

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

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During January meeting

TBC board takes anti-lottery stance

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention passed a resolution opposing a state lottery and empowered its Executive Committee to “undertake any and all action necessary to develop and implement a plan to address the gambling issue in Tennessee.”

Action took place during the Executive Board’s Jan. 9 meeting at the Baptist Center here.

In introducing the recommendation from the Executive Committee, chairman Reed Dixon of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, told board members the Tennessee General Assembly will



DIXON

be considering the lottery issue this session (see story below).

“This is something we as Tennessee Baptists must be heard on and make our views known,”

Resolution Against State Lottery

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly will consider legislation to amend the State Constitution to provide for a state-sponsored lottery, and

WHEREAS, history has demonstrated the devastating results of gambling to individuals, families, communities, and the social, economic, and moral fabric of society;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, in session on this ninth day of January 2001 and serving, between meetings of the annual convention, almost 3,000 churches with a total membership in excess of one million, does hereby call on each member of the General Assembly and the Governor to resist all efforts to legalize gambling in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Tennesseans are encouraged to be in prayer and to become actively involved in defeating this far-reaching moral issue.

Dixon stressed.

The Executive Committee’s recommendations came after a study by a subcommittee, chaired by Paul Durham, pastor of Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville.

Durham told Executive Committee members in an earlier meeting that the climate in Tennessee is “right for the lottery to hit our state” and that gambling

proponents “will win if all churches do not do their part.”

TBC Executive Board President Verlon Moore, pastor of Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, observed, “I don’t believe everybody understands the devastating effect of gambling on our society,” he said.

During his report to the Executive Board, Bryant Millsaps, president of Tennessee Baptist

Children’s Homes, encouraged anti-lottery efforts.

Whatever money the lottery brings in will not be enough to pay for the social consequences, Millsaps emphasized. He noted that “our ministry, an extension of your work,” will be among the first places consequences of gambling will be seen as families will be destroyed.

“There will be children all across Tennessee left in the wake of this scourge,” Millsaps said.

Dixon warned the Executive Board that fighting the lottery, should it be approved for a statewide vote in 2002, may involve the expenditure of funds and necessitate raising funds to help combat pro-lottery forces.

“This could be a massive undertaking,” Dixon stressed.

“We feel this is an extremely important issue to face Tennessee Baptists and we as Tennessee Baptists need to stand up,” he said.

The subcommittee, led by Durham, will continue to explore options and opportunities.

— See TBC, page 2

‘Y2K’ strikes B&R one year late

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — For the first time in many years, the *Baptist and Reflector* failed to be mailed on time last week.

The paper was delayed until Wednesday due to glitches in a computer software program that had to be used to update postal regulations and the increased postage inacted last week by the U.S. Postal Service. An alternative method was used to print the list.

“The staff of the *B&R* have decided we faced Y2K one year late,” said Editor Lonnie Wilkey. “We apologize to our readers and our churches for any inconvenience this may have caused, but it truly was out of our hands.”

“We are hopeful that the problem will be fully corrected soon so it will not happen again,” Wilkey said.

He expressed appreciation to the Nashville Post Office, Franklin Web Printing Co., and Mike Overcash of the TBC for their assistance. ■

Campaign for state lottery in Tennessee gains momentum

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — When it comes to a lottery in Tennessee, “the train is rolling with a full head of steam,” state senator Gene Elsea told the *Baptist and Reflector* in an interview Jan. 9.

Elsea, a member of First Baptist Church, Spring City, is beginning his 10th year in the Senate.

“The possibility of passing a lottery this year looks better than ever before,” said Elsea, who is staunchly opposed to a state lottery. A bill approved last year by the Senate which calls for a public vote on the issue on the 2002 gubernatorial ballot, needs a two-thirds (22 votes) vote of the Senate this session to pass.

Elsea attributed his opinion to two factors. First, the attitude of the public is so strongly in favor of a lottery and being able to vote on the issue, he said.

Second, Elsea continued, finances in the state are in such a state that the lottery would provide additional revenue “but not nearly as much as people have been led to believe.”

Other sources confirm Elsea’s outlook. Larry Daughtrey, a columnist for *The Tennessean* in Nashville, and a longtime

observer of the state’s political scene, wrote in his Jan. 7 column in the paper that “the political climate for a lottery has changed, and longtime observers feel it is more favorable now than it has been in a dozen years.”

One of the reasons the lottery may be closer to reality is proponents publicize it as a way to help ease the state’s financial problems.

Daughtrey, however, wrote: “The lottery is no magical solution to Tennessee’s financial woes, a fact most legislators recognize. Most voters, however, don’t want to hear talk about an income tax or other higher taxes until the state authorizes revenue from a lottery.”

While the state senate has been able to stop lottery efforts in the past, that may change because of turnover in the Senate this year.

Senate lottery proponent Steve Cohen of Memphis has gone on record saying the votes are in the Senate this year to pass the lottery bill.

A poll published in the Jan. 8 edition of *The Tennessean* indicated that 68 percent of those surveyed statewide favored the establishment of a state lottery in Tennessee, while 26 percent of the state was opposed and 6 percent was undecided.

The poll revealed that: 63 percent of the respondents in East Tennessee favored the lottery; 31 percent was opposed, and 6 percent undecided; 74 percent of Middle Tennessee respondents favored the lottery, 21 percent were opposed, and 5 percent were undecided; 67 percent of West Tennessee respondents favored the lottery, 26 percent were opposed, and 7 percent were undecided.

The poll also revealed 59 percent of Tennesseans favor casino gambling in the state.

The poll was a joint effort of *The Tennessean* and the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* and was conducted by the national polling firm of Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc. of Washington, D.C.

According to the published report, the poll included a sample of 630 respondents who vote regularly in state elections. The telephone interviews were conducted Jan. 4-5. The poll has a margin for error of plus or minus four percentage points, according to the news report.

In addition, a Nashville television station conducted an unscientific, on-line computer poll and found that 85 percent of the respondents favored a lottery, in a televised report Jan. 10.

Gary Anderson, public affairs consul-

tant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said he is “greatly concerned” about the potential for a state lottery.

“I hope I am wrong, but I do not think Tennessee Baptists have been taking this seriously,” Anderson said.

Despite repeated appeals for Tennessee Baptists to contact their state legislators, “what I hear from them is that no one contacts them,” Anderson said, adding that Tennesseans should continue to contact their senators.

Elsea agreed. “We hear very little from the Christian community” he said.

Elsea attributed the lack of response from Christians to apathy and the fact that some Christians favor a lottery while others do not fully understand the negative impact a lottery could have on the state.

Daughtrey closed his Jan. 7 column with the following thought:

“So Tennessee may finally get a lottery. So what? It doesn’t really solve any of the state’s financial problems. Lotteries have grown shopworn in the surrounding states which have them. “Any Tennessean is now within two hours of a casino, and closer on the Internet. At the start of a new century, Tennessee may finally play last century’s game.” ■

about your newsjournal

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► **Lonnie Wilkey, editor** — (615) 371-2046, lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

► **Connie Davis, news editor** — (615) 371-7928, cdavis@tnbaptist.org

► **Susie Edwards, circulation/executive assistant** — (615) 371-2003, sedwards@tnbaptist.org

► **Mary Nimmo, church pages/administrative assistant** — (615) 371-7929, mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

► **Betty Williams, bookkeeper** — (615) 371-7930, bwilliams@tnbaptist.org

► **Office — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027**

► **Mailing address —** P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

► **FAX —** (615) 371-2080

► **Web Site —** www.tnbaptist.org

► **Publisher —** Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

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Roberts receives unanimous vote to lead Midwestern Baptist Press

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees unanimously elected R. Philip Roberts as the fourth president of the Kansas City-based Southern Baptist seminary during a called board meeting Jan. 8-9.

Roberts told trustees on Tuesday that he is accepting the position as "a trust from God, the Southern Baptist Convention, and from you."

Roberts, 50, will begin his duties in mid-February, completing a seven-year tenure with the North American Mission Board where he currently serves as vice president for the Strategic Cities Strategies Group.

He was announced Nov. 28 as the unanimous choice of Midwestern's presidential search committee. ■

'Souper Bowl' Sunday to benefit World Hunger Fund

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — On Super Bowl Sunday, churches across the nation will raise money for the poor by participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Meanwhile, Southern Baptists will be given an additional opportunity to raise money for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Southern Baptists are being urged to donate \$1 in large soup

pots as they leave church on Super Bowl Sunday, said Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the SBC and a staff member of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

One hundred percent of the money raised will go directly to the World Hunger Fund, which supports ministry evangelism initiatives across the nation and world led by Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers.

"We want to specifically challenge youth groups and churches to take part in this Souper Bowl of Caring emphasis," Nelson said.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nondenominational grassroots effort to raise awareness and funding for hunger ministries across the nation.

The ministry was founded in 1990 by Presbyterian minister Brad Smith. Since then, more than 8,600 congregations have participated in the annual event, including 600 Baptist churches in 1998.

The gifts do not go to the Souper Bowl organization, Nelson noted. Instead, individual congregations determine where to use the money for ministry."

To participate in the Souper Bowl Sunday event, call 1-800-358-SOUP or Nelson at (615) 244-2495. ■

Golden Gate downsizes staff

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has eliminated several staff positions, delayed indefinitely hiring for other staff vacancies, and pulled back from a planned salary increase for employees as a result of actions taken by the Baptist General Convention of Texas last fall to reduce financial support for the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries.

"We are saddened by the necessity of these organizational decisions," said seminary president



Global Priority Church

Larry Cox, left, of the International Mission Board, recently presented a plaque recognizing First Baptist Church, Humboldt, as a Global Priority Church to Helen Fisher, right, director of missions and ministries, and Pastor Ed North. The Humboldt church is one of only about 700 in the SBC to achieve that status. During 2000 the congregation sent out 12 mission teams to five states and seven foreign countries.

William O. Crews, "but our stewardship responsibility mandates that we plan, staff, and implement the work of the seminary in accordance with the resources provided by our denomination's system of financial support."

The reduction by the BGCT of its support to SBC causes translates to a loss of about \$514,000 per year at Golden Gate Seminary, which represents about 8 percent of the seminary's annual budget. ■

28 MBC staffers take severance plan

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Baptist Convention executive board approved plans for funding a staff severance plan and for transferring assets to two new MBC agencies during its December meeting at the Baptist Building in Jefferson City. In all, 28 MBC employees accepted the severance package at a total cost of nearly \$770,000,

with individual payouts ranging from two months of salary to 12 months of salary and benefits, depending on tenure.

Several of the 28 — a dozen of whom took retirement — had served the convention for many years, MBC executive director Jim Hill noted. They represented 417 years of service to Missouri Baptists.

While transitions caused by the New Directions reorganization were the basis for the offer, the executive board made the plan available to all 101 executive board employees.

According to the plan proposed by Hill and approved without dissent by the executive board, the severance will be funded over the next year from several sources.

Transfer of assets to Windermere Baptist Conference Center and the *Word & Way* newsjournal, two agencies created by action of messengers to the 1999 MBC annual meeting, placed both in a position to start the new year apart from the executive board. ■

TBC board takes anti-lottery stance ...



CHAIRPERSONS have been named for each committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Committees met Jan. 8 prior to the Jan. 9 full board meeting. From left are Jack Robinson, budget and program; Cathreine Via, education; Verlon Moore, Executive Board president; Steve Holt, church programs; Lawrence Hudson, convention ministries; Reed Dixon, executive; Ed Talley, Christian services; and Jerry Legg, convention communications. Not pictured is

— Continued from page 1

In other business, board members heard reports from James Porch, TBC executive director, and representatives from TBC institutions.

Board members also approved the purchase of 85 acres of land immediately adjacent to LindenValley Baptist Conference Center for \$70,000.

W.L. "Bo" Childs reported on the TBC's Church Building and Loan Program.

During the 1999-2000 year, loans totaling \$287,692 were made to

eight churches out of the New Work Revolving Loan Fund. This fund was established for the purpose of assisting associations and churches in initiating new churches or missions.

Out of the regular loan fund program, three loans totaling \$72,000 were made during the past year, Childs reported.

Executive Board members also approved two recommendations from the Committee on Boards to fill two trustee positions at Belmont University, Nashville.

Bill Sheriff of Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, and Don Turner of Crieveewood Baptist Church, Nashville, both will serve a third 3-year term, expiring in 2003. ■

Church helps hospital produce TV commercial

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector



THE ADULT CHOIR of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, led by Richard Dickerson, minister of music, sings during a recent morning worship service, which is televised.

NASHVILLE — Not long after Erie Chapman was named CEO of Baptist Hospital here, he developed an idea for a TV commercial. He didn't just develop a concept. Chapman hummed a tune for the commercial into a dictaphone.

Chapman's secretary, Rhonda Swanson, wasn't daunted when she heard the tune. Swanson, an organist, transcribed her boss's tune into notes on a score.

Then Chapman contacted Richard Dickerson, minister of music, Woodmont Baptist Church, here. Chapman had heard Ken Ross, member of the hospital's board and former acting CEO who is a member of the church, praise Dickerson's ability. And he had heard the choir of Woodmont Church sing on TV. The church televises its morning worship service each week on WKRN TV — Channel 2.

Dickerson learned Chapman wanted to use a recording of the choir of Woodmont Church singing the song for an advertisement. Dickerson and pastor Jon Roebuck agreed it was a good project.

Music for ad

Dickerson admitted he had never arranged a song for TV nor recorded music before. He had arranged music for choirs and helped produce a couple of TV projects for the community while minister of music, First Baptist Church, Union City, for 14 years.

Dickerson liked the tune

and soon he had completed it and arranged it for a choir by adding four-part harmony. During the next choir rehearsal he brought the choir up to date on what had happened and asked it to sight read "Blessed the Newborn Child."

Dickerson was pleased with what he heard when Woodmont's adult choir, which has about 75 members, sang the song. And the next week at rehearsal Chapman, who was visiting, heard it and was delighted. He asked the choir to record it for an ad entitled, "Thursday's Baby."

Dickerson also got another member of Woodmont Church involved in the process. Warren Peterson owns and operates Javelina Studio here. Peterson offered to record the music free of charge.

First advertisement

The ad is broadcast each Thursday and features the first baby born that day as

the choir sings "Blessed the newborn baby; blessed the newborn child; first day upon this earth; oh, blessed the newborn child." A credit line recognizes the Woodmont Baptist Church Adult Choir.

The ad premiered in November 1999 during a Titans football game broadcast.

Second advertisement

In 2000 Dickerson and Chapman worked together again to write and record "Blessed Lady" for a series of ads which appear on Tuesdays and feature women who have been patients at the hospital.

Also the choir's recorded phrase "Blessed," has been used by the hospital in several other ads.

Church members and staff started getting positive feedback from people concerning the ad. Dickerson decided he should build on the visibility provided by the ad by linking it to the

church's televised service.

He realized "Blessed Baby" and "Jesus Loves Me" are written in D major. So Dickerson arranged a medley of the two songs for the choir to sing during baby dedications held during the televised services.

Other benefits

Dickerson reported the venture has helped the church "get far beyond the four walls of 2100 Woodmont Boulevard" and into thousands of homes.

The cooperative effort helped both institutions present themselves to Nashville residents, he explained, as TV viewers are reminded of the hospital and church. The venture shows what two Baptist entities can do working together, he noted.

One result may be the congregation has added nearly 100 members during the past year and a half.

Hospital's view

Chapman said the joint ven-



RICHARD DICKERSON leads the adult choir of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

ture between Baptist Hospital and Woodmont Church also benefited the hospital. It saved the hospital money it would have spent to provide music for the advertisements. The venture also represents the hospital's relationship with Baptists although it doesn't have any official affiliation with Baptist entities, said Chapman.

"It's a beautiful thing to see the way in which this music has helped to unify so many people around such important healing work," said Chapman.

Dickerson said, "I had no idea how it (the commercial) would catch on and become such a moving witness for Baptist (hospital), for Woodmont, and for the precious gift of a child, the gift of life." ■

Pastors develop strategies to start new black churches

For Baptist and Reflector

New plan

BRENTWOOD — Eight black Tennessee pastors and one associate pastor gathered Dec. 16 for the first Vision Pastors Network Meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. It was held at the TBC Baptist Center here.

The pastors, who represented the three regions of the state, make up a team which will develop new black congregations in Tennessee.

Team members

Representing West Tennessee were Lawrence Hudson, Monument of Love Baptist Church, Memphis; Robert West, Lamar Terrace Baptist Church, Memphis; and Thomas Bester, New Victory Baptist Church, Ripley.

From Middle Tennessee were Jay Wells, Simeon Baptist Church, Nashville; Amos Howard, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Smyrna; and Willie Freeman, Greater Missionary Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Representing East Tennessee were Frederick Brabson, New Covenant Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Reginald Butler, New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Rod Glatt, the TBC staff member who relates to black congregations, explained his main work is to develop new black Southern Baptist congregations and the best way to do that is to begin or plant new black congregations. But he needs help, he told the pastors, which is why he needs them.

The team also heard Larry Kirk of the TBC staff report on past TBC work with black Baptists and the need for new congregations.

To help develop the team, Glatt led the pastors to discover their gifts and behavioral blends by completing the Discovering Your Divine Design assessment. He also assigned each pastor another team member to get to know before the next meeting.



PASTORS who participated in Vision Pastors Network Meeting Dec. 16 led by Rod Glatt, left, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, were, from left, front row, Lawrence Hudson, Memphis; Frederick Brabson, Knoxville; Thomas Bester, Ripley; Reginald Butler, Knoxville; and Larry Kirk, TBC staff; back row, Willie Freeman, Clarksville; John Register, Clarksville; Jay Wells, Nashville; Amos Howard, Smyrna; and Robert West, Memphis.

Strategies

The team members discussed the need to understand church starting through the TBC, for speakers on church planting, for direction on how to identify potential church planters, and

how to develop the church planting vision in existing congregations.

Glatt announced the Black Church Leadership Conference 2001 will be July 19-21 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Smyrna. ■

\$1 lottery tickets can buy broken homes

reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey,
editor



I'll say this for lottery proponents. They can be convincing to the casual observer.

I heard Memphis senator Steve Cohen, who has a lottery bill under consideration, on a Nashville talk radio station a few weeks ago. Sen. Cohen gave glowing reasons why Tennessee needs a state lottery.

The senator basically said that because his bill specifies only a lottery and not casinos, there is no reason for concern because lottery tickets only cost a dollar.

Dollars add up fast especially for people who become addicted to gambling.

I am so thankful I have never been addicted to alcohol, to-

bacco, or other drugs.

I jokingly say I am addicted to food because I do love to eat. As I try to live up to my annual resolve to shed a few pounds, that really is not a joking matter.

I'm the type of person who needs to go "cold turkey." My wife Joyce can eat one chip and set the bag down. My one chip leads to the whole bag (in a matter of minutes).

My kids will vouch for that. On a recent Friday night Joanna decided to bake cookies for herself and Daniel. Despite being in another room, my nose quickly picked up the scent of freshly baked cookies, so I investigated and found some hot, just out of the oven, chocolate walnut cookies. My diet all of a sudden was forgotten. Before long, to the chagrin of Joanna and Daniel, those cookies were just a memory.

I have heard about recovering alcoholics who do well until they take that one drink.

We do not know how many

potential gambling addicts we have in Tennessee.

Sen. Cohen is correct. Unless it is something different, lottery tickets usually cost \$1.

How many people will stop with one \$1 ticket?

I predict there will be countless numbers who will buy \$10, \$50, \$100, or even more in lottery tickets at once because they just know the next one they buy will be the big winner.

Others will not stop until they have spent their entire paycheck. What do they do the next day or week when the winning number is announced and they have not won? How do they pay for food for their children? Who will house the children when mortgage payments are not met?

Those are questions lottery proponents do not want to hear.

Those are the questions that Baptists and other Christians in this state must ask.

The TBC Executive Board took initial action last week on the lottery (see story on page

1). That's only the beginning.

At last week's Executive Board meeting Bryant Millsaps, president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, spoke against the lottery and warned that the amount of money brought in will not compensate for what will be spent later in social consequences. He predicted the number of children housed by TBCH would increase should the lottery indeed come to pass in Tennessee.

If the Senate does not defeat Cohen's bill — HJR0002 — this year (it needs 22 votes to pass), and the lottery comes to a vote before Tennesseans, untold hours and money must be spent because lottery proponents will wage a major campaign to get it passed.

Call your state senator now and urge him or her to vote against the lottery when it comes to a vote.

Will we as Christians do our part to defeat the effort or will we say, "It's just a dollar." **B&R**



editorial/
opinion

a historical perspective

by James L.
Sullivan



Search for identity

Baptists have been around a long time, but we as Southern Baptists are still in our teenage years as denominations are measured. That is why we act as we do so often.

This fact first struck me when I came to the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1953 as chief executive officer. The first year there I had Ethel Allen as my personal secretary.

She had been the personal secretary for three of my predecessors. The fact of one long tenure touching so many administrations was phenomenal.

That impression was deepened and reaffirmed when I was invited a few years later to speak at the unveiling of a historical plaque in Greenville, S.C., at the spot where Elford's print shop had been located. That was where our first church literature was produced for Southern Baptist churches on Southern Baptist Convention authority.

Since I then headed what was in a sense the successor of that first denominational publishing endeavor, I was invited to speak on the life and influence of Basal Manly Jr., who secured convention permission and produced our first church literature before the Civil War.

At the banquet I was seated between two people, advanced in years, who I assumed were Dr. Manly's grandchildren. Instead, they were the two surviving children in the large family of one of the founders of our oldest seminary and producer of our first Sunday School lesson courses.

Maybe the fact of our youthfulness will partially excuse our present denomination hassle on the grounds of our growing up and the inevitable sibling rivalry.

Our present struggle toward solution has been so violent that it has reminded me of the proverbial "throwing the baby out with the bath water" method of solution. That is inexcusable. With 95 percent of Southern Baptists considered to be conservative by leaders on both sides of the controversy, and to be ardent believers in and adherents to the Bible, such drastic action seems unnecessary. Surely there is a better way. ■ — Sullivan is retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) and a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville. These columns on Baptist heritage, which were first printed several years ago, will appear regularly.

Consider this: are you important in the life of a child?

heart talk

by James Porch
TBC executive director



During the recent holidays, I experienced a unique combination of creeping dissatisfaction and fulfilling happiness. Such a statement merits analysis or at least some explanation.

Being gone from home quite regularly these days, I normally and traditionally welcome the holidays as a time to accomplish "put off tasks" or chores both personal and domestic. The resulting amount of work offers some

degree of satisfaction.

This holiday season, Christmas and New Years combined, ended with an absolute minimum of expected accomplishments. The reason, well, I PLAYED with the newest member of our family, my special lovable grandbuddy, Aaron. Big deal? Well, yes for me. Personal playing time has always ranked rather low on my priority list.

As a child of parents of the great American depression, I learned early both in theory and through experience that a work ethic and playtime bore little if any resemblance. I certainly mean no criticism. A blacksmith-farmer family in south Mississippi in the 1940s and 1950s regarded dawn to

dusk six days a week as labor days. Honest work meant survival.

But now through my Mr. A, I am exposed to a new lesson. It is as if through his bright eyes and an ever widening range of coos, squeals, laughs, and even cries, he calls out "Papaw, it's OK; take time to play with me." And I gladly give in.

This developing transition and focus received added legitimacy. During the holidays as I browsed through a SUCCESORIES OF AMERICA STORE, a matted caption for a picture frame froze my attention. Wisely and empirically someone had inscribed below the picture of a little boy, "PRIORITIES — A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank ac-

count was, the sort of house I lived in, or the current kind of car I drove ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

As the Holy Spirit led Luke to describe Jesus' childhood, the Gentile writer wrote, "... Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him" (*The Message*). Quite possibly and even more probably our Heavenly Father graced his only begotten child through Joseph, the carpenter, who just probably often put down his hammer, saw, plane, or chisel and made time to play with Jesus.

Assuredly, the world is different because of that child, who he became, and who he is! ■

How much space will I take up this year? 'Un poquito' I hope

that's life

by Linda Jackson
Roebuck



Well, it's evaluation time on my New Year's resolutions. Funny how they're the same ones every year, a fact that likely predicts the outcome of the evaluation. Number one is always to become more fit.

Many share my desire. Coming right after the massive consumption of holiday goodies, New Years is always the time for better health.

We had the traditional Christmas dinner. Turkey, which was baked by my husband, Jon; dressing, which was

made by my mother, Betty; and rolls, which were made by my sister, Schubert.

There's also the mountains of cookies, chocolates, and other combinations of lard, sugar, and cocoa. Three-pack-a-day smokers asked me, "How can you do that to your body?" My favorite is butternut SQUASH pie. I emphasize "squash" hoping others will recoil at the idea of something vegetable-like. More for me. (Works on all but my kids. The little freaks like vegetables. Good grief.)

I did, however, begin realizing one of my longtime resolutions last year; learning Spanish. I've always wanted to, but living here, with a sizable Spanish-speaking population, was the final motivation. I had whipped out my high school Spanish a few times, and quick-

ly learned that, "Where is the bathroom?" while useful, makes for a short conversation. So did, "I'll have orange juice, please," and, "My brother has his dog at school today."

The phrases did, though, bring me smiles from my friends south of the border. (I must say, my pronunciation was excellent. Everyone I spoke to made no mistake that my brother's dog was at school that very day.)

So, I began classes.

Upon hearing a Spanish accent from a store clerk once, I said "Gracias," as he helped me with a box. "Ahhh! You speak Spanish?" he asked delightedly.

"Un poquito." A little, I told him. He began talking to me in Spanish until I'd give the blank look, then he'd back up and go again. It was wonderful! He



The Macedonian Call

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From your missionary

To conduct medical clinics

Brentwood Church sends 54 volunteers to Rio

By Marcia Knox
For "The Macedonian Call"

"God is still in the business of working miracles," according to Garnette Hogan, Tennessee Baptist Convention's Human Resources manager, who recently returned from her second medical missions trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Hogan, along with 53 other medical/evangelism team members, worked this summer in Rio de Janeiro. The medical/evangelism clinics were held at the First Baptist Church of Freguesia and at two satellite clinic locations at the Central de Anil Baptist Church and at the First Church of Freguesia daycare in Triol. First Church of Freguesia serves as the mother church for both churches where the satellite clinics were held. Almost 3,600 patients were treated and around 250 spiritual decisions were reported.

"The pastor and members of First Church of Freguesia, had

prayed for months before the team came to Rio de Janeiro for the success of the clinic — not in a medical sense, but in a spiritual sense," said Hogan.

Sponsored by Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, Hogan and physician Robert Bishop served as co-leaders for the medical team which had 42 medical personnel. Bill and Creely Wilson, Brentwood Church co-ministers of missions, served as resource people for the team. Tom Jansing, also a member of Brentwood Church, served as the evangelism team leader for a team of 11.

Included in the team were: 30 Brentwood Church members; two Belmont University nursing instructors and five students; and eight Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton, members. Also participating were team members from other churches in Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Florida.

The medical team was made

up of 10 nurses, six physicians, two nurse practitioners, one physician's assistant, two dentists, two dental assistants, one pharmaceutical representative, and one nutritionist.

Besides Hogan, the optometry team was made up of Brentwood Church members, optometrist Gene Harman, Brenda Holmes, Paige McKechnie, Larry Foust, and Reja O'Brien. The optometry team dispensed 700 pairs of glasses.

"Many God moments occurred on our trip," said Linda

Miller, registered nurse and member of Brentwood Church. "Medicines, packed at the last minute, were just what we needed in the clinics. It had to be a God thing."

According to Miller, medicines were held up in customs, yet none were confiscated. No significant illnesses cropped up among team members. Miller, who is latex sensitive, wore gloves and did not have a reaction.

"For two days, I accompanied — See Brentwood, page 6



God has used Tennessee Baptists around the world in some very strategic ways. It is the desire of our convention, mission agencies, and missionaries to utilize volunteers in the most strategic way possible for kingdom growth.

It is this goal that I share — a special way that you can be involved this new year in volunteer missions.

Church SHARP Planting Links — These links are designed for your church or association to link-up within one of our partnerships to assist the missionaries and nationals with a new church start. We are asking you to commit to three years in this link-up. You would then send as many teams as you can over the next three years to assist in this new church start.

Already we have seen three very successful link-ups with more planned for the coming year. Churches have sent teams to do evangelism, Backyard Bible Clubs, medical, music, and leadership training. Your church or association could sit down with a national pastor and missionary to develop a strategy.

Canada — There are presently 143 Canadian Southern Baptist churches in Canada. The goal of Canadian Southern Baptists is to have 1,000 by 2020. Only seven percent of Canadians belong to an evangelical church. About 67 percent of Canadians do not regularly attend church.

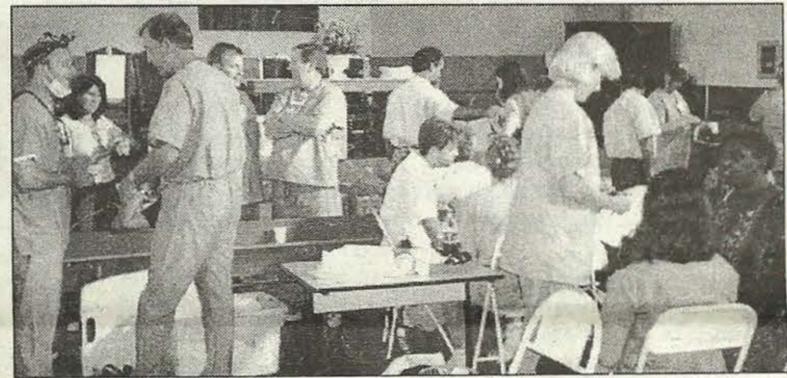
Brazil — In Brazil evangelicals compose only 15.6 percent of the population. Rio de Janeiro, a city of over seven million people, has whole communities with no evangelical presence.

Canada and Rio de Janeiro want to reach their people for Christ, and they need our help. Would you consider helping start a church in Canada or Rio de Janeiro?

If you are interested in this type of strategic volunteer missions church planting link-up, contact me at tsharp@tnbaptist.org or 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7935.

In Christ,

Terry



WORKING in the clinic are, from left, Tim Brown, Gene Harman, Brad Jolly, Larry Foust, and Brenda Holmes.

Nashville church serves in Canada

By Jerry Cuffman
For "The Macedonian Call"

A seven-member evangelism team from Nashville's Two Rivers Baptist Church taught VBS and painted a Canadian church this summer at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Melfort, Saskatchewan.

Besides myself, members of the team were: my wife Judy, Sandra Hollowell, Wayne Jackson, Nathan and Deborah King, and Judy Skojac.

Our planned mission activities were VBS, painting the church, and manning a booth at the local county fair. In preparation for the trip, our team had gathered VBS materials to easily accommodate 30 plus kids. We had no idea how many children we would have for VBS.

The first VBS session began on Sunday



LEADING a children's VBS activity are, from left, Judy Skojac, Judy Cuffman, and Deborah King.

morning during the Sunday School hour at Emmanuel Church with two children showing up. They were a little girl and boy, neighbor friends.

When it was time for the children to leave, the team learned that the children had walked to church. Not wanting them to walk home alone, Hollowell and I walked with them.

We discovered that the boy had come without his mother's permission, and she refused to let him return. However, the little girl had an older sister whom we invited. Since the church was having a lunch for us, we invited the mom and the two girls to come back with us to have lunch at church. They accepted the invitation.

This opened the door not only for the girls to come to VBS, but also to give the mother an opportunity to visit and meet people. Their mother Laurie Anderson came back several times during the week, and it was obvious that she was hungry for fellowship and encouragement.

We wound up with a total of nine VBS students. I believe that this was exactly as God had planned this VBS. These students, with the exception of one, had no church background. Seven of the nine students lived within walking distance of the church. Of the nine, two received Jesus and a third was very close to accepting the Lord when we left to return home.

Laurie Anderson, Julius and Angela Cook, parents of children who attended VBS, were receptive and participated in some activities that we had during the week. Chelan Anderson, — See Nashville, page 6

Workers sought for Rio in 2001

For "The Macedonian Call"

Over 250 teams consisting of a preacher, musician, and layperson are needed to do personal evangelism during Aug. 5-14 Simultaneous Revivals in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, according to Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader, Terry Sharp.

"Jesus Christ is the only hope for Rio de Janeiro," said Sharp. "Don't miss this chance of a lifetime to see God's almighty hand move in Rio de Janeiro. You can be a part of this exciting event either as an individual, or by forming your own team."

Approximate cost of the trip is \$1,940 which includes airfare, visa, housing/meals, translators, insurance, in-country travel, water, Bibles/tracts, and tourism.

For more information contact: Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7935 or (615) 371-7935. Or email asloan@tnbaptist.org. ■

Team from Brentwood Church builds chapel in Rio

For "The Macedonian Call"

BRENTWOOD — "Miracles are happening all over the great city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil," according to a co-project leader of a Brentwood Baptist Church 16-member construction team, who worked this summer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Linda Blough along with her husband Tom, both members of Brentwood Baptist Church, led a 16-member construction team in the later part of July to Rio de Janeiro. Included in the team were Bill Wilson, minister of missions for the church, and Andy Gunn of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff.

"We knew God was in control, and that he had a mission for us to build a second story to the First Baptist Church of

Freguesia daycare center in Tirol," said Linda Blough. "Now the second story is a mission church of the First Baptist Church of Freguesia, and the first story functions as a daycare center during the week and where Sunday School classes are held."

Only 11 team members arrived on Friday morning since the rest of the team had a flight delay; and the partial team immediately headed out to the church site.

"We were able to complete four courses of block in half a day," added Blough.

With the help of 16 Brazilian workers assisting the partial team with mixing the mortar and laying block, by the end of the day Saturday, all block was laid except for the gables.

"At one o'clock in the morn-

ing, we received a phone call that the rest of our team had arrived in Rio! We were thrilled and so were they to finally arrive."

Sunday morning the entire team was hosted by pastor Jonanias Sorares de Menezes of First Church of Freguesia. Team members shared testimonies about what it meant to be part of this mission trip.

Sunday for lunch and for the evening service, the team was honored as guests of the Baptist Church in Anil where last year four team members had built a second story.

When Monday approached, the team was ready to finish the second story of the Tirol church, and each person found a special job.

"Since I was the gofer, I was able to go into the Tirol community where many of



PAUSING during their work on a church facility are builders from Tennessee and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

our team members did not go. I visited in homes, played with the children, and experienced the life of those around me. Relationships were built, even though our languages were different."

Blough also visited the men's prison and spoke to some of the inmates in the

chapel area. She told of God's love for everybody and his forgiveness.

"We worked hard all week with very little free time. However, the miracle of a church was complete and ready for a dedication service on Friday night with over 250 people in attendance." ■

Brentwood Church sends 54 volunteers to Rio ...

— Continued from page 5

ied part of the medical team that ran an ancillary clinic at the daycare in one of the slums and helped with the pharmacy."

Miller witnessed a miracle when a bottle of unexpected antibiotics appeared to treat an infant. One afternoon the team had completely exhausted their supply of liquid antibiotics. In fact, the drugs had been packed up to leave and then unpacked when more patients arrived. When an infant with severe bronchitis was treated, Miller searched for another antibiotic for the infant.

"Looking for options my eyes fixed on the one last bottle, that I swear was not on the table when repacking, which was suddenly in plain view. I believe that God made provision for that ill baby, and I was allowed to observe the miracle."

Another Brentwood Church member who has been to Rio de Janeiro before was Mickey Hamilton, a pharmaceutical representative.

"I worked in the pharmacy," said Hamilton. "Although things are generally fast and furious and direct contact with the Brazilian people is brief, I still felt God's love reaching out to them through us."

"Whether it's a smile as the medicine is handed out the window, or saying Jesus loves you as they are walking away, the people know that we are there for them, because there is a God who loves them."

According to Hamilton, another miracle occurred when a delivery of a new worm medicine arrived at his home one hour before the team left for the airport.

"For me, personally, the trips are a blessing because I always return with more friends than I had before I left," he added. "I also get to see God's awesome power at work. Just when things would seem to be at their most chaotic, God would raise his hand, and everything would fall neatly into place just as he had planned."

Hamilton sums up the volunteer mission trip experience

as significant, especially for those on their first mission trip.

"It is the closest you'll ever feel to God without being dead," he said.

"The eye clinic is a very busy place," said Hogan. "We saw approximately 1,600 people in five days. The interpreters were wonderful, and we depended greatly on their ability to help us communicate with the Brazilian people."

One day around noon a lady about 45-years-old, who had waited in line since 1:30 a.m., came to have her eyes tested. Hogan noticed on her paper that the woman was not a Christian.

Hogan had the interpreter ask if the woman knew Jesus as her personal Savior. The woman answered, "No, I am Catholic."

"I then had the interpreter to ask her if she had a Bible and she said no," Hogan added. "I got her a New Testament from the Evangelism Team. I marked the book of John and John 3:16 for her. She left to get her glasses, and then came

back for me to write in her Bible."

Hogan later found out that the evangelism team had witnessed to the woman while she was waiting in line, but she had refused to talk with them. When she left the eye clinic, the woman found Gabe Henkel of Florida, fiancé of Heather Lannom, member of Brentwood Church, on the evangelism team and said she wanted to know about being a Christian. Later that day, the woman accepted Christ.

Brad Jolly, Brentwood Church member and dentist, observed another miracle.

According to Jolly, a 20-year-old man who suffered from Down's Syndrome, arrived at the clinic with his elderly grandmother who took care of him.

The man had suffered for years with a toothache that Brazilian dentists refused to treat due to his disability. The man would become very apprehensive and combative which made the tooth extraction impossible.

"When the women of First

Church of Freguesia began to pray and ask God to calm the boy, their prayers were answered, and the tooth was successfully extracted," said Jolly. "With the help of God, we were able to alleviate this boy's pain, and share the love of Christ."

Bruce Hendrich, pastor of Oak Street Church and evangelism team member, said, "I found out God was working in Rio de Janeiro, and I had the privilege to join him there!"

According to Hendrich, two 15-year-old boys were sitting in the shade of an old VW bus away from the crowds. Some members of the evangelism team felt led to go and share Christ with the boys.

"One of the boys told us he wanted to come to America to win the lottery," Hendrich added. "We told him we had something to offer him that was more valuable than money. With this introduction, we began to tell of God's great love for the two boys. When we finished sharing the gospel, both boys trusted in Christ as their savior." ■

Nashville church serves in Canada ...

— Continued from page 5

Laurie's oldest daughter was saved on Friday.

Emmanuel Church is small in membership with only four active families besides the pastor and his family. By having only a few students, we were able to give more attention to the children. Since these children did not have a church home, there was a strong basis for the church to

continue contact.

The VBS was only supposed to go through Wednesday, but we chose plan B. Tuesday evening we had dinner with pastor Lane Koster and his wife Cherie, and we talked about the booth. We had felt that in order to be effective, the booth needed to be manned by church members with our team giving support help.

We agreed to pray about it, and to make a decision on Wednesday. That night I became greatly impressed that we had these nine children for a short period of time. To have a booth passing out material at a fair would be searching a crowd hoping to find people who lived nearby, and who were receptive. We already had a captive audience of nine!

When we met the next morning, I presented my thoughts and found that others including the pastor felt the same. We decided to continue VBS through Friday.

God honored this in allowing two young ladies to be born into the kingdom of God on Friday morning.

We believe we accomplished exactly what we were

supposed to on this trip. There was a lot of planting and watering, but the Lord also gave us some harvest.

We enjoyed the opportunity of painting the church sanctuary, adjoining hallway and entry, as well as modernizing some features. We also fellowshiped with church members, presented some different ideas, and gave encouragement. ■

First Church, Jackson, sends 13 to Nicaragua

For "The Macedonian Call"

An Evangelistic Outreach Youth Team, made up of 13 members of First Baptist Church, Jackson, recently assisted IMB missionaries, Jimmy and Harriet Eager, and members of Liberty Baptist Church of Managua to share Christ in a "marginal community" near their Nicaraguan church.

Since several of the students on the First Church team were going to college this fall, some had set a goal to go on an international mission trip and saved money to pay

their way. This First Church team of new college students, high school students, and adults worked with Liberty Church members and interpreters to share the gospel in several ways.

Members of the team who worked in Nicaragua this summer were: Todd Brady, campus minister at Union University, Jackson, Howard Keas, Brian Ford, Valerie Ford, Andrew Ford, Jennifer Fisher, Jeffrey Henry, Patricia Penny, Mollyanne Cole, Leslie Wenzler, John Deming, Janice Hailey, and Louie Hailey Jr.

The area where the team

worked was the impoverished community called "Diez y Ocho de Mayo" (May Eighteenth) where 8,000 people live in an area, bordered by drainage ditches and main roads.

The typical 300-400 square foot house had a tin roof, bare walls of a combination of tin, wood, blocks, black plastic, sticks, mud, and a dirt floor.

Bathing, laundry, and dishwashing was done at the "pela" in the backyard. Wastewater continually stood in the rutted dirt streets.

Prior to First Church team's arrival, Jimmy Eager had prepared maps for each block. Eager had also constructed a "tabernacle" on a vacant lot in the area from wood framing tarpaulins. This served as the central point for visitation as well as the other activities.

Each morning the team and the interpreters congregated at the tabernacle and Liberty Church pastor Dennis Rios and church members walked for 30 minutes from their neighborhood to visit. Many Liberty Church members were up at 4 a.m. praying for a soul-harvest.

"We organized about 10 teams each morning consisting of an interpreter, a local church member, and one of us," said Louie Hailey Jr., First Church team coordinator. "Many of the Nicaraguan homes had never had a North American visitor."

Each team of three was assigned a map and given forms to be filled out for the church. Residents were asked if they would attend a Bible study, or would they be willing to have a Bible study in their home.

"One or more in almost every block agreed to have a Bible study. Most of them gave us time to share personal testimony and to share the gospel," added Hailey.

Sometimes a local church member shared and other times a First Church team member shared with an interpreter. Local residents, whether or not they made a personal commitment, were encouraged to get involved in a home Bible study and in some cases to lead the study.

Salvation bracelets "Power Bands" were used to share the gospel in any language, homes, schools, and with children's activities.

"The afternoon children's activities were a real challenge. We planned Bible teach-

ing, activities and crafts for about 300 children. We had about 400 children by the last day," said Hailey.

"Our guys played basketball along with the Nicaraguan teens and attempted to share the gospel with them. The power bands were a big hit with everyone."

The tabernacle was used each night for worship services. The "Jesus film" was shown, and nationals and First Church youth presented music. There were evangelistic messages by Brady and Jody Belew, a college freshman from north Georgia. Over 500 people came to see the films.

"We always receive more than we give when we go on a mission to a third world country," added Hailey. "Our team members were inspired by the faithfulness of believers that are working under very difficult circumstances."

The Eagers recently reported around 25 home Bible studies have started in the area called "May 18th" as a result of First Church youth team and Liberty Church.

The missionaries also noted that 46 persons prayed to receive Christ during the team visit. — Edited from a report by Louie Hailey Jr. ■



PLAYING LONDON Bridge is falling down are children in a poor community in Managua, Nicaragua. Forming the bridge with upraised arms are, from left, Jennifer Fisher and Katie Penny.

Two Rivers Church leads evangelism effort in Rio

By Don Davis
For "The Macedonian Call"

It was early Monday morning, Sept. 18, when the plane carrying 64 Tennessee volunteer missionaries began to settle over Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It brought back memories flooding back to my mind of former trips in 1998 and 1999.

It was obvious each time we went that: God called us; God went before us and prepared the hearts of people; God made the plan and provided the resources; and God provided the joy and celebration for those who participated in his work.

On every trip we have worked with new volunteers, some who left their comfort zones for the first time. It was a thrill to watch God stretch them, and use them in ways that they never used their talents.

Accountants, architects, and warehouse workers who had never preached were sharing God's love from the pulpits of churches all over Rio de Janeiro, and people whose hearts were so obviously changed were responding to God's call.

One of our team members

told me during a training session that he was willing to do anything except sing. When he went into homes with his Brazilian volunteer, he was asked to sing songs in English, not once, but many times. God does provide when we are willing to step out in faith.

It was like a Homecoming to meet pastors, missionaries, and interpreters from past trips and the pastors and the interpreters for our new assignment. We were divided into teams of three to four to serve each church.

It was apparent during the morning prayer and sharing sessions that while some churches were experiencing great victories other churches were struggling with spiritism and oppression in their areas.

Every volunteer and thousands of Two Rivers church members back home in Tennessee were praying and God overcame those oppressions. Some of our Brazilian teams held street meetings, spoke in high schools and English classes, used puppets and mime with children, and ministered in many other ways.



LEADING a Bible study are Tennesseans, second from left, Lois Catanzaro, member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville.

Our church assignment Fountain Baptist Church had 250 members and its mission had 50 members. The pastor Joao Luiz had been pastor of the church for 12 years. The Evangelism Committee had arranged visits during the morning, afternoon, and evening up until church time.

The people were warm and gracious. After sharing in so many homes of humble provision we found ourselves entering an exclusive apartment complex with armed guards and a security gate.

The maid who had

arranged the visit introduced us to a retired police official and his wife. As we shared the gospel, the Holy Spirit filled the room and both the man and his wife were saved.

The church services each night were led by praise teams and were expressions of joy and praise. I had the privilege of sharing the pulpit with a new volunteer who will be preaching in many more mission settings in the future.

During the week the pastor recorded 80 professions of faith in the church and 20 more in the mission. ■

IMTI set Feb. 2-3 in Jackson

For "The Macedonian Call"

An International Missions Training Institute will be held Feb. 2-3 at the Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist Association office in Jackson.

The Institute is designed to equip mission volunteers for cross-cultural ministry around the world.

The Institute will offer prayer, praise, music, and testimony; Biblical basis of missions; strategic utilization of volunteers; international travel tips; culture shock survival guides; and sights, sounds and foods of other countries. Other highlights will be how world-view helps or hinders ministry; how to share your missions ministry experience; and developing personal testimonies to share across cultures.

The institute starts at 6 p.m. Friday with an international meal. Training continues through Saturday afternoon.

To attend the Institute make reservations by Jan. 19. For information contact Terry Sharp, TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team leader, at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7935 or email him at tsharp@tnbaptist.org. ■

The Macedonian Call

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Projects				
Rio de Janeiro	PM42001904	250 teams are needed to do personal evangelism with teams of a preacher, musician, and layperson.	8/5-14	500
Rio de Janeiro	Medical	Volunteers to conduct medical clinics.	10/5-14	100
Rio de Janeiro	Construction	Volunteers to build chapel.	5/18-27	12-15
Portugal Projects				
Algarve	PM12001115	Group to do concerts, talent shows, drama, while targeting college students for a week.	2/28-5/15	10
Algrave	PM12001104	Gospel choir to perform concerts in the Algarves for a week.	2/28-5/15	20
Bombarral	PM12001126	Volunteers to prayerwalk in Central/West Portugal.	4/1-10	4
Bombarral	PM12001129	Street evangelism through art.	7/14-28	4
Faro	PM12001102	Prayerwalking team in southern Portugal for a week.	2/28-5/15	10
Faro	PM12001103	Prayerwalking team for the Faro area for a week.	2/28-5/15	10
Lisbon	PM12001107	Lisbon 2001 seeks to involve 100 youth in self-contained teams of 12. Teams could serve in creative ministries, sports clinics, ESL, BYBC, light construction, or prayerwalking.	6/30-7/9	teams of 12
Lisbon	PM12001101	Prayerwalking team for the Lisbon area.	5/20-28	6
Lisbon	PM12001100	Prayerwalking team for the Lisbon area.	9/4-12	6
Porto	PM12001110	Team to do Bible distribution in the Porto area.	5/5-12	8
Porto	PM12001111	Prayerwalking team for the Porto area.	4/14-21	8
Porto	PM12001112	Prayerwalking team for the Porto area.	9/14-22	8
Porto	PM12001105	Hold basketball clinics and play exhibition games.	7/13-22	8
Porto	PM12001106	Hold baseball clinics and play exhibition games.	7/20-29	8
Canada Projects				
Calvary, AB	01MID005	College students to conduct VBS and evangelism with youth.	7/6-14	2
Cochrane, AB	01CCSB001A	Evangelism outreach activities at the World Track and Field Games.	8/1-8	1-200
Cochrane, AB	01CCSB001B	Evangelism outreach activities at the World Track and Field Games.	8/7-14	1-200
Edmonton, AB	01MID004	Conduct VBS and survey work.	7/20-27	15-20
Edmonton, AB	01MID003	Team to conduct sports camp with Arabic and Sudanese community.	open	5-10
Seba Beach, AB	01MID002	Conduct VBS first week and BYBC second week.	7/1-14	3
Creston, BC	01ALP008	Teams needed weekly to do survey, concerts, block parties, and BYBC.	6/3-8/31	1-50
Keromenos, BC	01ALP005	Teams needed weekly to do survey, concerts, block parties, and BYBC.	6/3-8/31	1-50
Oliver, BC	01ALP006	Teams needed weekly to do survey, concerts, block parties, and BYBC.	6/3-8/31	1-50
Okanagan Fall, BC	01ALP004	Teams needed weekly to do survey, concerts, block parties, and BYBC.	6/3-8/31	1-50
Osoyoos, BC	01ALP007	Teams needed weekly to do survey, concerts, block parties, and BYBC.	6/3-8/31	1-50
Penticton, BC	01ALP003	Teams needed weekly to do survey, beach ministry, block parties, and BYBC.	6/3-8/31	1-100
Victoria, BC	01CAP001	Children's outreach and minor repairs to church.	7/1-8	15-20
Victoria, BC	01CAP002	Team to conduct sports camp for ages 11-16.	8/11-18	15
Westbank, BC	01ALP009	Volunteers to do servant evangelism for new congregation.	6/10-17	5-15
Westbank, BC	01ALP010	Assist church in outreach during a parade.	6/26-7/2	5-15
Westbank, BC	01ALP011	Assist in Kid's Club/VBS in local community park.	7/7-14	5-15
Westbank, BC	01ALP012	Assist with children and youth sports camps.	7/20-28	5-15
Westbank, BC	01ALP013	Recreation and sports camp for grades 7-12.	8/25-9/1	5-15
Halifax, NS	01ATL010	Conduct two-day marriage enrichment seminar.	3/1-5	2-6
Halifax, NS	01ATL011	Conduct Easter musical/drama.	4/12-17	20-30
Halifax, NS	01ATL013	Conduct sports camp for ages 7-12.	7/7-14	5-30
Halifax, NS	01ATL008	VBS, block parties, and literature distribution.	7/14-21	12-15
Halifax, NS	01ATL012	Conduct music evangelism camp.	7/22-28	10-40
Halifax, NS	01ATL016	Conduct Christmas drama outreach.	12/23-28	5-30
Scarborough, OT	01ONT001	Conduct VBS in a English speaking, Filipino church.	7/1-7	5-10
Charlottetown, PEI	01ATL001A-K	Construct building that will house summer and long-term missionaries. Teams needed weekly.	6/10-8/25	1-100
Charlottetown, PEI	01ATL003	Teach missions education to senior adults.	7/7-14	6-10
Georgetown, PEI	01ATL007	Team to do painting/finishing work and conduct VBS.	7/14-21	8-10
Prince Albert, SK	01NOR002	Help promote and participate in Gospel Jamboree 2001.	8/6-13	10-20
Long-term Opportunity				
Ottawa, OT	01CCSB005	Volunteer to work with church planting team to minister to four university campuses.	9/2001-4/2002	1
Toronto, OT	01CCSB007	Volunteer to minister to college students at York University.	9/2001-4/2002	1
Halifax, NS	01CCSB006	Volunteer to work with church planting team to minister to several colleges/universities.	9/2001-4/2002	1
Moose Jaw, SK	01CCSB004	Volunteer to minister to high school, college students.	9/2001-4/2002	1
Montreal, Quebec	01QUE003	Ministry Coordinator in a lower socioeconomic neighborhood of Montreal.	7/2001-7/2002	1
Summer Opportunity				
Montreal, Quebec	01QUE002	Volunteers to minister on one or two university campuses.	8/15-12/15	1-4
Saskatchewan	01CCSB003	Volunteers to work with area churches conducting BYBC, surveying, evangelism and Bible studies.	6/4-8/15	4
Winnipeg	01CCSB002	Volunteers to work with churches conducting programs for youth.	6/4-8/15	4

Tennessee Projects

East Tennessee

- ◆ **Benton** — Teams of 10-50 needed each weekend starting June 8 to do weekend resort ministry, greeting rafters at hospitality site, beach reach, and BYBC at local campgrounds. Teams of 10-50 needed June 10-15, June 17-22, July 29-Aug. 3 and Aug. 5-10 to clean up, repair roofs, paint, light carpentry, and visitation for low-income senior adults and single-parent families. Teams of 10-15 needed June 10-15, June 17-22, July 29-Aug. 3 and Aug. 5-10 to do day camps/BYBC at apartment complexes, mobile home parks, area churches and community centers. Also senior adult ministry will be done. Contact: Debbie Brock, Camp Agape, 423-338-4153.
- ◆ **Cleveland** — Teams of up to 15 needed weekly starting June 11 to conduct BYBC, creative family worship, hospitality ministries, field day events, and sports clinics. A team is needed to do games, clowning, face painting, and patriotic concert at God and Country Festival July 4. Contact: Chris Stewart, Ocoee Resort Ministries, 423-476-5493.
- ◆ **Elizabethton** — Teams of 2-20 to do home repairs for the elderly, disabled or single-parent families. Dates are open. Teams of 10-20 needed weekly starting June 10 to staff children's day camps in the morning and provide BYBC in the evenings with local churches. Teams of 10-20 needed weekly starting June 10 to provide BYBC at Roan Mountain State Park in the mornings and community improvements, or evangelistic events in the evenings. Contact: Becky Brummitt, Hale Community Ministries, 423-547-2560.
- ◆ **Gatlinburg** — Teams of 25-40 needed June 17-23 and July 1-7 to conduct daycamps in the morning and family evening programs in area campgrounds.
- ◆ **Townsend** — A team of 5-10 needed weekly starting July 1 to conduct a daycamp in the morning and a variety of evening programs at the campground. Contact: Bill Black, Smoky Mt. Resort Ministries, 865-436-4076.
- ◆ **Jefferson City** — Teams of 10-15 needed weekly starting June 3 to remodel homes of low-income families. Contact: Shannon Washam, Appalachian Outreach, 865-475-5611.
- ◆ **Knoxville** — At least 3-5 teams needed each week to conduct BYBC in surrounding church area. Dates: June-July. Team of 15-20 to help conduct VBS June 17-24. Contact: Duncan Carver, Fort Hill Baptist Church, 865-577-7333 or 524-2398. Volunteers needed year round to work at the Knox Area Rescue Ministry and do home repairs for low-income families. BYBC could also be done. Team of 10-20 needed to do VBS in multi-housing community. Dates: July 8-13. Contact: Carol Webb, 865-693-9097.
- ◆ **Morgan/Roane County** — Teams of 6-10 needed weekly June and July to conduct VBS in multi-housing areas. Contact: David Acres, 865-882-6446.
- ◆ **Rutledge** — Teams of 10 to do campground/recreational ministry to Anglo and Hispanics. Dates: Starting June 24.
- ◆ **Grainger County Baptist Association** — needs someone who is experienced with website creation. Contact: Dennis Cagle, 865-828-4001.

Middle Tennessee

- ◆ **Nashville** — Team of 8-10 needed July 15-20 to conduct Adult Bible Study, music, and crafts at local Women's prison. Contact: Linda Knott, 615-883-2186. Teams needed to help build new church facility, sanctuary and education space. Contact: Jess Love, Concord-Grandview Baptist Church, 615-941-2293.
- ◆ **Pulaski** — Team of 10 to conduct BYBC June 3-8 in the community along with surveying the community and leading youth worship services. Contact: Doug Plumlee or Lewis Thomas at 931-363-3584.

West Tennessee

- ◆ **Galloway** — Team to do various remodeling projects for church facilities. Contact: Karen Granewald, 901-867-7259.
- ◆ **Humboldt** — Team of 10 to conduct BYBC in low-income housing area June 3-9. Contact: Helen Fisher at FBC, Humboldt, 901-784-1786.
- ◆ **Jackson** — Teams of 10-40 needed weekly starting June 11 to do home repairs for the elderly and needy, and assist small churches with BYBC in low-income housing communities. Contact: Amy Brady, Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist Association, 901-668-5690. Spanish speaking team of 6-10 is needed to do survey work in several Hispanic neighborhoods. Contact: Brad White, Poplar Heights Baptist Church at 901-668-2425.
- ◆ **Milan** — Team of 5-10 needed July 8-14 to conduct BYBC in housing community. Contact: Mike Kemper, 901-855-1202.
- ◆ **Memphis** — Team needed June 17-23 to do remodeling work on church. Contact: Jonathan Bradley, True Fellowship Baptist Church, 901-398-3332. Teams to help with community outreach doing BYBC, survey work, sport clinics, clowning, etc. Dates: July 7-14. Contact: Rick Wilburn, Leawood Baptist Church, 901-324-7169. Team to paint and repair roof. Also need a team to conduct conference for church members on "How to Develop a Puppet Ministry." Dates: open. A team is also needed to conduct VBS June 25-29. Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, Monument of Love Baptist Church, 901-565-8030. Volunteers needed year round to: coach boys or girls sports teams in inner city setting; enter a one-on-one mentoring relationship with women moving from welfare dependency to self-sufficiency; and enter a one-on-one mentoring relationship with youth boys and girls, grades 6-9. Contact: Sam Wilson, Brinkley Heights Baptist Church, 901-458-0617. Volunteers needed year round in food pantry serving individuals in need of emergency food assistance. Contact: Ken Hardin, BHBC, 901-754-0272. Volunteers needed: single male to live in inner-city church and assist with activities of residential discipleship program for men, June-August; health care professionals needed weekly or weekends to do health education and screenings in inner-city churches; and brick masons for church facility. Contact: Wrex Hauth, International Baptist Church, 901-835-4654.

Las Vegas, Nevada

- ◆ **Spanish Speaking Team** — 1-10 needed to work with Hispanic pastor in doing community outreach efforts. Dates: spring or fall.
- ◆ **Block Party** — Volunteers to prayerwalk neighborhoods, play games, cook/serve food, pass out literature, do one-on-one evangelism. Performance groups, singers, puppet teams, face painters, balloon artists, clowns are also needed. Dates: each weekend in June and July.
- ◆ **Flea Market Evangelism** — Volunteer/teams are needed weekly from Jan. 5-May 27 and Sept. 1-Dec. 30 to do creative arts such as singing ensembles, puppet teams, and face painting, and one-on-one evangelism.
- ◆ **Multi-Housing VBS** — Volunteers/teams needed each week in March to prayerwalk, do flyer distribution, conduct VBS in over 40 apartment complexes, conduct block parties, and go door-to-door to facilitate thorough follow-up.
- ◆ **VBS/BYBC** — Volunteers/teams needed weekly starting May 14 to prayerwalk, do canvas neighborhoods, conduct morning VBS and evening BYBC, conduct block parties and facilitate follow-up.

For more information about the above projects, call Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021.

Union bestows highest service recognition to Jackson resident

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Ramona Mercer, a retired missionary and member of Calvary Baptist Church here, recently was awarded Union University's highest service recognition, the Robert E. Craig Service Award.



UNION UNIVERSITY President David S. Dockery presents the Robert E. Craig Service Award to retired missionary Ramona Mercer, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson.

Mercer, retired from the SBC International Mission Board, served as a missionary in Japan with her late husband Dewey for more than 38 years.

"Mrs. Mercer's life is characterized by service," said Union President David S. Dockery during the university's 2000 winter graduation ceremony.

"Since her retirement, she has continued to serve the Lord Jesus Christ faithfully in vari-

ous ways, particularly here at Union University," he continued.

Mercer is the third recipient of the Craig Award, which was established in 1998 by the board of trustees. The award is named for Union's 13th president, who led the school for more than two

decades and led the relocation effort to the current campus. ■

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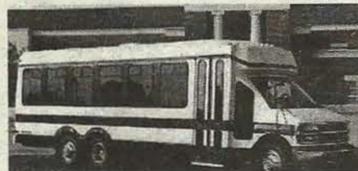
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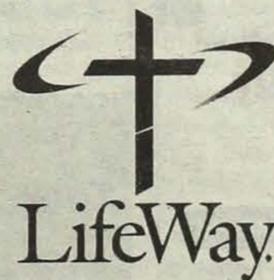
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MINISTRIES — OTHER

Cordova Retreat and Conference Center is receiving resumes for manager of operations. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Shelby Baptist Association, 795 Rock Point Rd., Cordova, TN 38018.

Children's ministries director. Growing South Georgia church. Must have a love for the Lord and children. Oversee comprehensive ministry, birth through 6th grade. Send resume to Children's Minister Search Committee, FBC Tifton, 404 Love Ave., Tifton, GA 31794.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Walker Memorial Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn., is seeking a full-time associate pastor. Please submit resume for this position to Walker Memorial Baptist Church, 1350 West Main St., Franklin, TN 37064, Attn. Personnel Committee.

MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

Westwood Baptist Church, 2200 Peerless Rd, Cleveland, TN 37311, is seeking aggressive and innovative minister of education. Now relocated to new 55-acre campus, averaging about 1,200 per Sunday. Send resume in care of Steve Stewart or fax (423) 339-5669.

Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of education. Candidates are expected to have an undergraduate or seminary degree in religious education or related field. Prior experience is required, full-time or part-time experience is acceptable. Compensation package includes full benefits. Please send resumes to Personnel Committee, Central Baptist Church, 201 W. 4th St., Corbin, KY 40701.

MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Growing church is seeking a full-time youth/education minister to lead and develop program reaching our community for Christ. Must be Christ-led and have a passion for youth and education. Candidate must have 3-5 years experience in this bivocation and at least 3 years college or seminary training. Degree preferred. Church located close to Nashville. Please send resume Attn. Personal Committee, P.O. Box 10, LaVergne, TN 37086 or email at bobmel@dellnet.com.

Growing SBC church seeks innovative, dynamic minister of youth. Full-time experience required. Seminary degree preferred. Great salary and benefits package. Send resume by Jan. 31 to First Baptist Church, 164 Dalton St., Ellijay, GA 30540, e-mail: fb-cellijay@ellijay.com.

Eastview Baptist Church, Huntingdon, is seeking a youth minister. Please submit resume for this part-time position to Eastview Baptist Church, 4700 Veterans Dr. N., Huntingdon, TN 38344, Attn. Personnel Committee.

CHURCH STAFF Money Management and Special Planning Skills Retreat

DATE: March 2-3, 2001

LOCATION: Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville

TIME: Friday, 1 p.m.- Saturday, Noon

DATE: March 30-31

LOCATION: Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville

TIME: Friday, 1 p.m.- Saturday, Noon

Pastors, church staff members, and their spouses are invited to a retreat that will strengthen the finances of your family. The retreat will provide an opportunity for you to gain the skills you need to better manage your family's resources, grow in your understanding of investing, increase your insights into long-range financial planning, and interact with workshop leaders who are experts in these disciplines.

Conference leaders are Bo Childs, president, Tennessee Baptist Foundation and certified financial planner; Gary Coltharp, vice president, Tennessee Baptist Foundation and a financial planning specialist; Richard Skidmore, ministry specialist in Church Ministers Financial Support of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and frequent workshop leader in long-range financial planning; and Archer Thorpe, ministry specialist in Church Administration and Stewardship Development of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and frequent leader of Christian Money Management Workshops.

Those who attend must bring their spouse and attend all sessions together. Registration deposit must be received by Feb. 7.

The TBC, through the Cooperative Program, will provide motel accommodations at the State Park Inn and meals in the State Park Inn Restaurant, beginning at the evening meal on Friday through lunch on Saturday. You will provide your own travel expenses and a \$50 deposit that will be fully refunded after attendance at the retreat.

For questions, call 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2017, or fax (615) 371-2014. We will mail preparation materials when you register.

Please mail \$50 deposit, made payable to the
Tennessee Baptist Convention, to:
Archer Thorpe
P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024



Parents TV group urges protest of 'Temptation Island'

NASHVILLE — The Parents Television Council is calling for a protest aimed at the Fox network over a show which debuted recently, "Temptation Island."

PTC founder L. Brent Bozell III, in a Jan. 4 statement, described the premise of the show — "to break up relationships for fun" — and said it is "another example of how America today views the pain of others as cheap entertainment." A separate advisory issued by the Los Angeles-based PTC states:

"Continuing to gleefully push

television standards lower, the Fox network has been running promo spots for 'Temptation Island.' For those of you not in the know, Island is a 'reality-based' program in which the objective is for seducers to break up seriously committed relationships.

"One provocative Fox promo hails 'Temptation Island' as 'the most daring reality show ever ... [the couples] thought it was a game ... they didn't know how far it would go.' One female seducer warns, 'This could rip two people apart,' while an attached male confesses, 'I really didn't expect this level of temptation.'"

"It is apparent to me that Fox was not being honest," Bozell said, "when it claimed to have learned its lesson from last year's 'Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire' disaster. It has now sunk even lower with its newest reality-based show, 'Temptation Island.'"

The Parents Television Council has called for protests to be directed to the Fox network via Gail Berman, Fox Entertainment, 10201 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035. The telephone number is (310) 369-1000;

e-mail, askfox@foxinc.com.

PTC's website, which includes names of advertisers on various programs, is www.parentstv.org.

SBC President James Merritt also wrote the Fox network Jan. 8 and asked them to reconsider airing the program. ■

Former SBC leader Kenneth Chafin dies

Baptist Press

HOUSTON — Kenneth Chafin, former pastor and Southern Baptist Convention leader, died Jan. 3 of leukemia at St. Luke's Hospital here. He was 74.

Chafin was director of evangelism for the SBC's former Home Mission Board from 1969-72; a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., 1965-69 when he held the Billy Graham chair of evangelism, and returning there as a preaching professor from 1984-87; and as a professor of evangelism and preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, from 1957-65. He also served as pastor of churches in Houston and Louisville. ■

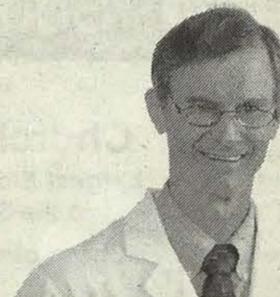
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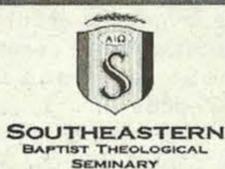
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Church Pews. Cumberland Homesteads has church pews for sale: 12 at 7 1/4 ft; 24 at 12 ft; 2 at 14 1/2 ft; 2 at 17 ft. Call Donna Haskins, (931) 484-5523, for details.

The Baptist and Reflector has several softcover copies of the book *Contending for the Right to Know, a History of the Southern Baptist Press Association, 1895-1995* available for \$2. Contact the B&R office at (615) 371-2003.

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

First Baptist Church, Martin, is seeking a person to fill the position of minister of music. The church has an aggressive music program with more than 400 persons enrolled in its age-graded choir program. The candidate must have a degree at either the undergraduate or graduate level in music, music education, or a related field. He must have a proven track record of competency in conducting multiple choirs, administering an age-graded choir program utilizing multiple volunteers, and orchestrating musical arrangements for a variety of musical instruments. First Baptist Church is a multigenerational congregation in a rural-urban university setting. The church actively supports and cooperates with the Beulah Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention. Please submit recommendations to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 289, Martin, TN 38237.

Church prayerfully seeking full-time or part-time minister of music/youth. Please send resume to New Life Baptist Church, 1185 Shackelford Rd., Florissant, MO 63031. Attn: Pastor Tim McIntyre. Phone: (314) 837-0626.

FT Director, Music Ministries sought. Auburn UMC, (3,000 mem./1,800 avg. attendance) seeks qualified person to oversee music program working with chancel choir, orchestra, college choir (recruiting, training, developing). Auburn UMC is University Church, tremendous potential for dynamic, well-rounded music program. Send resume to Auburn United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 3135, Auburn, AL 36831-3135; fax: (334) 826-8922; e-mail: johnw@aumc.net.

MINISTRIES — OTHER

The Loudon County Baptist Association is now accepting resumes for a director of missions. Please mail to Search Committee, Loudon County Baptist Association, 814 Webb Circle, Lenoir City, TN 37771. Deadline for accepting resumes is Feb. 15.

Seeking experienced enthusiastic, spirit-filled worship leader for blended services (325 average attendance). Seminary preferred. Send resume and video to First Baptist Church, 105 N Main St., Piedmont, AL 36272.

minister's corner

by John E. Pennington Jr.

ning again." That's the very essence of the Gospel. And it isn't only true of initial beginnings.

It's obvious enough when someone is beginning one's walk of faith that what we have here is a new beginning. But it doesn't end there. The Christian walk is a lifetime of "falling down and getting up" when we don't live up to what we promised we would do and be.

No one has done it perfectly in life, but some have certainly shown remarkable growth through the years. The way they have done that is to learn from their mistakes and to allow God to mend them and make them better for the future.

Like anything else in life, it's first the seed and then the plant and then the flower. Nothing just appears full grown. Even so, you and I are put here to grow, to learn from our mistakes, and to start over again and again when we have failed, never giving up, never being disqualified as though we are participating in a spelling bee where it's one chance and you're out.

Jeremiah's image of a potter with clay is more of the correct image of how you and I relate to God and to the future. Therefore, I invite you to join with me together at this place in devoting ourselves to learning from the past and growing toward the future and what we can yet be in the marvelous mercy of God.

Happy new chance! It is there when you need it most. ■ — Pennington is senior pastor of West Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville.

just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Memphis



Start With a Smile: Little girl to grandfather: "Grandy, did God make you?" Granddaddy: "Yes, honey, he did." Little girl:

"Did God make me?" Granddaddy: "Yes, honey, he made you too." Little girl (looking at herself in mirror, then at her granddaddy): "Grandy, God's doing a lot better job lately, isn't he?"

Take this Truth: Beauty is as beauty sees — especially in small minds even if they're in older bodies. Self esteem is important, but so is humility.

Memorize this Scripture: "I say to every man ... not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." — Romans 12:3

Pray this Prayer: Lord, help me to have self esteem, but not conceit. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

- January**
- 16 — Pray for Doug and Janet Watkins, IMB missionaries to Brazil, who recently celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary in Rio de Janeiro. Ask God to bless them as they adjust to a new home and ministries.
 - 17 — Pray for Randy and Mary Ann Gallaway, student directors for a new church start in Oakville, Ontario, Canada.
 - 18 — Pray for Scott and Sandra George, IMB missionaries to Portugal, who are members of the youth team.
 - 19 — Pray for Steve Fish, new pastor of First Church of Saskatoon, Saskatoon, Canada.
 - 20 — Pray for IMB missionary family to Brazil, Eddy, Brenda, and Hannah Hallock, all of Rio, as they are on stateside assignment.
 - 21 — Pray for Norman and Gunita Harrell, IMB missionaries to Portugal, who work in language missions in Portimao.
 - 22 — Pray for God's Grace Vietnamese Church in Delta, British Columbia, Canada that they will have open hearts to reach out to non-Christians.
 - 23 — Pray for two new worship services started last month in Lagos, Portugal.

Victorious living

By Jerry C. King

Focal Passage: Matthew 3:13-4:11

The record of Jesus' baptism by John follows the account of John's call to repentance and his announcement of the coming Messiah. After Jesus was baptized, he went into the wilderness to be tempted before he began his public ministry. Jesus resisted the temptation to bypass the cross and his redemptive mission by refusing to adopt personal convenience, the abuse of power, and worldly methods. The key verse in today's lesson is Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" The lesson today is to enable you and me to resist Satan's temptations to disobey God's plan and purpose concerning our lives.

Many believers are unwilling to sacrifice to fulfill God's plan and purpose for their lives. Today's culture encourages adults to place personal convenience above the plan and purpose God has for each of us. We are all tempted, but, unlike Jesus, we yield to those daily temptations.

Affirmation of obedience (ch. 3, vv. 13-17). In or around AD 26/27 Jesus realized the time for his public ministry had arrived. He traveled from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. Jesus, God's son, being baptized ... the Spirit of God descending like a dove ... and a voice from heaven shows the presence of all three persons of the trinity. The voice from heaven affirmed, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." The father's pleasure in Jesus arose from his beloved status along with the beginning of his formal ministry.

Temptation to personal convenience (ch. 4, vv. 1-4). The next event was connected with the spiritual high of Jesus' baptism. Jesus was immediately led by the Spirit to face a period of fasting and temptations in the desert. The Greek word *peirazo* means either "to tempt" or "to test," based on the context of its use. In verse one it is translated tempted because Satan was the one enticing Jesus to act according to his will rather

than according to God's will. Jesus was tempted after fasting 40 days and 40 nights. There is probably greater significance to Jesus' fast than that of the Jews.

In a sense, Jesus is representative of the new Israel. Jesus was hungry. While he was in a weakened condition, the tempter came to him. That is always the game plan of the devil. He comes to you and me when we are the weakest.

For each temptation, Jesus used the perfect passive verb to express "it is written." Christians need to resist Satan's temptation of taking the way of personal convenience and attempting to achieve what they think is God's plan for them through shortcuts, no matter what their motives are.

Temptation to abuse of power

(vv. 5-7). In this passage, the devil dared Jesus to jump from the highest point of the temple, some 450 feet high. Such a miracle would identify Jesus as God's son. The devil even quoted Scripture to make the temptation more appealing. The devil tempted Jesus to misuse and abuse the power available to him as the son of God.

Temptation to worldly methods (vv. 8-11). This temptation offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he would bow down and worship him. Jesus did not fall prey to the attractions and splendor of the kingdoms of this world. There are many attractions and unsound policies that devalue human life in the form of abortion, assisted, or unassisted suicide. We live in a secular society and culture that promotes this kind of thinking. More alarming, however, is the number of Christians who have been successfully tempted by the devil to join this thinking. Far too many believers have either accepted or remained silent about such issues! Are you willing to resist the temptations of Satan and stand up and speak out? — **Editor's Note: Jerry King suffered a heart attack on Jan. 9. He is now recovering at home. Continue to remember him and his family in prayer.**

Family Bible SS Lesson — Jan. 21

Valuing human life

By Terry Bradshaw

Focal Passages: Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

It is said that a picture paints a thousand words. In some ways that is true. We see on television the starvation of small children in third world countries and demand that something be done about it. We see political leaders intent on solidifying their political power at the expense of human life, and we demand intervention! Our reasoning follows this line of thinking: "The less fortunate neither have the resources nor political clout to defend themselves. So we have a moral obligation to act on their behalf." In our country we see young people and adults alike settling their disagreements at the end of a gun barrel. We, as a people, cry out for state and federal governments to tighten regulations and strengthen laws that such atrocities stop and rightfully so. But, since 1973 in this country alone, approximately 30,000,000 babies have been aborted. The World Health Organization reports approximately 36-53 million abortions occur each year in the world. These statistics raise an important question: who speaks for the unborn? Today's lesson carries us on a journey that suggests that all human life is precious, even the life of the unborn child. Furthermore, it suggests that we, as Christians, have

a moral obligation to stand against those who devalue human life.

Source of life (Genesis 1:27). There are those that believe that we are merely one of many living beings that walk the face of this earth. They think that ultimately there is little difference between the animal kingdom and the human race. We see such attitudes reflected in our society by the way that we treat one another. In many minds human life is expendable if it meets the needs of the greater good. This self-serving attitude is in many ways at the center of the abortion debate — human rights verses human value. It is clear from the Genesis account that man was the crowning moment of God's creation. I see a clear marker between the creation of the animal kingdom and the creation of man. It is only man that was created in the image of God (v. 27). Why would God create us in his image if he did not value human life? Why would he make the distinction if he did not care? It is clear that God intended for man to be unique in the creation process. He equipped man with the ability to relate to one another and, more importantly, to relate to him. This, in itself, teaches that God had special plans when he created man. Life itself possesses a unique value due to the fact that God created man

after his own image. In light of that, Christians everywhere should reflect the attitude of the Psalmist in Psalm 139:14, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works..."

Quality of life (Matthew 5:13-16). To start this section I ask another question: Who will stand for those that have never had the opportunity to stand for themselves (unborn)? Jesus teaches in Matthew that we, as Christians, have been called to be the salt of the earth (v. 13). In the ancient world salt was a precious commodity used mainly in the preservation of food. Salt retarded decay. So we, as the salt of the earth, have been called upon by God to stand against the spiritual and moral decline of our society. Literally, we are to make a difference! Furthermore, it is said that we are the light of the world (v. 14). It is foolish to take a light and hide it behind an obstacle. It doesn't do what it was created to do. So it is with the Christian. We have been called upon by God to light the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are to stand for those that can't stand for themselves. We are to say to the world that God values all human life, even the life of the unborn. — Bradshaw is pastor, First Baptist Church, Bruceton.

Explore the Bible SS Lesson — Jan. 21

leaders

■ **Immanuel Baptist Church**, Lawrenceburg, called **Steve Clark** of Hopkinsville, Ky., as pastor, effective Dec. 1.

■ **West Jackson Baptist Church**, Jackson, has called **Jody Wisor** as minister to college students and single adults.

■ **Windy Rich** of Nashville and **Elmer Bailey** of Memphis, received the Washburn-Piland-Taylor Director's Award from LifeWay Christian Resources recently. The award is for significant contribution to the ministry of Sunday School. Rich is retired minister of education, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, and a Sunday School consultant for Nashville Baptist Association. Bailey is retired minister of education, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

■ **Gary Murphy** was honored Jan. 7 for 20 years of service as minister of activities/administration, Raleigh Baptist Church, Memphis.

■ **Steve Merriweather** and **Scott Foshie** were ordained to the ministry recently by Towering Oaks Baptist Church, Greeneville. Merriweather is pastor, New Foundation Baptist Church, Greeneville, and Foshie is minister of music, First Baptist

Church, Baileyton, and a student at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

■ **James McCluskey**, pastor emeritus, Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, has been called as interim pastor, South Knoxville Baptist Church, Knoxville.

■ **Tom Fethe**, associate pastor/children's minister, Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville, recently celebrated his eleventh year of service.

■ **Randall Lynch** of Lights Baptist Chapel, Greenbrier, has been called as minister of music, Alta Loma Baptist Church, Goodlettsville.

■ **Gary McCaleb**, pastor, of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Orlinda, has been called as pastor, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet.

■ **Jason Lewis** has been called as pastor, New Macedonia Baptist Church, Cookeville.

churches

■ **Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville**, soon will be sending its newsletter by e-mail to members. For more information, contact Deanna@knoxcalvary.com or the church at (865) 523-9419.

■ **Pine Grove Baptist**



THIS BUILDING which was built in 1901, was the site of the centennial anniversary celebration of Three Springs Baptist Church, Whitesburg, Dec. 31. On that day, recognitions included the presentation of a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. The church was begun by 12 people who met in Three Springs School. Sonny Davis is the pastor.

Church, Lexington, will hold revival Jan. 21-24. Brady Weldon will speak.

■ **Fairview Baptist Church, Paris**, will dedicate its new Family Life Center Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. An open house also will be held. For more information, contact the church at (901) 642-2191.

■ **First Baptist Church, Algood**, is sponsoring the showing of the movie "Left Behind" Feb. 2 at High and Cinema, Cookeville.

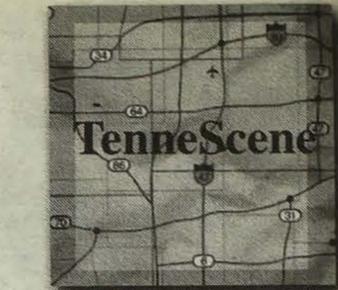
associations

■ **Loudon County Baptist Association**, based in

Lenoir City, will hold an Evangelism Conference Feb. 26 at Highland Park Baptist Church, Lenoir City. Larry Robertson of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff will speak. For more information, contact the association office at (865) 986-2292.

schools

■ The Bible Training Center of **Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy**, Seymour, has been approved as a branch of the Southern Baptist Convention Seminary Extension.



Students may take classes on a non-credit basis and may earn a certificate of completion from the academy. Classes will continue to be held on the HCBA campus. **Bruce Martin**, pastor, Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Strawberry Plains, will serve as coordinator of the center. For more information call the school at (865) 573-8321.

■ **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, broke ground Jan. 12 on two new residence halls. The ceremony served as the official kickoff of a two-year, \$9 million construction and renovation project for the institution. The residence halls will be 21,000 square feet facilities offering three floors of furnished apartment-style residences which will include a living room and kitchen area. Most units will have four single rooms and two bathrooms, while others will contain two single rooms and one bathroom. The two buildings will be located behind the college's music building and face South College Street.

Students with Tennessee ties graduate from Southern Baptist seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Several students with Tennessee ties graduated in December commencement services at Southern Baptist theological seminaries.

Information, including home town and church when available and photos (when provided) were supplied by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Information was not provided from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; New Orleans (La.)

Baptist Theological Seminary; and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Southeastern graduates included Steven D. Neely, Hendersonville, master of arts, counseling ministry; Whitlow E. Chapman, Franklin, and Gregory L. Lauderback, Kingsport, master of divinity; Chanda Malone, McMinnville, master of divinity with Christian education; and John C. Sneed Jr., master of divinity with international church planting.

Southern graduates includ-

ed Frank N. Draper, Mill Springs, Jefferson City; Todd Wilson, South Wood, Memphis; Andy E. Brasfield, First, Alamo; Jennifer K. Henderson, Chattanooga; and Damon W. Billings, Clarksville, master of divinity; Scott Linginfelter, Jefferson City, master of divinity in evangelism, missions, and church growth; Ronnie W. Gay, Smithville; Phillip A. Jones, First, Powell; and Richard Lewelling, West Lonsdale, Knoxville, doctor of ministry.

Southwestern graduates included William Wisor, Mem-

phis; Christina MacBurney, First, Goodlettsville; David Tull, Mt. Gilead, Bethel Springs; Joel Walker, Chattanooga; Lora D. Echols, Loudon; Beth Cochran, First, White Bluff; and Joy Lambert, First, Lewisburg, master of arts in Christian education;

Scott Link, Belle Air, Murfreesboro, master of arts in communications; Rebecca Smith, Faith, Atoka; David Crook, First, Sevierville, master of arts in marriage and family counseling and master of arts in Christian education;

William Stokes, Rocky Hill, Knoxville; William Eubank, Central, Bearden, Knoxville; Mike Lee, Memphis; Bradley Hemsley, Knoxville; master of divinity;

Jeffrey Whitehead, Mt. Lebanon, Maryville; master of arts in church and community ministries; Benjamin Keen, Catherine Elmore, Bayside, Chattanooga; master of music;

Larry Cochran, Walnut Grove, Dickson, diploma and graduate diploma in theology; and James Bell, master of divinity with biblical languages. ■



BRASFIELD



BELL



B. COCHRAN



L. COCHRAN



CROOK



ELMORE



EUBANK



HEMSLEY



HENDERSON



KEEN



LAMBERT



LEE



LINGINFELTER



LINK



SMITH



STOKES



TULL



WHITEHEAD



WYSOR