

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

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And in gifts

Churches cite gains in men/boys missions, music

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Participation in Tennessee Baptist churches increased in men/boys mission education, music, giving of money, and Woman's Missionary Union. Churches cited losses in Discipleship Training, baptisms, Sunday School, and resident and total membership.

The analysis is derived from reports made by churches on the Annual Church Profile. The ACP is collected by Tennessee's 67 Baptist associations and sent to the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff for compilation and study, reported Raymond Smith of the TBC staff.

The biggest increase was in men/boys missions education for the second year in a row. In 2000-2001 it was up 8.8 and the previous year up 29.8 percent. This counters drops of 13.3 percent and 1.6 percent the previous years.

Tim Bearden who leads men/boys missions education as a TBC group leader, said, "God is moving among men in Tennessee Baptist churches. The

Men's Ministries Team of the Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group has the exciting job of helping our churches help men and boys be aware of God's movement.

"We can't explain the growth. We are just pleased to be a part of what God is doing in Tennessee," said Bearden.

The next largest increase, also for the second year in a row, was a 4.8 percent increase in music participation. The past year it was up 11.1 percent. That contrasts to a drop of 21.8 the year before.

Paul Clark who leads music and worship for the TBC staff said preschool and children's music work remains strong in TBC churches which is good because it is critical for children "to know that their talents are to be used to praise God."

He credited adult leaders who are blending or adding new forms of music rather than eliminating forms. In both cases the outcome is "the long-term health of the worship of our churches," said Clark.

Other areas of work had decreases. Discipleship Training dropped 5.9 percent, as compared to an increase

Tennessee/SBC Church Statistics

Membership	1999-00	2000-2001	% changed in TBC	% changed in SBC*
Total	1,101,791	1,094,528	-0.7 %	0.6 %
Resident	792,865	782,945	-1.3 %	
Baptisms	28,889	27,624	-4.4 %	-4.5 %
Sunday School	567,525	559,635	-1.4 %	0.0 %
Discipleship Training	146,652	138,020	-5.9 %	-6.2 %
Music	125,215	131,171	4.8 %	3.3 %
WMU	69,654	70,275	0.9 %	-3.9 %
Men/Boys Mission Ed.	35,527	38,637	8.8 %	-13.3 %
CP gifts	\$34,022,797	\$34,745,645	2.1 %	
Designated gifts	\$18,219,584	\$18,555,341	1.8 %	
Total gifts	\$52,242,381	\$53,300,986	2.0 %	

Some figures were not reported for the SBC.

of 3.7 percent the past year and a decrease of 14.2 percent the year before.

Mark Miller, who directs DT for the TBC staff, said, "Discipleship Training's survival is insignificant compared to fulfilling the biblical mandate of discipling persons. Providing multiple opportunities to transform them into the likeness of Jesus Christ is the essence of discipleship and Discipleship Training. Let's not give up on dis-

cipleship because it's hard."

Baptisms dropped 4.4 percent as compared to 1.9 percent the previous year and an increase of 1.8 in 1998-99.

Commenting on the report, Larry Robertson, who leads evangelism efforts for the TBC staff, said, "The fact that our decrease in baptisms was a slightly lower percentage than that of the SBC as a whole brings little consolation to me.

— See Churches, page 7



Yarborough honored at retirement

Eleanor Yarborough, left, retired April 30 as leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Communication Services Group. She served the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for 20 years in a variety of roles before becoming a group leader in 1996. She was instrumental in revamping TBC communications materials and helped lead efforts to initiate the TBC web site — www.tnbaptist.org. Among those attending a retirement reception in her honor were musicians Jeanine and Bill Walker, members of First Baptist Church, Nashville, as is Yarborough. The Walkers sang at the chapel service preceding the reception. See "Reflections" on page 5 for more about Yarborough. — Photo by Barbara Owen

Dresden pastor's doctoral research turns into new resource on gambling

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

DRESDEN — Pastor Don McCulley of First Baptist Church here observes he "backed into" his recently published book, *Gambling Fever: Is There Any Cure?*

He noted that in 1997-98, as he was considering what topic to select for his doctoral thesis at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., he looked at several ideas before deciding on gambling.

At the time gambling was "a hot topic" in the state, McCulley recalled.

As he continued work on his project, however, the issue died down and McCulley wondered if he had made a good decision. His faculty advisor (Hal Poe, a professor at Union University in Jackson) told him, however, that the issue would not die because Tennessee would continue to pursue a lottery, McCulley said.

Poe was right.

"The timing is of God," McCulley said.

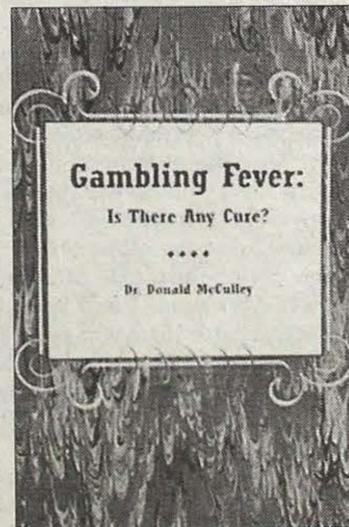
He recently self-published the book just as Tennessee voters are looking hard at whether or not to have a state lottery.

On Nov. 5 voters will decide on a referendum which would remove the lottery prohibition from the state Constitution.

While a lot of new material was added, the bulk of the book is based on research and sermons and lesson outlines he prepared as a part of his doctoral project. McCulley's book examines the lottery issue, but also takes a broader look into gambling in general.

In his introduction, McCulley describes how he came up with the title for the book. "A number of years ago the legendary country music artist Merle Haggard recorded a song entitled 'Rambling Fever,'" McCulley wrote. "In that song he sang, 'I've got rambling fever in my blood.' Change the 'R' to a 'G' and you have the thrust of this book: 'Gambling Fever.'"

— See Dresden, page 3



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Senate deals with clergy housing allowance issue

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate to preserve a longstanding housing tax exemption for ordained ministers and other clergy.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., introduced the Senate version, S. 2200, April 18, only two days after the House of Representatives approved the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act with a 408-0 vote (see related stories in the April 17 and 24 issues of the *Baptist and Reflector*). The Senate and House bills are designed to protect the exemption by amending the Internal Revenue Code to make clear the allowance should not exceed the "fair rental value" of a house, including furnishings, accessories, and utilities.

"It is a very simple bill that confirms established Internal Revenue Service policy that has lacked the force of law," Baucus said on the Senate floor while in-

Of Southern Baptist Convention

Tennesseans named to boards, committees

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the four denominational boards — International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, and Annuity Board — the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the six seminaries, and the Committee on Order of Business have been selected by the 2002 SBC Committee on Nominations.

Nominees will serve if elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12 in St. Louis:

Tennessee Baptists selected to serve if elected include:

► Executive Committee — Roger S. "Sing" Oldham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Martin

► Annuity Board — Robert L. "Bob" Sorrell, retired associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

► International Mission Board — Randy C. Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Sevierville (second term)

► LifeWay Christian Resources — Kenneth W. Jones, Nashville (second term)

roducing the legislation. "Without this clarification, we risk losing a longstanding benefit that is terribly important to hundreds of thousands of ministers, priests, rabbis, and other clergy all across America."

The legislation has been on a fast track since Rep. Jim Ramstad, D-Minn., introduced it in the House April 10. The speed with which Congress has moved

so far came in reaction to a threat by a federal appeals court to strike down the allowance as unconstitutional. A panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced in March it is reviewing the constitutionality of the allowance.

"The court could invalidate the clergy housing allowance any day, and that's why today's speedy consideration of my legis-

lation by the House was so critical," Ramstad said after House vote. "The House has done its job in a bipartisan way, now the Senate needs to step to the plate, pass this bill, prevent a disastrous tax increase on America's clergy."

Those interested in contacting their senators about the legislation may do so by accessing www.erc.com/capitolhill. ■

McAteer sees fulfillment of prophecy in Middle East

By Mark Wingfield
For Associated Baptist Press

MEMPHIS — When Ed McAteer watches current events unfold in the Middle East, he sees the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

These things must come to pass, he believes, in order for Jesus to return and bring world history to its end. That's why he was saddened but not surprised when the United Nations recently voted against Israel, in his opinion, on a resolution on the Middle East conflict.

"When the nations gather against Israel, I believe at that time the Scriptures will be fulfilled," said the retired sales executive who now devotes himself full time to conservative Christian causes.

McAteer is a leader among evangelical Christians in support for Israel. He hosts an annual prayer breakfast for Israel attended by both Jewish and evangelical Christian leaders. He recently chaired an international committee that created sufficient public pressure to stop the construction of a mosque near Christian holy sites in Nazareth.

From his Memphis home, McAteer frequently speaks by phone with key Israeli leaders who seek his counsel or support.

McAteer loves Israel, because he believes the Bible tells him to. He often cites God's promise to Abraham, "I will bless them who bless you and curse them who curse you."

From the perspective of this Baptist layman, the mandate to support Israel without equivocation runs all the way from Genesis to Revelation.

Although more articulate and passionate about the subject than most other American evangelicals, McAteer represents a stream of theological and political thought that has driven United States policy toward Israel for

more than 50 years.

"No one in the U.S. outdoes fundamentalists in their support of Israel, not even American Jews," said Tim Weber, a Christian historian and dean at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Illinois.

"Since Menachem Begin, all Israeli leaders have seen American fundamentalists as important shapers of American foreign policy toward Israel. What many people do not understand is that most fundamentalists support Israel because they believe it will play a key role in events leading up to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ."

While this theological view of the end-times — known as premillennial dispensationalism — is not the majority view among Christians worldwide or even nationwide, it strongly shapes Americans' views of Israel, Weber said. "The influence of such ideas extends way beyond the tight community that nurtures and studies them."

Dispensationalism, articulated as a distinct theology by John Nelson Darby about 1830, teaches that shortly before the return of Christ, the nations will gather for war in the Middle East against a restored Jewish state.

The dispensationalism viewpoint, however, hinges on restoring and preserving a Jewish state in Palestine.

McAteer agrees that the existence of Israel as a nation is "very important" to his view of Christian theology. "Jesus said when these things come to pass, lift up your head, your redemption draweth nigh."

Since 1948, dispensational theology has pushed for expansion of Israel's borders on prophetic grounds.

"Dispensationalists understood the Israeli-Palestinian conflict not in terms of international law or the rights of self-determination, but as a modern expression of the ancient biblical

rivalry between Isaac and Ishmael for their father Abraham's birthright and blessing," Weber said. "Thus dispensationalists did not see any way to reconcile the two warring parties."

"The divine die was cast. Jews win; Palestinians lose."

Indicative of this view, McAteer believes there's "no such thing as the land of Palestine. That's something that's been manufactured. That piece of geography was given by God to Israel."

Where should the Palestinians go, then? "Anywhere else in the Middle East," McAteer said, so long as they leave the Jewish nation alone. "The Arabs have 485 times as much land as do the Jews."

This is where McAteer and others who are consistent in applying their theological beliefs to politics find discomfort with some of the publican leaders they have helped elect.

When President George W. Bush indicated that perhaps Israel should give up some land and be more conciliatory toward the Palestinians, McAteer and company are pleased.

"I'm not in lockstep with a number of religious Christian brethren, even those in the Southern Baptist Convention, in their cheering and wrapping their arms around everything George W. Bush says about the Middle East," McAteer said.

"One day, he says one thing; the next day he says another."

The bottom line for McAteer remains the Bible, not politics.

"I believe without any reservation whatsoever that every grain of sand on that property called Israel belongs to the Jewish people. It's not because I happen to think so. It's not because history gives a picture of being in and out of there. It's because God gave it to them." ■

Woman leads children's ministries for 50 years

Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

COLUMBIA — "I'm a product of ... Baptist teaching and material," says Bobbie Baggett of her 50-year ministry to young children.

Baggett, of West End Baptist Church here, recently retired from teaching preschool in both Sunday School and Sunday morning worship because of back problems.

She was honored by the church on April 14. But Baggett, who is a dynamic, spirited woman with lively dark eyes, says "I have already had my rewards. Children have given me some of my best times."

And she not only has worked with thousands of children, but she noted she has worked with some of the finest people, including Carlene Brown, who still teaches preschoolers at West End Church. Baggett and Brown have taught children together for 30 years.

Baggett describes herself as a "carpet-square teacher." In other words, until recently because of her back, she joined children on the floor, sitting on a carpet remnant. Then she could relate to the children on their level, she explained.

She tried to be more than a "helmet and stick teacher," she said. She tried to prepare lessons with activities involving more creativity and learning than asking children to transfer stickers to a picture.

Leadership

Baggett not only has worked with children, but she has led adult teachers and churches to develop ministries for children. She developed

weekday ministries at First Baptist Church, Columbia, and First Baptist Church, Bolivar.

At the Bolivar church, she helped develop a kindergarten/preschool program and at First Church, Columbia, she helped start a dayschool which at one point drew about 115 children.

Both programs were an outreach to the community and a ministry to families, said Baggett. Some of the families who used those ministries "met the only God [they] will ever know," she stated.

Baggett saw fellow workers distinguish themselves, she recalled. For instance, Shirley Dusek of First Church, Columbia, went from the dayschool program there to lead a similar program at First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

Baggett also was recognized for her work. She became a Tennessee Baptist Convention trainer, working with Liz Lee of the TBC staff and Wendell Price, retired staff member. They would travel to churches and associational centers across the state to train church workers, she recalled.

Sometimes entering the fog-covered mountains of East Tennessee was treacherous for her, Baggett noted. She is from West Tennessee's Olive Hill in McNairy County.

In the 1980s Columbia leaders learned about the quality of the weekday program at First Church, Columbia. Baggett was named a member of the board of review for day-care licensing for the Ten-



BOBBIE BAGGETT reads a book to Ashley Piper, 3, as Carrie Hull 3, watches. Baggett taught both girls in the preschool Sunday School class until she retired recently. — Photo by Connie Davis

nessee Department of Human Services and a licensed day-care trainer for the state.

She strongly advocates the licensing of weekday programs of churches and other organizations. In other words, said Baggett, groups which provide care for children should meet governmental standards. But churches should do more than that, she said. They should have the best programs because they represent God. She also worked for a Regional Intervention Program in Columbia as a teacher of special needs children for four years.

Despite all she has done, Baggett always has worked with young children in the church. She began in Beaumont, Texas, before she and

her husband, Don, returned to Tennessee. For many years she has worked with children in Sunday School, Sunbeams, Mission Friends, Vacation Bible School, and weekday programs, sometimes all at the same time.

Rewards

Baggett said she is a better person and Christian for being able to work with the "outstanding, brilliant people" who lead and have led Baptist work with children. She cited Florence Conner Hearn; Gail Linam; Maurita Fletcher; Florie Ann Lawton; Dixie Ruth Crase; and Sue Raley, of the TBC staff.

Baptists, without a doubt, have the best children's programs and materials, said Baggett.



She also recalled the joy of working with Fred Kendall, pastor of First Church, Bolivar, now of Nashville; and James Pulliam, retired minister of music of the church. And her family helped her in her ministry, said Baggett. Her husband and three daughters always had to arrive at church early so she could begin preparation for the children she would lead that day.

Baggett has many memories of children she has taught and is always glad to hear reports on them. Some are sad, she said, when she hears that a young adult has died prematurely. But many are joyful. She sees many in different places in Columbia.

Her experiences with children are precious to her. For instance, Baggett recalled spending time with a young boy one Sunday afternoon to allow his mother to run an errand.

The two visited her backyard where they talked about all of the things God made. Baggett told the boy about the fox and opossum who visited the backyard, especially since she fed them.

The boy went home and told his mother that Miss Baggett had a hippopotamus in her backyard.

"God gave me a gift, but we have so many people who have the gift but don't know it. It (working with children) is really not hard to do," said Baggett, "and it's fun." ■

Dresden pastor's doctoral research ...

Continued from page 1

"The fact is that the fever is spreading across this nation at a rapid pace. It is flowing feverishly through the bloodstream of America," he wrote.

McCulley observes the rapid growth of gambling over the past three decades.

"With gambling's rapid growth has come a disgraceful annihilation of countless individuals whose lives have been left wrecked as a result of the consequences.

"Gambling proponents have convinced so many that they would be the recipients of an economic gold mine. But the reality is there continues to be recorded a litany of human horrors related to the ill effects gambling produces in society," he wrote.

While the book is written in "sermonic form," McCulley said, it is not geared "to just preach-

It is applicable to anyone sitting in a pew. I wanted to reach beyond the pulpit," the Dresden pastor stressed.

He noted the book could be used by laypersons for personal reading or as a small group Bible study.

McCulley is convinced after years of research and work put into his sermons and Bible study lessons that gambling is not a part of God's plan.

He acknowledges in the book that there is no 11th commandment, "Thou shalt not gamble."

McCulley also observes, "That does not mean that the Bible is silent with regard to Scriptural principles which would speak directly to such a subject."

He also is convinced that if Tennessee voters remove the lottery prohibition from the state Constitution, the state will eventually deal with other forms of gambling.

"If the lottery ever takes root in the state of Tennessee, it will open the floodgates for everything else sooner or later," said McCulley, a native of Gallaway in Fayette County.

McCulley said the books are being sold for \$10 each plus \$3 for shipping and handling.

To order copies or get more information, call McCulley at (731) 364-2212. Orders and checks can be sent to: Don McCulley, P.O. Box 41, Dresden, TN 38225. ■



MCCULLEY

Belmont, Union to host dessert receptions during SBC meeting

For Baptist and Reflector

by calling (615) 460-6077 by Tuesday, June 4.

ST. LOUIS — Belmont University, Nashville; and Union University, Jackson; each will host dessert receptions for alumni and friends during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11-12 at the America's Center here.

The Belmont University dessert reception will be held on Tuesday, June 11, at 9 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel located at 200 North Fourth Street, about six-tenths of a mile from the site of the SBC annual meeting.

There is no cost for the dessert reception, but reservations are needed.

Reservations can be made

The Union University dessert reception will be held at the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis.

Attendees must make reservations for the reception, which includes a complimentary ticket.

Reservations can be made by contacting the office of alumni services by Tuesday, June 4. Tickets also will be available at the Union University display in the exhibit area of the convention until noon on Tuesday, June 11.

For more information, contact the office of alumni services by calling toll-free 1-800-338-6644 or locally at (731) 661-5208. ■

June 11-12 in St. Louis

SBC messengers to elect new president

By Art Toalston
For Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Southern Baptists will elect a new president and move forward in missions, family life, and vision for the kingdom of God during their June 11-12 annual meeting in St. Louis.

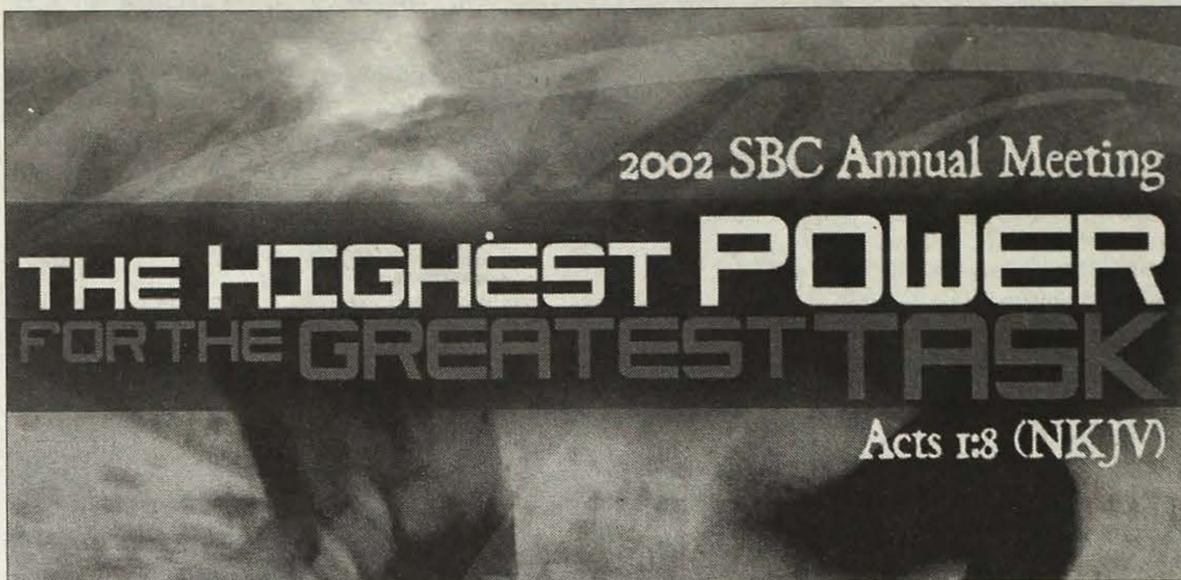
"I think it's going to be an outstanding convention," said James Merritt, the outgoing president.

Only one presidential nominee has been announced, Dallas-area pastor Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church, to succeed Merritt, an Atlanta-area pastor who has served the maximum two consecutive one-year terms.

The election will take place Tuesday afternoon, June 11, in St. Louis' America's Center, site of the two-day SBC annual meeting and various auxiliary meetings such as the June 9-10 Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration.

The SBC's passion for missions likely will be fueled by the Tuesday appearance of aid workers Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer who were arrested last year by the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan for sharing their faith — and by the convention's closing speaker Wednesday afternoon, Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ.

"And I think we're going to see once again some very dynamic reports from both the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board," said Merritt, who will have visited all of the IMB's 15 regions worldwide by the time the convention meets along with various NAMB



stateside missions points.

Through a missions emphasis fashioned around the SBC theme of "The Highest Power for the Greatest Task," Merritt said he has been praying that the convention "will make a fresh commitment to evangelism and to missions to reach people for Christ."

"I will always believe that missions, as much as anything else, is what really distinguishes us from so many other denominations. It's one thing to say you believe in salvation by grace through faith alone, but if you really believe it, then who should have more of a passion for souls than Southern Baptists?"

Of the 80-year-old Bill Bright who stepped down last year from the helm of Campus Crusade, Merritt said, "Maybe with the exception of Billy Graham, probably no one has

had more of an impact in the 20th century for world evangelization than Dr. Bill Bright," through a worldwide evangelistic organization now reaching nearly 200 countries and innovative resources such as the "Jesus" film which has been translated into more than 700 languages.

Also ahead at the SBC:

► A continuing emphasis on strengthening families, with messengers (members representing local churches) to learn details about the first-ever convention-wide family rally — June 19, 2003, in Phoenix, Ariz., the day after the June 17-18 SBC annual meeting there. The rally is among the initiatives of the SBC's two-year-old Council on Family Life led by former SBC president and Oklahoma City-area pastor Tom Elliff.

► Introduction of a new thrust, "Empowering Kingdom Growth," described as a vision for what Jesus taught and called for — a thoroughgoing concentration on the kingdom of God. The work of an eight-

member Cooperation Task Force of state convention and SBC entity leaders, the EKG thrust has been endorsed by the Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors and the SBC Executive Committee.

This year's convention will continue a change made last year to begin the final SBC session Wednesday afternoon at 3 and ending around 6, replacing the Wednesday evening session. Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga., said the change drew a great response from messengers — and bolstered attendance at the closing session. "People are excited about getting out earlier on Wednesday, so they can either go back home if they need to that evening or have a little leisurely time to go out to dinner with friends," he said.

Merritt's presidential address is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday, while Claude Thomas, pastor of the Dallas/Fort Worth-area First Baptist Church, Euless, will deliv-

er the convention sermon 8:30 that night.

Interpretations of "The Highest Power for the Greatest Task" theme will be presented by Robert "Bob" White, executive director of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, on Tuesday morning; evangelist Junior Hill of Wetmeade-Decatur, Ala., Tuesday afternoon; Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church, Lake Forest, Calif., and Terry G. Fox, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan., both Wednesday morning.

Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer, who were among eight foreign aid workers held by Taliban from August until their rescue just before Thanksgiving, will address messengers during the 10 a.m. Tuesday SBC Executive Committee report.

The International Mission Board report is slated for 11:15 a.m. Wednesday; North American Mission Board, 2:55 p.m. Tuesday; LifeWay Christian Resources, 7:25 p.m. Tuesday; Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 4:55 Wednesday; Annuity Board, 10:35 a.m. Wednesday; the SBC seminaries, 3:50 Tuesday; and Woman's Missionary Union, 3:15 Wednesday.

The week prior to the annual Crossover evangelistic effort coordinated by NAMB and Missouri Baptists will penetrate metro St. Louis with the gospel. Hundreds of adults and teenagers will participate in mission opportunities throughout the region.

The two-day schedule for the annual meeting will include messengers wanting to introduce resolutions for consideration must do so before the Tuesday afternoon session. Messengers who want to have resolutions considered are urged to send them to the Resolutions Committee c/o Convention Relations, Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203. ■ Additional SBC-related stories in this issue.



MERRITT



CURRY



MERCER

Guidelines given for messenger registration

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — The registration of messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will open at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 10, and at 8 a.m. on the following Monday through Wednesday.

Messengers must be credentialed by their respective churches. According to SBC Bylaw 8, the church's clerk or moderator must sign the familiar messenger card, "the best credential." The messenger card may be obtained from state convention offices or the local association office in some states.

SBC officials emphasized that most state conventions do not automatically send the cards to churches. The churches must request the messenger cards from their state convention offices.

If a messenger comes to the meeting without a properly completed card, the person must go before the convention's

Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee will open after 8:30 a.m. on Monday, June 11. Any messenger who does not have a messenger card should bring a letter from the church and meet with the Credentials Committee.

The registration desk also will be able to accommodate messengers who need to send messages either by telegram or fax, and it will serve as the convention's lost and found office, according to SBC officials.

The qualifications for messengers wanting to register for the convention are found in Article III of the SBC Constitution. Messengers of the convention are members of missionary Baptist churches cooperating with the convention as follows:

"1. One messenger from each church which (1) is in friendly cooperation with the Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work. Among churches not in cooperation with the Convention are churches that act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior. And, (2) has

been a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work during the fiscal year preceding.

"2. One additional messenger from each such church for every 250 members; or for each \$250 paid to the work of the Convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.

"3. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by the churches to the Convention, but no church may appoint more than 10.

"4. Each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is appointed."

The convention does not register "alternate messengers."

Other amenities provided by the registration desk include nametags and a service to locate messengers' hotel rooms. Messengers should include the name and number of their hotel on their registration cards.

Additional information about the annual meeting can be found at www.sbc.net. ■

Families must deal with their conflicts

families matter

by Paul Barkley
counselor



posed a model of conflict resolution that I would like to suggest with a Barkley twist or two.

Heitler suggested a three step sequence to resolution of conflict in the family. I will call them — express the causes of the conflict, explore the underlying concerns, and expect and elicit consensus.

Step one is to express the causes of the conflict. Each family member will have his own perspective on the conflict and each viewpoint must be expressed and put on the table for consideration. Often in the family we assume that the other family members already know and understand how we feel. In order for conflict to be dealt with appropriately every family member must be willing to openly and honestly give his view in as no-fault and blame-

less way as possible. This is done with "I" statements instead of "you" statements.

The second step is to explore the underlying concerns. This involves making a joint list of all the desires and wishes that are at the root of this conflict. When families get stuck in this part of the process, Dr. Heitler suggested four questions (the four Ss) to get the process moving again. Are we maintaining symmetry, exploring equally all our concerns? It is important that everyone involved is heard. Are we giving long speeches or talking in short segments? Long speeches tend to drag the process down and kill the effectiveness. Are we talking in generalities or in specifics? While generalities tend to sound good and are less threatening, they are often

hard to put into practice. The specifics give an identifiable attainable goal. Have we put together a summary, listing all the concerns each of us has, as a bridge to the third step, finding solutions?

I would call her third step expecting and eliciting consensus. Consensus building involves finding solutions that include everyone while attempting to let everyone get as much of what they want as possible while not limiting the others inappropriately. She suggests a final question that might insure that the process is brought to completion: "Are there any pieces of this that still feel unfinished?" ■ — Barkley is professor, Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences, Memphis, and a family therapist in private practice.



editorial/
opinion

reflections

by Lonnie Wilkey
editor



Mixed emotions

Retirement is a time everyone looks forward to — an opportunity to spend more time with family and friends and to do all the things you have dreamed of doing for years.

When you are not the person retiring, however, you can have mixed emotions. You are happy for the person who has reached that milestone, but are sad, especially if that person has been a friend and co-worker for many years.

Such are the feelings I have this week. A longtime friend and colleague — Eleanor Yarborough, leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Communication Service Group — retired April 30 after more than 20 years of service with the TBC.

I have watched Eleanor at work over the years in various roles. When I first joined the staff of the *Baptist and Reflector*, she wore several "hats," including having the responsibility of planning the annual dramatic arts festivals. Those TBC festivals soon were recognized as among the best offered by any state convention. It was not uncommon for dramatic arts teams from churches outside Tennessee to come to the TBC festivals.

In 1996 Eleanor became the group leader for Communication Services. Under her guidance, this group led the TBC into the Internet world and gave all of our communications pieces a new modern look, complete with color.

Everything Eleanor did was done with class and professionalism. Almost good was never good enough for her.

She has been a dear friend and supporter over the years and is one of the *B&R's* biggest boosters. When visiting churches she almost always mentioned the *Baptist and Reflector* and encouraged churches to take advantage of the state Baptist paper. We will miss her tremendously.

As Eleanor goes to spend more time with her family, which includes a brand new grandson, we wish her the very best. She deserves it! ■

Walking can reduce risk for certain types of diseases

good health

by Branda Polk



ment; it can be done with or without a partner and almost anywhere and any time.

While walking at any speed will burn calories, fitness walking can strengthen your cardiorespiratory (heart/lung) system, burn fat and help you maintain a healthy weight. Fitness walking involves walking at a speed and intensity level to get your heart rate into your target training zone. (To find out your target training zone heart rate, log onto www.fit4.com and click on the "Health Calculators" in the "Strength" section.) Fitness walking uses muscles in your legs, back, abdomen, and upper body.

Fitness walking can have fitness benefits no matter what your fitness level. If you have not exercised regularly within the last year, consult your

physician before beginning any exercise program to be sure it is medically safe for you. Follow any instructions that your doctor gives you. Then, begin your walking program slowly. Map out a relatively flat path for you to walk.

If you walk at night, take someone with you for safety and stay in well-lit areas. Begin walking at a slower pace for 5-10 minutes. Then gradually increase your speed and walk for 10-15 minutes. Be sure to stand tall as you walk to allow plenty of oxygen into your lungs.

As you walk, take the talk test. If you cannot talk while you walk, you are working too hard. If you can sing a song or carry on a full conversation with ease, you are not walking hard enough.

As your fitness level increases, vary your fitness walking routine by adding hills, increasing your speed, or walking further distances.

Walking provides spiritual benefits as well as physical benefits. Walking outside allows you to appreciate God's creation and thank God for the body he gave you. You can use your walking time to pray for others and give your concerns and worries to God.

Consider this, walking was Jesus' primary form of transportation while on earth. So, you can actually "follow in his steps" as you walk to properly care for your body. Consider I John 1:5: "Walk in the light as He is in the light." ■ — Polk is a certified fitness instructor and the Fit 4 coordinator at LifeWay Christian Resources.

As school year ends, help reduce child's test-taking stress

a parent speaks

by Carolyn
R. Tomlin



only method of measurement.

With the school year drawing to a close, your child may be experiencing some of the following:

Test Anxiety Symptoms

Symptoms vary according to the personality of the child. As parents, you may notice some of the following:

- headache
- stomach pain
- insomnia
- fighting with siblings
- depression
- low self-esteem
- nervous habits such as nail-biting, twisting hair, or grinding teeth.

Tips for taking tests

(1) Immediately after a test is returned, talk about the errors and discuss ways to avoid misunderstanding (about direc-

tions, terms, or answers) the next time.

(2) Plan a "dry run" for a test. If timed, set the clock and work on questions and answers. If reading from one booklet and transferring answers to another sheet, provide practice.

(3) Work on skipping to the next questions, instead of spending too much time on one.

(4) Emphasize how test scores due to poor study habits and lack of preparation will not be acceptable.

How can parents help?

Recognize that reducing TV viewing lessens your child's stress. Instead, plan family activities and appropriate time to study.

Let your child hear you pray, asking God to help them do their best when taking a test.

Test-taking checklist

As a parent, your positive at-

titude impacts how your child copes with stress attributed to tests. A negative viewpoint from you creates additional tension and a poor self-image. Check yourself on the following:

- I expect my child to do her best, but no more.
- I try to give unconditional love, regardless of the score.
- I realize a good night's sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and an extra hug are important on a test day.
- I realize a Christian home where families love each other is the best way to succeed in taking a test — or in life. ■

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

According to many educators, the most common shared stressor among students of any grade level is test taking, followed by the second big stressor — math anxiety.

It's not surprising. With increasing demands on academic success, schools push for more accountability. Your positive attitude impacts how your child copes with test stress. Help your youngster realize that testing is part of life. Whether or not, it's a yardstick by which schools measure students. Hopefully, it's not the

Baptisms decline

SBC church membership tops 16 million

By Charles Willis
For Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Membership in Southern Baptist churches set an all-time record in 2001 with a total of 16,052,920 persons, an increase of 92,612 over the previous year.

Total number of churches grew to 42,334, a 1.79 percent increase, or 746 churches more than the 2000 total of 41,588. At the same time, church-type missions operated by churches declined by 5.91 percent or 310 to a total of 4,933.

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention compiles the Annual Church Profile from church reports routed through local Baptist associations and state conventions.

While membership grew — though the increase of 0.58 percent was less than the gain of 108,552 or 0.68 percent in 2000 — baptisms declined by 18,727 or 4.52 percent to a total of 395,930. The decline ends four years of baptism totals above 400,000.

Music ministry enrollment/participation increased 3.29 percent or 54,442 to a total of 1,709,319. This followed a year of decline by 0.72 percent in 2000.

Sunday morning average worship attendance grew by 3.36 percent or 186,541 to 5,730,980.

Other increases were reported in total tithes, offer-

ings, and special gifts to \$8,314,899,294 (6.68 percent above 2000), as well as undesignated receipts of \$6,445,430,643 (7.77 percent above 2000). Total receipts increased by 5.90 percent to \$8,935,013,659.

Sunday School enrollment declined 3,671 or 0.04 percent to a total of 8,182,744, follow-

ing an increase of 0.48 percent in 2000.

Discipleship training enrollment/participation declined 6.24 percent, or 137,713 to a total of 2,070,714, following an 11.75 percent increase in 2000.

Other declines were registered in Woman's Missionary Union enrollment and

Men/Boys Mission Education Enrollment. WMU enrollment declined 34,477 or 3.86 percent to a total of 857,680. Men/Boys Mission Education Enrollment dropped 13.29 percent or 64,773 to 422,637.

Total value of church property grew 13.83 percent to \$28,686,588,811. This increase



is due, in part, to reporting from more states in 2001 than those reporting in 2000. ■

SBC Statistics for 2001-2000

Item/Statistic	Final 2001	Final 2000	2001-2000 Numeric Change	2001-2000 Percent Change
State Conventions	39	39	0	0.00%
Associations	1,204	1,200	4	0.33%
Churches	42,334	41,588	746	1.79%
Total Membership	16,052,920	15,960,308	92,612	0.58%
Baptisms	395,930	414,657	-18,727	-4.52%
Ratio of Baptisms: Total Membership	1:41	1:38	NA	NA
Other Additions	442,380	463,420	-21,040	-4.54%
Sunday School Enrollment	8,182,744	8,186,415	-3,671	-0.04%
Discipleship Training Enrollment/Participation	2,070,714	2,208,427	-137,713	-6.24%
Music Ministry Enrollment/Participation	1,709,319	1,654,877	54,442	3.29%
WMU Enrollment	857,680	892,157	-34,477	-3.86%
Men/Boys Mission Education Enrollment/Participation	422,637	487,410	-64,773	-13.29%
Total Tithes, Offerings, & Special Gifts	\$8,314,899,294	\$7,793,931,050	1,141,082,609	6.68%
Undesignated Receipts	\$6,445,430,643	\$5,980,939,876	464,490,767	7.77%
Total Receipts	\$8,935,013,659	\$8,437,177,940	497,835,719	5.90%
Total Mission Expenditures(1)	\$980,224,243	\$936,520,388	43,703,855	4.67%
Value Church Property (2)	\$28,686,588,811	\$25,201,554,006	3,485,034,805	13.83%
AM Worship Attendance	5,730,980	5,544,439	186,541	3.36%
Church-type Missions Operated by Churches	4,933	5,243	-310	-5.91%

(1) Data not reported by SC.

(2) Data not reported by GA, IL, KY, and SC. Increase is due, in part, to one state that reported in 2001, but not 2000.

Prepared by:

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Concord Baptist Association Disaster Relief Unit responds to F-3 tornado in Gum area

By Marcia Knox
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Concord Baptist Association Disaster Relief Feeding Unit began serving meals April 29 at Buchanan Elementary School near the Gum community to victims and emergency workers following a F3 tornado, according to Tim Bearden, State Disaster Relief director.

Around 80 breakfast meals were served.

The Concord Association unit responded over the weekend to the Gum community near Murfreesboro where a confirmed F3 tornado cut a 10-mile path April 28 at 7:30 a.m. damaging or destroying around 30 homes and destroying five mobile homes, according to officials from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

The Concord Association Feeding Unit continued serving meals April 29 with the supper meal at the intersection of Gum Road and Hwy 41 where they were expected to serve 200 meals to victims, police officers, and emergency workers.

In addition, Mount Hermon Baptist



BEARDEN

Church, Murfreesboro, served around 150 with a barbecue lunch meal April 29 at the tornado site.

An emergency shelter was established at First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro. However, no one used the shelter, said Paul Peak, minister of education/church administrator at the church.

Around 125 people were affected by the tornado in Gum where 18 people were treated and released at local hospitals and one remains hospitalized in Vanderbilt Medical University Center, Nashville.

Around 30 people were treated at the scene of the tornado. In addition to personal injuries TEMA also reported four roads closed and several barns and outbuildings destroyed in the area.

The same tornado also damaged or destroyed 11 mobile homes and destroyed one home in Bradyville in Cannon County. Damage also was reported across the state by TEMA in Lake County with 15 mobile homes damaged or destroyed and three homes damaged, and in Rhea County with one home and five businesses damaged.

At press time Monday, the State Disaster Relief office was checking with other associations across Tennessee to determine the extent of damage, Bearden reported. ■



Knoxville volunteer honored

Mickey Caison, right, manager of adult volunteer mobilization for the North American Mission Board, based in Alpharetta, Ga., presents the Distinguished Service Award to Curtis Fowler, layman from West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, during the National Disaster Relief Roundtable held last week in Nashville. — Photo by Morris Abernathy

Top 50 Churches in Reported Baptisms for 2000-2001

Year ending Sept. 30, compiled from Annual Church Profile

Church	Members/Baptisms		
	Resident Members	Baptisms	Members/Baptisms
Ave./Park Lane Flwshp, Knoxville	130	110	1.2
Land Community, McMinnville	14	10	1.4
rtion, Dellrose	41	25	1.6
ype Hispanic Mission, Cleveland	10	6	1.7
nt, Cleveland	35	20	1.8
Missionary, Lebanon	20	11	1.8
Bluff City	30	15	2.0
Chapel, Tellico Plains	20	9	2.2
o Avenue, Chattanooga	29	13	2.2
od, Oakland	21	9	2.3
ridges, Columbia	60	24	2.5
orks, Bethel Springs	8	3	2.7
y Fellowship, Atoka	56	21	2.7
ouse of Arlington, Arlington	27	10	2.7
reek, Knoxville	136	50	2.7
use, Blaine	33	12	2.8
McMinnville	27	9	3.0
hip Mission, Clarksville	73	24	3.0
fe, Lafayette	125	41	3.0
Frail, Gray	61	20	3.1
own Community, Springfield	180	59	3.1
ke, Knoxville	163	52	3.1
ispanic, McMinnville	19	6	3.2
at CrossPoint, Murfreesboro	63	19	3.3
aven, Dover	40	12	3.3
see Valley Community, Paris	100	30	3.3
ointe Community, Johnson City	57	17	3.4
ountain, Dunlap	58	17	3.4
. Johns, Milan	37	10	3.7
le, Nashville	15	4	3.8
's Grove, Sweetwater	30	8	3.8
st Life, Lyles	60	16	3.8
anity, Flintville	50	13	3.8
fe Mission of Mt. View, Antioch	62	16	3.9
of Jesus Mission, Nashville	105	27	3.9
rn, Jackson	75	19	3.9
stone, Knoxville	20	5	4.0
, Henning	81	20	4.1
Doyle	77	19	4.1
y Missionary, Pioneer	45	11	4.1
rtion, Cookeville	211	51	4.1
Chapel, Lebanon	100	24	4.2
Community, Waverly	21	5	4.2
Mission, Vanleer	64	15	4.3
e, Savannah	65	15	4.3
College Grove	61	14	4.4
, Mt. Juliet	157	36	4.4
wood, Clarksville	292	66	4.4
l, Millington	1,700	378	4.5
White Bluff	127	28	4.5

*Baptisms represents the number of resident members required to result in one person being baptized.

Top 50 Churches in CP Giving for 2000-2001

(for year ending Oct. 31, compiled from TBC records)

Church	Per Capita Giving *	
	Resident Members	Amount
St. Elmo Avenue, Chattanooga	29	\$288.04
Tri-Cities, Gray	395	258.65
Fairview, Oak Ridge	35	252.17
Bethel, Greenfield	262	239.79
Smyrna, Burlington	177	229.80
Eastanallee, Riceville	508	212.09
Lighthouse of Arlington, Arlington	27	191.32
Calvary, Rutherford	23	176.48
Bethel, Greenbrier	545	170.34
First, Erwin	333	164.33
Hillview Mission, Cleveland	12	160.61
Covenant, Germantown	258	157.61
Faith Heritage, Millington	78	155.46
Southwestern, Johnson City	353	154.67
Cornersville, Cornersville	78	153.24
Indian Springs, Kingsport	830	153.16
Ridgedale, Chattanooga	1,579	148.57
Hillcrest, Dyersburg	441	146.37
First, Tellico, Loudon	77	145.90
New Hope, Bell Buckle	18	142.44
First, Grand Junction	181	142.27
First, Paris	1,009	140.65
Birchwood, Birchwood	105	139.58
Colonial Heights, Kingsport	1,125	138.70
Dotsionville, Woodlawn	29	136.85
First, Kenton	409	136.49
First, Jackson	1,228	135.11
Brainerd, Chattanooga	1,678	134.99
First, Humboldt	1,001	134.97
North Cleveland, Cleveland	731	132.32
Persia, Rogersville	280	130.98
First, Covington	739	130.06
WestLake, Knoxville	163	126.45
Ararat, Jackson	356	125.29
Alpha, Morristown	1,191	120.26
Rock Springs, LaVergne	69	120.15
Oak Valley, Franklin	244	118.87
First, Counce	326	118.55
Olive Hill East, Olive Hill	78	117.63
Parkway, Goodlettsville	910	117.57
First, Calhoun	430	116.94
Hickory Valley, Hickory Valley	80	116.91
Belle Aire, Murfreesboro	1,813	116.71
Long Hollow, Hendersonville	1,350	116.59
First, Brighton	402	116.10
First, Bradford	156	114.33
Gum Springs, Walling	153	114.07
First, Tullahoma	1,130	114.04
First, Morristown	1,663	113.27
Shallow Ford, Erwin	71	113.20

* Resident membership information from Annual Church Profile for year ending Sept. 30, 2001. CP information from TBC Treasurer's Report for year ending Oct. 31, 2001

Total Baptisms

Church	Resident Members	Total Baptisms
ue, Cordova	21,555	982
l, Millington	1,700	378
le, Knoxville	2,744	327
Concord, Knoxville	4,805	264
Shelbyville	1,500	237
al, Hixson	4,856	227
Woods, Memphis	2,229	185
of Missionary, Clarksville	2,150	182
Bartlett	1,884	147
rt Ground, Kingsport	2,867	145
antown, Germantown	6,091	145
Smyrna	2,597	135
Clarksville	3,742	132
Hendersonville	6,002	125
Cleveland	3,445	124
Millington	2,147	113
d Lick, Watertown	1,017	112
Aire, Murfreesboro	1,813	112
d Avenue/Park Lane Flwshp, Knoxville	130	110
rest, Lebanon	965	107
r Heights, Knoxville	3,934	105
Promise, Knoxville	846	104
ale, Clarksville	1,641	95
ns Street, Cookeville	1,237	94
, Columbia	1,254	91
inside, Martin	685	90
on Chapel, Madisonville	487	88
n Hill, Mt. Juliet	901	88
Jackson, Jackson	2,355	87
uhum Hills, Nashville	3,450	84
dale, Bartlett	0*	84
wood, Jackson	2,097	84
, Mt. Juliet	1,544	83
Franklin	5,528	82
Powell	3,442	81
Sevierville	2,852	81
Hill, Englewood	593	80
ard, Chattanooga	1,678	79
de, Harrison	2,495	76
Joelton	1,586	75
View, Franklin	1,182	74
n Springs, Mosheim	725	72
Dickson	1,729	72
Fork, Soddy-Daisy	535	71
Hollow, Hendersonville	1,350	71
ville, Gladeville	1,145	69
ry, Oak Ridge	1,419	69
ing Oaks, Greeneville	950	69
od, Memphis	2,114	68
Heights, McKenzie	449	67

*Church did not report any resident members.

Amount of Giving

Church	Resident Members	Amount
Bellevue, Cordova	21,555	416,260
First, Clarksville	3,742	332,035
First, Hendersonville	6,002	269,003
Two Rivers, Nashville	4,362	264,500
First, Concord, Knoxville	4,805	260,759
Brentwood, Brentwood	2,609	259,154
Red Bank, Chattanooga	2,566	257,690
Grace, Knoxville	2,744	249,400
First, Smyrna	2,597	235,180
Ridgedale, Chattanooga	1,579	234,591
Brainerd, Chattanooga	1,678	226,520
Tusculum Hills, Nashville	3,450	225,063
Germantown, Germantown	6,091	223,026
West Jackson, Jackson	2,355	216,811
First, Millington	2,147	216,148
Belle Aire, Murfreesboro	1,813	211,594
Westwood, Cleveland	2,400	209,652
Wallace Memorial, Knoxville	2,565	208,867
Hermitage Hills, Hermitage	2,136	206,244
Central, Hixson, Chattanooga	4,856	195,400
First, Nashville	2,100	192,658
First, Cleveland	3,445	190,985
First, Morristown	1,663	188,373
First, Cookeville	1,680	188,358
First, Powell	3,442	175,500
First, Jackson	1,228	165,921
First, Mt. Juliet	1,544	162,934
Faith, Bartlett	1,884	157,927
Long Hollow, Hendersonville	1,350	157,398
Silverdale, Chattanooga	1,504	156,941
Colonial Heights, Kingsport	1,125	156,042
First, Dickson	1,729	149,162
Alpha, Morristown	1,191	143,235
First, Paris	1,009	141,913
Bartlett, Bartlett	1,822	141,456
Judson, Nashville	1,235	138,421
Central, Bearden, Knoxville	2,770	136,632
First, Lexington	1,279	136,151
First, Humboldt	1,001	135,107
Immanuel, Lebanon	2,424	133,729
Beaver Dam, Knoxville	2,128	131,930
Central, Fountain City, Knoxville	1,839	131,175
ClearView, Franklin	1,182	130,173
First, Tullahoma	1,130	128,860
Central, Johnson City	1,540	128,414
Indian Springs, Kingsport	830	127,119
Forest Hills, Nashville	1,418	124,781
Ridgeway, Memphis	2,213	124,158
First, Lenoir City	1,938	122,817
Tulip Grove, Old Hickory	1,829	122,266

Churches cite gains...

— Continued from page 1

"The potential for this state to be reached through the gospel depends upon us giving more than lip service to the Great Commission. It rises and falls on personal evangelism. Every Christian, with no exception, has the clear responsibility to share the life-changing hope found in Jesus Christ. We've just got to do it!"

Gifts increased about the same percentage in all three areas of reporting as they were in the past three years.

Gifts to the Cooperative Program, the funding mechanism for Southern Baptist causes including missionaries, agencies, and seminaries, were up 2.1 percent. The past year they were up 4.4 percent and the former year 5.7 percent.

Total gifts were up 2 percent, 5.1 percent the previous year, and 5.7 percent in 1998-99.

And designated gifts were up 1.8 percent. The previous years they increased 6.5 percent and 5.6 percent respectively.

Another parallel with last year's report is an increase in Woman's Missionary Union membership. That increased 0.9 percent and previously 7.4 percent. The year before that it dropped 4.2 percent.

Joy Fenner, state WMU director, said current WMU records reflect membership only. Future reports may include those who are involved in short-term missions and ministries.

The number of Sunday School members showed a decline of 1.4 percent as compared to an increase of 0.4 percent the past year and a decrease of 2.1

percent the previous year.

Finally membership of churches decreased, 1.3 percent in resident membership and 0.7 percent in total membership, as they had the previous year. The past two years total membership decreased 2.6 percent and .05 percent respectively. Previously resident membership was down 2.2 percent while it increased .01 percent the year before.

Concerning the overall ACP report, Smith said he is glad to report 4 percent more churches reported through the Annual Church Profile in 2000-2001 as compared to the previous year. A total of 2,597 churches reported in 2000-2001.

Five hundred and ten churches did not report any data. An additional 151 churches reported no resident members although reporting on other portions of the ACP which skewed some of the data.

He explained resident members are those members who live close enough to the church to attend regularly. People who have moved from the area but have not moved their membership should not be included as resident members.

Smith said the TBC is "working towards a more simple method of collecting data." He thanked the staff members of the 67 association offices who gave a tremendous amount of time in collecting the data. Without their efforts, the number of churches reporting would be much less, he said.

(See story on Southern Baptist Convention ACP reports on page 6.) ■

Average Tennessee Church in Four Categories

With 1-200 resident members (1,413 or 54.4% of churches)

Resident members	91
Baptisms	5
Sunday School enrollment	63
Discipleship Training enrollment	14
Music enrollment	17
WMU enrollment	11
Brotherhood enrollment	3

With 201-500 resident members (781 or 30.1% of churches)

Resident members	301
Baptisms	9
Sunday School enrollment	174
Discipleship Training enrollment	38
Music enrollment	48
WMU enrollment	28
Brotherhood enrollment	13

With 501-999 resident members (261 or 10.1% of churches)

Resident members	686
Baptisms	24
Sunday School enrollment	480
Discipleship Training enrollment	116
Music enrollment	108
WMU enrollment	57
Brotherhood enrollment	31

With 1,000-plus resident members (142 or 5.4% of churches)

Resident members	1,912
Baptisms	67
Sunday School enrollment	1,665
Discipleship Training enrollment	389
Music enrollment	335
WMU enrollment	138
Brotherhood enrollment	128

Data from 510 of the total of 3,107 churches were not included because they didn't report any resident members. Prepared by Raymond Smith for the TBC from Annual Church Profile data provided each year by Tennessee Baptist churches.

Pastors' Conference to honor 'heroes'

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Honoring "heroes of the faith," both unsung pastors and well-known leaders, will be a key theme of the June 9-10 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in St. Louis, the group's president and Florida pastor Ken Whitten said. Pastoral heroes will be honored with video and musical tributes and an offering to support retired ministers.

Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North and leading Southern Baptist pastors are among the confirmed speakers for the meeting. Recording artists Janet Paschal and Wintley Phipps, and church choirs — including two student groups — are among the confirmed musicians for the conference preceding the June 11-12 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The Pastors' Conference theme will be "Lest We Forget," based on Proverbs 22:28: "Remove not the ancient landmarks, which thy fathers have set."

"One of the things on my heart has been those heroes of the faith that have gone before us to make our convention what I believe it is," Whitten told the *Florida Baptist Witness* newjournal in describing the motivation for the conference theme. Whitten is pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa.

"The goal is to say 'thank you' to pastors who have been faithful in preaching God's Word for years that, although



few people may know them, I just want to leave them with the idea that 'God knows you and we honor you.'

Building the four sessions around the conference theme, pastors will be exhorted to not forget their calling, their children, their church, and their country.

The conference will include two tribute sessions to honor recently deceased pastors. "I wanted to honor some of the godly men, some that people would not know, who have been pastors and who have gone to be with the Lord," Whitten said.

Southern Baptists can contact him with names and pictures of pastors who have passed away in the past year, Whitten said. He expressed hope that pastors will plan now on attending the meeting.

The conference will be dedicated in the memory of Ron Dunn, a former Southern Baptist

pastor and Bible teacher, who died last July. A sermon by Dunn will be included in the audio cassette/CD package of sermons preached at the 2002 Pastors' Conference, he added.

Retired pastors will be honored with an offering, Whitten said. Because his church is covering the expense of the conference, he said the offering taken at the conference will go in its entirety to the SBC Annuity Board's "Adopt an Annuitant Program."

Conference attendees also will be encouraged to pray for retired pastors whose names will be printed on wristbands and made available at the meeting.

"We don't want to forget the landmarks they've set," Whitten said.

Topping off the conference's theme of honoring heroes of the faith, a special "Lest We Forget Heritage" package of 20 sermons "that changed our conven-

tion" will be sold, Whitten said. The proceeds of the sale of the audio cassette and CD package of sermons will fund the 2003 pastors' meeting.

Pastors' Conference speakers, session by session, will be:

Sunday, June 9, 6 p.m.: John Marshall, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; Jack Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas; **Robert Pitman, pastor, Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis;** and Fred Luter, pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans.

Monday, June 10, 8:30 a.m.: John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.; Kevin Cosby, pastor, St. Stephen Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; **Ken Davis, conference speaker, Franklin;** and Jay Strack, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.

Monday, June 10, 1 p.m.: Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.; Mac Brunson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas; Ted Traylor, pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.; and Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.

Monday, June 10, 6 p.m.: **Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova;** Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret.), radio and television broadcaster and newspaper columnist, Washington, D.C. ■



Wives meeting features Parshal

For Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Janet Paschal, host of the "Janet Paschal's America" talk show a Focus on the Family's "Renewing the Heart" radio program will be the featured speaker at the 2002 Ministers' Wives Conference June 11 in St. Louis, following the morning session of the SBC annual meeting.

Tickets are \$10 if ordered before May 15, or \$12 at the door. Orders by mail — sent to Cynthia Thompson, 301 E. Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 — should include name, address, phone number, e-mail address, number of tickets, a check payable to SBC Ministers' Wives Conference and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

For more information call (479) 751-4523. ■

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MINISTRIES — PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Erwin, Tenn., is accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Applicants should meet the spiritual qualification found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. In addition, applicants must be Southern Baptist with bachelor's degree required, seminary, or postgraduate work preferred. If you are led by the Holy Spirit to answer this ad, please send resume to Les Bailey, Chairman Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 526, Erwin, TN 37650. ♦♦♦♦

Memorial Baptist Church (SBC and BGAV affiliations) is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Send resume to Search Committee, MBC, P.O. Box 31, Pulaski, VA 24301 or see <http://hompsonsknet.com/cbirdx2/>.

MINISTRIES — STUDENTS

FBC Dover is seeking a full-time minister to students. Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 397, Dover, DE 17837, or via e-mail to dover@cswnet.com or fax (410) 331-3702.

MINISTRIES — COMBINATIONS

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Blackaby, Morris to address WMU meeting

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Henry Blackaby and Debbie Morris will highlight the June 9-10 Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration at the Ferrara Theater at the America's Center in St. Louis.

Blackaby is the author of popular *Experiencing God* discipleship resources and Morris is the author of *Forgiving the Dead Man Walking*, the other half of the story told in the book and movie, "Dead Man Walking."

The yearly gathering of WMU members and guests will be held on Sunday and Monday prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Sessions begin at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon and conclude Monday evening.

The meeting will develop the theme, "God's Plan ... My Part." There is no registration fee.

Along with five plenary sessions, the WMU event will include a conference track. Participants may attend three one-hour conferences on a variety of topics, including Bible study, WMU ministries and programming, and spiritual growth.

Conference leaders will include several WMU and New Hope authors, including Blackaby, Rhonda Kelley, and Stuart Calvert. Several national WMU staff members also will lead conferences.

Blackaby is internationally known for his discipleship book, *Experiencing God: How to Live the Full Adventure of Knowing and Doing the Will of God*.

Blackaby is currently working with New Hope Publishers to do a revised version of the book *Called and Accountable: God's Purpose for Every Believer*, a book he originally wrote for WMU. A retired pastor and employee of several Southern Baptist denominational entities, Blackaby lives in Atlanta and directs the Henry Blackaby Ministries.

Morris' book recounts her horrifying experience at age 16 when she was kidnapped and repeatedly raped by Robert Willie and Joe Vaccaro and her journey back to wholeness. Willie's story was told in the 1995 movie, *Dead Man Walking*.



BLACKABY

Morris' testimony led to Willie's conviction and death sentence in the killing of Faith Hathaway.

Morris now lives in Mandeville, La., with her husband and children.

In addition to these speakers, Southern Baptist international and North American missionaries will be featured in each session of the meeting.

WMU President Janet Hoffman of Farmerville, La., will speak during the Monday morning session and WMU Executive Director Wanda S. Lee will give a portion of her report on the national organization in each of the Monday sessions.

Each will be themed, "Discover the Joy of Missions" and will highlight WMU ministries, the National Acteens Convention, and the fifth anniversary of Christian Women's Job Corps.

Musicians for the event are Max Lyall of Baltimore, Md., and MarJean Shofner of Belleville, Ill.

Native Praise, a vocal group of Native Americans from across Oklahoma, also will perform.

For registration information, call 1-888-968-0322 or visit www.wmu.com/annualmeeting.html. ■

deaths

■ **William R. Medling**, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, died April 11. He was 87. Medling and his wife, Louise, were appointed by the International Mission Board in 1946 and returned in 1979. His Tennessee friends are that he was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and he is survived by three sons, including Robert Medling of Nashville.

leaders

■ Eastview Baptist Church, Centington, has called **Roger Owen** as minister of music.

■ **Chad Cook and Barry Lang** were ordained as ministers by Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City. They are both staff members.

■ **Paul E. Williams** has been called as interim pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Greeneville, effective April 1. He has been pastor of several West Tennessee churches including Eaglewood Baptist Church, Jackson. Williams also was on the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff and most recently was employed by Union University, Jackson.

■ First Baptist Church, Dover, has called **Shari Thompson** as minister of music, effective April 14.

■ First Baptist Church, Centington, has called **Eric Taylor** as pastor, effective May 12. He has pastored churches in Tennessee, Mississippi, and most recently in Kansas. Taylor is a graduate of Union University, Jackson; Western Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown.

■ Eastview Baptist Church, Centington, has called **Roger Owen** as minister of music.

■ Holiday Heights Baptist Church, Hendersonville, has called **Herb Wilburn** as assistant pastor, effective April 21.

■ On March 24 Nolensville Baptist Church, Nolensville, has called **David Tiller** as pastor. He works for LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

■ Central Baptist Church, Nashville, has called **Kevin Boling** as minister of youth, effective April 1. He is a recent graduate of Maryville College, Maryville.

■ Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Bethel Springs, called **Jeff Kelley and Amy Ray-Kelley** as youth leaders in March.

■ **Billy Ray Mills**, a member of Ten Mile Baptist Church, Ten Mile, is available for supply preaching, leading revivals, or interim ministry. For more information, contact him at 850 Jordan Rd., Decatur, TN 37322; (423) 334-2165.

■ Beech Grove Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, has called **Jessie Littrell** as pastor.

■ Charleston Baptist Church, Stanton, has called **Curtis McCoy** as youth pastor.

■ Olive Branch Baptist Church, Ripley, has called **Louis Minner** as pastor. He is a retired director of missions from Indiana.

■ **Mark Nelson** has been called as pastor of Brace Baptist Church, Summertown.

■ **Mike Harbin** of Main Street Baptist Church, Lake City, has been called as minister of worship and music, South Clinton Baptist Church, Clinton.

■ **LaGuardo Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will hold a tent revival May 12-15. Jackie Kay, evangelist of Bartlett, will speak and Mark LaRue will lead the worship. For more information, contact the church at (615) 444-0292 or LaGuardoBaptist@lwo.com.

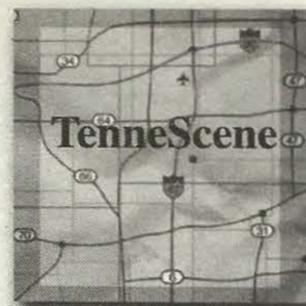
■ **Scenic Drive Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold revival May 5-8. Ross Maroney, pastor, Stones River Baptist Church, Smyrna, will

lead. For more information, call (615) 459-0025.

■ **Fowlkes Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, will hold Rekindle the Flame May 5-10. Hugh Callins will speak and Bud and Barbara Lee will lead the music. For more information, call (731) 285-0324.

■ **First Baptist Church, Somerville**, has begun a fundraising campaign to build a facility for educational and fellowship space adjacent to its present building on Main Street.

■ **Fayette Baptist Association**, based in Somerville, will hold its second annual benefit golf tournament May 4 at Deer Creek Golf Club in Saulsbery. Proceeds will go to-



ward the association's mission trips to Arizona and Mexico June 13-23. The association has served in this area for two other years. For more information, contact Eric Kelley at (901) 726-1541 or 466-9848.

■ **Hiwassee Baptist Association**, based in Loudon, held a Women's Ministry Conference April 6 at Ten Mile Baptist Church, Ten Mile. Barbara Jean Liner of Sevierville spoke. Participants also learned about local ministries, which had booths. Ladies of the church provided a luncheon for those attending.



MEMBERS OF NEW LEBANON Baptist Church, located near Baileyton, broke ground recently for a new addition to their facility which will provide much needed fellowship and education space. Ken Haun, far right with shovel, is the pastor.

Tullahoma man attends SS without missing for 45 years

For Baptist and Reflector

TULLAHOMA — In 1956 Albert Gaddis was a Sunday School teacher of junior high boys at Highland Baptist Church here. He was encouraging the boys to attend Sunday School and church regularly. He realized he should set the example. That was 45 years ago and Gaddis hasn't missed a weekly session of Sunday School since then.

Gaddis, 79, began his Christian journey in a fox hole in Germany during World War II. After his term of service he returned to Kentucky, his home. In 1952 he and his wife, Edith, and their three small children moved to Tullahoma. They joined Highland Church, where they became active members.

Gaddis was ordained as a deacon and served as Sunday School superintendent.

To him Sunday School has always been the most important church organization for evangelism. He is disturbed that so many churches do not emphasize Sunday School.

Gaddis followed that philosophy and led his family to be committed to Sunday School.

His daughter Linda Swann once said, "It didn't matter if we were not so enthused with going to church. We were

made to go to church with no excuses."

Possibly because of that upbringing, Swann and her husband, Kenneth, helped start First Baptist Church, Normandy.

The family did take time away from its commitments to church. They often went camping with friends. But Gaddis would begin scouting out a church the family could attend as soon as they arrived at the campsite.

Over the past 45 years, Gaddis has been too ill to attend about four times. His Sunday School teacher visited him either in the hospital or at home and led him in studying the lesson so Gaddis could continue his perfect attendance streak.

He is very thankful for the dedicated teachers who did this, he said.

Edith Gaddis died in 1987. Several years later Gaddis felt God leading him to Grace Church, where he met Martha, the organist of the church. They were married in 1994.



ALBERT GADDIS, right, of Grace Baptist Church, Tullahoma, stands with his pastor, Tim McGehee.

Currently Gaddis is president of the church's Senior Adult Group and chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee.

He and Martha are active members of the Coffee County Senior Citizens. Gaddis finds time for woodworking and restoring John Deere tractors with his son, Jimmy, for exhibition. But he always finds time to attend Sunday School each week. ■



state/national
news

General assembly focuses on 'Many Gifts, One Spirit'

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — The unity and diversity of believers were celebrated at the General Assembly of the Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship held on April 19-20 at Cumberland Baptist Church here.

Approximately 200 people registered for the meeting, which focused on the theme, "Many Gifts, One Spirit."

Varied art forms were used to reflect on the Creator God and the creativity of Christian disciples. The program featured music, drama, sculpture, dance, testimony, banners, quilting, hospitality, and decorative art to develop the theme.

David Harding, CBF Project Director for Afghan Crisis Response, challenged participants to become involved in doing justice and mercy around the world. The Afghan project is a partnership of CBF and World Vision. Chuck and Lynn Wilson reported on their work with unreached people in North Africa.

Jeff Lane, pastor of Cumberland, and Doug Pedigo, associate pastor and minister of music, were the worship leaders. The choirs, ensembles, and accompanists of the church provided music for worship.

Moderator Chris O'Rear, Nashville, presided in the business session. Attendees adopted a 2002-2003 budget of \$237,952, an 18.5 percent increase over the 2001-2002 bud-

get. Budget and Finance Committee chair Judy Campbell and coordinator Ircel Harrison affirmed supporters for their strong contributions during the current budget year.

Lorri Johnson of Murfreesboro will be moderator of TCBF for the coming year and Virginia Brown of Tullahoma will continue as recorder. Joe Livesay of Memphis was selected as moderator-elect.

New coordinating council members elected for three year terms were Caby Byrne, Memphis; Gary Donhardt, Memphis; Carol Martin, Chattanooga; Melissa Roysdon, Smithville; and Ponder (Sonny) Strange, Jefferson City. Mary Jayne Allen, Chattanooga, was elected to fill an unexpired one-year term. New National Coordinating Council members are Charles Lott, Hendersonville, and Jana Benjamin, Tullahoma.

A special recognition was held for Tennessee Baptists Encouraging Women in Ministry. Founded in 1998 "to affirm and encourage women as vocational and lay ministers of the gospel," the work and assets of TBEWIM were transferred to the Tennessee CBF. In its January meeting, the TCBF Coordinating Council accepted this responsibility at the request of the TBEWIM officers.

Changes to the Bylaws of TCBF were adopted to strengthen its identity with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Bylaws will now include the CBF mission statement, "Serving Christians and churches as they discover their God-given mission," and state the affiliation of TCBF with CBF "for purposes of global missions, Christian fellowship, and Christian education." ■

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Southern trustees vote to reduce number; elect dean

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A man who has played a key role in the recent history of the Southern Baptist Convention is set to become the next dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's undergraduate school.

Trustees also voted to reduce the number of trustees now serving, pending approval from the Southern Baptist Convention.

Thirty-seven-year-old Jerry Johnson, a trustee at Southern Seminary from 1989-98, will take over as dean of Boyce College Aug. 1. President R. Albert Mohler Jr. announced Johnson's appointment during Southern Seminary's spring board of trustees meeting April 16.

Johnson will succeed Ted Cabal, who resigned as dean and took a teaching position last year for health reasons.

Johnson, a Texas native, served as a board member during what is commonly referred to as the "conservative resurgence" of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was board chairman from 1996-98 and currently teaches Christian ethics at Boyce.

In other action, the seminary's trustees voted to trim the board from 65 to 45 members. The action must be approved by Southern Baptist

Convention messengers in June. The downsizing would be accomplished over several years, and no current board member's term would be shortened.

The decision to reduce the total number of trustees came at the conclusion of a process of self-study first prompted by the "Covenant for a New Century" adopted by the SBC in 1995.

"The goal of this reorganization is increased effectiveness on the part of the board of trustees," Mohler said.

In other business, trustees approved a \$23,158,333 budget for 2002-2003, which represents an 8.1 percent increase over the current year.

Alabama pastor Buddy Gray of Hunter Street Baptist Church was elected board chairman for 2002-2003. He succeeds outgoing board member David Wilson of Lubbock, Texas.

John Pennington, pastor of First Baptist Church of Douglasville, Ga., was elected first vice chairman, while Jerry Peele, pastor of First Baptist of Eastman, Ga., was elected second vice chairman. Byron Boyer, a retired teacher who resides in Louisville, was re-elected secretary. ■

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MINISTRIES — OTHER
Houseparents. Immediate need for full-time relief houseparent at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga and Cleveland. Married couple only. Call Bob Segrest or L. Jordan at (423) 892-2722.

MINISTRIES — POSITION
Hunter First Baptist Church growing and Christ-exalting church located in beautiful Habersham, Tenn., is seeking to fill two full-time staff positions: minister of young adults/singles and music/worship. Resumes may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to Hunter First Baptist Church, Attn. Search Committee, 693 Highway 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643; fax: (423) 329-2948; e-mailed ddeese@hfbcfirst.com.

MINISTRIES — MUSIC
Parks City Baptist Church currently seeking a music director to fill a part-time position. Send resume to 2809 Hunts Highway, Fayetteville, TN 37334. (931) 433-6374.

First Baptist Church, Rockwood is prayerfully seeking enthusiastic full-time minister of music blended services (average attendance of 275). Seminars preferred. Send resume and video to First Baptist Church, Rockwood, Attn. Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 54, Rockwood, TN 37854.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR
East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Located in Middlebrook near the entrance to historic Cumberland Gap National Park in Southeastern Kentucky, church averages 150-180 morning worship. We are a mission-minded church ready to grow. The church has a minister of preschool and children, and a growing youth ministry. Send resume to Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40288 by May 25, 2002.

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., is seeking a pastor. We are a small congregation of 154 members with a stable, active core group of about 70. Our historic building is located in a fast-growing suburban area, near University. Our congregation still has the closeness typical of small, rural churches. This closeness is sustained through frequent fellowship, prayer, and ministry. If God is calling you to join us as we seek to share these gifts with the unchurched and unsaved in our community, send your resume to Pastoral Search Committee, Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, Pleasant Plains Rd., Jackson, TN 38305.

Minister's Corner

by L. Joseph Rosas III

As a boy I discovered the joy of reading the Bible. Long before commentaries, word studies and exegetical aids,

Bible would come alive in my imagination. True, roads that Jesus walked in my mind's eye had cotton fields of west Tennessee instead of the scape of Israel. But the Word was (and is) "living active, sharper than any two edged sword" (Heb. 4:12).

As we vacillate between "traditional," "contemporary," "seeker," and "blended" worship styles we are in danger of forgetting that the Word of God is to be free to speak if real transformation of lives is to take place. This is the goal of biblical preaching.

Biblical preaching is not using a text as a pretext for something we want to say. Nor is it reading into a text the latest fad in pop psychology. We are not to be self-help gurus. We are to "preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction" (II Timothy 4:2).

Instead of declaring the whole counsel of God is more simply offering Bible survey classes in the context of worship. Theological reflection divorced from plain teaching of Scripture and the crucible of everyday life is but a sounding gong of philosophical speculation.

We must know as much as we can about the background and setting of a given text seeking to understand what the author meant before we can ask what it mean to me? Pastors need not be proficient in ancient biblical languages — there is an ample supply of translations and useful commentary materials available that are accessible to all. But in order to preach the Word effectively we must spend time in the Word.

It is not a matter of simply jumping through the hoops of some daily Bible reading schedule. We need to develop the discipline of reading with mind and heart. Years ago I heard an older pastor say that he had read through it at least 30 to 40 times. We must fully and regularly be in the Word of God in order that Word to permeate us.

Preaching has been called, "Truth communicated through personality." But our stories and personal illustrations are not the focus of the message. It is that message of what God has accomplished in and through our Lord Jesus Christ that is key. The written Word is taken by the living Word, the Lord Jesus, and becomes a proclaimed word through preaching.

More than simply telling a story, preaching is expanding the story. Most of the sermons found in the Bible are expositions of other biblical texts. And the time honored preaching among evangelicals is expository — line by line, verse by verse.

Christianity Today recently defined "expository preaching" as, "The systematic explanation of a portion of Scripture that, by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, can be decisively applied to the lives of the listeners." This involves the wedding of scholarly research and fervent prayer.

Our culture is dominated by voices that give an uncertain sound. Political correctness and moral relativism have reduced the witness of some to a "blessed mess" mentality. We should not succumb to passing fads. We are not called to be the church of what's happening now."

But we must do more than sanctify the status quo. We are called to "correct, rebuke, and encourage." We must set those who have strayed on the right path, advise with love and grace those who refuse to repent, and cheer on those who are making progress in righteousness. In short, we must preach the Word! ■
Rosas is pastor of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

Ministry in physical crisis

By Charles Fritts

Focal Passage: Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43

When I was a kid I enjoyed building models. Every Saturday, a buddy and I would ride the bus to Knoxville, go to a movie, pick up a model at the hobby shop, come home, and build it. I suppose I still have a "thing" for miniatures. Three years ago, I decided to build a wooden model sailing ship. It's still in the box. I've read the instructions, handled all the parts, and still haven't built it. It's so intimidating. I have so little free time. I should build it for it is a beautiful model. It looks like the real thing, only smaller. It can't do all the real one can but it's a tangible picture of it. It's a model of the real thing.

In ministering to people during sickness or death, we are to be a good model of the real thing. We're not Christ but we are to be like Him. It's important to know our limitations. We can't do all He did. It's also important to know our possibilities. We can do more of what He did than many believe or attempt. In being a model of Jesus, we are not to be "static models," merely for display. We are to be "working models," actually doing something. In our lesson there are three things we can do to minister to others. To do them makes us good models of the real thing.

The first characteristic of Christ we are to model is: Be Available (vv.

21-24a). He and His disciples had just come from the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They had been asked (rather passionately) to leave. When He arrives near Capernaum, a large crowd welcomes Him. And there is Jesus, in the middle of this jumble of people and voices, available. He is available to Jairus, a man of some importance. He is available to the woman with an issue of blood, a nobody. This story is so true to real life: a mass of urgent things, disappointments, crises, interruptions, and pressure. What on earth can I do? Be

available! Obviously you can't deal with every situation. Jesus couldn't either. Out of this crowd, Jesus

dealt with two. Don't let the many keep you from being available to the few you can help. Be sensitive to the "nudge" of the Holy Spirit. There's someone out there, hurting, in desperate need. Are you available?

The second characteristic of Christ we are to model is: Be Encouraging (vv. 35-36). Jesus was on the way to the home of Jairus. The woman with the issue of blood had interrupted. She had taken time and time was critical to Jairus. Some of Jairus' friends or relatives meet them with the worst news. "Your daughter is dead." Not a very caring or sympathetic way to share bad news. "Don't bother the teacher any more." Jesus ignored their unbelief. Sometimes you have to ignore those not walking in faith. He said: "Don't be afraid, just believe." He lit the

Family Bible SS Lesson — May 5

Imitate God

By Thurman Seber

Focal Passage: Ephesians 5:1-21

Our heroes are often our leaders as well. Many sport's stars have become heroes and leaders for our youth. They want very much to be like

them in every way. Sometimes we may wish to be like some favorite music person, or movie or television star. Good heroes can have a very positive effect on those who look up to them as role models.

Some have been led astray trying to imitate corrupt heroes. Parents serve as role models more often than any other group of people. Millions of children have been led by good parental example to great achievements and high moral, ethical, and spiritual standards.

Perhaps an equal number have been led into a life of trouble and failure by the lifestyles of parents, who were poor examples of how life should be lived. Many children have taken their first drink from Dad's six pack, learned profanity at home, or gotten their first drugs from Mom's bottle.

We are to be followers and imitators of God, as children are followers and imitators of their earthly parents. Our special relationship to our Heavenly Father is that of dear chil-

dren, loved greatly by our Father. We are loved by the Father in much the same way as He loves Jesus, "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

The very best person we can ever follow and imitate is God. Even when we follow the pattern of good earthly parents, we may find places where they gave us a poor example.

When we imitate God, through Jesus Christ, we will be doing things right every time. Following God will be demonstrated in these ways.

First, we imitate God by loving others (v. 2). After all, He has loved us and given Himself for our redemption. Hard, mean spirited, Christianity is a poor imitation of God in the life of a Christian. Does the world understand the love of God by watching how we live before them?

Next, we imitate God by leaving our sins behind us (vv. 3-7). All sexual misconduct, impurity, greed, and filthy or vulgar talk is completely forbidden by the Bible. I fear that many church people practice these ungodly things when not in church. If we do so, the world watches and can not see God in us. Some may teach otherwise (v. 6), but we must not be fooled by these empty asser-



spark of hope again.

The third characteristic of Christ we are to model is: Be Involved (vv. 37-43). When they arrived at Jairus' home, Jesus "beheld" or "saw" the commotion. The word indicates He stood for a moment, carefully viewing the scene before Him. The crowd was weeping and wailing, loudly and frantically. At that point, He was a spectator. Not for long! Immediately He got involved.

He confronted them with a question that indicated He had little patience with their useless carrying on. He sternly put them out. Then He went to work. Jesus never considered saying to Jairus, "I'm so sorry. If there is any thing I can do, let me know." He went in, saw the need, and met it. When a crisis comes to someone, their lawn needs mowing, bills have to be mailed, prescriptions picked up, groceries brought in, etc., we can be like Jesus and get involved.

How can we minister in physical crises? Jesus gives the answer: Be available, be encouraging, and be involved.

We'll not do it perfectly. We will not do it as well as Jesus. But we can do it, if we model ourselves after the "real thing!" — Fritts is pastor of First Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

Explore the Bible SS Lesson — May 5

tions. Ungodly Christianity is unreal Christianity (v. 5). In short, there is no place for fornication (v. 3), filthiness (v. 4), or foolish talking (v. 4), as we follow God.

Last, we imitate God by letting the light of Jesus shine from within us (vv. 8-20). As children of the light, we will have these spiritual attributes:

(1) The fruit of the Spirit will be demonstrated in our life (vv. 9-11). As the light of Jesus shines from inside us, darkness will be reprieved and the things of God will be visible. Satan's evil work is done under the cover of spiritual darkness. God's mighty work is revealed by the light. Jesus is the light of the world.

(2) The filling of the Spirit will be a witness to the lost (v. 18). The unsaved world craves an experience that it often attempts to find in wine, liquor, or drugs. These terrible, destructive tools of the devil are sought by the unsaved as a means by which they attempt to get beyond themselves and find some kind of euphoric joy.

God tells us to get our highs another way. When we are filled with His spirit, we don't need wine or drugs to find true joy and excitement in life. We encourage one another, find inner strength, and give witness to God as we speak, sing and rejoice in the Lord. — Seber is pastor of Upper Helton Baptist Church, Alexandria.



Student conference planned at SBC

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — The third-annual SBC Student Conference June 9-10 will offer inspiring worship, hard-hitting challenges and in-depth training for students in middle school and high school.

The conference, sponsored by the North American Mission Board, will be held at First Baptist Church of O'Fallon, Ill.

Breakout sessions on June 10 will focus on equipping students for reaching friends, campus outreach, and leadership development. Large-group celebrations on both days will feature praise and worship led by Jonas, performances by The Elms, and messages by youth

communicator Tony Nolan.

First Baptist of O'Fallon is located about 15 minutes from the St. Louis location of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Bus service is provided from the convention site for students who are not attending as part of a group.

To register or for information on bus transportation, visit www.studentz.com/sbc or call (770) 410-6345 ■

Anne Graham Lotz to address DOMs

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Anne Graham Lotz will be the featured speaker during the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions' 41st annual meeting June 9-10 in St. Louis.

Lotz, an author, conference speaker, and daughter of Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham, will speak on "Challenge for the Future" during the conference's opening session June 9 and the closing session June 10.

"The Association: Still Baptist's Best Strategy for Great Commission Fulfillment" will be

the theme of the conference, which opens with a 9:45 a.m. worship service Sunday, June 9, with a message by Doyle Braden, director of missions for the Orange County Baptist Association.

The meeting also will feature the president's address by Gary Hearon, director of missions for the Dallas Baptist Association; Michael Lindsay from the Gallup Organization; and other speakers.

The conference's meetings will be at the Radisson Hotel and Suites. ■

Evangelists plan SBC worship events

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Southern Baptist evangelists will again sponsor a Sunday morning worship service prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

This year's worship will begin at 9:30 a.m. June 9 on level two of the America's Center.

Evangelist Benny Jackson of Memphis and Bobby Welch, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., will be the featured speakers. Music for the worship service will be led by various Southern Baptist music evangelists.

The evangelists also will host an evangelistic service at 6 p.m. June 9 at Towler Grove Baptist Church featuring Georgia evangelist Bill Saye.

The annual business meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will convene immediately following the Tuesday evening session of the SBC. The meeting will be held in the convention center's theatre/lecture hall. ■

African American pastors to meet

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Good News Baptist Church in Jennings, Mo., will host the June 9 worship fellowship of the African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bishop Willie Jordan, pastor of St. Mark's Baptist Church Cathedral in Harvey, Ill., will preach at the 6:30 p.m. service, which also will feature music by Lonnie Hunter and the Voices of St. Mark.

On Monday, June 10, the fellowship's annual pastors' meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by a fellowship dinner at 6:30 p.m., both at the St. Louis Hilton Airport.

The dinner's featured speaker will be George McCalep Jr., pastor of Greenforest Community Baptist Church in Atlanta, the fellowship's president. ■

MBTS to highlight 45th anniversary

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

will highlight its 45th anniversary during its June 11 alumni luncheon in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in St. Louis.

"Celebrating 45 Years of Ministry" will be the theme of the Tuesday noon luncheon in room 261 of the Cervantes Convention Center (part of America's Center). Midwestern's president, R. Philip Roberts, will be the keynote speaker.

Advance tickets are \$15; \$17 at the seminary's booth in the SBC exhibit hall. The advance ticket price is good through June 7. Reservations may be made by contacting Kathy Harbert at (816) 414-3720. If reserved by June 7, the advance ticket price may be paid at the booth. ■

NOBTS to launch alumni effort

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will launch the alumni portion of its "New Horizons: Equipping Leaders to Change the World" campaign during the seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Reunion luncheon meeting June 12 in St. Louis.

To begin at noon, the luncheon will be held in the Cervantes Convention Center at the America's Center on level one in rooms D, E, F, and G.

The meeting also will include the annual "State of the Seminary" address by NOBTS President Chuck Kelley, the faculty's annual presentation of the distinguished alumni awards, and keynote speaker Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.

The New Horizons campaign is NOBTS' fundraising effort to revitalize its campus and provide for a multitude of student needs.

Tickets for the luncheon, at \$10 each before June 1, may be purchased by mail by sending a check payable to NOBTS to Rebecca Caston, Alumni Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126. Tickets will be \$12 per person after June 1 and may be purchased at the NOBTS booth in the SBC exhibit hall. ■

Mohler to address SBTS alumni

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will hold its luncheon for alumni and friends at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, in the Cervantes Convention Center, which is located in the America's Center.

Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. will be among the speakers.

The luncheon will take place in rooms 223-226 on level two of the Cervantes Convention Center. Those attending should en-

ter from Washington Avenue and proceed to the second floor.

For information, call 1-866-626-5525, ext. 4143. ■

SEBTS to host annual luncheon

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary will host its annual national alumni and friends luncheon June 12 at the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis.

President Paige Patter will preside at the luncheon and award one Southeastern graduate with the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year honor.

The luncheon, to begin noon Wednesday, will be in Washington Avenue Complex on the first level. To purchase a ticket at the cost of \$12, contact Southeastern's alumni office at (919) 863-8203 before May 31. ■

Hemphill to speak to SWBTS alumni

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary National Alumni Luncheon

will be at 12:30 p.m. June 12 in the America's Center in St. Louis.

SWBTS President Kenneth S. Hemphill will present

the seminary's 2002 distinguished alumni awards and the seminary's annual alumni/friends report.

The luncheon, held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, will be in rooms 241, and 242 on level two of the America's Center.

Alumni and friends of the seminary may purchase tickets for \$15 per person by writing to Southwestern's alumni relations office at P.O. Box 22, Fort Worth, TX 76122-0022. Checks should be made payable to Southwestern Seminary. For more information, call (817) 923-1921, ext. 7260. ■

GGBTS alumni to meet at SBC

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will host alumni and friends at its national alumni luncheon noon June 12 at the America's Center in St. Louis to hear Seminary President William Crews present the seminary's annual report.

The seminary luncheon, during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, will be in room 220 on level two of the America's Center.

Golden Gate alumni and friends may purchase tickets for \$10 each by writing the alumni office at 201 Seminary I Mill Valley, CA 94941. Checks should be made payable to GGBTS. For more information, call the alumni office at (415) 442-8708. ■

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