

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

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Of Belmont University

Fisher inaugurated as fourth president

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A new era officially began Sept. 29 at Belmont University here.

Robert C. Fisher was inaugurated as the fourth president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention-affiliated institution.

Fisher, former vice president for academic affairs at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Ark., was appointed president of Belmont in April.

Joining in the list of dignitaries who welcomed Fisher as Belmont's new president were James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Bob R. Agee, executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.



BELMONT UNIVERSITY trustee chairman Larry Thrailkill, center, places a medallion around the neck of new president Robert C. Fisher. Looking on is Herbert C. Gabhart, Belmont chancellor who served as the school's second president.

"In 1951, the Tennessee Baptist Convention initially expressed its support of the idea of a college of Christian education in Middle Tennessee through the election of trustees, a gift of \$29,785, and the

matriculation of students from the mid-state area," Porch said.

"In our nearly one-half century of affiliation, Tennessee Baptists have kept the faith through elected leadership,

monetary support through the Cooperative Program exceeding \$46 million, and scores of Baptist students from each grand division of Tennessee," he observed.

"Today, it is our desire to continue a more quality, reciprocal relationship, and we cherish the hope for increased Baptist identity with Belmont University," Porch said.

Agee, former Union University administrator, and Oklahoma Baptist University president, who represents 56 colleges, universities, and academies, observed Belmont has been a major player in the wider cause of Christian education over the years.

"Be assured, your colleagues in Christian education will pray for you and stand with you as the years unfold," Agee said.

— See Fisher, page 7

Don't apologize for standing up for morality: Bob Terry

By Lonnie Wilkey & Charles Key
Baptist and Reflector

PERSON CITY
It comes to fighting efforts, Tennessee Baptists stand firm, said a state paper editor who defeated a lottery in Alabama last year.

editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, observed Christians will be accused of trying to impose their morality on the

ally, it's the other way he said. Lottery proponents are trying to impose morality and values on a which currently does not gambling, he said.

"I don't apologize for standing for morality as it has played out in Tennessee years," Terry urged.

He made his comments at an anti-lottery seminar sponsored by Carson-Newman College and the Baptist and Reflector. Entitled "You or Life? Tennessee and Lottery," the conference

about 40 participants.



BOB TERRY, addresses participants at an anti-lottery seminar sponsored by Carson-Newman College and the Baptist and Reflector.

While Tennessee is just one of three states that does not have any form of gambling, Terry urged those in attendance not to get discouraged and think that they have no chance to defeat lottery proponents.

"The lottery can be defeated," Terry said. He noted that when efforts began last year to

legalize a lottery in Alabama, the first polls showed 65 percent of the people in the state wanted the lottery as opposed to 35 percent who did not. "The idea that a lottery could be defeated was foreign," Terry observed.

But Christians from various denominations, including the Alabama Baptist Convention, joined forces. When the vote was taken last October the lottery was defeated by a 54-46 margin.

More people voted in that one issue special election than had voted the previous November in a gubernatorial election, Terry observed. "That says the lottery is an emotional issue."

He noted that if the lottery can be defeated in Alabama it can be defeated in Tennessee and South Carolina, which currently is embroiled in an effort to legalize the lottery.

Terry said it is necessary to define terms carefully. "Lottery is gambling," he insisted. He observed that the word "gambling" is being replaced in many circles by the

word "gaming."

"We have to call the evil what the evil is. Don't let the gambling crowd hide behind 'kind sounding words,'" Terry urged.

Calling the lottery "the most

pervasive form of gambling in America today," Terry said it is an issue that needs to be addressed by the church.

"Some will say the lottery is a public policy issue and the — See Don't, page 3

"TONIGHT FOR A CHANGE WE ARE ANNOUNCING THE LOSERS IN THE STATE LOTTERY! HERE THEY ARE: LITTLE CHILDREN, THE COMMUNITY, THE POLICE, STORES, CHURCHES, TRUTH, JUSTICE, MERCY, RIGHTEOUSNESS, LOVE, AND THE ZILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO BOUGHT THE TICKETS!"



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about your newsjournal

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FDA approves abortion drug

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government has approved the abortion drug RU 486, ending a controversial effort that required nearly all eight years of the Clinton administration to complete.

The Sept. 28 announcement by the Food and Drug Administration served as a double blow to the pro-life movement. First, a more secretive method of killing unborn children was approved by the United States government. Second, restrictive guidelines proposed by the FDA in June for the use of RU 486 were eliminated in the final version.

While abortion advocates hailed the decision, pro-lifers decried the FDA action.

"The FDA's decision is a tragic one for women and for our unborn citizens," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "This is a dangerous drug that is fatal for unborn babies and hazardous to their mothers."

RU 486, also known as mifepristone, is used with another drug to induce abortion normally in the first seven weeks of pregnancy. Mifepristone, which will use the trade name Mifeprex in this country, causes the lining of the uterus to release the baby, who usually suffocates or starves to death. The other drug, misoprostol, is taken two days after mifepristone and causes the uterus to contract, expelling the child. Women return to the doctors office about 14 days after taking mifepristone to determine if the abortion has been completed.

Under the FDA's guidelines, RU 486 will not be available in pharmacies but from doctors who meet some minimal qualifications. ■

Churches protected from zoning laws

Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton signed into law Sept. 22 a bill providing houses of worship with greater protection from burdensome zoning restrictions.

The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act will also give persons in government-run prisons, hospitals, and group homes greater protection



Oak Grove dedicates fac

Oak Grove Baptist Church, Covington, La., dedicated its new Family Life Center Oct. 1. The building was constructed by 200 volunteers from seven states. The 162 square foot building, valued at approximately \$1 million, cost the church approximately \$500,000. In photo to left, the cornerstone is displayed by, from left, Wayne Barker, chairman, building committee; Pastor Barker; and Bob Avery, Brotherhood man. In photo below are building committee members, from left, Ron Cook, Lou Thompson, Wayne Owen, L. Ralph, Mike Howard, and Barker.



for religious exercises that sometimes conflict with broad, generally applicable rules.

The measure, sponsored by Reps. Charles Canady, R-Fla., Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., and Chet Edwards, D-Texas, as well as Senators Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., had broad bipartisan support. Groups from across the political spectrum supported the legislation.

In a White House written statement, Clinton said, "The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act will provide protection for one of our country's greatest liberties — the exercise of religion — while carefully preserving the civil rights of all Americans."

The bill would not exempt churches from zoning regulations, but it would require zoning officials to have a compelling reason when they substantially burden religious exercise. It also would require zoning officials to treat religious applicants at least as well as secular ones. ■

Texas committee approves proposal

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — Plans to reduce Texas funding to the Southern Baptist Convention passed a key committee Sept. 26 and are headed for final approval by the state convention in October.

The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas debated but strongly affirmed two separate proposals to

alter the way the state group shares funds with the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

One would reduce the amount the BGCT now sends to six SBC seminaries from \$5.3 million to no more than \$1 million. Since funds would be based on the number of students from Texas attending the school, all but one SBC seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, would be virtually defunded.

A separate measure would eliminate funding for the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and reduce dollars for the SBC Executive Committee to a token \$10,000 a year.

The 200-member Executive Board overwhelmingly approved both recommendations. The seminary-funding measure, first proposed by a study committee, drew opposition from about 25 or 30 members in a standing vote. The other motion, by the Executive Board's administrative committee, passed with about a dozen "no" votes in a show of hands.

Both proposals call for redirecting funds to Texas Baptist ministries.

The plan leaves intact, however, Texas funding for the SBC International Mission and North American Mission boards, two entities that combined receive nearly 73 cents out of every dollar given at the national level to the Cooperative Program unified budget.

BGCT messengers will give final consideration to the budget changes at their annual state-convention meeting, scheduled Oct. 30-31 in Corpus Christi. ■

Partnership Prayer Request

October

5 — Pray for an eight team from First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, they do construction/lism Sept. 29 — Oct. 8. Coroa area of Rio de Janeiro.

6 — Pray for the Baptist Convention of Michigan Single Adult Retreat held Oct. 6-8.

7 — Pray for three hosts Cardoso Fontes, Pedro Ernesto, and Geraldo — in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that are looking for chaplains.

8 — Pray for the province of Quebec, Canada. Ask continued resolution among the French English in the province.

9 — Pray for many Polynesian youth, who made decisions this summer at youth camp. Ask God to keep them to him.

10 — Pray for MSC volunteers Walt and Joanne Smith, Larry and Laura Phillips are working at Bamban Conference Center for Baptist State Convention Michigan.

11 — Pray for the province of Carioca Convention funds and the hiring chaplain to work with university students in Rio.

Baptists give water to Pikeville residents

By a Knoxville
First and Reflector

PIKEVILLE — Two Tennessee Baptist associations responded Sept. 28 to an emergency disaster relief request for drinking water in the area, according to Bearden, State Disaster Relief director.

Sevier County schools responded Sept. 27 as water ran out to operate the sewer and Pikeville residents with cloudy water in some waterlines while the state water appeared.

However, safety of the drinking water was still uncertain, according to Jim Whitaker, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Pikeville. He called Bearden Sept. 28 for help in securing water from Tennessee Disaster Relief after efforts to restore water service with the drilling of wells in the area. Pre-weekend rains caused collapse, sewer problems and muddying of the water.

The area has been without drinking water for at least three weeks," said Whitaker. "The whole town of Pikeville is supplied by wells, and then the wells went dry. The weekend rain caused the wells to collapse, and road construction gutted water into the sewer plant. We are now relying on well number four."

Responding to the emergency water request on Sept. 28 were Cumberland Plateau and Western District Baptist associations.

Roy Davis, Cumberland Plateau Association director of missions, and Clyde Thurman arrived Thursday morning at First Church of Pikeville with two truckloads of 360 gallons of drinking water, which had been purchased with Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief funds.

Later that afternoon, Thomas Winchester, pastor of Union Friendship Baptist Church, Como, and Tony Crossnoe, pastor of West Paris Baptist Church, both in the Western District Association, delivered 1,776 bottles and 300 gallons of drinking water to First Church of Pikeville.

Thomas, who also serves as Western District Association missions development director, said the association decided to deliver the water earlier than planned because the transport plans came together, and it was reported that Pikeville water may be approved for use by the state on Oct. 2. The water was approved as of press time for the *Baptist and Reflector* that day.

Other Baptist associations who volunteered their services were Big Emory Association director of missions David Acres, and William Carey Association director of missions Don Pierson, who offered to buy water from the association budget.

Whitaker, who estimated the total Disaster Relief water delivery to be around 1,000 gallons, along with five members of First Church distributed water Thursday to elderly and shut-ins in the Pikeville community. Among those ministered to by the church were an elderly woman who had not been able to wash her clothes for two weeks, and an elderly man who was almost blind and had

no water at all in his home.

According to Whitaker, Sept. 30 was also advertised on the radio as a pickup day at the church for water distribution, and that residents could call the church for distribution to the elderly and shut-ins.

In addition to delivering water, First Church of Pikeville passed out "living water" to the community through their witness, he noted.

"The old saying 'you never appreciate the well until the water goes dry' had proven true to many in our area," said Whitaker.

"We are just accustomed to turning on the faucet with clear, clean water coming out. We just simply take it for granted. We've used this opportunity to pass out living water."

Residents of Pikeville have been experiencing a water shortage for weeks due to weather problems and unauthorized water tapping in the area, according to local city officials. A long dry spell and a subcontractor's tapping into the water supply caused three of four wells not to operate, city officials reported. ■



JAMs scheduled at three sites

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Three JAM (Journey into Adventures in Missions) 2000s will be held for children in Tennessee.

On Oct. 7 a JAM 2000 will be held at Carson-Newman College and First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. On Oct. 14 a JAM 2000 will be held at First Baptist Church, Smyrna. And on Oct. 21 the event will be held at Union University, Jackson.

The JAMs will introduce children to missionaries and missions through games, crafts, ministry opportunities, and displays.

For more information, contact Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union at (615) 371-2038, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2038, or vanderson@tnbaptist.org. ■

Don't apologize for standing up for morality' ...

Continued from page 1

"I don't believe it."

He noted that while a pastor should stand in the pulpit and the congregation to elect a candidate because he is against gambling, it is able to speak out on a issue such as the lottery. He cited several reasons Christians should oppose the lottery.

It violates the biblical principle of concern for others. Gambling destroys the per-

sonhood of others by turning persons into things," Terry observed.

► It violates the biblical principle of loyalty to God. The 10th commandment instructs people not to covet, Terry observed. "Gambling teaches us to covet what others have."

► It violates the biblical principle of stewardship. He noted Christians are to be good stewards of all God has given, not just the 10 percent tithe

that is returned to God.

► It violates the principle of God's sovereignty. "Christians say God is in control," Terry said. Gambling relies on luck and says God is not in control, he noted.

► It violates the principle of created work. "Gambling mocks work," Terry said.

"The church has to be involved in anti-gambling efforts because gambling is against God's Word," he concluded.

Terry cautioned that gambling proponents often attach themselves to social causes such as education, the environment, more prisons, etc. "Gambling is the wolf in sheep's clothing," he said.

"It's interesting how we try to hide sin behind good sounding causes. That's what gambling does."

Terry frequently referenced a report from last year's National Gambling Impact Study.

The study reported there is reason to doubt that "earmarking" (for instance, lottery proceeds to education) increases funds for specific purposes and noted several states experienced reductions in areas that were earmarked for lottery income.

"A lottery seldom generates more money for the cause," Terry said.

He made a case that Christians should oppose gambling not only because it violates God's Word, but also that it is simply bad public policy and bad government.

Should the state be an advocate for gambling? That is a social policy question, Terry said.

He noted that government-sponsored advertising for a lottery is not held to the same "truth in advertising" laws for others. "Is that the kind of social policy you want in Tennessee?" he asked.

Terry observed it is ironic that while it is illegal for someone to run a "numbers game," it is legal for the state.

"Are we going to turn our government into something that tries to separate citizens from their hard-earned money?" he asked.

"It's odd that we have turned government from one that prohibits gambling to a government that encourages gambling."

Terry cited other problems associated with gambling and the lottery.

► It becomes a part of the culture. "Lottery gambling is the worst kind because of its pervasive nature," he insisted. He noted that in states which have lotteries, it becomes a part of the culture and becomes socially accepted. "For a child, the lottery becomes the same as candy bars and chewing gum."

► Gambling preys on the poor. Studies show that people with incomes less than \$10,000 spend more than anyone else on the lottery, Terry shared.

► Gambling preys on teenagers and senior citizens. Terry noted eight million teens are problem gamblers. If a gambling outlet is within 50 miles of a teen, that teen's chances of becoming an addicted gambler doubles, Terry said. He also noted that senior citizens are becoming the fastest growing group of problem gamblers.

Lottery gambling preys on the poorest and most helpless. For that to be what government is about is wrong, Terry said.

"I pray that churches and church people will do whatever it takes to stop gambling. Say no to the lottery in Tennessee," Terry concluded. ■



resident James Netherton welcomed program participants to "Do You Bet Your Life? Tennessee and the Lottery" seminar. From left: Netherton, Ann Bennett, director, Christian Life Department, Western Baptist Association; Bob Terry, editor, The Alabama Baptist; and Gary Anderson, TBC public affairs consultant.

Say conference panelists

Key to defeating state lottery is 'silent majority'

By Mark Brown
For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Seventy-five percent of Nashvillians support a state-sponsored lottery, reported Kingsport's Ann Bennett to those gathered for the "You Bet Your Life?" anti-gambling conference held Sept. 28.

But the figure from a recent survey that really got her attention, said Bennett, was that 65 percent of church members who responded in the same poll conducted last year by *The Tennessean* said they would support a lottery referendum.

"When the salt is not being salty and the light is not shining, then it's no wonder that we're facing this issue," she sighed.

Bennett, with fellow panelists Gary Anderson, TBC public affairs consultant, and Bob Terry, editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, believes the key to defeating pro lottery forces rests with those who fill church pews every Sunday.

When informed that last week (Sept. 17) was designated as Anti-Gambling Sunday on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar, Terry asked, "How many of you heard a sermon about gambling?" No hands were raised in response to the question.

"I didn't even hear it mentioned," volunteered a voice from the audience.

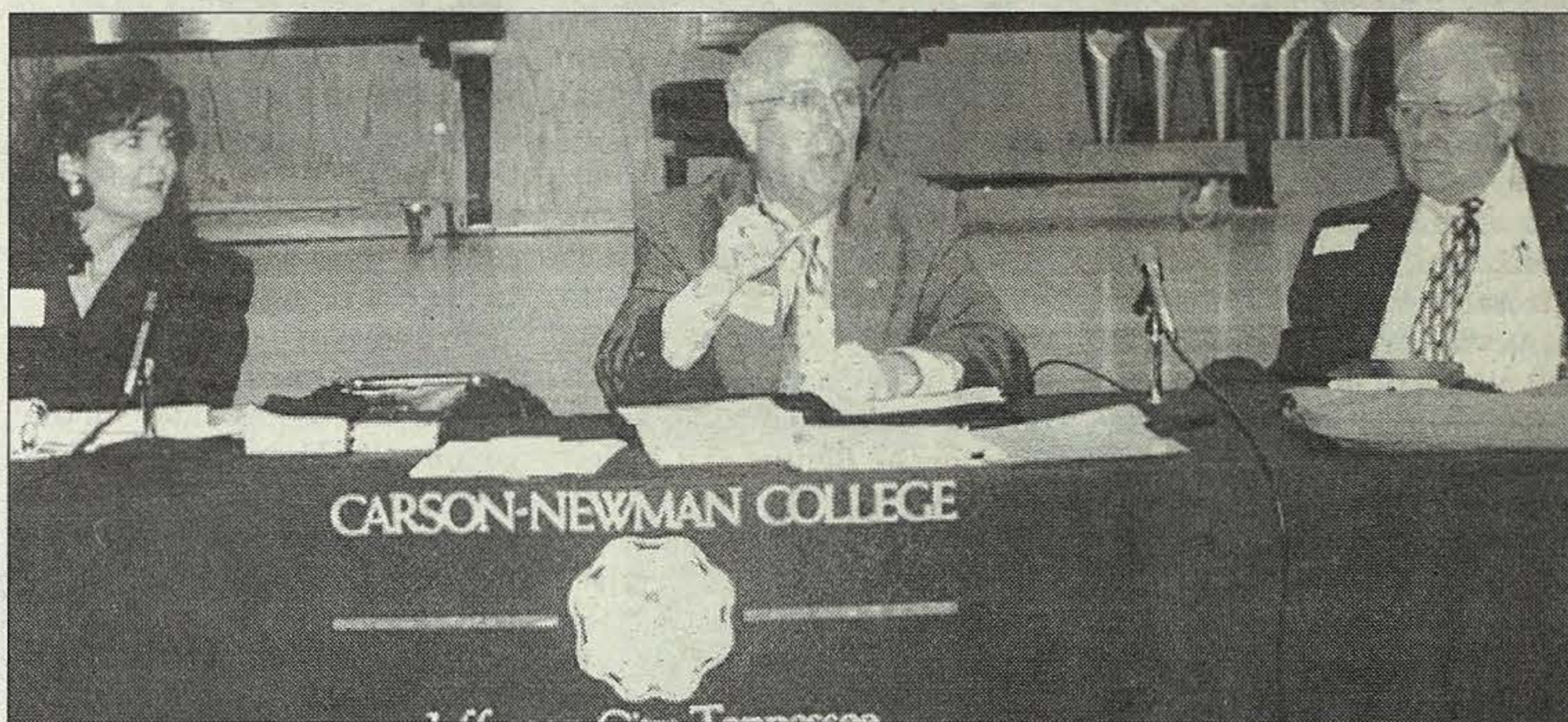
Of 40 people present, only two acknowledged they had heard the emphasis spoken of from the pulpit. Terry was quick to make his point. "We must use the opportunities to make our people aware."

Both Anderson and Bennett championed the idea of communicating with members of the state legislature to ensure that representatives and senators know where Christians stand.

"We need to have a relationship with our legislators because they listen to the people who talk to them," argued Bennett, a member of Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport.

"And our church people need to know just how important an issue this is, and they need to know they can make a difference," she said.

Anderson said a state representative told him that he has voted against the lottery every time it was considered in the past but went on to say that he would change and vote for a referendum the next time the matter arose. "He said he



BOB TERRY, center, makes a point during a panel discussion on the lottery as fellow panelists Gary Anderson, right, and Ann Bennett look on. — Photo by Charles Key

thought the best way to get beyond it was to give the people a chance to vote on it," Anderson said. He noted that same legislator said he had been thanked only one time by a church member during the years he had consistently voted against a lottery.

Anderson encouraged conference participants to take time to thank their legislators for actions they agree with.

Bennett encouraged the building of relationships with legislators on a local level. Volunteer to help stuff envelopes, she suggested.

Responding to a question on how to fight lottery efforts in Tennessee, Terry encouraged partnering with other groups.

"Let's stand with other religious groups to fight the evils of gambling," he urged.

Carson-Newman College President Jim Netherton, who welcomed participants to the seminar, observed that some may wonder why focus on the lottery issue now.

"We need to be proactive and not reactive," Netherton said.

"If an issue is important, it is important anytime, not just

when it's going to be voted on," he said.

The lottery is "an issue of critical importance in Tennessee," he stressed.

Baptist and Reflector Editor Lonnie Wilkey, who moderated the panel discussion agreed.

"For several years we have been able to keep the lottery out of our state. We cannot become complacent now because the pro-lottery people are still hard at work. This will continue to be an issue we must repeatedly address." ■ — Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this report.



Quick facts about gambling

➤ Americans will wager more money this year than they will spend on groceries — some \$500 million.

➤ It is estimated that 10 million Americans have a gambling habit that is out of control.

➤ In 1998, Americans spent \$50 million in legal wages.

➤ The National Gambling Impact Study Commission report of 1999 suggests that 86 percent of Americans report having gambled at least once in their lives.

➤ Participation in forms of gambling is high in states that have lotteries. This information is taken from the "You Bet Your Life?" program prepared by the Communications staff of Carson-Newman College.

Ten myths of gambling vs. proven truth

Myth One: The Bible has nothing to say about gambling.

- Gambling is a covetous form of stealing. Exodus 20:15, 17
- Gambling promotes violence. Proverbs 1:10-19, 15:27, 21:25-26
- Gambling is contrary to biblical stewardship. I Corinthians 16:1-3; II Corinthians 8:1-9:7; John 13:29; Ephesians 4:28; Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:7
- Gambling appeals to "fate," "chance." Isaiah 65:11 (NIV)
- Gambling violates the biblical work ethic. II Thessalonians 3:10-12
- Gambling violates the law of love. Matthew 22:34-40
- Gambling exploits the poor. Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
- Gambling creates a stumbling block. Romans 14:21

Myth Two: Gambling is harmless family entertainment.

- Gambling is a vice, like alcohol, drugs, prostitution.
- Gambling has no place for a believer. I Corinthians 6:19

Myth Three: Gambling is a sound method to raise revenue.

- Gambling money, used as revenue, exploits citizens.

- Gambling supplies no more than 3 percent of state budget needs.

Myth Four: Gambling is a painless source of new revenue.

- Gambling is regressive; the poor are the hardest hit.
- Gambling increases poverty, crime, loss of income, and emotional, physical trauma on citizens.

Myth Five: Gambling is a stable source of new revenue.

- Gambling revenues decline after initial euphoria.
- Gambling industry admits revenues are not stable.

Myth Six: Gambling will stimulate business growth.

- Gambling revenue is reallocated business resources.
- Gambling eliminates many small businesses.

Myth Seven: Gambling will support educational needs.

- Gambling provides 1-3 percent of state education needs.
- Gambling funds less than 12 days per year in most states.

Myth Eight: Gambling is part of

our national heritage.

- Gambling was outlawed by the states because of corruption.
- Gambling is a bad decision; don't repeat it.

Myth Nine: Gambling will be controlled by the state.

- Gambling has brought corruption to states that have it.
- Gambling seeks to make states dependent.

Myth Ten: Gambling does not contribute to addictions.

- Gambling is addictive and increases wherever legalized.
- Gambling, when legalized by states, gains acceptance.
- Gambling, when legalized, appeals to teenagers. ■ — This information comes from a fact sheet produced by the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. The agency has other anti-gambling resources. For more information, contact SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., #550, Nashville, TN 37203-3696; (615) 244-2495, 1-800-475-9127.

Two years later — still on the job training

ions

Wilkey.



ne days it's hard to celebrated my second ary as editor of the and Reflector last me has flown by.

er days, it seems like ment date is next e clock turned into a

at's the life of an edi- any profession for ter. No matter what ither in ministry or r world, we all have ad days.

ight ask if I have anything over the last s. Frankly, I have still have a lot to the job training nev-

many positive things ened over the course

of two years. They far out- weigh any negatives.

Among the positives is my contact with Tennessee Baptists on an ongoing basis. As I go out into churches throughout the state I meet people who tell me how much they enjoy the paper and look forward to it each week. I meet others who have never heard of the paper, but express an interest in learning more about it. There are thousands of Tennessee Baptists — both ministers and laypersons — who are committed to spreading the Gospel of Christ, not only in Tennessee, but around the world.

I have discovered that people are supportive of our theme, "Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists." They have a desire to know what other churches and Tennessee Baptists are doing in our state and around the world.

I have the joy and privilege of working with a dedicated staff who love their work and are committed to putting out the best possible newspaper for

Tennessee Baptists each week, and also with the larger Tennessee Baptist Convention family. The staffs of the TBC Executive Board and the institutions are committed to their tasks of serving Tennessee Baptists.

There have been some challenges over the two years.

Specifically I have learned that Tennessee Baptists are opinionated and don't mind sharing their opinion when we print something they don't agree with. And, that's the way it should be. One of the paper's reason for being is to provide an outlet, within reason, for sharing views.

It is frustrating when people read their own biases into editorials or columns and miss the point altogether. We like to accuse writers of being biased, but forget that we, as readers, also bring biases into what we read.

It has been frustrating to see Christians at times act in ways that have to displease God. It's especially disheartening to see Southern Baptists at

odds with each other, not only in Tennessee but across the nation. Instead of fighting each other we need to be working together to combat Satan. He's the real enemy. But sometimes we forget we are all on one team — and God is the coach and captain.

So, after two years, do I regret becoming editor of a state paper? Not on your life. Why? Because I believe with all my heart I'm where God wants me to be. There have been times when I have thought it might be nice to do something else, but God always reminds me he is still in charge of my life.

One day when I was feeling low about circumstances, God put this verse in front of me, literally — "... let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith ..." (Hebrews 12:1-2).

No matter what, God is in control. That's true for me. That's true for everyone.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as your editor during the past two years. **B&R**



TBC Service Station

Web ministry sites
by Jerry Chapman

Check out the following Web sites that offer preaching helps in way of full-length sermons, sermon outlines, illustrations, etc. Some of the sites offer free services and others are by subscription only. The cost will vary. The following are only a few of the many out there.

> www.sermoncentral.org — This site contains over 1,000 link sites in 74 categories. The one on sermons contains over 100 sites that include many Baptist church sites. It will take awhile to review this one!

> www.Preacherpage.com — Not only does this site have hundreds of sermons by preachers you have never heard of but listings of some of the greats such as G. Campbell Morgan, Charles Spurgeon, and others. There are links to 1000s of other sites including a healthy list of illustration Web pages.

> www.iconline.com — Christian Ministry Resources presents The Institute of Church Leadership. It provides legal, tax, and administrative resources for churches in addition to training personal helps and ministry helps. In the "Ministry Helps" section you will find a sermons web directory that includes a number of useful sites.

> www.Sermonnotes.com — There is a cost to this one! You can check it out, view the freebies and decide if it is worth it for you. I think it is!

> www.Kerusso.com — This provides over 150 sermon web sites. You have more material than you can research for a long time. Glean from the good, discard the other.

> www.Voicings.com — Titled as SermonWare House this site says it is the largest full-sermon text site available. It is an easy-to-get-around site but for a cost! It contains a good illustration service as well.

> www.ccel.org — Christian Classic Ethereal Library gives 100s of classic Christian books in an alphabetical listing that includes sermons from John Calvin and Andrew Murray. There is a hymn and reference section as well.

I know there are others out there that may be better. If so, let me know. Email your suggestions on this subject and others to www.jchapman@tnbaptist.org. ■ — Chapman is a specialist with the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group.

Politics and the believer — principles for voting

ed on
world

Shrum



Note: The following is d of a series which ex- what the Bible has to a Christian's involve- politics.

you ever wondered d allowed you to be the greatest, free re- the world? I do. For ult and foibles, Amer- all the greatest place to envy of the world in freedom, wealth, and erty. No where else can icipate in civil govern- thout fear of retribu- you can in the United f America. I'm glad to merican.

ever, many citizens, ievers, have abdicated sic prerogative to par- in the political process otting. America is one w nations where a per- te actually counts. Yet, ote. This is a shame for e of democracy and to eding fathers.

right and responsibility is our government's of allowing "Citizen actually shape political We have no right to n about the level of our

taxes, the focus of our government, or the type of leadership we elect if we do not vote.

If the believer is to vote, what biblical principles should guide his/her voting? First, the believer should pray about God's leadership in voting. This means that we seek the face of God first in seeking to fulfill our earthly duties, not the winds of popular opinion.

Second, the believer must understand how government works.

Paul and Peter's knowledge of government would put many of us to shame. Too many of us pass off knowledge of civil operations as too earthly, too worldly. Yet, the early believers were well-acquainted with the political workings of the day. Their knowledge of government was always in service to their greatest commitment — the spread of the Gospel.

In fact, Paul knew his rights

as a Roman citizen which he, in turn, used to appeal to Rome so that the Gospel might be spread to the western world (read Acts 22). Why did Paul spend his time using the political structures of his day?

Paul knew and used the workings of the government of his day to spread the Gospel. He didn't use government to set up an earthly-heavenly kingdom. Rather, he simply understood Roman procedures so that the Gospel might be advanced.

Do you know how your government works? Did you know that there are 100 Senators, two for each state? Did you know that there are 435 representatives determined by state population? Do you know the three branches of government: the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial?

I quizzed my children on these facts recently, but was

met with indifference — until I noted that these elected officials often determine the amount of taxes that are taken out of one's pay check. My children were all ears! Know how government works.

Third, the believer must be informed as to the issues being considered and to form responses to these issues based upon biblical principles, i.e. godliness, righteousness, goodness, equity, fairness, holiness, and mercy.

Ultimately, our choices as to how we vote must glorify God. In fact, the believer does not vote to please a party system, but to please a God who has allowed them to be born in a country with such great freedom. The believer must be independent in casting his/her vote for the issues and persons that glorify God. ■ — Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

Church of the Covered Dish

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



Chapel Hill congregation ministers in Rio

For Baptist and Reflector

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, sent eight members here to begin a relationship with Primeira Igreja Batista (First Baptist Church), Barros Filho, Aug. 28 – Sept. 4. Because of their experiences, the team members plan to continue their work with the Rio church and to encourage other members of Smyrna Baptist Church to go, they reported. The project was a part of the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership.

Smyrna Baptist Church,

which has about 165 in Sunday School attendance, is helping the Rio church start a church in a community which doesn't have a Baptist congregation, reported Jeff Walters, pastor.

"God really worked through this team," said Walters, who noted five of the eight team members were participating in their first missions effort.

The Tennesseans conducted evangelistic home visits in the area of the new church.

Walters said for many of the team, it was their first time to share the Gospel. But all have reported "they will be much less afraid to be bold in their

witness at home," said Walters.

Team members also led Bible studies in homes around the targeted area. Team members Debbie Love and Barbara Powers led one with 75 youth in attendance.

On the weekend, the team led an Experiencing God weekend for Primeira Igreja Batista, Barros Filho. This experience really "stretched" a few of the members, said Walters.

Finally, the Tennesseans helped the church celebrate its 50th anniversary.

About 21 Brazilians made spiritual commitments because of home visits made by the North Americans. "But, as I think is usually the case, the trip had more impact on the

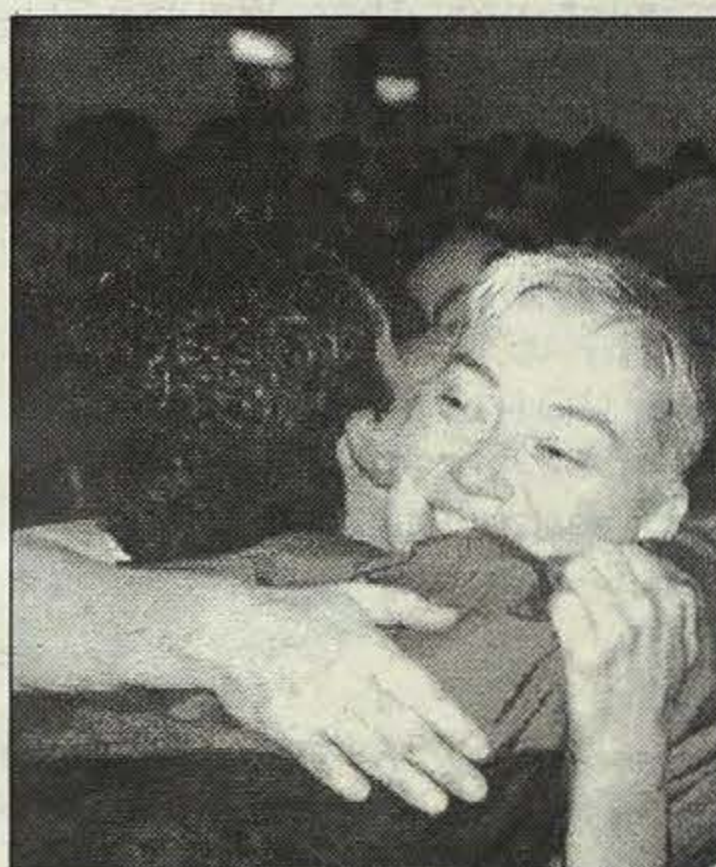
team and on our church than we probably made in Rio. I heard someone say once that 'the light that shines the farthest shines the brightest at home.' My prayer is that will be true of us," said Walters.

He added, "Partnership volunteer missions is a dynamic and easy way to get involved in

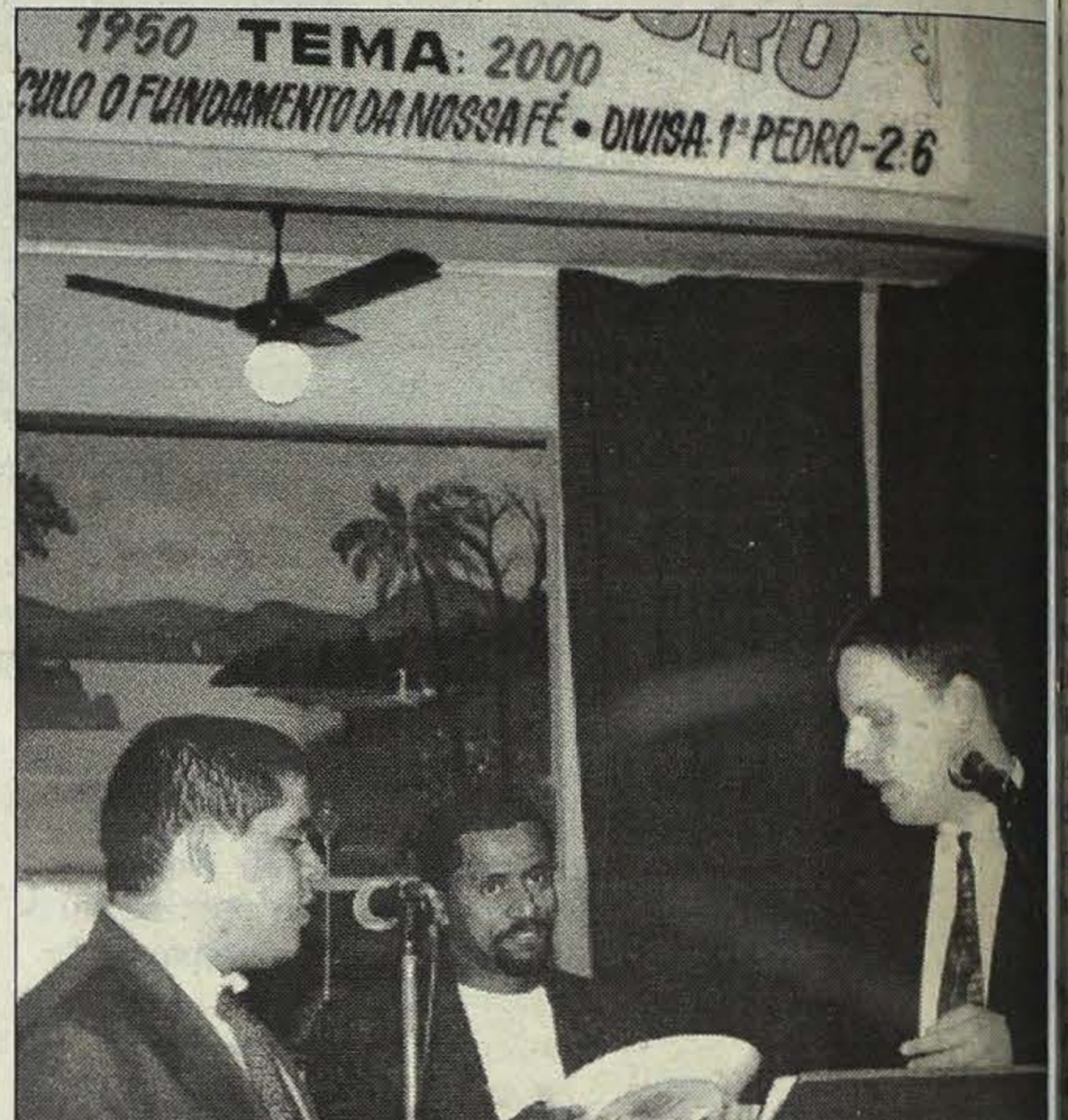
our Baptist work around world." ■



SINGING a song they learned in Portuguese as they are thanked by the church are team members, from left, Jo Andrews; Jeff Walters, pastor; Kevin Smith; Joe and Sylvia Dockery; Barbara Powers; Debbie Love; and Don Correll.



HUGGING a new friend is Tennessean Jo Andrews.



JEFF WALTERS, pastor, Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, sends a plate bearing pictures of the Tennessee church to the pastor of Primeira Igreja Batista (First Baptist Church), Barros Filho, with help from a translator.

Administrative assistant serves church 40 years

By Cindy Wooten Pare
For Baptist and Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — Burma Powell has worked as administrative assistant at Red Bank Baptist Church here for 40 years — under just two pastors.

Powell called her service a call by the Lord. "I look at it as a ministry," she said. "I never felt dissatisfied. I always looked forward to coming to work, and it never crossed my mind that I was not in the right place."

Powell was recognized by the church Sept. 10 as she celebrated her 40th year on staff.

With preparation at a business school, she began working at Red Bank Baptist when her daughter started kindergarten. She was hired as financial secretary and one year later took the job as pastor's secretary for the late Dr. Ralph Norton.

Powell assisted Norton until 1973, when he retired. In 1974, Dr. Fred Steelman became Red Bank's pastor and Powell began serving as his administrative assistant.

Powell has seen many changes through the years in the way churches operate. When she started working at Red Bank Baptist, "we posted contributions by hand and did all our bookkeeping manually," she said. "We did our printing on mimeograph machines and used address-o-graph plates to address envelopes."

Red Bank purchased its first computers in 1984, and "now everything is automatically done," Powell said.



BURMA POWELL works at her desk.

Red Bank's budget in 1960 was \$175,000, while the current budget is \$1.9 million. Staff and membership have grown, and Powell has seen the church through five construction projects, including a current campaign to erect a new youth building. And ministries have been expanded.

"Church is now a big business," Powell said.

The most enjoyable aspect of her job has been "the direct contact with people," Powell said. "I like to be with them and meet them, and to feel like I can do something for them."

Part of Powell's value to the church, said Steelman, is her "knowledge of both people and programs." Powell is able to effectively balance the desires of members and church guidelines, according to Red Bank's pastor. Powell also has served as a liaison between him and the community. "She always makes sure her pastor puts his best foot forward," Steelman said.

The church position is only Powell's third job, and she plans to retire in December. "The first job I quit to get married, the second I quit to have Pam (her daughter), so I don't know what I'll do now," she said, laughing.

Married to G.E. Powell for 53 years, Powell plans to do some traveling, but "I've heard people say they get bored when they retire," she said. "I may get a part-time job!"

Powell said she has never considered her job a challenge. "I just meet it day by day, head-on," she said. "It's a demanding job, but it's a rewarding one. I've been blessed beyond words." ■

Training scheduled for SS directors

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A training conference will be held for church-wide directors of Sunday School Oct. 13-14 at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Baptist Center here. The theme is "High Expectations for a New Millennium."

The conference will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner. Ken Marler of the TBC will speak that evening. On Saturday

three training sessions will be offered. The meeting will conclude at 11 a.m.

The TBC Christian Growth Development Group will provide lodging and food for participants and all fees make reservations for lodging by Oct. 6 at 1-800-558-7906 or (615) 371-7906. For more information contact the group. ■



DOM Network meets

Participants of the Tennessee Director of Missions Network met Sept. 14 to hear Bob Franklin, second from left, of North American Mission Board. Pictured are, from left, Wright, Dyer Baptist Association; Franklin; Malcolm Jones, Tennessee Baptist Convention consultant, Cleveland; M. Kemper, Gibson County Baptist Association; Roger Briggs, Fayette Baptist Association; Larry Kirk, TBC; David A. Big Emory Baptist Association; and Bill George, TBC.

Associations find new churches needed



ie Davis
and Reflector

WERLY — Stewart Baptist Association, Baptist Association, and Judson Baptist Association recently worked together to determine if the Middle Tennessee area in which the associations serve needs more churches. The Baptists gathered many churches.



GRAY

cover six counties and Dickson, the Dover and Ewen area. Cooperation among the associations is since they adjoin each other geographically.

It is understandable because they are all directed by William Gray, director of missions for the three associations, Judson, Waverly, and Stewart.

On Sept. 23, about 70 Baptists from the three associations worked together to conduct the Probe, which is a study to determine the needs for new churches and ministries.

"It was a historic moment," Gray said, "not only because of the cooperation modeled by the participants, about 90 if counted, who worked, said Gray, but because of the deficiency of church outreach which was noted."

Gray was assisted in conducting the Probe by Bill Miles and Fred Davis of the

Tennessee Baptist Convention staff and Jim Powers, TBC Probe consultant and director of missions, Concord Baptist Association, based in Murfreesboro.



POWERS

The effort was funded by the TBC Golden State Missions Offering and the associations.

Demographics

Baptists participating in the Probe learned about projected populations from city and county executives and real estate professionals. For example they learned the Dickson area is projected to grow from 38,000 to 68,000 — almost doubling — in five to seven years.

And they learned the completion of I-840, a bypass around metropolitan Nash-

ville, will draw an additional one million people to the Middle Tennessee area, including areas of the association.

Probe participants studied demographic reports from the North American Mission Board, based in Alpharetta, Ga. The reports showed the population, age, race, and economic status of the residents of areas.

Finally, they received statistics on Southern Baptist churches in the areas and learned when new churches are needed. For example, participants learned more generations are alive today than ever before and in order to reach them, churches will have to target generational groups, said George.

Surveys

In the afternoon, small teams got in vehicles and visited an area like Charlotte, where Bill George worked with a team. They knew the com-

munity has about 4,000 residents. And they knew only one Southern Baptist church, First Baptist Church, Charlotte,



GEORGE

serves the area. It has an average Sunday School attendance of about 40.

It is clear at least one church is needed in Charlotte, said George. And it was easy to target an area on Highway 47 between Charlotte and Dickson because of the new high school being built there. If property is bought now, it will cost less than after the area is developed for subdivisions, noted George.

But teams also considered the kinds of homes in an area and if a church was available to different segments of residents. Certain churches reach certain kinds of people,

explained George.

Findings

Gray is glad to report the Probe study found the need for 20 new churches because he believes new churches are the key to reaching most of the people who are unreached in Tennessee. Churches which are 10 years old or older usually don't grow or reach different segments of the population, he added.

But church starters are hard to find. Gray said he hopes laypeople and bivocational pastors will become involved in church planting. He hopes churches will sponsor new congregations. And he hopes associations will allocate money for church starting.

As a result, people will learn about God and the Christian life, noted Gray. ■



WORKING as a Probe team were, from left, Danny and Liane Keaton and Jennifer Neely, Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson; Tim Miles, co-pastor, River Rock Church, Murfreesboro; and Thomas Webb, pastor, Sylvia Baptist Church.



BAPTISTS of the three associations gather at First Baptist Church, Waverly, for the Probe banquet. Attending were, from left, Ethel and L.J. Hatcher, pastor, Oak Grove Baptist Church; Gary McEwen, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dover, and his wife, Carol; Pat Merrell, administrative assistant for the associations; David Whitehead, pastor, Big Rock Baptist Church, and his wife, Sherry; and William Gray, director of missions of the three associations.

Fisher inaugurated as fourth president of ...

Continued from page 1

Secretary of Transportation E. Slater delivered the installation address.

With the sound of trumpets from a glorious procession still echoing in the ears, we are about to bestow the hard signs of office on a visionary whose inward grace is already making Belmont University to realize a ever greater degree its potential greatness and excellence," Slater

observed that "anyone who knows that Bob Fisher knows that empower people and organizations to be all they can be is the hallmark of his work. You have chosen a new president for a new century — and you chosen well," Slater said.

Slater also noted that "as we begin a new century and new millennium, unprecedented challenges ahead re-



ROBERT C. FISHER delivers his inaugural address.

quire any institution that aspires to leadership ... to teach new duties and new ways of thinking. In Bob Fisher,

you have the right man for these times."

In his inaugural address, Fisher painted a vision for the future.

He asked the hundreds in attendance to envision what Belmont might look like in seven years.

He said he hopes the school would have more "niche professional programs" and a student body of 4,000.

If that occurred, Fisher said, that would require new and expanded buildings and facilities. Fisher said it is his dream that Belmont will partner with other universities in the city. "I believe that this community, the 'Athens of the South,' will be stronger as we all work together," Fisher said.

While not mentioning Belmont's long relationship with Tennessee Baptists, Fisher said he envisions Belmont as a place "where God's name is spoken and God's nature is discovered."

And while it will take the cooperative efforts of all involved — administration, faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni, and others — "our best efforts combined are not enough," Fisher said.

"We must have God's hand on Belmont if we aspire to be a truly great university."

Fisher is the fourth president of Belmont, following R. Kelly White (1952-59), Herbert C. Gabhart (1959-82), and William E. Troutt (1982-99).

In addition to his role as an educator and administrator, Fisher is an accomplished writer. He has co-written *Real Dream Teams*, a book on team leadership published by St. Lucie Press, and numerous articles on management and leadership.

He and his wife, Judy, have three grown children and three grandchildren. ■

Tennessean uses 'power' to share Christ at Olympics

Baptist Press

SYDNEY, Australia — He chops watermelons, concrete blocks, and ice — and even has the distinction of cutting into Michael Jordan's hip bone. As the five-time world-record holder in "breaking things," Mike Crain is using his power and abilities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Australia through "Reach-Out 2000 Sydney" in conjunction with Lay Witnesses for Christ International (LWCI).

A martial arts trainer for 37 years, the 56-year-old Crain still relishes the opportunity to fight national champions less than half his age. He recently fought and defeated the Cuban National karate champion in six seconds. He has not lost a match in 10 years.

"Most of these young guys

look at my middle-aged figure and think that I'm crazy wanting to challenge them," said Crain. "But after 10 seconds, they're nearly always on the floor writhing in pain. I figure if I can't preach Christ, I'll beat the devil out of them."

During his demonstrations throughout Sydney, a blindfolded and a sharp sword-wielding Crain splits watermelons resting on the stomachs of usually unwilling spectators. In 1982, Crain grazed Michael Jordan's hip bone in the routine at a prison crusade in Raleigh, N.C. Jordan required three stitches. Crain says that Jordan now jokes about the matter and probably thinks about Crain every morning when looking at

his permanent scar.

"While physical scars sometimes remain for a lifetime, Jesus Christ can blot out the spiritual and emotional scars of our lives," said Crain. "Trusting in God is not a crutch or sign of weakness. It is the ultimate sign of strength to know one's personal limitations and to gather the inner power only

available from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

Among his existing world records is breaking 1,950 pounds of ice with his arm. Crain conducts camps for 9,000 young people each year in Dayton.

Crain is a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Chattanooga. ■

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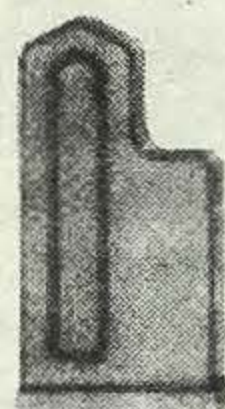
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MINISTRIES — CHILDREN

Children's pastor/director. First Baptist Church is a growing contemporary congregation averaging 1,000 in attendance in three Sunday morning services. We seek a full-time, experienced, energetic, and visionary person with strong leadership, creativity, innovation, and the ability to recruit and motivate a growing volunteer base. Contact Dr. Greg Faulstich, First Baptist Church, 519 Byers, Owensboro, KY 40301. FAX: (270) 685-5134.

First Baptist Church of Roswell, Ga., is seeking two full-time ministers — a minister to children and a minister to students. The minister to children will have responsibility for all children's ministry programs including Sunday School, mission organizations, kindergarten, Mother's Morning Out. The minister to students will have responsibility for all student ministry programs, both youth and college. We are a growing church in north metropolitan Atlanta with an average Sunday School attendance of 600. Interested candidates should send resumes to the appropriate committee as follows: Minister to Children Search Committee, Minister to Students Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Roswell, 710 Mimosa Road, Roswell, GA 30075.

MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

Guilford Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC, is seeking a full-time associate pastor whose primary ministry will be education, administration, and outreach. We are a progressive, missions-minded congregation of 800 resident members. Potential candidates must be secondary graduates with staff experience. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, Guilford Baptist Church, 5904 W. Main St., Greensboro, NC 27409.

Knoxville church ministers to patients' families in ICU

ist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — About a dozen deacons of South Knoxville Baptist Church here are starting a new ministry in the waiting room of the Intensive Care Unit of the Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee.

The church is located about a mile from the hospital so the deacons decided to begin visit-

ing the waiting room every Wednesday to invite people to that evening's dinner (free of charge) and prayer service. The people are offered a ride to the church. They also are asked for prayer requests which will be prayed for that evening, reported Walter Isley, pastor.

Joe Baker of the church leads the ministry. An aircraft mechanic who just retired six months ago, Baker has been

visiting the waiting room weekly for about a year. He has been helped at times by member Tom Fisher.

Baker is one of those many Christians who does things "behind the scenes" which make a difference in people's lives, said Brad Hood, chaplain at the hospital.

The church has only had a few visitors from the ministry, but Baker continues it. And each week the prayer requests he receives are added to that night's prayer list, which is projected for viewing during the prayer service, said Isley.

The next day Isley writes each person who filled out a prayer request form. The letter

reports the number of people who prayed for the sick family member or friend and includes a duplicated paper signed by the people who prayed.

And each week the church receives thank you letters from those affected by the ministry. The church received a \$100 contribution from one man.

Hood noted the people waiting for the about 28 patients in ICU "need intensive care too"

and the church is helping to provide that.

"It's been a real rich ministry in a lot of ways of touching people's lives when they need it," said Isley. ■



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JOE BAKER, left, a member of South Knoxville Baptist Church, Knoxville, visits in the Intensive Care Waiting Room at Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee with Thomas Rector, whose wife, at the time, was a patient at the hospital.

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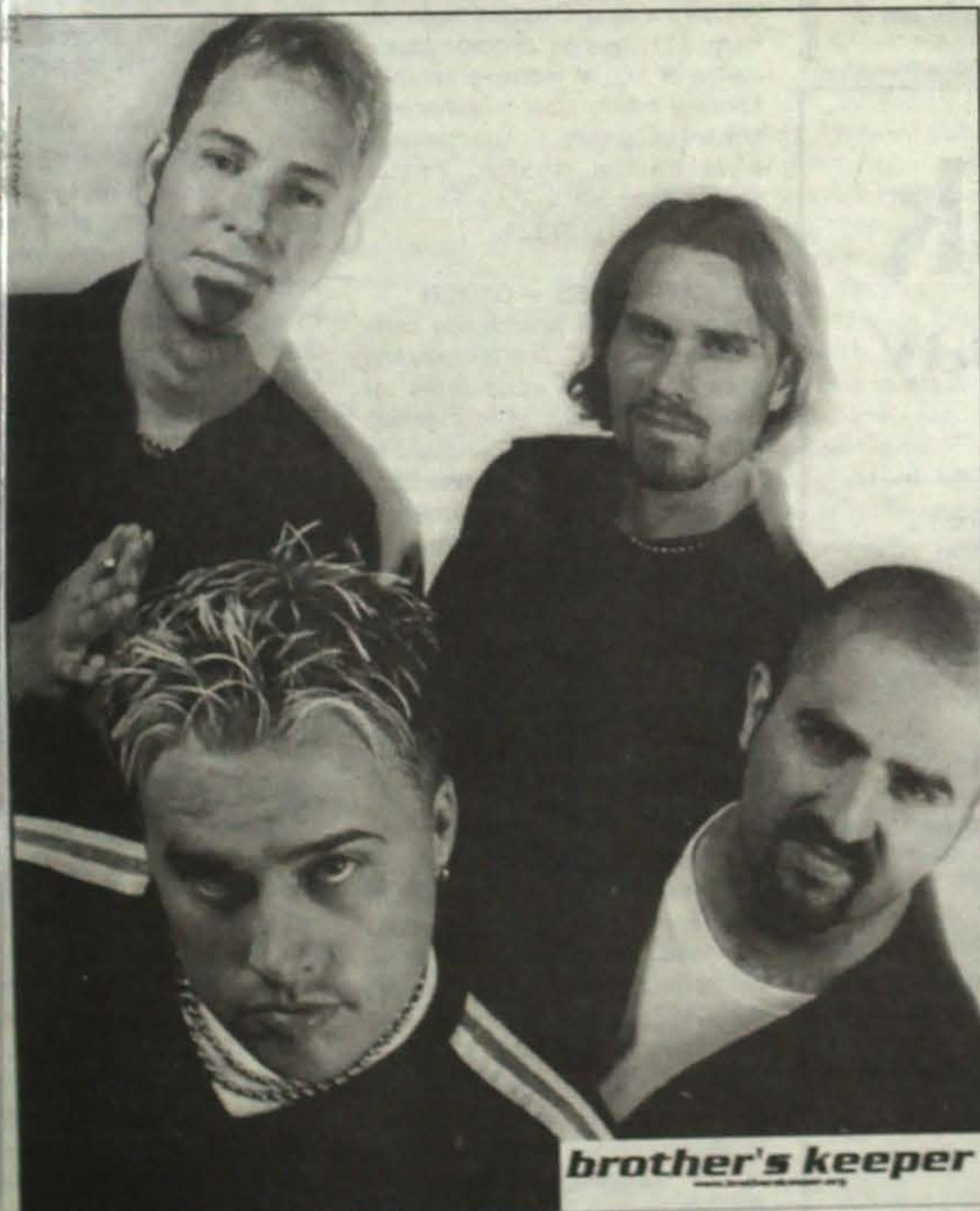
Registration fee is \$8 per person and includes activities, food festival tickets, t-shirt and concert ticket.



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For more information contact the Office of Enrollment Services at 1-800-33-UNION for more information.

High school seniors who are considering enrollment at Union University are encouraged to also attend Preview Day on Friday, Oct. 6, 2000. Preview days, scheduled throughout the school year, are designed for prospective students and their parents. The day includes opportunities for class and chapel attendance, and an interview with an Enrollment Counselor. Campus Day activities on Saturday, Oct. 7, will emphasize campus life events.



brother's keeper

Eager Christians snatch up 10,000 Mongolian Bibles

By Brittany Jarvis
For Baptist Press

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia — Within a day of hitting the market, all 10,000 copies of the newly translated Mongolian Bible were bought by eager churches and Christian organizations.

One missionary, looking at the empty storage site that had been full of Bibles the day before, said, "I felt like Peter at Jesus' tomb."

Great Commission Christians worked for eight years to translate the Bible into the Mongol language. Translation of the New

Testament began in 1991, and the Old Testament was finished last year. The completed Bible went on sale in August.

The Mongolian church has experienced explosive growth during the last 10 years despite governmental persecution. In 1991, there were fewer than 50 Christians in Mongolia. Today Mongolian Christians may number as many as 10,000.

For security reasons, International Mission Board missionaries could distribute the completed Bibles only to individuals they personally knew.

"Pray that more copies of the whole [Bible] arrive soon," one

Southern Baptist missionary said. "The first 10,000 [copies] have been distributed, but since many churches and organizations bought those, many people don't have a chance to get one unless they know some of these churches and organizations."

Although the missionaries are prohibited from distributing Christian material in mass amounts, Mongolians technically and legally can hand out Bibles among their own people.

Christianity experienced a setback this summer when Mongolia's former communist rulers swept back to power. Observers

fear hard-line communist ideologies may reverse the freedoms — including religious freedom — that Mongolians have enjoyed since a peaceful democratic revolution in 1990.

An IMB missionary said, "recently their persecution [of Mongolians] has lessened." ■



CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — MUS

First Baptist Church, Lat Tenn., is seeking a part-ti ister of music. Please s sume to the Personnel C tee, First Baptist Church, P 126, Lake City, TN 37769.

Bulls Gap Baptist Church ing a part-time music minis is enthusiastic and desire low God's will. Send res Rev. Larry Davidson, 10 St., Bulls Gap, TN 37711.

The First Baptist Church Kansas City is searching for time associate pastor for and senior adults. The does two blended services temporary and tradition ments on Sunday morni have an instrumental ba accompanes worship, an ensembles groups. We h age-graded choir progra sumes and recommend should be submitted to Search Committee, First Church, 2205 Iron St., Kansas City, MO 64116.

Seeking full-time minister and youth. Send res Fairview Baptist Church, P 3006, Paris, TN 38242. (901) 642-2191.

MINISTRIES — YOU

Youth/Outreach minister Baptist Metropolis, Ill. A g opportunity for the right pe help reach a community fo Full-time, good compen Send resume to First Church, 516 Girard St., M lis, IL 62960. Please mar lope "resume."

First Baptist Church, Mc seeks full-time minister of s and activities. Please send to First Baptist Church, Committee, 619 N. Stonev McKenzie, TN 38201.

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Pleasant Grove Piney E Church is seeking conse full-time youth director. Ch located outside of Kno Please send all resumes. tor, Rev. Ben Pierce, 266C Rd, New Market, TN 3782C 933-7030.

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MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Medium-sized inner-city church near downtown is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Edgefield Baptist Church, 700 Russell St., Nashville, TN 37206.

First Baptist Church, Fall Branch, Tenn., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 82, Fall Branch, TN 37656.

Calvary Baptist Church, Lenoir City, prayerfully seeks full-time pastor to lead congregation in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Currently second largest church in Loudon County. Average 250+ attendance in Sunday School. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 301 W 1st Ave., Lenoir City, TN 37771.

First Baptist Church of Englewood, Tenn., is presently seeking a pastor. The church, in a small town located midway between Knoxville and Chattanooga on Hwy. 411, has an average attendance of 140 at morning worship. Minimal educational requirement: Master of Divinity. Send resume to First Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 185, Englewood, TN 37329.

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Catalina Baptist Association serving Tucson, Ariz., and surrounding area, is seeking candidates for position of director of evangelism and missions. Send resumes to Search Committee, Catalina Baptist Association, 825 S. Craycroft, Tucson, AZ 85711 or e-mail at kswrightks@juno.com.

Antioch First Baptist, is seeking adult nursery worker. \$10.00 per hour, 7 hours per week. Call (615) 832-7486 for details.

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Music/Worship leader at First Baptist Metropolis, Ill. Must be team minded and competent in both contemporary and blended services. Responsible for total music program. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, 516 Girard St., Metropolis, IL 62960.

Mount Zion Church is accepting resumes for the following musicians: keyboard/organ, lead rhythm guitar, and saxophone. Send resume with references to Kenyan Flowers, 102 Ridley St., Smyrna, TN 37167 or call (615) 459-9017.

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary presents

Heritage Week and Pastor Appreciation Day October 10-12, 2000

Celebrating the legacy of nearly one hundred and fifty years of faithful service to the Kingdom of Christ and the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary invites you to join us for our Second Annual Heritage Week. This celebration will include our Fourth Annual Pastor Appreciation Day when we recognize the vital contribution that pastors make in the lives of our congregations. Please be our guest on the historic campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as we worship God and celebrate our legacy.

All of the events are open to the public and are free-of-charge. Seating is limited for the Pastor Appreciation Day Luncheon and Pastor's Wives Luncheon.

For Luncheon reservations please call the Office of the President at 1 800 626-5525.



Dr. James Merritt
Oct. 10



Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
Oct. 11



Dr. O. S. Hawkins
Oct. 12



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For more information visit us on the web: www.sbts.edu

Minister's Corner

Frank Lewis

Sometimes it's easy to get discouraged. We can be overcome with the demands and pulls in life. Prayers go unanswered. God seems to wait. We listen wisdom (or the ridicule) of the world and our are silenced. When this happens, the victory is hink about the blind beggar named Bartimaeus. n't give in, and he didn't give up. As a result, Je- d a "God-sized" work in his life restoring sight to eyes. The Gospel of Mark says it this way.

Jesus and his disciples, together with a large were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus, sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Je- son of David, have mercy on me!"

ny rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he d all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on

hat do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked he blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Imme- he received his sight and followed Jesus along ad (Mark 10:46-52).

rtimaeus reminds us of the importance of persis- rayer. When he heard that Jesus was approach- e cried out for mercy. People rebuked him, but bukes didn't silence his crying out to God.

an Windhorn writes, "Our culture-inspired wor- t the altar of instant gratification makes it diffi- or most of us to be persistent and patient in c. When we pray, we can't help but wish that God somehow invest in a faster computer so that we get more instant answers to our requests. God nd does respond quickly to our requests. Yet, imes it seems he tests the tenacity of our faith as challenges us, like the beggar to come with our re- quis even stronger than before. When we pray to Go restore our spiritual focus, let's not give up too . Keep at it! Be persistent in prayer!"

drea La Sonde Anastos voiced this prayer based on the story of Bartimaeus. These are good words for us to lay.

aling God,

or Messiah came among us bringing power to our bodies and our spirits. Give us the vision to our own brokenness and to yearn for wholeness. us the courage to name our words as openly as Bartimaeus named his. Give us the faith to believe wholeness is possible for us, even in the depths of dpression and pain, in the depths of anger and dis- . Bless us with the courage to reach for the power of health and holiness that you continue to pour into the world through women and men who are instru- ments of your compassion and strength. ■ — Lewis is pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Start for day

Fred Wood, Emeritus, Memphis

house." Mother: "Yes, I am." Grandmother: "I think much mingling of the sexes is not wise." Mother: "If don't visit her here, she'll meet them on the cor- . Grandmother: "When you were 13 years old, I t let boys come to our house." Mother: "Yes, I v, and I met them on the corner."

e this Truth: "Don't try to outsmart your chil- . You can't kid the kids. If you think they don't v right from wrong, try being wrong!!

norize this Scripture: "Be ... wise as serpents harmless as doves." — Matthew 10:16

y this Prayer: Lord, help me to realize being a istian and a parent does not mean "throwing away" mon sense. ■

Being part of a covenant people

By Marvin Nail

Focal Passage: Genesis 12:1-3; 22:1-2, 7-16a, 18

It is a rare person who doesn't want to get the best life has to offer for himself and his family. When Regis Philbin asked the now famous question, "Who wants to be a millionaire?" there are few people willing to turn the other way. Few people would admit to being satisfied with their life the way it is. We are taught from infancy to strive for more. The Olympic athletes who just finished competing in Sydney, Australia, have devoted their whole lives to being the best at their sport and anything less was just not acceptable for them.

I never have been able to understand why so many of us regular people are willing to settle for much less than what God wants for us. The Bible is filled with promises God has made to his people and many of us like spoiled children are content to take a bit here and bit there without ever taking in what God wants to give each one of us.

God plans to bless all people (ch. 12:1-3). This text can be seen only as God's promise to Abram to bless him and his children forever. But that is such a narrow view of the promise. It is true that the initial aspect of his promise of blessing was to Abram. Blessings are never designed by God to confer some special privilege on only one person. Like all of God's favor it is a stewardship to be used by the blessed to be a blessing to others. The good things that come from God were never intended by him to be collected in our blessing reservoir. Instead, his desire is that we become, like the words of the old hymn say, a "channel of blessing."

According to God's promise his aim is that Abram and his kin become instruments of blessings to all people. The Apostle Paul tells us that we, as believers, are the spiritual offspring of Abram because of our faith in Jesus Christ.

God tests the promise-bearer (ch. 22:1-2, 7-12). One of the most troubling passages in all the Old Testament is God's call to Abraham in this chapter. Abraham had sought a son from the Lord for many years and his prayer was finally answered in the boy Isaac. Abraham knew that God was true to his word when this son came. But in this passage God demands that Abraham give him back to God in a horrible way by offering him as a sacrifice to him. Only by giving to God what we love the most can he truly be honored in our life.

Child sacrifice was common in those days among all the people living around Abraham. It might have even seemed a logical thing for Abraham to do since he surely loved his God more than his neighbors loved their idols. In answer to his son's question, Abraham spoke more than he realized when he said that God would provide the sacrifice.

God shows he will provide a way (vv. 13-14). Immediately Abraham looked and saw the ram God had provided. What can we do to provide the sacrifice for our sins? Though we might be willing to pay a high price or even give all we have, even that is not enough to purchase redemption from sin. We can only claim the power of Christ's death on the cross as our sacrifice. Another old hymn reminds us: "In my hand no price I bring. Simply to thy cross I cling" (*Rock of Ages*).

God affirms trustful obedience (vv. 15-16a, 18). Having stayed Abraham's hand by the intervention of one of his angels, God renewed the covenant he made with Abraham when he called him away from family and friends into a new land. — Nail, a former Nashville pastor, works at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.



Family Bible SS Lesson — Oct. 8

Witnessing to lost people

By Rick Roberts

Focal Passage:

Acts 8:1-5, 26-31, 34-35

Going To new places (vv. 1-5).

On the very day that Stephen was put to death for his proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, a persecution of the church membership began in Jerusalem. Before only the leaders of the church were attacked now the whole church came under attack. The word that is translated persecution literally means to pursue or chase in the Greek. The Christians were being chased down by zealous Jews and severely mistreated, some even died. Something strange happens when the church is persecuted. Rather than becoming weaker it actually gets stronger. That was the case in the beginning.

All in Jerusalem were not in agreement with the persecution of the church. Notice in verse 2 that some "devout" men buried Stephen and made "loud lamentation" over him. In other words these men mourned publicly the death of Stephen. It is not clear whether these men were Christians or not.

The word that is translated devout has to do with one's standing with regard to the Jewish law. These men were certainly faithful Jews but we simply do not know if they were saved or not. They quite possibly could have been men from the Synagogue that Stephen attended. At any rate their public mourning of Stephen's death was an illegal act. It was against Jewish law to publicly mourn a criminal's death (Stephen's

crimes were heresy and blasphemy). What these men did amounted to a public demonstration against the Jewish leadership. Two individuals stand out in this passage. One is Saul who will become the Apostle Paul and the other is Philip. We see Paul in agreement with the stoning of Stephen and we also see that Paul becomes the most ardent leader of persecuting the church. The word that is used to describe his actions against the church means to tear to pieces like a wild animal does its prey. Paul was literally tearing the church to pieces.

While this persecution was going on, those who were scattered like seed bore witness to Jesus Christ. The word that is translated "preaching" means to tell the good news and usually is used to refer to personal evangelism. These were ordinary Christians who were telling about Jesus as they went about their lives. Philip stands out from the others because he proclaimed Christ publicly.

Meeting new people (vv. 26-28). Philip was directed by an angel to go to a specific place. Philip was told to go to a desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip had no idea why he was being told to go. All that Philip knew at this point was that he was told to go. Philip was obedient to the word of the Lord and as he went he saw a man riding in a chariot. The man was an important man. He was a government official — a treasurer. This man was a

eunuch and though he worshiped the God of Israel he could not be a convert because he was a eunuch. This secretary of the treasury is going home after a visit to Jerusalem to worship and is reading Isaiah while his caravan moves slowly down the road. The carriage had to be moving slowly for him to be able to read the scroll of Isaiah. No high ranking official such as this man would be traveling alone on a desert road.

Being faithful (vv. 29-31, 34-35).

Notice that God is the one who directs Philip where he is to go and to whom he is to speak.

It is important for us to realize that God is the one who converts someone. Our part as witnesses is to be available for his use. Philip was prepared. When Philip heard the treasurer reading from Isaiah concerning the Messiah, Philip was prepared to lead this man through the Scriptures so that the Holy Spirit could reveal the truth of the word of God and bring conviction to his heart. We too must be prepared at all times. In Philip's encounter with the treasurer we see the sovereignty of God in salvation. We see God drawing the unsaved to himself, preparing the heart of the seeker, and speaking through the obedience of his servant. May we be found faithful like Philip in going where God directs us and proclaiming Christ to those to whom God leads us. — Roberts is pastor, First Baptist Church, Rockwood.

Explore the Bible SS Lesson — Oct. 8

leaders

■ Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, has called **Ed Necker Jr.**, as minister of education and associate pastor. He formerly was on the staff of a church in Arlington, Texas. Necker is a graduate of Houston Baptist University, Houston, Texas; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, where he is working on a doctorate.

■ **Guy E. Bates Jr.**, associate pastor, music/worship, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, has been called to serve on the staff of Grace Baptist Church, Springfield.

■ **James Walker**, minister of education/administration, First Baptist Church, Donelson, has resigned to work at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville. He will serve the church as interim minister of education.

■ **Randy Calton** was ordained to the ministry Oct. 1 by McCloud Baptist Church, Rogersville, where he has been called as pastor.

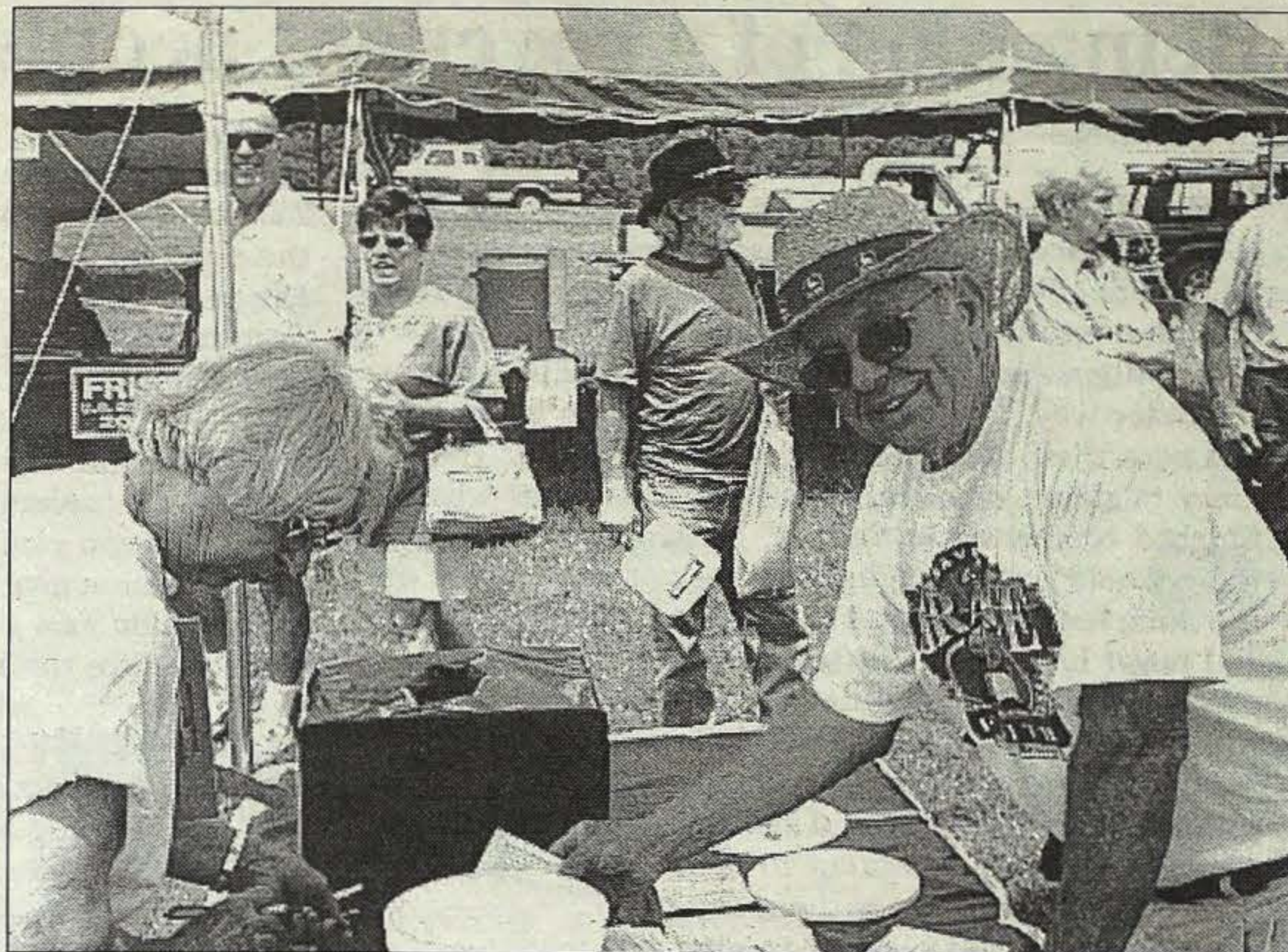
■ Shepards Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville, recently called **Johnny Carr**, pastor, to serve full-time in that role. Carr has served the church bivocationally for 10 years and is the first pastor of the church to serve full-time.

■ **Louis Ball** has been called as interim minister of music and **Mary Charlotte Ball** has been called as organist, First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. **John Simons**, minister of music, joined the faculty of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and **Douglas Manley**, organist, joined the faculty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. The Balls are retired from the staff of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

churches

■ **Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Baxter**, will hold homecoming services Oct. 22. Everett Hooper, former pastor, will speak during the morning worship service. A luncheon and afternoon music program will follow.

■ **Valley Grove Baptist Church, Knoxville**, (Old Sevierville Pike), will hold a revival Oct. 15-18. Billy Smith of Madison, Miss., will speak and Jeff Story, minister of music, Valley Grove Church, will lead the music. For more informa-



tion, contact the church at (865) 577-6620.

■ **First Baptist Church, Old Hickory**, opened its new library Oct. 1. And the church will hold revival Oct. 22-25.

■ **Macedonia Baptist Church, Kenton**, will offer its Judgment House Oct. 28, 29, and 31 from 6-10 p.m. To make reservations, call (901) 749-7883.

■ **Bethlehem Baptist Church, Crossville**, will hold a Christian Women's Conference Oct. 28 beginning at 9 a.m. The theme is "A Woman's Walk with God — Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit." Elizabeth George, author and speaker, will speak. The cost is \$25. For more information, call (931) 484-9743 or 456-0239.

■ **Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville**, celebrated its 175th anniversary Oct. 1. Morris Chapman, president, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, Nashville, spoke during the morning worship service. A historical pageant was presented during the evening service.

■ **First Baptist Church, Humboldt**, will hold revival Oct. 8-11. It will be led by evangelists Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa and Carolyn Reed of Nashville.

■ **First Baptist Church, Clinton**, will observe its 160th anniversary Nov. 5. Heritage Sunday activities include a special morning worship service which will feature Samuel Dean, pastor emeritus, and afternoon concert featuring Nancy Fay, pianist; Lydsey Denton, organist; and Perry Ward, vocalist. For more information, contact the church at (865) 457-9353.

■ **Mision Hispana Bautista, Southland**, or **Baptist Hispanic Mission** of Southland Baptist Church, Memphis, will be sponsored by Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis, and

be known as Mision Hispana Bautista, Ridgeway, beginning Oct. 1.

■ **Curve Baptist Church, Ripley**, will hold revival Oct. 8-11. Joe Wright, director of missions, Dyer Baptist Association, based in Dyersburg, will speak.

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

associations

■ The 100th Annual Meeting of **Nashville Baptist Association**, based in Nashville, will be Oct. 23 at First Baptist Church, Nashville, beginning at 7 p.m. Activities will include the presentation of a quilt from Woman's Missionary Union members, recognition of new churches, and music by the First Church sanctuary choir.

■ **William Carey Baptist Association**, based in Fayetteville, will hold The Big Gig (Getting Intimate with God) Youth Conference Oct. 28 at Central Junior High School, Fayetteville. The cost is \$10 per person and provides a T-shirt. For more information, call (931) 433-6374.

■ **Holston Valley Baptist Association**, based in Rogersville, recently sent a team of 15 people to Venezuela. The team which worked with Baptists from North Carolina, served in San Cristobal, where they began building a church in 1997. Leaders were Ronell Owensby of North Carolina, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Rogersville, and Denny Sorah of First Baptist Church, Surgoinsville.

ROY DECK, a member of Washburn Baptist Church, Washburn, helps a woman visiting the Grainger Baptist Association booth at the Grainger County Annual Tomato Festival held this summer at the Rutledge high school and middle school in Rutledge. The woman is registering for a gift which was given to a festival participant visiting the booth.

■ **Weakley County Baptist Association**, based in Dresden, will participate in three Habitat for Humanity projects in Dresden, Sharon, and Greenfield. For more information, contact the association office at (901) 364-3739.

state events

■ **The Tennessee Baptist Nursing Fellowship** state meeting was held recently at Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville. About 40 people from 21 churches participated, reported Carolyn Demonbreun of First Baptist Church, Smyrna. They heard John Tarpley, associate chief of surgical services, Veterans Affairs Hospital, Nashville, and former missionary to Nigeria, Africa, and Linda Coakley, a nurse and missions volunteer who serves at the Nashville Union Mission Clinic. Nurses shared ministry projects conducted during the past year which included parish nursing, prayer partnership with missionary nurses, teaching abstinence in local schools, holding health fairs, and taking blood pressure of those attending the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting and the Woman's Missionary Union state meeting. Judy Jackson of Faith Baptist



CHURCH LEADERS of Fairview Baptist Church, Watauga ground Aug. 13 for a Christian Life Center. They are, from left: Barnett; Haskel Arney, who has been a member of the church 67 years; Tom Howell; Cleatis Boling; Kenneth Jordan; Doug Childers; Steve Lowrance; Harold Ellis, chairman of the church; Steve Clemons; and Elmer Clemons.

Tennessee

Church, Bartlett, is present. For more information, Vickie Anderson, Tennessee Baptist Woman's Mission Union, at 1-800-558-2679 or (615) 371-7918, derson@tnbaptist.org.

■ The Knoxville Police Department Chaplain Council will hold a **Police Chaplain Training Academy** Oct. 28 and Nov. 3-4 and 10. The training will provide education in the International Conference of Police Chaplains. The cost is \$25. For more information, contact Alan S. (865) 215-7384.

schools

■ The Baptist Student Union of the University of Tennessee - Martin will have its second annual Missions Fair Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is held in the University Center. People groups wishing to discuss opportunities for students in 2001 are being sought. For more information, Adam Hall at (901) 521-1242 or ahall@tnbaptist.org.

hospitals

■ **Baptist Hospital** in Nashville; American Heart Association; NewsChannel 5; Tennessee Titans professional football team will offer diaphragm resuscitation training Oct. 7 at American Coliseum, Nashville. The training will begin at 8:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. For information, call (615) 442-4277.