

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 29, 2000

This week's news

in 10 people read the Bible, says Gallup II. — Page 2

hens pastor takes parliamentary procedure seriously. — Page 3

Week of Prayer for International Missions sets tone for MCO. — Page 5

Outreach related to annual meeting

Reach Memphis reaches 866 people without God

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — As a result of Reach Memphis 2000, an outreach effort related to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting held near here Nov. 14-15, a total of 866 people made professions of faith, reported Ronnie Wilburn, director of missions, Shelby Baptist Association.

Volunteers traveling to the annual meeting didn't get involved as was hoped to repeat similar efforts held prior to Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings. To respond to that possibility, the association mobilized local church members and began it in January. The changes helped make the project successful, said Wilburn.

Revivals, crusades

Twenty-two churches in the association held revivals, reported Benny Jackson, evangelism director for the association who has been a full-time evangelist based in Memphis for 26 years. Most of the revivals were held during the two weeks prior to the

annual meeting. Half were more than a day in length and half were one-day revivals. Although Jackson only helped a couple of churches recruit speakers, several were encouraged to hold revivals because of the emphasis, he said.

Two churches led crusades, added Jackson, which helped prepare the area for other Reach Memphis events because of the crowds they drew. Second Baptist Church, Millington, held one which resulted in 50 people making professions of faith and Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, held a crusade which led 137 people to make an initial commitment to God.

Block parties

Twenty-seven churches held

block parties, reported Wilburn, which drew 8,085 people and resulted in 485 people making professions of faith. The events also helped churches identify prospects and discover creative ways to minister to their communities, explained Wilburn.

Youth events

On Nov. 8 a youth rally was held by Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis. The guest speaker, Ken Ellis, former NFL player, visited public high schools to invite students, including football players. About 350 students attended the rally, said Wilburn.

A Judgment House also was held by Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis. Although it is an annual event, it assisted the association in the overall effort, explained Wilburn.

Other events

The association trained 178 people to prayerwalk at eight different locations and volunteers prayerwalked mainly during the summer and fall at public schools.

Baptists also gathered for 35 special prayer meetings which

were coordinated by Greg Frizzell, pastor, Georgian Hills Baptist Church, Memphis, and author of *Returning to Holiness*.

Finally, Baptists here will continue to visit folks who respond to the billboards about Jesus posted on the interstates and boulevards of the area, said Wilburn. People respond by calling a toll-free number or contacting ReachMemphis2000.com. The North American Mission Board takes the calls and e-mails and forwards requests for a "Jesus" video and/or visit. The billboards will remain until bought by someone else, reported Wilburn.

Making the effort possible was \$50,000 from the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the North American Missions Board and \$21,100 from the association, said Wilburn. *B&R*

Events	Professions of Faith
Block Parties	485
Two crusades	187
Revivals	90
Judgment House	86
Youth Rally	18

Central association begins Hispanic church in McMinnville

Baptist and Reflector

McMINNVILLE — When Roger Stacy named director of missions, Central Baptist Association in 1997, he was glad the association wanted to start a ministry to Hispanics living in the area. Stacy was a former missionary to Brazil so had worked with many people of Latin American origin.

He was delighted on Oct. 15 when

about 50 Hispanics, many new Christians, gathered to constitute as Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, McMinnville. And he was amazed the constitution service was held in the church's own building.

Association effort

The association began the effort by holding a Hispanic Family Festival early in 1998. Stacy could help because he knew Portuguese from his service in Brazil. Portuguese and Spanish are similar languages.

Then the association invited a staff member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to help leaders conduct a LASER, or study on the need for a congregation and strategy for starting one.

To follow up on contacts made with Hispanics, Stacy began holding a Bible study in a family's home. That family was saved as were several other people who attended the study, he reported.

TBC helps

Stacy began developing funding for a Hispanic worker. He got a great response from association churches, he said. And the TBC agreed to fund a salary supplement for the worker of \$500 a month with help from the North American Mission Board.

In the spring of 1998, the association's leaders called Clovis Pause of Curitiba, Brazil, to serve for four months as the association's Hispanic missionary. Stacy knew Pause and his wife, Simone, from their work in Brazil and that the couple knew some Spanish because of their missions work in Chile.

God helps

After the four-month trial period, the association knew without a doubt it should call Pause indefinitely to the ministry, reported Stacy. About 30 people were meeting in the gymnasium of Northside Baptist Church, McMinnville.

The church allowed the Hispanic

Baptist congregation to use its facilities free of charge. And the church accepted its members into its rolls until the new congregation became a church.

New building

After about two years at Northside Church, the Hispanic congregation had about 50 people attending. Then Stacy learned about a church building being sold. The association bought it for the congregation with help from the TBC/NAMB by way of a \$25,000 grant and from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood, by way of a \$50,000 loan.

The association has taken some risks in the effort, acknowledged Stacy, but he prefers to call it operating from faith. And it has paid off, he added.

The congregation is paying its loan payment and helping pay the salary of its pastor. Stacy said they are to be commended because many members fall into a lower income rank. And they are discussing starting another Hispanic congregation in the area.

Tim Hill of the TBC said the association is to be commended for developing the ministry, especially in such a short period of time. *B&R*



SOCIATION leaders who helped start the congregation are, from left, John Padgett, pastor, Bethel Hill Baptist Church, McMinnville, and moderator of the association at that time; Clovis Pause, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, McMinnville; and Roger Stacy, director of missions.

about your newsjournal

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Six in 10 read the Bible: Gallup poll

Associated Baptist Press

PRINCETON, N.J. — Bible readership has dropped since the 1980s, but about six in 10 Americans say they read the Scriptures at least occasionally, according to a Gallup poll.

The percentage of those who read the Bible at least once a week is 37 percent, down 3 percent from 10 years ago. Sixteen percent said they read the Bible every day, 21 percent weekly, 12 percent monthly, 10 percent less than monthly, and 41 percent rarely or never.

Nearly two in three believe the holy book "answers all or most of the questions of life," according to the poll. ■

College, radio station collect shoes for Christmas goal

Baptist Press

BLUEFIELD, Va. — Bluefield College, affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and a local Christian radio station have joined forces to provide hundreds of new shoes for underprivileged children in the Bluefield area.

The venture, titled "Christmas Shoes for Kids," will feature a Dec. 2 concert with award-winning contemporary Christian band Newsong. In keeping with the Christmas shoes theme, admission to the concert will be a new pair of shoes, or \$10 at the door.

After the concert, the new shoes will go to the Bluefield Union Mission where they will be distributed during the holiday season. ■

Bradshaw, King to write SS commentaries

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Terry Bradshaw and Jerry King have been chosen to write Sunday School commentaries for December through February.

Bradshaw, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bruceton, will write the Explore the Bible series.

A native Tennessean, Bradshaw has been in the ministry since 1978.

He is a graduate of Shelby State Community College, Memphis; Union University, Jackson, and has done semi-

BFA investors may receive portion of funds in December

Baptist Press

PHOENIX — Baptist Foundation of Arizona investors may receive the first checks repaying a portion of their funds by the end of the year.

Investors voted to approve the foundation's liquidating plan of reorganization, and U.S. Bankruptcy Judge George Nielsen Jr. confirmed the plan from the bench Nov. 16. In addition, the court approved a settlement agreement giving preferred status to investors holding what were offered as collateralized investments.

Nielsen is expected to sign a formal court order approving the liquidating plan. An 11-day appeal period will follow the signing, with the plan expected to become effective sometime in December.

About 12,000 investors are owed \$590 million. If the foundation's assets sell for the amount that has been projected, collateralized investors will recover about 44 cents for every dollar they invested, while unsecured investors will receive about 31 cents for every dollar invested.

Distributions will be made quarterly until all of the assets are sold, which will probably take three or four years, according to the liquidating plan.

The foundation filed for bankruptcy Nov. 9, 1999, several months after the resignation of the president, general counsel, and controller and after the foundation entered into a consent decree with the Arizona Corporation Commission to cease and desist from offering securities. ■

Virginia WMU provides options for missions giving

Compiled from BP, ABP reports

RICHMOND — Virginia's Woman's Missionary Union has broadened its annual Christmas

offering for international missions by adding a "customized" plan allowing churches to give to specific missions projects. Leaders of the auxiliary said the new plan was requested by churches to foster both hands-on involvement and financial support for missions.

Historically, the WMU, an SBC auxiliary organized in 1888, before women were allowed to vote or even speak at the annual convention, has focused primarily on education of women and children and promotion of two annual offerings for SBC home and foreign missions in local churches.

In the last 10 years, however, a moderate organization, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, has begun to sponsor its own missionaries and to promote its own Global Missions Offering, also around Christmas.

Many churches support both offerings. For that reason, Virginia's WMU chapter voted five years ago to establish a general offering goal for international missions that included both Christmas offerings. The goal for this year's Virginia Baptists' Christmas Offering is \$4.2 million. Virginia WMU, meanwhile, continues to distribute promotional offerings for the SBC's Lottie Moon Offering.

"The reason WMU of Virginia created a general Christmas offering goal was to celebrate our mission contributions together as diverse Virginia Baptist churches," said Earlene Jessee, the auxiliary's executive director.

The new customized giving plan, called the Virginia International Mission Projects and approved by the state WMU's executive board Oct. 28, will fall under that same umbrella. Jessee said leaders don't expect it to compete with either the SBC or CBF mission offerings and that it would be inaccurate to describe it as a third missions offering.

She said many churches have requested a customized option that would allow personalized funding of special projects and more direct relationships than an offering that funds the overall work of a large institution like the IMB or CBF.

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion's International Mission Board, voiced dismay at Virginia WMU's Christmastime launch of a new offering during a season traditionally devoted to highlighting the importance of Lottie Moon Offering among Southern Baptists.

Said Rankin, "It is shocking that the original sponsors of Lottie Moon Christmas Offering would provide an option for diverting missions gifts at time of the year. Certainly individuals and autonomous churches have the prerogative of doing whatever God leads them to do, but there is no way anyone can say that a plan of design giving at the same season of year would not be competitive and potentially divert funds from the LMCO."

Wanda Lee, executive director of the national WMU organization, said in comments leaked to the media: "We, SBC, maintains its support of the traditional Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Armstrong Easter Offering [for North American missions]."

Lee also stated, "Nationally, WMU rejoices in Southern Baptists hands-on involvement in missions, both in going and staying. We believe God is honored in all of these efforts as local individuals come to know Jesus as their personal Savior Lord." ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

November — December

30 — Pray for Doug and Janet Watkins, IMB missionaries to Brazil, and their four children, who recently moved to Rio de Janeiro.

Dec. 1 — Pray for a 10-member construction team in Nicaragua Nov. 25-Dec. 1 led by Ronnie Snoderly Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville. The team is helping victims of Hurricane Mitch.

2 — Pray for Guy and Elsie Key, IMB missionaries in Brazil, as they work in O Sul Church in Rio.

3 — Pray for Woo-Rye Church in Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, as they start a band and sports activities for youth.

4 — Pray for Bobby Gilstrap, new associational missionary for Huron and Southeastern Baptist associations in the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

5 — Pray for Janelle Ganley, IMB missionary to Brazil, who is teaching worship and children's music seminars in Rio.

6 — Pray for the Lord's reaction to find an African American ministry leader for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.



BRADSHAW



KING

nary studies in conjunction with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

He and his wife, Brenda, have two daughters, Shelly and Wendy.

King, former evangelism

ministry specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will write the Family Bible series.

A native of Sevier County, King has held pastorates in North Carolina and Tennessee, including Trenton Street Baptist Church, Harriman, and Bethel Baptist Church, Parrottsville.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

King and his wife, Gayle, have two daughters, Kristi and Lisa. ■

TBC parliamentarian and pastor

Knowledge of parliamentary law is helpful

ie Wilkey
and Reflector

MANTOWN — A minister with a strong background in parliamentary law is not that common, but such knowledge can be helpful for any pastor, says Carl Creasman.

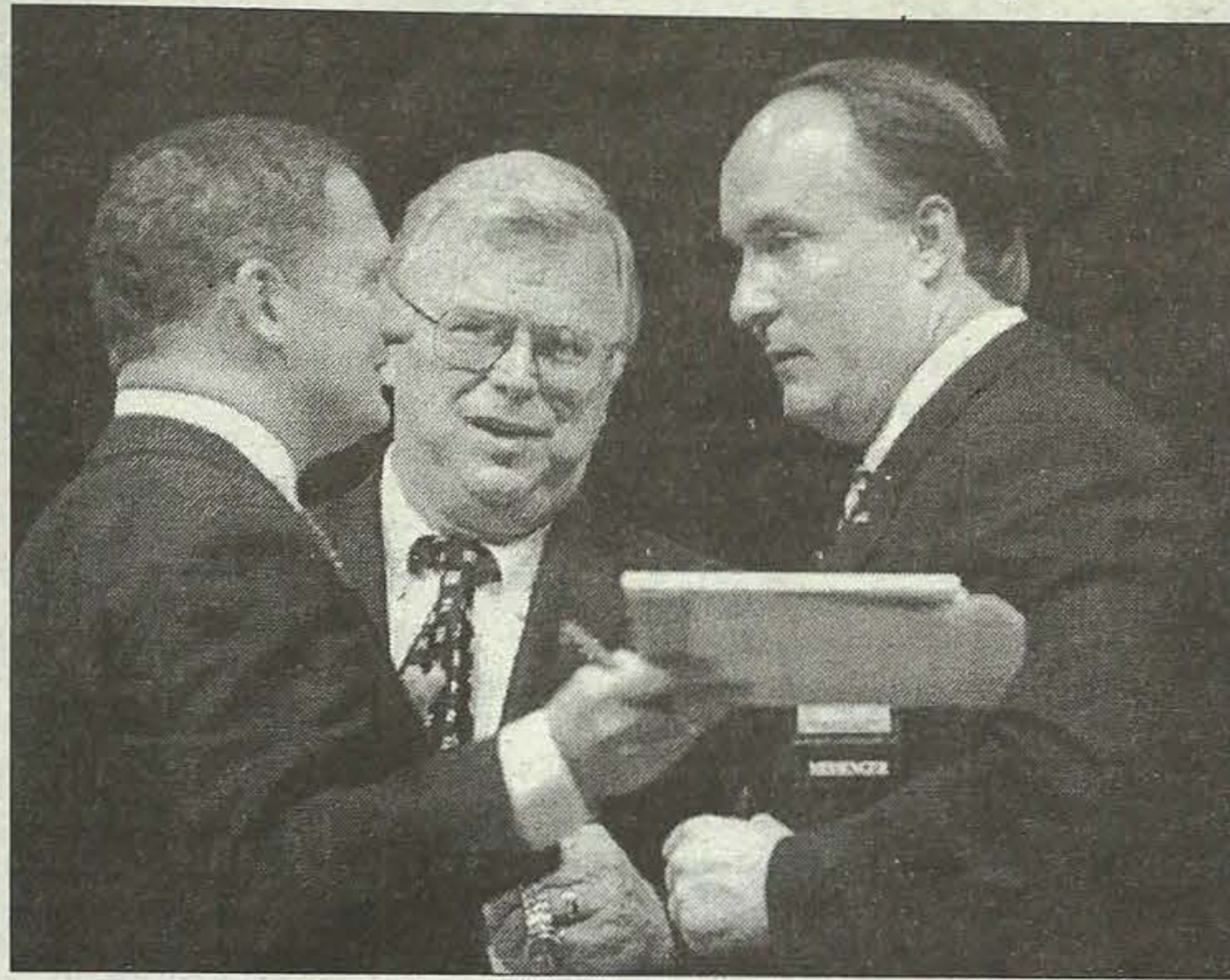
Creasman, pastor of Rocky Mountain Baptist Church, Athens, is one of the few, if not the only, in Tennessee who also is a certified parliamentarian.

The Athens pastor served for years as the TBC's chief parliamentarian. He was assisted by attorneys Bill Seale of First Baptist Church, Morristown, and Norman Templeton of First Baptist Church, Concord, N.C.

Creasman is a bivocational minister. In addition to his pastoral duties, he teaches vocational mechanics, computer programming, and computer repair at Madison County Vocational Center in Athens, where he has been employed since 1976.

He has held various ministry positions in Florida, Tennessee, and Alabama since 1958. Before coming to Rocky Mountain, he was on the staff of Etowah Baptist Church, Alabama.

Creasman's position with the vocational school actually led to his interest in parliamentary law. As a vocational teacher, he was involved with the school's Vocational Industrial Club of America (VICA) chapter, and



CARL CREASMAN, center, chief parliamentarian at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, listens as fellow parliamentarian Norman Templeton, left, explains a point to TBC President Jerry Tidwell.

working with students and trying to help them know more about parliamentary law in 1983, Creasman "realized how little I knew."

He took it upon himself to learn parliamentary procedure and has been teaching it ever

since.

In 1996-97 Creasman became a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), as well as the Tennessee association. In order to become a certified parliamentarian Creasman had to pass a 100-question test. He passed the test with flying colors, correctly answering 99 of the 100 questions.

Creasman acknowledged that while he may have opinions on matters that arise during a church business meeting or on the convention floor he must maintain objectivity.

"When I step out as a parliamentarian I do not have an

opinion," Creasman said. "We (NAP) have a code of ethics. If I cease to be objective, I violate that code."

Creasman explained the four purposes of parliamentary procedure are to provide for orderly meetings; protect the rights of individuals, including the majority, the minority, and those absent; provide for orderly conduct of business; and to insure that all sides of an issue are heard.

"When I am called on as a parliamentarian for a ruling, those are the things that dictate my ruling," Creasman said.

He observed that most people know nothing about parliamentary procedure and really do not understand. When that happens, he continued, people feel cheated when they leave a meeting.

"My objective is that when delegates leave a meeting they will feel they were fairly and honestly heard and that they understood the basis for the rulings whether they agreed or not," he said.

Creasman is an advocate of pastors knowing parliamentary law because in most cases they are the ones who lead church business meetings.

Sadly, Creasman acknowledged, most pastors are not equipped with the knowledge they need. "I was not before I became a parliamentarian," he said.

He noted that in church set-

tings it is sometimes more necessary to explain a parliamentary ruling than one would in another setting.

"While it is important that pastors understand parliamentary procedure, it is doubly important that we not forget our role as pastor."

He noted parliamentary procedure should never be used to embarrass someone or used to dominate or control a meeting.

For pastors and lay leaders interested in learning more about parliamentary procedure, Creasman recommended *Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance* by O. Garfield Jones. This book provides a simple look of the major information one needs with dealing with a motion, Creasman observed.

The Athens pastor also is working on a handbook for pastors that will deal with parliamentary procedures in church.

Creasman is committed to serving his denomination through his knowledge and use of parliamentary procedure.

"My objective is to help. I have no agenda. I enjoy parliamentary procedure."

"I have seen too many meetings where feelings and people have been hurt when parliamentary procedure has not been applied properly," Creasman observed. ■



Niota congregation rebuilds following fire



UNION MCMINN Baptist Church recently dedicated its new built facility while at the same time recognizing the church's 175th anniversary.

For Baptist and Reflector

NIOTA — On April 17, 1999 the congregation of Union McMinn Baptist Church here was saddened when fire destroyed their educational building.

Thanks to a fire wall, however, the sanctuary, which had been constructed just four years earlier, did not burn. The educational space was contained in two older buildings, both of which served at one point as sanctuaries.

The church, which was established in 1825, recently celebrated its 175th anniversary and, at the same time, dedicated a new educational building.

The new 20,000-square-foot building contains church offices, 17 Sunday School rooms, a gymnasium-fellowship hall, and a fully-equipped commercial kitchen. ■



THESE REMAINS of the educational building were left following a fire on April 17, 1999, at Union McMinn Baptist Church in Niota. A fire wall prevented the sanctuary from burning.

Fall event draws 3,000 from community to West Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — West Jackson Baptist Church recently held its seventh annual Fall Fun Fest under the direction of Ken Hindman, minister of children.

What started seven years ago as an alternative to the celebration of Halloween and trick-or-treating has turned into the largest community outreach event sponsored by the church.

Through fun and games, West Jackson is introducing people to Jesus Christ.

It is truly a church-wide event, Hindman reported, noting that families donated more than 1,600 bags of candy and more than 200 volunteers helped in the effort.

This year's Fall Fest featured 42 game booths, moonwalks, a petting zoo, dunking booths, a train, and pony rides.

Veggie Town and Bible Land were two popular areas, according to Hindman.

Fall Fun Fest is free to the community, Hindman reported. During the three-hour event, 60

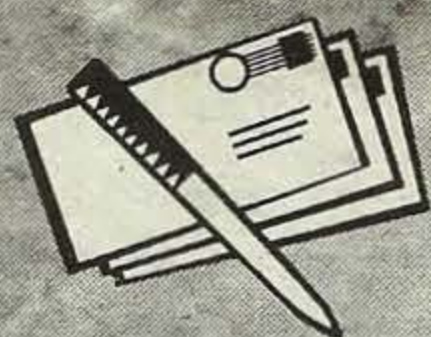
pounds of popcorn was popped, 1,500 hotdogs were eaten, 1,000 cupcakes were decorated by children, and tons of cotton candy, dippin-dots and 350 gallons of drinks were given away.

When asked why all the effort for such an event, Hindman replied, "We love children and their families and we want them to know they are always welcome at West Jackson."

The primary goal of the event is to lead lost people to Christ. This year, almost 3,000 people registered, many of those having no church affiliation. Those people are contacted by G.R.O.W., the church's outreach program.

"I believe this is one of the greatest and most unselfish things we do here at West Jackson. The priorities of Fall Fun Fest are discovering prospects and lost people in our community and providing an alternative to the celebration of Halloween," said West Jackson Pastor Jerry Tidwell.

The church already is planning next year's event for the community. ■



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.

Challenging message

The convention sermon preached by Sam Shaw was one of the most challenging and sobering messages I have ever heard at a convention. It is a shame that so many who only attend conventions to vote on issues missed this important message from God.

During the Wednesday afternoon (Nov. 15) session, it was all I could do to keep from weeping.

We had just heard about our brothers and sisters in many parts of the world who are in the battles that really count. Because of their stand for their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, their blood is being shed. Children of Christian parents have seen their parents beheaded because they would not deny their faith in Jesus.

While their blood is being shed for the One who shed his blood for us, we still have some who seem like they are not going to rest until more Baptist blood is shed. They want everyone not only to believe like them but to also use the exact vocabulary to express that belief.

What will it take for us to wake up and realize what is really important to God in this world? A sermon was obviously not enough.

Will it take one of our volunteer teams from Tennessee being rounded up and killed by a religious extremist group while on a mission trip? Will it take a planeload of our preachers on the way to a revival in another country crashing into the ocean?

My prayer is that before that has to happen, we all will humble ourselves, seek God's face, and obey his command to love each other and to do everything in our power to build up the body of believers. Thank you Dr. Shaw.

Don Edwards, pastor
First Baptist Church
Sweetwater 37874

Appreciative

Please allow me to express appreciation to President Jerry Tidwell and to Tennessee Baptists meeting at Germantown for acknowledging our guests from

Brisbane, Australia, Ash Grove Baptist Church.

Your warm acknowledgment and applause was a strong affirmation to Keith and Jennie Irvine and the Kingdom's work they do "down under."

Marvin Spivey, pastor
Ardmore Baptist Church
Memphis 38127

Sad day

Wednesday, Nov. 15, was a sad day for Tennessee Baptists.

Inexplicably, the messengers to the annual meeting chose to relinquish much of our ability to nominate trustees for our affiliated institutions. By voting to adopt recent changes to the constitution and bylaws, it now becomes increasingly difficult to effect changes at our institutions of higher learning. The reformation that has occurred at our Southern Baptist seminaries may never transpire at our Tennessee Baptist universities and college.

Sadly, with the possible exception of Union University, truly Bible-believing, conservative minded Tennessee Baptists must continue seeking other institutions of higher learning to recommend to their young people. Unfortunately, if we choose to continue support for the Cooperative Program as many of us desire, some of the Lord's money through the local churches will still go to institutions very loosely affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, but where we cannot with good conscience send our students. This is sad.

Chris C. Francis, pastor
New Vision Baptist Church
Knoxville 37920

Presbyterian?

My, it looks like I am going to have to become Presbyterian to stay in the SBC. First I hear that churches are now electing boards of elders to take the place of congregational government; then I find that one seminary president is pushing five point Calvinism, and another says that is OK as long as he believes the right things about the Bible. Now the articles of faith are a document "of accountability" which requires churches to be accountable to other churches rather than being autonomous.

Then a new book on grace arrives from LifeWay that is a fine Presbyterian work, but not Baptist; our seminaries are staffed with professors with no Baptist training; and our convention leaders may be embracing Dispensationalism, a Presbyterian heresy.

This is confusing. I love and respect my Presbyterian friends, but I do not know why some of them want to change the SBC

into a Presbyterian fellow. If I had believed Presbyterian doctrine, I would have been Presbyterian. Even more so is how in the world did a collection of Baptists decide to take Presbyterian leadership. A trustee boards Baptist illite

I suppose it is as the sem president said, we can make for what else a man believe long as he believes the things about the Bible. His doctrine of salvation can be off, his doctrine of church government can be off, his doctrine of national polity can be off, his doctrine of grace can be off, he can believe some wild, non scheme about Bible history, he believes the right things the Bible, he is OK.

God help us as Baptist adopt a statement of faith fine all these things, then that it's OK for our leaders believe otherwise as long as doctrine of the Bible is right

Jim Gallatin

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Ky. is seeking candidates for position of senior pastor. The compensation package will be based on training and experience. The church, established in 1883, is a congregation of approximately 600 resident members, with women in ministry and participation in both the Southern Baptist Convention and the operative Baptist Fellowship. Williamsburg is the home of Cumberland College, the largest Baptist college in Kentucky. Candidates submit the following materials: 1) a letter describing his approach and qualifications for ministry; 2) a current resume, including references; and 3) a videotape and/or audiotape of a Sunday service he has conducted. All applications should be addressed to Ms. Frances Ball, Secretary, Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, South 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769. All communications and materials will be held in the strictest confidence.

No authority

Thank God that the Southern Baptist Convention and the Tennessee Baptist Convention have no authority over the local church.

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the unfinished task: dispelling the darkness

NOTE: During the Week of International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Dec. 3-10, South congregations across the country air prayers, thoughts, and gifts on God's kingdom in the world. This — "The Unfinished Task: Dispelling the Darkness" — emphasizes the lost world's multitudes and the ways Baptists are seeking to bring them to Christ. The International Mission Board allocates 10 percent of its income from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to the program, Southern Baptists' unified offering.

make the contrast clear. There is a distinction in distinguishing the truth from that claimed by all other religious and cultural traditions. He has affirmed it more strongly as he has with the Pharisees reached a confrontation.

Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12, NKJV). The global, eternal purpose of his mission is to redeem a lost world into perfection. When he quoted the prophet Isaiah, "For the people who sat in darkness have now seen light, and upon those who sat in the shadow of death Light has shined" (Matthew 4:16, NKJV). Light began its unquenchable illumination when the dawning of the resurrection overpowered the darkness that enveloped the cross. As Paul wrote in the Gospel from Jerusalem as far as the "regions beyond" he said, "For God's calling 'as a light to the nations' (Acts 13:47, NKJV).

Generations of missionaries and Christians have continued to proclaim the Gospel of the world. Yet 2,000 years after Christ arrived, the darkness remains. In evangelized Africa, pockets of people remain where fetishes and witchcraft hold people in bondage to ancient superstitions. Pervasive darkness overwhelms Latin America as empty rituals succumb to the syncretism



*Week of Prayer
for International
Missions*

Dec. 3-10

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
for International Missions*

*National Goal —
\$115,000,000*

of spiritists casting demonic spells.

Continuing devotion to millions of Hindu deities, the garlanded Buddhist images in Asia and ancestral altars in Chinese homes attests to darkness still waiting for the light to dawn. Delusions of self-sufficiency have swept Europe into the darkness of secular humanism. And the ultimate embodiment of darkness still captures the minds of millions as 20th century communism, with its atheistic ideology, denies that the Light even exists.

How can the darkness be dispelled? The answer is found in a hymn not often sung these days, "We've a Story to Tell." That's it! A simple story, the story of the Gospel, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light!

Within the message of that story is the power to dispel the darkness, and because that story is being told, "the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright."

The darkness is turning to dawning among unreached people groups who are hearing the Gospel for the first time. The darkness of communism cannot repel the power of the Light as Jesus is lifted up among the peoples of China and Eastern Europe. The first glimmering light of dawn

is beginning to appear as first-generation believers come to faith among the Azeri, the Kabyle Berbers, and other unreached people groups.

The dawning is turning to noonday bright as church-planting movements sweep Cambodia and the Maasai of East Africa, and the harvest accelerates all over the world.

God is calling us to dispel the darkness. That is the reason he has allowed the light to shine in our hearts, so that we will pray, we will give, and we will go to a world in darkness. Second Corinthians 4:6 says, "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (NKJV).

The prophet Isaiah reminds us of the darkness that covers the earth but assures us that the power of light will dispel the darkness. "Arise, shine; for your light has come! ... For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; ... The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising" (Isaiah 60:1-3, NKJV). ■ — Rankin, a former missionary to Indonesia, is president of the SBC International Mission Board.



**a
historical
perspective**

by James L.
Sullivan



Controversy is costly

Where love runs deepest is where interruptions of that love are the costliest. This is why family arguments can be so disruptive and bring such heartaches.

A church and denomination face the same dilemma. When love for each other is sidetracked, crises inevitably occur.

Feelings are so much in the forefront when matters of the soul are involved, that interruptions are exceedingly costly.

When on track they are glorious. When diverted they are devastating. This is why our Southern Baptist Convention must address itself intensely toward needed reconciliation. Some of the recognized costs of the current controversy are:

(1) Fellowship is disrupted. Fellowship is the "glue" God gave to hold us together in stressful times. It is required for harmony and cooperation.

(2) Pastors as well as church and denominational workers are put in an untenable position. Everything a leader does is subject to criticism rather than praise, regardless of his diligence or accomplishments.

(3) Our witness to the world is compromised. People will be slow to join our movement. They may like to watch a dogfight, but they do not want to be in one.

(4) Our vision is blurred. We focus on the wrong goals, use energy wastefully in trying to reach lowered objectives, and end up with a sort of tug-of-war in which nothing is accomplished except wear and tear on the rope.

(5) History proves the long-range cost of controversy to be phenomenal. Our present argument is in one sense a sad follow-up of three previous controversies in our Baptist history in America.

(6) The basis of the current argument is not due so much to the conflict of conservatism and liberalism, as much as the one of history between hardline Calvinism and extreme Arminianism which originated in Europe generations ago and still lingers in Europe and America.

Strife is a luxury we cannot afford. No one wins permanently when our energy is focused on arguments. Coercion may subdue but only love conquers. ■ — Sullivan is retired president of LifeWay Christian Resources and is a member of FBC, Nashville. These columns on Baptist heritage, which were first printed several years ago, will appear regularly.

Miss Ann may not agree, but I still think I'm hilarious



females, beat the men often and mercilessly. (My delusional husband would probably still tell you otherwise. Humor him.)

Each month, my Baptist Young Women's group would run a reminder in the bulletin, "Party Tuesday night: Bring your cards and chips." We thought that was funny.

Many of the nursing home regulars would be waiting in the dining room when we'd arrive; some we'd go and get. My table was always the same. Our Cindy would sit with Miss Sally who couldn't use her hands, and play for her.

Sally would nod when Cindy touched the right card to play. They'd partner with Miss Helen. My teammate was always Miss Ann because I was the only one who would play with her. She was mean. More than

once I stopped her from getting in a fistfight with Helen. Ann would say something rude and Helen would ball up her fists and threaten to send her to the moon.

Sometimes I thought about letting two 90-year-olds go at it, just to see what happened, but I never did.

Miss Ann had no time for my humor, either. I'd laugh and make one hilarious crack after another and she'd snap, "Where's your card?! Be quiet, you're not funny!" So I'd hurry and play and she'd roll her eyes and moan. "You make me a nervous wreck," she'd say. "Look at my hands, a WRECK!" and she'd shove those trembling hands toward me. One night I thought she was falling over and jumped up to help. She was fine; just pulling a trump card out of her

stockings. We won a lot.

After about a year of playing together, I saw something I had never seen before. Ann had just told Helen her ugly wig was crooked and Helen was raising her fists. Ann looked at me, smiled slightly, and winked. My mouth fell open.

I kept playing cards with Ann on Tuesdays, but it was different. She'd fuss at me and torment Helen and the others, but I'd always get a wink. Miss Ann had become my friend. It took over a year, but she'd learned to trust me and my devotion to her.

Miss Ann wasn't easy to love, but her hard-won friendship is one of my life's treasures. ■ — Roebuck is a freelance writer. Her husband, Jon, is pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.



NAMB missionaries commissioned at S.C. annual meeting

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention witnessed the appointment of 65 new missionaries, adopted a record budget, rejoiced in the accomplishments of partnership missions efforts, approved a resolution on the state lottery, and elected the pastor of the host church as their president.

With "Partners in the Harvest" as the theme of their Nov. 13-14 meeting, South Carolina Baptists celebrated the 75th an-

niversary of the Cooperative Program channel of support for state missions causes and worldwide missions.

Executive Director-Treasurer B. Carlisle Driggers said South Carolina Baptists have been strong supporters of missions work for many years, and that dedication is why the North American Mission Board selected the state convention's annual session as the site for a commissioning service.

For most of the 1,380 messengers at First Baptist Church here, the commissioning service for 65 North American Mission Board missionaries, capped by an address by NAMB President Robert E. Reccord, was the highlight of this year's convention. The new appointees will join the 5,000 NAMB-related workers serving across the United States and Canada.

The event marked the first NAMB commissioning service held during a meeting of the state convention. A commission-

ing service for International Mission Board missionaries is planned for next year's annual session. ■

Florida editor resigns

Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The editor of Florida Baptists' state convention newspaper is leaving to teach at a Baptist college in Mississippi.

Michael Chute, executive editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness* since 1995, has resigned effective Feb. 6, 2001. Chute, 50, has been named an associate professor and chairman of the communications department at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Chute is a former missionary journalist for the SBC International Mission Board as well as a former managing editor of Missouri Baptists' *Word and Way*. ■



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Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Bethel Springs, Tenn., is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a rural church near Selmer and belong to the Shiloh Association. Our average Sunday School attendance is 100. Resumes will be accepted until Jan. 1, 2001. Please submit resumes to Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 2465 Woodville Rd., Bethel Springs, TN 38315.

You are invited to participate in a **CARD SHOWER** for **Mark and Margie Short** on their **50th Wedding Anniversary** December 24, 2000. Please send cards only, to: **Dr. and Mrs. Mark Short** 4110 Whitefield Blvd. Alexandria, LA 71303

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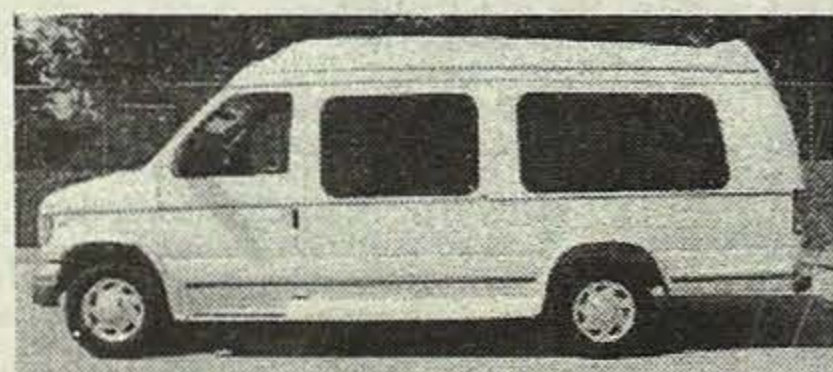


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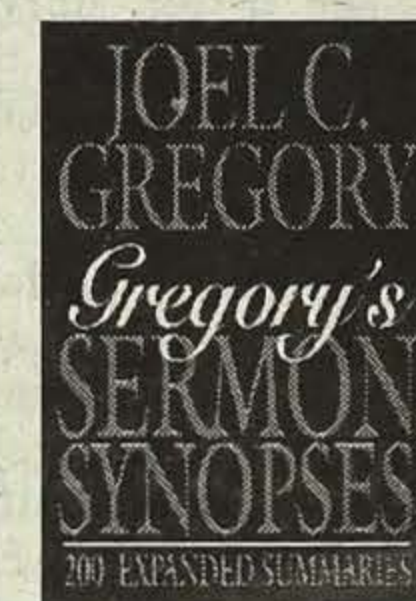
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MINISTRIES — MU

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MINISTRIES — YOU

Seeking a full-time minister, with additional administrative responsibilities, for staff church. Seminary preferred. Send resume to Committee, South County Church, 5115 Butler Spur, Louisville, MO 63128, (314) 8 or SOCOBAPTIST@a or Pastor is John L. Hessel.

Memorial Baptist Church, Tenn., has immediate opportunity for a part-time, innovative minister of youth. Phone (423) 877-7877-7476, or mail 4445 Pike, Hixson, TN 37343.

MINISTRIES — OTHER

The First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., is seeking a minister for family children. This position is opportunity for a high-energy individual, preferably seminary trained, to minister to preschoolers and children, parents, and leaders. Includes theology and creative in FBC is supportive of both and CBF. Resumes should be mailed to Search Committee, Baptist Church, 401 G Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37

Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a secretary to assist the minister in education and outreach. Clerical skills, interest in people, ministry required. Call (615) 8074 for an application.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Columbia, SC, seeks a senior pastor. 200+ year-old SBC church with value traditional and contemporary worship as well as autonomy. The proclamation of the Gospel with love and to all people are our primary. Seminary training required. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church Box 337, Cheraw, SC 2952

Falcon Church, Selmer, Tenn., is receiving resumes for full-time pastor. Average attendance Sunday School is 50. Send resumes to Robert Sparks, High School Rd., Selmer 38375.



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right

The all-American football player was being suspended from athletics because of poor scholastic ability.

led his case before the academic board. h said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we are sup- teachers. Each one of us knows the value of e education. If this lad is banned from the ad, he'll drop out of school and never finish eg you, give this boy a re-examination. Yes, because he's valuable to our football team, o asking because a mind is a terrible thing

rd debated and finally gave in. They agreed young man one single question. ool representative asked the player, "How plus 13?"

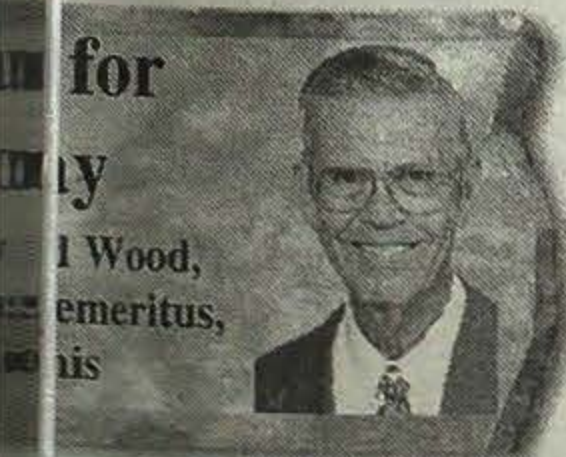
ng man thought. He struggled. He counted ers. He finally said, "26!" ach jumped up and frantically shouted, give him another chance!"

o like this time of year. The nights are grow- while the days take on that brisk feeling ly presage the advent of winter. The leaves es begin to parade colors that are only appre- person. Playgrounds and swimmin' holes y quiet with the absence of children now do- penance in school. And finally, the fish are football is well underway.

football. You never really miss it until you in a place where the regular Saturday TV not show your favorite team which in this ens to be wearing orange. I like football for he reason.

is something that happens in all football es at reminds me of my personal relationship There is this black and white striped person round with flags in his back pocket. Every so n, s person spies someone doing something they pposed to be doing. He then reaches into his et, pulls one of those flags out, and throws it e air. One of those teams is then punished by ng away an opportunity or being forced backward.

is like your and my life? Every so often, we eat doing something which we should not be g like the referee in that football game, God w it a flag to get our attention. Illegal game be- ke sinful behavior is dangerous and hurtful to s around us as well as to ourselves. God de- s the "game of life" be an enjoyable and fulfill- erience. We disrupt the game by playing in s are not appropriate. So, God throws that s a time-out, and sets us straight on the rules. t because he never throws anyone completely e game. Oh, you may be penalized every so of- e God really does want you to be in the game in- sitting on the bench. So, ... let's play. ■ - director of missions for Dyer Baptist Associa- ed in Dyersburg.



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Lady: "The butcher across the street has it per pound." Butcher: "Why don't you buy it m?" Lady: "Because he's out of it." Butcher: "I'm out of it, the cost is \$8 per pound."

his Truth: Dale Carnegie once said, "If I ou, I would most likely have done exactly what

erize this Scripture: "Every man must bear a burdens." — Galatians 6:5

his Prayer: Lord, help me to realize other have their problems, too. ■

Start With a Smile:

Lady to Butcher: "How much is a pound of tenderloin?" Butcher: "\$12 per

Lady: "The butcher across the street has it per pound." Butcher: "Why don't you buy it m?" Lady: "Because he's out of it." Butcher: "I'm out of it, the cost is \$8 per pound."

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his Prayer: Lord, help me to realize other have their problems, too. ■

New beginning

By Jerry C. King

Focal Passage: Luke 1:5-9, 11-17, 57-60

New beginnings are exciting! They offer us endless possibilities. We can experience more than one new beginning in our spiritual pilgrimage. It certainly is important to ask the question periodically, "What does God want from me?" This is not an easy question and we may often experience frustration in trying to determine the answer. God has gifted certain individuals with certain gifts. Some Christians I know feel as though they do not have any spiritual gifts. They are "dead wrong!" God can and will use any of his children who are available and seek daily to do his will.

Luke wrote his Gospel to present an "orderly account" of God's promise to provide a deliverer for people of all kind to experience the gift of salvation of a loving God. What does God really want from you and me? He simply wants us to be faithful to help achieve his purpose of redemption.

The lesson is the story of Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth who lived during the time of Herod, King of Judea. Herod was very cruel and was feared even by his own family. Zechariah was a priest and he and Elizabeth both were descendants of Aaron. This made them a special couple. They were "upright" in the sight of God and followed faithfulness, they didn't have everything they desired. They did not have any children. Their age pointed to a new impossibility for them to have children and shows us the miraculous nature of God's intervention in their lives with the birth of John the Baptist.

When Zechariah went into the sanctuary to burn incense on the golden altar, it was literally a once in a lifetime opportunity. The timing was by God's providential intervention. When he entered, there was a form standing at the right side of the altar. Luke says this form was an angel of the Lord! Angels often come into our lives unaware. We better be ready for them and be open to hear what they have to say! The term for angel in both He-

brew and Greek is "messenger." A messenger always has a message from God. In our increasingly material society, we need to be more in tune to what

God has to say to us. Zechariah was frightened. The angel quickly reassured him. Any message from God is always reassuring. The couple had prayed for a child. The phrase "your prayer has been heard" didn't imply that God had only recently listened to their petition or that he had previously ignored the request. It simply meant that God was now ready to act on their behalf in his own time.

Luke described this son as one who would be great in the sight of the Lord. Luke said this son would be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Luke continued by declaring that many of the people of Israel would be brought back to the Lord

their God because of this son and that he would go before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

When it came time to name their new son, Zechariah and Elizabeth were under some pressure from the family to name him after his father or other family member as was the tradition. Elizabeth spoke up, however, and said, "No! He is to be called John." John was given his name because he was part of God's divine plan that would lead us to another miraculous event known as the "virgin birth."

The crux of the lesson simply put is that God calls on each of us to be found faithful. Are we "upright and blameless?" What responsibilities do we have in our church? What are some different ways we can serve the Lord? How can we improve our service to the Lord? What are some occasions in your life when God has demonstrated his faithfulness to his Word? Will we be available for God's use in achieving his purpose? — King is a former TBC evangelism ministry specialist.

Family Bible SS Lesson — Dec. 3

Consistent witness

By Terry Bradshaw

Focal Passage: Acts 16:9-15, 35-38

The Jerusalem conference had just ended and there was work to be done. The conference had raised several questions concerning the salvation of the Gentiles and the practices of the Gentile community as it relates to Jewish Christians. With these matters resolved the business of soul winning and discipleship could continue, and that it did. In these passages we can see how Paul and others were obedient to God's call and consistent in their witness.

After a dispute with Barnabus concerning John Mark, Paul felt it best to take Silas and go his separate way. Barnabus headed toward Cyprus while Paul made his way to Syria and Cilicia. While expanding his ministry to Derbe and Lystra, Paul and Silas invited another young disciple named Timothy to join their mission efforts (vv. 1-4). They, as a team, ministered to several churches that had been established during Paul's first mission trip.

There were many opportunities for Satan to interfere with the witness of Paul and others. Paul understood that Satan is opportunistic, so he refused to let his disagreements with Barnabus become opportunities for Satan, opportunities that might jeopardize his ongoing witness. It was out of this concern for a consistent Christian witness that Paul was led by God to Macedonia to

share the Gospel.

In chapter 16, the Spirit of God closed the door of opportunity for Paul and his missionary team to minister in Asia and Bithynia. Discouraging as it may have been for Paul, he realized the Lord was faithful in supplying opportunities to share the Gospel. A closed door doesn't necessarily mean that God is finished with you. It could mean God is finished with you where you are at, and it is time to move on. It's imperative we keep our spiritual eyes and ears open so we can know and go where God is working.

For Paul, his call to move on came in the form of a vision (v. 9). The vision that Paul experienced was more than a holy suggestion. It was a divine call or spiritual mandate (v. 10). God was saying to Paul and his mission team, "If you want to work for me, you must go to Macedonia." A consistent witness is one that is willing to listen and respond to the Lord's call. Obedience is absolutely necessary if you are going to be successful in your witness. The Lord honored Paul and his fellow missionaries' faithfulness with several opportunities to see lives changed.

While in Philippi they were given the opportunity to witness to a group of women that had gathered for prayer, next to the river (v. 13). What makes this unique? It was Paul's custom to share the Gospel in

a Jewish Synagogue. Evidently, Philippi did not have the required number of men (10) to establish a Synagogue. With no Synagogue available, many of the Jews and God-fearers gathered for worship by the river. Paul found himself on a riverbank sharing his faith. Opportunities abound to share the message of Jesus Christ.

Lydia, a wealthy businesswoman from Thyatira, was among the women Paul preached to. Lydia's

Explore the Bible SS Lesson — Dec. 3

heart was opened by God (v. 14). As a result, Lydia's life was forever changed. Furthermore, her family was baptized (v. 15).

In verses 25-33 we find another example of what the Lord can do when one is willing to be obedient. Paul and Silas found themselves in prison. Paul and Silas were making the best of a bad situation when God intervened. A great earthquake knocked the prison doors open. Instead of leaving quickly, they chose to stay and share their faith with the prison guard.

There are many examples in God's Word that prove God will use a consistent Christian witness in leading others to salvation. The question we must ask ourselves is this, "Are we willing to follow God's lead and be consistent in our witness so others can know him?" — Bradshaw is pastor, First Baptist Church, Bruceton.



leaders

■ The congregation of First Baptist Church, Woodland Mills, honored its pastor, **Rick Burton**, on Oct. 29 to observe his 25th anniversary in the ministry. The congregation gave him a gift and video of people congratulating him. The day also was the church's annual Harvest Day. Burton has served the church for eight years.

■ **Rich Liner**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Sevierville, was honored recently on his resignation due to primary lateral sclerosis disease. Liner has served the church for eight years.

■ **Jimmy Gentry**, pastor, Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, has been called as pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Carrollton, Ga.

■ **John Holland**, pastor, Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville, was awarded the T.C. Wyatt Award from Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee Nov. 2. It was presented during the annual Pastoral Care Luncheon at the hospital.



HOLLAND

The award is given annually to a person who exemplifies the dedication and commitment of T.C. Wyatt, a chaplain

at the hospital. It was presented by Dan Hix, director of pastoral care, and Betty Goodwin of Baptist Homecare. Holland has served the church for 31 years.

■ First Baptist Church, Bethel Springs, called **Harold King** as pastor, effective Nov. 5. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Clifton.

■ **Alton Garrad**, pastor, Cane Creek Baptist Church, Cookeville, was honored recently on his 10th anniversary of service there.

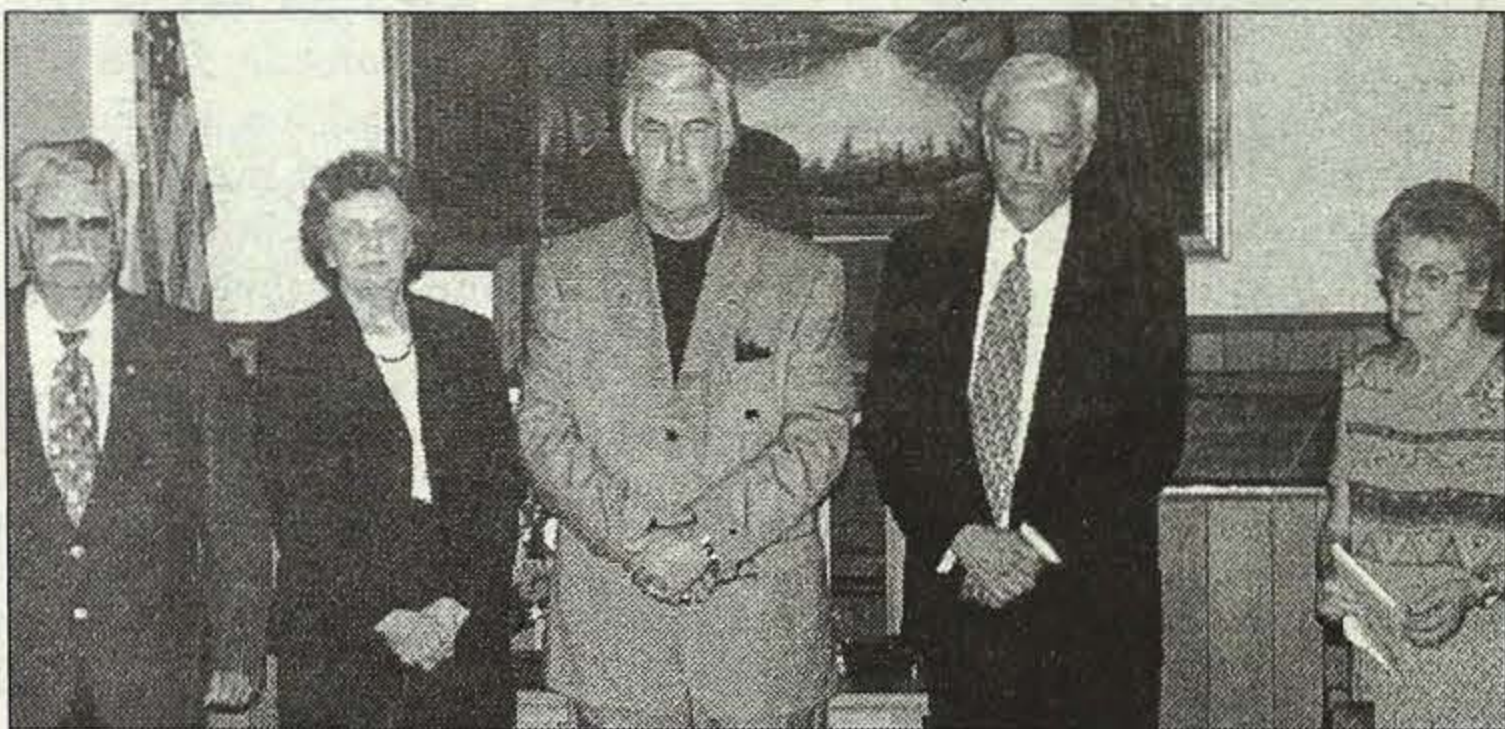
■ **Al and Diana Bryan Hoopes** of Euless, Texas, have been appointed missionaries to the Philippines by the International Mission Board, based in Richmond, Va. Al Hoopes is a native of Chattanooga and his parents, Frances and Wynne Hoopes live in Chattanooga. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and several other schools. The Hoopes served with the International Service Corps of the IMB in the Philippines and as a pastor of two churches in Texas.



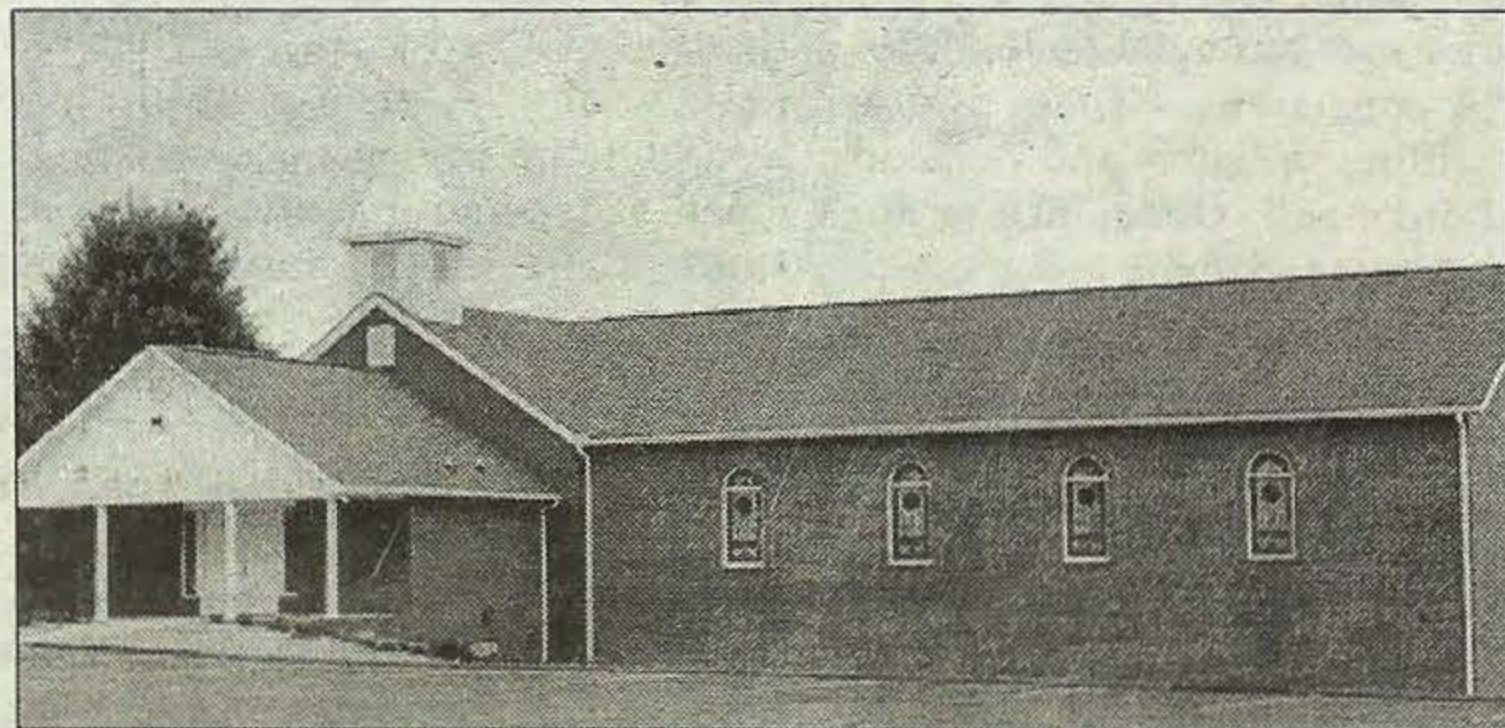
HOOPES

■ First Baptist Church, Pulaski, recently licensed **Tommy Derryberry** to the ministry in response to his call as youth ministry, New Zion Baptist Church, Pulaski.

■ **Richard Childress**, pas-



NAMED OFFICERS of New Salem Baptist Association during its recent annual meeting were, from left, **Robert Kerr**, member, Carthage Road Baptist Church, Carthage, treasurer; **Mary Massey**, member, Peyton Creek Baptist Church, Monoville, assistant clerk; **Rob Amason**, pastor, Brush Creek Baptist Church, Brush Creek, vice moderator; **Paul Oldham**, pastor, Peyton Creek Baptist Church, Monoville, moderator; and **Mary Etta Nixon**, member, Hickman Baptist Church, Hickman, clerk.



THIS NEW FACILITY of First Baptist Church, Bean Station, was dedicated recently. It includes a sanctuary and fellowship hall. The church is 105 years old.



ELECTED OFFICERS of Watauga Baptist Association at its 132nd annual meeting held recently were, from left, **Kreg Smith**, pastor, Little Doe Baptist Church, Butler, moderator; **Joe Sorah**, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, vice moderator; **Judy Bailey**, member, Siam Baptist Church, Elizabethton, assistant clerk; **Sue Anderson**, member, Siam Baptist Church, Elizabethton, clerk; **Richard Tester**, member, Union Baptist Church, Hampton, assistant treasurer; and **Will Andrews**, member, Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton, treasurer.

tor, Signal Mountain Baptist Church, Signal Mountain, recently served in Thailand.

associations

■ A Habitat for Humanity house built by **Hamilton County Baptist Association**, based in Chattanooga, was dedicated Nov. 18. It is the first such house built by the association.

schools

■ **Belmont University's** Center for Entrepreneurship - Women's Programs presents **Margaret Wheatley**, president of Berkana Institute and author of *Leadership and the New Science*, Dec. 6 from 1-4 p.m. She will speak on leadership. Participation fee is \$35. For more information, contact **Barbara Garvin** at (615) 460-6603.

event

■ The new **Lake Park Home** in **Hermitage of Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons**, Nashville, and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Brentwood, was dedicated Oct. 15. The event drew about 50 people. The home has eight women residents. An open house will be held Dec. 10 from 2-4 p.m. For more information, contact **Joy Nabi** at (615) 662-0327.

churches

■ **Mercer Baptist Church**, Mercer, held a revival Oct. 29 - Nov. 1. As a result, three people joined the church by let-

ter. **Frank Kemper** spoke. Since the beginning of the church year, five people have requested baptism.

■ **Blackoak Baptist Church**, Clinton, held a revival recently which resulted in 14 people saved. Evangelists **Henry Linginfelter** of Alcoa and **Carolyn Reed** of Nashville led it.

■ **Central Baptist Church**, Martin, hosted a Judgment House on six



CONSTRUCTION volunteers of Riverdale Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, pause during their work recently at Harlowe Baptist Academy, Seymour. The volunteers work on classrooms, staff housing, and a facility for children. The church sends a team to serve the academy each year.



THE NEW MODERATOR of Holston Baptist Association, **John Marshall**, left, pastor, University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City, is congratulated by outgoing moderator **Hollis Marshall**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greeneville; as new assistant moderator **Jimmie Rogers**, pastor, Cherry Grove Church, Jonesborough, looks on. The officers were elected at the recent 214th annual meeting of the association.



evenings in October. About 185 people made other spiritual decisions of faith and 31 made other spiritual decisions. About 2,000 people attended the event, which was held at the "Where There's Smoke, There's a Fire" - The Whitney Story."

■ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church**, Nashville, will present its Living Tree service Dec. 3 at 10:45 a.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 227-2961.

■ **Central Baptist Church**, Johnson City, will present its Living Tree service Dec. 10. For more information, contact the church at (423) 926-1000 or cbc1000@aol.com.

■ **Sand Ridge Baptist Church**, Lexington, is a team to Mexico to assist in construction/renovation of the church Dec. 12-20. For more information, contact the church at (615) 968-4597.