

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

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November 28, 2001

## TBC African Americans establish fellowship

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Baptist and Reflector*

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee Baptist African American pastors met together during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to form the Tennessee African American Fellowship.

The group is patterned after the Southern Baptist Convention African American Fellowship, said newly-elected president Willie McLaurin, pastor of Greater Hope Baptist Church in Union City.

About 38 African American ministers voted to establish the group during their meeting at New Covenant Baptist Church in Knoxville, hosted by Pastor Frederick Brabson, McLaurin said.

Joseph Lyles, outgoing president of the SBC African American Fellowship, spoke to the TBC pastors on the impor-

ance of having a state organization, McLaurin reported.

In addition to McLaurin, the group elected Thomas Bester, pastor of New Victory Baptist Church in Rutherford as vice president. Both men are bivocational pastors.

The new fellowship has three primary purposes, McLaurin said.

(1) "We want to work in harmony with the Tennessee Baptist Convention in fulfilling the Great Commission through support of the Cooperative Program," he said.

(2) "We want to sensitize the TBC and all of its entities as to the concerns of the African American community," McLaurin continued.

(3) "We want to help one another in church planting, evangelism, and church growth," the Union City pastor shared.

McLaurin added that the fellowship wants to encourage African American churches to participate in and to support the programs and ministries of the TBC.

"We want to get on board with what's going on in the Tennessee Baptist Convention," he said.

The new president noted many of the state's 70 black churches and missions are not familiar with all that is happening within the convention.

"We want to be a help and an enhancement to the convention and we want our churches

to be cooperative," McLaurin said.

"My goal is to have each of our 70 churches and missions involved in every aspect of TBC and SBC life," McLaurin added.

He said a constitution is being drafted for the organization which will meet again next July during the Black Church Leadership Conference sponsored by the TBC Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group.

Rod Glatt, black church extension/multi-housing specialist for the TBC, said the fellowship "will help to unite our black churches with the convention and help them to be fully cooperative churches."

The new organization also will be beneficial to the TBC, Glatt continued, by helping "to make the convention what it really is — a diverse body of Baptist believers." ■



McLAURIN



BESTER

this week's news

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## New TBC president wants to encourage young pastors

*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Kevin Shrum, newly-elected president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention hopes to become an example for younger ministers within the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"I see it (presidency) as an opportunity to be an example for young pastors, to show that it is worthwhile to be involved in convention life," said the 39-year-old Illinois native.

"I thank God for the previous generations and their leadership," he continued. "I think they're looking for someone to pass the baton of leadership to and my generation needs to step up," said Shrum, who was elected to the TBC presidency Nov. 13 by 171 votes (10.8% of vote) over retired Clarksville pastor Verlon Moore, during the annual meeting held at First Baptist Church, Concord, in Knoxville.

"Conversely, the previous generation must make room for new leadership," observed Shrum, pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

Shrum noted his desire is to "involve young ministers in the work of the local church, the local association, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Unless we involve and recruit a new generation of leaders, the work of the TBC will be greatly diminished," he predicted.

Shrum, who holds a master's degree

and doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has served Inglewood since 1995. He describes the church as being in an urban/inner city setting.



SHRUM

Yet, the church has nearly doubled during his tenure and has a good mix of old and young members as well as long-time and new Baptists, he said.

Shrum, whose father, Ron Shrum, was a pioneer missions pastor in Illinois when he was born and is now a director of missions in Kennett, Mo., remains very involved in missions work.

He is especially excited about the new partnership with Iowa Baptists because of his family background and his church's involvement in missions.

"Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists always achieve the most when missions and evangelism are at the center of what we do," he observed.

"I will seek to encourage TBC churches to be more involved in the missions and evangelism efforts of the TBC, especially the newly formed missions partnership with the state of Iowa," he pledged.

During his term as president, Shrum said he would love to see baptisms increase among the state's churches. He

wants to encourage people to realize that is one of the main purposes of the church — to see others won to Christ.

Shrum also has strong views on other matters of interest to Tennessee Baptists.

In regard to the lottery, he pledged his "time, my voice, and my personal efforts to the defeat of this ill-advised referendum issue."

The Inglewood pastor, who will serve on the committee to study the role of the TBC presidency but will not have a vote per convention action, supports the concept of giving appointive powers to the TBC president. He also hopes to see a greater number of TBC church members involved in the work of the convention.

When asked why he allowed himself to be nominated for the presidency, Shrum stressed he did not seek the position.

When approached by then TBC president Hollie Miller about allowing his nomination, he prayed about the matter and talked with the leadership at Inglewood, Shrum said. They were very supportive, he added.

Shrum acknowledged that he is a "happy, joyful conservative" with sound convictions.

"I am my own person, yet at the same time I have no ax to grind," he said. "I'm not mad at anybody and I'm willing to work with anybody in as far as that is possible," he continued. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

## Week of prayer for international missions, LMCO begins Dec. 2

*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists will join with Southern Baptists around the world next week for a week of intensive prayer for international missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Southern Baptists have set a challenging goal of \$120 million for the offering. Tennessee Baptists traditionally have been strong supporters of this offering. The theme of this year's emphasis is "The Unfinished Task 2001: Planting With A Passion."

I encourage Tennessee Baptists to step up to the plate this year for our international missionaries. One of the things that makes Southern Baptists unique among denominations is our support for our missionaries. Their dedication and commitment to go where God has called deserves our prayer and financial backing. Let's help them complete the "unfinished task" this year. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

the Unfinished Task 2001

## about your newsjournal

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## Baptist, St. Thomas hospitals sign purchase agreement

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — St. Thomas Health Services signed an asset purchase agreement Nov. 16 with Baptist Hospital System Inc., moving the two organizations a step closer to becoming a single healthcare organization.

Final regulatory and governmental approval of the acquisition is anticipated by Dec. 31, according to a press release from St. Thomas Health Services.

The new faith-based healthcare organization will be sponsored by St. Louis-based Ascension Health, the nation's largest not-for-profit Catholic healthcare system. Five hospitals in Middle Tennessee are part of the transaction. In addition to Baptist and St. Thomas hospitals in Nashville, Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Baptist Hickman Community Hospital in Centerville, and Baptist DeKalb Hospital in Smithville will become part of the new system.

Under the new arrangement, Thomas E. Beeman will serve as president and CEO of the system. The Baptist Healing Hospital Institute, an entity created from the sale of Baptist, will be directed by Baptist president and CEO Erie Chapman, who will remain as president and CEO of Baptist.

Chapman said the new arrangement allows for the preservation of "the Baptist Hospital name, mission, and, in most instances, local governance by the newly appointed board." ■

## Graham to move headquarters from Minnesota to N.C.

Religion News Service

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Leaders of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association announced Nov. 15 that they will be moving the 51-year-old organization from its longtime location here to Charlotte, N.C.

"Minneapolis has been very good to us, but we have run out of room to grow," Graham told ministry employees as they met for a biennial staff conference in West Virginia, a ministry statement said.

Franklin Graham, eldest son of the evangelist and CEO of the association, said his father's hometown was the "most logical

## Jones, Work to write SS commentaries

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Bradley County pastor and a West Tennessee director of missions have been selected to write Sunday School commentaries for the December-February quarter.

Ray Jones, director of missions for Big Hatchie Baptist Association, based in Covington, will write the Explore the Bible series.

Jones is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and holds the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Prior to becoming DOM in Big Hatchie, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Camden, for 10 years. He has served as pastor of two other TBC congregations — Antioch First Baptist Church, Antioch, and Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland — as well as churches in Alabama and Kentucky.

Jones is a former trustee of Union University,

Jackson, and has served in various capacities in the state convention and in associations both in Tennessee and Alabama.

Jones and his wife, Donna, have three children.

Jamison L. Work, pastor of Candies Creek Baptist Church, Charleston, since 1998, will write the Family Bible series.

Work is a graduate of Belmont University and holds the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and the doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, Ga.

He has held pastorates in Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia.

TBC pastorates include Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Martin, and Calvary Baptist Church, Madison.

Work has been active in associations in Tennessee and Georgia as well as the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Work and his wife, Dana, have two children. ■



JONES



WORK

new location for the ministries related to his family.

Most are already in North Carolina. The younger Graham's Christian relief organization, Samaritan's Purse, is located in Boone. The Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove is in Asheville. The elder Graham's home is in Montreat.

"In the long run, it will allow us to bring a lot more synergy to the ministry," Franklin Graham told Religion News Service. ■

## F. Graham stands by Islam statement

Baptist Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Evangelist Franklin Graham is not backing away from his statements aired on a national news program that Islam is "wicked, violent, and not of the same god."

Graham initially made the remarks in an interview at the October dedication of a chapel in Wilkesboro, N.C.; the remarks were broadcast by NBC News Nov. 16.

"I don't believe this is a wonderful, peaceful religion," Graham said. "When you read the Koran and you read the verses from the Koran, it instructs the killing of the infidel, for those that are non-Muslim." Asked by NBC News to clarify his statement, Graham stood his ground.

"It wasn't Methodists flying into those buildings, it wasn't Lutherans," Graham told NBC. "It was an attack on this country by people of the Islamic faith."

NBC News released the Graham interview on the first day of Ramadan, the holiest season of the Muslim year and it has drawn fire from Muslims as well as the White House.

A spokesperson for the White House noted that President Bush "views Islam as a religion that preaches peace," and that the terrorists do not represent what Islam teaches.

Regardless, in a Nov. 18 statement, Graham said he stood by his earlier comments.

"As a Christian minister, my calling and focus is to proclaim the God of the Christian faith to all who will listen and hear, and to love all people regardless of their faith," Graham said. "It is not my calling to analyze Islam or any other religions though I recognize that all religions have differences. In the past, I have expressed my concerns about the teachings of Islam regarding the treatment of women and the killing of non-Muslims or infidels. I do not intend to comment further." ■

## IMB appoints record number

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The largest group of career missionaries in Southern Baptist history was appointed Nov. 13 during the annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

But while record numbers of Southern Baptists are coming forward for career missionary service, the supply of new workers doesn't begin to match either the needs or the opportunities, International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin said.

An overflow crowd at First Baptist Church here watched as 124 new workers — including six apprentices — were appointed to overseas assignments. Thirty-four people made public commitments to missions at the conclusion of the emotional two-hour service.

The new missionaries told the audience how a love of missions had been planted in their hearts, how they had come to understand how much God loves the lost, how they had heard Him calling them to share the good news of His love overseas — and how they had decided to obey.

The new career missionaries

will join more than 5,000 other long-term International Mission Board workers already engaging 1,125 people groups in 185 countries. ■

## House resolution encourages school time for prayer

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives has adopted a non-binding resolution encouraging schools to establish a time that students may use, in part, to pray for the country.

The House approved the resolution in a 297-125 vote. The resolution, which has no standing legally, says, "... it is the sense of Congress that schools in the United States should set aside a sufficient period of time to allow children to pray for, or quietly reflect on behalf of, the nation during this time of struggle against the forces of international terrorism."

While the measure received criticism from some defenders of church-state separation inside and outside Congress, supporters of the resolution said it is consistent with the reactions of the American public and its leaders. The measure cites President George W. Bush's call for Americans to pray for those who suffered from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Its backers also said the resolution provides for voluntary actions by students.

The resolution "would serve as a message to school-age children throughout the country that we, the members of the United States Congress, understand that they are living in troubled and confusing times," said Rep. Walter Jones, R.-N.C., adding that it shows "we are also aware of the immediate need to seek solace through faith or simply a quiet moment of meditation." ■



Of Sept. 11 tragedy

# Union art students pay tribute to victims

By Sara Horn  
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University art students are paying tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by holding a week-long environmental installation as a memorial.

The installation was on display Monday, Nov. 12 through Monday, Nov. 19. It included 6,000 white plastic sheets representing the victims along with 19 black plastic sheets representing the terrorists tied to ropes that are attached to poles which line the circumference of the campus.

While students on other university campuses have held protests, condemning the current war in Afghanistan, these

Union students wanted to do something to remember the victims of the attacks, and recognize in particular the spirit of renewed faith which is becoming evident across the country.

Eric Botbyl, a senior art major from Medford, N.J., was one of the students who led the project.

"When it [the Sept. 11 attacks] first happened, we had an art meeting that day which had been scheduled before the attacks," recalled Botbyl. "All we could talk about though was everything that had happened that day and how small and worthless we felt as artists — we didn't feel at that point that we could do anything to help."

Botbyl, who specializes in

ceramic sculpture, said that ideas for a creative response to the tragedies were brought up at the art department's annual fall retreat in late September and "it just evolved from there."

In the middle of the display, between the Penick and Business Academic buildings, an altar of 12 tons of stone has also been built, symbolizing the importance and strength of faith in times of tragedy.

"We built the altar in the tradition of the Old Testament," explained Botbyl, who pointed out that the patriarchs would stack stones to form altars when God would do something in their lives.

"I was reading in Exodus where someone asks why an altar was being built and they

said for future generations who would see it and ask what it was for. That's really where the visual aspect comes in. This is a visual reminder — it's not something you can file away on a shelf and forget about."

The plastic sheets hanging in a line that runs for almost a mile and a half provokes a very physical response when thinking that each one represents a person and in turn a family and friends, said Botbyl.

During the week, a 24-hour prayer chain also was held, with two art students at the altar at all times. One student read from the Bible while the other prayed for a specific victim's family, the country, and the war at large.

A worship service concluded

ed the week, on Nov. 19. Union University President David S. Dockery spoke and the Union University Gospel Choir sang.

"In church last week, my pastor told us that Americans are doing three things — eating more junk food, falling in love, and praying more," added Botbyl.

"It just seems that this tragedy has really hit us on a lot of levels — physical, spiritual, and relational and those are the levels we've tried to reach with this." ■

# Pastor helps lead man to God who is now pastor, friend

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — During the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 13-14 and related activities here, Dennis Deese and Hal Fletcher both had responsibilities. Fletcher, pastor, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis, was second vice president of the convention. And Deese, pastor, Hunter First Baptist Church, Elizabethton, was president of the TBC Pastors Conference.

But the two men found some time to visit. They are close friends.

One reason they are close friends is 19 years ago Fletcher helped lead Deese to make a profession of faith.

## 19 years ago

Deese was 24 and thought he was living the good life, he said. He was married to his childhood sweetheart, Teri. They had three children. He was a manager for a chemical plant operator in Live Oak, Fla. And he had a fun hobby, stock car racing.

But Deese admitted he had been empty all of my life." He was raised by his grandmother.

Deese said he knew he needed something spiritual. So he and Teri decided to go as a family to church one Sunday. They picked a Nazarene church and on their way, they saw a Baptist church. They decided to go there.

On Monday after their visit, the pastor, Hal Fletcher, and a deacon visited the Deese family at their home several times. One time Fletcher joined Deese in his backyard. Fletcher asked Deese whether he would go to heaven or hell if he

died that night.

Deese recalled he told Fletcher he didn't want to be a "hypocrite and when I got my life cleaned up I'd get saved."

Fletcher responded by telling Deese he reminded him of Paul.

Of course, Deese explained, he didn't know who Fletcher was referring to, since he wasn't familiar with the Bible.

But that led to a conversation between the two men during which Deese made a profession of faith to Christianity. Then Teri made the same decision.

Deese explained one reason he made the commitment was Fletcher talked about the relationship he needed with God rather than attending church, like other Christians had done who had visited the Deese family.

"An immediate burden lifted when I prayed to receive Christ," remembered Deese.

## A transformation

Deese said, "I now had some hard choices to face." He drank alcohol, smoked cigarettes, and cursed often. For the first time in his life, he began to experience conviction about many things he did which were wrong, he explained.

Deese and his wife made their commitment public two weeks after making their commitment in their home by walking to the front of the church. Then he realized he had left his wallet at home. Deese told Teri and then the lady who sat beside them to assist them with a church membership form about his predicament.

Although it is funny now, he seriously thought he would have to pay dues to join the church. He was assured he

could make his decision without having to pay any money.

## A few struggles

Deese reported he had to "basically learn how to talk again," he reported, and he stopped drinking alcohol.

But the hardest struggle he had was giving up smoking. He had smoked cigarettes for 15 years and although he prayed daily that God would help him stop, he couldn't. He also was reading the Bible daily, especially during the down time on his job where he worked the night shift.

He felt so guilty, he started trying to hide his cigarettes but a fellow worker saw him and chided him about smoking and professing to be a Christian.

Then one day, about a year after he made his profession of faith, Deese realized he didn't have the urge to smoke. He never smoked again.

## His calling

Deese kept reading the Bible voraciously, often 30 chapters every night. And he memorized passages. The first year after he was saved, he memorized 100 verses.

His favorite verse at that time was James 1:22: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

About 30 days after he quit smoking, he began to feel burdened about something.

"I felt God's Word burning in my heart to the point I had to get it out."

He talked to his pastor about it and Fletcher suggested his feelings might be God calling him to preach.



DENNIS DEESE, left, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hunter, Elizabethton, and Hal Fletcher, pastor, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis, are good friends and fellow pastors. Fletcher helped lead Deese to make a profession of faith 19 years ago.

Fletcher invited Deese to preach at the church. Soon he was serving as pastor of a church, just two years after his profession of faith. Deese went on to attend Florida Baptist Theological College.

## His ministry

He has served Hunter First Church for nine years and has seen it grow from 300 to 500 in worship.

He explained his ministry is different from that of many pastors because of his experiences.

He encourages Christians to talk to people about their need for salvation rather than attending a church, just like Fletcher did when he visited him.

"I'm not trying to build the church, but to build people," explained Deese. "As much as God calls a pastor to the church, he calls a layman to the church. The greatest call in the world is what God calls you

to be and you can't do what God wants you to do until you become who God wants you to be."

He also tries to teach church members to be sensitive to people who may not be familiar with Christianity and church.

And because he has been mentored by Fletcher and others, he tries to mentor other pastors and preachers and encourage mentoring. Hunter First Church holds conferences for preachers which foster that.

He is proud to report another result of his ministry is his son, Cody, who is a full-time evangelist although just 20 years old. He is based in Elizabethton.

He and Fletcher still talk regularly. In fact, Deese says, "I call him often just to say thanks for coming by my home and telling me how to be saved." ■



## letters

### about letters

The editor is not bound to print all letters that are submitted for publication. No letters will be published that contain known factual errors. It is the responsibility of the individual submitting the letter to meet guidelines. Notification of the failure to meet guidelines is not the responsibility of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Letters:

➤ **Should deal with issues relevant to Tennessee Baptists and should not deal with personalities or attack people.**

➤ **Must not be libelous or potentially libelous.**

➤ **Should be 300 words or less.**

➤ **Must not be "form" or open letters.**

➤ **Will be accepted from writers once in a three-months period.**

➤ **Should be clearly marked they are intended for publication.**

➤ **Be signed and include address and phone number. Faxed letters are accepted, but must be signed. Letters that are e-mailed should be followed with a signed, mailed or faxed copy.**

lonians 5:17 to "pray continually." The prayers of a Christian student, parent, teacher, or school staff worker should never end at the school door.

While the Supreme Court ruling of years ago changed America's schools, today's public schools are very different than they were at the time of the ruling. The diversity of the public schools compared to even 25 years ago has to be taken into account. If prayer is "by law" put back into schools, then it will be an "equal opportunity employer." Perhaps a Christian prayer on Monday, Hindu on Tuesday, Muslim on Wednesday, Buddhist on Thursday, and don't forget the Satan worshippers on Friday. Then what about the atheist who wants no prayer? And who will mandate and oversee this law demanding prayer in schools? — the federal government.

I am glad my children's schools study the world religions, including Christianity, because it helps them to better understand why we believe the way we do; yet, I don't particularly care to have the prayers of other religions imposed on them regularly, when they can presently pray anytime they wish.

While nothing prevents personal prayer in schools, if Mr. Correa's desire and purpose for the petition is for corporate prayer in the school, I am reminded of God's admonishment in Matthew 6:5-6 not to pray to be seen and heard by men, but to pray in your room, behind closed doors, to your Father.

Cindy M. House  
Nashville 37214

### Constant tension

There is a constant tension between perceived political control via nominating processes and perceived political takeover via elective/appointive processes within our convention. Being convinced that there is a median point, perhaps we can consider the following suggestion.

The position of TBC president, elected by the messengers in annual session, carries no ongoing authoritative direction of the processes of the convention apart from the moderation of the annual meeting, though the TBC president is acknowledged as the "ambassador" of Tennessee Baptists during his tenure. It seems that the typical Tennessee Baptists' perception of TBC president is that of one who is "in charge" of process for one year. In reality, he has no appointive powers, beyond special committees. He serves with the Executive Board for one year and has opportunity to participate without voting on the Board's several committees.

On the other hand, another president, the other of the Executive Board, is nominated by a fellow board member and elected the day of the nomination, without formal pre-announcement.

This president moderates the meetings of the Board and appoints a nominating committee, which, in turn, arranges the board members into committees. These board members have all been elected by the Convention in session.

Rather than changing the presidency, TBC to a full appointive post with abilities that alter the "balance of powers" most of us desire, perhaps it is time to allow Tennessee Baptists to elect one person to serve one year as both president of TBC and the TBC Executive Board.

This provides a median point and removes the polarization created by the extremes of a president with full or large appointive powers and a president serving as a "figurehead" ambassador. A change to bylaws would be required both in the convention's constitution and in the governing documents of the Executive Board.

This process would preserve the committee processes for the Convention at large, while expanding the abilities of our messengers to select the actual leader of TBC processes year round. This is plausible and workable and has been well received by individuals vocal to the two other prominent positions on this issue.

Wayne Foropoulos  
Oakfield 38362

### Good stories

We appreciate and enjoy good, positive stories that show how Tennessee Baptists are impacting this state and our world for Jesus Christ.

We appreciate you for taking a stand, for speaking out. We would like to see more excitement for evangelism and missions in our state paper. We enjoy reading stories of churches reaching out to our communities and to the world.

We desire to be informed of issues that affect us as Baptists, here in Tennessee, as well as other states. We need more stories about men and women that inspire us and encourage pastors, leaders, and members of churches.

Leslie and Clara B. Huff  
Nashville 37214

### Thanks for tapes

In 1952 we moved to Nashville. The first church we visited was Judson Baptist. We did not join because we decided to join with a mission congregation, now Glendale Baptist Church, because it was closer to our duplex. In fact, we are charter members of Glendale.

Now these many years later, we again have a tie to Judson. Each week I receive a tape recorded for the blind and guess who does this. I want to thank Bill Robertson and all those from Judson who are active in recording these tapes each week. They go to all who are visually handicapped and in this we we can enjoy the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Thank you to all who are so faithful in bringing these tapes to us each week.

Dorothy W. Blake  
Alcoa 37701

*Editor's Note: The taping of the Baptist and Reflector is provided by the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. If you know someone who is visually impaired who might benefit from this service, please contact Melanie Allen of the TBC staff at (615) 371-2031.*

### Church is blessed

At First Baptist Church, Memphis, we concern not ourselves so much about the place of women in the church as about the position given to Jesus, the head of the church, by both men and women of the church, His body. We do seek to embrace the all compelling truth encapsulated in Paul's declaration: "In Him there is neither male nor female, but one in Christ Jesus."

In this all pervasive and growing spirit, through the years, we have gone about electing women to serve at all levels in our church, including members of the board of deacons. And the blessings they have brought to us from our dear Lord Jesus have enriched our entire church family.

This year has been especially glorious in revealing the hand of God in our midst. The Spirit, as we prayed and prayed, asked us to come up a little higher, and to step aside. This we did and beheld, in pure glorified wonder as our blessed Redeemer placed one of our own, Ann McCall Richardson, as our associate pastor. Ann was the recipient of the distinguished student award at Beeson School of Divinity and is known among women of our state as a past president of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Regrettably, only a few churches ever reach the level of maturity and degree of dedication required to travel this high road with Jesus. How blessed we are. Not many pastors are secure enough to share the pastoral yoke with another, especially a woman. Their manhood always, and in all ways, seeks the preeminence and must be protected at all cost.

Our pastor, Kenneth A. Corr, cares not who sows the seed, or who waters them, or still, who does the harvest, just as long as there is a harvest.

Leonard W. Riley  
Memphis 38115

### Preaching contest

The Baptist History and Heritage Society (BH&HS) and the H. Franklin Paschall Chair of Biblical Studies and Preaching at Belmont University are cosponsoring a Baptist Heritage Preaching Contest to encourage preachers to include Baptist heritage and principles in their preaching ministries. Any preacher, currently preaching in

some capacity, is eligible to submit an entry. The top three sermons will receive cash awards, and the first-place award will receive up to \$1,200 towards travel expenses to receive the award at the next annual meeting of the BH&HS June 20-22.

Sermons will be judged on the basis of biblical accuracy, attention to traditional historical/heritage issues, originality, timeliness of topic, quality of construction, and ability to motivate/inform about heritage issues.

All entries must be mailed to the Baptist History and Heritage Society, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728, and received by Feb. 1, 2002.

To receive details about requirements for submission, either write the BH&HS or consult its web site: baptisthistory.org.

Charles Dewees  
Brentwood 37024

### Appreciative

I want to express appreciation to the students and faculty of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy for the wonderful time of worship they led the convention in on Wednesday afternoon (Nov. 14).

As the choir sang "Be Thou My Vision" in different languages, a tear came to my eye. I wondered as I looked out on a more than half-empty congregation, "Is this what our convention used to be about?"

You see, I've heard stories. I've heard stories about the excitement that once permeated our convention because of missions. I've heard stories about how we used to gather to celebrate the work of God through the people in our convention. But as a young 22-year-old, I've never gotten to experience such a convention.

Today the greatest excitement, the buzz in the halls, has nothing to do with missions. What gets us excited, what fills the meeting hall, is not missions or the work of the convention, but the latest point of controversy. We've gotten hung up (or should I just say hung) on petty issues and meaningless words.

I pray for the day when I too can attend a convention of Baptists whose buzz and excitement is about the work of God and the spreading of the gospel in our state and around our world.

Rusty Edwards,  
minister of missions/children  
First Baptist Church  
Sweetwater 37874

### On memories

In our Dec. 19 issue, we want to print letters from our readers concerning a special Christmas memory as it relates to your spiritual or church life. If you have a special memory, write it in 125 words or less and mail it to: Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. They will be used on a first-come basis as space is available. ■ — Editor

### Children can pray

In reply to the Oct. 31 article in the *B&R* concerning prayer in the schools, let me say that in 11 years my three children have never been stopped from praying in their respective public schools. They, as all public school children, have the right and are free to pray or to read the Bible anytime they like, as long as they do not interrupt teaching, distract from classroom time, or proselytize others.

While Mr. Correa expressed concern for children not allowed to pray on President Bush's declared National Day of Prayer, on the same day I watched a public school's staff gather around the flag pole and pray prior to the start of the school day; I listened at a school as a principal said in the opening announcements during the moment of silence to "use this time to pray for, or reflect or meditate on the events and people of Sept. 11." Prayer was allowed in school that day and is possible every day in schools across our nation.

Paul instructs us in I Thessa-



**Following terrorist attacks**

## Volunteers from two associations serve in NYC

By Marcia Knox  
For "the MAP"

"We could see God at work all around us while we worked on the Feeding Unit at the Floyd Bennett Airport in New York City," according to a Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief blue cap volunteer.

J.D. Moore, a Tennessee blue cap and a member of First Baptist Church of Middleton who worked with a team of 14 other Tennessee volunteers Nov. 1-10 on the Northeast Consortium Feeding Unit, saw God at work helping Disaster Relief workers and New Yorkers.

"We saw God at work through our prayers, our concern for each other, and our daily devotions," said Moore. "We also saw people who were very receptive to us and not like the New York first impression of being stuck up."

The 15-member team of Disaster Relief volunteers from Hardeman County and Robertson County Baptist Associations worked relieving other SBC state convention teams on

the equipment from the New York Baptist Convention's Northeast Consortium Unit where they cooked and served on average around 1,500 meals daily for emergency workers.

"We worked the morning shift on the unit," added Moore. "The Texas team worked the night shift. When one Texas volunteer fell, hurt himself, and had to be taken to the hospital, two Hardeman volunteers stepped up to take his place."

"Of the four Pennsylvania Baptist Disaster Relief workers who worked on our team, we prayed for one mother who was involved in a custody battle with her ex-husband and gave money to another lady who ran into financial problems on the trip."

"I think we made a small impression on New Yorkers. A lot of our people witnessed during our spare time when we were not working on the unit."

The Hardeman and Robertson Counties teams were scheduled to work on the State Disaster Relief Feeding Unit near the site of the former

World Trade Center when Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief operations ended in September, according to State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

Others serving from Hardeman Association were volunteers and their churches: Max and Barbara Grant, both of Parrans Chapel Baptist Church; Jimmie Garrett, pastor of Dixie Hills Baptist Church; David Gatlin and Andrew Willis, both of Dixie Hills Church; all of Bolivar; and James Cook and Ronald Wyatt, both of First Baptist Church of Grand Junction.

Serving from Robertson Association were volunteers and their churches, LeRoy Sterry, Bethel Baptist Church, Greenbrier; Jerry McClain, Hopewell Baptist Church; George Hardy, Robertson Association team leader, Grace Baptist Church; Jim Hyde, Flewellyn Baptist Church; all of Springfield; Charles Patterson, First Baptist Church of Whitehouse;



**VOLUNTEERS** were, from left, first row, Jimmy Harris, Elizabeth Fronk, George Hardy, Barbara Ayers; second row, LeRoy Sterry, Wanda Troxell, Becky Brown, Yvonne McDonald, Barbara Grant, Max Grant; third row, Charles Patterson, Andrew Willis, Jerry McClain, Ronald Wyatt; and fourth row, Jim Hyde, Jimmy Garrett, J. D. Moore, David Gatlin, Lawni Zimmerman, and Jim Cook.

Jimmy Harris, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cross Plains; and Becky Brown, Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville.

According to Garrett, 45 Southern Baptists worked during the week on the New York Unit including Tennesseans, Texans, Pennsylvanians, and a white cap from New York to

serve Red Cross workers, firemen, police and ERVs, which ran 10 routes throughout the city to emergency workers and guardsmen.

"This was my first trip to NYC," Garrett said. "The people were really glad that we came, and we were treated like heroes. I think we left a good — See Volunteers, page 6

**20th annual event**

## Tri-State Camp-O-Ree draws 785 participants to Cordova

For "the MAP"

The 20th annual Tri-State Camp-O-Ree, sponsored by the Shelby County Baptist Association Oct. 5-6 at Camp Cordova, Cordova, had 785 participants representing RAs, GAs, Challengers, Acteens, and High School Baptist Young Men groups from Arkansas,

Mississippi, and Tennessee. The Camp-O-Ree is a two-day event where boys and girls in grades 1-12 enjoy competition in campcraft and share in Christian interest activities. Skills were tested in 15 areas of competition including Bible Sword Drill, Pinewood Derby, Raft Races, Speak Out, and Survival of the Fittest.

A total of 31 churches were represented including 24 from Tennessee, four from Mississippi, and three from Arkansas. The largest number of churches was from Memphis or Shelby County area.

"Attendance was down due to severe thunderstorms which unfolded as many chapters were establishing their campsites on Friday afternoon," said conference chairman Herschel Wells.

During the Friday night storm children competed in a speak-out competition on mission subjects while younger children did a "show and tell." The winners of this and other competitions were awarded trophies and medallions and can be found on the Camp-O-Ree web site at <http://www.tristatecamporee.org>.

Dale Crum, a professional dramatist from Henderson, was the main speaker. Crum did a presentation on fishing and how fishermen use lures

to catch fish. Crum said that the devil also uses lures such as gambling, drinking, and smoking.

Crum spoke on being fishermen who are fishing for men, what kinds of lures a Christian needed to be the person that God wanted, and how to remain close to God's principles. Several decisions for Christ were made.

In addition to Crum, Bill Adams, a physician and member of Second Baptist Church, Memphis, put his bird hunting Labrador through a retrieval routine. The Memphis Fire Department furnished two fire engines for the children to explore.

Inside the Ralph Moore Lodge were: eight missionaries, LifeWay Bookstore, RA crafts display by Make Tracks, a distributor of RA crafts for NAMB; and West Tennessee Wildlife Conservation animal skins and stuffed animals, Revolutionary War uniforms, and rifles.

Also in the Lodge were 10 computers with mission games and a computer hooked up with

instant communication to an IMB missionary to Kenya, Mike Ewing. Ewing of Memphis previously served as a Shelby Association RA director while working as an administrator for Baptist Hospital. He now serves in Kenya as an administrator for a mission hospital.

Children working on computers sent questions to Ewing, which he answered immediately while displayed on a large TV screen. Questions included: "Have you ever seen a lion? Do you live in a hut? What time is it there?" Ewing stayed up all night in Kenya talking on the computer to the children.

The purpose of the Camp-O-Ree is to provide a two-day overnight event, geared specifically for children and youth with activities, and directed toward developing strong Christian relationships and a sense of personal worth.

Next year's event is scheduled for Oct. 4-5 at Camp Cordova. To register see web site at <http://www.tristatecamporee.org>. — Complied from reports by Marcia Knox.



**HANGING AROUND** the campsite area are participants from First Baptist Church, Millington.

## A Word from Bob

It's safe to say that missions are important in the life of Southern Baptists. In fact missions are so important that the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest missionary sending denomination in the world.

Just a few short years ago the statistics in the SBC was that 80% to 90% of all the missionaries serving on the home or international field said they first felt God's call to missions through either the Girls in Action or Royal Ambassador programs. These statistics should say volumes to us of how important mission education is in the lives of our young people.

Today is a new day in Southern Baptist mission education. Today there are so many offerings and so many options that there is one that will work in your church. I challenge you to take what is available.

There are options for gender specific, and there are options for co-ed. There are options

that work as a drop in piece, and there are new options that meet on a regular basis.

The world of Southern Baptist mission education is new and exciting; it is a different day.

Even though the approach is new, the content has not and cannot change. The content is based on God's Word and how Southern Baptists are responding to His calling on their life. That is not something that can be improved upon! We are Southern Baptists, we do missions, and we teach our young what it means to be On Mission!

The North American Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union produce materials for Southern Baptist mission education. The 2001-2002 NAMB Education Resources Catalog shows many of the present options. For children there are such offerings as Classic Royal Ambassadors, Easy Royal Ambassadors, MissionKids, Acts 1:8 KIDS, and Loving My Neighbor. For youth

there are Challengers and new options known as Purpose Filled, Mission Skilled.

The Woman's Missionary Union produces the Girls in Action and Acteens programs as well as Children in Action and Youth on Mission. The point is there are more offerings than ever before, and one that is sure to meet the needs of your group.

Like other things in life, our children, and youth do not know and will not pursue the direction of mission education without the leadership of an adult. It is the responsibility of us that know to make it available to those who need to know.

What is your church doing to provide mission education? Has your church stopped providing mission education for your children and youth? Has it been so long that you cannot remember when your church provided it? Does your church offer a program that has taken the place of Southern Baptist mission education?

These are some very direct questions, and only you and your church can answer them. If you read this and do nothing about it, who will? So, I challenge everyone that reads these words to check into the mission education needs of your church. If nothing is done, our children and youth have lost again, and so has our future mission endeavors.

Southern Baptists are unique in our strong efforts in missions. I for one hope that we remain strong in that we make a difference in the lives of our young people so they can make a difference in our world.

To help in this area, we will be offering two new mission experiences in 2002. The first one is Mission Express for children in grades 1-6 and the second is "It's T.Y.M.E." for youth in grades 7-12.

See related articles in this issue of "the MAP" for information on these new mission experiences that will help excite your children and youth into On Mission lifestyle.

*Bob*

## Volunteers from two ...

— Continued from page 5  
impression on New Yorkers of Southerners and Southern Baptists. New Yorkers saw a difference between the Red Cross and us. Since we witnessed, we made people think and ask questions about their personal relationship to God."

"They were interested in who we were, and we were a new idea to the policemen, fire department, and national guard who came through the

feeding lines."

The Tennesseans slept in an abandoned airport hanger on Red Cross sites and in empty offices on the Floyd Bennett Air Force Base in a national park.

Patterson described it as an SBC effort since the team cooked on New York Unit equipment, cooked under the Kentucky Unit tent, showered and got laundry done in the North Carolina Baptist Men's Shower Trailer. ■

## Mission Express set for March 8-9

For "the MAP"

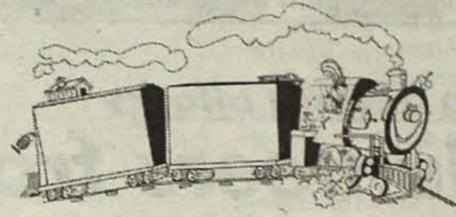
Mission Express, an exciting new mission experience designed specifically for children in grades 1-6, will be held March 8-9, 2002, at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Sponsored by the Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, the rotating event will be held each year at one of the three Tennessee Baptist colleges during spring break.

Mission Express will offer children competition, celebration, and mission information. Children will meet Southern Baptist missionaries and be involved in a hands-on mission

project. There will be a special children's speaker. Every part of Mission Express is designed to be a teachable moment in Southern Baptist missions.

Mission Express is not program based, but it is based on Southern Baptist missions. Open to all children in Tennessee Baptist churches regardless of their involvement in a mission education program. Those churches who do not have an on going mission education program are encour-



aged to bring their children. Everyone will find opportunities and experiences that will be useful in their chil-

dren's ministries.

Registration and other information can be found in the Mission Express Handbook. To get a copy go to TBC web site at <http://www.tnbaptist.org/mai/missionexpress.htm> and download a copy; or e-mail Carol Davidson at [cdavidson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:cdavidson@tnbaptist.org). Or call 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2025 to be mailed a copy. ■

## What's happening around the state

### Association Holds Event for LMCO

Each fall the RAs of Bradley County Baptist Association go on a hike or a bike ride to earn money for the Lottie Moon International Mission offering. The first Saturday in October is usually designated for the fall activity.

On Oct. 22 bike riders and 7 helpers unloaded their bikes and lunches at the Chickamauga Battlefield, Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. Not only did RAs ride, but also some family members rode to support the young men. The group enjoyed a cool, breezy ride through the park on a mapped out 11-mile route.

Along the ride in the Battlefield, the boys read how the Civil War battle was waged, visited monuments dedicated to the men who fought there, and saw wildlife such as deer and turkey.

One blessing on the ride was watching a boy ride his small bike with training wheels, according to Stanley Keith, Bradley Association RA committee member.

"When the boy got into a spot where he could not go, his Dad reached down, took the boy by the hand, continued to pedal his bike, and pulled the boy along until the boy could make it on his own," Keith said. "This example of father and son bonding reminded the group of how God reaches down to pull us along when we can't make it on our own."

At this time the total offering contributions have not been tallied, but in December the money will be collected, and donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by the churches represented on the bike ride.

### Fall Events Feature Association's RAs

The Royal Ambassadors in Knox County Baptist Association have been busy this fall with two events: Punt, Past, and Kick Contest, and RA Recognition Banquet.

The annual Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest was held Nov. 3 at the Knox County associational office. The event provided the opportunity for boys in grades 1-12 to be involved in fun and fellowship. Trophies were awarded to those who had the greatest overall distances in each category. The church



**BIKERS** of a Royal Ambassador Bradley County Baptist Association fundraising event pause during their ride.

with the most overall yardage received the coveted PPK Champion trophy.

Knox County Association also held their annual Royal Ambassador Recognition Banquet Nov. 5. *Knoxville News-Sentinel* nationally recognized cartoonist, Charlie Daniels was the guest speaker. Special recognitions were also given.

### Xtreme Mission Group Holds Harvest Festival

Challengers, Acteens, and High School Baptist Young Men of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, otherwise known as the Xtreme Mission Group, held a Harvest Festival Oct. 31 for the Mission Friends, Royal Ambassadors, and Girls in Action.

Mission groups, leaders, and parents participated in costume contests, traditional preschool and children's harvest games such as fish pond and apple bobbing, and crawled through a cardboard maze instead of going Trick or Treating.

Over 30 people attended the first event scheduled for the combined mission groups, which seek to do hands-on missions. ■



**CHALLENGERS**, from left, Brandon Gill and Brad Knox make balloon animals for GA Rachel Manners at a Harvest Festival at a Nashville church.

## A Word from Gene

In the last newsletter, I discussed the topic of preparing leaders, who will direct men's ministry in your community and in your church.

I noted that God examines a man's heart, and I listed several characteristics that must be present before God will choose to add His power to the ministry of that man.

Continuing the discussion, here are some practical suggestions for preparing leaders of a Men's Ministry. Knowing that God is already at work in His church, part of the job is to identify those men that God has been preparing and has

gifted for this ministry.

Look around the church, and identify that man or men who are demonstrating God's activity in their lives.

If God has been preparing them for ministry, there will be no hesitation to accept the role of Men's Ministry leader in your church.

If this does not happen, it might be a clear sign that this is not the time to begin men's ministry. Do not try to circumvent God's timing by placing a disinterested man in a position and hoping for the best.

After identifying one or more men who feel God's affirmation to minister among men, the leadership team should organize into a core group. For a small church, the minimum core group could be the pastor and the men's leader.

It is desirable to have your pastor as a mentor for the group regardless of its size. Several men might agree to serve in a larger church.

The beginning goal of the core group is to become, in God's eye, the men they want the men of the church to become: prayed up, Bible based, committed, and active men, who can truly say they have no other agenda than God's agenda for their lives.

Jesus began his ministry this way, and they will do well if they follow His example. The disciples spent appropriate amounts of time praying for themselves and for each other. They were able to hold each other accountable.

A great number of men today are not satisfied with their spiritual lives, because they have swallowed the world's definition of a man. He is an island of strength, separating himself, making decisions without seeking counsel from above, from Godly men around him. The mutual growth that occurs among a small group of men who draw encouragement from

and lean on each other in times of crisis is critical for preparation of the leaders. Once they have experienced the thrill of feeling God's movement in their midst, it will be easy to encourage others to do likewise.

The core group should devote time to identifying their spiritual gifts. It is recommended that a comprehensive study of gifts should be conducted at least yearly so that suspicions of error will diminish.

Gift studies are available from several different sources that provide various approaches to the same material. As each successive study confirms the same gift in the individual, he becomes more confident and sure of his spiritual gift. The length of time required for this process is often abandoned, because men are by nature quick to get to the activities. Too often men want to jump into the ball game expecting a conference title without devoting years of practice to produce a winning team. They want the trophy without the required training. Successful core groups would never neglect this critical preparation of spiritual gifts studies for their leaders.

Men who have sensed God's leading to minister to men must gather the tools necessary for that ministry in the same way they would gather tools for a woodshop.

As they attempt small projects in the new shop, the tools required are relatively simple. As the complexity of the project increases the more expensive tools are required. Basic training, beginner's shop, novice level men's ministry includes tools of learning how to give an effective gospel presentation.

Our core group will be ministering among men without previous church experiences, or who have a history of fringe level involvement. As the core group builds a relationship with these men, God will provide multiple opportunities to testify of God's redemptive plan for all men.

God has chosen to use us as His instruments to distribute the good news of the free gift of His love through Jesus Christ. How tragic it would be for these opportunities to pass without men having the tools necessary for God to do his wonderful work of love. Any consideration of preparing a core group of men's ministry leaders would include a witnessing school.

May God bless your church as you consider the responsibilities involved in preparing your leaders for men's ministry.

*Gene*

## Remembering Roy Gilleland

For "the MAP"

Dear Gene,

It was good to meet you this afternoon at Roy Gilleland's funeral. I first met Roy in 1956 when he became head of Royal Ambassador work in Tennessee as Brotherhood director. He was director of RA Camp at Camp Carson.

He was a man who immediately commanded the respect of other men and boys. I remember him taking us on hikes on the mountain that runs behind Camp Carson. He would give us some training before we set out on the hikes. I can still hear him saying, "Listen up, fellows!" Then he would give us instructions on how to avoid snakebites, dehydration, falls, and other such snares.

After I left RA Camp that year, I didn't see Roy until 20 years later at Brook Hollow Baptist Church in Nashville during a Lay Renewal Weekend. I introduced myself and thanked him for the influence he had on my life as a boy. I learned in that meeting the passion he had that all of God's people grow to the fullness of the stature of Christ.

It was another 20 years before I again saw Roy when my wife was called to Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville as organist. On the Sunday we joined Belmont Heights Church, Roy came through the line and welcomed us. In these last five years, I had many wonderful conversations with Roy. Every time

I have felt his unswerving commitment to Christ, and Roy's encouragement to everyone he talked with to keep first things first.

Trained at the Citadel, Roy served as an Army Officer in World War II. Several years after WW II, Roy felt God's call to fulltime ministry.

In the godly home he grew up in, with the academic training he received, the life experiences he had, the woman of excellence he married, the godly sons he raised, I see the pattern God was weaving in his life. Thank you, God! Thank you for bringing Roy into my life.

Thursday night, Nov. 15, when I got the call that he had gone to be with the Lord, my mind went back 45 years. I could hear Roy say, "Listen up, fellows! Stay on the path. Keep climbing. I'll see you in the Father's house."

Cordially,  
Steve Bond

Bible and Reference Book Acquisitions  
Editor for Broadman and Holman



GILLELAND

## Opportunity available to 'adopt' an MK

For "the MAP"

Remember what it was like when your children went off to college. Can you remember their empty room, the last wave as you left the campus, the silence in the car as you and your spouse traveled home?

Many of our missionaries are continents away from their college age children wondering how their children are doing. They wonder if they are eating properly and who will take care of their son or daughter if they get sick. They wonder about the car that their children

drive and if it is being properly serviced; and the missionaries also have other concerns.

Would you like to make a missionary smile? Would you like to bring some peace of mind to a concerned missionary? Would you like to take some of the pressure off of a missionary couple that are concerned about their child?

If you would like to adopt a missionary kid (MK) whose parents serve with the International Mission Board, call Carol Davidson at 1-800-371-2025 or (615) 371-2025 to get the name, address and phone number of the MK closest to you. ■

## It's T.Y.M.E. replaces 'That Mission Thang'

For "the MAP"

Ministers of youth mark your calendars Oct. 18-19, 2002, for the first "It's T.Y.M.E." (Tennessee Youth Mission Experience), which replaces "That Mission Thang."

A new and excitingly different youth missions experience, "It's T.Y.M.E." is designed for those who want to get their youth involved in a hands-on mission experience. The experience will be in the form of a lock-in style meeting with Tennessee Baptist youth from all over the state.

Sponsored by the Mission Awareness and Involvement Group, the purpose of the event is to introduce and encourage missions and mission education to youth ministers and youth. "It's T.Y.M.E." will

provide youth and their leaders with hands-on mission experiences and get them involved in missions at home. Youth do not need to be part of an on-going mission organization. "It's T.Y.M.E." is not program based, but it is based in Southern Baptist missions.

The meeting schedule will be Friday evening through Saturday noon. "It's T.Y.M.E." will offer a Mission Market Place where youth will visit with Southern Baptist missionaries, opportunities for personal/group involvement in missions, Baptist Collegiate Ministries from various colleges, and youth groups sharing their mission experiences.

A concert by a contemporary Christian music group, a youth speaker, and a Christian entertainer will be part of

the program. Saturday morning will be "It's T.Y.M.E.," actual hands-on mission projects in the local area.

For the first meeting the location will be Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. The event will rotate to other Tennessee Baptist universities in the future. Registration fee of \$35 per person will include everything plus a late night pizza blast and a T-shirt.

It will be an experience different than anything youth have experienced, and it will instill in their hearts to be on mission with God.

Look for more details of "It's T.Y.M.E." in "the MAP." A promotional poster will be mailed after the first of the year, and look for a special youth web site soon to be launched. ■

## Family Day to be held at Bristol Speedway

For "the MAP"

The fourth annual Tennessee Baptist Family Day, sponsored by TBC Men's Ministries Team, in association with Holston Baptist Association Raceway Ministries and Bristol Motor Speedway, will be held Saturday, March 23, 2002 at the Speedway in Bristol.

This is a great opportunity for children, youth, and families to see one of the most exciting races at the most entertaining racetrack in America during their annual Spring Race. Only 5,000 Family Day special guests will join over 100,000 race fans and experience the thrilling Cheez-It 250 NASCAR Race in a designated non-alcohol section.

To get special tickets call Carol Davidson at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2025 and request a special ticket order form. The only way to obtain tickets is through this order form. The order form along with payment (\$5 for each child or youth to age 18 and \$10 per adult) must reach the Speedway by March 1, 2002. Upon receipt of the registration form and payment, tickets will be reserved and held until race day.

The main feature of "Family Day" is the Praise Celebration. This Celebration presents the gospel to thou-

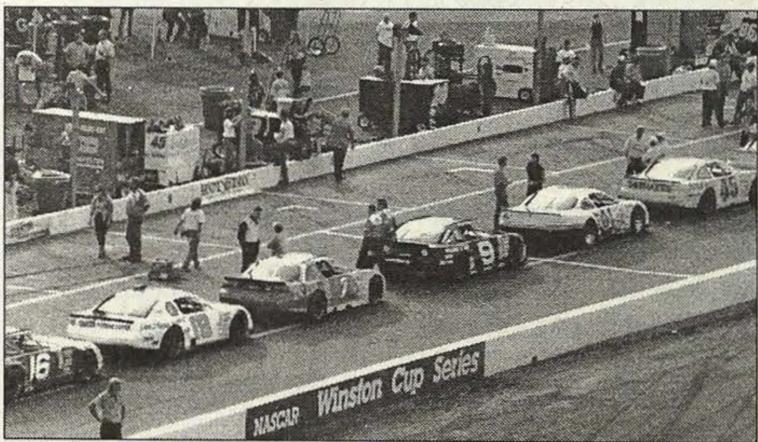
sands of children, youth, and their families. When considering this event, remember it is a great opportunity to reach the lost in the community and make it an outreach for churches.

The Celebration will be held at the Speedway's Thunder Valley Drag Strip beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Cheez-It tickets will be issued at this Celebration.

Adults may not reserve a ticket unless they bring at least one child or youth below the age of 18. Without at least one child or youth, adults will be required to pay full price for tickets. (All regular priced seats for this race are \$55 each.)

The Celebration at the Thunder Valley Drag Strip will be an exciting experience. A contemporary band along with a youth choir will lead in praises and music. Steve Hale, a well-known evangelist, will present the gospel message. Jeff Gordon, a famous NASCAR driver, has been invited to speak; however, the sponsors are still awaiting his decision. It is also planned to have testimonies by other race drivers and/or members of their racing teams.

The TBC Men's Ministries Team appreciates the Speedway for making this program and special pricing possible. ■



**RACE CARS** prepare for the start of the race last year at the Tennessee Baptist Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway.



**GETTING READY** to participate in a boat race at the Tri-State Camp-O-Ree at Camp Cordova, Cordova, are RAs and a leader.

## Beginning in June TRAC™ offers camps for children, youth

For "the MAP"

TRAC™ Children and Youth Mission Camps will offer four different weeks in three locations for children's camp and one week of youth camp for the 2002 camp season.

Since these camps are based in Southern Baptist missions and are not based in any particular Southern Baptist program, all are encouraged to consider a mission camp for their children and youth in 2002.

Programming and curriculum for children's weeks is entitled "Missions Mystery Machine" featuring Hiker Hal & Halie and their dog Scoop. It will take children through a fun-filled world search and discovery of clues to solve the Mission Mystery.

Church sponsors are requested for each location. Church sponsors are encouraged to come and be a part of the mission mystery that begins at camp and goes with children through their lifetime.



New for 2002 a Youth Mission Camp will be offered at Camp Cordova in Cordova. This camp is a Body Builder Camp, a different youth camp experience. An experience that will lead youth in developing their mission skills and provide them a hands-on mission experience.

Youth will be taught the basics of being on mission with God using curriculum, entitled "Basic Training." The week will feature youth times of worship and praise, recreation, church group meetings, and more. Church sponsors are required and are responsible for daily transportation for their groups.

Promotional materials will be sent. Special promotion on a newly developed web site for children and youth missions will be available after the first of the year. For more details to complete your plans for next summer, contact Bob Davison, Children's and Youth Missions Awareness specialist, at bdavison@tnbaptist.org. Or call 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2074. ■

### TRAC™ Children's, Youth Camps

Type of Event	Location	Date
Girls' Mission Week	Camp Bays Mountain, Kingsport	June 10-14
Boys' Mission Week	Camp Bays Mountain, Kingsport	June 17-21
Children's Mission Week	Camp Coldstream, Adams	June 24-28
Children's Mission Week	Camp Linden, Linden	July 1-5
Youth Body Builder's Camp	Camp Cordova, Cordova	July 15-20

## Week for Baptist Men scheduled

For "the MAP"

Baptist Men on Mission Week is scheduled for Jan. 20-27. This year's theme is: "There Came a Man" (John 1:6-8).

Baptist Men's Day has been expanded to a whole week of emphasis. It's called Baptist Men on Mission Week to encourage the spiritual transformation of "regular" Christian men into on-mission Christian men.

Resources, strategies, and events are designed to awaken Christian men and their churches to personal involvement in the Great Commission.

See <http://www.baptistmenonmission.net> to download materials to help men make adjustments that allow them to actively join God on mission and grow to be passionate advocates for worldwide mission causes. Churches can download the BMOM Week guides. ■



### Baptist Men's Ministries Dates 2001

**December**  
2-9 Week of Prayer for International Missions

### Baptist Men's Ministries Dates 2002

**January**  
20-27 Baptist Men's Week

**February**  
1-2 Stand Firm, Birmingham, AL  
15-17 National Challengers Rally, Grand Hotel, Pigeon Forge

**March**  
8-9 Missions Express, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City  
23 Tennessee Baptist Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol

**June**  
10-14 TRAC™ Girls' Mission Week, Camp Bays Mountain, Kingsport,  
17-21 TRAC™ Boys' Mission Week, Camp Bays Mountain, Kingsport  
24-28 TRAC™ Children's Mission Week, Camp Coldstream, Adams

**July**  
1-5 TRAC™ Children's Mission Week, Camp Linden, Linden  
15-20 TRAC™ Body Builder's Camp, Camp Cordova, Cordova

**October**  
4-5 Tri-State Camporee, Camp Cordova, Cordova  
18-19 "It's T.Y.M.E.", Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City

**November**  
3-9 National Royal Ambassador Week  
10-16 International Mission Study  
15-16 Stand Firm, Charlotte, NC  
24-12/1 Week of Prayer for International Missions

## leaders

■ **Lloyd Blackwell**, manager of LindenValley Baptist Conference Center, Linden, for nearly two years has been named volunteer missions specialist, Missions Awareness and Involvement Group, Tennessee Baptist Convention, effective Nov. 13. He fills the vacancy left by Terry Sharp. The position description has been revised to reflect changes in volunteers missions. Blackwell will coordinate the International Missions Institute, Missions Service Corps, International Service Corps, and Disaster Relief training, and relate to Global Priority churches and construction volunteers. MAI group leader, Tim Bearden, along with Kim Huff, volunteer project specialist, will coordinate partnership efforts. Volunteer missions prayer needs and speaker coordinator has been shifted to Don Pierson of the TBC group.

■ **Tim Hughes**, assistant manager, food services, LindenValley Baptist Conference Center, Linden, has been named manager, effective Nov. 13.

■ **Lyle Larson** is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, Ripley.

■ **Evelyn Ligon** was recently honored with a surprise event for teaching an adult Sunday School class at Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville, for 50 years.

■ **Billy Ray Mills** of Decatur is available for part-time or full-time ministry. He is a member of Ten Mile Baptist Church, Ten Mile, and was ordained by Emmanuel Baptist Church, Jefferson City. He may be contacted at 850 Jor-



**OFFICERS** of Judson Baptist Association elected at its recent 152nd annual meeting were, from left, William Gray, director of missions; Frank Tennyson, pastor, Old New Hope Baptist Church, moderator; Kathleen Pendergrass, member, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, clerk; and Reece Cochran, pastor, First Baptist Church, Whitebluff, vice moderator. Messengers also received Faith Baptist Church, Vanleer, which was a mission of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Dickson, into the association.

dan Rd., Decatur, TN 37322; (423) 334-2165.

## death

■ **J. T. Drace** died Nov. 11 at the age of 87. He served as pastor of 17 Southern Baptist churches for 60 years and retired in 1995 at age 81. Tennessee pastorates included First Baptist Church, Maury City; First Baptist Church, Henderson; First Baptist Church, Adamsville; Madison Hall Baptist Church, Jackson; Pleasant Site Baptist Church, Selmer; Saltillo Baptist Church, Saltillo. He baptized 528 new believers, preached 177 revivals, performed 136 weddings, and conducted 378 funerals during his ministry.

## churches

■ Two choirs of **Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, Jackson**, will present "Start at the Manger" Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact the church at (731) 668-0329 or ppbc@bellsouth.net.

■ **First Baptist Church, Manchester**, will offer "Merry Christmas Manchester 2001," a walk-through drama Dec. 14 from 6-9 p.m. and Dec. 15 from 4-8 p.m. For more information, call (931) 728-2138.

■ **Hickory Valley Baptist Church, Hickory Valley**, celebrated Thanksgiving with a dinner after the morning service Nov. 11. Over 50 people attended.

■ For the 20th year, **Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold Bethlehem Marketplace Dec. 8-9 from 1-6 p.m. The walk-through drama has been featured in *Southern Living* magazine. For more information, contact the church at (615)



**LEADING** the recent groundbreaking of Covenant Baptist Church, Collierville, are, from left, Bill Poyner, associate pastor/music and wife, Beth; and Roma and Davy Henderson, pastor, and his wife. The church, which is four years old, meets in a learning center in Germantown. It is building a sanctuary and gymnasium with classrooms on 38 acres of land.

896-0940 or [www.sebaptist.org](http://www.sebaptist.org).

■ **Rockford Baptist Church, Rockford**, will hold revival Dec. 2-5. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

■ **Cherokee Baptist Church, Memphis**, will offer its annual Puppet Living Christmas Tree Dec. 7 at 7 p.m., Dec. 8 at 1 p.m., and Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. This year's presentation will be "Hope at Christmas" (a 1940s radio show). For more information, call the church at (901) 683-7344.

## associations

■ **Weakley County Baptist Association**, based in Dresden, held its annual meeting Oct. 22-23 at Gearins Chapel Baptist Church, Greenfield, and Beech Springs Baptist Church, Gleason. Messengers heard about plans for the area-wide crusade May 5-9 with Harold Hunter, evangelist. The association voted to sponsor a mission effort in Mexico in the next year. And they elected Clark Brown, pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Greenfield, moderator; Barry Capps, pastor, Sidonia Baptist Church, Sidonia, assistant moderator; Gertie Sheffield, First Baptist Church, Dresden, clerk; and Mrs. Jerry Seaman, Adams Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden, treasurer.

■ **Cumberland Gap Baptist Association**, based in Harrogate, held its 118th annual meeting Oct. 27 at Shawnee Baptist Church, Shawnee. Stewart Fultz of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Harrogate, moderator, presided. Laurence Wilder, vice moderator, was unable to accept the position of moderator due to ill health. He was elected honorary moderator and presented with a plaque. Donnie Bannister, pastor, Underwood Grove Baptist Church,

Arthur, was elected moderator and Cecil Fultz, interim pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, New Tazewell, was elected vice moderator. Phyllis Hurst was elected for another term as clerk and Robert Ziegler will continue to serve as treasurer. Messengers dedicated the 2001 annual to the late Danny White, pastor, Mt. Zion Church. Speakers included short-term volunteers in Hancock County, South Carolina, New York, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Russia, and China.

## schools

■ **Belmont University, Nashville**, is offering several Christmas events. "The Christmas at Belmont" choral concert will be Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. The choral ensemble Belle Voci will present "Lessons and Carols" Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. The Belmont Camerata Musicale will present "A Camerata Christmas" Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. And the "Christmas Eve Carillon Concert" will be at 2 p.m. For more information call the School of Music at (615) 460-6408 or visit [www.belmont.edu/music](http://www.belmont.edu/music).



**ELECTED OFFICERS** of Holston Valley Baptist Association, based in Rogersville, at the 188th annual meeting held recently were, from left, standing, Lynn Parker, deacon, First Baptist Church, Church Hill, associate moderator; John Parrott Jr., director of missions; Linda Williams, administrative assistant of the association and member, Henards Chapel Baptist Church, clerk; and seated, Edward Johnson, pastor, Fishers Creek Baptist Church, moderator. Messengers also approved new strategy plans and welcomed Burem Baptist Church, Rogersville, into its fellowship.



## Herbert Jones to retire as DOM

For Baptist and Reflector

**MAYNARDVILLE** — Herbert Jones, director of missions of Midland Baptist Association and Northern Baptist Association, both based in Maynardville, will retire Dec. 31. Jones has served Midland association for nine years and Northern association for three years.



**JONES**

Jones also has served as pastor of Deep Springs Baptist Church, Dandridge; First Baptist Church, Caryville; Greenway Baptist Church, Knoxville; Atkin Baptist Church, Corryton; and a church in Middlesboro, Ky.

He attended Knoxville Business College and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Jones and his wife, Kathleen, have two children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They will retire in Knoxville. ■

■ For the second year in a row, a professor of **Belmont University, Nashville**, has been named Tennessee Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). **David Julseth**, associate professor of Spanish, received the award for 2001.



the floor of the convention never materialized. Some conservatives reportedly wanted a straight yes-or-no vote on endorsing the 2000 BF&M while some moderates wanted to eliminate any mention of specific faith statements. ■

## S.C. convention extends emphasis

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Baptist Convention's "Empowering Kingdom Growth" emphasis will be extended through 2007, as a recommendation from the state convention's executive board was approved by messengers to the Nov. 13-14 annual meeting at First Baptist Church here.

While messenger registration was down from 1,378 in 2000 to 1,298 in 2001, more than 3,700 attended Tuesday evening's missionary appointment service by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Empowering Kingdom Growth (EKG) is the 10-year emphasis of the state convention that began in 1992 and was slated to conclude in 2002. It has assisted many churches in focusing on God's will for their future outreach, and it has focused the convention staff on serving churches regardless of size, age, or culture. The success of EKG has been measured through record increases in baptisms, missions volunteerism, Bible study and discipleship participation, and cooperative giving to missions.

Messengers also approved the executive board's recommendation of a \$31.1 million budget for 2002 — an increase of \$1 million over the 2001 budget of \$30.1 million.

Randall Jones, pastor of Langston Baptist Church, Conway, was elected as the convention's 2002 president. Jones, a lifelong South Carolina Baptist, has served churches, associations, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention for more than 40 years. He was first vice president of the state convention in 2001. ■

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## N.C. Baptists end ties with Wake Forest, Meredith

Baptist Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) all but ended its relationship with Wake Forest University (WFU) and Meredith College in an overwhelming vote at the BSC annual meeting. More than 90 percent of messengers voted to amend the BSC Constitution and Bylaws, changing WFU and Meredith from "affiliated" educational institutions to "historical" educational institutions.

WFU and Meredith will continue to get some scholarship funding, but the two schools lose their non-voting seats on the BSC Council on Christian Higher Education. The schools will no longer be promoted by the BSC.

Tim Moore, the chairman of the BSC Constitution and Bylaws Committee, said the move severs "the last direct link" between the schools and the BSC.

In the election for president, Jerry Pereira, pastor of First Baptist Church of Swannanoa, was elected over Raymond Earp, past president of North Carolina Baptist Men and a layman from Calvary Baptist Church in Beaufort, by a vote of 2,208, or about 54 percent, to 1,883, or about 46 percent.

Bob Foy, a layman from Mooresville, won the first vice presidency and Larry Harper, pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, was re-elected second vice president. ■

## Georgians hold harmonious meeting

Baptist Press

MACON, Ga. — The Georgia Baptist Convention, meeting Nov. 12-13 in the Macon Colise-

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um, elected Valdosta pastor Wayne Robertson as its new president and adopted a record Cooperative Program budget of \$48.3 million for 2002. A total of 4,339 registered messengers conducted business in what would have to be classified as a harmonious meeting.

The presidential election included two candidates — Robertson and Preston Williams, a layman from First Baptist Church, Montezuma. Robertson received over 86 percent of the vote, winning 3,348 to 514.

Elected as vice presidents by receiving the largest number of votes in a seven candidate race were: first vice president — James "Boe" Stanley, missionary for Rehoboth Association (3,366 votes); second vice president — Charles Q. Carter, retired pastor of Jonesboro First Church (3,366); third vice president — Allen Hughes, associate pastor of Hebron Church in Dacula (3,046); and fourth vice president — Mary Cox, pastor's wife from North Metro First Church in Lawrenceville (3,014).

The other candidates were: Drayton Sanders, layman from Dalton First Church; Sarah Withers, layperson from Morrow First Church; and Jenny Merrit, layperson from

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

Centreville Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of education and youth. MRE degree required and some experience preferred. Church has new education facilities, Family Life Center, and provides excellent benefits and salary package. Send resume to Centreville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 326, Centreville, AL 35042.

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Grace Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music/worship. Please send resume to 1901 Ovoca Rd., Tullahoma, TN 37388, c/o Search Committee.

Elizabeth Chapel Baptist Church in Smithville, Tenn., is searching for a part-time minister of music and youth. We are a growing church in middle Tennessee. Please send resume or letter of interest to Bill Gash, Search Committee Chairman, 369 Grand View Dr., Smithville, TN 37166.

Shurlington Church in Macon. Ed Cliburn of Thomaston was re-elected recording secretary of the Convention, a position he has held since 1996. Aubrey L. Hawkins of Roswell and Bob A. Baxter of Mableton were re-elected assistant secretaries.

In other business the Convention elected members to its various committees and boards and adopted resolutions concerning covenant marriage, video poker, foster and adoptive parenting, cloning, and stem cell research.

A missions partnership between Georgia Baptists and Baptists in Moldova was approved which will begin in January of 2002. A similar partnership with Romania is still in negotiation but the details must be worked out concerning procedures before that partnership can be approved. ■

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Youth minister needed at Boynton Baptist Church, Ringgold, GA. Interested applicants please forward your resume to Boynton Baptist Church, 4093 Boynton Dr., Ringgold, GA 30736 or e-mail to Gatorpreach1@aol.com.

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

First Baptist Church, Smyrna, Tenn., is seeking a senior adult minister. Please send resume to Pat Hood, 506 Legacy Dr., Smyrna, TN 37167 or e-mail to Pat@fbcsmyrna.org.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Baptistry: 54w. 11' 8" L 43ht. Stauson both ends with heater, \$1,500.00. B/O Sims Chapel Baptist Church, (865) 429-3505.

Pews: 10 12-foot oak pews/loose seat cushion (teal) @ \$240 each. 9 16-foot oak pews/loose seat cushion (teal) @ \$320 each. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cross Plains, TN (615) 654-3846.

### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

First Baptist Church, Camden, Tenn., is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested applicants please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 538, Camden, TN 38320.

Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information visit our web site at [www.scottsvillebaptist.org](http://www.scottsvillebaptist.org) and click on "Pastor Search Information," or send requests and/or resume to Pastor Search Committee, Scottsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164.

### MINISTRIES — POSITIONS

Kingwood First Baptist Church in Kingwood, Texas, is accepting resumes for the following full-time positions: minister of worship/outreach for contemporary worship services with praise team and to enhance outreach programs; and minister of childhood education for birth-grade 6. Send resumes to Kingwood First Baptist Church, 2303 Tree Lane, Kingwood, TX 77339, Attn. Mike David or e-mail resume to [m david@kfbctx.org](mailto:m david@kfbctx.org).

## minister's corner

by Calvin Metcalf

On Sunday morning our worship will focus on the observing of The Lord's Supper. The bread and cup

of this event are symbols of God's enormous investment in each of us. We do not eat this bread lightly or drink this cup carelessly. It is not that God is going to get us if we do not do it right. It is a matter of ignoring the impetus of this communion meal. It is a matter of refusing fellowship with God to whom the bread and the cup point. The whole of our Christian commitment focuses up this simple gesture. Therefore, if we are old enough and know enough and care enough the table is a part of our covenant with God. The promises we make to God around this table begin with the promise He has made to us by giving us this meal. He promises that we will eat anew with Him in His kingdom and we do well to eat with Him now.

When Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of me," He was making the Lord's Supper a memorial meal. It was to be a continuing reminder of God's involvement in our salvation. We eat and drink with Him lest we forget His kingdom truths, His miraculous compassion, His resurrection power, and His amazing grace. Lest we forget the cross with its redemptive implications, we re-enact that tearing of flesh and shedding of blood. Lest we forget our calling to be brothers and sisters in Christ, we pass the plate and the cup to one another in love. Lest we forget the sacrificial demands of our own discipleship, we listen as the table reminds us to "deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him."

The Lord Himself has inspired a table before us and to eat and drink with Him is to accept His lordship and His leadership. It is an occasion to review our lives and renew our vows. The passing of a plate of bread and a tray of cups may seem routine or a ceremony. Yet, the meaning of this memorial meal is more than a procedure or a ceremony. It is the picture of hope in which our spiritual lives are nurtured and sustained. Come let us eat and drink together as we share in His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. ■ — Metcalf is interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

## just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Memphis



**Start With a Smile:** Newspaper reporter to football coach: "I understand you carry a chaplain to pray for the men. Is that correct?" Coach:

"Sure, that's right." NR: "I'd love to do a story on his work. Could I meet him?" Coach: "Gladly. Would you like to meet the offensive or the defensive chaplain?"

**Take this Truth:** Americans today suffer with a terrible malady. We think because a little of something is good, more of it is better. "Taint necessarily so!"

**Memorize this Scripture:** "Let your gentleness be evident unto all." — Philippians 4:5 NIV

**Pray this Prayer:** Lord, help me to adopt as my guideline nothing of that which is wrong and only the proper amount of that which is right. ■

## P.K. Preacher's Kids



"Since Christians are all brothers and sisters, can I expect a few more gifts this Christmas?"

# The message of Christmas

By Jamison Work

**Focal Passage: Galatians 3:26-4:7**

A few years ago *U.S. News & World Report* contained an article on Christmas. The author said, "Christmas is an American passion — 96 percent of Americans say they celebrate it in some form. Yet for most people, the holiday triggers an intense search for some dimly remembered Christmas past, a nostalgia for a time when yuletide was more pious and more peaceful, when it was free of gaudy commercialism and focused more on the birth of the Savior than on the 20 percent off sale at the local department store."

Christmas does not have to be a search for some dimly remembered childhood holiday, full of nostalgic memories. Christmas can be a brand new celebration every year because of the birth that was, and is, like no other birth in the history of the world! His birth forever changed the course of human events.

When Paul wrote to the Galatians, he was thrilled that God had "sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the law" (4:4-5). This magnificent, one-of-a-kind birth, changed Paul's life! He wanted the Galatian believers to know

how dramatically Christ's birth had affected their lives, too.

**His birth validated faith.** Paul said, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (3:26). The birth of Christ validated the faith of every Old Testament saint who died looking for the Messiah. His birth validated every promise of faith in God's Word. If God had not sent His only Son into the world, man's faith would be in vain. "In Adam all die" (I Corinthians 15:22). "There is none righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). The

free gift of God, however, is "eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). There is life in no

one else. Christ is the only way. If He had not been born, He could not have died for the sins of man.

**His birth eliminated divisions.** The divisions, classes, and distinctions people have used to define themselves and others have been rendered obsolete because Christ was born. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (3:28). The sin-division between God and man was shattered when God the Son "emptied Himself ... [and was] made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7). Therefore, Christ's birth destroyed any justification Christians might use for whining about someone else's color, sex, economic status, denominational preference, or

## Family Bible SS Lesson — December 2

# The God of opportunities

By Ray Jones

**Focal Passages: Deuteronomy 2:1-3, 14-15, 32-33; 3:3-4**

Failure, disappointment, and plans that do not always work out as anticipated are a normal part of life. Sometimes because of events like these we begin to feel we are useless. When God delivered the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage they stood ready to enter the Promised Land. They sent 10 spies to check out the land and report back the possibilities of defeating the people who presently inhabited the Promised Land. All 10 reported that the land was fruitful and would be a good place to live. Eight of the spies reported it would be impossible for the children of Israel to win the battle because of the giants who lived there. Two said they could win the battle. The children of Israel did not attempt to enter the land primarily because of disobedience and unbelief. They wandered for 40 years and now have a second opportunity to enter the land, which God had promised them.

Moses is speaking to the people in Deuteronomy 2:1-3. He recounts their journey. In verses 2 & 3 he

says, "The Lord said to me, You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north." God was saying you have wandered in the wilderness long enough. It is now time to fulfill the plan I have for you. They would have another chance to receive the

blessing, which God wanted to bestow upon them. Is it possible that we spend too long bemoaning our

failures (wandering in the wilderness) and failing to advance and claim the plan, which God has for our lives.

Moses stated in verse 14 that the people spent 38 years wandering in the wilderness. Since God intended for the people to possess the land why did He leave them wandering for such a long time? In verse 15, Moses said God waited until the faithless generation was eliminated from the people. The exceptions were Joshua and Caleb. They reported to the people that they could defeat the giants in the land that God had promised to them. What a shame. Here were men who were warriors. They were trained for battle. They wasted away in the desert and never drew a sword. They did not get to perform the tasks for which they had been trained. Their

unbelief prevented them from experiencing the joys of doing God's will in their lives. Is it possible we miss the joy of accomplishing what God intends for us to do because of unbelief, fear, or some other obstacle, which we permit to take charge in our lives?

In chapter 3, verses 32-33 Moses describes how that in the first battle the Lord gave them the victory. This victory came even though the army of Israel was untrained and untested in battle and they were fighting an army, which was well trained and even had the advantage of a fortified city. The Lord gave the children of Israel the victory even with all of these disadvantages. No task is too big or impossible if we are obedient to God and follow Him by faith.

We, like the children of Israel, often fail the test of obedience and faith. When we realize how far we have strayed away from God's plan for us, we are tempted to give up and continue wandering in the wilderness. Remember God is forgiving and gives us many more opportunities. What He looks for is for us to return to Him in repentance and obedience and He will bless and use us. God is our Heavenly Father. We are His children and He loves us very much. — Jones is director of missions, Big Hatchie Baptist Association.





## Tuten cited as state's outstanding older worker

For Baptist and Reflector

**PARSONS** — Like father, like daughter. Norene Tuten's father used to tell her hard work and dedication are the keys to success in any job.

Tuten, an active member of First Baptist Church here, listened to her dad. As a punch press operator for a local company, she has had perfect attendance for the past 13 years.

She normally has more production than anyone on her shift and she gladly admits technology has made her job easier and more enjoyable.

What's unique about her? She's 74 years old and still going strong. As a result of her work record, she recently was honored as "Outstanding Older Worker" for the state of Tennessee.

One of her life-long dreams has been to visit Washington, D.C. That dream is still on hold.

She was scheduled to go to the nation's capitol on Sept. 11 to be recognized for her award when she was stopped at the ticket booth due to the terrorist attacks that day, according to her pastor, Mark Mangrum. The event will be held at a later date, he reported. ■



**THE GOLDEN HARVESTERS** of Calvary Baptist Church, Brownsville, recently gave a reception and plaque to June Brantley for faithful service to the church. She has served as treasurer for more than 31 years. Pictured are, from left, Pastor Ken Eudy, June Brantley, Tack Moore, chairman of the deacons, and Ruth Austin, president of the Golden Harvesters.



**ABOVE**, officers of Stewart County Baptist Association are, from left, Randy Moore, vice moderator; Ann Mann, clerk; and Benny Mann, moderator. **BELOW**, officers of Indian Creek Baptist Association include Cal Hampton, pastor, Green River Baptist Church, Waynesboro, moderator; Mike Hammonds, pastor, First Baptist Church, Waynesboro, vice moderator; Gary Anderson, Philadelphia Baptist Church, treasurer; Linda Griggs, Ray's Chapel Baptist Church, Waynesboro, and Director of Missions David Miller.



**PASTOR WOODY TACKETT**, left, of Lyons Park Baptist Church, Church Hill, and Roger Dinsmore, right, associate pastor, recently accepted a plaque on behalf of the church in recognition of its 50th anniversary from John Parrott, center, director of missions for Holston Valley Baptist Association.

## Kyles Ford celebrates 200 years of ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

**HANCOCK COUNTY** — Twenty-five years after the birth of the United States of America, a small church was organized in Hancock County.

Two hundred years later, the church is still ministering

to people in its community.

The church recently held a special day of celebration to recognize its bicentennial anniversary.

One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity provided to Della Trent Stafford of Knoxville to share memories of

the church.

Her husband, the late G.W. Trent Sr., served as pastor of Kyles Ford on two different occasions (1937-42 and 1947-55).

She recalled the days of pot-bellied stoves, kerosene heaters, pump organs, and powerful revivals in which many young people trusted Christ as their Lord and Savior and were baptized in the Clinch River.

"Obviously, there are people who keep coming back to Kyles Ford," said John Parrott, director of missions for Holston Valley Baptist Association.

"They believe people still need the gospel. That's why people are still worshiping God here after 200 years," he added.

On behalf of the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society, Parrott presented a plaque to the church commemorating the 200th anniversary. ■



**JOHN PARROTT**, left, director of missions for Holston Valley Baptist Association, recently presented a plaque recognizing the 200th anniversary of Kyles Ford Baptist Church to, from left, Pastor Chris Forgety, Donnie Lawson, Dale Seals, and Chad Lawson.



**MESSENGERS TO** Sweetwater Baptist Association recently elected officers for 2001-2002. From left are, Bill Roberts, vice moderator; Sheri Stephens, administrative assistant; Richard Parker, moderator; Misty Maiuri, secretary; and Bennie Creel, director of missions.



**PASTOR WOODY TACKETT**, left, of Lyons Park Baptist Church, Church Hill, and Roger Dinsmore, right, associate pastor, recently accepted a plaque on behalf of the church in recognition of its 50th anniversary from John Parrott, center, director of missions for Holston Valley Baptist Association.

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