902 | Team to do evangelism, clowning and BYBC at Memorial Baptist Church. | 3/30-4/8/01 | 10 |
| Rio de Janeiro | PM42001900 | Revival teams for Suburbana Association. | 1/21-30/01 | 63 |
| Portugal Projects | | | | |
| Algarve | PM12001115 | College group to do concerts, talent shows, drama while targeting college students. | 2/28-3/11/01 | 10 |
| Algrave | PM12001104 | Gospel choir to perform concerts in the Algarves. | 2/28-3/11/01 | 20 |
| Bombarral | PM12001126 | Volunteers to prayerwalk in Central/West Portugal | 4/1-10/01 | 4 |
| Bombarral | PM12001129 | Street evangelism through art. | 7/14-28/01 | 4 |
| Faro | PM12001103 | Prayerwalking team for the Faro area. | 2/28-3/11/01 | 10 |
| Lisbon | PM12001119 | Team to do VBS, music, drama and puppets. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001116 | Team to do VBS, music, drama, in the Lisbon area. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001121 | Team to do creative ministry. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001120 | Team to do creative ministry. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001114 | Teach ESL while working with local churches. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001113 | Teach ESL while working with local churches. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001108 | Work with church planters to develop evangelism opportunities. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001107 | Construction team to repair local churches and missions in the Lisbon area. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001101 | Prayerwalking team for Lisbon area. | 5/20-28/01 | 6 |
| Lisbon | PM12001100 | Prayerwalking team for Lisbon area. | 9/4-12/01 | 6 |
| Lisbon | PM12001102 | Prayerwalking and outreach mission. | 2/28-3/11/01 | 10 |
| Lisbon | PM12001118 | Sports evangelism team in the Lisbon area. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Lisbon | PM12001122 | Team to do sports evangelism. | 6/30-7/9/01 | 12 |
| Porto | PM12001110 | Team to do Bible distribution in the Porto area. | 5/5-12/01 | 8 |
| Porto | PM12001111 | Prayerwalking team for the Porto area. | 4/14-21/01 | 8 |
| Porto | PM12001112 | Prayerwalking team for the Porto area. | 9/14-22/01 | 8 |
| Porto | PM12001105 | Baseball clinics and exhibition games. | 7/13-22/01 | 8 |
| Porto | PM12001106 | Baseball clinics and exhibition games. | 7/20-29/01 | 8 |
| Porto | PM12001109 | Conduct street evangelism in the Porto area. | 6/2-9/01 | 8 |

Canada Projects

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--|-----------|------|
| Edmonton, Alberta | 01MID001 | Volunteers needed to call from home every resident of St. Albert during a 4-wk period to do invitation and survey. | 2/19-3/18 | open |
|-------------------|----------|--|-----------|------|

Tennessee Projects

- ◆ **Franklin** — New church start needs at least 5 families to start Sunday School and children's ministry. This is a new church that needs help in growing and reaching the community. Would like to have ministry up and running beginning in September 2001. Contact: Bob Hammer, (615) 412-6161
- ◆ **Gatlinburg** — One team per week of 25-40 to conduct daycamps in the morning and family evening program in area campgrounds.

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------------|
| June 10-16 | July 1-7 | July 22-28 |
| June 17-23 | July 8-14 | July 29 - Aug. 4 |
| June 24-30 | July 15-21 | Aug. 5-11 |

 Contact: Bill Black, Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries (865) 436-4076.
- ◆ **Gatlinburg (Townsend)** — One team per week of 5-10 to conduct a daycamp in the morning at Tremont Hills Campground and a variety of evening programs at the campground.

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------------|
| June 10-16 | July 1-7 | July 22-28 |
| June 17-23 | July 8-14 | July 29 - Aug. 4 |
| June 24-30 | July 15-21 | Aug. 5-11 |

 Contact: Bill Black, Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries (865) 436-4076.
- ◆ **Humboldt** — Team of 10 to do BYBC in low-income housing area June 3-9, 2001. Contact: Helen Fisher, FBC, Humboldt, (901) 784-1786
- ◆ **Jackson** — Teams of 10-40 to repair paint and roof elderly and needy homes and assist small churches with BYBC in low-income housing communities.

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------------|
| June 11-15 | July 2-6 | July 23 - Aug. 3 |
| June 18-22 | July 9-13 | |
| June 25-29 | July 16-20 | |

 Contact: Amy Brady, Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist Association, (901) 668-5690.
- ◆ **Jefferson City** — Teams of 10-15 to remodel homes of low-income families.

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| May 27 - June 1 | June 24-29 | July 22-27 |
| June 3-8 | July 1-6 | July 29 - Aug. 3 |
| June 10-15 | July 8-13 | |
| June 17-22 | July 15-20 | |

 Contact: Shannon Washam, Appalachian Outreach, (865) 475-5611.
- ◆ **Knoxville** — Volunteers needed year round to work at the Knox Area Rescue Ministry. Volunteers needed year round to do home repairs to low income families. BYBC could also be done. Team of 10-20 needed to do VBS in multi-housing community, July 8-13, 2001. Contact: Carol Webb, (865) 693-9097
- ◆ **Mt. Pleasant** — Teams needed to help build an addition to church. Contact: Henry Houston, (931) 388-9325.
- ◆ **Pulaski** — Team of 10 to do BYBC in the community along with surveying the community and leading youth worship services. Would prefer a youth team to do the BYBC and an adult team to do remodeling projects in the community. Dates: June 3-8. Contact: Doug Plumlee or Lewis Thomas at (931) 363-3584
- ◆ **Rutledge** — Teams of 10 to do campground/recreational ministry to Hispanics and others.

| | | |
|------------|----------|------------|
| June 24-30 | July 1-7 | July 15-21 |
| July 8-14 | | |

 Contact: Dennis Cable (865) 828-4001.
- ◆ **Grainger County Baptist Association** needs someone who is experienced with web creation to create a website. The association has about 34 churches. Contact: Dennis Cagle, (865) 828-4001.

For more information about the above projects, call Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021.

leaders

ville, was honored July 16 on his fifth anniversary of service with a luncheon and gift.

■ **West Haven Baptist Church**, Knoxville, has called **Gary L. Smith** as senior pastor, effective Aug. 21. Smith was pastor, Beech Park Baptist Church, Oliver Springs.

■ **Gary Steele** has been called as minister of youth and education, First Baptist Church, Jasper, effective Aug. 1.

■ **Walter Crouch**, assistant professor of religion, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, has written the book, *Death and Closure in Biblical*



CURTIS PONDER, center, is congratulated by his pastor, **Bill Ferguson**, left, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Jonesborough; and **Bill Ponder**, his father, pastor, Clear Branch Baptist Church, Erwin, following his recent ordination service. He is serving as pastor, West Hills Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

Narrative. The book is published by Peter Lang and is available from the publisher, the C-N Bookstore, and will soon be available on Amazon.com.

■ **William M. "Bill" Caudle** has been called as pastor of Berclair Baptist Church, Memphis, effective Aug. 6. He will be installed Oct. 15. He comes from a church in Chanute, Kan., and has served churches in five other states.



CAUDLE



■ **Shiloh Baptist Church**, Woodbury, will hold home-

PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS
NEW PEWS • CARPETING
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
1-800-289-7397
Church Interiors Inc.
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialists
827 E. Broadway Blvd., Jefferson City, TN

Call for Free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
www.fiberglasschurchprod.com
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Seeking part-time music minister. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 624 Hatchie Ave., Brownsville, TN 38012.

First Baptist Church, Nevada, Mo., seeks full-time music minister. Send resume to Search Committee, 301 East Highland, Nevada, MO 64772.

Glenwood Baptist Church of Powell, Tenn., is searching for a part-time music director. Resumes may be sent to Music Director Search Committee, Glenwood Baptist Church, 7212 Central Ave. Pike, Powell, TN 37849. For more information contact the church office at (865) 938-2611.

coming activities Sept. 10. Activities include a luncheon and 1 p.m. musical program. Also, a revival will be held Sept. 11-15. Glen Denton, pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, will speak.

■ **White's Creek Baptist Church**, Rockwood, will hold homecoming/105th anniversary activities Sept. 10.



■ **The 2000 Church Media Library Clinics** will be held Sept. 9 at Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville; Sept. 23 at Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Sept. 30 at Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis; and Oct. 7 at First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. Many conferences will be of-

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers of Bibles, Signs, Lights, Steeples
TOLL FREE 1-800-446-7400
FAX: 804-622-2210
P.O. BOX 2250 • DAVENPORT, VIRGINIA 22451

CHURCH FURNITURE
Finest Construction
Lowest Prices
Free Estimates
Plain or Padded
BAPTISTRIES
STEEPLES
WINDOWS
"Refinishing & Cushioning Your Present Pews"
CISCO
P.O. Box 1068
Lewisburg, TN 37091



ferred and can apply to study course work. If pre-registered two weeks prior to the clinic, cost is \$15. Registration at the door is \$20. A continental breakfast, lunch, and LifeWay Christian Store display will be offered. For more information, contact Jan Moye at 1-800-558-2090; (615) 781-8921; or jmoyle@tnbaptist.org.

■ **The Literacy Missions Celebration 2000** will be held Sept. 15-16 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood. The meeting will provide volunteers a time of celebration, as well as updates. The cost is \$15. The meeting includes two meals and a continental breakfast. For more information, contact Beverly Smothers at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2044; (615) 371-2044; or bsmothers@tnbaptist.org.

■ **A Church Building/Finance Conference** will be held Sept. 14 at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The conference will provide participants training and resources to enable churches to better use their facilities. The cost is \$10 and covers lunch. For more information, contact Archer Thorpe, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2017; (615) 371-2017; athorpe@tnbaptist.org.

Wilson's Church Interiors, since 1982!
Pews = New + Refinishing + Upholstering
Steeple, Baptistry, Furniture, Carpet, Chairs
Call 1-800-844-1911
www.pews.net
e-mail: wilway@peop.tdsnet.com

Franklin, NC
Mickler Log Home Rentals
Four 2 to 3 bedroom homes, fully equipped. Family vacations/group retreat.
1-800-851-9776
service@mickler-properties.com

Tennessee Baptist Conference for the Deaf

Sept. 29-Oct. 1

LindenValley Baptist Conference Center

The annual Tennessee Baptist Conference for the Deaf (TBCD) will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at Camp LindenSprings Conference Center. The theme of this year's conference is "Be Holy," I Peter 1:15-16, Colossians 3:2. The conference will include workshops for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (Jr. TBCD) and Adults, as well as workshops for interpreters and Deaf Ministry workers. For more information on registration and cost, you may contact Michelle Swaney at (865) 429-1735 or by e-mail at mswaney@hotmail.com.

CarsonSprings

and

LindenValley

Baptist Conference Centers

Why go anywhere else?

Call toll free:

LindenValley — 1-877-354-6336

CarsonSprings — 1-877-704-6336



Position Openings Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Applications are now being accepted for Ministry Assistant positions in the following areas:

Administrative Services: Support Services Technician (meeting set up, etc.); Support Services Assistant (general secretarial and switchboard relief)

Communication Services: Administrative Secretary (assist with web site and publications)

Church Staff Leadership: Secretary (general secretarial and database management)

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.

Tennessean helps to provide drama, worship resource

By Sammie Jo Barstow
For Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "Find a need and fill it" is more than a cliché for Karen Anderson Holcomb and Sarah Standerfer Groves, authors of *Certain Call: Missions Dramas and Choruses for Youth and College Students*.

When their paths crossed in the early '90s at an Acteens conference in Nashville, they had no idea that a few years later they would combine their talents to produce a valuable resource for youth and college students.

Groves is a native of Illinois, but was reared in Nashville and was a member of Judson Baptist Church. Her dad, Ernest Standerfer, is now pastor of Valley View Baptist Church, Nashville, while her mother, Doris Jean Standerfer, serves on the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Christian Growth Development Group.

A few years after their initial meeting, Holcomb, a Georgia native, and Groves served together on the staff of national Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., where they developed materials and provided programming for Ac-

teens, the missions organization for teen girls. When the need was voiced for a drama/music resource for youth and college students, they recognized that God had brought them together for a purpose.

Certain Call, published by WMU, combines Holcomb's drama writing skills with Groves' musical gifts to provide a wealth of ideas. The book contains 31 dramas and 10 worship choruses with an accompanying CD. The choruses are appropriate for use with the dramas. The lively, upbeat tone of both the dramas and music appeal to youth by conveying a serious message without being "preachy."

Missions and evangelism are the themes for *Certain Call*. By participating in the dramas and



GROVES

music, young people can "discover truth from biblically-based material" and then "communicate that truth in a creative way," according to Holcomb.

Knowing that young people relate well to both drama and music, these authors believe the combination of the creative arts, along with the Bible message, provides a way for youth to grow spiritually themselves and also to reach out in a non-threatening way to other youth.

Certain Call urges young people toward a lifestyle of missions. The authors explain: "Even though we might see no curtain, we mustn't wait for the parting of drapes or any such dramatic sign as a call to action. For God's mission call is certain, though often quiet and without much fanfare."

Groves believes that "any-

time you learn or memorize something to present to others, you glean the message from the art," so students who perform are impacted by their involvement.

Soon after moving to Jonesboro, Ark., in 1999, Groves wanted to use the drama/music resources that she and Holcomb had developed. But she was unfamiliar with the talents and abilities of the youth in her new church. Parts were assigned to many youth who struggled with shyness or inexperience.

However, according to Groves, God used that experience as an encouragement because "the church members saw how much the young people accomplished and what a self-esteem boost it was for them." ■



CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — PAS
Macedonia Calls. North Baptist Church, located Island, New York is seeking a conservative, Southern pastor. We are a member of the Salem Association and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Send resume to Pastor Committee, 23 West Main Street, Kings Park, NY 11754.

MINISTRIES — YOUNG
Roellen Baptist Church, Tenn., is prayerfully seeking resumes for the position of pastor. Mail resume to Pastor Committee, 823 Don Huysersburg, TN 38024.

MINISTRIES — YOUNG
Seeking full-time minister and education; seminary preferred. Send resume to Baptist Church, 785 First Street, Falls, ID 83401 or call 208-887-1111.

MINISTRIES — YOUNG
Oak Forest Baptist Church, moderate SBC church in Richmond, Va., is seeking a minister of youth. Send resume to Search Committee, 2934 Berry Dr., Midlothian, VA 23113. Call (804) 276-6547.

MINISTRIES — OTTAWA
Immediate need for full-time houseparents at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga and Cleveland. Couples only. Call Bill Dr. Bob Segrest at (423) 892-1111.

MINISTRIES — OTTAWA
First Baptist Church of Springfield is seeking a gifted individual or couple to work with children and youth ministries. Send resume to 601, Oliver Springs, TN 37840.

MINISTRIES — OTTAWA
Maury Baptist Association is accepting resumes for the position of director of missions. A candidate should sense a calling to the DOM, minimum 10 years experience, possess a mission heart, and can work in churches large and small. Send a summary of our program and may respond to God's leading by sending your updated resume to Maury Baptist Association Personnel Committee, 10992, Columbia, TN 38400. Date is Sept. 15. Info: (615) 913-0130.

MINISTRIES — OTTAWA
Large, progressive, conservative East Tennessee church minister of singles. Prior experience working with singles. Send resume to Committee, 11704 Kings Park, Knoxville, TN 37922.

Steel Buildings — must sell two steel buildings from cancellation, one is 40 x 40, brand new, never erected, will sell for balance owed. Call Danny at 1-800-552-8504.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof, and electric step. Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622 Buses! Vans! People Movers! www.tri-statevanbus.com



Tour The HOLY LAND
with evangelist Henry Linginfelter
Dec. 26, 2000-Jan. 3, 2001
\$2,199
with an optional extension to Egypt, \$599
Jan. 3-6, 2001
Depart from Cincinnati

EXPERIENCE COUNTS! I've taken groups to Israel 21 times and know how to arrange it so that everything goes smoothly. My partner and I know how to provide you with a quality tour that is second to none. We stay in 5-star deluxe hotels — the nicest. We also provide you with 3 delicious meals per day, whereas many groups only provide 2. We work hard to make it a spiritual experience that you'll never forget.

Call today for complete details and a free flyer
Henry Linginfelter (865) 982-2661 (O); (865) 983-8968 (H)
1848 Nobel Street, Alcoa, TN 37701

E.R. Moore Choir Robes

Best Prices! Highest Quality!
Personal Attention
and Service.

Call for a Free Choir Robes
Style Show at your Church.
(baptismal & ministerial robes)

1-800-388-6530

Why Pay More For Life Insurance!

| Age | \$150,000 | \$300,000 |
|-----|-----------|-----------|
| 25 | \$11.46 | \$18.55 |
| 35 | \$12.12 | \$19.86 |
| 45 | \$20.39 | \$36.40 |
| 55 | \$51.63 | \$98.88 |

Please call Jim Smelcher (Knoxville, TN)
Toll Free 1-800-583-0970 (9-9 Mon.-Sat.)
Level death benefit term that does not increase for the first 15 years. Written by an A-plus Life insurance company. Preferred male rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and female rates.

Pews, pulpits,
baptistries,
steeple, chairs, tables,
lighting, stained glass,
folding doors,
carpet

VAN WINKLE CHURCH FURNISHINGS & PEW UPHOLSTERY

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843
In MS TOLL FREE 1-800-624-9627
Outside MS TOLL FREE 1-800-821-7263

Need something for your
group to do?

Whitewater rafting
on the Ocoee River

Cherokee Rafting

1-800-451-7238
P.O. Box 111
Ocoee, TN 37361

Group Rates — \$20 per person
on Weekdays & Sundays

LifeWay CHURCH BUSES

A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.

"Raised Roof" Vans in Stock (No CDL)



- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- 2/1 Seating
- Bucket Seats
- More Headroom
- 15 Passengers

2000 Model: \$34,000 (New)
1999 Model: \$29,900 (Low Miles)
1998 Model: \$28,500 (Low Miles)

800-370-6180

www.carpenterbus.com

Since
1953

"...teaching
everyman
with all wisdom
so that we may
present
every man
complete in
Christ"

Colossians 1:28



MID-SOUTH
MEN'S
BIBLE
CONFERENCE

February 23-24, 2001
Sponsored by Kirby Woods Baptist
Bob Pitman, Pastor

Featuring: Junior Hill, Dr. Jeff Noblit
Dr. Johnny M. Hunt and music by
The Stone Brothers

Hosted by Union University in Jackson, TN
For more information visit our website at
www.kwbc.org or call 901.682.2220

Minister's Corner

Paul Frick
Pastor, FBC,
Nashville



Recently I was cleaning out a dresser drawer and found an old picture of our family. This picture had been taken for a church directory at our previous church. As I stared at the picture, I realized that we all look a little different now when compared with the people in the picture.

I ponder the physical changes that we have experienced, I realize that the greatest change has occurred for us spiritually. Much has happened that has deepened our faith and trust in God. Really that is the way things ought to be for all of us.

Life brings to us challenges that test our relationship with God. Ask anyone who has walked this good path for any length of time and they will tell you that life is about giving up and letting go. Our spiritual maturity can be measured by our ability to let go of the familiar and comfortable so that we can embrace the adventure of winsome faith.

God is always leading us by the hand. We may try to break our hands out of his hand. We might be delayed along by life circumstances. We might walk in delight along the winding path God has charted for us. Regardless of our attitude, God is always leading.

Measure the photos and memories from the past so that you can be reminded of how good God is. ■

Start for day

Fred Wood,
Pastor Emeritus,
Nashville



Start With a Smile: Mother to daughter about to be married: "After you're married,

you can expect an occasional argument with your new husband. Remember though, it's wrong to lose your temper and throw dishes." Daughter: "Oh, I'd never do that, mother." Mother: "That's right, daughter. Throw pots and pans. They won't break."

This Truth: Many married women who have never considered divorce have probably considered manslaughter, maybe even murder, at least a few times.

Memorize this Scripture: "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath." Psalms 37:8

Prayer: "Lord, help me to realize many deeds are preceded by anger. Give me the wisdom and strength to avoid it." ■

God is love. So what?

By Marvin Nail

Focal Passage: I John 4:7-21

In spite of the fact that the unbelieving world has taken almost all the words for love in our language and filled them with meanings mostly foreign to God, we still can have a clear understanding of what love means. We don't need to accept the world's definition of love. We have a better one. The theme of this week's lesson is at the heart of all that we are as Christians.

God's nature is love (vv. 7-8). The believer's definition of love is found only in God. Those outside the faith can have great affection for others; but they can't have this kind of love. Our example of love is the love the Father has for us. Since we have been loved by God in Christ Jesus we become able to love others.

When we allow ourselves to reach out in love to others we are demonstrating the love of God. We don't have to struggle to love our brothers and sisters in Christ because the love of God is in us. Neither do we have to make ourselves love the lost because through our faith love has become the natural expression of who we are.

God showed his love in Jesus (vv. 9-11). Do you want to get a picture of God's love for us and for the whole world? Look at Jesus. Everything we know about Jesus shows the great love the Father has for us. This self-sacrifice of the sinless one for a humanity steeped in sin is surely love of the highest order. This love is something we cannot express but that drives us to come much closer to him.

God communicates his love through believers (vv. 12-16). Since God is Spirit he cannot be seen by mortal mankind. How are the lost ever to know anything about him then? They can read about him in the Bible, of course, and learn a lot. Or they might learn

from preachers and others have to say about him. But words on the page, even of the Bible, and words spoken, even by the greatest preachers, cannot adequately communicate the love of God.

That task has always required human beings who live it. That life of love was seen most purely in Jesus Christ. But today that life is only seen by the lost in believers who show that love in all that they do each day.

God's love overcomes fear (vv. 17-18). This is pictured best for me in the experience of Jesus on the cross.

Even though he was going through such pain and agony he felt himself, even as Son of God, cut off from God, still he faced death itself with such peace it was like lying down to sleep. The testimony of Stephen was that he stood before a howling mob and a hail of stones in perfect peace because the love of God in his heart had banished fear.

But what about what the Bible teaches concerning the fear of the Lord? We must understand that there is a difference in the kind of reverential fear of God that is a kind of awe related to God's majesty and holiness and being afraid of God. Until we come to understand that God loves us we might well have reason to be afraid of him and what he might do to us in judgment. However, when we know the love of God and love him in return we know that we have no need to fear his judgment.

God's love demands that I love (vv. 19-21). Throughout this passage John has reminded us that the love of God draws love from us for him and for others. To receive the love of God means that we cannot help loving others. — Nail, a former Nashville pastor, works at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

Family Bible SS Lesson — Sept. 3

Preparing to serve

By Rick Roberts

Focal Passage: Acts 1:4-14

After recounting to Theophilus the purpose of his first Gospel record (v. 1), Luke gives us a summary of the post-resurrection ministry of Jesus. Luke ends the summary with Jesus' gathering the apostles together for final instructions. The conversation that Jesus has with his chosen apostles is where our focal passage begins.

Promise (vv. 4-5). Jesus commanded the apostles not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the promised baptism in the Holy Spirit. For forty days Jesus had appeared to them in various ways and situations. We learn from verse three that Jesus kept instructing the apostles about the kingdom of God.

It is apparent, as we shall see later, that the apostles felt that the earthly, political kingdom of God was now going to be established and finally all that was wrong in the world would be made right. God's righteous reign on earth would be established. Yet Jesus commands them to wait for the promised baptism in the Holy Spirit.

What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit anyway? Baptize means to dip or to immerse in water. If water baptism has to do with being immersed in water then spiritual baptism has to do with being immersed in the Spirit of God.

What does it mean then to be immersed in the Spirit? The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is that which takes place at the point a nonbeliever yields his or her life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is the

indwelling of the Holy Spirit that empowers the new nature of the Christian to live the victorious kingdom life here and now. It is this indwelling that Jesus commands the apostles to wait upon.

Task (vv. 6-8). The disciples raised a question that is quite understandable from their perspective. They didn't ask a bad question but the wrong question. There will be an earthly kingdom established with Jesus Christ sitting upon the throne of David reigning from Jerusalem. This is clearly revealed in Scripture.

The problem was not the fact of the kingdom coming on earth but the time of the coming and who is to be doing what. Jesus did not tell the apostles that they had it all wrong. He told them that the time of the kingdom's coming was not their concern but the Father's (neither is it our concern by the way). Their concern was being witnesses of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Notice, in verse eight, the area of witness they are to undertake. First of all, they are to be witnesses in Jerusalem which corresponds to our home towns. Next, they are to spread the witness to all Judea which corresponds to those who are not like us, and then they are to spread the witness to the far reaches of the planet. And that is affirmed by Jesus later.

Obedience (vv. 9-12). After giving the apostles final instructions Jesus is lifted out of sight into the air and enveloped by a cloud. What

kind of cloud was it? I believe it was the cloud of the Shekinah glory of God spoken of so many times in the Old Testament.

The apostles couldn't take their eyes off of the glory cloud of God. Two angels appear and tell them not to stare into the heavens. They remind the apostles that they have preparation to make and that Jesus would return in the same manner in which he left. Then they journeyed about a mile back to Jerusalem to wait as the Lord had instructed them.

Prayer (vv. 13-14). While waiting, the apostles continually devoted themselves to prayer. It is important to note that these were not just prayers tossed up before bedtime. The word translated "continually devoted" means to persist at or stay by in Greek. The apostles with single mindedness stayed in prayer waiting for the promised indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

There is a major difference between the apostle's situation and the situation of believers today. Believers are no longer waiting to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit came and baptized you into the body of Christ and empowers you to be a witness of Jesus Christ. Let us with single mindedness join in prayer and prepare to serve in the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells us to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. — Roberts is pastor, First Baptist Church, Rockwood.

Explore the Bible SS Lesson — Sept. 3

Teach me
your way,
O LORD,
& I will
walk in
your truth...
Psalm 86:11



Memphis filmmaker answers call to serve God

By Sara Horn
For Baptist Press

HOLLYWOOD — Each year, hundreds of young ambitious actors, singers, and entertainers look for a sign — the Hollywood sign to be more specific. Leaving their homes, their families, and familiar surroundings to venture into the murky waters of the Los Angeles film industry, many fail in their attempts to fulfill dreams of fame and fortune.

While many Christians avoid Tinseltown all together, there is a growing number who have moved out west not to be discovered, but to answer a call bigger than any casting director could make. One such Christian is Jimmy Duke, assistant director of Inter-Mission, a Christian film organization.

Duke, a 1998 graduate of Union University in Jackson, said the entertainment industry is a mission field that has been neglected by Christians for far too long.

"Christians are always complaining about the content of television and film, how horrible it is, the sex and violence, and all the propaganda but what they don't understand is if it weren't for the Christians in the industry right now it would be a whole lot worse," says Duke.

Duke says that for what does get out to the movies and to television, there is much more that does not make it to the theatres and prime time because of Christian executives who are saying no. He says these are the people who need prayer and support.

"It disturbs me that so many people don't understand that," says Duke. "It's so easy to complain. It's a lot harder to do something good."

Raised in a Southern Baptist home in Memphis, and a Christian since he was six, it was at age 14 that Duke received a "distinct yet generic" call from God to go into the entertainment industry while attending a summer camp.

"This was really shocking to me at first because I had really thought I wanted to be a teacher," says Duke, who was a member of Macon Road Baptist Church in Memphis.

Duke went on to attend Union after high school, though he struggled with the decision to major in theatre instead of education. Enormously influenced by Christian studies professor Paul Jackson and Christian ethics professor David Gushee, Duke also discovered a great mentor in communications art professor David Burke.

Duke feels that the church as a whole has settled for sec-

ond best and has been playing catch-up for far too long.

"God is a God of excellence," says Duke. "He wants us to do the best we can do, to the best of our abilities. As Christians, we need to be the ones on the forefront, we need to be the groundbreakers and leading the way, instead of following."

Duke found his calling to the entertainment industry encouraged when he applied and was accepted for the last semester of his senior year at the Los Angeles Film Study Center, an offshoot program of the American Studies program sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU). While there in L.A., Duke took classes designed to help refine his craft in filmmaking and production and worked as an intern at Tolin-Robbins, the largest producer of kids programming for the cable network Nickelodeon.

While completing the program, Duke continually felt God's confirmation that L.A. was where he needed to be, and after returning to Union to graduate and receive his diploma, back to Hollywood he went.

"Coming from the Bible Belt, L.A. is definitely different," says Duke. "The people in the industry are mean. Honestly. But other southern Californians are actually, in my ex-

perience, pretty nice."

For more than a year, Duke worked for Warner Brothers in their international promotion department. After turning down an offered position at Warner, Duke worked as a production assistant for several different projects, and was soon hired by Inter-Mission, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to build up the body of Christ professionally, spiritually, and personally.

"Inter-Mission is a great organization to work for. It combines my two passions, both the entertainment industry and ministry," says Duke.

Founded in 1987, Inter-Mission is comprised of nearly 3,000 skillful professionals who have a love for Jesus Christ, a passion for excellence, and a desire to effect moral change on popular culture. The agency sponsors four major quarterly events each year as well as other events.

In addition, it hosts an annual Oscar night bash in March, a National Day of Prayer event in May, a spiritual retreat in July, and various other writer, actor, and industry related workshops. Currently, an average of 400 to 700 industry professionals attend Inter-Mission events.

"I really believe if the church had not abandoned this medi-

um, we would not be where we are today," says Duke. "It's a sad testimony but it's the truth."

According to Duke, Christians as a whole are not doing "catch-up" to the entertainment industry trends and standards.

What Duke's organization does well as others are faced with is "getting other Christians to speed with what's going on," says Duke. "The majority of Christians around the country don't understand and comprehend the spiritual battle that is taking place in Hollywood."

"The only way we're going to reach popular culture is if we live with it, eat it, and breathe it, so we can understand where the needs of the people are," says Duke.

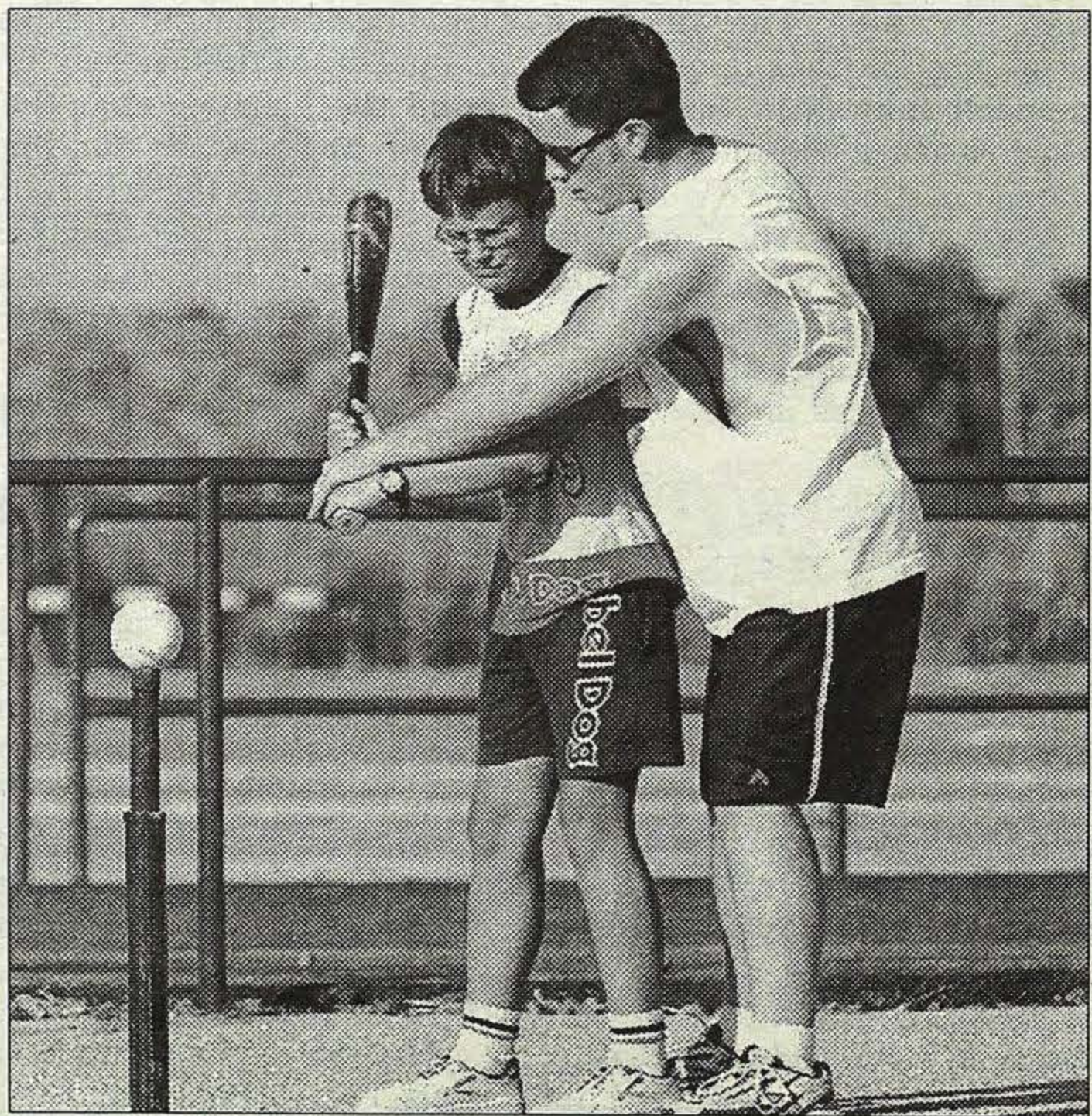
Duke makes one thing clear.

"I am not interested in being a Christian filmmaker," says Duke. "I am not interested in being a 'Christian filmmaker.' I am interested in being a filmmaker who is a Christian." He says the word "Christian" is not an adjective, it's a noun.

"I'm a filmmaker who wants to make films and impact my Christian world view."



state/national news



From Sinking Creek to Spain

Craig Greer, right, teaches a young Spanish boy the fine art of hitting a baseball during a sports clinic in Binefar, Spain. Greer, from Sinking Creek Baptist Church, Johnson City, and six volunteers from Arkansas recently led sports camps in Spain that were attended by many young people. SBC International Mission Board missionaries are working with Spanish Baptist churches to start more churches in Northern Spain. "The evangelistic needs are great. The people's hearts are hard toward the Gospel," Greer observed. — Photo by Grace Robinette

11,532 people accept Christ in Sierra Leone

Baptist Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — More than 11,500 people — thousands of Muslims among them — made public decisions for Christ recently when an evangelistic campaign was conducted in war-ravaged Sierra Leone.

A team of 27 evangelists from International Crusades and the International Mission Board joined churches of the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone to witness to unsaved victims of war here.

Since 1991, rebels of the Revolutionary United Front have been attacking civilians in order to gain control of the country's diamond mining regions.

As villages are destroyed by vandalism, thou-

sands of refugees are left to cope with the loss of their homes and families.

With the need for deliverance comes hope from God's people.

"A simultaneous outpouring of God's love was reported by evangelism teams in every town where visitation and crusade meetings were being held," reported Southern Baptist missionary Ron Hill.

While the groups were sharing the Gospel, Muslims hung a banner in the neighborhood that read "Hold tight to the rope of Islam." Radio announcements warned Muslims to beware of the tactics of the strange people visiting their homes.

"Despite the resistance, thousands of people were among the 11,532 who came to Christ during the crusade," Hill said. ■

State convention offers severance to employees

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Baptist Convention executive board recently approved a severance plan for workers who choose to quit their jobs during implementation of a new strategic plan.

The severance offer, which is open to employees who leave their jobs between Aug. 1 and Dec. 31, "is not targeting anyone," said Jim Hill, executive director of the state convention.

However, Hill said, some

workers have had a hard time adapting to changes under the "New Directions" staff reorganization. On Jan. 1, he noted, all convention employees received a new job description and many received a new supervisor.

Under the plan, employees with less than 10 years experience will receive two weeks' salary and benefits for each year they have worked with the convention. Employees with more than 10 years of service would get five months' compensation plus a week's salary for

every year of service.

Hill did not say how many people he expects to leave. He told the board's administrative committee, "I hope to see very few who choose to do this."

The strategic plan emphasizes field-based strategies and customizes responses to expressed needs. It was implemented six months into a two-year implementation. The implementation has been made difficult because of Missouri Baptists' fractured political landscape, Hill observed. ■