

# Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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## New officers elected

# TBC Executive Board acts on budget, other matters

Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Members of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a budget to be presented to messengers at the annual meeting in November after some concerns were expressed and elected a new slate of officers during their Sept. 10 meeting at the Baptist Center. In a related budget matter, the board approved a recommendation aimed at providing for the Cooperative Program funds to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes over the next five years to increase their percentage of CP funds to 5 percent. The recommendation passed by a 35-22 margin with abstentions. Board members also approved the extension of partnerships in Rio and Portugal, a cooperative agreement with the North American Mission Board, and a revamping of

the convention's church building and loan program.

Members of the board also "stepped up to the plate" in regard to the effort to keep Tennessee gambling free.

Board members pledged approximately \$35,000 to be added to \$15,000 from the Executive Board budget to purchase 30 billboards in high traffic areas across the state in October. The billboards will display the "Vote No" logo and proclaim, "Thanks for voting no. Keep Tennessee lottery free. — Tennessee Baptists."

"We've talked, we've prayed," said TBC Executive Director James Porch. "This is our chance to really get involved."

### Budget

The Budget and Program Committee of the Executive Board recommended a 2002-2003 budget of \$37,191,907, an increase of \$257,903 or 0.7 percent over the current budget.

In recommending the budget, Jim Viar, chairman of the



**NEW OFFICERS** of the TBC Executive Board are, from left, Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Baptist Church, LaVergne, vice president; Laurann Wetham, Corryton Baptist Church, Corryton, president; and Donna Cardwell, Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, secretary.

committee and member of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, reminded board members there is no perfect budget.

However, he said, "this is a good budget. It's a workable budget and came about after

many hours of hard work," Viar said.

The budget eliminated two preferred items in this year's budget — \$357,258 in the Church Annuity Plan and a one time lottery response of

\$72,850, Viar said.

Only two entities will receive any increase in the new budget. Because of the transfer of the preferred annuity item to a budgeted expense, the SBC will receive an additional \$257,903 in Cooperative Program receipts, Viar said.

The lottery response item of \$72,850 was moved to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, resulting in a 5.8 percent increase for that institution, Viar said.

Viar said the committee met with the Christian Services Committee and learned of special needs at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

Earlier this year TBCH officials reported a budget deficit of \$1.6 million and made several cuts in the budget which resulted in the elimination of 14 positions involving 10 people.

"We needed to look at that and see how we could address that need," Viar said.

— See TBC, page 4

## Lost 9/11 missionaries tell of deepened resolve

Biffany Monhollon  
Baptist Press

BRIDGEMOND — On Nov. 13, 2001, barely 14 months after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, a record number of new missionaries — 124 — were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

The catastrophe of Sept. 11 didn't cause any of them to drop out. From Columbia, S.C., those new missionaries scattered to every point on the compass, all 15 of the regions in which the IMB works.

But how has the past year gone for them? How have they been affected by the events of Sept. 11? Some of those appointed missionaries were contacted and asked to respond by email.

As news of the attacks spread worldwide, Cal and Patty McIntire began receiving emails asking if they still would be going to West Africa.

"Our answer never wavered," they wrote. "It was always 'Yes!' Somehow an attack as the one on 9/11, no matter how devastating, could not overshadow the call of God."

John Arnold, now a missionary in west-central South America, shared similar sentiments.

The attacks did not cause me to waver

in my commitment to my calling to go to foreign lands," he wrote. "On the contrary, my call was confirmed by these attacks!"

"As I saw firefighters [in New York City] risking their lives to save others from the fire, I realized that as Christians we are also involved in risking our lives to save millions of lost people from an eternal fire."

A missionary in southern Asia wrote, "My initial reaction to 9/11 was just that, reactionary." He expressed his surprise that Islam would condone such horrible actions.

"I cynically wondered who of those we knew in Asia had cheered such horrific things," he said. "But the deep-rooted desire my wife and I have — a conviction that God wants us to live and work among them — overpowered our worries. We also realized that the only way these ideas would change would be if someone would share the message with them."

A missionary in the Middle East shared that people in his region now have a greater respect for foreigners who would live outside of the United States.

"Now, when I walk the streets of our city, I get looks of amazement as they see a 'real live' American," he wrote. "The people wonder, 'Why would you be here with so much turmoil in the world?'"

"As I communicate that I am there to

share the love of Jesus Christ, it is obvious that they are searching in their hearts. The people are curious about the gospel of Jesus Christ and are wondering if their religion may just be wrong."

Other missionaries have not found their ministries greatly affected by the attacks.

"Our daily activity hasn't been disturbed," wrote one couple in Southeast Asia. "Due to the struggles for daily survival and the history of turmoil and atrocities, the people avoid issues that the rest of the world deals with."

"The only time we are aware that Sept. 11 took place occurs when we have to travel. Travel worldwide will never be the same."

The change in worldwide travel hinders missionary work in some areas, like Middle America, where Cleve Turner works.

"I am afraid that too many Southern Baptists have turned inward since 9/11 and are unwilling to step out and commit themselves to the Great Commission," he wrote. "We are seeing this with the decrease in the number of volunteers coming, although the number is slowly returning to normal as time passes. We are a volunteer-driven project and depend on volunteers to survive."

The Sept. 11 attacks didn't diminish the world's need for Christ, Turner reminded. □

## Anti-lottery magazine to be reprinted

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Due to the tremendous response to the *Keep Tennessee Gambling Free* resource produced by the *Baptist and Reflector*, the magazine is being reprinted, according to Editor Lonnie Wilkey.

More than 77,000 copies of the magazine have been distributed and requests are still coming in, Wilkey said.

An additional 25,000 copies will be printed and are expected to be available for distribution by Sept. 25, if not sooner, Wilkey said.

The copies are free to Tennessee Baptists and churches if picked up at the *B&R* office in Brentwood. Shipping costs will be charged to the individual or church.

For more information or to reserve copies, call (615) 371-2003. They will be given out on a first-come basis. □

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**LifeWay trustees  
remember 9/11,  
OK record budget**

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention commemorated the one-year anniversary of the terrorism attacks on America as they completed their semiannual meeting Sept. 10.

In their two-day meeting at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center, they also announced no dated literature price increases for 2003 while adopting a record operating budget and heard progress of the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation.

Last year on Sept. 11, LifeWay trustees and employees were seeking alternate ways home as the airline industry shut down following the terrorist attacks. This year, in a special service in the new Rutland Chapel, LifeWay employees and trustees observed the anniversary with prayer and worship.

On Tuesday evening at the conclusion of the meeting, trustees approved a 2003 operating budget of \$446,586,000, along with capital expenditures of \$23,641,000.

Ted Warren, chief operating of-

ficer and executive vice president, told trustees the budget reflects "a good indication people accept and value LifeWay products." Warren also reported projected record revenue of \$422,542,000 for the entity's 2002 fiscal year, ending Sept. 30. The projected total exceeds 2001 revenue by \$20,100,000, but will be under the budget of \$437,124,000 by \$14.6 million or 3.3 percent.

In 2002, funds provided from operations — money for reinvestment in ministry expansion after all expenses have been paid — are expected to be \$14,148,000 or 3.3 percent of revenue compared to a budgeted 2.6 percent.

In reporting about the year since the Oct. 1 church resources reorganization, Gene Mims, president of the division, told trustees, "The transition has gone beyond my expectations and positioned us for the upcoming year."

He said that more than ever the emphasis of the church resources area is to champion the pastors, grow the churches, and grow the ministry.

Mims announced there would be no price increase on church resources' dated literature for 2003-2004.

He also distributed a list of church resources dated materials that would change, either by deletion, combination with other

materials, or move to online. Included in those are the leadership magazines *Church Administration*, *Growing Churches*, and *Minister's Family*, all of which will cease to be published individually, but will be combined into a new periodical tentatively to be called *Leading Churches*. □

**Graham, Land  
lead 9/11 service**

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Hundreds of Southern Baptists gathered for a Sept. 11 memorial service led by Jack Graham, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The event was sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources, the SBC Executive Committee, and the ERLC. The service featured a dramatic reading, patriotic musical selections, and a music video from a new LifeWay musical "United Through It All."

Leading those gathered in a call to prayer and reflection, Graham drew his remarks from Psalm 27 and urged those present to pray for the nation.

"Life is a gift from God," said Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

"We should remember lessons from Sept. 11 and that our lives are meaningful work. We are kind citizens," Graham said, also underscoring the importance of believers praying for survival and renewal in the land.

James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay, addressed the audience through videotaped remarks. Draper was at the LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center for a trustee meeting.

"Patriotism is not enough," Draper said in response to Sept. 11 tragedy. "We must stand and return to God."

Draper said the nation learned several lessons over the past year — that life is fragile and that parts of the world are hostile to the gospel.

Land, too, reminded the audience of the lessons learned on that day during his message.

"We have relearned several things about ourselves," Land said. "I looked around and discovered that there were more Americans who agreed with me and shared my love for our country and who looked to me for strength in time of trouble than I had been led to believe were out there. More of my neighbors reacted the same way I did than I had been led to believe they would." □

**State senior adults meet at FBC, Sevierville**



**NEARLY 600** people attended the annual Senior Adult Conference Sept. 10-12 at First Baptist Church, Sevierville. The event was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Christian Growth Development Group. Tim Holcomb, group leader, right, visits with Bible study leader Bob Norman, retired pastor, ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, and his wife, Jean, who sang during the conference. Senior adults had numerous learning opportunities during the week through conferences and Bible study. — Photos by Lonnie Wilkey



**MILLIE CRAWFORD** left, of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, receives a certificate of excellence from Don Mauldin, TBC senior adult specialist, for the church's senior adult newsletter. The contest was sponsored by the Baptist and Reflector.



**SENIOR ADULTS** attending the conference from First Baptist Church, White House, included, from left, Naomi Biggs, Thelma Covington, Jackie Lester, Flora Webb, Pat Ballor, Melba Link, Joyce Eidson, Ruth Escue, Glen Leftwich, Alma Owen, Dianne Puckett, and Don Puckett.

**Repeal effort falls short in Miami**

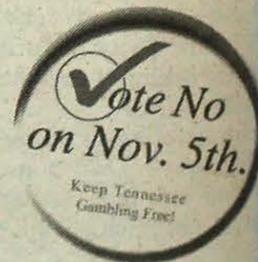
Baptist Press

MIAMI — An effort to repeal the homosexual-rights ordinance of Miami-Dade County appeared to fall short in the Sept. 10 primary election in Florida.

With 656 of 754 precincts closed the morning of Sept. 10 amid a new round of election glitches, the anti-repeal vote totaled 52.9 percent, with 145,971-130,100.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas, a leading supporter of the homosexual-rights ordinance adopted by the Miami-Dade County Commission in 1998, said, "... we sent a strong message today," the Associated Press reported.

"All ethnic groups were on the same page today on this issue," Penelas claimed. "There is no room for discrimination of any sort," he said, describing Miami as "a community of inclusion." □



**Register to Vote  
by Oct. 4**

# Spanish language seminary extension holds first graduation

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — On Aug. 24 nine students the Hispanic Seminary Extension — Metro Area graduated from the school. They were the first graduates of the school. The ceremony was held at the Baptist Center of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood.

The extension center operates under the auspices of Southern Baptist Seminary Extension based in Nashville, which provides seminary courses to students who do not study on one of the six campuses of the Southern Baptist theological seminaries.

## Fulfillment of a dream

The graduation was the fulfillment of a dream for Chuy Avila of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff. Avila, who works with Hispanic ministries in Tennessee, began trying to develop a training program for Hispanic church leaders soon after he arrived at the TBC staff in 1999.

Avila explained such a training center was needed because of the many Hispanics moving to the state who need churches. Those churches required trained leaders, he said. And Hispanic church leaders need not only to study Spanish, their first language, but to learn theology which is presented considering the cultural norms and backgrounds of Hispanics.

Hispanic pastors and church planters could be hired from other states, especially Texas and California, said Avila. But the money isn't available to hire enough pastors and church planters. And they probably wouldn't stay in Tennessee.

Developing Baptist pastors and church leaders from current church leaders is the only way to reach the TBC goal of providing 150 Hispanic Baptist congregations to Hispanics in Tennessee by 2010, explained Avila.

"We need to invest in the laypeople" he said, which is "building them" and "building the future," he said.

With the help of Richard Skidmore of the TBC staff who works with seminary extension, the Spanish-language extension center was opened in Nashville in August of 1999.

## Students, instructors

The students and instructors are the real story of the school, said Avila. When the nine graduates enrolled three years ago, only one was a pastor. Because of what they have learned through their studies, four more students began working with congregations, often helping start them. Then the congregations called them as pastor, reported Avila.

All of the graduates and students of the school are working in Baptist congregations. Those students have helped increase the number of Hispanic congregations, said Avila. In the past three years the number of Hispanic Baptist congregations in Tennessee has increased from 23 to 57.

The students do all of this in addition to working outside

of the home, said Avila. The students even include two pastor/wife teams.

The instructors are another important part of the story, continued Avila. They only receive honorariums which come from the TBC and students' fees as payment. And they make three-year commitments.

Three of the instructors are employees of LifeWay Christian Resources, which makes Nashville a good place for such a center, says Avila. He hopes to develop it into a full-time school and eventually hire a director. The nearest Baptist Spanish-language theological school is in San Antonio, Texas, he noted.

The main barrier to operating the school is finding instructors, he said. Avila hopes to enlist Spanish-speaking missionaries who live in the area to teach some courses.

The current instructors are Estriberto Britton, Luis Lopez, and Luis Aranguren of LifeWay Christian Resources; Rafael Blanco, pastor of the Hispanic Mission of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville; David Carrerra, pastor of the Hispanic Mission of First Baptist

Church, Shelbyville; and Avila. The instructors must have theology degrees from approved schools in order to teach.

Classes, which are held at the Nashville Baptist Association office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, will begin Oct. 1 and continue through Jan. 14. Classes to be offered are Old Testament I, Evangelism in Action, Formation for Ministry, and Systematic Theology.

The Aug. 24 graduates earned at least one of three certificates, although many earned two. Students earned a certificate in church backgrounds, certificate in church leadership, and/or a certificate in pastoral training. A diploma is earned by completing work for five certificates.

For more information, contact Avila at javila@tnbaptist.org, (615) 371-7913, or 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7913. ■



**ESTRIBERTO BRITTON** who is an instructor of the Seminary Theological Institution in Spanish presents Alfonso Zavala, pastor, Hispanic Mission of South Gate Baptist Church, Antioch, with the two certificates he earned. Britton works for LifeWay Christian Resources.



**THE FIRST GRADUATES OF THE Hispanic Seminary Extension — Metro Area** are, from left, Joseph Lara, pastor, Hispanic Mission of First Baptist Church, Smyrna; Ramon Gonzalez, member, Hispanic Mission of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville; Jorge Guzman, member, Hispanic First Baptist Church, Nashville; Sonia Guzman, member, Hispanic First Baptist Church, Nashville; Reina Sanchez, member, Hispanic Mission

of East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg; Lucio Sanchez, pastor, Hispanic Mission of East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg; Ruben Nucamendi, pastor, Hispanic Mission of Faith Christian Church, Nashville; Alfonso Zavala, pastor, Hispanic Mission of South Gate Baptist Church, Antioch; and Jorge Arenivas, pastor, Hispanic Mission of Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

## Bolivar church members build facility

By Baptist and Reflector

BOLIVAR — About 40 members of Dixie Hills Baptist Church here finished building its new worship center recently. The members worked almost every Saturday for about a year. The center will seat 60 people plus the choir.

Men worked on the construction and women provided lunch. The builders also provided tools and materials from their various trades. Church members include two building contractors, a plumber/electrician, and two professional painters.

Other members made stained glass windows for the worship center. The baptistry window features an empty tomb and the words "He Is Risen!" Six other windows include the cross. Pam Howell led the project, teaching volunteers how to make stained glass windows.

The worship center was dedicated Aug. 18. About 275 people gathered for the event.

Receiving Golden Hammer Awards from Pastor Jimmy Garrett for their work were David Gatlin, Monroe Willis, Wayne Webster, Gene Howell, Doug Howell, Steve Taylor,

and Pam Howell.

Although members are tired, reported Garrett, they plan to begin renovating the old fellowship hall into classrooms. New classrooms are needed immediately to provide for visitors and new members. And volunteers will remodel the former worship center into a fellowship hall.

"We have a life changing message for the youth and adults of our community that is as relevant and fresh as our building is new," said Garrett.

Dixie Hills Church was begun 40 years ago by First Baptist Church, Bolivar. □

## Concert to feature hunger needs

By Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A BEAT (Believers Everywhere ATtack) Hunger Weekend Celebration Concert will be held Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. It is a part of the Oct. 11-13 BEAT Hunger Weekend Celebration.

Headlining the nationwide celebration to increase awareness of world hunger will be the Christian rock group, The Swift. Lewis Thomas, minister of youth, First Baptist Church, Pulaski, and vocalist, will serve as worship leader. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

The price of admission is one canned food item to benefit local hunger ministries. A love offering also will be taken to benefit the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention is sponsoring the concert and the celebration. For more information, contact beathungerweekend.com. □

**About dangers of drugs****Former pastor expands ministry to educate teenagers**

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Phil Lovelace may not serve as a Tennessee Baptist pastor anymore, but don't ask him why he "left the ministry."

He would be quick to point out that simply isn't the case. Instead, "God has expanded my territory," said Lovelace, who is approaching his first anniversary as president of the Tennessee Drug Awareness Council based here.

Lovelace left the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Somerville, a year ago to take over the reins of TDAC, a non-profit drug education organization with a mission to "inform and educate the children and youth of the state of Tennessee about the dangers of drug abuse which adversely affect the morals and lives of Tennessee families through free information and educational programs that encourage right living and high moral character."

TDAC receives no state or national funding and is supported by gifts from churches, religious organizations, businesses, and individuals. The organization receives a significant portion of its funding from the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions and from various Tennessee Baptist churches.

Lovelace sees similarities between the pastorate and his new role as an educator.

"My heart has been for souls and to see people disciplined so they can become strong witnesses for the Lord,"



**PHIL AND SANDRA LOVELACE** have ministered together in the pastorate for years. They are still ministering together in their roles with Tennessee Drug Awareness Council.

Lovelace said.

"God can use TDAC in equipping the ministry of churches," Lovelace affirmed.

Lovelace became interested in the ministry of TDAC in 1994 when former TDAC president Wayman Jones and his wife, Pat, came to First Church, Somerville, as part of a youth emphasis weekend. Lovelace received training as a prevention specialist and began to speak to teenagers in local Fayette County schools and surrounding areas.

He saw his role then as an extension of his pastoral ministry. "The church needs to get out of its walls and this

was a way to do that," Lovelace said.

Lovelace said that it was common knowledge in the schools he went to that he was a pastor. And while he had to present the drug education material in the classrooms from the standpoint of health issues and abstinence, he prayed that "the kids would see Jesus" through his lifestyle. He could also answer faith-related questions after class if asked, he said.

And, it had an impact on his Somerville congregation. "We had families come to our church because of that ministry outside our walls," Lovelace said.

Even before he accepted his new role, Lovelace knew the need for TDAC's ministry was overwhelming.

Statistics show that about 10.4 million Americans between the ages of 12 and 20 had at least one drink last month, and of those 6.8 million were "binge" drinkers (consuming five or more drinks in a row on a single occasion), Lovelace said.

In addition, the highest rates of illicit drug use are found among youth ages 18-20, Lovelace continued.

Also, he added, statistics indicate that 80 percent of high school seniors have used alcohol, 62 percent have smoked cigarettes, 49 percent have used marijuana, and 9 percent have used cocaine.

"Our heart is to help the kids" while helping them to make good choices to

be drug free, Lovelace stressed.

One way in which TDAC reaches to kids is by going into classrooms. Last year their programs reached 60,000 children in 300 school systems across the state, Lovelace said.

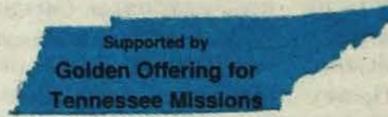
The education program is coordinated by Lovelace's wife, Sandra, who contacts schools each year to set up programs. Sandra Lovelace then assigns the schools to one of TDAC's volunteer prevention specialists who are trained by the Lovelaces to present the drug education programs in the schools.

Though 57 prevention specialists sounds like a lot, more are needed, Lovelace said.

Volunteers can be retired educators, medical personnel, or ministers as well as current professionals who can give at least one day or more per month to the program, Lovelace said. Training is provided to the prevention specialists, he stressed. People interested in learning more about the program can contact Phil or Sandra Lovelace at (615) 385-2251.

Lovelace has no regrets about leaving the pastorate. He still has ample opportunities to preach and he knows he and his wife have the opportunity to touch the lives of thousands of teenagers before they are faced with making a "bad choice."

"I pray the kids will see Jesus in us as we give them the facts of life," Lovelace said. □

**TBC Executive Board acts on budget, other matters ...**

— Continued from page 1

A question was raised from the floor about the "needs" at TBCH.

Tony Crossnoe, pastor of West Paris Baptist Church, Paris, and chairman of the Christian Services Committee, noted that over the last 22 years the TBCH's portion of CP funds has decreased from 5 percent in 1980 to 3.5 percent currently.

TBCH President Bryant Millsaps spoke to board members about their current situation and shared what the institution was doing to address the situation.

Board members discussed the pros and cons of giving additional funds to TBCH when other institutions and the Executive Board operations received no increase.

Viar reminded board members that the Budget and Program Committee was "trying to work in a real world with real cash" to come up with the best budget they could. He acknowledged that it was not a "perfect budget."

A call for the question was issued and the budget passed with about five dissenting votes.

The Christian Services Committee, with the support of the Budget and Program Committee, then made the following recommendation: "The long-

term goal is to allocate up to 5 percent of the total Cooperative Program budget to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes using the formula of allocating the first 13 percent of future total Cooperative Program increases."

In discussing the rationale for the move, Crossnoe noted that Cooperative Program dollars increased by as much as 148 percent or more for five TBC entities from 1980-2002.

Only three institutions received less — Carson-Newman College (75.89 percent), Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy (60.89 percent), and TBCH (47.91 percent).

Crossnoe said it could take five to six years to get the TBCH to the 5 percent level they were at in 1980.

"Our intent is to help the ministry of the Children's Homes," Crossnoe said. "This is a way to get there."

Joe Stacker, interim pastor of Brook Hollow Baptist Church, Nashville, observed "we're robbing Peter to pay Paul." He noted other institutions have the same needs and problems as TBCH. "We need to think hard about this before we set a precedent," Stacker said. He suggested there is "a deeper problem that needs more study."

Carlos Peterson, pastor of Christ Community Church,

Athens, agreed. Plugging a hole in the dike every year doesn't solve the problem, he said.

Ron Stewart, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, observed that the TBCH problem is not new. "This is a correction of something that has gone in the wrong direction for some time," he said.

The recommendation passed by a vote of 35-22 with two abstentions. It will be presented to TBC messengers in November for approval.

**New officers**

Laurann Wetham of Corryton Baptist Church, Corryton, was elected by acclamation to serve as president of the TBC Executive Board for the upcoming year.

Other officers are Carl Scarlett, pastor of Miracle Baptist Church, LaVergne, vice president, and Donna Cardwell of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, secretary.

**Partnerships extended**

Board members voted unanimously to extend current Tennessee Baptist partnerships with the Carioca Baptist Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the Baptist Mission of Portugal, for another three years. Both partnerships also are in conjunction with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The extended Rio partner-

ship would begin Jan. 1, 2004 and go through Dec. 31, 2006, while the Portugal partnership would extend from Jan. 1, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2005.

**Cooperative agreement**

Board members approved with no opposition a cooperative agreement with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The agreement replaces the previous agreement with the former SBC Home Mission Board. It documents the relationship and common operations between the two entities, which reduces overlap and confusion while promoting cooperation, according to background information supplied with the recommendation.

The new agreement focuses the joint work of NAMB and TBC in three areas — evangelism strategies, new church starts, and support for NAMB missionary personnel located in Tennessee. NAMB funding, under the new agreement, will be shifted away from salaries of TBC personnel and into project assistance and training needs, according to the background paper.

In addition, non-missionary personnel-related NAMB funding will come to the TBC on a one-twelfth basis each month, with the TBC giving an annual accounting of how the funds are spent.

"It's a better relationship than we have now," assure Jack Robinson, chairman of the Executive Committee who made the recommendation as member of Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

NAMB trustees will consider the same agreement at the meeting in October.

**Fresh Start Tennessee**

Board members learned of new church planting initiatives in the state called "Fresh Start Tennessee." Emphasis will be placed on people instead of buildings, according to Gary Rickman, TBC ministry coordinator.

The plan will involve merging the TBC's current Church Building and Loan Fund and New Work Revolving Loan Fund into a new Church Planting Loan Fund. Outstanding loans under the old fund will continue under the existing agreements, with repayment being transferred to the new fund.

The recommendation passed with no opposition.

**Vacancy**

In other business, board members approved a recommendation from the Committee on Committees to elect Gary Anderson of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waynesboro, to serve a two-year, unexpired term on the Committee on Boards. □

# Christianity doesn't allow for picking and choosing stances

Lonnie Wilkey, editor

In the past few weeks Christians in general and Tennessee Baptists in particular have drawn a lot of negative publicity for doing what we should be doing: standing up against a lottery in Tennessee.

Leaders in the anti-lottery effort in Tennessee have been labeled right-wing fundamentalists who dare to impose their agenda upon the entire state.

That's a blanket statement that definitely does not cover everyone involved in this effort. The efforts to keep Tennessee gambling free go beyond religious definitions and barriers.

Some have chastised churches for "picking and choosing" in the anti-lottery effort. According to some proponents, the lottery is none of the church's business. What is really sad to see, however, is some of the negativism toward the church's involvement in this effort is coming from Christians.

I have heard several horror stories of church leaders going to their pastors and telling them to not take a stand

against the lottery.

One prominent church wouldn't even bring the matter up for a vote so members who wanted to could make donations through the church to help combat the lottery.

In the Sept. 15 issue of *The Tennessean* newspaper, columnist Gail Kerr ran some opinions from readers about the lottery. A week before Kerr basically took the position that the lottery issue is no big deal and she couldn't understand why some Christians were opposed to it.

One couple wrote: "We are only 13 miles to the state line at Hazel, Ky., and play there occasionally. I think the churches are wrong in making this such an issue, and our church has 'Vote No' signs for its members."

Another person who evidently attends church wrote that she has every intention of playing the lottery. She went on to write, "If, by some miracle, I should win the lottery, I would give 10 percent to my church, and I dare say it would not be refused."

Tim Chavez, another *Tennessean* columnist who writes a column from the

conservative viewpoint, also is confused about conservative views toward the lottery.

He wrote in the Sept 15 issue: "More government is supposed to be bad. Yet many conservatives — who held up signs, blew horns, and shouted around the state Capitol — have remained mostly undisturbed and dispassionate."

"The state lottery question is showing too many conservatives to be no better than the liberals they often criticize, and the president they loved to hate, Bill Clinton. They, too, have adopted situational ethics to benefit themselves."

"The state's Baptists have been the only folks collectively kicking up a story by distributing pamphlets describing the evils of the lottery on the poor and young. But the Baptists, from public reaction to their campaign, seem more of an oddity than part of the mainstream."

Chavez's statement about situational ethics hits home in this case.

I know fine Christians who are in favor of the lottery. They want a literal verse in the Bible that tells them gam-

bling is wrong. It's not there, but there are other verses in the Bible that can be used to make a case against it.

Many of those same Christians who use the argument that the Bible does not pinpoint "lottery" or "gambling" by name are vehemently opposed to abortion. Yet, to my knowledge, the word "abortion" is not used in the Bible.

We oppose abortion because it takes innocent, unborn lives. We should oppose gambling or the lottery because it has the potential of destroying the lives and families of those precious babies once they are born.

Christians do not have the right to pick and choose what moral issues we want to fight or support. That's part of what is wrong in our country today. Too many Christians over the years have failed to stand for what is right because it might not be popular.

On Nov. 5, Christians in Tennessee will have the opportunity to vote for what is right by voting no on the lottery referendum.

Will we do it or will we cave in? The choice is ours. □

# Teaching people to help others should begin early

parent weeks

By Carolyn Ross Tomlin



The Bible contains many stories of Jesus helping others. For example, the healing of the man with a demon (Matthew 17: 18); healing the two blind men (Matthew 20:29-34); and healing the paralytic (Mark 2: 1-12) are only a few. Serving others requires time — and it must be taught.

What is the difference between adults who are helpers in the community and those

who never see the need to be of service? Often the answer lies in what they as children learned at home. Make sure your youngsters learn that helping others is another way of serving God. When we work together, the community becomes a better place for everyone. Help your children choose some of the following activities.

- (1) Design greeting cards for a nursing home or residential care facility. Save personal cards, cutting away the front and inside reverse. Paste on colorful construction paper. Make a personal visit to deliver the cards.
- (2) Adopt a senior adult from your church, who because of ill health, can no longer garden. Plant a flowerbed that is visible

from their window. Rake leaves and do seasonal maintenance on their yard. Check with your local greenhouse for plants that grow well in your area. Know the requirement for sun/shade and water.

- (3) Collect non-perishable food for a homeless center. Think of basics, such as rice, dry beans, dry milk, canned foods, flour, and sugar. Mission organizations from your church may participate.
- (4) Collect second-hand women's purses: fill with samples of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, and other toilet items. Deliver to a prison where women are incarcerated.
- (5) Plan a monthly project and encourage children to save

their pennies, nickels, and dimes. Place in a glass jar. Select a community project or fundraiser, such as a person needing a rare or expensive surgery, a family whose house was destroyed by fire or through some other disaster. Discuss ways boys and girls can be a witness for Christ and help people in their community.

- (6) Plan a coat drive for children who need warm winter clothing. Check with parents in your church or community for clean, used coats in good condition. Set up a clothes closet to help under privileged children. Contact a social service agency in your area for delivery.
- (7) Teach character building activities such as learning about

responsibility, integrity, honesty, loyalty, faithfulness, and others. Tell Bible stories about people who practiced these characteristics. Remember: the best example is you — yourself.

When community service and helping others is taught at an early age the child is more likely to continue this pattern throughout life. Think what a difference this knowledge and application could make in the future of our world! □ — Tomlin is a former assistant professor of education at Union University in Jackson. She writes for numerous magazines in the area of early childhood education. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

# Overcoming pitfalls, temptations essential to healthy choices

Good health

By Branda Polk



You have heard about all the benefits of eating healthier, exercise, and weight loss. You are likely to feel better and have more energy. You have every intention to begin making healthier lifestyle choices. So, you commit to changing your habits.

But, without even noticing, temptations "sneak in." Suddenly, the well-intentioned healthy choices are sabotaged and you are forced to forego your plans. These "pitfalls" are the temptations to make unhealthy choices. The flashing lights and "danger ahead" signs were visible, but so many of us wouldn't dare to these pitfalls, but we

do. These pitfalls can distract, sidetrack, or place unrealistic expectations so we lose focus.

Consider the following three pitfalls and how they shape your choices. Awareness is the first step toward sidestepping these traps and walking toward a healthier, God-honoring lifestyle.

(1) Statistics show that 99 percent of American homes have at least one if not two or three televisions. This common part of life is a strong pitfall negatively influencing a healthy lifestyle. Television steals valuable time that could be spent more productively.

Many people say they are so busy and don't have time to exercise, grow spiritually, help a neighbor, or serve God. Yet the average American watches more than six hours of television per day. You may not watch that much, but even one minute of watching TV means

you really did have time to make healthier choices and you chose not to.

TV can control your emotions, impact your attitude, give a false view of real life, and direct the way you think, believe, and act based on what you see.

Studies have shown that television is a major contributing factor to childhood and adult obesity. When you watch TV, you are more likely to mindlessly eat empty calories and sit motionless, therefore lowering your metabolism (the rate at which your body uses calories for energy).

Avoid this pitfall by limiting or omitting television viewing from your daily routine. Choose wisely what you watch and be sure you are honoring God with your time.

(2) Without even knowing it, the people in your life can negatively influence your choices

and behaviors. Negative comments, pushy suggestions, offering unhealthy foods, and making demands of your time are all things that well-intending people do to sabotage your healthy lifestyle plan.

Be aware that the snide or joking comments about your health choices impact you emotionally. Remember, others may be convicted by your commitment to honor God with your health choices and will make comments to try to distract you. When this happens, resolve to continue your healthy choices and set a good example. Surround yourself with those who encourage, support, and pray for you to combat the negative impact of this pitfall.

(3) Your own thinking can be a pitfall in your commitment to better health. Negative thoughts about yourself and your value will impact

your choices.

Thoughts about yourself that include words like "never," "always," "should," and "must" will lead to feelings of failure when you are not completely perfect. Ask God to reveal these negative thoughts to you and begin to replace them with positive thoughts that will lead toward progress on your wellness journey.

Remember that God loves and values you. Allow your health choices to honor that love relationship without thoughts of drudgery or "have to."

Colossians 3:1-2 says to set or focus your heart and mind on things of Christ. Relying on God's strength and focusing on Him will help you avoid these pitfalls and make necessary changes to honor him with your health habits. □ — Polk is a certified personal trainer and Fit 4 coordinator at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

### Former TBC pastor to retire as Indiana exec

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Charles W. Sullivan, executive director/treasurer for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, announced his retirement during a called staff meeting Sept. 11. His resignation comes after 11 years of service to the SCBI as executive director.

During his tenure in Indiana the convention has experienced a 57.8 percent increase in the budget and is currently in the 13th consecutive year of growth in Cooperative Program giving. Indiana now gives \$1.2 million to world missions causes annually.

Sullivan has been instrumental in establishing six partnerships: Zambia, Croatia, the Spanish Highlands of Guatemala, eastern Ukraine, Oklahoma, and Florida. Under his leadership Highland Lakes

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#### Attention Pastors

If students in your church family are attending Austin Peay State University, we want to help. While away from their church home, First Baptist Clarksville would be honored to minister to them and equip them for ministry. Contact our college ministries office and let us know how we can partner with you to change lives. Call (931) 572-1521; chad@fbct.org. Dr. Roger Freeman, Pastor.

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Baptist Camp has experienced unprecedented expansion, including a new all-purpose building with motel-style rooms, a worship center, kitchen and dining hall, and newly paved roads. Sullivan served for 16 years as a pastor in Tennessee. He took the Indiana post while serving as pastor of First Baptist Church, Lenoir City.

His retirement becomes effective May 15, 2003. □

### G-WU faculty upset with president

Baptist Press

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — One day after revelations of academic tampering surfaced

at Gardner-Webb University, the school's faculty delivered a vote of no confidence in the leadership of G-WU President Chris White.

Faculty members voted 63-39 during a Sept. 10 meeting. Their vote will be forwarded to the university's trustees.

Prior to the meeting, White pleaded for forgiveness and asked for "no mad rush to judgment" at the emergency faculty meeting. Classes at G-WU were canceled so the entire faculty could attend, according to *The Star of Shelby* newspaper.

White came under fire after it was discovered he allegedly ordered the school's registrar to use a different grading policy for a star basketball player

who had been caught cheating, according to a newspaper report.

White's signed memorandum on the issue resulted in the player becoming eligible.

The memo has led the NCAA to look into that and other aspects of the Gardner-Webb athletics program, sources told *The Star*. Gardner-Webb's athletic program recently moved into Division I.

The athletics department issued a statement Sept. 10, saying, "We have self-reported to the NCAA and they will be visiting our campus next week."

White, who wrote the memo

regarding Gardner-Webb ketball star Carlos Webb the decision had nothing with athletics and that made the change because student was badly advised

Webb led the team in his senior season. He caught cheating in a rel class in 1999 and was failing grade. He retoo class in the summer sen and made a D.

Gardner-Webb is a year university affiliated the Baptist State Conve of North Carolina. □

#### CLASSIFIED

##### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., is seeking a pastor. We are a small congregation of 154 members with a stable, active core group of about 70. Our historic building is located in a fast-growing suburban area, near Union University. Our congregation still has the closeness typical of small churches. That closeness is maintained through frequent fellowship, prayer, and ministry. It is calling you to join us as we seek to share these gifts with the unchurched and unsaved in our community, send your resume to Pastor Search Committee, Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, 331 Pleasant Plains Rd., Jackson, TN 38305.

Unicoi Baptist Church in the beautiful east Tennessee is seeking a bivocational minister. Parsonage available. Send resume to Clark Laughrun, Mockingbird Lane, Unicoi, TN 37692, phone (423) 743-9366.

First Baptist Church, Monterey, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. We are a church of 200+ active members, located between Cookeville and Crossville. Our staff consists of a full-time pastor, youth minister and secretary; and part-time music minister and custodian. We are currently building a family center. If you feel God may be leading you to pastor us, please send your resume to First Baptist Church, 106 N. Chestnut St., Monterey, TN 38574.

First Baptist Church of Boone, North Carolina (CBF/SBC) is accepting resumes for the position of senior pastor. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 375 West King St., Boone, NC 28607 or email mpierce@boonefirstbaptist.org

##### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

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

#### CLASSIFIED

##### MINISTRIES — COMBINATION

First Baptist Church, Oliver Springs is seeking a gifted individual or couple to work as director of children and youth ministries. Send resume to P.O. Box 601, Oliver Springs, TN 37840.

Seeking full-time youth and music director. Responsibilities will primarily be with youth. Music responsibilities will include Sunday morning and evening worship, Wednesday evening hymn service, and one cantata a year. Pay and benefits commensurate with position. Send resume to Personnel Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 302 N Magnolia St., Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

Sunnyside Baptist Church is currently seeking a person to serve as a full-time minister of music/children. Interested applicants may send a resume to Personnel Committee, Sunnyside Baptist Church, 406 Cooks Valley Rd., Kingsport, TN 37664.

##### MINISTRIES — STUDENTS

University Parkway Baptist Church, Johnson City, Tenn., is seeking a full-time youth minister for grades 7-12. If interested, send resume to University Parkway Baptist Church, Attn. Personnel Committee, 219 University Parkway, Johnson City, TN 37604, phone (423) 926-5841, fax (423) 926-2472.

Morningside Baptist Church, a small fast growing church in southeast Huntsville, Ala., is seeking an associate pastor/youth minister with a heart to minister to youth. This person must be a committed and enthusiastic individual with strong organizational skills, able to assist in church ministry and programs. Send resume to Search Committee, Morningside Baptist Church, 15001 Bailey Cove Rd., Huntsville, AL 35803.

##### MISCELLANEOUS

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## minister's corner

Note: The following article on the lottery is the first in a series written by Don McCulley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dresden, and author of *Gambling Is There Any Cure?*

Don McCulley

I. Barnum once said, "There's a sucker born every minute." He should know. He got his start selling lottery tickets. On Nov. 5, people across this state will go to the polls to vote for governor, elect representatives, and whether or not to lift the constitutional ban on gambling. YOUR VOTE IS CRITICAL! Pollsters tell us that 58-65 percent of voters are FOR the lottery and that one out of two Baptists support it!

One way of introduction let me suggest three points on how we got to where we are. First, we are surrounded by the gambling industry. We are bedeviled by politicians that we must have gambling in the state of Tennessee because we are losing much revenue to the surrounding states who have some form of gambling. Not only are we surrounded by the gambling industry, secondly, we are saturated with gambling influence. There are many people who are more focused on a quick-draw than Paradise. The American dream is to get the lottery. Many have the desire to be rich and an obsession with money. They are motivated by the monster "more." What's wrong with bettering oneself? It is if you keep it in the proper perspective and it is legitimate. But be reminded that Jesus put our first priority, our main interest, our primary should be the kingdom of God. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all of these other things shall be added unto you." Does kingdom business include Luck and Charley Chance? Not only are we surrounded by the gambling industry and saturated with the gambling influence, thirdly, we are bedeviled by the gambling illusion. Any state, community or individual that banks on gambling or a lottery for its well being will end up with more a miracle.

We have on our hands a Goliath reality — a giant we cannot slay. A lot of people are intimidated by the giant of our society but God is not. God is calling for champions who will take their sling and their slingshot and take care of the giants. How does one deal with the Goliaths? You don't negotiate, mediate, or cede to the Goliaths. You slay the Goliaths. Goliath-reality, this giant that we face is not to be stopped or slain by verbal savvy but by the sword of truth, by people who will go to the polls and vote against the lottery. YOUR VOTE IS CRITICAL! We are told that one out of four churchgoers participate in the political process. That means that 75 percent or 24 million churchgoers are absent at the polls. Then we wonder why we are in the shape we are in. We are not being out-gunned, we are being out-gamed. Future articles will focus on five ways to vote "No" to the lottery referendum on Nov. 5.



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## just for today

Red Wood, retired pastor, Memphis

**With A Smile:** Lawyer to client (an actress getting a divorce): "This sums up our preparation for testimony in court. Do you think you can follow the questions I made?" Actress: "Yes sir, but I have a question. Who is playing the part of the judge?"

**This Truth:** Do you ever feel that life is a drama where everyone is playing a role, trying to be what he or she is not? The Greek translated "hypocrite" in the New Testament means a stage player or actor. The best witnesses for our world are those who are genuine and have no pretense, phoniness, or artificiality.

**Prize This Scripture:** "Simply let your 'Yes' and your 'No, No,' anything beyond this is from the evil one." — Matthew 5:37, NIV

**This Prayer:** Lord, help me to live in such a way that no one doubts my sincerity. □

## God forgives

By Greg McFadden

**Focal passage — Psalm 51:1-17**

Several years ago a television commercial features a husband complaining to his wife that he had "ring around the collar!" It soon became a slogan for school playgrounds around the country. The amazing thing was that the blame seemed to center around the wife's inability to get the stain out. It never occurred to the man that perhaps he could "wash his neck!" It's the same way with sin when looked at from a secular worldview. The human inclination is to blame our transgressions on someone else or on the circumstances of life. The post-modern culture wants nothing to do with words like sin, repentance, and forgiveness. The Christian, however, realizes that unconfessed sin is a barrier to a joy-filled relationship with God. Our great hope rests in God's promise to forgive and cleanse the repentant.

The people of confession in our text are prompted by the sin of King David in II Samuel 11:1-12:13. The army of Israel had marched off to war. For an unknown reason, the king remained in the palace. Late in the afternoon as he walked on the roof, his eyes gazed upon beautiful Bathsheba. His desire for her in that moment was greater than his self-control. She was brought in to the king where, in one moment of passion, sin gained dominion over David. A chain of wrong decisions led to a chain of life-ruining actions.

## Being born again

By Kenny Bruce

**Focal passage — John 3:1-17**

Nicodemus was respected, religious, intelligent, rich, and a ruler. But he was spiritually blind and none of those qualities or positions brought him the peace and joy for which he longed.

Because he was captivated by Jesus' miracles (v. 2), and because of the emptiness in his life, he came to Jesus at night. He came in the darkness, not because he was afraid of being seen, but most likely because he wanted to have a quiet, uninterrupted conversation with this new teacher "come from God."

Jesus' first response to Nicodemus revealed the requirement for entrance into the kingdom of God: "In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again'" (v. 3). The word translated "again" also means "from above."

To further explain the meaning of "born again," Jesus says in verse 5 that in order for any person to enter the kingdom, he must be "born of water and the Spirit."

"Born of water" does not refer to infant baptism, believer's baptism, baptismal regeneration, or the Word of God. Just as water in the mother's womb is the vehicle for physical birth, the Holy Spirit is the vehicle for spiritual birth. Verse 6 explains: "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

In his eventual remorse, David provides for us a model for receiving God's forgiveness.

**Seek Forgiveness.** In verse 1, David petitions God for "mercy." The implied precursor to such a request is the king's acceptance of guilt. Had he blamed anyone or anything else, he would have felt no need for mercy. The reason so many fail to know the forgiveness of God is their inability to admit guilt. In these verses are three sets of significant words.

First he uses strong words to identify his failure. "Transgressions" (deliberate rebellion), "iniquity" (to twist or distort), and "sin" (to miss the mark or fall short). Literally, David suggests that what he has done is to shake his fist in the face of God in disobedient rebellion. A serious offense in which his only hope was mercy from a God whose nature includes "great compassion" and unfailing love.

The second set of significant terms describes the desire of David's broken and contrite heart. "Blot out," "wash away," and "cleanse" signal the king's great desire to have the stain of sin removed. Finally, we must recognize the triple use of the word "my." There is no where else to look. It was not the fault of war. It was not the fault of Bathsheba. It was not the fault of God (the creator of sexual desire). David professed; it is me, "my sin," and "my fault."

The Psalmist continues (vv. 3-6) to **acknowledge guilt.** "My sin is

Sunday School Lesson  
Family Bible Series  
Sept. 22

always before me" means that I cannot brush it off. My conscience reminds me of it. My thoughts dwell on it. Everywhere I go, everything I see, causes me to think about it. When a life becomes this dominated by conviction, a natural next step is confession.

The acknowledgment of universal sin in verse 5 reflects the nature of fallen man. We must not assume anything more than poetic language at this point.



McFADDEN

In a similar manner, Jesus' disciples asked the master about the man born blind, "Whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?" (John 9:2, TEV) Though the pre-born could not have acted on his nature to sin, the king recognized the propensity to rebel existed.

Finally, David **prays for renewal** (vv. 7-12) and **commits to serve** (vv. 13-17). Genuine repentance always leads to forgiveness, restoration, and renewed commitment. In this Psalm, King David presents himself to be an example to other transgressors. □ — McFadden is pastor of First Baptist Church, Hohenwald.

Sunday School Lesson  
Explore the Bible  
Sept. 22

person who had been bitten by a fiery serpent could look at the brass serpent lifted up on a pole and be healed. In similar fashion, when any person looks by faith on Jesus as his Saviour and Lord, he will be saved.

The sin of pride was blinding Nicodemus from the truth. As a Pharisee, he was more concerned about the praise of man than the praise of God (John 12:37-50), and he loved his sin more than the light Jesus was revealing (3:19-20).

It's the same sin that keeps unbelievers from the new birth experience. That's why it's imperative that we pray for the Holy Spirit to convict them of their sins before we witness to them.

Please note that Nicodemus finally was born again when he identified with Christ at Calvary (John 19:38-42).

His story gives us hope for the salvation of people who refused to accept Christ the first time we shared the plan of salvation with them. After sowing the seed with an unbeliever, we need to continue to pray the Holy Spirit will convict them of sin and lead them to faith in Christ. □ — Bruce is pastor of Leewood Baptist Church, Memphis.



BRUCE

life of the child of God continues to be unexplainable and unpredictable, but it's exciting, thrilling, and real!

Jesus uses a third illustration to further explain the new birth. "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (vv. 14-15). In Numbers 21:4-9, any

## Leaders

◆ **Elwood Doss Jr.**, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Fulton, Ky., has announced that he will retire. He will be available for part-time ministry work. Doss served as minister of music, First Baptist Church, Martin, for 17 years. He was on the staff of First Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau, Mo., for 10 years. Doss also was a public school band and choir director. He can be reached at (731) 587-5700 or 149 Shady Grove Rd., Martin, TN 38237.

◆ **Dale Holcomb** has been called as pastor of East Side Baptist Church, Elizabethton. He is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Calhoun**, has called **Barry A. Purser** as pastor. Formerly he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Monterey.

◆ **John Holland**, retired pastor, Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville, has been called as interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Sweetwater.

◆ **Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Huntland**, has called **Sammy Riggins** as pastor.

◆ **Oakwood Baptist Church, Chattanooga**, has called **Kenneth A. Clark** of North Carolina as pastor, effective Sept. 23.

◆ **Walter Hill First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, has called **Shelby Smith Jr.**, as pastor, effective Aug. 11. Smith, an employee of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, served as interim pastor of the church. He is director of FAITH department of LifeWay. Smith was evangelism equipper for Concord Baptist Association, based in Murfreesboro, a church starter strategist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and on the staff of the North American Mission Board. He also has been on the staff of churches in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

## Churches

◆ **Grace Baptist Church, Tullahoma**, will hold revival Oct. 5-9. Don Womack, evangelist of Memphis, will speak. For more information, call Tim McGehee, pastor, at (931) 455-9839.

◆ **LaGuardo Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will hold its annual homecoming Sept. 22. Steve Bingham, a former pastor, will speak and Carl Price, another former pastor, will attend. Activities will begin at 8:45 a.m. and include a luncheon and afternoon service.

◆ **South Woods Baptist Church, Germantown**, will



**THIRTY-NINE VOLUNTEERS** from 11 churches in Nolachucky Baptist Association pause during their work recently in Kinston, N. C. The group framed two houses and did siding work on two others. The group also saw 15 people make professions of faith, including a man who was 95 years old, because of their efforts. The association is based in Morristown.

hold a Mid-South Regional Founders Conference Sept. 26-28. The theme of the conference is "Why Grace Alone?" Speakers include Andy Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Durham, N.C.; Greg Thornbury, assistant professor of Christian Studies, Union University, Jackson; and Ronnie Stevens, senior pastor, First Evangelical Church, Memphis. For more information, contact the church at (901) 758-1213 or [www.southwoodsbc.org](http://www.southwoodsbc.org).

◆ **First Baptist Church, Paris**, will hold revival Sept. 29 - Oct. 2. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **Black Oak Baptist Church, Clinton**, will hold revival Oct. 13-16. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Collinwood**, will hold homecoming activities to celebrate its 75th anniversary Sept. 22. Worship will begin at 11 a.m. and be followed by a luncheon and afternoon musical program. Phillip Dougan will speak. For more information, call (931) 724-4769.

◆ **Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown**, will hold revival Sept. 22-26. Jeff LaBorg, pastor, Sharon Baptist Church, Savannah, will speak. For more information, call Terry Wilkerson, pastor, at (615) 286-1252.

◆ **Ramble Creek Baptist Church, Big Sandy**, had a revival recently which resulted in seven people making professions of faith. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of McKenzie, spoke.

◆ **Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, recently celebrated its 150th anniversary.

◆ **North Side Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, re-

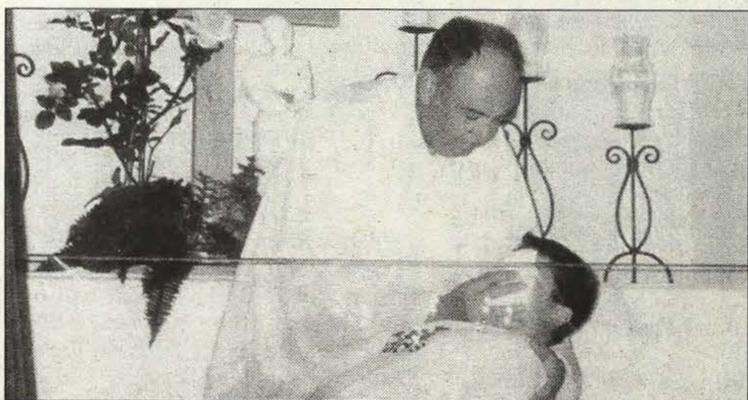
cently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

## Schools

◆ The Center for Biblical Studies of **Union University, Jackson**, recently launched its internet web site which provides information about the center in addition to news on sponsored conferences and other activities. The web site also includes a list of projected holdings in the center's Ideal Pastor's Reference Library. The physical library will open in the spring of 2003.

## Statewide Events

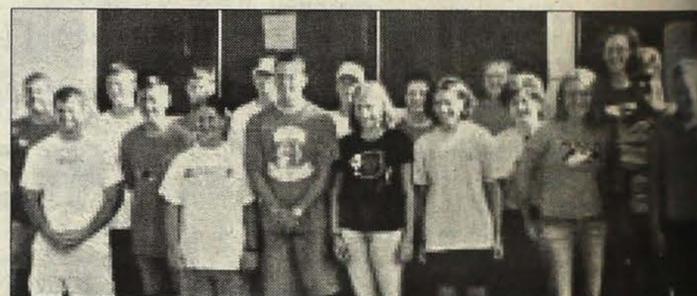
◆ The Tennessee Baptist Convention staff is continuing to hold **CONNECT** regional youth events across the state. The next **CONNECT** event Sept. 21 at the Tri-Cities Appalachian Fairgrounds, Mt. Stage from 7-9 p.m. Cris Tackett and Inlightened Ministries of Franklin will lead. For more information, contact Darrell Myers at (423) 281-1341 or [www.yectennessee.com](http://www.yectennessee.com).



**BOB PEARCE**, retiring pastor of Springhill Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, baptizes his grandson, Robert Hunter Pearce, on his last Sunday at the church. Pearce served the church 29 years until his recent retirement. On his first Sunday as pastor of the church, he baptized his son, Robert.



**STEVE TRAINUM**, left, and Charles Jeter, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Bolivar, pause after being "slimed." They challenged participants of a recent Vacation Bible School to raise \$400 for missions. If the children did, the two men agreed to be slimed. The participants raised \$474.69.



**THESE YOUTH** of Bethel Baptist Church, Greenfield, pause during recent missions work in Lebanon and Nashville. They participated in several projects, including serving food at a homeless shelter.



**HONORED FOR TENURE** during the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting Sept. 10 were TBC staff members, from left, Gayle Ingram, ministry assistant, Woman's Missionary Union, Missions Awareness & Mobilization Group, 10 years; Bob Hall, collegiate ministry specialist, University of Tennessee - Knoxville, Christian Growth Development Group, 10 years; and Melanie Allen, ministry assistant, Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group, 10 years. Not present was Kim Huff, volunteer project specialist, Missions Awareness & Mobilization Group, five years.