

TENNESSEE'S BAPTIST REFLECTOR

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Team treats patients, evangelizes in Rio

Connie Davis
and Reflector

DE JANEIRO, Brazil — The five M.A.S.H. (Mobile Surgical Hospital) deployed during the Kosovo conflict, five mobile Tennessee Baptist health care teams were sent across this sprawling city of eight million.

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94 percent of CP gifts directed to missionary support

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — More than 94 percent of all national Cooperative Program missions gifts go directly to sending and supporting missionaries and training ministry leaders, according to David Hankins, vice president for Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

The remaining six percent goes to programs that support retired ministers and their widows, defending religious liberty, and providing management of convention ministries, Hankins said.

The actual amount of 94.19 percent was released in a CP advertisement in the September issue of *SBC Life* that promotes Partners in the Harvest, the theme of the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

The goals for the celebration include baptizing one million people this year, involving record numbers in volunteer missions, and contributing \$750 million to CP and other

2001 state YEC ...

—Continued from page 1

because of scheduling at Vanderbilt Memorial gym. Vanderbilt has been a gracious host to Tennessee Baptists for the past 30 years and we are grateful for our relationship with the university."

The letter noted attempts were made to secure other venues in Nashville, such as the Gaylord Entertainment Center and the Nashville Convention Center, but no facilities were available. "While change is often difficult for many of us, we believe there are many positive benefits we will enjoy in Murfreesboro," the letter stated.

Positives of the move, according to the letter, include easier access, expanded area of free parking close to the Murphy Center, improved sound quality because of better acoustics in the arena, 2,000 hotel rooms blocked in Rutherford County and southeast Nashville, people will be closer to the stage, and breakout sessions will be hosted by churches in both Rutherford County and Nashville.

The registration fee for YEC will remain the same — early-bird registration is \$7 and late registration is \$10.

The YEC promotion and registration packet will be mailed in late September. For more information, call the YEC office at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2077, or (615) 371-2077. ■

Dayton teenagers pull man from burning car

Baptist Press

SODDY-DAISY — Two Tennessee Baptist teenagers saved a 90-year-old Soddy-Daisy man's life Sept. 8 when they pulled him from his burning vehicle, according to the city's police chief.

Aaron Kopowski, his sister Emily, and their friend Amber May were driving to a high school football game when they were caught in heavy traffic. The Kopowskis are members of First Baptist Church, Dayton.

May noticed smoke coming from Baxter Gann's 1990 Ford truck ahead of them. As the smoke turned into sparks, May told Aaron to jump out and tell the man to pull over.

"I guess he didn't know his truck was even smoking," Aaron said.

Just as the two girls helped the crippled man

from his truck and got him near their car, his hicle burst into flames, Aaron said. Seven passersby also caught in the traffic noticed the flames and called 911. Members of the Soddy-Daisy Volunteer Fire Department extinguished the fire within minutes.

Gann's truck was totaled. The fire, possibly caused by a leak in his gas tank, could have killed him, but the teens saved his life, authorities said. Having a broken foot, he would have had a hard time getting out of his truck on his own, he said.

Soddy-Daisy Police Chief Allen Branum and member of the volunteer fire department are planning to present the teens with plaques during a pep rally at Rhea County High School, where the students attend. "We are going to honor them for recognition of their heroism," he said. ■

mission causes (Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, etc.).

Tennessee Baptists are participating in Partners in the Harvest. For information, call Gary Rickman at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at (615) 371-2020. ■

LifeWay trustees ok record budget

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a record operating budget for 2000-01, approved major capital expenditures, and reviewed plans for the first phase of building construction in revitalizing LifeWay's conference centers.

The operating budget of \$418,895,000 was approved during the Sept. 11-12 meeting, along with fixed assets ex-

penditures of \$40,330,000.

Ted Warren, chief operating officer and executive vice president, told trustees the agency's budget takes into account an expectation of strong revenue growth.

Warren also reported to trustees that projected revenue for the agency's 1999-2000 fiscal year ending Sept. 30, is \$372,184,000, exceeding the budget of \$362,668,000 by \$9.5 million or 2.6 percent. The increase is 11.6 percent above the previous year's revenue. Funds provided from operations, money for reinvestment in ministry expansion after all expenses have been paid, are expected to be 3.3 percent, compared to a budgeted 2.9 percent.

In August, LifeWay announced a centralized organization with top leadership based in Nashville as the first major step in total revitalization of the two conference cen-

ters. Under the new structure, the centers will be operated as one organization with facilities at two locations. Comprehensive sales and marketing plans have been developed, according to T. Michael Arrington, vice president of LifeWay's corporate affairs division.

Step one of construction at Ridgecrest will begin with an investment of \$8.5 million during fiscal 2001 and 2002, for a 120-room hotel, conference space for 1,200 persons, and 100 additional parking spaces. Hotel rooms typically will feature queen-size beds and private baths. Conference space will include an amphitheater, classrooms, and a large assembly room with seating for approximately 900 persons or banquet seating for 560 persons.

Arrington said the revitalization, which will be done incrementally and alternating between the Glorieta and Ridgecrest locations. ■

Moore elected TBC Executive ...

—Continued from page 1

Moore was nominated for the presidency of the Executive Board by Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Millington.

Newcomb noted that Moore, pastor at Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, for 20 years, has been "a wonderful leader in the state."

Moore served as vice president of the Executive Board during the current year.

Three people were nominated for board vice president — Jewell Jennings, a member of First Baptist Church, Lebanon; Richard Spurling, a member of First Baptist Church, Madisonville; and Vern Powers, retired TBC staff member and member of First Baptist Church, Nashville.

In nominating Jennings, Herbert Higdon of Jackson observed she has been a long-time member of the board and has served in the convention in a variety of roles.

Crossville pastor Dan Haskins nominated Spurling noting that there had been a limited number of laymen elected to office during his tenure on the board.

Powers was nominated by Gallatin pastor Larry Gilmore. Powers had been defeated by Gilmore for the convention presidency two years ago. "He's consistent and

committed to Tennessee Baptists," Gilmore said of Powers.

Jennings was elected to the position.

Mattie Mullins, a member of Cherokee Baptist Church, Johnson City, was elected by acclamation as secretary of the Executive Board. She served during the past year as chairman of the Convention Communications Committee.

Board members also approved the election of John Allen, pastor of Mullins Station Baptist Church, Memphis, to fill the unexpired term of Marvin Spivey on the Committee on Boards.

Board members heard a report from Tennessee Baptist Foundation President W.L. "Bo" Childs regarding application for membership in the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, a nationwide organization made up of 959 nonprofit organizations.

"In wake of what happened with the Baptist Foundation of Arizona, this is an ongoing effort to maintain our integrity and accountability," Childs told the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Board members also heard Salary Compensation Study and Transportation Study reports. No action was taken on either report. ■

Team treats patients, ...

Continued from page 1
partnership and the team conducted in Rio in the summer. Hallock has served the clinics since she predicts the church will continue to minister to the center, and prison inmates. The clinics were held with great results from the Sept. 1 project. In coming weeks Brazilian members will minister to new Christians and others who expressed a desire to study the Bible, said Hallock.

In addition, many people received physical help, said Hallock, who is a registered nurse and led the team which worked in Rocinha, the largest urban squatter's slum in America with 350,000 residents.

Needs met

Doctors and vision workers were busiest volunteers. Teeth were pulled and glasses were distributed. Many people had suffered pain for several years because of the state of their teeth. Reported Rick Hallock, dentist of Maryville Baptist Church, Goodlettsville. Many Brazilians couldn't see well and new or used glasses brought by the team after their vision had been prescribed. Received glasses for the first time, worked.

Doctors treated respiratory minor illnesses such as sinus infections, ear infections, and joint pain. And major illnesses

such as asthma, tuberculosis, heart problems, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

Some patients were treated who, like in America, wanted to confirm a diagnosis. Some had a diagnosis from the socialized medicine program of Brazil but couldn't afford the medicine, dental care, eyeglasses, or time away from jobs

to stand in line for them. Others didn't have the time or health to participate in the medical program.

Volunteers involved

The 107-member health care team was made up of volunteers recruited by the Dunns from 12 states and Puerto Rico. Fifty-six were from Tennessee, including 11 from Mt.



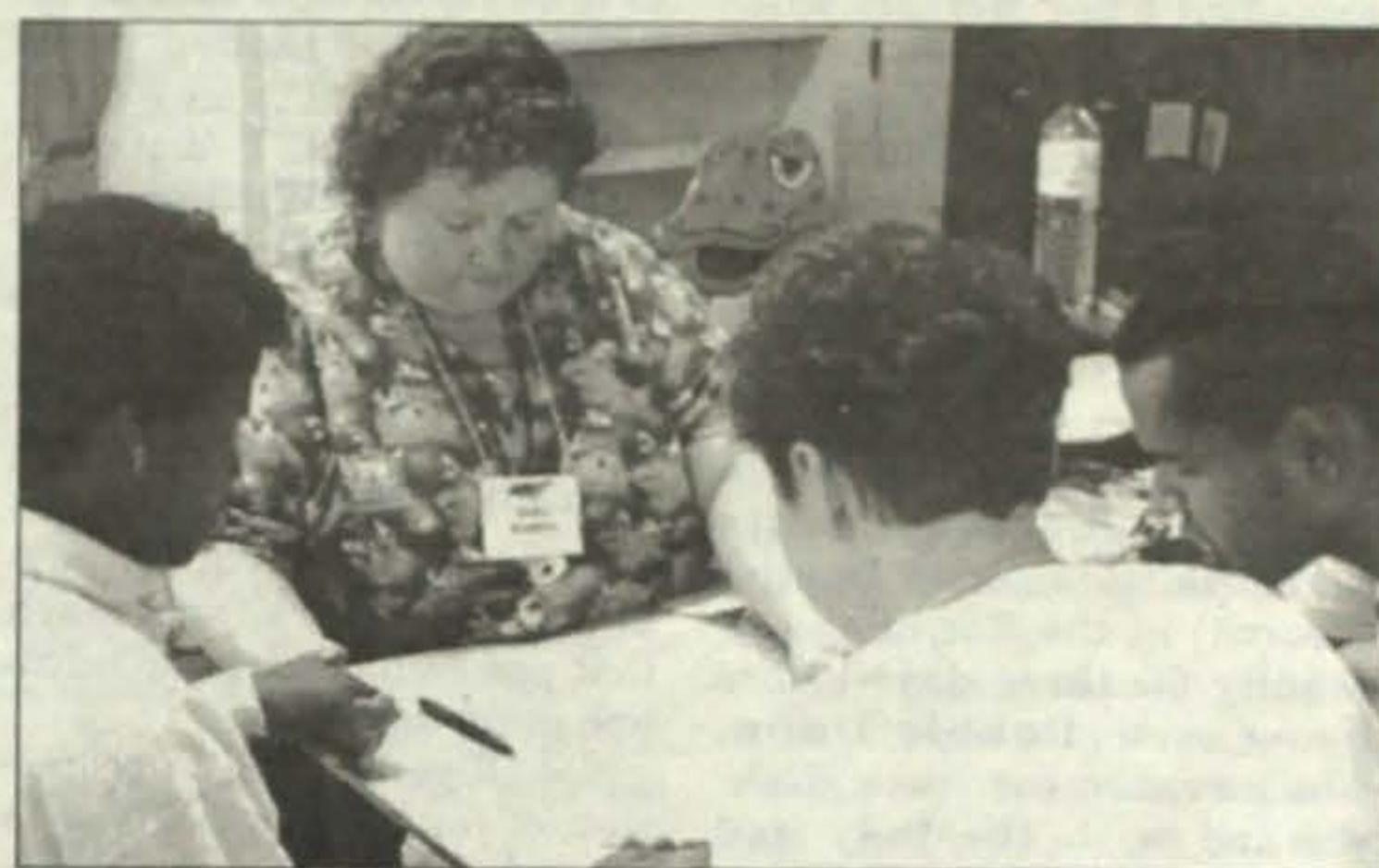
PHARMACIST Steve Myers of East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville, consults with Nancy Newman, nurse practitioner of Madison Baptist Church, Jackson.



TEENS from Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, Katherine Martin, left, and Becker Miller, package pills for distribution.

Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville; nine from Scenic Hills Baptist Church, Memphis; and six from Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida.

— See Team, page 4



NURSES Jana Harris, second from left, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Brenda Wisdom of Goldsboro, N.C., pray with a patient with help from a translator.



DEWEY DUNN, right, gastroenterologist of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, talks to a patient with help from a translator.

Acceptance of medicine in Rio is miracle: missionary, TBC staff

By Bonnie Davis
Editor and Reflector

DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Brenda Hallock, missionary and coordinator of Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership, and Henrique Sezar Gomes, executive secretary of the social action board of the Carioca Baptist Convention, began meeting with a top customs official in Rio, a Christian, last year to get approval for the medical supplies several health care teams would bring with them.

Before the Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, health team arrived in August, she was told after that team no more medical supplies could be brought into Rio by air with their baggage. Though time was running short, Hallock contacted the Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Office on about Aug. 1 and informed the staff the medical supplies for the Aug. 31 – Sept. 9 team would have to be sent by air freight to the country arrive by Aug. 18.

Terry Sharp of the TBC staff was in Nicaragua but asked his assistant, Kim Huff, to call Steve Marcum, minister of missions, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova. Marcum contacted Tracy Schmidt, church member who is CFO and senior vice president, Fed Ex-press.

Company officials agreed to help although they learned about 4,000 lbs. of supplies from volunteers in 10 sites were involved. And Bellevue Church agreed to coordinate the effort in Memphis and store the supplies with the help of Scotty Shows, minister of activities and international missions.

Sharp and Huff began working with Bobbie Dunn, team coordinator of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, to arrange for the medical supplies to be prepared according to regulations and some to be picked up by Fed Express while some would be transported by volunteers.

The TBC staff also arranged for paperwork to be cleared through customs offices in Miami, Fla., and the Tennessee Secretary of State's office in Nashville.

In Rio just a few days before the supplies were to be shipped, Hallock and Gomes learned a large tax would have to be paid on the supplies if they were sent in this way and regulations which were new to them would not allow the supplies to be released in time. She called the TBC to cancel shipping plans.

When Hallock called, Huff said, members of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, and Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, had arrived at the Baptist Center to move supplies driven from East Tennessee. They were loaded into a truck which would be driven by Andy Gunn of the TBC staff to Bellevue.

The volunteers were willing to help although they weren't directly involved in the effort, noted Huff. That kind of involvement had occurred throughout the effort, she added. Fed Ex-press returned supplies already at the church

to their origination points. And the TBC returned items collected in East Tennessee.

Back in Rio, Hallock tried to get permission for volunteers to bring supplies with them although she had been told that wouldn't be allowed. She learned the top customs official was in Thailand and it was too late that day to meet with other customs officials.

She worried through a long weekend but had time to pray, said Hallock, before arriving Monday morning with Gomes to meet with customs officials. While waiting, she learned the top official was not only back in Rio because of an illness in his family, but was in the office.

Their request for acceptance of the supplies if brought by the Aug. 31 – Sept. 9 team along with their baggage was approved.

The final step in the odyssey, a spot check of supplies by airport officials and the health inspector to ensure all medicine were up-to-date, was met.

"It was a miracle that everything worked out," said Hallock.

Further good news is that the team brought so many supplies, several teams can work without taking supplies, Hallock and Dunn reported. ■



Team treats patients, ...

—Continued from page 3

Most of the volunteers were health care professionals, but workers without health care skills also served. Dewey Dunn explained many workers without medical skills are needed to direct the vision clinics, to provide spiritual counseling, and to assist medical workers. He especially encourages family members of health care volunteers to become involved.



A woman in her 50s came to the clinic at Igreja Batista Memorial (Memorial Baptist Church) in the Rocinha community for three days before being seen. **Bobbie Dunn**, who served in the vision clinic, worked with the lady and learned she had traveled from her home in northeast Brazil to the clinic to ask for eyeglasses.

The woman learned about the clinic from her pastor and had received money from her church to pay her way. Dunn fit her with three pairs of glasses — two pair because correct bifocals weren't available and a third stronger pair for reading to help her in the future.

The woman, a Christian, was exultant over her glasses and told Dunn she would be fasting and praying for the clinic. Then Dunn showed her to the medical area for treatment of a burn on her leg suffered when a motorcycle veered too near her after she arrived in Rio.



The first man in line when volunteers arrived one day at the school being used by **Premeira Igreja Batista** (First Baptist Church) of Vidigal was Antonio Rainundo de Oliveira. He came at 3 a.m. because he wanted eyeglasses, learned **Clara Lynn Williams**, retired missionary who served in Brazil for 33 years. Williams, a member of Madison Baptist Church, Jackson, said he came to the clinic the day before and wasn't seen by the North Americans because of the number of people in front of him.

De Oliveira said he had never had glasses and had difficulty reading. "He wants to read the newspaper," reported Williams.

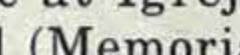
De Oliveira explained he couldn't afford glasses, which would cost about \$200 real (currency of Brazil). He makes about \$150

a month, although he works seven days a week.

After receiving glasses, De Oliveira met with Williams who presented the plan of salvation to him. De Oliveira said he attended the Universal Church.

Williams explained leaders of the church teach some Christian beliefs but emphasize demon possession, request payment for prayers, and teach that people must ask for salvation every day.

De Oliveira made a profession of faith and promised to attend Premeira Igreja Batista, Vidigal.



A six-year-old black girl stood in the doorway of the small second floor room of the Baptist Friendship House which had been transformed into a dentist's office. She stood with her older sister. **Melissa May** of First Baptist Church, Greenbrier, serving as a dental assistant, escorted her to the dental chair.

"You are such a beautiful girl," dentist **Ken Williams** of Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, told the girl as he smiled at her. He put his hand on her chin and opened his mouth to encourage her to open hers. "Ask her to open her mouth wide," said Williams to the young man serving as translator standing beside him.

"Do you have a husband?" he asked. "No," exclaimed the translator. "Ask her," said Williams as he grinned at the girl. After hearing the question the girl paused and then responded negatively by shaking her head. "Do you have a boyfriend?" he asked. The girl responded negatively again,

smiling this time.

Later, after pulling two baby teeth which were decayed, Williams patted the girl's shoulder and said, "You were such a brave patient." He waited for the translation. Williams leaned back from her and grinned at her.

"Will you marry me?" asked Williams. After hearing the question in Portuguese, the girl paused just a few seconds before she adamantly shook her head, "No!"



Gerry Bohn, internist of Griffin, Ga., joined two members of Igreja Batista Memorial and a translator in making a house call on an ill woman who was the mother of one of the members. He found the woman sitting in the one-room house she shared with her daughter and her family. She leaned forward on a couch because she was having difficulty breathing. Her legs were swollen. Bohn soon realized the woman was suffering from congestive heart failure and told her

daughter she must be hospitalized.

Then he asked if the woman was a Christian and learned she was not. He suggested they pray. Bohn and the translator, a medical student, both prayed for the woman.

The ill woman and her daughter cried during the prayer. He hoped she made a profession of faith during the Portuguese part of the prayer. Then the other church member offered to ask a friend with a car to take the woman to the hospital.

The next day Bohn saw the daughter outside the church and asked about her mother. Bohn learned she had gotten to the hospital.

— See Team, page 6



LAURA TAYLOR, a dental hygienist of First Baptist Church, Kenton, examines a boy's teeth before cleaning them.



THE CHURCH sanctuary of Igreja Batista Memorial (Memorial Baptist Church) of Rocinha as triage and a counseling center for a clinic. **Rebecca Harber**, right, of Scenic Hills E Church, Memphis, helps conduct triage.

Dunns stay focused on overseas missions work

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Dewey and Bobbie Dunn of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, began participating in overseas missions work in 1978 and began leading groups in 1988. Most of the groups they lead are health care teams since Dewey is a gastroenterologist here.

The Dunns lead from three to four teams a year and have done so for six years. How do they do it, some would ask.

Dewey Dunn shrugs off the financial investment, which ranges from \$8,000-\$15,000 a year not including the purchase of medical supplies. Others help them with

the cost of supplies, explained Bobbie, as they give to an overseas missions fund of Woodmont Church. Supplies for the Aug. 31 - Sept. 9 effort cost about \$8,000.

For time away from his job at Vanderbilt University Hospital and Veterans Affairs Hospital, Dunn works holidays and combines missions efforts with study leave, such as on a missions project this year to Korea.

Bobbie, a homemaker, does the detail work on projects while Dewey contacts volunteers after his work day. Several years ago the couple allocated

their basement to medical supplies. In addition, the couple hosts many internationals in their home and often arranges for them to move to Nashville to

enter medical programs here. When Bobbie suffered lymphoma five years ago the couple increased their mission work. When she entered re-

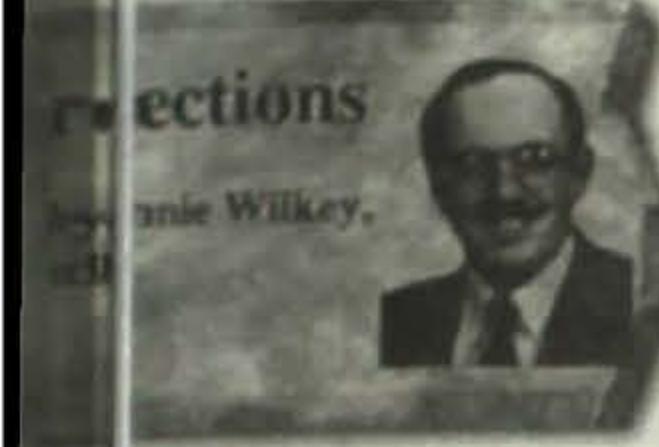
sion, they decided to spend whatever time they have together on missions, Dewey Dunn.

He explained his involvement strengthened their marriage and is a way to combine his passion with an avocation that is more fulfilling than golf or a hobby because it is for "It's the key to fulfillment," Dewey Dunn. ■



LEADERS of the health care team, Bobbie and Dewey Dunn, left, of Nashville and missionary Brenda Hallock pause in the Rio airport before saying good-bye.

What matters most — winning or how you play?



ections

anie Wilkey.

great American sports Grantland Rice wrote in For when the One Great comes to mark against me, he writes — not a won or lost — but how wed the Game."

udent Rice wrote those before Bobby Knight the forefront of college ball or Southeastern football became the d death" game it is to

ts talk shows have been

buzzing over the recent firing of Bobby Knight as basketball coach at the University of Indiana.

Few can argue that Knight is a coaching genius. When it comes to the "X's and O's" of basketball, there aren't many who can match him. Three NCAA championships bear witness to his coaching ability.

Yet, it was not his inability to coach that led to his firing. It was his infamous temper and generally outlandish conduct that led Indiana President Myles Brand to fire him.

Knight had been warned about his behavior and was given more than one opportunity to "clean up" his act.

A recent incident involving an Indiana student proved to be the last straw for Knight.

According to a foxnews.com report, Brand called Knight "defiant and hostile" and said he had shown "a continued unwillingness" to work within the guidelines of the athletic department.

Support for Knight has been amazing. Fans are willing to overlook his behavior because he is a winner. The Indiana president and the student who had the confrontation with Knight are being cast as villains. Is it winning or how you play the game?

As to SEC football, it's all about winning and nothing else. Just listen to sports talk shows, especially the week before a major game.

Losing just one game can lead to calls for dismissal. Just ask Coach Jim Donnan at

Georgia, who lost to a team (South Carolina) that had won only one game in its last 22. Is it winning or how you play the game?

Now, I am just as competitive as the next person and I take great pride in the fact that it was my team that beat Georgia. Fortunately, however, the world does not stop when we lose a game. Life goes on.

It's a shame we don't place as much emphasis on our church or religious life as we do on our athletic teams. If we could channel all that zeal into efforts to tell others about Jesus Christ, our world would be a much better place to live.

When it comes to life, it does matter how you play the game.

Do you play it with integrity



editorial/
opinion

and honesty or do you play anything goes? Do the ends justify the means? Is it OK to spread rumors or lies if it benefits us?

As Christians there really is no choice. We must set the example. Whether it be on the job, at home, or in church, we have to show others around us that "how we play the game" matters.

Christians have a tremendous advantage. All we have to do is play the game with integrity. With God on our side, we have already won. **B&R**

Overseas volunteers make sacrifices and blessings



view

annie Davis
itor

Thank you, Tennessee Baptist for sending me to report health care team which Sept. 1-9 as part of the see/Rio Baptist Partner-

is reminded in Rio howans make sacrifices to n these efforts and how so "make" blessings for lives and others as they

e members of Scenic baptist Church, Memphis, their own funds for the — about \$18,000. The only has about 60 at-
Sunday School each Miriam Wilmeth began g the effort about a year

ago after realizing the number of health care workers in the church although she had never been on a missions trip.

Donnie Parker, family practice physician of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, participated in his first missions effort although he left children ages 2, 3, and 7, his wife, and a new practice. And despite what most people think about doctors, he didn't know how he would pay for the trip because he had just begun the practice.

After he committed to go, God provided one payment nearly to the very dollar, he reported, from family members. Before he left, his church, Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, helped him and the 11 other members participating. Then God improved his financial situation. For example, a physician who had an office near Parker's unexpectedly retired and many of his patients came to Parker.

Many other physicians and dentists not only paid their own way, but like Parker closed down practices or hired substitutes which meant they had other expenses. And like Parker they left families back home.

Sandy Stokes, a clerk at Veterans Hospital, Nashville, and a member of First Baptist Church, Greenbrier, has served on several health care teams. When she commits, she never has the funds, she said. But they always arrive and in the most miraculous ways, Stokes added.

Shirley Hester, a former dental hygienist of First Baptist Church, Rutherford, realized she was called to serve in short-term overseas missions in January 1999 during a low period in her life. Since then she has served on seven overseas efforts. Hester credited her husband, Bill, a pharmacist, for funding her missions work. She will keep going as she feels called, said Hester.

Charles Manley, a Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board member and pharmacist in Bolivar, switched vacation he was going to spend with his family to the dates of this trip and paid his own way to participate. Serving on his fourth overseas missions trip, Manley said he will do it again because "it's very special."

Finally, I must mention the "volunteers" who made and continue to make the most sacrifices — our (Southern Baptist) missionaries. Thanks Brenda Hallock, Karen Gray, Alton King, Angie Findley, Jeff Renard, Brenda Highfill, Kathy Myatt, Carrie Myatt, Margaret Johnson, Hannah Hallock, Eddy Hallock, retired missionaries Clara Lynn Williams of Jackson and Glen and Audrey Swicegood of Dothan, Ala., and others who helped us. Your example is hard to meet.

To everyone, you "made" blessings for me too. **B&R**

Partnership Prayer Requests

September

20 — Praise God for the Network Leaders workshop held Aug. 26 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ask God to bless the people who attended.

21 — The new Central West Team in Portugal, made up of IMB missionaries, is praising God for recent contacts made through a street painting ministry.

22 — Pray for Ridgecrest Southern Church in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, as they use Upward Basketball to reach young people. Ask God to bless the church.

23 — Pray for Sharon and Steve Ford, IMB missionaries to Portugal, as they develop a youth mission team to reach people.

24 — Pray for a team from Crievewood Baptist Church, Nashville, led by Pastor Cris Cannon. The team is teaching marriage enrichment Sept. 20-25 at Living Hope Community Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

25 — Pray for a team from the Baptist State Convention of Michigan who will lead children's camp in Siberia. Nelda Popkey is team leader.

26 — Pray for Art and Dottie Dennis, IMB ISC Nicaragua Disaster Response volunteer coordinators as they schedule recovery projects to help victims of Hurricane Mitch.

27 — Pray for Calvary Church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, as it leads 35 churches in the area to unite against the building of a gambling casino.

Put life on hold — it's time for football and we're Southern



and it's a miracle if anyone comes forward. And, of course, four: the eating. Lots of eating.

The point, however, is that people worship the game of football, treat it with great respect and commit hours of time to it. The players are treated as gods, fans lining up for hours just to obtain their signature on a piece of paper. This has always fascinated me. Why do we want to have someone's writing?

I've never been an autograph seeker, although in 1973 at a Mobile, Ala., Burger King, my siblings and I broke into our version of Una Paloma Blanca after my sister petitioned Slim Whitman for his John Hancock. He obliged, but I'm still not convinced he fully appreciated our boisterous rendition of

his signature tune.

I will also admit I made a point of touching legendary Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant on the occasion of his very last football game. I was in Auburn's band on the sideline and there he was, standing right beside me. I'll always cherish the kind, knowing, and appreciative look he would've given me had he noticed my arm on his big, houndstooth shoulder. I know the deputy's look was kind and knowing.

Why do we decide athletes are more than human beings? Sure, they can do things the rest of us can't. They've taken extraordinary innate talent and trained it to perform spectacular feats of physicality. Why, I bet most football players can run up the stairs with-

out getting winded, unload their groceries without tweaking the lumbar, or even get up from the Lazy Boy without making the "old man" grunt. Wow....

But, they're people and they're going to let us down. What happens to our religion then? I'm trying to imagine Christians committing to the never disappointing God, with the fervor of a Southern football fan. There's something I'd line up to see. Instead of standing on the sidelines and cheering we'd actually get in the game. Maybe we could even practice all week and not just show up for the event on Sunday. Now, that would be a Music City Miracle. ■ — Roe-buck is a freelance writer. Her husband, Jon, is pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

Team treats patients, ...

—Continued from page 4
pital and was admitted, but had died several hours later.

When Bohn told her he was sorry, the woman said it was okay because she was sure her mother was in heaven.

As the man approached the table she was manning in triage at the Baptist Friendship House, nurse **Brenda McGinnis** felt the Holy Spirit enter also. This man is ready to make a commitment to God, she thought. After conducting triage, McGinnis, a member of Cedar Fork Baptist Church, Philadelphia, asked him through her translator if she could pray for him. She asked God to show him what God had planned for him, especially his love. The man thanked McGinnis and left for treatment.

About an hour later, the man returned with a big smile, tears on his face, and he was nodding affirmatively at her, said McGinnis. "I got up and gave him a big hug," she said, because she realized he had just accepted Christ in the clinic's spiritual counseling area, which was offered to patients after treatment.

Bruce Martin, pastor, Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, counseled people following treatment in a clinic being held in an elementary school. The school was being used by Premeira Igreja Batista (First Baptist Church), Vigidal, which hosted a clinic.

Martin saw many Brazilians make initial commitments to God, he said. He also saw North American workers, including the 11 members of his church participating in the project, leading patients to make professions of faith as they treated them, said Martin.

"It just thrills me to take 11

soul winners back to Knoxville," he said. "Watch out, East Tennessee," said Martin.



Buddy James, a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida, served as a counselor at the clinic held at Igreja Batista Memorial, Rocinha. After seeing a person make a profession of faith, he asked him or her if he could hug them. His translator finally told him he didn't have to ask permission because Brazilians like to hug each other.

James, who is retired from the military, realized the rea-

son for his hesitancy and explained to the translator the United States has laws against sexual harassment which restrict a man from hugging a woman without permission.

Brazilians could teach Americans something in this regard, said James.



Pharmacist **Ron Burney** of First Baptist Church, Kingston, said he is so glad he came on his first overseas missions trip. With some encouragement from his translator, he led his first patient to become a Christian and because it became easier,

several after that, he reported.

Burney used Portuguese New Testaments he got from the Gideon organization, of which he is a member. He arranged to bring 45 pounds of the Bibles with help from his church. They were all distributed and more were needed, he said.



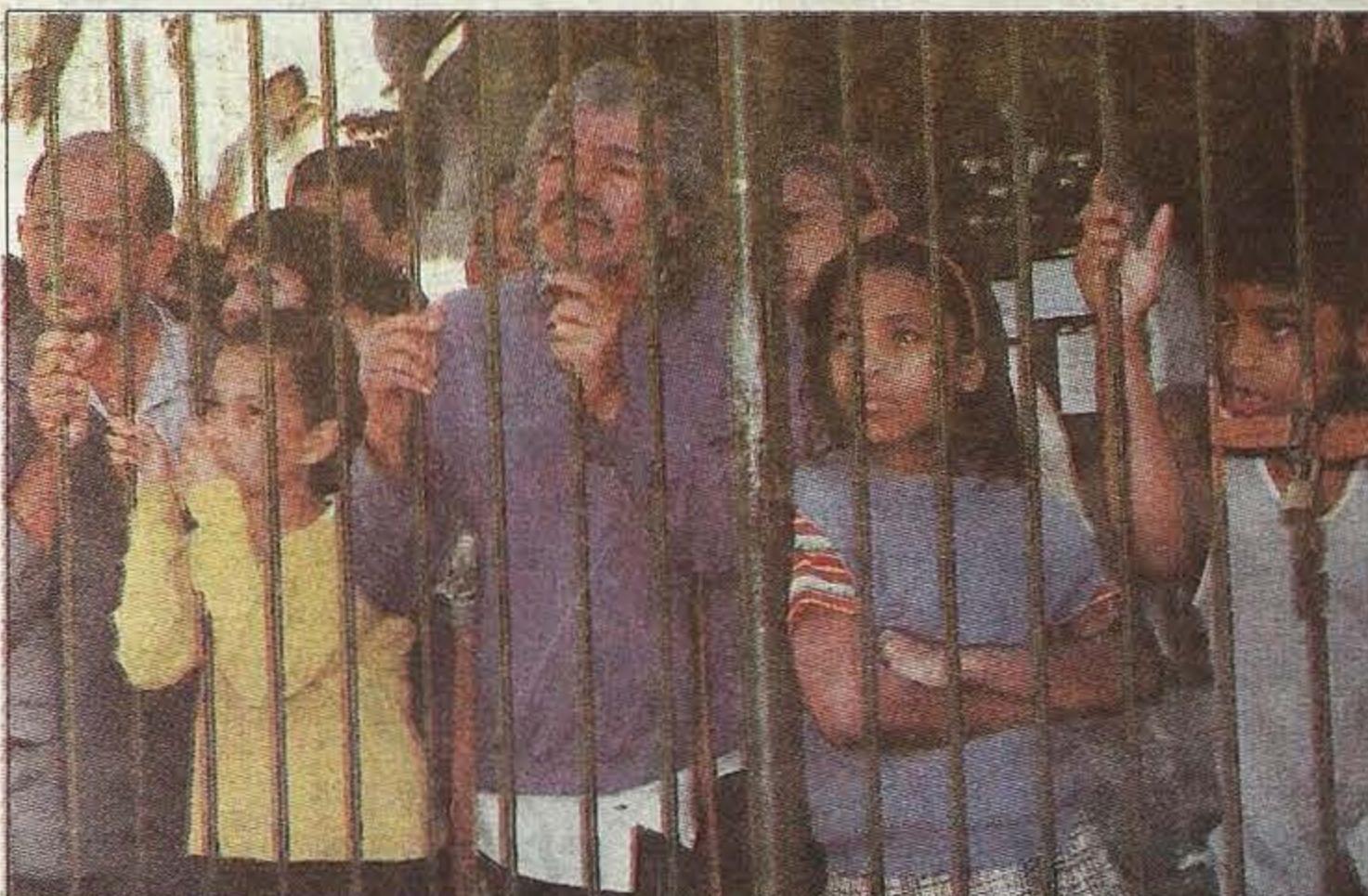
Faced with a line of about 25 men to be seen in the prison



by each, **Dewey Dunn** Nashville and **Everett L** an internist of Atlanta, G were in a quandry faced — See Team, page 7



RETIRED missionary Clara Lynn Williams of Madison Baptist Church, Jackson, shares her faith in Portuguese with a man.



BRAZILIANS wait at the gate of Igreja Batista Memorial, Rocinha, to be treated in the clinic.



MEMBERS OF Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, largest group from one church, are, from left, front row, Katherine Martin; Becker Miller; Andria Blake; second row, Bobbie Woods; Marilyn Turner, nurse; Jeanette Woods; Sylvia Easday; Norma Miller, nurse; third row, Donnie Parker and John Blake Jr., family practice physicians; and Bruce Martin, pastor.



PREACHING at Igreja Batista Memorial (Memorial Baptist Church), Rocinha, is Rick Barkley, dentist of Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, with help from Brenda Highfill, mission journeyman from Brazil and Oklahoma. The sign reads, "Overcoming the Crisis."



MISSIONARY Kathy Myatt, left, a registered nurse, and Nancy Newman, second from left, a nurse practitioner of Madison Baptist Church, Jackson, treat a patient. Myatt and her family are from Nashville and have served Dickerson Road Baptist Church and College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin.



DENTIST Rick Barkley, left, of Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, visits with a patient about his life and God with help from a translator.

Team treats patients, ...

Continued from page 6
volunteers in this pro-
ject dispensed medical

help without spiritual help, the doctors realized the patients might not receive counseling

because the Brazilians serving as counselors were greatly outnumbered by the prisoners.



DY LIMING, an assistant physical therapist of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida, changes the bandages on the legs of a woman suffering from poor circulation with help from dentist Rick Barkley, Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville. The woman has not been able to leave room of her small house for four years.



CARING a young patient is nurse Joan James of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida.



FAMILY PRACTICE doctor John Blake Jr. of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Nashville, examines a woman patient as a translator watches.

Dunn said he and Lee decided they couldn't risk not providing spiritual counseling. So they treated only the major problem of each patient and then succinctly explained they were there to help them because of their love for God. They asked the prisoner if he would like to pray right now to receive Jesus into their lives. Most wanted to pray that prayer, reported Dunn.

The Baptists worked three days in the minimum security prison which was home to about 1,600 prisoners and some rats and pigeons. The pigeons could enter because the very high ceiling of the former garage for military vehicles had holes in it.

To try to meet the needs, the team of eight volunteers was enlarged to 12 on the last day. Only students of classes offered by the prison were allowed to participate.



The head of the education program is Sonja Maria Souza Costa, a member of Igreja Batista, Freguesia, which has helped develop a ministry in the prison. Church members, wearing red aprons, served during the clinic visiting with those waiting to be seen and witnessing to them.

Dentists **Rick Barkley** and **Ken Williams** of Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, were well prepared to work in the grim surroundings of the prison by their experiences on other trips. Barkley has served on 12 overseas trips and Williams on 11 or 12, he said. They have both practiced dentistry under trees, so the prison surroundings weren't difficult, they explained. The last day they pulled 195 teeth from about 100 patients.

Barkley and Williams usually serve as relief dentist for the other's dental practice when out of the country, but they had to find other dentists to fill that role since they were gone at the same time. They both try to participate in one overseas missions trip a year, they reported.

Barkley said he commits to that during the current trip because many obstacles will present themselves before the next trip. He goes to practice his faith, he explained. ■

— See more coverage in next week's issue.



PEOPLE in the Rocinha community wait along a sewer to be seen at the clinic there.



BOBBIE DUNN of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, shows a lady wearing new eyeglasses a tract to test her vision. She is helped by a translator.

Texas committee proposes large decrease in SBC giving

By Mark Wingfield
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

DALLAS — The movement to dramatically reduce the amount of money flowing from Texas to the Southern Baptist Convention gained steam when a key committee went a step beyond reducing seminary funding and also to completely defund the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and nearly defund the SBC Executive Committee.

The Administrative Committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas unanimously approved the budget changes for calendar year 2001 during a Sept. 13 meeting here. To become effective, the budget proposal must be ratified by the convention's Executive Board Sept. 26 and then by convention messengers Oct. 30-31.

Morris Chapman, a former Texas pastor who is president of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, is urging Texas conservatives to turn out in force at the BGCT annual session in Corpus Christi to defeat the proposed budget. However, some of the state's most conservative churches have already left the BGCT to form another state convention.

Supporters of the budget changes likewise are urging

Texas Baptists to attend the convention session, virtually ensuring a larger-than-normal turnout. Convention planners estimate more than 6,000 messengers could register for the meeting.

Action taken by the BGCT Administrative Committee would reduce the amount of funding for the SBC Executive Committee from \$706,000 to \$10,000, completely eliminate \$345,000 in funding for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and reduce funding for the SBC's six seminaries from \$5.3 million this year to a maximum of \$1 million next year. That \$1 million would be distributed based on the number of Texas students enrolled at each school. Texas churches still would be able to designate funds through the BGCT to all SBC causes, including the seminaries, if they desire.

The Texas proposals do not alter distributions to the SBC's International Mission Board or North American Mission Board, which will continue to receive about \$12 million and \$5.6 million respectively from the BGCT next year.

In a joint statement, presidents of the SBC seminaries said:

"The Cooperative Program is

an agreement between the SBC and the state conventions. No state convention has the right to redefine this agreement unilaterally. The proposed BGCT action is a dagger thrust at the heart of the Cooperative Program. This is a sad day for all Southern Baptists, and is a great tragedy for the BGCT."

Chapman noted the action "has the potential to cause hard feelings among Southern Baptists in Texas and split churches all across the state of Texas."

SBC President James Merritt

said the BGCT is putting itself in a dangerous position. "What are they going to do if local churches begin to take the same attitude toward them they're taking toward the SBC," he said, noting local churches could keep money for needs in their churches instead of sending it to the BGCT.

Bob Campbell, chairman of the BGCT theological education study committee, observed the CP "is not owned and operated exclusively" by the SBC in Nashville. ■



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MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Pleasant Grove Piney Bay Church, is seeking a full-time youth director. Located outside of Knoxville, Please send all resumes to Rev. Ben Pierce, 2660 Piney New Market, TN 37820, (865) 7030.



Grace Baptist Church, Springfield, is looking for a part-time youth director. Send resume to Grace Baptist Church of Springfield, P.O. 747, Springfield, TN 37172.



Woodmont Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a youth minister. You may contact Randy R. Youth Minister Search Committee Chairman, c/o Woodmont Baptist Church, 2100 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, TN 37215.



Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida, Tenn., is searching for a full-time youth/music minister. We have blended worship and extensive recreational facilities. Search Committee, 19360 Alt. Oneida, TN 37841, (423) 4518.



Monte Vista Baptist Church, Maryville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of youth and young adults. We are affiliated with SBC. Send resumes and commendations to Monte Vista Baptist Church, 1735 Old Niles Rd., Maryville, TN 37803.



First Baptist Church of Greenfield, a growing church in Weakley County in Northwest Tennessee, is accepting resumes through Oct. 1 for the position of minister of youth. This is a full-time position. Please send all correspondence to Youth Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 89, Greenfield, 38230.

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e she wouldn't attend founder's church

Nashville Baptist fired from Weigh Down

Baptist Press

VILLE — At least 35 of Weigh Down Workshop's been pressured to quit, and a Southern Baptist employee contends she was because they would not attend created by Weigh Down under, Gwen Shamblin.

Pillow, a member of Avenue Baptist Church a single mom, told Baptists she was heartbroken to lost the position she had for almost three years in distraught when asked her to lie about assault.

told that because the company was moving, my position was being taken by someone who attended Remnant Fellowship said Pillow, a former counselor at Weigh Down. She thanked me for my work but said my services longer needed. Because I am a member of the Remnant Fellowship, I was being re-

middle of being fired, sent me a letter saying Human Resources people made a mistake and I wasn't going to be fired, only allowed to resign," Pillow said. "I signed this letter that I resigned and was paid. Well, I didn't sign it. It was not the truth. She

Publisher cancels book; LifeWay removes from stores

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A weight-loss program that has been criticized for its controversial health practices now is drawing fire for the questionable theological views of its leader, whose publisher has shelved plans for her next book.

Christians had earlier found fault with the Weigh Down Diet because it places no restrictions on what types of foods participants may eat. Apologists and church leaders are now asking whether founder Gwen Shamblin holds heretical views of the Trinity, based on her comments on the Weigh Down Web site.

Since 1992, Shamblin has taken her business from a garage start-up to a multimillion-dollar Nashville corporation. Her 1997 book *The Weigh Down Diet* has sold more than one million copies. There are 30,000 Weigh Down Workshop locations meeting weekly around the world, including in thousands of evangelical churches.

The controversy intensified after Shamblin posted a weekly e-mail communiqué to her followers on Aug. 10. "As a ministry, we believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit," Shamblin wrote. "However, the Bible does not use the word 'trinity' and our feeling is that the word 'trinity' implies equality in leadership, or shared Lordship."

called me personally and that's just what I told her. They told me that I wouldn't get any money if I didn't sign those papers."

Pillow also kept copies of all the letters, including her termination notice and sent them to a Nashville attorney. She is seeking severance pay and attorney's fees.

Shamblin, who has ties to the

Church of Christ, started a new church in Nashville with her husband and several other couples in January 1999. The church, which meets in a warehouse, has about 80 members, mostly Weigh Down Workshop employees.

Since 1992, Shamblin has taken her business from a garage start-up to a multi-million-dollar

It is clear that the Scriptures teach that Jesus is the Son of God and that God sends the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not send God anywhere. God is clearly the Head."

Last week, Thomas Nelson canceled publication of Shamblin's new book, *Out of Egypt*, scheduled to ship to bookstores in late September.

"Gwen has touched the lives of untold thousands of people," Michael S. Hyatt of Thomas Nelson told *Christianity Today*. "We had the joy of publishing *Rise Above* and seeing it appear on the bestseller list. However, because of the recent controversy created by her doctrinal position we do not feel that we can go forward with this project."

In a related move, Shamblin's books have been removed from LifeWay Christian Stores. A statement released by LifeWay said: "We share concerns signaled by Gwen Shamblin's publisher, Thomas Nelson. When the release of her new book, *Out of Egypt*, was cancelled so near its scheduled September shipment to bookstores, we removed her other titles from our shelves. We believe she now espouses positions that are incompatible with sound biblical doctrine."

"Our responsibility is to uphold the high standards our customers have grown to expect in placing their trust in us." ■



need counseling," Orgeron said. "She's not out to cause any trouble here. She has a legitimate concern and complaint."

And Pillow may not be the only employee who was fired or forced to resign from Weigh Down Workshop because of the Remnant Fellowship issue.

A former high-ranking executive at Weigh Down told Baptist Press that at least 35 employees were pressured into resigning from the ministry because they would not join Shamblin's church and two others were fired. Another former employee, fearful for personal safety, confirmed Pillow's story.

While no lawsuits have been filed, several former employees told Baptist Press they have retained legal counsel. For people like Pillow, it's a matter of getting their severance pay and moving on with their lives.

"I'm still looking for work," she said. "It's been tough."

Orgeron said the congregation at Park Avenue will continue to support Pillow. "Many of our people are trying to encourage her," he said.

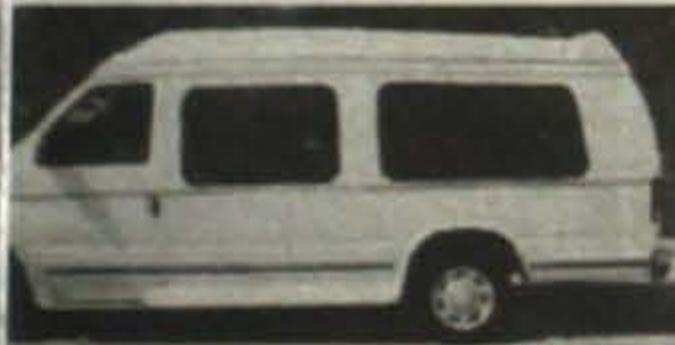
Shamblin told Baptist Press she would not comment about former employees because her company is a privately-held corporation. ■

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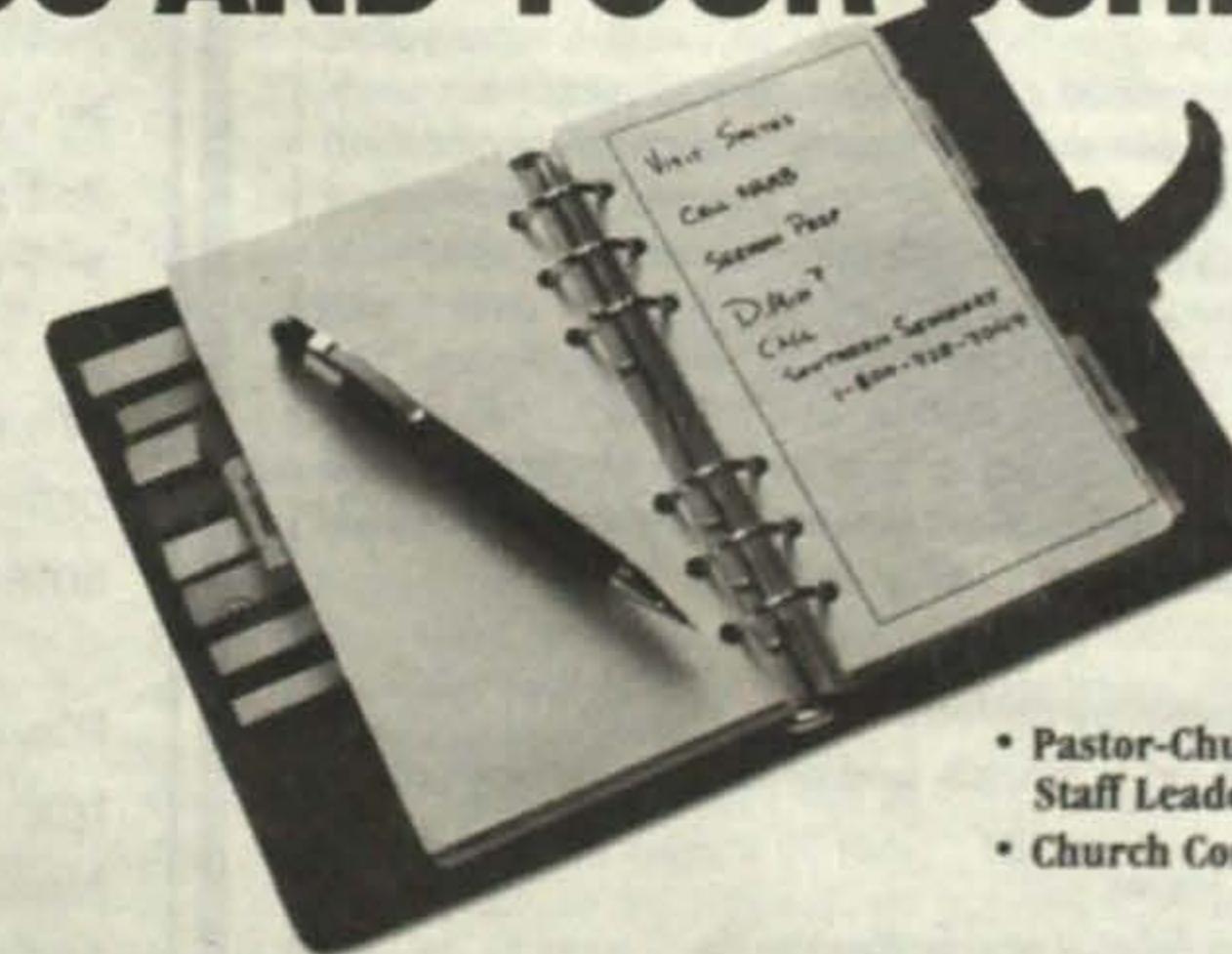
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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Wedgwood survivors consider tragedy on anniversary

By Todd Starnes
For Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — On Sept. 15, 1999, Larry Gene Ashbrook calmly walked into the foyer of the Wedgwood Baptist Church and began a bloody rampage that left seven people dead and seven others seriously wounded. The emotionally troubled loner ignited a pipe bomb and fired off 68 rounds of ammunition until he pointed a gun at his own head and pulled the trigger, ending his life.

It's been more than a year since crime scene tape encircled the massive Wedgwood complex. Grieving families have buried their dead and the wounded healed. Carpets soaked with the blood of the innocent were taken away. Bullet-riddled pews were replaced and walls were patched. And a congregation of believers has begun to heal.

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The story of what happened on the night of Sept. 15 is complex. But, at the same time, it is a story as simple as the gospel message, said Al Meredith, senior pastor of the 2,400-member church. The story of Wedgwood Baptist Church is a story about God's grace, he said.

"Here is the message," Meredith said during an interview in his sparse office. "God is in control and he loves us. That is a rock-bottom, foundational truth."

"God is faithful," he said, reflecting on the past 12 months of ministry. "The steadfast love of the Lord never changes. No matter the pit, God's love is deeper still."

"It sounds cheesy, but we endured this tragedy through the grace and the love of the Lord," he said. "What else can you say? The fact of the matter, it was the Lord who gives grace. It was the

Lord who was faithful. This was all about the Lord."

The Wedgwood Baptist Church of today is not much different from the Wedgwood Baptist Church prior to Sept. 15. The church abounds with Spirit-filled worshipers who joyfully give praise to God during morning and evening services.

Last year, the congregation added 224 new members, 41 through baptism. Weekday Bible study groups are scattered throughout the city and men gather in the wee morning hours to fellowship over coffee and God's Word at a nearby restaurant.

In other words, Meredith said, the work of the Lord continues, despite that terrible night when spiritual warfare came knocking on the church's door and took the lives of seven

believers — Kristi Beckel, Shawn Brown, Sydney Brown, Joey Ennis, Cassie Griffin, Kim Jones, and Justin Ray.

Officially, the criminal case has been closed, according to Lt. David Burgess, the Fort Worth Police Department's public information officer.

"To be honest, we may never know why Larry Gene Ashbrook chose Wedgwood Baptist Church," Burgess told Baptist Press. "But we know this was not a hate crime."

"He made some very sad comments about Baptists and religion but you have to take into account his mental condition," Burgess added.

Burgess noted that Ashbrook's siblings had described their 47-year-old brother as chronically jobless, a paranoid schizophrenic. ■



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How does God save us?

By Marvin Nail

Focal Passage: *Isaiah 43:1-3a, 10-13, 18-21, 25*

Church folks have been talking about being "saved" almost from the beginning of the Christian faith. Folks outside the family of faith have seldom understood what we were talking about because they have not always known the danger they were in. But when you consider that the alternative to being saved is spending eternity in hell it becomes a very descriptive term indeed.

Through his prophet Isaiah God describes his saving work in a manner that anyone can understand. In this passage he speaks to some of the deepest needs of all mankind. Whether you have already been saved or not these words are meant for you.

Protection from danger (vv. 1-3a). Since the first couple got their first glimpse of life outside the Garden each person has discovered that life has its sharp edges. No person has ever lived long without bumping against some of life's unpleasant circumstances. When we encounter that side of life we immediately begin looking for insulation or protection. Some make use of some kind of drug as an insulation or enlist someone or something that they hope will provide a buffer; but in the final analysis each of these fail to do the job.

Throughout Israel's history she wandered from one temporary help to another. Each attempt at safety only succeeded for a brief time. Alliances with pagan neighbors always got them into more difficulty. The prophet reminds them in this passage that the one who brought them into being as a people was the one who still cared for them. There was no difficulty which could ultimately defeat the people God has chosen for his own. God did not promise that painful times would pass them by. What he promised was that those circumstances could never be victorious over them.

Assurance of relationship (vv. 10-13). Through the prophet God said that we are a living testimonial to his power and love. We were chosen by God to have fel-

lowship with him and trust in him. Israel, as well as believers of all eras, needed to remember that there are no other options for us. We may experiment with other options of our own making or those offered by the world around us; but in the end we have only God.

Far from being cheated out of options by God, we have been offered the only choice and that choice is One who cares for us. He has provided for our salvation and he will never let us go.

Provision for the future (vv. 18-21). The circumstances of Israel in the days of Isaiah were not peaceful. Instead they were days of turmoil and uncertainty. Shortly before they were carried into captivity they were a weak nation with little hope for anything better. In the days shortly after they returned from exile they were even weaker. Yet they were still the people of God.

They could have wasted their future by dwelling on the past. But the past is only helpful as it points us into the right direction for their future. The pathetic group that returned from the exile had learned a dependence on God and had re-learned their dependence on him. They came to understand that their future was safely in God's hands and no one could ever separate them from God.

Cleansing from sin (v. 25). This is the aspect of salvation that means more to us than any other. God saves us by blotting out our sins. He does this not because of who we are or what we have done for ourselves. God blots out the sins of those who trust him because of who he is. The guilt and shame of Israel's history would be blotted out by God. The guilt and shame of the individual believers is wiped away by the power of God. That makes us truly whole. — Nail, a former Nashville pastor, works at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

**Family Bible
SS Lesson — Sept. 24**

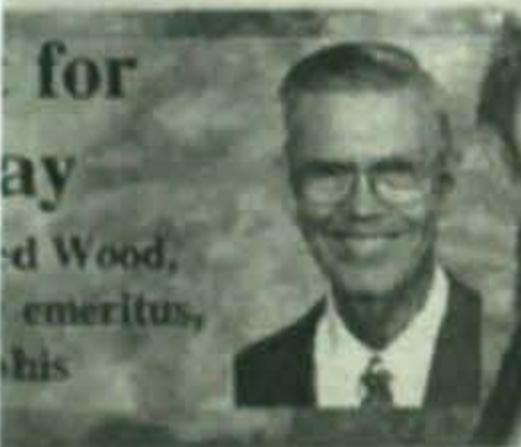


It is not wise to put new wine in old wineskins. Something about the chemistry does not allow the old to accommodate the new. Our Lord was wise enough about relating the old to the new. He used it as an illustration in Matthew 9:17. The Holy Spirit is ready and willing to pour out countless blessings. Could it be he is reluctant some of us because we continue to try to use wineskins? The truth of the Gospel never changes, but we must be willing to step out of our zones as we share the message of hope with the world.

In chapter nine, Christ had another of his encounters with the Pharisees. They were faced with the letter of the law; Christ was more concerned with meeting people's needs and drawing himself. The Pharisees didn't like his methods.

a new style of worship, dividing a Sunday class that is already too big, deciding on a needed building project, or doing something we have never done before, the depth of our faith is constantly being tested. Inside the church, we can get caught up in petty discussions that have a way of getting to the point of division and destruction, or fashioning new wineskins! A young man struggling with homosexuality, a woman battling cancer, a teenager desperately lost trying to find the way, probably not going to be interested in our opinions of "doing church." They just want JETH. They want to see and hear, live out, LIFE found only in Christ. Let's be sure the answers we give are relevant to the questions being

fiddled while Rome burned, they say. The headed for Hell while we discuss the irrelevance of the lost world looks on disinterested and disengaged more cynical with time ... and drifting further from the truth. It's time we started some new wineskins so we can accommodate the wine the Lord has for us! ■ — Thompson is director of missions, Holston Baptist Association, based in Johnson City.



Helping people

By Rick Roberts

Focal Passages:
Acts 3:1-10; 4:8-12

The next three lessons that we have are all related to ministry. The Greek word translated "ministry" has the basic meaning of service. In the New Testament service may be done for or to another person but ultimately the service is always for God and powered by the Holy Spirit. So, ministry at heart is always active. As we look at this week's lesson, let us see how ministry was worked out in the early church.

Seeing a person (ch. 3:1-4). As our focal passage begins we see Peter and John going to the Temple for prayer. The language used in the Greek suggests that it was their habit to go at this hour for prayer in the Temple. Since the afternoon prayer time included the evening sacrifice it was the most highly attended time of prayer. Because the afternoon time of prayer was so well attended, it was a perfect time to be at the Temple to beg for alms. Then as now people in need turned to God's people for help. Then as now those in need mostly wanted money. The man that was laid every day at the Beautiful Gate wasn't looking for spiritual help. As Peter and John were going into the Temple, this lame man began to ask them for money. What happens next is fascinating.

Two things take place that I find extremely important. First Peter and John really see this lame man as a

person in dire need. The word that is translated "fixed his gaze" is the same word that is used to describe how the Apostles stared after Jesus when he was received into the Shekinah glory cloud of God at his ascension. Peter and John didn't just take a glimpse at this pitiful man and toss him some coins. They really looked at this man and at his condition. The second thing that happens is that Peter and John demanded that the lame man look at them. They required that this man pay attention to them and what they were about to do. In order for ministry to take place we must first close our eyes in prayer and then let God open our eyes to those around us.

Helping a person (vv. 5-7). God opened the eyes of Peter and John to not only the physical needs of this man but also the more important spiritual need of this man. Notice that ministry did not take place until the man gave his attention to Peter and John. The church must demand the attention of those who come for help. Notice also that Peter reached out to help the man to stand up. The church must be willing to actively reach out to help those in need to stand up both in a physical sense and spiritually as well. Notice also that ministry is done in the name of Jesus. The focus of all Christian service is Jesus Christ.

Watching the results (vv. 8-10).

In the New Testament when God heals it is always immediate and never gradual. You may have found in this miracle a kind of parable of salvation. Look at it for a moment. Here is a man who is lame from birth, in dire need being cut off from God (outside the Temple), healed immediately by believing in Jesus, giving evidence of that healing by praising God in his presence (inside the Temple). This is the healing that is most important.

The miracle of salvation is the greatest miracle of all! Notice also that because this man was dramatically changed, others came to see what caused such a change. As the church ministers and lives are changed others are drawn to see the cause.

Giving credit to Jesus (ch. 4:8-12). The unbelieving world always demands answers for the miraculous that does not fit their worldview. Peter stood up in the midst of the high court of Israel and gave a bold answer to their question. How could Peter be so bold in the face of religious experts who only wanted to deny the work of God? Peter could be so bold and proclaim Jesus Christ only because he was filled with the Holy Spirit and only as we are filled with the Holy Spirit will we be able in our age to proclaim salvation in Jesus alone to a lost and often hostile world. — Roberts is pastor, First Baptist Church, Rockwood.

**Explore the Bible
SS Lesson — Sept. 24**

Share God's Word



leaders⁺

■ Dennis Wayne Johnson has been called as associate pastor of worship and ministry at Meridian Baptist Church, Knoxville. He formerly served as minister of music at First Baptist Church, Covington.

■ Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Kingsport, has called Allen Bowling as minister of music. He formerly served at First Baptist Church, Nacodoches, Texas.

■ Ron Bargatze has been named executive director of Belmont University's Athletic Association. He is co-host of WNSR's morning sports talk show in the Nashville area.

■ Susan G. West has been named senior associate to the president of Belmont University, Nashville.

■ Lawrence M. "Larry" Pugh has been called as pastor of Black Oak Baptist Church, Clinton. He began service on Sept. 17. He previously served as pastor of College Heights Baptist Church in Eldorado, Ill., for 11 years. He began his ministry in 1974 as minister of music at First Baptist Church, Alcoa.

First Baptist Church, Paris, aids hospital in Tanzania

For Baptist and Reflector

PARIS — The Baptist Men's ministry of First Baptist Church here recently became concerned for needs at Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Tanzania.

The men's ministry recently asked for and received a long list of needs from missionary Susan Smith at the hospital, according to Carlos Owens, a retired Southern Baptist missionary, and director of the ministry. The men began praying and looking for ways to meet those needs, he noted. "God touched interested and generous people and companies to provide some of these needs and the ministry spent her money to provide other items and money for shipping," Owens observed.

Because of the ministry's efforts, the following items are either already in Kigoma or are on the way:

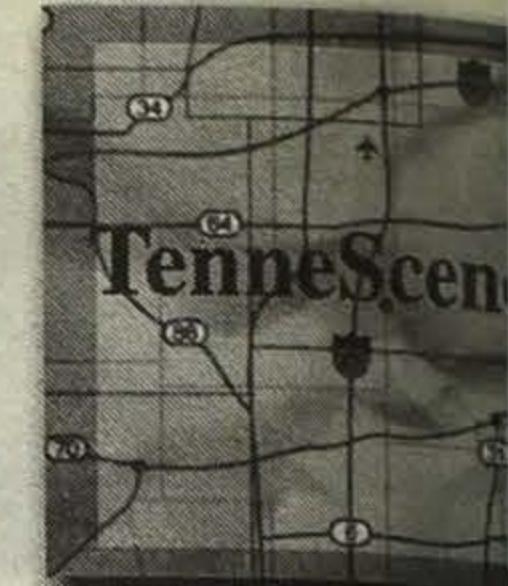
Three monitors for surgical units and ship-

ping costs worth \$30,120 were donated. Assessors for those units, valued at \$2,600, were donated.

Approximately 100 each of towels, pillow cases, sheets, blankets, hospital gowns, wash cloths, and 500 pillow cases, valued at \$1,205, were donated.

Items for 70 layettes for new born babies, estimated at \$700, were donated. An Ophthalmoscope/Otoscope dual unit, extra items needed to complete the layettes, drugs, and shipping, valued at \$1,264.59, were paid from ministry funds.

Equipment and supplies worth almost \$36,000 were sent to the hospital at a cost of \$1,264.59 cost to the ministry. That's equivalent to \$28.38 for each \$1 spent plus a lot of prayers and effort. The church's WMU ministry is continuing in the effort to provide more layettes for the hospital, Owens added. These will be shipped to Kigoma in November. ■



University of Tennessee, tin, a Spencer Williams bered print entitled "The cifixion" to be placed i Clarice Thomason Men Worship Center.

churches⁺

■ Westwood Baptist Church, Nashville, will hold its annual homecoming Oct. 14. The church will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Jerry former interim pastor and current evangelism director, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will speak during the service. Luncheon and afternoon program will follow.

■ First Baptist Church of Savannah, will hold regular services Sept. 24-27 with Jerry Robertson as guest evangelist and Lewis Harrington as music minister.

Toone Baptist Church, Toone, will celebrate 140 years of ministry with a homecoming service on Oct. 8. The main worship service at 10:30 a.m. will feature former pastors and musicians. A fellowship luncheon will follow. An afternoon service will begin at 2 p.m. featuring Steve Wood of Bolivar.

■ First Baptist Church of Springfield, will hold regular services Sept. 24-27 with evangelist Jim Henry, of First Baptist Church of Largo, Fla. Mark Slau, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Owensboro, will serve as worship leader.



An article in June's issue of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union's "WMU Bulletin" noted the Baptist Medical Center in Nalerigu, Ghana, was in need of bandages and envelopes. Churches were asked to send the items to a church in Tulsa, Okla. The church is no longer accepting the goods. Churches should now send supplies to Vickie Barnes, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 112 East Church St., Cartersville, GA 30120. I mark what it is and that intended for the "Ghana project."

FBC, Trenton, completes sesquicentennial celebration

For Baptist and Reflector

TRENTON — Members of First Baptist Church here culminated a year of planning and eight months of celebration of the church's 150th anniversary on Aug. 20.

That Sunday was designated as "homecoming" Sunday to highlight the sesquicentennial celebration. Festivities included the presentation of a plaque from Mike Kemper, director of missions for Gibson County Baptist Association.

tion on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society and a note-burning ceremony.

Church members burned the note on the indebtedness for the remodeling of the former "old sanctuary" into the "new" fellowship hall. The church is now debt-free.

During the morning service, one of the "church's own," Jimmy Knott, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., brought the message.

Many special events such as special speakers, luncheons, picnics, and banquets marked the church's 150th anniversary.

Guest speakers included SBC International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and Union University

member of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

■ Larry Hall, formerly a bivocational pastor at West Hills Baptist Church, Bristol, is now serving the church full time.

■ Michael Baird is serving as minister of youth at Fordtown Baptist Church, Kingston.

■ Robert and Connie Alewine recently gave the Baptist Student Union at the



ABOVE, Mike Kemper, left, presents a plaque to Pastor Billy Hammonds on behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. BELOW, William Breeden, left, and Tim Blackwell, burn the note which makes First Baptist Church, Trenton, debt-free.



DRESSED IN 1800s attire at First Baptist Church, Trenton, are, from left, Lynda Hammonds, Dudley Taylor, Martha Dunigan, Donna Wieland, Virginia Buford, Billy Hammonds, Jo Hall, Louise Ethridge, and Martha Davidson.