

T E N N E S S E E S B A P T I S T & R E F L E C T O R

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Issue focuses on youth work

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — For the second year the *Baptist and Reflector* has worked with Kent Shingleton, TBC youth ministry specialist, to produce a special issue in conjunction with the Youth Evangelism Conference, set for March 22-23 in Murfreesboro.

This issue contains numerous stories related to family and youth ministry issues in addition to regular stories and features. Though targeted primarily toward youth ministers and workers, these articles are also important for parents and grandparents of teenagers.

Statistics show that if a person does not accept Christ as Lord and Savior by age 18, the likelihood of that person accepting Christ increases dramatically.

Pray for the upcoming conference and for those across our state who minister to our youth. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey, editor

At Southeast Conclave 2002

Youth leaders challenged to 'raise the bar'

By Lonnie Wilkey, Ruth Robinson
Baptist and Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — Southern Baptist youth ministers were challenged to "raise the bar" during Southeast Conclave 2002 held here Feb. 28-March 2.

The Conclave, sponsored by the Baptist conventions of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina drew about

550 participants, including approximately 200 from Tennessee, according to Bruce Edwards, youth ministry specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Christian Growth Development Group.

In its fourth year, the Conclave registered its highest attendance to date, Edwards said. It is the largest training event for youth ministers held by any of the sponsoring state conven-

tions, he added.

The event offered about 50 practical seminars to equip youth ministers and workers to deal with issues and challenges associated with youth ministry, Edwards said.

Youth ministers also were challenged by guest speakers Voddie Baucham, an evangelist and pastor from Sugarland, Texas, and Barry St. Clair, head of Reach Out Youth Solutions in Norcross, Ga.

In his opening address, Baucham made it clear he was not a speaker.

Instead, "I'm just a preacher," he said.

Baucham set out to dispel a belief he said some hold that "if you work with people under 18 years old you don't do Bible-based ministry."

He said there are those who

advocate building youth ministries on a foundation of events.

"We've moved from Word-based ministries," Baucham observed.

"I have seen speakers step to the platform without a Bible," he noted. They try to look cool, say something funny, then bring a manipulatory story to

make them cry so they will walk down the aisles so the speaker can count the numbers, Baucham said.

"No wonder when the trends come, we're powerless.

"If we're not faithful to preaching the Word, then eventually our experiences rules all," he said.

— See Youth, page 6



KENT SHINGLETON, right center, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, and **Kerri Story**, left center, of the TBC staff look over the program for the Southeast Conclave 2002 meeting with **Zach Brown**, right, worship leader at Trinity Baptist Church, Cordova, and **Helen Edington**, a volunteer youth leader at Trinity.



EDWARDS

Associations cooperate to provide R.G. Lee Center at Clifton prison

By Sara Horn
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — When Randall Runions, chaplain of the South Central Correctional Center in Clifton, heard about Bible and ministerial classes being offered at the Turney Correctional Center by Union University's R.G.

Lee Center, he immediately contacted Paul Veazey, assistant to the president for church services at Union, to find out how the program could be started at his own prison.

"We were excited about this opportunity to expand our educational ministry to another prison," said Veazey.

Veazey contacted Ray Maynard, director of missions at the Lawrence County Association and David Miller, director of missions at Indian Creek Association to find out if they would be interested in partnering with Union to sponsor a center at the prison. Both of the associations agreed immediately, and with

their assistance and funding for the teacher's salary, the first class of eleven inmates was started earlier this year.

Veazey also contacted the Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group at the Tennessee Baptist Convention and requested funds to assist in the start-up of the center. Working with TBC staffers Larry Kirk, Beverly Smothers, and Tim Bearden, the funds were approved and a one-time gift of \$3,000 was received from the TBC.

The most immediate need for the prison facility was that of reference materials for the students. Trent Butler, a Union trustee and an editor with LifeWay Christian Resources,

was able to secure a donation of two sets of commentaries and other Bible reference materials from Broadman-Holman Publishing. These volumes will be housed in the prison library.

"Union University could not operate the R.G. Lee Center without the help and commitment from the Baptist associations," said Veazey. "This is a cooperative effort on the part of Lawrence County and Indian Creek Associations and Union University to continue to fulfill Christ's great commission."

The R.G. Lee Center at SCCC now has 10 students currently completing the spring 2002 course on studies in the Pentateuch, and has a waiting list for the next class, said Runions. He is excited about the opportunities the program will offer the inmates.

"Ninety-five percent of the prisoners here will go home," said Runions. "I want them going home saved." ■

RANDALL RUNIONS, chaplain at SCCC in Clifton, recently accepted a donation of books from Broadman-Holman Publishing for the new R.G. Lee Center at the prison. From left are Andy Morris, LifeWay; Gene Williams of the TBC; Paul Veazey, Union University staffer; David Dockery, Union University president; Runions; Ray Mayard, director of missions, Lawrence County Baptist Association; and David Miller, DOM, Indian Creek Baptist Association.



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Retired Mississippi Baptist editor dies

Associated Baptist Press

TUPELO, Miss. — Guy Henderson, editor emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Record, died March 7 of complications from heart surgery.

Henderson suffered a heart attack in late February while visiting family members in Tupelo. Doctors there performed bypass surgery but were unable to get him stabilized.

Henderson and his wife, Lois, who survives, were missionaries 25 years in the Philippines and South Korea. He later worked as the Mississippi Baptist Convention's stewardship director and evangelism director before becoming editor of the state paper. He retired in 1996. ■

SBF taps former Tennessean to lead

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Michael W. Weeks of Tupelo, Miss., has been unanimously elected as president of the Southern Baptist Foundation, William K. "Bill" Hall, vice chairman of the foundation's board of trustees and chairman of the presidential search committee, announced March 7.

Hall announced from his San Clemente, Calif., office that Weeks will replace Hollis E. Johnson III, who is retiring effective June 30.

Since 1998, Weeks has been vice chairman of BancorpSouth Bank and executive vice president of BancorpSouth Inc., the bank's holding company. He also has been executive vice president of BancorpSouth Trust and Asset Management Group.

From 1970-94, he was a partner in KPMG Corporation of Memphis, and Jackson, Miss., specializing in services to financial companies, including banks, thrifts, mortgage banks, and insurance companies.

While living in Tennessee he was a member of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, and Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

They are presently active members of First Baptist Church of Tupelo, Miss. ■



WEEKS

Every child is a winner, says Upward founder

By Mandy Crow
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — For many sports fans, March means one thing — basketball.

March Madness is college basketball at its best — a month-long tournament full of adrenaline, excitement, and athleticism that will lead toward one winner.

The idea of winning is what Caz McCaslin's new Broadman & Holman book, *Every Child is a Winner: Developing Confidence to Last a Lifetime*, is about. "But it's not about winning ballgames," he said. "*Every Child is a Winner* is not about sports; it's not about basketball. We've got to get to the point that people understand that just because you're not number one, doesn't mean you're not a winner."

McCaslin, founder of Upward Basketball, a nationwide youth sports league and ministry program that teaches children the fundamentals of basketball by focusing on effort, not the outcome of the game, says his book and his organization have a slightly different focus than traditional sports: "Our desire is to make every child a winner through Upward Basketball."

McCaslin sees his book as providing important insight into handling adult-child relationships — "to make parents, guardians, teachers, and coaches look at children differently," McCaslin said.

"All of us should find the thing that draws out the winners in kids."

Winning in life, he said, has nothing to do with scoring a basket, kicking the winning

goal, or hitting a homerun.

Through short chapters, this first-time author discusses issues like self-esteem, trustworthiness, flexibility, and even the need for rules.

McCaslin redefines winning to include all people. "Everybody and everyone is created with a huge value in this game called life," he said. "I truly believe that life would be different if we all realized that."

"Truly believing the concept of this book could make a huge impact on a generation of people who feel like they're nothing, when they're really so much more," McCaslin added, voicing hope that his book will point children and adults toward a more lasting winning spirit — the realization that God created each person individually for a specific role in the game of life. ■

Judicial candidate is former president of Miss. convention

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The result of a major battle in Capitol Hill's latest war over a judicial nominee has been delayed a week, but the prospect does not look good for a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In a March 7 meeting, the Senate Judiciary Committee delayed by a week a vote on Charles Pickering's nomination as a federal appeals court judge. All 10 Democrats on the 19-person committee have signaled their opposition to Pickering and are expected to vote against his confirmation March 14. Also, Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., has said he will not permit a floor vote on the nominee without the panel's approval.

President George W. Bush nominated Pickering, a federal judge the last 11 years, to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals last year, but a strong campaign has been waged against the nominee amid charges and countercharges about his record.

Pickering, a member of First Baptist Church in Laurel, Miss., was president of the state Baptist convention for two years in the mid-1980s. He also was a member of the Peace Committee that was established in 1985 amid the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention and that issued a report at the 1987 SBC meeting.



PICKERING

National organizations have attacked Pickering's record on civil rights, abortion rights, and church-state separation in an effort to block his confirmation.

Among the leaders in the anti-Pickering effort are People for the American Way, the NAACP, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, and the National Organization for Women.

Supporters of Pickering's confirmation have charged the opposition campaign is based on a distortion of Pickering's record on civil rights and on concerns about his rulings on abortion rights. ■

SBC funding study committee named by Coe

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Bruce Coe, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, announced March 8 a nine-member SBC Funding Study Committee charged with analyzing and evaluating SBC funding issues.

The Executive Committee, in its February meeting in Nashville, authorized the committee. The recommendation for the committee grew out of discussions regarding funding challenges facing SBC seminaries and other SBC entities. The recommendation asks the committee to study the financial challenges of our six seminaries and other funding issues of the greater SBC entities.

The committee is expected to hold its first meeting shortly to establish parameters and procedures for its work. The committee will bring its initial report to the Executive Committee in its Sept. 16-17 meeting here.

Bill Anderson of Clearwater, Fla., will chair the committee. Its other members are Ted Kersh of Oklahoma, Rob Zinn of California, Frank Cox of Georgia, Mary "Marty" Odom of Oklahoma, Jim Butler of Mississippi, Gary Smith of Oklahoma, Gerald Harris of Georgia, and James Hales of Kentucky. Coe will serve as an ex officio member of the committee, while Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, also will work closely with the study committee. ■

Best-selling author resigns from Atlanta ministry

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — Best-selling author Bruce Wilkinson has resigned from his position as president of Walk Thru the Bible. The board of directors of the Bible teaching seminar organization announced Wilkinson's resignation Feb. 14.

Wilkinson, author of *The Prayer of Jabez*, will pursue "a broader mission through the medium of television and film," the board said in a statement. He and his family will be moving to California later this year.

"Walk Thru the Bible will continue its bountiful history of innovative Bible teaching, and I will remain close to the board and staff as we develop teaching resources in the future," Wilkinson said of the 25-year-old ministry in a statement.

Paul Johnson, chairman of the board, said the organization expects to continue its affiliation with Wilkinson.

"Walk Thru the Bible, which is based in Atlanta, hosted more than 2,500 seminars in 2001 across the country. ■

Will speak at YEC

Former astrologer ministers to New Agers

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist & Reflector

NASHVILLE — When it comes to witnessing to people caught up in the New Age Movement, Marcia Montenegro speaks from experience.

For years Montenegro was an astrologer. She depended upon the stars for answers, rather than God.

Montenegro shared her story at the State Evangelism Conference in January and is slated to do so again at the upcoming Youth Evangelism Conference March 22-23 at the Murphy Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

She noted in 1990 she began attending church and reading her Bible. Before long she suddenly realized "that I had been on a spiritual path leading away from God my whole life.

"I understood for the first time who Jesus was and why He died on the cross. I gave my life to Him at that very moment," she recalled.

Montenegro is now head of CANA/Christian Answers for the New Age: A Ministry Responding to Alternative Religions.

Looking back on her world which included friends who were psychics and pagans among others, Montenegro observed "Christianity was far away from me and I wanted nothing to do with it."

Although she attended a Southern Baptist church in Maryland as a teenager and was involved in a lot of activities, she was not a Christian. "I didn't understand I needed a Savior. I thought I just had to be 'good' to get to heaven."

As she grew older and developed friends from other religions, she began to question Christianity. In college she explored the eastern religions because she thought they provided "ancient wisdom."

Montenegro soon became enveloped in the New Age Movement, which she describes as an "umbrella term" for many beliefs based on combinations of Eastern religions, humanism, and other occultic teachings.

Christians sometimes tend to write off the New Age Movement as something "flaky or superficial," she said.

That is a mistake, Montenegro continued, because the New Age Movement is "serious, spiritual deception."

What's more, she said, the New Age Movement has entered the "mainstream of western culture" and can be found in health, education, business, sports, and even the church.

"It is not on the fringe anymore and it is not going

Be informed on New Age/occult beliefs

For Baptist & Reflector

NASHVILLE — In order to reach out to individuals with alternative beliefs, one needs a working knowledge of what they believe, suggests Marcia Montenegro, head of CANA/Christian Answers for the New Age: A Ministry Responding to Alternative Religions.

Montenegro spoke to the State Evangelism Conference in January and will address participants at the upcoming Youth Evangelism Conference March 22-23 at the Murphy Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

"The New Age is an umbrella term for many beliefs based mainly on combinations of Eastern religions, humanism, and occultic, esoteric teachings," according to Montenegro.

Montenegro provided a handout at the State Evangelism Conference detailing some general New Age/occultic beliefs. They include:

- (1) The New Age/occult bases truth on subjective experiences and interpretations.
- (2) The New Age/occult usually does not acknowledge absolute good or absolute truth.
- (3) There is one force or energy permeating the universe; the cosmos, nature, animals, and man are all part of this force (monism).
- (4) God is impersonal; God is an energy or

force; God is the One, the Creative Source, the universe, the Divine, the universal consciousness; we are all part of God (pantheism); God is personal but does not judge.

(5) The New Age Jesus is usually seen as an advanced spiritual teacher who attained Christ-consciousness, that is Jesus realized He is God and set the example for all of us to realize our innate divinity.

(6) People involved in the New Age do not call themselves New Agers. Often they say they have their own religion, spiritual path, or that they are into spirituality.

(7) Witchcraft/Wicca/Neopaganism reverent nature as sacred and often honor the goddess as a symbolic force of creativity and nurturing; they accept occult practices such as divination and casting spells.

(8) Neopagans/witches, Wiccans usually adopt the creed: As long as you do no harm, do what you will.

(9) Sometimes there is a belief in reincarnation (coming back after death into another body).

(10) There is no standard New Age/occult doctrine, so there are many variations in these alternative beliefs.

For more information on Montenegro's ministry, go to <http://cana.userworld.com>. ■



MARCIA MONTENEGRO, a former astrologer, now spends her time ministering and helping others minister to people involved in the New Age movement.

away," she warned.

Christians must also be aware that New Agers speak of spirituality and they will talk about God, "but it's not the God of the Bible," she cautioned.

Because of that Christians and the church need to be able to respond to New Agers, she stressed.

And to do so effectively Christians must establish relationships with New Agers and to show them respect, she said.

"The human response is to feel superior to the people who believe those 'strange' ideas,"

Montenegro said.

"We are not better (than the New Agers). We are forgiven and we are saved," she reminded.

"We once were sinners the same as an astrologer, a witch, or any other New Ager," she added. "We need to see them as people Christ died for."

Prayer is a key for reaching New Agers, Montenegro affirmed. In her testimony at the State Evangelism Conference she shared that after she accepted Christ, a Christian co-worker

had been praying for her to make that decision. Montenegro had no idea the person had been praying for her.

Montenegro said Christians should not be afraid to talk with New Agers and to ask them questions about their beliefs. In the process of asking and listening, respond. "That's different from what the Bible says."

Christians come from a foundation they know is true, she noted. "You have to stand on the Bible, but you don't hit them over the head with it."

Before she accepted Christ she remembers encounters

with Christians who came up to her and told her she was going to hell. "That confirmed to me how I thought they were too judgmental," she said.

When talking with New Agers, Montenegro suggested staying away from the phrase, "I believe." Instead, she said, use "God says" or "Jesus says."

She observed New Agers often are more willing to talk about Jesus rather than the Bible.

"They may be hostile toward Christianity and the Bible, but they are willing to talk about Jesus," she said.

Discipleship after a person makes a decision for Christ is important for anyone, but it is especially so for New Agers who take that step, Montenegro stressed.

After her salvation, Montenegro recalled she was afraid that Christians would wonder if she was really saved.

"There is a lot of fear from former New Agers to even talk with their pastor," she observed.

New Agers need someone to talk to — a mature, well grounded Christian, Montenegro said. "They need to be disciplined."

When New Agers accept Christ, they lose their community, she said. "They need help, love, attention, and discipleship."

For more information on Montenegro's ministry, contact her at <http://cana.userworld.com> or at CANA, P.O. Box 7191, Arlington, VA 22207. ■



Preparation can aid in discipline, says youth leader
Baptist & Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — Some discipline problems can be prevented just by being prepared, suggested a youth consultant and seminar leader from Georgia.

"The beginning of discipline starts with the leader," acknowledged Judy Clay of Dacula, who led a seminar titled "If He Does That One More Time" during the Southeast Conclave 2002 held Feb. 28-March 2 here.

Discipline problems many times can be avoided by "heading them off at the pass," Clay said.

The first way is to be prepared for the teaching assignment. "A quality lesson challenges the mind and keeps students focused," Clay said.

She also suggested that youth workers pray daily for their students.

Students might be changed temporarily through discipline, Clay noted, but "when God changes, it's from the inside out and is permanent."

Clay observed that when possible teachers should be in class 10-15 minutes early to greet students as they arrive.

Get the students focused on something as soon as possible, whether it be through conversation or having them do an activity, she added.

And when problems do (not) arise, remember that "discipline is an expression of love, not anger or indifference," Clay said.

She encouraged youth leaders to be "positive toward the person" and "negative toward the problem."

Workers should strive to avoid comments and suggestions that condemn while working to find a solution, she said.

When punishment needs to be handed out, make it reasonable and relevant, Clay stressed. "Punishment needs to build character and relate disapproval," she said, adding, "never make empty threats."

She also encouraged youth leaders to use mistakes made by the teenagers as teachable moments. "Help students see the consequences and accept responsibility for their actions," Clay said.

Mistakes also help students "remember and experience God's grace and forgiveness," she added. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

Study says marriage heads off social ills

By Mark Wingfield
For Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK — Marriage is good for health, wealth, and happiness, according to a panel of social scientists.

The team of family scholars collaborated to survey a vast body of research on marriage and family issues. It is summarized in a document titled "Why Marriage Matters."

The project was sponsored by the Center of the American Experiment, the Coalition for Marriage, Family, and Couples Education, and the Institute for American Values. Lead researchers included Norval Glenn of the University of Texas, Steven Nock of the University of Virginia, and Linda Waite of the University of Chicago.

"Marriage is more than a private emotional relationship. It is also a social good," the researchers note. "Not every person can or should marry. And not every child raised outside of marriage is damaged as a result. But communities where good-enough marriages are common have better outcomes for children, women, and men than do communities suffering from high rates of divorce, unmarried childbearing, and high-conflict or violent marriages."

From two decades of research, the authors culled 21 key points. Among them:

► Marriage increases the likelihood that fathers have good relationships with their children.

"Mothers as well as fathers are affected by the absence of marriage," the study states. "Single mothers on average report more conflict with and less monitoring of their children than do married mothers. ... But children's relationships with their fathers are at even greater risk. Sixty-five percent of young adults whose parents divorced had poor relationships with their fathers (compared to 29 percent from non-divorced families)."

► Cohabitation is not the functional equivalent of marriage.

"As a group, cohabitators in the United States more closely resemble singles than married people," the report explains. "Children with cohabiting parents have outcomes more similar to the children living with single (or remarried) parents than children from intact mar-

riages. ... Couples who live together also, on average, report relationships of lower quality than do married couples — with cohabitators reporting more conflict, more violence, and lower levels of satisfaction and commitment."

► Growing up outside an intact marriage increases the likelihood that children will themselves divorce or become unwed parents.

On this point, the researchers cite a litany of warnings: "Children whose parents divorce or fail to marry are more likely to become young unwed parents, to divorce themselves, and to have unhappy marriages and/or relationships. Daughters raised outside of intact marriages are approximately three times more likely to end up young, unwed mothers than are children whose parents married and stayed married. Parental divorce approximately doubles the odds that adult children will also divorce."

► Divorce and unmarried childbearing increase poverty for both children and mothers.

"The effects of family structure on poverty remain powerful, even after controlling for race and family background," the report summarizes. "Changes in family structure are an important cause of new

entries into poverty ... Child poverty rates are very high primarily because of the growth of single-parent families. When parents fail to marry and stay married, children are more likely to experience deep and persistent poverty, even after controlling for race and family background."

► Married couples seem to build more wealth on average than singles or cohabiting couples.

"The economic advantages of marriage stem from more than just access to two incomes," the researchers ex-

plain. "Marriage partners appear to build more wealth for some of the same reasons that partnerships in general are economically efficient, including economies of scale and specialization and exchange."

► Married men earn more money than do single men with similar education and job histories.

"A large body of research, both in the United States and other developed countries, finds that married men earn between 10 and 40 percent more than do single men with similar education and job histories. ... The causes are not entirely understood, but married men appear to have greater work commitment, lower quit rates, and healthier and more stable personal routines (including sleep, diet, and alcohol consumption)."

► Parental divorce (or failure to marry) appears to increase children's risk of school

disadvantages of married homes remain, even after taking socioeconomic status into account. The health disadvantages associated with being raised outside of intact marriages persist long into adulthood."

► Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol and substance abuse for both adults and teens.

"Young adults who marry tend to reduce their rates of alcohol consumption and illegal drug use. Children whose parents marry and stay married also have lower rates of substance abuse, even after controlling for family background."

► Married people, especially married men, have longer life expectancies than do otherwise similar singles.

"In most developed countries, middle-aged single, divorced, or widowed men are about twice as likely to die as married men, and non-married

Not every person can or should marry. And not every child raised outside of marriage is damaged as a result.

failure.

"Children of divorced or unwed parents have lower grades and other measures of academic achievement, are more likely to be held back and are more likely to 'drop out of high school,'" the study notes. "Children whose parents divorce

women face risks about one and a half times as great as those faced by married women."

► Marriage is associated with better health and lower rates of injury, illness, and disability for both men and women.

"Married people appear to manage illness better, monitor each other's health, have higher incomes and wealth, and adopt healthier lifestyles than do otherwise similar singles," the researchers explain.

► Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of psychological distress and mental illness.

"Divorce typically causes children considerable emotional distress and increases the risk of serious mental illness," the study details. "These mental health risks do not dissipate soon after the divorce. Instead, children of divorce remain at higher risk for depression and other mental illness, in part because of reduced education attainment, increased risk of divorce, marital problems and economic hardship."

► Divorce appears significantly to increase the risk of suicide.



"Divorced men and women are more than twice as likely as their married counterparts to attempt suicide. ... In the last half-century, suicide rates among teens and young adults have tripled. The single 'most important explanatory variable' according to one new study, 'is the increased share of youths living in homes with a divorced parent.'"

► Boys raised in single-parent families are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior.

"Teens in one-parent families are on average less attached to their parents' opinions and more attached to their peer groups. Combined with lower levels of parental supervision, these attitudes appear to set the stage for delinquent behavior," the researchers report, adding boys raised in single-parent homes are about twice as likely as other boys to be incarcerated by their early 30s.

► Married women appear to have a lower risk of experiencing domestic violence than do cohabiting or dating women.

"While young women must recognize that marriage is not a good strategy for reforming violent men, a large body of research shows that being unmarried, and especially living with a man outside of marriage, is associated with an increased risk of domestic abuse," the study explains. "Overall, as one scholar sums up the relevant research, 'Regardless of methodology, the studies yielded similar results: Cohabitators engage in more violence than do spouses.'"

► A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is at greater risk of child abuse.

"Children living with single mothers, stepfathers, or mother's boyfriends are more likely to become victims of child abuse. Children living in single-mother homes have increased rates of death from intentional injuries. As Martin Daly and Margo Wilson report, 'Living with a stepparent has turned out to be the most powerful predictor of severe child abuse yet.'"

— Editor's Note: The complete report, "Why Marriage Matters," is available at www.americanvalues.org.

There are no silly prayers to God

guest columnist

by Kent Shingleton
TBC staff



Have you ever prayed a "dare prayer?"

It might sound something like this: "God, if you really want me to surrender my life to you then have someone walk up to me and tap me on the shoulder right now. Amen."

Sounds pretty crazy. I agree. But the truth is, as a teenager I used to pray that prayer every Sunday.

I grew up in a great Southern Baptist church. My dad was a part-time music minister and my mom was the church pianist. We never missed church!

I was one of those kids that had all of the right "church answers." I could rapid fire off the 66 books of the Bible and the Royal Ambassador pledge in a split second yet there was something missing. As I listened to my pastor preach the Word every Sunday, I was deeply convicted.

I was really struggling. Each week during the invitation and altar call, I knew that I needed to surrender my life to Christ. I needed to repent of

my sins. I needed to receive salvation through Jesus Christ. And so, at the age of 14, I began to pray the "dare prayer."

"God, if you are really serious about me surrendering my life to you, then have someone tap me on the shoulder or say something to me right now. Amen."

Week after week I would "dare God" to prove to me that I needed to follow Him. I must have prayed that prayer several hundred times! You can imagine what happened next. As a 15-year-old, at the Starlight Crusade in Del City, Oklahoma I prayed that silly little prayer for the last time.

Immediately at the conclusion of my silent prayer, a man tapped me on the shoulder. He simply said, "son, I was sitting in the bleachers just one section over and watching you pray." He continued by telling me that if I would like to invite Jesus to be my Savior and Lord, he would pray with me.

That warm summer night, at a high school football stadium in Del City, Oklahoma, I surrendered my life to Christ. No more running from God. I remember that night as if it were yesterday.

Next week, teenagers from across our state will gather for the 34th annual Tennessee Baptist Youth Evangelism



Conference. Please join us by praying that God will again be glorified as the life-changing gospel is proclaimed to teenagers!

And remember, sometimes those prayers that seem silly to us, are not so silly to our Heavenly Father.

Give God the Glory! ■ — Shingleton is youth evangelism specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group.

Parents can play role in helping teens make career choices

a parent speaks

by Carolyn R. Tomlin



"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." — Theodore Roosevelt, Labor Day Speech, Syracuse, N.Y. 1903

Choices that teenagers make determines the quality of their lives. The first important choice is our decision to become a Christian; the second, the person we choose to marry; and the third, the choice of a career.

How can parents help their teen, yet allow them the alter-

native in this major decision? Could these tips help your family?

A woman whose son became a successful dentist said, "When our son was growing up, we invited people from many different professions to our home for a meal. During this time, I casually moved the conversation into questions such as, 'How did you decide on this career?' and 'What makes your work exciting?' and 'What advice could you give someone choosing this profession today?' Neither my son, nor our guests, ever realized my motive for asking them to join us for dinner."

Family activities can help

Families can provide information on a variety of professions. For example:

(1) Encourage reading biographies and journals of

famous people.

(2) Subscribe to magazines that focus on individuals who have made a difference in the life of others. Include the Christian ministry in your publications.

(3) Talk and listen to your teen. Show you value his or her opinion.

(4) Request information from Christian colleges and universities known for excellent programs where your teen has expressed an interest.

(5) Talk with high school guidance counselors. What career programs are they using?

Questions for parents

(1) How can I help my teen choose a career that he or she is excited about getting up and going to work for the next 30-35 years?

(2) How can I help my teen choose a career that makes a

difference in the lives of others?

(3) How can I help my teen make a career choice if money were no object?

(4) How can I help my teen consider present hobbies and skills that might turn into a vocation?

What if my teen can't decide?

Some adults do not choose a career path until later. A college professor reports that some even change two or three times during their post-secondary training. Of course, this usually delays graduation and the beginning of earning a salary. Being sure that they made the right decision, and one they are happy with, is worth the wait.

Parents can help during the teen years by providing various opportunities for learning. Some examples: sports, music, art, drama, vocational train-

ing, computers, gardening, cooking, and travel.

Learning from volunteer work

Opportunities are great for teens to gain experience in different fields. Summer and weekend jobs during the school year give valuable training in making a career choice. Consider these:

- (1) Summer missions with your church;
- (2) Volunteer work;
- (3) Work-study programs;
- (4) Service training;
- (5) Community work;
- (6) Working in a political campaign; and
- (7) Tutoring young children.

■ — Tomlin is author of *What I Wish It Hadn't Taken Me So Long To Learn* (available at 1-888-280-7715 or www.1st-books.com. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.



Kudos to leaders

I want to commend Jerry Rankin and Bob Record. I am confident that they have never thought, desired, nor sought for any missionary to "receive their marching orders" from themselves or their agencies. Moreover, they would want nothing less and nothing other than for all missionaries to be called by and given "marching orders from Jesus Christ." It is totally inappropriate and even reprehensible to suggest otherwise.

Sadly, there is good reason for these godly men to be call-

ing for the signing of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. They, obviously, understand the times in which we live. As documented by the research of George Barna and others, many of today's evangelicals (including Southern Baptists) no longer believe the Bible. Frankly, why would anyone who has "marching orders from Jesus" have a problem signing an imperfect but good statement of faith which exalts Jesus and His Word?

The reality of our day is that all kinds of folk claim that they love Jesus and that they are sent by Jesus — the Mormons and many other cults. And, even more tragic, there are huge, growing numbers of evangelicals, even Baptists, who deny the virgin birth of Jesus, the total accuracy and authority of the Word of God, the sinlessness of Jesus, and that Jesus is the only

way to heaven, etc. And they keep on "doing church" and claiming to love Jesus!

However, when I pull out the Bible, the "sure word of prophecy," and/or a statement of faith, such as the Baptist Faith and Message, that exalts fundamental Bible doctrines, I have a trustworthy plumb line by which to expose error and exalt truth. Moreover, I have a simple and useful tool that helps me to stand up and be counted and/or with which to communicate to seekers, to those needing basic teaching, to those needing to know where Southern Baptists stand.

So, what a wonderful opportunity all IMB and NAMB missionaries have! A quick, heartfelt signature sends a shout to the world that as a people of God, we are still seeking with all of our hearts to be true to Jesus and His

God-breathed Word.

James Bell, pastor
Southside Baptist Church
Gallatin 37066

Only in America

"Only in America can I get a Bible in my language," says Jeremy, a friend of mine from Czechoslovakia.

This comment came as we passed out Sunday doughnuts, devotional worship sheets, and Bibles to the employees of Ober Gatlinburg Ski Resort.

A college mission team from First Baptist Church, Powell, was helping me deliver our materials and I took the opportunity to visit with Jeremy. His eyes lit up like a child's on Christmas morning on receiving the Bible and called to a friend to come and see what he had.

I had more for other Czech and Russian workers that day

and each was well received. We still need about 20 more in each language though.

It was a great moment of witnessing as I showed Jeremy and other employees where to begin reading (Gospel of John).

I look forward to follow up ministries with them. I also look forward to finding a Bible for the woman from Estonia and the man who asked for one in French. And then there are 75 Spanish-speaking employees who got their Bibles just before Christmas.

And there is John, a lift attendant who stopped me to ask for prayer and a Bible in English because he "wants to get his life right with God." I look forward to our next encounter.

Continue to pray for our witness at Ober Gatlinburg.

Bill Black
resort missionary,
Gatlinburg 37738

Youth leaders challenged to 'raise the ...'

—continued from page 1

Baucham challenged youth workers not to be swayed by the latest fads. "If the only goal is to have more nickels and more noses, we'll compromise to get it," he said.

"Whoever you are, make sure you are committed to a Word-based ministry, not just a job description," he challenged.

Big kids or young adults?

In a later session Baucham asked youth ministers if they treat their teenagers like "big kids or young adults.

"How you treat them is how they will end up," he cautioned.

He observed that today's culture no longer views teenagers as adults and that youth ministry in the last 30 years has come alongside culture. "We have chosen to lower the bar and the body of Christ is missing out because of that," he said.

Baucham cited the Old Testament story of Josiah in II Chronicles 34 who became king and reigned in Jerusalem for 31 years.

"Josiah would be told today to do youth stuff or 'church lite' " Baucham observed.

Baucham cited the Old Testament.

He cited several lessons that can be learned from the life of Josiah.

(1) God chooses and uses the young. "God does not set age limits on when a person can be chosen, called, or used," Baucham said. History is replete with examples, he added.

(2) Young people can live for God. Baucham noted that in II Chronicles 34:2 it says "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord."

"Josiah lived for God as a young man and walked with God," Baucham said.

(3) Young people don't always grow to be old. Baucham noted that Josiah was gone by age 39.

"Why do we continue to tell people to wait when tomorrow



EVANGELIST VODDIE BAUCHAM, left, prays with Pete Tackett, youth pastor at First Baptist Church, Columbia, after a session at Southeast Conclave 2002, a youth conference which drew 550 participants from several states. Tackett also led a seminar entitled "Media on a Shoestring Budget" during the three-day event.

is not promised? We don't always get to be old.

"Cassie Bernall did not get to be old, but she impacted the world because she lived for God," Baucham said.

(4) Young people can change a culture. By the time Josiah was 20 he was changing his culture and turning it upside down, Baucham observed.

Today, however, the gospel is watered down so it can be "relevant" to the younger generation, he said.

"Turn them loose. Raise the bar," he challenged.

"When you raise the bar, they will rise to the level of your expectations. You will be amazed at what God can do in and with and through young people.

"There may be a Josiah right under your noses. Don't tell him to wait. Turn him loose."

Barry St. Clair

Barry St. Clair drew the theme for his Friday evening worship message from Hebrews 7:25: "He is able to save completely those who draw near to God through Him."

"Your life, youth ministry, marriage, all depend on draw-

gospels is a Jesus who is able."

The word "save" is tossed around, St. Clair said, until "we have a flat salvation that doesn't go deep into people's lives because they don't know the real Jesus."

St. Clair was director of youth evangelism for the former SBC Home Mission Board for six years until he was dismissed, he said.

"Every youth leader worth their salt gets fired somewhere along the way."

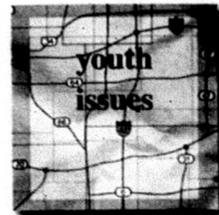
Youth ministry, he said, "is not just about getting kids saved. It's about helping them discover God's destiny for them, to understand who Jesus is, that He is able and to draw near to Him. It doesn't do any good just to say words. The message of Jesus must come true in a way that causes them to know through your life that He is able to save and be all He has promised to be."

The session closed with the youth leaders on their knees in an exercise in prayer led by St. Clair designed to help them draw near to God.

Conferences

The youth event also offered about 50 seminars on a variety of topics, ranging from "how-tos" to issues such as time management, legal concerns, outreach, fitness, and more.

The seminars tried to address practical challenges and issues which face youth ministers and workers, Ed-



wards explained.

Seminar leaders included several from Tennessee — Pete Tackett, First Baptist Church, Columbia; Darren Whitehead and Diane Cobb, First Baptist Church, Franklin; Tony Rankin, TBC staffer and member of First Baptist Church, Nashville; and Sherry Spillman, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, and member of First Baptist Church, Dickson.

Also for the first time at the Conclave, those attending had the opportunity for personal counseling with a trained therapist, Edwards said. "This was well received."

Next year the event will move from Tennessee to Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, Edwards said.

It is scheduled for Feb. 20-23. Speakers will include Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga., Edwards said.

He noted plans are to return to Chattanooga every other year because of its central location to the southeastern states. It will be held in other states on alternate years, he added. ■



DARREN WHITEHEAD, right, youth pastor at First Baptist Church, Franklin, and others from the church set up a booth at Southeast Conclave 2002 to inform those attending about Regeneration, a conference for youth ministers scheduled for April 8-10 at the Franklin church. With him are, from left, Jennifer Palermo, Brandy Boulware, and Chad Jarrigan. For more information about their meeting, call the church at (615) 794-2812.

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Through use of new book

Father, son avoid crisis, heal relationship

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tony Rankin is all about being real as a parent, counselor, and minister.

This is true even though his transparency has cost him business in his counseling center. His honesty also has required some courage as he relates with fellow parents at First Baptist Church here, where he and his family are members. And his "realness" has required courage as he leads conferences on parent/teen relationships in churches.

But he knows it helps others, said Rankin.

So, with his son Drew's approval, Rankin shared a personal story. Just three years ago he was looking for Drew, almost 16, in the alleys of downtown Nashville, hoping he would not find him dead.

The Rankin family escaped that crisis unscathed. But in late November Tony and Drew were arguing one evening and Tony sent Drew to his room. A few hours later, Tony went to Drew and told him he had thought of something that might help them.

Tony asked Drew if he would go through the book, *30 Days: Turning the Hearts of Parents and Teenagers Toward Each Other*, with him. It would only require 10 minutes a night for 30 nights, Tony explained.

Drew agreed and they began. Prior to Drew's bedtime each night father and son met, as instructed by the book, privately in Drew's room and by candlelight. They opened an envelope and found directions for each of them which asked them to share something with the other.

According to Drew

At first, said Drew, he thought it was corny and weird, but very soon he decided the experience was "really neat."

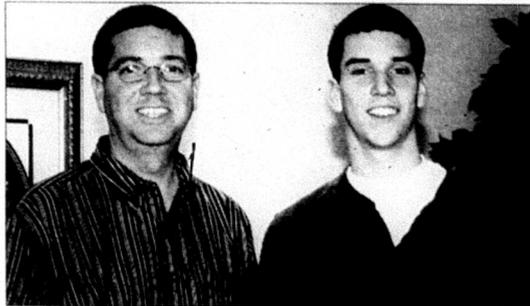
"I always wanted to be like best friends with my dad and be real close," said Drew. But it wasn't happening until he and his dad began going through *30 Days*.

The directions each received each night "did not make you say anything," said Drew. They just helped him say "what he (his dad) would want to hear and I would want to say, but not just at random," he explained.

He also always wanted to be good, he went on to explain, and please his parents. He didn't discuss it with them and even lied to cover up his feelings because he feared what he would say "wouldn't come out right."

"Now I don't have to hold thoughts back. I'm just real open." And he's glad to know "my dad doesn't look down on me."

He knew he had an emotional side, as everyone does,



FATHER AND SON Tony and Drew Rankin are closer now than ever.

Drew continued, before going through *30 Days*. But now he realizes the only one who is hurt when he doesn't reveal his emotions is himself.

"It's a loss. It doesn't get you anywhere in life," he said.

The exercise also has helped him get to know his father and learn his point of view on many things. And that has continued because they still meet together each day.

Finally, his relationship with his mother also has improved.

Because of the power of the experience in his life, Drew has shared it with about seven other teens and the father of a friend. And he and his father will report on their experiences April 21 to parents and teens at First Church here.

According to Tony

Tony believes he and his wife, Amber, have done a good

job raising Drew and their two younger children. He thinks their experience with Drew is "typical of what parents go through."

That is why he and Richard Ross, co-author of *30 Days*, discussed the need for such a book several years ago. As Ross developed the book he also relied on Rankin's advice from the perspective of a clinical counselor.

Prior to going through *30 Days*, Tony's relationship with Drew was "good but pretty tense," he described. He deserved perfect kids, he joked, since he speaks to thousands of teens and parents across the country about relating with each other with God's help.

Yet Drew was making "some stupid but adolescent mistakes." And occasionally Tony used "emotionally harsh" words toward Drew. He did



this even though he knows children will remember them forever, he added.

For instance, right before he had a heart attack last year, he told Drew that he was going to give him a heart attack and kill him. Thankfully, as Tony recovered, a friend told him that Drew was struggling because of guilt caused by the statement.

Going through *30 Days* forced Tony to "figure how much I loved him (Drew). I love and adore him dearly," explained Tony.

Then *30 Days* helped them understand each other. For instance, Tony was able to tell Drew that his core issue was being good enough, which helped Drew see one of his struggles. And Tony would describe to Drew certain stresses he faced or things which were influencing him.

He also likes *30 Days* because it does not abuse a person's emotions, Rankin noted, although it encourages some emotion-filled interactions.

"I've made mistakes as a dad and Drew has made mistakes," said Rankin. "You take advantage of second chances and third and fourth." One of those chances was provided by *30 Days*, he said. ■

Former Tennesseans write book for parents and teens

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Richard Ross, one of the worldwide True Love Waits sexual abstinence campaign's founders, and Texas youth minister Gus Reyes have bad news.

Parents who are preoccupied with careers and social lives have emotionally abandoned their teenage children, they say. Teenagers who have been emotionally abandoned, or emotionally neglected, try to protect their wounds by pushing parents away.

The neglect of the parent and the pushing away of the teenager break the "heart connection" between them, they warn. Wounded teenagers who push parents away also push away the faith and values of their parents.

But Ross, a youth ministry professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here and Reyes say they have good news in the form of a plan to help turn the hearts of parents and teenagers back to each other. They share this

plan in a new book, *30 Days: Turning the Hearts of Parents and Teenagers Toward Each Other*.

30 Days is a study using a collection of cards with instructions to parents and children on what to say during sessions. One parent and one teenager commit to spend 10 minutes together each evening for 30 days opening sealed envelopes and reading the cards.

Parents and teens are called to make commitments, sign pledges and engage in a kind of ritual as they sit close to each other with one candle lighting a darkened room.

Both Ross and Reyes have used the program with their teenage children and say it works. Reyes says he and his 13-year-old son have seen "remarkable improvements" in how they relate to each other. "It has affected the whole family."

"What makes this different from other books is that it tells parents and teenagers exactly what to say and do," Ross says. "By following the instructions

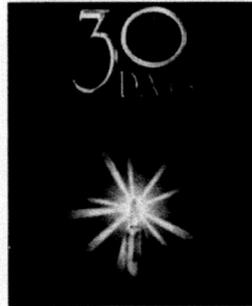
on the cards, the parent and teenager say and do those things that have the most powerful potential to turn their hearts toward each other."

Reyes earned a master's and a doctorate in education at Southwestern and a master's degree in management from Angelo State University. He previously worked 13 years at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Reyes and his family moved back to Texas last year, he says, to impact the quality of youth ministry in Hispanic churches.

"Out of 1,100 [Southern Baptist] Hispanic missions and churches in Texas, there are only two full-time youth ministers," Reyes says.

Working with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he recently resurrected a summer youth camp for Hispanic teens. Five hundred teens attended the camp last summer.

That number is expected to mushroom this year. Reyes also hopes to host 3,000 to 4,000 Hispanic teens at a youth congress Easter weekend. Reyes



says they hope to publish *30 Days* in Spanish this year.

Reyes is joining Hampton Place Baptist Church in Dallas as associate pastor for youth ministry. His brother, Albert, is president of the Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio, and another brother, Fred, is marriage enrichment team coordinator for LifeWay.

Ross recently made presentations of the *30 Days* material to leaders of two national family-oriented ministries. In addition, he has recently been in-

ited to appear on Robert Schuller's television broadcast, "The Hour of Power."

Ross and his wife, La Juana, have served side by side in local church youth ministry for more than 30 years. He served 16 years as youth ministry consultant with LifeWay.

Ross earned a master of religious education and a Ph.D. in youth ministry from Southwestern. He earned his bachelor's degree at Hardin Simmons University in Texas. He has written or compiled 16 books on youth ministry, many of which have been classroom texts in Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries.

Ross is well-known for serving as a founder of the True Love Waits campaign.

"I always use the term 'spokesperson' rather than 'founder,'" Ross says. "God was the founder."

Their book is available only from their new publishing venture, Josiah Press, for \$19.95. To order, call 1-877-430-DAYS or visit www.josiahpress.com. ■

Ministry must be balanced with family: Rankin

By Ruth Robinson
For Baptist and Reflector

CHATTAHOOGA — "Your ministry can affect your family positively and negatively," Tony Rankin told youth ministers and their spouses in a seminar on "Balancing Family and Ministry."

The seminar was held at Southeast Conclave 2002, a regional meeting sponsored by the Baptist state conventions of Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee.

"Striving for excellence at



TONY RANKIN of the TBC Christian Growth Development Group addresses seminar participants at Southeast Conclave 2002 in Chattanooga.

work is worth nothing unless it is equally as important at home," said Rankin, a former youth minister at Judson Baptist Church, Nashville. "It takes the same things at home as at work for excellence. You will not find balance without family balance."

Rankin is currently family ministry specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and a counselor in private practice.

"When you spend all your energy at work, you rarely have much energy at home so that home gets left over."

Rankin had a list of suggestions for youth ministers:

- Go home and ask your

spouse what they resent, expect, and need from you. Then rephrase it to what you expect.

"The biggest problem I see in therapy is the idea of resentment; not sex, money, or in-laws, but jealousy, hurt, of feeling second place through broken or unmet expectations, whether or not these are verbalized."

► What legacy am I going to leave before I die? What will it be at home?

"The church will survive without so many meetings. That's something the church is going to have to answer for."

► Allow your family to be an example.

"Youth can't relate to biblical people. This forces you to do what you teach, to set yourself up as an example."

► Encourage your spouse not to be your assistant.

"Don't take your work home with you. At work: work; at home: family."

► Keep the promise you made on the night you married.

"Cherish your spouse. Cherish the time with them. Selfish church members ask that you do more than you should."

► Protect your regular time with your family.

"Mealtime is vital, a time to talk together, when you solve problems. The average family has three meals a week together. Bedtime needs to be regular. Kids need a predictable routine."

► Pray for your pastor's understanding about family priority and say to him you expect it.

"There is no perfect family. Be okay in your own skin. You are not going to be perfect. Our success as parents is not based on the performance of our kids, but did I love and teach my kids, love my spouse, love my God. Let them know they will always be loved even when they mess up."

► Verbally state that your family is your priority.

"That's your legacy. Nobody (in the future) is going to care if you make every meeting."

► Have family equity: equal time, equal energy, equal priority.

"When you spend extra time on camp or night activities,

give the time back. Give your family equal extra time. Do something for your spouse before the fact. Energy equity needs to be the same. Hear your spouse better than anyone else." ■ — Robinson is a freelance writer in Chattanooga.



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Says Richard Ross

Relationships with teens are repairable

By Ruth Robinson
For Baptist and Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — "We are not products of a sperm race. We are designed by God, redeemed by God and given a mission by God," said Richard Ross, youth professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

His topic at Southeast Conclave 2002 held here Feb. 28-March 2 was "Restoring Broken Heart Connections" with families where things are not going well.

"In the past we have tried to help students survive bad homes. Why not approach the problem by changing the homes?" he asked.

He said it was possible to rebuild homes where things are already mixed up.

"The way for Christian parents to parent teenagers is the way God parents us. We have an emptiness which God fills with unfailing love."

On the other hand, Ross said, "most parents have marketplace love."

They tell their teenager that he/she will be rewarded with love if the teen meets the par-



RICHARD ROSS, left, discusses a book he co-authored with **Gus Reyes** entitled *30 Days* with **David Hagan**, youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church, Union City, and his wife, **Dana**.

ent's expectations, Ross observed. They have an attitude of give me something and I will give love back," or the parent may vicariously live out their life through the teenager's life, he said.

Youth, like adults, need a sense of significance, he said. Teens need encouragement, a sense of security, a true and genuine sense of significance.

"Their perception of emo-

tional security is to have their home stay as it is. Your ultimate security comes from God; theirs from their parents. Marriage is a priority. Parents must make a decision to make the home last a lifetime."

Ross said this is not happening in church families where one-half of church families are struggling. He cited several reasons:

(1) Warmth stopped along the way. Parents are occupied

with discipline and behavior and forget to love their kids. They want their kids to get it right and are scared by what happens to bad teens.

Also, withholding warmth from kids may have been the example in the parent's home and the parent doesn't know how else to act, Ross suggested.

(2) They are preoccupied with money, possessions, marriage, and lose focus on the kids. "The American dream has just about done us in. Parents are working and too busy, so teenagers are lost."

(3) Divorce. Ross said that whatever the reason that there is a drift in the relationship between parents and teenagers, "teenagers experience pain. Teenagers hate pain."

"That's why they smoke funny cigarettes. To make the pain stop, they turn away from it. They decide their parents are not as important to them as they used to be and to fill the relational void they turn to their buddies."

Is it possible to rebuild relationships? "Yes," Ross says.

"It is repairable. Pray for your kids. Teach kids the



truth. Model the truth. It is in relationships that most families are missing."

He recommended a project, called *30 Days*, (see separate story on page 7) in which a parent and a teenager, in a one-on-one relationship, spend 10 minutes each night for 30 days in intense discussion, using the guidelines in the *30 Days* book. Each day has an envelope with five cards, some for the parent, some for the teen, which guides their discussion. In this way both are able to say very personal things to each other that they otherwise find hard to verbalize.

"My desire is to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children," a verse from Malachi, which "is a neglected teaching here of late," Ross said.

"A family can make big progress in about a month, modeling God's grace and unfailing love." ■

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Says former Tennessee youth minister

Gimmicks are good, but should be based on Gospel

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — Creativity is needed to reach youth today, but regardless of what is used, the Bible needs to be the focal point, says a former Tennessee Baptist youth minister.

Russ Butcher, who once served at First Baptist Church, Smyrna, led a session at Southeast Conclave 2002 entitled "From Gimmicks to Gospel."

Butcher, who is now pastor of student ministries at NorthStar Church in Kennesaw, Ga., reminded youth ministers and workers that "the Word of God" changes lives.

However, he continued, "creativity is the velcro that makes it stick in the lives of students in a culture when there are many things competing for their attention."

Creativity is vital because the average teenager has an attention span of seven minutes, Butcher observed.

He noted that in reaching youth the messenger (youth minister or worker) must make four commitments when preparing for "the awesome adventure of teaching Scripture."

(1) A commitment to integrity.

(2) A commitment to authenticity.

(3) A commitment to glory-



RUSS BUTCHER, left, pastor of student ministries at NorthStar Church in Kennesaw, Ga., and former youth minister at First Baptist Church, Smyrna, visits with Justin Hiens, a Union University student and youth minister at Chapel Hill Baptist Church in Milan.

ifying God.

(4) A commitment to excellence.

Butcher encouraged those who teach teenagers to examine the ancient truths of Scripture, bring those truths to life, and apply it "to the now."

That can be done using creative approaches, he said.

"Creativity is as simple as looking into your personal life and finding something to help the gospel stick with students," he observed.

Butcher called on youth workers to create a "brainstorming planning team" and to include students on those

teams. "Get the students involved. They will be the creative brainstormers," he said.

He encouraged those attending the seminar to tell stories with personal illustrations and to use creative elements (video clips, testimonies from students, etc.) to bring application to biblical truths.

"Quit teaching lessons and start creating experiences," Butcher challenged, noting that students want "experiences."

He observed that "we have conditioned our students to be bored with Scripture." That is a "sin," he stressed.

Keep a balance between creativity and honor the integrity of God's Word, he challenged.

Butcher noted that when teaching students, he always has a Bible in hand.

"They need to see the Bible and understand what it means.

"They need to see our commitment as leaders to the integrity of the Scriptures."

Butcher said he tries to teach students that the Bible is the "absolute truth that they need to live by."

He observed that people's world views are determined by the lens they look through, whether it be a philosophy or religion.

"The lens I believe God wants us to look through is the Word of God," Butcher stressed. ■



MINISTRIES — YOUTH

Full-time pastor of students/recreation needed for dynamic growing church in North Alabama. Must have clear call to student ministry. Send resume to Search Team, P.O. Box 145, Athens, AL 35612.



First Baptist Church of Rogersville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time youth/family minister. Please send resume to Mrs. Mae Brooks, Personnel Chair, 1405 Robertson Blvd., Rogersville, TN 37857. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.



Part-time youth minister wanted at Antioch First Baptist Church, 2601 Una-Antioch Pike. Fax resumes to (615) 832-6486 or call church at 832-7486.

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Oak Street Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of worship. Applicants must meet biblical qualifications for leadership and have the necessary skills and experience to lead corporate worship and church music programs. Resumes or inquiries to Search Committee, 804 Oak St., Elizabethton, TN 37643 or fax/phone (423) 542-8722.



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, Pulaski, 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 — YOUNG ADULT

Seeking full-time young adult/singles minister. Send resume to Hunter First Baptist Church, 693 Hwy. 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643, fax (423) 543-2948, e-mail church@hunterfirst.com.

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Says George Barna

Teens born after 1984 may be toughest to reach

By Jon Walker
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE— It's always been a struggle to reach teenagers for Christ, but those born since 1984 may be the toughest to reach yet, said Christian researcher George Barna. Appearing on Richard Land's For Faith & Family weekday radio show in February, Barna said the "Mosaic Generation" is comprised of non-linear thinkers who cut and paste their beliefs and values from a variety of sources.

What's more, Barna said, almost half the Mosaics don't know and don't care about moral absolutes. To them, it's just a non-issue not worth arguing over. This means, Barna said, that they're a generation comfortable with contradictions.

Barna defines the Mosaic

Generation as youngsters born between 1984 and 2002, describing them as such because they're "very mosaic in every aspect of their life." He said, "There's [no attribute] that really dominates like you might have seen with prior generations." Other researchers refer to this generation as Millennials or Generation Y.

"When we try to show them logically that two things really don't work together — that either one is right and the other is wrong, or they're both wrong — typically what you get is a giggle and then the response, 'Yeah, how about that?' Barna said. "They're not really concerned about trying to figure out where things stand on an objective continuum."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty

Commission and host of For Faith & Family, said the research regarding the Mosaics shows America is cultivating a generation of mainly right-brained thinkers.

"I just want to make sure everybody understands that this is a radical departure from Western thought, at least since the time of the Renaissance," Land said. He added that this way of thinking is so different from other generations that it's like comparing a modern man to one from medieval times.

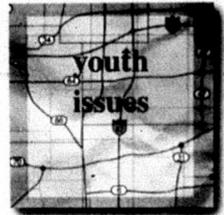
The For Faith & Family broadcast ministry is heard daily on nearly 600 radio stations across the country and around the world on the Internet at www.faithandfamily.com. Visitors to the program's web site can access archives of past For Faith & Family programs as well as listen to the Barna interviews.

An audiotape of the two-part interview also can be ordered by calling 1-888-324-8450.

Barna said society has taught Mosaics to think in this different way through fast-edit videos, constant computer use, and easy access video games. In addition, 91 percent of all Mosaics, compared to 51 percent of all adults, use the Internet, where they absorb information and build relationships.

"We've taught them, 'You don't have to connect the dots the way your parents did,'" Barna said. "What you have to do is just react to whatever you see out there, and as long as it feels good, as long as it makes sense, that's good enough."

Connecting with young people has always been a challenge, Barna said, but today that struggle is at a much deeper level.



"It's no longer just a difference in cultural icons, ones that young people respond to instead of their elders," Barna noted in the For Faith & Family interview. "Now it's a whole different style of thinking and communicating. It's a completely different set of values based upon a very varied interpretation of the meaning of life and how to achieve success or significance in one's life."

"This calls into question 'How do we teach young people today?' " Barna observed. "Is preaching the best way to communicate God's truths to them, at least the way we traditionally preach? How do we get them to understand and embrace God's Word without ever compromising it while still understanding they communicate very differently from previous generations?"

"They want spirituality; they want faith experiences; they want a taste of religion; but they don't want to have to go through all of the stuff that they see the adults doing at the typical church," Barna said. "But, because the Internet fits with their schedule — it's a 24/7 opportunity — they're using it to explore things they might not have access to otherwise."

Much of Barna's research on Mosaics is compiled in the book, *Real Teens: A Contemporary Snapshot of Youth Culture* (Regal Books, 2001). ■

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MINISTRIES — MUSIC

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◆◆◆

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

◆◆◆

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

During NOBTS emphasis

Skidmore looks at 'Wow,' 'Woe' of salaries

By Shannon Baker
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Most ministers' salary "packages" create a false impression of how much money ministers really take home, said Richard Skidmore.

Thus it is imperative that ministers and churches plan correctly on compensation matters, Skidmore, a Tennessee Baptist Convention church ministers' financial support specialist, told future ministers at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Skidmore was one of the featured speakers for this year's Life Beyond Seminary emphasis Feb. 19-21 at the seminary. Various seminars addressed topics such as preparing for interviews with search committees, handling conflict, church planting and preparing a ministry resume for the 21st century. The seminars supplement NOBTS' regular academic classes which feature a church-focused, competency-based practical curriculum to equip leaders to grow healthy churches.

In addition, representatives

from more than 10 state conventions, the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board were on hand to speak with students regarding future ministry possibilities.

Skidmore, describing in his presentation the church layman's understanding of the minister's salary, said that when John Q. Church Member sees an annual line item of \$35,000 for the minister's salary, for example, the inclination is to compare that salary to someone who works in the secular arena, such as Wal-Mart or Saturn.

However, when you examine the comparison more closely, the minister really is not making the same, Skidmore said, using a question to explain: "Do you pay for your benefits out of your salary?" the secular employee is asked, to which the typical answer is no. In fact, the benefits — medical insurance, retirement, and other fringe benefits — are added to the baseline salary, thereby increasing the amount, he explained.

In comparison, typically deducted from the minister's published salary of \$35,000 is med-

ical insurance, housing, job-related expenses, and if the church agrees, disability and life insurance and retirement. And, because the minister is considered self-employed for Social Security tax purposes, the minister must pay the employer's portion and his portion of the Social Security tax, which amounts to around 15 percent of his compensation, Skidmore said.

"So, the salary of the minister, when you count out everything else, is actually closer to \$20,000 or less," Skidmore said. "When John Q. Church Member sees \$35,000 published, he's seeing the entire package, not just the take home salary."

"The salary package may look like a 'Wow!' but it can really be a 'Woe!'" Skidmore said, referencing the seminar's title, "The Salary Package: Wow! Or Woe!"

Moreover, the minister's published salary may include a line item to cover expenses such as books, conference fees; and use of the minister's personal car. "That expense belongs to the church, not to the individual," Skidmore said.

Consider how it would make the church secretary feel if deducted from her paycheck is the cost of leasing or owning the

computer she uses to produce church bulletins and letters, Skidmore suggested. "That's exactly what we do when we expect our ministers to use their own automobiles for visitation and other church-related travel. Often, ministers are given a published salary, which includes expense money that is subtracted from their total earnings rather than added to it," he said.

Instead, churches should not include expenses as part of the salary, but as a church expense similar to a utility bill, Skidmore said. At the end of the month, the minister should be reimbursed for expenses paid out of his pocket in the same way the electric bill is paid, he said, suggesting that ministers settle with the church monthly, using a mileage log and attaching other receipts as necessary. The minister and the church should agree in writing at the outset what expenses are acceptable, he said.

Skidmore also pointed out that ministers may be paying taxes they do not owe because of the way some churches set up the payment of medical insurance benefits.

"If the church pays the premium directly to the insurance company, the benefit is not reportable for tax purposes," Skidmore explained. However, if ministers are given the money in their salary package to pay the premiums on their own, then it becomes taxable income, and the ministers have to pay



taxes on that amount, he said.

"It's important to always check with your state convention representative who handles compensation and tax issues to be sure that you are not paying more than you need to pay," Skidmore advised the students.

Skidmore also offered counsel about the inclusion of a parsonage in the salary package, saying that such use may leave a church at risk and/or may hurt ministers and their families in the long run. "What happens if the pastor has a stroke and can no longer speak in the pulpit?" he asked. "Who wants to be the one in the personnel/finance committee who has to move the family out of the parsonage?"

Without an opportunity to build personal equity through a housing allowance stipend, the minister has nothing of his own to fall back on, Skidmore said.

Skidmore reminded the students that the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board offers each of its insurance benefits — such as life, disability, dental, and health insurance — as stand-alone options. "We want to meet you where you have a point of need," Skidmore said. More information from the Annuity Board can be obtained online at www.absbc.org or by phone at 1-800-262-0511. ■



SKIDMORE

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

MISCELLANEOUS
For Sale: Oak pews with bookracks and padded seats. Call (731) 764-2557, Pastor John Cook.

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For Sale: A two-year-old 60' x 24' modular building w/HVAC for sale. Used as education or small-worship center. Call Gladeville Baptist Church, (615) 444-9550, for details.

MINISTRIES — EDUCATION
Cherry Road Baptist Church is seeking an associate pastor/education. Resumes to Les Collier, Business Administrator, Cherry Road Baptist Church, 1421 Cherry Rd., Memphis, TN 38117.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, is seeking a full-time minister of education and discipleship. Broadway is an ecumenically-minded CBF affiliated congregation with a commitment to inner-city ministry. We worship in the liturgical tradition. Send resumes or recommendations to Cindy Johnson, Chair, Education Search Committee, 305 W Broadway, Ft. Worth, TX 76104.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
Calvary Baptist Church is seeking to fill a new ministerial position of minister of education/evangelism. If you are interested, please send a resume to Pastor Steve McDonald, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830, phone (483) 483-7470, fax (483) 482-7210.

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

minister's corner

by Don Davidson

Sometimes you wonder, from what resources do preachers get ideas to write articles month after month, preach Sunday after Sunday, and all the other things that we address from time to time. Often we get ideas from other ministers or from favorite ministers we listen to on the radio or on the Internet. Often we get ideas as the Holy Spirit leads us through our own personal Bible study and devotional times. But many times we get sermon ideas from everyday experiences, or we see a need develop through our daily contacts with people and we go to the Scriptures to find out what the Bible says about it.

For instance, this morning Tena and I invited a local cabinet maker to investigate what we might do to build storage/work space in Emily's room. Most of Emily's furniture was tall or stackable and did not fit in this new room with slanted ceilings. We talked with each other before he arrived about what we might do — we ended up with numerous ideas, but no solutions. We knew what was needed, but didn't know how to go about it.

Then the cabinet maker arrived. We took him up to the room and he began to ask us questions about what we needed. As we talked he began to formulate a plan — out of his vast experience — and we began to see the potential of the things that he suggested. His suggestions were better than anything that we had imagined. You see, he was the master craftsman, and we were just novices who were wondering what would be best.

When we placed our ideas before a master craftsman, he knew what to suggest, he knew what to do, and we were able to see the best plan take shape — AFTER we submitted our plans to the master.

In our lives we see needs and make plans, thinking that we know what is best, but we often fall short of what our greatest potential can be. But, if we would submit our lives to the Master — Jesus Christ — since he is the master craftsman of our lives, we might find that He has the PERFECT PLAN in place. In fact, you can count on it! Jesus always knows what is best. And if we will daily commit to the Lord all our ways; then we will discover the best in life will be what God wants. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). ■ —Davidson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Smithville.

just for today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Memphis



Start With a Smile: Out-of-town man in a fast food restaurant to a local resident? "What's the quickest way to get to the baseball stadium from here?" Resident: "Are you walking or driving a car?" Out-of-town man: "Driving a car." Resident: "That's the quickest way."

Take this Truth: It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all of the answers. — James Thurber

Memorize this Scripture: "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?" — Amos 3:3 NIV

Pray this Prayer: Lord, help me to be wise enough to ask directions when I don't know the way. Help me further to follow instructions when I receive them.

Receiving the Holy Spirit

By Charles Fritts

Focal Passage: John 14:16-17; 15:26-27; 16:5-15

I miss my dad. More than I thought I would. More each year. I have good memories. I have pictures. I have his fishing rods. I don't have him. I know where he is. He's safe and happy and I'm glad for that. I still miss him.

The disciples will miss Jesus. He is preparing them for what is fast approaching, and they are grieved. What will they do without Him?

What of the work He began? With Him, they felt they could do anything. He affects us that way. Without Him? He had even said, "Without me you can do nothing."

Then He told them of one who was to come. Fully God, only not visible as Jesus had been. He assures them of His continuing presence and how God will continue to relate to them daily. They will not be orphans. They (and we) will do the work He began.

He will be continually present with them (and us) (ch. 14:16-17). He is another "counselor," similar to the first (Jesus). B. H. Carroll calls Him, "the other Jesus." The word "counselor" or "comforter" is used in a general sense of "one who helps." As the "Spirit of Truth" He will open up the words Jesus had spoken and cause the disciples to recall those

words so they could leave a written record for us. He helps us apply that unchanging message to our changing culture. The Holy Spirit, at work since creation, did come at Pentecost, in a unique and powerful way. Now He is "in you" and "with you" if you are a believer. Although the world doesn't recognize Him, you don't live by "luck" nor do you have to "figure it out" on your own. You have the continuing presence of God.

He involves them (and us) in His continuing mission (ch. 15:26-27). Jesus died, was resurrected, and

ascended back to the Father. His physical life on earth was not.

The Holy Spirit came to continue that mission. And He involves you in it. He "testifies about Jesus." We can have a settled faith. I have a good library. I "pick a lot of brains." However, the finest commentary on Jesus is "the other Jesus," the Holy Spirit. He will keep us from running after every lie. And as He settles our faith He expects us to share our faith. "You must testify of Me." He enlightens us for the continuing work. Co-workers with God — outstanding!

He does what they (nor we) could do — convict of sin (ch. 16:5-11). I can know Jesus. I can know the truth about Jesus. I can witness to my faith in Jesus. I can't convince the world it's true. I don't have to. It's His job, not mine. We are called

Family Bible SS Lesson — March 17

Give evidence of your salvation

By Thurman Seber

Focal Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10

Most Bible readers are drawn to the "miracle" stories in the Scriptures. While Jesus did many wonderful things, the three accounts of His raising the dead are often regarded as the most amazing of all.

A much less noticed miracle is often recorded in the accounts of biblical salvation experiences. The greatest miracle of all takes place in the human heart. While salvation is an inner event, the result of this miracle can only be demonstrated by outer actions.

A Christian will give evidence of salvation. I have often said in preaching that no change in lifestyle indicates no change in the sinners heart.

The first seven verses of chapter two trace our path from death to deliverance. The unsaved person is disobedient by choice (v. 2), depraved by nature (v. 3), and dead in sin (v. 5).

Some unbelievers will respond by saying they are not as bad as others. While they may not be as bad in their deeds, they are as bad off as the vilest sinner in their standing before God.

Someone has said that unbelievers are worse than sick, that they

are, in fact, dead. The only real difference would be found in their state of decay. While some are very corrupt and their every deed would reek of sinful rottenness, others are much less repulsive but no less dead.

In times past (v. 2), this would have described the Ephesian believers. Something wonderful had happened in their life. They could no longer be described as disobedient, depraved, and dead. They are now seen as being quickened, or made alive, by the miraculous power of God.

Just as God had the power to bring Jesus from the dead (v. 5), so has He power to bring sinners from spiritual death to full life. This wonderful transformation is a result of His love and is brought to pass through His grace. We must never be misled into believing that man has the power to save himself by good works. Just as ancient men foolishly tried to build the tower of Babel into heaven, so does modern man labor in vain to reach heaven by good works (v. 8-9).

In times past, we were dead in sin but no longer. Today, we sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (v. 6). We are not only delivered, we are also displayed. Like a proud grandmother displays all the pictures of her precious children, so



to proclaim the truth, then let Him apply it to whom? He wills and as He wills. We must be sure our witness is biblical, our words are gracious, and our attitude is loving. Then we are to "lean on Him" to do what He does well — to convince the world it's true. We need to "unlearn" some tricks and relearn some trust. It takes the strain out of witnessing.

He would guide them (and us) into all truth (vv. 12-15). Truth is important to God. Jesus uses the word five times in the text. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Truth." The promise is "He will guide you into all truth." Jesus claimed to be "the Truth." To build a life, to continue His work, to have joy, we must have truth. Christianity offers a "know-so" position in a "hope-so" world. It alone has real answers to the real questions: "How can I have peace within?" "How can my life have meaning?" "Is there a heaven or hell?" "How can I have assurance of forgiveness?" You can know!

Jesus is no longer with us in bodily form. Yet we are not left without help. God relates to you now as Holy Spirit. "I will never leave you," said Jesus. And He never has. — Fritts is pastor of First Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

are the living evidence of the work of grace.

God invited Satan to consider Job. God must have felt great joy in the obedient lifestyle of this believer. We are on display for the world to see. As we sit together, literally in church and figuratively in the world, all should see the evidence of God's changing power. Is this not reason in itself for us to strive for unity?

Let us never get the idea that works do not matter (v. 10). James rightly instructed us to show our faith through our works. We are created and saved for good works.

The evidence of our salvation is demonstrated by the works that we do. Our works would include the deeds we do as well as the words we say. The world is watching us day by day. It has been said that we are the only Bible some folks ever read. We must live, work, walk, and talk as people who have been saved.

Warren Wiersbe has said that Christians need to, "Get out of the graveyard." After Legion was saved, he no longer ran through the cemetery, naked and deranged. They found him fully clothed, in his right mind, and sitting at the feet of Jesus (Luke 8:35).

Does your life give the same evidence of salvation? Exchange those grave clothes for grace clothes. — Seber is pastor of Upper Helton Baptist Church, Alexandria.

leaders

■ **Jerry Tidwell**, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, for the past nine years has been called as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater, Fla. He and his family will be honored at a reception in the church fellowship hall on March 17, his last Sunday at West



TIDWELL

Jackson. A native of Alabama, Tidwell was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1999-2000. He is chairman of the board of trustees at Union University, Jackson, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

■ **Jerry Legg** has been called as interim pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Humboldt.

■ **Salem Baptist Church**, Trenton, has called **Ben Hindrichs** as youth minister.

■ **Lyons Park Baptist Church**, Church Hill, has called **Roger Dinsmore** as pastor.

■ **Ridgedale Baptist Church**, Chattanooga, has called **Tony Leonard** as minister of recreation effective March 18. He formerly served as minister of students at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage.

■ **Riley Jones** is the new pastor at Shady Grove Baptist Church, Rogersville.

■ **Spring Creek Baptist Church**, Clarksville, has called **Richard Christian** as associate pastor of music and youth.

■ **Edgefield Baptist Church**, Nashville, recently called **Gary Morgan** as pastor.

■ **Darren Morrow** began

servicing Feb. 3 as pastor of Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Ripley.

■ **Jeremy Hazel** has resigned as youth minister at First Baptist Church, Covington, to accept a similar position in Elizabethton.

■ **Tri-Cities Baptist Church**, Gray, recently called **Arden Taylor** as pastor.

■ **Rusty Wishon** retired in February as youth minister at University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City. He is available for pulpit supply and can be reached at (423) 928-0326.

■ **Bill Eddins** is the new minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Greeneville.

■ **Calvary Baptist Church**, Erwin, has called **Annette Florence** as director of children's ministry.

■ **New Life Baptist Church**, Kingsport, recently ordained **Coy Webb** and **Steve Price** as ministers of the gospel and **Ron Wimmer** as a deacon.

■ **Bill Sherman**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fairview, and **Howard Olive**, retired pastor of Monte Vista Baptist Church, Maryville, recently were inducted into the Mainstream Baptist Hall of Fame during a recent ceremony in Charlotte, N.C.

■ **Earl Martin**, senior professor of missions at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was recently named to **Marquis' Who's Who in America**. He was the founding missionary of the Southern Baptist Mission to Rwanda.

deaths

■ **Corbin O. Monger** died Feb. 7. He was pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church, Knoxville.

■ **Roger L. Oldham**, 76, who served as pastor of 27 Southern Baptist churches in

Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida and was a music evangelist who wrote and published more than 350 gospel songs and hymns, died March 4 in Erlanger, Ky. He is survived by three daughters and a son, Roger "Sing" Oldham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Martin. Memorials can be made to the Roger L. & Glendora S. Oldham Memorial Scholarship Fund at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 5001 N. Oak Street Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118.

■ **William A. "Bill" O'Leary**, deacon emeritus at First Baptist Church, South Pittsburg, died Jan. 19.

■ **Allen Buhler**, 85, a retired pastor in Lebanon, died Feb. 22 after a lengthy illness. His Tennessee pastorates included Montvue Baptist Church, Morristown; Fairview and Southside Baptist churches, Lebanon; and Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville. He also served as interim pastor of several churches during his retirement years. He is survived by six children, 14 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Memorials can be made to the Allen Buhler Scholarship Fund at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, c/o Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc., 901 Main Street North, Carthage, TN 37030-1002.

churches

■ **The Pleasant Plains Baptist Church**, Jackson, adult choir will present the Easter musical, "Who Do You Say I Am?" at 10:30 a.m. on March 24. For more information, call the church office at (731) 668-0329.

■ The adult choir of **West Hills Baptist Church**, Lebanon, will present their Easter program, "He Thought Of Us" on March 31 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (615) 444-2606.

■ **Trafalgar Village Baptist Church**, Memphis, recently held its first missions fair in the history of the 34-year-old church in order to expose the congregation to various ministries sponsored by their World Mission Offering, according to Rick Panis, associate pastor.

■ **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**, Limestone, is nearing completion of its new worship center and fellowship hall. It's the first new construction for the church since

1963. Church members did much of the construction.

■ **Boone Trail Baptist Church**, Gray, will soon move into its new \$2 million family life center/educational facility, the second major construction project for the church in the last three years.

■ **First Baptist Church**, Greeneville, recently moved into its newly completed office complex, library, and education space, which was built as the second phase of a three-phase building plan.

■ **Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church**, Bluff City, will soon move to their new location at the corner of Chinquapin Grove Road and Walnut Grove Road. The new building, projected at \$2.2 million, will provide a new church facility.

■ **Stones River Baptist Church**, Smyrna, will hold revival services April 7-11 with guest evangelist Nathan Hale, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. For more information, call the church office at (615) 459-2933.

■ **Sylvia Baptist Church**, Dickson, will change its service times, beginning Easter Sunday, March 31, to 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

■ **Lucy Baptist Church**, Millington, will hold revival April 21-24 with guest evangelist Hal Fletcher, pastor of Ridgeway Baptist Church, Memphis.

■ **White Hall Baptist**



Church, Trenton, will celebrate its 60th anniversary with dinner after the morning service on April 21. They will also break ground for new church facilities that day.

associations

■ **Hiwassee Baptist Association** held its associational evangelism conference March 2 at Paint Rock Baptist Church, Philadelphia. Fred Davis of the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, preached. Special music was provided by the choir from Union Fork Baptist Church, Soddy-Daisy. More than 100 people attended the conference.

events

■ **Henry Blackaby** will speak at **Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary**, Germantown, during a campus revival April 16-19. Blackaby is co-author of the popular *Experiencing God* study. For more information, call the school at (901) 751-8453.



THE WMU of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Covington, makes quilts for shut-ins and for other church-related projects. They recently quilted for Pastor Craig Batson and his family celebrating their first year of ministry at the church. Members of the WMU include Bonnie Henson, Dot McClain, Helen Mason, Ida Warren, Margaret Nolan, Mildred Cromwell, Mary Cromwell, Shelby Whitehorn, Sara Parr, Blanche Sloan, Helen Ralph, Mary McDivitt, Betty Byrd, Maxine Fletcher, and Beatrice Glass.



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