

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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this
week's
news

In Lewisburg

Ladies prayer group begins jail ministry

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

LEWISBURG — Women who are incarcerated at the Marshall County Jail here really look forward to Tuesday mornings. That's when they meet with women from East Commerce Baptist Church.

It's a big event in their week, the inmates explained at a recent Bible study, which is held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. or sometimes even noon.

That day all of the participants were Christians.

"It uplifts me," said inmate Stephanie Tidwell.

"It makes you know that you're not alone," said Susan Newton, referring to discussions of Bible study participants and leaders who have learned they have a lot in common.

"It brings me closer to the Lord," said Sheila Foster.

"It gives me a spiritual bond (with others)," said Regina Hampton. She explained that in jail she had taken time to listen to other women and for the first time become friends with women. Her mother hurt her a lot, she noted.

The women who guide the Bible study also look forward to the time they spend with

these ladies and others who participate, they said.

"I can't wait to get there," said Sonja Cox. "It's just a matter of passing on what you've received over the years from Christians and family and life. I'm just an average person."

She also looks forward to the time because the Lord is really there, Cox described.

Janis Brock, another leader, said, "I always think it could be me. All I can say is thank God that my child is not there.

I can't judge the families that have people there."

Cox, who manages rental property, agreed, noting her experiences in the ministry have been eye opening. "I'm more compassionate now."

The women have provided the ministry for a year.

All of the ministry leaders said the main ingredient of the ministry is love.

"You just love them where they are because they can tell (if you do or don't) and (you) let them know that Jesus loves

them right where they are," said Sheila Hughes.

That was a lesson she learned in an *Experiencing God* course at East Commerce, she explained. Christians are to love the unlovable. Hughes, a homemaker, said she has found out in the jail ministry it actually isn't that difficult.

The ministry, which began when the associational Woman's Missionary Union director, Joann Wortham, called — See Ladies, page 4

Bartlett church serves their community. — Page 3

Baptists consider North American needs. — Page 5

See "The Update" for news on volunteer missions. — Pages 7-10

Crossville pastor follows unusual route to Tennessee. — Page 11

Memphis educator writes book. — Page 13

TBC CP gifts remain steady

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — After four months of the current fiscal year Tennessee Baptists are responding well to a challenging budget.

In February Tennessee Baptist Convention churches gave \$2,499,865 through the Cooperative Program.

For the year-to-date, Tennessee Baptists have given \$12,077,459, a .82 percent increase over the same time last year.

Gifts are 1.90 percent short of the current CP budget after four months of \$12,311,335.

"We are encouraged that Tennessee Baptists are responding to missions and ministry causes in our state and around the world," said James Porch, TBC executive director/treasurer. ■



PARTICIPATING IN A recent Bible study were, beginning at left and going clockwise, Betty Grubbs, Stephanie Tidwell, Susan Newton, Sheila Foster, Janis Brock, Regina Hampton, and Sonja Cox. The Bible study is held weekly at the Marshall County Sheriff's Office.

Compensation study underway; responses needed

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Church Staff Compensation Study for 2002 is underway according to Richard Skidmore, Church Ministers Financial Support Specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

More than 500 churches have responded already with reports.

The study is being conducted by 35 conventions throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Churches provide information about salary, housing, and benefits provided to pastors, staff ministers, and other staff persons.

That data is accessible for

use by personnel committees, finance committees, search committees, according to Skidmore.



SKIDMORE

"The information is very valuable as churches consider compensation for their staff and especially as they plan for calling new staff members," he noted. Scores of requests are processed each year by administrative assistant, Joyce Harvey, in addition to those people who use the printed survey data or access the information at

the TBC web site, he added.

One exciting feature of the 2002 study will be the availability of customized information accessible through the TBC web site. Churches will be able to access reports for compensation for a specific staff position based on the church budget, attendance, and membership, Skidmore said.

"We want to emphasize that the data provided to us by a church is confidential. We will not identify specific churches in the survey," Skidmore stressed.

The compensation study form itself is anonymous, he continued.

"Reports we distribute will be based on a staff position for churches in an attendance range or budget range or membership range. It is our hope that churches will continue to provide this vital data to us by returning the compensation study forms. We will be happy to answer questions from our churches related to the survey."

Forms to participate in the survey are available at the offices of Directors of Missions throughout Tennessee or can be requested by contacting Skidmore or Harvey in the Church Staff Leadership Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. ■

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► **Subscribe** to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 48 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$10; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.75 per subscription; other plans available

► **Lonnie Wilkey, editor** — (615) 371-2046, lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

► **Connie Davis, news editor** — (615) 371-7928, cdavis@tnbaptist.org

► **Susie Edwards, circulation/executive assistant** — (615) 371-2003, sedwards@tnbaptist.org

► **Mary Nimmo, church pages/administrative assistant** — (615) 371-7929, mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

► **Betty Williams, bookkeeper** — (615) 371-7930, 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

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state/national

AB trustees improve programs for retired ministers

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Key improvements to programs for retired Southern Baptist ministers were approved by trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board during their Feb. 25-26 meeting here.

President O.S. Hawkins told trustees, "In a year marked by attacks on America, a financial recession, and world crises, the Annuity Board remained faithful in its vision to honor God and assist our participants in enhancing their financial security."

After hearing a special report and recommendations from their relief committee, trustees affirmed revisions to the guidelines for the Supplemental Assistance and Adopt An Annuity programs. The programs will be combined into a single ministry and the eligibility guidelines will be modified to allow more retirees to qualify for benefits. Additionally, many Adopt An Annuity recipients now will qualify for more than twice the benefit they have been receiving. While in the past donors have been asked to give at specific levels, the new program will encourage donors to contribute at any level.

Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey P. Billinger reported total assets were \$7.1 billion at Dec. 31, 2001, compared to \$7.7 billion at Dec. 31, 2000. Although, financial markets were down for the year, assets rebounded nicely in the fourth quarter driven by net income of \$452.5 million. Billinger told trustees, "This marks the first time net income has been positive for three consecutive months since the fourth quarter of 1999." He also noted that cash gifts to the board's endowment program set a new record at \$4.04 million.

Benefit payments and withdrawals in 2001 totaled \$461 million. At year's end, there were 29,461 participants/beneficiaries receiving funded benefit payments from the board. Participants or beneficiaries receiving fixed annuities of five years or longer received a 5 percent increase in their benefit as of Jan. 1, 2001.

A total of \$5,217,655 was distributed through the board's relief program to needy retired ministers and their widowed spouses. The amount received from the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program and special designations totaled

NAMB appoints missionaries with state ties

Special to *Baptist and Reflector*

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Several missionaries with ties to Tennessee have been appointed by the North American Mission Board.

Randall S. and Julie H. Bonner serve in Cleveland, where he is ministry evangelism director for the Bradley County Baptist Association.

Bonner is a graduate of Bluefield (Va.) College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He had been associate pastor/minister of youth of London Bridge Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va., for nearly eight years prior to his appointment.

Julie Bonner has been employed as a medical transcriptionist since 1999, and previously worked as a pharmacy technician. She also has been a Sunday School teacher for youth and children at London Bridge Baptist Church.

Kelly and Karen G. Campbell serve in Alcoa where he is missions ministry coordinator for Chilhowee Baptist Association and also is the Appalachian Regional Ministry Coordinator for Tennessee. This ministry includes the 29 associations of East Tennessee.

Campbell, a native of Greenfield is a graduate of Union University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been family preservation director for the



BONNER



THE CAMPBELLS



THE POOLS

Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Union City since 1997, and previously he served as pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Martin for nearly six years. He also has been a pastor and youth minister of churches in Tennessee and Arkansas, and a houseparent for a children's home in Texas.

Karen Campbell, also a Tennessee native, has previously been employed as a secretary, travel agent, sales clerk and houseparent. She also has been a volunteer counselor and steering committee member for Agape House Pregnancy Care Center in Martin, Tenn.

Randell H. and Cynthia G. Pool serve as missionaries in Trenton where he is associational missions coordinator for Gibson Baptist Association and coordinator for the Mississippi River Ministry for Tennessee. The ministry serves 21 counties of West Tennessee by connecting churches and associations with people in need.

Pool, a native of Millington, is a graduate of Union Univer-

sity and Mid America Baptist Seminary. He has held his current ministry position since October of 2000. He previously was an International Mission Board missionary in Central America and pastor of Clifton Baptist Church, Clifton.

Cynthia Pool, also a Tennessee native, teaches Spanish at Peabody High School and at the adult learning center for Gibson County. She previously served with her husband as a missionary in Central America. She also has served churches as children's church director and prayer coordinator.

Also appointed with Tennessee ties was Eric D. Mottern, who serves as a Baptist center missionary in New Orleans, La. He was appointed under the US/C-2 program, in which young adults complete two years of missions service in the United States or Canada.

Mottern, a Tennessee native, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. ■

\$1.4 million. The entire Cooperative Program allocation for the Annuity Board and special designations is spent in relief ministry without any expense applied. The board's Retired Ministers' Support Fund supplements the convention allocation. A significant number of persons on relief receive no regular retirement annuity because their churches never enrolled them in the Church Annuity Plan.

At year's end 842 persons were receiving supplemental assistance grants, and nearly 2,400 received the \$75 Adopt An Annuity benefit. ■

Texas Baptists create rescue fund

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Baptist General Convention of Texas has set up a special "transition fund" encouraging the state's churches to support any Southern Baptist Convention missionaries who resign or are fired for refusing to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

The safety net is centerpiece of a five-part recommendation by a Texas Baptist Missions Review and Initiatives Committee. It responds to a recent letter by SBC International Mission

Board President Jerry Rankin asking all 5,100 overseas missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message or to explain why not.

The BGCT transition fund would help missionaries with such immediate needs as housing, food, schooling, and grief counseling. Intended to "meet the needs of these missionaries at this difficult time in their lives," it won approval of the state Executive Board Feb. 26 with one dissenting vote.

Other parts of the recommendation approved by the Texas leadership board instruct:

(1) A state Administrative Committee to establish a way for Texas Baptists to contribute to the transition fund.

(2) The Executive Board staff to "actively seek churches and institutions that will assist in caring for these missionaries."

(3) The state convention to "work with other Baptist groups who share this concern."

(4) The Missions Review and Initiatives Committee to "explore positive and proactive ways in which the churches and institutions of the BGCT can encourage and assist these missionaries to express their God-given calling."

Eighteen individuals have already pledged a total of \$1 million to launch the effort. ■

SBC CP gifts post gain in February

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — An increase of 7.49 percent in churches' gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program was recorded in February 2002 over February 2001, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

February's \$16,886,897.19 in CP Missions gifts to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America was \$1,176,564.36 above February 2001 gifts of \$15,710,332.83.

In designated giving during February, meanwhile, the total of \$52,918,825.17 was 7.31 percent above February 2001's \$49,312,260.15, an increase of \$3,606,565.02.

In year-to-date CP giving \$77,678,195.48 has been received compared with \$74,925,228.56 in 2001-02 marking an increase of 3.67 percent or \$2,752,966.92.

In year-to-date designated giving, \$84,540,439.16 has been received compared with \$78,836,353.87 in 2001-02 marking an increase of 7.24 percent or \$5,704,085.29. ■

Bartlett church 'connects' with community

Mandy Crow
for Baptist Press

BARTLETT — For many years, fast food restaurants have lost their charm.

Instead of offering a convenience, they are now a necessary hassle. Most of the time, the food doesn't come fast enough, the driver just ahead can't navigate the drive-thru lane and, to top it all off, the cashier just isn't friendly enough — and that's on a good day.

That isn't the case here. That's because members of Ellendale Baptist Church are taking part in an outreach to bless others with random acts of kindness while demonstrating the love of Christ.

"We're trying to have an emphasis on witnessing," said a pastor, Medlock, minister of education and outreach. "More than 40 of our people went through *Share Jesus Without Fear*. We just wanted to have a way for people to witness that's less confrontational."

Share Jesus Without Fear, written by William Fay, is published by Broadman & Hol-

man, LifeWay's publishing division.

"It's just another way for us to share the gospel," Medlock said, "a way of teaching our people to witness and reach out to the community."

The way the ministry works is simple. The church provides small cards about the size of a credit card to its members. The "connect cards," as members call them, are kept in the tract racks at the church and members can take as many as they like. The front of the card simply reads:

"We hope this small gift brings some light into your day. It's a simple way of saying that God loves you — no strings attached. Let us know if we can be of more assistance."

On the back, the church's address and phone number are listed, along with directions to the church. Church members can take the cards, pay for a stranger's purchase, and leave the card with people in restaurants, drive-thru windows, or other stores.

"One child, about 10 years old, came up to me so excited,"

Medlock said. "He said, 'We used the card at Krystal and it was just so neat to see the expression on the cashier's face.' We think a lot about the people who are receiving the gift, but he was telling me how blessed that person, the cashier, was."

The church officially began participating in the ministry last November, but the planning process began months earlier. Medlock said the church had been trying to think of a way to emphasize witnessing, and one day the church's minister of youth mentioned a ministry idea he'd seen on the Internet. The web site, servantevangelism.com, outlines the connect card ministry idea.

After reading about the ministry, Medlock and the church thought it was a good idea and began incorporating the connect cards into their outreach ministry and witnessing emphasis.

"The Lord has blessed it, and it's just been really good," Medlock said.

While the church has no idea how many church mem-

bers are actually participating in the ministry because cards are simply placed in racks for members to use, the church is able to gauge the effectiveness of the ministry through phone calls.

"I've had some call who are Christians and are active in their own home churches, but they have called to thank us and tell us how this ministry will impact the community," said Barbara Wray, Ellendale Baptist's receptionist and secretary. "Some calls are from others who are not churched."

One such call has come to define the outreach ministry, Wray said.

"There was one call in particular that was very emotional, and you could tell that God was working in this," Wray said. "A young lady was traveling back to Texas from her mother's funeral and stopped to eat lunch in Memphis. Well, someone in our church wanted to do something, and she was the beneficiary. She wanted to let us know that that helped her to make the rest of her trip back home after losing her mother."



The woman told Wray that her mother had been a Christian, and that she had grown up in a Christian home with a father who was a pastor, but she had never accepted Christ. Wray prayed with her and, even though the woman did not accept Christ during their conversation, Wray assured the woman that the church would continue to pray for her.

Upon returning home, the woman sent a note to the church, thanking them again for the act of kindness and said she was continuing to pray about her salvation.

"It was a real opportunity and blessing for me," Wray said.

"That's what I see this ministry as — a blessing for all of us and those that are giving out of love. It says that we are here — that Jesus does love all of us." ■

Association helps construct training center in Mexico

Kristin West
for Baptist and Reflector

UNION CITY — In January a group of 10 individuals from six different churches in Beulah Baptist Association met for the small mountain town of San Antonio, located in the Sierra Mazateca region of southern Mexico.

The group of eight men and two women was not expecting luxury or ease, but rather, they were on a mission to share the love of Christ through hard work and service. The goal of this trip was to begin building a training center for the people of this area in the Oaxaca state of Mexico. The Mazateca area is considered to be an unattached people group, and the center will be used to train church planters and pastors, along with church leaders, in the area.

The 10 Beulah volunteers were the first of three groups to go to Mexico. The second group went in February and the final group left on March 2 to build bunk beds and complete the plumbing work.

Aside from building the center, arranging at the location of the site was an adventure for the first group. The 10 had to travel along the mountain paths and climb 1,500 feet down a mountain in order to get to the place where the center was to be built. The participants agree that this climb was physically the hardest part of the trip. Upon arriving at the site, everyone camped out, cooked meals outside, and had the total outdoor experience during their stay in Mexico.

When the group arrived, the nationals had already begun the building by laying the foundation. The Beulah vol-

unteers wanted to construct the walls in just four days.

Rather than just planting one church, the groups are able to help influence many different churches that will be started throughout the region as a result of the training center.

They worked in an area of Mexico that currently has three churches and 18 missions. Thurman and Carolyn Penick, IMB missionaries from West Tennessee, have been helping with the projects and assisting the volunteer groups.

The local pastors, in work with the missionaries, have set a goal of starting 80 churches with local leadership within the next five years. All the pastors and leaders for these new churches will be trained in the center that is now being built. The first training event is planned for March 11-16, with more than 300 people expected to attend.

The event will be a time for training and spiritual renewal, and people will come from all over southern Mexico — some riding buses, animals, or even walking.

Jerry Essary, director of missions for the Beulah Baptists, went on the first trip. He explained that it was amazing to see how faithful God is to supply all our needs, taking care of everything — big or small. "I have a new appreciation for the faithfulness of God to supply our needs," said Essary.

The group saw firsthand how differently the people in Mexico live than we do in the United States. Essary explained that the people of the Mazateca region probably live like Americans did 100 years ago. Most have no electricity or running water in their homes, which have cement or dirt floors.

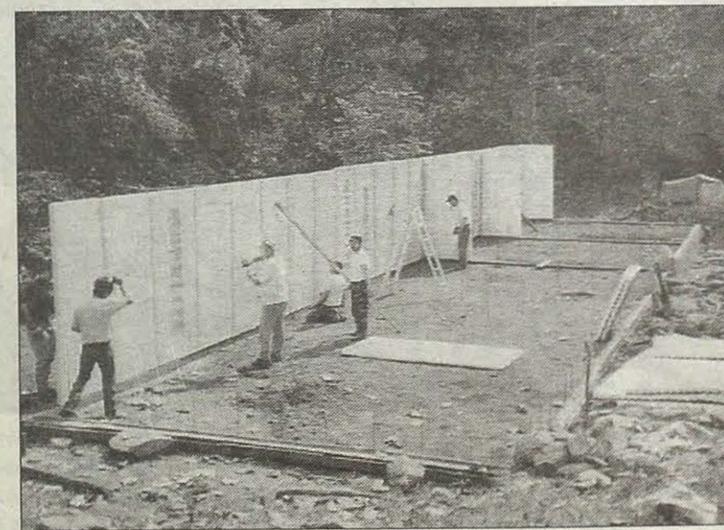
Although there were many differences in the nationals and those who went on the trip, there was one thing that was easily seen and understood by all. The group went to one of the area churches, and this experience was most memorable for many. They could not understand the language, and the church was different from their own; however, they were still able to feel the presence of God and see Him in His glory, Essary said.

The mission trip left an impact on the lives of those who went, and they hope that their service will be used to further the Kingdom of God, the director of missions observed.

One thing they all came to realize is how much abundance Americans have, Essary said, noting that the Mexican nationals seemed to be able to do much more with the little they had. ■



ABOVE, THE FIRST GROUP of volunteers who went to Mexico from Beulah Baptist Association included, from left, first row, Thurman Penick, IMB missionary; Jerry Essary, director of missions; Renee Hazelwood; back row, Billy Crigger, Mark Hayes, Terry Council, Rick Burton, Steve Wills, Mary Rachel, Danny Rachel, and Mike Hazelwood. **BELOW**, volunteers from Beulah Baptist Association put up the walls that will be used to train pastors and leaders in southern Mexico.



Ladies prayer group begins jail ...

— Continued from page 1
the church to ask for a volunteer to lead a Bible study for an inmate from Nashville. The woman had enjoyed Bible study provided by Baptist women at a correctional institution in Nashville.

Derrell Cowden, secretary at East Commerce Church, took the call. She decided to share the need with the ladies prayer group which was meeting. Cox, former WMU director and current prayer coordinator for the church, shared it with the prayer group and they agreed someone should go meet with the inmate.

Cox and Brock, who sells insurance, did and agreed to return. The next week two women attended. Soon the volunteers were committed.

At first they felt uncomfortable in the jail where they met women who were sometimes unlike them, they admitted. But they soon realized their role was to love them, said Hughes.

"They get condemnation from everywhere. We're here to love them," she explained.

The volunteers haven't gotten discouraged although they face another obstacle. Sometimes they are turned away. The jail only has one room for meetings and sessions with lawyers get preference. Also the jail schedule can change which means the women are not allowed to meet.

The volunteers and inmates keep coming because some miraculous things occur in the small meeting room where they meet, the volunteers reported.

A total of 39 women inmates have attended the Bible study during the past year. Four women have made professions of faith and one has rededicated her life to God.

The women also have experienced some clarifying moments. During one Bible study a woman leaned over the table toward Cox and bluntly asked her if she believed what she was saying and if she was for real.

"But she was a believer when she left here (the jail)," said Cox. The woman asked to be baptized by the pastor of East Commerce, James Hickey.

The teachers have learned it

is important for them to be honest and to require the inmates to be honest, even about their crime.

The teachers can recall many fond memories. They mentioned the letter of apology one received from several students. The women missed a session because they chose to go outside. The inmates had not been allowed to go outside in some time. The women said a few minutes after they made their decision, they realized they had made a mistake.

Leader Susan Ogle recalled studies on Christmas day and New Year's Day which were

special not only for the inmates but for her. She has had a special struggle to share, two bouts

with cancer. Ogle also had an unusual experience when a woman she had witnessed to while the woman was working at a restaurant walked into a study. The woman was embarrassed but Ogle was glad they would finally get to talk about God, she told her.

Betty England, another leader, had been involved in jail ministry before and a bus ministry of the church which involved many needy people. So she is glad the church is offering the ministry and to be participating.

The ministry leaders provide all of their own materials for



the studies. They correspond with the students by mail in between sessions. And the leaders stay in contact with some of the inmates after they are released. They help them by providing clothes and food. And they hope to expand the ministry.

Cox said she marvels at what God does in the ministry. "It's wonderful to be used and see what He's (God's) doing," she said. ■



MINISTRY leaders Sonja Cox, left, and Janis Brock, right, stand with Betty Chumbley, jail administrator, Marshall County Sheriff's Office, Lewisburg, and a member of Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill.



MEMBERS OF East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg, who lead the jail ministry are, from left, Janis Brock, Sheila Hughes, Sonja Cox, Susan Ogle, and Betty England.

Hendersonville church pays off debt

For Baptist and Reflector

HENDERSONVILLE — On Feb. 10 Bluegrass Baptist Church here celebrated its debt-free status.

The church was paying \$8,000 a month on the debt for its church building which was a burden on church ministries, reported church leaders. The church has Hispanic and Japanese ministries and a Church Trailer Mission.

So in August 2001 the church entered into a campaign called Debt Free to Serve. The plan was to pay off over \$230,000 of the debt by the end of the year.

On Oct. 7 God blessed the congregation

with a miracle, church leaders reported. Gifts and pledges to Debt Free to Serve were over \$236,000. Pledges and gifts are in and to date \$242,090.67 has been given.

During the Feb. 10 celebration, Mike Henry, chairman of the church's stewardship committee reported a child made brownies and sold them at a church event to contribute to the fund. Members committed to donate tips made in their work.

He also noted 350 families committed to the campaign. They did this in spite of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the resulting economic decline.

"God is honoring the faithfulness of His people," said Leonard Markham, pastor. ■



LEADING THE Feb. 10 celebration are, from left, James Frazee and Judy Powell, charter members; Robert Woody, pastor emeritus; Leonard Markham, pastor; Ralph Hodge, former pastor; Natalie Heflin, representing children of the church; and David Taliaferro representing youth.

Hospital honors volunteer

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Elizabeth Childs, a member of Judson Baptist Church, recently was named 2001 Volunteer of the Year by Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

She was recognized for developing and implementing a volunteer program at the hospital called the Samantha Project for patients who are dying, lonely, or have cancer. Childs and a group of ladies from Judson Church began making dolls for children and have since expanded the program. Volunteers provide handmade dolls for the patients of any age.

Childs also has led volunteers to provide infant clothing for needy families. When there is an infant death, the group sews a keepsake bag and gown for grieving families.

When hospital employees came up with the idea to send newborns home in stockings at Christmas, Childs organized a sewing group to provide the stockings.

In addition to her sewing ac-



ELIZABETH CHILDS holds the award she received recently from Baptist Hospital, Nashville.

tivities, Childs volunteers in the risk management office of the hospital one day per week. She also is a volunteer lay member of the hospital's institutional review board, which oversees nonapproved governmental studies at Baptist. She helps review study protocols from an ethical perspective to protect patient rights.

Childs is the wife of William L. "Bo" Childs Jr., president-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. ■

A lost world includes North America

by Lonnie Wilkey, editor

It doesn't take a genius to figure out North America is in trouble today. We live in a world filled with violence, corruption, and evil.

Just turn on the television during prime time. TV shows are on today that could never have been allowed 15 or 20 years ago. Programs now portray sexual relationships between non-married couples as the norm. Homosexuality, once taboo on TV, has now found a niche. Is it any wonder our society is crumbling at our very feet?

And, it doesn't stop with television. Pornography on the Internet is becoming rampant in our society. Pick up a newspaper anywhere in our country and you will read about a local murder or some other tragedy. And, if that's not enough, just remember 9-11.

But, just in case we needed documentation, consider this bit of information from the North American Mission Board. According to their web site, there are 312 million people living in the United States and Canada and it is estimated that 200 million of them do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The depth of North America's lostness is evident when 91 percent of respondents in a recent survey considered themselves Christian, even though less than one-third said they had been born again, according to the NAMB web site.

Consider this bit of information as well. In 1900 there were 27 Southern Baptist



churches for every 10,000 Americans. Today, there are only 11 churches for every 10,000 people. In some states, the ratio is as high as one SBC church for every 150 people. Canada has one SBC church for every 227,000 people.

There is no doubt that our country and our continent has an overwhelming need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many Tennessee Baptist churches are in the middle of a week of prayer for North American missions. On Easter Sunday or in the weeks before and afterwards, churches will be collecting money for the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions.

For North American missionaries, this money is their lifeline for ministry. Every dollar given to the AAEO goes to support missionaries on the field. The North American Mission Board works in partnership with state conventions, including Tennessee, to distribute AAEO funds to

On Mission Together:

Showing the Way

Week of Prayer

for North American Missions

Suggested Dates: March 3-10, 2002

National Goal: \$52,000,000

www.anniearmstrong.com

missionaries and their efforts to reach their areas for Christ.

The 2002 national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$52 million.

These funds will put missionaries on the field where they can be effective in reaching a lost world for Christ. These funds also will help start new churches and aid a variety of evangelism projects and missions activities.

Sometimes when we read Matthew 28:19-20, we think of foreign lands. The "uttermost parts of the earth" include Tennessee, the United States, Canada, and your own neighborhood.

The theme of this year's effort is "On Mission Together: Showing the Way." Southern Baptists have a grand opportunity this year to make a difference through our gifts to the Annie Armstrong offering.

Pray fervently this week and throughout the year. Together, we can turn our country back to God. ■



More than food

Consider the reasons you eat. Do you eat because it's mealtime? Or does stress send you to food for comfort? Do you eat because you are in a social situation or you are alone?

Of all the reasons to eat, only one is a reliable guide — hunger.

Hunger signals that the body's fuel supply is low. Because food is so readily available in our society, hunger is rarely the reason we eat. More often, our reasons to eat are in our minds rather than in our stomachs. When we focus on living to eat instead of eating to live, food may become an idol.

In Luke 12:23, Jesus made a very clear point — "life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."

Have you caught yourself focusing on food as though it were the main reason for living? Are you consumed with a focus on your appearance that you will try anything to achieve some level of physical perfection?

Food is not the enemy. God designed good foods to keep the human body alive. Jesus acknowledged our need for food to survive. The problem comes when we focus on food.

If you began this year with an intention to change your appearance by losing weight, maintaining your weight, or even gaining weight, and you focus your life around this goal, you could be setting up an idol in your life.

Consider de-emphasizing the physical results and emphasize the wellness and health result that come from making wise choices that honor your body. Looking for a quick fix or detailed prescription for success may only lead to eventual disappointment when the task becomes too difficult and relentless.

Consider beginning a wellness plan that honors your uniqueness.

When you seek to honor your body with the food you put in it, you also honor God and the gift of life he has given you. ■ — Polk is a certified fitness instructor and is the Fit 4 Coordinator at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

Blended families face many challenges, issues

Families matter

by Paul Barkley, Counselor



A "blended" family or stepfamily faces many challenges. Stepfamily members have experienced important issues.

Statistics from the 1990 census revealed that 52-62 percent of all first marriages will eventually end in divorce. About 75 percent of divorced persons eventually remarry. About 43 percent of all marriages are remarriages for at least one of the adults. About 10 percent of remarriages involve children from the prior

marriage and, thus, form stepfamilies. Almost 60 percent of all remarriages eventually end in divorce.

One out of three Americans is now a stepparent, a stepchild, a stepsibling, or some other member of a stepfamily. More than half of Americans today have been, are now or will eventually be in one or more step situations during their lives.

The challenges of the blended family is one of the most serious problems facing the family today. I want to introduce the subject generally in this article and later pass on a list that I have discovered dealing with 10 suggestions for stepfamily relationships.

There are two main issues that I would like to address in this article. The merging of

two or more families brings with the process significant losses and strains on loyalties.

Adults grieve:

- > The loss of a partner.
- > The loss of a marriage relationship.
- > The loss of our dreams about the way we thought it would be because we are not "the first" for our new partner.

> The losses involved in the changes that happen because of the death or divorce (moving, a new job, change in life style, etc.).

Children grieve:

- > The loss of a parent (even if the nonresidential parent visits regularly).

> The loss or lessened availability of the remaining parent when courtship and remarriage occur.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp





Tennessee teens named among best in SBC
Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Acteens from six states have been tapped by Woman's Missionary Union to serve on the 2002 National Acteens Panel and as 2002 Top Teens.

The 12 teenagers were selected by national WMU staff from Acteens members nationwide who applied to serve on the national panel. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by WMU

for girls in grades seven-12.

While no Tennesseans were chosen for the Acteens Panel, two girls — Whitney Church and Monica Waters — both of Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, were among the six girls chosen as Top Teens.

Selection of Acteens Panelists and Top Teens is based on accomplishments in MissionsQuest, the individual achievement plan for Acteens; involvement in Acteens and church activities; and achieve-

ments in school, scholastically and socially. In addition to their applications and written testimonies, candidates had to be recommended by their pastor and Acteens leader.

Church and Waters will be featured in the July/August issue of *Accent*, the magazine produced by WMU for Acteens.

During 2002, Acteens Panelists and Top Teens will provide leadership in state and associational WMU-related meetings. ■

Conversational English Workshop

There will be a 16-hour Conversational English Workshop on March 15-17, 2002 at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be lead by Brenda Myers, ESL Instructor. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register or request additional information please contact Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-7916 or go to www.tnbaptist.org



Tony Evans

Founder, Urban Alternative ministry and radio program, Dallas, Texas



March 10
"Celebrate Jesus Rally"
McMinnville Civic Center,
McMinnville, 6:30 p.m.

March 11
Pastors' Conference led by Tony Evans, 8 - 9:30 a.m.
Northside Baptist Church, McMinnville

For more information, call Central Baptist Association office, (931) 668-3690.

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Tennessee Sunday School Directors Association

March 15-16
LindenValley Conference Center
Linden, Tenn.

Conference Schedule
Friday

4:00 PMCheck-In
6:00 PMDinner
6:45 PMWorship Rally and Orientation
8:00 PMConference 1 (Choose one of the following)

- *Boot Camp for Sunday School Directors Without PT and Small Arms Qualifications* Dwight Moss
- *Leading Your Sunday School ... Churches of 1-75* Willie Beaty
- *Churches of 76-150* Rick McCormick
- *Churches of 151-300* Mike Harris
- *Churches of 300-Up* John Shearron

9:30 PMFellowship Time
Saturday

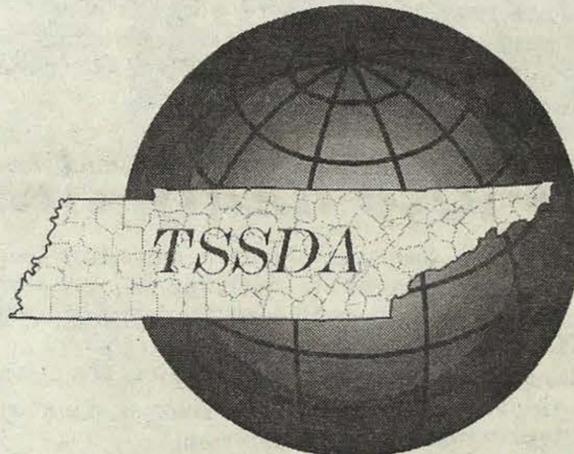
7:30 AMBreakfast
8:00 AMWorship and Devotion
8:15 AMConference 2 (Choose one of the following)

- *Traversing the Teacher Training Track* Dwight Moss
- *Getting on the Main Line ... with Ministry and Assimilation* John Shearron
- *Building the Framework for Effective Leadership Matching Spiritual Gifts with Spiritual Service* Willie Beaty
- *Head 'em up, Move 'em out* Mike Harris
- *Creating Masterpieces by Starting New Classes* Mark Miller
- *Putting Evangelism Back in our Sunday School A Big Hat to Fill* Rick McCormick

9:15 AMConference 3 (Choose one from above list)
10:00 AMBreak
10:30 AMConference 4 (Choose one from above list)
11:30 AMWrap up and Debrief

- Churches of 1-75 Willie Beaty
- Churches of 76-150 Rick McCormick
- Churches of 151-300 Mike Harris
- Churches of 300-up John Shearron

12:30 PMLunch



Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday School Directors Association Meetings for 2002

October 11-12
CarsonSprings Conference Center
Newport, Tenn.

\$25 Registration Fee

TSSDA State Conference
Brentwood
October 10-11, 2003

To register or for more information, call Mark Miller at (615) 558-2090 ext. 2048, 371-2048, e-mail mmiller@tnbaptist.org, or check our web site at tnbaptist.org.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

First Baptist Church, Rockwood prayerfully seeking enthusiastic full-time minister of music blended services (average attendance of 275). Seminary preferred. Send resume and video to First Baptist Church, Rockwood, A Music Search Committee, P. O. Box 54, Rockwood, TN 37843.

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.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Oak pews with brackets and padded seats. Call (615) 764-2557, Pastor John Cook.

MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

Calvary Baptist Church is seeking to fill a new ministerial position. minister of education/evangelism. If you are interested, please send a resume to Pastor Steve McCall, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Brentwood, TN 37830, phone (615) 483-7470, fax (483) 482-7211.

Centreville Baptist, seeking full-time minister of education and youth. MRE degree required. Some experience preferred. Church has new education facilities, Family Life Center, and provides excellent benefits and salary package. Send resume to Centreville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 326, Centreville, AL 35020.

MINISTRIES — YOUNG ADULTS

Seeking full-time young adult minister. Send resume to Hunter First Baptist Church, Hwy. 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643, fax (423) 543-2948, e-mail church@hunterfirst.com.

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

God continues to use volunteers in unique ways. Rose McCain, International missionary to Portugal recently told me how God answered the prayers of a Volunteer Prayer-walk team from Tennessee.

Last spring the team prayerwalked around a camp, owned by the Portuguese Baptist Convention. They prayed and stopped in the chapel, sleeping area, play areas, and dining hall. I do not know the exact prayers the team offered, but I can only guess.

After the camping season, Rose asked the camp director how things had gone. In his excitement, he said it was perhaps one of the best summers he could remember. First, he said that there were no major injuries that required trips to the hospital. He also said that there had been more decisions for Christ than ever before experienced. Finally, he added that a couple who had been experiencing marital problems attended family camp at the encouragement of their pastor. The camp director said that God used the camp to bring reconciliation to the family.

Last summer a group of volunteers answered God's call to volunteer missions and served as a prayerwalk team in Portugal. God honored their commitment and answered their prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Jim

For daily, up-to-date information on Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions,

check

www.tnbaptist.org/mai/missions/update

Nashville DR workers serve in NYC

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

A 16-member Disaster Relief Feeding Team from Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, worked 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 was 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. The Tennessee team worked in three shifts at the BioDome.

"This was a new experience to work with the Salvation Army since the food was prepared by the Whitson Restaurant chain, sent to the BioDome for cooking in convection ovens, and served from steam tables like a cafeteria," said Two Rivers Church team leader, Don Davis.

Other members of the Two Rivers Church team were: 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.

The BioDome, a white steel



NASHVILLIANS from Two Rivers Baptist Church pause during their work in New York City. They are, from left, Sam Mallory, Neal Buchanan, Gail Buchanan, James Woody, John Swaim, Bob Marklein, Ann Davis, Steve Hayes, Mike Cole, and Frank Lee.

structured tent which is the size of a football field, is used for boot washing, vacuuming, eating, bathing, and resting for construction workers, police, and firemen working in the pit, according to Davis.

The BioDome cafeteria has brightly decorated tables, chairs, walls covered with flags and posters made by school children from all over the nation. On each table were stacks of cards and letters, written and decorated by children for the workers.

"In a relaxed atmosphere, we worked hard to prepare 5,000 meals a day, and we had time to sit with firemen, police and construction workers, listen to their stories, and share Christ," said Davis. "The Salvation Army volunteers were hardworking, cheerful, and Christ centered."

Since the effort is ongoing around the clock including holidays, the workers enter the BioDome for meals anytime of the day or night.

The Two Rivers team stayed

at the Cosmopolitan Tribeca Hotel and performed other ministries during their off duty hours throughout the city. A Disaster Relief team from Georgia replaced the Tennessee team.

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 several volunteers who served in the initial Tennessee Baptist feeding operation. ■



PASTOR AMAURY NICOLAU of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, shows the housing project where he is trying to minister. Adam Sanders, pastor, Wilsonville Baptist Church, Newport, learned about the area while participating in the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership. He is trying to raise money to buy 10,000 Bibles for the residents. For more information, contact Bibles for Brazil, 307 Lincoln Ave., Newport, TN 37821, (423) 623-7039, pradam@charter.net.

In Lisbon

For "TBVMN Update"

Lisbon 2002 is a youth ministering to youth project in Portugal, scheduled for July 14-22 or July 21-29. Tennessee youth will not only do the various ministries, but they will also teach Portuguese youth to do these ministries.

At least 3 teams of 12 volunteers each are needed each week to do Creative Ministries, Sports Clinics, and Backyard Bible Clubs. Each team will consist of 10 teenagers and 2 supervisors. Teenagers must be at least 15-years-old or accompanied by a parent.

For more information, contact Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions Project specialist, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061. ■

Congregation provides 'lighthouse' to Rio residents

For "TBVMN Update"

In June of 2001 a 10-member construction team from Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, cleaned out and remodeled a former pool hall in the Lapa area of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Linda Blough led the team.

By the next week, the building was being used for medical clinics and worship services for the homeless and forgotten people on the streets of Rio de Janeiro. IMB missionary Sharon Fairchild thought that the new rescue mission/church mission should be named the Lighthouse in Lapa.

Fairchild, who serves as the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership volunteer coordinator, wrote a letter to the Brentwood team to tell them of the Lighthouse's progress, which was completed with local labor.

"We had our first discipleship class tonight in a Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, downtown building, which was recently renovated by a team from Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood."

"The participants came in one by one and formed a tight knit circle around my husband Ray Fairchild, and they totaled

22. One man with his hair combed and his face washed wore a red shirt ripped in places, no socks, and a pair of worn out shoes. His face was what held my attention, because last night he had been agitated and confused.

"Tonight, the man was clothed and in his right mind. In his hands was a Bible that was given to him yesterday. He smiled and told us that he had not had a drink since last night. We rejoiced with him in these first steps of new life.

"Near the small discipleship group was a group of young Brazilians and Americans who were folding tracts for tomorrow's medical clinic. They whispered to each other, because beside them were six people in a circle with arms around each other praying.

"My eyes drifted down the rough concrete walls, and I could still read the Scriptures that had been written with chalk by volunteers from Brentwood Church. The volunteers had spent a week tearing down the filthy inside of this building so we could have a medical clinic.

"My Brentwood friends, I wish you could have been with us tonight to see the results of

your efforts. People were sitting, walking, and praying in all the places you worked.

"My eyes moved back to the small discipleship group. One man had moved his chair to the center of the group. His head was bowed as tears ran down his cheek. It had been a hard day for him. His back was bent as if he was carrying a heavy burden. The group was huddled around him as they reached out their hands to touch him.

"As prayers were voiced, I imagined what was happening in Heaven as these prayers reached the throne room. Some here were seasoned believers, others were brand new babies, but what a sweet sound it was to our father's ears.

"During the medical clinic on the next day, near the entrance to the building was the pharmacy. My mind raced back to the week before as my Brazilian brother in Christ had proudly shown us the makeshift room that was now our pharmacy.

"All of the metal front doors were rolled up on the building, and people were walking by the entrance. People wanted to know what had happened to former pool hall. Where the



MEMBERS OF Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, work on the building which became the Lighthouse in Lapa.

old pool tables had been, there were people sharing the love of Christ. The bar was gone, the windows where the prostitutes danced were painted white, the walls, which were covered with all sorts of filth, were clean."

"People have a hard time believing that there in the heart of the red light district is a place of refuge. It is a place where those who live on the

streets can come and find help. "Earlier that day one of the doctors asked me about putting a name on what was happening. He said it was an example of what a true lighthouse for the gospel should be and the name Lighthouse in Lapa was born. God gave the dream and the vision. God's people from Brentwood Church put hands and feet to the dream." ■

Sweetwater couple leads workers in Rio

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

With 30 mission trips scheduled in 2002 for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a Tennessee Baptist couple from Sweetwater are very busy serving as assistant volunteer coordinators for all volunteer mission groups serving in the Tennessee/Carioca Baptist Conventions partnership.

Konny and Dorothy Wiggins, IMB Masters Program missionaries, have been serving as assistant volunteer coordinators for IMB missionary to Brazil Sharon Fairchild since 2000. Konny works with construction teams and Dorothy works with the accounting.

"My husband made his first mission trip to Brazil in 1984 where he felt the call to missions that first trip," said Dorothy Wiggins. "The Sweetwater Baptist Association in Monroe County where we lived had started going to Campinas, Brazil. We continued going to Campinas on building projects until 1998."

During those early years, the couple made trips to Haiti and Honduras, but their hearts have always

been in Brazil. In February 1998, the Wiggins made their first mission trip to Rio de Janeiro with an evangelism team led by Sweetwater Association director of missions Bennie Creel where they served at Adriania Baptist Church. "We knew God was calling us to Brazil, but we didn't know how we could go," added Dorothy.

In 1999 a missionary couple told the Wiggins about the masters program that the IMB has. Through this program people who are 50 years or older, sign up to go on the mission field for two or three year terms. If all goes well on the field and if the IMB agrees, Masters Program missionaries can continue signing up as long as they want to go.

In the fall of 1999, the Wiggins contacted the IMB and started the paper work. In April 2000, they went to Richmond, Virginia, to meet with the IMB.

"We looked at all the job requests that were needed in Brazil. We chose to be assistant volunteers to help Fairchild with the Tennessee and Rio Partnership. We work with all the medical, construction, and evangelism teams."

According to the Wiggins, this year they are looking for about 30 teams to come to Rio through the partnership. "We have really enjoyed working with the teams and helping the people of Rio. We thank God for the Masters Program, which has allowed us to have a small part in God's work here in Rio de Janeiro."

The Wiggins recently helped coordinate the construction of a new chapel for Adriana Church in October 2002, which was built by volunteers from Dyer Baptist Association and First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. ■



SHOWING OFF a new van of the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio are, from left, Ray and Sharon Fairchild and Dorothy and Konny Wiggins.

Knoxvillians work in NYC

For "TBVMN Update"

A Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer team leader reached her goal when she was able to share "God's love" with a young Jewish apartment dweller near ground zero in New York City.

"My goal as I go into any mission trip is that I am able to share God's love," said Angel Spears, team leader for a five member team from First Baptist Church of Concord, Knoxville, who worked Dec. 1-4 doing dust out in Gateway Apartments at Ground Zero. "It was certainly the goal of this team to share that to a hurting New York City."

The team's days consisted of cleaning victim homes, which ranged from the severely structurally damaged to more of an emotional cleaning. The team cleaned and ministered to seven families. With the exception of one family, they were all individuals who lived alone.

The team worked for two days on one man's home. They threw out 16 large garbage bags of trash. He had not gone through his mail since Sep 11 fearing anthrax. ■



GETTING READY to embark the New York City subway are Disaster Relief volunteers from left Janie Norris, Nikki May, Lou Musland, Peggy May and Angel Spears.

Nashville church helps start church in Canada

Marcia Knox
"TBVMN Update"

In 2001 a new church started with an interesting name, The Sanctuary in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, began to appear on the Canadian prayer requests. Not only was the name unique, but the seeker church started in a public high school where it comes to meet.

In addition to its new approach, the new church has a sister church in Tennessee, which is Harpeth Heights Baptist Church in Nashville. The Tennessee sister church was in the beginning of the new Canadian church start as early as October 1999 when a Harpeth Heights Church missions team heard about the spiritual need in Canada at a Global Fellowship Leadership Seminar at First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville.

Oakville, Ontario, an upscale subdivision, is not unlike the surrounding area of Harpeth Heights Church. When a team from Harpeth Heights Church met in April 2000 with their TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions team leader Ter-

ry Sharp to look at where God was leading in Canada, a church plant in Oakville was among nine possible church plants for the Tennessee church to partner with in Canada.

"We seemed to think that a suburb of Toronto, known as Oakville, would be a great fit," said Susan Shepherd, a member of Harpeth Heights Church. "Oakville closely reminded us of our community of Bellevue."

At the end of May 2000, Sharp and the Harpeth Heights Church missions team met in Toronto to visit the area for the new church plant.

"When we made plans to go to Oakville, we didn't realize that there wasn't a church plant underway at that time," added Shepherd.

"However, there were two families ministering in Oakville who had been praying for a church plant in Oakville for years. Barry and LaWanda Bonney and Randy and Mary Ann Gallaway had a vision that God would move in mighty ways in this strategic suburb of Toronto."

Jeff and Laura Christopher-son of Calgary, Alberta, joined

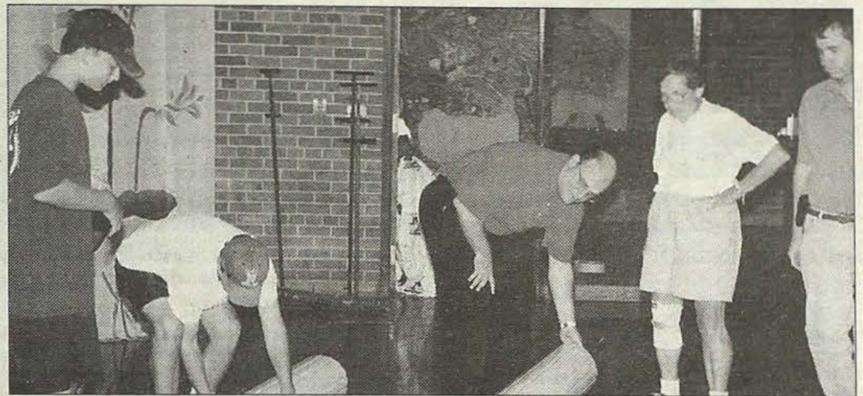
the two couples as well as Garry and Anita Kolb of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Jim and Joy Danielson of North Carolina.

When the mission team from Harpeth Heights Church and Sharp arrived in Canada in May, they met with this core group of church planters from Canada and North Carolina.

"The last person of the group that I met was LaWanda Bonney, whose name and her husband name's sounded familiar,"

said Shepherd. "It suddenly dawned on me how I knew the Bonneys. They were one of the missionary families that we as a church had prayed for two months earlier during the North American Mission Week of Prayer. We had been praying for Barry at the very time he was talking to Jeff about Oakville, and now we were all sitting in his living room."

Soon the Christophersons, the Kolbs, and the Danielsons, all moved to Oakville where they laid the groundwork for a year for the new church plant.



HELPING SET UP for the church's first service are Tennesseans, from left, Alex Shepherd, Jonathan Shepherd, Ron Shepherd, Rena Smith, and Jim Danielson.

On Sept. 9, 2001 The Sanctuary: A Church for Heart, Mind, and Soul was launched. Jeff Christopherson is the teaching pastor; Garry Kolb is the worship pastor; Jim Danielson is the executive pastor; and Jeff Hill is the youth pastor.

The new church had 211 people on its opening day including a group of 11 from Harpeth Heights Church. During the week of Sept. 7-10 the Harpeth Heights team went door-to-door putting reminders on doorknockers about the new church opening and readied

the auditorium/cafeteria of the school by putting up chairs and a sound system on Saturday. The team also packaged Bibles and T-shirts. Youth from Harpeth Heights taught children's church on Sunday morning.

Serving on the team from Harpeth Heights besides Susan Shepherd were: Alex Shepherd, Lindsay Shepherd, Andrea Vickers, Rena Smith, Jennifer Claggett, John Gray, Debbie Barger, Sandra Shepherd, Dennis Claggett, Ron Shepherd, and Jonathan Shepherd. ■

Volunteers help build black church in state

Marcia Knox
"TBVMN Update"

A black Tennessee Baptist pastor who was recently blessed by a series of construction teams building an addition to his church in Columbia is now ready to go on a mission.

"I am so uplifted from this work that I am ready to do mission work," said Henry Houston, pastor of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Columbia. "I did like to get some young people together and extend a helping hand through a mission project. It's important to show people that you care and that you are willing to share with whomever and whatever."

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, a member of the Maury County Baptist Association since 1994, recently completed a much-needed addition to its sanctuary along with remodeling and updating the church through a series of teams of construction volunteers from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

Houston initially contacted a housing/Black Church Extension specialist Rod Glatt to find out about possible help in finishing the new addition to the church. Glatt provided the construction teams resources with the aid of Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist.

The Black Church Extension office and the Volunteer Missions team were able to partner together to get the

work done," said Glatt.

According to Houston, when the church purchased the original building nine years ago, it had previously served as a laundry mat and later an impact center. The building needed major repairs to the carpeting, ventilation center, roof, and walls.

"The church started the new addition, and then they ran into difficulties with the building schedule," said Huff.

The Maury Association put a roof on the building, helped with the concrete foundation, and supplied funding in 2000. However, more work remained on the building and hard times lay ahead for the small congregation.

"Even with no money and few members, I continued to seek the Lord in reading and praying and He told me to wait," said Houston. "And the Lord blessed again."

John Cole, a member of First Baptist Church of Huntingdon, evaluated the construction needs at the church in May 2001 and provided a materials list to complete the project. Over the summer in 2001, a series of missions teams followed coordinated by Huff.

"As they worked on the addition to the sanctuary, the project grew into a major remodeling project to include a fellowship hall, classrooms, a pastor's study, a new roof, air conditioning work, siding, carpet and baptistry in the sanctuary," Huff said.



PASTOR HENRY HOUSTON, right, shows off the remodeled sanctuary of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church to Rod Glatt and Kim Huff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff.

Construction teams came from as far away as Mississippi and Arkansas.

Ben Griffin of Hixson, a member of Middle Valley Baptist Church, served as the on-site coordinator for the teams.

According to Griffin the following teams were instrumental in completing the project: a Sevier County Baptist Association team, led by Herb Caughon, a member of Millican Grove Baptist Church, Sevierville, and Dave Tinker, member of First Baptist Church of Sevierville, worked on the project. The Sevier County team put in the baptistry, built in a choir loft, and did wiring and plumbing.

A Hamilton County Baptist Association team, led by Griffin, repoured the concrete floor, helped in framing, and did electrical work.

A team from First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, who had previously worked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, building a chapel in November 2001, also joined in the effort. First Church of Hendersonville's team, led by Don Kamper, worked on the concert floors, repaired the concrete foundation, and remodeled by moving partition walls. The pews and carpet were also replaced in the sanctuary, and more doors were added.

"The Maury County Baptist Association would like to congratulate Mt. Tabor Baptist Church on their accomplishment and are pleased that the church reached their goal," said Dale Ledbetter, director of missions. "We look forward to Mt. Tabor partnering with us in the association and reaching their community as a lighthouse for the Gospel." ■

Training set

For "TBVMN Update"

The Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group and the IMB are co-sponsors of the Cross-Cultural Training program that is designed to equip participants for ministry throughout the world.

Training Schedule:

April 5-6 — Baptist Center, Brentwood (hosted by Nashville Baptist Association);
April 12-13 — Baptist Center, Brentwood (Collegiate);
May 3-4 — Baptist Center, Brentwood (Youth)

Please register at least two weeks prior to the training date by calling Erin Israel, at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7935, or online at www.tnbaptist.org/mai/missions. ■

Clarification

For "TBVMN Update"

IMB missionaries Ray and Sharon Fairchild of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, requested a clarification on a Dec. 12, 2001, article entitled "Medical volunteers minister in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil."

The Fairchilds noted some Brazilian pastors and Brazilians are not trained in personal evangelism, but most pastors and translators have had one-on-one training and are very effective in reaching people for Christ. ■

Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions Network UPDATE

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
2002 Rio Projects				
Rio	48349	Evangelism team consisting of a preacher, a music person, and a layperson	9/23-10/1	15-20 teams
Rio	48353	Medical/evangelism clinic	10/25-11/3	50 max
2002 Portugal Projects				
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002106	Conduct children's ministry and basketball camp	7/12-21	50
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002109	Choir/orchestra to perform Christmas music	12/13-21	50
Porto	PM12002107	Church choir to perform classical music in northern Portugal	10/4-13	open
Lisbon	LISBON2002A	Youth teams involved in assisting and teaching Portuguese youth — creative ministries, Backyard Bible Clubs and sports clinics.	7/14-22	40
Lisbon	LISBON2002B	Youth teams involved in assisting and teaching Portuguese youth — creative ministries, Backyard Bible Clubs and sports clinics.	7/21-29	40
2002 Canada Projects				
Calgary, AB	02MID001	Construction to existing facility working with contractor	May-June	1-50
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL002	General repairs, maintenance and painting/carpentry	7/1-6	12-15
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL005	Camp for children and teens in a new church start area	7/15-19	15-25
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL007	BYBC, recreation, music, puppet ministry in new church start area	6/29-7/6	7-15
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL008	Construct two bathrooms in new church start	7/6-13	10-20
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL009	Build handicap ramp, replace porch and steps, build roof overhang	6/25-7/6	10-20
Charlottetown, PEI	02ATL010	Teams to complete apartments used to house missionaries. Teams needed each week.	6/29-7/27	10-20
Cochrane, AB	02MID007	Flyer distribution, park ministry servant evangelism	6/24-29	5-10
Cochrane, AB	02MID008	Servant evangelism, sports camp	7/28-8/3	10-20
Cochrane, AB	02MID010	Construct 12 apartments at Canadian seminary	May-July	5-50
Delta, BC	02CAP001	Assist with VBS, acts of kindness, and prayerwalks	7/6-13	5-10
Evansburg, AB	02MID003	Conduct VBS	7/8-12	5-8
Montreal, QB	02QUE003	Renovate building to be used as a church	April-Aug.	5-20
Montreal, QB	02QUE004	Assist church planters in prayerwalks, evangelism distribution, etc.	June-August	4-7
Montreal, QB	02QUE005	Work with church planters in Prayerwalks, servant evangelism, etc. on college campuses	3/12-31	5-20
Montreal, QB	02QUE008	Initial missions experience for churches interested in long term partnerships in Quebec	open	1-100
In and around QB	02QUE009	Prayerwalking	open	2-20
Penticton, BC		Volunteer coordinator to coordinate details for 300/400 volunteers in summer of 2002	5/1-8/16	1
Penticton, BC	02ALP002	Teams needed each week to assist with community outreach in Penticton and surrounding communities through beach ministry, VBS/BYBC, creative ministry, etc.	June-August	1-100
Rouyn-Noranda, QB	02QUE001	Community evangelism, ministry at park, painting, install underground pipes	June-August	5-8
St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, QB	02QUE006	Random acts of kindness and relational evangelism during International Camping Rally	6/28-7/9	5-15
St. Jean-sur-Richelieu	02QUE007	Children BYBC at city park	July-August	5-10
St. Albert, AB	02MID004	Sports camp and assist with VBS	July-August	2-3
Verdun, QB	02QUE002	Visitation and children BYBC	July-August	5-10
Victoria, BC	02CAP002	Minister to community through servant evangelism	July	5-20
Winnipeg, Manitoba	02KEY001	Renovate interior of vacant building to make suitable for worship and classrooms	5/1-7/31	1-100
2002 Iowa Projects				
Ames	IA-02-25	Survey work in community and follow-up work on campus, block parties	9/23-30	15-25
Ames	IA-02-27	Door-to-door survey work, visitation VBS, puppet ministry	6/7-12	10-25
Ames	IA-02-26	Remodel sanctuary and kitchen	open	10-20
Bettendorf	IA-02-41B	Brick Layers	open	open
Carter Lake	IA-02-35	Shingle and gutter roof, finish bathroom, hang drywall, plumbing	open	open
Clinton	IA-02-36	Conduct BYBC, survey work with possible block party. Also need volunteers to paint and repair church	open	30
Clinton	IA-02-40	Evangelist outreach at community event and block party at church	7/1-8	20+
Des Moines	IA-02-47	Reroof and remodel worship center	6/10-8/20	15-25
Glenwood	IA-02-02	Install doors and porch railings	open	5-7
Independence	IA-02-12	Music on Sunday and visitation during the week. Need person all Summer	Summer	2
Independence	IA-02-13	Conduct block parties	6/25-30	10-12
Iowa City	IA-02-42	BYBC at park or homes during day, VBS at church in the evening	6/15-24	7
Lamoni	IA-02-46	VBS in nearby community during day and VBS at church in the evening	6/22-28	10
Newton	IA-02-43	Week-end VBS	7/12-14	open
Quimby	IA-02-14	Conduct BYBC, sports clinics, replace roof and complete parsonage	June-July	open
Sioux Center	IA-02-24	Promote BYBC, survey work, outreach, puppets, music	6/3-9	10-40
Stormlake	IA-02-01	Conduct block parties puppets, music, VBS	open	open
Stuart	IA-02-38	Kick-off carnival and VBS	June	open
W. Des Moines	IA-02-37	VBS/BYBC, puppets, block parties drama, sports, student ministry	July-Aug	15 or less

Tennessee Projects

East Tennessee

- ▶ **Alcoa** — Volunteers needed to conduct BYBC at area resort campgrounds, family evening programs, and Sunday morning services. Dates are open.
Individual or couple needed to work with local churches and mission groups in providing BYBC, Sunday services, and family programs for area campgrounds. Need person to work from May 20-Sept. 3.
Contact: Kelly Campbell, Chilhowee Baptist Association, 865-982-0499.
- ▶ **Benton** — Volunteers/teams needed each week from June 9-Aug to do community ministry (BYBC, Boys & Girls Club), home repair ministry, and resort ministry (river hospitality, campground ministry). Contact: Debbie Brock/Andy Jordan, Camp Agape, 423-338-4153.
- ▶ **Cleveland** — Volunteers/teams needed each week from June 5-Aug. 5 to do resort ministry, creative ministry, BYBC, prayerwalking, family events, etc. Contact: Chris Stewart, Ocoee Resort Ministries, 423-476-5493.
Volunteers/teams needed each week from June 1-August 10 to do home repairs. Contact: Randy Booner, Ocoee Outreach, 423-476-5493.
- ▶ **Johnson City** — Volunteers needed to provide BYBC activities for children (preschool, school age and teens) in low-income, single parent community. Dates: June-July. Contact: Ginger Dalton, Johnson City Baptist Center, 423-929-1196.
- ▶ **Knoxville** — Volunteers needed year round (Wednesday and Thursday) to serve in soup kitchen preparing and serving meals. Volunteers needed year round to work in homeless shelter by serving meals and conducting Bible studies.
Volunteers needed year round to do painting at Boys & Girls Club and conduct children ministry.
Volunteers needed year round to serve lunch at rescue missions and sort clothes and other items.
Contact: Carol Webb, Knox County Baptist Association, 865-577-6244.
- ▶ **Rutledge** — Volunteers needed each week from June 15-Aug. 15 for home repairs, block parties, prayerwalking, BYBC, puppets, music, etc. Contact: Dennis Cagle, Grainger Baptist Association, 865-828-4001.

Middle Tennessee

- ▶ **Beersheba** — Volunteers needed to build log church. Dates are open. Contact: John Gross, Grace Baptist Church, 931-692-3080.
- ▶ **Murfreesboro** — Volunteers needed to erect a metal multi-purpose building. Dates: Beginning in August. Contact: Bob Dilling, Murfreesboro Community Church, 615-896-0549.
- ▶ **Mt. Juliet** — Volunteers needed to build auditorium onto existing church building. Contact: Jerry Smith, Fellowship Baptist, 615-449-6317
- ▶ **Nashville** — Volunteers needed year round to do Bible Studies at Tennessee Prison for Women. Contact: Linda Knott, Donelson, FBC, Chaplaincy Dept. 615-741-1255
Volunteers needed from March 29-July 1 to do framing, roofing, and bricking on 6,000 sq. ft. church building. Contact: Darren Whitehead, Simeon Baptist Church, 615-612-2163.
- ▶ **Springfield** — Volunteers needed to conduct prayer walks and survey in prospective ministry areas and do light construction in the area.
Volunteers (women) needed to conduct Mommies Fair — a one day event featuring make-overs, cooking classes, budgeting and other information designed to help low-income mothers better provide for family. Volunteers also needed to provide childcare and lunch.
Volunteers needed to conduct VBS/BYBC at local community center and organize recreation and/or sports camp for youth.
Volunteers needed to conduct BYBC for preschool and younger children at apartment complex. Mornings would be spent at local food distribution and/or clothing thrift store to sort clothes or prepare food boxes. Dates are open.
Contact: Belita Howard, Robertson County Baptist Association, 615-384-8197.

West Tennessee

- ▶ **Jackson** — Volunteers needed June 3-8, June 8-15, and July 27-Aug. 3 for work projects (painting, roofing, light repair) each morning and in afternoon conduct day camps. Contact: Amy Brady, Madison-Chester Association, 731-668-5690.
- ▶ **Ripley** — Volunteers needed to brick an existing church building. Dates are open. Contact: Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 731-635-7117.
- ▶ **Shelby** — Volunteers needed to build (wood frame) and brick building that will be used as a sanctuary and classrooms. Build is approx. 5,000 sq. ft. Dates are open. Contact: Vaughn Denton, Kirby Parkway Baptist Church, 901-795-4423.
- ▶ **Martin** — Volunteers to work on parking lot that needs to be regraded, foundation waterproofed, drain system to ditch and a concrete slab at bottom of stairwell. Also need an overhang installed and painting done on the inside of the church. Dates: before April. Contact: Tina Shopper, 731-588-0305
- ▶ **Memphis** — Volunteers needed to resurface flat roof. Dates are open. Contact: Lisa Travis, International Baptist Church, 901-373-6161

All international projects are conducted through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. For more information about the above projects, call Tennessee Baptist Convention Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021.

Church in Crossville

Pastor follows unusual route to Tennessee

By onnie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

ROSSVILLE — Just four years ago Robert and Yvette Lawrence were looking forward to retirement in Pine Bluff, Ark. He had served churches as a vocational pastor in Arkansas and Mississippi for 41 years.

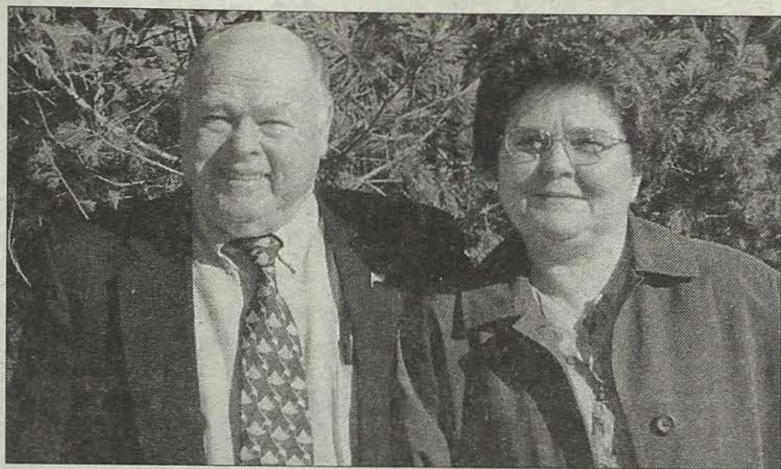
The Lawrences were anticipating retirement because they had worked hard. They had a living in a variety of ways and raised three sons. They planned to retire on 35 acres of land in a home that was paid for and continue to live and raise their 40 head of cattle, described Robert. And they could enjoy their sons, who had settled nearby and their grandchild.

But God had other plans, explained the couple.

A new plan

The first hint they received that God had other plans for them was when they felt their work was completed at the church they had served for 13 years.

As soon as the congregation moved into its new building, he realized it, said Robert. Yvette said she felt uncomfortable in the new building. When Robert asked her how he was feeling, she realized God was making her comfortable.



THE LAWRENCES, Robert and Yvette, had some unusual experiences which led to their ministry at Isoline Baptist Church, Crossville, where he is pastor.

But the couple was sure God would lead them to serve another church in the area. He always had. Robert resigned as pastor.

Then in 1998 the Lawrences were on vacation and decided to travel to Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, where Robert had attended high school. He had never returned to the school after he graduated.

On the way home, they traveled through Crossville and Lawrence drove by Isoline Baptist Church to show Yvette where he had served as a music director while at Harrison-Chilhowee and where he had

preached his first sermon. He remembered vividly the great service that Sunday night in which a young girl made a profession of faith.

They returned home but Lawrence said he couldn't get Crossville off of his mind. "I was impressed that the Lord had something for me here at Crossville," he said. "I had to either get back or die," he described.

Accepting the plan

The couple talked. Yvette's response was "Why Crossville?" But soon she agreed to pursue moving to Tennessee.

They sold one piece of land to a neighbor and quit their jobs.

Then they traveled back to Crossville to look for a place to live. They returned home to Arkansas and several hours later a woman visited them and offered to buy their home and property. In two weeks, without a realtor, their property was sold.

The move and especially leaving her children and grandchild was "the hardest thing I've ever done," said Yvette.

God continues to lead

In Crossville, Yvette soon had a job at the city's hospital and, thankfully, insurance coverage for her and Robert. And they visited Isoline Baptist Church, where they met Reed and Alma England who remembered Robert from his service at the church 47 years ago. Since then Reed England has died.

The Lawrences joined the church that first Sunday. They also learned the church was without a pastor. Was this where God was leading? the couple wondered. In a few months, the Lawrences found out. Robert Lawrence was called as pastor of Isoline Church.

A new ministry

Now, three years later, the couple is still incredulous.

"I'm as excited now as I've ever been in the ministry," said Robert Lawrence.

He thanked Roy Davis, direc-



tor of missions, Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association based here, for accepting him. In Arkansas Lawrence served churches in the Baptist Missionary Association. But he feels very comfortable back in the Southern Baptist Convention since he and Yvette were raised in Southern Baptist churches and he attended Southern Baptist schools.

And Davis has helped him in his ministry at Isoline, added Lawrence. Every ministry has challenges, he added.

The couple doesn't see their experience as extraordinary. Missionaries do it all of the time, said Robert Lawrence.

Yvette is glad to be in Tennessee now. "We just appeared on their (the church's) doorstep and they accepted us and we love them to death," she said. "He (God) put a love in our hearts for them and He put a love in their hearts for us. There's been such a peace here."

And they are honored to serve Isoline Church.

"God doesn't have small and big ministries. He has different ministries," Lawrence said. ■

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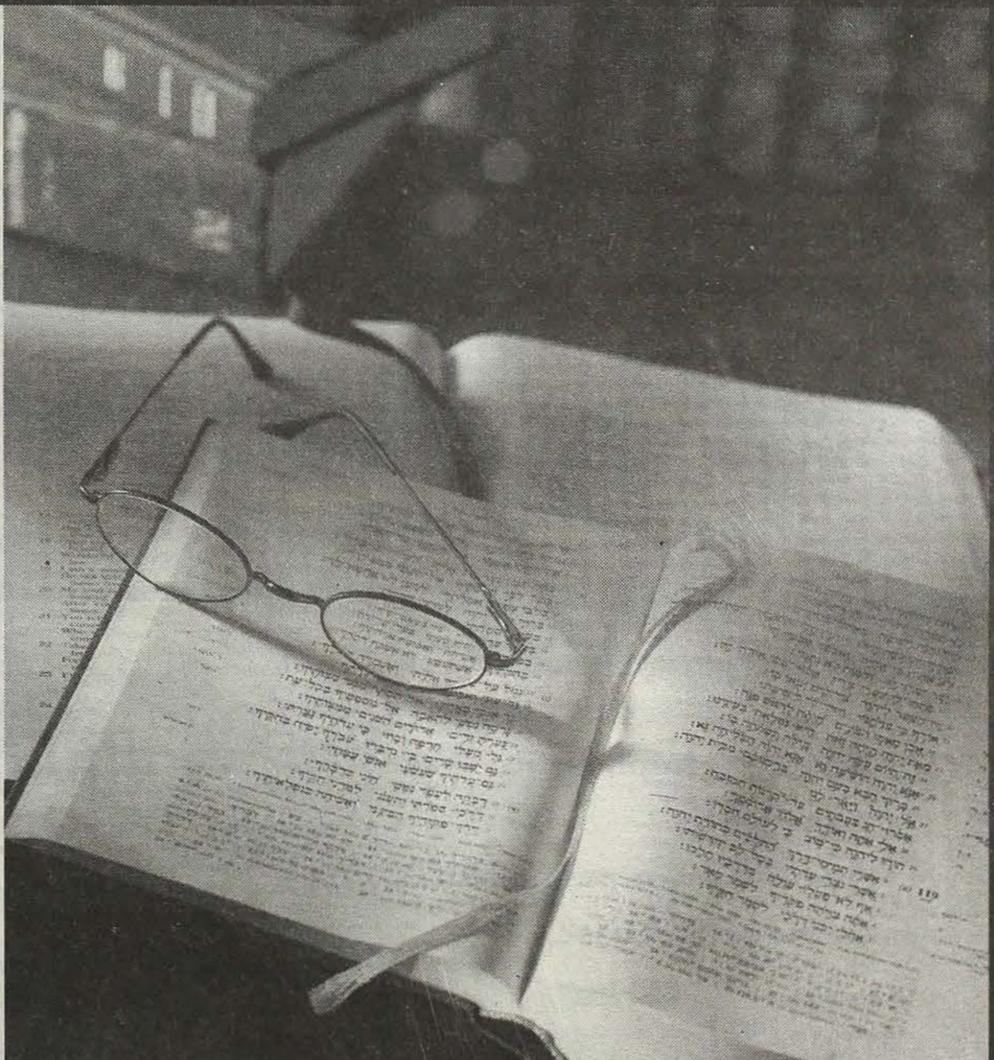
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SBC plans national rally in 2003 to save families

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists have scheduled their "first-ever convention-wide rally to save the family."

Tom Elliff, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Council on Family Life, said the rally will be June 19, 2003, in Phoenix, Ariz., the day after the June 17-18 SBC annual meeting there.

It will be a day "that could change your family for a lifetime," Elliff said in an announcement.

The rally will feature "the best of the best" among family speakers, including breakout sessions for mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, students and children, said Elliff, a former SBC president and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

The rally will seek to help families regardless of any tragedies or difficulties they

have weathered, Elliff said.

It will seek to nurture "a family marked by moral purity and fidelity; a family marked by a commitment to spend time each week listening to God and listening to one another; a family committed to fiscal, or financial, responsibility; committed to supporting the local church; and a family also that has committed itself to becoming involved in Great Commission projects which will reach people around the world, changing their lives and the lives of your family members as well."

Referencing the terrorist at-

tacks of Sept. 11, Elliff noted, "Another disaster of even greater proportions was unfolding in our nation." On that day, "over 3,000 families simply died," a toll repeated daily in America, he said.

"On 3,000 occasions a husband and wife said their final goodbyes," Elliff said, while 3,000 couples filed divorce papers or visited with divorce lawyers and another 3,000 couples got married "without the commitments or the counseling they needed to have a marriage that would last for a lifetime."

The marriages claimed by di-

voiced were "silent deaths ... grieved by just a few people," Elliff said. There were "no sirens wailing, no crowds applauding the desperate attempts to save the family, ... no crowds gathered in vast arenas to mourn the passing of these families," and no massive government effort to prevent future family tragedies.

The devil simply "plugged on

with his timeless strategy of destroying a nation by destroying that nation's families," Elliff said. ■



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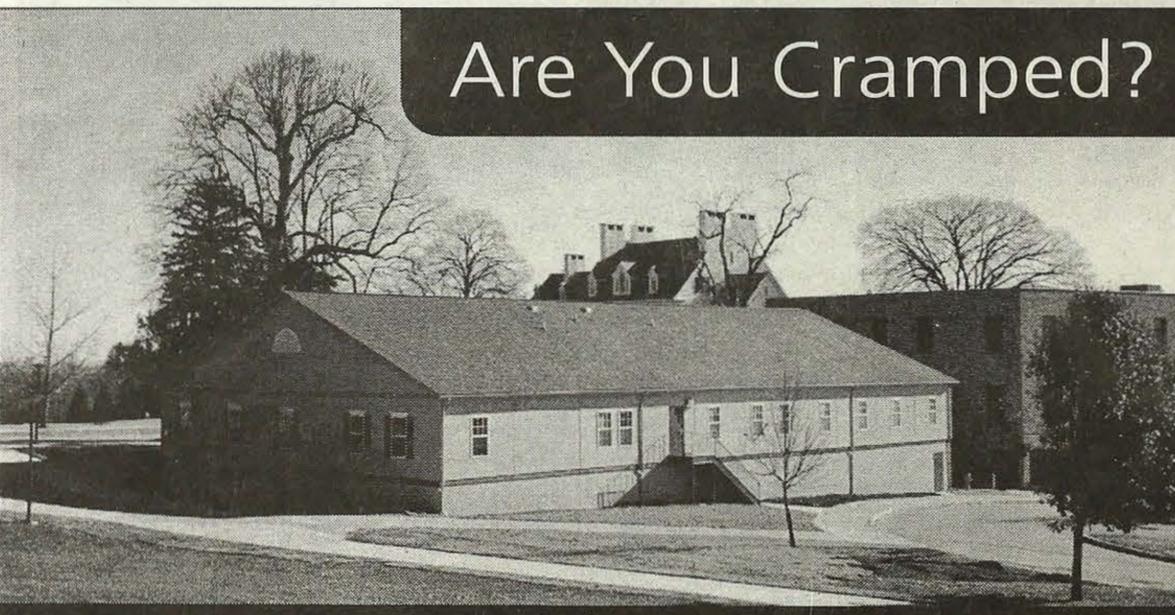
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Memphis educator shares life in new book

Lonnie Wilkey
 Artist and Reflector

CORDOVA — Elmer Bailey says as well that life is about choices.

The 85-year-old retired religious educator acknowledges that over the span of his life he made some good choices as well as some he would as soon forget about.

Bailey shares his story in *God's Plans — Your Choices: A Biography of Elmer Bailey*, to be released sometime in April. Love Worth Finding, the media arm of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

The book details Bailey's life from his birth and childhood to the present.

In a "word from the author" that will be published in the book, Bailey wrote: "You can understand that I had very limited knowledge of God or plans, and even less understanding of the choices which would be mine and the immediate results of my choices.

However, God was at work planning my life long before I was aware. God had good and precious plans for me, not for me alone, but for all who claim

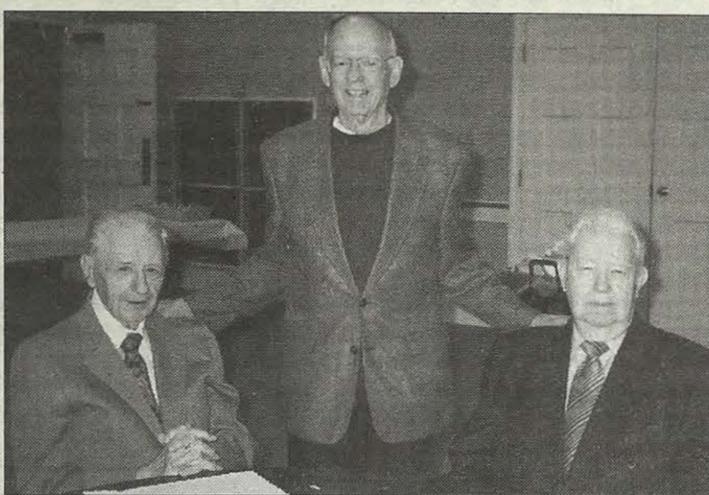


ELMER BAILEY displays a sample of the cover of his book which chronicles his work in religious education.

Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords."

Bailey served in several churches as music and education director including Avondale Baptist in Chattanooga, his first church.

He later was called to Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville where he served under former Southern Baptist Convention President Ramsey Pollard. When Pollard accepted the call to Bellevue Baptist



THREE LONGTIME contemporaries in religious education met together in 2000 at LifeWay Christian Resources for a time of fellowship and reminiscing. From left are Elmer Bailey, Windy Rich, and Henry Love.

Church, then located in downtown Memphis, Bailey joined him three months later.

Before that, Bailey served as interim pastor of Broadway, the only pastorate in his 62 years of ministry, he recalled.

Bailey said he felt God put it on his heart to write a book about his experiences.

"As I was thinking about the book and my life, I began to realize how God had planned it all," he said.

Among the pastors Bailey served with was Adrian Rogers, another former SBC president, who followed Pollard at Bellevue.

"This volume speaks of God's plan to prosper us in good times and in bad," Rogers writes in a foreword to the book.

"It speaks wisely and warmly of God's providential care and His hand of mercy. It speaks of the goodness and



mercy of God that follows all the days of our lives — God's goodness, even when we don't deserve it, and His mercies when we always need them," Rogers wrote.

He noted that Bailey "is drawing from a vast reservoir of biblical wisdom and incredible experience."

Bailey stresses in his book that "the only way to go is to follow God's will.

"The bad choices are those that go against His will. I know by experience," he said.

In writing the book, Bailey said he learned anew of how God worked year by year in his life.

"My prayer is that through the words God has given me to put in this book, someone will be led to know the importance of finding God's will for their life and then do it with all their might," Bailey said.

For more information about the book, contact Bailey at (901) 387-5127. ■

Get ready! Saddle up! Join us in the Journey to Fort Worth!

Hurry, space is still available for the Senior Adult Convention.

Registration begins Sunday afternoon, April 14, and continues throughout Monday. The opening session includes concert pianists Nielson and Young; a 2,500-voice senior adult choir; Bob Burroughs, Music/Worship leader; and a concluding message by Esther Burroughs. The music will also include a Gospel Reunion Concert on Tuesday night, and to close Wednesday night, the premiere of the *Joy in the Journey* musical.



JOY IN THE JOURNEY
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Other speakers include: Dr. Bruce Wilkinson, author of *The Prayer of Jabez*; Dr. Paul Carlisle, co-author of *Strength for the Journey*; T.W. Hunt, author of *Mind of Christ* and *Disciple's Prayer Life*; and Dr. Gene Mims, President of LifeWay Church Resources and author of *Thine Is the Kingdom*.

For information and registration, call LifeWay Church Resources' Events Registration at 1-800-254-2022 or fax 615-251-3730. For information concerning sightseeing tours, available at an additional charge, call 310-264-8238 or fax 310-264-7740.





Reccord to host The Baptist Hour

FamilyNet TV News

FORT WORTH, Texas — North American Mission Board President Bob Reccord will be the new host of The Baptist Hour radio program, beginning this spring, according to a recent announcement from FamilyNet.

Reccord will take over for Frank Pollard, who is retiring as pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.



RECCORD

The Baptist Hour was first broadcast in 1941 and has featured a celebrated list of pulpit giants including M.E. Dodd, George Truett, W.A. Criswell, J.D. Grey, and more.

Reccord's first broadcast will be Palm Sunday, March 24. ■

ERLC, others ask FCC to enforce laws

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has joined with other organizations

in asking the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to enforce federal decency laws, beginning with the Fox Network.

In a letter to FCC Chairman Michael Powell, the 14 organizations cited the Fox program "Boston Public" as an especially blatant violator of the decency standards. Among those signing the letter were Focus on the Family, National Association of Evangelicals, Family Research Council, and American Family Association.

"Boston Public" is shown Monday at 8 p.m. (Eastern

Standard Time) during what is known in television as the "family hour." Last year, the Parents Television Council rated the program as the worst on network TV. Its plots have included strong sexual themes involving students with students, teachers with students, and a parent with an administrator.

"It is our view that shows like 'Boston Public' and its ilk do not belong in prime time

when any child in America can see them," the letter said. "We hope that you will agree."

Not only did Fox have the No. 1-ranked program on the PTC's worst 10 list last year but it also had the programs rated No. 5, "That '70s Show," and No. 7, "Ally McBeal."

The organizations encouraged Powell to take the FCC in a different direction. President Bush named Powell chairman

of the five-member panel last year.

Prior to Powell's chairmanship, the FCC has largely failed to enforce decency laws for several years, they said, citing a recent report by the Culture and Family Institute of Concerned Women for America. The FCC "has imposed minimal or no fines, dismissed penalties, and ignored citizen complaints," the letter said. ■

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Allons Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational youth minister. Call or write for application/information/job description, Allons Baptist Church, P.O. Box 89, Allons, TN 38541, (931) 823-8613 or 823-5904.

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Organist for pipe organ. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 369, Gallatin, TN 37066.



Full-time preschool minister. Seeking individual with God-given call to Christian service. Seminary degree in religious education and/or bachelor's degree in early childhood education with equivalent experience required. Church averages 1,000 in Sunday School attendance. Salary DOE. Contact Search Committee Chairman, 211 South Market, Benton, AR 72015, (501) 778-2271, or e-mail frances@fbc Benton.org.



Houseparents. Immediate need for full-time relief houseparents at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga and Cleveland. Married couples only. Call Bob Segrest or Lynn Jordan at (423) 892-2722.



The William Carey Association is searching for a God-called director of missions. Anyone feeling God's calling to this ministry should apply. Please send resume before Mar. 27 to William Carey Baptist Association, Attn. DOM Search Committee, P.O. Box 11, Fayetteville, TN 37334 or e-mail to wcba@vallnet.com.



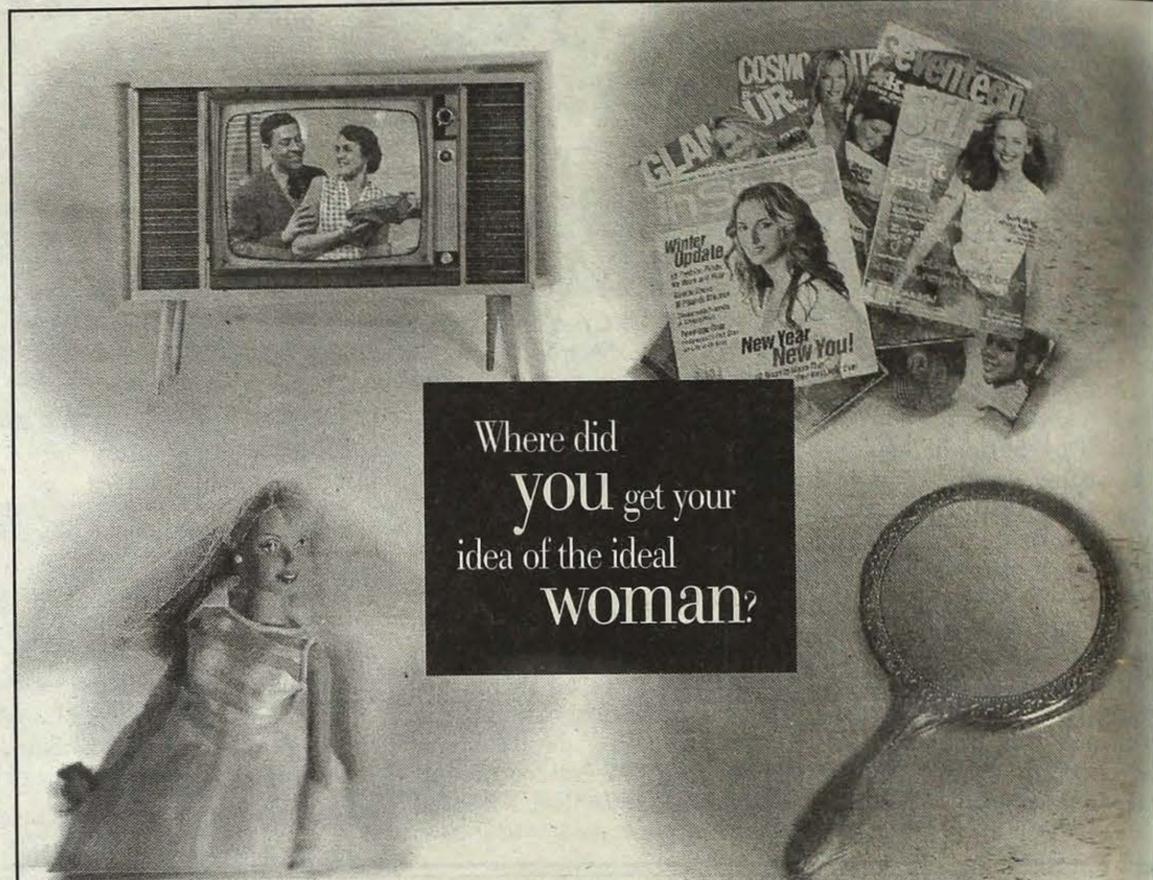
Giles Baptist Association is currently searching for a director of missions. Send resume to Giles Baptist Association, Attn. Search Committee, P.O. Box 404, Pulas-ki, TN 38478.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Bethel Baptist, a conservative, mission-minded church, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Resumes will be received until Mar. 20, 2002. Send resume and cover letter to The Bethel Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 135, Greenfield, TN 38230.

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Part-time minister of music needed at Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville. Send resume to Minister of Music Search Committee, 700 Russel St., Nashville, TN 37206 or call (615) 255-0468.



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Minister's Corner

Michael Gunter

There is a game adults like to play with kids called, "When I was your age."

My father played

with me, I suspect his father played it with him, now I have begun playing it with my son. It goes something like this: The adult says, "When I was your age, we only got three channels on a black and white TV, and they went off the air at 11 p.m." The kid stares in amazement. The adult continues, "When I was your age, telephones had a dial instead of buttons." The kid is speechless. The adult makes a final play, "When I was your age, we had to pop corn on the stove." The kid shakes his head in amazement and the adult has won.

Well, it's not much of a game, but we play it anyway. I think there is something more to it than just a look at how much life has changed. I think it is a longing for the good ole days when life was simpler. As we get older, our approach to life has been altered. In the rush to do more, get more, and be more, we have complicated our lives; and, in a sense lost the freedom we once enjoyed. I am not talking about freedom of speech or religion. I am talking about a freedom to stop and live.

It is my observation that the primary reason many Christians are not experiencing meaningful encounters with God, deep intimacy with their spouse, and connection with their children is the lack of time and energy. The question of where this time and energy is spent must be answered by each person.

I have identified my own culprit as secondary priorities — things that are not necessarily wrong, just secondary. If I am going to be the man God wants me to be and the husband and father my family deserves, I must strive to simplify my life and regain the freedom to stop and live.

I encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to join in this endeavor. ■ — Gunter is minister of education and students at North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland.

Start for the day

Fred Wood, emeritus, Memphis



Start With a Smile: Eight-year-old Johnny: "Mama, why does daddy have so few hairs on his head?" Mama: "Because he

looks a lot." Johnny (a few minutes later): "Mama, do you have so much hair on your head?"

Take this Truth: Dizzy Dean is reported to have said, "Don't get too far away from first base. One of the hard pitchers will pick you off."

Remember this Scripture: "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise." — Psalm 8:3, NIV

Pray this Prayer: Lord, help me to realize that the "simple people" can often "cut through an over-complication and see the fallacy of it."

Week of Prayer for North American Missions
Suggested Dates: March 3-10

On Mission Together: Showing the Way

Being productive

By Charles Fritts

Focal Passage: John 15:1-17

The worst job (and the shortest) I ever had was in a small print shop owned by a husband and wife. He would tell me to do one thing. She would tell me to do another. I couldn't obey both so I did the work poorly, got "fussed at," and didn't last long.

To be productive you've got to know what's expected. The big question: "What does Jesus expect of me?" He expects me to be productive and in the text, He tells me how.

To be productive, I must abide in Christ (vv. 1-10). The key word is "abide" used repeatedly. To abide is an ongoing and growing closeness to Christ. As I stay close to Christ, I find not only the power to do what He expects but also the desire to do it. Neither a church, nor an individual is spiritually productive if our motives and our methods are not derived from a close walk with Him. We may look good, sound good, and be impressive in programs and plans, yet lasting fruit comes only as we remain in an intimacy with Him. We are absolutely dependent upon His life and energy flowing into ours.

To be productive, I must love as Christ loved (vv. 12-13, 17). A father told his son: "We are to love and serve others." To which the boy asked, "Well, what are the others to do?" Good question. But it has no

bearing on what Christ expects of me. I am to love, regardless of what others do or don't do. I am to "keep on loving" when I feel like it and when I don't. You see, Christian love is "doing" not "feeling." It is doing the best thing for the other person, whether they deserve it or not. They probably don't, but then, neither did I. Christ loved me anyhow. I can do that only as I abide in Him and His love flows through me. The closer I abide with Him, the more I'll love like Him.

To be productive, I will pray boldly (vv. 7, 16b). This is not a self-indulging prayer of a loveless, lazy believer. It is the prayer of one

who abides closely and loves increasingly. It is the prayer of one who has "Christ words" abiding in them. Christ urges us to use this resource boldly, for He says, "...ask and it shall be done for you."

What do you need, specifically to be productive? Go ahead, get close to Christ and ask boldly. This is His will for you.

To be productive, I will honor my privileges (vv. 14-15, 16a). It is a privilege to be a child of God. It is a shocking privilege to be called a "friend" of Christ. Then He adds to my privileges by saying "I chose you." This friendship is not a "He's my buddy" type thing. Although friends, we are not equals. Although friends, He is still Lord. The idea that the Savior of the world, God Himself, calls me friend is stagger-

Family Bible SS Lesson — March 10

Know God better

By Thurman Seber

Focal Passage: Ephesians 1:15-23

Before we can know someone better, we must be acquainted with them in the first place. Over the years, I have come to know many good friends better as I have spent time and shared experiences with them.

Paul had heard of the faith of the Ephesian Christians (v. 5) and how it had caused them to love the saints. Knowledge of God through Jesus Christ always seems to effect people in this manner. In fact, this is one of the ways we can know that we have passed from death unto life (I John 3:14). Paul had a habit of praying for his fellow Christians and thanking God for them (v. 16).

Who do we really pray for? Do we mention people by name and pray for specific needs, or are our prayers more general in nature? Do our prayers always seem to be asking God for something, or do we sometimes just thank Him for Christian brothers and sisters?

Although Paul found much to be thankful for in the report about the Ephesian faithful, he saw something that they yet needed. He prayed that they could know God better. Have you ever heard anyone

say they knew the Lord too well?

He prayed that God would give them the spirit of wisdom and that He would reveal Himself to them, that their knowledge of Him could be greater. He asked that their spiritual eyes be opened in order that they might see what they had in Jesus

Christ.

Do you think any of us are yet fully aware of the vastness of our wealth in Christ? It is sometimes said of a rich person that they don't really know how much they have. They may know that they own much land, but be unable to say exactly how many acres. They may be aware that they have many cattle or dollars but not know the full extent of their possessions. So it is with believers. As we come to know Jesus better, we begin to have a more complete understanding of our spiritual wealth.

Paul wasted little time praying for material things for himself or for his fellow believers, although prayer for physical and material needs is not out of order. He did not ask God to give them spiritual wealth either. He knew they already had it if they could only know it.

In addition to their spiritual riches, there was knowledge of something more that they would need if

they were to fulfill their calling. They would need some concept of the mighty power in them through Jesus (v. 19).

Old Testament believers defined the power of God through His work in creation. New Testament believers saw his awesome power in the resurrection of Jesus (v. 20). Since Jesus was risen and seated at the right hand of Glory, His wonderful, unlimited, dynamic, all sufficient power was theirs.

Do you know God well enough to have a sense of the power that surrounds you, supports you, sustains you? The servant of Elisha, in II Kings 6:17, could not see the armies of God that filled the mountain around him. God opened his eyes and allowed him to see what physical eyes could not behold. As we know God better, we grow much bolder. The battle against principalities and powers in high places, is to be fought in Godly power.

With a name above every name in this world or the world to come, and with all creation under His control, what a thought to know that Jesus is particularly related to His church (v. 22).

As a part of the body of Christ, all the power of God flows through the Word as we teach, preach and testify. How can we ever fail? The King of kings and Lord of lords is our head. — Seber is pastor of Upper Helton Baptist Church, Alexandria.



leaders

■ **Don Malone**, pastor, Thompson Creek Baptist Church, Como, baptized Christopher Garth Baker recently. Baker was the fourth generation of the Baker family. Malone has baptized during his ministry at the church. Malone baptized Baker's great-grandfather Robert Baker, grandfather Doy Baker, and father Mike Baker. Malone has been pastor of the church since 1969.

■ Lake Drive Baptist Church, Sale Creek, will ordain **Jim Stout, Richard Perrin, and Barth Fine** as deacons March 10.

■ Hillview Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, has called **Tom Harris** of Murfreesboro as minister of music.

■ Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton, has called **Jeremy Hazel** as minister of youth and discipleship.

■ **Bobby Greer**, youth minister, Bethel Baptist Church, Henderson, and his wife, **Tammie**, have been appointed missionaries to Northern Africa by the International Mission Board. Also the church has called **Mike Stover** as pastor. He formerly was pastor, Cairo Baptist Church, Alamo.

■ **Dwight Hobbs** has been called as pastor, Roan Park Baptist Church, Roan Mountain.

■ **David Hankal** has been called as minister of youth, Lynn Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

■ Big Springs Baptist Church, Elizabethton, has called **Ken Kyker** as pastor. He formerly was transitional pastor.

■ Mary's Chapel Baptist



DON MAULDIN, second from right, holds the 2002 Adkins-Kerr Award of the Association of Baptist Ministries With the Aging he received during the association's annual meeting Feb. 24-26 in Augusta, Ga. Mauldin is recently retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff after serving 26 years. He most recently was family ministries specialist. Mauldin, who serves on the board of directors of the ABMA, stands with, from left, Billy Austin, president of the ABMA of Alabama; Horace Kerr, retired minister who served at LifeWay Christian Resources and the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and Kenny Cooper, president, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, based in Brentwood, who presented the award and is president-elect of the ABMA.

Church, Ripley, has called **Jonathan Pickens** as youth minister.

■ **Darren Morrow**, pastor, RoEllen Baptist Church, RoEllen, has been called as pastor, Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Ripley.

■ First Baptist Church, Trimble, has called **Matt Stafford** as youth director.

■ **Shawn Allred** has been called as minister of youth, music, and education, First Baptist Church, Parsons, effective March 3.

■ Liberty Grove Baptist Church, Jackson, called **Jeremy Todd** as youth and children's minister effective Feb. 4.

■ North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland, has called **April Hutson** as director of preschool ministries. **Jeanne Franklin** was the former preschool director.

■ First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, has called **Chris Fields** as minister to students.

■ Three Oaks Baptist

Church, Dyersburg, ordained **Billy Taylor** to the ministry recently.

■ Fowlkes Baptist Church, Dyersburg, has called **Ricky Ray** as pastor.

■ Bogota Baptist Church, Bogota, has called **Robert Johnson** as pastor.

churches

■ **Evansville Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, will hold revival March 27-29. Michael O'Guin will speak.

■ **First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg**, had 240 children participating in Upward Basketball at the church. It was directed by Tony Gordy, associate pastor for music and ministries; Linda Smith; Allen Voss; and Steve Rogers.

■ **Brownsville Baptist Church, Brownsville**, will serve in Honduras June 20-25. For more information, call the church at (731) 772-9753.

■ **Finley Baptist Church, Finley**, will host a Women Reaching Women Conference April 5-6. Pattye Oakley, Nadia Browning, Betty Stalneck, and Susan Cherry will speak.

■ **Harvest Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, will hold revival March 24-27. Roger Alford will speak.

■ The deacons and Men's Ministry of **First Baptist Church, Trimble**, will present "The Living Lord's Supper" March 24 during the morning worship service.

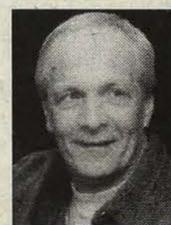
■ **Three Oaks Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, will hold revival March 24-29. Joe Wright, director of missions,

Dyer Baptist Association, based in Dyersburg, will speak.

■ **Mercer Baptist Church, Mercer**, held its Feb. 10 services in its new building.

■ **Wales Baptist Church, Pulaski**, which lost its building when it was burned down by fire has bought land about a quarter of a mile south of its location where it will rebuild. The church also has called **David Gallaher** as pastor.

■ **Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville**, will host Ken Medema March 10 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call



MEDEMA

the church at (615) 373-8074. Medema, blind from birth, has been writing and performing his own songs since 1970

when he began composing original material for his work as a music therapist in a psychiatric hospital. He will share songs and stories using improvisation.

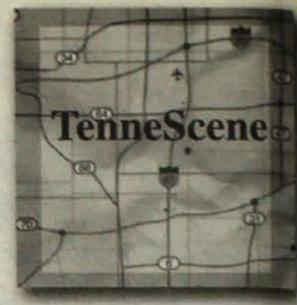
■ **Parkers Creek Baptist Church, Burns**, recently burned a note to represent its debt-free status. The church, which built a facility in a new location, was able to pay off its indebtedness in less than three years.

■ **First Baptist Church, Adamsville**, plans to serve in Mexico April 4-13. For more information, call the church at (901) 632-3787.

■ Fifteen Acteens from **Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown**, will minister during the 2002 Paralympics Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 10-17. The girls will serve during the



LEADERS OF Trinity Baptist Church, Hendersonville, and the association burn a note Dec. 16, 2001, to represent the debt-free status of the church's sanctuary and education space which cost \$450,000. The church paid it off in five years. Leading the ceremony are, from left, Mike Pennington, director of missions, Bledsoe Baptist Association; Brad Langford; Harold Frakes; and Patrick McGill, pastor. The church completed an 8,600-square-foot fellowship hall/education wing in December.



spring break from school. They will interact with visitors through face-painting, making balloon animals, pin trading and working at hospitality tables. The girls also will participate in prayerwalks and distribute outreach materials.

■ **Eastview Baptist Church, Huntingdon**, will present "Nail Scarred Hand" an Easter cantata, March 31, 11 a.m. The service will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. For more information, call the church at (731) 983-3168.

associations

■ **Dyer Baptist Association**, based in Dyersburg, is leading missions efforts in Syracuse, Ind., March 8-March 15-17, and possibly June 8-12, and in August; and in de Janeiro, Brazil, to support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership Aug. 17-24, and Sept. 23 - Oct. 1.

schools

■ **Belmont University, Nashville**, has named several staff members to new positions. **Lee Warren**, assistant professor of accounting, has been named associate dean of Undergraduate School of Business Administration. **Greg Pillon**, news and information officer, has been named director of communications. **Marcia McDonald**, professor of Department of Literature Language, has been appointed provost. Also two staff members have been recognized: **Sally McKay**, director of human resources, and **Susan Saunders**, assistant director of human resources, have earned certification by the Human Resource Certification Institute.

■ **Union University, Jackson**, will hold "Remaking the Modern Mind: A Symposium on Evangelical Foundations" based on the theological vision of Christian theologian Carl F. H. Henry March 10-11. For more information, call the school at (731) 661-5082.