

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

Volume 167/ Number 5

Statewide Edition

February 7, 2001

Left Behind' in cinemas

## Baptist churches in state sponsor, promote movie

Connie Davis  
for Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Eight Tennessee Baptist churches are sponsoring the showing of the movie "Left Behind," which opened Feb. 2 in theatres around the state.

The movie, based on the best-selling book *Left Behind* by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, depicts the end of the world as described in the book of Revelation in the Bible, including the rapture of Christians, resulting chaos, and emergence of an anti-Christ.

### In Nashville

Hermitage Hills Baptist Church here paid \$6,000 to bring "Left Behind" to two theatres for at least 14 days beginning Feb. 2. The church brought it to Courtyard Cinemas and Opry Mills 20, reported Poly Rouse, pastor.

To take advantage of the opportunity for evangelism, church members manned tables in both theatre lobbies before and after showings, explained Rouse. The workers wore buttons reading, "Ask me about Left Behind." They distributed pamphlets about the movie and the Christian faith, answered ques-

tions of movie goers, and witnessed when given the opportunity.

Workers reported about 200 people attended one showing at a theatre and afterwards college students asked for extra pamphlets to give to friends. Other workers noted although people were not used to meeting anyone in a movie lobby, quite a few accepted pamphlets.

Church members plan to serve in the theatres before and after each showing, reported Billy Moorefield, associate pastor of adult ministries.

Theatre owners gave permission for Baptists to work in the lobbies, but warned them not to move into the mall at Opry Mills 20 and not to work in the parking lots.

Rouse discovered the need for a sponsor when he investigated on a web site the possibility of showing the movie in



MEMBERS OF Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, from right, Barbara and Anthony Westbrook visit with people entering a theatre at Opry Mills 20 Feb. 3 to see "Left Behind." The couple also hands out pamphlets which explain the Christian faith.

the church. He discovered in December the movie had no sponsors in Nashville. The church's missions committee had the funds and chose to invest in the project, said Rouse.

To promote "Left Behind," church members including F.A.I.T.H. teams,

have distributed door knob hangers, discount tickets, and flyers which were provided by the movie distribution company. They also asked 12 radio stations to help them promote it.

Rouse hopes for good attendance by — See Baptist, page 3



### TBC, IMB leaders meet

Representatives from the International Mission Board, including two Tennessee trustees, met with representatives of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport, last week to discuss common concerns and issues which have developed recently. The session continued talks initiated by Randy Davis, IMB trustee and pastor, First Baptist Church, Morristown. Davis said he hoped the meeting "could become a model for other state conventions in talking to each other and not about each other." Representatives from both groups expressed a desire for continued communication. Among those present were, from left, Hollie Miller, TBC president and pastor, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville; Terry Sharp, TBC partnership missions specialist; James Porch, TBC executive director; Katherine Fortner, IMB trustee and member, Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville; Davis; and Larry Cox, IMB vice president of the office of mobilization.

## Lottery vote expected this week

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A vote on whether or not to set a referendum for Tennesseans to vote on the lottery in November 2002 could occur as early as Feb. 7.

Last week the Senate held its first vote on SJR 1. The resolution requires three votes, with only the third vote "counting."

The resolution must get 22 votes in order to pass.

In the first vote taken on Feb. 1, the resolution garnered 19 yes votes, 11 no votes, and three abstentions.

At press time Monday the second vote was scheduled to take place that day (Feb. 5) with the final vote to take place Feb. 7.

A letter to alert churches of the status of the lottery issue was mailed last week to every Tennessee Baptist pastor.

The letter was co-signed by Verlon Moore, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board; Hollie Miller, TBC president; James Porch, TBC executive director/treasurer; and Paul Durham, chairman, — See Lottery, page 2

## Gifts to CP set quarterly record

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — During the first quarter of the 2000-2001 Tennessee Baptist Convention fiscal year, which began in November, Tennessee Baptist churches gave a record of \$9,369,102 to the Cooperative Program.

This is an increase of \$639,087 or 7.32 percent over the same quarter of the previous year. The amount also is \$311,454 or 3.44 percent above the budget.

"Truly missions is in the heart of Tennessee Baptists," said James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer. ■

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state/national  
news

## SBC CP giving in January declines; still ahead for year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Giving to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program in January 2001 was 5.70 percent below the total for January 2000, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

A total of \$15,576,822.05 was received in January to support Southern Baptist CP missions and ministries globally and across North America, compared to the \$16,518,423.15 received in January 2000.

For the fiscal year to date, October 2000 through January 2001, CP giving is .29 percent ahead of the same period a year ago, \$59,214,895.73 as compared to \$59,044,455.38.

In designated giving during January 2001, the total of \$19,477,495.88 was 20.82 percent below January 2000's \$24,599,243.22. For the fiscal year to date, designated giving is 13.36 percent below last year's pace, \$29,524,093.72 as compared to \$34,075,815.65.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date receipts of \$59,214,895.73 are \$3,216,100.73, or 105.74 percent, above the budgeted \$55,998,795.00. The monthly receipts showed the \$15,576,822.05 received as 111.27 percent above the budgeted amount of \$13,999,698.75. ■

## Senate confirms Ashcroft for position

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate confirmed John Ashcroft as attorney general Feb. 1 after a vehement campaign against the

nominee that led to charges of religious discrimination from some of his supporters.

Eight Democrats joined all the Republicans to approve their former colleague in a 58-42 vote. Ashcroft served as a senator from Missouri for six years before losing his re-election bid in November.

Ashcroft, a member of an Assemblies of God church, has openly confessed his Christian faith and his desire to apply it to his public life. His opposition to abortion, homosexual rights, certain racial desegregation plans and a federal judgeship for Ronnie White, a black judge from Missouri, were cited as reasons for the opposition campaign, as well as his promotion of policies opposed by strict church-state separationists.

During hearings, Ashcroft, a former Missouri attorney general and governor, pledged to uphold the laws with which he disagreed. ■

## Tennesseans take part in National Prayer Breakfast

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush said Feb. 1 at the National Prayer Breakfast he would not attempt to impose his Christian beliefs on Americans while he is in the White House.

Speaking at an annual event that began in the 1950s, the new president said of the United States, "We do not impose any religion; we welcome all religions. We do not prescribe any prayer; we welcome all prayers. This is the tradition of our nation, and it will be the standard of my administration. We will respect every creed. We will honor the diversity of our country and the deep convictions of our people."

Bush's 13-minute address came before an audience at a Washington hotel that included, as usual, members of Congress from both parties, foreign dignitaries, and religious leaders from around the world.

Bush acknowledged that a president serves people of every faith and of no faith but added,

"Yet I have found my faith helps me in the service to people. Faith teaches humility. ... a recognition that we are small in God's universe, yet precious in his sight. It has sustained me in moments of success and in moments of disappointment. Without it I would be a different person, and without it I doubt I'd be here today."

Sen. Bill Frist, R.-Tenn., delivered the keynote speech at the breakfast.

Rep. Zach Wamp, R.-Tenn., was the master of ceremonies. His pastor, Fred Steelman of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, and Steelman's wife, Becky, were seated at the head table. ■

## Bush establishes faith-based office

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush took the first steps Jan. 29 in an effort to support in unprecedented fashion the social-service work of religious and other charities.

In the second week of his administration, Bush signed executive orders establishing a White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives, as well as centers in five federal departments to remove barriers to religious and other organizations working with government to help the needy.

As expected, Bush's promised action met with criticism from some organizations, especially on church-state grounds. The president attempted to address some concerns in announcing what he called "one of the most important initiatives" of his administration.

"We will encourage faith-based and community programs without changing their mission," Bush said before signing the orders. "We will help in their work to change hearts while keeping a commitment to pluralism."

When there are social problems such as drug addiction and homelessness, "my administration will look first to faith-based programs and community groups, which have proven their power to save and change lives," said Bush, who declared government "will never be replaced" by such charities. "We will not fund

the religious activities of a group, but when people of faith provide social services, we will not discriminate against them."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics Religious Liberty Commission, said he thinks "there are ways to do this that will pass constitutional muster and be acceptable." He said, however, "The devil is going to be in the details." ■

## SBC to conclude with afternoon session

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — A 3 p.m. Wednesday session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will replace the Wednesday evening session, SBC officials have announced.

The SBC annual meeting slated June 12-13 here, will conclude after the 3 p.m. session around 6 p.m.

The 3 p.m. Wednesday session will feature an address by Jarr Dobson, founder of the national Focus on the Family ministry.

Otherwise, the two-day schedule is unchanged, with a reduction in the overall time allotted for the annual meeting, said Jerry Johnson, chairman of the Committee on Organization of Business. ■

## Disaster Relief accepting funds for victims

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief is receiving donations to help victims of recent earthquakes in El Salvador and India, according to State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

Texas Disaster Relief teams are already feeding thousands of victims of the 7.6 — magnitude earthquake Jan. 13 in Santiago de Maria, El Salvador. Four other state convention teams were slated to serve beginning Feb. 3 and continuing through March in cleanup and recovery operations.

"More teams may be needed in the future for El Salvador," Bearden said.

"In the meantime, donations are being taken for the El Salvador Relief Fund."

A Regional Assessment Team will be traveling late this week into India to investigate needs and determine an appropriate response by Southern Baptists to the Gujarat earthquake Jan. 26, which may have claimed over 15,000 lives.

Tennessee Baptists have also established an "India Relief Fund" to help earthquake victims. Donations for both El Salvador and India may be sent To: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. ■

## Lottery vote expected this week ...

— Continued from page 1

subcommittee (of the TBC Executive Committee) to study lottery.

The letter noted: "Quickly, immediately Tennesseans must express their convictions regarding this issue that has the potential to contribute to moral detriment of all Tennessees."

The letter was sent "with the prayer and hope that churches will be more concerned about this matter," Porch told the *Baptist and Reflector*.

The letter also included a mailout with the roll call vote taken by the Senate on Feb. 1. The letter noted "this vote expresses the current intention of senators concerning the lottery issue. While non-binding it expresses their intention."

Tennessee senators voting for the lottery included Blackburn, Cohen, Cooper, Crowe, Crutch-

field, Dixon, Ford, Graves, Harper, Haun, Haynes, Jackson, Kurita, Kyle, Miller, Norris, Rochelle, Trail, and Williams.

Voting against the lottery were senators Atchley, Burchett, Burks, Carter, Elsea, Fowler, Henry, Herron, McNally, Person, and Ramsey.

Not voting were Clabough, Davis, and Wilder.

Though the third vote is set for Feb. 14, history has shown that sometimes the votes are delayed, thus the urgency in contacting senators about the lottery issue.

The letter closed by noting: "There is still time for you to contact your senators and express your concerns. Again, we must emphasize the need for immediate action. Contacts may be made by telephone, e-mail, or direct mail. May we covenant to pray together concerning this matter." ■



# Baptist churches sponsor, promote ...

Continued from page 1  
 movie goes so Christians can  
 and a message to Hollywood  
 at if movie producers will  
 take films for Christian audi-  
 ces, they will be lucrative.  
 and he hopes the showing of  
 e movie "will touch some peo-  
 e's lives who won't go to  
 urch but will go to a movie."

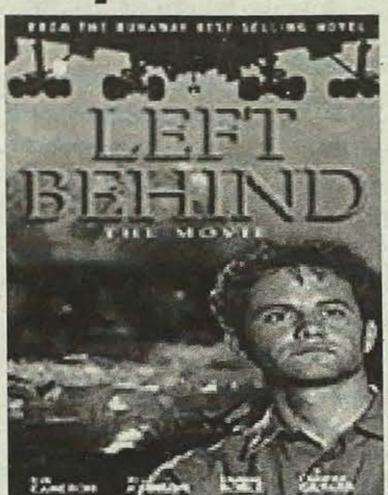
**In Knoxville**  
 John Sevier Baptist Church

here learned about the need for  
 sponsors of the movie last No-  
 vember, reported Tim Cline,  
 pastor. He also was investigat-  
 ing the possibility of broadcast-  
 ing the movie at the church. At  
 that time no other organization  
 had agreed to fund the showing  
 of the film in Knox County.

Cline presented the opportu-  
 nity to the congregation, which  
 has committed itself to pre-  
 senting the Gospel to every res-  
 ident of Knox County. The con-  
 gregation, which has about 120  
 in Sunday School each week,  
 agreed to pay the \$3,000 to  
 bring the film to the Regal Cin-  
 ema at Knoxville Center Mall.  
 It will be offered at least six  
 days beginning Feb. 2.

To promote the film the  
 church also bought radio ad-  
 vertisements and distributed  
 discount tickets door-to-door,  
 Cline said. Also students of the  
 church distributed posters, fly-  
 ers, and discount tickets on the  
 campus of the University of  
 Tennessee and in retail stores.  
 Members hope to give away  
 10,000 discount tickets, said  
 Cline.

On Feb. 4 John Sevier  
 Church cancelled services so  
 members could take friends to  
 see the movie. Cline reported  
 most of the theatre was filled  
 by church members and friends  
 that night and he thinks many  
 members will take other  
 friends during the showing pe-  
 riod. Cline noted many mem-  
 bers have seen the movie on



video and agree with him it is a  
 "good quality film" in addition  
 to being an evangelistic medi-  
 um.

**In Cookeville**  
 A couple who are members  
 of First Baptist Church, Al-  
 good, learned about the need  
 for a sponsor of "Left Behind"  
 in Cookeville and asked the  
 church if it would like to join  
 them as sponsors if they paid  
 the fee. Matt Jones, pastor,  
 and the congregation agreed  
 the project was a worthy one.

Jones said although it was a  
 sacrifice for the couple, who  
 wish to remain anonymous,  
 they paid the \$3,000 fee to  
 bring the movie to Highland  
 Cinema in Cookeville.

Church members have  
 joined in the effort by buying  
 advertisements on cable TV  
 and in a newspaper. Jones has  
 spread the word through let-

ters and phone calls to church-  
 es in Stone Baptist Association  
 based in Cookeville and other  
 churches in the area. And  
 members have traveled to  
 churches in three counties to  
 deliver promotional items.

Also the youth group of First  
 Church, Algood, has distrib-  
 uted discount tickets and flyers  
 in Cookeville high schools.

Church members are "ex-  
 pecting really big results out of  
 this," said Jones.

**In Franklin**  
 The People's Church or First  
 Baptist Church here hosted a  
 Jan. 16 kick-off movie promo-  
 tion event going to seven other  
 cities. The event drew a sold-  
 out audience of 2,000 who paid  
 \$7 each to attend and organiz-  
 ers turned about 700 people  
 away, reported Steve Dycus,  
 director of communications for  
 the church.

The event featured Kirk  
 Cameron and his wife, Chelsea  
 Noble, who star in the movie,  
 and musicians who perform on  
 the movie's soundtrack.

The People's Church was  
 chosen because an executive of  
 Reunion Records of Franklin, a  
 movie sponsor, is a member of  
 the church. The event also was  
 sponsored by Cloud 10 Produc-  
 tions of Brentwood. The church  
 invested about \$2,500 in the  
 event and about 100 members  
 worked as volunteers, said Dy-  
 cus. Also Rick White, pastor,  
 held a commitment service to  
 conclude the gathering. ■

## TBC cancels meetings to be led by Chapman

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — The  
 Tennessee Baptist Conven-  
 tion has canceled the follow-  
 ing events because of the ill-  
 ness of Jerry Chapman, staff  
 member, who has been diag-  
 nosed with pancreatic cancer.

► Spiritual Gifts-Based  
 Ministry Conferences, Feb.  
 27, First Baptist Church,  
 Dandridge, and March 1,  
 Ridgeway Baptist Church,  
 Memphis

► Change and Transition  
 Workshops, April 19-20, Car-  
 son Springs Baptist Confer-  
 ence Center, Newport, and  
 April 26-27, Linden Valley  
 Baptist Conference Center,  
 Linden

For more information, con-  
 tact [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org) or  
 contact Joyce Harvey at 1-  
 800-558-2090, ext. 2040, or  
 (615) 371-2040, or [jharvey@tnbaptist.org](mailto:jharvey@tnbaptist.org). ■

### Sponsors in Tennessee

The following eight Baptist  
 churches were joined by six  
 retail establishments, four  
 other churches, an individ-  
 ual, and the movie's market-  
 ing company as sponsors.

- Calvary Baptist Church, Maryville
- Fairview Baptist Church, Corryton
- First Baptist Church, Hermitage
- First Baptist Church, Winchester
- Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage
- John Sevier Baptist Church, Knoxville
- Pinecrest Baptist Church, Johnson City
- Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville

According to web site [www.leftbehind-themovie.com](http://www.leftbehind-themovie.com)

# Create One



**Ronnie Wilburn**  
 Shelby Association  
 Largest number of new  
 classes added in 2000



**Wayne Perkins**  
 Weakley Association  
 Highest percentage of units  
 started in proportion to the  
 number of churches.

Create One is an emphasis on starting new Sunday School classes and departments in churches which "has long been recognized as a key to growth. To receive a Create One award for a new class or department, contact me." — Mark Miller of the TBC.

## Thanks for all your hard work!

Join the churches in these associations in creating new classes.  
**Associations participating in Create One 2000:** Alpha, Big Emory, Big Hatchie, Bradley, Carroll-Benton, Chillhowee, Clinton, Concord, Crockett, Cumberland Plateau, Duck River, East Tennessee, Gibson, Giles County, Grainger, Hamilton County, Holston, Holston Valley, Jefferson County, Knox, Lawrence County, Loudon County, Madison-Chester, McMinn-Meigs, Nashville, New Salem, Nolachucky, Riverside, Sequatchie Valley, Shelby, Sullivan, Tennessee Valley, Union, Weakley County, Western District, William Carey.

For more information on Create One, contact Mark Miller at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2048, (615) 371-2048, or [mmiller@tnbaptist.org](mailto:mmiller@tnbaptist.org).

## About 1,800 women to attend annual Missions Get-Together

For Baptist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — The annual Missions Get-Together will be held March 16-18 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg. The theme is "Beyond Belief."

Participants will be challenged to go beyond the ordinary in their relationship with God and others and will visit with international and North American missionaries, said Becky Sumrall of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Rhonda Kelley of New Orleans will be the main speaker. Kelley is a teacher, author, speaker, and speech pathologist. She is the wife of Charles Kelley Jr., president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jon and Suzanne Rushing of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, will serve as music and worship leaders.

Conferences will include — Gifts of the Spirit; Prayer; Grief and Loss; Health, Nutrition and Fitness; Sharing Our Faith Cross-Culturally; Parenting a Teenager; Single Parenting; Reaching Non-Christian Family Members; and Caregivers: Caring for Your Aging Parents.

Also a Tutoring Youth and Adult Literacy Workshop will be held March 16-17.

The cost is \$20 per person until March 2 when it goes up to \$25.

For more information, contact Tennessee WMU at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2038 or (615) 371-2038. ■



**KELLEY**



**THE RUSHINGS**

# Tennessee churches cited among most outstanding in nation

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two Tennessee Baptist churches have been cited among the top 600 Protestant and Catholic churches in the nation.

The Parish/Congregation Study, a two-year project by the Lilly Endowment based at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and conducted by nationally-known writer Paul Wilkes, included the top 300 Protestant and top 300 Catholic churches determined to be the "best of the best."

Churches cited were recommended by numerous scholars, pastors, religion journalists, religion professors, and denominational leaders nationwide, according to information supplied by the Parish/Congregation Study staff.

The two Tennessee Baptist churches cited among the top 300 Protestant churches were First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, and Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

Criteria considered in the selection process included:

- > evidence of a joyful spirit where a "habit of being" is nurtured, and a place where people readily come and enjoy being part of the community.

- > a welcoming and accessibility to everyone within its community.

- > innovative, thoughtful worship — alive, appealing, yet reverent.

- > awareness of the diversity of the members; open and willing to adapt to various needs and groups.

- > emphasis on true spirituality and a deep relationship with God, not only social interaction.

- > a place where decisions are made collaboratively, not only by the pastor or a small group of leaders; broad lay involvement is encouraged and expected.

- > teaching and preaching are Scripture-based.

According to an article in the Jan. 28 issue of *The Tennessean*, the study came after two years of research by a small team "who wanted to know what made successful

churches what they are in a time when debate rages about the health of organized religion in a changing, digital culture."

"We wanted to hear about the best of the best," Wilkes told *The Tennessean*.

"What these churches have in common is they talk the language of people's needs, not bureaucracy. Their attitude is: We welcome you on your journey of faith. You can have alcohol on your breath or holy wa-

ter on your breath. We take you as you are."

The list included both large and small churches ranging in membership from 60 to 28,000. ■



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LOUIE GIGLIO



JOEL ENGLE



THE SKIT GUYS

# God's always in control, even through death

## Reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey,  
editor



Last June I wrote about my 85-year-old grandfather, Pop, who appeared to be at death's door.

Though biologically my grandfather, Pop was in the line since of the word my dad. As we say in South Carolina, he raised me." I lived in his home from the time I was born until I moved away from home after college.

Pop survived his ordeal last summer and lived until Friday, Feb. 2, when God finally called him home.

Through the entire process which lasted about eight months, both God and Pop reminded my family of some important lessons or truths.

God reminded us all that he was in control. Last summer not a single doctor or nurse expected my grandfather to live. Most didn't even think he would leave the hospital alive. Yet, he did.

God also reminded us of his grace. He could easily have taken Pop home to heaven on that

day last June. I believe God, however, wanted to give Pop's family time to prepare for his death. Pop comes from a strong line. He has three brothers, all near 80 or above. His dad lived until his mid to late 80s and his mother to her mid 90s. Until that day in June Pop was always active, planting his garden and even climbing on the roof of his house to do some repairs. We looked at him like the Energizer bunny. He just kept on going and going and going.

Pop's brush with death reminded us that he was merely mortal and faced what all of us must face eventually. God's grace also was shown by the fact he enabled our family to get through the final days as we saw Pop wither away to skin and bones, unable to eat or drink.

God reminded us how much he loves us. He allowed us to have Pop for one more Thanksgiving and Christmas. Christmas 2000 will always rank as one of my favorite Christmases because of the memories I have of Pop.

Through the process of dying, Pop also reminded us of some important lessons that he tried to teach all of us over the years.

First, by his actions, he taught us to trust God, not

man. Pop even had to re-learn that valuable lesson after he was released last summer from the hospital. He knew what the doctors were saying. He knew he was not supposed to have survived that ordeal with his heart and basically he thought he was coming home to die. For nearly 80 days, that's what Pop did. He laid around, barely ate, and expected to die any minute.

Then one day, he got up, got dressed, and begin to "live" once again. It was as if God reached down to him and said, "Pop, you will die when I am ready for you to come home. Now, get up and get going." Pop slowly regained his strength and began to move around, first with a walker and then a cane. Always independent, he had to do things for himself.

Pop was a living testimony of faith and courage. Through the entire ordeal, including the last four weeks after a reoccurrence of the problem he had last summer, I never heard Pop question God or complain about his condition. He faced death as he faced his entire life, trusting God to get him through. Pop did not fear death because he knew where he was going — home to heaven.

My aunt, Lynn Wilkey, who, along with my Uncle Bill, Pop's oldest son, led the efforts in

providing care for Pop in his last days and months, wrote the following tribute to Pop entitled "Family Tree." I believe this sums up his life.

"A mighty oak has fallen in the woods.

It was not taken by the woodman's ax.

No easy victory was this stalwart giant big and tall.

'Twas no by man but time and nature made him fall.

His head and shoulders stood above the crowd.

One of a kind, no easy match was he,

And frailer were the ones that grew beneath his shade;

Ah! but what a grand example he made.

A large and barren space now stands where once our guardian stood.

No single thing can fill so huge a space.

Only time and love of God can heal so great a scar,

But we can wait because we know he watches us from afar."

I will miss Pop. He was always there when I needed him.

I have to remember what I told Joanna and Daniel, two great grandchildren who loved Pop deeply: "We're not telling Pop good-bye. We're just saying, 'We'll see you later, Pop.'"

Thanks for the wonderful memories. **B&R**



## CLASSIFIED

### 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.

Walker Memorial Baptist Church is seeking a full-time administrative assistant/financial secretary. Please submit resume for this position to Walker Memorial Baptist Church, 1350 West Main Street, Franklin, TN 37064, Attn. Personnel Committee.

First Baptist Church, Forest City, NC, is seeking a full-time minister of family development whose primary ministry will be education and youth. We are a progressive missions-minded congregation of 900 resident members. We are affiliated with the CBF and SBC. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, FBC, 211 W Main St., Forest City, NC 28043.

Resumes for youth minister, music minister, education, associate pastor, full, part-time or combined positions are being accepted by Sylvia Baptist Church, 1415 Old Sylvania Rd, Dickson, TN 37055 or e-mail leekeaton@aol.com.

### MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

Growing Southern Baptist Church averaging 500+ seeks minister of education. Seminary degree plus 3-5 years related ministry experience. Send to EMSC, 814 Dotson Memorial Rd., Maryville, TN 37801.

### MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Growing church needs a minister of youth/music. Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 246, Silverhill, AL 36576.

# Older, traditional hymns truly stand the test of time

## Heart talk

by James Porch,  
TBC executive  
director



This article may get me in trouble, but, oh well, we'll see.

My travel companions include a series of compact discs containing old Gospel songs and older hymns. Each suffers from the wear and excess of thousands of miles of travel. The music provides opportunities for private worship as someone has said, "along the asphalt ribbons of Tennessee." My affinity for the old songs relates to the fact that they connect me to my heritage. These timeless tunes carry the encumbered privilege of public domain. Each uniquely aids me in recalling vivid and sometimes life changing events.

"Sing Them Over Again To Me" reminds me of "endless" hours of practicing the piano according to my mother's instructions, and after what seemed like hours of playing scales and assorted pieces, I got to play my first learned hymn, "Wonderful Words of Life."

"Tell It To Jesus" takes me back to my father's often told story of how that song sustained him during World War I. In his early 30s, dad accepted the

draft, and as he said, made a trip to Europe at the government's expense. The Atlantic Crossing for every doughboy proved to be a nightmare with constant fear of German submarines and torpedoes. At that time, my dad did not profess to know Jesus Christ as his Savior. However, through the anxiety of the episode, he told of how he recalled his mother singing, "Are You Weary, Are You Heavyhearted, Tell It To Jesus." These were the only words of the hymn he could remember, yet it proved to be enough. Years after returning from the battlefields of France and through the kind and patient witness of my mother, he accepted Christ as his Savior. After I developed some ability to play the piano, he would often come in and say, "Play 'Tell It To Jesus' once again for me."

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus." As I recall, all those verses need to be sung with the absence of any hint of hurry. By the second stanza, I am in a time and a place long ago — summer nights at a Methodist Camp Meeting Ground amid the flicker of lightning bugs, rhythmic chirping of crickets, and later to be borne home in my daddy's arms for a peaceful night of sleep behind unlatched screen doors.

"Oh How I Love Jesus." These simple but poignant melodic phrases echoed through

our home many nights to the rhythmic patting of the bottoms of our two chosen children as we rocked them to sleep. This extended into the time when they could talk and would often request, Daddy or Mommy to sing "Oh." Now, I rock a second generation to the same tune believing that his early understanding of the love of Jesus for Aaron can begin through those words.

"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us." Even a few notes of my college hymn sung at our wedding takes me back to a Saturday night in August 1963 when Lynn Sullivan and I sealed "till death do us part" vows in the beautiful old cathedral sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Nashville. The Shepherd did lead us all the way. I know each hymn maintains the same location on that series of CDs. Yet, I am amazed at how frequently "It Is Well With My Soul" breaks through right on time as just the proper balm for my hurting soul.

Over against these testimonies, maybe my message is a question, "Does our current religious music connect us, and if so, to what?" Yes, I have overwhelming gratitude for much of the new music. I realize time and music change. Still I wonder if we can continue to produce what I call, "Make it music," enabling tunes of words to encourage, honor, and sustain

us through the hard realities of life. I mean no indictment for more contemporary tunes, but at least offer a word of caution. Listen, is it possible we are singing to spiritual fantasies some of which have been illegitimately borrowed from hyped up culture? Music for Baptist churches must be multi-dimensional or at least bi-dimensional. There is the vertical and the horizontal. Our music must connect believers to God and believers to believers through Christ.

I suppose I am appealing for our church music diet. Church musicians, vocationally or volunteer, hold precious responsibility to both lead and respond. Be careful not to succumb to the need to become trendsetters.

There is peer pressure in music. Yet, Scripture challenges us to celebrate the holy absence of imitation in local church life. Each church described in Acts and even the book of the Revelation held precious to the focus of its own uniqueness. The same principle applies to church music.

Now, in summation, let me again say my basic concern is whether or not our church music today is connecting us. Hymns and good Gospel songs require intentional ear time. Their messages transcend any rote-learned beat for they penetrate on through emotions to the stuff called the soul. Thank God! ■

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# Baptists gear up to aid earthquake victims in India

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Christian aid groups were marshaling resources to join in the late-January global response to the most devastating earthquake in India in 50 years.

The official death count, as of Jan. 29, had surpassed 6,200 people in western India.

The earthquake struck the morning of Jan. 26, centering in Gujarat and registering 7.9 on the Richter scale.

A report late last week noted Indian government officials have estimated a final death toll could reach 100,000, with some 500,000 displaced from their homes, and 3.5 million people affected in some way.

Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, has committed an initial \$10,000 to assist immediate relief efforts

and has launched a special appeal for funds.

In addition, a Hungarian Baptist Aid rescue team, affiliated with Baptist World Aid, participated in rescue efforts and were able to rescue two survivors on Jan. 30.

Meanwhile, a Southern Baptist regional assessment team has been dispatched to the area to determine the most pressing needs, such as medical supplies and food, for response.

Gujarat is an area where Christians have suffered in recent years, with churches destroyed and Christians attacked, according to the Baptist World Alliance. There is no known

Baptist group in the state; thus BWAid will be working through indigenous evangelical and ecumenical relief groups, such as the Evangelical Fellowship of India Committee on Relief.

Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said, "Southern Baptists are moving quickly to meet needs in Jesus' name as they attempt to ease the suffering of these dear people." Relief donations may be sent to the International Mission Board General Relief Fund-India earthquake, Nelson

said, noting that 100 percent of all gifts will be used for hunger and relief purposes. The IMB address is P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

BWA's Asian regional secretary, Bonny Resu, likened the devastation to a war zone — "reminiscent of Second World War pictures of bombed-out cities in Europe and Asia, and also to the cyclone-devastated areas of Orissa in October 1999," he reported.

"The greatest need now is for medical personal and medicines" for the thousands who were injured, Resu told the



BWA. Hundreds of thousands have been left homeless. ■

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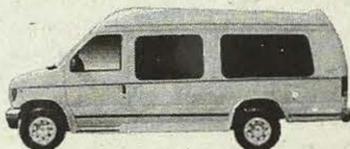
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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## minister's corner

by Pat Van Dyke

Change. It happens. My hair is changing color. My amount of hair is different. My body style is sinking. My body

parts are increasing. On the other hand, my experience is increasing. My knowledge is growing. Prayerfully, I am more like Christ today than when I first accepted Him as my Lord and Savior.

Nature teaches us that the only things that don't change are dead. The orange pine tree in my yard will always be the same height and color (until I cut it down). Water that doesn't flow becomes home to unwelcome insects and germs.

When we go to the new worship center, things will change. We will have new places to worship, praise, and sing. There will be new places to park and sit and fellowship. There will be new routes to learn in walking and getting around. There will be new people for us to encourage and serve.

Some things won't change. We will still be worshipping the same great God. We still find instruction for our beliefs in God's Word. We will still seek to reach the lost and disciple the saved. We will still give of ourselves and our resources to the ministry that God has called us to do.

Or will these change? Our worship can grow deeper. Our knowledge of the Bible can grow as we read His Word daily. We can witness to more lost people and develop Christians to a closer walk with Christ. We can continue to grow in our giving of our talents, abilities, and resources.

What doesn't change? God. His character and love for us never changes. Why? Because he is fully mature. In the shifting sands of life, God is our bedrock foundation. Faith in him will never be disappointed. "Every good gift and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" James 1:17.

Change. It happens to us. It should happen to make us more like Jesus. Are you changing for the better? ■ — Pat Van Dyke is minister of music, First Baptist Church, Marksville.

## just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Memphis



**Start With a Smile:** Grandmother to seven year old Nancy pointing to pictures in a book: "What color is that?" Nancy:

"Red." Grandmother: "What color is that?" Nancy: "Yellow." Grandmother: "What color is that?" Nancy: "Blue." Grandmother: "And what color is that?" Nancy: "Granny, you're old enough to figure out some of these yourself."

**Take this Truth:** A 33-year-old mother said, "You don't mind getting kicked in the face if you're sleeping with your 2-year-old." That's true even with grandmas.

**Memorize this Scripture:** "He saith unto them, 'Come and see.'" — John 1:39

**Pray this Prayer:** Lord, help me to realize the difference that comes when I look at things through the eyes of Jesus. ■

# REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY.

EXODUS 20:8

# Taking Jesus at his word

By Jerry King

## Focal Passage: John 4:43-54

One of the most important attributes of a person is being able to take that person at their word. We no longer live in a world where a person's bond is their word. We do not see contracts executed on a handshake in today's society. The setting for today's lesson is as follows. Soon after the conversation with the woman at the well, Jesus stayed in Samaria for two days, then went to Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. We will explore the truth that faith in believing Jesus can help when there seems to be no evidence to believe. Our key Bible verse is Jesus replied, "You may go, your son will live" (v. 50). The life impact of the lesson today is to help all of us to consistently exercise faith in Jesus even when there seems to be no evidence to believe.



KING

In an encounter with a royal official, Jesus demonstrated that a person can take him at his word. Furthermore, he doesn't have to be physically present to help. Many adults struggle within the feeling that God is distant and that this assumed distance limits his ability to help them. In the biblical worldview, however, the power of Jesus is not confined to his physical presence. Time and distance do not diminish the availability of Jesus' power. To believe that Jesus will indeed do what he has said he will do even though he is not physically present is to take Jesus at his word.

**Faith believes (vv. 43-49).** Believing in Jesus is the central theme of John's Gospel. Some form of the word "believe" appears 98 times. Obviously, John did not want his readers simply to know who Jesus was. His

identity called for a response of faith. The Galileans were wowed by the miracles Jesus did but they did not believe in him. They refused to see that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. So in actuality they had not yet given Jesus the honor he was due.

Jesus went to Cana in Galilee, where he turned the water into wine. A royal official's son was near death in Capernaum. The man met and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son. His faith was incomplete in that he felt Jesus must be physically with him in order to heal his son. People, then as now, were seeking out Jesus only to see the sensational. We know not everything in the official's heart, but we do know that his personal crisis had put him in the position to believe in Jesus.

**Faith acts (vv. 50-52).** Jesus told the official to go and his son would live. Christ's word alone was all the official would get, but it was enough. The official heard Jesus' rebuke loud and clear. He believed without seeing the sign. He had no visible or tangible evidence that what Jesus had said was true. He only had the word of Jesus. You can always take Jesus at his word. What Jesus says is exactly what Jesus will do. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all were that dependable?

**Faith grows (vv. 53-54).** The word live occurs three times in this one account. First, Jesus promised the father his son would live (v. 50). Then, the servants met the official with the news that his son was living (v. 51). Finally, the father reiterated Jesus' promise that his son would live (v. 53). Is there an area in your life where you are struggling to take Jesus at his word? If so, just take it to the Lord and leave it there. — King is a former TBC evangelism ministry specialist.

## Family Bible SS Lesson — Feb. 11

# Responding to the Gospel

By Terry Bradshaw

## Focal Passages: Acts 26:15-23, 26-32

It's true! God can use you in a variety of places and under different circumstances to get the Gospel message out. Not too many years ago, I found myself witnessing to a police officer in the turning lane of a busy highway. I had just been involved in a minor accident, and the officer had been sent to take the report. After the report had been taken, we began to talk in general about church and religion. One could sense that this man needed to talk. I couldn't believe it! Here I stood in the turning lane of a busy highway telling a police officer about Jesus. I'm often reminded how the Lord taught me afresh that night that the Gospel can be presented in less than ideal circumstances. In today's lesson, Paul's circumstance was less than ideal. Jailed for his protection and beliefs, he continued to share his testimony with all that would listen.

**Divine appointment (vv. 15-18).** It was no accident that Paul found himself sharing his testimony. Ananias had foretold in Acts 9:15 that Paul would have the opportunity to see that prediction come true. Paul, being permitted to speak by King Agrippa (v. 1), sought quickly to gain the King's favor. In verse 2 Paul said that he felt "happy" (KJV) or "fortunate" (NIV) to have the opportunity to share his faith with the King. He proceeded in verses 4-12 to

speaking of his Jewish heritage and the depth of his commitment to his Jewish faith. He even described how he received orders from the High Priest to arrest and prosecute those that believed in Jesus.

But one day, he said, something happened. He proceeded to tell Agrippa that he was making his way down the Damascus road to carry out a religious assignment when suddenly a great light from heaven appeared (v. 13). Frightened and startled, he and his fellow travelers fell to the ground. He then heard a voice from heaven saying, "... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (v. 14). His response was simple, "Who art thou Lord?" (v. 15). The Apostle recognized that he was dealing with an authority far greater than himself. The very one that Paul had spoken against was now speaking to him. What a shock that must have been!

The apostle concludes this section by telling of his divine appointment as a minister (servant) and witness (v. 18). Furthermore, Paul's divine appointment was to be accompanied by divine protection (v. 17).

**Definitive Gospel (vv. 19-23).** Paul, in this section, speaks of his obedience to the vision and how he went about commissioning by Jesus to call all men unto repentance (vv. 19-20). Repentance is a complete change of mind about sin, self, and

God. One man stated it this way "... it is an about face from sin and self to God." Paul claimed that this is the real reason the Jews sought to kill him. The Jews considered Paul a traitor or turncoat, and they sought every opportunity to do away with him. Paul maintained that he was preaching nothing more than what had been predicted by the prophets and Moses (v. 22). That was that Christ should come, suffer, rise from the dead, and give forth light for all peoples.

**Disastrous response (vv. 28-32).** The final sections tell of Agrippa's response to Paul's presentation. "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (v. 28). Agrippa was shocked as to how soon Paul excepted him to accept Christianity. Paul responded by saying that it was his heart's desire that all men come to Christ (v. 28).

In closing, our main responsibility in witnessing is the presentation of the Gospel. Paul was faithful in doing what he had been called to do, present Jesus to others. How about you? When was the last time you told someone about Jesus? — Bradshaw is pastor, First Baptist Church, Gleason.



## Explore the Bible SS Lesson — Feb. 11



BRADSHAW

## deaths

■ **Elizabeth Oates**, 70, missionary emeritus to Brazil of Gainesville, Ga., died after a short illness Feb. 1. She was Rio coordinator of the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership and a native of Memphis who served in Brazil for 43 years. Oates considered McLean Baptist Church, Memphis, her home church. She left Brazil in 2000.

■ **James Windham**, 86, of Alcoa, died Jan. 27. He was retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md. In retirement Windham served as interim pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Maryville. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Maryville, two times, and as pastor of four churches in Ga. He was a trustee of the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., and a graduate of Mercer University, Mercer, Ga., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

## leaders

■ **Joe W. Byrd**, pastor,

Bloomington Baptist Church, Kingsport, will be honored April 1 on his 50th anniversary of service at the church. Activities include features during the morning worship service and a reception from 2-4 p.m. in the Christian Activities Center. For more information, call the church at (423) 288-5151.

■ **Ridgedale Baptist Church**, Chattanooga, called **Jim Moore** as interim minister of senior adults, effective Feb. 4.

■ **Trace Creek Baptist Church**, New Johnsonville, has called **Mark Warren** as pastor.

■ **Rodney Hardin**, pastor, Ashport Baptist Church, Ripley, has been called as pastor, Grandview Baptist Church, Maryville.

■ **Twilla Ward** has been called as minister of music, Calvary Baptist Church, Covington.

■ **Dax Hughes** has been called as associate pastor/youth, Gateway Baptist Church, Atoka. **Steve Douglas** has resigned as minister of music of the church.

■ **Bill Poyner**, minister of music and education, First



**MAKING SHELVES** for desks of Christian Women's Job Corps - Nashville are senior adult men of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, from left, James Stevenson, Bill Slagle, and Bill Mullens. CWJC is a ministry of Woman's Missionary Union. The CWJC - Nashville center is located at Lockeland Baptist Church. — Photo by Bill Highsmith

Baptist Church, Ripley, has been called to a similar position at Covenant Baptist Church, Germantown.

■ **Sullivan Baptist Church**, Kingsport, has called **Tony French** as minister of music/worship leader.

■ **Darby Fleenor** of Sullivan Baptist Church, Kingsport, has been called as youth director, New Haven Baptist Church, Oneida.

■ **Avondale Baptist Church**, Mooresburg, has called **Ricky Buell** as pastor.

■ **Sammy Stockman** was called as pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, Mohawk, effective Dec. 31. Formerly he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Dickinson, N.D.

■ **Fate L. Thomas** was called as interim pastor, Concord Baptist Church, Chattanooga, effective Feb. 1.

## churches

■ **First Baptist Church, Lenoir City**, gave \$43,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Of-

fering for International Missions. The church has about 635 in Sunday School and is led by Edsel West, interim pastor.

■ **Members of Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville**, will serve in McAllen, Texas, Feb. 17-25 and Honduras in June.

■ **First Baptist Church, Bolivar**, will hold revival Feb. 18-21. Speakers are Greg Thornberry of Union University, Jackson; John "the Bull" Bramlett; Tony Lambert, pastor of a church in Nebraska; and Larry Robertson of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

■ **Trinity Baptist Church, Cordova**, will host Robert Webber, professor emeritus of theology, of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., Feb. 12. He will teach a workshop on Authentic Worship in a Changing World. For more information, contact the church at (901) 759-5955.

■ **Beech Grove Baptist Church, Maryville**, held a millennium revival crusade recently which resulted in 50 people making initial commitments to God and more than 100 making other commit-



ments. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, spoke.

## associations

■ **The Brotherhood of Salem Baptist Association**, based in Liberty, will hold a Men's Worship and Praise event March 10 at Center Hill Baptist Church, beginning at 6 p.m. The Warren County Men's Choir will perform and a student at Cumberland College, Lebanon, from Albania will speak. For more information, contact the association office at (615) 536-5961.

■ A team from **Sullivan Baptist Association**, based in Kingsport, served in Belize Jan. 27 - Feb. 10.

■ **Indian Creek Baptist Association**, based in Waynesboro, will hold an Evangelism Conference March 14 at Green River Baptist Church, Waynesboro. Junior Hill, evangelist, will speak.

## schools

■ The Department of Music of **Union University**, Jackson, will hold its annual Sacred Harp Singing (or shaped note singing) Feb. 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in Jennings Hall. Shaped note singing is a style of music without accompaniment which originated in England in the 18th century to teach untrained churchgoers how to sing hymns. For more information, call (901) 661-5230.



**YOUTH AND LEADERS** of Trace Creek Baptist Church, New Johnsonville, pause during a visit with member Jason Hewitt who is an outpatient of St. Jude Hospital, Memphis, during the Christmas holidays. The group also toured the Ronald McDonald House and Target House there. Participating are, from left, front row, Ryan Stewart, Crystal Hunt, Paula Hensley, Anita Hewitt, Jason Hewitt, and James Phillip Park; back row, April Pickard, Wanda Ladd, Davy Hunt, John Carter Park, Phillip Pickard, and Matthew Hewitt.



**Pastor participates in ordination, licensing of sons**  
Mickey L. Basham, pastor, Puryear Baptist Church, Puryear, helped ordain one son and license the other Jan. 14 at the church. Mickey L. Basham II, left, who is pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Maury City, and assistant chaplain, Tennessee National Guard, Jackson, was ordained to the ministry. David P. Basham, above, is a high school student who feels called to foreign missions work. He was licensed by the church.



**MEMBERS** of First Baptist Church, LaFollette, held a ground breaking ceremony Jan. 21 for a Life Activity Center. The \$800,000 building which will be located near the current facility, will include gymnasium, classrooms, offices, and walking track. Representing the congregation in the ceremony were Tommy Norman, chairman of the building committee; Mrs. Paul Kelley and Mrs. Odus Mundy, Woman's Missionary Union; and church staff members. — Photo by Larry Smith