

# REFLECTOR

Volume 168/Number 4

Statewide Edition

January 30, 2002

## In Chattanooga

# Association's center helps needy people in county

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

for Hamilton County Baptist Association Care) Center. Thornbury, a member of

Stuart Heights Baptist Church, Chattanooga, has led the center for about two years and has

seen the ministry grow. The center set a record in December when it helped 52 families in

one day, he reported, most of whom needed food and were re-  
— See Association's, page 3

CHATTANOOGA — The St. Elmo neighborhood here at the foot of Lookout Mountain is a historic one. A lot of the houses here have the ornate trim of the Victorian era on second-story gables. Others were built later, their width and breadth under wide gables setting them apart. But many homes have several cars around them because they have been divided into apartments. And among the older homes are tiny ones incongruous in their size and style.

R.C. Thornbury was born in this neighborhood, grew up here attending St. Elmo Avenue Baptist Church, and began to raise his family here. The retired industrial engineer moved away 33 years ago, but he's glad to be back, he said, to lead the HaCoBACare (stands



A GIRL PICKS a doll from the table of toys at the HaCoBACare Center with her mother. They are waiting for food for their family to be assembled by volunteers of the center.



A MAN WHO transported a woman to the center accepts a box of food from Stanley Smith, a center worker from Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

## Resident killed in accident

# Tragedy strikes TBCH cottage

By Kim Burke & Robert Segrest  
For Baptist and Reflector

CLEVELAND — Shawn Patrick Summers, 12, a resident of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' Cleveland Cottage, died Friday, January 25, in a pedestrian accident while picking up the mail outside the cottage.

A student at Ocoee Middle School where he played trumpet in the school's band, Shawn was a member of Cleveland's Boy Scout Troop 188. He is survived by his sister, Monica, 9, and his brother, Cody, 6. Both children are also residents of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. The children attended Westwood Baptist Church here with their houseparents, Jose and Janice Mares.

The accident took place Friday afternoon when the boy crossed the street in front of the Cleveland Child Shelter. "He was looking forward to going with his scout troop on an overnight camping trip that afternoon," said Robert Segrest, TBCH Chattanooga regional vice-president. "The police re-

ported that the driver saw Shawn at the mailbox and, when he darted out across the street, the driver could not avoid hitting him."

"Our hearts are broken by the loss of this precious child," said Bryant Millsaps, TBCH president/treasurer. "His death is even more tragic because Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is his family. We have cared for him and his younger brother and sister for more than two years. Our hearts and prayers go out to his siblings and to the entire Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes' staff."

According to the highway patrol report, the driver of the car that struck Summers swerved to avoid hitting the child but the boy ran into the car's path. The boy's scoutmaster, Mark Wilkinson, witnessed the accident and joined Summers' housefather, Jose Mares, in trying to resuscitate the child until an ambulance arrived. He was taken to Bradley Memorial Hospital in Cleveland but died of complications from internal trauma.

"He made a major difference

in my family's life and in Troop 188. He meant a lot to our family," said Wilkinson. "He was a good boy and a very good scout. He loved scouts and he made a difference in many people's lives." The troop has applied to the Boy Scouts of America to award Summers a posthumous Eagle Scout medal.

More than 500 people from the community came to the funeral home to pay their respects during visitation on Jan. 27. Summers' funeral was held the following day at Westwood Church.

Friends of TBCH in the Cleveland area provided Summers' funeral expenses. In response to expressions of sympathy from the Cleveland and area communities, the Shawn Patrick Summers Scholarship Fund for children at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, started by the Westwood Church youth group, has been established at TBCH.

Gifts for the scholarship fund should be sent to TBCH, c/o Shawn Patrick Summers Scholarship, P. O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024-2206. ■

## Pastor's son drowns; church in Ethridge damaged in floods

By Marcia Knox  
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD— A series of severe thunderstorms on Jan. 23-24 across the state produced areas of severe flash flooding and resulted in the drowning deaths of the son of a Tennessee Baptist pastor and another man Jan. 23 in a subdivision drainage ditch in Cookeville.

In addition to these two deaths, four other flood-related deaths were reported across the state along with 39 of 42 counties reporting flash flooding to TEMA. One Tennessee Baptist church, Union Valley in Ethridge was damaged by flooding.

One of the two men who died in a flooded storm ditch drainage accident was identified as Thomas Stewart, 20, City of Cookeville Public Works Department employee, who is the son of Cookeville residents' Janet and Donnie Stewart. Donnie Stewart

serves as a bivocational pastor of Pine Eden Baptist Church in Crossville.

Thomas Stewart was a member of Pioneer Baptist Church in McMinnville. Funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 26, at Hooper and Huddleston Funeral Home in Cookeville.

The second man who drown was identified as Shane Cooper, a Charter Communications contractor for a local cable company. A third man who survived the accident was identified as John Clendening III, another Cookeville Public Works employee.

Stewart and Clendening were attempting to clear a blocked storm drainage ditch which was overflowing on Fisk Road when the current swept them into the culvert along with Cooper who was attempting to assist them, according to Bill Stone, minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Cookeville.

— See Pastor's, page 2

## about your newsjournal

➤ Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 48 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$10; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.50 per subscription; other plans available

➤ **Lonnie Wilkey, editor** — (615) 371-2046, [lwilkey@tnbaptist.org](mailto:lwilkey@tnbaptist.org)

➤ **Connie Davis, news editor** — (615) 371-7928, [cdavis@tnbaptist.org](mailto:cdavis@tnbaptist.org)

➤ **Susie Edwards, circulation/executive assistant** — (615) 371-2003, [sedwards@tnbaptist.org](mailto:sedwards@tnbaptist.org)

➤ **Mary Nimmo, church pages/administrative assistant** — (615) 371-7929, [mnimmo@tnbaptist.org](mailto:mnimmo@tnbaptist.org)

➤ **Betty Williams, bookkeeper** — (615) 371-7930, [bwilliams@tnbaptist.org](mailto:bwilliams@tnbaptist.org)

➤ **Office — Baptist and Reflector**, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

➤ **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

➤ **FAX** — (615) 371-2080

➤ **Web Site** — [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)

➤ **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

➤ **Convention Communications Committee:** Jerry Legg, chairman; Marty Comer, vice chairman; Orvind Dangeau, Mary Beth Duke, Mark Gregory, Jack Hilliard, Jay McCluskey, Greg McFadden, Mattie Mullins, Bob Osburn, Carlos Peterson, Vern Powers, Glenda Roach, Joseph Sorah

➤ **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

➤ **Frequency of issue** — Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

Printed on recycled paper



## IMB missionary dies in Niger

Baptist Press

NIAMEY, Niger — Harold McMichael, 66, a short-term Southern Baptist missionary to Niger, West Africa, died Jan. 20 after a short illness.

McMichael began suffering from nausea, chest pain, and breathing trouble after a ministry to Mali with other missionaries and volunteers. He was taken to a hospital in Niamey, Niger's capital, where he later died. The specific cause of death is not yet known.

McMichael, of Lebanon, Ky., and his wife, Jan, were serving a four-month assignment in Niger with International Service Corps, a short-term missions program of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

They arrived in Niger in early November and participated in agricultural and water development among the Songhai people. He helped improve water quality and increase crop production in the area. The McMichaels were planning to return to Niger for further service upon completion of their first assignment.

McMichael owned an Internet business, McMichael Enter-

## Pastor's son drowns; church in ...

— Continued from page 1

In other flood related damage, Union Valley Baptist Church in Etheridge, which sits in a floodplain and is built on three-foot pillars to protect it from flooding, sustained extensive water damage Jan. 23 from flash-floods from Big Creek, located within 100 yards of the church.

In addition to water damage, the church's propane heating tank washed away in the flooding. Church members and 40 other volunteers from neighboring Giles County Baptist Association churches began immediate clean-up by removing carpet and pews from the sanctuary. Besides damage to the church's sub-flooring, other damage occurred when the fellowship hall floor fell as the pillars were washed away from the church.

"The whole church is damaged," said Lloyd Blackwell, Volunteer Missions specialist.

"Appliances such as the refrigerator and freezer will all need to be replaced along with Sunday School room materials and office supplies," Blackwell said.

The church had finished the clean-up operation when the assessment team arrived. Re-



**DON DAVIS, center**, TBC Disaster Relief volunteer from Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, surveys flood damage at Union Valley Baptist Church in Etheridge with members David Risner, left, and Janice McElhiney.

pairs on the church have begun and early reports indicate the church insurance will not cover all the damage, he related.

A Disaster Relief assessment team surveyed the church and six flooded mobile homes outside the Wales community.

"At this time of publication, there are no additional Disaster Relief assistance requests," said Blackwell. ■

prises, and a 400-acre farm in Kentucky. He served as a deacon, taught Sunday School, and worked with youth at Lebanon Baptist Church. ■

## S.C. youth injured in Gatlinburg crash

Baptist Press

GATLINBURG — A tour bus carrying 40 members of a South Carolina church youth group crashed into a tree on a steep

mountain road here Jan. 20 injuring 11 people.

Police say the driver was traveling toward downtown Gatlinburg when the bus hit a utility pole and then plowed head-on into a tree. Several students were trapped inside the bus and emergency crews had to cut them out of the wreckage.

The driver and an 18-year-old passenger were airlifted to University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. The unidentified college freshman fractured a vertebrae. Nine oth-

er members of the church group were treated for minor injuries and released from the hospital.

The youth group was in Gatlinburg for an interdenominational youth rally. ■

## Shorter trustees rescind action

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Out of concern for preserving the relationship between Shorter College and the Georgia Baptist Convention, the executive committee of Shorter's board of trustees met Jan. 16 and rescinded earlier action it had taken to hand over control of the college to a newly-created Shorter College Foundation.

As reported in *The Christian Index* convention newsjournal, the earlier action was first reported to the convention's administration committee on Jan. 8. That announcement was met with great concern by convention officials who immediately withdrew Cooperative Program funding for the school.

A meeting was held Jan. 22 at the Baptist Center in Atlanta between Shorter trustees and members of the GBC administration committee. Both groups aired their concerns and apparently agreed to continue discussions in order to arrive at an agreeable consensus.

This latest action by the Shorter trustees seemingly returns the relationship between the college and convention back to status quo. Shorter officials still have issues related to trustee selection that they wish addressed and the convention leadership has agreed to establish an ad hoc committee with members from both groups to study the selection process. ■

## 'Souper Bowl of Caring'

### World Hunger Fund to benefit from Super Bowl event

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — On Super Bowl Sunday, churches across the nation will raise money for the poor by participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Meanwhile, Southern Baptists will be given an additional opportunity to raise money for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Southern Baptists are being urged to donate \$1 in large soup pots as they leave church on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, said Steve Nelson, Southern Baptists' director of hunger concerns and a staff member of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

One hundred percent of the money raised among Baptists will go directly to the World Hunger Fund, which supports ministry evangelism initiatives across the nation and world led by Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers.

"We want to specifically challenge youth groups and churches to take part in this Souper Bowl of Caring emphasis," said Nelson, a former Tennessee Baptist pastor.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nondenominational grassroots effort to raise awareness and funding for hunger ministries across the nation. The ministry was founded in 1990 by Presbyterian minister Brad Smith. Since then, more than 8,600 congregations have participated in

the annual event, including 600 Baptist churches in 1998.

The gifts do not go to the Souper Bowl organization, Nelson noted. Instead, individual congregations determine where to use the money for ministry.

Nelson said the Souper Bowl ministry's lone request is to call their office with the results.

The ERLC staffer said Souper Bowl is a perfect opportunity to promote the SBC's World Hunger Fund.

"I want to encourage each church to embrace this opportunity to support the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund in addition to local hunger ministries," Nelson said. "Hunger exists everywhere though we are often unaware of it in our own communities. A few canned goods that we will never miss can mean the difference for a child between a good meal and going hungry."

"The cash gifts go directly to the mission field to be used 100 percent for hunger ministry, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion," he emphasized.

To participate in the Souper Bowl Sunday event, call 1-800-358-SOUP or Nelson at (615) 244-2495. ■



**NELSON**

# Association's center helps needy in county

— Continued from page 1

ferred by a local United Way agency. The center's volunteers help an average of 25 families a day.

The association began the center, based at St. Elmo Avenue Church, 10 years ago. But it was mostly a summer ministry until Thornbury became the director, reported David Myers, director of missions of Hamilton County Baptist Association, based here.

### Regular ministries

The front door of the HaCoBACare Center is constantly creaking open or closing with a thump Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

In a large room people move about with boxes as others look at clothes on racks and others enter and exit adjoining rooms.

The center's staff provides food, outer garments, toys, some household items, conversational English classes, health screenings, and computer training. And each client is told how to become a Christian, said Thornbury.

In December, 31 people made professions of faith during counseling sessions held with each client, reported Thornbury. The new Christians are referred to Baptist churches near their homes.

The center helps people referred by the United Way agency and Baptist churches. The staff restricts help to once each 30 days by keeping computer records on clients, explained Thornbury, which ensures good stewardship of resources.

Those resources are given mainly by Baptists. For instance, a Baptist man has given the ministry a butchered cow two years in a row. And Baptist individuals and groups participate in the center's Adopt-A-Product Club which leads them to provide food or money once a month.

Other food comes from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, which has surplus perishable food, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and grocery stores. The stores have perishable items which must be thrown away or given away, said Thornbury. Those items are still good for several days.

What is amazing, said Myers, is that local Baptists not only give most of the items needed for the ministry, but they also give most of the funding for the center over and above their regular tithes. The association only budgets \$6,000 a year for the center. All of the workers, about 60 people, are volunteers.

### Different ministries

To meet the needs of clients besides food and clothing, St. Elmo Avenue Church members teach about 20 people conversational English each Wednesday evening. Once a month health care workers screen people for high blood pressure and AIDS. And the center has just begun offering a computer class three afternoons each week.

The health service was developed by Joe Everett of Memorial Baptist Church, Hixson. Everett is retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority, where he organized health services for employees. Because of the responsiveness of the local health department and hospitals, other offerings including education will be



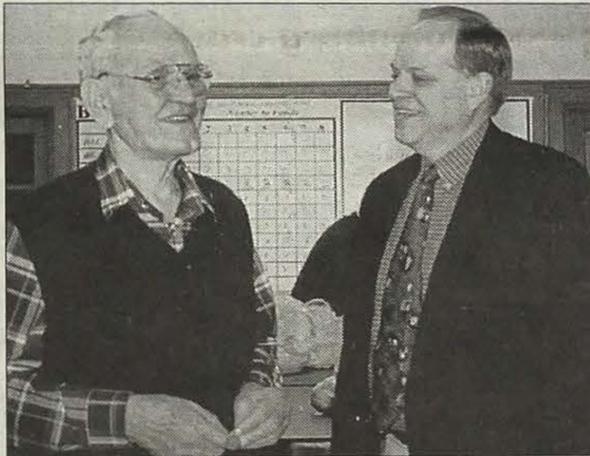
**PARTICIPATING** in a computer class at the HaCoBACare Center are volunteers at the center and others who learned about the class. Teachers are brothers A.R. Harrison, left, Chamberlain Memorial Baptist Church, Chattanooga, and Bill Harrison, Alpine Baptist Church, Chattanooga. Students are, from left, Helen and Stanley Smith; Troy Wilson; Betty Parsons, and Wanda Alexander.

provided soon, he said.

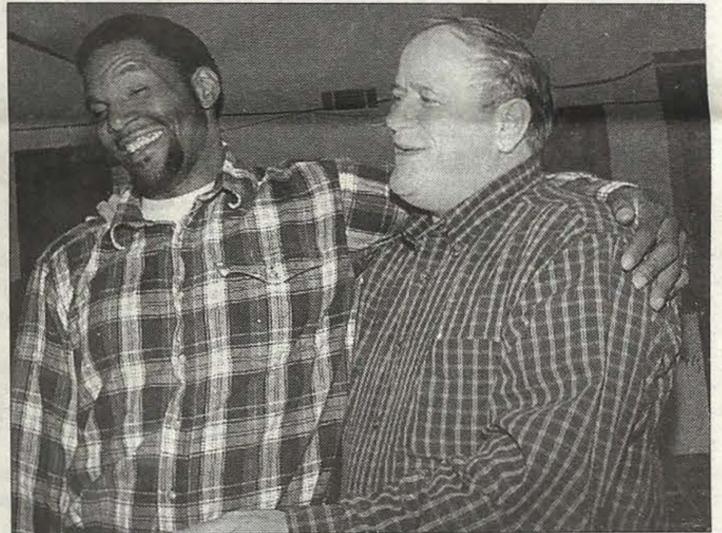
### Needs seen

Last fall Everett arranged for flu shots to be offered two days at the center. Fifty-two people received the shots. He guessed most of the recipients were from the neighborhood

since that was the only community informed about the service. Flyers were distributed by youth of St. Elmo Avenue Church in the neighborhood and by vol-



**R.C. THORNBURY**, left, director of HaCoBACare Center visits with David Myers, director of missions, Hamilton County Baptist Association, sponsor of the center.



**ENJOYING THE** friendship they have developed at the center are volunteers Lonnie Hood, left, of the St. Elmo community and Joe Christopher of Stuart Heights Baptist Church, Chattanooga.



**A LADY VISITING** the center shows her delight as she models a coat which fits her. Helen Smith, a volunteer at the center and a member of Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, looks on.



**UNLOADING BAKED** goods picked up from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga by Doug Parsons, second from left, of Stuart Heights Baptist Church, Chattanooga, are R.C. Thornbury, left, director of the center; and Troy Wilson, Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga.



unteers in businesses.

Many people who received the shots were frail, making Everett wonder if they would have traveled out of the area to receive the immunization.

"I felt very good about that (effort)," said Everett.

Bill Davis, volunteer from Stuart Heights Church, presents the plan of salvation to clients. He sees more response from people than he saw in a prison ministry he worked with, he reported.

He hears a lot of sad stories, said Davis. Many people who come to the center are unable mentally to handle a job, can't read or write, don't have work experience to help them get or keep a job, or have family problems. For instance, single parents with four or five children often have trouble working, Davis explained.

"There are a lot of needs out there," said Thornbury. ■

# Take the lottery challenge at your church

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

During the recent meeting of the TBC Executive Board, Paul Durham, chairman of the lottery subcommittee, encouraged pastors to see where their churches stand in regard to the lottery.

He asked them to pass out 3x5 index cards one Sunday morning to their congregations and ask them, with no explanation or coaching: "If the vote to have a lottery in Tennessee was held today, would you vote yes (favoring a lottery) or no (against a lottery). It wouldn't be necessary for people to sign the cards, Durham noted.

The Nashville pastor suggested those cards be taken up and tallied. More than likely, he predicted, you will discover that 60 percent or more of the people who vote will favor a lottery. In a few months, after churches have had an opportunity to educate their members about the downside of gambling and a state-supported lottery, he suggested the congregation be polled again.

I would like to extend that challenge to every church in the state. Find out where your people stand. You may be surprised. But polls already taken in Tennessee indicate a lot of Christians throughout the state favor a lottery. If you take this challenge, let the *Baptist & Reflector* know the results.

Most people see nothing wrong with purchasing one or two lottery tickets. They fail to connect lottery tickets with gambling. The plain simple truth is that purchasing a lottery ticket with no guarantee of receiving something in return is gambling.

What's more, all the promises and guarantees from lottery proponents simply do not live up to actual facts. Even more important is the fact that the lottery targets the people who can least afford tickets.

Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance has produced a handout entitled "101 Things You Should Know About the Lottery." Here is just a sampling of true facts about the lottery. All are documented and

can be substantiated.

➤ A 1998 Georgia State University survey found that Georgia families earning less than \$25,000 a year spend two to three times as much on the lottery as a percentage of their income than households earning \$50,000 or more.

➤ A Texas A&M study revealed that Texas' poorest citizens earn only two percent of the state's total income, yet buy 10 percent of the state's lottery tickets.

➤ The 32 Colorado counties with the highest per-capita lottery sales all have per-capita income levels below the state average.

➤ A state-run lottery won't prevent children from participating illegally. In Massachusetts, 47.1 percent of seventh graders and 74.6 percent of high school seniors have managed to purchase a lottery ticket.

➤ Rather than pump money into the economy, lotteries actually draw money out, as people buy tickets with money they otherwise might have spent at pre-existing businesses. A survey of 1,200 California stores taken by the California Grocers Association reported an average decline in food sales of 7 percent since the imposition of the California Lottery.

➤ States only get about a third of all lottery revenues. Thus, for Tennessee to get the often-projected \$200 million in lottery money, Tennessee businesses will have to forego over \$600 million in sales revenues. On top of that, state government will miss out on \$36 million in sales tax revenues.

➤ For all the hype about lottery revenues, actual contributions to state budgets are very small, ranging from 4.07 percent of total state revenues in Georgia to a mere 0.41 percent in New Mexico in 1997.

These are just a few of the facts. During the months remaining between now and Nov. 5 when Tennessee voters will go to the polls to decide the matter, you will read more about this matter on the pages of the *Baptist and Reflector*. We will begin soon a

regular column entitled "Lottery Facts" which you are encouraged to clip out and keep for reference. Later this summer we are planning a special stand-alone, magazine-format publication dealing solely with the lottery issue. The *Baptist and Reflector* is going to do everything possible to help tell the true story about the lottery and its potential consequences.

We join the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its Executive Board, both of which have taken a strong stand against this evil which, if allowed to infiltrate our state, can cause a great deal of harm.

At this point, most everyone is predicting the lottery proponents will win the vote in November. If Tennessee Baptists and other Christians will take up the battle, we can win. It happened in Alabama. It can happen in our state. It will take a lot of money and a lot of prayer. Experts say it will take a minimum of \$1.5 million from Christians in Tennessee to combat the millions of dollars that gambling supporters will pour into media campaigns.

One of the strategies for the convention is to work through our local Baptist associations in the state. Each association has been asked to develop a local network and plan to organize their own communities to help defeat the lottery. Find out what is going on in your own association and see how you can assist locally.

Tennessee Baptists also will be asked through their local associations to help fund this effort. The TBC has joined forces with Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance. You can contribute funds to help defeat the lottery directly through the TBC Executive Board, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

No matter the outcome in November, let's all be able to hold our heads high when it's over and say we did our very best.

Tennessee does not need the lottery. We are one of only three states in the country without any form of gambling. Let's keep it that way! **B&R**



## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

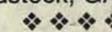
Calhoun First Baptist, a mission minded church with average worship attendance of 200, seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume and a cover letter stating your interest to P.O. Box 175, Calhoun, TN 37309.



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., Harriman, 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 50 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.



Executive pastor sought to support the senior pastor, oversee the ministerial staff, and implement the vision of moving members to ministry. First Baptist Church is located in Blue Springs, Missouri (a growing Kansas City suburb). We have a weekly attendance of 1,000+, 32 active ministries, and a community resource center. Forward resume to James Howell, Search Committee Chairman, FBC, 1405 Main St., Blue Springs, MO 64015. No phone calls, please.

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Church averaging 275 in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 535, Bruce, MS 38915, or fax to (662) 983-2177.

## A good first impression is an impression of Christ

### prayer matters

by Don Pierson  
TBC prayer specialist



It was not the first time that I left a sour taste with someone. Sometimes it is as simple as laughing at the wrong place or appearing at a formal meeting dressed down because I thought it was to be informal. My list of ruined first impressions goes on and on.

Just a few months ago, I was in Belize with a group of 29 mission volunteers. I am driving a small bus. I take a side road. No problem, I know where I am going. The road is a little narrower than I remembered. A vehicle tries to pass, and I am squeezed between it and a four foot ditch filled with raw sewerage.

Just as gentle as you please, the bank gives way and the bus rolls over on its side in the slime. To make things worse, we are in front of a church where a political rally is being held. Several hundred people swarm the bus. Not a good first impression.

Then there is my new job, ministry specialist. Who can live up to that title? And then to make it worse, prayer is connected to it. Some have called me the prayer specialist. Me? Now that is a title to live up to. I

don't do well at first, second, third, or even last impressions. In fact, it seems the harder I try, the worse impression I leave. I imagine that I am not alone.

What about in my relationship with God? I know I am to be a God-pleaser instead of a man-pleaser. But I find myself trying so hard to be something before God that I am not. I forget that God commended His love toward me while Don Pierson was a sinner. Christ died for me just as I am.

In prayer and worship, I find myself trying to wear so many masks that I forget who I really am and what I am about. Sometimes I do a good job at convincing others in worship and in prayer that I am someone that I am not.

But all of a sudden, the realization comes to me that this is not about them, and it is not about me. It is about God. We all wear enough masks as it is without getting into the habit of doing it before God. The masks must come off before God.

Genuineness before Him is what He desires. I need to leave

an impression, an impression of Christ. My problem is my flesh strives for preeminence.

I want to forget all that lies behind and blaze forward toward the one who loves me as I am. No, I don't think God wants me to stay the same. But He does want me to be real. Who will I try to impress today? Which mask will I wear today?

I will be glad when seeking to impress is no longer my goal but loving and serving Him drives me.

Two Scriptures come to mind: Romans 12:1-3 and Matthew 15:8. Especially verse 3 which says, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Matthew 15:8, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." As we gather in prayer and in worship this week may our hearts be near unto Him and our masks set aside. ■

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptist missions volunteers

# UPDATE

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

## From the Group Leader

Volunteers continue to make a difference in missions. After writing some material for one of our missions agencies, I am reminded of the diversity of missionary involvement of Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists.

Our career missionaries are doing everything from fitting people for eye-glasses in Honduras to developing "True Love Waits" in Zimbabwe. In the states, missionaries are working with juvenile offenders in California, teaching people to snow ski in Tennessee, and working with hotel employees in Florida. The missionary work of Southern Baptists is diverse.



BEARDEN

It is interesting to note that almost every work of our career missionaries is strengthened because of volunteers. For example in Rio de Janeiro this past year, over 8,000 people in the urban poor areas came to know Jesus in one of our TBC partnerships. In Canada, churches were built, in Portugal teachers learned how to better teach Sunday School, all because of volunteers.

After Sept. 11, 2001, a lot of people were asking, "What can I do to help?" They wanted to know what they could physically do as a volunteer to make a difference. To date the North American Mission Board can account for over 15,000 volunteer days served in New York City and Washington, D.C. Tennessee Baptists account for over 2,000 of those volunteer days. Volunteers are finding ways to make a difference. Some are working in their communities.

It's time to plan your first mission trip as a volunteer or plan your next trip. To borrow a phrase from a recent commercial, have you been a mission volunteer lately? ■

*Jim*



SOUTHERN BAPTISTS were some of the first Disaster Relief teams to arrive on the scene after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City.

## Volunteer opportunities are available

For "TBVMN Update"

With the formation of the Volunteer Missions Team of the Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group, a listing of Tennessee volunteer opportunities is now available to you and your church.

Call our toll free phone number to receive a listing of exciting missions opportunities. Opportunities range in length from a weekend, a week, a summer, or longer.

### Types of projects available are:

- Vacation Bible School

- Backyard Bible Clubs
- creative arts presentations
- resort ministries
- inner-city ministries
- rural ministries
- construction
- sports clinics
- food and clothing distribution

### Projects exist for:

- Youth Groups
- Adults
- Senior Adults
- Individuals
- College

### Need a Volunteer?

Contact the Volunteers Mis-

sions Team for a Volunteer Missions Project Request Form. Let us help you communicate with potential volunteers.



For a listing of Tennessee Volunteer Missions opportunities, call Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist, or Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions ministry assistant. (See page 6 for phone numbers and e-mail addresses of TBC MAM staff.) ■

## Tennessee volunteers make state missions

By Larry Kirk, Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group Leader

For "TBVMN Update"

Tennessee volunteers can be found across the world doing short-term mission work, and I'm grateful this world includes Tennessee. With three out of five Tennesseans unchurched, there are abundant opportunities to carry out God's call upon our lives.

These mission opportunities

include ongoing ministries such as those project needs in Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) and Mississippi River Ministry (MRM). There are mission opportunities in the Multi-housing arena — Big A Clubs or clinics such as Mothering Skills, Financial, Auto Maintenance Scheduling.



KIRK

There are construction needs for new church starts. Every area has home repair needs. God has something for every one.

The Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group is grateful to be partners with the Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group in both our efforts to connect volunteers with mission projects here and around the world. ■

## Catching the missionary vision

By James Porch, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention  
For "TBVMN Update"

Tennessee Baptist voluntary mission action has enabled a vanguard of volunteers to serve in missions. For over two decades thousands of members of Tennessee Baptist churches have journeyed literally around the world to effectively share the mission of Christ.

Acts 16 includes the narration of Paul's trip from Troas to Philippi, a journey of response to his Macedonian



PORCH

vision. The action of going enabled the missionary to move from vision to focus.

Evidentially at some point Paul moved beyond the dream to focus on the purpose for his vision. The trip from vision to focus in missions requires intentional effort. Paul and others reported, "Immediately we sought."

Here readiness to serve joined with conviction of faith as they "concluded God had called us to preach the Gospel to them." Somewhere along the sea route the group recognized the importance of defined focus as they "ran a straight course."

Arriving in Philippi the volunteer mission party began ministry focusing on a place of prayer. Subsequently the remainder of Acts 16 narrates a mosaic of mission actions and recorded responses to the shared Gospel.

Like Paul and the group, Tennessee Baptists have moved from vision to focus and experienced the joy of real missions. ■

## Collegiate Summer Missionaries

For "TBVMN Update"

Collegiate summer missionaries are students who have completed their freshman year in college and are available to serve in the summer for up to 10 weeks. Opportunities are available nationally and internationally for college students.

### International (Options)

#### ► BCM

Students who serve through their state collegiate missions program normally receive some or full financial support. Students serving internationally provide \$1,000 toward expenses. The balance of travel, shots, passport, visa, insurance, and in-country expenses are provided. For an application or available positions, contact your local BCM minister or Collegiate Program specialist Jennie Peery.

#### ► IMB/Partnership Missions

Students applying directly to IMB/Partnership Missions are responsible for the bulk of their expenses. Students provide their own travel funds and insurance. In some instances, the student is responsible for part of the expenses on the field.

For more information and a

list of avail-

able positions, contact Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist, or Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions ministry assistant.

### National (Options)

#### ► BCM/NAMB

Students, who serve through their state collegiate missions program or NAMB, receive travel funds, a stipend, and insurance for each student. A stipend is provided by the Collegiate Mission fund, raised by BSUs, for positions of four weeks or longer. The local field to which a student is assigned is responsible for housing, meals, and local transportation while the student is serving.

For an application or additional information, contact Peery.

#### ► Partnership

Students who serve in a partnership project will have travel funds, insurance, housing, meals, and local transportation provided by NAMB while the student is serving.

For additional information and list of available projects, contact Huff or Wilson. ■

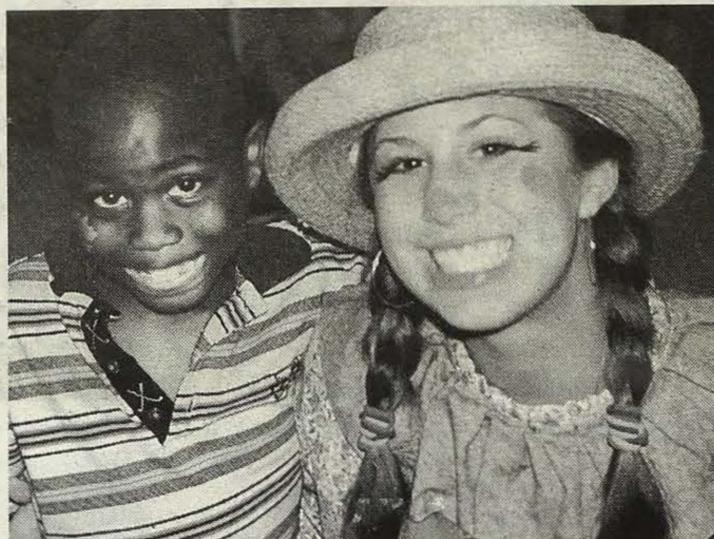


For "TBVMN Update"

Looking for a short term missions volunteer opportunity for the teenage girls in your church? Acteens Activators is just the program.

Acteens Activators is a volunteer program of missions involvement for Acteen girls and their sponsors. Through involvement, Activators have the opportunity to touch lives in the name of Christ through VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, inner-city ministries, ethnic ministries, ministries to the elderly, personal witnessing, resort ministries, ministries to youth and children, and at camps.

Each year missionaries request Activator groups because of the training they receive. There is a minimum of 65 hours of required training. There is also a required training weekend usually scheduled the last



**ACTEEN ACTIVATOR** Erica Rockwell of Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville, works with a new friend at the Savannah Baptist Center in Savannah, Georgia.

weekend of February, sponsored by the state WMU where teams meet other teams, fellowship, exchange ideas, and receive 15 hours of their training. The training includes: personal Bible study, personal witness training, project preparation, and cultural study. The Activator team is responsible for financing their own trip.

Acteens Activators is often the change agent as teenage girls decide to live a missions ministry lifestyle. They discover the world around them and the needs in their own backyards.

Another volunteer program of missions involvement for older Acteens is Acteens Activators Abroad, sponsored by the state and national WMU in cooperation with the International Mission Board.

Activators Abroad must meet all the requirements of Acteens Activators plus be: at least 16 years old or have completed tenth grade; and able to serve at least two weeks. The team must include one adult and two Acteens who have had one year or more experience in the Activator program.

### Requirements for Activators are:

- be an active Acteen
- be at least 15 years old or have completed the ninth grade

Activator applications are available from the state WMU office and are due Jan. 31. This program is sponsored by state and national WMU in cooperation with the North American Mission Board. Contact state WMU ministry specialist Amanda Day for applications. ■



## Student Semester Missionaries

For "TBVMN Update"

Students usually serve 15-20 weeks in the fall or winter/spring term. Students may extend for additional terms if requested by the local supervisor and approved by NAMB.

Semester missionaries assist local churches, campus ministries, area ministries, and North American missionaries. Their work involves helping in community ministries, ministering to teenagers, campus

ministry, or assisting churches in outreach programs.

### Requirements are:

- have completed sophomore year in college
- round trip transportation from home or school to the field is provided along with room and board, insurance, and stipend
- actively involved in a Baptist church
- deadline Nov. 1 and July 1

For additional information or to apply, contact Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist, or find a complete listing of needs for 2002 on the Internet at [www.studentz.com](http://www.studentz.com). ■



For "TBVMN Update"

High school students serve as Sojourners — summer missions volunteers in the United States and Canada. A Sojourner serves four to 10 weeks during the summer. They work in pairs, on teams with other Sojourners, or with college-age student summer missionaries.

They serve primarily in inner-city Baptist Centers, outreach programs, new church work settings, and resort areas. Sojourners serve under the supervision of missionaries or pastors who assign responsibilities and give directions.

Sojourners must be actively involved in a Southern Baptist church, display a genuine commitment to Jesus Christ expressed in a desire to work hard and pursue spiritual growth.

### Qualifications are:

- junior or senior year of high school completed
- Christian maturity and unquestionable character

## Sojourners



- an interest in missions
- good health
- parental approval and support
- single

### Expenses are:

- housing, meals, and transportation on the field are provided by the place of service.

► transportation to and from the assignment location is provided by NAMB.

► Sojourners serve without pay. The application deadline is March 10.

► NAMB provides limited insurance coverage, but it assumes no other financial obligations.

For more information or an application, contact Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist, or find a complete listing of needs for 2002 on the Internet at [www.studentz.com](http://www.studentz.com). ■

### Contacting TBC Staff

- Tim Bearden, (615) 371-2026, [tbearden@tnbaptist.org](mailto:tbearden@tnbaptist.org)
- Lloyd Blackwell, (615) 371-7927, [lblackwell@tnbaptist.org](mailto:lblackwell@tnbaptist.org)
- Kim Huff, (615) 371-2021, [khuff@tnbaptist.org](mailto:khuff@tnbaptist.org)
- Marcia Knox, (615) 371-2089, [mknnox@tnbaptist.org](mailto:mknnox@tnbaptist.org)
- Heather Wilson, (615) 371-2061, [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org)
- Erin Israel, (615) 371-7935, [eisrael@tnbaptist.org](mailto:eisrael@tnbaptist.org)
- Bernie Baker, (615) 371-7925, [bbaker@tnbaptist.org](mailto:bbaker@tnbaptist.org)
- Amanda Day, (615) 371-7919, [aday@tnbaptist.org](mailto:aday@tnbaptist.org)
- Leighann McCoy, (615) 371-7920, [lmccoy@tnbaptist.org](mailto:lmccoy@tnbaptist.org)
- Don Pierson, (615) 371-7909, [dpierson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:dpierson@tnbaptist.org)
- Beverly Smothers, (615) 371-2044, [bsmothers@tnbaptist.org](mailto:bsmothers@tnbaptist.org)
- Jennie Peery, (615) 371-2056, [jpeery@tnbaptist.org](mailto:jpeery@tnbaptist.org)

Outside the toll-free calling area, call 1-800-558-2090. ■

For "TBVMN Update"

Innovators are college students who participate in short-term missions service while working in secular jobs to support themselves. Innovators open many opportunities for witness with the secular world.

Resort areas are the prime targets. Year-round work is possible as are other short-term assignments during the school year.

### Expenses are:

- students are responsible for

their transportation to and from their places of service and for local room and board.

► the local supervisor assists in providing or locating employment and low-cost housing.

► NAMB provides limited health and accident insurance coverage.



### Requirements are:

- schedules usually include 40 hours on the secular job and 8-10 hours of supervised ministry on the missions field

- one completed year of college

- deadline to apply is March 10

For an application or additional information, contact Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist. Or find a complete listing of needs for 2002 on the Internet at [www.studentz.com](http://www.studentz.com). ■

## Campers on Mission

For "TBVMN Update"

Tennessee Campers on Mission (COM) is an active chapter of the international fellowship of Christian campers who desire to share their faith as they go. The Tennessee chapter meets twice a year in the spring and fall. Qualifications are:

- Christian campers of all denominations
- No dues or membership fees
- Willingness to join other campers in fellowship and service

Mission opportunities include:

- Backyard Bible Clubs
- Vacation Bible School
- camp-ground ministries
- mission fairs
- evangelism
- construction



Contact COM state president and secretary, Ralph and Glenda Tate, at 731-847-2839, or Beverly Smothers, Church/Community Ministries specialist. ■

## Appalachian Regional Ministry

For "TBVMN Update"

Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) is an intentional missions response to the spiritual and physical needs of persons in the Appalachian region. Mission opportunities are:

- church starts
- Vacation Bible School
- Backyard Bible Clubs
- construction



- literacy missions
- evangelism
- medical missions

Christian Women's Job Corps

marketing Appalachian crafts

Contact Kelly Campbell, ARM coordinator, at 865-982-0499 or Beverly Smothers, Church/Community Ministries specialist. ■

## Mississippi River Ministry

For "TBVMN Update"

Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) seeks to impact lostness touching poverty in the name of Jesus Christ in an area of West Tennessee between the Mississippi and the Tennessee Rivers. Mission opportunities are:

- Backyard Bible Clubs
- Vacation Bible School
- food pantry
- clothes closet
- multi-housing ministry
- mentoring

- literacy
- job skills
- ESL
- Christian Women's Job Corps
- house rehabilitation/construction
- health clinics



Contact Randy Pool, MRM coordinator, at 731-855-2470 or Beverly Smothers, Church/Community Ministries specialist. ■

## Prayer and Missions

For "TBVMN Update"

The Prayer Strategies Team is committed to identifying, enlisting, inspiring, and equipping mission intercessors. Mission opportunities are:

- Volunteering on Partnership prayer mission trips
- Attending a Great Commission Prayer Conference
- Attending church or association prayer development workshops
- Starting a church or an association prayer ministry
- Adopting an unreached people group
- Calling the TBC prayerline (1-800-TBC-PRAY) weekly for



prayer requests

- Receiving the Volunteer Missions Prayer Requests

newsletter

- Becoming a part of the TBC Intercessor's Email Prayer Chain
- Giving to World Hunger
- Scheduling a "Praying for Missions" conference at your church or association

For information, training, or resources, contact Don Pierson, Prayer Strategies specialist, or Bernie Baker, Prayer Strategies ministry assistant. ■

## Missions Projects

For "TBVMN Update"

Opportunities exist as never before for Tennessee Baptists to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost world. These opportunities are available for age groups spanning youth to retired people.

Through Volunteer Missions, Tennessee has partnered with Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Canada; Portugal; and Iowa. Volunteers can serve from a few days up to four months.

Volunteer Missions offers hands-on missions experiences in a prepackaged approach where all the logistics of travel, lodging, meals, construction, and other ministry related items are provided. We work in partnership with our missionaries and national leadership in providing strategic projects.

**Volunteer Missions opportunities include:**

- evangelism
- church planting
- construction
- medical
- music
- social ministries
- church development
- Vacation Bible Schools
- Backyard Bible Clubs
- creative ministries (drama, puppets, mime, clowning)
- sports evangelism (basketball, volleyball, soccer)



These opportunities represent only a few of the many options.

**Volunteers Missions requirements are:**

- personal commitment to Jesus Christ
- a willingness to work
- readiness to witness to faith in Christ
- flexibility
- active membership and participation in a Southern Baptist church
- 15 years of age and older (international missions projects)
- good health

### Youth/Student Mission Groups

Projects are available year round to groups of all ages from junior high through college. The length of projects can be one week or as short as a weekend. State, national, and international projects are available.

Projects may include Backyard Bible Clubs, VBS, construction, sports evangelism, etc. Projects are available in resort, inner city, new church work, and construction work.

For a list of available projects contact Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist, or Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions ministry assistant.

### Customized Projects

Did you know that we could assist you with a customized project? If we do not have projects that fit your interests, age group, or available dates, then allow us to work with the missionaries and nationals to customize a project that is right for you. We can help

you even if you feel led to go to a country that is not one of our partnership countries.

To customize projects contact Huff or Wilson.

### Training

#### International Missions Training Institute

A. Cross Cultural Training — A total of 12 hours of intensive training is offered to volunteers serving on international mission trips. A joint effort for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the International Mission Board, topics include Cross Cultural Communication, Culture Shock, Engaging Other Religions, and other pertinent information.

B. Team Leader Training — A training event designed to prepare team leaders to effectively lead a team on a volunteer short-term mission trip. The training will offer study in your mission, building your team, funding your mission project, training your team, getting there — flights, travel arrangements, etc., security, planning your strategy, preparing to return home, and debriefing.

**Partnership Orientation** — Orientation is offered to volunteers going to one of our partnership countries. This orientation includes Country Information, Travel Information, Customs of the Land, Working through an Interpreter, Insurance, the Religious Climate, and Witnessing to name a few.

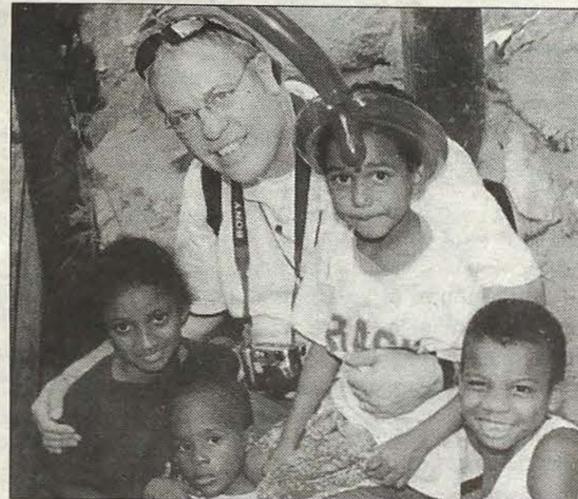
**Supervision Workshop 1, 2** — Each year, special training is offered to individuals who supervise missionary staff. Workshop topics include: The Ministry of Supervision, Models of Supervision, Covenants, Styles of Supervision, and Accountability.

### Resources

Our team wants your mission trip to be a successful one. Let us help you find language materials such as the film, "Jesus," Bibles, and tracts to assist you in your ministry. In addition to the language materials, we can also provide you with information on any country in the world where you may be planning to serve.

For training contact Lloyd Blackwell, Volunteer Missions specialist or Erin Israel, Volunteer Missions ministry assistant.

For orientation, contact Huff or Wilson. ■



WORKING with children in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is Bruce Edwards, TBC youth specialist.

## On Mission Celebrations

For "TBVMN Update"

On Mission Celebrations (OMC), formerly known as World Mission Conferences, have assisted associations, churches, and individuals for many years in igniting the fires of missions.

An OMC will lead associations, churches, and individuals to celebrate God's activity and victories through leading Southern Baptists to be on mission with God, to anticipate their role in God's mission, and to participate by committing to be on mission with Him.

The OMC introduces international and North American missionaries, state missionaries, and local on mission Christians and highlights continuing missions opportunities and needs.

An OMC offers a festive and energetic atmosphere in which the Southern Baptist vision and commitment

to missions is communicated in a compelling manner and individuals are encouraged to examine their personal commitments.

The benefits of an OMC are:

- Emphasizes the biblical basis of missions
- Personalizes missions
- Leads churches to broaden their missions commitment
- Strengthens financial support of missions
- Inspires a deeper commitment to pray for missions and missionaries

For information, contact Don Pierson, Prayer Strategist specialist, or Bernie Baker, Prayer Strategist ministry assistant. ■



## Disaster Relief

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is Christian love in action, and meeting urgent needs of hurting humanity in crisis situations. Volunteers respond to disasters in a variety of ways. Disaster services involve providing personnel, equipment, and supplies.

**A few ways volunteers can be involved:**

- ▶ advisory/advocacy
- ▶ airlift kitchens
- ▶ chainsaw crew

- ▶ childcare
- ▶ clean-up team (mudouts or debris pickup)
- ▶ counseling/pastoral care
- ▶ elder care
- ▶ water purification
- ▶ evacuating
- ▶ feeding
- ▶ reconstruction

**Requirements are:**

- ▶ contact state Disaster Relief director
- ▶ complete necessary training

(Tennessee offers on-going training)

- ▶ be ready to serve
- ▶ Southern Baptists, male or female

For information and future training dates contact Lloyd Blackwell, Volunteer Missions specialist. ■



## International Service Corps

Persons serving in International Service Corps (ISC) spend from four months to two years on the international missions field meeting priority needs in support of Southern Baptist missionaries.

ISC volunteers fill requests for teachers, youth workers, health care professionals, secretaries, and other critical assignments.

**Requirements are:**

- ▶ have a sense of God's leadership
- ▶ have education, skills and/or experience to match the job request
- ▶ be at least 21 years old
- ▶ be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- ▶ be an active member of a Southern Baptist Convention church for at least two years

International Mission Board funds are available on an as-needed basis up to full support.

You may choose to provide part or all of your support.

Contact Lloyd Blackwell, Volunteer Missions specialist. Or contact the International Mission Board at 1-800-789-4693, or the Internet address at [isc@imb.org](mailto:isc@imb.org). ■



**WORKING ON THE** State Disaster Relief Feeding Unit in New York City near ground zero were 14 teams of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers.

## Mission Service Corps



Missions Service Corps (MSC) enlists adult volunteers who will

provide their own expenses and serve at least 20 hours per week for four months or longer in home missions and evangelism areas.

**MSC volunteers serve as:**

- ▶ church staff

- ▶ apartment ministers
- ▶ student directors
- ▶ literacy missionaries
- ▶ camp cooks
- ▶ chaplains
- ▶ church and community ministry coordinators
- ▶ teachers
- ▶ church starters
- ▶ church construction workers
- ▶ resort workers

These opportunities represent only a few of the many categories of service.

**What Are Tentmakers?**

Tentmakers are MSC volunteers who fund their ministry often through employment. Tentmakers have an impact on a community not only through their ministry, but also through their jobs.

To obtain an MSC application or for additional information, contact Lloyd Blackwell, Volunteer Missions specialist, or Erin Israel, Volunteer Missions ministry specialist. ■

## Enterprisers/Enterprisers Abroad/ MissionsFest/FamilyFest

MissionsFest, FamilyFest, Enterprisers, and Enterprisers Abroad, sponsored by the state and national WMU office in cooperation with the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board, provide women an opportunity to be involved in home and foreign missions volunteer ministries.

Tennessee has the privilege of being one of the sites for MissionsFest and FamilyFest this summer. FamilyFest July 10-13 in Chattanooga will offer families an opportunity to participate in a missions trip together.

MissionsFest is for adults and will also be held in Chattanooga July 14-20. Contact the WMU office

for more information about either of these mission opportunities.

The Enterprisers team participates in 50 hours of training. This training includes team building, witness training, spiritual development, cross-cultural training, ministry training, and Baptist doctrine. A plan for training is available from the state WMU office.

Contact the state WMU office for more information about these projects. Contact WMU ministry specialist Leighann McCoy for applications and training plans. ■



## Journeyman

The Journeyman program is available for single college graduates, who are willing to commit to two years of service overseas.

Journeyman serve along side career missionaries filling a variety of assignments.

**Applicants must be:**

- ▶ growing Christians with a sense of God's leadership
- ▶ single
- ▶ at least 21, but under 30 prior to Journeyman training
- ▶ graduates of an accredited

four-year college or university

- ▶ active member of a Southern Baptist church.

For more information, contact Lloyd Blackwell, Volunteer Missions specialist. For applications, contact International Mission Board at 1-800-999-3113 or use the Internet address at [journeyman@imb.org](mailto:journeyman@imb.org). ■



## News, Reports, Photos Solicited

Submit Volunteer Missions stories, photos, and reports to Marcia Knox, MAM Communications Assistant. ■

## Contacting TBC Staff

For phone numbers and e-mail addresses, see page 6. ■

as bivocational pastor

# McLaurin finds time for many avenues of service

Donnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

GLADEVILLE — Like most bivocational pastors, Willie McLaurin's plate is full.

McLaurin, however, not only juggles his secular career with his calling as a minister, along with his family life, he has accepted additional responsibilities.

McLaurin is a resident of the recently formed Tennessee Baptist African American Fellowship and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Bivocational Ministry Council. He was one of the guest preachers during the recent Bivocational Pastors' Conference at Gladeville Baptist Church here.

How does he do it? Time management is the key, Mc-

Laurin stressed.

"I try to allocate hours for certain tasks," McLaurin said, noting he depends heavily on his calendar to make sure he is where he is supposed to be.

For instance, Thursday nights are set aside solely for he and his wife, Antonia, who also has a professional career as a systems support specialist for Corrections Corporation of America.

"She is very supportive of my ministry," McLaurin said.

What makes McLaurin's situation "tricky" at times is that he lives in Clarksville, works in Nashville, and serves as pastor of Greater Hope Baptist Church in Union City, approximately 135 miles from his home.

McLaurin preaches at Greater Hope every Sunday and goes up on Saturdays two weekends a month for meetings with deacons, trustees, and other groups and to do visitation.

One of the things that makes the ministry run smoothly at

Greater Hope is the concept of shared vision, said McLaurin, who was licensed to preach in 1995 and later served as an assistant pastor at Greater Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksville under the leadership of Willie Freeman.

"We reject the practice of the minister doing all the ministry," McLaurin said. "We take a shared ministry approach and try to empower our people."

He noted the church tries to "reproduce" every leadership position in the church.

McLaurin also noted that Greater Hope knew he was bivocational when they called him as pastor more than a year ago. "It is important they understand the limitations of a bivocational pastor," he observed.

"I try to help them understand that I'm there to empower them, not babysit them," McLaurin added.

Being bivocational has been a boost to the church financially because they were unable to af-

ford a fully funded position when he became pastor, McLaurin said.

The church, which was averaging around 20 when he came, now has about 100 each Sunday. What's more, the only African American church in Beulah Baptist Association has become "multi-cultural," McLaurin said, noting the last five-six members have been Anglo Americans.

McLaurin admitted it does get physically tiring at times when making the 135-mile, one-way commute. "But, I tell people that a church that is alive is worth the drive," he said with a grin.

McLaurin is happy with his calling as a bivocational minister and has no plans to change "until the Lord tells me otherwise."

He noted the primary difference between bivocational and "full-time" pastors is being "fully funded" or not.

"The responsibilities of bivo-

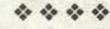


cational and full-time pastors are still the same. "You accept that when you accept the call," McLaurin observed. ■

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

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



McLAURIN

What is the Relevance of Worship in Today's World?

## Worship Today

February 12, 2002 • 9:30 a.m.



### Featuring:

Dr. Marva Dawn • Regent College  
Vancouver, Washington

Dr. Ronald L. Bobo, Sr. • Senior Pastor  
West Side Missionary Baptist Church  
St. Louis, Missouri

### Topics of Discussion:

- How Do Frightful, Menacing, Grievous Times Change Our Worship?
- How Does Worship Change Frightful, Menacing, Grievous Times?
- African-American Worship
- Panel Discussion with Drs. Dawn and Bobo

Contact the Louis & Mary Charlotte Ball  
Institute for Church Music at  
**(865) 471-3328**  
to reserve your space.

Sessions at:  
Jefferson City's  
First Baptist Church  
and Carson-Newman College



Dr. Marva Dawn



Dr. Ronald L. Bobo, Sr.

\* FREE lunch and dinner included for worship leaders  
with reservations made by Monday, February 4



Prof and John

### Time to Schedule Special Banquets

We have served many of  
our great churches  
over a several state area.

Contact:

Rev. John Kurtz  
302 Woodlawn Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122  
(615) 758-2006

## LifeWay™ CHURCH BUSES

A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

### CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.

Franklin, TN.



Available in 20' to 40' Models  
(15 to 46 passengers, New & Used)

### Since 1953

Church Buses • Vans • New & Used  
We buy used buses  
LifeWay Discount

Call Today (800) 370-6180

www.carpenterbus.com

"Nation's No. 1 Church Bus Dealer"

## CarsonSprings and LindenValley Baptist Conference Centers

Why go anywhere else?

Call toll free:

LindenValley — 1-877-354-6336

CarsonSprings — 1-877-704-6336





## Second Missouri convention slated to launch in April

Compiled from BP, ABP reports

SEDELIA, Mo. — About 350 Missouri Baptists representing more than 100 churches met here Jan. 17 to lay groundwork for a new state convention.

They agreed to formally launch what is tentatively being called the Baptist Convention of Missouri either April 18-19 or 19-20 at Fee Fee Baptist Church in suburban St. Louis.

Saying they had grown weary of factional strife in the Missouri Baptist Convention, speakers said the time had come to consider something new.

Plans call for the new convention to relate to the Southern Baptist Convention and commit to the welfare of all nine Missouri Baptist agencies, with particular attention to support of five entities defunded by messengers last October.

Those five include The Baptist Home, Missouri Baptist College, Windermere Baptist

Conference Center, the Missouri Baptist Foundation, and *Word and Way*, whose decisions to elect their own trustees drew the ire of a strong majority of messengers last fall.

A second state convention in Missouri would bring to three the number of states with separate organizations relating to the SBC. Conservatives formed breakaway conventions in Virginia and Texas, both moderate strongholds. The alternative Missouri convention would be the first for moderates in a state controlled by conservatives.

Speakers described what they view as a growing exclusiveness in MBC life and criticized recent actions to seek legal opinions in an effort that could result in lawsuits against one or more of the five institutions.

The Sedalia meeting, which included five breakout discussion sessions, featured presentations by host pastor Drew Hill and his brother, Jim Hill. Jim Hill resigned as MBC executive director last year, saying he opposed defunding the institutions and would not be a part of proposed legal action against them.

Hill said the 104 churches represented at the Jan. 17 meeting gave more than \$4 million to the Cooperative Program in 2000. Should all those churches follow through and become part of a new convention,

their aggregate membership would be 109,927.

A convention that size would be larger than 21 of the 41 existing Baptist state conventions, Hill said.

Hill, who would neither confirm nor deny that he would consider becoming executive director for the new convention, addressed reasons why he favors forming a new convention.

"The Baptist convention today is not the same one I have

known all my life. The emphasis is on power and control; there is more interest in exclusion than inclusion.

"However, I do not desire to give up my heritage as a Baptist. It is time to quit fighting with fellow Baptists and move forward with the kingdom work. Those no longer at home or welcomed in the MBC can form a new Baptist state convention and continue our heritage," he continued. ■



Bob Mowrey  
Pastor



Ronnie Owens  
Evangelist

### You are invited to attend the Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference

Date: February 6, 2002 (Wednesday)

Time: 10 A.M. — 12 Noon

Place: Round Lick Baptist Church  
Watertown, Tenn.

Complimentary lunch to follow.

Program:

Ronnie Owens, Evangelist  
Tazewell, Tenn. (preaching)

Bob Mowrey, Pastor  
Nashville, Tenn. (preaching)

Gary and Kathy Miller  
Lebanon, Tenn. (singing)

Directions: I-40 Exit 239. Go 10 miles east on Highway 70. Take first street to left past Cherry Valley Market (Main Street). Church is on left past Watertown Elementary School. For more information call Pastor Terry Wilkerson at (615) 286-1252.

**BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES**  
Manufacturers Lights Baptisries Steeples  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-446-7400  
FAX: 434-822-2210  
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, Virginia 24541

Call for Free BROCHURE  
**BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS**  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
www.fiberglasschurchprod.com  
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**Gulf Shores**  
www.gulfshorescondos.com  
Martha @ (205) 554-1524  
or  
Don @ (251) 968-3222

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

Seeking a minister of childhood education for ages birth-6th grade. Send resume to Search Committee, Lexington Baptist Church, 308 E. Main St., Lexington, SC 29072.

◆◆◆◆  
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@newhopefor-you.com.

◆◆◆◆  
The Marshall Baptist Association is accepting resumes for director of missions. Send resume to Search Committee, Marshall Baptist Association, 3555 AL Hwy 69 W, Guntersville, AL 35976. Deadline is March 1, 2002.



### Why do more seniors choose Baptist Hospital?

# Respect

for your concerns.

When you come to Baptist Hospital, our **Continuous Care Partners** will be ready to take care of you every step of the way:

- A special person is assigned to you and your family for your entire stay here
- Will meet you after admission and guide you throughout your entire hospital stay
- Most of all, will be a loving presence to make sure all of your needs are met, even after you leave

### Another reason why More Seniors Choose Baptist.

Call "Seniors Are Special" at  
**(615) 284-6500** or  
**(800) 251-2014, ext. 6500**  
to learn more about other **free** services available to seniors 65 and older.



**Baptist Hospital**  
www.BaptistHospital.com

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — YOUTH

First Baptist Church, Lebanon, MO., is seeking a full-time position for minister to students. This will involve children grades 1-6 and youth, with the emphasis on youth. Mail resume to Minister to Students Committee, First Baptist Church, 311 N Madison Ave., Lebanon, MO 65536.

◆◆◆◆  
Walker Memorial Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to WMBC, 1352 West Main St., Franklin, TN 37064, phone (615) 794-7000, fax (615) 794-0202.

◆◆◆◆  
Conservative SBC is seeking a doctrinally conservative, mission minded individual to lead it's student ministry to a higher level of Christian service and discipleship. Please mail resume with both ministerial and secular experience as well as educational background to PC, Memorial Baptist Church, 2342 Duncan Rd., Maryville, TN 37803 or e-mail to mdr@iol24.com.

◆◆◆◆  
Growing Southern Baptist church seeking part-time youth director. Strong organizational skills required. Please send resume to Grace Baptist Church, Attn. John Nevil, P.O. Box 727, Springfield, TN 37172.

◆◆◆◆  
First Baptist, Sharon, Tenn., is seeking a part-time youth minister to work with youth grades 6-12. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 96, Sharon, TN 38255. Resumes will be taken until position filled.

◆◆◆◆  
We are seeking God's candidate for our growing youth ministry (currently 20 youth). Eagleville Baptist is located 35 miles south of Nashville, Tenn. A complete job description and expectations is available upon request. Salary is \$125-200/week (depends upon education and experience). Please send resume with current photo to Eagleville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 28, Eagleville, TN 37060, Attn. Youth Ministry Search Committee.

◆◆◆◆  
Central Baptist Church of Alcoa is accepting resumes for a part-time minister of youth to work with approximately 25 to 30 youth (7th grade through college). Please send resume by Feb. 17, 2002 to Central Baptist Church, Attn. Minister of Youth Search Committee, P.O. Box 337, Alcoa, TN 37701.

◆◆◆◆  
First Baptist Church of Monterey, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of youth. The successful candidate will have a close walk with the Lord, a love for young people, a solid educational background, and positive past experience. If you feel God may be leading you to join our team, we would love to hear from you. Please respond to First Baptist Church, 106 N. Chestnut St., Monterey, TN 38574. Resumes must be postmarked by Friday, March 1, 2002.

## minister's corner

by Paul Frick

On a recent Saturday morning, fog shrouded my neighborhood. The river below my house was totally hidden

the bank of clouds bellowing up from the river valley. As I took my morning walk, I was amazed at the beauty of the trees. Because it was so cold, moisture from the fog was instantly freezing to the branches and trunks of the trees. The woods shimmered with a light silver tint that glowed radiantly.

As I walked, the cool air bit at my nose. And I walked a little faster to chase away the chill. All the while my thoughts were turned to heaven. My heart was brimming full of praise to God for the world that He made. On that morning it seemed to me that God had made the world's beauty just for my eyes. I felt terribly unworthy of this blessing.

Later that morning the warmth of the sun melted the fog away. As I stood outside, I could hear the sound of a thousand drops of water falling earthward. The ice on the trees melted into a gentle rain. The thirsty ground joyfully drank up the melting ice. This water would eventually make its way back to the river from which it came. The circle will then be complete.

God is the source of life just as our beloved river brings life to our community. Even when the fog of pain or struggles obscures our sight, God is still there. He gives us opportunities to see His hand in all of the small moments that compose our lives. Those moments can be transformed into worship and praise of our loving God. Do not walk so fast through life that you miss a precious moment to be connected to Him. remember that He is always near. ■ — Frick pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton.

## just for today

by Fred Wood, pastor emeritus, Memphis



**Start With a Smile:** Teacher to first grader finding his boots in the cloak room: "There they are Johnny in the corner, just exactly where you left them." Johnny: "They're not mine." Teacher: "How do you know?" Johnny: "Because mine had snow on them."

**Take this Truth:** A word to the wise is not necessary. It's the foolish ones who need advice.

**Memorize this Scripture:** "Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your ways." — Proverbs 23:9

**Pray this Prayer:** Lord, help me to say nothing to someone who is incapable or unwilling to listen.

## P.K. Preacher's Kids



My Sunday School teacher said I needed to follow Jesus, but I'm not allowed across the street."

# Disrespect to respect

By Jamison Work

## Focal Passage: I Peter 2:13-3:22

Last year, Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, one of the victims in the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. Part of what he said was, "I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy — it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room." Then Scott read a poem to the Judiciary Committee that he had written just a few days before he testified.

"Your laws ignore our deepest needs, your words are empty air.

"You've stripped away our heritage, you've outlawed simple prayer.

"Now gunshots fill our classrooms, and precious children die.

"You seek for answers everywhere, and ask the question, 'Why?'"

"You regulate restrictive laws, through legislative creed.

"And yet you fail to understand that God is what we need!"

Scott continued by saying, "We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence." He was right. Anytime people fail to honor and respect God, violence, hatred, and wickedness prevail. The only key to this dilemma is personal faith in Jesus

Christ. Faith unlocks the door to respect. A follower of Jesus Christ is commanded, and expected, to respect God and his fellow man. I Peter 2:17 says, "Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king" (NASB). Phillips translates the verse as, "You should have respect for everyone, you should love our brotherhood, fear God, and honor the emperor." The New Century Version says, "Show respect for all people: Love the brothers and sisters of God's family, respect God, honor the king."

## Family Bible SS Lesson — February 3

John MacArthur says that the word "honor," or "respect," means to highly esteem, not just

with obedient duty, but with inner respect. The Greek word is "timao" which means "to value, honor, regard, respect, or to set a price on." The idea is that Christians, because of their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, are to no longer have regard for some people and disregard for others. Followers of Christ are commanded to respect all people! The same word is used for the Old Testament command, "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12), as is used in I Peter 2:17 to "honor all men." The same respect children are expected to give to their parents is the same respect believers are expected to give to all other people. What a challenge!

Christians are not permitted to act like the rest of the world. Christians cannot arbitrarily like some



people and dislike others. James says, "If a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, 'You sit here in a good place,' and you say to the poor man, 'You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,' have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?" (James 2:2-4). Christians are without excuse when they make distinctions between people based on skin color, sex, aptitude, intelligence, social group, abilities, handicaps, or anything else.

The Word of God calls believers to move out of the respecting some, disrespecting others game, and honor all people.

There is only one way to accomplish such a noble calling — through daily surrender to the indwelling presence of Jesus Christ.

After all, Jesus died, without giving preference to any one group of people, so that "all men could be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4). His followers can do no less. — Work is pastor, Candies Creek Baptist Church, Charleston.

# Living with others in covenant life

By Ray Jones

## Focal Passages: Deuteronomy 19:15; 22:1-4, 8; 23:24-25; 24:6, 14-15

In ancient China, the people desired security from the barbaric hordes to the north; so they built the great Chinese wall. It was so high they knew no one could climb over it and so thick that nothing could break through it. They settled back to enjoy their security. During the first hundred years of the wall's existence, China was invaded three times. Not once did the barbaric hordes break through the wall or climb over the top. Each time they bribed a gatekeeper and then marched right through the gates. The Chinese were so busy relying upon the walls of stone that they forgot to teach integrity to their children.

God had given the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel. Moses said having them was not enough. You must live them. So he gave examples of how they could live the covenant life with integrity.

One example he gave was in Deuteronomy 19:15. Moses said a person could not be convicted of a crime on the word of one witness. There must be two or three. If there were only one witness it would be

one person's word against another. It could be two people seeing things differently or one person lying. In which case they would be breaking the Ninth Commandment by bearing a false witness. If a person bears a false witness he/she has already classified himself as a scoundrel and I doubt they would want to be identified as such. In I Kings 21:10, Jezebel is plotting the death of Naboth. She instructs the elders

to "seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him." When a person tells a lie about another he labels himself a scoundrel.

Another example was in Deuteronomy 22:1-4, 8 where Moses said, when an animal became lost they were to return it to the rightful owner or to keep it until it was claimed. If they saw one whose donkey or ox was stuck they were to help free it. When a house was built, a railing was to be built around the flat top to keep a person from falling to the ground. Would putting these examples into practice take time and be expensive? Yes, and this is the point of Moses. Integrity in the covenant life says we will not give so much priority to our own pursuits that we ignore others.

Recently in a conference I attended, one session dealt with spiritual development. A testimony was given about a pastor who was always late

for every meeting. He regretted that he missed so many opportunities to minister because of his tardiness. This pastor was on his way to a session with his mentor. He saw a homeless man on the interstate holding a sign that said he needed food. At the next exit he pulled off and went to a drive-in restaurant and purchased some food. He circled back to where the man was, pulled over, and gave him the food. When he arrived at his appointment, he said, "If I had not left 15 minutes early, I would not have had time to help a person in need."

In Bible days, someone walking through a vineyard or field was permitted to eat the grapes he picked or grain he plucked along the way. If he carried a basket or a sickle he would be stealing. A millstone could not be taken as a deposit for a loan (Deuteronomy 24:6). This would be robbing the man of the ability to grind food for his family or earning a living. The workers were to be paid at the end of the day, even the people who were not Israelites. This was living with integrity.

Integrity means we keep our promises. We make promises to God, our spouses, our children, and others. If we live the Christian faith with integrity we will keep our promises. If we fail to live our lives with integrity and to teach our children to do so, we will be inviting defeat just like ancient Chinese did. — Jones is director of missions, Big Hatchie Baptist Association.



## death

■ **Evelyn Jones**, 53, secretary for Shelby Baptist Association, based in Memphis, died Jan. 22 after suffering a stroke at the office Jan. 21. Jones, a member of Mullins Baptist Church, Memphis, is survived by her husband, a daughter in high school, and three sons.

## leaders

■ **Gary Lowery**, music director, Fellowship Baptist Church, Milan, has resigned.

■ Northeast Baptist Church, Clarksville, has called **John Wise** of Clarksville, as pastor, effective Dec. 9.

■ The Super Bowl Evange-

lism Project has drawn several Tennesseans as leaders. The project which will be conducted prior to Super Bowl XXXVI in New Orleans, La., Feb. 3, is being held by the local Baptist association, state Baptist convention, and the North American Mission Board. **Nathan and Julia Bauman** of Knoxville are serving. Nathan is a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Also, **Sam Purcell** of Leoma and former student at the University of Tennessee, will help lead the effort.

■ Northside Baptist Church, Milan, recently ordained **Steve Babcock** to the ministry. Babcock was a missionary with the International Mission Board who served West Africa. Currently he is minister of ministries and administration, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis.



**MEMBERS OF** a quilt group of Excell Baptist Church, Clarksville, from left, **Jean Holloway, Brenda Osborn, Phyllis Edens, Bettye Pyron, Judy Barton, and Mai Dell Bullard**, deliver quilts they made for residents of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Franklin, to the facility Dec. 4. The ladies also toured the campus.

■ First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, has called **Claude Kelley and Bob McIlwain** as assistant pastors.

■ **Nathan Dunman** has been called as interim minister

to students, Calvary Baptist Church, Lenoir City. He is scheduled to graduate from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, in May. He has served as pastor of student ministries, Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City, and associate youth pastor, First Baptist Church, Morristown.

■ **Chris Brown** has been called as minister of music, Orlanda Baptist Church, Orlanda.

## churches

■ **Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville**, will burn a note Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m. to represent the debt-free status of its worship center. Former pastors Robert Woody and Ralph Hodge will join pastor Leonard Markham in the service. The three men are the only pastors of the

church, which is 32 years old. **James Porch**, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will bring the morning message. A luncheon will follow.

## schools

■ Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, may have scholarships available for students from East Tennessee to **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**, Louisville, Ky., or **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**, Ft. Worth, Texas. For more information, contact Yvonne Piercy at (865) 938-1161.

■ The Bible Training Center of **Harrison-Chilhowe Baptist Academy**, Seymour, will offer the class, "Understanding Contemporary World Religions" beginning Feb. 9. It will be offered in eight Saturday sessions from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Students can receive credit for the class for a diploma in biblical studies, Southern Baptist Convention Seminary Extension. For more information, call the school at (865) 573-8321.



**PARTICIPATING IN A** recent groundbreaking ceremony at Second Baptist Church, Union City are, from left, **Barry Keathley**, minister of music; **Check Doss**, minister of youth and singles; **David Searcy**; **Eddie Mallonee**, pastor; **Mike Dickerson**; **LeRoy Segraves**; **Allen Searcy**; **Rebecca Barham**; **Patricia Segraves**; **Leroy Perryman**; **Doris Vaughn**; **Sonny Hutchens**; **Dwayne Ervin**; **Brian Petty**, associate pastor. The ceremony marked Phase I of the church's relocation project to the Highway 51 Bypass.

### After 27 years

## Knoxville pastor leaves great imprint as he steps down

By Jeannine F. Hunter  
For Baptist and Reflector

**KNOXVILLE** — When Robert C. Burch walked into the doors of Calvary Baptist Church here, the church sat on 3.8 acres of land on Kingston Pike. The sanctuary seated 300 people, who used 75 available parking spaces.

That was nearly three decades ago. When "Brother Bob" left last month, the church he left had \$7 million worth of building property on 14 acres of land. The church now seats 1,200 people, who fill up 600 parking spaces.

Recuperating from medical treatment has compelled Burch to step down as senior pastor of Calvary. August marked 27 years of service to the church for Burch.

The Texas native says, "I determined when I came here, I would preach the whole

counsel of God, recognizing that it may bring great wrath from others because it goes against what is culturally accepted. ... I can say that my hands are clean. I have preached the hard things, the good things, and the difficult things."



**BURCH**

Burch says the mission was to be a Bible-teaching church reaching those locally and globally. A trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Forth Worth, Texas, Burch and his wife, Mary Katherine, have been married 37 years, have five children, and one grandchild.

Members of the Calvary church family held a day of tribute to Burch, known as

"Brother Bob" or "Dr. Bob," on Dec. 2.

Building a thriving college ministry, lessening church debt, and acquiring more land for the church were some of the landmarks during Burch's tenure. Sometimes the congregation found unconventional ways to strengthen their mission.

For example, to help attract and be of service to the collegiate crowd and others who live and work briefly in the region, the church needed to expand. They bought the church building across the street that was once owned by the Unitarian Universalist church. To connect the campuses, Calvary constructed a tunnel underneath busy Kingston Pike.

The tunnel, completed in 1991, links the main church building to the across-the-street property. High school

juniors, seniors, and college students have Sunday School in that building before they join the rest of the congregation in the worship service.

Calvary Baptist started as a mission of First Baptist Church of Knoxville in the church's efforts to minister to University of Tennessee students. The first meeting was held in a neighborhood schoolhouse.

In three years, the church was established and functioning in a building that once stood on what is now part of the University of Tennessee campus. When the university expanded westward and purchased 131 acres of homes, the church moved onto Kingston Pike.

More than 70 percent of the church's membership today is under 30 years old. Many members who are working and studying in the region are

from other countries.

Burch, a former Baptist Student Union director at Texas A&M University, College Station, says he has a real heart for college students, recalling that he became a Christian when he was in college. Thousands of students have come through the church, many of whom are now clergy, missionaries, and educators — a thought that brings a smile to Burch's face.

"They write me still and tell me how God has changed them, and some of them are in missions," he said.

Burch says although he will no longer be senior pastor, he will always be available to minister, adding that he will never tire of his calling to preach the Word of God. ■ — Hunter is a staff writer for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*. The story is used with permission.