

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

Page 166/ Number 42

Statewide Edition

November 1, 2000

## Laotian congregation is first in TBC to constitute

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — The first Laotian church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention was constituted Sunday evening, Oct. 22, at Southeast Baptist Church here.

Life Laotian Baptist Church, a branch of Southeast Church that was founded in 1988, may also be the first Laotian church to officially constitute in the United States, according to Pastor Thomas Phothisack.

There are about 45 Laotian congregations in the United States, including in Tennessee, according to Phothisack, who has been an officer in the Tennessee Southern Baptist Fellowship, and Jaime Prieto, manager of Asian Ministries Planting for the North American Mission Board.

Phothisack was excited about the opportunity of being a constituted church.

"We are self-supporting," he said, "and that the church plans to join the Tennessee Baptist Association and the Tennessee and Southern Baptist conventions."

"We can proclaim the Gospel of



**PARTICIPATING IN THE** constitution service for New Life Laotian Baptist Church were, from left, Terry Robbins, missions committee member, Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; New Life Pastor Thomas Phothisack; Southeast Pastor Brian Reynolds; and James Powers, director of missions, Concord Baptist Association.

Christ to the Laotian people of Rutherford County and around the world," he said.

The church already has been giving to the association and the Cooperative Program, affirmed Terry Robbins, a member of Southeast's missions committee who has served as a liaison with the New Life congregation. He and his wife, Wanda, also have been directly in-

volved with the church, serving as Sunday School teachers.

"They know they wouldn't be where they are without the missions support of Tennessee and Southern Baptists," Robbins said.

With the assistance of Concord Association, Southeast Church, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Laotian congregation purchased its

own building in 1992.

The church has grown from its initial membership of one family in Bible study to 104 members. Prior to the constitution service on Sunday evening the church baptized five people during the morning service.

"Today is a glorious day" for everyone who has been involved with the Laotian congregation, Robbins said, adding that "it's the culmination of a lot of hard work for everyone."

Concord Association Director of Missions James Powers agreed.

"This is quite a day. I don't think it's ever happened before in the association — two churches constituted by the same church on the same day." Earlier that day another mission of Southeast — Harvest View — was constituted as a church.

Powers said the opportunity to minister to people of different nationalities is a gift from God.

Powers challenged the New Life congregation to be the church God would have them to be and to carry his message throughout the area.

"I am so excited because God has placed you in our community," Powers told the New Life members. ■



### Celebrating heritage

The Woman's Missionary Union of Nashville Baptist Association celebrated the 100th anniversary of the association by presenting a quilt made by WMU members commemorating the event. Making the presentation were WMU director Nelda Brown, right, Creevewood Baptist Church, Nashville; and Frances McGlocklin, left, First Baptist Church, Nashville, who ordained the quilting.

Emma Waters Summar Library  
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### Southern Baptist statesman

## James L. Sullivan still active at age 90

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — In 1900 Nashville Baptist Association was organized by 13 area churches.

Ten years later the baby who would grow up and preach the centennial sermon for the association was born in Silver Creek, Miss. — James L. Sullivan.

That infant grew up to be one of Southern Baptists' foremost statesmen.

Sullivan's ties with Nashville and Tennessee Baptists date back to 1947 when he became pastor of Belmont Heights Baptist Church here.

He would leave for a brief period to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas. He would return in 1953 to serve as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christ-

ian Resources), Southern Baptists' publishing arm.

During his sermon Sullivan observed there have been many changes over the years.

One thing that has not and will not change is the message of the church, Sullivan said.

"As long as we keep the message consistent and the spirit Christ-like, God can use us," he maintained.

Though illness has weakened his body in recent years, Sullivan still possesses that sharp mind that has earned him the admiration of countless people over the years.

"I don't preach as much as I would like to or used to, but I keep up with everything," the 90-year-old Sullivan said.

In an interview with the Baptist and Reflector, Sullivan



**JAMES L. SULLIVAN** delivered the annual sermon Oct. 23 for the 100th annual meeting of Nashville Baptist Association.

reflected on his nearly 70 years of ministry which has included service as pastor of churches, ranging from small country — See James, page 3

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## Blood shortage in Kentucky eased by celebration of CP

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The timing of Operation Cooperation, a statewide blood drive by Kentucky Baptists, has proven to be a providential witness to the state.

The statewide effort, which garnered 3,392 units of blood through 76 different blood drives, was part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, the key Southern Baptist channel of support for missions and ministry.

Little did anyone know in the planning stages earlier this year that the Red Cross would have to be issuing a nationwide appeal for donors just as Kentucky Baptists were prepared to launch their drives in September.

"I definitely count it as the Lord's timing," said Robert Reeves, the KBC's state coordinator for Operation Cooperation. "At the time we were planning the drives, our 75th anniversary celebration committee was looking for a way in which Kentucky Baptists could demonstrate cooperation and celebrate this birthday by giving a special gift to our communities. The blood drives seemed to be a great way to do that but we had no idea the need would be so severe just at the time we were to begin this major effort."

Kentucky Baptists worked with more than 10 different blood service organizations to organize the drives, most of which were held in Baptist churches.

"Most blood drives are local efforts that involve a single

blood service organization, so there's no real way to know if we've set any kind of record," Reeves said. "We weren't doing it for the praise though. We simply wanted to share the love of Jesus in a way that the secular community could identify with."

Blood service organization spokespersons said the Baptist drives definitely had an important effect on the shortage in Kentucky. ■

## Dobson, others seek prayers for upcoming elections

Baptist Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The National Day of Prayer Task Force and Focus on the Family have launched a nationwide campaign in preparation for the Nov. 7 elections.

The initiative parallels a similar call to prayer issued by Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt.

The task force/Focus on the Family initiative, "PRAY ... FOR ELECTION DAY!" will encourage millions of Christians to seriously consider and act upon their spiritual and moral obligations in the upcoming elections. The two ministries are targeting pastors, ministry leaders, and their constituencies to mark Nov. 5 as a day to pray, fast, and exhort others to vote.

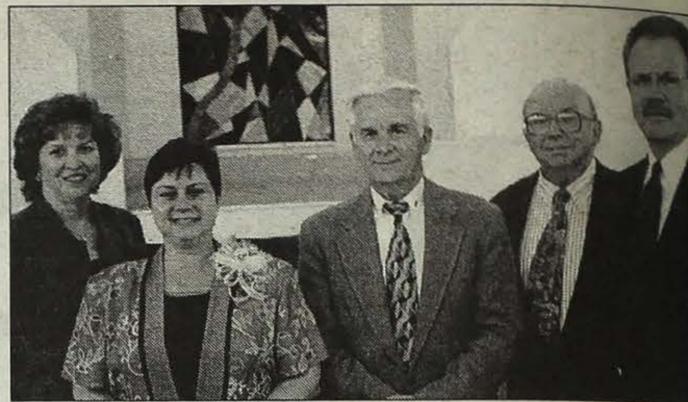
"This is a watershed moment for our country," said Shirley Dobson, chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. "As a nation we've lost our tradition of right and wrong, common decency, and kindness. Only God, along with the commitment and courage exercised by people of faith, can restore truth and morality to our land."

Dobson noted that although God desires to intervene in every area of society, his promise to bring healing to the nation is conditional. "The prayers of God's people ultimately offer hope for our nation — for God calls on his people to intercede, and he alone has the power to place men and women of integri-



## Haywood officers elected

Officers of Haywood Baptist Association were elected during their annual meeting. From left are Bob Campbell, interim director of missions; Mark Conway, pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville, moderator; Mike Moore, pastor, Woodland Baptist Church, Brownsville, vice moderator; and Betty Presley, Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville, clerk.



## Carroll-Benton elects officers

Messengers to the annual meeting of Carroll-Benton Baptist Association recently elected officers. From left are Lillian Rice, Prospect Baptist Church, Hollow Rock, clerk; Debbie Robert, associational secretary; James "Sonny" Daniel, pastor, Prospect Church, moderator; Ted Duffey, pastor, Sugar Tree Baptist Chapel, Holladay, outgoing moderator; and Dennis Trull, pastor, First Baptist Church, McKenzie, assistant moderator.

ty in positions of leadership," Dobson said. "Our civic duty to vote and exhort others to participate in the electoral process is a tremendous privilege and responsibility." ■

## Telephone plea troubles religious liberty groups

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A conference call from presidential candidate Al Gore to black ministers urging them to "get out the vote" has prompted two normally adversarial groups to speak with one voice, criticizing the vice president for urging the clergymen to promote the Democrat ticket from their pulpits.

"I'm asking you in your sermons to do the work of the Lord here on earth," Gore is reported to have said in the call from Air Force Two on Oct. 14. The press account which was reported in the Oct. 15 edition of *The New York Times* noted that Gore specifically asked the ministers to get "that message out urgently tomorrow," which was Sunday.

Both Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention and Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State agreed the vice president's request was troubling.

"It is particularly bothersome to hear that the vice president is encouraging ministers to violate clear IRS guidelines on partisan politicking in their churches," said Land, who is president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"Where is the outrage?" Land asked. "Can you imagine the hue and cry in the electronic media if Governor Bush had placed such a similarly inappropriate call to Pat Robertson or Jerry Falwell?"

In a letter to Gore, Lynn, the executive director of Americans United, said the newspaper story — if "accurate" — appears to cast the vice president as "ask-

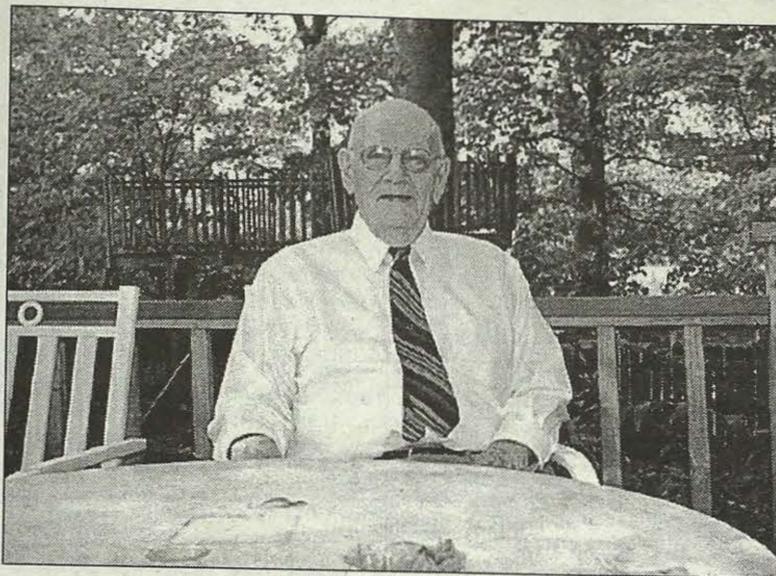
ing religious leaders to end your candidacy from the pulpit. In an AU news release, Lynn said such activity could place "tax-exempt status of the churches at risk," reminding Gore that IRS regulations for pastors in their official capacity with a church to endorse a candidate. ■

## Partnership Prayer Requests

November

- 1 — Praise God for 56 couples who recently attended the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's fall marriage retreat.
- 2 — Pray for Janelle Gane, IMB missionary to Brazil, as she leads music clinics for churches in Rio de Janeiro.
- 3 — Pray for Jim and Bech Graham, NAMB missionaries to Canada, who are serving as church planter/catalysts in Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 4 — Pray for the 43rd annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan to be held Nov. 7-9 in Burton.
- 5 — Pray for Eddy and Brenda Hallock, IMB missionaries to Brazil, as they work with a church in Barra de Tijuca in Rio.
- 6 — Praise God for the more than 100 singles who attended a singles adult retreat in Michigan in October.
- 7 — Praise God for a 20-member team from the Cioica Baptist Convention in Rio who worked Sept. 27-Oct. 6 in evangelism in Memphis.
- 8 — Pray for Julio Ruiz, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Delta, British Columbia, Canada, as he awaits surgery for a heart valve.

# James L. Sullivan still active at age 90 ...



**SOUTHERN BAPTIST** statesman James L. Sullivan relaxes at his home in Donelson where he lives with his daughter and son-in-law, Beth and Bob Taylor.

Continued from page 1  
 es to a large metropolitan church — to head of the Protestant denominational publishing house.  
 s a former president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (1949-50) and the Southern Baptist Convention. Sullivan also served as president of the Baptist Alliance from 1975-80 as preached on every continent and in every region of the United States. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Your Life in Your Church*, which has a circulation of more than one million copies, *Rope of Sand*, *Strength of Steel*, and *Polity As I See It*.  
 despite all the accomplishments, recognitions, and honors, Sullivan remains hum-

ble in his tenure with the Suncoast School Board, Sullivan observed, "I wouldn't work that hard for anybody but the Lord and the Southern Baptists."  
 Sullivan's love for his denomination is evident. Current LifeWay President Draper observed Sullivan has been "a great state-of-the-art and courageous leader" of the Southern Baptists.  
 "I love our denomination and have a great grasp of how it should function together,"

Draper said.

He noted that Sullivan has been a supporter and encourager. "He has never butted in but he gives counsel and suggestions when asked. It really means a lot," Draper said.

Sullivan has been saddened by the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years, but has refused to become identified with either "side." While attending SBC annual meetings over the years, Sullivan intentionally did not register as a messenger in order to keep himself apart from the controversy.

Sullivan has some distinct ideas about topics that are of major focus today.

► On being conservative. "I have always said Baptists are 98 percent conservative," Sullivan maintained. The problem is that the definition of conservative has changed, he said.

Being conservative used to mean a belief in atoning power, saving grace, eternal security, and heavenly rewards, Sullivan recounted. Today, however, there is a concept that all Baptists ought to see everything alike, he noted.

"We forget there is diversity

in every individual church. You can't have a unified concept with 41,000-plus churches when you can't have unity in one church."

► Statements of faith. "One problem we face today is many people misunderstand that a statement of faith becomes a creed when it becomes mandatory," Sullivan said.

There's nothing wrong with a statement of faith because it tells where a group stands as long as there is not enforced implementation and the statement is left up to the judgment of the churches and individuals, Sullivan said.

"When you make the creed the standard, you replace the Bible."

► The Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program is a simplified plan of giving for everyone including the individuals in the church, Sullivan shared. "I think it is the greatest system of denominational financing ever developed by any denomination, Protestant or Catholic."

When asked if he could live his life over again, would he still be a Southern Baptist, Sullivan responded emphatically.

"No question. We still have the best system (of any denomination). We're responsible for our decisions to God." ■

## Carroll-Benton Baptists tap Furr

For Baptist and Reflector

HUNTINGDON — Jimmy A. Furr has been elected director of missions for Carroll-Benton Baptist Association, effective Jan. 1, 2001.

Since 1988 Furr has served as regional director of the interfaith witness department of the North American Mission Board and has been based in Mt. Juliet.

A native of Tunica, Miss., Furr held several pastorates in Mississippi and one in Nebraska before joining the NAMB staff.



FURR

Furr has served on numerous associational and state committees and boards of the Mississippi and Nebraska conventions.

He holds degrees from Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Furr and his wife, Linda, have two daughters, Jennifer Lee and Kerri Lynn. ■

## Nabi named president of new national group involved with the developmentally disabled

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Almost 20 percent of people in North America are disabled. That is 53,907,000 in the United States and 5,976,295 in Canada. Yet how many of these people are attending church?

To respond to this and other critical needs, a group of people interested in developmental ministries met in 1997 at a North American Mission Board conference and endorsed a proposal to form a national organization dedicated to developmental disabilities. This summer a steering committee was formed and created the Baptist Developmental Disabilities Ministries Fellowship.

The group elected Gene Nabi of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff as president.

"We are a group of parents, caregivers, interested individuals, family members, churches, organizations, teachers, and other professionals," said Nabi, who serves the TBC in the area of developmental disabilities.

BDDMF is "a national Christian organization of people who work as advocates for people with developmental disabilities," Nabi said, "and our involvement will grow into a wide range of activities."

Nabi, along with his wife, Joy, is known nationally and in Tennessee for pioneering the offering of Baptist homes for people with developmental disabilities. He formerly worked for LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, for 13 years in the area of developmental disabilities ministries.



NABI

Joy Nabi is president of Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons based in Nashville. BHEP has opened three homes in the Nashville area which are managed by Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, based at the TBC Baptist Center. Sixteen men and eight women live in the homes.

The couple, who are members of Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, got involved in DDM to help their son, Scott, who is now 39 and is a resident of one of the BHEP homes.

Scott has lived there for 10 years and works at a sheltered workshop.

Gene Nabi explained the goal of BDDMF is "to develop Christ-centered advocacy, education, and ministry to people touched by developmental disabilities."

Members of the fellowship will receive a quarterly newsletter and opportunities to participate in regional meetings, he said.

Membership categories are students — \$5; caregivers — \$10; individuals — \$25; families — \$35; churches — \$50; organizations — \$100. The first meeting of BDDMF will be held Sept. 17-19, 2001, in Orlando, Fla., and is open to everyone.

For more information, contact Nabi at (615) 662-0327 or gnabi@aol.com. ■

## LifeWay, TBC offer 'Strength Under Stress'

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — "Strength Under Stress," a conference for pastors, staff, and families will be offered Nov. 27 at Union Avenue Baptist Church here.

The conference is sponsored by LeaderCare of LifeWay Christian Resources and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Speakers include James Draper, Tommy Yessick and Brooks Faulkner of LifeWay; Bill Hancock, a former pastor who has walked through personal crisis; and Aubrey Hay of the TBC.

The cost is \$35 per person and includes all books, handouts, materials, and lunch.

Mail check to LeaderCare, c/o Kay Russell, LifeWay Christian Resources, 127 Ninth Avenue, N., Nashville, TN 37234. For more information, call (615) 251-2173. ■

## New River goes under 'watchcare' Big Emory

For Baptist and Reflector

BARRIMAN — After prayer and discussion as well as votes of messengers from New River Baptist Association and Big Emory Baptist Association, the two associations will work together for one year.

New River Association will be under the watchcare of Big Emory Association for next year as both associations study and work together to discover the best ways to do to strengthen the associations, said Big Emory Director of Missions and Acres.

New River Association is located in Scott County which lies to the north of Big Emory. New River is composed of 18 churches with one church in Morgan County and one in Campbell County. "Please pray for both associations as we strive to do what God would have us do," Acres asked. ■

# Woman publishes children's book on Internet

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Debra Ridley may have become a registered nurse, wife, and mother, but her childhood dream was to become a writer. So when she perceived a need for Christian children's books while raising her daughter in the 90s, she wrote a book.

The main story came to her, Ridley admitted somewhat sheepishly, while she was participating in a worship service of Trinity Baptist Church, Bolivar, in 1995.

## Writing the book

She wrote down some of it right then, said Ridley, who is

a member of Macon Road Baptist Church, Memphis. She finished it in several weeks.

It was easy to pick the two main characters — two dogs, said Ridley. Ike, an Australian shepherd dog, and Sally Sue, a mixed breed dog, were her pets.

Ike moved with Ridley and her family to Memphis several years ago from Whiteville.

Sally Sue decided to live with Ridley's in-laws because he likes living in the country, explained Ridley.

In the book, the two dogs learn a lesson about listening to and obeying their elders. Although she doesn't refer to God or

the Bible in the book, the message is a biblical one, said Ridley. She hopes non-Christians will read it and be influenced by it.

Ridley also wrote the book to give Christian parents and others involved in childcare more books with Christian messages from which to choose. She hopes to counter messages in cartoons and advertisements that parents are incompetent, often almost buffoons, compared to children.

## Publishing the book

At Macon Road Church Ridley met Max Kemp a commercial artist. Kemp was delighted to illustrate the book partly because he wasn't working as a

commercial artist at the time. Ridley copyrighted the book as *The Adventures of Ike the Shepherd Dog and Sally Sue*.

While Ridley was pregnant with her second child in 1997, she had time to begin proposing the book to publishers. She tried for nearly three years.

The cost was going to be about \$15 a book and some publishers wanted to make changes, like removing some color in the illustrations.

So Ridley decided to publish *The Adventures of Ike the Shepherd Dog and Sally Sue* through the Internet publisher, 1st Books Library, as an e.book or electronic book.

Some of the benefits of this

kind of publishing is the book only costs \$2.95. It gives children another computer offering besides educational programs and games, noted Ridley. The book can be read by children alone after a few instructions on computer use. And a copy of the book can be printed.

*The Adventures of Ike the Shepherd Dog and Sally Sue* can be bought by accessing the site at [www.1stbooks.com](http://www.1stbooks.com). The site is a secure site so credit cards can be used without fear, added Ridley, who is working on her second book of a series on Ike and Sally Sue. *B&R*



**PETTING** Ike, the model for a character in the book, are Debra Ridley, center, and Autumn, her daughter.



**READING** *The Adventures of Ike the Shepherd Dog and Sally Sue* on the computer are Autumn Ridley, left, and Debra Ridley, the author.



**THE COVER** of the book would appear on a computer in hard copy.

# Marolyn Ford finds faith to endure physical challenge

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Marolyn Ford has a faith in God which she has practiced. She experienced a physical healing which was confirmed medically.

Some years later she developed another physical problem. She's not sure God will heal her again. She prays he will. But her physical state hasn't caused her to lose her faith, she claims.

## The healing

Ford is known by many Tennesseans and people worldwide as a speaker/evangelist/author. She was catapulted into these roles while a pastor's wife, mother, and housewife when she regained her eyesight after 13 years of blindness. The blindness was caused by juvenile macular degeneration.

An ophthalmologist examined her eyes after she regained her eyesight and said the holes in her retinas and scar tissue remained. Ford shouldn't be seeing. But she was.

Ford wasn't healed at a worship service or healing service,

but after she and her husband, Acie, said their prayers one night before going to sleep.

Marolyn had taught herself to close her eyes for prayer and open them afterwards like sighted people so she would not appear handicapped, she explained. That night, when she opened her eyes, she could see, Ford explained.

That same year, in 1972, Ford, 31, began speaking to groups to share her testimony, and her ministry grew very quickly. Ford has shared her story on the TV show, "The 700 Club" and several other TV shows; in meetings to as many as 20,000 people; at the annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists and SBC Pastors' Conference; and in 10 other countries. And she wrote about her experiences in the books, *These Blind Eyes Now See* and *Walking and Talking with Jesus*.

Ford also continued her activities as a mother of a four-year-old and pastor's wife. Acie was pastor of churches in Louisiana and Arkansas. In 1978 he was called as pastor of Boulevard Baptist Church, Memphis; and

has served as associate pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, for 19 years.

## The accident

The Ford family was prospering in Memphis in 1991 when Marolyn fell in the bathtub and broke her back. She recovered well from surgery, but gradually developed a condition which left her digestive system paralyzed. Since 1996 Ford has not been able to eat, drink, or ingest anything by mouth. She has been sustained by nourishment which is introduced into her body intravenously. She must add medication by way of syringes.

In 1998 she developed a blood infection from which she wasn't expected to recover.

## Dealing with her condition

Ford still speaks to share her testimony, often traveling to do so. She even traveled by



**ACIE AND** Marolyn Ford stay active with use of her motorized vehicle.

plane until her 1998 setback.

"I know he's keeping me alive to share this story," said Ford.

She speculates God returned her sight because he knew she would need it to

manage her current situation.

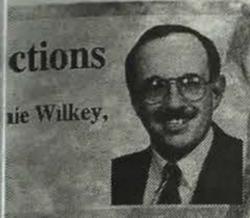
Ford admitted this physical problem is much more difficult than blindness. She endures hunger and thirst constantly which the nutritional feed doesn't assuage. Her health is failing. She can't easily socialize and misses fellowship with others. Until this year, Ford still joined Acie and friends at restaurants and hosted friends for meals in their home.

But this year on the couple's 38th anniversary, Ford is strong enough to shop for and prepare a meal for Acie. She still cooks for family. And she recently completed another book, *Grace to Endure*.

Ford actually claims she has performed several healing miracles in her life to allow her to survive. The couple praise the Southern Baptist Annual Board which covers her medical needs through insurance provided by Broadmoor Church. And they praise the church's members and others for their support.

"I know the joy and the glory to receive God's miracle, now God's teaching me the glory to endure," said Ford. *B&R*

# Lessons can be learned from our history



**Columns**  
James L. Sullivan

is a valuable  
Taylor Coleridge  
"If men could learn  
history, what lessons it  
teach us."  
Historians we have a long  
distinguished past. I fear,  
that we are on the  
forgetting where we  
came from as Southern  
Baptists we need to use the re-  
sources we have available to



**Letters from readers**

## Historical perspective

Thank you so much for the  
article about Brother-  
hood Baptist Church  
in Cookeville church at-  
tending still delivers mira-  
cles. Certainly give all the  
praise to our Lord  
Jesus Christ.  
I would like to clarify a spe-  
cialty. The recovery of  
church records indicate  
the average Sunday  
attendance was 40 and  
the average was 61 for  
instead of what was re-  
ported. I do apologize for the  
editorial mistake.  
I still continues to pour  
abundant blessings upon  
when people were saved  
in the month of  
alone and construction  
on our new multi-  
education building.  
Thank you for all your  
Glory and praise to  
of Kings and Lord of

Mark Phillips, pastor  
Brotherton Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Cookeville 38506

## Shared

Page one of the Oct. 18  
was a photograph of  
University President  
Dockery shaking hands  
with communist guest  
and presenting him  
Russian-language Bible.  
The headline read, "Giv-  
ing Word," and the para-  
graph that followed ended with

us. The most valuable of those  
resources are the men and  
women who have walked down  
the path of history and are still  
available to us.

One of those is James L.  
Sullivan, retired president of  
the Baptist Sunday School  
Board (now LifeWay Christian  
Resources).

Dr. Sullivan preached the  
annual message at the 100th  
annual meeting of the Nash-  
ville Baptist Association last  
week (see page 1). In introduc-  
ing Dr. Sullivan, Herbert Gab-  
hart, chancellor of Belmont  
University in Nashville, com-  
mented that Dr. Sullivan has  
"more Southern Baptist histo-  
ry in his head than any other  
Southern Baptist I know."

I had the privilege of visit-  
ing with Dr. Sullivan at his

home recently. At age 90 his  
mind is as sharp as ever. Visit-  
ing and having lunch with him  
is something I will remember  
for a long time. If Southern  
Baptists had a "hall of fame"  
like baseball and other sports  
do, James Sullivan certainly  
would be a member. Current  
LifeWay President James  
Draper has referred to Dr. Sul-  
livan as a "statesman and  
courageous leader." Both terms  
apply without question.

Several years ago Dr. Sulli-  
van wrote a series of columns  
entitled "Southern Baptists: A  
Historical Perspective" for the  
church newsletter at First  
Baptist Church, Nashville,  
where he is a member.

Several of those columns  
were reprinted in the *Baptist  
and Reflector*. We are going to

reprint those columns once  
again in a continuing series.  
Dr. Sullivan is reviewing those  
articles and may update them  
as he sees fit. We begin this  
week.

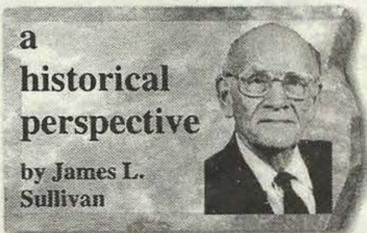
It is imperative that we, as  
Southern Baptists, do not for-  
get our roots, those distinctives  
that have defined us as a de-  
nomination.

Dr. Sullivan is one man who  
can remind us of our heritage.  
He intentionally has tried to  
remove himself from the con-  
troversy that has surrounded  
Southern Baptists over the  
past 20 years or so.

We would do well as South-  
ern Baptists to consistently re-  
view our history and try to  
learn from it as Coleridge has  
suggested. "What lessons it  
might teach us." ■



**editorial/  
opinion**



**a  
historical  
perspective**  
by James L.  
Sullivan

## Fellowship with like-minded Baptists

Baptist churches in the  
same geographical area should  
be supporters of each other,  
not competitors. Churches are  
different just as people are.  
Each church has a distinct  
contribution to make. Baptists  
should go to the church dear-  
est to them and not just the  
one nearest them.

The idea of a district Bap-  
tist association for fellowship  
and mutual help was organ-  
ized in England when soldier  
boys serving the British mili-  
tary were sent into far-flung  
parts of their vast empire.

These boys, serving afar in  
strange lands with odd cul-  
tures and a different language,  
found themselves lonely and  
homesick. They yearned for an  
association with "their kind"  
so they could not only have a  
warm fellowship, but provide  
for themselves support groups  
with listening ears and help-  
ing hands when needed. They  
organized "associations" to  
meet these heartfelt personal  
needs.

When these boys returned  
home to become leading Bap-  
tist laymen and pastors, they  
suffered similar needs and  
yearnings. They were "so-  
journers in a strange land,"  
where the masses belonged to  
state churches that resented  
their "odd" ways of expressed  
religion. For the same pur-  
pose, they started Baptist as-  
sociations which fitted beauti-  
fully into the New Testament  
scheme of things.

Baptists in America had a  
similar feeling for that need  
for fellowship and cooperation  
with other Baptists, starting  
their first association in 1707.

The oldest one in the South  
was in Charleston, S.C., which  
was set up in 1751, 94 years  
before the Southern Baptist  
Convention.

More people attend associa-  
tional meetings than any other  
unit of our Baptist work. ■ —  
Sullivan is retired president of  
the Baptist Sunday School  
Board (now LifeWay Christian  
Resources) and is a member of  
First Baptist Church, Nashville.  
These columns on Baptist her-  
itage will appear regularly.

this sentence. "During Gor-  
bachev's visit, Dockery shared  
the Gospel with the former So-  
viet leader."

Taking this tastefully stated  
report about such an intimate  
moment at its face value, we  
should joyfully thank God that  
Dr. Dockery was given oppor-  
tunity enough, courage  
enough, and inspiration  
enough to plant to the best of  
his ability Christian seeds in  
the heart of none other than  
the world's most famous living  
atheist.

It is said that Mr. Gor-  
bachev "changed the world for  
the better," but that is ar-  
guable in many ways, includ-  
ing that the leader now of the  
globalism movement still iden-  
tifies himself as "a convinced  
communist" and also that the  
current "good times" in the for-  
mer U.S.S.R. and in U.S.-Russ-  
ian relations, easily and in-  
stantly could be reversed at  
the whim of certain "powers  
behind the thrones."

David Dockery saw the  
uniqueness of the opportunity  
that was his, and he took it ex-  
actly as the Great Commission  
instructs. For whatever  
Mikhail Gorbachev might have  
been before Oct. 10, 2000, from  
that day on we can view the  
man as one who has been per-  
sonally and invitingly shown  
the plan of salvation. If Mr.  
Gorbachev quenches the Spirit  
and continues unchecked in  
his ways, then his eternal des-  
tiny will not be due to his not  
having been told.

I have been critical of Union  
for its engagement of this par-  
ticular person as the drawing  
card for its annual fundraising  
affair. I still think it was a bad  
idea, but Dr. Dockery has  
proven once again the truth in  
Romans 8:28 that "all things  
work together for good to them

that love God, to them who are  
the called according to his pur-  
pose."  
Now that Dr. Dockery has  
done his part, are the rest of us  
going to do ours and pray with-  
out ceasing that those seeds,  
now for certain planted in the  
heart of the aging Gorbachev,  
will soon grow into the flower-  
ing and fruit-bearing plant ex-  
actly as the Lord and nature  
would have it?

Richard Ward  
Greenfield 38230

turn to deep biblical cleansing.

Henry Blackaby  
Rex, Ga. 30273

## Honor our veterans

Veteran's Day commemo-  
rates the courage and patrio-  
tism of all the men and women  
who have served in the United  
States Armed Services. It is  
celebrated on Nov. 11.

In 1919, President Woodrow  
Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as  
Armistice Day. In 1954, Con-  
gress changed the name to  
Veteran's Day to honor all U.S.  
veterans.

When we celebrate Veter-  
an's Day it reminds us that  
freedom is not free. How many  
pilots' planes were shot down?  
How many died at sea? How  
many foxholes were soldiers'  
graves? No, freedom is not free.

Veteran's Day reminds us  
when a flag had covered the  
coffin of a loved one or friend  
that gallantly gave up their life  
in the service for their country.  
It reminds us of all the chil-  
dren of the mothers and the  
wives of fathers, sons, and hus-  
bands, with interrupted lives.  
Veteran's Day reminds us of a  
grave at the bottom of the sea,  
of unmarked graves in Arling-  
ton National Cemetery. No,  
freedom is not free.

Someone has said, "to be  
born free is a privilege, to die  
free is an awesome responsibil-  
ity." Yet freedom is never free.  
It is always obtained at a great  
cost of lives of America's mili-  
tary armed forces of almost a  
million during all the wars that  
our nation has been in-  
volved in.

Celebrate peace and free-  
dom in the new millennium  
when America salutes its vet-  
erans on Nov. 11.

Frank Stoffle  
Seymour 37865



## New Mexicans must meet CP standard

Associated Baptist Press

GALLUP, N.M. — Churches won't necessarily need to agree with the Southern Baptist Convention on what the Bible means to remain in fellowship with the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, but they must support the national denomination financially.

New Mexico Baptists meeting in annual session Oct. 23-25 in Gallup approved a bylaw change making fidelity to the Bible and support for the Cooperative Program unified budget the criteria for membership in the state group.

The change, recommended by the state convention's executive board, passed overwhelmingly but not without considerable discussion and failed parliamentary attempts to amend and table the motion.

A credentials study committee brought the following recommen-

### CLASSIFIED

#### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Calvary Baptist Church is seeking a pastor with the gift of preaching and a shepherd's heart, who upholds the inerrancy of Scripture and can lead us in fulfilling our mission to "love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind ... and love our neighbor as ourselves." We are a Southern Baptist congregation with a worship attendance of 175 in southern Indiana. We are a diverse body, committed to increasing Christ's kingdom both in our community and internationally. In addition to Sunday worship, we share our life in Christ through small groups and through ministries to children, youth, university students, men, and women. View our new facility at <http://www.seidata.com/~cbc/tour>. The pastor has the primary responsibility for preaching and will lead the ministry staff and lay leaders, relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance. Requirements include a commitment to biblical truth, previous pastoral experience, and a M.Div or equivalent degree. Candidates should submit inquiries, videocassettes, audiocassettes and/or resumes to Pastoral Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 2632 Michigan Rd., Madison, IN 47250.

First Baptist Church, Andrews, NC, seeks a full-time pastor. Resident membership of 366 with an average Sunday School attendance of 115 and an average worship service attendance of 140. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn. Search Committee, P.O. Box 427, Andrews, NC 28901.

tion, which previously gained executive board approval in July: "As an autonomous Baptist group, the convention reserves the right to determine what constitutes a cooperating Baptist church. Churches shall be considered in friendly cooperation who are sympathetic with the purpose and work of this convention, having demonstrated cooperation by contributing a minimum of \$250 to the Cooperative Program through the BCNM during the fiscal year preceding the annual

or special meeting of the convention. The faith and practices of each cooperating church, in the opinion of the convention in session, shall not be in conflict with Scripture. The convention in ses-

sion shall be the final judge of the qualifications of its members." ■

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### CLASSIFIED

#### MINISTRIES — OTHER

First Baptist Church, Cookeville (www.fbccookeville.org) seeks applications for position of minister of administration. Applicants need experience in developing, overseeing financial and personnel administration in church or secular environment; strong sense of Christian calling; strong computer skills. SS attendance of 600-700 with budget of \$1.2 million. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, 18 S. Walnut, Cookeville, TN 38501, Attn. Dr. Randall Adkisson. Info and job description available upon request.

First Baptist Church, Cookeville (www.fbccookeville.org) seeks applications for position of administrative assistant. Administrative responsibilities include: accounts payable, payroll, general ledger, contribution records, and insurance claims. Salary will be based upon experience. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 18 S. Walnut, Cookeville, TN 38501, Attn. Dr. Randall Adkisson. Information and job description available upon request.

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#### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

First Baptist Church, Mcville, Ga-Copperhill, Tennessee, seeking a full-time minister for senior adults. Please submit resume to John Way, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 867, Mcville, GA 30555.

First Baptist Church, Andrews, NC, seeks a full-time minister of music. Resident membership 366 with an average Sunday School attendance of 115 and an average worship service attendance of 140. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn. Personnel Committee, Box 427, Andrews, NC 28901.

#### MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Ararat Baptist Church, Jacksonville, seeking a full-time minister of youth and activities. If interested send resume to 3608 Broadway, Jackson, TN 38301 (901) 424-2529.

Senior High youth pastor for Cascade Hills Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga, is searching for an experienced leader for 200 senior high students. Excellent team to work with, high energy, creative, and pure, and doctrinally sound. Good financial package. Send resume to [www.cascadehills.org](http://www.cascadehills.org) and fill out an application form.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Church pews in various lengths. Please inquire to Free Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO, with Rev. Ken Atkinson (314) 739-1525.



ister's  
er  
Clayton

It is a rare and wonderful thing to find a person who is truly committed to Christ. It is easy to find people who are committed to their career, to their sports team, to a particular philosophy, to a certain lifestyle, and even some families. But it is not easy to find someone committed their all to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Churches have a lot of members, attenders, and contributors. But how large is the company of the truly committed?

In II Timothy 1:23, said: "For this reason I have left these things; nevertheless I am ashamed, because I have believed and am persuaded that I am able to keep what I have committed to me until that day." Paul gives us a good definition of a truly committed Christian. He knows in whom he believes and is sure of Christ. He is convinced that Jesus is able to keep all His promises.

There are two ways to read the Greek in Paul's text. It can be either: "What I have committed to myself" or "What He has committed to me." The Lord committed Himself to us totally as he proved on the cross. We can love him because he first loved us. We can commit our all to him because he committed Himself to us first. The word "committed" is a banking term signifying a deposit. Jesus will "keep" or "maintain" our deposit we make with him until the Day of Judgment.

How have you deposited your life? Is it in some bank account in the world? Or is it deposited where it will be guarded? He is able to keep our deposit for us. ■ - Clayton is pastor of Tulip Grove Church, Old Hickory.

# An everlasting promise

By Marvin Nail

**Focal Passage:**  
*I Chronicles 17:1-4, 7, 10b-14, 23-27*

Promises! Promises! Here we are again on the verge of electing people to represent us in government. Lots of them have been vying for our attention over the last few months and all of them have been doing whatever they can to get our vote. How will we decide? Most people, including the politicians, believe that the one who makes the most promises will get most of the votes. Yet deep down inside us we all know you cannot trust the promises of a politician.

That distrust has led many to believe that you must not trust anyone's promises unless they are in writing. Sadly, that same skepticism is directed at the promises of God. Many believers are unwilling to trust those promises without continuing reassurances. Not so with David. The shepherd king had a long history with God. He had depended on God from his youth up. God had brought him "through many dangers, toils, and snares," and David knew that God's promises are always sure.

**A good intention (vv. 1-2).** Because of David's dependence on God throughout his life he had never been able to do anything for him except be faithful. Then he became king of Israel and the nation was stable and prospering under his leadership. His people had constructed a palace for their king who had, for most of his adult life, slept in tents, caves, or under the stars.

Having received all these blessings from God, he felt the need to do something for God in a material way. He consulted the prophet Nathan. When David mentioned his own embarrassment about living in a palace while the ark of the covenant was still in a tent, Nathan encouraged him to follow his heart.

**A disappointing announcement (vv. 3-4).** When I

read these verses I am reminded of my own tendency to do what I think is right and then ask God to bless it. Nathan encouraged David to do this good thing; but then God sent Nathan back to David to tell him that building the temple was not the best thing to do.

God didn't just say "no." When God commands us to discard our own plans it is always because he has a better plan for us that will bring us even more blessing.

**A house for a house (vv. 7, 10b-14).** Sure enough, God had an even greater blessing in mind for David. Even though his successors would be the recipients of the fullness of the blessing, David had a heart that longed more for that blessing on his family and upon Israel than upon himself. In that way the promise of God for Israel's future brought David a great sense of blessing.

David would not build God a house, but David's offspring would. Then God rewarded David's willingness to build a temple for God by promising him a dynasty, or "house," in Israel that would never end. Though David was not able to see the fulfillment of this promise of God, it was fulfilled in that son of David, son of Abraham, son of God who is Jesus Christ born in the city of David called Bethlehem.

**A promise to count on (vv. 23-27).** Like all other promises of God, David was aware that this one too could be treated as a certainty. He teaches us a valuable lesson if we will but hear him. We too have become recipients of the boundless promises of God. It is surely time we began to treat all his promises as the certainties they are. - Nail, a former Nashville pastor, works at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.



## Family Bible SS Lesson — Nov. 5

# Trusting in God

By Rick Roberts

**Focal Passage:** *Acts 12:5, 7-9, 11-17*  
**Pray for God's help (ch. 12:5).**

As our focal passage opens, Peter has been arrested by Herod Agrippa I who was a grandson of Herod the Great. Herod Agrippa I needed to gain the support of his subjects in order to hold on to his rulership. One way he found of winning the support of the Jewish people was by persecuting the Apostles. Hence, we find Peter in prison with a Roman soldier on each side and two at the door at all times. Of course the interesting thing about verse 5 is that the church was praying for Peter at the same time. The word that is translated "earnestly" in the NIV and "without ceasing" in the KJV means "to do something intensely or fervently." It is the same word that is used in Luke 22:44 to describe the intensity of Jesus' prayer in the garden. It is evident that we are to take it that while Peter was in prison the church was constantly praying with great intensity for him. At least two observations can be made regarding the prayerfulness of the church. First, they recognized their inability to do anything themselves to deliver Peter. Second, they recognized that the sovereign God of the universe could do anything to deliver Peter. They carried their petition for Peter to God and trusted him to hear and to answer.

**Look for God's response (vv. 7-9).** While the church was praying on the eve of what was sure to be Peter's execution, we find Peter soundly sleeping between two Roman sol-

diers! How could Peter sleep on such a night? It was Peter's faith in God that enabled him to sleep soundly. First of all, Jesus had told Peter that he would not die until old age (he was not old). Peter trusted the word of the Lord. Second, God had delivered Peter each time he had been in prison before. God had a perfect record. Faith is not some leap into the unknown hoping that God will be there. Faith is taking God at his word and standing upon it. God's Word is filled with promises to his children. In faith, trusting that God will do what he has said he will do, stand on his Word! Expect God to be faithful to what he has said!

Without going into detail concerning the deliverance of Peter by the angel, there is one thing that we should take note of about the miraculous. Would it not have been just as easy for God to simply "zap" Peter from the prison cell to the house of Mary? Notice that though the angel caused the chains to fall off of Peter and gates to open by themselves, Peter still had to put on his clothes and tie his shoes and walk. The truth that we learn about the miraculous is that God never does for us what we can do for ourselves.

**Acknowledge God's work (v. 11).** When Peter finally came fully awake and realized that what had happened wasn't just a dream, he acknowledged that God had delivered him. Often we are tempted to take credit for the good that God ac-

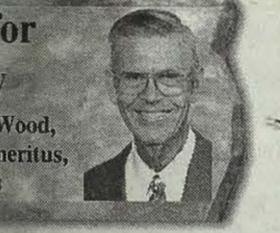
complishes in and through us. We need to learn the lesson from Peter's experience that to make sure we never rob God of his glory we should immediately acknowledge God in our hearts and then tell others.

**Don't be surprised (vv. 12-16).** It is interesting that though the church had been constantly and fervently praying for Peter's deliverance, when God answered their prayers by delivering Peter to them safe and sound, they didn't believe it. We are not too different are we? We

pray and pray for someone or something and we believe that God can do something. The problem is too often we don't believe that God will do something. Imagine what God would do for his people if we really believed him. I wonder what blessings we miss because of our unbelief?

**Tell others (v. 17).** Though Peter had to hurry and depart to a safer place because his life was still in danger, he took the time to glorify God by telling others of what he had done. Peter even made sure that the other Christians meeting elsewhere in the city knew of God's mighty work. Not only does it give glory to God when we tell of what he has done for us but it also encourages the faith of others. May we shout from the rooftops the glorious things God has done and continues to do in and through his people unto his glory! - Roberts is pastor, First Baptist Church, Rockwood.

## Explore the Bible SS Lesson — Nov. 5

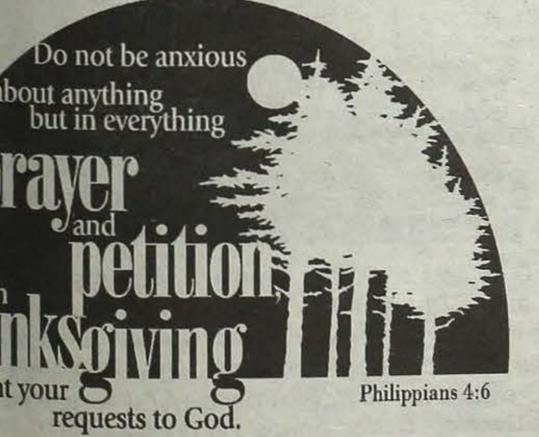


for  
Wood,  
meritus,

**Start With a Smile:** Customer to waitress: "I see you will give a customer \$500 if he or she orders something you can't produce in five minutes." Waitress: "Correct sir. What will you have?" Customer: "I want an elephant tail's sandwich on rye bread." Waitress (returning several minutes later): "The sandwich is here. I've sent these five \$100 bills to you. He said to you he's sorry. This is the first time we've run out of bread in 10 years."

**His Truth:** While "sweating the big stuff," don't forget to "sweat the small stuff" too. It can also help.

**His Prayer:** Lord, help me to realize "the people" are the ones who "heard Jesus glad-



## people

■ **Otha and Viola Julian**, members of Union Valley Baptist Church, Seymour, recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. They continue to be active members of the church.

## leaders

■ **First Baptist Church, Knoxville**, recently honored **Jerry Seale** on his 25th anniversary as minister to the deaf.

■ **Bob Polk**, retired director of missions, Watauga Baptist Association, based in Elizabethton, is serving as interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Hampton.

■ **Bobby Pruiett**, minister of music and youth, First Baptist Church, Sparta, was called as associate pastor: minister of music and evangelism, First Baptist Church, Marianna, Fla., effective Oct. 15.

■ **First Baptist Church, Bruceton**, has called **Steve Frederick** as minister of music and youth, effective Oct. 1.

## Association calls Mike Young

For Baptist and Reflector

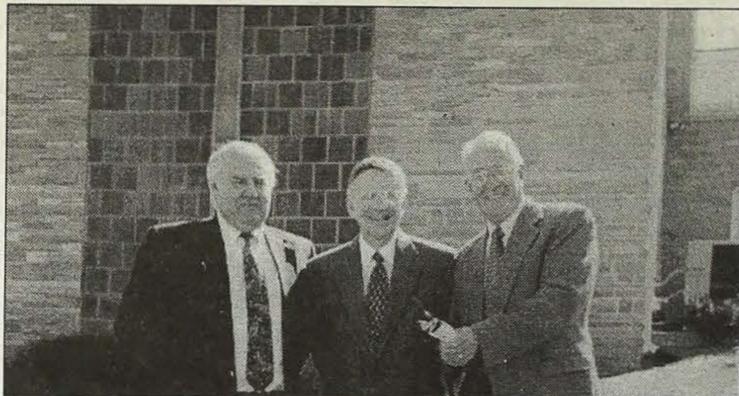
DAYTON — Tennessee Valley Baptist Association, based here, has called Mike Young, pastor, Salem Baptist Church, Dayton, as director of missions, effective Nov. 26.

Young has served the Dayton church for nine years. He has been moderator and vice moderator of the association.

He has served as associate pastor, pastor, campus minister, and educator in Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee since 1976.

Young is a graduate of University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; International Bible Institute and Seminary; and Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville.

He, his wife Sandra, and his son Matthew plan to make their home in the Sale Creek area. ■



**PAUSING** after an Oct. 8 noteburning ceremony are leaders of First Baptist Church, Byrdstown, from left, David Rich; Charles Gibbs, pastor; and Jack Winningham. The note burning marked the debt-free status of a new fellowship hall, church sign, and landscaping.

He formerly served a church in Mississippi.

■ **Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, has called **Danny T. Cates Jr.**, as minister of youth and education effective Oct. 22.

■ **Wayne Rowan**, pastor, Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Ripley, has been called as pastor of Beaver Baptist Church, Brighton.

■ **First Baptist Church, Martin**, has called **Michael Murray** as minister of youth.

■ **Second Baptist Church, Union City**, has called **Brian Petty** as associate pastor.

■ **South Fulton Baptist Church, South Fulton**, has called **Allen Lewis** as minister of music and youth.

■ **Shane Harchfield** has resigned as youth pastor, Beaver Baptist Church, Brighton, to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Aaron Armstrong** has been called as minister to students, Beverly Hills Baptist Church, Memphis.

■ **Inskip Baptist Church, Knoxville**, has called **Chuck**

**Sayne** of Knoxville as minister of music.

## deaths

■ **Elaine Bryant**, 47, supervisor of the E.C. Dargan Research Library, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, died Oct. 26 of cancer. She was a member of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville. She had worked for LifeWay for 24 years.

## churches

■ **Bellevue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will dedicate its new Allen Renaissance 300 Organ Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. Don Hustad, retired professor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will perform.

■ **New Victory Baptist Church, Jonesborough**, recently celebrated its centennial anniversary.

■ **Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, sent a team to serve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to support the



**LEADERS OF** Gibson County Baptist Association, based in Trenton, welcome representatives of New Victory Baptist Church, Rutherford. Those pictured are, from left, Tim Sanderson, 1999-2000 moderator and pastor, First Baptist Church, Medina; Thomas Bester, pastor, New Victory Church; Shirley Bester, wife of Thomas Bester; and Mike Kemper, director of missions of the association. New Victory was added to the association during its Oct. 17-18 meeting. The church has been under watchcare since 1998. Also during the meeting a black congregation in Milan was added to the association's watchcare program.

Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership. They saw 20 people make professions of faith.

■ **First Baptist Church, White Bluff**, will hold revival Nov. 19-22. Harold Hunter, evangelist based in Nashville, will speak and Gary Miller will lead the music. For more information, call the church at (615) 797-2473.

■ **First Baptist Church, Mountain City**, will hold revival Nov. 12-15. Dino Senesi of Cincinnati, Ohio, will lead it.

■ **Sand Springs Baptist Church, Monterey**, celebrated its 125th anniversary recently.

■ **Memorial Baptist Church, Livingston**, will hold homecoming activities Nov. 5 and launch a revival which will be held Nov. 5-8. Daniel Little, director of missions, Riverside Baptist Association, based in Livingston, will speak. For more information, contact the church at (931) 823-1076.

■ **Little West Fork Baptist Church, Clarksville**, has begun **Fellowship Baptist Mission**. Leading the new congregation as pastor is **Tommy Martin**.

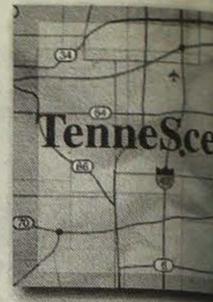
■ **Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, will hold revival Nov. 5-8. Robert



**ELECTED** as officers of Nashville Baptist Association during centennial annual meeting Oct. 23 were, from left, George pastor, First Baptist Church, Pleasant View, moderator; Le wards, pastor, Harvest Fields Baptist Church, Pegram, clerk; Johnson, pastor, Dickerson Road Baptist Church, Nashville, moderator; Suzy Frankel, Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old assistant clerk; and James W. Freedman Jr., executive director.



**ELECTED** officers of Gibson County Baptist Association, based in Trenton, at its 77th annual meeting Oct. 17-18 were, from left by Garland, pastor, Keely Mill Baptist Church, Dyer, clerk; Nolen, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dyer, assistant moderator; William Breeden, member, First Baptist Church, Trenton, treasurer; and Dale Denning, pastor, Chapel Hill Baptist Church, moderator.



Hamblin will speak.

■ **Chapman Grove Baptist Church, Kingstonsville**, will dedicate its new farm center on Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. morning worship service.

## state events

■ **The Southern Baptist Music Conference** recently selected its Executive Council for the 2000 year. The church music conference is the professional organization for Baptist musicians. The conference includes divisions for local churches, denominational ship, and music education. The new council includes M. Donald of Knoxville, president; Louis Ball of Jeffersonville, secretary/treasurer; Brentwood, and Jere Adams and Wilkins of Nashville, representing LifeWay Christian Resources.