

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

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this week's news

## To study role of TBC president

# Committee seeks one-year extension

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The special study committee charged with studying the role of the president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will present a report to messengers attending the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention set for Nov. 13-14 at First Baptist Church, Concord, in Knoxville.

The report will include a recommendation to extend the work of the committee for another year.

The committee was appointed by TBC President Hollie Miller, pastor of Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, earlier this year.

The committee met three times (June 1, July 30, and Oct. 1). During the final meeting committee members finalized the report (printed in its entirety on page 4).

According to the report, "the basic question before the committee centered around an evaluation of the perceived effectiveness of the role of the presidency as it is currently structured."

The report includes findings and comparison with other Baptist state conventions.

The committee came to a consensus on three items regarding the presidency:

(1) That the president be given a specific time at each Executive Board meeting of the TBC to address the board and to give a report about his work among the constituent groups of the convention.

(2) That an "emeritus" role of some type be crafted, whereby the knowledge and experience gained by the president during his one term of service be utilized through subsequent service on the Executive Board, or as an advisor to the current president.

(3) That a Presidential Handbook be created which would outline what the new president should expect, what is expected of him, and what

his specific, day-to-day duties entail.

No specific recommendations regarding these three items will be presented to the messengers this year, according to Miller.

The report also noted that the "committee believes a continuing study is essential to address perceived differing perspectives among Tennessee Baptists over the role and definition of the term 'president' (whether honorary or functional; whether the president should have input into the system by which the key nominating committees of the convention are elected; and whether the current duties of the president give individual messengers an adequate voice in determining and setting direction for the work of the convention."

The committee unanimously agreed to recommend to messengers "to extend the assignment of the Presidential Study Committee for one additional year. The Presidential Study Committee is charged to bring a final report with any recom-

mendations to the convention during the 2002 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church, Franklin, Nov. 12-13."

The recommendation also noted that "in accordance with the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Constitution, that the president elected at the 2001 convention will serve as an ex officio member of the Presidential Study Committee with a voice and no vote."

The recommendation from the Presidential Study Committee requires a simple majority of votes from messengers for passage.

Serving on the committee are Miller, Jerry Tidwell, president, 1999-2000; Larry Gilmore, president, 1998-1999; Doug Sager, president, 1997-1998; Herbert Higdon, president, 1996-1997; Kenneth Hubbard, president, 1995-1996; Roger S. Oldham vice president, 2000-2001; and Hal Fletcher, second vice-president, 2000-2001. TBC Executive Director James Porch serves as an ex-officio member of the committee. ■



MILLER

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Missions insert gets new name. — Pages 7-10

Missions event held in Spanish. — Page 11

Pastor serves church for 35 years. — Page 13

## Tennessee musicians present gospel near NYC's 'ground zero'

Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — After the tragic events of Sept. 11 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Paul Clark Jr. admitted "for a moment" he suffered from a loss of faith.

Clark, church music specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was returning to a trip to the New York/D.C. area that had been on the books for more than two years. He wondered if the musicians who comprise The Centurymen would "bail out" because of the lingering fears.

He soon began to get calls and emails of affirmation that the trip was "God's timing."

Clark is president of The Centurymen, a group of 100 Southern Baptist musicians, primarily music ministers, nationwide.

The Centurymen was formed in

1969 by the former Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission to be Southern Baptists' answer to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Clark related.

The group grew to national and international prominence through performances and recordings.

After the reorganization of the Southern Baptist Convention in the early 1990s which saw the RTVC become a part of the North American Mission Board, The Centurymen obtained legal rights to the name and logo and a charter with its own board of directors.

Clark, a member of the group since 1988, helped plan the 2001 tour about two years ago. Most of the group's domestic tours in recent years had been in the south or southeast, but Clark said they felt led to go north in 2001.

"Looking back we can see how God directed us to be there at this time," Clark said.

The Centurymen's tour from Oct. 1-9 led them not only to New York and

Washington, but also to Baltimore, Md., and Richmond, Williamsburg, and Alexandria, Va.

In Washington the group performed on the steps of the Capitol and the audience included several U.S. senators and congressmen.

In New York the group recorded a CD and sang on the CBS "Early Show."

While in New York the musicians, which included 15 Tennessee Baptists, were able to go near "ground zero" close to the rubble of the World Trade Center and visit several fire halls around the area.

At ground zero the group asked if they could sing for the policemen and workers. Afterwards The Centurymen formed a circle around the workers and prayed for them and the families of the victims.

Clark noted that the group had op-

portunities to share the gospel in various settings.

Some of the musicians spread out and visited many of the fire halls in the Manhattan area. They were able to talk with the firemen and give away CDs.

Jim Justice, minister of music at Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, visited Unit 26 on the lower west side of the city. The station was one of many that lost workers during the Sept. 11 tragedy.

"We talked to the watch commander, told them who we were, and asked if we could sing," Justice said.

"They seemed very appreciative and glad that we came," Justice said.

He observed that while the nature of the trip allows The Centurymen to minister corporately, this particular trip allowed time for individual ministry.

"Opportunities came to us and we responded," Justice said.

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CLARK

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state/national news

## SBC president seeks nominations

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Nominations for several key committees of the Southern Baptist Convention are being received through Nov. 1 by SBC President James Merritt.

The committees are the Committee on Committees, which selects members of the Committee on Nominations who, in turn, recommend trustees for SBC entities to the SBC annual meeting, along with the Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee, and the Tellers Committee.

Nomination forms are available from the Atlanta-area church where Merritt is pastor, First Baptist Church Snellville, P.O. Box 647, Snellville, GA 30078; phone, (770) 978-5736; e-mail, sbcfbc@bellsouth.net; and fax, (770) 982-0906. Completed forms will be received by his office through Nov. 1.

"I made it a very high priority last year to include as many new people as possible who have not served before in any way," Merritt said. ■

## Administrator put on permanent leave at Midwestern

Associated Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approved a severance package Oct. 8 for a vice president earlier placed on administrative leave over conflict with the seminary's new president.

Terms of severance for Michael Whitehead, vice president for business affairs since 1995, were not disclosed.

The action took place behind closed doors at a special meeting requested by 13 of the school's 34 trustees to investigate allegations of irregularities by Phil Roberts, president of the Southern Baptist Convention seminary in Kansas City, Mo., since February.

Those charges, circulated among board members this summer in an e-mail from Mississippi trustee Gary Peek, involved improper use of seminary funds for personal travel and a lack of communication between the president and trustees.

A trustee leader said that issues brought to the table in the called meeting were "resolved," according to Baptist Press. A statement released after the meeting said trustees "affirmed support" of Roberts and looked

forward to his official inauguration in late October.

Roberts told Associated Baptist Press that Peek apologized in the meeting and withdrew his charges. Peek declined to comment to an ABP reporter after the meeting.

Trustees did not disclose the reasons behind Whitehead's administrative leave or severance but instead issued a statement expressing "gratitude and appreciation" for his "faithful service."

Whitehead also issued a statement describing his five-plus years at Midwestern as a "blessing."

"But the Lord seems to be saying that it is time for something new," Whitehead said. "As I enter this period of board-approved leave, I am excited to see where God will lead and excited to do whatever God says to do. I wish the very best for MBTS and shall be in prayer for the seminary faculty, staff, students, and trustees." ■

## Baptist leaders affirm U.S. strikes

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The United States began its promised campaign against terrorism Oct. 7 with missile and air strikes against terrorist and military sites in Afghanistan.

With assistance from Great Britain, the U.S. military used aircraft and sea-based missiles to strike at the terrorist training camps of the al Qaeda network and the military installations of the Taliban regime. The United States also dropped food, medicine, and other supplies to aid suffering Afghans.

James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, stated Oct. 8, "Without question, I believe that our cause is just ... and that we should do all that we can from a spiritual aspect to support our president and our country in

these difficult days."

Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said, "Our military response is the only one that could be expected given the act of war that was perpetuated on the United States on Sept. 11."

President George W. Bush, in announcing the actions at 1 p.m. (EDT) Sunday, said he had given the Taliban more than two weeks to meet his demands. Following the terrorist attacks on the United States Sept. 11, Bush had called for the Taliban to turn over Osama bin Laden and other leaders of al Qaeda and to close the terrorist camps.

The Taliban "will pay a price" for its refusal to these and other U.S. demands, Bush said. "Today we focus on Afghanistan, but the battle is broader. Every nation has a choice to make. In this conflict, there is no neutral ground. If any government sponsors the outlaws and killers of innocents, they have become outlaws and murderers themselves. And they will take that lonely path at their own peril."

"The battle is now joined on many fronts. We will not waver; we will not tire; we will not falter, and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail," the president said.

The humanitarian aid will demonstrate the generosity of America and its allies to those oppressed in Afghanistan, Bush said. He called the United States a friend of the Afghan people and of Muslims but an enemy to terrorists "who profane" Islam by "committing murder in its name." ■

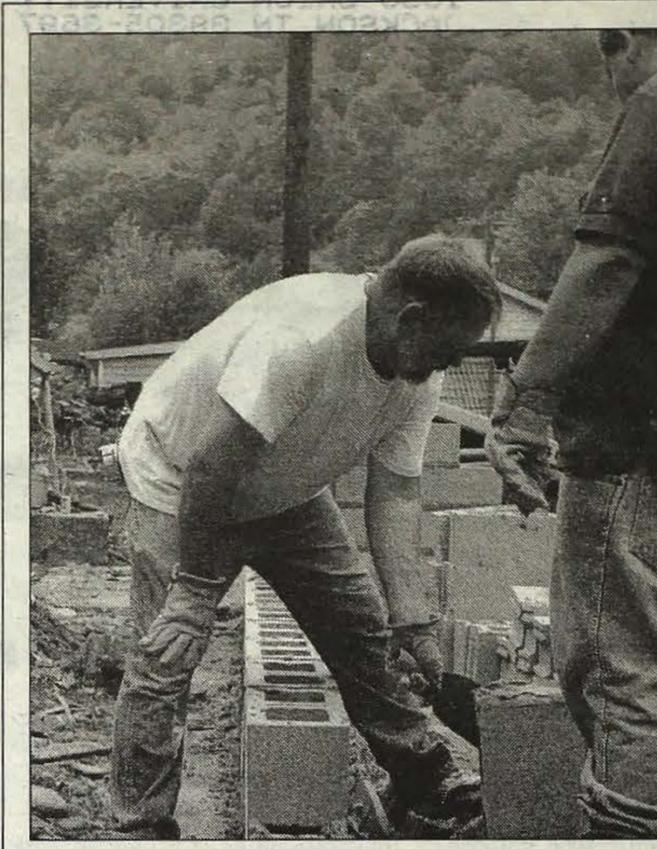
## Disaster Relief work continues in NY, DC

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers continue as a major supplier of hot meals to the

## Working in West Virginia

Phil Baker, left, superintendent of the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville and member of Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville, works on the foundation of a house for the Skeens family in Whitesville, West Va. The family lost their home following a July 8 flood, described by some as the worst flooding in the state's history, which left many in the area without homes. They did not have flood insurance. Baker, who headed the crew to help construct the new house, was one of three Executive Committee staffers (along with Jack Wilkerson and Will Hall) and some of their family members who responded to requests for volunteers in West Virginia.



American Red Cross for distribution to search and rescue workers and others in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Following is the latest information regarding Southern Baptists' response as of 9 a.m., Oct. 12:

► Meals prepared: 305,558.

► Volunteer days: 5,163. (A "volunteer day" is defined as one volunteer working one day.)

► Southern Baptist mobile kitchen operations have been consolidated at the Floyd Bennett Airport in Brooklyn. Volunteers from Ohio, Michigan and Virginia are helping staff a unit from a consortium of Baptist conventions including New York, New England, Pennsylvania/South Jersey and Maryland/Delaware. Other teams from Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan, have been activated to serve at the site, which is scheduled to close the evening of Oct. 18. Also at the site are shower units from North Carolina.

► A childcare unit from Ohio, with a crew of 12 people, is operating at the American Red Cross' Family Assistance Center in Jersey City, N.J. The volunteers care for children of families seeking assistance at the center, most of whom suffered property damage or lost their homes in the terrorist attacks. A total of 32 children have been served to date.

► A team of 14 volunteers from Florida assisted Oct. 15-17 at a Salvation Army mobile kitchen located in lower Manhattan. Other teams from South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Missouri, and Georgia are scheduled to work with the Salvation Army site over the next 30 days.

► Donors from 40 states and Canada have given more than \$988,000 for the disaster relief effort. One hundred percent of those gifts will be used for disaster relief in the field, not for administration. ■

# Professor considers impact of gambling

by Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Particularly at this time of economic downturn, citizens and leaders of the United States should avoid gambling, said John W. Kindt, professor of economics, University of Illinois. And because so many people are addicted to gambling, states should recriminalize it to help people avoid it, he said.

Kindt spoke at the annual meeting of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and the National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion here Sept. 28-30.

The "best thing for this economy is to ... prime it" by trying things. Gambling, instead, drains money from the economy.

Whether citizens continue to gamble and leaders continue to allow it will impact not only the economy of the U.S., but the world, he said.

"We've got a problem," he said, referring to the growth of legalized gambling in the U.S.

In his 10 years of investigating and speaking on gambling, Kindt said, "I have yet to run into a top-line economist that will say gambling is good."

**National report**  
Kindt said the negative impact of gambling was reported in the U.S. Gambling Commission's 1999 report which concluded that the gambling industry had created new addicted gamblers, new bankruptcies, and new crime and corruption. He referred to the

results as the ABCs of legalized gambling.

The U.S. Gambling Commission unanimously called for a moratorium on the expansion of U.S. gambling and called for the recriminalization of all "convenience gambling" in stores, particularly by "video gambling machines" which were identified as the "crack cocaine" of new pathological (addicted) gamblers, he continued.

### Teens

Teens and how they are affected by access to gambling should be a concern of Christians and citizens, declared Kindt.

U.S. studies of the percentages of teenagers who have become pathological or addicted and problem gamblers are double the number for adults. Therefore, he noted, throughout the 1990s gambling legislators have addicted millions of teenagers to gambling, which sociologists compare to drug addiction and which future leaders will have to combat in a way similar to the "War on Drugs."

### Jesse Jackson on the poor

One U.S. political leader, Jesse Jackson, has identified how the gambling problem hurts the poor over other economic groups, said Kindt. In 1999 Jackson said, "The new chains of slavery happen to be credit cards and lottery tickets." The key to achieving King's dream is "teaching our people to go from the lottery to the market — from gambling boats to board rooms," said Jackson.

## The ABCs of gambling

The gambling industry's own reports conceded that between 1994 and 1997 the spread of legalized gambling had conservatively created:

- ▶ **Addicted gamblers** — an additional .5% of the public or 1.5 million new pathological (addicted) gamblers costing society/taxpayers \$10,000-\$52,000 per year in costs per gambler. Also an additional 2% of the public or 3.5 million new "problem" gamblers costing society/taxpayers \$2,000-\$10,000 per year in costs per gambler;
- ▶ **Bankruptcies** — new bankruptcies in counties with gambling, averaging 18-35% in increases overall by 1997 and continuing at 13-29% into 2001; and
- ▶ **Crime and Corruption** — new crime increasing in counties with gambling (particularly counties with casinos), up an average 9% in the third year after the advent of casinos and trending upward thereafter.

### Other studies

Another dire result of gambling is suicide rates, Kindt pointed out. According to a 1997 University of California study, suicide rates in gambling counties were two to four times greater than in non-gambling counties.

In Joliet, Ill., suicides linked to a casino there were hidden by gambling proponents until the coroner's office issued subpoenas to the local casinos and linked several suicides to gambling losses.

In one case, a semi-retired couple killed themselves in a suicide pact after losing their retirement savings. In another case, weeks after the opening of Detroit casinos, one senior police official became hooked, lost his money, and killed him-

self with his service revolver after losing at a casino blackjack table, said Kindt.

As might be expected, the worst suicide rates are in Nevada, said Kindt. Nevada has had the highest suicide rate for more than 10 years. In 1999, more than 429 residents took their own lives, according to state figures that don't include visitors.

Some say video poker machines aren't as bad as other kinds of gambling, he noted, but they have devastating effects. He referred to a leading study from Australia done in 2000 which concluded that for every 80 video gambling machines, \$2 million was drained from and "damaged the local economy" each year. Furthermore, for every three video



gambling machines, two jobs were lost.

And South Dakota is losing 640 jobs a year because of gambling machines, an industry study reported.

### Credibility issue

Kindt also is concerned about credibility in gambling information. The American Gaming Association reports on its web site it is a "national information clearinghouse" which has a "voice" in Washington D.C. And the web site says the AGA develops "independent studies."

But the members include companies which are part of the gambling industry and some of the leading businesses in the United States.

The fact that these members of the AGA are paying for studies to be done is "a conflict of interest," he said. And the study authors or sponsors are often not reported as members of the AGA, Kindt added. ■

## Members of American Gaming Association

Members include —  
Arthur Andersen & Co., LLP  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Ace USA, Inc.  
Office Depot  
Pepsi-Cola Company  
From [www.americangaming.org/media/ads/YourVoice/index.html](http://www.americangaming.org/media/ads/YourVoice/index.html)

# Tennessee musicians share gospel near 'ground ...

Continued from page 1

Mike Bunden, minister of music at Dover Dam Baptist Church, Knoxville, has been to New York on other occasions. During this trip he noticed a change in the attitudes of New Yorkers. "I sensed a different spirit in New York. The people were very polite and helpful. That has not always been the case," Bunden observed.

Their venture into the city opened doors for witnessing by providing a confrontational way to make some "very important points" for the cause of Christ, he added.

While in New York, The Centurymen participated in a Broadway gospel show that served as a benefit concert for the relief efforts, Clark said.

"Gospel music is popular everywhere, even in a non-Christian environment," Clark observed.

The concert provided an opportunity to say through their performance that their music is not just a music style, but rather it is their life bearing out their vocation, Clark observed.

The concert was well attended and

the crowd's response was phenomenal, Clark said.

Tennesseans participating in The Centurymen tour besides Clark, Justice, and Bunden were:

Bob Fleming, Bristol; Dan Arterburn, Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage; David Ford, Nashville; David Whipple Jr., Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville;

Don Bennett, Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis; Eugene Hattaway, First Baptist Church, Knoxville; George Wadlington, Harriman; Herman May, Chattanooga;

Ricky Clark, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; Roger Cowan, Martin; Tommy Webster, Ellendale Baptist Church, Memphis; and David Thomas, First Baptist Church, Goodlettsville. ■



TENNESSEE MINISTERS of music were among members of The Centurymen who performed during their annual tour Oct. 1-9 with stopovers in Washington, D.C., and New York City. While in Washington they sang on the steps of the nation's Capitol and met Tennessee Congressman Zach Wamp, right center, and Ed Bryant, left center.

# A Report of the President's Committee to Study the Role of the President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

In the spring of 2001, in accordance with Tennessee Baptist Convention Bylaw 3, "Special Committees," Hollie Miller, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, appointed an eight-member committee composed of the three current officers and the five most recent former presidents of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The state's Executive Director-Treasurer is an ex-officio member, according to convention policy.

The members are:  
Hollie Miller, *President, 2000-2001*, chair

Jerry Tidwell, *President, 1999-2000*  
Larry Gilmore, *President, 1998-1999*  
Doug Sager, *President, 1997-1998*  
Herbert Higdon, *President, 1996-1997*  
Kenneth Hubbard, *President, 1995-1996*  
Roger S. Oldham, *Vice-President, 2000-2001*  
Hal Fletcher, *Second Vice-President, 2000-2001*  
James Porch, *Executive Director-Treasurer, TBC, ex-officio*  
Also in attendance at each

meeting were Lonnie Wilkey, editor, *Baptist and Reflector*, Phyllis Bates, executive assistant to the Executive Director-Treasurer, and Linda Estey, convention coordinator.

The Committee met three times, June 1, July 30, and Oct. 1, 2001. In the interim, research assignments were made to committee members to study the role of the President in other Baptist state conventions; to study the role of the President in the Tennessee Baptist Convention over the past 50 years;

and to draft a report of the meetings.

The basic question before the committee centered around an evaluation of the perceived effectiveness of the role of the presidency as it is currently structured. Five specific questions posed to each officer were:

- What contributions were you able to make to enhance the work of the convention?
- In what ways were you able to provide leadership to the convention?
- In what ways were you unable to provide leadership to the

convention? What were the reasons for this inability?

d. If you could make any changes in the role of the president of the convention, what changes would you make?

e. At the time of your election, were you provided with adequate information to help you serve effectively? If not, what other information would have been helpful?

A secondary question surfaced during the discussion, "Should the president have appointive or nominative powers of any kind?"

The presidents and vice-presidents expressed several consensus findings. Among these were:

a. State convention office staff are uniformly very respectful, helpful, friendly, and courteous.

b. The convention committees and committee chairmen are provided good information and engage in healthy deliberations. Two notable aspects of this are: (1) comprehensive data from the Executive Director-Treasurer's office of the Execu-

tive Board provided to the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees concerning attendance, giving patterns, and number of persons serving from individual churches, and (2) the intentional strategies adopted by Conven-

tion Committees to broaden the base of representative leadership on the boards and committees and in the programs of the convention.

c. Institutional heads responded positively to the attendance and participation of the

president both in informal and formal discussions.

d. Discussions with former presidents provided valuable insights about the role and expectations of the presidency for newly-elected presidents.

## Findings

## Discoveries

Among the research discoveries are the following data:

### 1. Election and Service

The presidents of all state conventions surveyed are elected by popular vote.

### 2. Appointive or Nominative Duties

State Conventions in which the President, either individually or in consultation with other elected officers, appoints or nominates one or more key nominating committees are listed as follows:

#### a. President individually appoints all or one-third of members

Committee on Nominations	Committee on Committees
Missouri, one-third (rotating) members	Missouri, all members
Kansas/Nebraska, all members	Kansas/Nebraska, all members
Arkansas, one-third (rotating) members	Arizona, one-third (rotating) members
Georgia, all members	Illinois, one-third (rotating) members
Indiana, all members	Kentucky, one-third (rotating) members
Ohio, all members	Louisiana, all members
Oklahoma, all members	Mississippi, all members
	Montana, all members
	Nevada, all members
	Pennsylvania/South Jersey, all members

#### b. President, in consultation with other officers, appoints all or one-third members

Committee on Nominations	Committee on Committees
Florida, all members	Maryland/Delaware, all members
	South Carolina, all members
	Texas, all members
	Virginia, one-third (rotating) members

#### c. President, in consultation with other officers, nominates all members

Committee on Nominations	Committee on Committees
	Alabama, all members
	North Carolina, all members

#### d. President and Vice-Presidents are the Committee on Committees

Northwest

#### e. President has no appointive or nominating powers on any key nominating committee

Tennessee

### 3. Role with the Executive Board of the Convention

#### a. Presides over (or serves as an officer of) Executive Committee

Alabama, chairs	Arizona, chairs	Kansas-Nebraska, chairs
Kentucky, officer	Missouri, chairs	Montana, chair
Nevada, chairs	Northwest, chairs	Ohio, chairs
Oklahoma, chairs		

#### b. Serves on the Executive Board with a voice and vote

Georgia	Illinois	Indiana
Kentucky	Louisiana	Maryland-Delaware
Mississippi	North Carolina	Oklahoma
Pennsylvania/South Jersey	South Carolina	Tennessee
Texas	Virginia	

#### c. Serves on the Executive Board with a voice but no vote

Florida

### 4. Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Though not a direct comparison, the committee discussed that the President of the Executive Board appoints the three rotating members (elected by the convention) of a nine-member Executive Board Nominating Committee which nominates members and chairmen of Executive Board committees. These nominations are submitted to the Executive Board for action.

## Preliminary Ideas for Recommendation, Other Areas of Continuing Study, Recommendation

### Preliminary Ideas for Recommendation

The committee has established several areas of agreement concerning recommendations to the Convention.

a. that the President be given a specific time at each Executive Board meeting of the TBC to address the Board and to give a report about his work among the constituent groups of the convention.

b. that an "emeritus" role of

some type be crafted, whereby the knowledge and experience gained by the President during his one term of service be utilized through subsequent service on the Executive Board or as an advisor to the current president.

c. that a Presidential Handbook be created which would outline what the new President should expect, what is expected of him, and what his specific, day-to-day duties entail.

### Other Areas of Continuing Study

The committee believes a continuing study is essential to address perceived differing perspectives among Tennessee Baptists over the role and definition of the term "president" (whether honorary or functional); whether the president should have input into the system by which the key nominating committees of the Convention are elected; and whether the current duties of the president give indi-

vidual messengers an adequate voice in determining and setting direction for the work of the Convention.

### Recommendation

Therefore, the Presidential Study Committee moves that the Tennessee Baptist Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church-Concord, Knoxville, Nov. 13-14, 2001, extend the assignment of the Presidential Study Committee for one additional year. The Presidential

Study Committee is charged to bring a final report with any recommendations to the convention during the 2002 annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church, Franklin, Nov. 12-13, 2002. In accordance with the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Constitution, the President elected at the 2001 Convention will serve as an ex officio member of the Presidential Study Committee with a voice and no vote. ■

# The best of times, the worst of times

that's  
life

by Linda  
Jackson  
Roebuck



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing

ing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way." Words simply true regarding 18th century England and France are so strikingly relevant in 21st century America. We're so devastated and so proud, so afraid and so defiant, so angry and so loving.

Our emotional ironies confound us.

We don't know what to do, where to avoid, or how to move on. Every laugh, cheer, triumph, and success is undermined by an uneasiness; a dread of darkness lurking just under the layers of light. Our security, our way of life, our expectancy of joy in the coming

phases of our lives was blown up before our very eyes; and brought our American optimism, our human faith, billowing down to earth in a fine, choking powder.

Yet we are moving on. We fly our flags and believe America will be even stronger. Our experience tells us that our devotion to freedom and human rights can withstand attack. We go to church, some for the first time, and believe there is an Almighty God. Our experience tells us that He is on the side of goodness, that His comfort and peace is what will sustain us throughout unpredictable days ahead.

My 12 year old daughter,

having not mentioned much about the attack since the first week, asked the other day if we could please turn off the news.

She was "sick of it," she said in the way she'd be wearied and annoyed by hearing the same record played over and over. I turned it off. She's finding her way to cope like all of us. Later she effusively described the new cheer stunts her squad would be performing at the next football game.

Evil infects mankind, but our nature is all about hope. New York and Washington, a tale of two cities. Dickens understood even then:

"I see a beautiful city and a



editorial/  
opinion

brilliant people rising from this abyss and, in their struggles to be truly free, in their triumphs and defeats, through long long years to come, I see the evil of this time and of the previous time of which this is the natural birth, gradually making expiation for itself and wearing out." ■ — Roebuck is a freelance writer. Her husband, Jon, is pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

ments of government and are prohibited from being used as religious institutions. There is an immediate problem regarding our schools that no Baptist leader, I am aware of, has expressed any concern. Our schools are woefully underfunded because of our total dependence on sales tax. Sales tax unduly burden the low income.

Our leaders are vigorously opposing a lottery and everyone knows the best argument for a lottery is the need of our schools. There are several good arguments to oppose a lottery, but one most often stated is our concern for the poor. Are we really so concerned for the poor? If so, why do we not vigorously support an income tax to fund our schools? An income tax would eliminate this reason and show our concern for the poor.

The need for good public schools is not a political issue, but many of our leaders continue in lock-step with only one political party. Surely greed and unconcern for the physical and educational needs of all our children is not a virtue. We are commended to attend to the needs of the needy by our Lord.

Thomas A. Greer Jr.  
Dunlap 37327

## Refreshing

Clayton Dunsmore's "Minister's Corner" column in the Oct. 3 issue was refreshing.

Mr. Dunsmore confessed how he messed up regarding the Cooperative Program. Several points were worthy of note.

First, confession is helpful (if not biblical). Second, how often we err when we do not investigate a matter. Third, Simon & Garfunkle were wrong. We are not islands. Our actions do affect others (sometimes good, sometimes bad). Fourth, leadership needs the prayers of the church. Fifth, the Cooperative Program is not perfect but is functional (may I emphasize the latter). Sixth, participation in worldwide missions is possible through the CP.

I pray that God answers his

prayer that no one else makes the same mistake.

Mark A. Rudy  
Paris 38242

## Appreciates colleges

Fifty years ago this past August I came into the fellowship of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. I attended my first annual meeting of the convention that year in Chattanooga. It was at times rather harried and hectic involving relationships centering around Ward-Belmont, Cumberland University, and Belmont College. The meeting did not become fractured, but all left feeling that the right thing had been achieved. I did not expect at that time to ever have a 41 year love-affair with one of the institutions involved, Belmont.

The convention will convene in about a month. There will be some matters to consider which could cause some disagreement. I pray that no one will try to maneuver or manipulate the messengers for selfish reasons. Now more than ever we need to be completely united. I gave my heart to Christ 77 years ago and since that time I never found much lasting value achieved in a controversy.

We are all children of God through the gift of grace and love in Christ Jesus. We are to serve Him not man. The Holy Spirit is with us to guide us into all truth. He does not operate in divisiveness.

Our three colleges have worked together in a fraternal

spirit of all for one and one for all. They are Christian institutions and proud of their association with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. An educational institution is far different from a church fellowship. It is faced with meeting academic standards, federal regulations and the awesome responsibility of providing a qualitative education for the students. Sometimes more is caught than taught. It is not what is poured into a student but what is planted in the student. Ignorance is far more costly. The greatest investment one can make is in youth in Christian education.

Let us keep all options and opinions in the spirit of love here. Let us keep them in the bond of family love united we stand. We are not our brother's keeper but our brother's brother.

May brotherly love continue. Let us show to a fractured, confused world that Baptists are united in waging war against sin and immorality and not each other. May God's and Christ's names be honored and not our own.

Herbert C. Gabhart  
Nashville 37215

## Good retreat

I want to thank Larry Robertson and his staff for the excellent program they put together for the annual Pastor's Retreat at Carson Springs.

This was my first time to attend this retreat, but it won't be my last. This retreat came to-

ward the end of a busy summer and a time when I needed a time of spiritual refreshing. I also want to thank Keith and Dori McKinney at Carson Springs for making our stay there a delightful one.

I'm thankful to my church (Harmony Baptist Church) for allowing me this time to be away from the church field to be spiritually fed. May I say to lay persons in our churches, allow your pastor the time and provide him with the financial means to attend such retreats. You will be the better for it.

Grover Westover  
Brownsville 38012

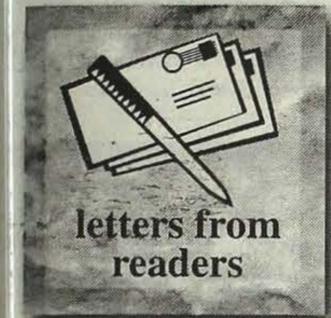
## Thanks from NY

Thank you is insufficient for the prayers, cards, gifts of Bibles, calls, e-mails, and generous checks sent to Metro New York Baptist Association the past few weeks. We have persevered by the prayers of God's people.

I dare not mention the volunteer teams from states, lest I forget one, that came to cook, counsel, encourage, and just be with us as we find our way through this national time of grief. Special thanks go to the NAMB Disaster Relief teams and chaplains who have worked so hard.

While everyone wants to do something, we do not need more Bibles, cards, or volunteers at this time. Thanks again.

David Dean  
New York, NY 10023



letters from  
readers

## Good impression

I had the experience of being in New York City for several days at the last of September. Everywhere I went people knew about our Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief team. I did not meet a fireman that did not speak with honor about the team and all they were doing for the effort in New York.

When I would tell police officers on the street that I was from Tennessee they would speak about our team and the great job they were doing.

All Tennessee Baptists could stand to honor those in our fellowships who have served the Lord with such sacrifice and dedication as our Disaster Relief team.

Maybe Jesus said it best. I was in trouble in New York, hungry, tired, confused, and in a crowd, and you came to see me, and refuel my hope for me.

Ivan N. Raley  
Brentwood 37024

## Thankful for freedoms

During this time of mourning for the evil multi-murders recently committed in our land, we must not forget to thank God for the freedoms we American Christians enjoy. I cannot understand Christians who persist in lamenting the restriction against government interference in our right to worship as we believe we should. What blessings we enjoy. Baptists should treasure that liberty most of all. When that right was first promised, Baptists were considered by most mainstream Christian churches to be heretics.

Our public schools are instru-

## Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp



# Gilmore, church celebrate 'ministry from scratch'

By Will Hall  
Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

GALLATIN — The silver anniversary of College Heights Baptist Church congregation will be celebrated on Oct. 21, according to Jackie Diel who heads the steering committee charged with planning related events.

Among the events will be a special morning service on Sunday, Oct. 21 with a banquet that evening.

The theme for the anniversary celebration is "Refining Silver," in recognition of the 25 years that the congregation has been formed and to describe in part the nature of the congregation's growth during that time.

The idea of starting a congregation in the rapidly growing Gallatin and Hendersonville area was shared by Larry Gilmore and his long-time mentor, Harold Allen, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Gallatin.

"I preached in 1975 at First Baptist in Gallatin while traveling through to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami," Gilmore said. "At that time he drove me through the area and said, 'Larry there's a need for a church here.' So we began talking about that possibility. Linda and I moved here and went on staff at First Baptist, Gallatin with the intentional purpose of beginning a new work. That was Harold's vision and it was my vision."

Gilmore's wife, Linda, recalled that her husband's dream to start a church began in seminary.

"When we graduated from seminary, all of our friends were going to churches that were already established, maybe being a senior pastor of a small church or going on staff," she said. "But Larry wanted to go to a growing area and establish a new ministry. I remember saying, 'You want to begin a new ministry from scratch?' But that was his heart and God, in His graciousness, allowed Larry to have that dream fulfilled of going to a growing area and starting with a small, tight-knit group, and then creating a church from scratch, in a sense."

Fulfillment of that dream began with 35 members who volunteered to form a core group and to staff the Sunday School.

At its first meeting, Oct. 24, 1976, the church recorded 49 in attendance at Sunday School and 52 in worship service. Among those in the first meeting were Mrs. Diel and her hus-

band, Wayne.

"We'd just moved into this area about a month before CHBC started," Diel shared. "Brother Allen came to visit us and we joined First Baptist Church, Gallatin. But, he kept talking about this church that he was going to start in this area. We got involved and decided that we'd go with the new church — even though our children were a little bit against it in the beginning."

"We did some surveying of the area before we even started the church and there was a sense of excitement," added Mrs. Diel. "Our children, our three teenagers at that time, began to get excited too when they saw the possibilities."

Those possibilities have transformed into some very notable realities. Today, College

Heights numbers more than 2,100 but has a much broader reach into the community than just its membership count. College Heights Christian Academy is one of the most visible means by which College Heights Baptist Church ministers to the local community. Started in 1986 with a kindergarten class of 16, the school has grown to over 300 students enrolled in K5 through 12 and will graduate 19 seniors this year — the largest graduating class to date. The school draws students and support from over 60 area churches.

The positive impact of this congregation goes beyond just the local area, however, reaching throughout the state of Tennessee and internationally, too. Notably, at the state level, Gilmore has served in key lead-

ership roles among Tennessee Southern Baptists. During 1989-1990 he was elected President of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Then, in 1998 he was elected by messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention to serve as president of the convention.

The congregation has also had an impact globally, dispatching members on assignment to such mission fields as Mexico, Venezuela, Granada, Jamaica, Brazil, Portugal, Kenya, Burkino Faso, Senegal, Russia, Ukraine, Mali, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Ghana, China, and Nicaragua.

When asked what he envisions for the next 25 years, Gilmore returned to the theme of the anniversary celebration. "In the theme 'Refining Silver'



we honor of course that this is our silver anniversary. But it's a reference to Zechariah 13:9:

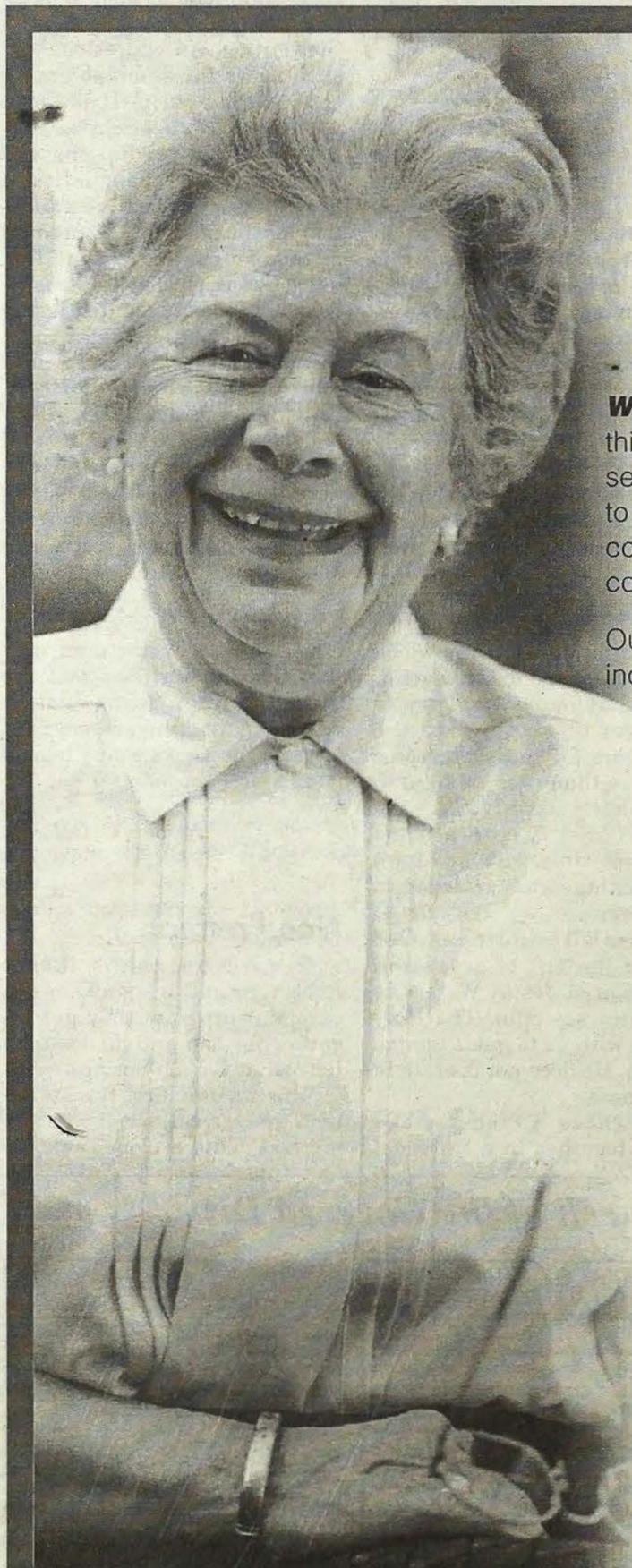
"And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name. And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

"We are saying, 'Thank you to the Lord for all you have done and allowed us to be part of."

"We recognize that He has been refining us and we're not there yet. We still have a long way to go." ■



GILMORE



## At Baptist Hospital, We Respect Our Elders.

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Featuring news from Tennessee Baptist missions volunteers

# UPDATE

Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; Phone - (615) 371-2021; FAX - (615) 371-2014; Internet - www.tnbaptist.org/services/missions/missopp.htm

**From the Group Leader**

We all know that the world changed on Sept. 11, 2001. At the same time we know some things have not changed. The gospel of Jesus Christ is still the same.

God is still on His throne, and the call of Christians is still to "go and make disciples." We on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board staff are still committed to helping Tennessee Baptists fulfill a calling to volunteer missions. We have talked to SBC mission agencies, and we have talked to the missionaries and leaders in our partnership states and countries. We all agree the need for mission volunteers is as great as ever. Yes, we must now take a few more safety precautions, but Tennessee volunteer missions teams are still going, ministering, and sharing the

gospel. We do not want to forget the need for mission volunteers in our own state. Over half of the population of Tennessee is not Christian. Some of the most needy areas of our country are in our own state.

So whether you feel led to serve as a volunteer missionary in Tennessee, in the U.S.A., Canada, Portugal, Rio de Janeiro, or some other part of the world, our commitment is still to help you fulfill your call to missions.

There is one change you will begin seeing. We are premiering a new logo and name. When you call the TBC offices to talk about partnership or volunteer missions you will hear the words Volunteer Missions Team. You will also begin seeing and hearing about the Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions Network.

We are networking with churches and associations across the state. We are networking with the mission agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are networking with other state conventions and with our partnership agencies to make Christ known.



**BEARDEN**

*Jim*

## Disasters may come and go but ministry remains same: volunteers

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

Life as we had come to know it in the United States changed Sept. 11, when the first hijacked plane smashed into one tower of the World Trade Center in New York City; but Christ's work remains the same.

Within the hour when the second hijacked plane smashed into the other tower of the World Trade Center, some of us began to sense an act of terrorism while the rest of us couldn't fathom what was happening; but Christ's work remains the same.

When the third hijacked plane, crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., some of us realized it was an act of war while the rest of us still couldn't grasp what was happening; but Christ's work remains the same.

Then the fourth hijacked plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, some of us realized nothing would ever be the same again while the rest of us

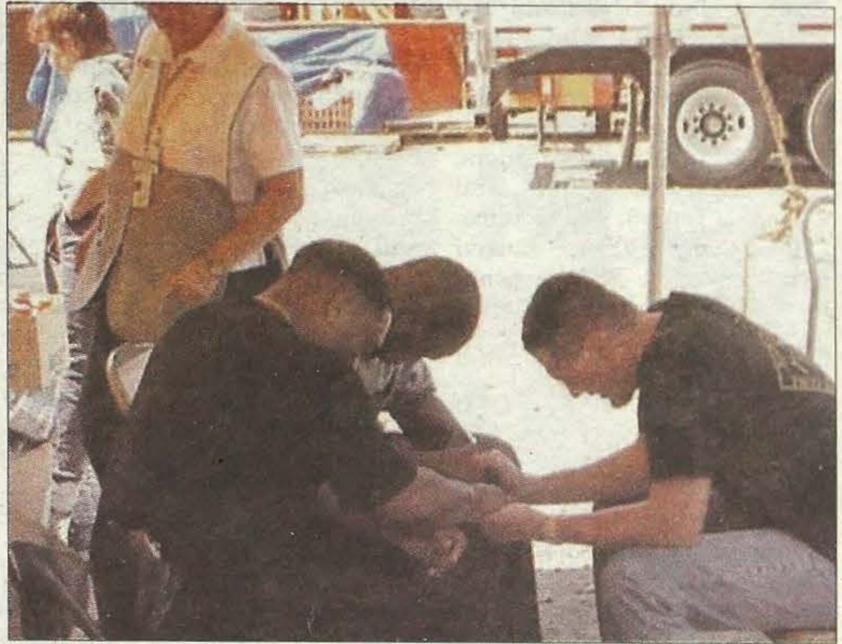
are still living in shock; but Christ's work remains the same.

"We fed police, ambulance, and rescue workers; but the work on the State Feeding Unit remained the same," remarked a veteran Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer from Memphis.

"This Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief response to feed emergency and rescue workers within blocks of the former World Trade Center was not like any other response, because of the tremendous loss of life," said Les Collier, business administrator for Cherry Road Baptist Church, Memphis, who worked Sept. 17-24 on the State Disaster Relief Feeding Unit in Manhattan.

"All we saw were solemn faces looking for over 5,000 missing people, and they were spiritually down."

Volunteers who went to do the work in Manhattan expressed similar themes when they re-



**COUNSELING AND** praying with two New York City detectives, from left, Lee Gaddy and Larry Williams is Phillip Bennett, pastor, Farmington Baptist Church, Lewisburg. Bennett served on the New Duck River Baptist Association team based in Shelbyville.

turned home to Tennessee.

"We worked very hard on the Feeding Unit, and it was a sobering experience on the night shift," said Regina Owen, a cardiac nurse also a member of Cherry Road Church. "We saw busloads of down trodden

workers coming out of the mounds of rubble. We saw loads of debris on dump trucks where workers had just scratched the surface. When we saw National Guard troops march out Friday night, it was — See Disasters, page 8

## Brentwood church team serves in Ontario, Canada

For "TBVMN Update"

A spirit of partnership from a Canadian sister church was evident when a Tennessee Baptist Church traveled to teach VBS in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, according to a Tennessee Baptist team leader.

"The spirit of 'partnership'

was evident from the beginning as the Brentwood team and the Sequoia Community Church team united their efforts, ideas, and goals into a single purpose, which was to reach families in this community with the message of Christ," said Martha Mullen, team leader for Brentwood

Baptist Church, Brentwood.

A 17-member team from Brentwood Church, worked July 14-21 in Ottawa, teaching VBS at Brentwood's sister church Sequoia Community Church to help conduct a day camp for community children.

"Months of prayer and preparation had preceded our arrival, and the weather had always been a major prayer concern," said Mullen. "The beautiful weather was just one of many of God's provisions for this camp. We would see His hand move in many ways in the coming week."

Pastor Ian and Rosanne Berry, and Mary Beyer, all from Sequoia Church, greeted the team with three large vans to haul the team and their luggage.

Besides Mullen, the team also included TBC Human Resources manager Garnette Hogan and her husband Guy Hogan, and 14 others from the church.

An eager group of 16 Sequoia Church volunteers ready to learn how to do this kind of event participated in VBS. Sequoia Church's Sunday worship service began the week.

Monday morning brought carloads of boys and girls to Core Park where registration began. Over the course of the week 86 children enrolled. Most were unchurched; and many were from a Catholic background.

On Thursday morning many parents stayed for coffee to observe — See Brentwood, page 10



**ENJOYING** music during the Vacation Bible School are teachers, from left, Peggy Reeves, Sharon Register, Taylor Clay, Marsha Clay of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood; two teachers from Canada; and Garnette Hogan of Brentwood Church, who also is of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff.

## Tennesseans participate in Baptist youth event in Portugal

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

Three Tennessee Baptist Churches sent youth teams June 30-July 9 to do missions during Lisbon 2001, a youth evangelism mission trip to partner with Baptist youth in Portugal.

The youth groups were Acteans Activators and Challengers mission answered a call to help missionaries in Lisbon, Portugal," said Mark Durfee, Challengers director. "All we had to do was answer the call to be used by God."

For 30, the Challengers team did preparation for the mission trip while planning to share Jesus through sports ministry in basketball and ultimate Frisbee.

"Our preparation involved prayer, physical preparation, and bonding as a team," said Durfee.

"Through playing basketball our idea of ministering to the Portuguese was to play a sport that we could teach them how to better play. But the Lord had another idea."

During the week at each ministry site, the sports ministry team played soccer instead of basketball, and they lost every game. The sports ministry team learned to meet the nationals where the nationals were.

"We saw the Lord create relationships by sharing T-shirts, sharing the location of local churches, and sharing tracts with the plan of salvation. This was done on an individual basis with guys ranging in ages 9-19 against whom we played soccer."

While a scouting team drew

people by playing soccer, the missionary shared the plan of salvation to the nationals using tracts during water breaks or after the games ended in parks or on beaches.

"We found the receptive areas where missionaries and churches can follow up for outreach. Our 10 days of missionary work was a success in God's eyes."

Team leader Taylor led the Creative Ministries Track; and language facilitator was IMB missionary Scott George. Besides the Activators, other participants were members of Portugal Baptist churches from Parede, Tires, and Oeiras.

"We knew that we couldn't compete with European street mimes and other originators of street performance, so we chose creative ministries that we were familiar with doing," said Pam Eubanks, former Activator team leader. "Prior to the trip, the Activators took their jump rope cues from Sesame Street and videos and practiced for several months."

The 12 Activators also had a few cheerleaders as members of the group, who were well trained in dance and cheering routines.

The team performed at four parks, two beaches, an orphanage, and a benevolent daycare center. They also began their creative ministry by prayer-walking the communities where they worked.

Using international top 40 pop music, street dance, jump ropes, face paints, balloons, and

prayerwalks, the Activators trusted God to draw a crowd.

"The crowds of onlookers kept the Portuguese pastors, families, and local church members busy inquiring of spiritual understandings and church affiliations while distributing pamphlets in each location," said Eubanks. "Activators communicated that being a Christian is joyful and fun."

"The mission trip to Portugal will be remembered as the year we learned to pray and be used. Due to our inadequacies of language and talent, we saw God diminish our fears and use simple things to reach into lives who are hardened to the gospel."

Team leader Buck led the Backyard Bible Clubs Track; and language facilitator was IMB ISC missionary Susan McCaskill. Included in the BYBC track were Ellendale

and Cordova Churches, and youth from Igreja Baptista do Cacem.

Cordova Church sent three adults and eight college and high school students, led by team leader Jack Peeler, associate pastor. The puppet team and youth from Ellendale Church and minister of missions Danny Spurlock joined with Cordova Church to conduct BYBCs. The groups conducted Backyard Bible Clubs Tuesday-Saturday in an outside park.

Cacem Church youth told Bible stories while Cordova Church youth worked with crafts and taught memory verses. Combined with the Ellendale Church puppet team clowns, and youth, the group made balloon animals, sung songs, and shared the gospel near the Cacem Church in a park. ■



**CHALLENGERS FROM** Central Baptist Church, Fountain City Knoxville, and young men from Ellendale Baptist Church, Memphis and Cordova Baptist Church, Cordova, helped lead sports ministry with Deanna Mahaffey, Tennessee BSU summer missionary, and Andy McCaskill, center back row, IMB ISC missionary to Portugal.

## Disasters may come and go but ministry remains ...

— Continued from page 7

evident that it was no longer a rescue mission, but a recovery mission. And we cried."

Collier was surprised when the Memphis Shelby County Baptist Association team would walk into restaurants in Manhattan in their yellow Disaster Relief jackets and hats and people would stand up and applaud them.

"I never expected that degree of appreciation over the 15 years that I've been involved in Disaster Relief," he said.

Since he has returned from New York, Collier is making a point of talking to his children everyday on the phone even though they live close to him in Memphis.

"The mission to Manhattan brought me closer to my children and grandchildren," said Max Campbell, a member of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville Association, who was on the setup crew that went into New York City with the Feeding Unit and served

Sept. 13-17. "I have a son who is a career officer serving in the US Air Force in Japan and a daughter in California. Things like this make you realize what you do have, and how to appreciate your family on a daily basis."

J.B. Blanks, another member of Haywood Hills Church and on the initial crew, reported he changed his mind about New Yorkers on the mission. Blanks went to New York City with the idea that they were "just a bunch of Yankees, who were rude," which was an opinion he had formed on an earlier trip with his family. After the mission to Manhattan, Blanks decided that New Yorkers were "good people."

"They are no different from the rest of us," Blanks said. "Their hearts hurt just like our hearts hurt; and they are a very resilient people."

When Campbell and Blanks went to St. Vincent Hospital in New York City seeking medical attention for Campbell's swelling knee, both talked

with recuperating police and firemen. These volunteers have seen the brevity of life and are now urging people to be prepared.

Dusty Rhodes, a member of Lascassas Baptist Church, Concord Association, and also on the setup crew working Sept. 13-17, found the "very humbling and very touching."

But for Rhodes it's the sights and sounds that he will never forget in the area of the former World Trade Center. Rhodes still remembers the police sirens, the smoke, the paper, the crushed cars being removed, the lines of refrigerated tractor trailers being used for morgues, and family members wandering around 24 hours a day with posters of missing loved ones.

The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief State Feeding Unit left Manhattan Sept. 29 after having cooked and served over 96,000 meals to emergency and rescue work-



**A VOLUNTEER** admires the Tennessee state flag given by U.S. Sen. Bill Frist of Nashville at the operations site of Tennessee Disaster Relief work in Manhattan.

ers. Around 125 Disaster Relief volunteers served from 14 Tennessee Baptist associations and 50 churches, which included 14 teams from across the state.

Over \$165,000 has been donated to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's "Terrorist Response Fund." This fund includes monies from numerous

churches and church members in Tennessee. Donations also came from as far away as church in Tucson, Arizona.

All designated monies are used for disaster response. Administrative costs for Tennessee Disaster Relief are provided through the Cooperative Program and Golden State Missions Offering. ■

# Brentwood church builds 'lighthouse' in city of Rio

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

"How can you tell me that God loves me when I have nothing?"

A Tennessee Baptist volunteer team leader was recently confronted with this question while sharing Christ on the street to a homeless woman in the red light district of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"I answered 'God loves you, because we are building this church and shelter for you,'" said Linda Blough, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, who along with her husband Tom, led a 16-member team to Rio de Janeiro June 23-July 1 to turn an 8,000-square-foot dilapidated, downtown building into a church and homeless shelter.

The Carioca Baptist Convention purchased the building June 1, located in the inner city of Rio de Janeiro known as Lapa. The once richly, ornate building had a sordid past from its most recent occupants, homeless, drug addicts, alcoholics, and prostitutes living and working out of its pool hall.

"When we first walked into the building on Sunday afternoon, we were astonished looking at the dirt and filth within those walls," said Linda Blough. Evil spirits were lurking, and demonic symbols were painted on the walls. But by Monday morning, you could literally feel Satan and his demons run from the building, and God's holy presence came and filled the empty space."

The building took on a new transformation within five days as the team literally gutted the place, cleaned out the trash, scraped demonic symbols off the walls, put in electricity, fixed the plumbing, wrote Scriptures on the walls, and prepared a place of worship.

In addition to physically transforming the building on the first floor, the team also removed giant roaches, bugs, spiders, but they left the lizards. Since there was a large hole in part of the roof, the team also had to remove algae and other formations off the walls. The

Brazilian nationals worked on the second floor cleaning up the area where the prostitutes worked.

The first floor was prepared for an upcoming medical team clinic and the 24-hour/7-day-a-week church. The rescue mission would occupy the second floor with working showers, clothing storage, and eventually living quarters.

"Now people can walk freely into this house of God and feel His love for the first time," added Blough. "The homeless, the drug addicts, the prostitutes, and many others have a place where they are welcome; and someone will be there waiting to share the love of Jesus."

According to Blough, in January when the team began planning the trip to Rio de Janeiro, they chose to take the refurbishing project of the downtown building instead of the usual addition of a second story on a church. Some of the team members including Bill Wilson, minister of missions from Brentwood Church had already been to Rio de Janeiro two or three times and had done additions on churches.

A shared vision by the Carioca Baptist Convention Social Ministries director Henrique Sezar and the late IMB Missionary Elizabeth Oates was to start a church and a mission for the people in Lapa where Satan had so much power. This church was to be for prostitutes, drug addicts, alcoholics, and the homeless.

"In addition to the vision, God had a plan for me long before I knew what was going on in Rio de Janeiro and in my own personal life," said Blough. "While God was preparing the people in Lapa, he was also preparing me."

In March, Blough's brother Rusty, who lived in California, was hit by a car while riding a bicycle. He was critically injured and was not expected to live.

"He was also dying spiritually. An outcast, he was homeless, a drug addict, and an alcoholic.

"I went to visit Rusty after he came

out of his coma at the end of April, and he was paralyzed except for his left arm. The only way we could communicate was for him to squeeze my hand and blink his eyes.

"I shared Christ with Rusty, and I told him to squeeze my hand three times if he wanted to accept Jesus as his Lord. Rusty squeezed my hand so tight that I thought he was going to cut off my circulation. The next couple of days we spent together were very precious to me. Rusty died three days after I left to return home."

While writing letters asking for donations for the mission trip, it suddenly occurred to Blough that she was going to Rio de Janeiro to minister to people like Rusty. She prepared two devotionals to share with her team about her brother when they arrived in Rio de Janeiro.

"That is how God prepared me for this mission trip to Rio. Rusty's light can shine, because I understand the people in this red light district. I can love them because Jesus loves them. I can share Christ's love, because He wants them to feel his love. He wants them to have a place where they can come to and feel his presence."

On Friday night after five very hard and tiring days, the Brentwood team held the first worship service in the church, and it was full of people. Most people stood, because there were



VISITING THE building prior to renovation are members of the Brentwood Baptist Church construction team and others. Far right are Bill Wilson, co-minister of missions of the church, and Sharon Fairchild, IMB missionary to Brazil.

not enough chairs for everyone. People came in off the streets to see what was happening in the former pool hall.

"Then at 1 a.m., we went and shared Christ with those around the area. People were glad to know that they could come to the new church and find someone who was willing to share the love of Jesus."

Since the team left Rio de Janeiro, God has worked miracles. There have been over 500 people accept Jesus in the new Baptist Church of Lapa. It has become a lighthouse for Christ. ■

# Association team ministers on Prince Edward Island, Canada

For "TBVMN Update"

A Watauga Baptist Association 22-member team served

July 7-14 on Prince Edward Island, Canada, where they did construction on a new addition to Community Baptist Church

in Charlottetown and also taught Backyard Bible Clubs.

Out of the team, 17 members were from associational churches and 5 were from other churches outside the association. Churches with team members from the association were: Union Baptist Church, Hampton; Lynn Valley Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Zion Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church, all of Elizabethton; and State Line Baptist Church, Laurel Bloomery. Other team members were from Higgins Chapel Baptist Church, Marshall, Holson Baptist Association; Unity Baptist Church, Summertown; and a Baptist church in Mississippi.

"Our ties to Community Church are Joe and Linda Leford, Mission Service Corps volunteers, and members of Lynn Valley Church," said Ray

Sorrells, Watauga Association director of missions. "Before going to PEI in 1999, the Lefords were MSC volunteers in the Watauga Association where they served in children's ministries. In addition to serving in children's ministries at Community Church, they are also working in outreach ministries in other areas of PEI."

"One of our ministries was construction of a new addition to the present church building, which Tennessee Baptist Convention mission teams built including one team from Calvary Church."

The new addition on the second floor expands the worship center and provides a large area for fellowship meals, other meetings, and Sunday School space. The first floor will have four apartments for short and long-term missionaries who will work in

training and outreach. Wallace Jordan, pastor of Community Church, hopes that churches and associations will partner with the church to finish the apartments and furnish them.

Four BYBCs per day were conducted in Highland Heights near Charlottetown, Slemon Park near Summerside, and Vacationland Campground for the first time.

"I think we all agreed that this was a wonderful experience of being on mission for Christ," Sorrells said. "In seeking to be a blessing, we were blessed. One Community Church member told me that having fellow Christians come to work with them helped them to realize that they are not alone."

Another mission team from the association is planned to PEI next July. (Compiled from reports). ■



WATAUGA BAPTIST Association director of missions Ray Sorrells gives a balloon creation to a girl during a Backyard Bible Club near Summerside on Prince Edward Island.

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
<b>2002 Portugal Projects</b>				
Loule	PM12002101	Prayerwalking and outreach ministry.	3/28-4/16	10
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002103	Choir/orchestra to perform in various locations.	3/3-12	open
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002104	Marriage enrichment seminar leaders and church choir.	5/3-12	50
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002106	Conduct children's ministry and basketball camp.	7/12-21	50
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002108	Leadership training.	10/15-21	open
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002109	Choir/orchestra to perform Christmas music	12/13-21	50
Porto	PM12002105	Gospel choir for Northern Portugal.	5/3-12	50
Porto	PM12002107	Church choir to perform classical music in Northern Portugal.	10/4-13	open
Tavira	PM12002100	Prayerwalking in the Tavira and Olho area.	4/6-15	10
Lisbon	Lisbon2002A	Youth teams involved in assisting and teaching Portuguese youth — creative ministries, Backyard Bible Clubs, and sports clinics.	7/14-22	40
Lisbon	Lisbon2002B	Youth teams involved in assisting and teaching Portuguese youth — creative ministries, Backyard Bible Clubs, and sports clinics.	7/21-29	40

All international projects are through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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

**Tennessee Projects**

*East Tennessee*

- ◆ **Knoxville** — Volunteers needed year round (Wednesday and Thursday) to serve in soup kitchen preparing and serving meals. Volunteers needed year round to work in homeless shelter by serving meals and doing Bible studies. Volunteers needed year round to do painting at Boys & Girls Club and conducting children ministry. Volunteers needed year round, to serve lunch at rescue mission and sort clothes and other items. Contact: Carroll Webb, Knox County Baptist Association, 865-693-9097.
- ◆ **Rutledge** — Volunteers needed each week from June 15-Aug. 15 for home repairs, block parties, prayerwalking, BYBC, puppets, music, etc. Contact: Dennis Cagle, Grainger Baptist Association, 865-828-4001.

*Middle Tennessee*

- ◆ **Nashville** — Volunteers needed year round to do Bible studies at Tennessee Prison for Women. Contact: Linda Knott, Donelson,

**Iowa Projects**

- ◆ **IA-02-01** — Volunteers needed to conduct block parties, drama, puppet ministry, music, VBS. Dates are open.
- ◆ **IA-02-02** — Volunteers needed to install doors between foyer and auditorium, and install porch railing. Some painting may be done. Dates are open.
- ◆ **IA-02-03** — Volunteers needed June-July to replace portion of

FBC, Chaplaincy Dept, 615-7-1255. Volunteers needed from March 2 July 1 to do framing, roofing & bricking on 6,000 sq. ft. church building. Contact: Darren Wh head, Simeon Baptist Church 615-612-2163.

*West Tennessee*

- ◆ **Gleason** — Volunteers needed put up sheet rock inside new church building. Dates are open. Contact: Bob Copeland, Beech Springs Baptist Church, 731-85015.
- ◆ **Jackson** — Volunteers needed each week from June 3-Aug. for work projects (painting, ing, light repair) each morning and in afternoon conduct day camps. Contact: Amy Brady Madison-Chester Association 731-668-5690.
- ◆ **Ripley** — Volunteers needed brick an existing metal church building. Dates are open. Contact: Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 635-7117.

# Nashville congregation ministers in Elizabethton

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Updates"

Prayer is a necessity for mission teams, according to a Tennessee Baptist pastor, who recently led a 65-member team to do volunteer work at Hale Community Ministries in Elizabethton.

Before beginning to consider a mission project at Hale Ministries, Nashville's Haywood Hills Baptist Church pastor Phillip Barnett asked his congregation to pray.

Church members were asked to pray about their commitment to go on missions before an April 1 presentation from Hale Ministry director Becky Brumlett in a worship service. Two weeks later 65 church members, including 48 adults, 14 youth, and 3 children made written commitments to go on mission. This was about 25 percent of the Sunday School attendance, and the entire church continued to pray for the trip.

For two Wednesday nights prior to the trip, June 20 and 27, the church prayed specifically for each team and each member who would be attending. Two cottage prayer meetings were held June 26 and 28.

The weekly newsletter contained a prayer guide.

A commissioning service was held June 24 for the 65 who committed to go on mission.

"Of the 65 members who made a written commitment to be a part of the mission team, all 65 participated, and only God could have done this," said Barnett. "God kept us healthy, kept our calendars clear, and protected our families so that we would not be hindered in our participation."

During the mission trip to Hale ministries, the team saw God work in mighty ways in apartment complexes, trailer parks, and other areas. Team members were involved in new construction, renovation, day camps, Backyard Bible Clubs, Senior Adult ministries, nursing home ministries, devotional time, and relationship building.

The construction team was made up of a repair team and another professional building team, which continued construction on a house and put in plumbing and electricity.

"While we were working on condemned houses and trailers, we got to know our church people on the repair team a lot



**HEADING OUT** for recreation are day campers at Hale Community Ministry Center and leaders from Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, from left, James Allen, Patty Arnett, Kelly Davis, and Greg Dyer.

better," said Gary Mosley, leader of one of the repair teams.

"Everywhere we went, local residents thanked us for coming and for giving to their community," Barnett added. "Much of our work was designed to help a local church, Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton, begin new ministries and expand their TeamKid ministry in a low income housing community."

When the July 4 block party was rained out, the team went door-to-door giving out 240 hot dogs in the apartment complexes. The next day more children attended the Backyard

Bible Club, because the team showed that they cared by giving the apartment residents the food.

At other times when outdoor activities were canceled because of rain, God opened bigger doors for ministry when a local nursing home flooded with three inches of rain, and the Haywood Hills Church youth mopped out the facility.

"We have to give the glory to God when the nursing home flooded, because the youth were in the right place at the right time," said Marie McKinney, a freshman at Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville. ■

## Brentwood church team serves ...

— Continued from page 7 —  
serve their children Bible study groups and outdoor rotations of music, recreation, and snacks. Children and visiting parents heard the gospel.

Music was an important part of the week. Children enjoyed the songs about Jesus. According to many parents, the children sang the songs often at home.

"What a joy it was to see many little hands up on Friday when the pastor asked who wanted to trust Jesus," said Mullen.

"What a privilege it was to see God working in the hearts and lives of the children that week, to see how he used the children's experiences at day camp to touch families, and to create an interest and openness to the ministries at Sequoia Church." — Copied from reports ■

# First On Mission Celebration is held in Spanish

For Baptist and Reflector

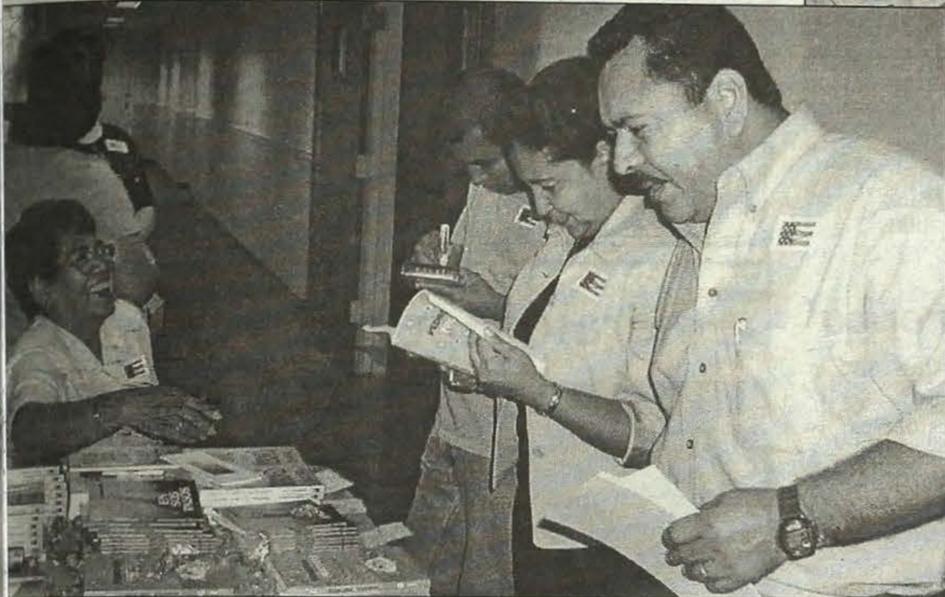
NASHVILLE. — About 120 Hispanics gathered for the first On Mission Celebration in Spanish Sept. 21-22 at South Gate Baptist Church here. It drew members of 17 Hispanic Baptist churches in Tennessee. As a result of the event, 27 people made commitments to become involved in missions work, reported Chuy Avila of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff. ■



**LEADING MUSIC** are Marilu Ramirez, left, and Amelia Perez, Hispanic Baptist Mission of Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville.



**ALFONZO ZAVALA**, pastor, Hispanic Baptist Mission of South Gate Baptist Church, Nashville, discusses the program with Jorge and Sonia Guzman, Hispanic Baptist Mission of First Baptist Church, Smyrna.



**VISITING A DISPLAY** is Alexis Aldino, right, pastor, Hispanic Baptist Church of First Baptist Church, Lebanon.



**PARTICIPATING** in the event are, from left, Susy Ortiz of New Hope Hispanic Baptist Mission, Cleveland; Maria Avila, Hispanic Outreach (Alcance Hispano) Baptist Mission of Harsh Chapel Baptist Church, Nashville; Edith Andino, Hispanic Baptist Church of First Baptist Church, Lebanon; and Amelia Fernandez, Hispanic Outreach Baptist Mission.

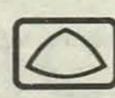


## October 21st is Baptist Hospital Sunday.

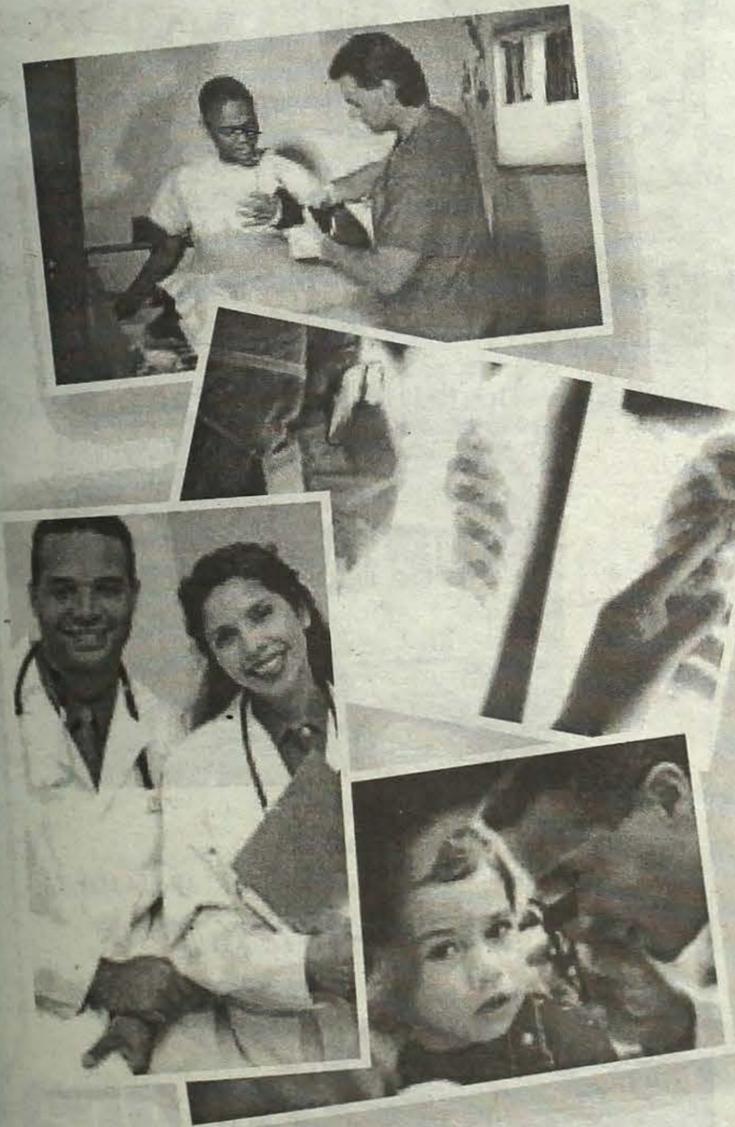
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Please remember the employees and physicians of Baptist hospitals in your prayers on Sunday, October 21.

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# NAMB trustees set new partnership guidelines

By James Dotson  
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — North American Mission Board trustees on Oct. 3 heard an update on disaster relief operations in New York and Washington and approved guidelines for NAMB's cooperation with new state conventions.

Trustees also adopted a \$128 million budget for 2002, an increase of 1.72 percent over the current year's spending plan.

Trustees learned that 17 new missionaries had been approved or appointed the previous day by the missionary personnel subcommittee, and that 31 chaplains had been endorsed for the first time by the chaplains committee.

NAMB President Robert E. "Bob" Reccord shared with

trustees about his recent visit to "ground zero" of the terrorist attacks in New York, where he witnessed Southern Baptist volunteers working long hours preparing food, ministering, and sharing their faith. As of that morning, he said, Southern Baptists had prepared more than 260,000 hot meals.

The guidelines for NAMB's cooperation with new Baptist state conventions adopted by trustees provide a structure for dealing with new state conventions within geographic boundaries of existing conventions, said Harry Lewis, director of NAMB's strategy coordination team. NAMB typically works with state conventions to develop "cooperative agreements" for funding missionaries and other mission efforts.

A task force of trustees,

state convention leaders, and NAMB staff developed the guidelines. Lewis said they updated existing guidelines for new fellowships and the most recent new state conventions. "We simply were trying to update them ... and put them into a document that would be current," he said.

The guidelines do not apply to NAMB's relationships with existing state conventions or pre-convention fellowships. Lewis also stressed that the guidelines affect only NAMB's position in partnering with new state conventions, not their legitimacy.

"We know the autonomy of their position," he said. "They can choose to become a fellowship or a convention. But the guidelines basically specify the conditions in which we would

determine whether we form a formal agreement with them."

General provisions of the guidelines include that conventions should be representative of all people groups, defined by a geographical boundary, "compatible with current policies of NAMB and doctrinal positions of the SBC," and singularly aligned with the SBC. Also, "all jointly funded staff, missionaries, and endorsed chaplains must conform with and agree to minister consistently with and not contrary to" the current Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Consideration also is given to

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whether the new convention will likely result in an increase in missions and evangelism over what would have occurred in the area had the new convention remained a part of the existing entity.

The full text of the guidelines is available via the Internet at [www.namb.net/trusteemeeting](http://www.namb.net/trusteemeeting). ■

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## ACLU will defend entities displaying 'God Bless America'

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Jay Sekulow-led American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU) announced Oct. 9 it is offering to defend any school district or student organization that displays "God Bless America" in school settings.

The offer follows an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) demand that a school district in northern California remove a sign that includes the words, "God Bless America," in front of an elementary school.

"At a time when America desires to exhibit patriotism, the ACLU sees fit to undermine the Constitution by attempting to exert a heavy hand of censorship," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the ACLU.

"The ACLU is out of step with the law and is reacting in a manner that is totally absurd and irresponsible. The message, 'God Bless America,' is constitutionally protected speech and the ACLU's legal analysis is both skewed and very troubling."

Sekulow said the ACLU is sending a letter to California's Rocklin Unified School District offering its legal services to defend the display which was placed on a marquee outside the Breen Elementary School following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

The ACLU, in an Oct. 3 letter to the school, contended the words "God Bless America" reflect a "hurtful, divisive message" and "must be replaced immediately."

The school district has said the sign will not be taken down, despite the ACLU's demand. ■

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# Creasman steps down after 35 years at one church

By Baptist and Reflector

RICEVILLE — After 35 years of ministry with one congregation, Oran Creasman is stepping down.

Creasman will be honored Oct. 20 from 2-5 p.m. at Eastanallee Baptist Church here.

Creasman began his tenure at Eastanallee as music director before becoming the church's pastor in 1966. Since then the church has experienced significant growth.

With 35 years of service, Creasman is credited with the longest current tenure in McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association.

Creasman was no stranger to the gospel ministry when he began serving. His father, the late J.W. Creasman, served as pastor of churches for more than 50 years.

Creasman started out in the business before surrendering to the ministry in 1966. At the same time he entered the teaching profession.

"I was beginning to preach and had an opportunity to go to education and I felt there was a compatibility there," Creasman recalled.

By 1971 he had become an assistant principal at McMinn County High School. He became the principal in 1981 and served in that capacity until 1988.

Creasman then decided to give up that role and concentrate fully upon his role as pastor of Eastanallee.

"I felt the responsibilities of the school and the church both needed full-time attention," Creasman related. "I felt the Lord would have me at the church instead of the school, not that He was uncomfortable with the time that I spent at the school," he said.

In addition to the rigors associated with two positions, Creasman found time for denominational service.

He has been a member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and has served as president of the Pastors' Conference in McMinn-Meigs Association. He

has participated in many events over his career, including service in a crusade in Hong Kong in the mid-1970s, opening the state senate with an invocation in 1986, and participating in ceremonies welcoming President Ronald Reagan during his visit to Athens.

Creasman admitted he did not expect to stay at Eastanallee for 35 years when he became the church's pastor in 1966.

"I hoped it, but I didn't think it would happen," he said, noting that Eastanallee was his first and only pastorate.

"The Lord has been good to us, and through the cooperation and work of the people of our church, this has been accomplished," he noted.

Creasman will be joined in the celebration by his wife, Virginia; his children, Ronnie and Shannon Creasman, Rodney and Missy Ammons, Tim and Donna Creasman, and Miles and Katy Creasman; five grandchildren and his brothers and sisters, along with the entire church family.

Tennessee Baptists interested in relaying their con-

gratulations to Creasman can send a card or message to: Eastanallee Baptist Church, c/o Brenda Wright, 2457 Country Road 700, Riceville, TN 37370. ■



## Memphian McCall looks at four decades of SBC life in history

By Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A new book chronicling Duke McCall's up-close and personal view of four turbulent Southern Baptist decades is available from the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

*Duke K. McCall: An Oral History* is a volume of McCall's candid responses to penetrating questions from Baptist historian A. Ronald Tonks of Nashville.

McCall, retired president and later chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., was reared in Memphis.

He also served as former executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville,

president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, and president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Charles Deweese, executive director of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, notes that "powerful and sensitive memories drive this volume.

"In a gracious act of stewardship, Dr. McCall shares his soul. His no-holds-barred responses to penetrating questions hide nothing. Be prepared to laugh, to cry, to admire, and perhaps, at times, to dissent," Deweese said.

For more information on how to purchase the McCall history, contact the Baptist History and Heritage Society at 1-800-966-2278. ■



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## Missouri Baptist leader resigns; cites control issues

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director Jim Hill has resigned, saying he cannot work with conservative leaders now in control of the Missouri Baptist Convention. The announcement came during a special meeting of the state convention's executive board Oct. 4.

Upon the recommendation of the board's administrative committee, the board approved a severance package for Hill that includes 12 months of pay and benefits, pay for accrued vacation time, and the title to an automobile owned by the convention.

The board's discussion and vote came in closed session, and neither Hill nor convention president Bob Collins an-

nounced a vote count. However, several board members later told a reporter that the only dissent to the severance package was expressed by Jay Scribner, pastor of First Baptist Church in Branson. Scribner was elected president of the Missouri Baptist Convention by conservative forces in 1999.

Hill cited several reasons for his resignation. Among them was his diminishing leadership role with elected and appointed MBC leaders, increasing division on the MBC executive board, and an increasing inability to implement the convention's new strategic plan. ■

## CBF gifts up, churches down

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Giving to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship reached a record \$16.8 million in 2000-2001, officials announced recently.

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The number of contributing churches, however, declined from 1,797 to 1,776.

The CBF received 99 percent of its \$16.9 million ministries budget. Overall giving increased slightly, despite a 17 percent drop in designated giving from a record amount last year spurred by a special Kosovo relief fund. ■

## LifeWay, employees give \$41,658 to Disaster Relief work

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Employees of LifeWay Christian Resources

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of the Southern Baptist Convention contributed \$20,829 to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts with those gifts matched dollar for dollar by LifeWay, for a total contribution of \$41,658.

The money will be forwarded to the North American Mission Board to defray expenses in Baptist disaster relief efforts in New York City and Washington, D.C.

"I'm grateful and proud of the way our employees responded to the efforts to help Southern Baptists minister to those who are hurting," said Mike Ar-

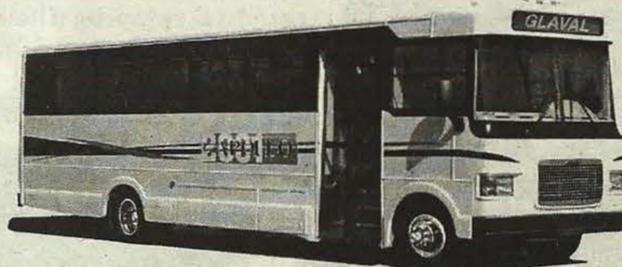
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### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

First Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of music. If interested please send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 212 East F St., Elizabethton, TN 37643.

Seeking full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 277 Rutherford, TN 38369-0277.

First Baptist Church, White Pine, Tenn., is searching for music/worship leader. Full or part time opportunity. Experience required. Send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 590, White Pine, TN 37890.

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## minister's corner

by Wade Holbrook, pastor  
First Baptist Church,  
Sneedville

## Sixty years of change

On December 7<sup>th</sup> of forty-one,  
that day spoken of in infamy;  
Came that act that cut to the bone,  
and forever changed our history.

America's resolve ever stronger grew,  
as we fell humbly on our knees;  
As the winds of war fiercely blew,  
faith and prayer became our nation's keys.

Much has happened since that day,  
in which we celebrated the end of war;  
Great foundations our parents did lay,  
but what they cherished, today we abhor.

The first to fall was God's Holy Word,  
as we took it from our nation's schools;  
Nary a cry from the public was heard,  
for that we must ever be called fools.

The next to go was the joy of prayer,  
as that act of faith we also saw banned;  
A thing as vital as the breathing of air,  
also became despised as contraband.

Not to be spared was the law of God,  
those commandments of ten must go;  
As we make religion a hollow facade,  
and what we bring on ourselves is woe.

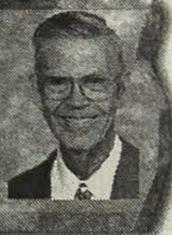
With all of the above gone or ignored,  
the value of life could become cheap;  
And against the unborn the nation warred,  
and threw their tiny bodies in a heap.

Thus September 11<sup>th</sup> of the new millennium,  
a day of terror and infamy to our land;  
Where once to churches they did come,  
now they put trust in their own hand.

Before God turned his back on America,  
far from Him we had strayed;  
Before this tragedy struck our shores,  
we forgot the one to whom we prayed. ■

## Just for today

by Fred Wood,  
pastor emeritus,  
Memphis



**Start With a Smile:** College President to Pastor, an alumnus of his school: "Do you

believe in free speech?" Pastor: "I certainly do." CP: "Do you believe in Christian Education?" Pastor: "I certainly do." CP: "That's fine. I want you to give a free speech on Christian Education for our commencement."

**Take this Truth:** Free speeches are usually neither free nor speeches.

**Memorize this Scripture:** "And the king said to Rahab, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." — Samuel 24:24

**Pray this Prayer:** Lord, help me to remember that which costs nothing is usually worth exactly what it costs. ■

# The church

By Kerry Walker

**Focal Passages:**  
*Titus 1:5, 9; 2:1-8, 11-15*

When my first son was born, I remember looking at that perfect bundle of new life with a mixed sense of awe, joy, fear, and trepidation. After all, there were no instructions included with the delivery. How should I hold him, take care of him? What if he gets sick? And then there was the really important questions to answer, like "what kind of ball glove should I get him?" and "what college should he go to?" I thought I needed to know everything up front.

My son was born early on a Sunday morning, and as soon as the worship service was over, half of that small country church was at the hospital with me. It was then that I realized my wife and I didn't have to know everything or even do everything. Standing beside us in our responsibilities in raising children would be others God had given us. First, there was our family. Second, I knew I had a spiritual family to help us raise our precious possessions in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

In our lesson today, Paul writes Titus to remind him of these central truths. To be sure, the primary responsibility for raising and instructing children remains in the home. But Paul knew that for parents to be successful, they would need the experience of earlier generations and the spiritual support of the local church.

Titus appointed elders to teach sound doctrine to parents so they in turn could instill godliness in their children. Special care was taken in selecting those given this responsibility. Only men who were blameless, faithful, and successful in rearing their own children could be called to this ministry (vv. 2-3). It is important that churches today call pastors who are "apt to teach" and develop fully discipling ministries to help families grow in their walk with God.

Paul goes one step further. He reminds Titus of the wealth of wisdom

already available to those churches in the lives of the older

members. Titus was commanded to teach the senior adults how to use their knowledge and experience in helping younger families.

Some years ago, I became very interested in my family's history. I sat down with my grandmother, video camera in hand, and let her talk and reminisce. For two hours she shared her life story, her dreams, her successes and failures, and her hopes for her family. I now have a film record that I not only treasure, but that also strengthens and helps me in my own spiritual journey.

Titus was to teach older women to share from their experience. It is interesting to note that they were instructed to teach the younger women to love their husbands and children.

## Family Bible SS Lesson — October 21

# Alert in the Spirit

By John Parrott

**Focal Passage:**  
*I Thessalonians 5:1-11*

The events of September 11 remain etched in our minds. The following day, with the use of bold letters, the newspapers announced the unanticipated terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

Such headlines are called "second coming" headlines, referring to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul knows that the day will come that the second coming of Christ will be the headline event. In anticipation of the event, he reminds the Christians at Thessalonica that their lifestyles must be different than those who are not Christians. The return of Jesus Christ would be unexpected, so their behavior would need to be consistent and they would need to be watchful. D.L. Moody once said, "For many years I have never given an address without the consciousness that the Lord may come before I have finished." This may well explain the intensity of his service and the zeal of his ministry. In I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Paul talks about the intensity and zeal that should influence the behavior of all Christians who wait for the return of Jesus.

Terrorism has stirred thoughts of

"dangerous times" in the last days; the end of the world, and the Second Coming. It is not Paul's purpose to define times and set dates. Rather, he encourages "readiness" for the return of Jesus Christ.

In verses 1-3 Paul assures that it will be a waste of time to speculate about the Lord's return. His return will not be anticipated, but it will be sudden for those who do not know Him.

Paul says that Christians should always live in anticipation of the Lord's return. Now the world does not want to anticipate His return. Christians should know that they are going to be with the Lord. They will be saved, and nothing will stop this from happening. The world will face His wrath and judgment (vv. 4-5).

Living with the realization that Christ will come again is more than being fascinated about it. It has to do with demonstrating the Christian attributes of "faith, hope, and love" in our daily living. People who live "as though there is no God" are not sensitive to the truth of His Second Coming and their accountability (vv. 6-8).

In verses 9-11 the Apostle Paul reminds the Christians at Thessalonica of their ultimate victory through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They are saved forever and will live with the Lord forever! This



Paul realized that true, godly, agape love did not come naturally; it was something that had to be learned and practiced. It is also important to note the role older women were to have in the church as teachers and mentors of younger women. Too often senior adults simply want to turn over the reins to younger adults. They don't realize the important responsibility God still has for them.

One by one, Paul instructed Titus on how to equip his church to meet the needs of families within the church. Often we limit the role of churches to that of providing worship and ministry to the world through monetary gifts. Most churches also accept the responsibility of witnessing to their communities.

But churches also have God-given mandates in other areas as well. Equipping, training, and nurturing families and helping parents train their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord should certainly be at the forefront of a church's mission statement and purpose. Churches should never take the place of the family in training children, but they should certainly take their place alongside those parents in helping to build Christ-centered homes. — Walker is pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester.

is worth talking about! They need to encourage one another, and they should enjoy talking to one another in joyful anticipation of His coming again!

In times like these, we can look toward the heavens and know that one day Jesus will come back.

During the Revolutionary War, a loyalist spy appeared at the headquarters of Hessian commander Colonel Johann Rall, carrying an urgent message. General George Washington and his Continental army had secretly crossed the Delaware River that morning and were advancing on Trenton, New Jersey where the Hessians were encamped. The spy was denied an audience with the commander and instead wrote his message on a piece of paper. A porter took the note to the Hessian colonel, but because Rall was involved in a poker game he stuffed the unread note into his pocket. While Washington's army carried out a surprise attack, Rall was still playing cards. Without time to organize, the Hessian army was captured.

The world will continue to live in its false securities concerning tomorrow, but we, who are Christians, must live in the real security that Jesus will come again. Hopefully, we will read the written message, God's Word, heed the teachings of Paul, and be ready. — Parrott is director of missions, Holston Valley Baptist Association.

## leaders

■ North Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, ordained **Steve Melugin** as a deacon Sept. 9.

■ Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, has called **Tom McMinn** of LifeWay Christian Resources as interim minister to married adults. The church also has called **Jay Strother** of Somerville, Ala., as middle school minister.

■ South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman, called **Randy Maxwell** of Crossett, Ark., as pastor, effective Oct. 7. He has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas for 32 years. Maxwell is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University,

Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

■ **Ron Murray**, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Johnson City, recently studied in Scotland through Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J.

■ First Baptist Church, Smithville, has called **Donald A. Davidson** as pastor, effective Nov. 4.

■ **Dan Black** has been called as associate pastor for college ministries, University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City.

■ **Jamie Ferguson** has been called as pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

■ **Harold G. "Buddy" Jones** of St. Petersburg, Fla.,

has been called as pastor, Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

## churches

■ **ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin**, will hold a Family Fall Festival Oct. 31 from 5:15-7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 794-5488.

■ **Battle Creek Baptist Church, Coopertown**, will host gospel musician Phil Kaegy in concert Nov. 4.

■ **Lake Drive Baptist Church, Sale Creek**, will hold a Fall Festival Oct. 31. The festival will begin at 6:30 p.m.

■ **Hickory Valley Baptist Church, Sparta**, recently held revival. As a result, many people made spiritual decisions. Dewayne Howard and the Howards music group of Athens led the services.

■ The youth of **South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman**, will present the walk-through drama, "True Winner," during its Judgment House Oct. 17, 20-21, 24, 26-28. The church has offered a Judgment House for the past six years. Last year over 1,200 attended. For more information, call the church at (865) 882-1816.

■ **North Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson**, will hold homecoming activities Oct. 21 and a trick-or-trunk

Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m.

## state events

■ The Volunteer Missions Team of the **Tennessee Baptist Convention** staff has an emergency request from workers in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for medicine which can be delivered to the Baptist Center, Brentwood, prior to Oct. 25. Health care workers need Advil, Robitussin DM for adults and chil-

dren, adult and children cough suppressant, antihistamine for children, and chewable antacids. For more information call Kim Huff or Heather Wilson at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 20; or (615) 371-2021.



**RELAXING** at Camp Linden, Linden, during the recent 18th annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind are 2000-2002 officers, from left, Sharon Bragg, secretary/treasurer of Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville; Marie Roberts, president of Nashville; James Brittle, vice president of Second Baptist Church, Clinton; and Charles Couey, consultant of Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville. About 40 people participated in the event. This year participants prepared 500 personal care packages for inmates of the South Central Correctional Center.



**STANDING** on the property of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry the University of Tennessee at Martin are, from left, Adam H. Slinger, BCM secretary and volunteer groundskeeper; and Jeri Shadden, volunteer landscaper. The property received the Martin Beautiful award for church property recently during the city's soybean festival.

# Hospital offers tips on stocking medicine cabinet, keeping it safe

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Stoves, microwave ovens, televisions, and dishwashers are items commonly found in homes, but an item often missing is a well-stocked medicine cabinet or first-aid kit.

"All homes should have a medicine cabinet or first-aid kit filled with essential items for treating common illnesses and injuries," said Donna Mason, R.N., director of Baptist Hospital's community education.

"Making sure you have a few common items in your home can save you a trip to the store and eliminate some stress in the event of an emergency."

Mason offers these tips on stocking your medicine cabinet or first-aid kit:

**Antibiotic ointment.** Antibiotic ointment is useful in treating burns, cuts, scrapes, and bites. Make sure it has been stored in a dark area and that it is within the expiration date.

**Tweezers.** Angled-tip tweezers are helpful for removing splinters, ticks, or other small objects such as broken glass. Be sure to sterilize tweezers with soap and hot water or rubbing alcohol before and after each use.

**Rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide.** These items are useful in cleaning cuts and scrapes as well as sterilizing tweezers.

**Ice packs.** Parents of young children will find it especially helpful to keep ice packs in the freezer. Ice packs are used for reducing inflammation from bruises or other injuries. If you do not have a frozen ice pack, then use a can of frozen juice or a pack of frozen vegetables instead. Never place ice directly on an injury, but cover with a cloth or pillowcase instead.

**Adhesive strips, bandages, and gauze pads.** After cleaning a cut or scrape with hydrogen peroxide and applying an antibiotic ointment, cov-

er the wound with an adhesive strip or bandage. Bandages can become "old" after time, so periodically update and change them for newer ones.

**Non-aspirin product.** Consult your physician about which non-aspirin product is appropriate for your family.

**Nasal spray.** An over-the-counter saline nasal spray is helpful for treating stuffy noses due to colds.

**Sunscreen.** Choose sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. Sunscreen works best when applied 30 minutes before going out into the sun and periodically again while in the sun.

**Thermometer.** Stock your cabinet with a thermometer that is easy to read. When multiple family members will be using a thermometer, it is best to purchase disposable thermometer covers. These disposable covers will help keep your thermometer free of germs and can be thrown away after each use.

It is no longer recommended to use glass thermometers. Disposable thermometer scans are the most appropriate.

**Medicine spoon or dropper.** If you are a parent of a young child, consider stocking your medicine cabinet with a medicine spoon or dropper. These items can make giving medicine to your child an easier task. Be sure to clean the spoon or dropper after each use.

**Emergency numbers and allergies.** Use the door to your medicine cabinet as a place to post emergency phone numbers for family physician, pediatrician, dentist, and the poison control unit. In addition, this can serve as a good place to list each family member's allergies.

When babysitters or other family members come to stay with your children, you can share this information with them and inform them that all medicine and emergency information is located in the medi-

cine cabinet. If you do not have a medicine cabinet, choose a central location in your home to keep this information, as posted on the refrigerator in a first-aid kit and be sure to update this list yearly.

"Whether you have young children or you have young adults in your home, all medications and first-aid kits should be kept out of the reach of children," said Mason. "As an additional precaution, parents should ask their pharmacist to place all their medication child-protection bottles."

Whether your family chooses to have a well-stocked medicine cabinet or a portable first-aid kit, families should consult their physicians about which products are most appropriate for their family.

For more information on stocking your medicine cabinet or first-aid kit and keeping it safe, please call Baptist Hospital's Guest Relations at 284-5043. ■