

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 168/No. 37; Oct. 2, 2002

Former gambling addict

Gambling corrupts, destroys lives, pastor warns

Note: The following story first appeared in *Keep Tennessee Gambling Free: A Resource of the Baptist and Reformer*. John Eades recently spoke at a rally sponsored by Robertson County Baptist Association. He also is featured on a six-minute video mailed to TBC churches last week by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Churches are encouraged to use the video before the Nov. 5 election when they must decide whether or not to renege the lottery prohibition from the State Constitution.

by Linda Lawson
for Baptist and Reflector

WINCHESTER — As a United Methodist pastor, John Eades opposes legalized gambling on biblical, moral, and ethical grounds.

As a counselor, psychologist, and former director of a chemical dependency program for people hooked on drugs and alcohol, Eades understands the devastation of addiction in the lives of others.

By opposing legalized gambling, Eades also is a deeply personal warrior for Eades. He moved to Tennessee in 1996 to get away from the temptation of gambling and to halt the downward spiral of his life, a slide that had begun in the early 1990s.

He and his wife, Karen, lived in Moultrie, within easy driving distance of stores selling lottery tickets and casinos in Mississippi.

He regularly played the lottery, but the casinos at first did not attract him because "I didn't like to be around alcohol."

That changed one night when out-of-town friends were visiting and the two couples decided to drive to Biloxi. "The first time I pulled the handle on a slot machine, I loved it," Eades recalled. "I found it exciting. It exhilarated me."

After that experience, the Eades returned regularly to the casinos on weeknights and weekends.

A nominal church attendee at the time, "Sunday became a gambling day for me," Eades said. "I was bowing at the altar of the slot machine."

Karen and John Eades' approaches to gambling were different.

"She was a social gambler. She could quit," Eades said of his wife. "But within three months I had become addicted to gambling. I couldn't quit."

While spending increasing time at Mississippi casinos, Eades also continued playing the Florida lottery, which for him had become the gateway to other forms of gambling.

"For hours I would sit and play those pull tabs and scratch offs they had developed. I would win \$5 or \$10 and then go back in and buy some more. I played the lottery addictively also at that point in my life."

As Eades spent more and more money on gambling, he began lying to Karen to get money and to hide his activities.

"When we would meet after work, I would tell her to leave her money with me, to go on home." He would then take that money and head to a casino.

Out of frustration and fear of what was happening to her husband, Karen Eades took an overdose of Xanax, an anxiety medication. She was rushed to a hospital, her stomach was pumped, and her life was saved. But that warning signal made little impact on her husband. "I was so sick at that time I asked her to go gambling the next day to cheer her up," Eades recalled.

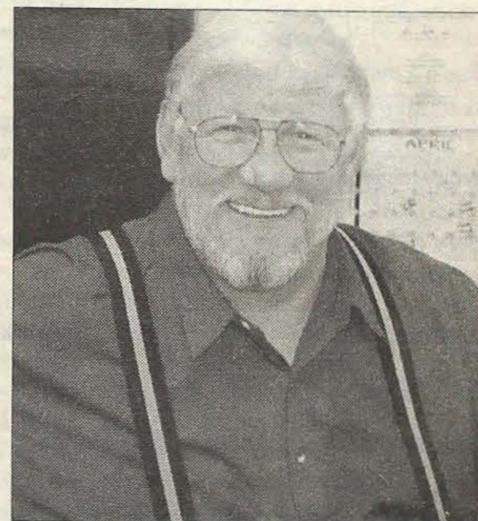
By this time, Eades was supporting his addiction with a constantly increasing number of credit cards.

Driving home from Mississippi late one night, Eades decided to take his life using the .357 Magnum he carried in his glove compartment for safety. He pulled into a rest stop in Alabama.

"I had made up my mind to do it," he recalled. "I was convinced I could open the glove compartment, put the gun to my mouth, and pull the trigger almost in one motion."

But when he opened the glove compartment, the gun was not there. "I was shaking because I knew how close I had really come," Eades said. "I went home, waked my wife up and said, 'Oh, Karen, you saved my life. You took the gun out of the glove compartment. You must have known I was going to try to hurt myself.'"

"John, I didn't take the gun out to save your life," Karen Eades replied. "I



JOHN EADES is glad to tell how a gambling addiction led him into financial disaster and nearly led him to commit suicide until God helped him through a miracle. — Photo by Linda Lawson

took the gun out to sell it and pay the electric bill."

By that time John Eades was ready to acknowledge that gambling was destroying his life. He had lost his savings and had more than \$300,000 in credit card debt.

The Eades decided to move to Winchester where gambling would be less convenient. Eades stayed away from gambling for a month before saving enough money to drive to a casino in Tunica, Miss.

— See Gambling, page 4



Southern Baptists affirm Scripture, tithing: survey

by James Dotson
for Baptist Press

KNOXSHVILLE — When compared with worshipers in other denominations nationwide, Southern Baptists generally are more involved in their congregations, spend more time in private devotional activities, are more likely to be tithers, and are more likely to hold a conservative view of biblical authority interpretation, according to the results of a comprehensive survey of Congregational Life Survey conducted last year.

The North American Mission Board's research services team, assisted in recruiting Southern Baptist congregations for the survey, reported on findings for Southern Baptists during the SBC Research Fellow-

ship's annual meeting Sept. 19-20 here. The study, funded by the Lilly Endowment and other sources, included a broad array of 49 faith groups — including evangelical and mainline Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Buddhists, and nondenominational churches.

The overall study involved a total of 300,000 worshipers in more than 2,000 congregations, including 20,000 Southern Baptists in 165 participating congregations. A subset of 2,000 Southern Baptists also addressed issues related to conversion and witnessing that were included in a separate report. The surveys were completed during a Sunday morning worship service during April 2001.

"This was an unusual attempt to survey people in the

pew rather than just looking at congregational profiles, or having a congregational leader tell us about a congregation," said Phil Jones, NAMB's director of research services.

Jones noted that while there are few major surprises in the data, it does reinforce other studies. "I think what we have is new information that confirms some of what we already know and quantifies it a little more precisely. It provides us an opportunity to compare worshipers in Southern Baptist congregations with those in other denominations and helps us see where we have much in common and where we differ."

The survey found that in many ways Southern Baptist worshipers are similar to those in other congregations. They

are predominantly female (60 percent), married (70 percent), with kids (44 percent), averaging 49 years of age (based on a minimum survey age of 15). Incomes also are similar, although Southern Baptists have fewer worshipers with an annual income of \$100,000 or more (11 percent versus 15 percent). Southern Baptists also have a lower percentage of college graduates (30 percent to 41 percent).

Southern Baptist congregations, like congregations of most religious groups, tend to be small. The average worship attendance in Southern Baptist congregations is about 80, compared to 90 for other congregations. Although it may seem like a contradiction, most attendees are found in larger church-

es. This is true for Southern Baptists and non-Southern Baptists as well.

Ethnically, about 91 percent of Southern Baptists surveyed are white. Four percent are black, 3 percent Hispanic, 2 percent Indian or Alaskan native, and 1 percent Asian or Pacific Islander.

Jones noted that there probably is some undercounting of non-white racial and ethnic groups because of language barriers and reluctance to participate. While Southern Baptists are less diverse than the U.S. population and all worshipers in the survey, Jones said the survey results show that Southern Baptists are no less diverse than religious groups such as Presbyterians or Lutherans.

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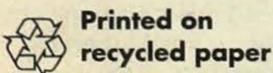
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**Volunteers gear
up to aid Isidore
flood victims**

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers in Louisiana and Mississippi began responding Sept. 27 to the flooding in the wake of tropical storm Isidore.

Two disaster relief teams in Louisiana will set up kitchen units in Kenner and Houma to prepare meals to be served by the American Red Cross.

"We go where we are needed and called," Buddy Day, director of disaster relief for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, told Baptist Press. "Fortunately, the storm wasn't as bad as we originally thought. However, there was quite a bit of flooding in south Louisiana and there's plenty of clean-up that needs to be done."

As tropical storm Isidore made landfall and headed north Sept. 26, water backing up from the Lake Pontchartrain inundated every home in Slidell's Palm Lake subdivision. A levee break at midday caused a sudden flood that forced out residents of two other Slidell neighborhoods, the Dellwood and Yester Oaks subdivisions.

Just a few miles from First Baptist Church, Slidell, homeowners were forced from their houses when floodwater surged into their residences. The church was not damaged.

A National Weather Service advisory said that coastal storm surge flooding of three to six feet above normal tide levels would continue through later Friday, Sept. 27.

In Mississippi, two "mudout" teams with a total of about 30 volunteers from across the state are working in the Bay St. Louis area, housed at the Gulf Shore Baptist Assembly, reported Jim Didlake, disaster relief coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The crews are trained to go into homes where floodwater has receded and clean up mud, carpet, and ruined sheetrock from walls to allow proper drying. The crews also sanitize homes from potentially hazardous bacteria often found in floodwater.

A mobile kitchen unit also began cooking for the noon meal Sept. 27 at First Baptist Church of Biloxi.

Cleanup efforts in Louisiana probably will have to wait on the water to recede, Day said, noting one of the areas in Slidell that was particularly hard hit by the flooding.

"Reports are that they had water anywhere from five to eight feet, and it's going to take that a while to drain out," Day said.

Alabama disaster relief officials reported that there was some minor flooding in coastal areas, but that no immediate response is planned.

For all the property damage, though, no U.S. deaths or injuries were reported from Isidore. □

**Texas leaders
support new world
missions network**

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — A leadership board of the Baptist General

Convention of Texas showed strong support for creation of a new world missions network in the state.

The BGCT executive board voted Sept. 24 to approve recommendations of a missions-review-and-initiatives committee, including creation of a network to help churches and individuals sponsor missionary work in the United States and worldwide.

The network would be established as a not-for-profit affiliate of the BGCT. It does not replace existing relationships with the Southern Baptist Convention, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Baptist World Alliance, but augments them with "fluid and flexible" structures driven by churches and responsive to changing needs.

Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention have criticized the plan, which must be approved at the BGCT annual meeting scheduled Nov. 11-12 in Waco. They say it duplicates work already being done by SBC agencies and signals that Texas leaders are pulling further away from identifying with Southern Baptists.

In a Baptist Press report Sept. 6, Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC International Mission Board, said the proposal would divert funds away from Southern Baptist missions.

"Southern Baptists in Texas already have — in the International Mission Board — an excellent network for personalized involvement," Rankin said. "The IMB's role is to facilitate churches, associations, and state conventions in their efforts to be obedient to the Great Commission."

The committee's 25-page re-

port criticizes several policies the IMB, but doesn't call for change in the relationship between the agency based in Richmond, Va., and the BGCT.

Some on the executive board questioned whether the network is a first step toward Texas Baptists sending their own foreign missionaries. "We're going to become a missions-sending agency... need to say so," said Bob Worsham of Second Baptist Church in La Porte.

E.B. Brooks, coordinator church missions and evangelism for the BGCT, said the view committee has "developed no strategy beyond this point." □

**Missionary kids
evacuated safely**

Baptist Press

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast — Students are safe and missionary families relieved following the emergency evacuation of a missionary school in Bouake, Ivory Coast.

Students and staff had been pinned inside the International Christian Academy for a week while soldiers and rebels fought in the town. The academy, located in Bouake, became endangered when rebel troops captured the city, as well as Korhogo and the main city Abidjan. Soldiers loyal to the government were able to dislodge the rebels from Abidjan.

The academy housed 11 students from the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands, including 15 children of Southern Baptist missionaries. □

U.S. religious landscape is challenging mosaic: study

By Art Toalson
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The realities and challenges of America's religious landscape abound as Southern Baptists and other evangelicals review the mid-September release of a county-by-county, once-a-decade study of denominations and their members.

Robert E. Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, noted in an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article on the "Religious Congregations and Membership: 2000" study that most Southern Baptist growth in the last few years has been among ethnic groups.

"We cannot stay white and southern," Reccord added. "We have to look beyond our roots."

Southern Baptists grew 5 percent during the 1990s nationally, according to the study, which was sponsored by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies; published by the Glenmary Research Center here; and largely financed by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

"We have to turn the burners up even more," Reccord said of a Southern Baptist growth rate that did not keep pace with 13.1 percent rise in the nation's population.

The evangelistic challenge posed by Mormonism also is evident in the study: Latter-day Saints were among the nation's fastest-

growing faiths during the 1990s, up 19.3 percent to 4.2 million adherents in 11,500 congregations. (As defined in the study, "adherents" includes youth age 14 and above as a way of balancing totals both from churches that do not baptize infants as well as churches that do.)

Roman Catholics, the nation's largest religious group, also posted an increase, 16.2 percent, for the decade, to 62 million adherents in nearly 21,800 parishes.

Southern Baptists factored into numerous findings in the study, including:

◆ They encompass the largest number of adherents in 10 states, all in the South. Catholics have the largest number of adherents in 37 states and the District of Columbia. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has the most adherents in Utah and Idaho, while United Methodists have the most adherents in West Virginia.

◆ Southern Baptists are among the four largest religious groups in 28 states and the District of Columbia, while Catholics are among the top four in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia. United Methodists are in the top four in 38 states. The Latter-day Saints and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America join the top four groups in 13 states, while Jewish adherents are in the top four in 10 states and the District of Columbia.

◆ Southern Baptists have a presence in

85 percent of the nation's 3,141 counties county equivalents, topped by United Methodists, the most widespread religious group in the study, in 96 percent of Catholics, at 95 percent. Percentages for other denominations' presence by counties include Assemblies of God, 83 percent; Churches of Christ, 77 percent; Bahai, 77 percent and Presbyterian Church (USA), 76 percent.

◆ Of the 48 metro areas in the United States with one million or more people, Southern Baptists are the largest religious group in 10 of the areas, all in the South while Catholics are the largest group in 8 and the Latter-day Saints are the largest in the Salt Lake City area.

◆ For all metropolitan areas in the study, Southern Baptists are largest in 32 percent or 89 areas, while Catholics are the largest in 63 percent, or 173 areas.

The study is separate from another Lilly supported study also released in mid-September titled, "U.S. Congregational Life Survey," which, concerning Southern Baptist noted that compared with worshipers in other congregations nationwide, Southern Baptists generally are more involved in the congregations, spend more time in private devotional activities, are more likely to tithe, and much more likely to hold a strong view of biblical authority and interpretation (See story on page 1). □

Samaritan House reaches homeless in rural counties

Lonnie Wilkey
Artist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Homelessness is not just a big problem, nor does it just affect single males with a drinking or drug problem. Yet, that is how many people stereotype the homeless, according to Shannon and Jean-Ann Washam.

Shannon is director of Appalachian Outreach while his wife is director of Samaritan House and the benevolence ministries.

Appalachian Outreach, an independently funded, operates under the umbrella of Carson-Newman College. AO has received support from Tennessee Baptist Convention primarily from the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

Samaritan House, a ministry of Appalachian Outreach, hosts primarily families who come for one reason or another and find themselves without a home. Most of the families are from Hamblen, Cocke, Greene, and Jefferson counties, the Washams said.

Jean-Ann Washam noted that most anyone, without a large support system of family and friends, could find themselves homeless if they missed one or three paychecks.

That is who primarily is assisted through the Samaritan House.

Most of our families have never been homeless," Jean-Ann said. Circumstances have put them in that situation, she



LEADERS OF Appalachian Outreach and Samaritan House include, from left, Angie Tulledge, coordinator of Samaritan House; Jean-Ann Washam, director of Samaritan House and benevolence ministries; and Shannon Washam, director of Appalachian Outreach.

added, observing that most of them have been without a home for just a short period of time.

Reasons as to why families become homeless range from loss of job, to change in marital status, or to just poor financial decisions, the Washams agreed.

While Samaritan House focuses on the immediate need (food and shelter), the staff goes beyond that to look at what caused the family to be homeless, Jean-Ann said.

"Families don't come here first. We are their last resort," she stressed.

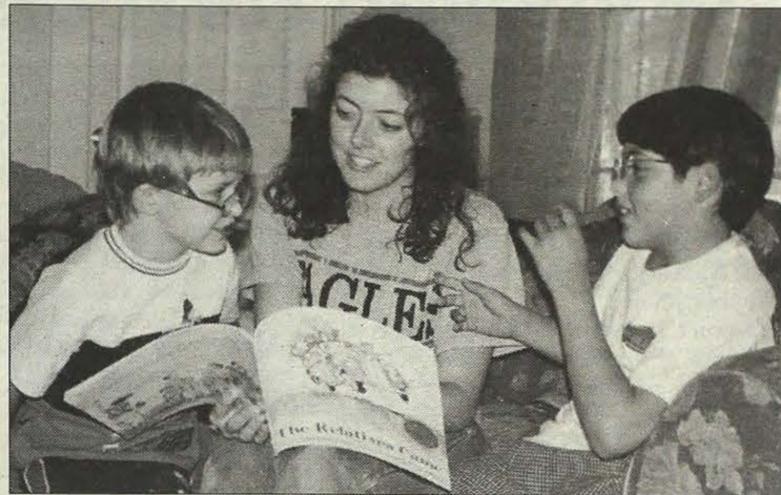
Samaritan House can serve up to five families at a time in a large home donated by a

member of the community. Residents are allowed to stay for up to 45 days if they are working on their goals, the Washams said.

"It's a long enough time for people to 'get on their feet,'" Shannon observed.

Staff and volunteers work with families in areas such as budgeting and nutrition while showing concern for the families' spiritual needs. Christian laypeople from the area serve as mentors for family members, Jean-Ann said.

One of the requirements for families staying at the Samaritan House is that they must be looking for employment, Jean-Ann said. Residents also have "chores" they are responsible



ALEA CAPALDI of Samaritan House spends time with Michael, left, and Paul after school.

for, including helping to prepare meals and clean the house.

Samaritan House wants to "give a hand up," not a hand-out, her husband observed.

Residents are helped with job skills, including computer training, and resume writing skills, the Washams shared.

Samaritan House meets a practical need, agreed Angie Tulledge, coordinator of Samaritan House and a member of First Baptist Church, Dandridge.

"There are issues that people need to address to find a permanent, stable home. We can help with that," Tulledge said.

Tulledge said they try to assist residents in finding employment by serving as advocates for them. "We see the positive things that happen when people learn skills they don't have when they come here," she said.

Even more important than helping families with practical needs is helping them spiritually as well, the Samaritan House leaders agreed.

"The most important thing we want to do is to share the Lord (with the residents). No program will change their circumstances," Tulledge said.

"The whole ministry has as its heart's desire to share Christ and that life-changing experience that only He can give," she added.

Shannon noted that they use "friendship evangelism."

"We get to know the people, invest time with them, and get them involved in a regular lifestyle that includes work and church," he said.

Samaritan House offers Tuesday night Bible studies on site for the community. The studies are led by local lay and pastors from different denominations, Shannon said.

"It brings unity," he said, noting that it has been amazing to see people come in and serve with others from different denominations. "They lay

down their biases," he observed.

Because of that, many resident families have joined churches in the community. Many who have left Samaritan House still return for the Bible studies, he shared.

When asked why they don't provide services on Sunday for the residents, Shannon replied, "Our position is that we want to guide people to the churches, not become a church for them."

Tulledge agreed. "We try to help people get plugged into church so they



can have ongoing discipleship. "Our ministry shouldn't just be about what happens

here, but should be extended all over the county through our churches," continued Tulledge, who first became involved with Samaritan House as a volunteer before accepting a staff position.

Residents appreciate the mission and ministry of Samaritan House.

"This is a good Christian home," said Geraldine Howard.

"People show their love. We get along with one another and we have Bible studies. God is blessing," she shared. □

Labels aid ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Appalachian Outreach and Samaritan House are participating in Campbell's "Labels for Education" program.

The ministries need 1.5 million labels in order to receive a 15-passenger van, according to Jean-Ann Washam.

Individuals or groups are asked to save labels and periodically send them in. Acceptable labels are of Campbell's soups, beans, and tomato juices.

For a complete list or for more information, call (865) 475-5611 or send labels to Appalachian Outreach/Samaritan House at 190 W. Old A.J. Hwy., Jefferson City, TN 37760. □

Ministry interfaces technology with outreach

Charles Key
Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Ever wondered what happens to old computers? Jane Albright used to wonder, but now she knows the answer.

The Jefferson City resident takes computer-ful of old megabytes and Windows programs and turns them into new opportunities that can open doors for those in her community. The refurbished units help individuals gain skills that will pay dividends for their futures.

Samaritan House director Jean-Ann Washam recalls Albright's willingness to volunteer nearly four years ago. Since then, the former Carson-Newman reference librarian has become Samaritan House's coordinator for computer education.

Jane has done a lot of work with people who used to be intimidated by computers. She is a very consistent volunteer in seeing things through," Washam said.

Having taken only one computer course at Carson-Newman, Albright is largely self-taught when it comes to high-tech. By taking computers donated by C-N and community members, she has installed sound cards, CD-ROM drives and software programs in old units to make them more suitable for Samaritan House's computer courses. She then helps prepare individuals for their G.E.D., or who want to gain valuable experience. New classes focusing on

reaching out to the region's growing Hispanic community have created a surge in the number of program participants.

"Several individuals have become employees because of the skills they learned from Jane," noted Washam. But according to Albright, it's more than just teaching keystrokes and applications.

"We are not just teaching computers. It is a nurturing opportunity to form relationships and help increase someone's self-esteem," explains Albright who says she is thankful for such an experience.

"Once you get involved with Appalachian Outreach, you keep wanting to do more. It's so easy to see the dedication and hard work of the other staff members and think about how little you've done."

Albright says the program's only drawback thus far, is its waiting list.

"We just don't have enough teachers to accommodate the number of people who want to learn," notes Albright, who says she draws her inspiration from the eagerness of her pupils.

"I thoroughly enjoy what I'm doing. It is an eye-opener when you see the hard times some people are experiencing. You understand how blessed you are."

Appalachian Outreach also takes computers headed for the recycle bin. For more information on donating units, or to volunteer with the ministry center contact Jean Ann Washam at (865) 475-5611. □

Former gambling addict**Gambling corrupts, destroys lives, pastor ...**

— Continued from page 1

That trip might have become a pattern except that another family crisis intervened.

The Eades' 27-year-old daughter, Ginger, who had suffered from depression, attempted suicide for the second time. Eades drove to North Carolina to bring her home.

"I don't know why I thought I could take care of her because I couldn't take care of myself," he said.

After Ginger had been with them about two months, Eades acknowledged her daily crying spells were getting on his nerves. The urge to gamble returned.

"So I started saving up money — \$10 here, \$20 there — and put it under the rug in the trunk," he said. When he had a large enough sum, Eades planned to tell his wife he was going to play golf and head to a casino.

"The day I had decided to go (Nov. 23, 1996) was the day my daughter had decided to take all of her medications," Eades said. "She told us she was going for a walk."

When Ginger didn't return after 90 minutes, Eades got worried and called the county rescue squad. They searched the woods around their rented house all night, without success. Friends from their church came to pray.

The exhausted rescuers were about to quit the next morning when they decided to look in another direction.

"In just minutes I saw men running and scurrying about. I knew something had happened," Eades said. "The head of the rescue squad came to the house. He said, 'Dr. Eades, we found your daughter. She's alive.'"

"When he said that, I rose up on my tiptoes not knowing why. My hands were up toward the heavens and I was literally howling with joy. I think a lot of

Eades cites specific dangers of gambling

While lottery proponents talk about more funds for education, John Eades, once debilitated by a gambling addiction, warns of the dangers. They include:

◆ **Corruption:** "Anytime there is that much money, there is always the chance for corruption."

◆ **Destruction of families:** The lottery "will destroy several thousand families the first year," he predicted. "I would hate to think that my child went to college on the back of a family whose husband committed suicide over his gambling."

◆ **Greater impact on the poor:** "All the statistics indicate that people earning under \$15,000 will spend three times as much (on gambling) as upper income people."

◆ **False advertising:** "They're selling a dream. The odds of winning the lottery with a ticket are not much greater

than if you didn't have a ticket at all. It's so infinitesimal."

◆ **Convenience:** "There are a lot of people who will get addicted in Tennessee who would never drive to Georgia or anywhere else. If I had had to go to Las Vegas or Atlantic City to gamble, I never would have become addicted. But it was just a 15-minute drive away."

◆ **Opens the door to other forms of gambling:** "With the lottery, you develop a mindset that gambling is OK. When that happens, the casinos will work to get that legalized."

◆ **Less revenue than expected:** "To gain \$200 million in revenue, about \$600 million would have to be spent in buying tickets." The state could be expected to get about one-third of what is spent with the rest going to the company running the lottery and to stores selling tickets. □

people thought he had told me she was dead. My wife came running. We just fell in a heap.

"The preacher said, 'You know, God doesn't work any half miracles.'"

The complete miracle for the Eades included Ginger's recovery from depression and the end of John's gambling.

"I came home that night from the ICU," Eades said. "The stars were bright. I opened the trunk of the car, reached in there, and pulled out the \$600 I had saved to go gambling. I gave it to my wife and told her we would need this for hospital bills. She showed me the grace of God with her smile and said, 'Yes, we will.'"

"God broke me right there," he said.

"I never knew God would love you so much He would just break you. I went into the house, got down on all fours in the bedroom. I told God I was sick and tired of living in the sty. I told him I wanted to come home. I confessed the things I had done. I guess I was like an old mangy dog sitting at the back door of God's house. He opened up the door and told me, 'Come on in. It's good to see you.'"

While Eades said he experienced the urge to gamble about five times in the next year, he did not yield to the temptation and he hasn't gambled since.

"God gave me a book to write about gambling addiction (*Gambling Addiction: The Problem, The Pain, and the*

Pathway to Recovery, scheduled for release in 2003). I became involved in church as a lay speaker. Then a lit over a year ago, I had a calling from C to go into the ministry," Eades said.

"I knew a lot more about sinning than I did the Scripture," he said, but determined to become a Bible student.

He has been pastor of Shiloh United Methodist Church near Shelbyville about a year and was licensed to ministry in June of this year. He works as director of human resources for the city of Winchester.

When a statewide lottery for Tennessee went on the ballot for November 2002, Eades determined to tell his story and share information about the dangers of gambling. He speaks with pastors, church groups, and others who might be mobilized to oppose the lottery.

"The state is trying to make losers its citizens," Eades said. "I think God frowns on that."

He said he encounters apathy about the lottery among some Christians as even among some pastors.

Many ministers live under the false impression "that no one in my congregation has this problem," he said. "That's just not true. Ministers are getting indicted. Church treasurers are embezzling money to gamble. Numerous people in the congregations are ashamed to seek help while they are suffering from gambling addiction. They don't know who to talk to within the church environment."

Eades moved to Tennessee six years ago to get away from gambling. He is working, hoping, and praying that the lottery vote will fail in November.

"I love Tennessee," he said. "I love the people. I like going to the store and not having to contend with whether I'm going to buy a ticket to the lottery." □

Southern Baptists affirm Scripture, tithing ...

— Continued from page 1

In a question about music preferred in worship, traditional hymns remained the most popular for both Southern Baptists and the survey sample at large — with 67 percent and 61 percent preference rates, respectively. Southern Baptists were more likely also to appreciate praise music and choruses; 56 percent responded favorably about the contemporary musical style compared to 33 percent of other worshippers. "Traditional" and "praise" music were the most popular options among all groups in a list of 10 musical styles.

While there were many similarities, traditional Southern Baptists distinctives were evident in a number of categories:

View of Scripture — 71 percent of Southern Baptists said the survey's most conservative option came closest to their view of Scripture: "The Bible is the Word of God, to be taken literally word for word." That option was chosen by only 28 percent of all worshippers in the survey. The most popular choice for that group, with 42 percent of respondents, was the state-

ment, "The Bible is the Word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its historical context and the church's teachings." That option was chosen by 11 percent of Southern Baptists. Ninety-nine percent of worshippers in Southern Baptist congregations chose options that began with "the Bible is the Word of God."

Involvement — 71 percent of Southern Baptists surveyed participate in "small groups" such as Sunday School, Bible study, or prayer groups, compared with 56 percent of all worshippers. In particular, Southern Baptist participation in Sunday School is three times the national norm. Eighty-one percent of Southern Baptists say they have been given an opportunity to be involved in congregational decision-making, compared to 68 percent in the overall survey. Southern Baptists are also more likely to have positions of leadership in their congregations, 59 percent versus 38 percent for all worshippers.

Giving — The emphasis on the tithe is apparent in the 52 percent of Southern Baptists

who report giving more than 10 percent of their income annually, compared to 19 percent nationally.

Personal Worship — Southern Baptists spend more time in private devotions than other groups, with 58 percent reporting "every day or most days" and 22 percent reporting "a few times a week." Worshipers in general reported 45 percent daily devotions and 18 percent a few times a week. Sixty-one percent of Southern Baptists reported worship and other activities of the congregation helped them with everyday living versus 45 percent for others.

Evangelism — 31 percent of Southern Baptists regularly participate in evangelism or outreach activities, more than twice the overall average (13 percent). While the number who say they "mostly feel at ease talking about my faith and do so if it comes up" is similar to the national norm, the number who "feel at ease ... and seek opportunities to do so" is significantly higher (26 percent versus 16 percent).

Some of the results do raise questions, however, in light of

historical Southern Baptist emphases. The survey found, for instance, that the percentage of those attending less than five years who were either returning to worship participation and or had previously never attended any church was not significantly larger than the survey respondents at large.

"Southern Baptists are no more effective in reaching the unchurched (first-timers and returnees) than other religious groups," Jones said in his report on the survey.

About 50 percent of newcomers in Southern Baptist congregations are transfers from other Southern Baptist congregations, 22 percent came from other denominational backgrounds, 20 percent were "returnees" to church after a long absence and 8 percent had never regularly attended before.

Also, concerns of encroaching universalism in Southern Baptists life were reflected in 21 percent of Southern Baptist worshippers surveyed who believe that "all the different religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth." Still, two-thirds of wor-

shippers in Southern Baptist congregations disagreed with the statement — about twice the national norm, while 14 percent were unsure.

In other results, Jones noted several findings that he saw serve as indicators of spiritual health and vitality in Southern Baptist congregations.

◆ Six of 10 indicate they have experienced "much" spiritual growth in the prior year.

◆ 86 percent feel their spiritual needs are being met in the context of their congregation.

◆ Four of 5 usually experience a sense of God's presence, joy, and inspiration during worship.

◆ The overwhelming majority believe there is a good match between their pastor and congregation.

◆ 87 percent affirm that they are encouraged to find and use their spiritual gifts.

◆ 83 percent have a sense of excitement about their congregation's future.

◆ Six of 10 indicate their congregation is always ready to try something new. □

If the parents fail, who will be the role models?

Reflections



Lonnie Wilkey, editor

In the last few weeks two sad stories about parents and children have made national news.

One story involves a mother in Indiana who was caught on video beating her daughter in the back seat of her car.

The other involves a man in Chicago who attacked a baseball coach during a White Sox game with the Kansas City Royals.

If that wasn't enough, the man was assisted in the attack by his 15-year-old son.

And, we wonder why some of today's youth do what they do.

In cases such as these, it's evident that parents are not positive role models.

The 4-year-old girl who was beaten by her mother may still have an opportunity to be influenced by good role models.

Who knows about the 15-year-old boy. It may be too late for him.

And while both of these instances happened in the midwest, don't assume that Tennessee or any other place is exempt. Things such as that go on all the time. They just do not make national headlines.

This leads to a question. If the parents fail, who will be the role models for children

and youth today?

For some, it will be professional athletes. But for every athlete who takes that responsibility seriously, there are others who are anything but positive role models.

In some cases, relatives may be the answer. Many a grandmother and grandfather have become role models when their children abdicated their responsibility.

Christians need to stand in the gap to be role models for children and youth today — and I don't mean just on Sunday mornings. For one thing, many of the children who need good role models the most never get taken to church.

I'm talking about role models in everyday life situations.

There are countless Christian teachers, many of whom attend Tennessee Baptist churches, who fill the void on a daily basis. I have friends from church who teach or work in public schools and I'm thankful for their presence. While there may be some restrictions on what they do, they are a positive witness by their lifestyle and through their actions.

Numerous men and women become positive influences on children by their involvement as coaches or assistants on youth sports teams.

There are also other opportunities if a person is able and willing to give of him or herself. This past summer, three Christian ladies from my church took on the task of go-

ing into inner-city Nashville one day a week to lead Bible study and activities for some of the children in that community. At least for one day each week during the summer those kids had a positive Christian witness through Lisa McIntosh, Jamie Eller, Cindy Hill, and others who helped occasionally.

That's what it is going to take to change our world — one Christian doing his or her best to make a difference where he or she is.

It seems like a daunting task and, quite frankly, it is. But it's a task we all need to take seriously. If we do, perhaps the stories mentioned earlier will happen less frequently. □

We can win!

Working on the lottery is in northeast Tennessee, I have been surprised to find a lot of discouragement among churches because of recent polls showing 70 percent support for the lottery, with a good portion of support — approximately one out of five — coming from church members.

I believe this is not a reason for dismay, but a reason for hope in defeating the lottery. Given all the facts about the lottery, we are on the side of opposition, if the churches of Tennessee will stand up and teach facts about the lottery to our people, we can change the opinion of at least one of the two out of three pro-lottery church mem-

bers. To defeat the lottery, we don't need to change the opinions of 70 percent who support the lottery, merely the 20 percent who polls show that percentage is achievable within the membership of our own churches.

Tennessee Baptists will use materials provided for them by the TBC and the Baptist and Christian Worker, the GFTA web site at gfta.org, and send in \$100 as a member for advertising expenses, we will win easily on 5.

Ann Bennett
Kingsport 37664

There is a verse

We deeply appreciate your editorial in the Sept. 18 issue. It is great that you shared about Christians who support the lottery or say other Christians should not oppose it, reflects a serious problem in American Christianity. A recent survey I believe by Barna, speaks of the "Mosaic Generation" in referring to what is now middle school students. He discusses how they "cut" and "paste" their beliefs and see no conflict even when they contradict each other. I have observed that this approach to life was prevalent in churches well before that

generation came along.

Your statement on "picking and choosing stances" very much reflects the same attitude. I have discovered that you find out what people truly believe when issues like the lottery come along.

I, too, was asked by a person to give them a Bible verse that spoke directly to the lottery. At first, I, too, said there isn't one, but since I have changed my mind, "Thou shall not covet" speaks to the lottery. When someone buys a ticket they are coveting all the money others have spent on tickets.

That especially hits home when you consider how compulsive gamblers and welfare families are impacted by the lottery. If you buy a lottery ticket and if you win the jackpot of \$10 million, think on this. How much of that money took food out of children's mouths? How much of it is at the expense of the addicted gambler?

Yes, when you buy that ticket, you directly covet money that was collected at the expense of hardship and misery to many lives. Perhaps that is the reason that so many winners have such a miserable life after they win.

We fight on for right. This is a much bigger deal than many want it to be and I sincerely believe that the Lord is taking note of what we all do.

Joe Hudson, pastor
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol 37620

Make voices heard

According to the National Right to Life web site, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, H. R. 4965, passed the House on July 24.

Its fate now rests with the Senate. As Senate Majority Leader, Tom Daschle has the power to either schedule or obstruct legislation. It is very urgent that we contact our senators and ask them to insist that Sen. Daschle bring the Partial-Birth Abortion ban up for vote before the end of this year.

President Bush is eager to sign the bill into law. It is also important to ask that the senators oppose any pro-abortion amendments to the bill.

National Right to Life has a wonderful web site, where one may learn about this issue, and a home page where anyone may click on Legislative Action Center, type in their zip code, find out who his or her state senators are, and send an email to each one. The phone number for Tom Daschle's office is the Capitol Switchboard, (202) 224-3121.

Partial-birth abortion means a horrible, gruesome death to a well-developed pre-born baby. It is an evil procedure, and it is hard to comprehend why, in a supposedly civilized nation such as ours, this is allowed to go on. Please don't keep silent, make your voice heard, Tennessee Baptists!

We have to speak for America's unborn babies.

Beverly Grainger
Roan Mountain 37687

Has concern

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recommendation that the Presidential Study Committee is planning to bring to the upcoming meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Tennessee Baptists have lived well the Great Commission for a fair number of years without our president having a voice or a vote on a board or a committee. Untold numbers of people have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the churches thereof without the president's political leanings having an impact on the direction of the convention.

My question is this: We are winning the lost to Christ, we are living out the Great Commission, why let denominational politics interfere with what God has called us to do?

I am deeply indebted to the people, churches, and institutions of the Tennessee Baptist

Convention. I was baptized in a Tennessee Baptist Convention church. I publicly acknowledged God's call on my life to ministry in a Tennessee Baptist Convention church. I currently serve the Lord through a Tennessee Baptist Convention church. If the day has come in the Tennessee Baptist Convention when power politics has become more important than the life changing power of Jesus Christ, then truly we have arrived at a sad day.

I would urge all Tennessee Baptists to oppose giving our president and vice-presidents a voice and vote on our Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards. We have honored God and God's kingdom without such an arrangement and believe we can continue to do so.

Ed Sunday-Winters, pastor
Ball Camp Baptist Church
Knoxville 37931

Watchmen needed

There is a tidal wave of sin called the lottery threatening to change the spiritual landscape of Tennessee forever! And yet, many pastors across the state still have not sounded the alarm to their people about the lottery! Rallies are being held across the state to call God's army forth, but often in associational meetings only a handful of committed Christians are present. Most noticeable absent from these rallies are the local pastors.

We, Tennessee Baptists, can be thankful that our convention has given us an abundance of tools with which to educate our people about the truth concerning the lottery issue. The exact wording of the proposed change to the Tennessee constitution is included. The material reveals the many social problems other states have experienced due to legalizing games of chance. Yet, there are some Tennessee Baptists who have yet to receive these materials.

In reality, we are standing at the threshold of a once-in-a-lifetime door of opportunity to fight the lottery issue!

Doesn't God do his best work when opposing forces overwhelm the believers? Isn't it at those times that God has the opportunity to demonstrate His power? There is no better time than now for God's watchmen to arise and sound the alarm. Jesus stated that the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church. God's watchmen and His people have the authority to attack the very strongholds of Satan. Jesus has promised us victory if we move forward in faith!

God's watchmen have the authority based upon the Word of God to speak out against the lottery. The lottery violates every basic foundational principle of love — loving God and loving our neighbor. It violates the Christian work ethic. Games of chance violate the commandments against covetousness, greed, and theft. Facts reveal that in the states that legalize games of chance, young people, as well as adults, become addicted to gambling. Families suffer emotionally, financially, and spiritually. No one can debate that it is an unloving and an unwholesome thing to teach our children that in order to have "winners" in this lottery, many of necessity will have to suffer substantial loss. Shouldn't it bother us that children and youth will be injured? Isn't it a violation of our love for our fellow man to sit silently and apathetically by the wayside while people are harmed? If our faith is not relevant to this issue now, how can we expect to be relevant on other issues in the future? How can we continue to evangelize the world if we lose our home base? Isn't it time for God's watchmen to lead God's churches out in the defeat of the lottery?

If the lottery passes on Nov. 5, no doubt God will hold us Christians responsible for what we did or did not do to defeat it. Where are God's watchmen?

Jerry D. Woods, pastor
West Shiloh Baptist Church
Stantonville 38379

IMB appoints missionaries with state connections

For Baptist and Reflector

RICHMOND — Seven couples with strong Tennessee Baptist ties have been appointed missionaries by the International Mission Board.

The Tennessee couples were among 79 new appointees during a recent commissioning service at Ridgecrest, a Life-Way conference center in North Carolina.

Bill and Cheryl Cate Arbo will minister among college students in Brazil. He will lead a team of missionaries whose focus is evangelizing and discipling students. His wife will conduct outreach through church, home, and Bible study.

Cheryl Arbo is a native of Knoxville, where her parents Tom and Faun Cate still live.

The Arbos have two grown children.

Craig and Lori Prine Clayton will conduct urban ministry in Mexico. He will coordinate efforts to spread the gospel and start churches while she conducts outreach through church and home.

Clayton has served as ministry assistant for missions and evangelism at First Baptist Church, Clarksville, since 2000. He formerly served as missions pastor of Ararat Baptist Church, Jackson, and youth pastor of Parkburg Baptist Church, Pinson.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Clayton's dad, Joseph Clayton, now lives in Brownsville.

Mrs. Clayton is a native of



B. ARBO



C. ARBO



C. CLAYTON



L. CLAYTON



B. DeVOE



R. DeVOE



D. GASS



N. GAS

Clarksville, where her parents, Bill and Cookie Prine, still reside.

The Claytons are graduates of Union University, Jackson. They have two preschool-age children.

Bruce and Rhonda Hudson DeVoe will help begin a church planting movement among the urban middle class of Caracas, Venezuela.

DeVoe, a native of Kingsport, served in student ministries at Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol.

He is the son of Bob DeVoe of Mayslick, Ky., and Patricia DeVoe of Jamestown while his wife is a native of Alabama.

DeVoe is a graduate of King College, Bristol, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The DeVoes have three children.

David and Nora Rasnick Gass will coordinate volunteers who come to Chiang Mai, Thailand. They will mobilize and equip volunteers.

Gass most recently served as associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Collierville.

Gass was born in Knoxville to the late Lawrence and Frances Gass. He is a graduate



F. MORAN



S. MORAN



B. POLLARD



K. POLLARD



J. TARWATER



S. TARWA

of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southwestern Seminary.

Mrs. Gass, a native of Kentucky, also is a Carson-Newman College graduate.

The couple has one preschool son.

Frank and Sherri Trotter Moran will serve among deaf peoples in South Africa. They will seek to start churches among the deaf population there.

The Morans live in Seymour and are members of First Baptist Church, Knoxville. Moran has worked for the Tennessee School for the Deaf in Knoxville for 15 years. They are former International Service Corps missionaries with the IMB, having served in the Ukraine.

Mrs. Moran is a native of Athens, where her mother, Vi-

vian Trotter, still resides. Her husband is a native of Maryland. She is a graduate of Maryville College and Western Maryland College in Westminster.

Brad and Karen May Pollard will participate in theological education and church planting in Moldova. He will travel to villages to engage unbelievers with the gospel, modeling for students the pattern they are to follow for evangelism. She will conduct evangelism through church and home.

The Pollards live in Walland, where his parents, Malcolm and Nancy Pollard, now live. He is a native of Bossier City, La.

Karen Pollard is a native of Cleveland. Her parents, Bill and Shirley May, now live in Maryville. She is a graduate of

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City.

The Pollards have an in daughter.

John and Sheila Goins water will minister in Mer He will serve in theological ucation and church plan while she conducts outre through church and home.

Tarwater is a former pa of Antioch Baptist Church, vierville. A native of Indi he is the son of Bob Dorothy Tarwater, now of vierville. He holds degr from Carson-Newman Col and Duke University, Durh N.C.

Mrs. Tarwater, who born in Indiana, is the da ter of Ken and Deborah G of Cleveland. She, too, is a son-Newman graduate.

The Tarwaters have th preschool sons. □

By national magazine

State Baptist schools ranked among nation's best

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — All three Tennessee Baptist colleges have been cited in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2002 issue of "America's Best Colleges."

The *U.S. News and World Report* rankings are based on seven categories: academic reputation, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni contributions, and graduation rate.

Union University in Jackson was ranked last year in the top 10 of "regional liberal arts universities." Union was elevated to the current category of "best universities — master's" that includes larger institutions which provide a full range of undergraduate and master's level programs.

For the second year in a row, Union is the only school in West Tennessee, outside of Memphis, to be recognized in the top tier.

"To be ranked among the

nation's best universities is a high honor for Union University," said President David S. Dockery.

"To be considered in the top tier with these other prestigious universities says volumes about the quality of Union's faculty, staff, and students," he added.

In addition, the university continues to see an increase in total enrollment for the Fall 2002 semester, with more than 2,612 students on campus this term.

Belmont University gained ground in this year's rankings, moving to 15th in the master's category of the South's best universities which represents more than 100 institutions. Last year Belmont was ranked 16th, two spots ahead of its 18th ranking in 2000.

"Our rise in the America's



FISHER



DOCKERY



NETHERTON

Best Colleges ranking, as well as our tremendous enrollment increase, shows that we are doing what it takes to become a top 10 program," said Belmont University President Robert Fisher.

"Our enrollment has grown more than 12 percent over the past two years. Belmont is committed to making sure that, as our student body grows, the quality of the Belmont education grows with it — that goal is reflected in this year's ranking," Fisher said.

Carson-Newman College was ranked 21st in the category of "Great Schools at Great Prices," making it the highest ranked school of any of the

Tennessee schools included in that listing.

"We are pleased to be ranked again as an exceptional education value," said Carson-Newman President James Netherton.

"It is always gratifying to have the highest academic quality of the college recognized in prominent national rankings."

Carson-Newman received a second tier ranking in the publication's general category. The college's overall statistics reflect only a slight difference with numbers held by top tier institutions.

"A dedicated faculty of expert teachers, a record of strong student success in graduate and professional schools, and a Christian community that nurtures each individual combine to make Carson-Newman an outstanding undergraduate experience," Netherton said. □

Compiled from reporting by Charles Key, C-N; Sara Horn, Union; and Greg Pillon, Belmont.

Conference set for SS directors

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Sunday School Directors Association meeting will be held Oct. 11-12 at Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport.

The theme of the meeting, "Hats Sunday School Directors Wear."

The registration fee of \$10 per person includes double occupancy room, meals, and conference materials. Registration for the conference begins at 5 p.m. on Friday with dinner at 6 p.m. The meeting will continue on Saturday morning after lunch on the following day.

Conferences include "Putting Evangelism Back in Our School School," "Match Spiritual Gifts with Spirit Service," and more.

Sunday School directors currently enrolled as members of the Tennessee Sunday School Directors Association are encouraged to join.

For more information on the association or the conference contact Mark Miller, Tennessee Christian Growth Development Group, at 1-800-542-2090, ext. 2048. □

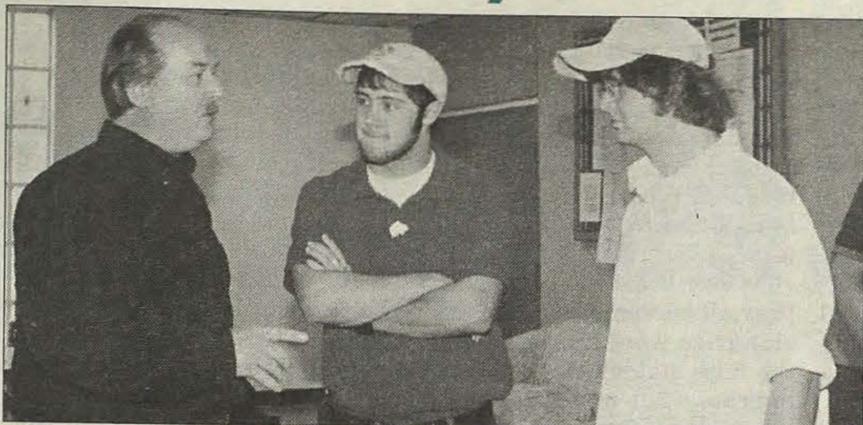
Hall leads student ministry at UT - Knoxville for 25 years

Connie Davis
Artist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Not surprisingly to college football fans, about 100 students of the University of Tennessee here gathered for gator meat at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries Center Oct. 21. They were attending a gator party prior to the UT Florida game held just out three blocks away at Neyland Stadium. The gator meat was in recognition of the Florida Gators.

Also that week students gathered for the Sophomore Bible Study; Men's Bible Study; Student Group; Girls' and Boys' Intramural Soccer games; See You at the Pole; Men's Night Out; Morning Prayertime; TNT (Thursday Night Together); Wednesday Monday luncheon and program; and to travel to Western Heights Baptist Center where they tutor children.

These activities draw about 100 students to the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) Center each week. And that doesn't count the about 30 guys and girls who meet here each week to play "nerdball" or PlayStation or just hang out in one of the sofa-filled rooms. The center is a converted tudor house located in the center of campus.



BOB HALL, left, director of Baptist Collegiate Ministries at UT - Knoxville, visits with **Conan Sherlin**, center, of Athens, and **Adam Myslinski** of Crossville after the Wednesday luncheon at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries center. — Photos by Connie Davis



STAN JOHNSON, right, professor of mechanical engineering and a member of Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, visits with **Bob Hall** during a Wednesday luncheon at the student center. Johnson helped serve the meal along with other members of his church. He also participates in missions projects of UT - K Baptist Collegiate Ministries.

Bob Hall, BCM director, has seen students come and go during the 25 years he has been director, and he says he has seen God work in some miraculous ways.

Students

The students Hall works with through BCM haven't really changed that much in 25 years, said Hall. These students "are the flower of their generation," said Hall. They are "sharp, capable leaders, not just here, but on campus." The school currently has about 26,000 students.

This is true, said Hall, because most of the students involved in BCM have already "taken a stand for Christ in opposition to culture" or they wouldn't be involved in BCM.

"Coming here is not required," Hall noted. "Coming to a secular school forces Christians to grow up, be strong, and know what they believe."

But even strong Christians need "a filling station," said Hall. So the BCM is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day and its rooms are often filled with students.

The students who participate but aren't

Christians are "as spiritually open as at any time in 25 years," described Hall.

His main job, as he sees it, is to enable those who are Christians. And that's fine with him, because he's more of a coach than a star player, in the popular football vernacular of the school.

He also relies on Betsy Ingle, BCM associate director, who is glad for Hall to administer the ministry while she relates personally with many of the students. Ingle has served the BCM for 14 years.

Coach

Hall has seen campus BCM ministry and activity increase over the past 25 years and actually 34 years. He has been involved 34 years because he participated as a student when Pete Beard and Bill Lee were directors. Hall met Suzi Taylor of Knoxville at the center whom he married. After they graduated, they served as journeymen in Kenya for two years. Then they returned to Knoxville where Hall began graduate work at UT - K.

After he earned a doctor of education, Lee hired him as associate director of BCM.

When Hall accepted the job, he didn't think he would stay. But as he began to receive job offers in the field of education, he "felt such a sense of rightness," he said, about the min-

istry and his involvement in it, "I turned them all down and stayed."

Ministries

Hall is a proud coach of the students involved in BCM. He reported 46 students served around the world last summer as missionaries. And in March he and Ingle led 70 volunteers to Portugal and 36 to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, for ministry. In the summer of 2003 BCM students at UT - K will serve in Malaysia, Guatemala, China, and Zanzibar. They often work with alumni who are missionaries, explained Hall.

To do all of this, students raised \$80,000 during 2001-2002. They also sent \$10,000 to TBC collegiate ministries to help other students be involved in missions.

Students also conduct ministry locally. In addition to serving as tutors of children at Western Heights Baptist Center and through Yoke Youth Ministry, they work at Montgomery Village Baptist Center, Camp BaYoCa of Knox County Baptist Association, Ronald McDonald House, a local food bank, and churches.

When students are involved in missions, especially away

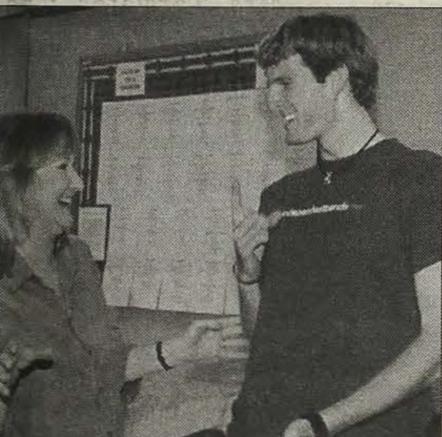
from home, "they can't search for another (TV) channel, they can't turn the TV off," said Hall, using the TV as a metaphor for life. "Missions marks them for life, changes them forever, makes them people of better character," he stated.

And when students are changed by God, they help others, he added. For example, he recalled Jimmy, a student who worked summers for the Southwestern Book Co. He came to Hall one day and said God told him to tithe his income to the campus BCM.

Hall discouraged the young man, partly because his father had died. But the young man insisted. That gift allowed Hall to begin the BCM's foundation, which has sent 1,200 students on missions trips in the past 11 years.

"The university is the crucible in which the future of our society, our world, our church is formed," said Hall. "If we neglect the college campus, we're imperiling the future of our faith, our denomination."

"College students are open to change, more so maybe than at any other time of their lives." At college many students choose their career, family, and faith, said Hall. "The church really needs to be involved." □



BETSY INGLE, right, associate director, Baptist Collegiate Ministries at UT - Knoxville, visits with **Bobby Storey** of Atlanta at the BCM center.

UT students serve in China for past three years through BCM

Connie Davis
Artist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Leila, Del, and Justin are students at the University of Tennessee here. They also served a summer in China through Baptist Collegiate Ministries on campus. The students cannot report their last names because of the sensitivity of their efforts in China. During four weeks there, they taught English to Chinese college students. But they also took advantage of any opportunities which arose to share their Christian faith under the guidelines of the project.

Justin, who has served in China two summers, told about 80 students gathered at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries Center recently the assignment mainly involved "just being

somebody's friend." He said he got to know students who are taught to believe in themselves, but who often know they have an emptiness or void in their lives.

Leila, who also has served two summers, agreed. She saw many messages promoting self-belief. For instance, she saw the message, "Only I can make a difference in the world."

"Atheism was shoved down their throats," said Del.

The students were "extremely open to Americans," added Del. American visitors are not common in China although the residents see a lot of American movies and TV shows. Chinese people also are interested in America because it represents opportunity, the Tennesseans agreed.

For these reasons, the Americans made many friends and had opportuni-

ties to share their faith.

This past year they saw two students accept the Christian faith and be baptized in a bathtub. Before the volunteers left, they heard a small group of students sing "I Love You, Lord," in Chinese and pray for them.

"It was so simple and meaningful," reported Leila. "It was incredible," said Del. "They never had any knowledge (of God) before we came."

"Just step out in faith and go," Del told the group of students. "Don't let anything stop you." □



UT - KNOXVILLE students taught English to these students at a university in China during one of the summer projects held there for the past three years.

IMB rejects missionary couple with woman pastor

By Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Don and Esther Gardner entered retirement with excitement a few years ago because they could now do volunteer missions with their daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Jerry Stephens in Kenya.

Don Gardner formerly served as a pastor and chaplain but has been doing video work in Africa with the Stephenses, who are International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries.

The Birmingham couple loved the work and impressed the Southern Baptist officials in Africa so much that they decided to apply for appointment with the International Service Corps. This would allow the Gardners to be short-term missionaries.

The appointment process seemed to be on schedule until an IMB trustee informed IMB officials that the Gardners' church, Baptist Church of the Covenant, had called a woman pastor, Sarah Jackson Shelton.

The Gardners learned Sept. 10 the IMB declined to appoint them.

A Sept. 13 article in *The Birmingham News* announcing the Gardners' rejection by the

IMB raised questions concerning the importance of one's position on women in ministry.

Jerry Rankin, president of the IMB, told the *News* that the theological issue of supporting a woman pastor was a key issue in the board's decision not to appoint the Gardners.

"They have to be consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message statement," Rankin said in the *News* article. "They made it very clear that they supported women pastors. It was discussed with them, and they did endorse their pastor and there was disagreement."

Esther Gardner said in the same article that the decision hurt. "We've been Southern Baptists all of our lives. It just hurt down deep."

The Gardners even agreed to abide by the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message in their missions work.

"Every employer has the right to say, 'These are the guidelines, work within that,'" Don Gardner told the *News*. "If they want to force their theology on people who work for them, I can live with that. I just stated that was not my personal belief."

The *News* reported that the Gardners signed the statement but attached explanations of

what points of theology they disagreed with — namely women in ministry.

Still, the Gardners were rejected.

Rankin said in the *News* article that theological agreement is required for new missionaries.

When Rankin announced that all current and new missionaries would have to sign the faith statement, he did not indicate what would happen if they did not sign or what would happen if they agreed to abide by the statement while disagreeing with parts of it. His statements also focused on the work on the field, not the missionaries' home churches in the United States.

According to reports in *The Alabama Baptist* this year, Rankin's letter sent to missionaries on the field asked them to respond yes or no to the statement, "I have read and am in agreement with the current Baptist Faith and Message." The form asks anyone replying

"no" to cite any area of difference.

By signing and dating the form, the missionary also affirms, "In accountability to the International Mission Board and Southern Baptists, I agree to carry out my responsibilities in accordance with and not contrary to the current Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the [SBC]."

"Our missionaries, as they are processed for appointment, have always had to sign the Baptist Faith and Message statement," Rankin told the *News*.

"[The Gardners] just did not fulfill the criteria that 5,000 missionaries in the field have fulfilled."

According to a report in the

Religion News Service, Gardners have left for Africa anyway as volunteer missionaries where they hope to coordinate food distribution Swaziland, in South Africa.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — STUDENT

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

Seeking part-time youth minister. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 45, Philadelphia, TN 37846 or for further information, call (865) 458-3151.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Bethel Springs, Tenn., is accepting resumes for the position of senior pastor. Resumes will be accepted until Oct. 31, 2002. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 61 Rowsey School Rd., Bethel Springs, TN 38315.

First Baptist Church, Monterey, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. We are a church of 200+ active members in a town of approximately 4,000, situated 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rodger's organ and box speakers for sale. Needs some repair. Call New Vision Community Church, (731) 772-2663 for more information. Asking \$3,000.

MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

Responsible for planning, implementing, and administering the entire education program of the First Baptist Church of Salisbury, N.C., 1,500+ members. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 223 N. Fulton St., Salisbury, NC 28144, Attn: Minister of Education Search Committee.

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CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of music. For more information call the church office at (865) 523-9701 or send resume to Belmont Heights Baptist Church, 2510 Belmont Heights Ave., Knoxville, TN 37921.

Hunter First Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Tenn., has a full-time minister of music/worship staff position they are seeking to fill. Resumes may be submitted to Personnel Committee, Hunter First Baptist Church, 693 Hwy. 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643, fax to Attn. Personnel Committee, (423) 543-2948, or email to church@hunterfirst.com.

MINISTRIES — CHILDREN

Children's minister position (grades 1-6) available. Full-time. Great benefits package. Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK — suburb of Oklahoma City. Over 5,000 membership. Email resume to rushing@councilroad.org. Visit web site at www.councilroad.org for additional church information. Experience and seminary a plus.

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Jerry Vines
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10 AM



R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
OCT 16
10 AM



James Merritt
OCT 17
10 AM

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For reservations, call (502) 897-4121 by Friday, October 11.

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Romans 15:13

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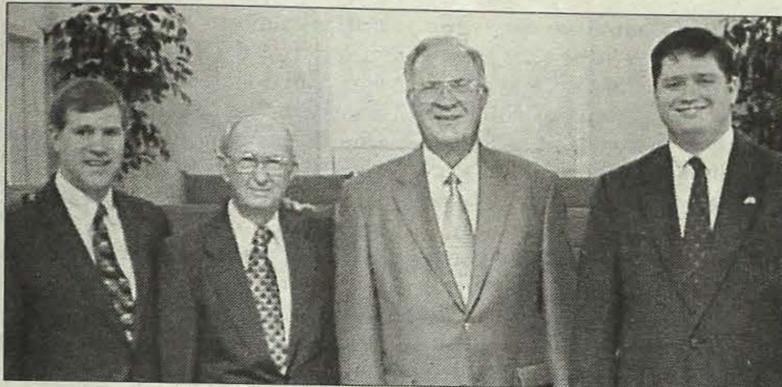
Leaders

◆ **Jim King** of Miracle Baptist Church, LaVergne, has accepted God's call into the angelism ministry. He has served as a pastor and Bible teacher for 40 years. He is available to serve churches. For more information, call (5) 793-9586.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Amboldt**, called **Greg Mcadden** as pastor effective Oct. 27.

◆ **Pleasant Grove Piney Baptist Church, New Market**, called **Tim Hale** as pastor recently.

◆ **Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Bradford**, called **Ive Atwood** as pastor, effective Sept. 1.



PARTICIPATING in the recent Homecoming 2002 of LaGuardo Baptist Church, Lebanon, were, from left, former pastors Steve Bingham; W. L. Baker; Carl Price; and Mark Thompson, pastor.

will hold homecoming activities Oct. 13 beginning at 10:40 a.m. For more information, call the church at (901) 272-1788.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, celebrated its 160th anniversary Sept. 15.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Livingston**, will hold revival Oct. 2-6. Carroll Roberson, evangelist and recording artist of Ripley, Miss., will speak and present music.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Lexington**, will hold revival Oct. 13-18. John Adams, assistant to the president for church/pastor relations, Union University, Jackson, will speak.

◆ **Allen Baptist Church, Brownsville**, will hold revival Oct. 20-23. Chris Rigby, pastor, First Baptist Church, Alamo, will speak.

◆ **Unity Baptist Church, Maryville**, will present "The Rapture," on Sunday evenings from Oct. 6 to Nov. 24 and Dec. 8-22. It also will be held on Halloween, Oct. 31. Performances are at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (865) 982-8280 or (865) 382-5446.

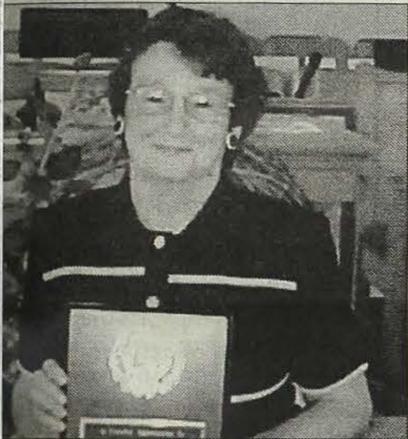
◆ **Stones River Baptist Church, Smyrna**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 6. For more information, call the church at (615) 459-2933.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Cowan**, will hold revival Oct. 4-5 and homecoming Oct. 6.

JUNE MCLEAN of Fairview Baptist Church, Mohawk, holds a plaque given to her recently by the church for teaching fifth and sixth grade Sunday School at Fairview Church for the past 36 years.

Churches

◆ **Speedway Terrace Baptist Church, Memphis**,

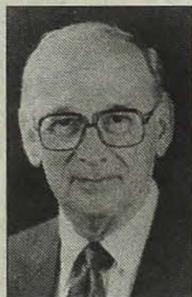


Carson-Newman College East Tennessee Fall 2002 Pastors' Conference

October 22

Carson-Newman College, Gentry Auditorium

"Preaching in the 21st Century"



Plenary Speaker:
Fred Craddock
Professor Emeritus,
Candler School of Theology
Emory University

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Conference: 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Breakout Session Leaders:

Don Garner, Chair, C-N Religion Department
Joel Snider, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Rome, Georgia
Bill Choate, Director, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, TBC

Registration fee is \$20 (lunch included). Contact Kathy Lawson at (865) 471-3218 for registration information; for more information go to www.cn.edu/thecollege/norton/pastors.html



GARY MUNDY, left, pastor, Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Speedwell, receives a plaque from Clayton Dunsmore, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, based in Harrogate. The presentation was in recognition of the church's centennial anniversary which was observed Aug. 25. The plaque was from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society. On that day 35 members were recognized for being members 50 years or more. Myrtle Evans Vasco was recognized for being a member for 74 years. Jim Welch, a life-long member, presented the church's history.

Brady Cooper, associate pastor and pastor of evangelism, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, will speak. For more information, call (931) 967-7506.

◆ **Liberty Baptist Church, Covington**, will hold homecoming Oct. 12. Joe Jernigan, former pastor, will speak and Mark Blackmon, former music director, will lead the music.

◆ **Bordeaux Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold homecoming and old fashioned Sunday Oct. 20. Dicky Reynolds will speak. For more information contact tkbornagain@yahoo.com.

Tennessee Baptist Convention, LifeWay Christian Resources, and some local associations. For more information, including costs, contact Archer Thorpe of the TBC staff at (615) 371-2017.

◆ **The Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference** will be Oct. 15 at the Baptist Center, Brentwood. Speakers will include Phil Glisson and Tom Schuj. For more information, call Terry Wilkerson, president, at (615) 237-3052.

◆ **Alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary** are invited to a convention-related meeting Nov. 12 at 12:30 p.m. at Copeland's restaurant in Franklin. For more information, contact Larry Robertson at brolarry@cleanweb.net or the school at 1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 3331.

Statewide Events

◆ **First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville**, will host a two-day Natural Church Development Conference. The conference, entitled "A Healthy Church is a Growing Church," will be held Oct. 25-26. Two levels of study will be offered. Leading the seminars will be David Wetzler of Church Smart Resources. The meeting is held by the **Church Staff Leadership Group of the**

Associations

◆ **Senior adults of Bledsoe Baptist Association**, based in Gallatin, will meet Oct. 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the association center for a Fall Tour of Churches. For more information, call Theta Campbell at (615) 841-3391.

"On Our Knees" Prayer Conference

First Baptist Church, Family Life Center
Dyersburg, Tenn.
October 4-6, 2002

Friday night, Oct. 4:

7:00-9:00 p.m.: Speakers, Dr. David Gushee (Union University) and Todd Brady (Union University)

Saturday morning, Oct. 5:

9:00-11:00 a.m.: Speakers Dr. George Guthrie (Union University) and Lyle Larson (pastor of First Baptist, Ripley). A light breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday morning, Oct. 6

Dr. David Dockery (Union University) will speak at 8:30 and 10:55 Worship Services.

Sunday evening

6:00 p.m.: John Burnham, uncle of Martin Burnham, slain missionary in the Philippines, will be guest speaker.

Quick response could prevent hunger disaster

Baptist Press

LILONGWE, Malawi — A deepening food crisis is threatening the lives and health of more than 14 million people in southern Africa, and Southern Baptists are working to prevent disaster and share Christ's love with hurting individuals.

Officials estimate that 300,000 people could die in the next several months from famine caused by drought, floods, civil war, AIDS, and other factors. The United Nations has requested more than \$600 million for food, agriculture, and health aid, and relief organizations are sending thousands of tons of food into the region.

Missionaries in southern Africa are partnering with local believers to identify groups overlooked by major aid organizations, which often focus on heavily populated areas.

"We attempt to identify the cracks in the plans of the major donors to see where we can be of some help," said Sam Upton, a Southern Baptist missionary who is coordinating relief work in Malawi.

Upton and other believers have made plans to share Christ's love with at least 8,000 families using \$90,000 in world hunger funds. The believers will work in all three regions of Malawi, including the megacity of Blantyre.

"Over the last 40 years, Malawi has been one of the most responsive places in the world to the gospel," says Upton. "We pray that this opportunity for sharing the gospel will continue to stay open wide."

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Mid-September through mid-October, missionaries and local believers will distribute starter packs of seed and fertilizer in hopes of facilitating a better harvest next year. They will use churches as distribution points, and pastors will share the good news. Believers and non-believers alike will receive aid.

Next January through March, when hunger is expected to be worst, they'll share maize with the people — beginning with the elderly, widows, and orphans.

"It may get worse before it gets better," said Jim Brown, International Mission Board human needs consultant. □

Graham calls for 'kingdom schools'

Baptist Press

Southern Baptist churches should establish Christian schools to develop young disciples and empower kingdom growth through education, said Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham.

Graham, pastor of the Dallas-area Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, issued the call to plant new schools during his address to members of the SBC Executive Committee Sept. 16.

"I think it's time that Southern Baptist churches and associations and groups of churches look more seriously at establishing kingdom schools, Christian schools," Graham said. "I think it's time we look at not only ... equipping young leaders at seminaries and colleges, but we look more seriously at starting at the earliest years, developing disciples and empowering kingdom growth through education."

Prestonwood Christian Academy, sponsored by Graham's church, provides a Christ-centered education for 1,064 students in lower and upper schools. The theme of Empowering Kingdom Growth reverberated through Graham's remarks as he called on Southern Baptists to rise up to the challenge of the unfolding SBC-wide emphasis.

"I believe that Southern Baptists are prepared and ready as never before to come to the kingdom for such a time as this," Graham said. "At a very

critical time in our nation and in our world I believe God has uniquely fitted and framed Southern Baptist churches and this fantastic organization that we call the Southern Baptist organization to take the gospel to the world until he comes."

Empowering Kingdom Growth (EKG) is a new spiritual initiative approved by messengers to the 2002 SBC in St. Louis to "seek first the King and His kingdom." □

Pakistani gunmen murder Christians in Karachi

Baptist Press

ISTANBUL — Armed gunmen attacked a Pakistani Christian welfare organization in Karachi Sept. 25, killing seven Christians and leaving an eighth critically injured, Compass Direct news service reported.

According to local police, two

unidentified attackers entered the third-floor offices of Idare-e-Amn-O-Insaf, or Institute for Peace and Justice (IPI) in central Karachi shortly after working hours began. The assailants apparently gagged the office staff and tied their chairs before shooting eight of them point-blank in the head, then escaping.

Six of the victims died on the spot, while a seventh died in the hospital and an eighth still fighting for his life. An additional office worker who was beaten and tied up was shot, however, enabling him to wriggle free a half-hour later to summon the police. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Church secretary in Donelson area, 30 hours/week, computer good communication and counting skills required. Fax resume to (615) 883-7118.

MINISTRIES — COMBINATIONS

Seeking bivocational minister youth director. Send resume Search Committee, Trinity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 41, Bolivar TN 38008, or for further information call (731) 658-3432.

First Baptist Church of Dandridge, Tenn., is currently seeking an individual for the position of minister of youth/singles. This person needs to have a secondary degree or an undergraduate degree in biblical studies with emphasis in youth ministry. Please send your resume to P.O. Box 246, Dandridge, TN 37725.

Friendly and loving Southern Baptist Church in Martinsville, Va., is seeking associate pastor to work with youth, children, and families. Education and experience in this area of ministry desired. Please send resume to McCabe Memorial Baptist Church, 107 Clearview Dr., Martinsville, VA 24112, Attn. L. Oakes.

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 Cook Valley Rd., Kingsport, TN 37664

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Dr. Aubrey Malphurs is a professor at Dallas Theological Seminary and is the author of many books including: *Advanced Strategic Planning* and *Ministry Nuts and Bolts*.

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minister's corner

Editor's 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 Fever: Is There Any Cure?*

Don McCulley

(2) It's Economically Wasteful
There is another reason you should consider voting NO on Nov. 5. It is Economically wasteful. The lottery is just lousy economics. How many of you would invest one dollar to get three dollars or two dollars to get six dollars or three dollars to get five dollars? You say that is a pretty simple question. All of us would do that because it is a good investment. But turn those figures around. How many of you would invest nine dollars to get three dollars? How many of you would invest six dollars to get two dollars? How many of you would invest five dollars to get one dollar? That is exactly what the gambling proponents are asking you to do. How do you explain that? Out of every dollar that goes into the lottery, two thirds will go into administrative costs and for the prizewinners. Only one third of the money will go to the state and in this instance, in the State of Tennessee, it will go to higher education. That is what it is earmarked for. Not one skinny dime, not one penny is going to the state budget.



It can't. It has already been earmarked for higher education. What the state is asking us to do is not to take one dollar or two dollars or three dollars, but the state is asking us to do — and these are the same figures — is to take 600 million dollars in order to make 200 million. They are asking us to take 300 million dollars in order to make 300 million dollars. They are asking us to take somewhere from 300 million to 900 million dollars out of the state economy and put it into the lottery. Now that is money not spent at the grocery store, the gas station, the garment industry, or brought to God's house. On top of that there is no sales tax paid on lottery tickets. As a result Tennessee will stand to lose somewhere between 36 to 54 million dollars in state tax revenue. As it has been said, "There are people so blind as those who will not see." Gambling does not pay, it costs. It costs in operational expenses. Someone once said, "If you want to stop gambling, you better own your own casino." Second, it will cost us personally. Third, it will cost us socially. Fourth, it will cost us spiritually. Rex Rogers said, "America is playing the odds. We are gambling that our embrace of legalized, commercialized gambling will somehow pay off more economically than it will cost us morally." Please be reminded that if gambling is instituted in the state of Tennessee, that somewhere down the line, all it will take is two thirds of both houses who can come back and legislate and legalize any other form of gambling that they want. Who will eventually pay for the gambling costs? The hard working taxpayer. □

just for today

by Fred Wood, retired pastor, Memphis

Start With A Smile: Mr. Jones: "What is your standard fee for pulling a tooth?" Dentist: "\$100." Mr. Jones: "That's a lot of money for a job that only takes a minute or two, isn't it?" Dentist: "I can take a little longer if you wish."
Fake This Truth: A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Drink deep. Shallow draughts intoxicate the brain. The longer we prepare for a speech, the sooner we can make our point and get it. People are more likely to come back and hear again!
Memorize This Scripture: "Without knowledge he multiplies the words." — Job 35:16
Pray This Prayer: Lord, help me, before I speak, to be sure of what I am about to say and all the implications involved. Remind me often volubility seldom produces vocal virtue. □

Committing to life

By Greg McFadden

Focal passage — Genesis 9:1-6, 8-17

In these days of contracts and agreements, loopholes and defaults, it is likely that few understand the significance of "covenant." A covenant, in the Biblical sense, is so much more than a formal agreement or contract. A contract always has an end date, whereas a covenant is permanent. A contract generally involves only a portion of a person, such as a skill, while a covenant covers the whole person. The Hebrew word translated covenant literally means "obligation." It represents a bond that unites two parties under a set of responsibilities and benefits. During the next four weeks, we will look at the primary covenants God made with His creation. The focus of the first covenant with Noah is the "preservation of life." The covenant with Abraham has to do with "blessings to the nations." With Moses, the emphasis is on the law and the "creating of a distinctive people." Finally, the covenant between God and David offers the "promise of a righteous ruler." These covenants are not simply to be viewed as Old Testament history. They are covenants of grace that help us better share God's love in Christ.

Lesson one reminds the learner of the value God places on life. In the days of Noah, human society had degenerated beyond recovery in the eyes of the Lord. Human beings had become characteristically evil,

not just in actions, but in thought and attitude as well. God prepared to destroy both man and beast from the face of the earth, when "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8).

Following the flood, God established a covenant with Noah, promising to never again destroy the earth with a flood. In this day of suicide bombings, abortion on demand, genocide, and human cloning, it is evident that the secular worldview of life is far removed from God's view. This biblical worldview offers great hope to a confused and confounded culture. Today, as in that day, God is at work preserving and redeeming life rather than destroying it.

There is a new start; with clear accountability mentioned in verses 1-6. In a clear and succinct fashion, God reiterates His promise to humanity from the original creation. God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "be fruitful and increase in numbers." God had not changed His mind from Genesis 1:28.

Mankind's position in creation is unchanged as well (vv. 2-3). There does seem to be a new and different environment where these assignments are carried out. In the original account, we envision a gentle and serene setting in which Adam named the animals. Here the words fear and dread mark a more hostile environment. Meat was added to man's diet as proof of God's provision. The stipulation of (v. 4) "But

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Oct. 6

you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it," reminds us of the "forbidden fruit" of Genesis 2:17. God demands obedience and respect of life.

God's promise in verses 8-11 reflects His commitment to preserve life. "God said" in verse 8 and also in verses 12 and 17 are reminiscent of the oft repeated phrase in Genesis 1, "God said." There is great power and purpose in the Divine Word. It is in these verses that God promises to "establish" the covenant of 6:18.



McFADDEN

Since we live in a visual society, our appreciation for the rainbow should be even greater. It is that necessary reminder of God's priority on life. "A sign" means a symbolic reminder that God has initiated a promise that He has not forgotten. We must not, however, suggest that all-knowing God is capable of forgetting as we do. It more implies that it is valuable to Him. The generation of today is included in this promise in verse 17, "between me and all life on the earth." □ — McFadden is pastor of First Baptist Church, Hohenwald.

Real life or judgment

By Kenny Bruce

Focal passage — John 5:14-15, 24-30, 36-40

The location of the miracle of this man's healing was at the pool of Bethesda. It was near the sheep gate in the wall at the northeast corner of Jerusalem. From time to time there was a periodic disturbance of the water. The popular belief was that when this water agitation occurred, whoever jumped in first would receive healing.

When the Lord came to the pool area, he saw the paralyzed man and commanded him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once, he was cured.

It was the Sabbath and the healed man broke one of the 39 rules the rabbis had added to the Sabbath law by carrying his mat. The Jews confronted him. He replied by making it obvious that the authority of the one who healed him was greater than the authority of the rabbis (v. 11).

Every decision we make is determined by the question, "Who is in control of my life?" Like the man who was cured, we must place the authority of Jesus over every other authority, and obey Him, even when the consequences may involve confrontations.

The Lord later found the man at the Temple and said, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you" (v. 14). There was some connection between the man's sin and his paralysis.

Many human woes are the direct result of sin. Although not all diseases and illnesses can be traced to sin, some can. Many terrible diseases lurk in waiting for the promiscuous person and the pervert. Abusing our bodies which are the temples of the Holy Spirit breaks down our immune systems and makes us more vulnerable to infections and diseases.

When the Jewish leaders confronted Jesus about His breaking the Sabbath, He replied that He was only doing what His Father was doing. When He said, "My Father," He was claiming to be equal with God (vv. 17-18). This claim caused the Jews to change their accusation from Sabbath-breaking to blasphemy.

Jesus also claimed equality with the Father in executing judgment (vv. 22-23). As judge, He has personal knowledge of all the countless people in all the ages of history. He has the absolute right to pass eternal sentence, with no court of appeal.

Christians do not have to wait until they are dead and arraigned before the judge to find out what their verdict will be. Verse 24 promises believers that they will not be condemned because they have crossed over from death to life. The verdict — eternal life, not eternal judgment.

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Oct. 6

Jesus continued his claim to deity through three witnesses. The first was John the Baptist (vv. 30-35), who told the people that Jesus was Lord (John 1:23).

The Lord's second witness was the witness of his miracles (v. 36). The miracles proved that He was the Son of God and had been sent into the world by the Father.

Jesus was on a divine timetable and He followed a divine agenda with specific works to accomplish in the Father's will. We, too, are to follow God's plan according to His timetable, and complete the works he has assigned each of us to do.

The third witness our Lord summoned was the Word of God (vv. 37-40). Because the Jews had a head knowledge of the Scriptures, they believed they had eternal life (v. 39). Jesus told them in verses 37 and 40 that they did not have eternal life because they did not believe in Him.

Are we letting our religious traditions blind us to the spiritual truths of God's Word? Are we so involved in the knowledge of God's Word that we're not experiencing the God of the Word? Does our Bible study give us a big head, or a burning heart to obey Him? □ — Bruce is pastor of Leewood Baptist Church, Memphis.



BRUCE

Halloween tracts can help spread gospel to children

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Trick-or-treaters will get more than a handful of candy this Oct. 31 when they knock on the door of someone participating in the American Tract Society's Halloween evangelism effort.

"ATS' newest 'Halloween Rescue Kit' gives Christians a tool to rescue Halloween this year with the sweet taste of salvation spelled out in treats and gospel tracts designed specifically for Halloween handout," said Dan Southern, president of ATS.

According to the Barna Research Group, 85 percent of all Christians make their commitment to Christ between the ages of 4 and 14, Southern said, underscoring the importance of Halloween evangelism tracts as evangelism tools.

The kit includes tracts designed with pictures of kids dressed up as American real-life heroes such as a nurse, a firefighter, a doctor, a busi-

nesswoman, and even a ballerina.

"We see the heroes and rescue aspects of the kit especially appropriate this year because America and America's children have realized heroism on a new level after 9/11," Southern said.

In addition to the tracts, individually wrapped taffy candy, colorful stickers, and clear sealable bags — enough for 31 children — are included. For youth and adults, single tracts called "Separating Halloween Fact from Folklore" and "Reaching Kids on Halloween" are also in each kit. The ATS web site is www.atstracts.org.

Samaritan's Purse is providing inserts for the ATS Halloween kits with order forms to participate in the ministry's Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse, led by Franklin Graham, has delivered gift-filled Christmas shoeboxes and demonstrated God's love to more than 18 million children in 110 countries.

"Samaritan's Purse is excited to

work with the American Tract Society to impact the lives of boys and girls here in the United States," Graham said.

ATS, based in Garland, Texas, has been the nation's hallmark publisher of religious tracts since 1825, and the Halloween tracts have been popular for many years.

At the Dallas-area Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, a Halloween night festival spreads across 10 acres of the church campus and draws a crowd of more than 20,000 each year. Children's leader Diana Pendley called it one of their biggest and busiest evangelism outreaches all year.

Each guest who registers to win door prizes or participates in any of the more than 100 carnival and inflatable games, rock climbing, petting zoo, and food booths gets a bag of candy and an ATS Halloween tract.

"We use tracts because they are short and easy to read and share the gospel message effectively," Pendley said in an ATS news release. "They go home with people and speak to them in a voice that reaches beyond our voices in the quiet times when they need to hear the message most."

Joey Hancock, director of ATS' church ministry division, said churches across the country are becoming more

active in Halloween evangelism effort each year.

"Halloween is the only time of the year that the people are coming to our doors expecting treats, and Christians are learning, when an opportunity like this knocks, not to waste it," he said. "Churches are using the tracts like 24-hour evangelists, clearly painting the gospel and giving folks something to think back on the days after Halloween."

As a new feature this year, Halloween e-tracts also can be sent from the ATS www.atstracts.org website.

Christians in the United States order nearly 3 million Halloween outreach items from ATS each year during the six-week countdown to Oct. 31, Southern said.

"As a kid, I never once heard about Jesus from my friends or neighbors unless it was when they cursed using his name," Southern said. "Fortunately my parents told me about Jesus. Many today have no one in their lives to tell them about Christ, unless the followers of Christ are willing to be missionaries in their own communities."

"When, but Halloween, do we have more folks coming up to our doors? All we have to do is answer with more than they are asking — a gospel tract and a candy treat." □



Group feels led to buy site of event

Baptist association has hopes beyond yearly groundhog event

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — A group of seven people started Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God* Bible study last fall, not knowing what God had in store. While watching for how God was working around them, they were given an offer to purchase the site where Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog emerges from a tree stump every Feb. 2 to "predict" whether winter will stay for six more weeks.

Gobbler's Knob, known worldwide as Punxsutawney Phil's home, is part of a 93-acre sportsman's club that wants to relocate in order to move farther into the wilderness of western Pennsylvania. The owners contacted Doug Pilot, director of missions for the Conemaugh Valley Baptist Association in the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, to ask if the association would be interested in purchasing the property.

Pilot, one of the seven who began the *Experiencing God* study, joined the group in praying about how they should respond. The group had started meeting in the absence of a local church committed to preaching the Word of God.

As Blackaby teaches in his study, the group confronted a crisis of belief when they realized God wanted them to proceed with purchasing the property. The price was set at \$530,000, and the owners challenged them to raise 5 percent by June 20 in order to enter a sales agreement for 90 days.

The group began sending letters and making telephone calls in order to raise money, and by June 20 they were still \$7,258 short.

"When we met with the owners that

night, we thought it was over. We told them we had \$19,242 and could only promise we would try to raise the balance if they'd let us," Pilot said.

The next morning, the association received a call from another local association reporting that they had voted to give \$5,000. Then the property owners called to say they would extend the sales agreement deadline to July 18.

"We had been praying, 'Lord, if this is not of you, please close the door,'" Pilot said. "When we left that evening before, it felt like that door was closing. The next morning it opened very wide."

The group is led to pursue the opportunity because of the various ministries that could result, particularly a thrust in church planting. The property includes a 3,100-square-foot building that could immediately be used as a church building for the group that began as seven people studying *Experiencing God* and has now grown to 17 people eager to reach the community.

Also, the 93 acres could be used for a Southern Baptist camp/retreat center, according to the group. One aspect that Pilot emphasized was getting Campers on Mission, a joint fellowship linked with the North American Mission Board, to establish RV sites where volunteers could reach campers and also use the RV park as a center for a church-planting network within western Pennsylvania where there is very little evangelistic outreach.

"There are at least 15 places in a 45-mile radius where we need to start a new work," Pilot said. He also noted that the RV sites could be used for vacation sites as visitors are attracted to nearby points of interest such as the hometown of Jimmy Stewart, the Christmas tree capital of the world,

and Drake's well, the first oil well in America.

Pilot made clear that the group is not interested in purchasing the property solely because it's the home of Punxsutawney Phil, but the annual Groundhog Day festivities do present an incredible ministry opportunity.

Last year there were 43,000 people from around the world gathered there for Groundhog Day, he said, "and there was no evangelical witness present." He said they could change that by next Feb. 2 if they are able to purchase the property, which would continue to allow the Groundhog Day festivities as usual.

Some have questioned Pilot and the others for connecting Southern Baptists with a pagan event that involves using an animal to predict future weather.

"It's like Santa Claus or the tooth fairy or the Easter bunny, or leprechauns," Pilot said, indicating that those are typically acceptable stories to tell children and Punxsutawney Phil is no different.

Gobbler's Knob's reputation as a center for alcoholic activity in celebration of Groundhog Day is also something people pose as a reason not to purchase the property, but Pilot said that alcohol possession was made illegal on the grounds five years ago.

"I see that as another sign that God wants us to do something with this," Pilot said. "He has already cleared that up for us."

The Punxsutawney Phil angle has already been used in the community to point people to Jesus. The local Salvation Army passed out T-shirts that

read, "Without a shadow of a doubt Jesus is Lord," playing on the adage that the groundhog seeing his shadow indicates six more weeks of bad weather.

Pilot envisions many more uses for the property, including outdoor concerts and speaking engagements to show Christ to the local community and worldwide visitors.

It would also "raise the visibility of Southern Baptists and showcase our commitment to missions and evangelism" in an area of the state where Southern Baptist presence is limited, Pilot said. He has helped build both a church and a senior center debt-free, and he is confident that if God wants these plans to succeed, the group will be able to purchase the sportsman's club property and begin new ministries.

To date, the group has raised \$34,000. Twelve weeks ago, they started with \$500. One Baptist association in the South voted to pledge \$100,000 from their state. Four state conventions have contributed \$1,000 each.

If the monetary goal is met by October, the Conemaugh Valley Baptist Association will own and manage the site through an oversight/development board. Ground will be set aside for the church to construct a new building as it continues to grow, and the daily operations of the property will be jointly shared by the church and the CVBA, according to Pilot.

"As long as God keeps opening the door, we're going to keep walking through," Pilot said. "This is really one of those times when we talk about churches doing together what we cannot do alone. Churches are sacrificing. We need help from our brothers and sisters." □



Baptist & Reflector

51 ewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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Sys expert on legal policy

Gambling ban would stimulate economy

By an Camp
Associated Baptist Press

IRLINGTON, Texas — If government wants to stimulate the economy, it should outlaw gambling, an expert on policy told a national gathering of anti-gambling activists. Gambling is a catalyst for economic downturn," said John Kindt, professor of commerce legal policy at the University of Illinois. "If you want your economy to come back, recriminalize gambling."

Kindt, who holds four graduate degrees in business and law, said a ban on gambling would stimulate the economy by freeing up dollars for consumer spending that now go to the gaming industry. He spoke to the annual meeting of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion, Sept. 27-29.

It's time to wipe the slate clean," Kindt said. "Recriminalize gambling, just like we did in this country 100 years ago."

Gambling currently is illegal in Tennessee. Tennesseans will vote Nov. 5 on whether to remove the lottery prohibition from the state constitution.

Kindt cited a 1999 report of the U.S. Gambling Commission study linking the rise of legalized gambling in recent years with increased addiction, bankruptcies, and crime. The commission called for a moratorium on gambling expansion and urged that "convenience gambling" — such as video-gambling machines in stores — be outlawed.

The study said gambling benefits the owners of gambling establishments at the expense of local economies.

Kindt said the United States is experiencing the "third wave" of gambling expansion. The first was the period of state lotteries in the original colonies, from the early days of the republic to the Jackson era. The second was the period of westward expansion following the Civil War. Each ended when citizens demanded laws against gambling.

Kindt said gambling drains the economy by taking money away from grocery stores and retail businesses and putting it in the hands of an industry that produces no product.

While advocates of legalized gambling say it brings in revenues needed for education and other uses, Kindt said it actually has led to higher taxes, loss of jobs, economic disruption of non-gambling businesses, increased crime, and higher social-welfare costs.

"For every \$1 that gambling contributes in taxes, it costs taxpayers at least \$3," he said.

If gambling were banned, he said, those social costs would drop, tax revenues from consumer goods would increase, and money would be pumped into the productive economic sector.

Kindt acknowledged that a ban on gambling would leave some cities with huge, empty casinos, but he proposed positive uses for those facilities.

"Do what they do with the Olympic village after the

Olympics leave town," he suggested. "Turn the casinos into universities and high tech parks — institutions for helping people."

Tom Coates, executive director of the Consumer Credit

"Gambling allows legislators to abdicate their duty and their fiscal responsibility," said Rep. Talmadge Heflin, R-Houston.

In some cases, it can even lead to political corruption.

The day before the national coalition met, Linda Cloud resigned as executive director of the Texas Lottery after admitting that she had lied about information regarding a lottery commissioner. She was the third director to resign the agency amid controversy.

Weston Ware, past president of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and longtime associate with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, said that is an example of the problems that can occur when government gets in the business of promoting gambling.

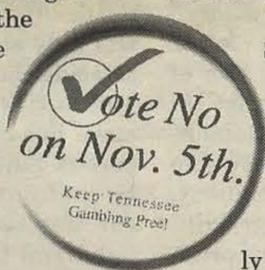
"I'm not surprised. When you have an agency that is built on smoke and mirrors, you have to expect that something like this can occur," said Ware, a spokesman for Texans Against Gambling. □

Gambling is a catalyst for economic downturn. If you want your 401(k) to come back, recriminalize gambling." — John Kindt

Counseling Service of Des Moines, Iowa, said he sees a correlation between the expansion of gambling and the "explosion of personal debt."

Casinos, in particular, create a "fantasy world" that encourages personal irresponsibility, Coates said. Unlike "destination gambling" sites in Las Vegas, most local casinos in the U.S. "prey on the native population," he said.

With its promises of revenues, gambling is a tempting lure to politicians seeking a way around making hard decisions about spending and taxation, a member of the Texas legislature told the gathering.



BC giving dips; needs strong close

Baptist and Reflector

RENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists' giving through the Cooperative Program dipped to \$2,318,809, down more than \$50,000 from the month before.

After 11 months of the current fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given a total of \$31,839,545 through the Cooperative Program, an increase of \$410,563, or 1.3 percent over last year.

The year-to-date budget stands at \$23,566,170. Current gifts are \$2,016,625, or 86 percent below budget needs.

A strong giving month is needed in October to close the gap, said James Porch, executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "I am confident Tennessee Baptists will come through with their giving in October to meet missions and ministry needs in our state and around the world," Porch said.

On a budget-related matter, the proposed 2002-2003 budget is printed on page 6 for review before the annual meeting Nov. 12-13 in Franklin. □



Knox County Baptists plan bicentennial

Planning the bicentennial observance of Knox County Baptist Association, based in Knoxville, are, from left, Glenn Sullivan, chairman of the bicentennial committee and member of Immanuel Baptist Church; Betsy Ingle, associate director, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, University of Tennessee, who is director of an Oct. 20 bicentennial pageant; Nancy Siler, author of the Bicentennial History of Knox County Association of Baptists and member of First Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Walter Taylor, director of missions. The bicentennial also will be observed Oct. 22 during the annual meeting of the association to be held at Beaver Dam Baptist Church, the oldest church in the association. The association actually was organized in 1818, but is an outgrowth of East Tennessee Baptist Association, based in Newport, which was organized in 1802.

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Belmont to build new residence hall

Belmont News Office

NASHVILLE — Belmont University has announced plans to build a new 200-bed residence hall on campus.

The \$8 million project will begin Oct. 22. The new structure will run parallel to 15th Avenue and adjoin the university's Wright and Maddox residence halls.

The new facility will open Fall 2003 in conjunction with the completion of Belmont's Curb Events Center, a 5,000-seat entertainment venue and the Beaman Student Life Center.

Belmont's enrollment has increased nearly 13 percent over the past two years, with current enrollment reaching nearly 3,350 students. Currently, more than 1,450 students occupy campus housing.

"Belmont University has plans for continued student growth over the next few years, creating the need for more occupancy on campus," said Belmont President Robert Fisher.

"We are excited to provide another facility as a housing option for our on-campus freshmen and sophomore students." □



FISHER

Weakened, but dangerous Lili hits Louisiana

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — As Hurricane Lili made landfall Oct. 3, the most carnival-like atmosphere in Louisiana may have been at First Baptist Church in DeRidder.

The church served as a shelter and provided meals for 100-125 carnival workers who were

in the west-Louisiana city for a festival, reported Johnny Johnson, director of missions for the DeRidder-based Beauregard/Vernon Baptist Association.

Elsewhere across the largely evacuated Gulf Coast regions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and east Texas, Hurricane Lili's winds were accompanied by sighs of relief that it had become a Category 2 storm — and still dangerous — but not on par with the Category 4 storm it had been during the night, with winds of 131 to 155 mph.

Lili hit the south-central Louisiana coast at 8 a.m. Oct. 3 with winds of 100 mph.

"The Lord Jesus blessed. We were careful about how we prayed," Johnson told Baptist Press the morning of Oct. 3, "because we didn't want the storm to go anywhere else, but we didn't want it either."

Three Southern Baptist disaster relief units which had been at work since Tropical Storm Isidore a week earlier — two units in Louisiana and one in Mississippi — closed and volunteers were evacuated the day before Lili made landfall.

The teams are planning to resume operations "once the storm clears [and] they can safely operate," according to a report posted at the disaster relief web site maintained by the North American Mission Board, which coordinates multi-state disaster relief by Southern Baptists.

Several state convention units are on standby including Tennessee. □

Christian leaders divided over attack on Iraq

Compiled from BP, ABP reports

WASHINGTON — Southern Baptist ethics leader Richard Land commended President Bush Oct. 3 for his policy on Iraq and told him military action against Saddam Hussein's regime would be justified.

Housing registration opens for 2003 meeting

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Housing registration opened Oct. 1 for the Southern Baptist Convention's June 17-18, 2003, annual meeting in Phoenix and the June 16 Kingdom Family Rally.

Hotel reservations can be made in several ways:

◆ via the Internet at www.sbc.net; select the "2003 Annual Meeting" link.

◆ downloading the housing reservations form at the 2003 Annual Meeting link. Select "PDF version of housing brochure" and mail completed form to SBC Housing Bureau, c/o Greater Phoenix CVB, 400 E. Van Buren, Suite 600, Phoenix, AZ 85004, or fax it to (602) 256-5292.

◆ using the housing form in the September and October editions of *SBC Life*, journal of the SBC Executive Committee.

◆ obtaining a housing form from state Baptist convention offices.

The official housing deadline is May 5, 2003.

Enhancing the June 16 Kingdom Family Rally is the fact that hotel rates in Phoenix will be "very reasonable as compared to previous years," SBC convention manager Jack Wilkerson noted. A number of the better hotels are in the \$60-80 price range. Hotel-by-hotel rates are accessible via the Internet registration and printed on the housing registration form.

The Monday evening family rally is open to pastors, church staff, and church members. It will be held in conjunction with the June 15-16 Pastors' Conference held each year prior to the SBC annual meeting.

Expanded care for preschool children as well as activities for middle schoolers will be announced at a later date and posted to the web site. □

CP experiences record year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Giving through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program reached an all-time high during the 2001-02 fiscal year, according to a news release from Morris H. Chapman, SBC treasurer.

Southern Baptists across the nation gave \$182,323,110.20 to support national and international missions and ministries through CP Missions during the fiscal year and another \$170,092,122.46 in designated gifts primarily through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Counting CP and designated gifts together, total support from churches for SBC causes has set a new record for nine consecutive years.

The Cooperative Program has set records for eight of the past nine years. The designated gifts total was the second-

highest in SBC history, at setting records for eight straight years.

Cooperative Program gifts for the fiscal year were 3 percent above the previous year, while designated gifts SBC causes decreased by 1 percent during the period from Oct. 1, 2001, to Sept. 30, 2001.

For the fiscal year, total CP gifts equaled 102.26 percent of CP Allocation Budget \$178,298,879.00, a budget based on the 2000-01 CP fiscal year.

For September 2002, total gifts of \$14,381,227.67 were 12.15 percent below September 2001's \$16,369,691.15, while designated gifts total of \$3,113,669.48 for the month were 24.33 percent below the \$4,115,060.79 received a year earlier.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget September's receipts of \$14,381,227.67 were 96.1 percent of the budget amount of \$14,858,239.92. □

Four other Christian leaders joined Land in a letter telling Bush they believe his policies regarding Hussein's development of weapons of mass destruction "fall well within the time-honored criteria of just-war theory." The other signers of the letter were Bill Bright, chairman of Campus Crusade for Christ International; Chuck Colson, chairman of Prison Fellowship Ministries; D. James Kennedy, president of Coral Ridge Ministries; and Carl Herbst, president of the American Association of Christian Schools.

Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, already had told news reporters he believed a United States military campaign against Iraq would fit within the guidelines of a "just-war" as outlined by Christian theologians beginning in the late fourth century A.D. Some just-war advo-

cates have not expressed much assurance, while numerous liberal Protestant leaders have voiced opposition to American military effort.

"We believe that the cost of not dealing with this threat will only succeed in greatly increasing the cost in human life and suffering when an enemy more heavily armed and dangerous Saddam Hussein may be confronted at some date in the not too distant future," Land and his cosigners said in the letter. "We believe that every day of delay significantly increases the risk of far greater human suffering in the future than acting now would entail."

Many other religious leaders, however, say the Bush administration has not made a case meeting "just-war" criteria.

Representatives from several different Protestant and Eastern Orthodox denominations lobbied Congress in late September against giving Bush wide authority to wage a preemptive war against Iraq. The National Council of Churches organized the lobbying effort.

"Pre-emptive military action now being contemplated by the (Bush) administration cannot be morally justified," said Edgar, the NCC's general secretary and a former member of Congress.

Earlier, the heads of Protestant and Orthodox denominations and Catholic religious orders wrote Bush to oppose unilateral action.

The religious leaders said Bush's approach "could result in a large number of civilians being killed or wounded, as well as increasing the suffering of multitudes of innocent people." □

Southern Baptist 'giant' donates library to university

Sara Horn
for Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — They cover a span of almost a lifetime, some worn and tattered, others in pristine condition, all representing a piece of the legendary Southern Baptist pastor, Franklin Paschall. More than 4,500 of the books Paschall collected during his nearly three decades of ministry at First Baptist Church in Nashville were recently given to Union University, his alma mater, and dedicated as part of Union's R.G. Lee Center for Biblical Studies library.

Considered by many to be a giant in Southern Baptist life, Paschall served during a significant time in the 1960s, both as SBC president and a Baptist pastor in a major city such as Nashville just as the civil rights movement was in full swing.

"Dr. Paschall had to deal with the social and civil rights issues and handle the challenges of racial integration in the church, a tough problem to tackle, particularly in Nashville," said Frank Lewis, the current pastor of First Baptist, Nashville, and where Paschall is still a member.



FRANK LEWIS, left, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, congratulates Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Baptist, during a dedication service at Union University, Jackson, where Paschall donated more than 4,500 of the books he collected during his three decades of ministry at First Baptist. With them is Union President David S. Dockery.

"The way he was able to guide our city through that was significant." Works of Plato, the Cambridge edition, technical commentaries, books of sermons from George Truett to John Gill, and even a number of books of records such as histories of specific counties in Tennessee stand on the shelves, a model of what a pastor's library should be, says Ray Van Neste,

director of the R.G. Lee Center and instructor of Christian Studies at Union. "This is a great example to our students of a collection of serious reading as well as a model of a breadth of reading," said Van Neste. "It's absolutely essential for pastoral students to understand the importance of having a good book collection — the electronic format will never replace a good book."

The collection also includes books from W.E. Powell, Paschall's predecessor at First Baptist, and spans five decades from the 1920s to the 1980s.

"I owe a lot to Union," said Paschall, a 1944 Union graduate, addressing the group of fellow pastors, friends, and family who gathered for the collection's dedication. "It was a big step for me when I came. I owe all of my college experiences to my dad — he'd heard preachers who were students at Union, and because of their example, he knew this was the school I needed to go to."

His pastoral legacy is continuing through his family. Nephew Lynn Paschall is pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Paris, and one great nephew, John Charles Paschall, a 1998 graduate, is music minister at First Baptist Church, McKenzie.

Now at age 81, Paschall is still known for his witty sense of humor, and his keen mind in quoting Scripture and never using notes for his sermons.

"I had a good feeling when I decided to give my books to Union," said Paschall. "But when the books were transported, it was one of the lowest moments of my life having to say goodbye to them. They represent so many people and experiences I had throughout my ministry. You do get personally and emotionally involved with your books."

"This is a special day," added Paschall. "I pray a lot of good may come to students through these books." □

New TLW pledge broadens scope to include families

Polly House
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — "True Love Waits Goes Home" is the newest theme for the sexual purity emphasis for students sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The True Love Waits commitment has been reworded to broaden the scope of the commitment. The pledge now states:

"Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

Jimmy Hester, senior director in LifeWay's student ministry publishing and member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, said the reworded pledge emphasizes the work of God through His people as families are challenged to be pure and to model that it means to live godly lives.

"Students and families go hand in hand," Hester said.

noting the importance for "families to commit to living a life of purity together."

February is designated as True Love Waits Month on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar. In February 2003 churches will be encouraged to provide opportunities for parents and students to study, pray, and make commitments to purity.

"For the first time since the beginning of the campaign, parents will be invited to make a promise to sexual fidelity and purity," Hester said.

"We know that in many families, the issue of purity is not just a teen issue. With the proliferation of pornography and divorce, purity has become an issue for a lot of parents."

Having a True Love Waits pledge for parents can help families see that purity in lifestyle goes beyond teens avoiding sex; it applies to the whole family, he said.

The parent's commitment states:

"Believing that true love is pure, I join (insert student's name) in committing to a lifestyle of purity. I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, and my community of faith to abstain from pornography, impure touching and conversations, and sex outside a biblical marriage relation-

ship from this day forward."

In connection with the emphasis, LifeWay will release a new "True Love Waits Goes Home Manual" in October for use by youth ministers, volunteer leaders, families, and other student leaders.

"The manual will direct churches and student organizations to help families connect or reconnect with God and to understand and live His principles in their lives," Hester said.

Tools in the manual include:

- ◆ Directions for meetings with parents to help prepare them to lead their families in living a life of purity.
- ◆ Instructions that will help parents conduct a study in their homes on living a life of purity.
- ◆ Information and tools for working with students who have no support from their families.
- ◆ Ideas on how to involve other significant adults in the lives of students for encouragement and accountability.
- ◆ Tools to help student leaders conduct a strong emphasis in the local church (small-

group ideas, weekday Bible studies, Wednesday night services, assemblies, etc.).

- ◆ Plans for worship experiences (sermon ideas, music/choruses, drama sketches, readings, etc.).

Also in October, LifeWay will publish "Living Pure Inside Out," a study for students that can also be used by families.

In the second year of True Love Waits Goes Home, an international display will be developed for the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, Hester said.

More information about the display will be released as it becomes available.

"This [international display] will amplify the voices of the Christian students who are standing for purity — either by being physically present in Athens or by being represented there by their pledge card," Hester said.

"It's our prayer that as the world's attention is focused on Athens for the Olympic Games people will become aware of the hundreds of thousands of youth who have made decisions to protect themselves physically and spiritually by living a life of purity." □



HESTER

Early voting begins Oct. 16

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Tennessee Baptists and other voters in the state have an opportunity to get a head-start on the lottery referendum when the early voting period begins on Oct. 16 and runs through Oct. 31.

There are several good reasons for voting early, said Bobbie Patray, president of Tennessee Eagle Forum and a member of the board of Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance.

The lines are shorter and it also frees individuals to help "get out the vote" on Nov. 5 or to work local precincts to pass out anti-lottery materials to people going into the polling areas, said Patray, a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville. In addition to voting against the lottery, voters need to vote for the candidate of their choice for governor because defeat or passage of the bill is tied to the number of votes cast in the governor's race, Patray reminded.

Voting early also is a precaution in case an emergency, such as a sick child, arises on Nov. 5, Patray added. "You won't be cut out of the process if you vote early," she said.

To learn the locations for early voting, call your local election commission, Patray said. □

Tennessee voters should think twice about lottery

guest
columnist



By L. Joseph Rosas III

State Sen. Steve Cohen accuses opponents of a state lottery in Tennessee of being religious-right fanatics who play fast and loose with the facts. He says state-sponsored gambling is not a moral issue. But for many Tennesseans, the lottery is not only a moral issue but also a spiritual one.

The Judeo-Christian tradition places a premium on the value of hard work. Diligence, frugality, and living within one's means are virtues that have made America great.

The lottery promises its patrons a quick fix that is, statistically, highly improbable. It underscores a message that good luck and a something-for-nothing mindset are the ways to get ahead in life. But there are also good, practical reasons for ques-

tioning the wisdom of state-sponsored gambling.

A lottery will not solve Tennessee's budget woes. If most lottery proceeds are earmarked for college scholarships that the state is not currently offering, as proponents pledge, all we are doing is creating another category of state spending.

According to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, between 1990 and 2000 student tuition and fees accounted for only 31 percent of the revenue of state colleges and universities. State appropriations accounted for 52 percent over the decade.

A lottery would not change those percentages. Our colleges and universities still would need additional funds for their operating budgets. Yet when states that operate lotteries face tight budgets, their legislatures are less likely to increase funding for higher education under the false premise that they already have done "more."

Georgia's much touted HOPE program, which Tennessee lot-

tery advocates say they would use as a model, robs from the poor to give to the rich. Low-income gamblers disproportionately fund lotteries. But middle- and upper-income families realize the largest financial benefit from programs such as HOPE. Many of the students who get scholarships under the program have the resources to attend college on their own or would qualify for other scholarships and loans.

The lottery is the most regressive of all taxes; those who can least afford it make the largest "investment" in lottery tickets. The bulk of lottery proceeds cover advertisement, administration, and prizes. Only one-third of the gross income generated by a lottery will wind up in state coffers.

After the first year, lottery proceeds tend to drop dramatically as the novelty wears off. I lived in Kentucky when a lottery began there. At first, it raised a lot of money. Soon thereafter, Kentucky had the largest income tax increase in

state history. The lottery proved to be only a drop in the bucket to meet the state's education needs.

Most consumers have only so much disposable income. Money spent on lottery tickets will not be invested or saved, or used to purchase goods and services. It will not generate income for businesses or sales tax revenue for state coffers.

A survey of 1,000 store owners in California found a 7 percent decline in food sales the year after a state lottery began there. Convenience stores and other lottery outlets often complain of a decrease in other sales when lottery fever is high.

Memphis and Shelby County are primary "feeders" to the Tunica casinos. We had a dramatic increase in bank robberies in the first years after gambling arrived in Mississippi.

We have a local bankruptcy rate that is four times higher than the national average. That statistic is sure to rise if gambling comes even closer to home.

To be sure, polls indicate strong support among Tennesseans for a lottery. But voters should think twice.

Lottery gambling will not solve our budget problems and may even lead to a decrease in state funding for education, which may depress business, reduce sales tax revenue.

Poor people will be victimized by a state-sponsored message that stresses luck over work. Those who have a problem with gambling addiction will simply be given a new outlet.

And government will be taken a step farther removed from the people it supposedly serves. Instead of requiring political leaders to build broad-based public consensus and financial support for new public initiatives, we will reinforce the notion that voters no longer need the consent of the governed — if we can find somebody else to pick up the tab. □ — Rosas is pastor of Union Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis. This column first appeared in *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis.

letters to the editor

Carry signs

We have your magazine, *Keep Tennessee Gambling Free*, which is good.

The next best thing, which would be more effective, would be to encourage every Baptist church in Tennessee to have either the chairman of deacons or a member of the deacon body to walk in front of the polling place with a sign: Vote Against Lottery.

That would be on the day of election, the voters would see it, and it would be fresh on their mind and the people that carry the sign would have influence with them.

I propose to carry such a sign in Jasper.

Howard G. Swafford
Jasper 37347

Carry signs

I thought I would respond to the article concerning the lottery and gambling in the Sept. 18 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, but never did. I'm glad that Mr. Pool did in the letters to the editor in the Oct. 2 issue.

I am offended by those who

say that it is not the business of the church. Are Christians not also American citizens?

"Thou shalt not gamble" is not found in the Bible, but "owe no man anything" is (Romans 13:8). If we owe money for home, car, credit cards, or anything, and most people do, then we have no money with which to gamble.

The Bible also says, in I Timothy 6:10, "The love of money is the root of all evil." Why do people gamble? Usually, not to give to the church as someone suggested, or to the needy, but they are willing to "donate" some or all of what they do have and love, with the hope that they might be the one in a hundred million to win a million stolen dollars, stolen from people like themselves who are willing to risk some or all they have.

As to our state's financial problems, we will spend more in additional welfare, bankruptcies, crime prevention, court procedures, and prison incarcerations than we will collect in lottery revenues.

Ellis Howell
Henderson 38340

Trust committees

I have read and re-read your issue of July 10 and I seek to understand the work of the Presidential Study Committee. Why do we even need such a committee? And why add anyone else to the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Boards? And why change our boards? And why change our Constitution and Bylaws? All of these — and others — have

worked for all these years.

Many have suggested to me that there is a "hidden agenda" in the background and that this is a very blatant attempt to stack the proponents thereof. I think many will agree that we already have a heart rending division in our convention and that this move will only make it deeper and wider.

I believe we need to trust our committees to do their work. I believe we need to continue to feel that the role of our president and vice president is not only substantive but also very honorary.

I pastored two churches in this, my home state, for almost 25 years. I now hold the honorary title of pastor emeritus for one of those churches. My whole life is invested here. I pray every day for love, peace, and harmony to prevail.

I plead with all. Let us do nothing that will damage our fellowship. Remember, other states have.

Henry M. Chiles
Knoxville 37920

Taken for granted

There are often things we as Christians seem to take for granted. A good example is saying "thank you" when someone does something for you. We are blessed, with the opportunity to worship God in any church we choose. Churches in need of pastors or staff can easily advertise. Many people respond, and send resumes, etc., to seek to fill those needs.

It only takes a minute or two for a response to be sent, acknowledging those replies. Some churches do that. Maybe

my interpretation is old-fashioned, but I always try to send a "thank you" when I'm sent items.

Sometimes, that can spread a feeling of caring about others. We, as Christians, should indeed care about others. Keeping an open line of communication is vital to spreading the word of God.

Take just a few minutes to reflect: Am I saying "thank you?"

John Payne
Sevierville 37862

Rates too high

I write this letter to alert pastors and staffs of Tennessee Baptist churches that I think it is now the time, if not past the time, to rise together to protest the continuing increase of rates from the Annuity Board in regard to health insurance.

I personally am struggling with how many of us who are insured through the Annuity Board can continue to ask our churches to provide this kind of expense when many of us are most likely hard pressed to cover the cost because of giving to meet budget that are trying to meet ministry needs.

If the Annuity Board continues to pass on this spiraling increase in rates like this year and the churches choose to stay in those plans, there will be cuts in programs that need not be cut.

I have trouble seeing good stewardship of funds that are faithfully given to meet ministry concepts when our monies are spent to cover higher and higher insurance costs.

Bill Caudle
Bartlett 38134

guest
columnist



By Paul Durham

Call for help

Less than a month from now, voters across our state will go to the polls to decide whether Tennessee will open its doors to legalized gambling in the form of a lottery.

Tennessee Baptists have taken the lead in the fight against the lottery and I appreciate the work that has been done so far by my fellow pastors. With less than a month before election day, we must not decrease the amount of work and energy we need to defeat the lottery. We must continue to pray that God will intervene and that the lottery will be defeated.

In order for us to accomplish our goal, the lottery subcommittee and Gambling Free Tennessee Alliance need additional money designated for fighting the lottery. Time is of the essence and this is our Macedonian call for help.

As we share with people the truth about the negatives of a state lottery, we believe through faith in God that we will prevail. I thank Dr. James Porch and his staff for working closely with us and being dedicated to this effort. With Tennessee Baptists working and praying together, much can be accomplished. □ — Durham is pastor of Radnor Baptist Church, Nashville and chairman of the special lottery subcommittee of the TBC Executive Board.

Guidelines

Briefly, letters to the editor should be 300 words or less, deal with issues relevant to Tennessee Baptists, not deal with personalities or attacks on people, must not be libelous or potentially libelous, and should be signed and include address and phone number. Letters will be accepted from a writer once every three months. □

True Love Waits emphasis has impacted society

Reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

I remember well the very first True Love Waits ceremony early 10 years ago.

It was the brainchild of Richard Ross, then with LifeWay Christians Resources and now a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Richard was also serving as youth minister at Tulip Grove Baptist Church, where my family and I are members.

I don't remember exactly how many teenagers made a commitment during that first

service, but there were several who made the commitment to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. They were the first of millions of teens who have since made the pledge.

As one would expect, not everyone who made the commitment lived up to it. There undoubtedly have been many who made the pledge, but could not live up to their vow. Some have even had children out of wedlock.

The ones who failed, for whatever reason, can't take away the thousands upon thousands of stories of young men and women who lived up to their pledge and remained pure until their wedding night.

True Love Waits truly has made an impact on America and beyond.

The Centers for Disease Control recently released a report that said the percentage of U.S. high school students who said they are virgins rose to 54.1 percent during the 10-year period between 1991-2001, according to a Baptist Press news article.

According to the story those percentages were reversed just a decade earlier.

During the same 10-year period there were decreases in the rates of gonorrhea, and pregnancy, and birth rates among adolescents.

I can't help but think that True Love Waits played a role in those statistics.

Jimmy Hester, who now

heads the program for LifeWay and who is an active member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, agreed in a recent Baptist Press story. "For the past 10 years, students have used True Love Waits to sound a clarion call that it is time to turn away from years of sexual revolution."



Hester added that the True Love Waits message took hold from "Australia to Zimbabwe. Students all over the world are seeing the wisdom of and making a commitment to living a lifestyle of purity."

Now True Love Waits is going a step further. It is going into the homes (see story on page 3). Sadly, this is where

the message should have originated to begin with. Too many adults, however, abdicate their responsibility to be the example.

Many parents who verbally encourage their children to abstain from sex engage in extramarital sex or have sexual encounters while they are divorced or separated from their spouse.

The TLW pledge has been reworded to broaden the scope of commitment. Parents will have the opportunity to make a promise to sexual fidelity and purity.

I am glad to see True Love Waits take the next step.

An emphasis on sexual purity should not just focus on youth. It needs to be a lifestyle for everyone. □

Associations provide outlet to carry out Great Commission

Making Christ Known



By Larry Kirk

What does the association do for my church? Why should I invest my time in associational work? Why should I go to the annual meeting and spend my time at another boring meeting? Let me seek to address the

valid questions I have heard through the years.

First, the association provides your church, large or small, the opportunity to carry out the Great Commission. Your church has neither the time nor resources to be in every place, but by investing yourself in the life of the association, your church can be "all things to all people" within your association's geographic area. This ranges from helping provide VBS workers and resources

for the smaller church, to block parties for the unchurched areas, to evangelistic crusades.

This cooperation with other sister churches requires that each church give up some independence to become interdependent on each other in the areas of missions, ministries, evangelism, and training. This cooperation allows God's grace to flow in both directions, blessing the giver and the receiver. It certainly extends the kingdom of God.

Secondly, the annual meet-

ing is the time when messengers from each church meet together to hear reports, challenging messages, and vote on recommendations. In short, it is that time when the churches give general direction to the work of the association for the next year or so. Like the voice of an individual member of a church in a business meeting, your voice and vote is crucial.

You will hear about the lottery issue and receive helpful

facts that will enable us to defeat this evil.

If you will give your whole heart to these issues, it will be anything but a boring meeting. You will be a good example to those in your church as you call them to involvement.

God bless our associations as each one meets to conduct His business — for His glory and our value. □ — Kirk is leader of the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

One day consultations can help churches evaluate ministries

Serving Churches



By Ken Marler

Editor's Note: The following is the first in a series.

The Christian Growth Development Group has implemented a new and beneficial way to work with churches in evaluating their ministries.

The Sunday School Growth and Evaluation Plan takes the best of church growth principles and allows a church to see how these principles are being used. This plan was developed so that churches can see their strengths and weaknesses and then know how to strengthen the weaknesses and make the strengths stronger. When the FAITH process began there was no Sunday School training in the early clinics. It was at that point I developed this plan.

If FAITH is to work properly you must evaluate your Bible study ministry constantly.

For churches not using FAITH, you must evaluate your Bible Study ministry constantly, if you are going to

reach and keep new believers. So, if you are reaching people for Christ and discipling them then the Bible Study ministry must be evaluated and scrutinized constantly.

There are some distinct advantages for a church using the Sunday School Growth and Evaluation Plan:

(1) It is an evaluation process. It will allow the church to evaluate 14 different growth areas.

(2) It is a goal setting tool. It will allow the church to see quarterly progression toward definite growth goals.

(3) It is a planning tool. As goals are set plans are made to reach the goals.

(4) It is an action plan. Actions can be taken to make every weak evaluation a strong, positive evaluation within one year.

Every one of the 14 growth areas is evaluated using a mathematical formula. The beauty of the process is that we know these principles work. Methods and "how to ideas" may vary but these principles are tried and true. When a church knows how it is measuring up then it can take action to correct weaknesses.

The Christian Growth Development Group will send a consultant at no charge to lead the staff and leadership of a church in this process. Once this is done, the consultant will meet with the church body and give a report.

It is then the responsibility of the church to take the report and "use it or trash it." This can all be done in one day. Three to four hours during the day the consultant will meet with the pastor and other leaders that are available. Then the consultant meets for an evening reporting session with the entire church or just specific leadership groups. The pastor would determine who would be the best group to benefit from the consultants re-

porting time.

Many business leaders in churches are familiar with who and what a consultant does. Therefore many laypersons are readily opening themselves to this process. Consultants with years and years of experience are able to bring to the church many experiences that allow them to facilitate ministry and mission designs.

A consultant with 10 or more years experience in 200 or more churches is much more beneficial than a "practioner" with two church experiences in 10 years. The practioner knows "one way" to do things and that is "their way." The consultant has seen hundreds of ways of ministry action and is able to facilitate a church in designing

its own.

It bothers me greatly that we have very little to say about growth any more. We in the Christian Growth Development Group are committed to seeing churches grow.

Growing churches are leading people to know Christ as their Savior. Growing churches are then discipling those persons to be more like Christ every day. We want to see as many churches as possible use the Sunday School Growth and Evaluation Plan.

Churches may call me at (615) 371-7934 to talk about this Growth Evaluation process. □ — Marler is adult specialist in the Christian Growth Development Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp



Union faculty produce book on shaping Christian worldview

By Sara Horn
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — In an anatomy class at Union University, James Huggins, chair of the biology department, walks his students through the complex systems and parts of the human body using donated cadavers. Today they're talking about the hand.

"If you look at the layout of the tendons, the muscles and the nerves and how everything runs together in a specific order and direction, the intricacies of the hand are so beautiful — you can just see God's signature all over," says Huggins as the class explores the whats and whys of how the hand functions.

Across campus, an English literature class is deep in thoughtful discussion and debate.

"What does the phrase 'Christian worldview' mean?" asks their professor, Gavin Richardson, as they begin to determine which beliefs and practices remain constant in the expression of Christian faith through 20 centuries, using writings of C.S. Lewis as a guide.

"By examining the literary expression of other faiths, we may better understand what makes Christianity distinctive. And by examining the expression of Christianity throughout history, we can approach our faith in a historically informed manner," Richardson explains.

Challenging their students to consistently think about their faith and how

their Christian worldview affects decisions in every area of their life is a mission and calling that the oldest university in the Southern Baptist



DOCKERY

Convention is pursuing with a passion — an enthusiasm that is felt not just by administration and faculty, but staff and students as well. The most recent demonstration of this is the book, *Shaping a Christian Worldview: The Foundations of Christian Higher Education*, published by Broadman & Holman of LifeWay Christian Resources.

"This lively volume displays the intellectual energy made possible when faith and reason work with, not against one another," Jean Bethke Elshtain, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the University of Chicago, wrote in endorsing the book. "The essays are written in a style that makes them accessible to laypersons and scholars alike and are a welcome addition to an ongoing cultural debate."

Edited by Union University President David S. Dockery and Greg Thornbury, director of Union's Carl F.H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership, the book offers a collection of essays written by Union faculty and administration that focuses on the application of the Christian worldview in every discipline and vocation. It is a unique per-

spective that is being widely hailed by leaders in other institutions as a model for Christian higher education.

"By placing worldview formation at the center of its mission, Union University is equipping its students with the intellectual and spiritual resources that will enable them boldly to engage the secular culture," said Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in

American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University who is also a member of the President's Council on Bioethics.

Following Dockery's vision, faculty members at Union are continually developing new ways of applying the Christian worldview in their classrooms, challenging their students to think and discover for themselves how their faith can be applied to everyday situations.

"Principled worldview forma-

tion is a characteristically Christian species of intellectual work, and no less now than at any other time in history it is work needful to be done," said David Lyle Jeffrey, senior vice provost at Thornbury University. "Dockery, Thornbury, and their colleagues at Union have produced an engaging and useful arrangement for Christian worldview reflection across the disciplines and it should be welcomed by educators and their students alike."

In his address at this year's fall convocation, Dockery challenged the university body to grow in unity of purpose as well as unity of spirit as they explore the dimensions of a Christian worldview. "With the apostle Paul we would call for the Union University community to be agents of reconciliation both in a broken world and for a hurting church, evidencing a unity of mind, of spirit, and of purpose," Dockery said. □

Tennessee Baptist Convention Proposed 2002 - 2003 Cooperative Program Budget

Area	2001 - 2002 Approved	Executive Board Recommends	Dollar Increase	% Inc.	% of Total
Southern Baptist Conv.	13,689,062	13,946,965	257,903	1.9%	37.5%
**TN Missions and Ministries					
* Evangelism Strategies	1,085,601	832,617	-252,984	-23.3%	
Associational Missions	1,440,116	1,596,334	156,218	10.8%	
Collegiate Ministries	1,556,891	1,637,239	80,348	5.2%	
Developing Church Leaders	1,318,244	1,486,203	167,959	12.7%	
Developing Church Staff	1,096,679	1,157,927	61,248	5.6%	
Vol. Missions Mobilization	911,230	848,485	-62,745	-6.9%	
Missions Awareness	604,847	638,895	34,048	5.6%	
Communicating Ministries	492,059	406,102	-85,957	-17.5%	
Administering Resources	148,114	166,615	18,501	12.5%	
Servicing Ministries	980,713	911,865	-68,848	-7.0%	
Managing Properties	543,977	542,980	-997	-0.2%	
Executive Leadership	663,113	560,071	-103,042	-15.5%	
Coop. Program Promotion	230,858	287,109	56,251	24.4%	
Sub-total	11,072,442	11,072,442	0	0.0%	29.8%
Christian Education					
Belmont University	2,504,710	2,504,710	0	0.0%	6.7%
Carson Newman College	2,504,710	2,504,710	0	0.0%	6.7%
Union University	2,504,710	2,504,710	0	0.0%	6.7%
Harrison Chilhowee	491,516	491,516	0	0.0%	1.3%
Historical Archives	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%	0.0%
CRV Scholarships	75,000	75,000	0	0.0%	0.2%
Sub-total	8,095,646	8,095,646	0	0.0%	21.8%
Christian Services					
TN Baptist Adult Homes	271,950	271,950	0	0.0%	0.7%
TN Baptist Children's Homes	1,246,926	1,319,506	72,580	5.8%	3.5%
TN Baptist Foundation	360,745	360,745	0	0.0%	1.0%
Sub-total	1,879,621	1,952,201	72,580	3.9%	5.2%
Convention Operations					
Baptist & Reflector	418,871	418,871	0	0.0%	1.1%
** Church Annuity Plan (100%)	714,009	1,071,267	357,258	50.0%	2.9%
TBC Conference Centers	151,433	151,433	0	0.0%	0.4%
TBC Meeting & Comm.	393,082	393,082	0	0.0%	1.1%
TBC Audits	90,000	90,000	0	0.0%	0.2%
Sub-total	1,767,395	2,124,653	357,258	20.2%	5.7%
Sub-total	36,504,166	37,191,907	687,741	1.9%	100.0%
Preferred Item					
Church Annuity Plan (0%)	357,258	-	-357,258	-100.0%	
One Time Only Item					
Lottery Response	72,580	-	-72,580	-100.0%	
Cooperative Program Total	36,934,004	37,191,907	257,903	0.7%	

* In addition to these funds \$865,474 designated to New Church Starts and Ethnic Ministries comes to the Evangelism Strategy budget from the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

** The 2001 - 2002 approved budget has been adjusted in these two areas to properly reflect \$622,512 to the Convention Annuity Plan which has historically been a part of the Church Annuity Plan budget allocation.

Any amount received in excess of the total approved budget will be allocated on the percentage basis of the budget as shown.

Association places 26 billboards in Knoxville to fight lottery

Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — About a year ago Knox County Association of Baptists based here began considering the Nov. 5 election in which voters will decide whether or not to remove the lottery prohibition in the State Constitution. To prepare for its anti-lottery campaign, the association urged two standing committees — Human Welfare and Public Affairs — to form the Gambling Free Tennessee: Save Our Children Committee, led by Walter Taylor, director of missions of the association. Its members contacted associational churches and asked for funds to help with the fight. It received about \$26,000. Association leaders knew TBC needed the help of churches across the state to conduct a statewide campaign, so the association decided to fund one-half of the amount to TBC. With about \$13,000 left, the association's committee and Taylor investigated advertising on radio and TV. "We quickly found both were very expensive," explained Taylor, who is first vice president of TBC.

In August Dennis Lord of Lamar Advertising Company of Knoxville contacted the association. He met with Taylor and told him he knew the harmful impact of the lottery in Illinois, where he had lived until recently. He also told Taylor about his faith journey from Catholicism to Christianity.

Although Lord had just been in the city for about a week, he had learned about the lottery issue and Baptists' opposition to it in the newspapers and from an associate. But the associate didn't know about the Knox County Association of Baptists.

Lord recalled driving by the association office as he looked for a house for his family. He contacted the office. Taylor believes Dennis Lord's visit was providential because the association had not considered placing billboards, assuming costs would be prohibitive.

Later Taylor and Lord learned the TBC was working with Lamar Advertising in Nashville to place anti-lottery billboards across the state.

Because of Lord's commitment to fight the lottery, Taylor explained, the association

was able to buy space on 26 billboards. Fifteen are located inside the city and nine are located on major thoroughfares leading into the city. Lamar Advertising data indicates the billboards will be viewed by over 10 million drivers in one month, which is about the length of time the billboards will be posted before the Nov. 5 vote.

The association also provided a packet of sermon helps to pastors of its churches early this year. It held an anti-lottery rally Sept. 15 which drew about 600 people to Wallace Memorial Baptist Church to hear Dan Ireland of Alabama speak. Ireland, who is executive director of the Alabama Citizens Action Program, worked with the Alabama Baptist Convention to help defeat the lottery in that state in 1999 and is working with the TBC.

The association also provided video or CD copies of Ireland's message at the rally to churches.

"Dr. Ireland's message was powerful and informative," said Taylor. "I just cannot understand the person who would hear what he had to say ... and then go out and vote for the lottery." □



WALTER TAYLOR, left, director of missions, Knox County Baptist Association, stands with Dennis Lord of Lamar Advertising Company in Knoxville in front of one of the billboards in Knoxville. Lord initiated the project with the association because he is against the lottery.

Man baptized by Civil War vet

Maryville layman still going strong at 96

Connie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

MARYVILLE — Hoke Davenport turned 96 years old on Oct. 3, but you wouldn't know it from talking to him. Davenport is still alert and active, something he credits for his long life. "If you sit down and wait for the undertaker, he won't be long in coming," Davenport noted. Davenport had a brother who lived to age 104, but he doesn't credit his longevity to "good genes." Rather he attributes it to the fact he doesn't drink, smoke, or gamble. He told a local paper

in Maryville that "it's not the genes. It's clean living."

The Blue Ridge, Ga., native also stays active in his church, Laurel Bank Baptist Church in Friendsville. His pastor, Charles Bailey, also happens to be his son-in-law. Bailey was married to Davenport's daughter, Jane, who died of spinal meningitis in 1975.

Davenport loves to sing gospel music and he still sings "specials" at Laurel Bank with his friend, Major Hubbard. His favorite hymns include "Wayfaring Stranger," "Golden Bells," and "In the Garden."

Davenport said he has always loved

to sing. He honed his skills, he joked, by singing to the catfish in the pond near his home. "Then I would try it out on people," he laughed.

"He has always had a positive attitude. That has impressed me," Bailey said of his father-in-law.

Church and service to the Lord have been an important part of Davenport's life since he was baptized at age 12 by his grandfather, Garner Davenport.

Garner Davenport was one of the last Civil War survivors in north Georgia. He served under Gen. John Hood and fought at the Battles of Nashville, Franklin, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, and others.

The elder Davenport was ordained into the ministry in 1870 and served churches throughout northern Georgia.

The "younger" Davenport has been a member of several churches for nearly 84 years and has served in a variety of roles, including Sunday School teacher and assistant Sunday School superintendent.

One of the things he has enjoyed about his church life has been fellowship with other Christians.

"You don't find that anywhere but in the church," he emphasized.

Davenport also loves to read, as evidenced by the fact he has three library cards. Among his favorite books, of course, is the Bible. He keeps it by his chair and "reads two or three chapters every day."

Davenport also enjoys being involved in the church where his son-in-law is pastor. "He's doing pretty well," Davenport said of Bailey. □



HOKÉ DAVENPORT, center, looks over a newspaper clipping with his pastor and son-in-law Charles Bailey, and his wife, Louise. The article is about his grandfather, a veteran of the Civil War who later became a Baptist pastor.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief units sent to Louisiana

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist State Disaster Relief Shower Trailer is in operation in Abbeville, La., and chainsaw crews are still needed to back up Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams already in operation in the aftermath of Category 2 Hurricane Lili.

The Tennessee Shower Trailer Unit is working along side three other NAMB Shower Trailer units and Shower Trailer units from Georgia, Texas, and Alabama.

"This is the first time that the Tennessee Shower Trailer is being used by the general public and by recovery teams," said State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden. "In the past, the Shower Trailer has usually served Disaster Relief clean-up teams."

All chainsaw crews available to work are asked to contact: Mike Overcash at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2007; Lloyd Blackwell at ext. 7927, or Erin Israel at ext. 7935.

Donations are being accepted for this hurricane response. Designate funds to "Hurricane Response" and send to: Disaster Relief Team, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37204-0728.

The State Disaster Relief Shower Trailer, which is housed in Brentwood, left Oct. 4 for Kenner, La., where it was transported by John and Virginia Cole, members of First Baptist Church of Huntington. □

IMB negotiating transfer of Baptist hospital in Yeme

Compiled from BP, ABP reports

RICHMOND — The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is negotiating the transfer of Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen, to an administration of Yemeni nationals, a move that will allow the board to focus healthcare ministries on critical needs in outlying areas.

The board will continue to provide medical personnel to the 35-year-old medical facility but be relieved of administrative obligations and \$500,000 a year in financial support.

"We have conducted an effective medical ministry through the hospital for 35 years," IMB President Jerry Rankin said. "It treats more than 40,000 patients a year, providing free care and medicine to those who cannot af-

ford it. It has been able to respond to relief needs during earthquakes and famine.

"We have established a permanent witness to the love of God in Jibla, where it will continue to minister to thousands of people a year," Rankin added. "A lot of good will has been built up for the hospital and its staff over the years.

"We are encouraging IMB personnel and other internationals working there to remain and keep modeling the love of Christ to the community," he said. "Many of them have agreed to stay. They will continue to have the same rights to Christian witness they have always had."

Staffing issues at the hospital have grown increasingly difficult, said John Brady, regional leader for IMB work in the northern

Africa and Middle East region.

A retired medical missionary who opposes the deal, however, says it will in effect turn a high-profile Baptist institution over to Muslims. John Wikman, a retired missionary to India who lives in Fort Smith, Ark., said the IMB rebuffed efforts by him and others to find a way to keep the hospital going as a Christian venture.

A charity started by Yemen's foreign minister, a Canadian-trained medical doctor named Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, has offered to take over administration and fi-

nancial responsibility for the hospital. The People's Charitable Society already works with a psychiatric hospital in Hodeidah on the Red Sea. IMB officials met with the group in August to begin negotiating the transfer.

The IMB says Qirbi has already succeeded in getting dismissed a bogus \$6.7 million complaint against the hospital for 30 years in back taxes, filed recently by a local official.

While the society is chartered as a secular charity, Wikman told Associated Baptist Press the

move would essentially remain uniquely Christian presence country that is officially list 100 percent Muslim.

Wikman described the People's Charitable Society as a supposedly a secular society — of course Yemen is a total percent, Muslim country — it's really a Muslim charity.

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MINISTRIES — EDUCATION

First Baptist Cookeville (www.fbccookeville.org) is seeking applications for the position of associate pastor for education and outreach. Applicants should have experience in developing and administering an ongoing program of discipleship and outreach. Applicants must have strong interpersonal and motivational skills, ability to work in a team environment with pastoral leadership, have the ability to supply the pulpit and teach, and have a strong sense of Christian calling. Attendance 600-700 with budget of \$1.3 million. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 18 S. Walnut Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501, Attn. Dr. Randall Adkisson. Information and job description available upon request.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rodger's organ and box speakers for sale. Needs some repairs. Call New Vision Community Church, (731) 772-2663 for more information. Asking \$3,000.

MINISTRIES — OTHER

The Aiken Baptist Association of SC seeks a full-time director of missions. Candidates should be experienced in the areas of ministry and missions and possess a strong commitment to the SBC. Please send a cover letter with resume and references to Director of Missions Search Team, P.O. Box 119. Graniteville, SC 29829. Only resumes received with a postmark before Nov. 15, 2002 will be considered.

Seeking God's man for the position of director of mission/missions/strategist for the Audrain/Callaway Baptist Associations. Send resume to Rev. Don Anders, 12110 County Rd. 4040, Holts Summit, MO 65043.

Pianist or organist. Send resume to Pastor, El Bethel Baptist Church, 1624 Hwy 41A North, Shelbyville, TN 37160.

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MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Eastview Baptist Church, Huntingdon, Tenn. (TBC/SBC), is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Eastview Baptist Church, 4700 Vans Dr. N., Huntingdon, TN 38344 or email to eastviewclick1.net.

CLASSIFIED

South Effingham Community Church (SBC, GBC affiliate) prayerfully seeking an experienced senior pastor with a love for prayer, Bible study, evangelism, missions, and community service. Submit resume and references by Nov. 30, 2002. SECC Pastor Search Team Chairman, South Effingham Community Church, 289 H. Rd., Guyton, GA 31312. For information on community church visit www.effga.com or www.SouthEffingham.com.

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Bethel Springs, Tenn., is accepting resumes for the position of senior pastor. Resumes will be accepted until Oct. 31, 2002. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 6 Rowsey School Rd., Bethel Springs, TN 38315.

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 consist 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 Monterey, TN 38574.

Exciting missions opportunity! Precision Valley Baptist Church, Springfield, Vt., is seeking a full-time pastor to serve as a 12-month interim (6-12 months) Housing and a small salary. Please contact Sarca Mollica, 456 Old Connecticut River Rd., Springfield, VT 05156 (802) 885-2088, email: smollica@ChristmasTreesofVt.com

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 Boone, NC 28607 or email mpierce@boonefirstbaptist.org

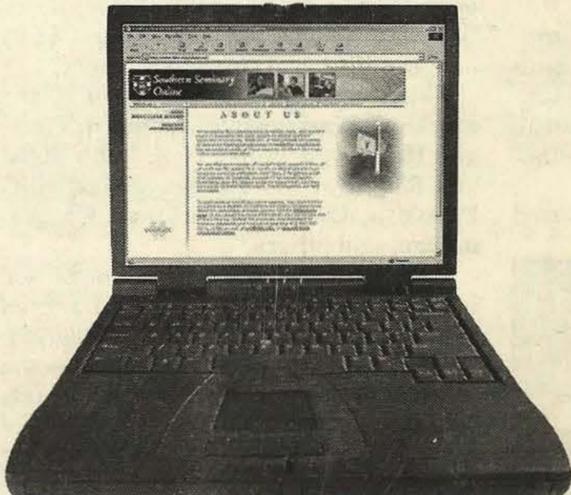
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Church's car ministry: 'Christianity in shoe leather'

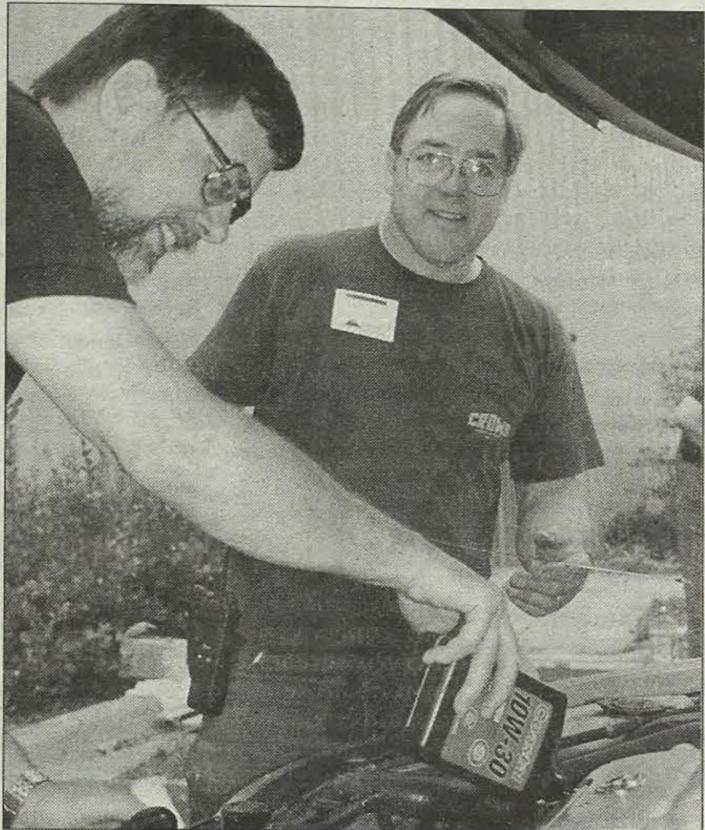
Loyce T. Morton
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — "This ministry is Christianity in shoe leather," exclaimed one of the non-member single moms who recently had her car serviced by Bellevue Baptist Church's Car Care Ministry.

In 1999 Kelly Fertig and Robert Wagner, deacons at Bellevue, presented a proposal for a car care ministry for widows, single senior-age women, and single moms to Mark Wharty, Bellevue's associate pastor.

"This ministry is not original with us," says Fertig. "I heard about this concept through Larry Kett's Christian Financial Concepts radio program. I got excited and motivated just listening! It seemed like a marvelous new opportunity for Bellevue to serve our Lord," he said. "I talked to Robert about the Lord laid it on our hearts to present a plan for a car care ministry to our church."

Fertig and Wagner's detailed proposal sparked the interest of Pastor Adrian Rogers, the senior administration officer at Bellevue. Rogers and his wife were in complete agreement with Fertig and Wagner's vision statement for the ministry. "To see the needs of people within and outside the church, and specifically the needs of widows and single-



KELLY FERTIG and Robert Wagner, who began the Car Care Ministry at Bellevue, change oil in a car.

parent families headed by women, met through the demonstration of the love of Jesus Christ by a simple act of kindness. And to use this simple act of kindness as a window to counsel, encourage, equip, disciple, and evangelize women and their families by sharing the saving grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Bill Hendry, minister, evangelism, was selected to organize and oversee this much-

needed ministry. Bellevue's Car Care Ministry provides routine maintenance such as an oil change, and a check of all belts and hoses, tire tread wear, tail lights, and muffler. Coolant, water, and brake and transmission fluid levels are also checked. As soon as a participant drives her car into the parking lot and checks in with the volunteers, she is invited to wait inside the church,



BELLEVUE VOLUNTEERS involved in the Car Care Ministry include Jeff Howard, Craig Herman, Ron Henry, Justin Tracy, Josh Wiley, and Michael Miller.

where refreshments are provided, while her car is being serviced. Hendry and some of the lay volunteers are also available to share their faith and counsel with the women. After the volunteer technicians check and service her vehicle, and youth volunteers wash and vacuum the car, the owner is informed of the work that was done and if any additional repairs are needed. She is then given a list of approved repair shops where she can take her car with confidence for further work.

Cindy Calfee, a car care recipient, says, "I feel very confident when I drive my car away that it has been serviced properly. I appreciate the volunteers checking everything, especially the tires. The last time they serviced my car they told me I needed new tires. I was getting ready to take a 3,000 mile trip so I purchased new tires before I left."

Bellevue's Car Care Ministry has approximately 120 volunteers, divided into teams, who service 50 cars from 9 a.m. to noon on the Saturday mornings designated for the ministry. Bellevue's Car Care Ministry began quarterly in 2000. In 2001 the ministry serviced cars every other month. This year the Service Saturdays have increased to 10 and the ministry has expanded to include Bellevue's Community Missions

Center in the Frayser area of Memphis.

Since the Car Care Ministry's inception, approximately 1,000 cars have been serviced, 5,000 quarts of oil have been used, 1,000 oil filters have been changed, and 250 air filters have been replaced.

It is a huge undertaking but God continues to provide the men and materials necessary for this ongoing essential ministry.

"It's absolutely wonderful to have this ministry available to people like me who don't go to church here," says Candy Rich, a single mother of three.

She heard about the Car Care Ministry for non-member single moms at a Single Parent Conference sponsored by Bellevue.

"What makes being a recipient of this ministry so comfortable for me," says Candy, "is knowing the volunteers are not just helping me because they're trying to get me and my kids to join Bellevue. They are helping because they truly want to help."

That's what this practical ministry is all about — helping others. The Car Care Ministry receives many notes of thanks from grateful women who have benefited from the generous gift of the volunteers' time and their willingness to help those in need.

"Bellevue's Car Care Ministry has taken a load off my shoulders," declares Nerine Goode, who has been a widow for 19 years and testifies that she has never lacked anything she needed. "God is so good and the Car Care Ministry is just the latest way He has taken care of my needs." □

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Campers give \$565,772 for international work

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — More than 78,000 youth and children attending summer camps sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention spent the summer playing, praying, and learning about Bible study, but also took time to pitch in \$565,772.57 for Southern Baptist International Mission Board projects.

"That's more than they gave last year," said Joe Palmer, student events director at LifeWay Christian Resources, referring to the 78,150 campers who participated in the summer's Centrifuge, M-Fuge, Crosspoint, Centri-Kid, and Centri-Break camps.

"I think they have a view that there's a larger view out there and if there is a way they can minister to those needs,

they will do so," Palmer said. "We try to put them into a place where youth are helping youth, and for Centri-Kid, children are helping children. They begin to see they can make a difference globally."

The free-will offering will be used to support five specific IMB ministries: short-wave radio broadcasts for the Hazara people; a Himalayan Java coffeehouse ministry that will provide a witness in the business community; The Mercy Project, a ministry that meets the basic needs of families and children migrating into a city because of economic crisis; Palestinian hunger relief; and an AIDS orphanage in Harare, Zimbabwe. □

Post-Isidore meals reach 38,000

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — Four Southern Baptist disaster relief units served nearly 38,000

meals through the weekend following tropical storm Isidore's landfall Thursday, Sept. 26, in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Officials were beginning to keep an eye on Hurricane Lili Sept. 30, which was heading toward landfall in Louisiana, Texas, and/or Mississippi on Thursday or Friday, Oct. 3-4. On Oct. 1, Lili was dumping heaving rains on western Cuba, with winds at 74 mph.

Lili, as a tropical storm,

caused seven deaths in Jamaica and St. Vincent during the weekend from sustained winds and flooding.

As part of the relief efforts following tropical storm Isidore, Louisiana Baptist disaster relief units were stationed at First Baptist Church, Slidell; Williams Boulevard Baptist Church in Kenner; and in

Houma, reported Buddy D. disaster relief director for Louisiana Baptist Convention.

In Mississippi, a state fishing unit was stationed at First Baptist Church in Biloxi, where a mud-out team had joined relief effort, reported Dor Swarts, a coordinator for Mississippi Baptist Convention. □

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Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training "Judaism" Nov. 1-2

There will be an Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training Workshop on Friday, Nov. 1 from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Building. The deadline for registration is Oct. 25. This workshop is designed for volunteers, both laypeople and ministers, who are interested in and eligible to become certified as Interfaith Evangelism Associates (IEAs). The Tennessee Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board jointly sponsor the workshop. Jim Sibley, Interfaith Evangelism Coordinator of Jewish Ministries NAMB, will lead it. The cost for attending this workshop is \$15.00. For more information on this workshop or to register call Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7916, or email to thill@tnbaptist.org.



Phil Glisson

Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference
Baptist Center
Brentwood, Tenn.



Tom Schuj

"Winning The Lost At Any Cost"

October 15, 2002

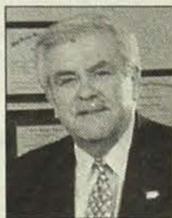
10 a.m.-Noon (Lunch to follow)

Preachers: Phil Glisson, Evangelist, Memphis, Tenn.

Tom Schuj, Evangelist, Gardendale, Ala.

Singers: Terry Weeks and Tabernacle

Host: James Porch



James Porch

For more information, call Terry Wilkerson, President, Middle Tennessee Pastors' Conference at (615) 286-1252.

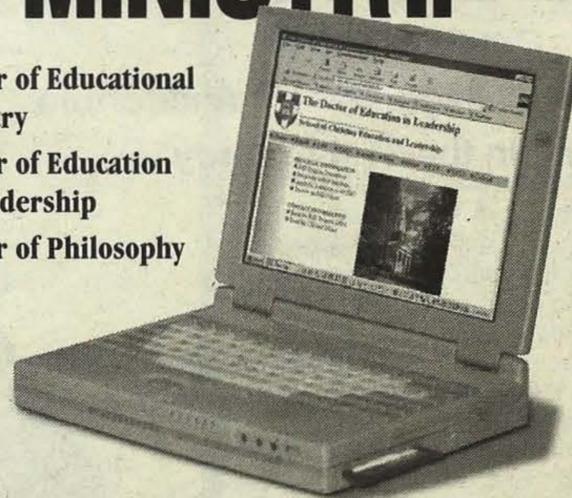


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MINISTRIES — COMBINATION

First Baptist Church of Dandridge, Tenn., is currently seeking an individual for the position of minister of youth/singles. This person needs to have a secondary degree or an undergraduate in biblical studies with emphasis in youth ministry. Please send your resume to P.O. Box 246, Dandridge, TN 37725.

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.

MINISTRIES — STUDENT

First Baptist Church, Ripley, Miss., is seeking a qualified person for youth minister (full-time position). Send resume to First Baptist Church, 202 East P St., Ripley, MS 38663.

Seeking part-time youth minister. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 45, Philadelphia, TN 37846 or for further information, call (865) 458-3151.

MINISTRIES — CHILDREN

Children's minister position (grades 1-6) available. Full-time. Great benefits package. Council Road Baptist Church, Betha, OK — suburb of Oklahoma City. Over 5,000 membership. Email resume to rushing@countroad.org. Visit web site www.councilroad.org for additional church information. Experience and seminary a plus.

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MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Full-time Music: Blended worship style. Strong, growing Bible-teaching church. Send resume to Parker Baptist Church, 4391 W. Parker Rd., Parker, 80134.

Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of music. For more information call church office at (865) 523-9191 or send resume to Belmont Heights Baptist Church, 25 Belmont Heights Ave., Knoxville TN 37921.

Hunter First Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Tenn., has a full-time minister of music/worship position they are seeking to fill. Resumes may be submitted to Personnel Committee, Hunter First Baptist Church, 693 Highway 91, Elizabethton, TN 37643, to Attn. Personnel Committee (423) 543-2948, or email church@hunterfirst.com.

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 Fever: Is There Any Cure?*

By Don McCulley

It's Politically Wayward

There is a third reason you should consider voting on Nov. 5 and that is the lottery is political-ly wayward. We have a lot of good and godly politicians who are working behind the scenes, who are fighting in the trenches, who are standing at the front to battle against the lottery. We should thank them for doing so.

After having said that, let me say this. Gambling's expansion is due in large to the approval and sanction of government. It is not a Republican vs. Democratic issue because the gambling industry is both groups in its hip pocket. The gambling industry ranks tenth in contributions to federal elections. State officials are also being hotly pursued. It has been said that the single most powerful lobbying group in state legislatures are the gambling promoters. Terry Brunner, director of the Better Government Association of Chicago said, "The gambling addicts are the politicians. They are addicted to the money."



Always keep in mind the possibility of political corruption. Paul Simon who was testifying in 1998 before the Gambling Impact Study Committee said "Gambling has more of a history of corruption than any other industry." Did you know that in the past, gambling and political corruption were so intertwined that every state in the union eventually had lotteries and all forms of gambling. Do you remember a few years ago a thing called "Operation Rocky Top?" Over three dozen state officials were charged with bribery, with racketeering, and with laundering. The Secretary of State committed suicide. A lot of nonsense is being shared today. If we are not careful, we are going to move from "Operation Rocky Top" to "Operation Poppy-Cock" or "Operation Lottery-Shock."

There are four questions that every government official should be asked concerning gambling or lotteries in this state. Paul Jones, the Executive Director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention posed these four questions. First, is it the function of one government agency will be working to hurt citizens when other agencies are working to help them? Second, is it the function of government to compete with legitimate businesses? Third, is it a function of government to advertise that which is known and demonstrated to be addictive? The American Psychiatric Association lists gambling as a compulsive disorder and fourth, is it a function of government to compete with its own consumer protection laws? The answer in advertising laws would not allow a grocer to make outrageous claims such as "Buy this food and live to be 100." And yet lotteries promote false hope advertising that a few dollars can win millions. □

just for today

Fred Wood, retired pastor, Memphis

Start With A Smile: Joe: "I saw a unique book every day. It was entitled, *How to Succeed in Business*." Moe: "Why was it so unique?" Joe: "It has chapter 11."

Take This Truth: When spending money, we should never leave out the fact that unless we keep a reserve for emergencies, we could "end up" in chapter 11. Someone recently revised an old cliché with these words, "The mystery is how a fool and his money ever get together in the first place."

Memorize This Scripture: "Take a lesson from the lazy fellow ... they labor hard all summer gathering food for the winter" — Proverbs 6:6,8, Bible

Pray This Prayer: Lord, help me to spend a little less each month than I earn. □

Blessing all nations

By Greg McFadden

Focal passage — Genesis 17:1-8; 15-22

"God bless America, land that I love!" These are not only the words to a popular patriotic tune, but also a powerful prayer that, when spoken carefully, invokes the hand of a mighty God. "Blessing" is a most interesting concept. Literally it has to do with "kneeling," suggesting that the recipient of a blessing must receive it without aggression.

In the Bible, important persons blessed those with less power or influence. Leaders often blessed others before giving up their position. For example, Moses blessed the people of Israel in Deuteronomy 33. Then Joshua in 22:6-7 pronounced a blessing. In the New Testament, Jesus blessed the disciples in Luke 24:50. The Psalmist suggests that one may bless God by showing gratitude toward Him (Psalm 103:1-2).

The focus of our study this week is God's call to Abram, promising to bless him and all other nations through him (Genesis 12:3). These "many nations" came into existence as a result of Noah's obedience to his covenant with God. As the nations, tongues, and tribes spread out over the earth, the rebellion against God continued. The failure of humanity to obey would result in a covenant with a people of faith. God called Abram to be this man of faith, the father of a people of faith. His first opportunity at obedience would come as God asked Abram to

go to the place He would show him. Once there, God established a covenant with him (Genesis 15:1-21). The call of Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 and this covenant passage are important backdrops to the focal text found in the confirmation of this covenant (Genesis 17). Abram was 99 years old when God confirmed His promise.

The Christian must keep in mind that he/she is a child of this promise (Romans 4:16-17). There is a struggle today as believers come up against a secular mindset that all religions are equal. The world is offended by a child of God who seeks to extend a blessing to a Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, or other by introducing them to Christ. The biblical worldview is quite clear, however, that making Christ known to the world is a heavenly mandate. The covenant expectations reminds the people of faith to "walk before me (God) and be blameless."

No doubt the years of waiting for God to keep His promise were difficult for Abram. In these verses he is reminded that trusting God to fulfill His promise is only part of the covenant agreement. We, like Abram, must be properly related to God through faith and obedience. As a matter of fact, faith that does not manifest itself in obedience to His Word is not faith at all (James 1:21-24). To do what is humanly impossible (cause Abram and Sarai to have a child) is the God side of the covenant. He will keep His Word.

Real life and commitment

By Kenny Bruce

Focal passage — John 5:41-47, 60-69

This chapter begins with the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 with five loaves and two small fish. Afterwards Jesus compelled his disciples to get into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee where they faced a storm. Jesus walked on the water and so did Peter. He stilled the storm and instantly the boat was on the other shore.

The crowd found Jesus on the other side of the lake. They were attracted by His miracles and wanted Him to duplicate the miracle of manna falling from heaven.

The Jews began to grumble when He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven" (v. 41). They were upset and bewildered because He was well known as the son of Joseph and Mary (v. 42). Most of the crowd knew the village where He had grown up. They had known Him as a schoolboy and as a carpenter. They knew His brothers and sisters. Now He was running all over the country stirring people up making outrageous claims to be the Messiah and performing miracles only God could perform.

Jesus wanted the crowd to know that He came to give eternal life, and a person could only receive eternal life when the Father drew him. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last

day" (v. 44). Coming to Christ on the human side requires an action of the human will and from the divine side an action of God's will. The drawing power is His love.

Men do not come to God on their own terms and in their own time. God chooses us and draws us by the Holy Spirit's convicting us of sin and convincing us of the truth about who Jesus is and what He did for us through His death and resurrection. His drawing comes before our believing.

To further prove His deity, Jesus tells the crowd that "only He has seen the Father" (v. 47). The man, Jesus, mistakenly identified by the Jews as the son of Joseph and Mary, was the same one who had existed eternally as God the Son.

Receiving Jesus as Lord in salvation involves commitment to His leadership in our daily lives. For that reason, many people reject Him. Many of those following Jesus left Him when they realized He was to be obeyed as Lord (v. 66).

Just as Jesus' teaching had sifted the true disciples from the false ones, Bible preaching and teaching will separate them today. Often the storms of life will divide them. When life becomes hard, most counterfeit Christians go back to their old way of life.

Jesus' 12 disciples saw the crowd deserting their Master when He began teaching them discipleship. They were confronted with the question, "Do you want to with-

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In verses 3-8, Abram receives a new name from God. No longer will he be called Abram "exalted father," but instead Abraham "father of many nations." These "many nations" include: Jews (Israelites descending from Isaac); Arabs (descending from Ishmael); Edomites (from Esau); and Midianites (descendants of Midian). Though many nations sprang forth, it was Isaac, the son of promise that should inherit the land of Canaan.

This God-sized promise in verses 15-19 cannot be explained in human terms. Far past child-bearing years, God would provide a son. The promise of an "everlasting covenant" positions believers today as the extension of that blessing. Others are blessed when, by prayer and evangelism, people come to God through Christ.

Ishmael lived "under the blessing" as he turned to God in a time of great distress and God heard the voice of the lad (Genesis 21:17). The exiled son of Abraham knew to cry out to the God of his father, just as he had likely heard Abraham do many times before. Genesis 21:20 suggests the lad knew the greatest blessing of all, "God was with the boy..." (TEV) □ — McFadden is pastor of First Baptist Church, Hohenwald.

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draw with the crowd?"

Peter spoke for the 12 and responded, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (6:68). Peter knew that to turn away from Christ would mean turning to the world's empty philosophies, humanism, false religions, or idolatry. They would be exchanging light for darkness, hope for despair, and heaven for hell. They would not go away because there was nowhere else to go.

They knew that Jesus was the Bread of Life and anyone who came to Him would never go hungry or thirsty. Discipleship is a daily coming to Him for our sustenance. Spiritually, it involves a death of self, sin, the world, and worldly ambitions, as well as suffering with Him through persecutions and trials. The result is a fulfillment, satisfaction, and wholeness that only Jesus can give us regardless of our circumstances. Furthermore, obeying the Word of God is a joy, not a burden. Through commitment we are able to say with the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ" and Philippians 4:11, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." □ — Bruce is pastor of Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis.

Leaders

◆ **Ray Clubb** has been called as pastor, Hickory Hollow Baptist Church, Nashville.

◆ New Hope Baptist Church, Paris, has called **Lynn F. Paschall** as pastor and **Gaylon and Gail Morris** as music directors effective Oct. 6.

◆ Pleasant Grove Piney Baptist Church, New Market, has called **Tim Hale** as pastor.

◆ Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Knoxville, called **Macon Fields** of a national theater company as minister of administration recently.



FIELDS

Fields was a vice president with the company. The church ordained him to the ministry. Beaver Dam Church also named **Tim Hopkins** as minister of evangelism and education. Formerly he was minister of administration and education.

◆ **Don Cusic**, professor of music business, Belmont University, Nashville, has written two books which are being published this year. They are *The Sound of Light: A History of Gospel and Christian Music* and *Merle Haggard: Poet of the Common Man*. Both are published by Hal Leonard of New York. Cusic has written 12 books.

◆ Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Bradford, has called **Steve Atwood** as pastor, effective Sept. 1.

Churches

◆ **Jones Chapel Baptist Church, Paris**, held revival recently. As a result, three people made professions of faith and two joined the church. Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld, evangelist of Gleason, spoke.

◆ **Neely's Bend Baptist**



RECEIVING A certificate recognizing the 50th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Mason, recently is **Bob Emerson**, left, pastor, from **Ray Jones**, director of missions, Big Hatchie Baptist Association, based in Covington. Emerson also was honored on his 10th anniversary as pastor that day.



PARTICIPATING in the recent dedication of the new facility of Crossview Baptist Church, Ripley, formerly Eastland Baptist Church, are, from left, **Ray Jones**, director of missions, Big Hatchie Baptist Association; **Inlow Kirby**, founding pastor of Eastland Church; and **Roy Harknes**, pastor of Crossview Church. The church moved from Eastland Avenue to a new site.

Church, Madison, will celebrate its 50th anniversary during October. The observances will conclude with Homecoming and Harvest Day on Oct. 27. For more information, call **Bill Williamson**, pastor, at (615) 865-9459.

◆ The Single Adult Ministry of **Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will host **Renee Martin Ulmer** who will present a concert Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Ulmer sings with **Faith Hill** and **Tim McGraw**. For more information, call (615) 896-0940.

◆ **South Harriman Baptist Church, Harriman**, will hold its eighth annual walk-through drama, "Judgment in the Midst of the Storm." It will be held Oct. 26-27, 30, and Nov. 2-3. Donations of food for Thanksgiving food baskets will be appreciated. For more information, call the church at (865) 882-1816.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg**, will hold a conference for women, "Abounding Hope," Nov. 1-2. **Sylvia Harney**, humorist, and **Lyn Westafer** will lead the conferences. For more information, call the church at (931) 762-9296.

◆ **North Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson**, will host **Kutless**, a contemporary Christian music group, Oct. 14 at 7

p.m. The church will hold Homecoming Oct. 27. Also the church will host a Mid-South Singing Convention Nov. 8-9 featuring **Southern Sound**, **Still Water**, **Four Fold**, **Southern Heritage**, and other groups. For more information, contact the church at (731) 664-9618.

◆ The music ministry of **Trinity Baptist Church, Cordova**, will present "A Grand Evening of Music," Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. The event will feature **Karen Farley**, **Grace Brodbeck**, **Melissa Crabtree**, and **Daryl Blalack**. For more information, call the church at (901) 759-5955.

◆ **Bordeaux Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold Homecoming and Old Fash-



KYLE WISHERT JR., second from right, pauses during the service at First Baptist Church, Clifton, during which he was licensed to preach. Wishert stands with, from left, **Donnie Crator**, First Church, Clifton; **Jenny Wishert**, his wife, with **Wishert**, his child; and **Jeff Stiles**, his grandfather who is a member.

ioned Sunday Oct. 20 beginning at 11 a.m. **Dicky Reynolds** will speak.

◆ The Women of the Word Women's Conference will be held at **First Baptist Church, Cookeville**, Oct. 18-19. **Lysa TerKeurst**, an author and speaker who has worked with Focus on the Family, will speak. For more information, contact the church at (931) 526-7108.

Associations

◆ **Cumberland Gap Baptist Association**, based in Harrogate, and **Sweetwater Baptist Association**, based in Sweetwater, sent a 15-member mission group to the Ukraine Aug. 25 to Sept. 5. The group conducted evangelistic activi-

ties and meetings. As a result, 393 people made professions of faith. **Sweetwater** association has served in the Ukraine about 10 years.

Events

◆ **A Prayer Rally** to support the lottery in Tennessee will be held Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the **McMinn County Courthouse**. **Dan Ireland**, executive director of the Alabama Citizens Action Program, will speak. Ireland is working with the Tennessee Baptist Convention in its anti-lottery campaign. The rally is being sponsored by **Citizens for a Better Athens** and **McMinn County**. For more information, call (423) 507-0062 or pastor@visionchurch.info.

Ganns honored by Harrison-Chilhowee

For Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — The International Alumni Association of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy and The King's Academy has named **Gene and Louise Gann** of Louisville, Tennessee Outstanding Alumni of the Year for 2002. The award is presented annually to graduates or former students of the academy for outstanding achievement and service to others.

Gene Gann was a high-school student when he became a soldier. He stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in World War II. Gann was seriously injured a few days later in the French interior when pinned down by machine gun fire.

Following the war, Gann acknowledged the call of God to preach the gospel. He met and married **Louise** and they entered HCBA to finish their high school education. **Gene** also served as pastor of area churches. Then the Ganns studied at **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City.

Louise went on to earn a



HONORING Gene and Louise Gann, right, of Louisville, is **Harbison of Talbott** who is president of the International Alumni Association of Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy/The King's Academy.

B.A. and Ed.S. at the University of Tennessee; M.Ed. at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro; Ed.D. from Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.; and Ph.D. from Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Fla. She taught school 26 years and has traveled in more than 125 countries.

Gene is known throughout East Tennessee as an effective pastor and man of prayer. He led **Dotson Memorial Baptist Church** in Maryville for 18

years as pastor. Children and grandchildren of the Ganns have attended the academy and **Louise** referred international students to the school during travels.

In 1995 the Ganns established a charitable remainder trust for the academy by donating land to it.

Academy President W. Grubb cited the couple as excellent supporters of the academy with both their money and prayers. □