

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

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this week's news

West Virginians seek help. — Page 3

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Study shows cohabiting does not lead to committed marriage. — Page 12

LifeWay gives suggestions for bus safety. — Page 14

## In Tennessee

### Compensation improves for ministers, staff

Editor's Note: See page 6 for charts comparing compensation for Tennessee ministers and church staff with other state conventions.

Compiled by *Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist full-time pastors, full-time church staff ministers, office personnel, and full-time custodians are receiving financial support comparable to those serving churches in adjoining states, according to a detailed study involving 35 state Baptist conventions throughout the nation.

"This is an improvement from what we found in the 2000 survey," said Richard Skidmore, church ministers financial support specialist in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Staff Leadership Group.

"At that time Tennessee Baptist churches were only about average when compared to the other conventions that participated in the survey.

"The 2002 study shows marked improve-

ment in support for pastors, full-time staff ministers, and part-time office personnel," he added.

The biennial salary study began in 1996 with 12 participating state conventions. The study, coordinated by Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annuity department, grew to include 19 conventions in 2000 and 35 this year. The study included information from more than 14,000 individuals and 7,500 Southern Baptist churches.

Inflation has totaled 15.2 percent in the past six years, Spencer said. Among full-time pastors, he added, the average compensation has gone up 31.5 percent during the same time.

The average salary and housing for full-time pastors is \$43,566, according to the study of 5,850 pastors' salaries. The totals range from \$33,395 in West Virginia to \$57,096 among churches affiliated with the

Baptist General Convention of Texas. Among bivocational pastors, average salary and housing range from \$10,198 in Illinois to \$21,860 in Hawaii.

In Tennessee, full-time pastors saw their average "pay package" increase by nearly 13 percent from 2000 to 2002, Skidmore said.

In the same period, bivocational pastors reported an increase of nearly 11 percent, full-time staff ministers were up more than 11 percent, and part-time office personnel were up more than 13 percent, according to Skidmore.

Others who saw increases were full-time office personnel (8 percent) and part-time custodians (7 percent), he continued.

The two groups of church staff that lag far behind are full-time custodians and bivocational staff ministers, Skidmore reported.

Full-time custodians responding to the survey reported compensation 1 percent below the 2000 survey and bivocational staff — See Compensation, page 4



SKIDMORE

### Youth center puts teens on 'The Right Track' at ClearView

Todd Starnes  
List Press

FRANKLIN — Teenagers looking for fun, excitement, and a parent ministry that cares about relationship are taking the next train to ClearView Baptist Church — literally. ClearView, a Southern Baptist congregation south of Nashville, recently opened a 13,000-square-foot, high-tech youth

center that has a 90 percent replica of a locomotive coming through the wall. The entire center, located on the third floor of a new education building, is designed to resemble three generations of train stations, from the 1930s to the 1950s.

And now the church's \$450,000 investment is beginning to reap spiritual dividends, ClearView youth minister Mike Tisdal said.

"Our ministry is based around relationships," he said. "The kids bring their friends and they feel welcomed, accepted. It's contagious."

Tisdal was called as ClearView's first full-time youth minister more than 18 months ago. Since then, the youth program, called "The Right Track," has grown from 40 kids in Sunday School to nearly 200 — and is still expanding.

When Tisdale came to ClearView, he said pastor Bret Robbe told him "the sky is the limit." With support from the staff and the church, Tisdale set out to create a cutting-edge youth center.

His first help came from Paul Haines, a church member and former set designer for Universal Studios. The train station idea came from Haines. From there, church member Chris McCollum, a local contractor, poured through books of old railroad depots to build an authentic replica.

The completed project includes exterior brick walls, doors fashioned to resemble boxcars, and a 1950s diner called The Station. The diner includes booths, stools, and a working jukebox that was given to the student ministry by

church members. The diner provides pizza, nachos, soft drinks, and even Goo-Goo Clusters, a favorite Southern candy.

But the retro look does an about-face when it comes to technology. ClearView's youth center is equipped with the latest high-tech gadgetry that appeals to the MTV generation, Tisdal said.

For example, The Station is outfitted with arcade games, foosball tables, multiple video play stations, more than 30 televisions that can accommodate DVD, VHS, and PowerPoint presentations and satellite transmissions — and the center has surround sound.

The results of the new center have been overwhelming, students and youth workers say.

"It's really great," said Daniel Childs, 15. "We didn't know what to expect when they first told us about the room, but it's a lot of fun. It's easy to invite friends to church."

Childs said one friend who came to The Station is about to join the church. "It's really bringing people into the church," he said.

Kyndall Monroe, 15, said the new youth center is "awesome." Monroe, however, said there's a different reason the youth

group is growing.

"Everyone here is so friendly," she said. "It makes it easier to fit in when everyone is so nice."

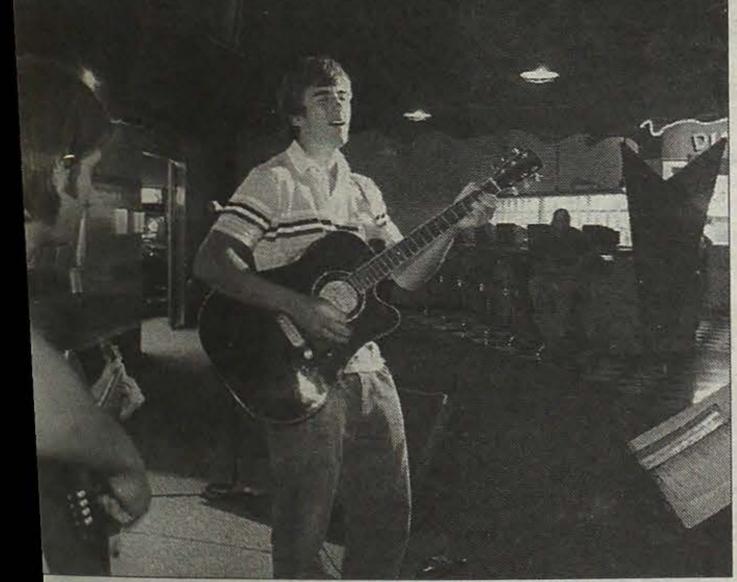
Youth workers said the key to ministry at ClearView is building small-group relationships with young people.

"We want this to be a place where kids can hang out, be friends and be accepted," Tisdal said. "Unchurched kids are looking for a place to belong and we want to be that place."

"It's not the facility that's going to keep the kids here," said Pam Grainger, a youth Sunday School teacher. "We have to love on kids. When they think about ClearView, we want them to know that there is a place for them here."

Fellow youth worker Tammy Adams agreed. "When I remember back to my time in youth group, I remember the leaders," she said. "I remember the people who took time to get to know me. Our goal here is for no one to get left behind."

Brandon Powell, who occasionally leads the youth group in worship, said he's never seen a group quite like ClearView. "There really aren't any cliques here," Powell said. "It doesn't matter who you are, they give you love." ■



AS BOTO, left, and Brandon Powell lead worship in the new "Right Track" youth center at ClearView Baptist Church in Franklin. In the background, is a replica of a locomotive coming through the wall.

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## MBC entities to lose CP funding

Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Five Missouri Baptist Convention entities — whose trustees voted to become self-perpetuating — will lose all of their nearly \$1 million in the proposed 2003 Cooperative Program budget to other MBC organizations, according to a recommendation adopted by the MBC executive board July 9.

Board members voted 31-15 for a budget stripping the five entities (Windermere Baptist Conference Center, Missouri Baptist Foundation, The Baptist Home, Missouri Baptist College, and Word and Way) of the \$953,750 of funds for which they have been earmarked.

Instead the money will go to the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Southwest Baptist Univer-

sity, William Jewell College, Executive Board Strategic Initiatives, and The Pathway, MBC's new official newsjournal. ■

## Illinois editor steps down

Associated Baptist Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A Baptist state newspaper editor in Illinois has resigned in what his supervisor describes as a mutual agreement that it's time for him to "move on in his ministry and career."

Michael Leathers had been editor of the *Illinois Baptist* newspaper since 1999 and won awards for both writing and design in his 19-month tenure.

He became embroiled in controversy when he ran a front-page story about a former Illinois pastor who had been charged with criminal assault for allegedly molesting two teenage girls.

Reaction to the story prompted formation of a five-member ad hoc committee of the Illinois Baptist State Association's board of directors to study the role of the Baptist newspaper.

The committee, which is still active, has drafted a working mission statement for the paper and considered drawing up guidelines for the editor.

His handling of the story

drew both praise and criticism.

"There's no question that the *Illinois Baptist* is a better newsjournal because Michael was here, but it is time to build on the changes and improvements that came during Michael's tenure as editor," said Glen Akins, interim executive director of the IBSA.

"This is one of those situations where God's will and calling was for a man with certain skills and gifts to serve in a specific position for a specific term rather than permanently."

Contacted by a reporter, Leathers confirmed the decision to resign was mutual. "I enjoyed my time at the *Illinois Baptist*. I was proud of what we were able to achieve, but I'm looking forward to exploring some new possibilities." Leathers had no further comment on the matter. ■

## Council asks for moratorium on research cloning

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A divided President's Council on Bioethics has stopped short of recommending a comprehensive ban on human cloning, instead calling for a four-year moratorium on cloning for research purposes.

The 18-member panel named early this year by President George W. Bush barely managed a majority for a moratorium on research cloning in its July 11 report. Ten members agreed with the call for a moratorium, while seven others issued a minority report recommending the regulated use of cloned embryos for research. One member abstained.

All of the council agreed in recommending a ban on cloning for the purpose of producing children. The council called such cloning "not only unsafe but morally unacceptable."

Some opponents of cloning greeted the report with resignation.

"The report is not what those of us who want a total ban on cloning would have hoped for but it's the best we could expect given the composition of the council," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"Anyone knowledgeable about the background of the council members would have predicted a majority in support of the president's view but not an overwhelming majority."

Ken Connor, president of the Family Research Council, called the recommendation of a temporary moratorium regrettable but "better than no ban at all." ■

## Not jump into middle of it

# Deacons should steer church from conflict

By Terri Lackey  
Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Deacons should serve as agents for settling conflict in the church, not jump in the middle of it, a Florida Baptist Convention leader said.

"You have to help the church regain its sense of direction and purpose, and you can't be a part of the conflict if you are mediating it," said Roy Saint, associate director of the Florida convention's pastor staff leadership department.

Saint led a weeklong workshop for deacons during the National Conference for Church Leadership, June 24-28, at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center here.

Deacons and all church members should realize that God is bigger than any single conflict, Saint said.

"The work of God will go on with or without our help," he said.

Still, a church in harmony is more effective in evangelizing a lost world, Saint said, and today's leaders could get some pointers from what those in the early church did to resolve conflict.

"First, they listened to their people. In any conflict situation, the key is to listen."

Those who listen well might learn the conflict goes deeper than what is actually being discussed, Saint said, noting, "Sometimes, what you are hearing is not the conflict."

The early leaders also took people and their needs seriously, Saint said. "Something might not be a crisis to you," he said, "but it is to some people."

Third, they built flexibility into the system. "Sometimes we are too rigid in our approaches or thoughts," Saint said. "In a

world of change, we have to make changes. Conflict can sometimes alert us that we need to make that change."

Saint added, "There can be something positive to conflict. At least someone is concerned about something so much they become agitated about it."

He listed three types of conflict: intrapersonal, interpersonal, and substantive.

Intrapersonal conflict begins within an individual and might include feelings of frustration, confusion, unrest, or guilt, Saint said.

Symptoms of intrapersonal conflict listed by Saint include:

► The same person causes conflict over and over.

► The person is encountering problems in his or her life.

► The person is going through development stages or passages in life; is experiencing stress; is physically ill or emotionally unstable.

Interpersonal conflict, Saint said, is between two or more people and can grow out of intrapersonal conflict.

"It's not based on issues as much as it is on what one person or group thinks and feels about another. Sometimes it includes conflict that hasn't been taken care of in the past."

Symptoms of interpersonal conflict, he said, include:

► Withdrawal. "Those involved avoid each other."

► Rationalization. "Those involved try to explain each other by theories and thereby explain their dislike or inability to be in accord."

► Denial. "Those involved refuse to ac-

knowledge conflict exists."

► Fight behavior. "Differences erupt in personal attacks, name-calling, and such. When it gets to fight behavior, it's gotten full-blown trouble."

Substantive conflict is disagreement on issues, Saint said. "This grows out of differences about goals, methods, or facts and can include issues such as a new building program, renovation project, whether to move a piano or the structure of the church budget."

In substantive conflict, Saint said, the issue continues to resurface until it is clear intrapersonal or interpersonal conflict is not the source of the problem.

Conflict in churches can start for several reasons, he said, including stress, confusion, use or misuse of power, change, diverse membership and poor communication, unmet needs, and fear.

"But poor communication is the number one cause of conflict," he said. "George Bernard Shaw said, 'The biggest problem with communication is the assumption it's taken place.'"

Deacons must learn to confront conflict in healthy ways, Saint said, noting:

► They can approach every situation with love and compassion, using prayer as a primary tool.

► They can help the church regain a sense of direction and hope.

► They can help the church reaffirm ministry priorities.

"Good leadership skills can help deacons properly manage conflict," Saint said. "Be proactive rather than reactive. Be transactional, not transactional. And remember it's a journey, not a destination." ■



## Two churches merge to form Crossroads

For Baptist and Reflector

ARLINGTON — Members of Ardmore Baptist Church, located in the Frayser community of Memphis, and Skyview Baptist Church here recently voted to merge the two congregations.

A joint service was held June 16 as the two churches entered into a merger agreement to become Crossroads Baptist Church.

The merger service drew 137 for Sunday School and 161 for worship, according to Marion Wafler, Sunday School director.

"This celebration was preceded by much prayer, many meetings, and lots of dialoging seeking the Lord's will in this matter," according to Wafler.

Wafler noted a changing community led Ardmore members to decide to put their facility on the market. They then had to decide on whether to relocate and build, merge with another SBC church, or disband and give the proceeds from the property to missions, according to Wafler.

Members chose the latter and were welcomed by Skyview, a church that had moved from the Frayser community a few years ago and had built a new facility in a "growth corridor" of the county.

"The two congregations have come together with such a sweet spirit of love and cooperation that only God could have put it together," Wafler observed.

Crossroads currently is being led by Randy Smith, interim pastor. Smith had been serving as the interim pastor at Ardmore. Skyview has been without a pastor.

"We praise God for His goodness and mercy in bringing us together for a new beginning so that the gospel may be proclaimed and His kingdom enlarged," Wafler said. ■

## Name omitted

In last week's issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, the name of Murray Mathis was inadvertently omitted from the list of Tennessee Baptist Convention presidents who attended at least one of the two meetings of the extended President's Study Committee. Mathis served as TBC president in 1990. ■

# the Unfinished Task 2001

Planting with Passion

Great Commission."

Southern Baptists always respond to a Great Commission challenge, said Wanda Lee, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union. "We are pleased with the response to the 2001 LMCO in light of all that has happened since Sept. 11," Lee said. "When giving to other charitable causes and worthy ministries was down, giving to missions remained a priority among our churches.

"These results reinforce the truth that when our focus in the local church is centered on God's call to share the gospel with a lost world, our members respond through committed praying and sacrificial giving."

The IMB had budgeted the entire \$120 million goal for 2002, Steverson noted. The board now will drop the \$3 million capital needs portion of that budget and find ways to offset the remaining \$3.3 mil-

lion planned for its overseas operating budget.

Unlike many other denominational missions agencies, the IMB is faced with the challenge of raising financial support for a rapidly increasing missionary force, Steverson said. While other such agencies have seen overseas personnel numbers declining, Southern Baptists are posting larger numbers of new missionaries each year.

Every dollar given to the Lottie Moon offering is used exclusively for missionaries and their ministries. None of it is spent for stateside administration or promotion.

Southern Baptists gave almost \$113.2 million to the Lottie Moon offering in 2000. That represented an \$8 million (7.3 percent) increase and the second-largest dollar increase since the offering's inception in 1888.

For Christmas 2002, WMU and the IMB have set a \$125 million goal for the offering. ■

## Tennessee gifts near \$8 million

# Baptists give record amount to LMCO

Mark Kelly  
Baptist Press

RICHMOND — In spite of economic turmoil and massive donations to help victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Southern Baptists increased their gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by 32,804 in 2001.

The \$113,707,996 given by the churches was the largest international missions offering ever, said David Steverson, the International Mission Board's vice president for finance. Though it fell short of the \$120 million goal, the offering marked a .47 percent increase over 2000.

"While this increase is the smallest in recent years, we are pleased, considering all the events of this past year," Steverson said.

"After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the American economy and stock market really struggled in the fourth quarter of 2001. Americans gave the Red Cross almost \$1 billion during that period. All that, while Southern Baptists were being asked to step up to the greatest challenge in missions giving they had ever faced."

From Dec. 1, 2001 through July 10, Tennessee Baptists have given more than

\$110,763.69 to the Lottie Moon offering. Gifts for the 2001 offering will continue to be accepted through November.

"In the midst of a changing and challenging economy, Tennessee Baptists have been faithful in mission giving," said Joy Fenner, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union director.

"At the heart of giving is the urgency — and the joy — of sharing God's redemptive love with those of today's expressions of Acts 1:8," she said.

SBC missions leaders expressed heartfelt appreciation for the commitment Southern Baptists continue to show for the challenge of bringing all the world's people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"We are grateful that God continues to prove his faithfulness through the generosity of Southern Baptists," said Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board. "In spite of economic challenge, Southern Baptist churches have reflected their heart for missions and commitment for fulfilling the



FENNER

## Vest Virginians still need help from Tennessee

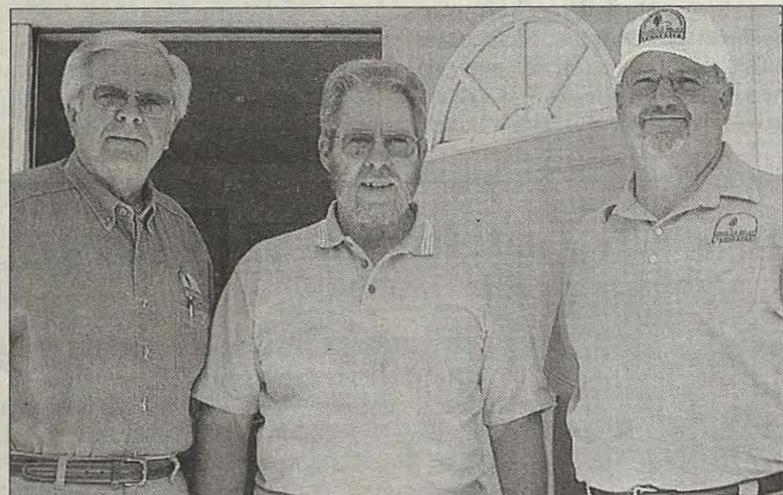
Marcia Knox  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Scores of people in West Virginia, devastated by flood waters, need the passionate help of Tennessee Baptists," said Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director James Porch following a recent Disaster Relief assessment team trip to Mingo County, W.Va.

"We have the big opportunity to bear witness through the sharing of homes and speaking the love of Jesus to people whose lives have been crushed by losses," Porch said.

Porch, along with State Disaster Relief Director Tim Bearden; Mike Overcash, State Disaster Relief off-site coordinator; and Lloyd Blackwell, Disaster Relief construction coordinator, worked as a logistical assessment team June 17-20 in Mingo County where around 100 homes have been affected. Leon White, West Virginia Baptist Convention Disaster Relief director, has assigned a community, which includes Fayetteville, to Tennessee.

The first of several Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief construction teams recently headed out of Fayetteville. An assessment team from Tuscu-



DISCUSSING PLANS about the Evangel Baptist Fellowship Church Retreat Center in Beckwith, W. Va, are, from left James Porch, TBC executive director; Bud Jeffries, co-director of the center, and Tim Bearden, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director.

lumb Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, worked June 24-29 at Evangel Baptist Fellowship Church Retreat Center in Beckwith, where they finished up remodeling work to transform the former church into a retreat center to house upcoming teams and also helped rebuild a local church in Robson, damaged from floods in 2001.

Tusculum Hills Church team members were: Alton Brown, Sylvia Slagle, Barbara Lawrence, George Inglis, Herb Nelson, Syble Cooksey, Kevin Wood, Bill Slagle, Jake Cordell, Shirley Stevenson,

and Joe Reed.

Electrical, plumbing, painting, and repairs on the retreat center kitchen were done by the team, according to Blackwell.

A two-member team from Knoxville, Bill Irving and Tom McMurray, both members of Alice Bell Baptist Church, also worked July 3-6 on Second Baptist Church in Fayette County.

According to Blackwell, most of the work to be done will be foundations, porches, and exteriors.

"We are working through Fayette County Flood Assis-

tance Program where their director Randy Housh has done all the assessments for repairs and materials," said Blackwell.

"The assistance program will provide the homeowners funds for materials, and we will provide the volunteer labor. This is a long term recovery project of at least a year possibly running through Summer 2003."

Bearden observed that several volunteers are needed to work during the Labor Day weekend. "A combination of Disaster Relief volunteers and volunteer construction teams are needed for this rebuilding project," he added.

Bearden noted that the work will be to repair homes damaged by flooding in July of 2001. "Many homeowners have been waiting for help for over a year," Bearden said.

Individual volunteers as well as complete teams are needed for reconstruction. Volunteers available to serve are asked to call Overcash, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 4074, or Blackwell, ext. 7927.

Donations are also being accepted to aid in the efforts. Send donations to: Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. Designate funds to West Virginia Relief. ■

# Compensation improves for ministers ...

— Continued from page 1  
ministers surveyed reported "pay package" data nearly 16 percent less than in 2000, Skidmore related.

The "pay package," according to Skidmore, for all employees is compensation and protection coverages provided by the church.

It does not include ministry-related expenses such as the cost of ministry-related travel, continuing education, conferences, hospitality, and ministry materials such as books, tapes, and periodicals.

In addition to the "pay package," those expenses should be paid using a valid, accountable reimbursement plan, Skidmore said.

Spencer noted that one of the keys to budgeting adequate compensation for ministers is to "leave ministry-related expenses out of the pay package."

As a result, study organizers chose to eliminate expense-related information from this year's study, Spencer said.

"It's assumed employees are paid over and above compensation and benefits," he observed. In addition to tax savings for ministers, he said, "the reality is that money for expenses is not compensation, even though some churches treat it as such."

"What it costs to do the job," — such as travel expenses and conference fees — "should have no bearing on what a minister's compensation is," he emphasized.

In Tennessee, more than 1,500 surveys are included in the data, an improvement from the 1,338 that were used for

## To access full data, customized data

Details of the survey are available on the Internet. Information is available for pastors, a variety of staff ministers, secretaries, and custodians which are fully funded as well as bivocational or part-time. Data for Tennessee and 34 other state conventions can be accessed.

A customized report also is available. Using this option, a report can be prepared giving averages for only those churches of similar attendance, membership, and budget.

A link to the data is on the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site at [www.tnbaptist.org/csl/compensation/compensation.htm](http://www.tnbaptist.org/csl/compensation/compensation.htm).

Churches which do not have Internet access may request the data from Richard Skidmore, Lana Rose, or Joyce Harvey at the TBC at 1-800-558-2090. ■

the 2000 study, Skidmore said.

While the study included 35 state conventions, Skidmore said it is more revealing to compare the financial support of Tennessee Baptist church staff to those in similar positions in the nine neighboring state conventions — Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia Baptist Mission Board, and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

Compared to the average "pay package" in the adjoining state conventions, Tennessee full-time pastors and full-time staff ministers rank third while full-time custodians rank first.

Full-time office personnel are fourth but still receive pay slightly below the average of the 10 conventions, Skidmore observed, adding that part-time office personnel rank fifth.

The Tennessee church staff members who lag behind the neighboring states are part-time custodians (eighth), bivo-

cational pastors (eighth), and bivocational staff ministers (last).

"This survey is disturbing when you consider the support given to these bivocational leaders in our churches.

"Tennessee has approximately 50 percent of her churches served by bivocational leaders who are being paid substantially less than bivocational leaders in those states that surround us," Skidmore said.

Another area of the survey data gives information about benefits and protection coverages provided to church staff.

Skidmore noted that 25 percent of full-time pastors and staff ministers have no retirement plan benefit nor do they have medical coverage as part of their benefit plan.

Slightly more than 50 percent have life or accident insurance included in their protection coverages, Skidmore said, and less than 50 percent are covered by disability insurance. "This leaves the church

at risk in the event of illness, injury, or death," Skidmore observed.

"One of the ways a church can fill this gap is being sure their ministers, full-time or bivocational, are in the Church Annuity Plan of the Southern Baptist Convention. If they participate in the plan, the Tennessee Baptist Convention will provide some disability and survivor benefit coverage and pay for it," he added.

"Retirement and protection coverages are becoming increasingly important to church support staff and part-time bivocational staff as well," Skidmore continued.

"I recently spent time with a bivocational pastor whose whole retirement plan disappeared when the company went out of business. More than 20 years of work for the company will now only produce an inadequate Social Security check at retirement. This story is becoming too common," he said.

Skidmore said the information gathered in the study is provided to assist churches in the compensation planning process of church staff. Other factors to be included beyond the data include individual needs, church resources, standard of living in the community, church membership, inflation, and individual performance.

For more information, contact Skidmore at 1-800-558-2090. ■ — Trennis Henderson, editor of Kentucky's *Western Recorder* contributed to this report.



## TBF to match contributions for scholarship fund

*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Foundation is offering a special incentive to encourage Tennessee Baptist interested in providing scholarship assistance to Tennessee Baptist young people to contribute to its Scholarship Fund.

Established in 1987, the Foundation's Scholarship Fund has awarded 3,269 scholarship totaling more than \$2.2 million to deserving Tennessee Baptists, according to Gary Coltharp, vice president for estate planning.

"This year alone, the Foundation has granted 326 scholarships amounting to \$175,900 Coltharp said.

With college and seminar gifts on the rise and the number of worthy applicants increasing, the Foundation board of trustees has allocated up to \$100,000 to match contributions received between now and Dec. 31, Coltharp said.

Every dollar contributed to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation for its Scholarship Fund will be matched, he said.

Thus a \$25 gift will become \$50, a \$100 gift will become \$200, \$500 will become \$1,000 and so on, he explained.

Contributions will be placed in the perpetual Scholarship Fund, the income from which is used each year to provide scholarships to young people from Tennessee Baptist churches, said.

Matching gifts are tax deductible and may be sent to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Checks must be marked "Scholarship Fund," Coltharp said. ■

## Vacation Bible School in Lenoir City includes wedding



CINDY AND BOB MASON, back row, picked an unusual time and place for their marriage on June 20 — during Vacation Bible School at Oral Baptist Church in Lenoir City. — Photo by Thom Tapp

*Baptist and Reflector*

LENOIR CITY — Like many brides to be, Cindy Henderlight wanted her wedding in the church where she was reared. She took it a step further, however.

When Henderlight and Bob Mason repeated their vows on June 20, it included more than the normal wedding crowd. Among those in attendance were those attending Youth Vacation Bible School at Oral Baptist Church here.

"As far as I know, this is a first — a wedding at a Vacation Bible School event," said Thom Tapp, pastor at Oral Baptist who performed the ceremony.

Tapp explained that Henderlight was reared in the church and worked with the Youth Council for many years.

"She wanted to include the young people she had worked with," Tapp related. "Our Youth VBS was planned for June 16-21, so she asked if she could have her wedding on Thursday evening of VBS," he said.

"Our Youth Council and many others worked with Cindy and Bob to make this come together for a unique VBS event," the pastor shared. "Parents and students gathered to make this a very memorable event for Cindy, Bob, and the rest of our church family," Tapp added. ■

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# If 90 percent believe in God, where are they?

David P. Gushee



National polls reveal that nearly 90 percent of Americans say they believe in God. In the context of American history and culture, the God most of them believe in is some version of the Christian God.

Yet on any given Sunday, by generous estimates a mere 40 percent of Americans attend church. This compares favorably to another historically Christian region, Europe, where church attendance often runs in the single digits. Still, the gap between 90 percent and 40 percent is no small thing.

What accounts for it? Jesus gave a fascinating lesson intended to explain the range of responses people of His own time had when receiving the Word of God. Many Christians may assume there are only two available responses — either belief or disbelief — but in the parable of the sower the seed Jesus outlined four.

Some people's hearts are impenetrable. They hear the Word and it simply bounces off, never finding receptive soil. A second group responds to the Word fully, but only for a brief time. In

them, roots do not grow very deep. When trouble or persecution comes, their faith is quickly upended and falls away, like a seedling torn out by a storm.

A third group responds positively to the Word and faith begins to grow in them. However, worldly concerns and other distractions ultimately choke out any possibility for mature and fruitful growth. Only the fourth group has the whole package. They respond positively to the Word of God, the roots of faith grow deep within them, they succeed in avoiding the distraction of troubles and happier times, and they ultimately bear great fruit in the work of God's kingdom.

In nearly 20 years of Christian ministry, I have experienced the truth of this parable countless times. Perhaps nowhere has this parable been confirmed for me more readily than where I now reside, in small town west Tennessee, the farthest south I have ever lived and the only full-blown Bible Belt area I've ever experienced.

The pervasiveness of organized Christianity in this region is extraordinary. You pass a church on every corner. Most folks profess to having been in church at some time in their lives, the vast majority

unhesitatingly identify themselves as Christians, and the cultural influence of the churches extends quite deeply into all corners of public life.

But this pervasive cultural influence is a double-edge sword. For every deeply committed and fruitful Christian disciple it produces, it seems also to produce at least one post-Christian ... and members of a group I would call "half-Christian" — the onetime believers who haven't abandoned Christian faith "officially," but who seem to have done so in many other ways.

Surely there are a variety of reasons for disparities among "the faithful." Jesus' parable would lead us to the reasonable conclusion that it's always been this way. There have been and always will be four different kinds of responses to the Word of God, not just two.

But there are factors peculiar to this region and time, while also reflective of Christianity throughout America. Many in the post-Christian, or at least post-churchgoing, camp have fallen prey to the error of misunderstanding Christianity as a one-time transaction intended to ensure eternal salvation.

Churches themselves bear primary

blame for this. To reduce the message of the Bible to a quick "fire insurance" baptismal experience is a disastrous mistake. It produces a large number of dunked half-Christians who need the real Jesus Christ to direct their lives, not the illusory security of a hasty baptism.

Others have been burned by lousy church experiences — hypocrisy, legalism, hyper-traditionalism, atrocious preaching, politicized faith, church splits. Many have given up on church, not on Jesus. But, unfortunately for them, there is no New Testament provision for privatized Christianity. Such "personal religion" tends to collapse in the long run.

The question remains, however, whether those leaving the church for these reasons, or the churchgoers convincing them to leave, are the actual half-Christians. ■ — © 2002 Religion News Service. Gushee is associate professor of moral philosophy at Union University, Jackson.

## Support for TBC pastors and ministers improves since 2000

### Assisting churches

Richard Skidmore, TBC staff



Hallelujah! — I think! That is my initial reaction to viewing the data from the 2002 Church Staff Compensation Study (see pages 1, 4, 6). Support for our pastors and full-time staff ministers has improved dramatically since the study was completed. Increases reported in this issue

will show financial support improvements of 11 to 13 percent for these servants of the churches.

Yet, others, especially bivocational pastors and bivocational staff ministers lag far behind surrounding states.

On the Internet site of the Tennessee Baptist Convention ([www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)), you will find the results of many hours of research. We are indebted to treasurers, secretaries, administrators, and personnel and finance committees across Tennessee for giving us compensation information from their churches.

We do a compensation study

to give Baptists the best information possible. I have long believed that informed Baptists will make good decisions. The information in this issue will perhaps lead to churches taking a closer look at the support provided to their church staff.

There is cause to rejoice about the increased support for pastors and full-time staff ministers. It is my prayer that those churches served by bivocational pastors and ministers will consider dramatic increases in their financial support. These leaders should be considered for increase in salary and housing as well as improvement in retirement and protec-

tion coverage benefits.

Currently, only one-third of our bivocational pastors are involved in the retirement plan of the SBC. If the church or they were making a contribution to the Church Annuity Plan, the Tennessee Baptist Convention would be providing some disability coverage and a survivor benefit to them. Additionally, they would probably qualify for some matching funds from the convention.

How do churches begin a look at their own compensation plans for their staff?

First, access the Internet and do a customized study or let us do a customized report for your

church. We need the name of the church, attendance, membership, budget, or offerings for the year. You will receive a comparison of churches like yours in Tennessee and, if you want, churches in surrounding states.

Then, let us provide information of how your staff can get the most from the compensation dollars by structuring the compensation to conform to tax rules.

Whatever else you do, give your staff the love, honor, and prayer support they need and deserve. ■ — Skidmore is church ministers financial support specialist in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Church Staff Leadership Group.

## Simple steps can lead individuals down road to better health

### Good health

Branda Polk



At this year's Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Any Board President O.S. Perkins challenged pastors and members "to begin taking the care of wellness to heart." He said, "During 2001 at least one of the medical claims paid were for preventable disease. As a whole, we are overweight and do not exercise enough."

This was a powerful challenge to leaders and churches to take serious their health and the impact that poor health has on their ministry. When we are overweight, sick, overweight, tired,

undisciplined, and lack focus we are not the proper testimony that God desires for us to be in a lost world. As believers we must establish lifestyles that honor God in every area, including our physical condition.

Good health is much more than just the absence of disease or properly managing a disease with medication. Good health stems from an attitude that chooses to honor God by properly caring for the bodies He gave us to live in. Being more active and choosing to eat more healthful foods has benefits for every area of our lives. When we are physically fit we manage stressful times more effectively, have the energy, strength, and endurance to complete assigned tasks, function at a higher level, and are better prepared for the unexpected things that happen in life.

Are you physically prepared to handle any situation or event

that may come your way each day? I'm sure on Sept. 11, no one planned to run from a burning, collapsing building or began training months in advance to carry a co-worker down 50 flights of stairs. Yet, when the tragic events happened that day, some were physically prepared and others were not. Ministry opportunities that require physical strength and endurance could happen at any time. It is not our job to anticipate these opportunities and prepare for them, but to be ready to act and minister when they occur.

Are you ready to accept the challenge to improve your health, increase your energy level, and honor God with your body? If so, begin with one or more of these simple steps that will put you on the road toward better health.

(1) In prayer share your struggles and frustrations with

God. Ask for His guidance as you begin to make small lifestyle changes that will impact your health.

(2) See your doctor for a complete physical. Involve your medical professional in your wellness plan and follow his advice in beginning a healthier lifestyle.

(3) Educate yourself on better nutrition and fitness options.

(4) Think differently about your food intake. Do not "go on a diet." Diets tend to be short-lived and difficult to follow. Instead, simply shift the focus in your choices. Select fruit and vegetables first when planning what you will eat. Then, build the rest of your meal around these choices. Increasing the amount of fruit and vegetables you eat each day will fill you up on better nutrition with fewer calories.

(5) Get physically active. If you do not currently have a fit-

ness plan in place for targeted exercise time and your doctor has given you the go ahead to exercise, begin with a simple walking plan. Simply walk 10 minutes one way and 10 minutes back. Begin at a slower and comfortable pace and gradually increase your speed as you get more fit. Don't worry about how far you go. Simply target the time as your goal.

(6) Get support and accountability from others. Enlist a team of two or three other people to encourage and pray for you.

So, what are you waiting for? It's never too early or too late to begin a plan to improve your health and lower the cost of your medical insurance. Are you up for the challenge to be healthier? ■ — Polk is a certified personal trainer and Fit 4 coordinator at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

# Church Staff Compensation — Tennessee and Surrounding States

	highest		lowest		Tennessee	Rank	avg. of states
<b>full-time pastors</b>							
average compensation	Alabama	\$46,396	Missouri	\$39,569	\$44,316	3	\$43,315
average pay package	Alabama	\$54,490	Missouri	\$48,010	\$53,729	3	\$53,328
<b>bivocational pastors</b>							
average compensation	SBCV	\$15,732	Missouri	\$12,236	\$13,364	8	\$14,144
average pay package	VBMB	\$17,204	Missouri	\$13,188	\$14,618	8	\$15,321
<b>full-time staff ministers</b>							
average compensation	VBMB	\$43,537	SBCV	\$37,417	\$42,691	5	\$41,720
average pay package	VBMB	\$52,766	SBCV	\$43,940	\$51,971	3	\$49,828
<b>bivocational staff ministers</b>							
average compensation	VBMB	\$11,282	Tennessee	\$8,507	\$8,507	10	\$9,975
average pay package	Kentucky	\$12,020	Tennessee	\$9,105	\$9,105	10	\$10,664
<b>full-time office personnel</b>							
average compensation	VBMB	\$23,008	Arkansas	\$20,305	\$20,691	6	\$21,351
average pay package	VBMB	\$27,452	SBCV	\$23,585	\$25,314	4	\$25,440
<b>part-time office personnel</b>							
average compensation	VBMB	\$11,264	Georgia	\$8,550	\$9,639	5	\$9,343
average pay package	VBMB	\$12,550	Georgia	\$9,394	\$10,590	5	\$10,297
<b>full-time custodians</b>							
average compensation	Tennessee	\$22,167	SBCV	\$18,088	\$22,167	1	\$21,159
average pay package	Tennessee	\$27,094	SBCV	\$20,653	\$27,094	1	\$25,520
<b>part-time custodians</b>							
average compensation	Mississippi	\$9,201	SBCV	\$5,423	\$6,203	7	\$6,542
average pay package	Mississippi	\$9,906	SBCV	\$5,800	\$6,668	8	\$7,099

Compensation = Salary + Housing for ministers  
Salary for Non-Ministers  
Pay Package = Compensation + Protection Coverages  
(Social Security, Retirement & Insurance)

Ministry-related expenses are **not** included in the above amounts. These include the cost of ministry-related travel, continuing education, conferences, hospitality, and ministry materials such as books, tapes, and periodicals. These expenses should be paid using a valid accountable reimbursement plan and paid in addition to the "pay package."

States included in this table — Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia Baptist Mission Board, and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

# Church Staff Compensation — SBC With 2002-2000 Comparison

	2002		2000		2002		2000	
	Tennessee	Tennessee	change	% change	avg. of states	avg. of states	change	% change
<b>full-time pastors</b>								
average compensation	\$44,316	\$39,342	\$4,974	12.64%	\$43,315	\$39,187	\$4,128	10.53%
average pay package	\$53,729	\$47,568	\$6,161	12.95%	\$53,328	\$47,260	\$6,068	12.84%
<b>bivocational pastors</b>								
average compensation	\$13,364	\$11,978	\$1,386	11.57%	\$14,144	\$12,046	\$2,098	17.42%
average pay package	\$14,618	\$13,197	\$1,421	10.77%	\$15,321	\$13,128	\$2,193	16.70%
<b>full-time staff ministers</b>								
average compensation	\$42,691	\$38,818	\$3,873	9.98%	\$41,720	\$38,879	\$2,841	7.31%
average pay package	\$51,971	\$46,737	\$5,234	11.20%	\$49,828	\$46,776	\$3,052	6.52%
<b>bivocational staff ministers</b>								
average compensation	\$8,507	\$10,050	(\$1,543)	-15.35%	\$9,975	\$9,712	\$263	2.71%
average pay package	\$9,105	\$10,832	(\$1,727)	-15.94%	\$10,664	\$10,593	\$71	0.67%
<b>full-time office personnel</b>								
average compensation	\$20,691	\$19,640	\$1,051	5.35%	\$21,351	\$19,724	\$1,627	8.25%
average pay package	\$25,314	\$23,424	\$1,890	8.07%	\$25,440	\$23,678	\$1,762	7.44%
<b>part-time office personnel</b>								
average compensation	\$9,639	\$8,546	\$1,093	12.79%	\$9,343	\$9,090	\$253	2.78%
average pay package	\$10,590	\$9,340	\$1,250	13.38%	\$10,297	\$10,118	\$179	1.77%
<b>full-time custodians</b>								
average compensation	\$22,167	\$22,279	(\$112)	-0.50%	\$21,159	\$19,895	\$1,264	6.35%
average pay package	\$27,094	\$27,340	(\$246)	-0.90%	\$25,520	\$24,096	\$1,424	5.91%
<b>part-time office custodians</b>								
average compensation	\$6,203	\$5,832	\$371	6.36%	\$6,542	\$6,384	\$158	2.47%
average pay package	\$6,668	\$6,205	\$463	7.46%	\$7,099	\$6,995	\$104	1.49%

Compensation = Salary + Housing for ministers  
Salary for Non-Ministers  
Pay Package = Compensation + Protection Coverages  
(Social Security, Retirement & Insurance)

Ministry-related expenses are **not** included in the above amounts. These include the cost of ministry-related travel, continuing education, conferences, hospitality, and ministry materials such as books, tapes, and periodicals. These expenses should be paid using a valid accountable reimbursement plan and paid in addition to the "pay package."

States included in this table — Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas/Nebraska, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland/Delaware, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Northwest (Washington/Oregon), Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Utah/Idaho, Virginia Baptist Mission Board, Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, and West Virginia.

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# UPDATE

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

## From the Group Leader

newspaper reporter recently asked me how volunteer missions have changed since September 11. My answer has been that volunteer missions activity has increased.

Some groups had to make adjustments to schedules, but they have not stopped going on mission trips.

While overseas missions trips do not seem to be affected, there are also many more people interested in missions opportunities in our state and nation.

Since September some have even retooled to specific ministries.

In this issue of the Volunteer Missions Update, you will find several articles about volunteers now trained to do crisis intervention. This is a new strategy for some Tennessee pastors, but their new skills have been used in Tennessee, Georgia, New York, and the Middle East. That is one example of what volunteers have done in the past 10 months.

Tennessee Baptist volunteers that I know have not let their fears get in the way of ministry. There is a resurgence of awareness and activity among missions volunteers to do the will of God. They are still going and serv-



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## Summer missionaries minister in state

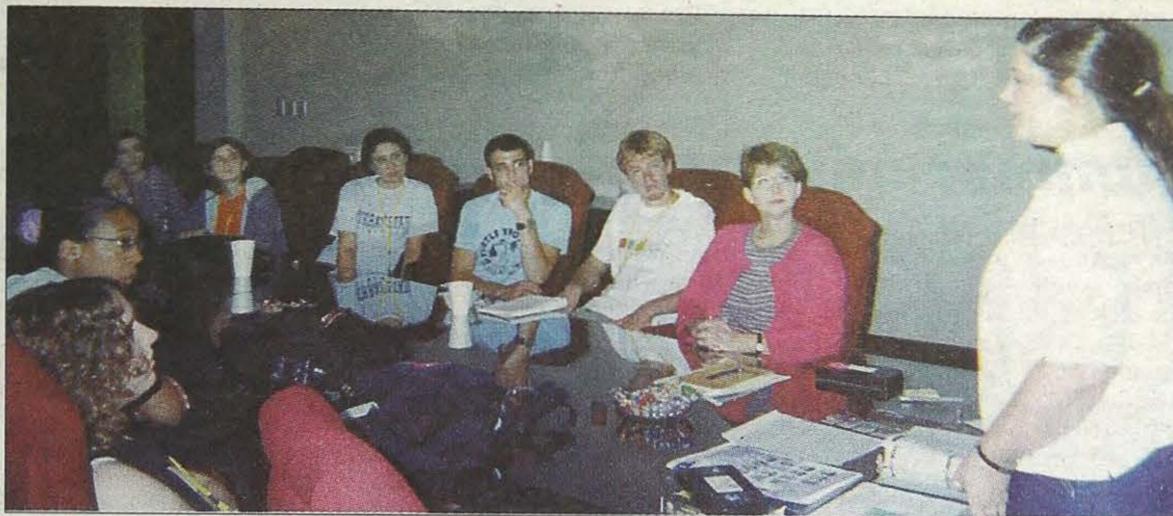
By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Around 90 Student Summer Missionaries are now canvassing the state of Tennessee doing ministry. Out of the 90 student missionaries, five are either high school seniors or recently graduated seniors, 83 are college students, and two are elementary school teachers.

As part of the May 29-31 field service training held at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, the summer missionaries attended special training sessions in games and recreation, age-graded teaching, evangelism, and Cooperative Program/Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. Teaching the CP/GOTM session was WMU youth specialist, Amanda Day.

According to Day, student missionaries saw how CP and State Missions dollars are at work in CP/GOTM session.

"The summer missionaries now have a greater awareness of how students are playing a part in how our dollars are being used," Day said. "Hopeful-



AMANDA DAY of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff leads a workshop for summer missionaries on the Cooperative Program and Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

ly, as students serve on their fields they will be able to tell others about CP/GOTM.

"All state conventions have state missions offerings and all state conventions receive CP dollars. When the students return to their home churches, they will have more knowledge on how the offerings work.

"A good percentage of the student missionaries who were raised in Southern Baptist churches had never heard about CP and state missions

offerings. This points out a need for continued education of all church members for use of offerings dollars."

Summer missionaries who attended the breakout sessions came from 21 different states including Tennessee and 24 were from Tennessee.

"The Lord laid it on my heart to serve as a summer missionary," said Britt Benson of Durham, North Carolina, who will serve at Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries in

Gatlinburg. Benson, one of five high school sojourners, is a senior at Riverside High School and will serve as the chaplain for her Junior ROTC Unit.

As First Lt. Flight Commander for the Junior Air Force at Riverside High, Benson may find her military talents useful this summer teaching BYBCs, working in camps, and doing worship in Smoky Mountain National Park.

"I will be working with summer missionaries."  
— See Summer, page 8

## Crisis intervention team helps Ardmore team

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — A Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Crisis Intervention team responded June 20 to Cash Point Baptist Church, Ardmore, to help an evacuated church mission team, who were stranded during recent riots at the Arequipa, Peru, airport.

The eight-member Crisis Intervention team responded to a call by Cash Point Church pastor, Kevin Shearer, who had contacted his friend and TBC staff member Don Pierson. Ironically, Pierson also serves as State Disaster Relief Chaplain coordinator. Shearer met Pierson as the former William Carey Baptist Association director of missions.

"I knew the trauma that I saw on some of mission team members' faces when we left on the plane from the Peru airport," said Shearer. "I knew that we were going to have to do some intervention work due

to the latter part of the trip."

According to Shearer, 11 members of the Cash Point Church mission team were stranded for 33 hours at the Arequipa airport during the June 15-16 riots

while 8 other members of the team flew out earlier from the airport to Lima. Those stranded at the airport experienced apparent tear gas, three aborted evacuations, going without food or medication, frustration, and lack of concern from the American embassy and Peruvian government.

Shearer, a former IMB missionary for 13 years in Peru, had already experienced crisis intervention while serving as a church planter in Arequipa. Shearer and his wife Pam were serving the Organization of Southern Baptists in Peru

when missionary business manager Gary Crowell was shot in 1994 during a robbery; missionary Wade Watts and his family were injured in a car wreck; missionary Lynn Davidson was killed in a plane crash; and missions administrator Larry Phillips suffered a heart attack, all in 1996.

According to Shearer, he called Pierson to help his church cope with the stress of the evacuation situation, which had resulted in one team member not even being able to leave home to go to Wal-Mart.

Serving along with Pierson on the Crisis Intervention team were members and their churches: Trish Pierson, First Baptist Church of Taft; Steve Hayes, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville minister of counseling; Mike and Connie Stricklin, Hopewell Baptist Church of Savannah; Charles Richards, William Carey Association director of missions; Tom Dumser, First Baptist

Church of Lewisburg pastor; and Mike Burgess, Lakeview Baptist Church, Cornersville, pastor.

The Crisis Intervention team worked with mission team members, spouses, and indirect trauma victims including church members and others. The intervention team encouraged people to tell their stories and express their feelings. According to Pierson, crisis intervention explores ventilation, validation, prediction, preparation, and grief response to a traumatic experience.

"God engineered every section of this trip," Shearer added. "From my crisis experience in Peru, intervention used as an outlet for adverse stress is not an unspiritual thing, and it becomes an important part of the process. I don't think that the need for crisis intervention takes away from the spirituality of the mission trip."

According to Tim Bearden,  
— See Crisis, page 8



SHEARER

# Intervention team helps laid-off employees in Lewisburg

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — New Duck River Baptist Association planned and responded recently to a crisis intervention as a result of an announced plant closing in February 2002 in Lewisburg where about 2,000 people would lose their jobs, according to a Tennessee Baptist pastor.

"The association planned a Disaster Relief crisis intervention as sort of a test run to minister to people in our

churches, who would be effected by the plant closing," said Tom Dumser, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lewisburg. "The group had trained in February with NOVA and were ready to try the process.

"The factory closing has been an ongoing process and is expected to be closed by the end of the year. Work releases are now beginning to be given."

The team consulted with the mayor of Lewisburg's office. The mayor suggested a conference room at City Hall where the meeting could be held. The

crisis intervention was announced in the association churches as a dry run. Around 35 people attended the meeting where mostly grief was expressed and anticipated grief was discussed.

"Until people are given notice and some people no longer go to work everyday what we did was somewhat premature," said Dumser. "However, it gave us an opportunity to do group crisis intervention in responding and get feedback from the participants.

"Working with other state and city agencies, who also respond in job crisis

situations, gave us the opportunity to see about counseling other people on new jobs and retraining. We impressed the government agencies with our response.

"This plant closing will have a major impact on the economy and the community of Lewisburg. The effected workers feel like the plant owners did not try help the community by closing it or by not offering to sell it to someone else. However, some people have been offered other jobs in another location if they would relocate." ■

## Summer missionaries minister in state ...

— Continued from page 7  
mer migrant workers on the Cumberland Plateau farms who pick up the vegetables," said Jose Luis Espinosa of San Antonio, Texas. "I will be teaching ESL classes, which we plan to use as a hook to bring the migrant workers to church."

A student at the Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio, Espinosa will be teaching ESL and holding Hispanic worship services for the Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association.

"I am passionate about kids," said Mark Whitman of Hays, Kansas. "Children are God's calling on my life. At

Street Reach in Memphis I will be working with a wider age group than what I teach in either kindergarten or first grade."

Whitman attends Agape Southern Baptist Church in Hays. He will work as staff at Memphis Street Reach where he will direct high school and college students in BYBC, construction, and worship services.

Amy Redmon attends Liberty Baptist Church in Wartburg and teaches the third grade at Central Elementary School, also in Wartburg. She will be assisting Big Emory Baptist Association.

"I'm staying at home and

doing whatever the association tells me to do along with VBS and BYBCs," Redmon said. "I live 15 minutes from the association office. I've always wanted to do missions.

"Our director of missions, David Acres, for Big Emory Baptist Association, asked me to do missions in our



DISCUSSING their assignments are, from left, Jose Luis Espinosa, Britt Benson, Amy Redmon, and Mark Whitman.

area. In fact, I am the first summer missionary that Big

Emory Association has ever had." ■

## Crisis intervention team helps Ardmore ...

— Continued from page 7  
state Disaster Relief director, the purpose of the Crisis Intervention Team is to help teams and individuals cope emotionally and spiritually with situa-

tions that they cannot handle alone.

Shearer noted part of the crisis intervention process includes education, grief response, and coping mechanisms.

"I have already experienced at home in Ardmore a trigger response to the trauma from the sounds of local helicopter, which resulted in a wave of sadness linking

back to one of the aborted evacuation attempts from a helicopter."

Since the mission team has returned home to Ardmore, the church has received three invi-

tations to return to Peru and to other areas of South America.

"God has opened doors through this whole thing," Shearer noted. ■



### Gallatin church holds event for rescue workers

The wife of a rescue worker receives a rose from a member of College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin, at a May 4 banquet held by the church for about 250 rescue workers from the area. The "Saving Lives Together" banquet was originally planned to be held before Sept. 11. After the tragedy, the church knew it had to honor the workers, said Ed Summers, minister of education. Joe Williams, an FBI chaplain of Oklahoma City who has worked in New York City, spoke. The chiefs of two city police and fire departments were honored. About 100 church members served the rescue workers at a community center.

## 2003 Simultaneous Revivals set in Rio

For "TBVMN Update"

Over 100 evangelism teams are needed August 4-12, 2003, to serve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the third annual Simultaneous Revivals, according to Missions Awareness and Mobilization Team Group Leader Tim Bearden.

The theme for this year's revivals is "The Cries Raising from the City," based on Psalms 88:1-2. Revivals will be held for four days in local churches and a citywide crusade will be held Saturday. Each team will consist of a preacher, musician, and layperson.

The cost of the evangelism trip is \$1,885, which is subject to change. The price includes: airfare, room and board, travel expenses, IMB insurance, T-shirt, translators, tourism, and visa. A \$100 deposit is due April 4, 2003.

Those going on the team need to attend one of three orientation sessions to be held: April 26 for East Tennessee (location to be announced); May 10 for Middle/West Tennessee (location to be announced); or June 28 for make-up session at Baptist Center in Brentwood.

For more information, contact the Volunteer Missions Team at: Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Or call 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061. ■

## Tennesseans take advanced NOVA training

For "TBVMN Update"

Seven Tennessee Baptists were among the first group of Southern Baptists to be trained in Advanced Crisis Response by the National Organization of Victim's Advocates (NOVA) May 12-15 at Camp McCall in Pickens, South Carolina.

Participants and their churches were: Don Pierson, State Disaster Relief Crisis

Intervention Coordinator; Lloyd Blackwell, State Disaster Relief Construction coordinator; Dan Haskins, pastor of Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church, Crossville; Rocky Churchwell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jamestown, Ste Haynes, minister of counseling at Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville; and Mike and Connie Stricklin, both of Hopewell Baptist Church of Savannah.

# Tennesseans begin crisis intervention ministry

"TBVMN Update"

As a result of the events in New York City on 9-11, Tennessee Baptists have embarked on a new min-

istry of crisis intervention, according to State Disaster Relief director Tim Bear- den.

Trained crisis interven- tion teams have not only re-

sponded to NYC, but they have also responded to two crisis situations within Ten- nessee. A crisis intervention team from New Duck River Baptist Association re-

sponded to a factory closing in Lewisburg in February 2002 where 2,000 people will lose their jobs by the end of the year.

Another team responded

in June 2002 to a mission team who were trapped for several hours during rioting while on an overseas trip. The team had to be evacuat- ed out of the country. ■

## Intervention teams mobilize

"TBVMN Update"

Sept. 11 brought many changes to South- Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief efforts," according to a Ten- nessee Baptist Disaster Relief NOVA Coordinator. "One of these changes was the development of Crisis Intervention Teams of both men and women, trained in crisis inter- vention counseling.

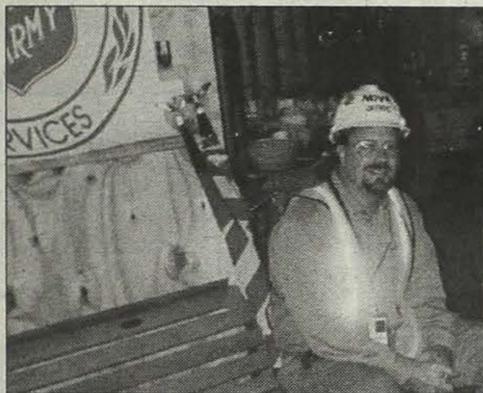
As coordinator for Ten- nessee Baptist's Disaster Relief Crisis Intervention Teams, months since Sept. 11 left me frantic in prepar- ing myself, and helping others prepare to be ready in and out of season as crisis interven- tion said Don Pierson, State Disaster Relief Crisis Inter- vention Coordinator.

Pierson was one of a three- member NOVA team, who worked May 25-June 2 at Ground Zero in New York City the final Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Crisis inter- vention team. Besides Pierson the team were Bennie Sweetwater Baptist As- sociation director of missions, Jim Bishop, pastor of First Baptist Church of Telli- son brought back sever- al impressions of Ground Zero, which showed examples of Christ's love.

The first is my awe at in- ternational ministry at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, which sits outside the barri- ers of Ground Zero. The church has become a place of refuge for the relief workers rotating 24-hours, 7-days a week where people can find a place to sleep, food to eat, and listening ears."

St. Paul's Church is an open bulletin board of love. The fence that surrounds the church, and its walls and pews are barely be seen due to the posters and cards that cover the area.

Each night the workers find a place to sleep while playing the day someone plays piano, violin, and other in- struments. There is a chiro- practor on duty 24-hours, free of charge, to help the workers with the stress. Counselors of different faiths sit talking to persons throughout the



**DON PIERSON** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff works the night shift at the construction site at Ground Zero.

sanctuary.

"I don't know what kind of church it was before Sept. 11, but it is obvious what kind of church it has become in this time period. George Washington may have prayed there years ago, but Christ Himself is there now. What the enemy meant for evil, God has used to make Himself known through His people.

"The second thing I brought back from Ground Zero was an understanding of the power of hope. It was on the plane from Charlotte, North Carolina, to New York that I had my di- vine appointment with 'Jane.'"

During the next hour and 50 minutes, Jane shared with Don about her life. Jane, 40- years-old, had had seven abor- tions, a life of shame, sub- stance abuse, and pain. Re- cently, she encountered Jesus and gained hope.

"Isn't that what God does?" Pierson remarked.

"At Ground Zero I was also reminded of the importance of a ministry of 'being.'"

It was almost 4 a.m. when Pierson met "John" for the first time. John had lost his son in the World Trade Center explosion, and John spent most of his time trying to find his son. Pierson and John sat on the edge of the Pit while John told his story.

"I felt totally helpless, I wanted to 'fix' John to relieve his pain, but all I could do was listen," Pierson added.

"We didn't bring God there, but we were aware of His pres- ence. He offered to us a ministry of 'being.' God offered no an- swers, and He was just with us.

"I had tried to do the same for John," Pierson said. "God offers to us a ministry of presence, of 'being,' and He calls us to a ministry of 'be- ing.'" ■

## Crisis team ministers in New York City

For "TBVMN Update"

Five crisis response inter- ventionists from Tennessee recently returned from serv- ing a week at the World Trade Center site in New York City as a response for assistance from NOVA (National Organi- zation for Victim Assistance).

The April 13-21 team con- sisted of two pastors, one lay- person, two directors of mis- sions from Tennessee, and a NOVA representative from Iowa.

From New Duck River Baptist Association were: James Hickey, pastor of East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg; Larry Chatman, pastor of Holts Corner Baptist Church, Chapel Hill; Barbara Clevenger, member of Shel- byville Mills Baptist Church; Dan Clevenger, director of missions of New Duck River Baptist Association, both of Shelbyville. Others on the team were: Dale Ledbetter, director of missions of Maury Baptist Association; and Bar- bara Hirsch Giller, NOVA representative of Des Moines, Iowa.

The NOVA trained team ministered in many different ways to construction workers, security personnel, families of victims, police, firemen, care- givers, and other responders to the World Trade Center re- covery team. Recovery work at the site continued around the clock, and crews worked 12-hour shifts.

Team members were divid-

ed into three shifts to ensure the continuing presence of a listening ear or emotional support. Plans for the day were frequently changed as the team responded to needs that surfaced. The team lis- tened, ran errands, fetched cold drinks, and provided spiritual care.

As the recovery work neared completion, a sense of urgency permeated the recov- ery teams. The team's sense of unity of purpose and shared sorrow facilitated es- tablishing relationships.

Whether it was keeping a promise to bring a cup of coffee to a weary security guard at 3 a.m., or sitting with a group of exhausted construction work- ers and providing a compas- sionate presence, the team provided hope. All these efforts were opportunities to show Christian compassion and the love of Christ to a community

still searching for answers.

Others told of the effect of the long hours on their fami- lies. Many workers have worked for weeks without a day off from work. There was already a sense of loss and a grieving process at the immi- nent closing down of the re- covery operation.

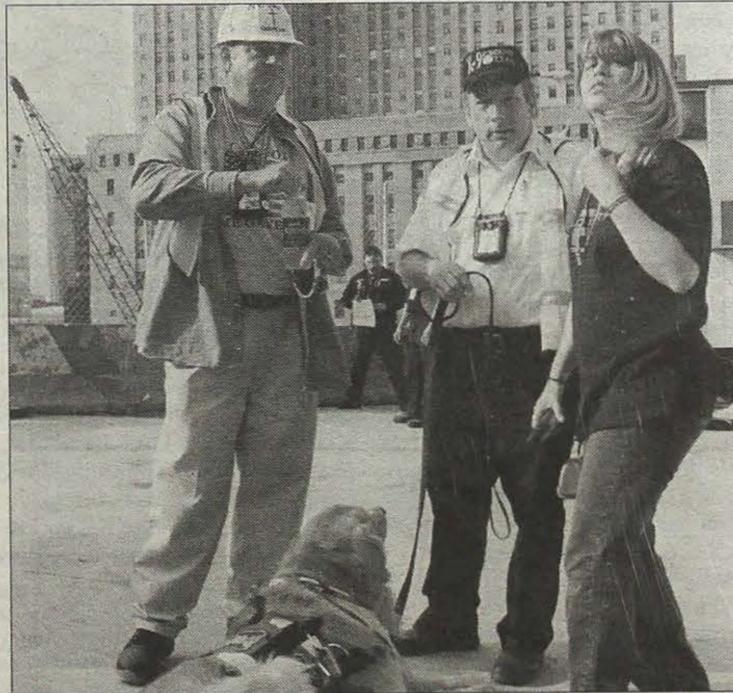
All these concerns add up to powerful emotions. The team was careful to listen, watch for signs of stress, and take opportunity to provide encouragement and hope.

The team stood at the perimeter of the seven story deep chasm and observed the hundreds of construction and recovery workers at their varied tasks.

Policemen still surround the area of destruction, keep- ing a high level of security. There is a profound sense of the enormity of loss and the scope of the tragedy. ■



**NOVA CHAPLAINS** worked at the Hard Hat Cafe located at Ground Zero where workers relaxed and had refreshments.



**DURING A CONVERSATION** with an EMT worker, center, at Ground Zero are NOVA inter- ventionists Jack Taylor, left, pas- tor, Santa Fe Baptist Church, Santa Fe, and Nicole Stutzman of Des Moines, Iowa. Taylor worked May 18-26 with a six- person team from Iowa.

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
<b>2002 Rio Projects</b>				
Rio de Janeiro		Medical/evangelism clinic.	10/18-26	25 max
<b>2002 Portugal Projects</b>				
Oliveira do Hospital	PM12002109	Choir/orchestra to perform Christmas music.	12/13-21	50
Porto	PM12002107	Church choir to perform classical music in northern Portugal.	10/4-13	open
Vila Nova de Gaia	59992	Prayerwalking in the fourth largest city. Church is wanting to open new work and missions.	10/28-11/4	4
<b>2002 Canada Projects</b>				
Montreal, QB	02QUE008	Initial missions experience for churches interested in long term partnerships in Quebec.	open	1-100
In and around QB	02QUE009	Prayerwalking in five of the most unchurched cities.	9/7-14	4
<b>2002 Iowa Projects</b>				
Ames	IA-02-25	Survey work in community and follow-up work on campus.	9/23-30	15-25
Denison	IA-02-25	Pour sidewalks at church and conduct VBS in two small towns.	8/4-10	15-20
Wilton	IA-02-49	Canvassing, block parties, BYBC revival, VBS.	open	up to 15
Waukeg	IA-02-51	BYBC, survey, prayerwalking patch roof, plaster repair, painting, landscaping.	open	open

**Equipment Needs**

Cedar Rapids Church needs at least 3 video projectors for classrooms and one for sanctuary. They are setting up a new church building.

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

**Belmont basketball players serve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

For "TBVMN Update"

"Lord let us see people come to you," prayed a Belmont University professor and basketball coach, who along with 14 others worked May 13-24 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, doing sports evangelism ministry.

Betty Wiseman, Nashville's Belmont University Health and Human Performance associate professor/chair and mission team leader, along with 13 Belmont basketball players, and Mack Hannah, Belmont's vice president for Spiritual Development, worked for 12 days in sports evangelism ministry in Rio de Janeiro.

"God answered that prayer as we saw people come to Christ each day in Rio de Janeiro," said Wiseman. "It was obvious that from day one God was at work in Rio, and we were just fortunate to share in that work."

Besides Wiseman and Hannah, both members of Brentwood Baptist Church, others on the team and their churches were: Natalie Brown, First Baptist Church of Portland; Wes Burtner, B.J. Proffitt, Becky Schubeler, all of Brentwood Church; Chasity Campbell,

Salem Springs Baptist Church, Nashville; Ronnie Colbert, Redeeming Love Church, Decatur, Alabama; Erica Davenport, Leatherwood Baptist Church, Waynesboro; Steve Drabyn, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, La Porte, Indiana; Adam Mack, Belmont United Methodist Church, Nashville; Candice Mitchell, First Baptist Church of Sparta; Brandon Owen, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cross Plains; KiKi Radford, Bloomfield Missionary Baptist Church, Cadiz, Kentucky; and Jese Synder, Lenoir City Church of Christ.

"Our first two days were spent at the Colegio Batista, a Baptist school for Pre-K through High School, where we played basketball and ministered to kids from 2-18 years old," said Wiseman.

On Friday the team drove a distance to a rural community where Igreja Batista Memorial em Cuyricia, a Baptist church, hosted the team before taking them through the countryside on a bus to a large playground where some 200 plus kids had gathered.

"We dribbled and played basketball on dirt and grass without goals. We sweated under

the hot sun and endured the mosquitoes and gnats. The gospel was presented to all as our players shared testimonies and the plan of salvation."

While the team was waiting for a game to start, Wiseman went into the streets to hand out Portuguese tracts. When she boarded the bus, she noticed several adults gathering near an opening to a home, who were reading the tracts.

"Come on Mack let's go witness," Wiseman said. "We took a translator, left the bus, and Mack shared the gospel. All 10 adults prayed to receive Christ. We said our goodbyes, got back on the bus, and proceeded to the sports center where the game took place as scheduled, but just later.

"Sometimes God just stops us dead in our tracks and gives us a divine appointment. Praise God for unexpected opportunity

for 10 more people to receive Christ due to a delay of game. More players from the club team prayed to receive Christ after the game that night."

Sunday the team worshiped Monday the team drove to a community of favelas where they were hosted at a community soccer complex built by Brazil's retired World Cup Soccer Most Valuable player. MVP, Jorginho, a Christian, built the community center to give back

to the community.

"The last two days of the trip were spent in the schools during the afternoon and with teams the evening. Along with bags of basketballs, the team carried Portuguese New Testaments to share with new believers. Belmont basketball jerseys with John 3:16 in Portuguese on the back were given to Rio athletes. Around 75 decisions were reported to our team," Wiseman said. ■



MACK HANNAH, second from left, and Betty Wiseman, second from right, of Belmont University, witness to people in Rio de Janeiro with help from translators and other Baptists in Rio de Janeiro.

**Tennessee Projects**

**East Tennessee**

► **Kodak** — Volunteers needed to help build 5,000 sq. ft. sanctuary. Contact: Kevin Maples, Kodak Community Baptist Church, 865-932-0405.

**Middle Tennessee**

► **Clarksville** — Volunteers to do light construction of the Baptist Student building at Austin Peay University. Project includes removal of windows and installation of vinyl siding, dry wall, windows, doors and exterior lights. New fac boards for gutters and installation of gutters. Exterior painting and weather proofing of existing windows is also needed. Dates are: July-October. Contact: Jim Alexander, APSU, 931-647-6940.

► **Mt. Juliet** — Volunteers needed to build auditorium onto existing church building. Contact: Jerry Smith, Fellowship Baptist Church, 615-449-6317.

► **Nashville** — Volunteers needed to help build new block building for worship and education space. Plans are for approx. 10,000 sq. feet. Contact: Gideon Oleleye, Beautiful Gate Church, 615-568-5991.

**West Tennessee**

► **Beersheba** — Volunteers needed to build church. Church will be log construction. Dates are open. Contact: John Gross, Grace Baptist Church, 931-692-3080.

► **Ripley** — Volunteers needed to brick an existing metal church building. Dates are open. Contact: Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 731-635-7117.

► **Shelby** — Volunteers needed to build (wood frame) and brick building that will be used as a sanctuary and classrooms. Building is approx. 5,000 sq. ft. Dates are open. Contact: Vaughn Denton, Kirby Parkway Baptist Church, 901-795-4423.

► **Memphis** — Volunteers needed to resurface flat roof. Dates are open. Contact: Lisa Travis, International Baptist Church, 901-373-6161.

► **Nashville** — Volunteers needed to replace roof shingles, replace kitchen cabinets, repair sheetrock, paint and re carpet worship area. Dates: ASAP. Contact: Christopher Daniel, New Dimension, 901-398-3529.

**schools**

**Union University, Jackson**, will host its 2002 **Factors' School** July 29-Aug. 1. Featured speakers are **Franklin Pollard**, president of **Mississippi Baptist Convention**, and retired pastor of **First Baptist Church, Jackson**, and **Rick White**, pastor of **First Baptist Church, Franklin**. Other speakers include **Paul Jackson**, Union pastor; **Greg and Sheila McLen**, **First Baptist Church, Fenwald**; and **Charles Filer**, vice president for development and church relations at Union. For more information including costs, call the department of church services at (615) 661-5160.

**churches**

**First Baptist Church, Middleton**, will celebrate becoming on July 28. Activities begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Former pastor **Bill Wain**, pastor from 1951-1991, will speak during the 10:55 a.m. worship service. Following church lunch, an afternoon message will be brought by **Her-**



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTEREY**, broke ground June 2 for a new family life center. The theme of the building project is "Together We Will!" The facility will include a recreation area, classrooms, a fellowship hall, and kitchen. Participating in the service were, from left, **Frank Hickman**, director of missions, **Stone Baptist Association**; **Robert Jernigan**, **James Robbins**, **Morgan Wells**, Pastor **Barry Purser**, **Stephen Peters**, **Monty Johnson**, chairman of the building committee, and **Jerry Hackworth**, chairman of deacons.

**bert Higdon**, interim pastor of the church from 2000-2002.

■ **First Baptist Church, Sparta**, will celebrate its 73rd anniversary/homecoming on July 21. All former members are invited to attend. The morning service begins at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and a 1 p.m. service. Six former pastors are slated to attend.

■ Eight young people and two adults from **Ooltewah**

**Baptist Church, Ooltewah**, are participating this week through July 20 on a **World Changers** event in **Murphy, N.C.** The group is helping members of the community with various work projects.

■ **Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis**, will sponsor a mission team of two men and 10 women to minister to the women of the **Kavango Baptist Association** in **Namib-**

**ia, South Africa** July 29-Aug. 9. The team will minister during a ladies retreat which is expected to draw 370 women. The team is led by **Ricky Barren** and his wife, **Amy**, director of women's ministry at **Kirby Woods**.

■ **First Baptist Church, Crossville**, will celebrate its 90th anniversary Aug. 11. The celebration will be the first service in its new facility. Activi-



ties will include worship at 10:15 a.m., a luncheon, and afternoon service. For more information, call the church at (931) 484-3532.

**events**

■ All retired missionaries in Tennessee are invited to attend a **Retired Missionary Fellowship** on Sept. 7 at the Baptist Center in **Brentwood** from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., sponsored by the **Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group** with the **Woman's Missionary Union**. Guest speaker will be **Beverly Smothers**, TBC church community ministries specialist. Those who wish to attend need to RSVP by Aug. 26 to **Heather Wilson** at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2061 or (615) 371-2061.

**"Touching the World Through Prayer"**

August 16-17

Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville

**Speakers:**  
**Reid**, Professor of Evangelism, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.  
**Hunt** — Well-known author and public speaker on prayer, Spring, Texas  
**Ms. M. Porch** — Executive Director-Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention

**Conference Leaders:**

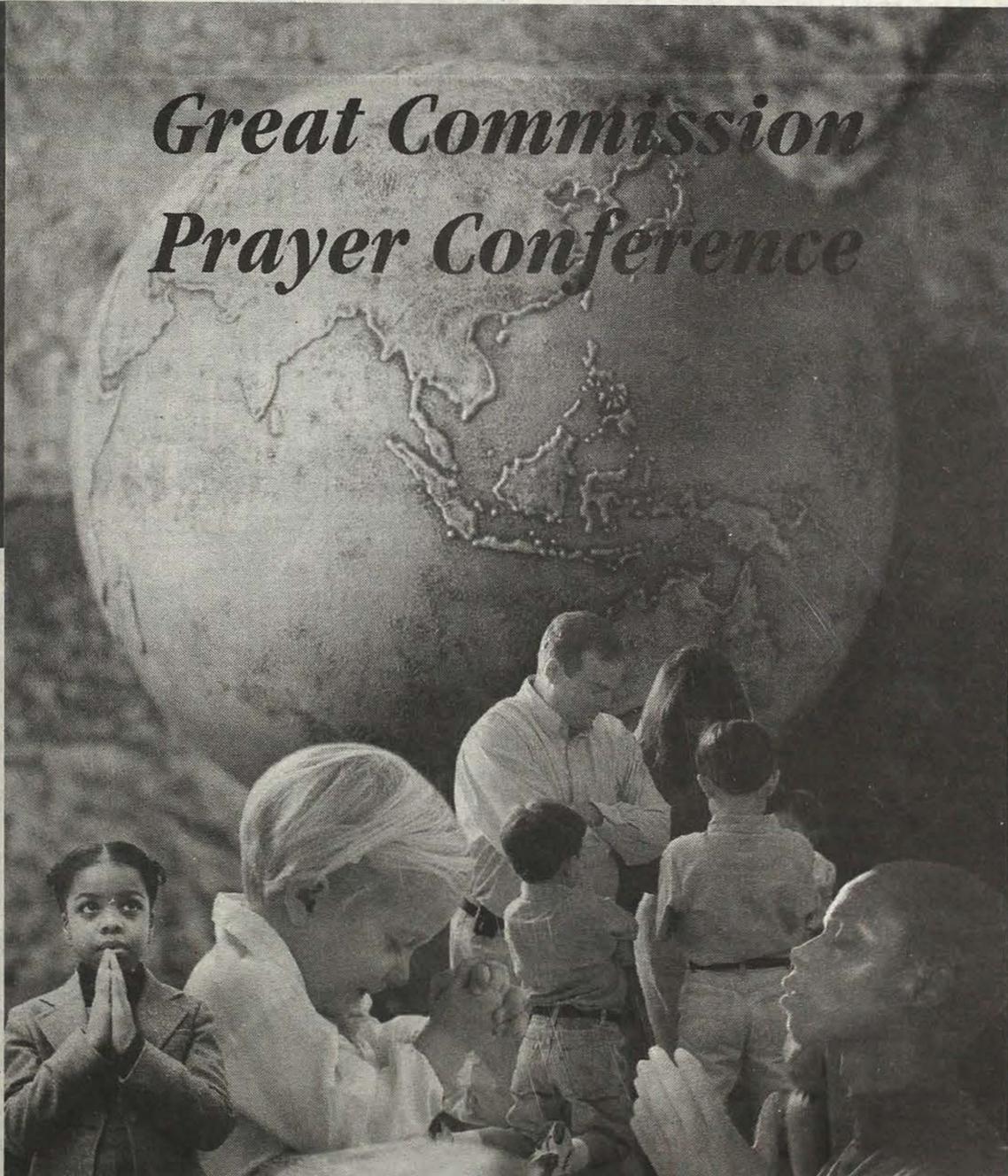
<b>Davenport</b>	<b>Elaine Helms</b>	<b>Larry Robertson</b>
<b>Wyn Outland</b>	<b>Leighann McCoy</b>	<b>Chris Schofield</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>S.B. Park</b>	<b>Randy Sprinkle</b>
<b>erto Gama</b>	<b>Don Pierson</b>	<b>Gene Williams</b>
<b>Glatt</b>	<b>Trish Pierson</b>	<b>Becky York</b>

**Schedule**

**Friday, August 16**  
 2:00 p.m. Registration opens for Church/Associational Prayer Coordinators  
 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Church/Associational Prayer Coordinators Training  
 5:30 p.m. Registration for Everyone  
 7:00 p.m. - 7:40 p.m. Worship  
 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Breakout Session  
**Saturday, August 17**  
 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Focused Corporate Prayer Time  
 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Breakout Session  
 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Worship



Registration fee per person is \$10.00.  
 Registration deadline is August 5, 2002, in order to receive conference materials.  
 Registration at the door is \$15.00 per person.  
 Checks payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention and return with identification and contact information to Prayer Strategies, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.  
 For conference and registration information, please call **Bernie Baker** at 1.800.558.2090 or 615.791.7925. Or check [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).



**Great Commission Prayer Conference**



national news

### SBC broadcast pioneer Paul M. Stevens dies

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Paul M. Stevens, the man credited with shaping the Baptist Radio and Television Commission into one of the most influential forces in religious broadcasting during his tenure as president from 1953 to 1977, died July 10.

Stevens, 86, had recently suffered a major heart attack while in surgery and never fully recovered, said David Clark, who currently holds Stevens' office as president of FamilyNet Inc. and vice president for broadcast communications of the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"Paul Stevens was one of the most innovative, insightful Christian broadcasters that we have ever had," said Clark, a former National Religious Broadcasters chairman.

Many of the RTV's core strategies for reaching the nation through broadcasting were birthed by Stevens, Clark said. Initially the commission's only offering was "The Baptist Hour" but Stevens was an innovator in developing programs designed to appeal to non-Christian audiences. Those programs — "Powerline," "CountryCrossroads" and "Master Control" — are still core offerings today, airing free of charge on more than 1,500 stations around the country.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; three sons, Paul Stevens Jr. of San Diego, John Stevens of Fort Worth and Mark Stevens, also of Fort Worth; a daughter, Mary Stevens of Fort Worth; and six grandchildren. ■

### CBF elects Holmes moderator-elect, adopts budget

Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship elected a Missouri lay woman as moderator-elect at the organization's annual General Assembly June 27-29 here.

Cynthia Holmes of Clayton, Mo., is a St. Louis-area attorney and a member of Overland Baptist Church. She has served several years on the CBF's Coordinating Council, currently as an at-large member, and chairperson of the council's legal committee.

Holmes will serve next year as moderator-elect before becoming the Fellowship's top elected leader in 2003-2004. Phill Martin of Richardson, Texas, elected last year as moderator-elect, takes over as moderator this year from Virginia pastor Jim Baucom.

Holmes will be the sixth woman to assume leadership in the CBF since it organized in 1991.

During the General Assembly, CBF Coordinator Dan Vestal said his vision for CBF is the same as his vision for the church, to represent Christ in the world.

"The mission given by God to every Christian and every church is to be an embodiment of Christ, an extension of Christ," Vestal said. "We are to be what Christ was while He was on this earth."

In a business session, CBF registrants approved a \$19.2 million budget for 2002-2003. Fifty-eight percent of that amount, \$11.2 million, is earmarked for global missions. The budget anticipates \$10.1 million in undesignated gifts and a \$6.1 million goal for the CBF's global-missions offering. Other expenditures include \$1.2 million in institutional support for 11 theology schools and partial support for several other "partner" organizations, including the Baptist Joint Committee, Associated Baptist Press, *Baptists Today*, the Baptist Center for Ethics, the Center for Christian Ethics and Passport, a youth camping ministry. ■

### Cohabiting doesn't lead to committed marriages: study

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Men who cohabit with the women they eventually marry are more reluctant to marry and, then, are less committed to their marriages, according to a recent study by the co-director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver.

Women who are cohabiting "should be very careful about how aligned they are with a particular man if he does not

show any strong sense of marriage and a future together," researcher Scott Stanley said in *USA Today* July 8.

Many cohabiting couples say they want to live together in order to get a sense of what it would be like to be married to a particular person without the obligation of staying in the relationship if it does not work favorably. They also cite fears of divorce as reasons why they choose to live together rather than marry first.

Even so, the divorce rate among those who have cohabited is higher than that of those who have not.

From his study, Stanley

also suggests that less religious men were likely to be less committed.

Stanley's study is based on a sub-sample of 207 men and women married 10 years or less and chosen from ongoing marital research on 950 couples nationwide. Standard assessments of commitment were used during telephone interviews. ■

### CLASSIFIED

#### MINISTRIES — COMBINATION

Seeking minister of youth education for Victory Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Bachelor's degree required, secondary degree desirable. Full position in a growing church (350-400 in worship) in a growing area of Lexington. Interested applicants send resume to Search Committee, Victory Baptist Church, 2 Armstrong Mill Rd., Lexington, KY 40515.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Used oak pews (15 feet) each. Prospect Baptist Church, 32 Prospect Rd., Fayetteville, TN 37334, (931) 433-6952.

Sale: Six (6) foot Grand Piano manufactured by George S. Polished ebony (black). Excellent condition: \$5,900. Will count for churches. (931) 3033, McMinnville, TN.

#### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Historic Baptist church of 1 members seeks senior pastor. Seminary degrees required. Please send resume to Pastoral Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 828, Columbus, GA 31902.

Senior pastor. If the Holy Spirit leads you to answer, submit resume to Second Baptist Church, PSC, P.O. Box 1, Clinton, TN 37717.

Second Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., is accepting resumes for the office of senior pastor. We are a mission-oriented church with an emphasis on local ministries and special programs. Second Baptist is a medium size church with strong ties to the SBC, but current ties to the CBF. The church has voted to use the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message as the best representation of who we are as Baptists. Resumes may be sent to Pastoral Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38117.

#### MINISTRIES — STUDENT

Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, is currently seeking a part-time minister of youth education. Interested parties may send resume to the attention of Minister of Youth Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, Holly Lane, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

**LIFEWAY'S SUMMER READING TO WIN READING CLUB**

**The Green Flag Drops on June 15! Join in the Fun 11am-3pm.**

Parents, sign your kids up for LifeWay's Summer Reading Club—Reading to Win. This 11-week program is designed to help children develop positive reading habits and award them for their accomplishments.

**Contact your local store for details.**

Chattanooga | Johnson City | Knoxville  
 Memphis East | Memphis South  
 Franklin | Murfreesboro  
 Nashville | Union University  
 Clarksville | Knoxville West

**LifeWay CHRISTIAN STORES**  
 Helping you find the Way.

**THE UNION UNIVERSITY PASTORS' SCHOOL 2002**

**The JEWEL of Worship**

Franklin Pollard   Rick White   Charles Fowler   Greg McFadden   Sheila McFadden   Paul N. Jackson

**July 29 - August 1, 2002**

Call 731.661.5160 for registration information  
 sponsored by the R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministries

**UNION UNIVERSITY**

## leaders

**Gwen Jenkins** will be serving Aug. 1 as minister in preschool at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage.

**Shane Mitchell** has been called as associate pastor of worship and family ministry at Spring Creek Road Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

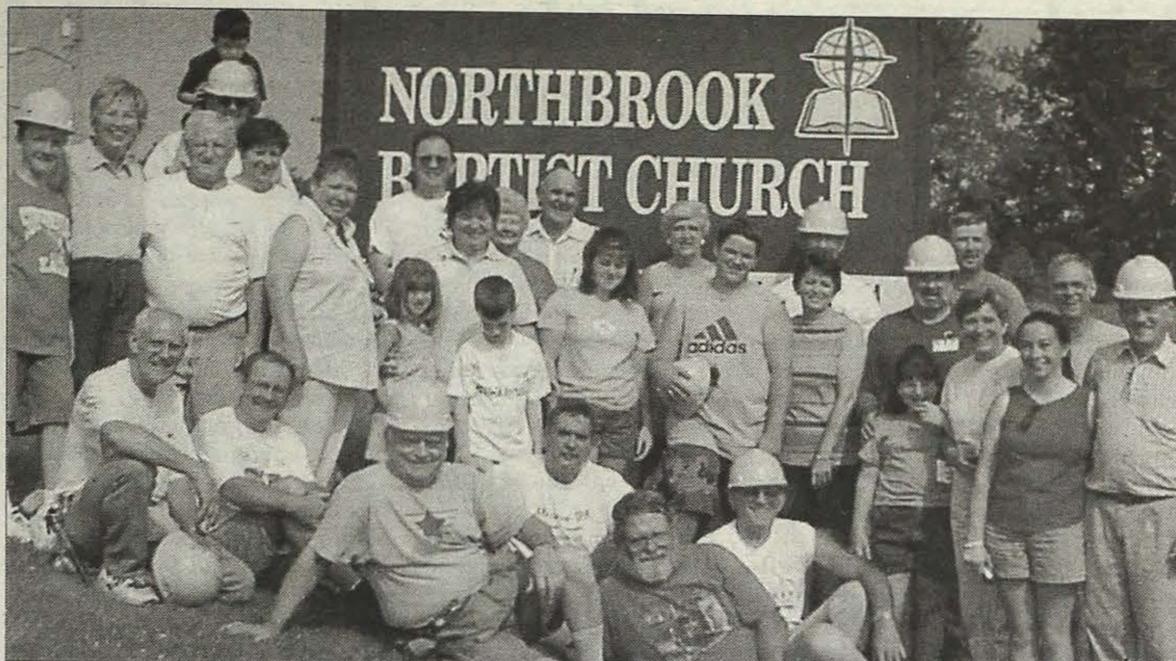
**Brad Bull** recently resigned as associate pastor of children and young adults at Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville, to work full-time on his Ph.D. in child and family studies at the University of Tennessee.

**David L. Wilson** has been called as pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, effective July 28. He formerly was pastor of a church in Lubbock, Texas, where he served from 1988. Wilson is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, Tenn.; and the University of South Alabama, Mobile, Ala.



WILSON

He is immediate past president of the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



**IN JUNE**, 26 people from First Baptist Church, Surgoinsville, along with five men from Eastanallee Baptist Church, Riceville, traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to assist Northbrook Baptist Church by conducting a Backyard Bible Club and doing exterior and interior painting on the multi-purpose building Northbrook is constructing.

■ **Jaime Hagan** has been called as associate pastor for student and recreation ministries at First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

■ Hopewell Baptist Church, Savannah, has called **Greg Wolfe** as minister of youth. He was ordained into the ministry June 23 at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Savannah.

■ **Marty Estes** has been called as minister to children and youth at First Baptist Church, Adamsville.

■ **Phil Holland**, minister of youth and children, was or-

derained July 7 by First Baptist Church, Counce.

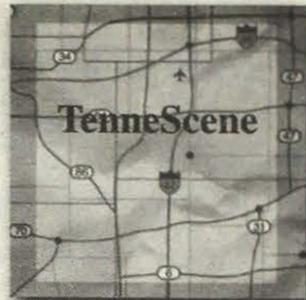
■ **Tony Hicks** has resigned as music minister at Living Springs Baptist Church, Smyrna, effective July 31. He will be available for interims, revivals, and fill-in assignments. His number is (615) 867-9036.



■ **Charles Conley**, 76, retired director of missions for Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association, died July 3. The

Chattanooga native preached for 56 years. At the time of his death he was serving as pastor of Lee Station Baptist Church, Pikeville. Conley is survived by his wife Doris; two daughters, Charlotte Conley and Deby Hart of Whitwell; three sons, Stephen Conley of Murfreesboro, Mark Conley of York, Pa., and Jere Conley of Knoxville; and 11 grandchildren.

■ **Bob E. Bell**, senior pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland, died July 10 in a Chattanooga hospital after a short illness. The Co-



lumbia native was 65. Bell moved to Cleveland in 1977 from a church in Carlisle, Ohio. Under his leadership Westwood grew and moved into a new facility within the past two years. Bell served as a trustee of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, as a member of the Committee on Committees of the Southern Baptist Convention, and was a past president of the Ohio Baptist Pastors' Conference. He is survived by his wife, Anne; a son, Robert Todd Bell; and a daughter, Beverly Ann Bell.

## associations

■ The **Sweetwater Baptist Association** Gambling Free Task Force is holding a Monroe County Rally July 19 at 7 p.m. at Fairview Baptist Tabernacle, Sweetwater. Also a 6 p.m. banquet for pastors and wives, advocate speakers, and other guests will be hosted by the association. For more information, contact the association at (423) 442-6604.

UNION UNIVERSITY PRESENTS  
**CELEBRATE TODAY**

Musical Guest Becky Howard • Keynote Speaker Franklin Pollard • Musical Guest Four Fold

## THE SEVENTH ANNUAL SENIOR ADULT EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, August 1, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call The Office of Church Services at 731.661.5160



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, Somerville, helped Pastor Bob Elliott celebrate 50 years of ministry on Sunday, June 30. Elliott spent a number of those years in part-time or interim pastorates while serving as vice president of business affairs at Union University in Jackson.



**MEMBERS OF THE** youth group of Friendship Baptist Church, Beech Bluff, gather after hearing Jeff Gaia, left, kneeling, a mortician of McKenzie who uses his profession as a ministry. Leaders of the group are Ronnie Sells, left, pastor, and James and Carol Taylor, right, standing, youth leaders.

# LifeWay officials concerned about bus safety

By Mandy Crow  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The hazy, lazy days of summer may mean long afternoons by the pool for many, but for others, the welcome break from school or work means a chance to hit the road.

That's especially true for churches, where the changing season marks a time of record travel as members take to the roads in the church bus or van for various activities such as mission trips and recreational outings.

Safety may have always been an issue, but this summer it's even more important, as churches, colleges, and other organizations consider the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's cautionary warning in April to users of 15-passenger vans.

The NHTSA is warning users of an increased rollover risk for 15-passenger vans, especially those carrying more than 10 passengers. Other significant factors are heavy loads

and inexperienced drivers.

Through its Christian Stores Division, LifeWay is a distributor of church buses and other vehicles, said Terry Butler of LifeWay Church Buses. It uses Carpenter Buses of Brentwood, Tenn., as its endorsed provider of bus and van product lines, and churches mentioning LifeWay get a discount off the base price of buses.

"The church vehicles LifeWay endorses meet all federal safety requirements," Butler said. He noted the job of LifeWay Church Buses area is to find the best vehicle for the church.

"A lot of the work we do is consulting with churches to help them design the type of vehicle they need, depending on frequency of trips and who goes. We provide the safest and most economical vehicle within the church's budget."

Henry Headden, president of Carpenter Bus, said several transportation options are available to churches. Those options include 15-passenger buses

and Type A school buses, a vehicle that seats 12-20 adults and meets federal regulations regarding rollover and impact safety specifications.

"When churches call up and are concerned about safety, we tell them two things," he said. "Number one, we will take a van in on trade. Number two, if they are concerned about transporting their children, youth, or adults and they're really concerned about safety, we have three or four vehicle alternatives."

"A Type A school bus meets all school bus safety specifications, and we know without a shadow of a doubt that they meet all federal safety specifications," Headden said. "But a lot of churches don't want to buy a school bus. They want something for multipurpose use."

School buses today can be equipped with air-conditioning, comfortable high back seating, and custom interiors, Butler said.

Multipurpose options include

several products Butler describes as being "between a bus and a van," such as the 15-passenger compact shuttle that requires no commercial driver's license. The vehicle meets school bus safety requirements.

With safety and practicality as primary concerns, Butler and Headden offer advice to churches rethinking their transportation options.

They suggest churches adhere to current vehicle and driver safety requirements, analyze their transportation needs before buying, consider who will be traveling and for how long, and what type of luggage space is needed. A school bus may be the best option for churches transporting daycare students according to safety and liability standards, while senior adults may prefer more luggage capacity and seating options.

Churches should also consider funding, operational costs, driver license requirements, vehicle storage/security and insurance before purchasing a new church vehicle. ■



## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — OTHER

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



The Baptist History and Heritage Society is seeking an assistant director. Duties include membership files, financial records, mailing lists, order processing, web site development, annual meetings, newsletters, more. College degree, 5 years professional experience, exceptional computer skills, excellent writing and speaking abilities required. Accounting experience a plus. Salary benefits are \$38,250. Position to be filled by Dec. 31, 2002. Send cover letter and resume to Charles Deweese, Baptist History and Heritage Society, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37028.

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Moulton Baptist Church, Moulton, Ala., seeks full-time minister of music and worship. Send resumes to Pastor, Moulton Baptist Church, P.O. Box 4, Moulton, AL 35650 or email dwood@moultonbaptist.org.



Forest Hill Baptist Church, Maryville, Tenn., is seeking part-time minister of music. Submit resume to Person Committee, Forest Hill Baptist Church, 1850 Forest Hill, Maryville, TN 37803.

### MINISTRIES — STUDENT

Full-time youth minister position at River Hills Baptist Church, P.O. Box 260200, Corinth, TX, 78426. Send resumes to Bro. Bill Simmons' attention or email brobill@rhbc-online.org, phone (361) 37584; www.rhbc-online.org.



Opening for part-time youth director. Send resume to Board of Christian Education, Creek Baptist Church Sea Committee, 304 Pickens Bridge Rd., Gray, TN 37615, (423) 282-1371.



Full-time minister of students at Salem First Baptist Church. We are seeking the person God wants to lead our students in Bible study, spiritual growth, discipleship, evangelism, and fellowship. Please respond to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 721 West Main Street, Salem, IL 62881 or fbc1@nwest.net.

# Christian mass media reaches adults in surprising numbers

By Erin Curry  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — More adults experience the Christian faith through Christian media, such as radio, television, or books, than attend Christian churches, according to a new study by the Barna Research Group.

The survey found that 63 percent of American adults attended a church service during the previous month while 67 percent of Americans tuned in to Christian radio or television or read a Christian book other than the Bible.

Christian radio is the fastest-growing medium for spreading the faith, with slightly more than half the nation's adults saying they had tuned in to a Christian radio program of some type during the previous month.

Christian television draws a significant number of American adults as well, with 43 percent

claiming to have watched some Christian programming on TV during the previous month.

Thirty-three percent of adults said they read a Christian book other than the Bible during the previous month. Several Christian titles, such as the *Left Behind* series by Jerry Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, the *Jabez* series by Bruce Wilker-

son, and business books by John Maxwell, are among the country's top-selling books.

Researchers were surprised to learn that 44 percent of Americans who are associated with a non-Christian faith were reached by Christian media in the prior month. One-third of those who described themselves as either "atheist" or "agnostic"

admitted to listening, watching, or reading something related to the Christian faith. Researcher George Barna observed that large numbers of the atheists, agnostics, and adults aligned with non-Christian faiths intentionally absorb information from the Christian media in an effort to learn more about the faith. ■



## Join us this October for Chautauquas at Ridgecrest

In October your senior adults can be part of an enrichment event designed especially for them—Chautauquas. This year's Chautauquas are scheduled for the weeks of October 7-11, October 14-18, and October 21-25 at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina.

The popular fall event for senior adults promises to be a great week of Bible study, worship, and life-enriching conferences—plus, good food and fellowship! In addition, senior adults can enjoy afternoon tours that include the Biltmore Estate and other sites of interest.

Don't delay! Your senior adults will experience "Joy...For the Journey" through this inspiring and fun event. To register for the October Chautauquas at Ridgecrest, call 1-800-588-7222, fax 1-828-669-9721, or write: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770

For more information, visit [www.lifeway.com/events](http://www.lifeway.com/events)



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## Minister's Corner

by Brenton Cox

Our nation is in an uproar over the ruling of a San Francisco judge that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. He ruled that the words "under God" constitute a government endorsement of religion. This is the best example of how skewed our views have become on religion in public life.

We believe strongly in the separation of church and state. This has been a hallmark of Baptist belief since colonial times. The two institutions must remain unentangled. The state must not tax the church. The church must not be subsidized by the state. Neither must have control over the other. However, this does not mean religion must be divorced from public life. Some have the idea that the government is completely neutral toward religion, a secular state which allows people to worship as they please. That is impossible. The principles of government flow from the ideology of its founders and leaders.

The former Soviet Union was founded on atheism and Marxism. This ideology led to a regime that was oppressive and cruel. That was the natural outcome of its foundation. That government collapsed, and Russia is searching for some moral foundation to rebuild its society.

The United States was founded on an open acknowledgement of God and the principles of the pro-Christian ethic. From that theological foundation flows the belief in equality, freedom, and justice. The Declaration of Independence states we "are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights." Our Christian heritage and the very existence of our freedoms are inextricably intertwined.

In 1798, President John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of another."

In the United States, people have the right to worship any god or no god without fear of reprisal or interference. These rights must be vigorously protected, but we must be clear that these rights will not be fully available in a "secular" or "neutral" state. They will readily flourish only within the context of a faith that is openly and unapologetically "one under God." — Brenton Cox is pastor of First Baptist Church, Manchester.

## Start for Today

Fred Wood,  
professor emeritus,  
Camphis



**Start With a Smile:** College professor: "Now, students, let me give you a good motto for life: never say never. Any questions?" Girl in class: "That again." Professor: "Never say never." "Never?" Professor: "Never." Girl: "You just

**Take This Truth:** Consistency is a jewel. As we try to cover too much ground in one movement, we often end up contradicting ourselves. One cynic was probably right, however, as he said, "Inconsistency is the only thing in which men are consistent."

**Remember This Scripture:** I am not insane ... I am saying is true and reasonable. — Acts 17:18, NIV

**Pray This Prayer:** Lord, help me from being impetuous I, in my haste and excitement, make irrevocable statements.

# God wants me to be humble

By Matt Tomlin

**Focal Passage:** Exodus 18:14-24, Numbers 12:3, Hebrews 11:24-26

Moses, who had been educated as an Egyptian Prince, is described in the book of Numbers in this way, "Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3, NIV).

How did a man of such privilege develop such a great character trait? He evidently did, because he was wearing himself out, trying to be the sole judge of his people, until Jethro, his father-in-law gave him some practical advice. The advice was to delegate responsibility, by selecting judges to hear the lesser disputes, bringing only the major ones to Moses.

Moses could have had an ego problem. After all he was God's anointed leader of His people. Moses had led them out of Egypt, under the leadership of God. A lesser man would not have been willing to let go of the power that went with settling all the disputes. His word was law, and the people must obey it. But Moses was humble enough not only to listen to good advice, but to take it. Following Jethro's advice, Moses did delegate responsibility, spend more time in prayer, and saved his strength for more important matters.

## Family Bible SS Lesson — July 21

Perhaps it was this willingness to let go, that earned for him the description in Numbers of being the humblest man on the face of the earth.

What does being humble mean? A secular world view equates humility with weakness, and often lack of leadership ability. In this view humble people are seen as those who are easily intimidated by others and who are easily taken advantage of. In a secular world view this trait of character is not a desirable one at all. But in the biblical world view, humility is a quality greatly to be desired. Jesus had this trait of character, and exhibited great strength, modeling what true humility is. Jesus exhibited the kind of strength that was controlled and disciplined. Although Jesus went to the cross and was put to death, He went willingly. He could have escaped, but He chose not to do so. He was ready to pay the penalty for our sins. He followed the will of the Father in all matters.

My definition of being humble is: "being submissive to God and being willing to be led by Him." Submissiveness to God and following His leadership is often misunderstood by the world. The world has no concept of the strength gained from giving up power to let God rule our lives. That's real strength, for God is the power of the universe.



What could be stronger than letting the power of God control and work in our lives. However it is important to remember that strength and gentleness go together. Accepting good advice is not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength. The Hebrew word that is translated "humble" and "meek" is used to describe a person that is both gentle and strong. For example, my father was a gentle man. He was kind and loving toward his family. He loved the Lord and his church. But when the occasion demanded it, he could have a firm hand and a backbone of steel. Gentle but strong, humble but filled with strength that came from his sense of right and wrong.



TOMLIN

God wants us to be humble, is the title of our lesson. It is a true statement. God wants us to be strong in the biblical sense, submissive and willing to be led of Him. His leadership is what makes us the kind of person we ought to be, humble. ■ — Tomlin is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

# Unbridled ambition

By Lon Chenowith

**Focal Passage:** II Samuel 15:5-14

Ambition is an unbridled horse in the open country. Worldly ambition will give you the ride of your life! There is no bridle and no saddle on that thoroughbred! You ride hard and you ride fast and just hope to hold on longer than everyone else. That is the course Absalom chose in his bid for his father's kingdom.

It is a dangerous game to take matters into your own hands. It is a wide-open field where men manipulate events and people about their own wills and whims. Most wars have been fought for the cause of unbridled ambition and the people have suffered at the hands of power hungry men who serve only themselves — and not very well.

Absalom was handsome, tactful, and gifted in leadership qualities. His schemes and plans secured clout and backing. He had a grand plan and he worked his plan and won the hearts of the people at the city gate. The only thing that he miscalculated was his zero consultation with God, and he did not add in the reputation of his father as a great warrior.

The upstart king had deceived and plotted and committed treason with conspiracy. But he was godless

and loved only himself, while David loved the Lord and cherished the people of Israel. Absalom undermined his father's kingdom and then stole it away (v. 6). He divided the kingdom and forced Israel into civil war!

It was a big climb for thirsty ambition and then a headlong fall into an inescapable abyss. Absalom had entered a fight he could not win. Unbridled ambition leaves every man riding a mule, getting his proud head caught in a oak tree, and finally hanging between heaven and earth (II Samuel 18:9), waiting for an undignified death.

Godly ambition is altogether different. Absalom and Jesus came from the same seed — David's. Jesus rode a donkey into the same city as the Savior who paid the price of redemption and gained an eternal kingdom. Absalom gambled it all and lost everything in his hot pursuit for the prize that was not his, for a kingdom that lasted only days.

Absalom's vain ambition was not without its merit and brilliance. His plan was well-thought, though ill-conceived. He was a master politician and used the people at his will. David sent him to Hebron "in peace," but he went there to declare war! That was the last encounter

between father and son, for Absalom's driving ambition would lead to his death.

The king's son had many co-conspirators. Another theme here is loyalty. When a king is dethroned as David was, enemies rise up and true friends rally. David wrote in the Psalms: "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psalms 41:9).

Ahithophel was one such friend and trusted counselor. This grandfather of Bathsheba became chief among many who betrayed their king! Yet God sent timely encouragement in loyal friends like Zadok, Ittai, Hushai, and Barzillai. Those who were loyal suffered the grief, indignity, exile, want, and need of the hour, but they were blessed in the end.



CHENOWITH

Ungodly ambition and disloyalty plagues the church as it troubled Israel millenniums ago. Success in the church is measured by a single standard: the Great Commission. We spend a lot of time and resources on projects that really do not fit into God's plan for His church. We are riding unbridled horses that will not get us to the goals He has determined. ■ — Chenowith is pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida.



## Seven D.R. units deployed to assist flood victims

Baptist Press

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Flooding in Texas — caused by as much as 30 inches of rainfall in places — has activated seven Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units affiliated with Texas Baptist Men.

Five of the units have been deployed in south-central Texas, where 13 counties have been declared as federal disaster areas by President George W. Bush.

Two other units have been activated after flooding in West Texas, and Texas Baptist Men's two remaining

units are on standby.

At least eight people have been killed and 48,000 homes have been affected by flooding from downpours in Texas since July 1, according to Associated Press reports July 8. Various rivers have crested as high as 28 feet above flood level, the AP also noted. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has asked President Bush to declare 17 more counties as disaster areas, CNN reported.

Jared Sellers, on-site coordinator for the Baptist relief effort, said the size of the impacted area is extraordinarily large — stretching some 600 miles from Sweetwater to near Corpus Christi. The flooding also continued to hit new areas to the north, including Brownwood and Abilene, where mobile kitchens also have been deployed.

Units have prepared about 10,000 meals since the first units were deployed July 3, primarily for evacuees in shelters and for distribution by the American Red Cross. But Sellers said he expects the meal count to rise significantly in coming days.

"As the water recedes and people start returning to their homes to deal with the damage, that's when we'll see the larger meal counts," said Sellers, a member of First Baptist Church of Plains, Texas. A large portion of the evacuees are staying in motels or with friends and relatives, where they are not receiving the disaster relief meals, he said. ■

## Baptists respond to wildfires with hot meals, hugs

Baptist Press

DENVER — Fire season came early to drought-stricken Colorado this year, sparking major wildfires across the state in recent weeks. As towns and communities have been thrust into crisis, Southern Baptists have been on hand to offer help. From hot meals to hugs, Baptists from Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas have joined with Coloradans to minister through disaster relief efforts.

In communities across Colorado, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have been coordinating disaster relief efforts for evacuees, firefighters, and others involved in the crises. And in Canon City, Castle Rock, Monument, and Bayfield, Southern Baptists from other states have joined forces with the relief agencies and local churches to meet needs and minister.

As Southern Baptists work under the auspices of the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army, their distinctive yellow hats and the yellow Southern Baptist Disaster Relief logo have become recognizable. Though their efforts are mainly in cooking and meal preparation, the "official" look of the Southern Baptist teams opens doors for ministry.

"People will approach us and ask for directions or for information," said Maxine Freeman of Arkansas. "And we get to help them."

"It's not a competition with the other agencies," said Rusty Lynn, also from Arkansas, describing their unique ministry

role. "Instead, it's a big team effort."

That cooperative spirit defined Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts for years. The convention is well-known for relief agencies as having sources and the people respond quickly in times of crisis.

When the fires erupted in Colorado, both the Red Cross and the Salvation Army contacted the North American Baptist Convention's disaster relief office in Alpharetta, Ga. to request Southern Baptist disaster response teams.

The NAMB office, in Alpharetta, Ga., contacted the Baptist state conventions in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Each state then activated a unit from within their state. Individuals who have been trained and certified in disaster relief work were called and were assembled. Within 24 hours of the initial phone call, relief agencies, Southern Baptists were on the road to Colorado.

At the height of relief efforts, Southern Baptists prepared about 4,000 meals at three different locations around Colorado. They provided hot meals for evacuees, firefighters, Forest workers, police, and others involved. ■

## Citizens disagree on whether Bill predicted attacks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — A quarter of Americans say the Sept. 11 terror attacks were predicted in the Book of Revelation, a poll by *Time* magazine and has found.

Twenty-three percent of Americans said they believed the attacks were predicted in the last book of the Bible. That is three times that percent of those who said 64 percent — disagreed.

Seventeen percent of Americans said they believed the attacks were predicted in the Book of Revelation will occur in their lifetimes, compared to 4 percent who said it would occur "eventually" and 33 percent who said "it will not occur."

Poll results were released in the June 24 edition of *Time*, whose cover story is "The End & The Apocalypse." It cites the popularity of the *Left Behind* book series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins.

"Since Sept. 11, people have begun asking questions about what the Bible has to say about how the world will end," writes Nancy Gibbs, *Time* magazine's editor-at-large.

"Even among more secular Americans, there were those who were primed to see the attacks as a sign of the end of the world."



## Observe Baptist and Reflector Day Sunday, Aug. 18

Baptist and Reflector Day is the day set aside on the calendar of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to recognize

the *Baptist and Reflector*, the official newsjournal of the TBC. The paper is sent weekly (excluding four weeks a year) into nearly 50,000 homes, reaching a potential readership of more than 100,000 people each week. The paper's goal is simple: to tell the story of Tennessee Baptists.

Tennessee Baptists have a great story to tell and we want as many Tennessee Baptists as possible to know what is happening in their state convention. **This year's observance will have an added dimension because we are introducing a new look.**

To celebrate *B&R* Day, the Aug. 14 issue of the paper will send, **at no cost**, papers to distribute to every member of your congregation on Aug. 18 (or any other day you choose). All you need to do is complete the form below and return it to:

**Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.**  
**You may also fax your requests for *B&R* Day to: (615) 371-2080**  
**Forms need to be received by Aug. 5.**

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