

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

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## Prepare for 'once a year' crowd at Easter

By Trennis Henderson  
For Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Easter is not only the holiest day of the Christian calendar. It also is the Sunday when many churches have their highest worship attendance of the year.

That means pastors typically have the opportunity to preach to some people who attend church only once or twice a year. How does that fact influence a pastor's Easter sermon preparation and presentation?

Some see it as a chance to share a clear evangelistic message with people who attend church infrequently. Others focus on a time of worship and reflection that can offer encouragement to everyone from mature Christians to one-time visitors.

Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., said he views Easter as "a great opportunity to present the evidence of our Christian faith — the hinge of what we believe."

Noting that the message of Easter offers listeners "hope, peace, and life after death," he said he seeks to deliver a message "with simplicity and clarity and yet to do it in culturally relevant ways."

Rather than berating people who show up at church only on Easter, Compton added: "I see it as an opportunity to build a relationship that can bring them a little closer to a faith commitment. That's the pool of prospects God has given me to build a harvest field out of."

Walter Jackson, dean of the school of theology at Campbellsville University, noted that Easter "represents the most important event in the Christian year and in the Christian faith."

— See Prepare, page 2

## To study role of presidency

# TBC president appoints special committee

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee Baptist Convention President Hollie Miller has appointed a special committee "to study the role of the president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

The committee also will "report its findings to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November 2001," according to a March 28 letter sent to TBC Executive Director James Porch and copied to *Baptist and Reflector* Editor Lonnie Wilkey to inform them of his initiative.

The committee will consist of Miller, pastor, Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville; Roger "Sing" Oldham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Martin, and TBC vice president; Hal Fletcher Jr., pastor, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis, second vice president; and the past five presidents of the convention — Jerry Tidwell, pastor, West Jackson Baptist Church,

Jackson; Larry Gilmore, pastor, College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin; Doug Sager, pastor, First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville; Herbert Higdon, retired director of missions, Madison-Chester Baptist Association, Jackson; and Ken Hubbard, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Smyrna.

In a telephone interview with the *Baptist and Reflector*, Miller said he had talked with Tidwell, Gilmore, and Sager, and they had agreed to serve. As of late last week, he had not yet talked with Hubbard or Higdon. A date for their meeting also has not been established, Miller said.

According to the letter, Miller's decision is based on Bylaw 3 of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, SPECIAL COMMITTEES, which states, "Special committees may be created by the Convention, Execu-

tive Board, or the president to provide for any need not met by a standing committee."

The duties of the TBC president, however, are defined exclusively in the TBC Constitution and Bylaws.

In the letter to Porch, Miller wrote, "I am excited at the thought of bringing these leaders together for the purpose of tapping their wisdom and hearing their hearts. Each one will be able to bring a unique perspective on the role of the office he held, based upon his experience in that position."

"I am confident that this kind of dialogue will create a flow of ideas that will enable us to envision ways to make the role of the president a more strategic one in the life of our convention," he wrote.

Miller told the *Baptist and Reflector*, he did not think such a meeting with former presidents had ever been conducted before.

— See TBC president, page 4



MILLER

## Says Ray Gilder at SBC conference

# Bivocational pastors are important to TBC's future

By Ken Walker  
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

PADUCAH, Ky. — Bivocational pastors play an important role in the future of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, according to the state's bivocational ministry specialist.

Speaking at the Southern Baptist Convention's largest-ever conference of bivocationalists, Ray Gilder said the 1,425 SBC churches led by these pastors represent 48 percent of Tennessee's total congregations.

"We feel bivocational ministry is on the rise," said Gilder, who also serves as pastor of Gath Baptist Church, McMinnville. "It's the future of growth. One of the keys is (showing) the concept is biblical. If a bivocational is where God put him, there's no better place to be."

Held March 30-31, the Mid-Continent Bivocational Cele-

bration here drew 322 pastors, spouses, and other leaders from five states, including 39 from Tennessee.

Gilder said the state's attendees numbered closer to 50, counting visitors who didn't register and a student team that performed a drama during the final session.

The official said the conference offered pastors from western Tennessee a chance to socialize, something their busy schedules seldom permit.

"Our primary goal was to affirm guys who are serving," he said. "This gives folks a chance to get together with their peers and be challenged and inspired by the testimony of others."

The response was far better than expected, he added. The turnout was more than double the number that usually attend national conferences; it is difficult for bivocational pastors to get time off to travel long distances, Gilder said.

The conference went so well that organizers announced at the session that another regional meeting will be held in

Cape Girardeau, Mo., in 2003.

The response thrilled Leon Wilson, the SBC's national missionary for bivocational ministry with the North American Mission Board.

"I've got a lot of excitement over meeting new folks and the excitement of so many people coming," said the Norman, Okla., resident, a bivocational pastor for 20 years before join-

ing NAMB in 1999.

Wilson sees these dual career pastors as a key to the future. The convention has a goal of starting 2,100 churches this year, with bivocationalists aiming for 250 of them.

Although such pastors account for nearly 40 percent of church leaders in the SBC, he feels they are often overlooked.

— See Bivocational, page 4



GILDER



VISITING during the Mid-Continent Bivocational Celebration are, from left, John Parrott, director of missions, Holston Valley Baptist Association, based in Rogersville; Dale Holloway, retired NAMB bivocational missionary of Florence, Miss.; and Johnny Carr, pastor, Shepard's Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville. — Photo by Joy Clay-Corbin

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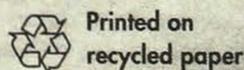
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state/national news

## SWBTS, Arab seminary partner

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, signed a "historic" agreement April 3 with a seminary in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut is the only Baptist seminary in the Middle East-North Africa region and the only Christian seminary that can openly train converts from other religions.

"This is a historic agreement," said Ghassan Khalaf, president of the ABTS.

The "agreement of fraternal relationship" signed by Khalaf and Southwestern Seminary President Kenneth S. Hemphill encourages "faculty enrichment through mutual use and cooperation." Southwestern has similar agreements with educational institutions in Tokyo, Korea, and India and is trying to respond to requests from other international institutions.

Hemphill said the partnership will benefit Southwestern's faculty and students by exposing them to a unique missions setting in a different culture. ■

## SBHS changes name for broader appeal

Associated Baptist Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The Southern Baptist Historical Society has changed its name to Baptist History and Heritage Society. Leaders said the move would expand the organization's interests and constituency without minimizing its relationship with state conventions, colleges/universities, associations, and churches that cooperate with Southern Baptists.

Society members approved the change by a ballot vote of 58 to 16 during the organization's annual meeting March 22-24 at First Baptist Church here. The program dealt with Baptists and World War II and included a banquet at the National Museum of Naval Aviation.

The name-change recommendation came from a study committee that pointed out how the Southern Baptist Convention has changed the names of agencies to appeal to a broader audience. For example, the Baptist Sunday School Board's name has been changed to LifeWay Christian Resources.

"We wish to widen our tent," the report read. "Our goal is to

## Home burns at TBCH's Boys Ranch

By Kim Burke  
For Baptist and Reflector

MILLINGTON — Neither the houseparents nor the residents of the Sutton Cottage at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' Boys Ranch were at home when a fire destroyed most of their cottage and caused extensive water and smoke damage to the remaining structure Wednesday night, April 4.

The eight boys from the Sutton Cottage were spending the week at two of the three other homes on the ranch campus since their houseparents, Jeff and Lisa Epps, were on vacation in East Tennessee; four of the boys were at the Memorial Cottage while the other four stayed at the Volunteer Cottage.

The fire was discovered by a resident upon returning from church about 8:30 p.m.

The Shelby County Fire Department arrived on the scene at the rural location first followed by the Millington Fire Department. Both units worked hard on the blaze using water from their own tanks before having to use additional water from the ranch pond.

"We believe the fire started in the storage area off of the carport. At this time, the central vacuum unit appears to be suspect," said Ray Moss, vice-president of the Boys Ranch. "We were blessed that no one was in the cottage at the time and that the fire did not cause injury to anyone. We are fortu-



**RESIDENTS OF** the Double B Boys Ranch of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in Millington watch as Shelby County firemen work to extinguish a fire at the ranch's Sutton Cottage on April 4. No personal injuries were caused by the fire which destroyed the ministry's cottage.

nate that each of the boys had a week's worth of clothes with them."

In spite of the tragedy, Moss said he was blessed by the genuine care he witnessed between the boys and their houseparents.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' Double B Boys Ranch, first opened its doors in 1988 to youth from troubled family backgrounds. The program provides residential care for up to 27 boys from families in crisis.

"While we are saddened by the losses sustained in the Sutton cottage fire, we are grateful that no one was injured or in personal jeopardy," said Bryant Millsaps, TBCH

president/treasurer.

As soon as a full assessment of the damage and loss is made, TBCH will begin the process of rebuilding, Millsaps said.

A special fund has been established for persons wanting to help the ranch replace damaged items not covered by insurance. Monetary donations should be made out to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and designated for the Boys Ranch Fire Fund. Donations may be sent to either the TBCH State Office at P. O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024-2206 or directly to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' Boys Ranch at 9224 Quito Road, Millington, TN 38053. ■

do Baptist history with integrity, with openness to cooperate with all who are interested in our heritage, and with an avoidance of the political characteristics that have influenced Baptist life during the last 20 years."

In February 1995, the SBC Executive Committee voted to dissolve its Historical Commission, thus severing official rela-

tionships with the Historical Society, then an auxiliary to the Historical Commission. The society has operated independently since 1995 and does not receive funds from the denomination.

Speaking in support of the name change, Wayne Flynt of Alabama said the action allows the society "to go back to where we were before 1845," the year

the Southern Baptist Convention was organized. Before then, Flynt said, black and white Baptists met together, noting that while there are 9 million black Baptists nationwide, "there is not one in the room today."

Albert Wardin Jr. of Tennessee was the sole member of the study committee who voted against the recommendation. ■

## Prepare for 'once a year' crowd at ...

— Continued from page 1

"Any pastor worth his salt would celebrate the opportunity to have a wider audience to proclaim to Christians the renewal of our faith and to proclaim to unbelievers the great benefits and joy of having Christ as Savior both here and for eternity."

Jackson said pastors can prepare for Easter through personal devotions and Bible study that focus on the themes of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He also encouraged pastors to "talk to some other Christians about what Easter means to them and what would be a meaningful ingredient of an Easter worship and message."

Preaching professor Hershanel York said the unique mix of a typical Easter crowd "unquestionably should have an impact on the way a pastor prepares his message, because he should assume there are more lost people there than on any other Sunday. He ought to prepare to preach the Gospel with lost people in mind and proclaim the Gospel purposefully."

York, associate professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., added, however: "The audience only changes the application side of the sermon. It never changes the meaning of the text. If it resonates in their hearts, it makes a difference."

Dan Garland noted that during his years as a pastor, he sought to deliver a simple Gospel message focused on the Easter story, "knowing there were people there who came just because it was a fashionable thing to do."

Easter is a time when "people who come to church sporadically need to leave that day feeling like what they heard applied to their lives," said Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism-growth team.

"The message needs to center on Christ. The message of Easter basically is evangelistic. Make it a spiritual experience and a defining moment in people's lives." ■

**Through monthly food distribution**

# Celina congregation feeds the poor

By Connie Davis  
*Baptist and Reflector*

CELINA — On the fourth Tuesday of each month a group of about a dozen members of the First Baptist Church here gather in the church's basement which serves as its fellowship hall.

A couple of weeks ago they clustered together in small groups drinking coffee and joking with each other.

The workers, mostly senior adults, had time to visit because they had been preparing for the food ministry of the church all month, noted Bill Ramsey, pastor of the church.

Soon the seniors were seated for a short meeting. Prayer requests of former ministry recipients were reported and prayed for. At 10 a.m. the door to the fellowship hall was opened to reveal about 35 people waiting in line.

**Food ministry**

The recipients come from as far as Livingston and Red Boiling Springs, about 20 miles away, reported Ramsey. This area is a part of Appalachia, he explained. Many are poor here and need help.

Unemployment is about 30 percent, added Wanda Denton, coordinator of the ministry and missions leader of the church.

The area has lost several companies which manufactured clothing to other countries.

People come to the church for the food ministry even though it is Baptist, explained Ramsey. Most Protestants in the area are members of the Church of Christ. Clay County only has two Baptist churches.

The fellowship hall filled with people who visited and drank coffee on the chilly morning. Soon they were meeting individually with the church members for a short counseling session.

Then all trooped upstairs for a worship service. In the

two years of the ministry, 20 people have made professions of faith. After the service, the men and women received food and toiletry items for themselves and their families. About 135 people have been helped by the ministry.

**Sponsor**

The congregation, which draws about 70 to Sunday School, was led to start the ministry by Louis Paradiso, former pastor who

is now serving as pastor of a congregation in Mississippi. Paradiso led the church to apply for hunger relief funds from the North American Mission Board through the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The church has received \$9,000 in two grants. Members have applied for a third grant.

To use the money wisely, workers buy in bulk and request discounts from businesses, which they have received from some. They provide toiletry items because food stamps can't be applied to them.

**Other aspects of ministry**  
Church members don't

screen recipients. "If they don't need the food, they generally need the Lord, so we work with them anyway," said Denton.

"We get people who would never set foot in a Baptist church to do that and see what we're like," she explained.

Denton admitted she and the other workers were fearful at the beginning. "Still you have that (feeling), but after it's over, it's just elation," she explained.

Denton said she has been surprised at the number of peo-

ple willing to serve when the church has trouble getting workers for other places of service.

The volunteers have discovered not only the joy of serving but that recipients have many problems which need prayer, she said.

"God is working here," said Ramsey. ■



**ELSIE MILLER** of the church visits with a recipient while she waits for her counseling session.



**CHRISTY DELK**, left, of the church, helps a recipient carry the food and toiletries given to him to his car.



**PRAYING WITH** a recipient are church members, from left, Laura Proffitt and Wanda Denton, coordinator of the monthly food ministry.



**LOOKING FOR** the file of a recipient are church members, from left, Bill McAllister, Pat Casey, and Eva Johnson.



**Officers lead April 2-3 conference**

Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Association officers who led the annual conference were, from left, front row, Donna Haskins, Crossville, middle Tennessee representative; Betti Owens, Millington, west representative; Susan Gamble, Kingsport, vice president; second row, Ann Beasley, Nashville, secretary/treasurer; Patsy Morales, Kingsport, east; and Sarah Farmer, Johnson City, president.

## Secretary celebrates 29th anniversary at conference

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Janice Nanney, pastor's secretary, Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis, spoke April 3 during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Association. The date was her 29th anniversary of service at the church.

Nanney said on her first day of work she prepared church news for publication in the *Baptist and Reflector*. The church has been a subscriber and participant in the paper's Church Page Plan for 42 years, she said.

Nanney praised the plan, saying it benefits the church by saving money, helps the staff by saving time, and benefits the congregation by providing all Baptist news in one publication. "It's been a very good experience for us," she said. ■



**SPEAKING** at the conference is Janice Nanney of Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis.

# Bivocational pastors play important role in TBC's ...

— Continued from page 1

"They're definitely becoming more important," Wilson said. "If we're going to start enough churches, there have to be more bivocationalists involved."

One of the strengths of ministry where the pastor is not at church throughout the week is more congregational participation, he added.

At South Park Baptist in Oklahoma City, Okla., all seven staff members were bivocational. While they just called Wilson's replacement three months ago, attendance and offerings didn't decline during the interim.

"People have taken ownership and embraced the team ministry concept," he said. "That ought to be how every church works."

During the conference, a director of missions from northeast Tennessee discussed the importance of bivocationalists to his life and ministry.

John Parrott of the Holston Valley Baptist Association said as he was growing up he rarely met pastors with more than a sixth-grade education.

"But they knew God," said Parrott, who came to Holston Valley six years ago. "They in-

troducted me to him. When I became a DOM, I wanted to do the same to encourage other bivocationalists."

In his association, 38 of the 53 churches are led by such pastors, with their rural churches running from a handful to 50 on a Sunday. Yet all are important, he said.

Among the methods he uses for developing their ministry are:

(1) Affirming their importance.

He develops a family profile including birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events, using a computer program to track dates. Parrott also prays for them, visits their churches, sponsors an annual gathering, and nominates a "bivocational pastor of the year."

(2) Communication.

The association elects a bivocational ministry coordinator to maintain contact with those in the field. Parrott also strives for personal contacts, involving pastors' wives, and educating pastors about the

state and national conventions.

(3) Involvement.

He doesn't just suggest pastors attend training seminars, he goes with them. He also enlists bivocationalists in associational events and reaches out to young men who sense a call to ministry but don't have a church yet.

Referring to a bivocational pastor who is still preaching despite a paralyzing accident two years ago, he noted that the man recently led two retirees to Christ.

"He taught me it's never too late," said Parrott. "I've learned that from all bivocationalists."

Tennessee also awarded certificates of recognition to seven bivocational pastors. Recipients included:

Billy Bateman of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Dover.

Joe Estes, Parkers Creek Baptist, Burns.

Terry Graves, First Baptist of Gadsden.

Buddy Mullinax, Cedar Grove Baptist, Waverly.

Johnny Sorrell, pastor of Center Baptist in Trenton.

Sam Webb, Mount Vernon Baptist, Dyersburg.

Thomas Winchester of Union Friendship Baptist in Como. ■ — Walker is a freelance writer from Louisville, Ky., who writes for Baptist Press and numerous other Baptist publications.



## TBC president appoints special ...

— Continued from page 1

He said he would like to get the former presidents' perspectives on what would have been helpful to them during their terms of service and how they could have been more effective in their roles.

Miller said the meeting would not have a set agenda, but would be a time for sharing ideas.

When asked about giving the TBC president power to appoint members to the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards, Miller said, "Giving the president appointive powers is a possibility. Things like that could be discussed."

Miller emphasized he has had a great experience thus far as TBC president, but feels "I'm not making much of a contribution."

"You go (to meetings), but

on most committees, you do not have a vote."

Miller's letter informing Porch of his initiative to appoint the committee also noted:

"I am assuming that this committee will be funded by the Tennessee Baptist Convention as all other committees are funded, and I will be in touch with you regarding time and place." ■



PARROTT

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# Easter reminds us of ultimate love, sacrifice

by Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Easter Sunday is just around the corner. For some it is another holiday, a time to visit family and eat good food.

For some it is a time of frivolity for children who can't wait to see what the "Easter bunny" brought.

Hopefully, for most Christians, Easter will not be a holiday. Instead, it should be a true holyday. Easter is not just another Sunday. It should be the holiest of holy days, even more so than Christmas. Christmas is important because it represents the introduction of Jesus into a sin-filled world.

Easter, however, represents God's ultimate sacrifice — his only Son, Jesus Christ, who bore our sins on the cross of Calvary. As Christians, we know Jesus did not have to die on the cross. He did it for all of mankind, past, present, and those yet to come.

John 3:16 reminds us that "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

World renown evangelist Billy Graham has said: "In the cross of Christ I see three things: First, a description of the

## Church of the Covered Dish

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



depth of man's sin; second, the overwhelming love of God; third, the only way of salvation."

One cross — three eternal truths.

Since Adam and Eve, mankind has traveled the path of sin. Today's world is no different. I maintain our sin and rejection of God and his Word is at an all-time high. We live in a society that scoffs at God and Christianity.

We live in a world where men can "marry" men and women can "marry" women, and that is ok. Christians are classified as intolerant if we object.

We live in a world where sex and violence on television are at an all-time high, yet we continue to turn on those programs that spew filth and profanity into our living rooms.

We live in a society where it seems everyone has rights, except those who call themselves Christians. Whenever we think our world cannot get any further from God, we do.

The cross of Calvary, however, does show God's love in a way most people simply cannot understand.

That's our job as Christians — to take the message of the cross and to share it with unbelievers.

Are we serious about that job? Do we treat it with the urgency that it demands. That's a question each and every Christian must ask him or herself this Easter.

As we attend Easter services this Sunday, let's strive to make it the holiest of all holy days. **B&R**



## heart talk

by James Porch, TBC executive director



## Personal discoveries

Today in the early minutes following dawn, and on the way to work, I passed and looked upon freshly plowed gardens and fields. The dampness of the soil seemed to advertise the readiness of the earth to receive fresh new seed. The idea offered me a WOW and a sobering moment.

I solemnly exclaimed, "God, how do I look to you?" and the quietness of the moment, absence of emotion, and even non-remembrance of a Scripture help caused me to conclude, "God isn't talking to me right now. Rather, I think he is listening." And I moved on choosing to look on and into myself hopefully with big dimensions of honesty. What can and do and will I see in the fields of me. What did I find? Well, the private and personal discoveries are reserved just for me and God to know.

At least I can say some fields are well plowed and ready for seed. Others await the fresh cut of the plow. And even others lie covered in sticks, stones, briars, bushes, and other resistances to the readiness to seed, much less growth.

How refreshing! How on time these ideas. In mere hours of the appearance of my ramblings, I will celebrate again, "He is risen!" Yet before my exclamation to truly honor my living Christ, I had to see, honestly see, my life field, for then and only then, may I welcome my living Savior and Lord and hope he feels at home living with and in me. ■



"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." — Galatians 6:14



## Excited about prayer

I have not experienced in the eight years I have worked at Watauga Baptist Association such excitement over prayer. The prayer task team of our association's strategy planning team has really planned well. Sixty people signed in at the associational office and at the Johnson County site at First Baptist Church, Mountain City, about 15 people came to pray. In addition there were several associational WMU groups at the recent Gatlinburg event who took time with their groups to pray for our association and the churches and the work God is about in Watauga Association.

A prayer rally with Greg Frizzell built such excitement that people came by and called saying how God was moving. The prayer task team is planning on having him back in August for another prayer conference. Several Johnson County churches met at Bethany Baptist Church, Mountain City, and packed the house on Sunday night, March 18. Then in Carter County, an-

other good turnout was challenged by Frizzell to spend a daily set prayer time in a set place alone with God.

The prayer team consists of pastors Ron Owens, Grace; Mack Tester, State Line; Bruce Hendrich, Oak Street; and Dennis Wilson, Lynn Valley; along with laypeople Alberto Santiago, Oak Street; Frances Childers and Ann Teter, Grace; and Richard Gray, Calvary.

The team will meet again April 5 to pray and fast and then is calling for all the strategy planning task team members to gather for prayer and fasting at First Church, Mountain City, on April 16 at 7 p.m.

God is about something big in this association, in this community, and in East Tennessee.

Kathy Wilson  
Elizabethon 37643

## Presence in prayer

The Middle America Region of the International Mission Board requests your presence in prayer.

May 2 has been designated as a "Day of Prayer" for the countries that make up the Middle America Region: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Canada, and the El Paso (Texas) Baptist Publications Mission.

During this annual Day of Prayer, all missionaries in the region are asked to set aside their normal activities and

spend the day praying earnestly and strategically for the needs in their areas of ministry.

Prayer partners around the world can join us as we pray for the Gospel to break through barriers of lostness among the millions in Middle America. Tennessee Baptist churches can join us by remembering Middle America during their regular, mid-week prayer services.

Nancy K. Chafin  
Miami Springs, FL 33266

## Loud, but effective

I went with our youth group to the recent Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference. As I sat in the meetings with our youth, I was suffering through the very loud music and to be honest I was wondering if anything good could come out of such goings on. The young people seemed to be greatly enjoying themselves, but it seemed shallow to me.

At the conclusion of our first meeting, several of our young people came to the front for prayer and re-dedicated their lives to Christ. I was glad they got more out of it than I did. The next morning, several more went forward, and by that evening (Saturday), about 20 of our youth out of the 29 that went had re-dedicated their lives to the Lord.

On Sunday morning at our church I had a sermon ready to



state/national

## SBC CP gifts decline in March

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Giving to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program in March was 4.01 percent below the total for March 2000, according to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president.

A total of \$14,303,295.06 was received in March to support Southern Baptist CP missions and ministries globally and across North America, \$597,062.88 below the \$14,900,357.94 received in March 2000.

For the fiscal year to date, October 2000 through March 2001, CP giving is 1.30 percent ahead of the same period a year ago, \$89,228,523.62 compared to \$88,079,806.20.

In designated giving during March, the total of \$25,451,336.81 was nearly \$4 million, or 18.59 percent, above March 2000's \$21,461,422.89. For the fiscal year to date, designated giving is 2.75 percent above last year's pace, \$104,287,690.68 as compared to \$101,494,421.38.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date receipts are \$5,230,331.12 above the budgeted \$83,998,192.50, or 106.23

percent of budget. The monthly receipts showed the \$14,303,295.06 received as 102.17 percent of the budgeted amount of \$13,999,698.75. ■

## TBC pastor joins BP's lineup of Christian cartoonists

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — There's something new to smile about in Baptist Press — and Executive Editor and Vice President for Convention News Will Hall said the reason can be found at BP Life Lighter Side.

BP Life Lighter Side, at www.bpnews.net, is a new daily feature on the national news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, providing readers with five cartoon strips — B.C. by Johnny Hart; Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp; For Heaven's Sake by Michael Thomas Morgan; Kudzu by Doug Marlette; and a cartoon by Joe McKeever.



TAPP

"As Christians we know the source of true joy and happiness and it's wonderful to be able to provide a touch of laughter to Baptist life," Hall said.

The comics are available for viewing by all Baptist Press readers and for publishing by all state Baptist newspapers.

"We are glad to provide this service free of charge to all of our state Baptist newspa-

pers," Hall said.

The cartoon features include the Church of the Covered Dish by Tapp, pastor of Oral Baptist Church, Lenoir City.

He has served as pastor of four churches in Tennessee since 1980, and believes in partnership ministry.

Tapp uses his ministry experiences as fodder for his daily cartoon strip. It appears in newspapers and ministry journals across the country including the *Baptist and Reflector*, *Leadership Journal*, *Christian Computing Magazine*, and *Enrichment*. ■

## Lawsuits allege Navy discrimination

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A trio of lawsuits pending in federal court in Washington, D.C., plus a fourth in San Diego, allege

that the U.S. Navy has engaged in systematic discrimination against evangelical chaplains, including Southern Baptists.

Five current or former chaplains endorsed by the SBC are among 17 plaintiffs in one of the suits, a class action filed a year ago. In all, 27 chaplains are involved in the four suits filed during the past 14 months.

Attorney Art Schulz, who represents parties in the three suits filed in Washington, said the Navy is violating the First Amendment by failing to guarantee personnel free exercise of religion.

For example, while 12 percent of Navy personnel are members of denominations classified by the Navy as "Protestant Liturgical," encompassing Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, they hold 35 percent of chaplaincies, Schulz said.

In supporting documents filed in U.S. District Court, Schulz included statistics for

last year showing one chaplain for every 140 members in the Navy's "Protestant Liturgical" classification.

But the report lists only one chaplain for every 494 members of the Navy's "Non-liturgical" classification, encompassing such groups as Southern Baptists, Pentecostals, and Church of the Nazarene.

"You'll see twice as many Baptist Navy personnel as liturgical [personnel], yet they don't have twice as many chaplains," said the Vienna, Va., lawyer. "The ultimate victim in all this is the seaman or Marine who doesn't get the right to express his First Amendment rights."

The class action lawsuit followed a similar complaint filed by the Chaplaincy of Full Gospel Churches, a group that endorses chaplains on behalf of 7.5 million charismatics. ■

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

Houseparents: Immediate need for full-time relief houseparents at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga and Cleveland. Married couples only. Call Bob Segrest or Lynn Jordan at (423) 892-2722.

### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Calhoun, First Baptist Church, is seeking a full-time pastor. He should believe in the inerrant Word and be mission-minded. Send resume to Box 175, Calhoun, TN 37309.

First Baptist Church of Hayti, Missouri, a conservative church, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 201 E. Lincoln, Hayti, MO 63851. We will receive resumes through April 15.

### MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Book of poems composed by Rev. Claude Weatherford, entitled *It Took A Miracle*. \$10 each. Available at Lemstone Bookstore, Governor's Square Mall, Clarksville, TN 37040 or call Margie Burr, (931) 362-3414.

Pews for sale - make offer. 80 pews in various lengths (28 @ 20 ft. or more, 50 @ 13 to 18 ft). Medium light color stain, padded. Buyer must transport. Call (931) 526-7108 or e-mail gharvey@fbc-cookeville.org.

### MINISTRIES — YOUTH

First Baptist Church, Sharon, Tenn., is seeking a part-time youth director. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 96, Sharon, TN 38255. We will receive resumes until position is filled. Interviews will begin April 1.

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Growing church in northwest Alabama is seeking a minister of music and youth. Resumes accepted through May 31 at FBC, P.O. Box 236, Killen, AL 35645. Attn. Personnel Committee.

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**Missions and Ministry Coordinator Position Open**

The Chilhowee Baptist Association, in partnership with the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is seeking an individual to serve as Missions and Ministry Coordinator for the Chilhowee Baptist Association and as the Appalachian Regional Ministry Coordinator for east Tennessee. This full-time position will be housed in the Chilhowee Association office in Alcoa, Tenn. Applicants need experience in "hands on" mission work. Deadline for receiving resumes is May 1, 2001.

Resumes may be sent to Jim Snyder, 341 East Lincoln Rd., Alcoa, TN 37701 or Larry Kirk, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. For more information you may call Snyder at (865) 982-0499 or Kirk at (615) 371-2073.

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## 10 reasons to hold revivals: evangelist

By Phil Glisson  
For Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — Permit me to state 10 reasons why a church should have revival meetings and use evangelists:

(1) It does every church some good once in a while to set aside a few nights for people to come together to seek the Lord for spiritual refreshing and for the souls of the lost.

(2) It is good for the congregation to hear a different voice every so often. The evangelist complements what the pastor preaches and confirms it in the ears of the listeners. The laypeople say, "He is preaching the same thing our pastor does; there must be something to it." It gives the evangelist an opportunity to use his God-given gifts to help edify God's churches.

(3) It also does the pastor good to occasionally get a break from preaching and the preparation that goes with it. The pastor also is encouraged and challenged by the messages from the evangelist. The fellowship and sharing between the pastor and evangelist is helpful to the pastor. The evangelist can serve as a sounding board for the pastor.

(4) Churches that have revival meetings baptize more people than churches that do not have revival meetings. If you think a church is doing well without revival meetings, it would do even better with them.

(5) People will come to revival meetings. Some say folks won't attend revivals anymore. Use an evangelist and you'll be surprised at how many will come out.

(6) By abandoning revivals we are catering to the laziness and mixed up priorities of those church members who don't want to come. If they have time for cable TV, the Internet, and the newspaper, they have time to come to church for a few nights. They need to know we don't buy their excuses and that we refuse to accommodate them.

(7) Revival meetings are another hook in the water. Trotline fishing is the most productive way to fish for souls. Churches need to be putting more hooks in the water, not fewer. Revivals are not the only method to win the lost and invigorate the saved, but they are still a highly effective method.

(8) Revival meetings are biblical. The people of God periodically had multi-day meetings to seek the Lord afresh.

(9) Every Christian and every church needs a check-up occasionally. It is easy to get off course or develop blind spots and need a correction. The revival meeting has historically been used of God to help get both Christians and churches back to being about the things God has put us here to do.

(10) Revival meetings provide opportunities for an altar call. A trip to the altar when the Holy Spirit leads does a person good. Kneeling before the Lord helps keep one humble; we are too proud as it is. Humbling oneself before the Lord in a public way has a strong biblical precedent. We dare not throw out what God considers important. In our attempts to not offend people, we have wound up offending God. He desires us to follow his commands and examples, not our opinions. God's Word, not contemporary culture, is to be our guide.

■ — Glisson, of Memphis, has been a Southern Baptist evangelist since 1971. He is a member of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists and was president of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists in 1988 and 1997.



GLISSON

## Confessing Christ

By Bill Irvin

**Focal Passage:**  
Matthew 16:13-28

This lesson clearly reveals the identity of Jesus. It also indicates the disciple's growing understanding of him.

**Peter's confession (vv. 13-17).** Although at the time Peter lacked a complete understanding of Jesus' purpose (v. 22), the Father had revealed to him that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God." For Peter to confess Jesus as the Messiah was probably not too unusual. Many were expecting the Messiah and followed Jesus as such. However,

Peter also stated that Jesus was "the Son of the living God." This surely was a reference to deity in human flesh.

Peter's confession of what the Father revealed is refreshing to read. It is heartbreaking that in our day many deny what God has revealed to us in Holy Scripture. His virgin birth is called "a miraculous conception." They ignore God's Word which states "the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son" and "Joseph did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn son" (Matthew 1:18-25 NKJV).

Peter's confession no doubt brought joy to the Lord's heart as when the 70 received a revelation

from the Father (see Luke 10:17-21). If we bring joy to our Lord's heart we should believe all his Word: the virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary atonement, bodily resurrection, and glorious appearing. It's all in the book!

**Jesus' promise (vv. 18-19).** Jesus promised to build his church. Some believe Jesus meant that he would build his church upon Peter. Others believed he spoke of Peter's confession and faith such as his. Still others think that Peter represented the apostles, the foundation of the church.

Which view is correct? The first has little merit. Jesus said you are petros (a small stone), and on this petra (an immovable ledge of rock) I will build my church. Even if Jesus spoke in Aramaic, the Holy Spirit chose these words and moved Matthew to write them in Greek.

The second view has potential. Certainly everyone whom Jesus brings into his church must confess him as Lord and trust him as Savior. But is faith the foundation of the church?

The next interpretation rightly says that the apostles are the foundation. Paul stated in Ephesians 2:20 that "the apostles" are the church's foundation, as are the "prophets." Paul goes on to write, however, "Jesus Christ himself, being the chief cornerstone, in whom

### Family Bible SS Lesson — April 15

## New life in Christ

By David Green

**Focal Passage: John 20:1-31**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives meaning and new purpose to all people who believe in him. Jesus demonstrated his power and authority over sin and death. He also demonstrated his ability to provide a new and abundant life for all who came to him in faith.

Winston Churchill revealed his understanding of the resurrection when he said, "When a man steps out of his own grave, he is anything that he says he is, and he can do anything that he says he can do."

Jesus did rise from the dead and he can and will do all that he said he would do. The resurrection is not only good news, it's the best news imaginable. The post resurrection appearances of Christ were so significant that it transformed the hiding disciples into fearless witnesses.

**A new joy (vv. 11a, 16-18).** Unaware of Jesus' resurrection, Mary expressed a deep sense of loss and emptiness and wept as if there was no hope of future joy (v. 11a). The vivid images of the crucifixion were indelibly etched on her mind. Tears of loss filled her eyes. Stooping down she looked into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord

away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him" (vv. 12-13, NIV).

After speaking with the two angels Mary turned and saw who she thought was the gardener. She asked him if he knew where Jesus' body had been taken. He simply called her name and immediately she responded to his

voice. After her encounter with the risen Lord, her grief became joy. If anyone truly encounters the risen Lord, their life will never be the same. A new relationship was recognized as Jesus told Mary to tell his brothers that he was preparing to return to the Father. Jesus' work on the cross in the place of sinners made this new relationship possible. Mary's excitement to tell others about the resurrection of Christ expressed her new joy.

**A new purpose (vv. 19-23).** The same day that Jesus appeared to Mary, the disciples hid behind locked doors fearful of the Jews. Although Jesus appeared in the midst of the locked room, his message is more important than his mode of entrance. He visibly proved that he had risen from the dead (v. 20) and delivered a message of peace and expectation.

His new expectation of the disciples was to go into the world in the power of the resurrection, proclaiming the forgiveness of sin (v. 21). Je-

the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord." He also wrote to the church at Corinth, "no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 3:11).

So Peter, the apostles, and the prophets are little stones resting upon the chief cornerstone. And those who hear the Gospel, confess Christ as Lord, and trust him as Savior are being built into a spiritual house. And that spiritual house rests on none other than the chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ, the petra.

**Jesus' invitation (vv. 24-27).** Jesus invites "anyone" who desires to follow him. God's Word uses inclusive language when describing Christ's provision for the lost. That same language invites the lost to receive his provision. Although "anyone" may follow him, and Jesus paid for sins in full, a condition must be met to become his disciple. Some emphasize faith, others repentance, though both are important. They are like inseparable Siamese twins. To separate faith and repentance is to destroy both. Have you confessed Christ? Are you following him? — Irvin is pastor, Lucy Baptist Church, Millington.

sus pledged that the power of the Holy Spirit would enable them to carry out their future tasks (v. 22). The disciple's encounter with the resurrected Lord thrust them from behind locked doors into the world with a message of hope, salvation, and forgiveness of sin. This new purpose must be carried out by the church of the twenty-first century as we serve in the power of the risen Lord.

**A new commitment (vv. 26-31).** Verse 26 continues the account one week after the resurrection. Jesus appeared to the disciples and Thomas, who was absent at the earlier meeting and refused to believe Jesus had risen. In an act of divine grace, Christ gave Thomas the proof he needed. This encounter with the risen Lord inspired a new commitment in Thomas' life. He was transformed from a doubter to the first disciple to proclaim the Lordship of Christ after his resurrection.

How has your encounter with the resurrected Christ changed your life? He gives new joy to the discouraged, new purpose to those feeling defeated, and new commitment to the skeptics. There is no such thing as salvation apart from a changed life. Allow the life of the resurrected Lord to change you. May the love of a dying Savior, the power of a risen Savior, and the hope of a soon coming Savior guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus. — Green is pastor, First Baptist Church, Greeneville.



## leaders

■ **Gregory R. Frizzell**, pastor, Georgian Hills Baptist Church, Memphis, has been named prayer and spiritual awakening specialist, Baptist



FRIZZELL

General Convention of Oklahoma, effective April 15. He is the author of six books. Frizzell is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas; and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Union Baptist Church**, Knoxville, (on Washington Pike) has called **Andrew McNutt** as minister of youth and education.

■ **Charles E. Robertson** was ordained to the ministry April 1 by New Salem Baptist Church, Soddy-Daisy. He has been called as associate pastor and minister of education.

■ On July 1 **Frances Hill** will celebrate service as a church secretary for 50 years. She is secretary of Parkview Baptist Church, Lewisburg, where she has served for 22 years. She formerly served at First Baptist Church, Lewisburg.



HILL

■ **Micah Creekmore** was ordained to the ministry March 25 by New Friendship Baptist Church, Cleveland. He has been called as minister of youth, Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville.

■ **Ken Hubbard**, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Smyrna, will retire May 1. He has served the church for 13 years and served as a minister for 50 years. Hubbard was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and was a member of the TBC Executive Board. The church will hold a reception for him April 29 from 2-5 p.m., and a special service at 5:30 p.m. He and his wife, Faye, will retire in Smyrna. He will be available for part-time ministry service and can be reached at 502 Liberty Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167.



HUBBARD

■ **Billy Bateman** has resigned as pastor, Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Dover.

He is available for service as a bivocational pastor, interim pastor, or for supply work. Contact him at (931) 387-3573.

■ **Long Ridge Baptist Church**, Coker Creek, has called **Jerry Morrow** as pastor.

## deaths

■ **Lewis E. Rhodes**, retired pastor of Memphis, died March 21. He was pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Knoxville, for 16 years and churches in Mississippi. He was a board member of the International Mission Board, Richmond, Va., and North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga. Rhodes was a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Wendell Newman**, 61, recently retired manager of events planning, LifeWay Gorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, died April 1. He was field services coordinator in church recreation at LifeWay and associate pastor and program administrator, Manley Baptist Church, Morristown. Newman also served on the staff of churches in Texas and Kentucky.

■ **William Alton (W.A.) Farmer** of Como died recently. He served as pastor of 13 churches in seven states and was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and Committee on Committees. Farmer also helped start Belmont University, Nashville. He was a member of Thompson Creek Baptist Church, Como.

## associations

■ **Riverside Baptist Association** had to cancel its March 20 evangelism conference because of snow. It will be held April 17 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Livingston. Roc Collins of Virginia and Rick Lowhorn of Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, will speak. For more information, call the association at (931) 823-2612.

## churches

■ **Mt. Olivet Baptist Church**, Mt. Juliet, will celebrate its 200th anniversary April 22.

■ **Avondale Baptist**



**LEADING** the ordination to the ministry of Rob Strickland, second from left, by Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville, are, from left, Skip Myers, pastor of Smiths, Ala.; Bob Orgeron, senior pastor, Park Avenue Church; and Bob Mowrey, pastor emeritus, Park Avenue Church. The service was held March 25. Strickland attended Park Avenue as a child and teen and is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

**Church, Humboldt**, held revival recently. As a result, four people make professions of faith and many made other spiritual decisions. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld of McKenzie was the speaker.

■ **First Baptist Church, Middleton**, will present The Choice, a musical and drama on Good Friday, April 13, at 7 p.m. A presentation of banners will be included. Also the church will hold revival April 22-25. Larry M. Kirk of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff will speak. For more information, contact the church at (901) 376-8373.

■ **Grace Baptist Church, Springfield**, will host David Ring, evangelist based in Franklin, April 24. For more information, contact the church at (615) 384-3393.

■ **Black Oak Baptist Church, Clinton**, held revival March 18-21. As a result, 31 people made professions of faith and others made other spiritual decisions. Also it has doubled Sunday School attendance in the past six months. Morris Anderson spoke at the revival.

■ **East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg**, will enlarge and renovate its auditorium and buy property following a March 25 action of the congregation.

■ **First Baptist Church, Kenton**, will hold revival April 22-25. Ronnie Coleman, evangelist of Milan will speak, and Bill Brown of Humboldt will lead the music.

■ **Barfield Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold revival April 29 - May 2. **Ron Byers**, new full-time pastor, will speak. Formerly he was bivocational pastor.

■ The choirs of **First Baptist Church, Sharon**, will present Calvary's Story April 15 at 11 a.m. For more information call (901) 456-

2091 or 456-2326.

■ **Oaklawn Baptist Church, Crossville**, will hold revival April 22-25. Danny Bell of Crossville will speak. For more information, call the church at (931) 456-0754.

■ **First Baptist Church, Dayton**, will hold revival April 15-18. Phil Glisson, evangelist based in Memphis, will speak.

■ **Peytonville Baptist Church, Thompson Station**, will hold Gospel Music Night April 29 at 6 p.m. It will feature Betty Jean Robinson. For more information, contact the church at (615) 794-1970.

■ **Henry Baptist Church, Henry**, will hold a senior adult rally April 21 at 3 p.m. It will feature the Golden Sounds senior adult choir of Bolivar; Bob Ervin, retired pastor of Jackson; and Jerry Drye, pastor of Henry Church and humorist. A meal will be provided. For more information, contact the church at (731) 243-4852 or hbc@churchseek.net.

■ **Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson**, will hold revival April 22-25. Don Mathis will speak. For more information, call the church at (615) 789-4532.

■ **Fairview Baptist Church, Obion**, will present the Easter cantata, Who Do You Say I Am, April 15 at 11 a.m. It will be directed by Joe Weeks.

■ **Trinity Baptist Church, Cordova**, will hold several activities during Holy Week. On April 12, Maundy Thursday, the sanctuary choir will present Song of Shadows, a Tenebrae worship service, at 7 p.m. On Good Friday, April 13, a noon worship service will be held followed by a luncheon. For more information, call the church at (901) 759-5955.

■ The sanctuary choir of **First Baptist Church, Jellico**, will present special music



April 15 during the morning worship service. For more information, call the church at (423) 784-8215. Also the church recently held a revival which resulted in 44 people making commitments including 11 people making professions of faith and one person joining the church by letter. Michael Duff spoke.

■ **Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will present its 2001 Easter Passion Play April 12-15 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (615) 297-5336.

## state events

■ Volunteers are still needed for the **Simultaneous Revivals in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, Aug. 5-14. The effort is part of the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership. For more information, contact Tennessee Baptist Convention Partnership/Volunteer Missions, 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7935 or asloan@tnbaptist.org.

■ The Tennessee Baptist Convention staff will offer **Legal Issues Seminars** May at Loudon County Baptist Association office, Lenoir City, and May 16 at Union University's Harvey Auditorium, Jackson. The presentations will cover how to make youth programs missions trips, and local activities safe and fun. For more information, contact Richard Skidmore or Jo Ann Houge of the TBC staff at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2053 or (615) 371-2053 or rskidmore@tnbaptist.org.

■ The Tennessee Baptist Convention staff will offer three **Church Media Library Computer Conferences**. The Super Cyber Saturdays are co-sponsored by Book System Inc. of Huntsville, Ala., which will present its Concourse MLS software. The conference are April 21 at First Baptist Church, Sevierville; May 5 at Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Columbia; and May 2 at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson. Basic, intermediate, and advanced training will be offered. For more information, contact Jan Moye of the TBC staff at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2083, (615) 781-8920 or jmoye@tnbaptist.org.