

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

Special "Tennessee Connection" Section Enclosed

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this week's news

resident approves partial funding for stem cell research — page 2

new TBC prayer coordinated committed task. — Page 3

Greene County Baptists help provide food relief. — Page 4

pastor uses cartoons to extend his ministry. — Page 7

## Assists three

# Small congregation houses two missions

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Sundays are busy at the small square building which houses South Gate Baptist Church in Antioch here.

Members of South Gate Church attend Sunday School in the church's 12 classrooms while members of Mision Hispana South Gate hold worship in part of its Fellowship Hall.

Then South Gate Church members move to worship while Mision Hispana members move to classrooms for Sunday School.

The Hispanics often can hear the worship from the sanctuary because the classrooms are only divided from the sanctuary by a hallway, but the Hispanics are very tolerant, said Mark Puckett, pastor, South Gate Church.

As members of the two congregations leave morning activities, members of True Faith Baptist Mission, a black congregation, begin arriving for their Sunday afternoon activities.

Evening brings at least South Gate members back to the facility.

And other days are about as busy at South Gate, reported Puckett. Members of True Faith Church, Mision Hispana, and The Church at Hickory Hollow, another mission of South Gate, schedule use of the facility as they need it.

South Gate sponsors the three beginning congregations although it draws only about 100 members to Sunday morning worship.

### Sponsoring three missions

About two and a half years ago South Gate only drew about 60 to Sunday morning worship. Then Puckett, who had led the church for about a year and a half, met Mark Jackson, pastor of The Church at Hickory Hollow, Nashville, at a conference.

A few months later Jackson contacted Puckett and asked if South Gate Church would sponsor the beginning church which targets young, unreached people and meets at a public



MARK PUCKETT, left, pastor, South Gate Baptist Church, Antioch, visits with the pastors of the two mission congregations which meet in the Southgate facility — Samuel Sims, center, True Faith Baptist Mission, and Alfonso Zavala, Mision Hispana South Gate.

school. The mission's current sponsor was going through some changes.

Puckett and South Gate agreed and the relationship continues, with South Gate providing its facility and counsel. Jackson receives a salary supplement from the Tennessee

Baptist Convention and North American Mission Board, which allows him to serve the church full-time. The mission draws about 50 people to Sunday worship.

At about the same time South Gate was contacted by — See Small, page 3

## Welcome!

The Baptist and Reflector comes more than 18,000 readers this week who participating in the observance of Baptist and Reflector Day on Sunday, Aug.

We hope you, along with regular readers, will enjoy this week's issue which features a special section titled "Tennessee Connection" which highlights the work and ministries made possible through gifts to the Tennessee State Missions Office.

For our first-time readers we hope you will want to join our "family of subscribers."

For information about our various church subscription plans, contact Susie Edwards at (615) 371-2003. Individual subscriptions also available (see page 12). ■

# Lloyd Blackwell reports he is learning, healing

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Lloyd Blackwell will never forget April 25 although he can't remember the next three weeks.

He was filling a container with gasoline at a gas station. He was doing everything correctly, he reported. The container was on the ground; the gas nozzle was touching the can; he wasn't using any electronic devices such as a cell phone.

But the gas ignited, reportedly started by static electricity, and he was engulfed in flames. He turned toward the station, ran a few steps, dropped to the pavement, and rolled as he recalled he should.

Inside Ted Holmes, associate pastor, administration and missions, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, had stopped to buy a drink because of complications from some sinus

medicine. He heard someone yell "Fire."

Holmes looked up, saw a fire extinguisher hanging on the wall, grabbed it, and ran outside to extinguish Blackwell. Then he recognized his friend.

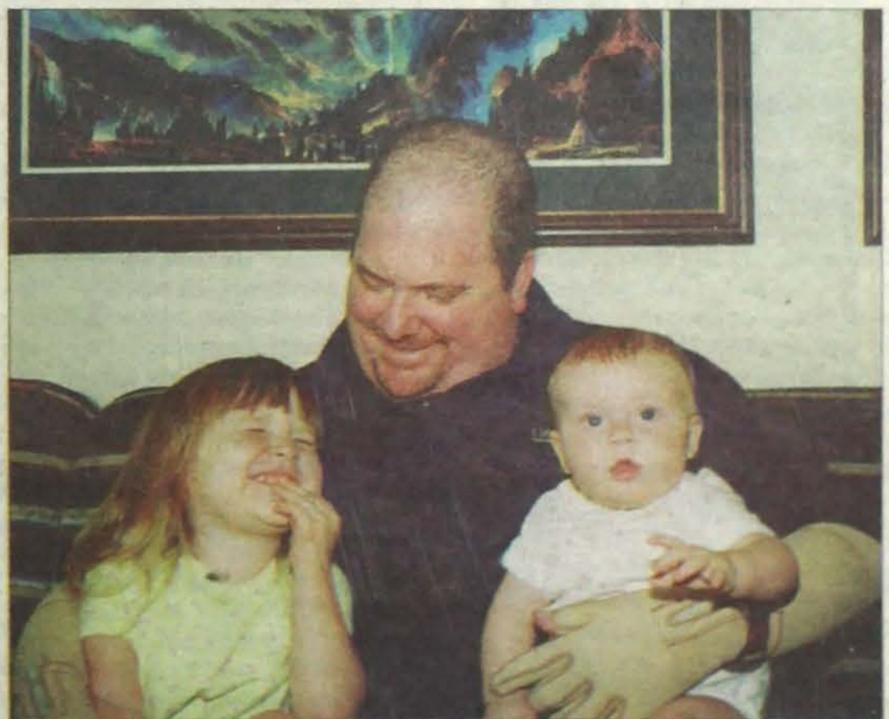
The fact that Holmes was there and responded quickly saved Blackwell's life, reported Jodi Blackwell, Lloyd's wife. "It was definitely God," she said, noting Holmes was even standing at an open door and within reach of the fire extinguisher.

When Holmes knew an ambulance had been called, he asked Lloyd if he could call anyone for him.

Despite his pain, Blackwell told Holmes to call his boss, William Maxwell of the Tennessee Baptist Con-

vention staff, and his associate at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden, where

Blackwell is manager, and ask him to tell Jodi about the accident. — See Lloyd, page 6



LLOYD BLACKWELL of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff plays with his daughters Brook, 4; and Autumn, five months.

## about your newsjournal

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## IMB trustees fill leadership posts

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board filled two key leadership roles and conducted a detailed review of overseas strategy during a July 31 — Aug. 2 meeting at Glorieta, a LifeWay conference center in New Mexico.

They also appointed 47 new missionaries, who were publicly recognized in an Aug. 2 service in Glorieta's Holcomb Auditorium, and heard a challenge to prayerfully seek God's wisdom and direction for every decision they make.

Trustees elected John W. White III to serve as IMB executive vice president following the Sept. 30 retirement of Don Kammerdiener. In his new role, White will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency.

A native of Birmingham,

Ala., White, 44, has been serving as IMB associate vice president for overseas operations since 1995. Prior to that, he and his wife, Trudy, served as missionaries to Brazil for 12 years.

Trustees also elected Southern Baptist missionary Gregory Pratt to direct the board's work in the nine countries of Central Asia.

Pratt, 43, is a Georgia native. He and his wife were appointed by the IMB in 1991. ■

## Tennesseans join thousands to pray for Africa

Baptist Press

ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA — Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world joined Christians here to pray for Africa on Aug. 3.

The special day set aside for prayer was celebrated through a variety of events, from prayer-walking to 24-hour prayer vigils to community-wide rallies.

The goal of "2001 Pray Around Africa" was to have as many people praying in each country of Africa as possible and even more support around the world. More than a thousand volunteers joined the call to pray on site in the country. Even more joined in praying from their homes and churches.



## WMU associational team does missions

Leading activities for senior adults in an apartment complex in Elizabethton are two members of a seven-member Woman's Missionary Union team from Nashville Baptist Association. The team members are Nelda Brown, second from left, president, WMU, NBA; and Judy Scott. The team, representing five churches, worked July 15-20 with residents of two apartment complexes in a ministry coordinated by Becky Brumitt of Hale Community Center, Watauga Baptist Association. Other team members were Janice Cox, Barbara Hoskins, Reba Johnson, Lola Sorrells, and Anne Towns.

The event was coordinated by Anita Hunt and Sharon Pumpelly who began working on logistics for the special event two years ago.

"Once you write down the needs of Africa, there's nothing to do but pray," Pumpelly said, noting the "situation is so much bigger than any of us."

Among those who reported to the IMB their prayer activities were at least two groups

from Tennessee.

Christians from the Tennessee State Prison for Women in Nashville joined in prayer. They prayed for 24 hours, one hour each on their knees in individual cells.

Silverdale Baptist Church in Chattanooga hosted a city-wide event, reaching across denominational lines. Prayer clusters met in individual homes to intercede for Africa. ■

# Bush approves partial funding of stem-cell research

By Bob Allen  
For Associated Baptist Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — In a much-anticipated decision that seemed to partly satisfy people on both sides of a controversial issue, President Bush said Aug. 9 he would allow federal funding of medical research using existing stem-cell lines.

Bush refused, however, to use taxpayer funds for development of new stem cells for research from about 100,000 frozen embryos that exist in fertility clinics in the United States.

Bush has reportedly struggled for months with the question of whether to fund scientific research on stem cells derived from human embryos.

In making up his mind on a decision that he called an "ethical minefield," Bush said he sought advice from scientists, scholars, bioethicists, religious leaders, doctors, researchers, members of Congress, his cabinet, and friends.

"I have given this issue a great deal of thought, prayer, and considerable reflection," he said. "And I have found widespread disagreement.

"My position on these issues is shaped by deeply held beliefs," Bush said. "I'm a strong supporter of science and technology, and believe they have the potential

## Americans support stem-cell research: poll

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — A new poll shows the majority of Americans support federal funding of certain kinds of stem-cell research.

Sixty-eight percent of those surveyed support government funding of research on stem cells from adults and 55 percent support such funding of research on cells from embryos left over from treatments at fertility clinics.

The USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll found less support for other kinds of stem-cell research. Forty-six percent of those polled said they support federal fund-

ing of stem cells derived from embryos created for research. Twenty-eight percent supported such funding for stem cells from embryos cloned from human cells.

Stem cells, which can be used to grow tissue and organs, are considered by some scientists to offer the potential of treatment for an array of diseases including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Critics say destroying embryos to get the cells is equivalent to abortion.

The poll of 1,017 adults from Aug. 3-5 had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. ■

for incredible good — to improve lives, to save life, to conquer disease. ...

"I also believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator. I worry about a culture that devalues life, and believe as your president I have an important obligation to foster and encourage respect for life in America and throughout the world."

Scientists say stem-cell research offers promise for breakthrough treatment of debilitating illnesses including diabetes,

neurological diseases, and spinal-cord injuries. Many pro-life Christians, however, believe human life is sacred even in its earliest stages and shouldn't be used for research.

In resolving the dilemma, Bush sought a middle-ground position. Since obtaining the stem cells requires the destruction of embryos, the president said the government would fund continuing research on the more than 60 stem-cell lines that have already been harvested but

would not allow taxpayer funding on research that requires the harvesting of new cells.

The Bush proposal also includes funding for additional research on adult stem cells, which have some of the characteristics of embryonic cells but don't appear to be as flexible.

Bush's decision brought lukewarm acceptance from people on both sides. Supporters of the search were gratified that funding would be made available but worried that limiting research existing lines might slow progress. Pro-lifers credited president with assuring that embryos would be destroyed with tax dollars but feared decision would encourage practice with private funding.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, who earlier urged Bush not to fund such research, said he was "deeply disappointed" with the decision. "I fear that this is a halting step in the direction of embryonic stem-cell research will build pressure to cross an important moral barrier by the killing of more embryos to obtain their stem cells."

Despite that, Land commended the president "for a thoughtful speech" to "champion the humanity of human beings." ■

# Prayer should precede ministry: Pierson

by Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention's new prayer coordinator practices what he preaches — he prays often and regularly, and with fervency.

Don Pierson has prayed from all walks of Southern Baptist life — from layman to pastor to missionary to director of missions and now as a denominational worker with the state convention.

One thing he has learned about prayer over the years is that it must be a priority.

Prayer is not something that is "tacked on at the end of something you seek to bless," said Pierson, who joined the TBC staff in July after serving the past four years as director of missions in William Carey Baptist Association, based in Fayetteville. Prior to that he served as a Southern Baptist missionary with the International Mission Board in Belize and as a pastor in North Carolina.

"Prayer should precede min-

istry," Pierson said, noting that too often people do the ministry first, then follow it with prayer.

Pierson is the first to admit that he does not understand why he is in his new role.

He and his wife had just built a new "dream home" near Fayetteville and he was happy in his role as director of missions.

He also feels there are probably people better suited for the position of prayer coordinator.

Yet, Pierson knows without a shadow of a doubt that "God has put me here and that is all that matters."

As one might expect, a lot of prayer went into Pierson's decision to leave a comfortable position for a new position within the state convention structure. Though the convention has had part-time prayer coordinators in the past, Pierson is the first person to fill that role on a full-time basis.

Pierson turned to Hosea 10:12, his "life verse" which he adopted while serving in Be-



DON PIERSON sits in his office at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Baptist Center.

lize.

The verse calls upon people to "break up your fallow ground."

Pierson's "fallow ground" was his relationship to God and his prayer life, he recalled.

He committed then to improve not only his relationship with God but his prayer life as

well. "I believe God is calling me to set the plow deep in my own life and to call others to do the same," he said.

And as he was considering the decision to join the TBC staff and was listing all the reasons he shouldn't take the position, he realized he was "choosing things" over God.

"If that's my life verse, how could I say no to this opportunity. To say no was to say no to God."

Pierson has identified three goals he would like to accomplish as prayer coordinator.

The first is to assist churches and associations to develop a comprehensive, Great Commission prayer ministry that undergirds all they do in the church or association.

In the short time he has spent with churches across the state, Pierson said he senses "God is leading more and more of his people to seek him with a renewed fervency."

"The development of individual and church prayer life seems to be a priority among God's people at this time," he observed.



Pierson's second goal is to identify the Tennessee "persons of prayer," people who have a sense of God's calling to a ministry of prayer."

He wants to communicate prayer needs, not only for the state convention but also for churches and missionaries, to these "intercessors" in order to have "unified prayer support" in Tennessee.

Finally, Pierson's third goal is to be used personally to "inspire believers and churches to set the 'plow' deep in their lives and settings."

Pierson acknowledged God already working in prayer lives throughout the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"My desire is to pull it together and create a unified prayer ministry for the state convention and our churches and associations," Pierson said. ■

## Small congregation houses two ...

Continued from page 1  
True Faith Church, which wanted to use the South Gate facility for a special event. South Gate agreed and soon a relationship was formed between Samuel Sims, pastor of True Faith, and Puckett.

Puckett learned True Faith church was paying about \$800 a month to use an apartment club house for several hours on Sundays. He learned True Faith wasn't aligned with any denomination or entity.

Under guidance from Puckett, True Faith members learned if they took a step backward and accepted mission status, South Gate could sponsor them and would allow them to meet at its facility.

Since then True Faith Mission has joined the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Nashville Baptist Association. This year the congregation received a \$25,000 grant from the TBC which allowed it to pay off debt on land it is buying. The church is growing, drawing about 50 to Sunday afternoon worship, and saving to build its own facility soon.

### Beginning a Hispanic mission

At the end of last year, Puckett said he felt God leading him to investigate whether South Gate could begin a Hispanic congregation. He knew a need existed from his contacts with many Hispanics in the South Nashville communi-

Puckett contacted Chuy Avila of the TBC staff and in a week

Avila called Puckett back to say he had a pastor lined up to start a mission at South Gate.

Puckett said he was shocked at the quick response, but updated South Gate's leadership team, which agreed it was time for South Gate to sponsor a Hispanic mission. The congregation agreed unanimously.

Mision Hispana South Gate was started in January by Alfonso Zavala, a bivocational pastor like Sims. Zavala is also a seminary extension student who attends Spanish-language classes held through Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., at Nashville Baptist Association office.

Mision Hispana draws about 20 members to Sunday morning services and more to a Wednesday evening Bible study at Zavala's home. More Hispanics attend the Bible study because Catholicism has taught them it is wrong to attend a Protestant church.

Members of South Gate Church are working with Mision Hispana to help it grow. Members of both congregations plan to offer English as a Second Language classes and to hold a community outreach event. The event will introduce the congregation to other Hispanics in the neighborhood.

### Benefits

"Getting outside of our own

church and touching lives is what we're called to do," Puckett said. "You don't have to be a big church to reach out and be involved in missions."

"It's neat to have black and white and brown all together," said Puckett, adding the congregations have learned from each other in joint worship services and fellowships.

Puckett noted that South Gate not only has a facility, but it is debt-free, so members should be willing to share what other members and God have given them.

"Our building is their building," he explained, noting there have been no misunderstandings between the different people using the facility.

He also reported God has provided everything needed for the efforts of South Gate, even a \$45,000 roof for the facility.

And South Gate Church has not limited itself to assisting beginning congregations. Three years ago members participated in its first missions trip. A team from South Gate has served in Nebraska, Indiana, and West Virginia. And two members served as part of a NBA team in London, England, this year. Members plan to work in Canada next year to support the Tennessee/Canada Baptist Partnership.

"A church should do whatever it has the heart to do if the Lord's in it," he said. "If God wants us to do it, he'll provide the means for us to do it," said Puckett. ■



PUCKETT

## Born-again Christians as likely to divorce as other adults

By Adelle M. Banks  
For Religion News Service

Born-again Christians are just as likely to get divorced as adults who are not born-again Christians, Barna Research Group reports.

Researchers found that 33 percent of born-again adults who have been married have been divorced compared with 34 percent of adults not considered born-again Christians who reported the same experience.

The study also found that 29 percent of Catholics and 32 percent of Protestants have been married and divorced.

"More than 90 percent of the born-again adults who have been divorced experienced that divorce after they accepted Christ, not before," said George Barna, president of Barna Research Group, in a statement. "It is unfortunate that so many people, regardless of their faith, experience a divorce, but especially unsettling to find that the faith commitment of so many born-again individuals has not enabled them to strengthen and save their marriages."

He said the people sur-

veyed did not claim to be born-again Christians but met the group's definition for them.

The Ventura, Calif., research firm also studied trends in cohabitation. It found that 33 percent of all adults had cohabited. Twenty-five percent of born-again Christians had cohabited, compared to 39 percent of adults who were not born-again Christians. Thirty-six percent of Catholics and 30 percent of Protestants had cohabited.

The data on cohabitation is based on a national telephone survey of 1,005 adults in February and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The marriage and divorce figures, which have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points, are based on a combination of seven samples of adults totaling 7,043 who were interviewed by telephone between January 2000 and July 2001.

In 1999, the research firm conducted a study that found that born-again Christians had a slightly higher rate of divorce than those who are not born-again Christians. ■

# Greene County churches respond to floods

By Marcia Knox  
For Baptist and Reflector

GREENE COUNTY — First Baptist Church, Greeneville, is continuing its Disaster Relief efforts by responding to area victims of severe flooding. The flooding was caused by a series of torrential thunderstorms Aug. 3-4 which dumped over 6-12 inches of rain in parts of upper East Tennessee.

Early reports estimated damage to 70 county roads, 50-60 bridges, an elementary school, Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, and numerous private residents. No lives were lost, but several people had to be rescued from their homes.

The flooding destroyed at least 20 homes and damaged 200 others in Middle Creek, Camp Creek, Horse Creek and Paint Creek areas. First Church has responded by feeding people, cleaning up, and removing debris with chain saws.

Hollis Marshall, minister of education and administration at First Church, Greeneville, reported the church prepared meals for the community, which the Red Cross delivered to area victims.

The church prepared 250 meals on Aug. 6, 200 on Aug. 7, and 175 on Aug. 8. Church member Ann Williams, who contacted the Greene County Chapter of the American Red Cross and volunteered their help, was in charge of meal preparation at the church where around 25 volunteers worked during the three days.

"The flooding was the result of rain falling so fast that flooding occurred in the creeks and rivers, and also inundating the area with so much ground water that it had no place to go," said Marshall. "In addition to houses and roads being washed away, basements were flooded including mine."

Rosalie Brooks, church secretary said Hank and Delores

Holmes volunteered along with others following Sunday church services to head up the Disaster Relief ministry efforts not only to help church members, but other families outside the church. Pastor David Green asked for volunteers to help the community.

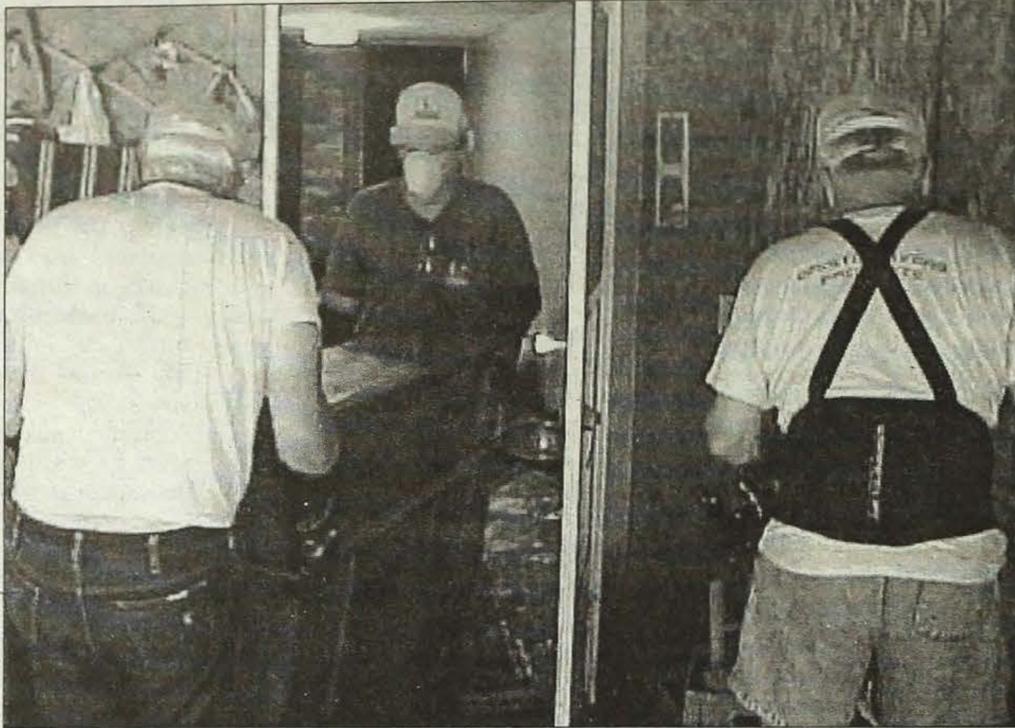
The Holmeses took names and sent out crews for clean up, furniture moving, and vacuuming out water. They also took clothing requests for victims. Around 20 church members and others have worked in mud-out, carpet removal, and chain saw teams.

"The church has helped 20 families in the church," said Delores Holmes. "We are also assisting families outside the church with everything from taking up carpets, mud-out, and clothing."

"I have been really touched by members of our church who went out and bought new clothes to minister to families whose trailers and houses have been destroyed. We are now collecting furniture. Those who have greater needs were being referred to the Red Cross."

Keith Webb, the church's Brotherhood director, sent chain saw crews Aug. 8-9 to remove limbs and trees from properties.

"Because of this disaster, I believe there will be more in-



**MOVING HOUSEHOLD** items from a flooded house are, from left, Keith Webb, Brotherhood director, First Baptist Church, Greeneville; John Walker of First Baptist Church, Morristown; and Hank Holmes of First Baptist Church, Greeneville.

terest in Disaster Relief, and the church will shift its focus from individual Disaster Relief response to do more as a whole," said Marshall.

Marshall also asked for volunteers Wednesday night to answer phones as part of a disaster phone bank for the Greene County Partnership. They enlisted donations of food for Community Ministries Food Bank and offers to move furniture.

Towering Oaks Baptist Church, Greeneville, also re-

ported several families in their church were affected by the flooding, according to pastor Tommy Pierce. The church responded by taking up an offering and collecting clothing for the victims.

Curt Fowler of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief from West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, is serving as the representative in the area of Tennessee/Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster. TN/VOAD does Disaster Relief recovery work.



Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief had trained several of the Greene County volunteers in recent training sessions at Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport.

The next Disaster Relief Training will be held Sept. 28-29 at Carson Springs. Call the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group for information on volunteering and training at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7926.

Monetary donations are being accepted for "Greene County Disaster Relief." Send donations to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728 Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. A press time on Aug. 13 work was planned to resume after rains stop. ■

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

Pianist position available. First Baptist Church St. Bethlehem Clarksville, Tenn. Contact Kevin Roberson at (931) 648-0395.

First Baptist Church, Mt. Zion, Ill. is seeking full-time praise and worship minister. Please send resume to FBC, P.O. Box 137, Mt. Zion, IL 62549, Attn. Sco Doughty.

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### Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training

There will be an Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training Workshop Aug. 17-18 at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Building. This workshop is designed to assist and equip ministers and laypeople to more effectively share their faith in a post-modern culture. The topic of the workshop is "When Skeptics Ask." The workshop is jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board. It will be led by Dr. Bill Gordon, Interfaith Evangelism Associate with the North American Mission Board. The cost for attending this workshop is \$15. For more information on this workshop or to register call Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-7916 or e-mail at thill@tnbaptist.org.



Going To The Next Level

## 2001 Tennessee Single Adult Conference

Sept. 21-22

Two Rivers Baptist Church & Opry Mills Mall

This conference will be a great time to help churches and leaders go to the next level of church growth through Single Adult Ministry. Training will be provided on "How to Start and Grow a Single Adult Ministry." Since almost half of all adults in Tennessee are single, this conference will help churches prepare to reach them.

The conference will be a time for ALL SINGLES in Tennessee to come together in a positive atmosphere for fellowship, worship, and personal growth. The worship band, "flyfaith," will deepen our worship. Concert artist/songwriter, Keith Longbotham, will inspire and entertain and 20-year Singles Ministry veteran, Rich Hurst, will lead us to The Next Level, personally, in relationships, and spiritually.

For information and registration, contact Leanne Robbins at 1-800-558-2090 or mholt@tnbaptist.org/cgd/singleadultministry.htm

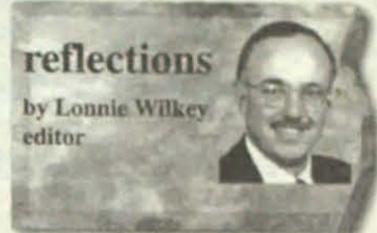
# Tennessee Baptists have a story to tell

by Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Tennessee Baptists have a story to tell. The *Baptist and Reflector* is committed to telling that story. What one sentence describes in a nutshell what this publication is about. We welcome more than 15,000 new readers each week who are participating in the observance of *Baptist and Reflector* Day. There are undoubtedly many Tennessee Baptists who are seeing the *B&R* for the first time. Our desire is these readers will come to regularly view the paper. To make sure people will want to read the paper on an ongoing basis, I have to constantly make sure I am following God's lead and plan for this publication. My sin-desire is to share stories and features that show God is at work through the people we refer to as Tennessee Baptists.

To do this, I have to ask myself what it is that makes the *Baptist and Reflector* unique. The answer is simple. We are the only publication that focuses entirely on what Tennessee Baptist people and churches do. There are other publications that share Southern Baptist Convention-wide news and on occasion those publications may have a Tennessee Baptist-related story. But, week in and week out, we are the only publication that consistently reports on our Tennessee churches. We reach into nearly 52,000 homes each week with a potential readership of more than 100,000 people. We also post stories on our Tennessee Baptist Convention Web site ([www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)) that reach even more readers. Tennessee Baptists are not only our focus, they are our target audience. What are other purposes of the paper?

As a newsjournal, we have an obligation to share news — and it is not always "good" news. Yet, Baptists have a right to know. The bulk of our stories, however, are on the positive things individuals and churches are doing to reach this state and the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. We also report on the larger Southern Baptist Convention family as well as stories and articles designed to provide helpful information on church ministries and family issues. In recent weeks we have added some new columns that we hope our readers will like. Let us know what you like and what you dislike. We want to make the *Baptist and Reflector* a publication that honors our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After all, he is the only reason Tennessee Baptists have a story to share and we have a story to tell. *B&R*



## Move over Sodom, you have company

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and gay and lesbian night? Say it's not so. But the short headline on the next to last page of the sports section in the Aug. 6 edition of *The Tennessean* read: "Braves set gays, lesbians night." Had it mentioned a California team, I probably would not even have been surprised. But the team mentioned was not San Francisco, San Diego, or Los Angeles, it was Atlanta — "America's team." It is the same Atlanta that probably is the largest city in what is considered the "Bible Belt." It is the same Atlanta that for years housed the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, now the North American Mission Board which has relocated to the Atlanta suburb of Alpharetta. How could Atlanta, which is home to hundreds and hundreds of churches, allow itself to consider hosting this event? It all boils down to money. The article was condensed and didn't provide many details, so I checked out the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on the Internet. Sure enough, there was a much longer version in their Aug. 6 edition. It noted that the Braves were basically doing their part to help the city of Atlanta attract the 2006 Gay Games, or what is commonly referred to as the Gay Olympics. Braves spokesman Jim Scultz, who has had to respond to criticism over the club's action, told the paper "it started as a business decision more than anything." The *AJC* article noted that if Atlanta is awarded the games "the economic windfall could reach \$500 million. If past games are a good indicator, the week-long event would bring more money to metro Atlanta than the Super Bowl, Major League All-Star Game, SEC football championship, and Peach Bowl combined." If Atlanta gets what it wants, somewhere down the road it undoubtedly will get what it deserves. Move over Sodom and Gomorrah, you may soon have company. ■

# How can I get this Sunday School going again?



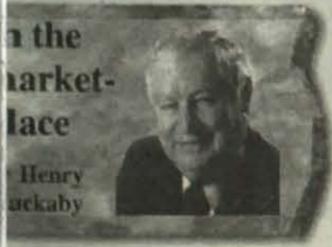
Have you asked yourself this question this summer — How can I get this Sunday School going again? To answer this question requires at least three observations. The first is person, the second is relational, and the third is theological. How can I get my Sunday School going. First of all, I need to check out my personal journey. If I'm the pastor, Sunday School director, teacher, or class member, I should ask some questions and seek diligently for answers. Here are some questions to ask: What's happening in my life spiritually? Am I learning? What have I emptied that has worked or not? Who am I talking to and have I listened to what they are

saying? What kind of influence have I been exerting? Paul doesn't ask all these questions, but he describes why we should in I Corinthians 1:5. "In Christ you have been enriched in all your speaking and in all your knowledge." If we are going to get our Sunday School going again we must depend on what we are being taught personally through our relationship with Jesus Christ. If our personal spiritual journey is not alive, then we don't have an effective foundation for anything else. A Sunday School organization is built on relationships. The primary relationship is between the staff, nominating committee, and the church member who is being asked to serve in a leadership position. The manner in which a person is enlisted to serve will be descriptive of how they will serve. If enlisted in the hallway on Sunday morning, that enlistment will produce sloppy leadership. By contrast if a church member is contacted personally, by appointment, given thorough

information about the leadership position — then asked to pray about the opportunity — more likely the potential leader will take the position seriously and do more effective work. More and more you can get your Sunday School working again by matching spiritual gifts in your potential leadership to leadership needs. This creates a synergistic experience. In I Corinthians 1:7, Paul says you do not lack any spiritual gift. We have the gifted members who will lead but is imperative to involve them in the correct manner. If we are going to get our Sunday School going again serious effort will be needed to match the right people with the right opportunity. Staying at the task of getting your Sunday School going again is WORK. There are so many things we do in a Sunday School organization, that we do every Sunday. These common experiences like ensuring a welcoming environment, greeting guests, praying for needs, and sharing around

God's Word need to be done each Sunday with passion. There are so many things that are new each Sunday, like a death or tragedy, a new family, guest, or some logistical problem. Each of these provide moments in a Sunday School organization that requires our faithfulness. Paul described God's faithfulness to us in verse 9, "God who called us is faithful." If we are to get our Sunday School going again it is only through faithful work. So if you have asked yourself the questions this summer, how do I get the Sunday School going again — remember — your own personal passion and preparation. Remember how important it is to involve members so that they value this service opportunity. Remember — God is faithful to us and our Sunday School and therefore we should take the opportunity to be faithful to our Sunday School. ■ — Holcomb is leader of the Christian Growth Development Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

# Don't let distractions divert you from God's plan



How many people never reach their goal which they set for themselves in their workplace. They entered their workplace with a clear sense of mission and determination "to make a difference." Along the way there is trembling, or a sorrow, or a sense of failure that the best and best of ideals are not reached. Over the years, talking with hundreds of people who have experienced this trauma, I have heard them exclaim, "How did

this happen? How and why did I miss it?" There are many answers but the one factor that I notice more than any other is that they became distracted along the way. Not necessarily "big" things, but the distractions were fatal to accomplishing their goal. How does this happen? How is one "distracted" in the workplace? (1) Their main goal was never firmly established. They did not have enough PASSION. (2) The opinions and suggestions and urgings of others attracted them away from their own goal. (3) The "grass" seemed greener in another project or direction. (4) They did not establish a standard (plumbline) to recognize distractions.

- (5) They did not realize that "good things" often are the enemy of the best.
  - (6) They did not weigh carefully the counsel they were receiving (Psalm 1).
  - (7) They did not affirm (daily) their goal.
  - (8) Sometimes, successes along the way can distract and get us stuck there.
- Today:
- (1) Restate your original goal, given by God to you for your workplace.
  - (2) Determine if you are still "on track" or have moved away.
  - (3) Ask God for clear discernment on your life in your workplace.
  - (4) Seek counsel from proven Godly men/women whom God has placed near you.
- Jesus warned his disciples, "... seek first the kingdom of

God, and his righteousness and everything else will be added to you ..." (Matthew 6:33). The apostle Paul said about his life as he came to the end of his journey, "... I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14). Guard your heart against fatal distractions that will draw you away from the one thing God would do through your life in the workplace. Take some immediate and careful steps to do this — now! ■ — Blackaby, co-author of *Experiencing God*, now serves as president of Henry Blackaby Ministries. Reprinted from Baptist Press.

# White, black churches begin new relationship

For Baptist and Reflector

MILAN — The late afternoon heat of early July had climbed to a sultry 98 degrees. Children stood in line for popcorn, cotton candy, and a chance to bounce in the inflated Moon Jump. Clowns mingled about making balloon animals, hearts, and swords.

Armed with hot dogs and bags of chips, children gathered at the base of a five-foot puppet stage. Rows of metal chairs facing a flatbed stage were filled with a black and white crowd fanning themselves vigorously while sharing in the same festive experience — a neighborhood block party.

The July 7 block party, which drew 250 people, and a Vacation Bible School and re-

vival were held at New St. John Baptist Mission here by another black congregation and two white congregations.

The churches helping New St. John Mission were First Baptist Church, Milan; Northside Baptist Church, Milan; and New Victory Baptist Church, Rutherford. The event was the first result of a new relationship between the churches.

New St. John Mission is a beginning congregation which draws 60 to Sunday morning worship. Working through Mississippi River Ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is coordinated by Randy Pool in Tennessee, the church requested help with a Vacation Bible School. Pool, based at Gibson County Bap-

tist Association, Trenton, shared the needs of New St. John with other area congregations. Soon the four churches signed a covenant to work together to help New St. John Mission.

The block party also was supported by many other churches and community groups, reported Pool, which provided music, drill teams, entertainment, and speakers. They included Greater Saint Luke Baptist Church, Jackson; and Clowns for Christ of Fruitland Baptist Church, Humboldt.

Then the Gospel was presented and people moved from the metal chairs and the choir to speak to the pastors, reported Pool. One man rose from his lawn chair under the tree next

to his house. Slowly he walked across his yard to the church property. He made his way between parked cars onto the parking lot. Finally the man nervously approached a pastor.

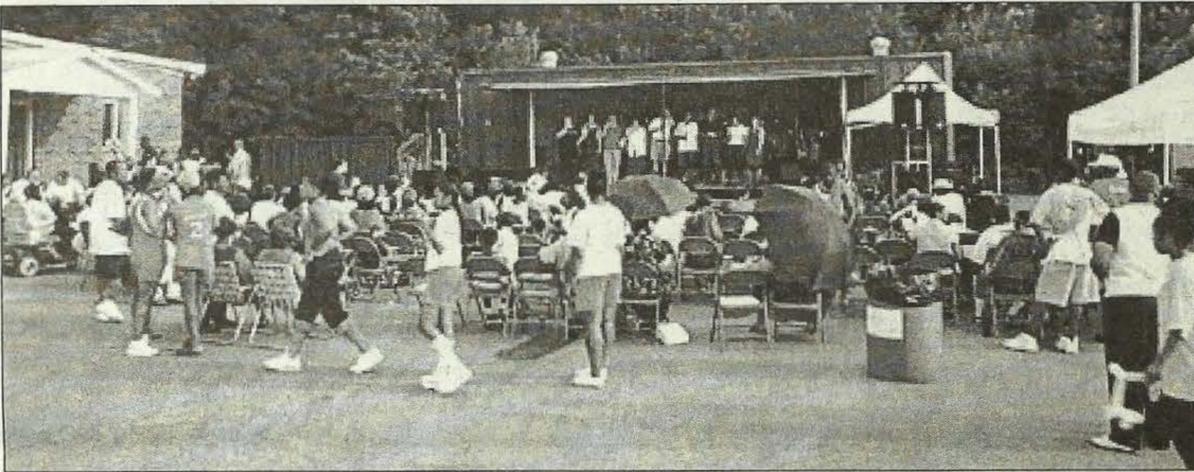
The VBS was held by a team from five churches in Missouri and revival was led by a speaker from Mayfield, Ky.

As a result of the activities, three people made professions of faith and one other person joined St. John Mission.

"There is no doubt in the hearts of all involved that only

God could have orchestrated such a happening," said P referring to the week of activities.

"He (God) not only broke down the wall of sin that separated us from him, he has broken down the wall of contention that separated us from each other." ■



THE JULY 7 block party in Milan was a project of the Mississippi River Ministry involving two white churches and two black churches.



SIGNING A COVENANT to help New St. John Mission and pastor, Leon Taylor, second from right, are pastors of the other churches, from left, seated, Skip Parvin, First Baptist Church; Todd DeLaney, Northside Baptist Church; and Thol Bester, New Victory Baptist Church. Standing, center, is Randy Pool of Mississippi River Ministry.

## Lloyd Blackwell reports he is learning, healing ...

— Continued from page 1  
dent. He wanted her to hear it in person from a friend.

Blackwell said after that he can't remember anything for weeks. And he can't remember the initial pain.

That is another blessing from God, said Jodi.

### A long process

Lloyd Blackwell, who had just served at LindenValley for a year and was enjoying it, found himself in Vanderbilt Hospital's Burn Unit with 50 percent of his body burned. Forty-five percent of it, including his legs, hands, and forearms, had third degree burns.

He endured five surgeries and 78 days of hospitalization during which infections caused portions of skin grafts to "melt," Jodi reported. He had to learn to walk and form a fist again.

He struggles with his propensity to grow a lot of scar tissue. He wears a pressure garment 23 hours a day and must endure physical therapy, which is "uncomfortable," for the next two years.

Blackwell faces the possibility of minor surgical procedures. In a year his strength will return and in five years his

recovery will be complete.

### Positive outlook

With a serious expression on his face, Blackwell explained because of the accident he has a more valuable watch. It has smoked glass, he quipped. And it took a burning and kept on turning, he continued, adapting the old Timex watch joke.

He actually still wears the watch he wore in the accident. He did have to replace the watchband, he said. He and Jodi use humor to help them deal with the ramifications of the accident.

"I fast-forwarded through Kubler-Ross's stages of grief," he said, referring to Katharine Kubler-Ross, the author on grief. Jodi is still working through them, he added, as they shared an intimate smile.

He's glad to report he's back at work at the TBC Baptist Center while he is in the Nashville area, and hoping to return to LindenValley in September.

Currently, he and his family, including Brook, 4; and Autumn, five months, continue to live with Lloyd's parents, Bill and Muriel Blackwell of Brentwood.

He drives himself to work

and to physical therapy at Vanderbilt. "I can grab the steering wheel with seven out of 10 fingers so I'm good to go," Blackwell said proudly.

And he can type, although "not very well," he admitted. He is trying to read all of the e-mails he received at work during the past four months.

### Blessings

The couple can identify many blessings from God they have received throughout the experience, they said.

Doctors at Vanderbilt predicted Blackwell would be hospitalized 50 days. Instead he was there 38 days. He also was treated at a rehabilitation facility.

His propensity to grow a lot of scar tissue has confounded therapists, which is not unusual, joked Jodi, since his personality is confounding. But he is doing well in spite of it.

They have been awed by the support, especially prayer support, they have received from Baptists and Christians.

Before Lloyd arrived at the hospital by helicopter, friends had arrived. By e-mail, the re-



JODI BLACKWELL leads Lloyd through physical therapy, which he does five hours a day.

quest for prayer spread so quickly a friend in Nashville learned of the accident from a friend in Honduras.

The couple said they have been comforted by the hundreds of expressions of support. He has been visited by pastors from across the state, some of whom he barely knew, said Blackwell.

"It's been overwhelming," he said.

The couple ask for continued prayer, that the scar tissue will

grow less and Blackwell retrieve his range of motion and strength. And with his rectness, he also asks prayer that God will reveal how God will use this experience in his life.

"I wonder what kind of ministry is going to come out of this?" asked Blackwell, revealing his optimism and faith.

For information on avoiding burns, the Blackwells refer people to [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/burns.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/burns.html). ■

# Ayers extends ministry as 'cartoon evangelist'

nie Wilkey  
and Reflector

ATLINBURG — Pastor David Ayers of Roaring Fork Baptist Church is more than a preacher of the Gospel — he's described as "cartoon evangelist."

In April, *The Mountain Press* of Gatlinburg began publishing "P.K." (Preacher's Kids) an ongoing comic strip by Ayers.

At the time, a few other Christian publications have picked up the cartoons.

"I see it as an extended ministry," said Ayers, a Gatlinburg native who is serving the church where his father, Shirl Compton, is a charter member and Ayers himself was an active participant during his childhood and teenage years.

"If somebody might read a cartoon who would never come to church," Ayers observed.

Because of that reason, the Gatlinburg pastor often tries to make an "evangelistic message" in some of his cartoons.

"I try to be humorous, but I also try to bring out a point or a message," said Ayers, who has titled his cartoons as "Dr. Preacher's Kids."

Ayers has been drawing for over 20 years. One of his "heroes" as a cartoonist is Charles Schulz of "Peanuts" fame. He has used some of his drawings as "Peanuts" characters to create his own and the cartoonist Ayers and sent him two Snoopy cartoons. Unfortunately, Ayers sighed, that was in the 1970s and those cartoons have long since disappeared.

At a year ago Ayers began seeing a purpose for his cartoons.

"I began to draw pictures of my two sons, Aaron, 12, and David, 5, putting them in humorous situations."

"When he decided to begin a ministry based on his sons, he went to them and asked if he could use their names. He reminded them the characters would always remain ages 12 and 5. He didn't want them to be embarrassed in their teenage years by the cartoon bearing their names.

"They were fine with it," Ayers said. "They look forward to the cartoons." Ayers also involves his sons and his wife, Tammy, by having them critique the cartoons before they are published.

The cartoons also include three other regular characters — Chris, Buddy, and Heather — who are loosely based on "real" people, Ayers said.

"The cartoon is about how they look at life, especially how they look at church life," he said.

Drawing the cartoons on a weekly basis is time consuming, Ayers admitted. He draws the cartoons freehand, but is learning how to use the computer to add color and enhance the appearance of his work.

After his cartoons began appearing, Ayers began praying for the Lord's guidance on whether to continue the cartoons as part of his ministry.

"I prayed that God would let me know the cartoons are making a difference," he recalled. "That afternoon I received a card from a lady who said she always gets a message out of the cartoon strip and asked me to keep it up."

"That confirmed that I needed to continue pursuing the strip as a ministry," said



**ONGOING CHARACTERS** in the PK comic strip drawn by Pastor David Ayers of Roaring Fork Baptist Church, Gatlinburg, are, from left, Chris, Buddy, Heather, John-David, and Aaron.

Ayers, who has been pastor of his home church since 1996. Previously he served as associate/youth pastor at Cartertown Baptist Church, Gatlinburg, a non-Southern Baptist church where his brother, Mitch, is pastor.

One of Ayers' long-term goals is to have the strip syndicated in newspapers across the country. "If it's the Lord's will, it will happen," Ayers is convinced.

Ayers has a passion for the cartoon ministry.

"It's a different feeling from preaching a message God has called you to preach, but at the same time, it's fulfilling."

The Gatlinburg minister noted that one of his strongest gifts is that of encouragement.

"I want these cartoons to be an encouragement to people, to make them smile. I guess I sort of break out of the stereo-



**PASTOR DAVID AYERS** of Roaring Fork Baptist Church looks over some of his "P.K." comic strips. The cartoons are published in *The Mountain Press* of Gatlinburg, and some Christian publications. The cartoons will appear regularly in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

type of what people think a pastor is supposed to be like, but I really enjoy life.

"I am not a great artist nor do I claim to be, but if these kids can make someone think of Jesus, my talent has found a purpose," Ayers said. ■

## Preacher's Kids

FRANKIE, JOHN-David AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT DADS. HOW MUCH DOES YOUR DAD MAKE?



WELL, MY DAD WORKS FOR THIS WHOLESALE SUPPLY STORE IN TOWN AND HE MAKES \$45,000.00 A YEAR.



THAT'S PRETTY GOOD BUT MY DAD WORKS FOR A COMPUTER COMPANY AND HE GETS \$60,000.00 A YEAR.



I'VE GOT YOU BOTH BEAT. MY DAD IS A PREACHER AND HE MAKES SO MUCH IT TAKES SIX MEN TO CARRY IT ALL.



by David Ayers



## IMB appoints Tennesseans to mission field

For Baptist and Reflector

**RICHMOND** — The Southern Baptist International Mission Board has appointed two couples with strong Tennessee ties to serve overseas.

Cookeville pastor Jim Malone Jr., of Midway Baptist Church, and his wife, Linda, were among 47 people appointed Aug. 2 during a service at Glorieta, a LifeWay Conference Center in New Mexico.

The Malones will serve in Brazil where he will be involved with church planting and she will be involved in outreach work through their home and church.



**J. MALONE**

Malone is a native of Loudon and is the son of Jerry Malone and the late Henry Malone. Linda Malone is a native of Maryville and is the daughter of Jack and Ruth Richesin of Maryville.



**L. MALONE**

The couple has a grown son. Also appointed were Tennessee natives Larry and Susan McCrary of Alpharetta, Ga.

The McCrarys will serve in Spain where he will serve as a team coordinator for missionaries in the area. His wife will support the work through their home and church.



**L. McCRARY**

McCrary is a native of Knoxville and is the son of Earl and Mary McCrary of Sevierville. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



**S. McCRARY**

Susan McCrary is also a Knoxville native and is the daughter of Larry and Diki Trivette of that city.

They have two children, Megan York, born in 1991 and Parker Franklin, born in 1995. ■

# Sanitized movies arrive in video stores

By Shelvia Dancy  
For Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — If only.

The words roll from the lips of dissatisfied movie-goers far too often for Dick Rolfe's taste.

"How many times have you heard someone leaving a movie say 'that would be a great family film if only there wasn't so much violence,' or 'if only there wasn't so much sex it would have been a great movie?'" said Rolfe, president of the Dove Foundation, a Christian non-profit media watchdog. "We're trying to get rid of the 'if only.'"

He already has in some cases. Courtesy of a partnership between Rolfe's Michigan-based organization and New Line Cinema, four major studio movies have hit the video rental market scrubbed free of profanity, violence, and sex.

"There's a huge audience segment that is turned off by entertainment right now, so we're offering edited titles that the people can get for themselves," Rolfe said. "This is the first time the general public has been able to do that."

The first edited videos — "Lost in Space," "The Bachelor," "Blast from the Past," and "The Mask" with Jim Carrey — hit

shelves in April in Target, Wal-Mart, and Kmart stores around the country, Rolfe said.

For years studios were lukewarm about the idea of re-issuing sanitized movies for the video rental market, Rolfe said, even though edited films are routinely aired on airline flights and television networks.

"Now that the video industry has competition like DVDs, pay-per-view, and satellites, studios are more interested in finding ways to keep earning as much revenue as possible," Rolfe said. "This is certainly one way to do that."

Mindful of disclosure agreements with the studio, Rolfe would only say that the first release ("The Mask") "did very well considering the little promotion put behind it."

"I would say that the evidence of the success is that (New Line Cinema) has come back to ask us to consider endorsing more titles," he said.

By the time edited titles wend their way from the studio to the family room VCR, the usual suspects have been left on the cutting room floor — "gratuitous violence, immorality, and profanity," Rolfe said.

But "we're as interested in the context as we are in the con-

tent," he added.

"In some of these movies there are some mild, implied portrayals of immorality but these portrayals are neither glorified nor promoted nor condoned — there are appropriate consequences for the behavior," he said.

Though some critics complain that the edited movies strangle artistic integrity, Rolfe said that argument is "a pretty shallow protest."

"NBC paid \$30 million for the rights to show the movie 'Titanic' on television, and no one complained at all knowing full well that the television network would remove the nude scene and the other scene showing fornication in the car," Rolfe said. "It seems to me that creative integrity is easily compromised in Hollywood if the dollars are there."

The sanitized movies arrive as Hollywood begins its own retreat from the screen fare whose heavy sprinklings of violence, profanity and sex earned the wrath of politicians and the Federal Trade Commission. In a report released last September, the commission charged the movie, video game, and music industries with routinely targeting R-rated material at children as young as 8 years old.

"That report blew the whistle on Hollywood, and now Hollywood has been forced to tone down its material somewhat," Rolfe said. "They can't get away with that sort of stuff anymore."

Nor will they want to if consumers start "putting their money where their values are," said Rolfe, advocating a national "buy-cott" of 'family-friendly' entertainment.

"Buy-cotts' send a clear message that studios can understand when they look at their balance sheets," Rolfe said. "The power of the purse is greater than the power of the pen when it comes to commercial entertainment. When consumers begin to exercise that power they will be amazed at how quickly Hollywood will respond."

An industrywide change of heart may be slow in coming, but "we have to start by getting Hollywood pointed in the right direction," said Rolfe.

"Hollywood is constantly checking the bottom line to see what sells, so if the money trail is heading in one direction, then that's the direction Hollywood will follow," he said. "We just want to encourage them to move in this family-friendly direction." ■



## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Growing church in north Alabama is seeking music minister. Resumes accepted through Aug. 31 at FBC Box 236, Killen, AL 35645 Personnel Committee.



Smyrna Baptist Church, Columbia, Tenn., is seeking a time minister of music for a growing congregation. For resume send to Smyrna Baptist Church, P.O. Box 456, Columbia, TN 37034.

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# Four highlights ministry needs of ARM

and Reflector

VILLE — East Baptists recently had the opportunity to visit the missions ministry needs in the commonly referred Appalachia.

Group participated in a tour sponsored by the Baptist Convention/Mission Strategies Group to Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM), a national ministry to address the spiritual and physical needs of people living in the Appalachian region.

Group wanted to make a list of selected ministries and the wide ministry opportunities available," said Beverly Smothers, TBC specialist who coordinated the bus tour.

Group saw ministries involving inner-city day ministries, repairs, home repair, and more, Smothers said.

On the tour included Community Village and Western Heights Baptist centers in Knoxville. The centers'



**TBC STAFFER** Beverly Smothers and Bill Barker, national coordinator of Appalachian Regional Ministry, recently led a bus tour of four East Tennessee sites to make people aware of needs in the area.

ministries include providing food and clothing, worship services, tutoring, and more.

As he was leading the tour at Western Heights, director Tom Everett reminded participants of Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these

brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Jesus went into the midst of the people, Everett related. "I'd much rather do missions than talk about doing missions."

The group also learned of ministry needs and opportunities at the Appalachian Outreach Center in Jefferson City and resort ministry opportunities at Cherokee Lake in Grainger County.

Bill Barker, the regional coordinator of ARM who is based in Scott Depot, West Va.,



**DIRECTOR** Jean-Ann Washam, right, of Samaritan House, a homeless ministry based in Jefferson City, and Alea Capaldi, a senior at Carson-Newman College and a summer missionary, related their ministry to those touring ARM sites.

shared more details about the Appalachian ministry.

He cautioned that work in the region is like a crockpot (slow). It is not a place to expect microwave results, he observed.

Yet, he is optimistic about what is happening in the 10-state region comprising Appalachia. "God is at work. It is exciting to see what God is doing." — Story includes reporting by Editor Lonnie Wilkey and Charlotte Benson, a writer from Oak Ridge who was on the tour.



**DENNIS CAGLE**, director of missions for Grainger Baptist Association, briefed bus tour participants on the needs in resort ministry at Cherokee Lake. — Photos by Charlotte Benson



## Mountain Ministry Summit slated

For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — A Mountain Ministry Summit highlighting Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) will be held Sept. 27-29 at Central Baptist Church here.

ARM is a 10-state, intentional missions response to the spiritual and physical needs of persons living in the Appalachian region.

The Summit begins on Sept. 27 with a Missions Fair at 4 p.m., followed by dinner. It also will feature preaching, fellowship, networking, and break out groups focusing on various ministry areas.

The registration fee for the Summit is \$15 and should be sent to ARM, 1 Mission Way, Scott Depot, WV 25560.

For more information, contact Bill Barker, national ARM coordinator at (304) 201-5057. ■

# HOPE FOR THE HOME

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- ▶ Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Meridian, MS
- ▶ Forest Hills Baptist Church, Franklin, TN

**HOPE FOR THE HOME** is presented by the Jerry Drace Evangelistic Association: (731) 784-0087, or email: jdeainc@juno.com

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**BILLY GRAHAM**  
"The best work in the world is a man or woman doing what God has called them to do and doing it faithfully. Jerry Drace is that kind of individual. His ministry is one of integrity and he has remained faithful to God's call to evangelism."



**HENRY BLACKABY**  
"Jerry Drace not only has long standing integrity in his ministry, but has heard the voice of God to help restore families in the nation. Full support of God's activity to see revival in America must be given by all of God's people."



**STEPHEN OLFORD**  
"Praise the Lord for the ministry of Jerry Drace. We have worked together in conferences and shared the same platform on various occasions. He is truly God called and the Lord's anointing is upon him."



**JOSH MCDOWELL**  
"The number one motivation of the church should be ministering to the families within the church. **HOPE for the HOME** will do just that. I encourage you to have a **HOPE for the HOME** conference. Jerry knows how to connect with family members in your church. Your families will be blessed and your church revived."



## NAMB employees leave over statement

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Three of the North American Mission Board's 200-plus management and professional staff members have left the agency after stating they could not conduct their ministries in accordance with the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in June 2000.

A copy of the SBC statement

of beliefs was forwarded to the management and professional staff in May, along with a one-page form asking their affirmation of and their commitment to work in accordance with the BFM, Martin King, NAMB's director of convention relations, told Baptist Press Aug. 3.

King said a memo from NAMB President Robert E. Record asked the management and professional staff for accountability to the SBC and to be in step with NAMB trustees, who have formally affirmed the BFM, as well as other SBC agencies.

The first part of the form asked the staff to reply yes or no to the statement: "I have read and am in agreement with the current edition of the Baptist Faith and Message."

If "no" was selected, the employee was asked to explain "any area of difference."

The second part of the form stated, "In accountability to the

North American Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention, I covenant to carry out my responsibilities in accordance with and not contrary to the current edition of the Baptist Faith and Message."

Several other employees stated areas of disagreement with the BFM but signed the second part of the form affirming they could conduct their ministries in accordance with the SBC statement of beliefs, King said. These responses are being reviewed by NAMB's executive leadership, King said.

The request for affirmation of the Baptist Faith and Message is not a new practice at NAMB or its predecessor, the Home Mission Board, King said.

All NAMB missionaries currently serving and those who have served in the past 10-20 years were asked as part of the application and interview

process to affirm the BFM and to explain any areas of disagreement, and that process continues, King said.

Now, NAMB is asking its management and professional staff to do the same as the missionaries, King said. The agency has not asked current missionaries to reaffirm the BFM as adopted by the SBC in June 2000, he said.

The three staff members leaving NAMB's staff are Gerry Hutchinson, manager of church and community ministries evangelism, who resigned effective July 31; Donoso Escobar, associate in church and community ministries evangelism, who has retired, counting previous denominational experience; and George Pickle, chaplaincy associate for health care and pastoral counseling, who also has retired. ■

## CLASSIFIED

**MINISTRIES — PASTOR**  
FBC, Gideon, seeking an enclosed full-time pastor. Assumes to Allen Winchester Pit Committee, P.O. Box 63848, Gideon, MO 63848.

◆◆◆◆  
New Midway Baptist Church (SBC), a rural church located between Kingston and Lenoir, Tenn., prayerfully seeks a full-time pastor to guide our worship toward a deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please send resume to S. Treadwell, Deer Run Ridge, Kingston, TN 37763 or e-mail resume to [streadway@qsystem.com](mailto:streadway@qsystem.com) (phone: 865-376-1851).

**MINISTRIES — YOUTH**  
Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., seeks a full-time minister of youth and adults to lead a dynamic ministry that helps our young people and learn more about God and/or ordination preparation. Founded in 1893, HBC is a conservative, CBF-affiliated church with 400 active members. Visit us at [www.hbclo.com](http://www.hbclo.com). Send resume and references to Minister of Youth Search Committee, Highland Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Rd., Louisville, KY 40204.

◆◆◆◆  
Permanent part-time minister of youth and children positions available at community and church-oriented church. Send resume to Search Committee, Old First Baptist Church, 1106 Ave., Old Hickory, TN 37122.

◆◆◆◆  
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Juliet, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of youth. Send resumes to Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 7463 Hickory Rd., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122.

◆◆◆◆  
Calvary Baptist Church of Lenoir City, a conservative SBC Baptist church, is seeking a full-time, vision-oriented youth minister to lead our growing youth ministry into the future. This is a full-time position. The ideal candidate will possess a passion for ministry, a genuine team spirit to work with the other members of the staff. Experience preferred and seminary or college degree is a requirement. Please send resumes to Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 300 West First Street, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
For Sale: Baldwin 640 cc engine, 2 manual, draw-knife pedal board with special features. Best offer. (423) 871-1111.

**MINISTRIES — OTHER**  
FBC, Albany, Ga., is seeking a minister of preschool/children to join our ministry team in young families. Send resume to Neil Brown, P.O. Box 31702, Albany, Ga. 31702 or [nbrown@baptistalbany.org](mailto:nbrown@baptistalbany.org).

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### Editor

The national headquarters of WMU is seeking three individuals to plan, design, and produce missions education curriculum materials. A master's degree, three years of work experience in the area of church leadership, youth/students, or language groups, and Southern Baptist membership is required. Previous editing experience and a master's degree from a seminary or divinity school is preferred. Send resumes to Human Resources via fax at (205) 995-4827, e-mail at [hr@wmu.org](mailto:hr@wmu.org), or US mail at 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.

## Clear Creek Baptist Bible College Announces the Tennessee Extension Center At First Baptist Church, Kingston Classes Begin August 27, 2001

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**Early Registration: August 23, 2001, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

First Baptist Church, Kingston

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(Financial Aid Available)

### Contact Information:

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College  
300 Clear Creek Rd  
Pineville, KY 40977  
(606) 337-3196  
Donnie Fox - Admissions Dir.  
E-mail: [dfox@cbbbc.edu](mailto:dfox@cbbbc.edu)

FBC, Kingston  
215 North Kentucky St.  
Kingston, TN 37763  
(865) 376-6041  
Dr. Roy Graves - Pastor  
E-mail: [royg@1stbaptistfamily.com](mailto:royg@1stbaptistfamily.com)

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An Olympic equestrian champion was asked, *How does your horse know when it has to leap the hedges and hurdles, and why*

*do the horses turn away or stumble? The woman replied, That's simple. You tear your heart out of your body and throw it over the hedge.* (from Leadership Journal)

The answer to that inquiry is to be taken figuratively than literally. But the words do fully express how vital it is to be fully committed to a challenging task.

To throw your heart into a task is to give your all. To throw your heart into a task is to hold back nothing.

To throw your heart into a task is to take a risk. To throw your heart into a task is to act without fear or hesitation.

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# The body of Christ: God's family

By Paul Frick

**Focal Passage: Ephesians 2:11-22**

I love home improvement projects. Sometimes these projects have called for walls that were strong and solid. Walls divide a house into useable space. Stone walls can define property boundaries. These types of walls are helpful. But walls can exist in our human relationships. Unfortunately, these relational walls also exist in God's family. Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians to sketch out his vision for the church as the body of Christ unified by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Our focal passage details how Christ has torn down the walls that separate people and how the church must seek unity as it carries out its work for Christ.

In Paul's time, the division between Jews and Gentiles was measurably wide. Great animosity existed between these two groups. In verse 11, Paul reminds the saved Gentiles (who had been religious pagans before their conversion) that they were once separated from Christ. Paul then unpacks and elaborates this statement by saying that Jesus was the Messiah who had been promised to Israel. Since the Gentiles were not citizens of Israel, they were foreigners and they could not anticipate the hope of the promised Messiah. In verse 12, Paul provides a logical progression as to the full meaning of being separated from Christ.

Reconciliation creates unity not only between God and humanity but also implies the unity of the human race. Paul says that there is now one man where there were two men (verse 15), thus the enmity between the Jews and Gentiles has been erased. Christ's death on the cross affected this peace. Christ preached a Gospel of peace and his death brought peace to Jew and Gentile alike.

This peace means that the Gentiles are no longer foreigners and aliens but are fellow citizens with God's people (Israel). Paul then alludes to the household of God as a house whose foundation is the apostle and prophets. Christ is the chief cornerstone. The whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. Paul emphasizes to his readers that they are being built into a dwelling in which God lives by his spirit. With all of our modern emphasis on church facilities, Paul's words remind us that the body of Christ is not buildings or denominational structures, but is composed of the people who claim Christ as their Savior. How can these ancient words apply to our lives today? I believe that if you look around you can see divisions that keep people at a distance from each other. Theological differences, social differences, and economic differences are quite evident in our churches. Christ came to earth to bring us peace and unity. If our message as the church is to have any validity, we must demonstrate our unity among ourselves. We are not too convincing a witness when we focus on how we are different rather than focusing on how we are alike. Strife is so rooted in our sinful lives that Christ's peace is the only medicine that can soothe the restlessness in our lives and those who are lost in their sin. — Frick is pastor, First Baptist Church, Clinton.

So, the Gentiles stood in desperate need of salvation. Jesus came first to the Jews. He was the Jewish Messiah. Only by the grace of God is the promise to Israel now extended to the Gentiles. The Gentiles must not be puffed up with pride because they were once estranged and hopeless.

In these verses, Paul emphasizes the great distance that existed between Christ and the unsaved Gentiles. He says in verse 13 that they were far away. This distance could not be narrowed through human effort. Only the blood of Christ could bring near those who were far away.

By tearing down these walls, he gives peace and the time of hostility has ceased. The blood of Christ has removed the walls of religious prejudice and human sinfulness.

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## Family Bible SS Lesson — August 19

## Love rejected

By Marty Comer

**Focal Passage: Hosea 13:1-8, 12-15**

Is there anything more painful than rejection? Imagine the pain in the life of a little boy who is always the last person chosen when the kids in the neighborhood pick sides for a sandlot baseball game. Constantly rejected because of his age, his size, or his perceived lack of ability, he is chosen last and then forced to hit last on a team that really doesn't want him. Rejection is always painful.

When you study the Bible, one thing you notice is that people consistently reject the love of God. Consider, for example, the life of Jesus. His was a life of repeated rejection. At his birth he was rejected by the innkeeper and by King Herod. When Jesus spoke in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth, the people were so angry that they drove him out of town and attempted to throw him off a cliff. After three years of loving ministry, Jesus was ultimately rejected by the entire nation and was crucified by the very people he had come to save. Through the people's rejection of Christ, however, defeat was turned into victory as "the stone the builders rejected" became the cornerstone. As God had promised, his rejected Son became the resurrected Savior and the cornerstone of our faith. But rejection is always painful.

## Explore the Bible SS Lesson — August 19

And in the eighth century B.C. it was God who was pained at the way he was rejected by his beloved, Israel. Any form of rejection is difficult to accept, but rejection is even more distressing when it comes from someone who has been the beneficiary of many acts of kindness that you have done for them. God seems to lament the fact that after all he has done for Israel, they still have chosen to reject his love. God declares that he cared for Israel in the desert, "in the land of burning heat," but they still rejected him (v. 5). He had fed them by giving them a land flowing with milk and honey, but still they rejected him (v. 6).

It seemed that the more blessings that were given to Israel the more they took them for granted, as if they were deserving of God's benefits regardless of how they responded. The tribe of Ephraim, for example, was "exalted in Israel" (v. 1). They were honored and followed by the other tribes of the nation. But instead of leading the nation to obedience to the covenant, they became engrossed in the worship of Baal. Their rejection of God is evidenced by the way in which they treated people versus the way they treated the idols they fashioned for worship. They served idols and sacrificed humans (v. 2). They treated things (idols) like people and people like things. They cared more about the Baal than about babies, as human sacrifice was normally child sacrifice.

As has been the issue throughout our study of Hosea, we are left with the question of how God responds when his love is rejected. Verses seven and eight give us four pictures of how God will relate to those who have rejected his love. He will be like a lion, like a leopard lurking by the path, like a "bear robbed of her cubs," and like a wild animal. These four analogies describe how God's judgment pounces upon an unsuspecting people and with the ferocity of a lion tears them apart. Israel would be devastated by punishment that they had caused to fall upon themselves by their unwillingness to yield to the God who loved them.

It is interesting to note that the judgment that is to come upon Israel is described as being like "pains as of a woman in childbirth" (13:13). In the judgment that fell upon Israel the rejecter became the rejected and Israel came to know the pain that is caused by rejected love! — Comer is pastor, Sand Ridge Baptist Church, Lexington.

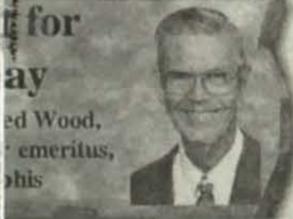


Inspiration

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Start With a Smile: Little League coach to 10-year-old: "Do you understand the value of cooperation? Do you understand what a team is and that what matters is whether we win or lose as a team? Do you understand when the umpire calls a strike on you or calls you out at first base, don't shout, argue, or throw things at the umpire?" Coach: "Then will you go explain these things to your mother?"

**Key Thought:** My mother always told me nothing I can't do. Unfortunately, she tells everybody else the same thing. — Al Buchanan

**Memorize this Scripture:** "Exasperate not your spirit." — Ephesians 6:4

**Prayer:** Lord, keep me from satisfying my needs through my children. ■

REMEMBER THE  
SABBATH DAY  
KEEPING IT HOLY.  
EXODUS 20:8

