

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

Volume 168/ Number 25

Statewide Edition

June 26, 2002

this
week's
news

Lines stands by re-
marks in St. Louis. —
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Missions draws moth-
er, daughter closer to-
gether. — Page 4

World Changes makes
a difference in Loudon
County. — Pages 6-7

Have a safe
4th of July, no
oper next week
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Ameri-
cans will celebrate our na-
tion's Independence Day on
July 4.

Amid the picnics and fire-
works displays, take time to
remember our heritage and
the sacrifices our forefathers
made in order for us to live
and worship in a free coun-
try.

There are still places in
our world today where reli-
gious freedom is not a choice
option. Christians in
America today should not
take our freedom for grant-

Due to our production
schedule, there will be no pa-
per dated July 3. The next is-
sue will be dated July 10.

Any late breaking news
next week, along with Su-
nny School lessons for July 7,
will be posted on the *Baptist
and Reflector* page on the
TBC web site at [www.tnbap-
t.org](http://www.tnbap-
t.org).

We wish our readers a
safe and happy Fourth of Ju-
ly holiday. ■ — Lonnie Wilkey

Tennesseans rescued from riot-torn Peru

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

ARDMORE — "It was a God-thing," said Pastor Kevin Shearer of the events which led to the rescue of 11 members of Cash Point Baptist Church here from an airport besieged by rioters in Peru.

The Tennesseans were stranded in the airport in Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, for 33 hours as rioters opposing the sale of two state electricity companies looted businesses, blocked roads, and targeted the airport because of the large tourism industry of the city. Arequipa is located in the Andes Mountains.

Rioters hurled rocks on the runway and hundreds entered the airport just as stranded airline passengers were flown from the airport by military helicopters. Not all of the about 60 foreign passengers were evacuated, said Shearer.

Martial law was declared in the region on the day the passengers were evacuated, June 16, according to the Associated Press. It will be in effect for 30 days so little will be learned

about the situation until that is past, said Shearer. Ninety-six people were injured in the rioting and one man was killed.

God helped the Tennesseans throughout the ordeal, Shearer and other volunteers reported. They were part of a 19-member team from the church who served in the city of more than 1 million for a week.

On Sunday the team realized authorities must not be not aware of their situation

and the rioting was getting worse because of the responses of airport officials. Shearer and his wife, Pam, speak fluent Spanish because they served as International Mission Board missionaries there for 12 years. They resigned and returned to the United States in 1999.

The American passengers were contacting the American Embassy in Lima, Peru, but rarely reaching a staff person

and then not receiving responses. Shearer also was in contact with team members who had flown from Arequipa to Lima before the airport was closed on Friday, missionaries in Lima, and with Cash Point Church here. Members of the church were asking U.S. government officials for help.

At one point, the Tennesseans saw airport employees running from the airport — See Tennesseans, page 3



THE CASH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH team included, from left, first row, Sharon Quaife, Melissa Shearer, Susan Quaife, John Baxley, Elizabeth Baxley, and Kim Shearer; second row, Randy Atchley, Michelle Shearer, Pam Shearer, Ron Baxley, and Kevin Shearer, pastor.

TBC has diverse worship styles, Porch tells historians

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Tennessee's one million-plus Baptists who assemble each Sunday in more than 2,980 churches provide diverse worship opportunities, the executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention told a group of Baptist

historians gathered here.

James Porch presented a paper entitled "Diverse Worship Styles Among Tennessee Baptists" during the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, which is headquartered at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. The annual meeting was held at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, and

co-hosted by Carson-Newman College's Center for Baptist Studies and the TBC.

Porch was on a panel which included Jimmy Garcia III, director of Hispanic Baptist work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Sherman R. Tribble, pastor of New Visions Baptist Church, Nashville and dean of the chapel and professor of homiletics and history at American Baptist College in Nashville.

Acknowledging the absence of recorded information on the diversity of worship in the state, Porch relied on first-hand ac-

counts from TBC staff members who have been visiting Baptist churches across the state over the past three years.

Porch shared that of the 2,980-plus Baptist churches in the state, only 34 ever record an attendance of more than a thousand on any given Sunday while 940 churches have an attendance of 100-999. "Thus more than 2,000 of our Tennessee Baptist churches gather weekly with less than 100 members in attendance and approximately 50 percent of all our churches have bivocational pastors," Porch told the historians.

The variety of worship opportunities, however, does not follow a strict pattern or structure, Porch observed.

"Rather, worship styles of Tennessee Baptist communities of faith accentuate a uniqueness of the people called, 'Tennessee Baptists,'" Porch observed.

— See TBC, page 3



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch speaks during a panel discussion on diverse Baptist worship styles at the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society. Also on the panel were, from left, Jimmy Garcia III of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Sherman R. Tribble, pastor of New Visions Baptist Church, Nashville.

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state/national news

Vines defends Muslim comments

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines reiterated his love for Muslims during a June 16 worship service at First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., but stood by his description of Muslim prophet Muhammad as a "demon-possessed pedophile."

Vines, in a statement delivered before his Jacksonville congregation, offered documentation, but not an apology, for the statements he made about Muhammad in a sermon delivered at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in St. Louis June 10.

"I have a 20-year record in Jacksonville as a pastor who loves people. I love Muslim people," Vines said in a prepared statement. "I have found many of them to be kind, gentle, and loving people. Many Muslims have come to our church to hear of the love, joy, peace, and saving grace available to all in Jesus Christ."

Vines' Pastors' Conference sermon, which denounced religious pluralism, contained the statement that Muhammad was "a demon-possessed pedophile who had 12 wives, and his last one was a 9-year-old girl." (Muhammad married the girl at age 6 and consummated the union at age 9, according to a book by two scholars later cited by Vines.)

The statements were reported by national media and ignited a storm of criticism by not only Muslims, but also some members of the Christian community. The Council on American-Islamic Relations was outraged by Vines' comments and demanded an apology. Ralph Neas, president of People for the American Way Foundation, called on President Bush to repudiate the statements.

Hundreds of email messages, mostly from pro-Muslims, were received at Baptist Press and SBC.net. The *Florida Times-Union* in Jacksonville, received 207 letters about the issue.

In his June 16 comments, Vines said that his information about Muhammad had come from a book by two Baptist professors and former Muslims, Ergun and Emir Caner, *Unveiling Islam*. The facts of Muhammad's life cited by Vines are from the Koran and Hadith, specifically Surah 53; Hadith

volume 7, book 62, number 64. Vines, in documenting his information, invited Muslim scholars "to explain their own documents to us all."

Vines ended his three-paragraph statement by saying that in ministering to a church of more than 25,000 members he does not have time "to attend meetings, appear on TV programs, or do extensive interviews. I have no plans to speak to this matter further."

Vines said that he chose to read his statement from his pulpit because he felt that they should be "the first ones to hear what he had to say."

"It is an absolute honor for me to be the pastor of a group of people who really believe that Jesus spoke the truth when He said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.'"

SBC messengers approve changes for resolutions

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — New procedures regarding the Resolutions Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommended June 11 at the SBC annual meeting in St. Louis passed without discussion.

The changes are as follows:

► The Resolutions Committee will be selected 75 days prior to the SBC annual meeting, instead of 45 days.

► Proposed resolutions may be submitted starting April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the SBC annual meeting. No resolutions will be received for consideration during the annual meeting.

► Proposed resolutions must be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the SBC annual meeting certifying that the individual submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.

► Proposed resolutions preferably are to be submitted by email or, otherwise, mailed to the Resolutions Committee in care of the SBC Executive Committee. The drafts must be typewritten, titled, dated, and include complete contact information for the person and his or her church.

► No person will be allowed to submit more than three resolutions per year.

► If a properly submitted resolution is not forwarded by the Resolutions Committee to the SBC annual meeting, the author could seek a two-thirds vote of messengers to bring the proposed resolution to the convention floor.

► The 10-member Resolutions Committee will consist of at least two members who were members of the previous year's committee.



Back in action

R.A. Sharp, center, of Central Baptist Church, Hixson, leads children in the inner-city of St. Louis during a Crossover block party. Sharp was in an accident during last year's Crossover event in New Orleans, resulting in a compound fracture in his leg and leaving him dependent on a wheelchair. "Satan tried to stop me from witnessing, but God had other plans," Sharp said. — BP photo by Bob Carey

The new procedures will broaden the usually narrow time frame former resolutions committees had to receive, consider, and report resolutions back to messengers at SBC annual meetings.

Under the current process, "you only have a few hours and a few days — it's really a crunch time — and sometimes you don't have the opportunity to deal with and pray over and think through resolutions as much as you would like," said Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven, Miss., and a member of the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee.

Additionally, the new process "gives the people who submit resolutions a longer period of time" to draft well-thought-out proposed stances for the SBC, Butler said.

Butler noted there will be no change in the Resolutions Committee's required reporting in the Convention Bulletin on its action related to all resolutions properly submitted for consideration. ■

Annual preschool conference to be held at FBC, Powell

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Through Children's Eyes," an annual preschool conference sponsored by the Christian Growth Development Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be held Aug. 3 at First Baptist Church, Powell (in the Knoxville area).

The event is open to all preschool teachers. Six hours credit will be given to teachers in a licensed day care or week-day program.

Conference participants will receive up-to-date training on a variety of relevant topics and

includes specialized conferences for directors and teachers at each age level and 12 special interest conferences, according to Sue Raley, TBC preschool ministry specialist.

Keynote addresses will be given by Raley and Jerry Vogel of the LifeWay Christian Resources staff.

The registration fee of \$35 includes lunch, breaks, and conference materials. The fee is reduced to \$25 for those who register before July 4.

For more information or to request a registration form, call Joyce Johnson at 1-800-558-2090. ■

MBC empowers Legal Task Force

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Baptist Convention leaders moved a step closer June 6 to legal action against five MBC entities where trustees have amended their charters, giving themselves sole authority to appoint trustees, thus eliminating Missouri churches from the selection process.

The MBC executive board, in a special called session at the Baptist Building in Jefferson City, voted by voice roll call, 33-9, to accept a recommendation from the executive board's Legal Opinion Task Force authorizing the panel to be renamed the Legal Task Force and "to act with full corporate powers of the Executive Board, to take all legal steps necessary to restore the five agencies to their former legal relationship with the Missouri Baptist Convention." ■



RALEY

Tennesseans rescued from riot-torn ...

Continued from page 1
...ing computers. Shearer
...the airport authority "vas-
...te in his stories."

...those stranded endured
...thing tear gas. They cov-
...d their faces with damp-
...d cloth items, said Pam
...r. Unfortunately Kevin
...r hurriedly picked up a
...y sock to protect himself,
...dded, laughing. Thankful-
...he tear gas dissipated in
...t 15 minutes.

...the group went without
...Some of the Tennesseans
...went without medication,
...ading heart medication, for
...ral days.

...they dealt with a lot of
...s, reported Randy Atchley
...re team. About three times
...cials announced and pre-
...ed for evacuations which
...not occur.

...That finally instigated the
...evacuation, the Tennesseans
...eve, was a chance en-
...ter by missionary Mike
...ver with Ambassador John
...ilton on Sunday morning
...n English-speaking church
...ima. Weaver, who was ac-
...panied by other Cash Point
...rch members, identified
...ilton who was wearing an
...ntification badge bearing
...name and title.

...Weaver met with Hamilton
...ing the service describing
...situation in Arequipa.
...ilton told Weaver he had

different information and
would try to help.

Kevin Shearer explained it
could be that other embassy
employees knew of the situa-
tion in Arequipa and had not
informed Hamilton, but it does
not seem likely.

Several hours later most
foreign passengers were evacu-
ated safely by the Peruvian
military just before the airport
was overrun. They learned
about 800 rioters were just a
wall away from the airport.

One team member flew
home Sunday, June 16, seven
flew home June 17, and the fi-
nal 11 arrived in the U.S. June
18. They originally were sched-
uled to arrive home June 15.

Almost all of the team who
endured the experience say
they would return to Peru,
even Arequipa.

"If one soul had come to
know Jesus Christ, it was
worth it," said Atchley. As a re-
sult of the team's work in the
city with five churches, 100 Pe-
ruvians made professions of
faith and 103 people made oth-
er spiritual decisions.

Atchley, who has been on
several other missions trips
out of the country, served with
his wife, Judy. They left their
three children in Tennessee to
participate. He said he didn't
want to go on this trip. A week
before the team left on June 7
the couple decided to join it.

He is glad he did.

"I'll go back if God
leads me to. I met
some wonderful peo-
ple and I made some
very, very good
friends."

Team member
Sharon Quaife is a
single parent of four
children who left be-
hind an eight-year-old
child. Quaife braved
the experience with
her daughter, Susan,
18. She said she would
definitely be willing to
return to Arequipa be-
cause she met a lot of
people there who don't
know God.

"If you have full
faith that God is go-
ing to take care of you, what
do you have to be afraid of?
There's nothing," Quaife
said.

Harold Lord, who at 66
was the oldest member of the
team and was in danger be-
cause he ran out of his heart
medication, said he was im-
pressed by the embassy per-
sonnel who met him in Lima
with his medication. The Ten-
nesseans arrived in Lima
about three hours after being
evacuated.

Lord later learned that was
arranged by team members in
Lima and Deda McCown, sec-
retary of Cash Point Church.



DEDA MCCOWN, secretary of Cash Point Baptist Church, Ardmore, worked many hours over one weekend to help the stranded members of her church.

McCown spent many hours at
the church over the weekend to
provide help.

Lord said he realized the
stranded passengers were in
danger but hoped it would be
limited to beating which they
could endure. He admitted he
prayed "that God would give
me grace to die right."

Kevin and Pam Shearer ex-
plained residents started march-
ing in the streets on Wednesday
but it was peaceful and not un-
usual in Peru. "It suddenly
turned violent," described
Pam, "just like a cork popped,"
added Kevin, on Friday night.
Residents beat drums and



banged pots all night.

Kevin Shearer is proud of
the missions volunteers and
the church, which draws about
240 to Sunday morning wor-
ship. He has seen good results
from the experience already,
he said. For example, the me-
dia have reported on the expe-
rience, which has given a
chance for a Christian witness,
he said.

A team member feels called
to missions because of the ex-
perience. Team members prac-
ticed their faith, he added.
Pam noted one of the calmest
team members was Elizabeth
Baxley, 15, who was separated
from her father, Ron, and
brother, John, 13, who were in
Lima. And she was separated
from her mother, Katie, who
was in Tennessee.

Baxley, like most of the
team, said Pam, realized they
were in danger but "had a
peace about it that it wouldn't
happen that way."

Kevin Shearer said of the
experience, possibly reflecting
the number of times he had
made the statement, "And yes,
yes, yes, it was worth it." ■

TBC has diverse worship styles, Porch tells ...

Continued from page 1
Porch cited six categories of worship
practices in TBC churches following a
few of staff reports of church visits.

They are, he said, traditional, South-
Gospel, blended, Appalachian, con-
temporary, and "Bapticostal."

Traditional worship

The vast majority of Tennessee
Baptist churches today continue to pre-
sented a traditional worship style with
an occasional variation," Porch ob-
served.

He noted the location of those
churches include county seat towns,
small villages, and open rural areas,
primarily in Middle and West Ten-
nessee.

The elements of these churches in-
clude a welcome, opening prayer, two
songs or gospel songs, reception of the
word, special music, sermon, invita-
tion, announcements, and prayer re-
quests, Porch said.

A few traditional services include a
prayer to worship and a pastoral prayer,
Porch said.

Music in traditional churches ranges
from selections from the 1948 Broad-
way to the 1991 Baptist hymnal, he re-
lated.

In the traditional church, without ex-
ception, utilizes a piano. Many have or-
gan, but due to the shortage of organ-
ists today, many electric and even pipe
organs remain silent," Porch observed.

Porch shared that traditional wor-
ship in TBC churches offers little spon-

taneity outside music. "Even prayer fol-
lows the pattern of gratitude, interces-
sions for the sick, and petition for the
forgiveness of sin.

"The use of Scripture has been rele-
gated primarily to the sermon, the focal
point of the service, Porch said.

Southern Gospel worship

Southern Gospel worship has a dis-
tinction in Tennessee in addition to
music, Porch told the Southern Baptist
134 historians who gathered from 12
states.

"Nevertheless, a grasp of the wor-
ship style must begin with the music.
Usually, such fast-paced, loud music
celebrates the themes of heaven and
life perseverance," Porch said.

Southern Gospel lyrics are often rep-
etitious and easy to memorize which
contribute to the popularity of the mu-
sic, Porch concluded.

"In the Volunteer State, all three
grand divisions in Tennessee include
scores of rural churches proudly dis-
playing an affinity for Southern Gospel
music."

In discussions with Executive Board
staff, Porch said he "found a consensus
of opinion that in Southern Gospel
churches, much concern centered upon
"nobody has nothing against nobody in
the room."

Blended worship

Blended worship refers primarily to
the type of music used and primarily
sung by the congregation, Porch said.

"Technically, the music blends tradi-

tional and contemporary hymns, songs,
and choruses," he related.

Blended services also typically in-
clude a printed order of worship, plan-
ning and coordination by a professional
or trained minister of music, and may
include a praise band, praise orchestra,
or praise ensemble, he noted, adding
that otherwise the service tends to re-
semble a traditional style.

The blended worship style "contin-
ues to increase rapidly in churches in
excess of 250 in attendance," he said.

Contemporary worship

"Usually, in Tennessee, a contempo-
rary worship service reflects a label as-
signed by the worship leader, Porch
said.

"The service typically demonstrates
careful planning and answers the ques-
tion, 'How far are we willing to dare to
go to rock the boat?'" he observed.

Porch cited a Middle Tennessee con-
gregation that regularly welcomes
more than 1,500 people in attendance
each week as a model of contemporary
worship.

"The morning worship promotes a
single truth for the day," Porch said.

The music, drama, Scripture selec-
tions, PowerPoint presentations, and
testimonies all amplify the central
truth, Porch said.

He noted the pastor dresses casual
and "literally works the congregation
prior to the service."

Porch related that the pastor does
not offer an invitation at the conclusion

of the service but "invites interested
persons to visit with him following the
service."

Appalachian worship

"Appalachian worship in East Ten-
nessee has basically been the same for
more than 150 years," Porch told the
historians.

"While an absence of order of service
prevails, certain undeniable Appalachi-
an traits permeate the worship experi-
ence," he continued.

Services typically include an Ap-
palachian solo, testimonies, a "ya'll
come" choir, and an altar prayer time,
Porch said. Loud preaching of the "huff-
ing" or "hacking" rhythm style con-
sumes much of the worship service, he
related, adding that no Scripture is
used unless it comes from the King
James Version of the Bible.

"Bapticostal" worship

"This label, worn proudly, describes
a merger of some Baptist fundamentals
with Pentecostal emotional intensity,"
Porch explained.

He added that the term alludes to a
type of church whose ministry focuses
primarily on "a worship experience,
usually to the neglect of ministry and
missions."

This style of worship "represents the
smallest group of Tennessee Baptist
churches," Porch said. "However, due to
an intense growth in the desire of peo-
ple to have a feeling of belonging, this
group will continue to increase," he pre-
dicted. ■

In Nashville

Mother, daughter serve in summer missions

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — When Clair Sumrall was 12 years old, her parents were North American Mission Board missionaries in Rochester, N.Y. She saw the sacrifices they made and had made for seven years there and decided she would never work in missions full-time.

Some years later she began to experience missions apart from her family through church groups. She began to change her mind, Clair, 21, explained.

Before starting at the University of Memphis, Clair served with a Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union team in Portland, Ore. She realized during that effort "I wouldn't want to do anything else" but ministry full-time, she said.

To follow her commitment, last year, during her summer break from classes, Clair served as a summer missionary in a country in Southeast Asia. She plans to return after graduation in December of 2002 for about two years. So Clair decided she wanted to spend her last summer before beginning her ministry with her family.

And she wanted to serve with them again if she could. Clair fondly recalls experiences with her family, Becky and Rusty, who also served in Alabama where Becky was a NAMB missionary and Rusty

worked for an association. The family is completed by Abbie, 16, Clair's younger sister.

Clair recalled working with residents of a Rochester apartment complex with her mother and visiting churches with her father. She also remembered hosting a lot of people in their home.

"It was just being a part of people's lives, a lifestyle of evangelism, lifestyle missions," said Clair.

So she was glad when she learned a position was open with Christian Women's Job Corps — Nashville, where her mother, Becky, is site coordinator. And she was glad the TBC staff named her to the position and provided extra funding. CWJC couldn't afford to pay the usual benefits TBC summer missionaries receive.

Their relationship

"It's a real gift to have her home and involved in ministry with me. And we can learn from each other," said Becky Sumrall.

Working with family members is not unusual for the Sumralls, Becky noted. She and Rusty have served together several times over the years. Clair noted the WMU team she served with in Oregon was led by her mother.

This working relationship is different for Becky and Clair because they are changing roles — from parent and child to two adults, they agreed. That transition has not been damaged by the fact that they



BECKY SUMRALL, right, site coordinator, Christian Women's Job Corps — Nashville, is working this summer with her daughter, Clair, of the University of Memphis who is serving the ministry as a Tennessee Baptist Convention summer missionary.

are supervisor and worker, they said.

One thing which helped them was that Clair led a student mission team which served in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, just prior to the TBC summer missions term. Becky was a part of the team as an adult sponsor.

So when they returned and Becky became the leader in terms of their ministry work, they still realized each was bringing skills to the task, even leadership skills, they explained.

Clair said her mother was being very careful not to be too supervisory with her although she wouldn't mind. But it is early in the summer, she added with a laugh.

Clair is often reminded she

is Becky's daughter, she said. In her work with women who are CWJC participants, she has learned they are constantly reporting on her to her mother.

She's not sure how to take that, said Clair. It may be that mothers feel they must collectively oversee their daughters and the women are just trying to help Becky oversee Clair.

Or they may have developed such close relationships with Becky and summer missionary Jenni Bearden, explained Becky, they are reporting on the new staff member. Bearden of Triune Baptist Church, Triune, and a recent graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., has served CWJC for eight months.



The ministry helps women become self-sufficient. It has been operating in East Nashville for five years out of Lockeland Baptist Church Nashville. Currently, 24 women are participants and 10 are on the waiting list.

Special time

Becky and Clair have had some special times already this summer, they reported. CWJC held a Vacation Bible School with Lockeland Baptist Church. They were assisted by Southern Baptist M-Fuge participants based at Belmont University. During the week an M-Fuge participant from Knoxville asked Becky if she used to work in New York. Soon Becky learned the young woman's sister served as a summer missionary with her in New York.

As a result of the VBS and Job Search Day Camp that week, two girls became Christians, they reported.

Becky and Clair also have learned their family relationship is a plus when it comes to this particular ministry.

"Everything I do is modeling for the women," said Becky. This summer she and Clair get the chance to model a good mother/daughter relationship for needy women, she added. ■

Former Fayetteville pastor finds niche in Hawaii

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

ST. LOUIS — A familiar face to Tennessee Baptists, but now sporting a Hawaiian look, was seen in the hallways of the America's Center, site of the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

That Hawaiian look, however, goes away when he opens his mouth, joked Emerson Wiles, a former Tennessee Baptist pastor and member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board. Wiles returned to a Southern Baptist Convention meeting for the first time since moving to Hawaii nearly four years ago to accept the pastorate of Mililani Baptist Church on the island of Oahu in Hawaii.

The church is the third largest of the 100-plus churches and missions in the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

Wiles related he always felt led to go west to minister. He just never dreamed it would be that far west. He noted that after graduation from seminary he and his wife, Mary, wanted to minister in Washington or Oregon. He wrote every state convention in what was then referred to as the "pioneer area" but was told experience was a requirement.

The Alabama native eventually settled in Tennessee where he served at Friend-



FORMER Tennessee Baptist pastor Emerson Wiles enjoyed meeting old friends during the recent SBC annual meeting. Wiles now serves as pastor of the third largest church in the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

ship Baptist Church in Culleoka for four years and later for 14 years at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville.

The desire to move west never left him, however, Wiles said during an impromptu interview at the SBC annual meeting.

After going on a 40-day fast to pray

about the matter, Wiles' brother, Dennis, then pastor at First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., went to Hawaii to preach a revival. He asked his brother for resumes to take with him.

One thing led to another and Mililani Baptist Church eventually issued a call to the Tennessee to cross the ocean and become its pastor.

Wiles hasn't regretted the move though he has had to adjust to a different culture, even within his church. His congregation is made up of about one-third Asian population, one-third military (which changes every three years), and one-third American "transplants." In addition, a Korean and Filipino congregation also meet at his church. "We have seven worship services on Sunday," Wiles said.

"The openness to the gospel is unbelievable in Hawaii," Wiles observed, adding that his church also is open to new ideas and programs, such as the FAITH evangelistic program from LifeWay Christian Resources.

Wiles noted he and his family approach their ministry as if they were missionaries because they are so far from home.

"We remind ourselves we're doing what God wants us to do," he said.

"God has blessed our ministry there," Wiles affirmed. ■

First Great Commission Prayer Conference slated for Nashville

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Can you imagine an event that brings together in one place hundreds of prayer warriors who have a burden for reaching their state, nation, and world?

What if the event also offered practical lessons about praying for the lost.

The goal of Tennessee Baptists' first Great Commission Prayer Conference is to connect evangelism, missions, and prayer in one event.

The conference will be held Aug. 16-17 at Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville.

It will feature a host of speakers including prayer coordinators from the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources; TBC staff members including Executive Director James Porch, and many others. Seventeen different conferences will be offered during the breakout sessions.

For more information, call Don Pierson or Bernie Baker of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7925. ■

Red Rover, Red Rover, send four more on over'

uest
olumnist

Sara Horn

Red Rover, Red Rover, send more on over."

nd so the game went, kick-off the annual face-off of esters and Baptists, reers with microphones, and e officers in riot gear, the s resembling a mixed up on of foosball.

ve only been in a protest in my life — sixth grade recall, when students at magnet middle school I ated were told they would be allowed to go to their ers twice a day, once ben third and fourth periods again after sixth period.

ho were these teachers principals to tell us what o? Walkouts were dis-ed, angry threats were ed, and a strategic plan devised by the eighth-ers. On Monday morning, ents would refuse to go to until the administration ed to listen.

ne expectations were high the air tense with excite-t (probably of trying to get

away with something), as the school buses dropped off students carrying signs of "Free our Lockers!" and "Down with Locker Hours!" Gathering in the gym, students stood in groups, talking, plotting, all the while mentally rehearsing the crucial moment when the bell would sound. Would we pull it off? Could we force change to happen? Would we force the administration's hand?

The moment of decision came when bell signaled the beginning of the day's first class. Students stood still, looking at each other out of the corner of their eyes and trying to ignore the nearby teachers who were warning of suspension and worse for students who were not in their classes by the time the second bell rang.

Slowly, in groups of two and three, students began drifting toward the doors leading to the hallway with mutters of "My mom would kill me if I got suspended" and "What's for lunch today?" And when the second bell rang, all of the students were in their classes, and our little attempt to usurp authority had passed.

SoulForce, the gay and lesbian organization which routinely alleges "spiritual violence" from Southern Baptist teachings that are "killing

God's gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender children," was out in full force for the first day of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting June 11. I think they too, like our little group of middle-schoolers, were trying to usurp authority — ultimately trying to, vanquish God's authority and add to the blurring of the line between right and wrong, and man's will versus his Creator's.

I was amazed to see a news report recently of colleges which are now specifically recruiting gay and lesbian high school students, actually holding college fairs to cater, saying they want their students to experience diversity. I have no problem with diversity. I do have a problem with preying on high school students by offering scholarships if they come out and say they're gay — all for the sake of having diversity.

Where does this leave other students who leave their sexual preference out of their college applications — those who actually assume the old school of thought that GPAs and school activities count for something?

Back to the protest in St. Louis. I watched, along with many others, as group by group, men and women of

varying ages and sizes approached the doors of the convention center, arms raised, heads high, a row of 10-15 policemen blocking their way. I listened as a pastor standing near me talked in soothing tones to his 4-year-old, explaining why the people outside were holding signs and yelling, and why God had told us we needed to love them even if they didn't love us.

I thought as I watched a young woman in one foursome, someone who looked close to my age, calmly being led away in plastic handcuffs, how determined she looked. I wondered what her background was, what her upbringing had been, what kind of contact she had had with Southern Baptists and other Christians.

And I wondered who would tell her about God's love, and how that love could be demonstrated. Certainly not by someone like myself, standing behind the glass doors, watching as a spectator.

"The highest power for the greatest task" was the theme of this year's SBC annual meeting. We must not just tell them about God's love, but we must show them as well. That is our task — that is our mission. ■ — Horn is director of news and media relations at Union University, Jackson.



Where have you gone, Mr. Ed?

Don't laugh, but one of my all-time favorite television shows (behind the Andy Griffith Show of course) is "Mr. Ed."

For those unfamiliar with this classic comedy, it was the story of a talking horse and his owner named Wilbur (at least I admit I watched it; many watched it but won't admit it now). While the show definitely was far-fetched, at times it could be very funny.

Anyway, I remember when we first hooked up to cable TV in Tennessee. Our cable company did not carry the Nickelodeon network. That was a source of consternation because their night-time programming, called "Nick-at-Night," included (you guessed it) Mr. Ed. They finally added that channel to our cable lineup much to my joy.

Years later Mr. Ed no longer is on Nick-at-Night. And that's OK. Thanks to the invention of VCRs and video tapes, I can watch Mr. Ed any time I want.

Unfortunately, the Nickelodeon Network, which prided itself for family entertainment, seems to be heading in a different direction. Last week the network aired a program on "Nick News" about homosexuality and same-sex families. The segment included an appearance by talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell, who recently disclosed that she is a homosexual.

Those shows have no place on a network geared toward impressionable children and general family entertainment. There are plenty of "news" channels that could have aired the program which was titled, "My Family Is Different."

Homosexual characters on prime time TV shows are appearing more and more on a regular basis. This lifestyle does not need to be promoted as "normal" on a "family" network geared toward children.

I encourage parents to monitor the programming on the Nickelodeon network. Hopefully, the program mentioned above was a one-time only occurrence. If not, parents may want to reconsider allowing their children to watch that network if it continues to promote homosexuality as a "normal" lifestyle.

Where have you gone, Mr. Ed? ■

Make memories with your family on July 4

parent
peaks

Carolyn Tomlin



And the Fourth wouldn't be complete without the secret barbecue sauce cooked by your next door neighbor.

► Make a list of "what you need to purchase," "getting the outdoor furniture set up," "the serving pieces ready," and anything else you will need.

► Plan for disposable items as much as possible. Plastic plates, forks, spoons, and knives come in an assortment of red, white, and blue colors. There are also paper tablecloths in coordinating shades.

► If you plan for a crowd, think of making the food line simple. Place a rectangle-shape table outside, with a serving line going down each side. Iced soft drinks on another serving table keep the line moving. Line a large garbage can with a

heavy-duty plastic bag for easy disposal for any food scraps, plates, and drink cans.

► Look around your home and find items for decorating, such as American flags, potted red geraniums, bandanna handkerchiefs, and inflated red, white, and blue balloons.

► Set up old-fashion games, such as washer pitching, Ping-Pong, horseshoes, and croquet. Draw a hopscotch pattern on a sidewalk. Ask older family members to explain the rules and help the younger generation with the fun.

► Ask an adult to tell why July 4th had become a national holiday. July 4th is known as Independence Day — the birthday of the United States. On this day in 1776, an important paper called the Declara-

tion of Independence was signed. It told the world that the colonists in America had chosen to be free from the rule of Britain and to have a land of their own. That land became the United States of America.

► Sing patriotic songs, such as "God Bless America," and "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Listen to a tape of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Lead your friends and family in prayer asking God to give our nation peace and that we will become a country who shows Christian love to all. ■ — 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.1stbooks.com). Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp

<p>WHEN YOU JOIN OUR CHURCH YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO FIND A PLACE OF SERVICE.</p> 	<p>OH... I'M SURE WE WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE IN THE CHURCH SOMEWHERE.</p> 	<p>IF IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH BASEBALL SEASON, DANCE LESSONS, OR YOGA CLASSES.</p> 	<p>I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD LEAD A STUDY GROUP ON "FINDING YOUR PRIORITIES IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM..."</p> 
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real lemonade made from a squeezed lemons. Slices of cold watermelon. Hamburgers and hot dogs sizzling on an outdoor grill. Fireworks light-up the night sky. Fourth of July parades in small communities across America. Children and seniors waving red, white, and blue flags. One thing for sure: Independence Day activities make memories for families and friends.

This year as your clan gathers for a patriotic event, use some of these favorite ideas. Get organized. If you plan to invite family and friends to gather at your home, contact them in advance of the day. It's embarrassing to run short of hamburgers when you planned for 25 and 40 people show up.

Instead of one family preparing all the food, make a potluck meal. Does Aunt Elizabeth make the most delicious potato salad? Don't forget those chocolate brownies baked by your first cousin, Elizabeth.

Association hosts 425 World Changers



June 16-21



SARAH COX, left, and Ashley Rosas, World Changers of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, get to know the niece/granddaughter of the owners of the house they are repairing.



KENNY COOPER, left, president, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, visits with Travis Bullington, a volunteer crew chief working at the Baptist Healthcare Center. Bullington is a college student and member of Valley Grove Baptist Church, Chapman Highway, Knoxville.



PAINTING a building of the Baptist Healthcare Center in Lenoir City are World Changers Lauren Bowers, left, and Dawn Jones of Tom Bean, Texas. — Photos by Connie Davis



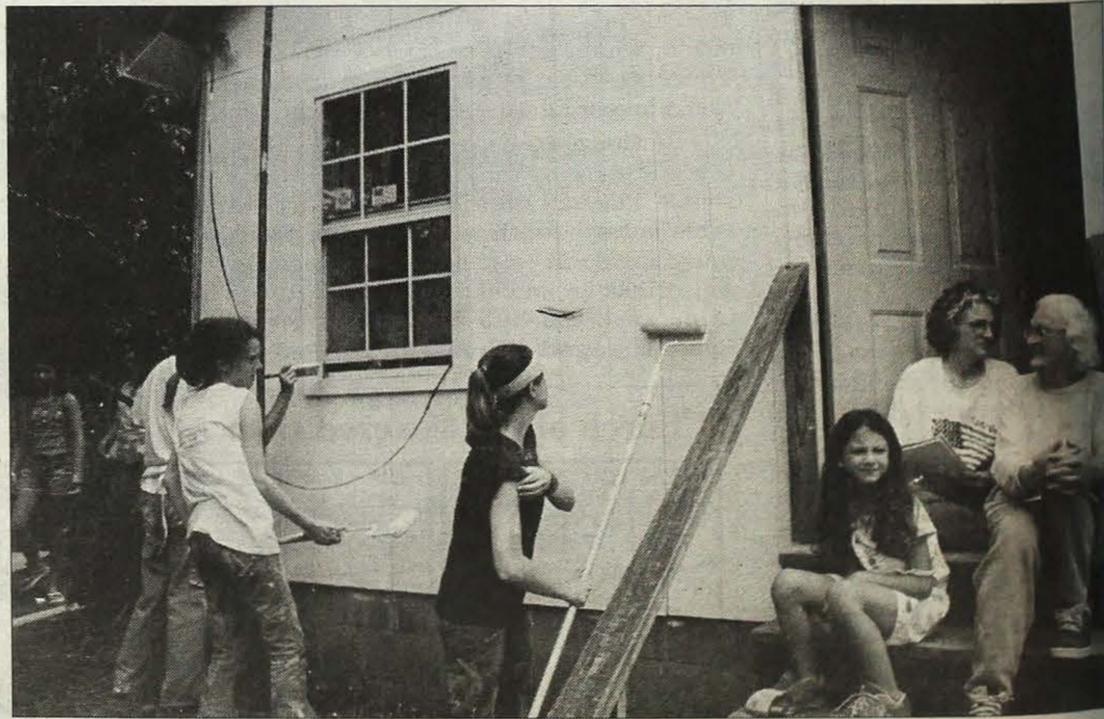
CONNIE STANSBERRY replaces a newly painted decoration to the entrance of the Baptist Healthcare Center with help from World Changer Theresa Lewis of Garner, N.C., as Cindy Wilmoth, center administrator, watches. Stansberry, a volunteer crew chief at the site, is a member of Fort Hill Baptist Church, Knoxville.



WORLD CHANGERS from several states led by Travis Bullington, right, of Knoxville paint buildings they have scraped and primed at the Baptist Healthcare Center in Lenoir City.



WORLD CHANGER Heather Scott, right, of Valley, Ala., pauses from painting to accept candy from Baptist Healthcare Center employees Candy Silvey, left, and Jennifer Darnell.



RESIDENTS FLOSSIE WALKER, right, and her daughter, Alma Walker, watch the work being done on their house with a relative. World Changers, from left, Ashley Rosas and Sarah Cox of Union Avenue Baptist Church, paint the newly repaired house.

Association hosts 425 World Changers

Donnie Davis
Staff and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — About 425 World Changers from seven states spread out over Loudon County last week to repair 38 homes, a homeless shelter, and the Baptist Healthcare Center. They worked at more sites than planned because of the extra effort of volunteers and God's blessings, said Carl Lord, coordinator of the project.

Flossie Walker, a resident whose house was repaired, said, "I never dreamed that I could get this done." She pointed to the side of the house and explained part of the house had rotted out and now it is repaired. "They're really wonderful. It's just like a whole new different house."

Walker lives in the very same house with her daughter, Flossie Walker. They both are members of New Providence Baptist Church, Loudon. Flossie has been a member more than 50 years.

Carl Stansberry, volunteer coordinator of the project, and member of First Baptist Church, Powell, explained in two days his crew had removed the rotted wood near the foundation and under the house. They removed several bird nests, which would keep birds from entering the house. The World Changers included siding on the house, and they were painting the

Needs of residents

The workers, students from high school graders to college students, "have far exceeded all of our expectations," said Lord at the end of Tuesday.

At the end of the first day they had completed what Lord expected they would complete in the middle of the week.

Lord, who also coordinated the association's first World Changers project two years ago, said, "This is the best bunch of kids I've ever seen working, especially for their age."

The recipients of their work have already been overwhelmed, described Lord. In visiting sites, he found homeowners crying with joy over the help they were receiving, he said.

World Changers worked on the home of an unwed teenaged mother, which was a converted garage. The ceiling was falling in. One house had roofing materials used for siding, Lord described.

At another house, workers found a bee hive inside the wall of a house. Thankfully, Lord knew a bee keeper who removed it.

The adult volunteers have been important to the project, said Lord. He recruited about 60 men to direct the students. They work without pay, only receiving meals and lodging during the project. They included five pastors of Loudon County association churches.

Lord matches adults to the projects which will need their skills. He determines and orders materials. His background in home repair work prepared him to do this, he explained.

Lord started work in January, visiting poor areas of the county and identifying residents who might need help. Churches helped him identify residents with needs. He had many good conversations with people, added Lord.

He is thankful to be able to lead the effort because several years ago he was forced to leave his pipe-fitting job at Oak Ridge National Laboratory after an accident. Lord was paralyzed and told he would

never walk again. He recovered enough, with the Lord's help, he says, to do this work and other volunteer jobs, including Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief.

Association

The association's 45 churches should be commended for the project, said Bob Atwell, director of missions.

"You don't realize that there are people living around you who need help, but you do," said Atwell.

"This is a big endeavor but it's tremendous to see how all of the churches pulled together and worked together," he said.

The project is bigger this year than planned. The North American Mission Board asked Loudon County association if it could use

about 325 youth this year. The association requested and used about 200 two years ago and requested the same number this year.



ATWELL

"God was opening the door there so we entered it," said Atwell.

The association's churches agreed to sponsor sites. The church gives money to fund the work at those sites and provides lunch for the students assigned to their sites. Other meals are provided by the association.

The students and adults stayed at the Lenoir High School, the only place large enough in the county which could house such a large group, explained Gail Hooker of the association staff. The students help fund the project by paying \$235. NAMB also funds the project and helped provide shower trailers for the many students.

Views of workers

Travis Bullington, a student at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, served as a crew chief. He formerly has participated as a World Changer. Bullington also will serve another week with World Changers in Knoxville this summer. To do so, Bullington, 20, is putting his landscaping busi-



ness on hold those weeks.

He said the experience is work but also fun. And the students are realizing "how many lives they've touched. I've just really enjoyed it."

World Changer Thomas Lewis of Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, was serving for his second year. Thomas, 15, said, "I've found it's really possible to spread God's Word just by our actions."

Also from Union Avenue was Sarah Cox, 16, who said last year she helped residents who didn't have running water in their house. She said she participated "just to help people and glorify God and ... spread the love."

Gail Hooker of the association said a World Changer asked her if they had changed the world yet. She said, maybe not yet, but "my world has been changed." ■



CARL LORD, left, volunteer coordinator of the Loudon County Baptist Association World Changers project, visits with World Changer adult worker Gerald Woolwine, center, of Davenport, Fla.; and Mike Wankowski, pastor, Nelson Street Baptist Church, Lenoir City, another volunteer worker.

Healthcare center benefits from associational project

Baptist and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — The Baptist Healthcare Center here is one of the about 40 sites where World Changers worked last week in Loudon County Baptist Association.

About 20 World Changers repaired buildings of the center and cleaned wheelchairs.

The work was a great help at the center, explained Cindy Wilmoth, administrator, and Flossie Cooper, president, of Tennessee Baptist Adult Center, which operates the

Baptist Healthcare Center. The center does not receive any

Cooperative Program funds so it is self-supporting.

The work by the World Changers saved the healthcare center thousands of dollars, explained Wilmoth. That will allow the center to use the money which was saved to help its elderly residents, said Wilmoth.

The center is the only TBAH facility which provides nursing and assisted care. It has 104 nursing residents and 18 assisted living residents. The center also has 75 children in its childcare facility, which was added several years ago to help employees. The children also help the residents as they

interact occasionally with them, explained Wilmoth, who attends Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Lenoir City.

Those children enjoyed the World Changers, said Wilmoth. The older children staying all day at the center this summer because school is out enjoyed watching the workers, said Wilmoth. They wanted to get to know them so it was arranged for them to eat lunch with the World Changers on Friday. It was a fun time for all, said Wilmoth.

The center has been forced recently to watch its budget carefully because of the budget woes of Tennessee, explained

Wilmoth. The state determines the amount of benefit received from Medicaid programs, she said. Most of the center's nursing care residents receive Medicaid benefits.

The work of the World Changers also helped the maintenance staff, which includes two staff members, she said. The center only had one worker for a while recently because of a vacancy. The staff wouldn't have been able to do the work accomplished by the World Changers for nine to 12 months, she predicted, which would have made the painting jobs more difficult.

She and Cooper thanked

the volunteer workers and Carl Lord, coordinator of the project. Lord initiated the help while visiting the center several months ago with fellow members of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City. Members of the church regularly lead worship services at the center.

Lord asked Wilmoth if the center could benefit from the work of some of the World Changers.

"We were just thrilled to be included," said Wilmoth.

"We're the recipient of blessings here. And they're doing a great job," said Cooper. ■

BH&HS members approve long-range plan

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Members of the Baptist History and Heritage Society looked to the future during their annual meeting June 20-22 at First Baptist Church here.

The society unanimously adopted seven long-range recommendations during the meeting which was co-sponsored by Carson-Newman College's Center for Baptist Studies and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The society's Long-Range Planning Committee recommended that between 2002-2007 the organization:

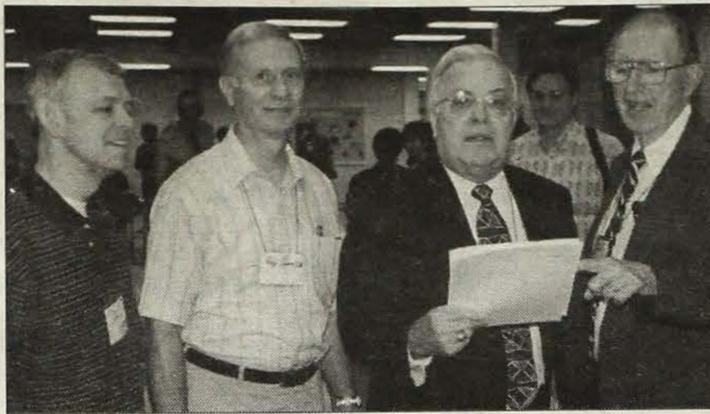
- establish an advisory committee of financial and public relations consultants to formulate a fund-raising strategy.

- study a membership fee increase of up to 25 percent and consider establishing an institutional membership rate (both of these recommendations were later approved).

- enhance relationships with a representative cross-section of Baptists with an interest in shared heritage by convening a meeting of a small group of Baptist historical program leaders and to involve them in annual meetings and market resources to them.

- begin producing and marketing a new booklet series this year.

- publish 10 volumes per year through the BH&HS book



SEVERAL TENNESSEE BAPTISTS attended the annual meeting of the Baptist History & Heritage Society in Jefferson City. Among them were, from left, Charles Parker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksboro; Ray Sorrells, director of missions, Watauga Baptist Association; Jim Taulman, assistant to the executive director, BH&HS; and Robert O. Byrd, professor of religion at Belmont University, Nashville.

publishing program.

- Raise funds to provide for four full-time employees, 20 publications, a \$750,000 endowment by 2007 to endow the executive director's salary, and provide 10 \$1,000 Baptist history scholarships and 10 \$300-\$500 student awards.

- enlist 2,007 members in the BH&HS by 2007. The society currently has approximately 1,100 members in 16 countries.

The long-range plan is a positive step in assisting the organization in meeting five ultimate challenges, Executive Director Charles Dewese told society members in his address.

"We must remain commit-

ted to telling the Baptist story as accurately as we can, with as much integrity as we can, for as long as we exist," he said.

To do so will require creating new services and resources for Baptists who are eager "both to learn and to do history the right way," Dewese observed.

He also noted the BH&HS must cultivate relationships with Baptists everywhere, identify new fund-raising strategies, and find new ways to "tell the Baptist public who we are, what we stand for, how we do history, what we have to offer, and where we are headed."

In other business, society members authorized "The Baptist Heritage Library," a book-



JAMES PORCH, left, executive director, receives the Officers Award from Dan G. Kent, president of the Baptist History & Heritage Society, during the organization's annual meeting.

let series designed to share information about selected Baptist heritage topics on significant issues facing Baptists today.

The first five booklets and their writers are:

- "Who Should Interpret the Bible for Baptists?," E. Glenn Hinson

- "What Issues Are Testing Baptist Polity?," William M. Pinson Jr.

- "What Challenges Confront Baptist Missions?," Bill and Dellanna O'Brien

- "Why Should Church and State Be Separate?," James M. Dunn; and

- "What Place Should Women Hold in Baptist Life?," Carolyn D. Blevins.

The booklet series is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2003.

BH&HS members also



SAM CREED, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ashland, asks a question during the annual meeting of the Baptist History & Heritage Society.

adopted a \$230,000 budget for 2003 and re-elected the current slate of officers, comprised of Dan Gentry Kent of Tennessee as president; Glenn Jonas of North Carolina, vice president; and Carol Crawford Holcomb of Texas, secretary.

The 2003 meeting of Baptist History & Heritage Society will be held May 22-24 at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Bell County, Texas.

The society also honored Jim Taulman, assistant to executive director of BH&HS, who announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. ■

IMB addresses misconduct as missionary voices confession

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, in a statement issued June 18, applauded the resolution on "the sexual integrity of ministers" adopted at the June 11-12 SBC annual meeting in St. Louis while acknowledging an instance when the problem had occurred in its ranks.

"Sadly, our record in this area is not without blemish and we are not immune from such problems, though our policies and current stance on sexual misconduct are very strong," IMB President Jerry Rankin said. Internal policies of the IMB were strengthened in the area of sexual misconduct a decade ago and reflect a zero tolerance on sexual offenses.

The Richmond-based IMB funds more than 5,200 missionaries serving around the world and Rankin acknowledged there have been isolated cases of sexual abuse in the past, noting the case of William McElrath who served as a missionary with the IMB in Indonesia from 1967 to 1995.

On June 17, McElrath sent an open letter to family and friends "confessing" to "sinful acts" involving "touching, tickling, cuddling, and fondling that went too far."

In 1973 a complaint was made against McElrath, accusing him of fondling two children of missionaries in

Indonesia. The accusation was reviewed by field administrators, parents of the children involved, McElrath, and his wife. The matter was resolved among the parties.

In January 1995, additional incidents of sexual abuse between the years of 1967 and 1973 were brought to the attention of IMB officials. After the investigation, McElrath admitted the charges and he was terminated immediately.

Because the incidents took place outside the United States and more than 20 years earlier, the North Carolina Department of Social Services informed the IMB that no legal recourse was possible. However, five of his victims have met with IMB officials recently and the IMB is taking initiatives to provide additional counseling to these men and women.

Rankin noted that the IMB has strict written policies addressing sexual misconduct and outlining procedures for handling violations. For example, a written IMB policy states that, "If personnel suspect sexual misconduct, they should report it immediately to the regional leader without first attempting to effect a local solution."

Grounds for termination include "sexual assault or harassment, pedophilia, or sexual misconduct by personnel involving a minor."

"Even though wrong behavior took place nearly 30 years ago, the scars and repercussions are very real and painful,"

Rankin said. "We are firmly committed to reaching out to victims and dealing decisively with violators.

"We are engaged in an ongoing review of our policies regarding sexual misconduct," Rankin added, "and we are committed to continuous training of our personnel in awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct."

The SBC resolution acknowledges "our own fallenness and the need to prevent such appalling sins from happening within our own ranks."

The resolution also acknowledges "sexual infidelity and other violations of ministerial integrity have tragic consequences for those who are victimized..." It calls on "our churches to discipline those guilty of any sexual abuse" and to "cooperate with civil authorities in the prosecution of those cases."

The document encourages "those religious bodies dealing with the tragedy of clergy abuse in their efforts to rid their ranks of predatory ministers," something Rankin acknowledged was not always done expediently within the ranks of the organization.

An Associated Press report June 18 quoted Bill Merrell, a vice president with the SBC Executive Committee, as stating that sexual abuse cases remain rare in Baptist churches. "The best way to deal with the issue," Merrell said, "is to be forthright, direct, positive, and aggressive." ■

Baptists minister during World Cup

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The World Cup soccer games have drawn people from 36 nations to Korea and Japan where Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians have been sharing the good news of God's love.

Thirty-five Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians are partnered to distribute more than 11,000 gospel tracts and 1,500 "Jesus" films. Since the games began May 31, 100,000 visitor's guides that contain gospel presentation and testimonies of Christian soccer players, as well as schedules and events, have been handed out.

And people are responding to the witness, workers report. One Korean man and his two children accepted Christ as Savior after watching a copy of the "Jesus" film they received from workers.

The workers expect many more opportunities for God to move among athletes and fans before the final game in Yokohama, Japan, June 30. Workers ask Southern Baptists to pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit to move in mighty ways during the World Cup. ■ — Tabitha Frizzell

leaders

■ Siam Baptist Church, Elizabethton, has called **Jasper Rash** as minister of youth and **Joel Street** as minister of music.

■ **Claude Duncan** has been called as minister of music for Little Doe Baptist Church, Butler.

■ **Elmer Sams Jr.**, has been called as minister of music, Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

■ **Lynsol Richmond**, pastor, Lenox Baptist Church, Lenox, has been called as pastor of a church in Mississippi.

■ **Bobby Rushing** has been called to his first pastorate. He is serving New Chapel Baptist Church, Decaturville.

■ **Champ Thomas Jr.**, is beginning a new ministry and is available for service. He has served as pastor of a church in Hickman, Ky., and in Big Hatchie Baptist Association, based in Covington. Thomas is a native of Tennessee and has earned the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown. He can be reached at (901) 380-5178 or champ-tjr@bellsouth.net.

■ First Baptist Church,

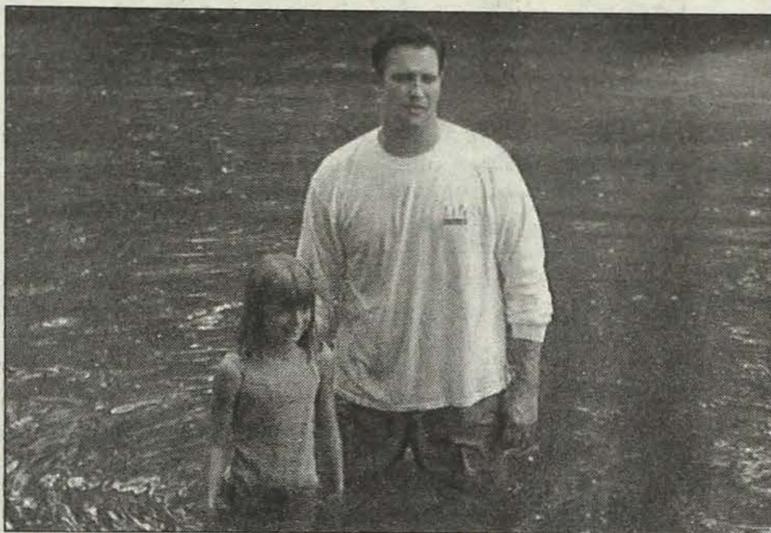
Matthew and Penni Hudson are serving as Inter-
national Mission Board mis-
sionaries in Albufeira, Portu-
gal. The couple was appointed
last fall. Matthew Hudson was
pastor of First Baptist Church,
Brentwood, Weatherford, Tex.
He was a former mem-
ber of First Baptist Church,
Brentwood, and a graduate of
Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he
earned a doctorate.

George Gilbert has
been called as minister of senior
adults, Central Baptist Church,
Alcoa. Gilbert has been pastor
of churches in Blount and
Knox counties and pastor of
Central Baptist Church from 1968-72 and
interim pastor from 1998-99.

West LaFollette Baptist
Church, LaFollette, ordained
Ann Mcguire Jr., and
Wesley Lowe as deacons re-
cently.



NEW SANCTUARY of Northside Baptist Church, Columbia, Tenn. The new photo on the right of the original sanctuary, was dedicated recently. It was built over a two-year period mainly by volunteers from church members. In photo above, Fred Hawkins, building committee chairman, thanks Willie Harris of Harrisburg, Miss., and Mississippi Brotherhood, who coordinated the volunteers from 20 churches in about seven states. Harris is with his wife Ann, who coordinated many meals for workers. Pastor John Rushing is on the left.



JAY AUSTIN, pastor and church starter of Life Community Church, Brentwood, baptizes Hannah Trainer in the Harpeth River recently. The church, which is being sponsored by Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, meets in a public school building.

Rutherford, has called **Brian Price** as music director. (615) 513-0845.

churches

■ **Bordeaux Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold revival July 14-17. David Price, pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Springfield, will speak. For more information, call (615) 256-8696.

■ **First Baptist Church, Smithville**, will hold training for telephone volunteers wishing to be a part of the Evangelism Response Center of the North American Mission Board. The training will be July 11, 13-14. For more information, call the church at (615) 597-7832.

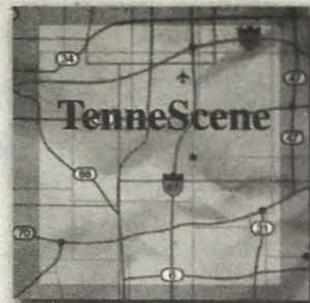
■ **Silver Springs Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet**, will hold its annual Terrific Nights Tuesdays beginning July 2 when the CrossWay Quartet will perform. For more information, call (615) 758-7853.

■ **Dowelltown Baptist Church, Dowelltown**, will hold revival June 30 - July 3. Terry Wilkerson, pastor, Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown, will speak and Gary Miller, pastor, Crossroads Baptist Fellowship, will lead the music. For more information, call (615) 237-9717 or

schools

■ Members of Baptist Collegiate Ministries of **Cumberland University, Lebanon**, served in Germany May 20-29. They conducted street evangelism in Dresden and on the campus of Dresden Technical University, a school of about 25,000 students. They also witnessed to people on the streets of Chemnitz.

■ Athletes of **Belmont University, Nashville**, earned the Academic Champion Trophy of the Atlantic Sun Conference and set a record for the award. Sixty-five percent of student athletes participating in conference sports posted a grade point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale during the past academic year.



Evangelists' group to hold conference

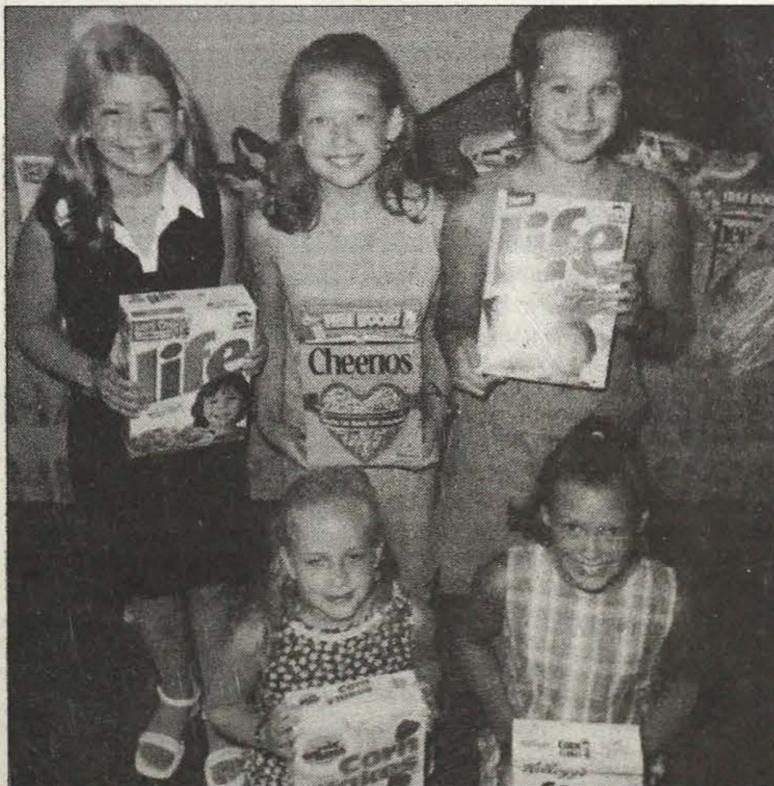
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of Evangelists will hold its first Summer Evangelism Bible Conference July 10-12 at Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown.

The purpose is to provide pastors and members of churches an opportunity to hear and meet members of the fellowship. They will hear "some of the men and women whom God has called out and chosen to help them in fulfilling the Great Commission," said Charles Couey of Nashville, a member.

Richard Buckner, evangelist coordinator of the fellowship who is based in Watertown, said, "We believe this is a great opportunity for all to come and hear the evangelists. This will also be a great time of refreshing for all of the people."

For more information, call Buckner at (615) 408-2004 or Charles "Toonie" Cash, fellowship president, at (423) 477-3476. ■



GIRLS IN ACTION of First Baptist Church, Union City, hold boxes of cereal they collected June 16 from church members for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. They collected 84 boxes of cereal. The GAs included, from left, first row, Katelyn Ray and Brooke Beachum; second row, Katy Crews, Hannah Sims, and Brenna Duncan.



national/state
news

Service held for slain missionary

Baptist Press

ROSE HILL, Kan. — Every night, as he was being handcuffed to a tree deep in the Philippine jungle, Martin Burnham would look his armed captors in the eye and say, "Thank you very much." Then the missionary would wish them good night.

He did this, his wife told friends, because he was determined to stay joyous during the most trying time of his life.

So friends and relatives of the slain native of Rose Hill, Kan., followed Martin Burnham's lead June 14, staying joyous through the tears of a two-hour memorial service that drew an estimated 2,600 people.

Martin Burnham, 42, died June 7 during a shoot-out be-

tween Filipino troops and his guerrilla kidnapers, who held him and wife Gracia captive for more than a year.

"Why did this happen this way?" asked Clay Bowlin, a college friend of Martin Burnham and a Kansas City pastor. "I gotta tell you, I don't know.

"God knows what He is doing. All we can do is trust Him."

Friends and family began lining up outside Central Christian Church before 8:30 a.m. — at least an hour and a half before the service began.

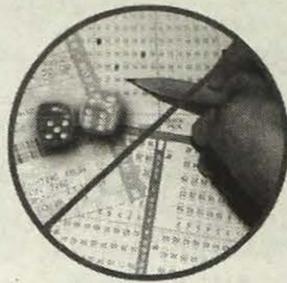
About 30 employees from Wal-Mart gathered on 29th Street North across from the church. They stood silently, with small flags in hand, holding giant sympathy cards.

Women at the Well

A ministry for women with life-controlling problems providing a long-term residential home, referrals, paraprofessional counseling, crisis intervention, and presentations. For more information, contact us at (423) 745-0010 or wellwomen@icx.net.



As the service began, mourners — including Philippines Ambassador Albert del Rosario, Sen. Sam Brownback, Rep. Todd Tiahrt and former Sen. Bob Dole — stood as Burnham's widow, Gracia Burnham, and family entered the sanctuary.



KEEP TENNESSEE GAMBLING FREE

The *Baptist and Reflector* is producing a magazine-format resource entitled *Keep Tennessee Gambling Free*. This 36-page magazine will provide facts to support arguments against gambling and the lottery as well as human interest features and other articles which will depict the negative aspects of gambling.

The pre-publication cost, if ordered before Aug. 1, is \$1.75 each and includes shipping and handling.

To order or for more information, call Susie Edwards at (615) 371-2003.

Groups - for Great Passion Play Packages in Eureka Springs, Ark. (with tickets, lodging, recreation, and meals), see www.kellersresort.com or call (479) 253-8418.

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The service included a slide show featuring aspects of Burnham's life and letters written by various family members that were read by his uncle, Galen Hinshaw. ■

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — COMBINATION

First Baptist Church, Clanton, Ala., is seeking a full-time minister of music and education. All-age choir program, handbells, blended worship. Education/Administration responsibilities to be determined, according to ability. Salary \$40,000-52,000, commensurate with experience. Call (205) 755-3840 or email firstbc1@bellsouth.net to request full job description. Resume can be sent to Search Committee, FBC, 210 6th St. N, Clanton, AL 35045.

Minister of youth/education search. A 600-member East Tennessee church with great leadership and a full range of Christ-centered teaching, worship, and missions focus activities is currently looking for a minister of youth and education. Please mail resume to Y&E Minister Search, South Harriman Baptist Church, 626 Ruritan Rd., Harriman, TN 37748 or email to Ford156@aol.com.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

White Hall Baptist Church is accepting resumes for pastor. The church is seeking a godly man of conservative convictions affirming the inerrancy of God's Word. He should demonstrate a strong testimony and clear call of God to the pastorate. White Hall is located in a developing area of Gibson County with great potential for growth. Please address resume to White Hall Baptist Church, 691 Concord-Cades Rd., Trenton, TN 38382.

MISCELLANEOUS

Used pews for sale. Solid wood, pecan stain, blue cushioned, 16 - 14'; 6 - 12'; 2 - 15'; 1 - 11'; 1 - 7 1/2'; and 2 - 4'. Supper table and pulpit included. \$6,000. Call (731) 658-6529.

Used church pews for sale. Solid wood, white finish. Call (931) 484-3532.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Church secretary: 35-40 hrs weekly. Experience required. Proficient with computers and the internet, and multi-tasking. Salary negotiable. Experience. Call (615) 865-; ♦♦♦♦

Tulip Grove Baptist Church Hickory, (Nashville area) seeking church secretary for a variety of duties. For an application and job description, call (615) 883-1856. ♦♦♦♦

Houseparents. The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes in the Nashville area has an immediate need for full-time relief houseparents. Christian married couples only. Please call Marla Free at (423) 929-2157. ♦♦♦♦

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

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, Tenn., is prayerfully seeking God's man for the position of bivocational minister of music. Our growing church, outside of Springfield, is looking for someone energetic and enthusiastic. For more information or to submit resume, contact pastorbrad@earthlink.net. CHBC, Music Ministry Search Committee, P.O. Box 205, Cedar Hill, TN 37032. ♦♦♦♦

First Baptist Church, Doonville, Florida, is seeking a full-time minister of music. Skilled in building relationships, worship leader in blended services; oversight of graded choirs, dramatic instrumental ensembles, and a choir. Send resume and video to Music Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 300 N. Gallagher Rd., Dover, FL 33527.

MINISTRIES — STUDENT

Armona Baptist Church is searching for a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to Armona Baptist Church, 210 Louisville Rd., Alcoa, TN 37717. Attn. Pastor Robert Lawson.

MINISTRIES — YOUNG ADULT

Young adult minister position available. Full-time plus great benefits package. Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, TN. Over 6,000 membership. Email resume to rushing@councilroad.org. Visit web site www.councilroad.org for additional church information.

MINISTRIES — PRESCHOOL

Minister of preschool/child care needed in 2,700 member church. Seminary and ministry experience preferred. Good salary and benefits. Send resume to Dr. Ron Churchill, First Baptist Church, 503 N. Palm St., Plant City, FL 33566.

Conversational English Workshop

There will be a 16-hour conversational English Workshop July 12-14, 2002, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be led by Anne Townes, Literacy Mission Consultant, Nashville. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register or request additional information, please contact Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1-800-558-2090, (615) 371-7916, or go to <http://www.tnbaptist.org/ems/englishworkshop.htm>.

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Minister's
Corner
by Jerry Massey

All you "Wal-Mart-oholics" give ear and heart. A couple of weeks ago I was in Wal-Mart and made several small item purchases.

When I checked out I assumed the lady clerk had all my things in one bag. I was mistaken. By the time I arrived at my car, a day's journey away, I realized as I was putting the bag in the car that it didn't hold all my items. So with my receipt ticket in hand I had to go back to the lady and no doubt she would remember the absent-minded person who just left behind his second bag of purchases. But by the time I came back two cars worth she came running up the aisle of the parking lot with package in hand waiting as she came running. She said, as she gave me my purchases, "I just kept looking for the man in the suit."

Overwhelmed by her thoughtfulness, I responded to her. "You are just like the Wal-Mart commercials say." "I loved, we need to be just like the commercials that show the church puts out or claims as Jesus gave us the script. 'Your lights so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'"

The world is depending upon us to be what the Lord expects of us. In so doing we are walking advertisements of all He promises the world about His church. His goodness, kindness, and faithfulness will speak to a world that is hurting. Some have failed to realize the purchase Jesus made on the Cross and are living lives without the promises He made good on at the Cross. They could even drive out of the parking lot and fail to have in their possession the gift of eternal life in heaven that Jesus purchased for them.

Yes, they need someone to come running in their direction holding forth the Word of salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ, letting them know that they have been behind the most precious gift of all ... salvation in Jesus forever. This gift we did not pay for. And it was the lowest price in town ... it was the highest.

When our outreach teams visit, we would love to see you come and be a part of a true-to-life commercial about God's love for our community. The Wal-Mart clerk didn't know me from Adam. I was just a man in a suit. But she saw me as a man who was going to come home without his rightful purchases and she didn't want that to happen on her watch.

May we feel as concerned about our task and our community's eternal welfare. ■ — Massey is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Paris.

Just for
Today

by Fred Wood,
pastor emeritus,
Memphis



Start With a Smile: Mother to 5-year-old: "Why did you throw a rock at your sister. That's no way to treat her." 5-year-old:

"I threw a rock at me." Mother: "When she threw a rock at you, why didn't you come and tell me?" 5-year-old: "Why? My aim is better than yours."

Take this Truth: Every person complains of his or her bad memory, but no one complains of bad judgment.

Memorize this Scripture: Judge not, that ye be not judged. — Matthew 7:1

Pray this Prayer: Lord, help me to refrain from putting the blame for my bad decisions on someone else.



God wants me to be kind

By Matt Tomlin

Focal Passage: II Kings 4:1-17

In our lesson this week, there are two incidents in which Elisha the prophet exhibited extraordinary kindness.

The first concerns the widow of another prophet, at least her husband has been in the company of the prophets. Her creditors were threatening to take her sons as slaves as payment of a debt. Asking Elisha for help, he provided a way for her to miraculously multiply the oil she had and sell it for enough money to meet the debt, thereby saving her sons from slavery.

The second incident, was with a couple at Shunem. Elisha often stopped in their home for a meal. The wife suggested to her husband that they build an extra room on their home for Elisha to use when he was in the area. This was done and the first time that Elisha availed himself of this extra measure of their hospitality, he decided to grant some kindness to this couple. Discovering through his servant that the couple had no children, he promised that in a year she would hold her own child in her arms. This came to pass. So in these two incidents, Elisha showed kindness to a poor widow, and to a well to do couple, covering the broad spectrum of humanity.

Family Bible SS
Lesson — June 30

Showing kindness, should not depend solely on the economic situation of the recipient. Kindness should be given without expectation of anything in return. Kindness should be the result of love and compassion. However there are times when we seek to repay kindness with kindness. This was the case in Elisha promising the Shunammite woman a son. She and her husband had been kind to Elisha. They had more than provided for his needs and comfort. The couple was well to do, so there was not a need to provide for them economically. Their need was deeper than economic problems. There was no son to carry on the

family name and to provide for the woman when her husband was gone. So Elisha's kindness to her not only brought joy in the presence, but also would bring future blessings to her. Elisha's kindness to her was of long duration, reaching into the rest of her life.

The apostle Paul, in Galatians 5:22 (NIV), lists kindness as one of the fruits of the spirit. It is as important in his list as love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This list exhibits the way our relationship with God ought to affect our relationship with others. Conflict arises when people selfishly insist on their own way and their own rights.



Harmony comes when compromise takes place on the part of one or more of those in relationship. Exhibiting kindness to others, not insisting on our own way, can do wonders for our relationship with others. The Greek word translated kindness has the basic idea of usefulness. So a kind person is a helpful person. The attitude of kindness should be a perpetual attitude of the Christian. But until it is translated into action with deeds of kindness, it cannot affect our relationship with others.

"God wants me to be kind" is the title of our lesson this week. Are we consciously obeying that desire of God for our lives? Are we seeking to be kind in our relationship with others in the home, in the church, on the job, in the community? You see our application of our Christianity should be seen in every world of which we are a part. Reflect on your own life, for a few moments. Are you treating others with kindness? That is the mandate from God, express your faith through your kindness to others, and God will richly bless you for it. — Tomlin is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

Practicing kindness

By Lon Chenoweth

Focal Passage: II Samuel 8:15, 9:1-10

Kindness is often little more than a little syrup with an accent, rather than an act from the heart. How deep is your kindness toward others? All of us have experienced the ungracious actions of those we thought were "nice people."

How can we display Christian grace in and out of season?

King David's extraordinary kindness to Mephibosheth serves as a snapshot of the proper use of power for good. The king's generous spirit blessed a forgotten royal heir, the son of his covenant brother, Jonathan. Here David used his resources as a means of grace for one who struggled.

This may be the pinnacle event of David's career and rise as Israel's greatest leader. What did he do? He chose to remember his promise to Jonathan (I Samuel 20:14-17). What could he do for his friend? He conducted a search and it was discovered that Jonathan had a surviving son.

The covenant between these great warriors of Israel was not just in life, but in death (vv. 14-15). It was a covenant of kindness to each other's house forever. David had reached the heights of royalty and victory, now he honored those words

spoken in his fugitive days.

The Bible says "David executed judgment and justice unto all his people" (II Samuel 9:15). Here is the proof text in his search and outline of benefits for Mephibosheth. Disregarding Jonathan's son's reference to himself as a "dead dog," he brings him to a place of honor.

Is it time for you to do a search? There are countless Mephibosheths

in our world. They feel despised. Christians should be at the forefront of "search and rescue operations" to find people our culture no longer values. Mephibosheth was brought from the backwater to a place of blessing!

There are obvious New Testament applications in what James 1:27 calls "pure and undefiled religion." Visit the orphans and widows. We have a great opportunity to practice kindness through Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes where the real needs and spiritual voids of youth are met.

Our associate pastor visits widows on a regular basis and takes flowers, food baskets, and fresh produce to their delight. These widows are often the most faithful to attend, to give, and have invested years of service in teaching, hospitality, and praying for our churches!

There are also some not-so-obvious applications for acts of kindness. How about full-time gospel workers?

Many preachers, missionaries, and staff members work without being remembered by the people of God. Your kindness to them may offset Satan's direct attacks of discouragement.

Though Mephibosheth had "crushed feet" and lived less than royalty in another man's house, David blessed him with royal favor. He was called into the king's presence and blessed for his father's sake. The lands of Saul were given to him and the fruits of the fields.

The greatest kindness of all was his place at the king's table, like a son, eating the king's bread continually (v. 7). From the caves of Judah to the city of Jerusalem, from the famine of a fugitive to fare of a king, David did not forget his "covenant of kindness" with Jonathan's son.

David's generous spirit was remarkable in a day when rival king's children were often killed. In those days David's rule was in balance as he served God and blessed the people of his kingdom in practical acts of kindness. He used his power and his resources to bless "a dead dog" (v. 8).

Kindness really goes a long ways in boosting the spirit of needy people all around us! What will you do within your power and resources to pass on the blessings that God has entrusted to you? The answer to that question can make you a practical Christian. — Chenoweth is pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida.

TruthQuest team members just 'normal' teens

By Todd Starnes
Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS — The difference between Christian teenagers and non-Christian teenagers is as simple as a relationship, said team members of the FamilyNet teen-reality television program, TruthQuest: California.

Six team members shared their thoughts about being a part of the first Christian reality television program during a June 10 press conference at the annual gathering of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

TruthQuest: California is a joint project involving Baptist Press, FamilyNet Television, and Broadman & Holman Publishing. The television show focuses on 12 evangelical Christian teenagers who will travel through the state of California in July learning how the truth of Jesus Christ impacts the world through creative ministries. The series will air in October.

Representing the team at the press conference were Chip Luter of New Orleans, **Andy**



TENNESSEE MEMBERS of TruthQuest include, from left, seated, **Andy Botts**, First Baptist Church, Cleveland; **Tim Harms**, First Baptist Church, Franklin; standing, **Cara Yates**, FBC, Cleveland; and **Richard Sparkman**, FBC, Franklin.

Botts and Cara Yates of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Richard Sparkman and Tim Harms of First Baptist Church, Franklin, Josh Merritt of Atlanta, and Shanna Hawkins of Winston-Salem, N.C.

"As far as the difference between Christian teens and non-

Christian teens, we are all teenagers," said the 14-year-old Sparkman. "We are all going to go to movies, listen to music, and watch television. It's not like we live at church. Church is a big part of our lives. But Christian teenagers handle conflicts differently and we handle situations differently. We han-

dle them as Christians."

Martin Coleman, vice president for programming at FamilyNet and executive producer of TruthQuest: California, said the show is heading to the Golden State because of its impact on the American culture.

"We are not setting out to save California," Coleman said. "Our friends at the California Southern Baptist Convention do a great job of evangelizing that state. We picked California because it is the epitome of cool. If you ask kids where do you get your fashion statements, their trends, they will think of California. If we are going to take our truth and test it, we may as well go to the coolest place on earth as far as the world thinks."

Many of the activities planned for the students will remain undisclosed until the show begins filming in July.

Students on the team said they are looking forward to building relationships with one another.

"It was amazing how we immediately bonded," Yates said. "I feel like I've known them for

20 years. It was amazing. God has placed each person in this group for a reason."

Since February, the TruthQuest students have been doing Bible studies in their hometowns with materials written by youth pastor and author Steve Keels and published by Thirteen young people have been led to the Lord through these studies.

"TruthQuest puts out some study materials and sermons," said Botts, who is a worship leader of the church. "It's such a study help. I've read Steve Keels' commentaries. I've grown spiritually."

Yates agreed. "I think a part of this team holds a standard like knowing how to go to be represented by teenagers across the country. 'Cara you'd better be on toes.'" ■



Students with Tennessee ties graduate from Baptist seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Several students with Tennessee ties graduated in May commencement services at Southern Baptist theological seminaries and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Information, including home town and church or current place of ministry (when available) and photos (when provided) were supplied by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; and Mid-America Seminary, Germantown. Information was not provided by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; or Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Southeastern graduates included Gerald E. Dominy, Loretto, and Kevin A. Wilson, Lenoir City, bachelor of arts in biblical studies; Gary T. Joines, Chattanooga, master of arts in intercultural studies and master of divinity with international church planting; Shannon M. Oaks, Knoxville, master of arts in counseling ministry; Michael D. Collins, Dayton; Victor M. Lee, Knoxville; Jeffrey E. Mims, Hender-

sonville; and Joshua N. Payne, Chattanooga, master of divinity; Don M. Little, Franklin, master of divinity with counseling ministry; and John K. Tarwater, Sevierville, doctor of philosophy.

Southern graduates included William D. Craig, Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville, doctor of education;

Allan Atchley, Central Baptist Church, Alcoa; Kenny Carr, pastor, Long Heights Baptist Church, McKenzie; Stephen Freels, Liberty Baptist Church, Wartburg; and Eric Stitts, Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison, master of divinity;

David Hawkins, First Baptist Church, Somerville; David M. High, Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville; and Roy L. Terry, South Whitwell Baptist Church, Whitwell, master of divinity degree in missions, evangelism, and church growth;

Michael O'Neal, First Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, master of divinity degree in Christian education;

Barry R. Smith, Harvest Fields Baptist Church, Pegram, bachelor of science from Boyce College; and

Micahel Foust, Mt. Tirzah Baptist Church, Tatumville, master of arts in theological studies.

Southwestern graduates included Scottie L. Allred, First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Antony W. Traughber, Orlinda Baptist Church, Orlinda; and Stephen S. Young, First Baptist Church, Martin, master of divinity in biblical languages;

Robert F. Cook, South Seminole Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Charles C. Leonard, Siverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Jes B. Moore, Higher Ground Baptist Church,

Kingsport; and Randi M. Swift, Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, master of divinity.

Brettina R. Garner, First Baptist Church, McKenzie; Scott M. Guinter, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown; Bradley R. Smith, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; and Jason D. Underhill, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville, master of arts in Christian education;

Eric J. Thomas, Knoxville, doctor of philosophy (theology); and

Wesley A. Wright, Merton Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, master of arts in lay ministry.

Mid-America graduates included Alan S. Bandy, student minister, Cherry Road Baptist Church, Memphis; Eric Carpenter, Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis; Bud Chaney Jr., Kirby Woods Church; Bob

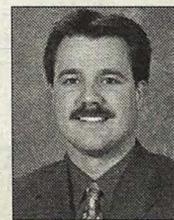
Dennison, pastor, Latonia Chapel Baptist Church, Maysville; Michael A. Hoffman, evangelist and church planter, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown; and Thomas J. Cormick Jr., interim minister, college and recreation, Woods Church, master of divinity;

Michael Crouch, pastor, Mary's Chapel Baptist Church, Ripley; Greg Hollifield, church planter, Memphis; and Jay T. Roberts, pastor, Hartland Baptist Church, Memphis, doctor of philosophy.

Cindy Estes, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, master of arts in religion and education;

Jack S. Henry Jr., Memphis, and Jeffery D. Moody, pastor, Baptist Church, Huntingdon, associate of divinity; and

Vann E. Kissell, pastor, Baptist Church, Troy, doctor of divinity. ■



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