

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

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Statewide Edition

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Baptist Center to enact security procedures

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Security procedures are being implemented at the Baptist Center here.

"Recent events in our country have caused all of us to carefully examine our daily activities to ensure that we take no chances with our personal security or the security of our loved ones," observed William F. Maxwell, administrative director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



MAXWELL

"This is true for our workplace security as well," he added.

Maxwell noted that he, along with TBC Executive Director James Porch and TBC Ministry Coordinator Gary Rickman, have determined that the following steps are "wise but not excessively intrusive."

He noted the measures will be implemented over the next two months.

Similar security precautions already have been in place at both the Southern Baptist Convention building and LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

The security measures include:

► All visitors to the building will be asked to sign in at the reception desk and receive a name tag with space for their name and destination.

► All visitors will be announced to the area they are visiting.

► Conference attendees will register in the lobby or entrance to the conference center and will have conference name tags.

— See Baptist, page 2

TBC board updated on anti-gambling efforts

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Unlike the weather that preceded it, the January meeting of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention was held amid a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

Many board members from East and portions of Middle Tennessee had to deal with five inches or more of snow to attend meetings Jan. 7-9 at the Baptist Center here.

An orientation session for new board members was held on Jan. 7, followed by committee meetings the next day and climaxed by the plenary session on Jan. 9.

Board members were given an update on the lottery by TBC Executive Director James Porch and Paul Durham, pastor of Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville, and chairman of the lottery subcommittee.

Durham noted that work is progressing on efforts to defeat the proposed state lottery in November. He asked for continued support through prayer and assistance in raising mon-



TBC EMPLOYEES recognized for tenure during the January meeting of the Executive Board included, from left, Tim Holcomb, leader, Christian Growth and Development Group, 5 years; Gary Rickman, ministry coordinator, 10 years; Eleanor Yarborough, leader, Communication Services Group, 20 years; Joe Wiles, collegiate ministry specialist, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, 10 years; and Bill and Cindy Black, resort missionaries, Gatlinburg, 20 years.

ey for the campaign to keep Tennessee gambling free. Durham estimated that \$1.5 million will be needed to help defeat the lottery.

As a matter of information, board members were told that the Executive Board has advanced \$40,000 to the Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance: A Committee to Save our Children to underwrite a video that will be available to churches by March.

Jack Robinson, a layman

from Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, and chairman of the Executive Committee, said they anticipate the advance will be paid for by funds received from churches designated for the anti-gambling effort.

The board meeting featured reports from Porch, TBC President Kevin Shrum, and representatives from TBC institutions.

Actions taken by the board included the passage of an

amendment to the Executive Board's bylaws that calls for new members to begin their term of service at the January meeting of the board. The action brings the Executive Board into compliance with a convention bylaw adopted by TBC messengers in 2000.

Board members also approved that the firm of Crosslin, Vaden, and Associates (formerly Williams, Crosslin, Sparks, and Vaden) be retained for three more years as convention auditors.

The Executive Board also acted on a recommendation from the Committee on Boards by naming Ron Cunningham of First Baptist Church, Powell, to serve a three-year term of service as a trustee of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes and Donald Kohanski of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, to serve a one-year term of service as a trustee for Belmont University.

The next meeting of the TBC Executive Board will be held May 14. ■

Legendary pastor W.A. Criswell dies at age 92

By Toby Druin & Mark Wingfield
Special to Baptist and Reflector

DALLAS — Wallie Amos (W.A.) Criswell, legendary pastor of First Baptist Church here for more than 50 years, died Jan. 10 at the home of longtime friend Jack Pogue. He was 92.

Pogue was reading to Criswell from Philippians 2 and John 14 when he breathed his last, reported Paige Patterson, former president of Criswell College in Dallas, who now serves as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina.

Funeral services were scheduled for Jan. 16 at noon at First Baptist, where Criswell's stentorian voice called sinners to salvation, defended the Bible as God's in-



W.A. CRISWELL

errant Word, blasted "modernism" and infidels, and challenged Christians to live more devoted lives. Criswell had been in ill health for several years, ever since fighting off colon cancer in 1998.

The fiery preacher was arguably the best-known Baptist pastor in America in the latter

half of the 20th century — second in recognition only to evangelist Billy Graham, whom Criswell enlisted as a long-distance member of the Dallas church years ago.

He was the author of 54 books, including *Why I Preach that the Bible is Literally True*, a volume considered to have helped launch the conservative movement that shook the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1980s and '90s.

In his trademark white suit, Criswell was seen in televised church services broadcast nationally, and his voice was heard on numerous radio programs as well.

A little-known pastor from Oklahoma, Criswell in 1944 was called to succeed the legendary George W. Truett as pastor of the Dallas congrega-

tion. In a 1985 interview with the *Dallas Morning News*, Criswell recalled how he had a vivid dream in which the deceased Truett urged him to "go down and preach to my people."

Nevertheless, Criswell initially declined an invitation to preach a sermon at the Dallas church, saying he was "nothing of the stature of Dr. Truett." His wife did not share his reservations, he said, explaining that she accepted the church's invitation for him.

"There wasn't anything for me to do but come down here and preach," he said. A few weeks later, the church called him as pastor.

During his tenure at First Baptist, the church increased in stature, influence, membership and funding.

— See Legendary, page 2

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Red Bank among top LMCO givers

For *Baptist and Reflector*

CHATTANOOGA — Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, was among the top 100 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention in gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in 2000.

The church was inadvertently omitted from the list of 11 Tennessee Baptist churches cited due to different reporting periods for both the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

During the 2000 year, Red Bank gave \$75,789 to the LMCO. Of that amount, \$67,251 was given during the TBC reporting period (Nov. 1-Oct. 31). ■

Rogers recovering from heart attack

Baptist Press

MIAMI— Former Southern Baptist Convention president and Memphis-area pastor Adrian Rogers is recovering in a Miami hospital after suffering a mild heart attack Jan. 10.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, underwent surgery for a blocked artery on Jan. 11 at South Miami Hospital. He is expected to make a full recovery, doctors said.



ROGERS

Legendary pastor W.A. Criswell dies ...

— Continued from page 1

In its heyday, First Baptist Church of Dallas was the largest congregation in the SBC, boasting nearly 30,000 members on roll, five blocks of property in downtown Dallas and nearly 30 mission congregations.

Over the years, several U.S. presidents and would-be presidents made a point to visit the church when Criswell was preaching. When Gerald Ford visited the church in October 1976, he got a sermon on stewardship and an endorsement for his election, although Ford was running against Criswell's fellow Southern Baptist, Jimmy Carter. When the Republican Party re-nominated Ronald Reagan for president in Dallas

Evangelism Conference slated Jan. 28-29

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — "Where Is The Hope?" is the theme of the 2002 State Evangelism Conference to be held Jan. 28-29 at Judson Baptist Church here.

Headlining the list of speakers is Georgia pastor James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other program speakers include James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville; Jim Shaddix, preaching professor, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary;

Don Wilton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.; David Nasser, evangelist, Birmingham, Ala.; Michael Duff, president, Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists;

Fred Luter, pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New



DRAPER



LUTER



MERRITT



PORCH

Orleans, La.; and Dawson McAllister, pastor, True Life Church, Franklin.

Special music will be provided by Christian recording artists Bekki Smith and Charles Billingsley.

The Jan. 28 afternoon session which begins at 1:45 p.m. features Draper, Shaddix, and Merritt. The evening session which begins at 6:15 features Wilton and Merritt, along with a testimony from Marcia Montenegro, a former astrologer and founder of Christian Answers for the New Age.

The Tuesday morning ses-

sion begins at 9:15 a.m. and features Shaddix, Nasser, and Wilton. The afternoon session convenes at 1:45 p.m. and features Duff, Porch, and Luter. The evening session begins at 6:15 with messages by McAllister and Luter and a testimony by Nasser.

Prior to opening session on Jan. 28, the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists will hold their meeting, beginning at 10 a.m. at Judson.

Speakers during that session will be Benny Jackson, Marolyn Ford, and Ronnie Coleman. ■

Rogers was in Cozumel, Mexico, preaching on a Bible study cruise when he suffered the attack. At press time Monday, he was listed in stable condition in the hospital's critical care unit. ■

TBC bivocational evangelism meeting set for Jan. 18-19

For *Baptist and Reflector*

GLADEVILLE — The 2002 Tennessee Bivocational Evangelism Conference will be held at Gladeville Baptist Church here on Jan. 18-19. The conference begins on Friday at 1 p.m. and concludes the following day at noon.

Speakers for the meeting include Larry Robertson and Bill Northcott of the TBC staff; Willie McLaurin, pastor of Greater Hope Baptist Church, Union City, and president of the TBC African American Fellowship;

and Fredrick Brabson, pastor of New Covenant Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Breakout sessions covering a variety of topics also will be available for conference participants. ■

Protestant pastors rate themselves highly as preachers

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — Protestant pastors tend to rate themselves highly as preachers and teachers but don't consider themselves to be good fund-raisers, a new survey shows.

More than 80 percent of senior pastors surveyed by the Barna Research Group said they believed they were above average in preaching and teaching, encouraging people, and pastoring.

Ninety percent said they were "excellent" or "good" at preach-

ing and teaching. Eighty-five percent said they were above average in encouraging people and 82 percent said they were above average in pastoring or shepherding people.

The only area in the survey of 11 aspects of pastoral work in which a majority did not claim to do an excellent or good job was in fund raising. Thirty-one percent said they were above average in raising money while 37 percent said they were "average" in that area and 23 percent said they were "not too good" or "poor" in that area. ■

CentriKid chooses Tennessee sites

For *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — CentriKid, a LifeWay Christian Resources program for children who have completed third through sixth grade, has announced three Tennessee locations this summer.

They are: June 3, 10 — Carson Springs Conference Center, Newport; July 15, Linden Valley Conference Center, Linden; and July 22, Fort Bluff Camp, Dayton.

For more information, call LifeWay's CentriKid office toll-free at 1-877-226-7123. ■

Baptist Center ...

— Continued from page 1

► All staff will be issued ID tags that will include their picture, group name, and the TBC logo.

► Use of the back doors by visitors will be discouraged by signage.

"We ask for your assistance in the successful implementation of these measures that should give us all greater comfort for our mutual security," Maxwell said. ■

Pastor serves near Nashville crime area

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Unfortunately, when most people think about Dickerson Road Baptist Church here, they think about Dickerson Road, which is known as a gathering place for prostitutes, drug dealers, and other criminals.

The identification is an unfortunate one, explained Lloyd Johnson, pastor of the church for the past 27 years who retired Jan. 6.

People who really know the area realize the criminal element gathers some four miles south of the church, near downtown. The community around the church is alive and well, described Johnson. Near Madison and Goodlettsville, it is home to reputable businesses and middle class neighborhoods, explained Johnson. The area recently has drawn a new medical center, possibly because of its easy access from Interstate 65 or Briley Parkway.

The community is attracting many black residents, but white residents remain. Few white young couples are moving into the area.

For whatever reasons, the once large congregation of Dickerson Road Baptist has declined steadily.

Struggling ministry

Johnson said he has never been discouraged, although at times he has been disappointed.

His main joy has come from serving the Lord, said Johnson. Much of that joy has been due to members of the churches he has served. The congregation of Dickerson Road is "one of the most loving groups of people that anyone will ever meet," said Johnson.

To address the situation of the church, members decided to work away from the church. They began a mission congregation 12 years ago, which became Hillview Baptist Church, Goodlettsville. Today, Hillview is bigger than Dickerson Road. It eventually drew about 100 members away from Dickerson Road. But the effort was a good one, said Johnson.

At about that time Dickerson Road members confronted their situation and considered whether the church should move or change its name. Members decided to retain the name and to stay, even if it meant the church would close. Remaining would be "a good way to close out the ministry," described Johnson.

So about 10 years ago, members, blessed with a strong financial base, renovated the sanctuary while committing themselves to stay and try to reach people in White House, Joelton, Ridgetop, Hendersonville, Mt. Juliet, and Goodlettsville who don't know the Lord.

And Dickerson Road has done just that, said Johnson. During his tenure, the church has baptized about 400 people and added about 900 members. On his last Sunday of service, Johnson baptized a man into the faith and the membership of the church.

A personal ministry

"My personal experience with the Lord has been so rich in pastoring his church. I have experienced and seen many great miracles," said Johnson.

He has served as a pastor for 43 years. Prior to serving



LLOYD AND Donna Johnson pause during the Jan. 6 reception held by Dickerson Road Baptist Church on his retirement as pastor. They stand with Ann LaFever, right, secretary of the church for 35 years.

Dickerson Road Church, he was pastor of Wrigley Baptist Church, Lyles; and three churches in Kentucky.

All but one church was what some might consider a "problem church" said Johnson. He believes God intended that.

And he believes God equipped him to deal with those situations and congregations.

For instance, early on in his ministry, Johnson had three visions in the form of dreams within a year. They were of situations he faced and, he believes, they showed him how to respond. Even today he can recall the visions in detail.

Amazingly, he found those three visions fit every situation he faced. He learned God will provide, he said.

Johnson doesn't have a lot of demands of members, but he does ask two things. One is to try to discuss positive rather than negative aspects of the church with other people. And the other is to agree if he doesn't try to control their lives they won't try to control his.

When members have differences, Johnson said he has

learned to resist the impulse to solve differences. Instead, he tries to react like an ambassador.

An ambassador has the inherent power of his position so doesn't have to defend his role, he said. But he does represent an entity and must follow its directives. In Johnson's case, he is an ambassador of God.

By following this philosophy, Johnson said he has never had to defend himself, and he has never been afraid or upset.

Accordingly, a pastor should never let someone assume part or all of his role or responsibilities. He also shouldn't try to hurt a person in response to such an action.

"It can be a beautiful experience in a congregation if the pastor will just let the Lord take care of him and his problems," said Johnson.

He has seen several miracles of healing, one of which he experienced himself.

He was preaching a revival at a church when he developed a fever. He just couldn't accept the fact that the fever was natural since he was never sick. And it didn't respond to any



LLOYD JOHNSON speaks to Dot Pittman, member, during the reception.

medicine. Johnson said he became convinced it was caused by Satan.

He asked two other ministers who were with him to pray for him. When the pastor of the church prayed, his fever immediately ceased, he recalled.

Johnson said he has also seen God heal people with mental and emotional problems, though he acknowledged God uses counselors as well as pastors to help people with these challenges.

Finally, he said he has enjoyed the excitement of pastoring. No two days are alike, he said. He can schedule his day but likely that will be changed. To prepare, he often wakes at 4 a.m. and although he doesn't get up, "in my mind I go to work," he said.

Besides God, he gives most of the credit for his success to his wife, Donna, of 46 years. He also thanked Ann LaFever, who has served as secretary of the church for 35 years.

"For sure His (God's) world is full of him," said Johnson. ■

In Manhattan

TBC team to help Salvation Army

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A 16-member Disaster Relief Feeding Team from Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, will work Jan. 15-23 in the Salvation Army Kitchen 1 at "ground zero" in New York City, according to State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

This is the first Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Team to work with the Salvation Army Kitchens, which continue in operation feeding emergency workers.

Salvation Army Kitchen 1 is working out of a steel structured biodome, which was built to hold equipment. Local restaurants are preparing food, and Disaster Relief volunteers

are reheating and serving the food, according to Two Rivers Baptist Church team leader, Don Davis.

Some members of the Two Rivers team were set to go to ground zero before Tennessee Baptists suspended their initial feeding response at the end of September 2001. Davis was one of 125 volunteers who served in the initial Tennessee Baptist feeding operation.

Other members of the Two Rivers Church team are: Neal and Gail Buchanan, Mike Cole, Jo Ann Davis, Steve Hayes, Wayne and Jane Jackson, J.P. and Linda Kirkham, Frank Lee, Sam Mallory, Bob Marklein, Mike Sanders, John Swaim, and James Woody. ■

TBC taps Nashville pastor for CP endowment post

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — During the last fiscal year of the Tennessee Baptist Convention budget, the TBC received almost \$400,000 in Cooperative Program gifts from estates held in trust with the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, according to Gary Rickman, TBC ministry coordinator.

"Each year until Jesus returns, these trust funds will enhance the mission ministries of both the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention," Rickman observed.

With a dream of extending the work of Christ and providing Tennessee Baptists a method of underwriting the future of CP mission ministries, the TBC has contracted with James "Jim" Austin Sr. to develop and promote a plan of Cooperative Program endowment, according to Rickman.



AUSTIN

"He will encourage and assist Tennessee Baptists in the establishment of estate plans that include the Cooperative Program," Rickman said.

Austin formerly served as director of CP promotion for the SBC Executive Committee before retirement.

He currently is serving as preaching pastor and pastoral team leader at Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville. He formerly served as pastor of three East Tennessee churches and has held 17 interim pastorates in Middle Tennessee.

"I am excited about the possibilities of helping individual Tennessee Baptists discover a means of giving the one gift that can make a difference in meeting the needs of all Tennessee Baptist and Southern Baptist ministries until Jesus returns," Austin said.

CP endowment funds will be managed by the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. For more information, call Austin at 1-800-558-2090 or write: Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. ■

Baptist hospital prepares for terrorism

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation here is preparing for the worse case scenario of a terrorist attack in the United States in the form of a biological attack, said David Drumel, vice president of pastoral care.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the hospital system, which includes 16 hospitals in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, realized it needed more preparation and planning. The system had disaster plans which dealt with response to natural disasters. Memphians have planned for many years for a predicted earthquake along the New Madrid fault which lies near Memphis.

Since October, committees of the system staff have met to develop an enlarged disaster plan, said Drumel, who directs the work of the system's 22 chaplains. Agents of bioterrorism are being researched. Research found, for example, if a person with small pox entered one of the system's hospitals for treatment, that hospital may have to be quarantined,

said Drumel.

In addition to the research on bioterrorism, Baptist is determining what the government response would be in the event of an attack. Hospital chaplains will receive training to be able to provide critical stress debriefings of victims and health care providers. Call networks are being developed for entities of the system. Staff members who will serve at a hospital system command center have been identified.

In April, a terrorism disaster drill will be held, said Drumel. And a system manual on response to bioterrorism and other disasters will be completed, he added.

Response to bioterrorism

Mack Land, a physician based at Baptist Memorial Hospital Memphis, specializes in infectious diseases. He also is a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Tennessee here. Land, who is helping prepare the disaster plan, presented some of his findings



DRUMEL

at the Jan. 9 meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board at the Baptist Center, Brentwood.

He identified the four leading agents of bioterrorism — anthrax, small pox, botulism, and pneumonic plague.

For years in the United States anthrax was considered a disease of cattle, he said. Now anthrax has been found to be an infectious disease which can be inhaled, ingested, and can infect the skin. The person develops flu-like symptoms, said Land.

The mortality rates are 90 percent for the inhalation form of anthrax, 30-40 percent for the ingested form, and 20 percent for the skin form. Thankfully, said Land, because of the good response of U.S. health care workers, instead of the predicted 90 percent rate of mortality for the inhalation form in the recent cases, only 40 percent of those infected died.

Since the anthrax outbreak in September and October, about 5,000-8,000 people have been treated and protected from anthrax, said Land.

Anthrax is not spread person to person, said Land.

Treatment is available and successful, but should be begun within 24 hours. People who suspect they have been in contact with anthrax should wash their hands and face with soap and water, contact local law enforcement authorities, and seek treatment.

In addition to anthrax, small pox can be used in bioterrorism and "will disrupt this country," said Land, because it is a highly contagious disease which was eradicated worldwide in 1977. Immunity from small pox vaccinations only lasts from 10-20 years.

Anyone who comes within 6-9 feet of an infected person probably will catch small pox. To respond, the U.S. government is stock piling small pox vaccinations, but they have not been tested and will have side effects, he said.

The U.S., Russia, South Africa, North Korea, and Iraq have the power to infect populations with small pox, which



LAND



has a mortality rate of 40 percent.

The infectious disease, botulism, can be used as a weapon in an inhaled form but cannot be spread person to person, said Land. It is known to be a weapon of Iraq. An antidote is available, but it doesn't reverse damage done to muscles.

Finally, pneumonic plague is an infectious disease involving the lungs which is spread through face to face contact with a victim, said Land, but is not highly contagious.

Pneumonic plague can be treated with the medicine, cipro, which the U.S. has plenty of, he added.

"We have to have practical knowledge ... to help us deal with these instances," said the physician. "It will be the people of faith who will be the stabilizing forces and who will know our houses are built on rock and not on sand," said Land, who is a member of a Methodist church in Memphis. ■

Make the Memories Last

A photo captures a moment in time. A will breathes life into each one. How? By preparing a will, you remember the most cherished people in your life ... family, friends and those you have prayed would hear the name of Jesus even for the first time.

Consider designating the International Mission Board as a beneficiary. By doing so, you can continue to share the gospel around the world and build on the memories of your lifetime.

To find out more about preparing a will or updating the one you have, contact us at either office:



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Prayerwalking is 'real' form of evangelism

prayer matters

by Don Pierson
TBC prayer specialist



walks than any other mission endeavor that I have been a participant. Here are a few snapshots of what God did during a recent prayerwalk through Belize, Central America.

Cynthia had been our waitress for two days. On the third morning, during our time of prayer, one of the team members felt burdened for her. As we prayed it was obvious that all of us shared the same burden. That day during lunch, Cynthia received Christ as her Lord and Savior while one shared and 29 others prayed.

Antonia was hanging her clothes on the line when we passed through her village during our prayerwalk. She shared that her prayer request was for her own salvation. Immediately

that request was granted as she prayed with us to receive Christ. Her tears of joy were shared by us all.

Some members of the prayer team, after praying through one village, stopped a young man along the road to ask for directions to the next village. The young man asked what they were doing. When he heard they were praying for the people of the area to come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior, and for them to grow in Him, he shared his desire to know Christ. He made a profession of faith then and there.

During a five-day prayerwalk, 63 adults prayed to receive Christ. Most of those expressed their desire to know Christ prior to any formal pre-

sentation of the gospel.

Reaching the lost is the heart of God. Intercession coupled with personal witness is His chosen means for reaching them. Prayerwalking is about learning to see what He sees, hurting where He hurts, witnessing where He is working, and interceding where He is interceding.

The next time someone suggests a prayerwalk remember that no man can come unto the Father unless the Father draws him. Evangelism is as much about interceding as it is witnessing. Prayerwalking is God-based evangelism.

Pray that God will open an effectual door of witness to those around you and when He does, walk through carrying the gospel. ■



editorial/
opinion

reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey
editor



Spare the rod?

A front-page article in the Jan. 9 issue of *The Tennessean* caught my attention: "School board forbids paddling."

The metro Nashville board of education voted unanimously on Jan. 8 to outlaw corporal punishment in the school system.

I wish the school board in Greenville County, S.C., had thought of that in the 1970s. Or do I?

I know it may be hard to believe, but I actually had the lumber laid to my bottom end a few times in my life while attending elementary and high school. I survived, and hopefully am a better person because of it.

We had a physical education teacher in high school who had no reservations about paddling (he called them something else). And, he was not alone. I remember quite a few of the male teachers and principals who could swing a mean stick.

College football and basketball coaches today might not have problems getting athletes admitted into universities if high school coaches today followed the example of my old P.E. teacher. If you played on an athletic team, whether varsity or junior varsity, and made less than a C, you were introduced to his "board" of education.

Times have changed, but are they for the better?

I know teachers today have to be careful because of potential charges of abuse with corporal punishment. That was really not an issue 25-30 years ago. But to do away with it completely in our schools is not a good idea.

Granted, discipline needs to start in the home. I would expect that most of those in our schools who need a good swat now and then do not get it there.

Do we put our teachers at a disadvantage by abolishing corporal punishment? What are the alternatives? Do we suspend students for "minor" violations of rules when an old-fashioned paddling might accomplish the same purpose?

Our society today is handcuffing our educators. As long as guidelines for corporal punishment are in place and are applied equally to everyone, and corporal punishment is not abused by the principal or teacher, then it should be left up to the individual or school.

Remember, "spare the rod, spoil the child." ■

Jan. 20 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Sonograms can preserve life in crisis pregnancies

guest columnist

by Dwayne Hastings
SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

God's Word tells us: "For you created my inmost being" (Psalm 139:13-16).

An unborn baby's heart begins to beat 18 days after conception, and her fingerprints are completely established during the fourth week of development in her mother's womb. She sucks her thumb seven weeks after conception; and sometime between nine and 10 weeks, this preborn wonder squints, swallows, and moves her tongue.

Using modern scientific advancements such as high-resolution ultrasound imaging, Scripture's absolute accuracy is confirmed. Improvements in ul-

trasound technology and its increased accessibility are key reasons for a growing awareness that it is a baby being killed in an abortion. The abortion industry is greatly troubled by this awareness. According to Shari Richard of The Imaging Network, Harrison Hickman of the National Abortion Rights Action League has said, "Probably nothing has been as damaging to our cause as the advances in technology which have allowed pictures of the developing fetus..."

There is conclusive evidence from pregnancy care centers that parents who see their babies on sonograms nearly always choose life. *World* magazine (8/19/00) says ultrasound may be "the ultimate ministry to unborn children" and tells of several who changed their minds about abortion after an ultrasound. One young man entered the center sullen and pushing his girlfriend for an abortion. He left the ultrasound room with a

changed heart: "I saw a little person. And that's my little person in there." They are now proud parents of a baby boy. At another center a pregnant 13-year-old was accompanied by her mother and her aunt, all Christians. The girl didn't want an abortion, but the mother was convinced her daughter's life would be ruined if she had the baby. The sonogram showed a very active baby who seemed eager to show her face. When the clinic called to follow up, the family had decided against abortion.

While nearly 100 percent of the women in a crisis pregnancy who are given a glimpse of the life within them choose life, this is only possible when a woman can go to a pregnancy care center with an ultrasound machine. Yet less than 10 percent of all centers across the U.S. have access to ultrasound technology and a trained operator. Sonogram machines are expensive,

and most centers do not have the funds to buy the equipment or have a medical expert on staff to "read" the results.

This is the intent of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's Psalm 139 Project — to help pregnancy care centers secure ultrasound machines. Help is needed. One hundred percent of the gifts received at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission for the Psalm 139 Project will go to evangelistically-oriented centers.

For more information about the Psalm 139 Project, contact the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission at (615) 244-2495.

Increased access to ultrasound technology promises to reduce abortions by providing women with a "window to the womb." Simply put, it's all about saving lives. ■ — Hastings, a member of ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, is vice president for print and interactive communications for the ERLC.

Adults need to deal effectively with emotions after crisis

families matter

by Paul Barkley,
counselor



In the aftermath of Sept. 11 many in America, clinicians as well as the untrained, have been asking, "How can we deal effectively with all the emotions and feelings which have been elicited by these massive and cataclysmic events that seem to continue to cascade through our consciousness?"

A recent article in *Medscape Mental Health* quoted Yael Danieli, PhD Director of Group Projects for Holocaust Survivors and Their Children, New York, and Co-Founder and Past Presi-

dent of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. She said that in the midst of the fear, the helplessness, the overwhelmingness and the intensity of everything that predicts disorder, we should not "pathologize, medicalize, or trivialize" what people are going through. I think this is sound advice.

We tend to "pathologize" when we make every emotion that one feels a symptom of some disorder. We as a nation have lost our innocence. Our security has been breached as never before. When this occurs it is only natural that we sense a deep feeling of loss, insecurity, helplessness, hopelessness that borders on depression. There is some point at which not to feel these emotions suggests denial. Everyone who feels heightened anxiety, stress, despair is not exhibiting symptoms of a mental

disorder. If these emotions persist to the extent that they inhibit normal family relationships, job performance, and social relationships, the person should see a therapist or counselor.

We also have a problem in our culture with the way that we "medicalize" our feelings. If we do not always feel happy, peaceful, secure, and satisfied, we assume that we must have some type of "chemical imbalance" that must be medicated. Some seek out a physician to prescribe medication and others self-medicate with drugs, alcohol, and food. We cannot always live in Camelot. It does rain before sunset in the real world. We will sometimes face cataclysmic and catastrophic problems. Medication is not always the answer.

Some who don't "pathologize" or "medicalize" their emotions

tend to "trivialize" them. I am afraid that we Christians tend to do this at times. We assume that spiritual people should not fear or feel overwhelmed; therefore, when we feel these emotions, we tend to discount or deny them. These emotions are very real and should not be stored or frozen. Frozen emotions are like frozen pipes. They rupture. And ruptured emotions like ruptured pipes make a mess.

This, I think, is one of those times when we must face our fears and carry one another's burdens as we share together in the family of faith. Pray for our country. Pray for our leaders. Pray for one another. And allow God to have glory in all that He will do in that crisis. ■ — Barkley is professor, Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences, Memphis, and a family therapist in private practice.

Allocation plan offers 'Enduring Hope' for victims

By James Dotson
For Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — An allocation plan for more than \$3.4 million donated toward Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts in New York and Washington takes a comprehensive approach in dealing with a crisis expected to impact affected individuals and families for years to come.

In broad terms, the plan allocates 59 percent of the money to "victim benevolence and counseling ministry" and 41 percent to the longer-term "ongoing response ministry" — including provision for supporting future volunteer efforts and a church planted in the affected area.

The plan, titled "Enduring Hope: Disbursing Disaster Relief Donations with Integrity and Impact," was adopted by the North American Mission Board (NAMB), the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, and the Baptist Convention of New York at the recommendation of a task force that has addressed the issue since late September. The document also has been submitted to state conventions as a possible model for disbursement of their own relief funds set up in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Southern Baptists have responded to the tragic events of Sept. 11 with an outpouring of generous giving," said Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, NAMB's president. "Enduring Hope will ensure these gifts are used in a way that promises accountability and cooperation with local churches to touch hurting people in Christ's name. Through doing so, we gladly acknowledge that it is the local church which serves on the front line

in times of disaster."

The plan was developed also in consultation with donors to ensure that the use of the funds would comply with their intent for how it should be used, said Claude Rhea, chief development officer for NAMB and a primary author of the allocation plan.

The document outlining the allocation plan states "the sheer scale of this catastrophe mandates a response broader, deeper, and longer than any we have mounted before. We must retool our strategies to counter the sobering realization that 3,000 people lost their lives, 8,000 children lost a parent and 100,000 people have lost their jobs.

"Our immediate and long-term strategy will include multiplying and ministering through our churches in metropolitan New York," the document continues. "Through them, Southern Baptists sustain a compassionate presence in New York's diverse communities. Resourcing our congregations to provide a healing touch will effectively share Jesus Christ's enduring hope with hurting people."

Under the "victim benevolence and counseling ministry"

category of the allocation plan, 40 percent of the fund that will go to "financial assistance through Southern Baptist churches and associations" in New York, Boston, and Washington D.C., as well as to those in New York who lost their jobs because of the disaster.

Procedures for disbursing those funds will be developed by Larry J. Brown, a former energy company executive based in the New York area who will administer the strategy under a contract agreement, Rhea said.

Twelve percent will fund deployment of a "resident chaplain" to "oversee and augment our chaplaincy presence" in New York.

The chaplain will provide training for pastors in grief and trauma counseling, strengthen local church efforts to minister to victims and help pastors avoid damage to their own marriages, emotional health

and ministry. Chosen to fill the role is Joe B. Williams of Oklahoma, an FBI chaplain who assisted in the aftermath of the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Rounding out the "victim benevolence and counseling" category, 7 percent of the money will go to assist state and local partners in funding traditional Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts of feeding, childcare, cleanup of affected apartments, and similar ministries.

The category of "Ongoing Response Ministry" includes securing a "strategically located center" to house volunteers working in the area in coming years (26 percent) and funding for planting of new churches to provide long-term care for affected residents, including one ministering in the immediate "ground zero" area of lower Manhattan (15 percent). ■



national news

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Kensington Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume with salary history to Kensington Baptist Church, 4945 Winchester Rd., Memphis, TN 38118, Attn. Dale Stone.



Union Baptist Church of Wartburg, Tenn., is currently seeking a full-time pastor. Sunday worship service averages 150-175 in attendance. We will be accepting resumes through Feb. 2, 2002. Please send resume to Search Committee, 145 Jones Rd., Harri-man, TN 37748.



New Victoria Baptist Church is accepting resumes until Feb. 28, 2002 for full-time pastor. Small church in North Metro Atlanta with an average attendance of 125 and a desire to grow by serving God's will. Blended style of worship. Seminary degree and pastoral experience preferred. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, New Victoria Baptist Church, 6659 Bells Ferry Rd., Woodstock, GA 30189.



Audubon Baptist Church seeking a full-time pastor to lead a moderate church who has adopted the 1963 faith and message statement. Located at the edge of the Audubon Park area. Seeking an individual that will be a partner in defining God's direction for His church. Thankful for more than 5 years of service and excited about God's plan for the future. Currently 80-100 in Sunday School and 100-150 in Sunday morning worship. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217.

MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Part-time youth minister desiring to develop the spiritual growth and enrichment of youth grade 6-12. 25 youth enrolled in Sunday School. Active youth council. Please send resume to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 373 Tuckaleechee Pike, Maryville, TN 37804.

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Seeking a full-time/part-time college and career minister. Send your resume to Troy Squires, First Baptist Church Joelton, 714 Whites Creek Pike, Joelton, TN 37080, (615) 876-0527, fax (615) 876-0709, e-mail troyfbcj@nasville.com.



New Hope Baptist Church, Hermitage, Tenn., seeking full-time minister of worship. Contemporary worship style with attendance of 500. Contact Fon: (615) 883-6709; fax: (615) 885-4957; e-mail emailus@newhopeforyou.com.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Monument Heights Baptist Church is seeking a full-time associate minister of music and youth. The church supports BGAV, CBF, and SBC. Salary/benefits package commensurate with training/experience. Please submit resume by Friday, Jan. 25, 2002 to Personnel Committee, Monument Heights Baptist Church, 5716 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23226, e-mail: personnel@monument-heights.org.



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



Walker Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music to help plan and lead in worship services and direct various choirs and ensembles. Please send resume to Walker Baptist Church, 1350 West Main St., Franklin, TN 37064. Our phone number is (615) 794-7000.

MINISTRIES — YOUTH

FBC, Jonesborough, Tenn., is seeking full-time youth pastor. Candidates must have a call to youth ministry, be creative, and be willing to accept the challenge of building a Christ-centered youth fellowship for God's glory. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 201 E. Main St., Jonesborough, TN 37659.

Plan to attend the Southwestern Photojournalism Conference March 1-3. For more information call toll free 1-877-474-4769



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Minister's Corner

Todd
Wilson

As happens every new year at this time, we discover that time has very rapidly evaporated and we spend time

pondering where time has gone! As I spend time contemplating these last words for 2001, I find myself actually contemplating time itself. What is time anyway?

Webster actually has 14 different definitions for time and that doesn't include the sub-definitions. The one I like is "the measured or measurable period during which an action, process, or condition exists or continues." I personally like this one best: "time is a continuum which lacks spatial dimensions and in which events succeed one another from past through present future." It sounds so "official" doesn't it?

Time. What a concept! Have you noticed that time is blamed for many of our maladies and shortcomings? For instance, "if I only had a little more time," or "time just slipped up on me" are excuses we use frequently. Likewise, time is touted as a remedy for much that ails us — "time heals all wounds," or "in time you will learn to" (you fill in the blank). One of my favorite witticisms is "time is a great healer but a poor beautician."

One of the great regrets of my life is that I spent so much time wishing time would pass so I could get to the next page of my life. You know how it works.

A young man went off to college and just hated it. He decided if he could just get out of college and get married and have children, then he would be able to enjoy life.

He stuck it out and soon did all of those things. But, he soon learned that family life was tough. So he found himself thinking if he could just get his children raised and on their own, he could relax and enjoy life.

He worked hard and finally got his kids through college and he began to think about relaxing and enjoying life. So he talked to his boss about early retirement.

But his boss persuaded him to stay because in eight short years he would be able to retire with full pension and benefits for the rest of his life. So on he labored all the while wishing for the day to come when he would retire. Finally, he and his wife both retired. They sold their house and bought a small cottage where they now sit on their porch swing, look at the family picture album, and dream of the good old days.

Someone has said that life is what happens to you while you're making plans to do something else. As we give into the year 2002 I pray we will come to realize that the time is now! We cannot live in the past. We live today while reaching to making a difference tomorrow. Paul said, "The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11-12). ■ — Wilson is pastor of Munford Baptist Church, Munford.

just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Memphis



Start With a Smile: English teacher to fifth grader: "Bobby, will you quote a sentence that has a direct object?"

Bobby: "Teacher, everyone thinks you are beautiful." Teacher (blushing): "Thank you, but what is the direct object?" Bobby: "A good report card next month."

Take this Truth: That lad will make a good man. He intends strongly. (Those words were spoken of Mark Antony by a man who heard him speak in Antony's early life.)

Memorize this Scripture: "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life." — Proverbs 15:1

Pray this Prayer: Lord, help me to realize the value and power of my tongue.

Devalued to valued

By Jamison Work

Focal Passage: Exodus 1:15-17, 20-22; 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23

In the War Between the States, 498,332 men lost their lives; in World War I, 116,708 soldiers never came home; World War II saw 407,316 brave men and women pay the ultimate price for freedom; the Korean War cost America 54,246 military personnel, the Vietnam War cost 58,655 lives, and the Persian Gulf War took the lives of 372 U.S. personnel. However, since abortion was legalized in 1973, Americans have murdered more than 40,000,000 of their own sons and daughters even while they were still in a mother's womb.

Americans have devalued life. Old people are a nuisance, babies are a headache, handicapped people are frustrating, and the terminally ill are an inconvenience. In the pursuit of pleasure, ease, comfort, and enjoyment, many Americans have turned their backs on those who should be valued and protected. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a special affiliate of Planned Parenthood (the largest abortion provider in the world) says that "at current rates, 43 percent of women have experienced at least one abortion by the time they are 45." Whatever happened to the value of a human life?

While the king of the civilized world, Pharaoh, was immersing the Hebrew people in a culture of death,

there were many who stood against his edicts. Shiphrah and Puah, Hebrew midwives, were not afraid to disobey Pharaoh (Exodus 1:17), because they had greater reverence for God than for Pharaoh. Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed, were not afraid of Pharaoh's decree either (Exodus 2:2; Hebrews 11:23). They believed life was too valuable to just throw it away, so they hid Moses for three months while they waited for God to give them a plan to save their son's life. They were confident that God was the giver of life, and "by

faith, Moses... was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child" (Hebrews 11:23). God gave Amram and Jochebed a plan to deal with the pressures of having a baby. His plan was "exceeding abundantly beyond" what they could have imagined (Ephesians 3:20). God not only saved their son's life, He saved Israel's future leader!

God still gives people hope and a plan to deal with their circumstances, whether it be a baby, old age, a terminal illness, or even a physical or mental handicap. A man and a woman, or two teenagers, who find themselves facing an unexpected pregnancy can receive the same provision for their situation that Moses' parents received. Who knows what future awaits that unwanted, and unexpected baby? He could be another leader like Moses, or another missionary like Lottie Moon. But in or-

Family Bible SS Lesson — January 20

Honoring the sanctity of human life

By Ray Jones

Focal Passages: Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 119:73; Proverbs 6:16-19; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-40

The special blessing of a new life has always moved me deeply. There are not words to express the feeling

of awe and thanksgiving I felt when our three children were born. Now when our grandchildren are born, our children like to sneak around and get a picture of me holding the young grandchild. They want to capture that look on my face as I hold the new life. I cannot imagine wanting to destroy a life, especially a new life that God has created. Yet, abortion happens daily in our nation. We were all appalled by the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, as we should have been. News reports place the number of dead as a result of this attack at 3,000 to 4,000 depending upon who is doing the report. Yet very little is said about the 4,300 daily deaths by abortion. I find this deplorable also.

Our lesson for this week focuses on "Honoring the Sanctity of Human Life." This addresses not only the destruction of life by abortion, but euthanasia (taking of a life to end suffering or because of advanced age) or any other act or attitude

which degrades or destroys the life which God has given.

Our biblical understanding for life begins with creation. In Genesis 1:26-28 we read about the creation of mankind. When God had created everything else, He then created mankind. He created them male and female. Both had the capacity for fellowship with God. God charged them "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." (v. 28). Man possessed the possibility of a special relationship with God and was given a stewardship charge by God. He was to take care of what God had created.

The Psalmist continues this idea. In Psalm 119:73 he says, "Your hands made me and formed me." The Lord has put us together, exactly as He desired. In the intimate relationship of a man and woman a new life begins, but it is God who forms, shapes that life.

Jeremiah 1:5 continues with the idea of being set apart for a purpose. The purpose God had for Jeremiah was to be a prophet to all nations. God has a special purpose for each life. The Bible affirms that each person receives special gifts from God to be used in His Kingdom service. One wonders how many gifts are not available for service in God's Kingdom because of the number of lives

that were destroyed before they were born.

God makes it very clear in His Word that we are not to destroy life. Exodus 20:13 reads, "You shall not murder." This command makes it very clear that an individual cannot decide on his own to take another life. Life is a special gift from God; therefore, we cannot arbitrarily take the life of another person. Some would argue that since abortion is legal in the U.S. that we cannot apply this commandment. Just because it has been made legal in America, does not make it legal with God. It is a morally reprehensible act. God's law says that nonjustifiable taking of human life is murder. Elective abortion is the unjustifiable killing of unborn human life.

Jesus, in Matthew 22:37-40, gives us a command to love others. He says, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). This calls for us to work for the good of all persons. We are challenged to take a stand that would protect unborn babies from abortion and the elderly for euthanasia. It challenges us also to work to improve the quality of life for all people.

Life, from God's view is a sacred gift to us. He also gives us a stewardship responsibility to do all within our power legally to protect, preserve and improve the quality of life for all people. — Jones is director of missions, Big Hatchie Baptist Association.



der for God's plan to become a reality in someone's desperate situation, life must be valued instead of devalued.

The key to valuing life is found in Moses' parents response to Pharaoh's evil edict. (1) They were committed to be faithful to the Lord, regardless of what other Hebrew families were doing (see Joshua 24:14). (2) They put their complete confidence in God (Hebrews 11:23). (3) They were courageous, or not driven by their fears, but driven by their faith (Hebrews 11:23). (4) They exercised spiritual discernment, taking three months to pray and seek God's plan (Hebrews 11:23). (5) They were not intimidated by evil (Exodus 2:2).

Believers today can follow Amram's and Jochebed's example. When the world tries to squeeze believers into the mold of devaluing life, they must respond with faith, courage, wisdom, and confidence and stand on the authority of God's Word to protect and value human life. Jesus said, "I am come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). God values life so greatly that He suffered the horrible pain of crucifixion, and the humiliation of man's sin to give life to man. Therefore, guard it well! — Work is pastor, Candies Creek Baptist Church, Charleston.

deaths

■ **Donald R. Abernathy**, 54, pastor, Longcrest Baptist Church, Memphis, died Dec. 23. He also was a school bus driver for DeSoto County School, former teacher and auctioneer. He was a Vietnam War Army veteran. Memorials should be given to Longcrest Baptist Church. Abernathy was survived by his wife, Ramona, and a son.

leaders

■ **Charles E. Gibbs Jr.**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Byrdstown, will retire Jan. 31. He has served for 41 years as pastor of the following churches — Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Donelson View Baptist Church, Nashville; First Baptist Church, Jamestown; North Athens Baptist Church, Athens; Trace Creek Baptist Church, New Johnsonville; and two churches in Alabama.



GIBBS



MEMBERS OF SECOND Baptist Church, Union City, who have been members for 50 years were recognized recently. They are, from left, Jean Menees, Allen Cloar, Catherine Cloar, Charlotte Smith, Juanita Roney, Max Miller, Sue Miller, Clara Nell Foley, Pat Perryman, and Leroy Perryman.

Gibbs will be honored on Jan. 31 by the church in the morning worship service and with a luncheon. He and his wife, Carol, will live in Cookeville. He will be available for part-time ministry work and can be reached at 3335 N. Hampton Drive, Cookeville, 38506 or (931) 537-2843.

■ **Nathan Wilkerson** is serving as pastor, First Baptist Church, Morrison. He formerly was minister of students and outreach, Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown.

■ **Immanuel Baptist Church, Lebanon, ordained Jeff Ledford and Randall Hutto as deacons Dec. 9. Eight**

other men were installed as deacons at that time.

■ **Troy Rust**, pastor, Harmony Baptist Church, Adams, has resigned effective Dec. 30. He will attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

■ **Ginger Hunley**, secretary, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville, was honored Dec. 9 on her 10th anniversary of service.

■ **Kenneth Ayers**, minister of evangelism and Discipleship, Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport, has resigned to begin the People of Power Ministry. He started the ministry to help pastors and congregations expand their outreach through evangelism and discipleship. Ayers has 45 years of experience in starting and growing churches in six states. He can be reached at (423) 279-1810 or wellness@3wave.com.

■ **Mike Stover** pastor, Cairo Baptist Church, Alamo, has been called as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Henderson, effective Feb. 3. He is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

■ **Claudia Hammers** retired Dec. 31 as pastor, Liberty Baptist Church, Somerville. He served the church for 19 years. He also has served as pastor, Porters Creek Baptist Church, Middleton, from 1969-76; and Midway Baptist Church, Whiteville, 1976-82. Hammers also has been a leader of Fayette Baptist Association. He and his wife, Marilyn, were honored by the church Dec. 30. They will retire in Whiteville.

churches

■ **Bordeaux Baptist Church, Nashville**, will offer a health seminar on "Building Your Immune System" Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be

taken. For more information, call (615) 799-0994.

■ **Nolensville Baptist Church, Nolensville**, only draws about 40 people each Sunday to Sunday School, but members recently gave \$1,957 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. And the congregation gave the majority of the offering in one day. The church designates one day to take up the offering. The goal was only \$300. "Numbers don't tell it all," said Lowell Thompson, former pastor. "Where love of God and missions are concerned, Nolensville Baptist is not a small church," he said.

■ **Tennessee Right to Life** will hold a March for Life Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. beginning at Tyson Park near the University of Tennessee campus. The march will end at **Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville**. For more information, call TRL at (865) 689-1339.

■ **The Women on Mission of Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, would like to thank the churches and individuals who have sent labels of Campbell's products to help **Hale Community Mission** in Elizabethton buy a van. The mission is a ministry of Watauga Baptist Association, Elizabethton. Tennesseans



PARTICIPATING in a world day of prayer service recently were members of Concord-Grandview Baptist Church, Brentwood. It was led by the church's Woman's Missionary Union, Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Youth on Mission. Members hold a 300 foot prayer chain of the names of people who have lost loved ones. The chain included names of missionaries with birthdays, prayer requests from members, and names of people who died in the terrorist attacks on the United States.



MISSION FRIENDS of Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill stand in front of the coats and other items they collected at Christmas for the Nashville Rescue Mission as they hold posters used to promote the collection. The Mission Friends and their teacher are, from left, Jeffrey Walters, Joshua Woody, Tanner Roberson, Cole and T.J. Crabtree, Eleanore Thibodeaux, and Barbara Powers. The group also promoted the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions with a Christmas card mailbox, Sock It to Lottie campaign, and Lottie Moon cookie distribution. As a result, the congregation gave a record offering.



RECENTLY elected deacons of First Baptist Church, Lexington, were, from left, Chris Hill, Freddie Carrington, Wesley Burgess, Randy Huddleston, Mike Lowrance, Jay Butler, Terry Nicholson, Brian Anderson, and Mitchell German.



should continue to send labels to the church at 804 Oak St., Elizabethton, TN 37643 or Eleanor Eastes Andrews, 605 S. Riverside Dr., Elizabethton, TN 37643, (423) 542-8658. The group's goal is to collect enough labels by May 2002.

regional events

■ **A Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference** is being formed again after several years of inactivity, according to Terry Wilkerson, pastor, Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown. The purpose of the conference will be for pastors to be encouraged. It is not being organized for political reasons, said Wilkerson. The conference will meet Feb. 6 at the Watertown church from 10 a.m. to noon. Bob Mowrey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Scottsboro, Nashville; and Ronnie Owens, evangelist of Tazewell, will speak. For more information, call Wilkerson at (615) 286-1252.

schools

■ **The undergraduate and graduate business programs of Belmont University, Nashville**, were recently accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Belmont is the only private university in Tennessee who is accredited by the prestigious accrediting organization for programs in business administration and accounting.