

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

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Campers on Mission

Tennessee group aids small United Methodist church

Gennie Wilkey
Staff Writer and Reflector

VONORE — A 170-year-old United Methodist church here has received this summer from an unlikely source — Tennessee Baptists.

Walnut Grove United Methodist Church, located in rural Monroe County, has a rich heritage, said Pastor Jim Haggard.

Volunteers stayed at the church during the Civil War and the building was used as a school over the years, he recalled.

War and tear on the original church building, however, has taken its toll, Haggard said, noting it is literally falling apart.

But the small congregation did not have the resources to construct a new building. They sought help from the local United Methodist district but the district was unable to give them assistance, Haggard related.

Then along came the Baptists — particularly Tennessee Baptists Campers on Mission.

Joe Little, a member of First Baptist Church in Sweetwater, learned about Walnut Grove from his son-in-law,

John Anderson, who was reared in the church. Anderson still has relatives at Walnut Grove.

Little and others from Tennessee Baptists Campers on Mission looked at the needs of the church and the organization adopted the church as one of its projects for the year.

Since construction on the new building began in March, about 40 Baptists have helped on the project, Little said.

While most have been with TBCOM, some campers from the national Campers on Mission organization also participated, he said.

Frank and Martha Robinson of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, moved their camper on site to serve as coordinators.

"Ever since the project started the Lord has worked everything out," Robinson noted, who along with his wife, are volunteers with the North American Mission Board's MOST (Missions on Short Term) program. "We have had the right amount of help at the right



TENNESSEE CAMPERS ON MISSION Frank and Martha Robinson, left, and Joe and Louise Little stand outside Walnut Grove United Methodist Church in Vonore. They have been among Baptists who helped the rural Monroe County church this summer.

time," he added.

While Campers on Missions have provided primarily labor for the building project, they also have contributed

financially, Little said. Other Baptist churches in the area also have pitched in financially. One Baptist church in Sweetwater donated pews, Little said.

The new 36 x 90-foot building nearly triples the existing space and will provide a new auditorium and four large Sunday School rooms, Haggard said. He estimated the church has saved about half of what it would have cost without the volunteer labor.

The United Methodist pastor is no stranger to the volunteer spirit and generosity of Baptists. Haggard was reared in Mountain View Baptist Church in Maryville and was youth pastor at Unity Baptist Church in Maryville before becoming a United Methodist pastor. He has served at Walnut Grove for about six years.

Haggard jokes that he is pastor of a "Baptist Methodist" church, noting his congregation is "very similar" to a Baptist church.

— See Tennessee, page 3

Gifts up from 2001

Gennie Wilkey
Staff Writer and Reflector

WENTWOOD — For the time during the current year, gifts from Tennessee Baptist Convention churches through the Cooperative Program exceeded \$3 million. In July TBC churches gave \$3,113,519 through the Cooperative Program.

Over nine months of the current year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$26,638,665, an increase of 3.56 percent over the period last year.

Gifts are 3.83 percent above current budget needs of \$2,503.

"We are grateful that our Tennessee Baptist churches are continuing to meet ministry, and education — not only in our state, but around the world," said Paul Porch, TBC executive treasurer. ■

Solutions offered on getting past 'worship wars'

By Sara Horn
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — What is worship? What do you do in worship? How do you worship?

In a day and age where churches are splitting and pastors are leaving over issues like organ vs. drums, praise choruses vs. hymns, and PowerPoint screens vs. songbooks, many in the church are expressing a desire to move past differences in style and return to the central idea of real worship.

At this year's Pastors' School held July 29 – Aug. 1 at Union University, speakers including Rick White, Greg McFadden, Paul Jackson, Charles Fowler, and Franklin Pollard encouraged and exhorted attending pastors to lead their churches in rediscovering the missing jewel of worship.

"Part of worship is saying 'God, you are worthy,'" Pollard said. "It's His church — it's not for us. It's not for us to say I like this service or this service, or I like this song but not that song."

"The intention of worship is to show the 'worth-ship' of something to us," Pollard told the audience. "How much is the Lord worth to you? What is His worth to you?"

What is the shape of your worship?"

Greg McFadden, pastor of First Baptist Church in Hohenwald, stressed the importance of bringing praise to God. "It's so important we experience God the way He wants to be experienced — that we have a fresh encounter every day with Christ," he added.

Charles Fowler, vice president for development and church relations at Union, stressed that pastors need to be a model for worship that is reverent before God.

"When we enter into a worship experience, especially as a leader and a pastor, we need to realize it is a holy time," said Fowler. "Offering less than our best is a sinful enterprise. Sin is a very serious matter to God. I hope that as we worship in our churches that we do not plan unworthy responses."

Rick White, pastor of First Baptist Church in Franklin, said that if he were to draw a line of demarcation, he would have to say that worship is the totality of his life.

"You can be a worshiper of God by the way you live your life daily," said White. "Rather than thinking about worship as something we do when we come into a room, think of it as a totality of life. Pas-

tor, you are a worshiper when you're serving Him in the midst of what we do."

White also said that most of our churches today have liturgies that are too predictable.

"For the most part, church has become so predictable that a person can walk in at any given moment and know right where you are," White pointed out. "We sing the invitation hymn which has become once again a signal that the church service is nearly over, instead of a call for life-changing responses. We want a 'nice' service, something that's predictable."

White gave several examples of ways to improve worship within the church service, initiated by the pastor.

"We can learn a lot from one another without surrendering our theological distinctives," said White, mentioning several different worship expressions that are being used within the church including kneeling, clapping, dancing, and raising hands to show praise to God.

Paul Jackson, associate professor of Christian studies at Union, spoke encouragement to pastors and the tasks they have before them in matters of worship and other issues within the church.

— See Solutions, page 3

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

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

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

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

► **Betty Williams, bookkeeper** — (615) 371-7930, bwilliams@tnbaptist.org

► **Office** — *Baptist and Reflector*, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

► **Mailing address** — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

► **FAX** — (615) 371-2080

► **Web Site** — www.tnbaptist.org

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July 2002 CP gifts show gain

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program in July were 5.60 percent above gifts for July 2001, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

Year-to-date support for CP Missions is 4.07 percent ahead of totals at this same point last year.

July's \$13,508,566.54 in CP gifts to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America compared to \$12,792,018.34 in July 2001, a difference of \$716,548.20.

Designated gifts of \$5,392,613.50 in July, meanwhile, were 29.68 percent below July 2001's \$7,668,529.83, a decrease of \$2,275,916.33.

In year-to-date CP giving, \$151,958,332.85 has been received, compared with \$146,014,641.04 in 2000-01, an increase of 4.07 percent or \$5,943,691.81.

In year-to-date designated giving, \$163,006,264.07 has been received, compared with \$161,076,127.85, an increase of 1.20 percent or \$1,930,136.22.

The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the July receipts of \$13,508,566.54 were 90.92 percent of the budgeted \$14,858,239.92, or \$1,349,673.38 below the budget goal. ■

Viewership of 'Jesus' film surpasses 5 billion

Baptist Press

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — Long the most translated film in history, the "Jesus" film has passed a new milestone — viewership exceeding 5 billion.

Translated and distributed internationally by the Jesus Film Project, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, it has been viewed in every country of the world. As of July 1, the viewing audience numbered 5,164,836,643.

The job, however, is not yet done, said Paul Eshleman, director of the Jesus Film Project.

"We fully realize," he said, "that while some may have viewed the Jesus film more

Slippage toward corporate scandal begins at home, according to Barna

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Mom and dad could have done more to prevent corporate scandal, according to a poll released by the Barna Research Group.

The importance of a person's upbringing — as the mirror to one's character and values — was underscored in Barna polling of 1,012 adults during the first half of July.

Nearly three-fourths of the respondents (72 percent) chose "parents spending more time teaching their children appropriate values" over five other factors that could have reduced the ethical problems that have rocked corporate America.

Almost two-thirds (62 percent) selected the need for America to have had a stronger moral foundation.

The other choices: stricter enforcement of existing government regulations, tapped first by 55 percent of the respondents; instituting more demanding regulations, 50 percent; providing religious training in schools, 41 percent; and providing business executives with better train-

ing in morals and ethics, 40 percent.

"More than many people want to admit, how we train our children determines their values, views, and behaviors as adults," Barna said in a July 22 news release. "If you want a moral society, you must develop it by raising children who understand and embrace good values and standards. Leadership based on consensus is always prone to satisfying the lowest moral standard. Leadership based on firm and unchanging standards of virtue never goes wrong."

Barna also noted: "Skills can be learned but character is a reflection of the heart that is formed from a person's early years and emerges as they age. As society becomes more complex and fast-paced, one of our coping mechanisms is to assign heightened degrees of authority and trust to our leaders.

"We are seeing increasing numbers of people recognizing that political solutions are short-term fixes for deeper problems and issues. Americans are searching for leaders whose character makes them trustworthy."

The Barna data carries a plus-or-minus 4.5 percent sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level. ■

hardship that these rate increases may impose on our participants, we want to stress that the Annuity Board has never canceled coverage for a participant except for failure to pay premiums," Douglas D. Day, executive officer for benefit services, explained. "Additionally, these rate increases are comparable to industry standards. Larger organizations that have far greater buying power than we do are facing comparable rate increases." ■

TBC sponsors church building, finance conference

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Staff Leadership Group will sponsor a Church Building and Finance Conference on Aug. 22 at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The conference is designed to provide information, training and resources for churches that will enable them to better plan to minister in their communities utilizing their facilities as a tool for ministry, according to Archer Thorpe, TBC church administration and stewardship specialist.

Topics to be addressed include leading a church through the planning and building process, master planning, long-range growth, planning building budget, financial church buildings, user-friendly church facilities, and more.

For more information about the conference including cost or to register, call 1-800-520-2090, ext. 2040. ■

than once, others still have not had the opportunity. Or, they have not yet seen it in a language version that communicates clearly to them. Because of this, we are continuing to work with many denominations and mission agencies to make sure the film is shown in every geographic area. ..."

Since its release in late 1979, the "Jesus" film has been translated into 743 languages and shown in 236 countries, territories, and protectorates. Southern Baptists continue to be the largest global distributors of the film through International Mission Board teams. ■

AB announces hike in insurance rates

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The majority of investment funds of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board "met or beat their respective investment standards during the first half of this year," board President O.S. Hawkins told trustees during their July 29-30 meeting in Washington, D.C.

In trustee action, increases in the board's insurance premiums were approved as health-care costs continue to post steep increases.

Addressing volatile conditions in the nation's economy, Hawkins said, "While the investment markets have suffered through the worst first-half year since the 1973-74 bear market, our investment approach and disciplines have remained true to form and we continue to provide our customers with the highest standards of investment practices in the industry today.

"In the midst of significant difficulties in the financial markets, the majority of AB Funds Trust investment funds met or beat their respective investment standards during the first half of this year," Hawkins said.

Board treasurer and chief financial officer Jeffrey P. Billinger reported total assets were \$6.5 billion at June 30, 2002, compared to \$7.4 billion at June 30, 2001. Net operating expenses were favorable to the budget for the first six months of 2002, reflecting a commitment to operate as efficiently as possible. Payments to relief recipients were up for the quarter, resulting from the trustee-approved increase in relief benefits from \$75 per person to \$200 for single relief recipients and \$265 for married recipients.

In healthcare, trustees approved a Jan. 1, 2003, rate increase for participants in the Board's Personal Security Program and Employer Security Program medical plans including Medicare supplement plans. Participants in the Personal Security Program will receive a 35.1 percent increase while smaller groups in the Employer Security Program will receive a 12-month rate increase of 31.4 percent. Insurance marketing personnel will communicate specific increases to larger groups in the Employer Security Program.

Participants in the Medicare Supplement plans also will receive increases, 9.5 percent in the Seniors Plan and 28.5 percent in the Seniors Plus Plan.

There will be no rate change for dental and life insurance products as well as no rate increase in long-term disability plans.

"While we understand the

Worship must begin on knees: McFadden

by a Horn
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Two years ago Greg McFadden, pastor of First Baptist Church in Hohenwald, hit a wall of discouragement in his pastoral ministry.

“I had come to that place in my life where I began asking myself, ‘Where is the Lord?’” McFadden told a group of pastors attending the Pastors’ School at Union University the week of July 29-30. “I had become a very cynical pastor. I couldn’t but wonder — couldn’t I do something more?”

Wednesday night, in Hohenwald, McFadden began looking around for people who were there for God and that’s when it

became so concerned about himself and getting spiritual. “I was missing these encounters with God,” McFadden said.

“Living up in what he referred to as a typical un-

churched family, McFadden began attending church as a teenager after some friends invited him. He accepted Christ a short time later and eventually went on to study at Union University and Southern Seminary. After pastoring for a number of years, he said that his wake-up call during that Wednesday night service two years ago has changed his life as well as the ministry of his church through one thing — prayer — with a passion.

“I don’t get too excited or too discouraged about many things,” admitted McFadden, jokingly referring to himself as a “flatliner.”

“Passion is not something that is a natural part of who I am, but it’s an intricate part of what God wants me to be.”

Recent studies have shown that 4 out of 10 pastors say that their present church is not having an effect that deepens their own personal relationship with Christ, McFadden pointed out, and is continually ranked as one of the



GREG MCFADDEN, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hohenwald, makes a point on worship during the annual Pastors’ School held at Union University.

most frustrated occupational groups in the country.

“Pastors constantly feel the need to succeed or sometimes just to even survive,” he said. “It’s easy for our churches to move in a downward spiral, of too little pow-

erful praying, a shortage of workers, a feeling of failure, maybe financial shortfall, and low attendance.”

McFadden began feeling God speaking to him about his morning devotions.

“As a student at Union, I was encouraged to have a devotional,” he recalled.

“I had all of the parts and the elements of the devotion but prayer can often become ‘me-centered.’ True worship is God-centered. It results in a yielded life.”

Stressing the importance of a daily worshipful prayer life for pastors, McFadden recommended using a journal, inspiring devotional material, kneeling in prayer, singing, meditation, and raising hands in worship when pastors are alone in their prayer closets.

“God wants just a few minutes of us connecting to Him, instead of constantly staying connected and tied to the world,” McFadden said.

“Sister Suzie can wait until you’ve experienced God’s refreshment in worship.” ■



Solutions ...

— Continued from page 1

“As I read through all of his letters, especially in the Book of Acts, I see that Paul was a man of great compassion, who had a heart for people,” said Jackson. “He did not disassociate from those churches he had established. He truly saw himself as a messenger of Jesus Christ who could not separate himself from the cross. That’s where you gain true power — where you gain true fuel and energy to keep going as a pastor. You can’t do this on your own power, you have to get it from Christ.”

“The Bible makes clear that worship is not primarily for people, but for God,” said Union President David S. Dockery, in a wrap-up of the week, “as we recognize His glory and exalt His name.”

“Many of you know I’m not hung up on worship styles — I appreciate the contemporary and traditional,” Dockery told the pastors. “Even those who move toward a contemporary style need to realize that something about the tradition of the Christian church is important. The tradition talked about in Hebrews Chapter 11 that passes on the living faith of the dead. It would be a great shame if somehow we lost that wonderful history,” Dockery said, citing several historical figures in Southern Baptist and evangelical life.

“Tradition is very important, but we must always be on guard that it does not degenerate from tradition to traditionalism,” Dockery pointed out. “Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. What we need is a church that worships God with an appreciation for our past that is focused on the context of the present, looking forward to the heavenly saints gathered around God’s throne.”

The four-day conference focused on the definition of worship, the component of praise, worship in the church today, biblical foundations for worship, the overall thought behind worship and what the focus of worship is. For the more than 175 people who attended, the majority being pastors and their wives, a lot of insight was gained into the subject.

“We get bogged down in labels and styles too often,” said Jim Collins, a 1997 Union graduate, and current pastor of West End Baptist Church in Columbia. “Worship can happen in a variety of ways — it’s really a matter of undoing the selfishness that exists in our churches.” ■

Tennessee group aids small United Methodist ...

Continued from page 1

members of Walnut Grove have been blessed by the help of Baptist friends,” Haggard said.

The church is so grateful. “I can’t describe it. That what a ministry is all about — going down the walls of religion,” Haggard said.

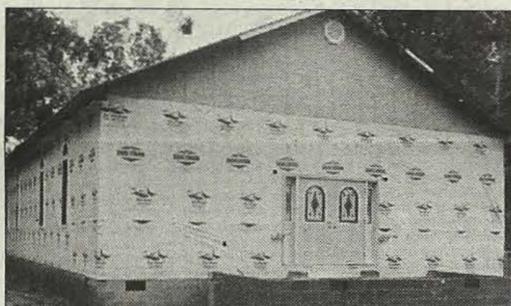
Volunteers exhibited the attitude about helping others from another denomination. “There is just one heaven,” said Little. “We all serve the same Savior,” agreed Robinson, who along

with her husband, have literally traveled all over the United States since his retirement, camping and helping to construct churches and parsonages.

“This is a ministry. God has blessed us over the years. We just do what we need to do. God provides,” Robinson said.

Construction is expected to be completed on the Walnut Grove facility this month.

A dedication service is planned for Aug. 25, Haggard related.



WALNUT GROVE United Methodist Church will soon have a new facility thanks to the efforts of Tennessee Baptist Campers on Mission and others.

The completion of their new building will not end his

church’s connection with Baptists, Haggard promised.

Haggard noted he is planning a joint Thanksgiving service for churches in the area. He also hopes to schedule a revival at Walnut Grove using pastors from Baptist churches who have assisted the church as revival preachers.

“This has been a positive experience for us.

“The Baptists have been here for us,” Haggard added. ■

Long-time music minister settles in as choir member

by a Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Don Bennett last month after 32 years as a full-time Baptist minister of music.

He promptly took a seat front row of the choir loft

at Union Avenue Baptist Church, where he has served for the past 16 years.

Bennett’s presence in the choir, not to mention his wonderful tenor voice, has helped ease the transition for Rev. Rick Marshall, the church’s

new minister of music and children.

“Rick is a good friend of mine,” said Bennett, whose time at Union Avenue is the second longest by a tenured minister in the church’s 100-year history. “I consider myself his resource person.”

Marshall, a native Memphian, comes to Union Avenue after six years at Manley Baptist in Morristown. He and his wife, Carol, returned to Memphis in part to provide care for their mothers.

“It’s been a real difficult move to make,” Marshall said, “but we feel like God has provided Union Avenue to us. I know it’s going to be a challenge but I’m up to it and I’m looking forward to it.”

Union Avenue members said farewell to Bennett and his wife, Lou Ann, and welcomed the Marshalls at a joint reception following the morning wor-

ship service on June 30.

Pastor L. Joseph Rosas said Marshall’s arrival continues the church’s strong tradition of honoring God through music. And Bennett’s decision to remain active in the music ministry is an added blessing, Rosas said.

“In Don Bennett, we have an extraordinary voice in the choir,” Rosas said. “And in Rick Marshall, we probably have one of the leading ministers of music in the state of Tennessee.”

Bennett and Marshall have already begun making beautiful music together, singing a duet at Union Avenue’s Summer Sermon Series.

They previously sang together as members of the Shelby Singers when Marshall was minister of music at Audubon Park Baptist in Memphis. The Shelby Singers is a group of Baptist ministers of music in the Memphis area. ■



BENNETT, right, long-time minister of music at Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, is now a member of the choir at Union Avenue Baptist Church, now directed by Rick Marshall, left. With them are his wife, Carol Marshall, left center, and Lou Ann Bennett.

Jackson youth selected as White House intern

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Union University junior David Patterson has been accepted to intern in the White House's Office of Political Affairs in Washington, D.C., beginning in August through December of this year.

Patterson, a history major with a minor in Christian ethics, will assist in serving as a liaison between the grassroots state Republican parties of 10 different states and the White House, tracking media responses to the president's agenda, as well as writing political briefs for the president.

"I'm really excited about that



PATTERSON

part," said Patterson, who along with his parents, Jim and Donna Patterson, are active members of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson.

"It's an honor to serve under a president who's placed an emphasis on his faith."

Patterson, who has always been interested in politics, is currently serving as campaign coordinator for Jimmy Eldridge, who is seeking a state house term, in addition to working at Utley and Latimer, a local law

firm in Jackson. The internship opportunity was quite an unexpected surprise, he says.

"My best friend is there right now as an intern, and he called last Sunday and asked if I might want to come work at the White House and by Wednesday I was going," said Patterson, who will be living in Arlington, Va., during his internship.

"We are happy that David has been granted this unique oppor-

tunity," said Union President David S. Dockery. "He is very deserving, hard working, and conscientious."

Chair of the university's College Republicans chapter, Patterson is also on the executive board of the Madison County Young Republicans. He is looking forward to his experience. "I want to gain an understanding of how the activities in the White House and Washington

affect us at a local level." "I think that everything learning here at Union has really prepared me ... for what about to experience." ■



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MINISTRIES — STUDENTS

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MISCELLANEOUS

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HEARTS ON FIRE XVI YOUTH CONFERENCE

GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

AT THE GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER

NOVEMBER 22/23, 2002

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First Baptist Church Sevierville, Attn: HOF, 317 Parkway, Sevierville, TN 37862

RICK OUSLEY

DAVID NASSER

FFH

Moral foundation definitely starts at home



lections
Annie Wilkey

George Barna poll recently noted that ethical problems that are prevalent in corporate America could have been prevented if our country had a moral foundation (see page 2).

According to the story, 72% of the respondents to those "parents spending time teaching their children appropriate values" are other factors that have reduced the "ethical standards that have rocked corporate America."

More than many peo-

ple want to admit, how we train our children determines their values, views, and behaviors as adults."

He continued, "If you want a moral society, you must develop it by raising children who understand and embrace good values and standards. Leadership based on consensus is always prone to satisfying the lowest moral standard."

"Leadership based on firm and unchanging standards of virtue never goes wrong."

Barna is right. However, God's Word has been telling us the same thing for thousands of years.

During my daily Bible readings the past few weeks, my Old Testament verses have come out of II Chronicles.

It is amazing to read the accounts of the various kings of Judah. Over and over we find that when the kings obeyed God and followed his instructions, they were blessed be-

yond measure. When a king disobeyed God and began to worship or to allow the worship of idols, his kingdom was captured by the enemy and many times the king lost his own life.

As I read these accounts I cannot help but wonder what those kings were thinking. Wasn't it obvious that the kings who were successful were those who had a close walk with God? Evidently it wasn't for many of those Old Testament leaders and they eventually paid a huge price for disobedience.

America today is reaping the consequences of failure to follow God. Most of the problems we have in our country today can be traced back to a breakdown in the moral fiber of our society.

Our country as a whole does not have a God-mentality. It has an Me-mentality. What is best for me? What is best for

my family? How can I get the better job, the bigger home, the fastest car? That mentality leads people to falsify records, to take short cuts, to do what it takes to come out on top.

Many Americans and, sad to say, many Christians suffer from that mentality — and they are passing it on to their children and grandchildren.

If we think our society today is morally corrupt, what will it be like in 20-40 years or so when today's children and youth become tomorrow's leaders?

America has to change its mindset. No, we shouldn't force religion down anyone's throat. Neither, however, should we be expected to let amoral people force their beliefs down our throats.

Christians must set the example. We have to do it in our homes, in our businesses, and even in our churches. Many things happen in our churches

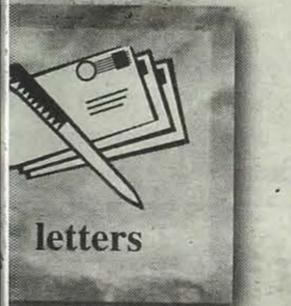


that do not honor or glorify God, but that's another editorial.

Back to the Barna poll. It is good to see that nearly two-thirds of the people who responded to that poll recognize that our country needs a stronger moral foundation.

That recognition, however, is just the first step. We need to not just recognize or talk about it, we need to take the lead in turning this country around. We need leaders in every sector of society including corporate America and our government who are committed to strong morals and values.

Tomorrow's future depends on what we teach our children today. ■



Top'
July 8, 2002, Southern lost a treasure. J. J. Owens went to be the Lord on that day. I taught at Southern for more than 40 years. I helped seminary students learn and understand the Bible. He helped us love the Bible more than we did. I arrived in Louisville. The thesis of the Old Testament brought them to thousands of students over the years. I spoke in countless Baptist churches during my tenure in Louisville. I went to any church which I could, regardless of size. I thought he would be simply wanted others to know more about God's Word. I had many abilities. I was a brilliant scholar who graduated from Oklahoma Baptist at age 16. He was a professional basketball player during his seminary days. He had more than a dozen languages. I devised a Scrabble game in Aramaic which he played with his son. J. J. Owens spoke many languages fluently. Now he speaks the eternal language of heaven. I thank God for His grace on my life and for so many others who

knew him simply as "Red Top."
Marvin Cameron
Kingsport 37660

Role of president

On June 25, a group of past TBC presidents met to consider the role of the TBC president. The one word which best describes the outcome of that meeting is "compromise" (see story in July 10 issue of B&R).

If compromise is to work among Tennessee Baptists, I believe the office of the president must be defined by three New Testament characteristics.

First, the presidential role must be one of peacemaking. Jesus called kingdom peacemakers the children of God (Matthew 5:9). If the spirit of compromise is to prevail in Tennessee Baptist life, the president must "favor" our father as an instrument of peace.

Second, the president must be a unity keeper. Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 4:1-3. Those who are called are to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Unity keeping assumes that unity is a present and existent reality. To Paul that unity was created in Christ's body on the cross and transferred to His new body, the church. Our calling, therefore, is not to produce unity but to keep it as a sacred trust. Compromise among Christian brothers and sisters is a vocation to which we are called in the spirit of "forbearing one another in love." The office of the president has power when it reaches toward all Tennessee Baptists in keeping the unity created in Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross.

Third, the TBC president must be an ambassador of rec-

onciliation. To Paul, this is the essence of the gospel; those who are in Christ are new creatures who through reconciliation to God have left the old way of hostility and have been embraced by God's new way of reconciliation. We are to be ambassadors of reconciliation in the spirit of Christ who is God's ambassador of reconciliation, unity, and peace (II Corinthians 5:17-20).

The TBC president can be an ambassador for Christ in our midst if we redefine his role and the nature of his power.

If the spirit of compromise demonstrated on June 25 is based on these New Testament principles, then healing and hope are possible. If compromise is viewed as second best to conquest, then it lacks New Testament rootage and will give way to another view of presidential power. Let us pray for new eyes to see the true power of the TBC presidency.

Frank Hawkins,
interim pastor, FBC
Whiteville, N.C. 28472

Apprehensive

Although I have received a measure of reassurance from one member of the Presidential Study Committee concerning the proposal to add the three top officers of the convention to both the Committee on Boards and the Committee on Committees, I am still apprehensive about the direction that our convention may take.

I am concerned that if we do go in a direction that excludes more and more people, we will lose our young people. I know many young people who feel that it is morally wrong to expect people to sign a creed, es-

pecially since our history as Baptists has been freedom, not creedalism. My husband and I have a high school age son and a college age daughter. Both of them have expressed interest in other denominations because of the politics, infighting, and what sometimes appears to be a religious dictatorship.

I am also concerned about the way some of the men that I encounter treat women. Some of the men that I have come in contact with through the course of my ministry seem to have embraced the extra-biblical philosophy that they are superior to me. I am concerned that if that particular group exercises more and more control throughout our state convention that the voices of women in Baptist life will not be welcome.

We are compelled as Christians in a lost and dying world to come together with the Cross of Christ between our shoulders, facing outward in unity, not inward in disrespect, arrogance, and misplaced motives. Our motives should not be to control each other, but to serve Christ by serving each other. Only then can we effectively be true to the example of Jesus as a servant.

I do not write this letter lightly. It grieves me to think I may hurt someone's feelings or anger someone or appear to be putting anyone down. I cannot neglect to say what I think to be true. I think it also to be urgent. Let us put aside denominational politics and seek to be Jesus to each other, our neighbors, and wherever God calls us.

Mary Beth Duke
Smithville 37166

Tax stance

I appreciate the recent action of the pro-income tax legislators who switched their votes in order to break the deadlock that was preventing the legislature from providing the desperately needed funds for operating the state's programs.

I was sorry that this was done by increasing the sales tax, but that was better than having a full state shutdown and it did provide necessary funding. The added sales tax, however, further increases the unfairness of the state tax structure because it forces low income families to pay higher percentages of their incomes to state taxes.

An income tax package would have been much fairer. It would have ensured adequate and continuing support for schools and state parks and other needed programs. It would also have removed the Hall tax, taxes on food, clothing, and nonprescription drugs, and reduced the sales tax on other items. This would have lowered total state taxes for many lower income families. Although high income families would have paid more, the fractions of their incomes paid as taxes would still have been no more than those of low income families.

Now is the time to ask candidates where they stand on state taxes. Would they continue with this new absurdly-high and unfair sales tax? If not, would they adopt a suitable income tax plan, or would they just cut the budgets for the programs we all want and expect?

Fred Sweeton
Oak Ridge 37830



national/global
news

Legalization of marijuana on some November ballots

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The stakes are higher than ever as ballot box battles over marijuana loom once again in the No-

ember election.

Now, the ground-breaking issues will be:

- ▶ government-grown marijuana in San Francisco touted for medicinal purposes.
- ▶ legalization of three ounces or less of marijuana for private use in Nevada, where penalties once were among the toughest in the nation.

"In reality," Barrett Duke, vice president for research for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission,

noted, "what they will be voting on is whether to open the door further to the complete legalization of marijuana and to increasing the already near-epidemic level of drug abuse our nation is experiencing. ... It is certain that the real motive of many of the backers of these measures is no less than the legalization of the possession and use of marijuana by anyone."

Duke described the San Francisco proposal as disturbing because the city is proposing the

cultivation and distribution of marijuana "by the city itself" for medicinal purposes.

"Such official endorsement of marijuana by the city government is sure to create a false sense of safety in the minds of many of San Francisco's resi-

dents about the use of marijuana," Duke told Baptist Press.

In Nevada, meanwhile, criminalization of small amounts of marijuana is "merely the janitor of the marijuana legalization movement," said. ■

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Marvelous Mondays in August

We're moving our 7:00 p.m. Sunday night service to Monday night just for the month of August! With Godly guest speakers & inspirational music, you're sure to get a blessing from this series of Monday night worship services.

August 5th Join us for our very first Monday evening worship service with our own Pastor Randy and special musical guests, The Kingdom Heirs.

August 12th Don't miss our guest speaker, Jerry Vines, of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida. You'll enjoy the music of combined choirs & orchestras from First Baptist Sevierville and East Maryville Baptist Church.

August 19th Guest speaker Fred Wolfe will bring the message with clarity and divine inspiration on our third Monday night. His ministry will bless your heart. Special music by First Baptist Church Sevierville.

August 26th You're in for a real treat on the last Marvelous Monday night with The Martins in concert.



The service begins at 7:00 p.m. each Monday night at First Baptist Church, 317 Parkway, Sevierville, TN. For more information, contact the church office at (865) 453-9001

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College Announces the Tennessee Extension Center At First Baptist Church, Kingston Classes Begin August 19, 2002

Registration: August 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Classes Offered:

1. Intro to Ministry: Monday, 6:00 PM to 8:50 PM
2. Old Testament 3 (The beginning of the monarchy (Saul) through the fall of the Northern Kingdom): Thursday, 5:00 PM to 6:50 PM
3. New Testament 3 (Gospel of John and Epistles of John): Thursday, 7:00 PM to 8:50 PM

Cost: \$135.00 per semester hour
(Financial Aid available)

Contact Information:

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
300 Clear Creek Rd.
Pineville, KY 40977
(606) 337-3196
Donnie Fox - Admissions Director
Email: dfox@ccbbc.edu

FBC, Kingston
215 North Kentucky St.
Kingston, TN 37763
(865) 376-6041
Dr. Roy Graves - Director
Email: royg@1stbaptistfamily.com
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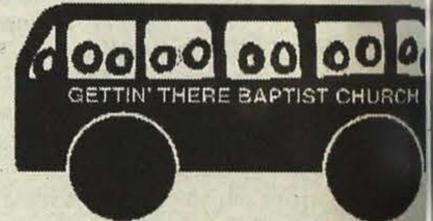
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Minister's Corner

Kenny Bruce

What kind of person does God use? Talents and abilities are not prerequisites to being used by God. Accomplishments,

and recognition will not ensure "usefulness." Only in our meeting His conditions will we bear fruit for

the first condition is a pure heart. "I the Lord search the and examine the mind" (Jeremiah 17:10). David "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way..." (Psalms 139:23-24). Just as the doctor points out if your health and sickness during a physical checkup, the Holy Spirit will show you the condition of your heart. Sometimes we receive some bad news. The cure is genuine repentance over our revealed sins. The result is a pure heart and a character like David's.

David, God found a man after His own heart, one He could count on to do everything He wanted him to

do. The second condition is a state of being ready for use (availability).

Paul said in I Corinthians 2:9, "no eye has seen, no ear heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."

The third condition is faithful obedience. Revelation 2:10 "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."

To meet these conditions is to experience the fullness of our relationship to Christ and to see Jeremiah 29:11 fulfilled. "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you peace and a future." May we all live with pure hearts, a purpose to be used, and faithful obedience. Then we will experience the amazing outpouring of God's power on our lives that will transform us into His useful instruments. ■ — Bruce is pastor of Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis.

Start for Today

Ed Wood,
emeritus,
this



Start With a Smile: Foreman to carpenter: "Why are you throwing away some of those nails?" Carpenter: "The head is on the

other side of them." Foreman: "Don't throw them away. They're for the other side of the house."

Make This Truth: Some days things just don't fit unless we try. Imagine the consternation of a man who read: "Will the man who took a slice of chocolate cake from the police commissioner's office please return the same? It was part of the evidence in a food-poisoning case."

Memorize This Scripture: "Where there is no peace, the people fail, but in abundance of council there is victory. — Proverbs 11:14, NASV"

Pray This Prayer: Lord, help me when approaching a new task to learn the issues, get the facts, and read or listen to the instructions. ■



Human beings: why get personal?

By Matt Tomlin

Focal Passage: Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25

Many in our society ask the question, "What is the origin of man?" Did he evolve through several generations from some lower life form? The biblical view of creation rejects that idea, and states that man began with a creative act of God. The Bible says that, "And the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7, NIV). Man did not evolve from some lower life form but was created by an intentional act of God. When this fact of creation is ignored or rejected, man is led to two extremes. The first extreme is that man eventually defies himself thinking only of personal gratification and acting in purely selfish ways. The second extreme is that man will eventually view human life as an accident of nature with no moral purpose and no future. But the Christian world view is that the creation of man was an intentional act of God, in which God had a purpose for man in the overall scheme of creation. Therefore the Christian believes what the book of Genesis teaches about creation, that man is the apex of God's creation. Man was

intentionally created with a physical, moral, and spiritual purpose.

What makes man special in God's creative process? First of all man was given dominion or management over all the natural world that God had created. "The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (v. 15, NIV).

Man was alone, and this was not good, because he did not have a helper. So God created woman, and instituted the family unit. This was the second way man was special in God's creation. Man and woman were to join together as one. Be-

cause of this we are told that this carries over into today. Men and women are to leave their parents, marry and become one flesh, forming the partnership of a marriage, thereby instituting a family unit.

The third thing that made man special, was that he was created a person, as God is a person. He was to reflect that personality of God. That is he was created in the image of God spiritually with the freedom of the will. The ability to choose to fellowship with God or to disobey God, was a part of that image of God. In all actuality man was created the one creature with the ability to have fellowship with God.

So you see man did not evolve,

Family Bible SS Lesson — Aug. 11

Hostility

By Lon Chenowith

Focal Passage: II Samuel 20:1-2, 6, 15-16, 19-22

We live in a hostile world. Especially since the infamous terrorist attack on September of 2001, we have experienced hostilities against America. Many Christians today in the public arena are facing hostile people who call for tolerance but are intolerant of Christian faith. Shamefully, much of the world's hostility can be found inside the church.

Hostility is high emotional outrage over circumstances, often insignificant in nature. When tensions are high and things are not working out smoothly, the prospect for hostility increases. This is especially true in times of difficult transitions. David encountered a series of hostile situations as he prepared to return to Jerusalem.

Absalom was dead and his former followers were in a state of confusion. They wanted to return to David's side and the king issued the invitation. Jealousy and rivalry rose up between Judah, David's tribe, and the northern tribes. Fierce words were exchanged, but the king moved forward in his bid to restore the unity of the kingdom.

In the transition, David was tested over and over. Shimei, who had cursed the king on his exit from Jerusalem, sought amends and David accepted them for the

time. He also settled the flying accusations between Saul's grandson, Mephibosheth, and his steward, Ziba. Then there was the matter of another rebellion led by Sheba.

The king removed Joab, who had blatantly killed Absalom against David's expressed wishes, and replaced him with Amasa, Absalom's commander. It was a move to reconcile the forces of Judah and Israel, but Joab's bloodthirsty ways worked against Amasa,

his new rival. Joab regained his title and led the forces of Israel against Sheba.

Sheba's rebellion, like Absalom's, was short-lived. Coming against Abel Beth Maacah, where the villain found refuge, Joab laid siege to the city. A wise woman led the people to give up the life of the rebel and spare the city the indignity of military action. The lady's mediation (v. 19) saved many lives.

All of these circumstances that David encountered were explosive. People he encountered were relating to each other in a war context. They had grown accustomed to taking sides and "drawing blood." The king of Israel wisely chose to take decisive action to enable his nation to be one people again and put away hostilities.

What appears fairly uneventful in the biblical text is much harder to work out in life though. These

kinds of challenges have a way of tearing out your insides. There is no doubt that David governed with wisdom that came from heaven. It would have been human nature to punish evildoers and choose revenge, but he knew it was time to consolidate the people.

Dealing with hostile situations is like defusing a ticking bomb. The immediate need is to disarm it and not to set it off! One way to do that is to be decisive as David was in the biblical account of Sheba's rebellion. Once the bomb blows, destruction and injury follow suit. Too many times volatile relationships and conflicts are permitted to go too far.

It is the wise man and woman that disarms an explosive situation that could be very destructive. The Bible evokes blessings on peacemakers. In fact without peace and a holy life, Hebrews 12:14 says, "no man shall see the Lord." If no where else, there should be prevailing peace at work in the church. Otherwise, the gospel is made a mockery.

We have only to pick up the newspaper to see hostilities puzzle the most experienced diplomats and statesmen. Age-old rivalries are hard to resolve. Nations like Yugoslavia have been torn apart six different ways over ethnic and religious tensions. But where the Spirit of the Lord is there is peace (Romans 8:6), that is a big part of the Christian mission. ■ — Chenowith is pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida.



deaths

■ **David Massey**, 68, of Peyton Creek Baptist Church, Carthage, died July 7. He was a member of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes board, member of the executive board of New Salem Baptist Association, based in Carthage, and chairman of deacons and treasurer of Peyton Creek Church. He is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Stephanie Johnson; two grandchildren; brother, Edward Massey; and sister, Anna Mai Lankford; all of Tanglewood.

leaders

■ **Lynn F. Paschall** has been called as interim pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Paris, after serving as pastor there from 1976-81. He is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Paschall has been pastor of churches in Tennessee and Kentucky.

■ **Ryan Krivsky** was



YOUTH OF BETHLEHEM Baptist Church, Crossville, pause during their service recently in Harrodsburg, Ky. They led a Vacation Bible School at a church which drew an average of 77, which was the largest at the church in many years. As a result, seven children made professions of faith. The youth also conducted a survey in the community, visited residents of a nursing home and hospital, and held a youth rally which drew about 150 people. One teen made a profession of faith. "The group realizes now more than ever that they are always on mission no matter where they are," said Keith Carroll, youth director.

called as minister of praise and worship, Higher Ground Baptist Church, Kingsport.

■ **Mark Walker** was called as youth minister, Colonial Heights Baptist

Church, Kingsport.

■ **James E. Castlen** of Pineville, Ky., was called as interim pastor, First Baptist Church, New Tazewell.

churches

■ **Grace Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold its annual Back To School Bash Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. Gary Slayton will provide music and Dawson McAllister, national youth speaker of Franklin, will speak. For more information, contact Zach at (615) 865-6262.

■ **Ooltewah Baptist Church, Ooltewah**, will host Rudy Gonzalez of the North American Mission Board based in Alpharetta, Ga., Aug. 10-11.

Mrs. Gonzalez will accompany him and help lead a Mexican Feast on Saturday. Dr. Gonzalez will teach from Revelation on Sunday. For more information, call the church at (423) 238-4831.

■ **First Baptist Church, Kenton**, sent 15 members to serve two congregations in Lansing, Mich., during July. The volunteers lead a Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Club, and a revival. Charles Pratt, pastor of the Kenton church spoke during the revival. As a result, nine people made professions of faith.

■ **Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Cedar Grove**, held homecoming activities Aug. 4. George McMinn, a former pastor, spoke. On Sunday evening a week-long revival was begun. Don Franks, pastor, Corinth Baptist Church, Parsons, is speaking. The church also held Vacation Bible School July 15-22. It enrolled 215 and hosted an average of 165 each evening. As a result, six people made professions of faith.

■ **Friendship Baptist Church, Delano**, is holding revival Aug. 4-8. Jim Millsaps and Russ Cooper are speaking and Buddy Galyon is leading the music. For more informa-

tion, call Lee Paul, (423) 745-8530.

■ **First Baptist Morrison**, will hold revival Aug. 18-21 at 7 p.m. evening. Phil Glissor, pastor of Memphis, will lead. Scott Barritt will lead the music. For more information, call Nathan Wilkerson at (615) 635-2046.

■ **The East Tennessee Center of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**, based in Louisville, Tenn., will offer classes beginning Aug. 26. The center is housed in the **Broadway Baptist Church, Maryville**. It will offer a Ministry of Proclamation, Evangelism and Growth, and the Ministry of Pastoral Care on line, which are part of the divinity program. For more information, contact D. Denton at bddenton@tn.net.

■ **Brentwood Church, Brentwood**, dedicated its new church facility Aug. 14. The building is 10,000 square feet. It is 85 percent larger than the old church facility. Over the last 12-15 months the church had a net growth of 15 percent. The church has 3,700 members, reported the church.

association

■ **Nashville Baptist Association**, based in Nashville, has organized an Interdenominational Appreciation Dinner for pastors and the wives of pastors and other church leaders. The dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Nashville. For information, call Andrew of the association at (615) 3034.



STACY GILDER, right, worship leader, West Hills Baptist Church, Lebanon, accepts a pie in the face by Jonas Taylor, pastor, after the children attending Vacation Bible School there reached the goal of giving \$400 in pennies toward missions one night. A total of \$1,380 was collected. An average of 140 students participated and four made professions of faith.



GATHERED FOR THE 50TH anniversary celebration of Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville, recently were, from left, first row, former pastors and their wives, Harold and Opal Anderson; June and Grady Randolph; Ray B. McCall, director of missions, New Salem Baptist Association, based in Carthage; Helen McCall; and Fred Chapman; back row, Andrew Hong, language director of Nashville Baptist Association; Mrs. Hong; Mary Bennett; Helen Cannady; Allen Bennett, pastor of the church's Arabic congregation; Bill Cannady, former staff member; and Jim Freedman, director of missions, Nashville Baptist Association. The day's activities drew a crowd of over 400 and involved historical displays which included contents of the corner stone laid in part of the facility in 1956 and a picnic.



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.

To celebrate B&R Day, the Aug. 14 issue of the paper will be sent, at no cost, to your church to be distributed to every member on Aug. 18 (or any other day you choose). Call the B&R office at (615) 371-2003 by Aug. 8 and place your order.