

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

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Statewide Edition

November 15, 2000

N amends charter and bylaws

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College held its charter and bylaws convention on Nov. 9 to provide that persons elected by the Tennessee Baptist Convention will constitute the college board of trustees. The action deleted the provision which had inserted into the document in 1998 when the college board acted to become perpetual. College President James Netherton and board chair Marvin Cameron said amendments were made to give mutual confidence continuing to grow between the college and the convention. The charter amendment filed with the Secretary of State in Nashville Nov. 9 is the eve of the official inauguration of Netherton in Jefferson City as Carson-Newman's 21st president. "This is an historic day for Carson-Newman and Tennessee Baptists," Cameron said. "We believe we have laid, with the convention's approval, a basis in trust for the continuation of Carson-Newman's relationship with the convention." Netherton indicated that when he accepted the presidency of the college, he joined the board in a commitment to perpetuate Carson-Newman's Baptist heritage. "It is good for the college and good for the convention that Carson-Newman remain an institution of this convention," said Netherton. History has demonstrated that faith-based institutions in higher education can best maintain their values when there is a strong relationship between the school and the religious body which has fostered it. Netherton served in the administration of Baylor and Samford universities before coming to Carson-Newman as president this year. See C-N, page 21

Gives God the credit

Parsons policeman/pastor recovers from shooting

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

PARSONS — It was about 8 p.m. on Nov. 26 when policeman Roy Wyatt pulled over a driver near downtown Parsons. Wyatt, also pastor, Darden Baptist Church, Darden, was just beginning his 12-hour shift. He expected an uneventful night as it usually was for the patrol officers of this laid-back community. Parsons, located just west of the Tennessee River and south of I-40, used to be situated on one of the main highways cutting east and west through Tennessee. But all that busyness has changed. Officer Wyatt pulled the driver over because his car was missing taillights. As he approached the car, the driver, a young man in his 30s, got out. Wyatt, who has 20 years of law enforcement experience, recognized the man as the one who

had reportedly been in an illegal incident earlier that day. Wyatt told him to lean against the car and asked the man if he had a weapon as he began frisking him.

"Then I saw the gun and the fireworks started," said Wyatt in his understated way.

Wyatt's partner shot the driver, but not before the man shot Wyatt in the face, in the abdomen, and in the leg with a 38 caliber pistol. The driver died at the scene.

Long drive

"It's been a long drive, but God is still in control," said Wyatt. "He was in control in the beginning and he still is. He gets all the praise and glory," he said of his experience.

Wyatt, 55, gives God the credit for his recovery because many times medical workers didn't think he would recover.

He nearly died three times the day of the shooting. He has endured three major surgeries,



ROY WYATT, left, visits with Doyle Neal, a friend and director of missions, Beech River Baptist Association.

in addition to two surgeries on his face, and two surgeries on his abdomen. Wyatt developed a respiratory infection, staph infection, and pneumonia which nearly killed him. He spent three and a half months in intensive care and a total of four months hospitalized at Madison County General Hospital, Jackson.

Yet last month, he went back to work both as a pastor and policeman on patrol.

Other miracles

The main miracle of the shooting, according to Wyatt, was the change in his partner and fellow officer, Darrell Drehman. After saving Wyatt's life, Drehman started attending — See Parsons, page 8



ARM launched in Knoxville

Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) was launched Nov. 6 during a meeting at Knox County Baptist Association's new office facility. ARM is an intentional mission response to the spiritual and physical needs of people in the Appalachian region. Participating in the launch were members of the Tennessee ARM Task Force. From left, are, seated, Carrol Kelly, Bill George, Kim Huff, and Beverly Smothers, TBC staff, Brentwood; standing, Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Association; James Porch, TBC executive director; Becky Brummitt, Watauga Baptist Association; Candy Phillips, Tennessee WMU director; Elizabeth Farmer and Larry Kirk, TBC staff; Jean-Ann Washam, Samaritan House, Jefferson City; John Parrott, director of missions, Holston Valley Baptist Association; Jim Snyder, director of missions, Chilhowee Baptist Association; and Ray Luck, director of missions, McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association. See story on page 3.

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C-N installs new president

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — James S. Netherton was inaugurated Nov. 10 as the 21st president of Carson-Newman College.

The inauguration service on Friday capped a week of activities which focused on the school's mission, new leadership, and its constituents.



NETHERTON

Netherton, former provost of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., was elected to the position last December and assumed the C-N presidency in February, succeeding Cordell Maddox who retired.

The Mississippi native is a former mathematics professor who went into college administration in 1982 when he joined — See C-N, page 3

about your newsjournal

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Tennessee WMU board honors Kelly

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Executive Board of Tennessee Woman's missionary Union met Nov. 4 and took several significant actions.

The board honored WMU Executive Director Carrol Kelly for 15 years of service. They presented her with a crystal globe and a card shower in anticipation of her anniversary on Dec. 9. They also approved a recommendation for a time of staff enrichment. She plans to travel to Burma and other countries in late December to retrace the steps of Adoniram and Ann Judson.

In other matters, the board approved the drafts of revised charter, bylaws, and policies of Tennessee WMU. They will be presented for final adoption at their annual meeting March 17, 2001 in Gatlinburg.

Board members also gave approval: to initiate an endowment fund for Tennessee WMU through the WMU Foundation at the March 2001 annual meeting; to expand church leader training to six sites in Tennessee



KELLY

next August; and to organize a state Acteen Activator team to go to Las Vegas, Nev., in the summer of 2001 ■

Oregon voters refuse to ban promotion of homosexuality in public schools

Baptist Press

McMINNVILLE, Ore. — By a slim majority Nov. 7, Oregon voters refused to prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in the state's public schools.

With 85 percent of the tally at press time, voters by a 51 to 49 percent margin agreed with homosexual rights activists who campaigned vigorously for children to be taught that homosexuality is "normal, healthy, and natural."

By about 45,000 votes, Oregonians rejected a proposal to prohibit public schools from "providing instruction on behaviors relating to homosexuality or bisexuality in a manner that encourages, promotes, or sanctions such behaviors," as stated in the state's official voter's guide. ■

Pro-life advocates see mixed results

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Results for pro-life advocates were split in ballot initiatives considered by Maine and Colorado voters. While Maine voters narrowly rejected an assisted suicide measure, Colorado voters refused an effort to require a 24-hour wait-

ing period for women seeking an abortion.

In Maine, voters defeated a ballot initiative that asked if "a terminally ill adult, who is of sound mind, [should] be allowed to ask for and receive a doctor's help to die." The measure was defeated by a margin of 51 to 49 percent, with 321,901 votes against assisted suicide, with 303,201 for.

C. Ben Mitchell, consultant for biomedical and life issues with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said, "It appears that Maine voters pushed back the assisted suicide juggernaut for the time being. This is a hopeful sign. If both Oregon and Maine had legalized the practice, they would have set up bookends on either side of the nation and the culture of death would have made its push toward the heartland."

Colorado voters rejected a ballot initiative that would have required a 24-hour waiting period before a woman could have an abortion, as well as requiring that certain information regarding abortion procedures and alternatives be provided to her. Nineteen states currently require some type of waiting period for women seeking an abortion.

The measure lost by a margin of 60.3 to 39.7 percent, with 959,803 against and 630,771 for the waiting period. Just two months ago, Amendment 25 appeared to be favored by as much as 61 percent of Coloradans and had the support of the governor, Catholic churches, and the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family ministry.

Richard Land, president of the ERLC, said of the vote, "Given the gravity of the choice to

abort a child, it is entirely sonable that women facing sis pregnancy have the tim information to seriously v their decision.

"There is no question t voter profiles across the n mirrored those of Colorado v pro-lifers would have a gr uphill battle," he added. ■

Votes to ban same-sex unions prevail in two sta

Baptist Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Vote Nebraska and Nevada t stand for traditional famil ues and overwhelmingly p legislation banning sam unions Nov. 7. Meanwhi Maine, voters appear to ha feated a referendum bar discrimination on the ba sexual orientation.

Nebraskans voted by a 2 to 1 ratio in favor of th fense of Marriage Amend also called Initiative 416 measure says same-sex riages, civil unions, and d tic partnerships are not va Nebraska.

Supporters cheered the saying the amendment wil tect Nebraska from being to accept gay marriage or riage-like unions that an state might approve.

Earlier this year, Ver became the first state to l sanction same-sex unions.

In Nevada, voters appo similar measure. Oppone the Coalition for the Prot Marriage conceded defeat l the polls opened Tuesday. cial numbers were not ava at press time. ■

Gambling opponents weather mixed results in seven stat

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Maine, West Virginia, and Arkansas dealt organized gambling stinging defeats in their states Nov. 7, while state lottery and pari-mutuel betting proponents prevailed in South Carolina, South Dakota, Colorado, and Massachusetts.

Maine voters, by a margin of 60-40 percent, rejected a measure that would have allowed 1,500 video gambling machines at the Scarborough Downs racetrack, where pari-mutuel betting on horses is already allowed. Opponents feared passage would open the door for video gambling machines to spread statewide.

Meanwhile, a local ballot initiative in Greenbrier County in West Virginia to allow casino-type gambling at the historic Greenbrier Resort was defeated by a 2-1 margin. Gambling interests, who poured \$1.1 million into their effort, were hoping to transform an old fallout shelter in the Greenbrier Hotel into a casino.

Opponents defeated the measure with the help of anti-gambling materials supplied by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and after spending only \$20,814. The Greenbrier vote was seen as a test case that could have opened the entire state to casino-type gambling.

People are becoming more aware of the problems caused by gambling and do not want any more open range gambling in their states," said Barrett Duke, vice president for research and a specialist on gambling for the ERLC.

But not all the news for anti-gambling supporters was good Tuesday.

South Dakotans, by a 54-46 percent margin, voted against abolishing video lottery and by 52-48 split raised the betting limits at casinos in the tourist town of Deadwood and at nine Indian reservation casinos. They did so after the governor threatened them with the highest tax increase in state history.

The votes culminated a seven-year struggle between pro- and anti-gambling forces in the state.

In Colorado voters by a 51-49 percent margin approved joining multi-state lottery games such as Powerball, joining at least 20 other states in the process.

"The Colorado vote is both encouraging and disappointing," said Ron Reno, senior policy analyst with Focus on the Family. "It is encouraging in the sense that the pre-election polls seemed to indicate this would be a slam dunk for the gambling industry. Obviously it was a very, very close call, but nonetheless a loss. We're looking at more lives and families that are going to be destroyed at the altar of Lady Luck."

The support of state governors played a role in the lottery issue in at least states.

"In states where governors opposed bling we won and in states where the g nors did not oppose it we lost," said Grey, director of the National Coal. Against Legalized Gambling (NCLG) lauded the efforts of Govs. Angus Ki Maine and Mike Huckabee of Ark where casino gambling was rejected by 37 margin Tuesday.

Grey was particularly critical of William Janklow of South Dakota and Hodges of South Carolina where voters 55-45 margin lifted the ban on a stat tery. Both governors supported lotteri a means of funding education and othe ernment programs.

"We now have a product [gambling] the government once criminalized b now using to fund government serv Grey said. "This is extremely dange Gambling is an illegal product that go ment licenses."

He predicted that lotteries would become major issues in Tennessee North Carolina and again in Arkansas the near future.

Pro-gambling forces also won a b with animal rights activists in Mass setts, where a ballot initiative banning hound racing was narrowly defeated. ■

C launches Appalachian Regional Ministry



Wilkey
and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee Baptists officially launched Appalachian Regional Ministry during a meeting held at Knox County Baptist Church's new office facility. The ministry is an effort of 11 Baptist conventions reaching into 10 states. The ministry has the potential of reaching more than eight million people. The ministry in Tennessee comprised of 33 counties, 1,501 churches, church members, and outreach through ministry missions to more than two people. The ministry in Tennessee is described as "an intentional response to the spiritual

and physical needs of persons in the Appalachian Region."

Tennessee Baptists through ARM have an opportunity for pioneering an effort that will help change how Baptists do business in the years ahead, said James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"I believe that one of life's greatest joys is to be part of a dream come true and see lives changed for the better," Porch said, noting that ARM offers those opportunities.

Porch observed state conventions have to take the lead in rural missions. Here's an opportunity for 11 state conventions on the eastern seaboard to tell people, "You have not been forgotten," Porch said.

"We've been called to go all over the world and we do. We also have a responsibility here in our home state," Porch stressed.

"If we forget the folks at home we will pay a dear price in not being faithful to the calling God has given us."

Walter Taylor, director of missions for Knox County Baptists, observed that ARM has been bathed in prayer from the beginning.

"A lot of people in a lot of different places prayed on how we could reach people in Appalachia more effectively," he said.

During a devotional Taylor shared a story about going fishing with a guide who placed a lot of hooks in the water around their boat. They caught a tremendous number of fish, Taylor said.

"God has given us a wonderful opportunity to do things in Appalachia we haven't done before, but it will take a lot of hooks in the water as we go fishing together."

Beverly Smothers of the TBC

Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group shared some of the needs of Appalachia through a power point presentation and the premier of a new film, "Ministry in the Mountains."

Needs in Appalachia include new church starts, support for existing churches, construction ministry, tutoring and literacy training, job skills training, and much more, she shared.

"I'm excited about ARM. It's a wonderful endeavor that God has allowed us to join him in doing," Smothers said.

Testimonies about work already being accomplished were given by Becky Brumitt of Watauga Baptist Association and Ray Luck, formerly of Loudon County Baptist Association and now director of missions in McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association.

Carrol Kelly, executive direc-

tor of Tennessee WMU noted that WMU "has been pleased to be a part of the dream and visioning of ARM."

She noted WMU will be involved in the ministry through its promotion of the Golden State Missions Offering (of which ARM will receive some funds) and in encouraging women and girls to participate in ARM as volunteers.

"We are excited to be 'linking arms' with ARM," Kelly said.

For more information about ARM, contact Smothers or Kim Huff of the partnership/volunteer missions office at 1-800-558-2090. ■

B&R receives TBF grant for student subscriptions

Wilkey
and Reflector

KENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant, to be used over three years, to the Baptist and Reflector to help defray complimentary subscriptions to Tennessee students attending the six Southwestern Baptist seminaries and to vocational students at Tennessee's three Baptist colleges. The grant is provided from the foundation's "Special Mission Fund," according to W.L. Childs, TBF president. The request of donors the distribution of the Special Mission Fund is determined by Foundation trustees, Childs said. It has been used to support special ministries and projects such as BSU work, the training of two churches in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Disaster Re-

lief work in Tennessee and Michigan, and more, Childs said.

For a number of years the paper has provided the complimentary subscriptions from its budget. As postage costs increase it is imperative that the paper look for ways to help supplement this ministry, said Editor Lonnie Wilkey.

"This generous grant from the Foundation will help us immensely with this effort over the next three years," Wilkey noted.

The Foundation periodically will use the back page of the B&R to inform students receiving the paper about the Foundation and its ministries.

"We want to be involved in helping Baptist students receive the B&R and to help them understand the mission and work of the Foundation," Childs observed. ■

C-N installs new president ...

— Continued from page 1

the staff of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Netherton was serving as vice president and chief operating officer at Baylor when he accepted a position at Samford in 1996.

Netherton holds degrees from Baylor and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, including the master of divinity and Ph.D. degrees.

The morning service united Netherton with three former C-N presidents. Together the four (Netherton, Harley Fite, John Fincher, and Cordell Maddox) represent 52 years of service at Carson-Newman.

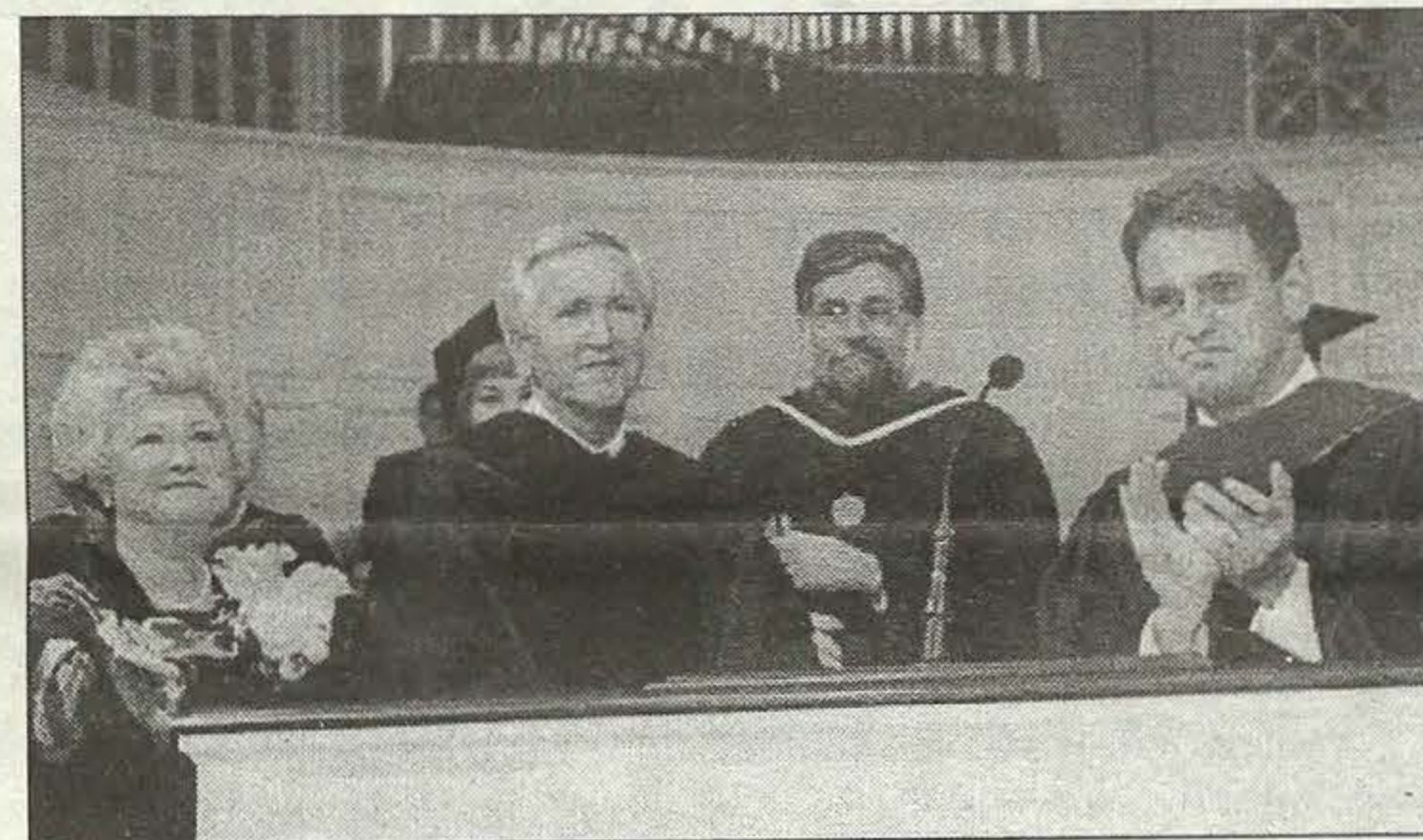
The auditorium of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, was packed with faculty, staff, trustees, students, and friends and guests of the Netherton family and the college. Among those present were both presidents of Tennessee Baptists' other colleges — David Dockery of Union and Robert Fisher of Belmont.

"This is a day we have anticipated for months," said Marvin Cameron, chairman of C-N's trustees and pastor of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville.

Cameron observed Netherton's "gifts and abilities" match the needs of Carson-Newman College.

Among the program participants was TBC Executive Director James Porch, who asked all Tennessee Baptists present to stand.

"Tennessee Baptists have stood together to extend a cordial welcome to Dr. and Mrs. Netherton to the Tennessee Baptist family," Porch said.



MARVIN CAMERON right, chairman of the trustees at Carson-Newman College and pastor of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, joins with others in welcoming James and Patricia Netherton to the Carson-Newman family. Netherton was installed Nov. 10 as the 21st president of Carson-Newman.

"We have witnessed his desire to be both a participant and leader in our good news opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students who study at Carson-Newman," he added.

The inaugural address was delivered by Netherton's longtime friend Charles Overby, chairman and chief executive officer of Freedom Forum, an independent, non-partisan foundation dedicated to the First Amendment and media issues.

Overby noted that the year 2000 is special and will be one that everyone remembers.

"It's appropriate he (Netherton) is inaugurated as the college's 21st president in the year 2000. He stands astride two centuries," Overby said.

He observed that the strength of Netherton's leadership will be his ability to tie the past and future together.

"The future of Carson-New-

man College has never been brighter, Overby suggested.

In an interview prior to the inauguration, Netherton said he is thrilled to serve as president of the 149-year-old institution. "The things that excite me the most about this institution are our people and our potential."

The school's heritage and future continue to make it appealing to Netherton as he approaches his first anniversary as president. "If I had been granted the opportunity to write the scenario of the school I would want to lead, this is what I would have asked for," he affirmed.

Noting that he is a firm believer in "the Baptist version of Christian education," Netherton told those attending the ceremony, "I am here because God called me here. I pray daily for his wisdom. I covet your prayers for this institution and for me." ■ — Lonnie Wilkey and Mark Brown



"BO" CHILDS, right, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, recently presented a symbolic check to Mattie Collins of Johnson City, center, chairman of the Convention Communications Committee, and Benny Keck of Mt. Carmel, vice chairman of the committee. The committee relates to the work of Baptist and Reflector.



letters/opinion

about letters

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

► Should deal with issues relevant to Tennessee Baptists and should not deal with personalities or attack people.

► Must not be libelous or potentially libelous.

► Should be 300 words or less

► Must not be "form" or open letters.

► Will be accepted from writers once in a three-months period.

► Should be clearly marked they are intended for publication.

► Be signed and include address and phone number. Faxed letters are accepted, but must be signed. Letters that are e-mailed should be followed with a signed, mailed, or faxed copy.

Traditional Baptist

What has happened to traditional Southern Baptists? I remember when annual meetings were a time for seeking God's will and guidance for the coming year. Our scriptural basis was John 10:27: "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them and they follow Me" (NIV). As Southern Baptists, do we still listen and follow as God leads?

What has happened to the traditional Southern Baptist commitment to congregational polity? There was a time when an individual Southern Baptist's voice and vote was important. Now meetings are run by iron-clad, written agendas. Important decisions are made before the meetings start. Messengers vote for crumbs called "non-binding resolutions." When we vote on important items, such as a revised Baptist Faith and Message, they are thrown to us at the last minute with no opportunity for study or debate.

What has happened to traditional Southern Baptist commitment to ministry? When programs are discontinued, the decision is based on cost-effectiveness. Ministry-oriented missions are discarded because we do not like the numbers on the yearly report. Ministry is never cost-effective. We do ministry not for our benefit, but for the benefit of others and in obedience to Jesus Christ.

What has happened to traditional Southern Baptist respect for others? Missionaries who forsake all to follow Christ are "a little bit strange." Small church and bivocational pastors hear, "If you were any good, you would pastor a large church." Convention employees are forced to sign loyalty statements. They must turn in the direction of the prevailing wind.

What has happened to the traditional Southern Baptist ideal of freedom? There was a time when hearing opposing ideas as part of the normal process of finding God's will. Now opposing ideas are shouted down and cut off. If a person steps out of line, he is punished.

What has happened to traditional Southern Baptist unity? We have so many labels. I do not know whether I am a conservative, a liberal, a moderate, or a fundamentalist. If you must label me, call me this — traditional Southern Baptist.

Scott Andrew, pastor
Union Hill Baptist Church
Goodlettsville 37072

Different experience

Perhaps my experience as a teacher has been different from Mr. McLoud's (Kingston Principal, *B&R*, 10-25). I am now in my 39th year of teaching in Tennessee public schools. Nothing in my experience, as I recollect upon it, shows ecology as the worship of mother earth as a goddess, or any approval of sexual perversion, or the condoning of promiscuity as a means of birth control or the "labeling" of people with strong Christian convictions as simple minded and ignorant."

Thank goodness we have not seen that in the schools where I have taught!

Prayer is certainly alive among my Christian students as they pray individually and in groups and have continued the free exercise of their religion just as my non-Christian students may do, too. What more could we ask than the freedom to praise and honor our Redeemer and seek his help in such a way?

Steve Cates
Murfreesboro 37130

Shares concern

The children at our church are practicing to perform the children's musical "The Little Drummer Boy," by Dove award-winning Celeste Clydesdale. While my child was listening to the tape to learn the songs, I was surprised to hear Jesus referred to as "God-like."

Jesus was not "God-like." He was completely God and completely man. The mistake is in the text on page 41 of the book. Our children are very vulnerable to bad doctrine and I'm sure that Southern Baptist churches across Tennessee as well as the nation are performing this musical, thereby teaching errant doctrine to the most impressionable among us. I realize this is not Southern Baptist literature, but it is sold by LifeWay.

The lines could easily be rewritten for churches that do choose to perform the musical.

I'm sure that some others who are using the material have already corrected the error and I just want all children's music leaders to be aware as well. To my knowledge no Southern Baptist church would hold this as truth. In fact, very few conservative Christians would in general.

Mark Lackey
Kingsport 37664

Represent yourself

Please tell the 3 to 1 majority who voted to alienate Texas Baptists from the Southern Baptist Convention that we in Tennessee don't want the Baptist General Convention of Texas to represent Baptists worldwide. Represent yourselves, but please don't speak for all Southern Baptists. This is one time I am not proud of the Tennessee-Texas bond I have felt throughout my life

because Tennesseans helped Texas fight for her independence.

This is one time I will do my best to keep the state convention where I have always been a Southern Baptist not to go the route of Texas Baptists nor stay affiliated with you. (We will stand beside the great conservative churches and pastors in your state, some of whom were "heroes of the faith" in getting the SBC turned around 21 years ago). You want to do your own thing. Go right ahead. We don't want the "Texas Plan" to pollute our state.

The low road Texas Baptists are taking in disagreeing with the affirmations of the Scriptures by the SBC in Orlando will take them to the next step of ordaining gays and lesbians as ministers and deacons. I pray that they would never be in favor of that.

Bobby Mullins, pastor
Cherokee Baptist Church
Memphis 38119

The Bible alone

The first generation of Christians evangelized the Mediterranean world without a completed New Testament Scriptures on the powerful conviction that Jesus of Nazareth was God on earth as a man, who lived a sinless life, died on a cross at Jerusalem, was alive in his crucified body on the third day following, and that eternal salvation is received as gift upon repentance and confession that he is Christ the Lord.

Christians continued to function another 200 to 300 years without a formal agreement on which writings should constitute the 66 books of our Bible. And, evangelizing Christians have functioned and survived another 1,500 turbulent years dealing with thorny issues, as our current ones on questions of inerrancy and binding and imposed confessions of faith.

A dominant thread runs through our glorious history: the Bible alone should be accepted as our totally sufficient sole of authority in faith and practice, bound by the everlasting chain of truth: "Jesus is Lord!"

O. Jewell Barrett, pastor
Battle Creek Baptist Church
Springfield 371172

a historical perspective

by James L. Sullivan

Where we are

A chart with peaks is used to reflect America with its many ups and downs. Advancements of any kind are chartered somewhat. Seldom is growth constantly without interruptions. There are ups and downs, even a few reversals.

A boy's body grows uneven. His hands grow to normal size. His feet grow to normal size. His teenage years will grow to proportion with his body. You fear he'll have to live at the intersection to turn right.

Churches and denominations experience the same type of growth. When the low we should pray for a reverse the trend and a downward spiritual spiral.

The overall rate of growth can be determined by a line drawn halfway through the repetitious ups and downs to establish the norm.

Right now the Southern Baptist Convention is in a state of dormancy in church growth. Cause our growth has been phenomenal, but constant. We are not in a state of dormancy in church growth. Bafflement has led to judgments as to the cause of the guesses have been made.

Misunderstanding has led to arguments. Arguments have led to controversy. Controversy has produced false statements and tensions have led to "What is happening?" The answer is: "Many things are happening."

Some of us feel threatened ultimately with alternatives: (1) reconciliation, (2) division, or (3) fragmentation.

Division would throw us back to 1844 before the Southern Baptist Convention was organized. Worse, fragmentation would throw us back to 1813 before the National Convention was organized which we supported through the "Society of Christian Workers" designated giving only.

Both of these latter alternatives are now untenable. This forces us to one alternative, which is a revival through spiritual renewal and revival.

Prayer time is of importance for each of us.

The controversy will continue. The answer must be found in each of us through repentance and recommitment. Time is already late. ■

is retired president of the Christian Resources and member of FBC, Nashville columns on Baptist heritage were first printed several years ago, will appear regularly.

Church of the Covered Dish

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



Another word on forced terminations

by Hay

nagging problem will not go and I suppose it never will. Some churches and churches will have problems with relationships and ministers terminated. LifeWay Christian Resources and the state conventions in Tennessee have been compiling data that show the course of ministerial terminations and while we see some downward trend the number of firings remain alarmingly high. Unfortunately, this number of forced terminations has been unusually high. Not the terminations alone that are troubling; it is how they typically pass. A misconception is that the church formally votes to terminate the pastor at a business meeting with the member being able to cast a ballot. Occasionally happen in this way, but is rare, in my experience. A more accurate scenario is one where a small group of well-placed people approaches the pastor with the suggestion that he resign. There are occasions where this number is very small, but not very representative of the church body, but are powerful enough to deliver an alarming message to the pastor. Sometimes, while he is still reeling from the termination, they will offer a severance package if "he will go quietly." Those who make such an offer never consider that they have created a situation that is neither ethical nor fair. In holding financial settlement over his head, the church has resorted to tactics that are more sly than they would ever admit. The pastor is now faced with having

to leave in shameful fashion, slipping out in the middle of the night, or confronting his adversaries openly at the risk of losing the promised severance, thereby leaving him without means to support his family.

Another example is that one or more of these well placed people will criticize the pastor to the point he is left emotionally unable to minister in the fashion required of a pastor. They have created the result they want without involving the church as a whole.

Church people who force a pastor out without due process have not only violated a sacred tradition of Baptist churches, where decisions of the church are made by the church, but have set themselves up as judge and jury. Thus they deny the minister any opportunity to state his position or to clear his name. They have also disenfranchised the congregation who have a clear right to help decide. Furthermore, they have dealt the pastor's self-esteem a blow that is sometimes career-ending. Some ministers never recover from the trauma of a forced termination.

An additional characteristic of this method of changing pastoral leadership is it is habit forming. Once a termination occurs in this fashion, it is easier to do again. For one thing, this process has no accountability. Many times the church body will be shocked and surprised at the minister's departure, and are offered no explanation of why the pastor has left.



HAY

The power brokers that brought this to pass find it is "in the best interest of the church and the pastor" that the issues are not aired. It is also in the power brokers best interest, for it protects them from having to defend their actions.

This article is not an attempt to deny that some pastors sometimes need to be replaced, nor is it an attempt to characterize the church as being to blame for the high rate of terminations. It is an attempt to call the church to use methods that are ethical and biblical. There may be times when, as painful as it is, the pastor must leave, even before he wants to go. But the method churches use should be compassionate and honest. Except in rare cases the church should know why there are those who are moving against the minister. In most cases there should be a clear statement of the charges against him, and because we are a redemptive people, the pastor should be confronted in private with the hope his behavior can change. He should be given time to respond, and if sufficient response is not forthcoming, then is the time to lay the case before the church. Many times the group that want him gone, is not willing to consider that redemption is our stock in trade, and although they often talk a good talk, they are not willing to put into actual practice redemption with the minister. Should not redemption include the minister too?

When a concerned group in the church feel it is time for a pastoral change, they need to consider if the issue really warrants his departure. Sometimes the pastor has offended the power group and that is the reason they want

him gone. Our data tell us that one of the most often cited reasons for pastor/minister termination is control. Who will run the church? Should a pastor be terminated because he has bucked the power structure? Sometimes the pastor is asked to leave because his style of preaching, his pulpit mannerism, and his personality offend some people. Are these sufficient reasons to terminate a minister?

The issue as I see it is not that pastors should never be fired. I do believe that too many are fired without valid reason. However, sometimes it is an unfortunate necessity, but even then, there is a right and wrong way to go about it. It appears to me that a pastor should be treated just as the Lord taught us in Matthew 18. When offenses occur he should be talked to in private. If there is no response, "take one or two more," and if does not respond, then take it to the church. He should not be terminated by the power group without the vote of the church.

One further thing, provide for him and his family for a reasonable time. We recommend at least six months severance. It will be money well spent and will allow him time to relocate. A generous severance will also pay dividends for the church as they seek another pastor. ■

— Hay is church ministers relations specialist in the TBC Church Staff Leadership Group.



Best editorial

Looking for a plan that works? Try the 'Noah Plan'

by Stacker

Editor's Note: The following editorial was delivered as a devotional message at the September meeting of the TBC Executive Board.

Each week asks the second class this question, "What is the shape of the earth?" A student readily replied, "My father says the shape of the earth is round."

That was only the beginning of the discussion. For a man named Noah. If you don't know, I would like to introduce you to Noah.

In Genesis 1:1-2, we find a man and Godly man living in a most sinful and evil society. The key to understanding this situation is seen in 6:5b, "That the inclination of the heart of man was evil all the time." Can you imagine living in a place where there was not a good, kind, wholehearted, nor holy thought ever in the mind of the people? Genesis 23:7 says, "As a man, his heart was evil." In setting of evil God found

one man and his family that were righteous. It was Noah. He gave Noah a plan that would accomplish God's will for his creation.

The Plan

Last year I received an editorial by Pettus Read, editor of *The Tennessee Farm Bureau News*. The editorial dealt with the difficulty of farmers in today's economy. Pettus told of an elderly farmer who said he did not need all this "new fangled" stuff to run his farm. He had a plan that had worked for years. It was the "Noah Plan." Pettus asked him about the plan. When I saw it, I knew this was a plan I needed and so do you. There are 18 points to the plan so hang on.

1. *Always plan ahead.* It wasn't raining when God told Noah to build the Ark. Many of us never look beyond the next day. We need to save, prepare, explore, and anticipate the future. Noah did and when the flood came, he was ready.

2. *Try your best to stay fit.* When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big. That someone may be the someone you cannot say no to.

3. *Don't listen to critics.* Do what has to be done, even if it

means finding gopher wood when the supplies are low. Many Christians have failed in their witness because of their fear of criticism. Many churches failed because they wonder what people will say if they seek "different" people or try "different" methods of ministry or worship. If we are convinced it is of God, new or old, traditional or contemporary we better close our ears to the critics and our own egos and seek to please God.

4. *Remember to build on high ground.* The Word of God, Jesus Christ, is our high ground, not the interpretations of the Word of God by others or us.

5. *For safety sake, travel in pairs.* Good friends are hard to find. Try building a lasting relationship with God, your spouse, your children, and the family of God.

6. *Two heads are better than one.* Two thoughts that agree give us an inside track on life and living.

7. *Speed isn't always an advantage and haste makes waste.* The cheetahs were on board the Ark, but so were the snails.

8. *If you can't fight or flee — at least you can float!* Sometimes it is better to let things be. God often works things out

that stymie us.

9. *Take good care of the animals as if they were the last ones on earth.* That is good advice about the family, community, and our churches.

10. *Don't ever forget that we are all in the same boat.* We are sinners saved by the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

11. *When the manure gets really deep, don't sit there and complain, get busy and shovel.* Enough said!

12. *Stay below the deck during the worst of the storm.* Knowing when to lay low is as important as knowing when to rise and shine.

13. *Always remember that the Ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic was built by professionals.* An amateur (Amor) is one who participates for the love it.

14. *If you have to start over, have a friend by your side.* God was Noah's friend before and after the flood.

15. *Remember the peckerwoods inside are often a bigger threat than the storm outside.* Am I a peckerwood? I need to look carefully to see if I have a beak.

16. *Above all, don't miss the boat!*

17. *No matter how bleak it*

looks, there is always a rainbow on the other side. Aren't you glad? When I was a younger, more anxious believer and pastor, I would hear "this too shall pass." That really bugged me, but in the last 45 years I have learned that things do pass by the grace of God.

18. *Last, but surely not least, stop what you're doing, and do what God says.* I'm sure Noah took a lot of stuff from the neighbors. That didn't matter, he knew God's plan and he stayed with it.

In any situation Noah's plan is a good plan.

It is quite appropriate for the Tennessee Baptist Convention as we move into the future. That future includes becoming purpose driven, setting priorities, focusing on target groups, and seeking people who are unsaved and unchurched. We really need a new ark for this present age. Will the Tennessee Baptist Convention of churches be part of building a new ark, one large enough for, not just the animals, but for all humanity?

Pray for our convention of churches to follow God's plan for this day. ■ — Stacker is pastor of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville.

leaders

■ **Ron Russell**, pastor, Beaumont Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville, for 12 years and chaplain, University of Tennessee Hospital, Knoxville, was honored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention during the Appalachian Bivocational Jubilee held recently in Johnson City. He was honored for his service as a bivocational pastor. As a chaplain Russell is in charge of hospice ministry and oncology.

■ **Tom Everett**, director, Western Heights Baptist Cen-

ter of Knox County Baptist Association, recently celebrated his 25th anniversary of service.

■ **Christian Johnson** has been called as minister to youth and children, Ramer Baptist Church, Ramer, effective Nov. 5. He is a student at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.

■ **Lee Wilson**, youth minister, Central Baptist Church, Alcoa, will be ordained by First Baptist Church, Savannah, Nov. 19 at 2:30 p.m.

■ **Holly Grove Baptist Church**, Bells, called **Fred Campbell**, former missionary to Japan for 12 years, as pas-

tor effective Nov. 8. Campbell and his wife have been missionaries in residence at Union University, Jackson, during the past year.

■ **Larry Smart**, director of missions, Lawrence County Baptist Association, based in Leoma, resigned effective Oct. 22.

■ **Four Mile Baptist Church**, Maryville, called **Jim Wells** as pastor recently.

■ **Roellen Baptist Church**, Dyersburg, has called **Darren Morrow** as pastor, effective Nov. 17.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Fall Branch, ordained **Jim Dawson** as a deacon recently.

■ **Range Hills Baptist Church**, Memphis, has called **Shawn Allred** as minister of youth. He is a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, and is the son of Kenneth Allred, pastor, West Frayser Baptist Church, Memphis.

■ **Gravelly Baptist Church**, Kingsport, has called **David Salley**, an employee of Eastman Company, as pastor. He formerly was pastor of Unicoi Baptist Church, Unicoi.

■ **Dennis Lewis** has been called as pastor, Deerfield Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

churches

■ **First Baptist Church, Fall Branch**, held revival recently. Steve Pate, pastor, Harmony Baptist Church, Jonesborough, spoke.

■ The Puppet Ministry of **Cherokee Baptist Church, Memphis**, presents the Living Christmas Tree Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.; Dec. 9 at 3:30 p.m.; and Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at (901) 683-7344.

■ East Nashville churches **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Lockeland Baptist Church, Eastland Baptist Church, and Edgefield Baptist Church**, will hold an East Nashville Community Thanksgiving and Praise Service Nov. 19 at Shelby Avenue Church at 6 p.m. A fellowship will follow the service. For more information, contact the church at (615) 227-2961.

■ **Peytonsville Baptist Church, Peytonsville, Thompson Station**, will hold a Pilgrim's Day Fall Celebration Nov. 18 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Activities will include covered wagon rides, and demonstrations of lye soap making and quilting. Also food will be available. For more information, call the

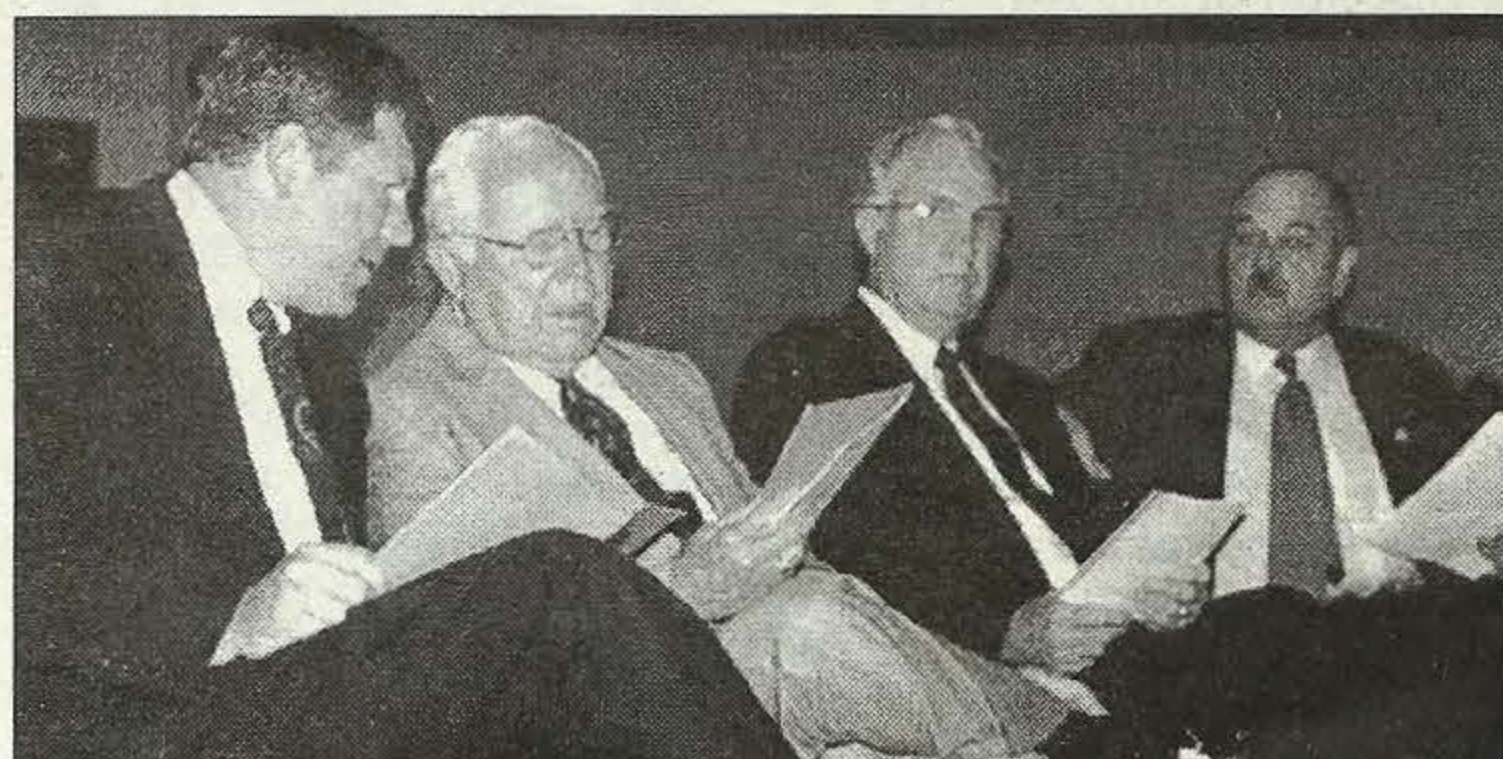
church at (615) 794-1970.

■ **Ramer Baptist Church, Ramer**, has broken ground on a new multi-purpose building which will include a fellowship hall, gym, and classrooms.

events

■ **The Strength Under Stress Conference** planned by LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, based in Brentwood, for Nov. 27 at Union Avenue Baptist

Church, Memphis, has been cancelled. Any person pre-registered who has paid the registration fee will receive a refund. The event was rescheduled according to Brooks R. Faulkner of LifeWay. For more information call (615) 251-2173.



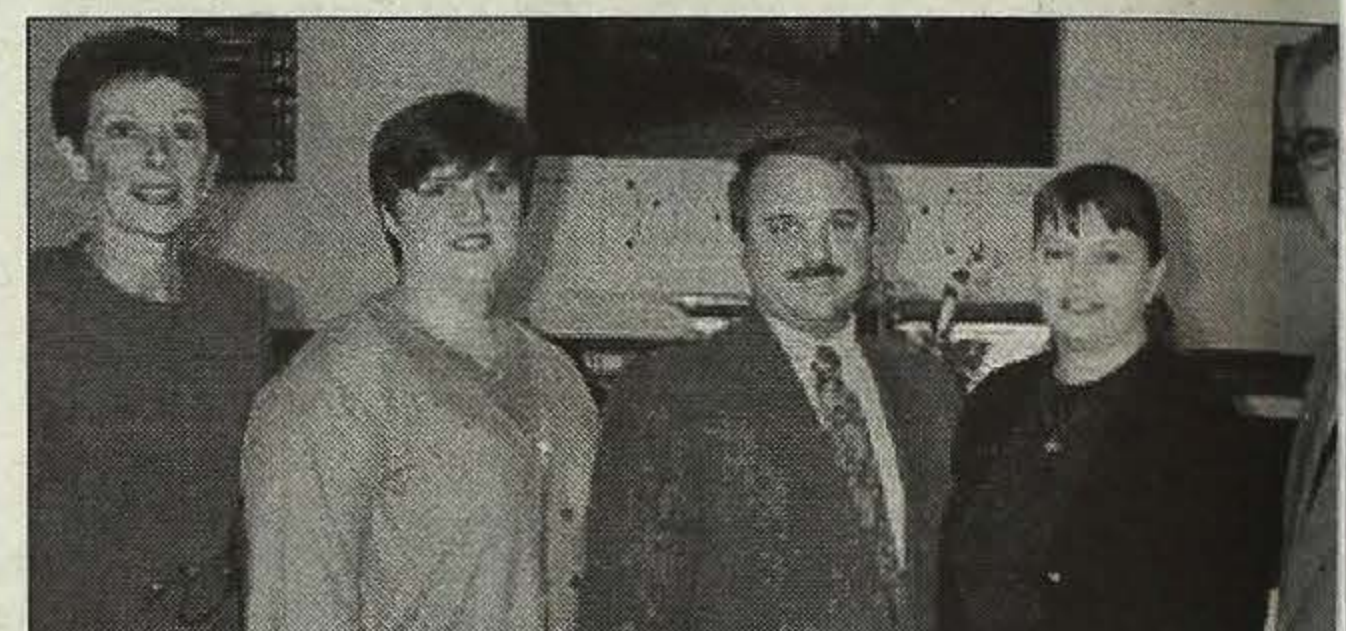
PREPARING for one of the centennial activities of Green Hill Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, held recently are, from left, Lane Fordham, pastor; Woody Watkins, former interim pastor who is retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff; Carl Price, former pastor; and Hale Moss, centennial committee chairperson. Former pastor Vern Powers of Baptist Hospital, Nashville, and retired from the TBC staff, also helped lead activities. To commemorate the event, ladies of the church made a centennial quilt featuring the church's 30 pastors. Activities included buggy rides and a petting zoo. — Photo by Amy L. Wilson



ROCKY MOUNT Baptist Church, Athens, recently dedicated its new education wing to the church. The 4,000-square-foot addition provided new Sunday School rooms, nursery, restroom, a pastor's office, new kitchen, and fellowship hall. Roy Fowler, retired director of missions, McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association, delivered the dedication message. Carl Creasman is pastor.



ELECTED TO lead Stone Baptist Association at its annual meeting recently were, from left, Damon Corley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gainesboro, vice moderator; Anna Lee Wiles, University Heights Baptist Church, Cookeville, clerk; and Don Wynn, pastor, Bear Creek Baptist Church, Cookeville, moderator.



AT THE ANNUAL meeting of Gibson County Baptist Association, Randy Pool, third from left, was named Mississippi River coordinator and the association's missions coordinator. Standing with Pool are, from left, Beverly Smothers, Tennessee Baptist Convention staff; Leslie Allen, MRM assistant coordinator; Cindy Pool; and Mike Kemper, director of missions. They are former missionaries to Honduras and Nicaragua.

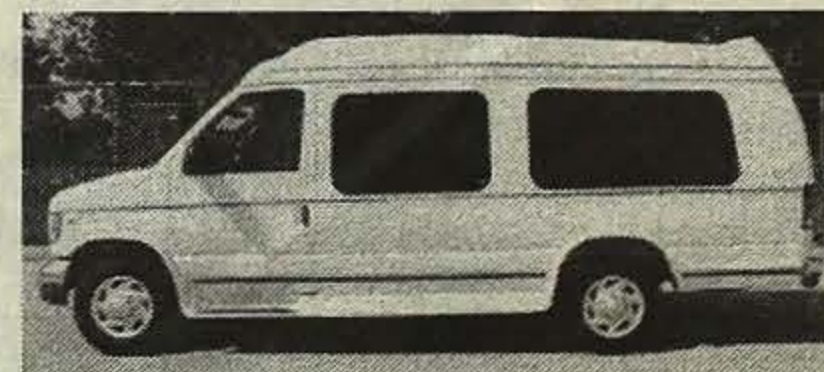


THE 117th ANNUAL meeting of Holston Valley Baptist Association was held Oct. 16-17. Elected as officers were, from left, Wade Holdbrook, pastor, First Baptist Church, Sneedville, moderator; Woody Tackett, pastor, Lyons Park Baptist Church Hill, moderator; Linda Williams, associational administrative assistant, clerk; and John Parrott Jr., director of missions; and in a wheelchair, Edward Johnson, pastor, Fishers Creek Church, Rogersville, associate moderator.

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Gene Nabi
Special Education Consultant
(615)662-0327



HANSON

Charlotte Hanson
General Leadership/Youth
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Gives God the credit

Parsons policeman/pastor recovers from ...

— Continued from page 1
ing church for the first time. Several weeks after the shooting, he made a profession of faith. A week later, Drehman was killed while working at a car accident. A telephone pole fell and struck him.

Wyatt said if the only purpose of the shooting was to direct Drehman to God, it was reason enough for him.

"If I had to go through the same thing again for somebody to be saved, I would do it," he stated.

One of his regrets of the experience is he wasn't able to thank Drehman for saving his life. Because of his deep feeling about this regret, Wyatt was only able recently to watch a video tape of Drehman's funeral, he said.

Another miracle of the experience,

said Wyatt, is the bullet shot at his face hit the top rim of his eyeglasses, was divided, part of it was diverted from him, and the rest diverted from his eye. Thus, only a third of the bullet entered his face below his eye, reported Wyatt. He lost nearly all of the vision in the eye, but he might regain it in another miracle, he proposed.

"It would be just a snap for him (God) to bring sight back to that eye, I believe," said Wyatt. That's also true for strengthening his weakened lungs, he added.

Other miracles are the shooting occurred about one half block from the hospital. A fellow policeman on the Parsons force has started attending Darden Church along with his family. And Wyatt believes

he can influence other people with whom he comes in contact through his work because of his experiences.

"So many people are not saved," he said.

Because of the shooting, God also has worked in the lives of the people who learned about the crisis, prayed for him, and saw God answer their prayers, Wyatt explained. This group includes people living around the world, he described.

"I believe God heard the prayers of the Christian people and spared my life."

Other outcomes

Wyatt predicted he will be a better minister as a result of the shooting even though he's having to learn how to speak differently from the pulpit. Wyatt lost one of his two vocal

chords because of the length of time he had tubing down his throat.

He can't sing anymore either, added friend Doyle Neal, director of missions, Beech River Baptist Association, based in Lexington. "But he couldn't before," joked Neal, as the two men laughed.

A sense of humor and friends certainly have helped him recover, advised Wyatt.

He hopes to be able to minister to the family of the man who shot him. Wyatt said they must be devastated, adding he has never lost a member of his immediate family.

The experience brought Wyatt's family, which is very close, even closer, he shared, and taught them to expect miracles from God. His family includes his wife, Judy; and sons



Brad Wyatt, minister of youth/education, Higley Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio; and Greg Wyatt, minister of youth, First Presbyterian Church, Savannah, and public school coach; and grandchildren.

The family delayed the celebration until July so he could be a part of the celebration, Wyatt said. The grandchildren even waited to open gifts until then, he proudly.

The future

Violence is "just one of the hazards of the job (of a minister)," Wyatt proposed. "Jobs have hazards, he added.

However, Wyatt knows he is in a dangerous profession, he said. After leaving the profession, he has said he wouldn't return. But he encouraged him to the work again, Wyatt, for the influence he has through it for God.

He goes to work every day, realizing he recently saw the hand of God working in protecting and moving." B



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Memphis church draws 1,500

to Judgment House
For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — During the last two weeks in October, the Colonial Baptist Church drew almost 1,500 people to Judgment House. As a result, 86 people made professions of faith and 186 people made other spiritual decisions.

This year's presentation was about a dysfunctional family dealing with domestic violence, alcohol abuse, drunk driving. The dramatization was presented in scenes with a guide to link each scene.

When the three teenaged characters died as a result of a car wreck by a drunk driver, they were thrust into judgment and they face Jesus. This is the second year the church presented a Judgment House.

For more information, contact Raymond Scott at church at (901) 682-6614.

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Young men find direction through missions

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — The four young men are students at Middle Tennessee State University here. They are active members of the school's Baptist Student Union and Baptist churches. Two are staff members of churches and another one has served as a staff member.

All served as summer missionaries for Concord Baptist Association, based here.

Several admitted they took the assignment because it was a paying job. They never expected to see 53 children and youth make initial commitments to God. And they never expected what else they received, they reported.

Because of their summer experiences, the four men — Daniel Bennett, Ed Phillips, Cliff Moore, and Ben Curtis — meet together each week for fellowship and for prayer, despite their busy schedules.

The four men rarely miss their weekly gathering, which is at 9 p.m. at a member's home. It's so special they have invited others to join them. The group of men often meet until after midnight.

Summer work

This summer the four men helped churches in the association conduct Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Schools, and camps.

The first week things didn't go very well, they reported, and they didn't see any participants make spiritual decisions. Curtis suggested the group meet prior to their work each day to pray.

After beginning a prayer time, their days began to go better. They still entered chaotic and challenging situations. Often they led two activities a day. But children and youth began to make spiritual decisions.

Although they never left Rutherford County, noted Curtis, pastor, Midland Baptist Church, Bell Buckle, they began to view that county differently — as a mission field, the men described.

They began to witness when they felt led to. They presented the plan of salvation to one

group on Tuesday rather than Thursday, the usual time. In one park they saw teens who wouldn't come near them early in the week hugging them on Friday, the missionaries reported.

They also spent time getting to know each other.

Personal work

Ed Phillips, a member of River Rock Church, Murfreesboro, said his lack of empathy for children disappeared when he discovered so many children and youth are yearning for love. Because of his experiences, his

attitude toward success also has changed, said Phillips, who is a former soldier in the U.S. Army. And from his new friends, he has experienced not only love but accountability for his actions, he described.

Cliff Moore, worship leader, Rockvale Community Church, Murfreesboro, said he had just lost a job so he needed the summer assignment. He had been a "lazy Christian" and "wasn't comfortable" when considering his summer assignment, he said. "But God changed my heart."



FRIENDS and fellow university students who bonded this summer through their missions service for Concord Baptist Association were, from left, Daniel Bennett, Rockvale Community Church, Murfreesboro; Ed Phillips, River Rock Church, Murfreesboro; Cliff Moore, Rockvale Church; and Ben Curtis, pastor, Midland Baptist Church, Bell Buckle.



Daniel Bennett, Rockvale Community Church, said before the summer he had changed direction of his life from being a musician to seeking ministry. The summer just affirmed that, he said.

Phillips, Moore, and Ben give Curtis much of the credit for all that has happened. Curtis, who served the association previously, points to prayer, which he has become addicted to, he described. Their prayer has evolved from a checklist to a place where one feels like is telling God things, he explained, to a spirit-led experience.

All four guys say their prayer time continues to change their lives. For instance, Moore and Bennett have new jobs and new places to live. Bennett received a grant for tuition. Curtis is serving in a growing church. And Phillips' new marriage is going great, he said.

And although they never leave their mission field, the men plan to continue to serve as missionaries, they said. *B&R*

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SEEDS

Matthew 13:8

1 2000 a newsletter for church leaders from Union University

Baptist life evident in Union's outstanding freshman class

Union University welcomed more than 450 freshmen on Monday, Saturday, Aug. 26, during the 7 National Merit final-
 More than 79% of the class members of Baptist churches, a majority coming from Tennessee Baptist churches.
 This is by far the most outstanding class Union has ever had in terms of quality," said Carroll
 n, Union's associate vice president of admissions and retention.
 He points out that nearly 60 freshmen students have a grade point average.
 7 valedictorians and salutatorians are also represented within the class, a number believed to be the highest ever within the university's 178-year history, according to Union President David S.
 ery.
 Other interesting facts about entering freshmen:

- 82 students scored 28 or higher on their ACT.
 - The average ACT score for the entire class is 24.8.
 - 80% of the class have grade point averages of 3.0 and above.
 - 151 students were in the top 10% of their high school class.
 - 75% of the students attended public school while 14% attended private school and 11% were home-schooled.
 - 31 states and 13 nations are represented, with 95% of the class residing on campus this year.
- "We are extremely thankful and quite excited about the outstanding quality of this year's freshmen class," said Dockery. "The high caliber of students and the broad geographical diversity will certainly enrich the life of Union University in the coming years."



The Future of Union University — Shown here with Union President David S. Dockery on the steps of the newly built academic building, Jennings Hall, are this year's seven freshmen national merit finalists who attend Union. They are: (first row from left to right) Bethany Davis, Olive Branch, Miss.; Courtney Sadler, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Amanda Scott, Arab, Ala.; Katie Gould, Bartlett, Tenn.; and Robert Cusanelli, Carrollton, Ala. (second row from left to right); Allen Smith, Camas, Wash., and Matt Newman, Memphis, Tenn.



Union University will hold a special dedication ceremony, Friday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. for Jennings Hall, the new academic building recently constructed on the west side of the campus. (Shown above.) The newest campus building is named after William Wesley and Laura Jennings, grandparents of Ayers, Union trustee and benefactor of the new building. The Jennings were devout Baptists, according to Ayers, whose grandfather was a farmer in Parsons and who assisted in establishing the Farmers' Bank in Parsons, Tenn. He passed away in the early sixties. His grandmother, however, lived to be 102.

Union Ranked in South's Top Ten by U.S. News

Union University has been ranked in the South's top ten regional liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*. The publication's annual ranking, "America's Best Colleges," was released in September. Union, which was ranked number nine among Southern schools, is the only West Tennessee institution in the top tier of the regional rankings. Among other Tennessee Baptist institutions, Carson-Newman College was ranked 13th among Southern liberal arts colleges, and Belmont University was ranked 18th among Southern regional universities.

"We are delighted with this outstanding recognition by *U.S. News*," said Union President David S. Dockery. "We have known that Union has a national-calibre faculty and a first-rate student body, but it is always nice to know that others also recognize the strides that Union has made to become one of the South's

premier academic institutions."

The *U.S. News* rankings are based on a variety of factors, including academic reputation (based on surveys of other educators), student retention and graduation rate, and the academic credentials of entering students.

"Such a recognition is particularly valuable for a school like Union because it raises our visibility with students and families outside our own region," Dockery asserted. "In recent years an expanding percentage of our students are coming from other parts of the nation, and this will help Union in gaining additional interest with such students who are seeking a Christ-centered university with top academic credentials."



Go Week challenges Union students to live a life of missions

More than 2,000 ethnic and linguistic groups of people have little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ. During Global Opportunities Week, Sept. 25 - 29, Union University students were challenged with this fact and asked to "think globally, and act locally."

An annual event created to highlight missions - past, present and future - Go Week is designed to focus specifically on students' roles in the United States and abroad.

This year's week of events started off with a chapel service Monday, Sept. 25, led by Suzanne Frost, Director of Student Outreach, who challenged the students to think about the 2000 people groups of the world who have yet to hear the gospel of Christ.

"Ask yourself, 'what does that mean to my life that 1.7 billion people

have no access to the Gospel?" Frost said, encouraging the 500 or so students in attendance to seriously consider getting involved in the mission opportunities that will be available this year.

More than 15 mission organizations were on campus during the week to talk with students including representatives from the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay

Christian Resources ministries Crosspoint and Centrifuge, and Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. Roundtable meetings were also offered at night which gave students opportunities to discuss specific topics, such as international missions, ministry opportunities in Jackson, and the mission experiences of other Union students.

More than 225 students, 10% more than last year, have committed to participate in 12 different missions trips that are being planned for spring ranging from international to local. Student groups participate in trips to Honduras, Morocco, Israel and Egypt; Arlington, Texas, Hilton Head, Chicago, Ill., Casper, Wyo., Irving, Texas, Naples, Fla., as well as ministry opportunities in Union's backyard of Jackson, Tenn.



Amy Edge, junior, hands out food boxes to the hungry in inner-city Chicago on the Chicago GO Trip 2000.

U P C O M I N G S P E A K I N G E N G A G E M E N T S

Todd Brady, Minister to the University

Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church, Bemis, TN
November 21 - Community Thanksgiving Service, Jackson, TN
February 2-3 - The Youth Project, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Union University
February 14-18 - State Collegiate Meeting, Casper, Wyoming
March 4-7 - First Baptist Church, Woodbury, TN
March 12 - Jackson Area Christian Singles
March 18-21 - First Baptist Church, Somerville, TN
April 6-13 - Orphanage Emmanuel, Guiamaca, Honduras

Michael Duduit, Executive Vice President

Nov. 4 - Lead Winter Bible Study Preview, Graves County Baptist Association, Mayfield, KY
Nov. 5 - Preach, Highpoint Baptist Church, Mayfield, KY
Nov. 10 - Speak, National Convocation, Church of God in Christ, Memphis
Apr. 24 - Preaching Conference, Germantown Baptist Church, Memphis
Apr. 26 - Preaching Conference, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA
May 8 - Preaching Conference, Westminster Seminary, Philadelphia, PA

David Gushee, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy

Co-pastor, Northbrook Church
January 4-7 Society of Christian Ethics, Chicago
January 22-24 Messiah College, guest lecturer

Jim Patterson, Professor and Interim Associate Dean

West Tennessee Pastors' Conference on January 9, 2001

Hal Poe, Professor of Faith and Culture

Interim pastor, Tiptonville First Baptist Church

Union Alumni and Friends Dinner to be held in Germantown

Friends and graduates of Union University are invited to attend the university's Alumni and Friends Dinner, 5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14 at the Germantown Campus located at Poplar Pike and Hacks Cross Road.

The dinner, in conjunction with the Tennessee Baptist Convention that will be held at Germantown Baptist Church, Nov. 13-15, will feature comments by Union

President David S. Dockery.

Tickets are \$14 per person and are available from Alumni Services through Friday, Nov. 10. Tickets also be available in the display at Union's booth located at the convention until noon on Tuesday, Nov. 14. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Services at (901) 661-5208.

Union sponsors programs for past senior adults

- "Lunch and Learn" Senior Adult Event
Nov. 16, 2000 at 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 6, 2001
May 8, 2001
- Dec. 5, 2000 - West Tennessee Pastors' Conference Programs
Pursuing "The Gift" of Christmas
Christmas celebration presented by the Ministers of Music of West Tennessee.
- Jan. 9, 2001 - Pursuing God through His Word
Dr. James Patterson, professor in Christian Studies at Union University, will present a study of the book of James.
- Feb. 13, 2001 (6:30 p.m.) - Valentine Banquet
John Jolley of Memphis will speak.

- April 3, 2001 - Pursuing Premier Strategy
Herb Hodges will speak on making.
- May 1, 2001 - Pursuing Will in Education
How can we equip students education and "world view" will enable them to influence impact the world in which they live and serve?
- The Ministers' Wives Fellowship
The Ministers' Wives Fellowship meets each time the Pastors' Conference meets at Union University. The program begins at 10:30 a.m.
- July 30- Aug. 2, 2001 - Union University Pastors' School
"Revisiting Your Call" led by Henry Blackaby

Making a difference one student at a time

Union benefactor and trustee passes on good fortune

After we're gone, we should all aspire to leave the world a little bit better by us having lived here... however capable, we should be," says Jim Ayers, Union trustee and a successful businessman from Decatur County.

A major Union University benefactor who recently completed two terms on the university's board of trustees, Ayers and his wife Sharon have done much to make the world a little better, particularly in the area of education. The Ayers Scholars program, started by the couple two years ago, provides tuition assistance for any high school student who graduates from Decatur County, including several that are attending Union.

Establishing his initial success in the nursing home industry, Ayers, a member of First Baptist Parsons, eventually turned his interests towards banking. In 1986, he purchased what was then Farmers State Bank; it is now known today as First Bank, and is currently the eleventh largest bank in

Tennessee and the fourth largest community bank.

Ayers and his wife, who both grew up in Parsons, Tenn., and Decatur County, felt it was important to give back to the rural community of their youth. With a population of a little more than 10,000, the county - which graduates an average of 125 high school seniors per year - has many low-income families. The scholarship program Ayers provides allows any student who graduates from high school and who wishes to continue

his or her education, to do so.

"I wasn't a very good student in school," says Ayers. "Neither of my

parents completed their college education and my dad ran a sawmill, but they always stressed the importance of education to their children."

"Good students don't always feel like they have the chance to go to college, especially the ones that may not receive encouragement from home," says Sharon, who knows many of the students they

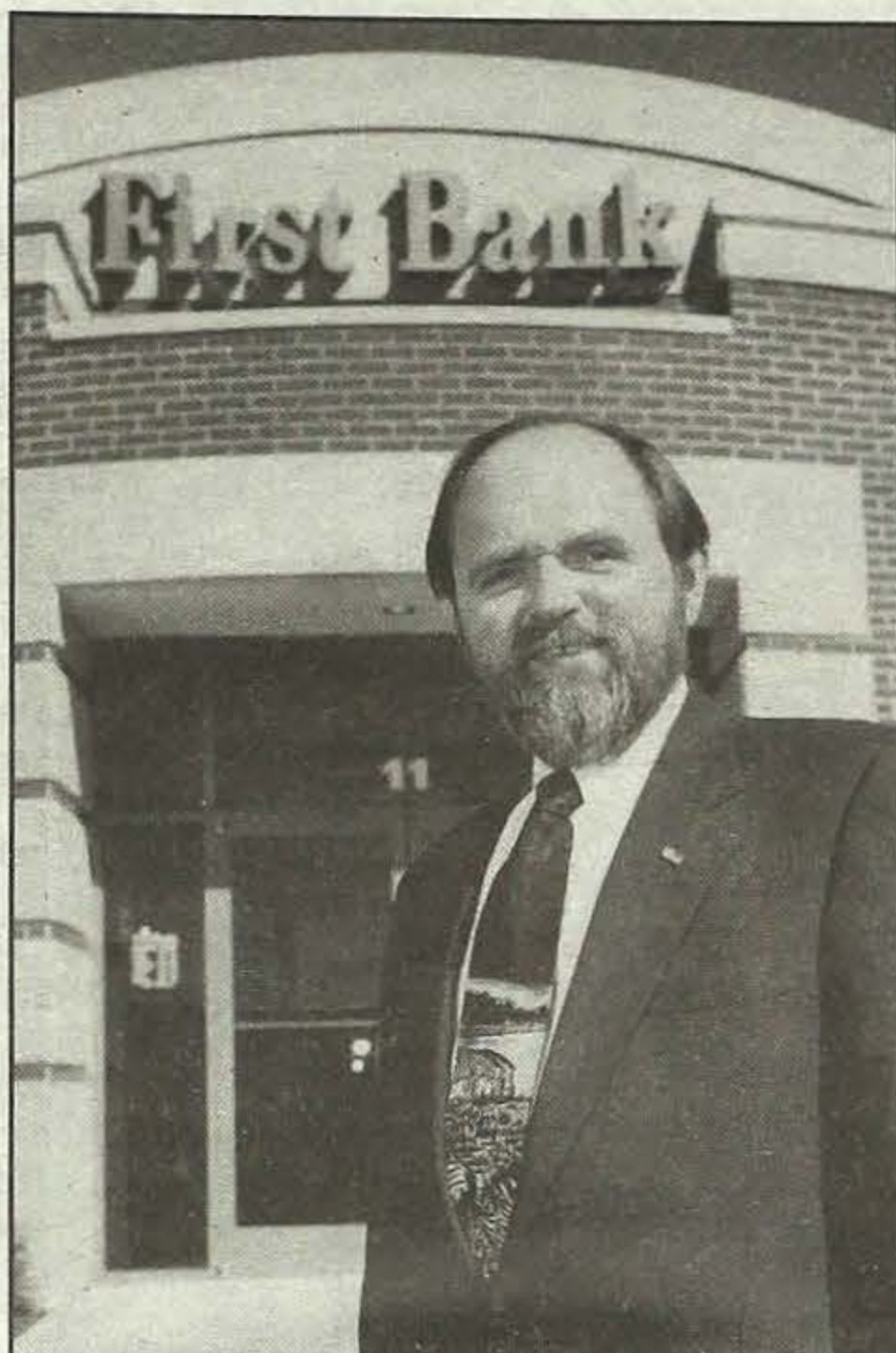
help by name. "This county is important to both Jim and me. We feel like if we can help one student at a time be successful, they too will return to

the county and help improve its way of life."

Ayers' roots also include Union. Both his mother and two aunts attended the university that, according to Ayers, has been a part of their family's life for many years. The new academic building, Jennings Hall, is named after Ayers' grandparents, William Wesley and Laura Jennings. Ayers was the major benefactor for the newest building to be constructed on the west side of the campus.

"Jim Ayers has been a remarkable friend of Union, and through this scholarship program is making an incredible difference in the lives of many young men and women," explains Dr. David S. Dockery, Union President. "Dr. Ayers is putting his Christian commitment into action by investing in the lives of future generations."

"For me," says Ayers, "helping people has just been a logical thing to do. It's helping your neighbors and people in your community. It's what we're all called to do, to give what we can and do what we are able."



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Union University
1823-2000

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Mail form with payment to:
History Book, Union University,
1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305.



UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH GIVING REPORT

September 1, 1999 through August 31, 2000

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
Beech Bluff		
Bear Creek	\$100.00	\$0.00
Corinth	0.00	55.00
Decaturville, First	0.00	150.00
Flatwoods	0.00	150.00
Lexington, First	0.00	7,995.00
Mt. Gilead	100.00	0.00
Parsons, First	0.00	5,708.83
Sand Ridge	500.00	0.00
Scotts Hill	0.00	100.00
Union	500.00	0.00
Wildersville	0.00	200.00
	\$1,200.00	\$14,358.83

Beulah		
Martin, First	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00
Mt. Olive	100.00	0.00
Ridgely, First	3,705.37	1,000.00
South Fulton	0.00	5,400.00
Tiptonville, First	0.00	5,212.55
Union City, First	3,900.00	75.00
Union City, Second	0.00	2,500.08
Woodland Mills, First	600.00	0.00
	\$9,505.37	\$15,987.63

Big Hatchie		
Beaver	\$0.00	\$300.00
Covington, First	3,666.67	14,333.33
Faith	600.00	0.00
Fellowship	600.00	0.00
Grace	460.00	0.00
Pleasant Grove	2,566.56	0.00
Ripley, First	1,336.56	0.00
Smyrna	750.00	0.00
	\$9,979.79	\$14,633.33

Carroll-Benton		
Bruceton, First	\$0.00	\$2,999.90
Camden, First	0.00	1,188.00
Howse	1,500.00	0.00
Huntingdon, First	0.00	9,010.63
McKenzie, First	0.00	5,000.00
Trezevant, First	0.00	2,000.00
	\$1,500.00	\$20,198.53

Crockett		
Alamo, First	\$100.00	\$400.00
Friendship	405.00	0.00
Gadsden, First	150.00	0.00
Maury City, First	2,500.08	0.00
	\$3,155.08	\$400.00

Dyer		
Dyersburg, First	\$0.00	\$4,583.37
Finley	0.00	2,210.00
Fowlkes	0.00	1,000.00
Halls, First	0.00	2,950.00
Macedonia	0.00	150.00
Newbern, First	2,444.68	9,778.70
	\$2,444.68	\$20,672.07

Fayette		
Somerville, First	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00
	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00

Gibson		
Antioch	\$500.00	\$0.00
Bethpage	200.00	0.00
Bradford, First	0.00	2,400.00
Calvary - Humboldt	593.99	109.31
Fellowship	300.00	0.00
Humboldt, First	0.00	13,333.33
Kenton, First	0.00	2,520.00
Milan, First	0.00	6,250.00
Mount Pleasant	0.00	500.00
New Bethlehem	1,003.55	0.00
Northside	1,200.00	0.00
Oak Grove	406.17	0.00
Oakwood	300.00	0.00
Poplar Grove	1,600.00	0.00
Salem	0.00	1,802.19
Trenton, First	0.00	7,373.71
West Side	0.00	30.00
	\$6,103.71	\$34,318.54

Hardeman		
Bolivar, First	\$50.00	\$1,610.00
Ebenezer	0.00	53.60
Grand Junction, First	1,992.00	150.00

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
Middleton, First	0.00	480.00
Parrans Chapel	0.00	100.00
Saulsbury	300.00	0.00
Shandy	0.00	50.00
Toone	0.00	1,882.12
Trinity	150.00	0.00
Walnut Grove	0.00	525.00
West Memorial	0.00	50.00
Whiteville, First	1,200.00	285.00
	\$3,692.00	\$5,185.72

Haywood		
Allen	\$500.00	\$0.00
Holly Grove	0.00	1,649.99
Poplar Corner	0.00	1,875.00
Shaw's Chapel	550.00	0.00
Stanton	200.00	0.00
Woodland	0.00	3,000.00
Zion	0.00	2,714.40
	\$1,250.00	\$9,239.39

Madison-Chester		
Ararat	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
Beech Bluff	0.00	2,556.49
Bemis, First	0.00	834.75
Calvary	0.00	3,935.00
East Union	0.00	3,614.74
Englewood	0.00	23,833.32
Enville	0.00	250.00
Jackson, First	0.00	22,075.00
Madison	720.00	0.00
Meridian	600.00	0.00
North Jackson	0.00	2,750.00
Northbrook	825.00	0.00
Oakfield	0.00	800.00
Poplar Heights	0.00	2,565.00
West Jackson	0.00	40,188.78
	\$2,145.00	\$110,903.08

Shelby		
Ardmore	\$1,248.20	\$0.00
Audubon Park	1,200.00	0.00
Bartlett	0.00	999.96
Broadmoor	2,588.00	0.00
Brookside	0.00	150.00
Cherry Road	2,000.04	0.00
Collierville, First	1,000.00	0.00
Emmanuel	0.00	50.00
Faith	0.00	50,000.00
Germantown	0.00	1,300.00
Graham Heights	0.00	390.00
Leawood	1,133.32	0.00
Lucy	0.00	1,455.00
Millington, First	0.00	5,800.00
Mullins Station	1,793.54	0.00
Raleigh	0.00	1,604.00
Trafalgar Village	1,024.87	275.55
	\$11,987.97	\$62,024.51

Shiloh		
Adamsville, First	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Good Hope	600.00	0.00
Gravel Hill	1,500.00	0.00
Mt. Zion	120.00	0.00
Selmer, First	0.00	6,999.96
	\$2,220.00	\$9,999.96

Weakley		
Central	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Dresden, First	0.00	998.68
Gleason, First	0.00	200.00
Jolley Springs	225.00	0.00
New Hope	0.00	200.00
	\$1,425.00	\$1,398.68

Western District		
Big Sandy, First	\$0.00	\$191.84
Maplewood	0.00	5,649.84
Oak Hill	220.00	0.00
Paris, First	0.00	10,000.00
Puryear	1,200.00	625.00
West Paris	0.00	1,000.00
	\$1,420.00	\$17,466.68

Other Churches/Organizations		
Abundant Life Christian Fellowship	\$0.00	\$100.00
Antioch Missionary (AR)	0.00	80.00
Belews Chapel (Bradford, TN)	0.00	100.00

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
Brenton Creek (MS)	0.00	100.00
Calvary (IL)	100.00	325.00
Carroll-Benton Baptist Assoc.	0.00	459.51
Central (Clinton)	5,030.73	0.00
Christian Community (KY)	0.00	100.00
Clarksville, First (Cumberland)	0.00	90.00
College Heights (Bledsoe)	0.00	900.00
Dayspring Community (GA)	0.00	400.00
Dexter, First (MO)	0.00	450.00
Easley, First (SC)	0.00	400.00
East Rogersville (Holston Valley)	1,164.39	0.00
Ecru (MS)	0.00	50.00
Fairview, First (Nashville)	0.00	319.00
Forest Hills (Nashville)	0.00	750.00
Grace (Bledsoe)	0.00	200.00
Grace Covenant (Knox)	28.05	0.00
Greenwood, First (MS)	0.00	340.00
Haywood Baptist Association	0.00	49.35
Hendersonville, First (Bledsoe)	0.00	780.00
Immanuel (IL)	0.00	400.00
Jacksboro, First (Campbell Co.)	713.32	0.00
Kenner, First (LA)	0.00	100.00
Knoxville, First (Knox Co.)	1,763.98	0.00
Lakeview (FL)	0.00	1,183.00
Monte Vista (Chilhowee)	6,078.59	0.00
Mountain Home, First (AR)	0.00	100.00
Naples, First (FL)	100.00	707.72
Oak Ridge, First (Clinton)	1,015.27	0.00
Pilgrim (Chilhowee)	123.46	0.00
Richland Bible (MI)	0.00	500.00
Salem (Salem)	1,739.77	0.00
Trinity Chapel Church of God (GA)	0.00	50.00
Tupelo, First Evangelical (MS)	0.00	500.00
West Frankfort, Second (IL)	0.00	162.54
Western District Association	0.00	250.00
Woodmont (Nashville)	1,626.61	179.00
	\$19,484.17	\$10,125.12

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Jackson-based Birth Choice expands ministry

by Wilkey
and Reflector

BROWNSVILLE — Haywood County has a serious problem — the highest teenage pregnancy rate per capita of any in the state.

It's worse is the number of abortions from 23.1 adolescent pregnancies per 1,000 females 15-17 in 1998 to 28.9 in 1999. Providing alternatives for young women who might be thinking about abortion is the task of Birth Choice.

Founded in 1989 as a ministry of Woodland Baptist Church in Jackson, Birth Choice was incorporated in 1995 and opened a branch in Brownsville and Haywood County in 1998.

Birth Choice took over the ministry that Haywood County had been providing through their own crisis pregnancy program, Birth Quest.

Though supported by members of various denominations, Birth Choice has a distinctly Baptist flavor.

The Brownsville center is housed in a building provided

by Brownsville Baptist Church at a cost of \$1 per year.

The building was renovated to meet the needs of Birth Choice by Baptist Men volunteers from Haywood Baptist churches.

Most of the volunteers who work in the ministry also are from Haywood Baptist churches.

"Baptists have said this is an issue that is God's heart and we're going to make it our heart," said Barry Phillips, a Brownsville banker who serves on the board of directors for Birth Choice. His wife, Leslie, is associate director for Birth Choice and oversees the Brownsville center.

"We have to make people aware that as Christians abortion is an issue we have to take a stand on," Phillips said.

Birth Choice is one of several crisis pregnancy centers across the state.

The word that characterizes the ministry of crisis pregnancy centers is love, said Leslie Phillips. "It's a way we put hands and feet to what your heart believes about the issue of abortion," she said.



AS A COUPLE, Leslie and Barry Phillips are involved in Birth Choice, a women's resource center that offers help and hope to young women who find themselves in crisis pregnancies. Leslie serves as assistant director of the Brownsville center, while her husband serves on the ministry's board of directors.

Birth Choice provides many services including free pregnancy tests, information on pregnancy and prenatal development, information on abortion procedures/risks, information on alternatives to abortion (parenting and adoption), ongoing friendship and emotional support, and many more. "We're not just saying don't have an abortion. Instead we say let us help you with other options that are available to

you."

She noted the ministry also deals not just with the crisis, but works on the preventative end as well by going into schools with the message of abstinence and sexual purity.

The ministry goes beyond the social aspects, her husband said. "The ladies who volunteer here are trained and they know part of their ministry is to lead girls to Christ which will ultimately lead to change in their

behaviors," he said.

Birth Choice receives no government money, the couple stressed. It is funded through non-government grants and donations.

The center is hoping to expand even more by offering medical services such as ultrasounds in the future.

To do so will require a major financial undertaking, the couple said. "We're praying that God will touch the proper hearts to make this possible," Leslie Phillips said.

One of the center's greatest needs in Brownsville is more volunteers. The center is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. "We need volunteers desperately," said Leslie Phillips.

"This is a crisis ministry. It is so important to be available. If the doors are not open, then we've missed her," she said.

To learn more about the ministry, call Leslie Phillips at (901) 772-1043. ■



Proud Past, A Progressive Present, and Promising Possibilities — those are phrases that may be applied to the ministries of the **Church Staff Leadership Group**. With one foot planted firmly in the past, they are stepping with the other foot into the new millennium. Following are samples of the "tried and true" and the "hopeful new" ministry areas that are covered by the Church Staff Leadership Group:

Advanced Leader Lab
Architectural Services
Barnabas Ministries
Bivocational Evangelism Conference
Career Assessment
Children's Music Camp
Choir Performance Opportunities
Church Annuity Enrollment/Account Questions
Church Budget and Planning
Church Music Conference
Church Secretaries
Church Vision
Conflict Mediation
Deacon Ministry
Dramatic Arts Festival
Emerging Leaders
Facility Space Evaluation
Financial Assistance for Retired Ministers/Spouses
Financial Support for Terminated Ministers

Financial Support Planning
Giving Development
Handbell Festival
Instrumental Music Training
Key Lay Leaders
Ministers Housing Allowance
Ministers Resumes
Ministers Wives
Money Management
Music Leadership Training
Pastor/ Staff Search Committees
Salary Information
Seminary Extension
Single Staff Church Ministers
Stewardship
Supply Pastors
Tax Issues
Tennessee Baptist Chorale

Transitional Interim Training
Worship Evaluation Resources
Worship Leadership Training
Worship Planning/Resources
Youth Music and Drama Camp



Church Staff Leadership Group
1-800-558-2090, ext. 2040; www.tnbaptist.org

The Missions Awareness and Involvement Group says thank you, Tennessee Baptists

We're honored to serve ...



Tim Bearden

"It is an honor to make Christ known by serving Tennessee Baptists."



Dianna Hughes

"There's no greater honor in the whole world than to be used by God."



Heather Wilson

"I enjoy working along side Tennessee Baptists because we all work as a team to reach the same goal, which is winning souls to Christ."



Kim Huff

"I am honored to be a part of what God is doing through Tennessee Baptist missions around the world."



Terry Sharp

"It is our pleasure to serve you on the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, and we stand ready to help you discover both projects and resources as you labor in the harvest."



Marcia Knox

"If this is the first day of the rest of your life, why not spend it by serving God with Tennessee Baptists."



Bob Davison

"It gives me great pleasure to know that the area of ministry God has called me to help change the lives of countless Tennessee Baptist young people around the state."



Gene Williams

"Helping Christian men become the men God can use."



Anita Sloan

"The best part of my day is hearing volunteers who return from a mission trip tell of the impact that missions involvement has had in their lives."



Bernie Baker

"I am honored to serve Christ by serving Tennessee Baptists, because I feel that God called me to serve others."



Carol Davidson

"I am glad to serve Tennessee Baptists every day as an instrument of God working constantly to do my part in equipping the saints and building His kingdom."



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

MISSIONS AWARENESS & INVOLVEMENT GROUP



Carrol Kelly

"I count it a privilege to challenge Tennessee Baptists to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God."



Vickie Anderson

"It is a privilege to be a part of helping children and preschoolers discover the joy of missions."



Becky Sumrall

"As we discover the 'Joy of Missions' together through women's events, consultations, and training."



Dene Mashburn

"Honored to serve with Tennessee Baptists as we work to introduce Woman's Missionary Union, missions, and missionaries to every church in our state."



Gayle Ingram

"Honored to serve with Tennessee Baptists help me minister and evolve as a missionary partner."



Linda Rader

"As we strive to further God's work as servants of our Lord."



Amanda Day

"Helping youth and their leaders discover a missions lifestyle by involving their heart, head, and hands is indeed a joy and a privilege."



Erin Israel

"It is a blessing and a privilege to serve in such a community of faith."



Jewell Burke

"It is a great opportunity to assist in the ministries of many fellow laborers."

Haywood County sheriff stands up for convictions

by Wilkey
and Reflector

BROWNsville — When
Russell ran for the
office of sheriff of Haywood
County he ran on his Christian

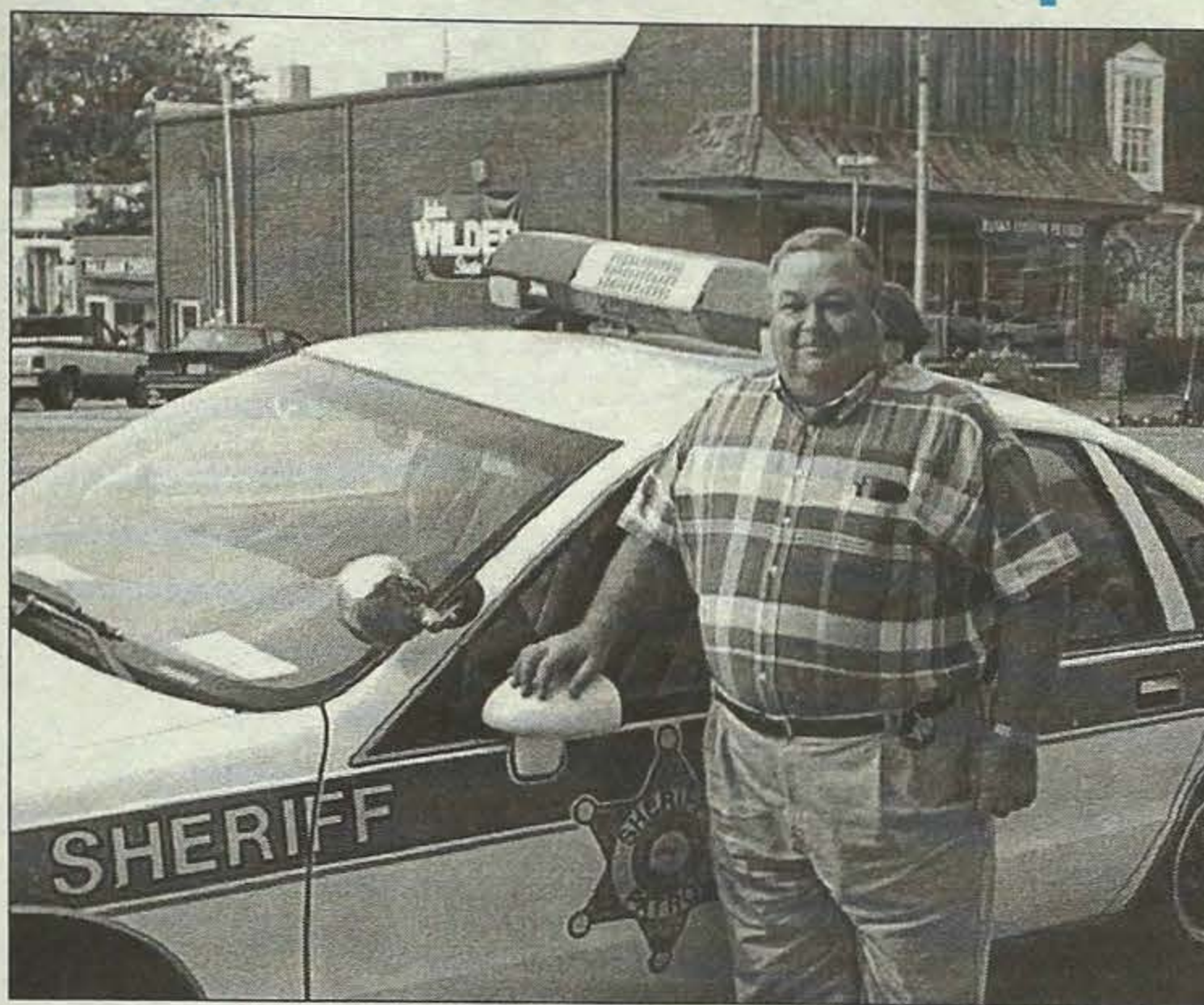
seven years later Russell
is true to those Christ-
ian principles.

"Four years I have never
received a bribe. I think
because people know my
Christian beliefs," affirmed
a life-long resident of
Haywood County.

"I was ever offered a
bribe person would be ar-
rested in the spot," the Hay-
wood County sheriff said. "I
knowing I can go home
right with a clear con-
science and go to sleep."

Russell accepted Christ at
the age of 12 and has been an
active member of Antioch Baptist
Church ever since. He cur-
rently serves as Sunday School
teacher, assistant mu-
nicipal auditor, and a member of
the planning and budget
committees.

Russell admits the job he
does leads itself to tempta-
tion. Every day I ask the
Lord to guide my life and keep



HAYWOOD COUNTY Sheriff Raymond Russell stands outside his office in Brownsville. Russell is an active member of Antioch Baptist Church.

the temptations away," the
sheriff said.

Russell's jurisdiction covers
about 500 square miles. He
oversees the work of 15
deputies and 35 total employ-
ees.

Earlier this summer Russell
took a stand on a controversial
issue even though he knows it
could hurt him politically in

the future.

He became involved in an
effort to keep packaged beer
out of the city of Brownsville.
While there is beer sold in
the county it has been kept
out of the city. He noted pro-
ponents said selling beer in
the city would increase revenue.

"There comes a time when

you have to stop putting a dol-
lar figure on everything," Rus-
sell maintained.

"We need to take a stand
for what is right," he af-
firmed.

"Politically, it might not
have been a good stand for
me," Russell continued, noting
he comes up for re-election in
2001.

"As a Christian it was a
stand I had to take."

Russell went to the City
Council meeting the night they
were voting to put it on a refer-
endum. He spoke against beer
sales in the city. The council
later defeated the proposi-
tion in a close vote.

In a similar mat-
ter last year, Rus-
sell and others
stood up against
adult video stores
and were able to
keep them out of
the city.

In addition to his church
roles, Russell also serves on
the moral and ethics commit-
tee of Haywood Baptist Associ-
ation.

"Jesus had no reservations
about going to the cross for
me," Russell affirmed.

"I have no reservations

about speaking out on what is
morally wrong and would af-
fect the people of this commu-
nity."

Russell admitted one of
the hardest parts of his job
is seeing "good people who
go through suffering and
pain" while "others who never
do anything
good for any-
body" seem to
live a care-free
life.

Part of his ra-
tional for run-
ning for the sher-
iff's office 14
years ago was his
desire to help

people.

"I enjoy helping people, not
a person who has violated the
law, but a person who walks
into this office with a prob-
lem," Russell said.

"I've had the opportunity to
witness to a lot of people.
That's been a blessing to be
able to do that." ■



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(\$100 million in CP gifts and \$125 million in Lottie Moon gifts)

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Dr. Jerry Rankin
President, IMB

Training and Equipping

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(\$43 million SBC CP and \$75 million state CP)

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Dr. Ken Hemphill
President
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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President
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Other Ministries

\$8 million will go to support the Annuity Board (relief for retired ministers and widows), the Southern Baptist Foundation, SBC operating costs, and the Baptist World Alliance.

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\$275 million will go to support the local harvest efforts of forty-two state conventions and fellowships.



We asked the presidents of our entities and seminaries this question. Here is a sampling of their responses and a broad breakdown of how your gifts will be used as we wrap our arms around the world as *Partners in the Harvest*:

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Dr. Bob Reccord
President, NAMB

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As you plan your 2001 budget, prayerfully consider increasing your gifts to CP missions by at least one percent of your church budget in honor of the 75th anniversary of CP Missions. Six billion people are waiting for us to act.

Dollar figures are approximate. Collection and distribution of CP and missions offerings will be handled in the usual manner.

For more information on the Cooperative Program, contact Gary Rickman of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2020, (615) 371-2020, grickman@tnbaptist.org.

Ministers find way to transition from pastor

ie Davis
nd Reflector

RNA — Ken Hubbard and Pat Hood have a close relationship. Hubbard, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, reaches every other Sunday morning in the mornings and pastor, preaches on the mornings Hubbard preach. They do the Sunday evenings on the weeks.

congregation seems to vary and thrive on the leadership of the two. The church has had to build about 18 ago.

Hubbard and Hood also have other responsibilities — visiting people in hospital and nursing home, wedding and funeral services, and leading other activities.

Hubbard have no strict division of labor, the duo reported. It is one man requested of the unified front present and either will as they determine their

schedules, explained Hood and Hubbard.

If one has a special relationship with a person getting married or interest in a committee's work, he chooses that assignment. Generally the men work as co-pastors. If they disagree, Hubbard would make the final decision, but they can't recall ever disagreeing.

For transition

Hubbard asked the congregation seven months before its move into its new building to consider a proposal. That was to call Pat Hood, then associate pastor, as pastor and Hub-

bard as senior pastor. That was in 1998.

The action on Hubbard's part was one of selflessness, observed Hood. Since the proposal was presented as one item, Hubbard risked his position by fully supporting Hood. Hubbard also took the risk of presenting a new leadership paradigm. Finally, Hubbard's timing meant he would share leadership in the new building, rather than retaining that for himself, noted Hood.

According to Hubbard, it was the right thing to do for the church, for a young minis-

ter who felt called to the pastorate, and for himself, he explained.

Hubbard began sharing pastoral duties with Hood in 1996, two years after Hood was called as minister of youth. Hood began preaching about once a month on Sunday mornings.

Hubbard explained not long after Hood was called to the church he "saw the potential in him," he said. Soon he suggested the church call Hood as associate pastor.

Based on Scripture

They base their relationship on Elijah/Elisha, Moses/Joshua, and Paul/Timothy.

Hubbard has mentored him, said Hood, and he has benefited from Hubbard's 13 years of service to the church, about 50 total years of service in churches, and three years of work as a missionary to Africa.

Benefits

Many benefits result from such a leadership transition, said the two men.

Hubbard has been able to work more years and even has been able to eliminate his blood pressure medicine, he said.

The congregation retained a good minister, said Hubbard, referring to Hood. And both ministers pointed out the continuity provided by the transition. The church won't lose focus or momentum while searching for and calling a pastor and learning how to work with him. And after a pastor has served for a long time, that process is often lengthy.

The church staff won't need to be uncertain about their status during a usual transition from one pastor to a new pastor. In fact, the church has called several staff members recently, which might not have been possible with a lone pastor facing retirement.

The experience "gives a deep satisfaction," said Hubbard, who recently announced his retirement in April 2001. Through Hood and their relationship, which they plan to continue after he retires, "I can still have an impact, still help those people I have served," he explained. **B&R**



PAT HOOD, left, pastor, First Baptist Church, Smyrna, and Ken Hubbard, senior pastor, relax in Hubbard's office at the church.



Take This Simple Test

- ☐ You know someone in your church, who, when they reach retirement, will need a Christian retirement residence they can afford.
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- For the Father's Day special offering
- For the "Called To Care" Campaign



SBC giving shows increase in October

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — October receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program posted a 3.27 percent increase over the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

A total of \$14,489,661.57 was received to support Southern Baptist missions and ministries globally and across

North America, compared to \$14,031,208.45 in October 1999. The SBC fiscal year began Oct. 1.

In designated giving during October, the total of \$2,265,186.60 was 10.26 percent below the October 1999 total of \$2,524,179.18.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the \$14,489,661 in CP giving was 103 percent of the budgeted \$13,999,698. ■



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MINISTRIES — MUSIC

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MINISTRIES — OTHER

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N amends its charter and bylaws ...

Continued from page 1
amendments were effective immediately. Action was reported to Baptist and Reflector late week prior to the 2000 annual meeting of the messengers who constitute the convention.

"We join our Baptist brothers and sisters in Germany, we hope our board's will contribute to a spirit of celebration and renewal," he said.

Chairman, the East Tennessee Baptist Convention presides over the state's all-Baptist governing body. The amendments were passed by a unanimous vote.

During the full trustee meeting in October, trustees passed the following resolution which was to be released with the charter change was

Whereas, Carson-Newman College is the creation of East Tennessee Baptists, begun before there was a Tennessee Baptist Convention;

Whereas, Carson-Newman College and the Tennessee Baptist Convention have enjoyed a long history of volun-

tary cooperation rooted in mutual confidence, shared faith, and a commitment to common ministries;

Whereas, the board of trustees of the college holds this institution in trust for the purpose of providing a liberal arts education in a Christian environment for the benefit of the men and women who come to the college;

Whereas, the board of trustees is committed to guard and execute this trust, and to conduct the affairs of the college in the exercise of the Board's best judgment, prayerfully seeking the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit; now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

(1) That the board of trustees commends Carson-Newman College to the Baptists of Tennessee and to the Tennessee Baptist Convention as an institution through which God's work is being done, and the board of trustees expresses the hope that the Baptists of this state will continue to share in that work through the partnership which the college and the convention

have long found mutually helpful;

(2) That the board of trustees, in the exercise of its authority to manage and direct the affairs of the college, hereby amends the college's charter and bylaws effective upon the filing of the charter amendment with the Secretary of State for Tennessee, amending its charter and bylaws to provide that the Tennessee Baptist Convention may select those persons the convention would have serve on the board of trustees of the college and to provide that the board of trustees will appoint those persons the convention elects to serve as trustees for so long as the college and the convention remain affiliated; and

(3) That the president and the chairman of the board of trustees register the charter amendment with the Secretary of State for Tennessee; and communicate this action to Tennessee Baptists, and to the president and the executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the convention's Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Executive Board, and Educa-

tion Committee.

With the filing of the charter change, the following amendment to the college's bylaws becomes effective.

Article II

Affiliation with the Tennessee Baptist Convention

"The college and the Tennessee Baptist Convention have enjoyed a heritage of cooperation rooted in shared faith and a commitment to common ministries. The cooperation is voluntary. The college respects the autonomy of the convention under the control of its Executive Board and messengers, and the convention respects the autonomy of the college under the control of its board of trustees.

"The affiliation is marked by convention support of the college, by college support of the convention, by cooperative ministries, and by convention participation in the selection of the college's trustees. As long as the affiliation exists, those persons elected by the convention as trustees of the college will assume the office of trustee as provided by these bylaws." ■



Cumberland Gap calls new DOM

For Baptist and Reflector

HARROGATE — Cumberland Gap Baptist Association has called Clayton Dunsmore as director of missions, effective Dec. 1.

Dunsmore has been serving as pastor of Cedar Fork Baptist Church, Philadelphia. He also has been pastor of other churches in Sweetwater and McMinn-Meigs Baptist associations.

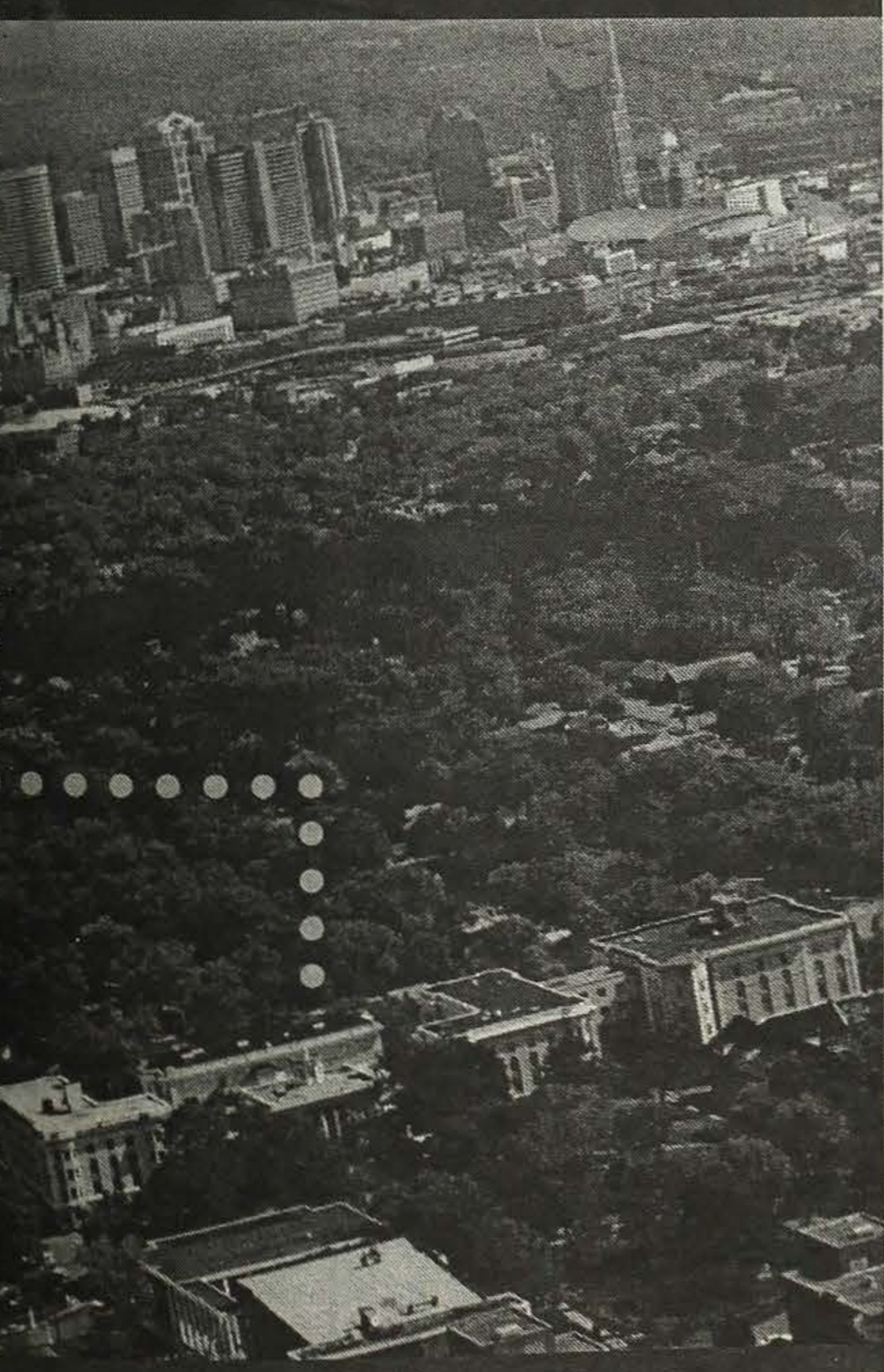
He also served as a church planter and pastor in Battle Creek, Mich.

Dunsmore and his wife, Frances, have two children and two grandchildren. ■



DUNSMORE

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BELMONT
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minister's corner

by Barry Howard

Recently, when I attended a major sporting event, I noticed a sign near the gate as I gave my ticket to the gate attendant that read,

"Absolutely No Re-Entry." In other words, if you come out, don't expect to get back in.

While there is no such rule for the church, some church members often find it difficult to re-enter active participation in the church after an extended absence.

People forsake regular church attendance for any number of legitimate or illegitimate reasons. Some get their feelings hurt about some action or statement. Some find it difficult to return to church after a divorce. Some have a work schedule that conflicts with the scheduled services of the church. Some don't like the current pastor or staff. Some must miss services to care for relatives or friends who are ill. Some encounter a traumatic loss which leads to such a severe state of spiritual disillusionment that it is difficult for them to return to church. Some choose a habit or hobby that lures them away from active church attendance. Some move from another town where they were once active and somehow fail to make a connection with a church in their new locale. And some never intend to withdraw from church participation, but after missing a few successive Sundays, they find it difficult to return.

No matter how at home you once felt in your church, an extended absence can cause you to feel some anxiety about returning. Some fear being rejected. Others worry about being stigmatized or verbally chastised about missing. Still, others wrestle with extreme personal guilt about being away from church.

Whatever the reason for your recent lack of involvement, most any church will welcome you back gladly and graciously, and maybe even, inconspicuously.

If you have been out of church for a while, how can you re-enter graciously? First, you may just want to start back to church. No questions. No explanations. Just make a firm decision that it is time for you and your family to start back to church and then do it. You may be surprised how welcomed you feel when you return.

Second, if you live alone or if you are extremely anxious about your return, you may want to make contact with a trusted friend who still attends and say something like, "I plan to attend services this Sunday. Can I sit with you?"

Third, some may prefer to contact their minister and acknowledge their desire to return to full participation in the church. This enables the minister to affirm their decision and allows the minister the privilege of quietly welcoming the family or individual back into the active life of the congregation.

Life is too short and worship is too important to spend your days disconnected or estranged from your congregation. If you have responsibilities which prohibit your active church attendance now, contact your minister and find other ways to stay connected. If for some reason, you have wandered away from active participation in the church, is there any better time than now to return? ■ — Howard is pastor of First Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky. This was printed in the newsletter of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis.

just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Memphis



Start With a Smile: Teller to customer at drive-up window: "That dog sure loves you, cuddling up so close. Does he do it all the time?" Customer:

"No. He thinks he is at McDonald's."

Take this Truth: Perception is, for many people, the larger part of reality.

Memorize this Scripture: "If ye have faith ... ye shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed ... and it shall be done." — Matthew 21:21

Pray this Prayer: Lord, help me to realize the world has yet to see what would happen if one man would give himself completely to Jesus Christ completely without any reservation. ■

The suffering servant

By Marvin Nail

Focal Passage: Isaiah 53:1-12

We live in a time when our society demands that we achieve success before we can consider ourselves worthy of notice. Some of us work so hard to achieve this success that we end up destroying our lives and often the lives of those who love us as well. We struggle so hard to get there that we can no longer enjoy the fruits of our labors.

Jesus in his earthly ministry turned all ideas upside down. He spoke of greatness being exemplified in service rather than mastery. He spoke of wealth in terms of giving rather than having. In this great song in Isaiah we find a foreshadowing of the ministry of the Messiah for which Israel had waited so long. From this side of the cross we can easily see those words fitting the Messiah known to us as Jesus.

The servant's life (vv. 1-3).

This choice servant of God appeared to have every possible negative to his life. He didn't have the glamorous image thought to be required in a person who wants to make it to the top. He presented a very depressing image that could not possibly attract followers except out of sympathy. He seemed to embody Murphy's law that anything that could go wrong did.

Jesus was conceived in a woman who was not even married. He grew up in a small town of poor parents. At any given time he had only a few followers he could count on to stick with him. A more unlikely leader of the people of God could hardly be imagined. But God has a way of choosing people like that to do his greatest work. He seldom chooses the rich and powerful, probably because they are so distracted by such things that they can hardly hear him anyway.

The servant's suffering (vv. 4-6). Probably the deciding factor in the rejection of God's message by some people is that the messenger does not seem to be living a charmed existence somewhere above the normal prob-

lems of life the rest of us endure. This servant was very much one of us in social standing and in his tragic end.

Jesus came from heaven taking on human flesh and pitching his tent among us. The Bible tells us that his life was much like ours in many respects. He faced the same urges that the rest of us face. He experienced all the raw edges of human life including an untimely death. But that death was not deserved; it would be for the rest of us. Somehow the suffering that Servant of God in all his purity gave the greatest possible benefit to the rest of us.

The servant's death (vv. 7-12).

His death at the hands of the authorities was the most cruel sort of death was totally undeserved in spite of the travesty of his execution. He was not dragged away in triumph but in shame. He was cursed for his killers on his lips. Far from praising him, the executioners, Jesus was heard praying for them while he was dying. He endured the ignominy of villainous actions in his death.

Everything about the scene at Calvary spoke of defeat and abandonment by God. Yet even in his darkest hour, Jesus and fellow-sufferers were drawn to him by the power that was above those dire circumstances.

The servant's victory (vv. 10-12). God's servants are never rewarded for success as measured by the world. God measures success in terms of faithfulness. This "suffering servant" pictured by Isaiah, considered a terrible failure by human standards, was pronounced faithful and deserving of reward by the heavenly Father.

The apostle Paul, quoting the words of an early Christian hymn, declared that it was the very faithfulness of Jesus which brought him the honor and glory of God (Philimon 2:5-11). — Nail, a former Baptist pastor, works at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.



Family Bible SS Lesson — Nov. 19

Demonstrating commitment

By Rick Roberts

Focal Passage:

Acts 14:1-7, 19-22a, 25-26

Continuing despite opposition (vv. 1-3). The strategy of Paul and Barnabas upon entering a city to evangelize seems to have been to start in a local Jewish synagogue. The reason for this of course was that if they started with the Gentiles they would have been prohibited from going to the synagogues at all. By making their first proclamations in the synagogues Paul and Barnabas not only had an opportunity to preach Christ to the Jews but to the God-fearing Gentiles present as well. This was the strategy used at Iconium and evidently with much success as we are told that a great multitude of Jews and Greeks believed the Gospel. However, as is always the case when the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed there were some who would not believe. The word that is translated "unbelieving" means "to disobey" and in fact one could translate verse 2 this way, "But the Jews who were disobedient..." and it would be perfectly acceptable. The significance of the word is that the greatest disobedience one can display toward God is not to believe in Jesus Christ. These disobedient Jews who would not believe were not satisfied to be unbelievers themselves, "stirred up" the Gentiles against the new converts and "poisoned" the Gentiles' minds. Here again Luke uses very colorful words to express the actions of these

unbelievers. While we do not know what exactly these Jewish unbelievers were saying it is clear what they were doing. They were slowly going around poisoning public opinion against Paul and Barnabas and the new believers. These efforts, rather than dissuading Paul and Barnabas, only served to intensify the preaching and teaching efforts of the two missionaries.

Continuing despite rejection (vv. 4-7). The sad truth is that when the Gospel is proclaimed there is division between those who believe the Gospel and those who reject the Gospel. It has always been that way and it will continue to be that way until Christ returns to establish his righteous reign upon this earth. Though they were forced to leave Iconium, Barnabas and Paul continued to proclaim the truth in the surrounding cities. They did not give up even though there was opposition to the Gospel they were proclaiming. We should do the same.

Continuing despite violence (vv. 19-22a). While preaching in Lystra, Jews from Antioch and Iconium came to the city. Why they came to the city is not clear. They may have been there on business or they may have come strictly for the purpose of disrupting the work of these great evangelists. Whatever the reason for their presence, they persuaded the crowd to reject Paul

and Barnabas and the Gospel they proclaimed. Now, the threat of violence became a reality. They were primarily involved in the stoning of Paul by the fact that Paul was stoned was a Jewish form of execution not Gentile. Convinced they had killed and silenced a great preacher, they did not expect to bury Paul but dumped his body outside of town. Interestingly, only did the mob believe Paul was dead but they did not know he was new because he was also still alive. Paul was however, to their surprise, Paul revived and came right back into the city to preach the Gospel.

Paul and Barnabas left Lystra in duress and once again they were forced to preach the Gospel elsewhere. This time they proclaimed the Gospel in Derby and here they met with success.

Continuing to complete the work (vv. 25-26). Paul and Barnabas completed the work they were sent to do. When they returned to Antioch where they had been sent they did not claim any great triumph for themselves but gave glory to God. They finished the work before them. How we need to finish well today. Many start well but the ones who finish well the glory to God. — Roberts is pastor of Baptist Church, Rockwood.

Explore the Bible SS Lesson — Nov. 19

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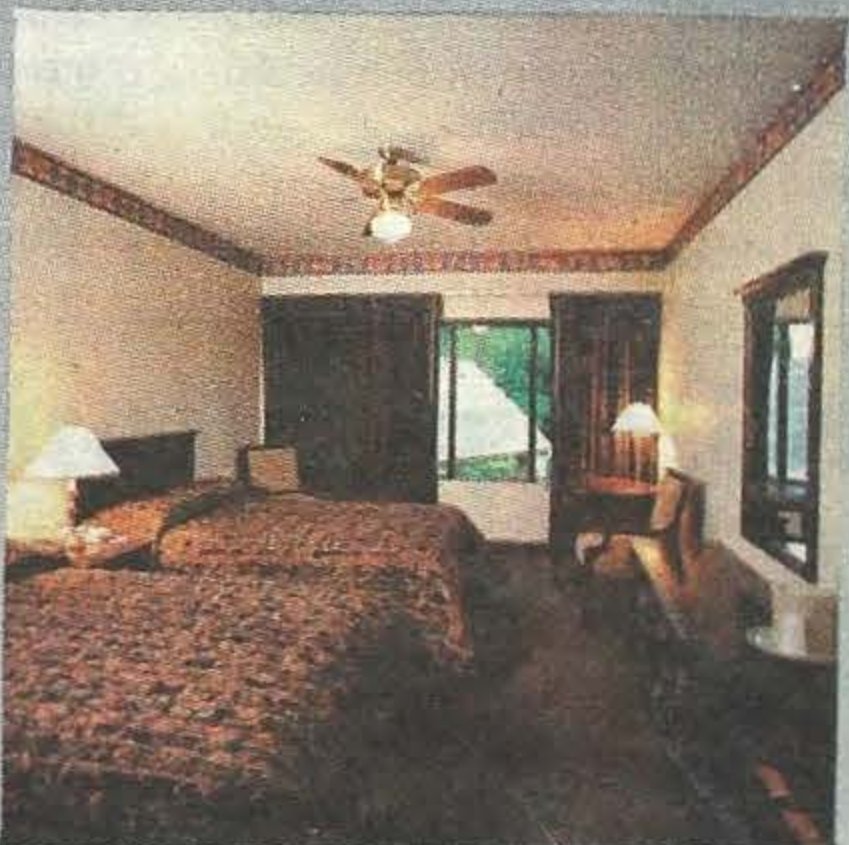
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Red Cross, NAMB forge agreement on Disaster Relief

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — The American Red Cross signed an agreement with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board Nov. 2 that continues a longstanding disaster relief partnership between the agencies, a partnership that last year resulted in a combined savings of an estimated \$14 million.

The "statement of understanding" is the third since 1986 to address formally a relationship that has existed since 1970. The partnership has allowed Southern Baptist disaster relief units to work closely with the American Red Cross in meal preparation, child care, cleanup, and recovery after major storms and in other efforts.

New items addressed in the agreement include a formal description of the existing relationship between the two organizations in chaplaincy services and "aviation incident response."

John Clizbe, vice president for disaster relief services for the American Red Cross, commended Southern Baptist efforts as a model of how nonprofit organizations can work together syn-

gistically.

"We value this relationship enormously," he said before a public signing of the agreement at NAMB's offices here. ■

State communities fight liquor battles

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Christians across Tennessee fought battles against liquor in the recent election with varying degrees of success.

Eight cities or towns dealt with the issue on the Nov. 7 ballot, according to Wayman Jones, president of the Tennessee Drug Awareness Council, who helped mobilize forces in those communities.

In McMinnville, voters defeated liquor by the drink by 11 votes — 1,982 to 1,971.

Union City voters defeated liquor by the drink by a margin of 2,171 to 2,069.

Liquor by the drink bills were approved in Mt. Juliet (2,861 to 2,201), Lewisburg (1,637 to 1,287), and Paris (2,059 to 1,910).

Linden voters defeated three bills pertaining to alcohol — by the drink (1,561 to 984), package store (1,432 to 1,151), and distillery, 1,334 to 1,236).

In Athens, voters approved liquor by the drink by a margin of 2,290 to 2,172, but defeated package stores by a vote of 2,372 to 2,062.

Each community that lost a referendum has faced this issue three or four times, Jones said.

"All the dry forces in every community that faced liquor ref-

erendums this year are to be commended for their superb effort," he added. ■

Southern Baptist incumbents regain seats in Congress

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Twenty-five Southern Baptists seeking re-election to Congress retained their seats in the Nov. 7 balloting.

Among the representatives who were re-elected were two Tennessee Baptists — William Jenkins, R., First District, First Baptist Church, Rogersville, and Zach Wamp, R., Third District, Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga. ■

Annuity Board trustees affirm CP

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Annuity Board trustees approved a 5 percent increase for most annuitants and adopted a resolution affirming the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program during their Nov. 6-7 meeting in Dallas.

Upon recommendation of the trustees' administrative policy committee, a 5 percent increase in benefits was approved effective Jan. 1, 2001 for most annuitants receiving benefits established for periods of 60 months or longer.

The increase will apply to cer-

tain annuities funded from defined contribution accumulations, as well as Plan A retired and deferred benefits. Also receiving the increase will be persons eligible for International Mission Board past-service benefits (deferred or in pay status).

Persons still employed, who have deferred Plan A benefits, will receive the increase on Plan A when they annuitize that portion of their retirement program. The 5 percent increase will raise the Plan A benefit to 283 percent of its original formula benefit.

Trustees unanimously approved the resolution affirming the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified channel for supporting national and international missions and ministries.

The resolution stated: "... the trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention stand together with the churches and entities of the Southern Baptist Convention in their affirmation of the Cooperative Program."

The trustees also stated, "... we encourage all Southern Baptists to resist any effort that would threaten to diminish the Cooperative Program and call upon the churches to maintain the historic partnership that has existed between the local congregations, associations, state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention entities." ■

Media coverage of election not good, say Baptist profs

Baptist Press

NEW YORK — TV networks reported that Al Gore had won the state of Florida, but recanted just hours before they declared George W. Bush the president-elect, then took it back during a bizarre night of election coverage that left everyone, including Baptist journalists, disappointed and concerned.

The media's handling of the presidential election has been a topic of conversation in journalism classrooms at many Baptist universities and colleges, and the consensus is that the networks blew it.

At press time on Friday, the results of the election still were not known.

"I was very disturbed about



Brave campus minister

Robert Joseph, a red-shirted Union University, jumps over Bulldog during a slam-dunk competition during Moonlight Madness, officially kicked off the college ball season.

the way the network covered the election returns," Owens, who teaches public affairs reporting at Union University in Waco, Tex., said. "I was particularly concerned that the Voter News Service, the one entity doing polling for all the networks, thought there was no diversity in our national coverage."

Owens, who has a political science degree from Union University, said national media taking release exit polls were still voting?"

William Downs Jr., of the mass communication department at Ouachita University in Arkadelphia, agreed. "This has certainly been a historic time," Downs said. "I think this will cause changes in network coverage. I believe you may have lost of exit polls in form."

As a result of the election, Downs said there will be more skepticism as races are called.

"And I think there will be a lot more wariness about the information they receive added."

Owens suggested that the election of the national media is a solution to the problem. Rather, he proposed that voters write letters.

SBHS publishing program to help Baptist churches preserve history

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — There is help available for those interested in reporting Baptist history, according to leaders of the Southern Baptist Historical Society.

Launched earlier this year, the plan involves a complete Baptist History Book Publishing Program.

Books eligible for consideration by SBHS include histories of Baptist churches, associations, conventions, fellowships, colleges, universities, divinity schools, seminaries, and newspapers.

Other subjects of history include Woman's Missionary Unions, Baptist Men's ministries, student ministries, and memoirs/biographies of Baptist leaders.

The SBHS has been independent of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1995 when the SBC announced its intention to terminate the SBC Historical Commission to which the SBHS functioned as an auxiliary. It was kept alive by interested Baptists and again began full-time operation last summer. SBHS leaders immediately initiated plans for a strong emphasis on publishing books of Baptist interest and history.

As a result, the Baptist History Book Publishing Program was born. The service is provided by SBHS in association with Fields Publishing

Inc., a Nashville firm, headed by Tim Fields, managing editor of *The Southern Baptist Educator*.

The program is simple but unique and thorough, according to Charles Deweese, SBHS executive director.

Deweese says the purpose is to publish history books about Baptists. He says professional services will be offered from "beginning to actual publication."

Deweese and others interested in Baptist history realize that some good books may never be published because authors may not know where to go for publication or how to prepare a project.

The SBHS program remedies that problem by offering a comprehensive step-by-step planning packet, as well as personal advice and suggestions along the way to publication. The kit is informative and provides guidance for the prospective publisher.

The program is geared to fit the needs of individual Baptist churches and the staff will discuss potential books with any Baptist entity.

Interested individuals should contact the SBHS office, located at the Baptist Center in Brentwood, for more information about the book publishing program. Call Deweese at 1-800-966-2278 or write him at P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■ — Wm. Fletcher Allen