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**Web Site - www.tnbaptist.org**

**Publisher - Tennessee Baptist  
Convention Executive Board**

**Convention Communications  
Committee -**

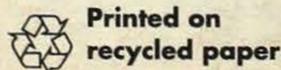
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**Postmaster -**

Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

**Frequency of issue -**

Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.



Printed on  
recycled paper

**Americans oppose  
cloning of humans**

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON — The vast majority of Americans believe that cloning designed specifically to cause the birth of a human being should be illegal in this country, a Gallup Poll shows.

The poll, taken in early January, found that 86 percent of U.S. adults are against that form of human cloning while 11 percent think it should be legal.

It was taken just after a company called Clonaid claimed to have cloned the first human baby. The claim has not been verified.

Younger Americans hold a more favorable view of the legality of a birth by human cloning, with 15 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds supporting it. In comparison, about half as many adults ages 65 and older — 7 percent — agree with that view.

Ten percent of Americans ages 30 to 49 and 11 percent of those ages 50 to 64 support that kind of human cloning.

Researchers found that women are less likely than men to say that cloning resulting in the birth of a human should be legal. Seven percent of women agreed with that idea, compared to 15 percent of men.

The poll results are based on telephone interviews of 1,000 adults ages 18 and older. Conducted Jan. 3-5, the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. □

**On homosexual rights**

**Nashville council defers amendment**

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A proposed change in Nashville law validating the homosexual lifestyle and giving no exemption to religious institutions in employment decisions involving homosexuals was deferred during a Jan. 21 council meeting until February.

Approximately 75 Christians seated in the gallery of the city hall building wore "NO" stickers, urging council members to reject the measure.

More than 300 supporters of the proposal — which has passed two of the required three readings — turned out on the steps of city hall to voice their opinion. On the opposite side of the building, strident anti-homosexual protestor Fred Phelps, pastor of the Westboro Baptist Church, a non-Southern Baptist Convention congregation in Topeka, Kan., led

about six followers, including a 10-year-old granddaughter, in a vicious condemnation of homosexuals.

The amendment has concerned Southern Baptist Convention officials charged with the responsibility of recommending convention sites for the SBC annual meeting. Nashville has been selected as the site of the 2005 SBC annual meeting.

Also voicing concern: LifeWay Christian Resources, with more than 1,500 employees in its Nashville headquarters, and the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, also based in Nashville.

Under the Nashville proposal, the words "sexual orientation" would be added to Metro Nashville's Fair Employment and Housing Law stipulating that people cannot be discriminated against because of their "race, color, religion, national

origin, or sex." The word, "sex," meanwhile, would be changed to "gender."

The amended law would seek to protect homosexuals from the threat of being fired or denied housing because of their lifestyle.

The proposal, as currently drafted, does not exempt churches, religious organizations, or Christian business owners who believe that homosexuality is a sin. A separate measure was introduced Jan. 21 that would provide an exemption for religious organizations.

One of the initial proposal's sponsors is a councilman, Chris Ferrell, who is a member of a local Baptist congregation affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists, an organization based in Washington, D.C., that has endorsed homosexual rights, including ordination to the clergy. □

**Kentucky judge  
dismisses lawsuit  
on Commandments**

Baptist Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A federal court in Lexington, Ky., has dismissed a lawsuit brought by the ACLU challenging a display of the Ten Commandments at

the Mercer County, Ky., courthouse, the Jay Sekulow-led American Center for Law and Justice reported Jan. 23.

"This is a tremendous affirmation that the legal attack aimed at removing the Ten Commandments from places like the Mercer County courthouse is legally flawed and without merit," said Francis J. Manion, ACLJ senior counsel who is representing Mercer County in de-

fending the display.

"The court is extremely clear that the display does not violate the constitution and merely acknowledges the role that the Ten Commandments has played in the formation of our nation's heritage and history. This decision is an important victory underscoring the fact that such a display is an acknowledgment of history, not an endorsement of religion." □

**NAMB strategy seeks one million baptisms by 2005**

By Lee Weeks  
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — What would take the Southern Baptists to baptize 1 million people, begin 100,000 new intentionally evangelistic Bible study groups, and start 2,500 new churches in a single year?

"There's not a system or a program in place to produce 1 million baptisms," said John Yarbrough, vice president of evangelization at the North American Mission Board. "If we could do it, then we wouldn't need God, but with God all things are possible."

Such is the heartfelt conviction of a national task force made up of Southern Baptists on the local, state, and national level who have set convention-wide goals in 2005 for baptisms and new intentionally evangelistic Bible study units, as well as new churches.

To date, the SBC's best years for baptisms and church plants are 1972 with 445,725 baptisms and 1999's mark of 1,747 new Southern Baptist churches, according to statistics recorded by NAMB.

After more than two years of praying and planning, representatives with the North American

Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, Southern Baptist Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention seminaries, SBC Executive Committee, state conventions and associations have announced a national emphasis called, "What Now, America?" and, for Canada, "What Now, Canada?" The emphasis is being launched this year and will culminate in an evangelistic media campaign in 2005.

By posing the question: "What Now?" organizers say they are prompting Southern Baptists and the culture at large to pause and take inventory of their lives to determine if they are truly experiencing all that God desires for them.

Task force members describe this national campaign as a means to equip and mobilize Southern Baptists for an evangelism and church planting movement unprecedented in the convention's 158-year history.

J. Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention and chairman of the "What Now, America?" national task force, challenged each Southern Baptist church, associ-

ation, and state convention to set their own goals as part of reaching the larger convention-wide goals.

"We want every Southern Baptist to be involved in this exciting challenge to reach our nation for Christ, but this is not a program with assigned goals," White said. "We believe God desires to do something greater than we can even envision."

Bill Taylor, director of LifeWay's church resources network partnerships, said the

SBC goals for baptisms, new intentionally evangelistic Bible study units, and church plants capture much of the heart and passion of Southern Baptists.

"We have always been a denomination that wants to reach the unsaved and unchurched with the gospel of Jesus Christ," Taylor said. "New Bible study groups that facilitate spiritual growth and mutual accountability often reach the lost and unchurched in larger numbers than existing groups. Establishing new Bible study groups is foundational in starting new churches as well as extending



the evangelistic reach of existing churches."

Richard Harris, vice president of church planting NAMB, added, "The task force believes that focusing on baptizing new believers, starting new Bible study units, and planting new congregations will capture the healthy, reproduction concept of the New Testament and challenge Southern Baptists refocus their energies and resources on God's primary agenda."

To that end, the national task force is calling for at least 1 million Southern Baptists this year to commit to pray regularly for personal repentance, personal revival, and a national spiritual awakening. This convention-wide prayer initiative, called "One In A Million," is based on II Chronicles 7:14.

Participants can register for the prayer initiative at [www.namb.net/prayer](http://www.namb.net/prayer). Many Baptist state conventions at SBC entity websites also have links to the registration site. Those who register and have mail capabilities will receive weekly prayer requests throughout 2003, including hearing searching questions and select Scripture passages to help undergird their prayer efforts. □

# B&R staff members juggle caregiving, jobs, church

By Linda Lawson  
Staff and Reflector

RENTWOOD—Mary Nimmo and Susie Edwards, two members of the six-person *Baptist & Reflector* staff, illustrate the reality that no one has to go far to find adults juggling responsibilities for children and parents.

These members of the so-called Sandwich Generation also hold full-time jobs and carry out responsibilities through their churches. Both are grateful for

people who support their efforts to help parents.

Nimmo, a church's coordinator/administrative assistant, has a son, a college and a daughter who

passed in 2002. Her parents, 78 and 75, live outside Elizabethton, Ky., a two-hour drive from Nashville home. Two years ago, Nimmo and her husband, Bill, moved into a larger home that could accommodate both parents if they wanted or needed to live with them.

While neither parent has major health problems, Nimmo's responsibilities and trips to their home increase in the last few years. For exam-

ple, two months before her daughter's wedding, Nimmo's mother fell and shattered her wrist.

"These are kind of difficult times as we're trying to still give our children some guidance and financial support as well as helping my folks," Nimmo said.

Edwards, *B&R* circulation/executive assistant/advertising, is a 17-hour drive or half-day flight from her 95-year-old father in Kingsland, Texas.

While she has a married daughter and a son who will get

married this summer, Edwards said right now "my responsibilities are more with my dad."

She travels to Texas every month or six weeks to spend several days

with her father. She and her brother, Abner, have talked with their dad about moving to an assisted living facility near one of them, but he has not yet agreed.

"I thought all along that he would live with me if it ever came to that, but I'm realizing he needs some space and that's important. We don't care where he lives as long as he is not by himself," Edwards said.

While Nimmo's and Edwards' responsibilities may seem total-

ly separate, they converged in 2002 when Edwards' father had a medical crisis on the same weekend as Sarah Nimmo's wedding. Edwards ended up missing the wedding of her friend and co-worker's daughter to finish up some work at the office so she could fly to Texas the next day.

"We were both gone at the same time," Edwards recalled, "and our jobs kind of overlap. When the crises hit, the long distance caregiving became a challenge."

While Nimmo and Edwards acknowledge the stresses of caregiving, they are grateful they can help and experience joy and satisfaction in doing so.

"It makes you feel really good

to know that you're caring for your parents as they once cared for us and that is the joy I find as I spend time with them," Nimmo said.

Edwards said when she goes to Texas she is able to lavish her full attention on her father.

"We just sit in the swing and watch the river and tell our stories," she said. "He keeps repeating the stories over and over again and I keep listening over and over again. I treasure that time."

Both women also believe their children are gaining insights from watching their efforts. They hope these will be helpful if or when they have parental caregiving responsibilities. "We hope they will have a better per-

spective when our time comes than we have had," Nimmo said.

Edwards and Nimmo added that their experiences with their parents have caused them to realize the importance of their own preparation for later years.

Because both women have friends going through similar situations, they expressed gratitude for sharing opportunities that help them realize they are not alone.

To others facing similar challenges with parents, Nimmo and Edwards urged maintaining a sense of humor and lots of patience.

"Everybody needs to know there is going to be frustration. Be flexible and just love them," Edwards said. □



NIMMO



EDWARDS

## Today's 'sandwich' is more like ...

— Continued from page 1

Highsmith said churches can support adults grappling with caregiving issues and their own futures through seminars on financial planning and types of care available for aging adults.

Tusculum Hills also partners with outside organizations to offer health screenings. Through AARP, Tusculum Hills provides a driving class for adults over 55 and a tax aid program where seniors "can come in and have their income tax figured at no cost." About 180 seniors took ad-

vantage of that service in 2002.

Cooper urged churches to consider partnering with nearby nursing homes and assisted living facilities to provide regular worship, Bible study, or other activities such as crafts.

Visitors from the church to nursing home residents not only benefit the resident but the caregiver, Cooper said. "I think for the caregiver to see other people are giving attention to their loved one matters a lot to them."

He also said churches "need to be thinking about grief min-

istry and other opportunities to help families going through this type of thing."

Highsmith said he finds that his ability to minister to adults involved in caregiving is strengthened by his personal experiences. He and his wife, Peggy, are helping their daughter care for her son while she completes her master's degree. They also provide assistance to in-laws.

"Sometimes it helps to know you're not talking in theory about what might or could be but what is reality," he said. □

## 'Sandwiched' adults find joy, spiritual strength ...

Continued from page 1

nationwide only 18 percent of 55-year-olds in the AARP (see chart on page 1) said they feel stressed because they're sandwiched between the needs of my immediate family and older relatives."

While sandwiched adults endure demands on time and emotion, they have much to teach about the joys of self-sacrifice.

Debbie Friel, 47, is married and works as a head nurse in Raleigh, N.C. She has two daughters living at home, one attending high school and the other attending community college full-time. Her 88-year-old mother recently moved from Ohio to live with her in an assisted-living facility.

"This spring my oldest child finished high school and I was transitioning with mother. And I struggled with sadness," she said.

"The younger part of my family is closing down. It's a transition from being young and energetic to becoming the older generation in my family."

For Friel, the biggest challenges come in finding enough time and energy "to give enough attention to the needs of my children, my mother, my husband and myself — keep myself in the middle — and, of course, attend to my job."

According to the AARP study, 62 percent of sandwiched adults do housework, maintenance, or shopping errands for

their parents. Other common tasks include handling paperwork or bills, dealing with legal issues, contributing financially or making financial decisions, arranging for aides and nurses, and helping with personal care like dressing, bathing, and eating.

Typically, even if there are multiple siblings, the primary responsibility for providing for the physical and social needs of parents falls on the shoulders of one child, who is usually female.

The strain of juggling jobs and caring for kids and parents can cause marriage rifts and health problems if caregivers don't have enough support and help from others. "I know I have to give some time to myself because I won't survive if I don't," says Debbie Friel, "and I have to find time to give to my marriage because it won't survive either if I don't."

When asked how this level of caregiving has affected their own lives, respondents in the AARP study said caring for older relatives has affected their own plans for vacation (29 percent), retirement savings (26 percent), education (12 percent), and career (8 percent).

In perhaps the most surprising aspect of the AARP study, respondents said that in spite of — or perhaps as a byproduct of — these losses and sacrifices, they still felt very satisfied with their lives and their relationships with their families. The findings suggest that, although

loss is a dominant theme of midlife, many people find it a time of renewal for themselves and their relationships with family.

"Many people at midlife experience a new sense of the balance of opposites (work and rest, time alone and time with people, a growing sense of freedom coupled with a greater sense of discipline) in their lives," says Lynne Baab in *A Renewed Spirituality: Finding Fresh Paths at Midlife*. "Just when we feel the most settled and even a little bored in our family life, a totally new path of service lights up our lives."

JoAnn Simich, 53, the Chicago wife and mother who recently brought her own mother into her home, says her new role is a privilege. "The world would tell me that having my mother living with me should be a pressure because I'm giving up my freedom, but what's happened is something very joyous. Because she always provided for me, it's my joy now to be able to do that for her," she says.

"Whether or not one must care for an older parent seems unrelated to probability of family life enjoyment," concludes the AARP report. Only 4 percent of the study's 45-to-55-year-olds said that they consider their family a burden. And 93 percent said they feel "my family gives me strength."

An overwhelming 88 percent of the age group say they are

satisfied with the way their lives are going. And they feel optimistic about the future; 78 percent look ahead with confidence to better times personally and for their families, the study said.

How do people cope so positively with the challenges of caring for family members? And what can we learn about caring for others from their experience?

During the midlife years, we not only have to learn to face losses, we also get to experience the surprise of finding new pleasures, new joys, and new ways of connecting with God," suggests Lynne Baab. As people face the challenges of this stage of life they also discover new coping strategies and sources of support

they may not have needed to access earlier in life.

Many, according to the AARP study, rely on the community of friends and other family members, as well as social and government agencies and medical professionals. But the greatest support, say respondents, comes from spiritual sources.

"Among older boomers, faith and prayer are by far the most commonly cited sources of support for caregiving efforts," the AARP says.

"Fully 62 percent draw on spiritual aid. In addition, 42 percent say their church, synagogue, temple, or other religious organization has been helpful to them." □

### Resources on the sandwich generation

#### AARP Report

◆ "In the Middle: A Report on Multicultural Boomers Coping with Family and Aging Issues." NOTE: This is the 2001 AARP report referenced in the Associated Baptist Press article. Available on the Internet at [http://research.aarp.org/il/in\\_the\\_middle.html](http://research.aarp.org/il/in_the_middle.html)

#### Books on the sandwich generation

◆ *Life in the Sandwich Generation* by Kay Meyer. Concordia Publishing House, 1995. NOTE: Can be used for individual or group study.

◆ *The Sandwich Generation: Caught Between Growing Children and Aging Parents* by H. Michael Zal. Perseus Publishing, 2001.

#### Books on caregiving

◆ *Real Love for Real Life: The Art and Work of Caregiving* by Andi Ashworth. Harold Shaw Publications, 2002.

◆ *124 Prayers for Caregivers* by Joan Gunzelman. Saint Mary's Press, 1995.

◆ *The Decision Is Yours: Help for Senior Adults and Their Families with Housing Options* by P. David Jakes. LifeWay Press, 1995. NOTE: This book is out of print but is available in many church libraries. □

# Honoring, caring for aged parents is biblical mandate

guest  
columnist



By Kenny Cooper

Joy Davidman begins her commandment (Exodus 20:12) in *Smoke on the Mountain* by reciting one of Grimm's fairy tales.

It involved an old man who lived with his son and daughter-in-law. He was clumsy and messy at the table, so he was relegated to eating in a corner from an earthenware bowl. When he clumsily dropped and broke the bowl, he was given a trough to eat from. After all, his manners were more like those of a pig. One day the couple noticed their four-year-old son trying to fashion some pieces of wood together. When asked what he was building, the lad proudly announced that

it was a trough to feed them from when he got big. Without saying a word, the couple gave the old man a chair at the table.

Too often the fifth commandment is quoted as if its main purpose is to instruct small children and adolescents to "be nice to their mommies and daddies."

It is forgotten that the Ten Commandments were given as part of God's covenant with Israel and reflected His intent on how relationships were to be conducted. The commandments are very "adult" in their expectations and implications, including the one about honoring father and mother.

The word translated "honor" means weighty, honorable, respected. By contrast, the word for "dishonor" in the Old Testament suggests treating lightly. Jesus addressed this difference when He confronted the Pharisees and scribes about the practice of Corban (Mark 7:9-13). By saying his assets are

"corban"—a gift for God—a man could avoid using them to care for his parents. Jesus rebuked them for rejecting God's commands while keeping their own tradition. Their sense of what was important was out of balance.

While honoring aged parents by caring for them may be heavy, it has a spiritual dimension about it.

First of all, it provides an opportunity to love and serve those who in most cases have loved and served us throughout their lives. Generations are interconnected relationally, not just biologically. Therefore, love needs expression. Now instead of offering some perfunctory gift, the nitty gritty gift of love in action is called for.

Secondly, care giving provides the opportunity to be present. In our fast-paced world, it is easy to put off visits of significant time and substance. When there is the need for care, the adult child may be forced to schedule more time to

attend to the parent's needs. In doing so, however, the child is offering the gift of presence and attention. People are often amazed at what they learn about their parents and about themselves during this time. It sometimes fills in the blanks of one's human story, thereby providing occasion for thanking God for this journey in life together.

Finally, caring for our aged parents is important religious instruction for our children. In a society where so much is disposable and where youth and beauty are idolized, to lovingly care for an older family member is to help children realize that life has many stages and that each one is important in its own way.

To involve young children and adolescents in helping care for grandparents, great-aunts and uncles, delights those being cared for and connects these youngsters with those who have walked this journey before them. And, who knows? In

## Editor's note

This week's editorial page has been shortened due to latebreaking news which occurred last week.

Below is a story related to IMB missionaries who will not be allowed to return to their places of service unless they affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

On page 10 is a brief article regarding the action of Nashville Baptist church which has called a lesbian minister to their staff.

Both actions merit more discussion in future issues.

I felt it was important for Tennessee Baptists to be aware of these stories as soon as possible. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

years to come we might not have to eat out of a trough either! □ — Cooper is president of Tennessee Baptist Adult Home in Brentwood.

## national news

# IMB missionaries must affirm BF&M before they return to field

Compiled from news reports

RICHMOND — An International Mission Board leader is contacting missionaries who have not yet promised to work in harmony with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as IMB President Jerry Rankin requested almost a year ago.

Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations, is talking personally with the workers about their reasons for delaying or refusing. The phone calls continue months of dialogue about the matter between missionaries and IMB regional leaders.

One of those conversations resulted in a critical response from a missionary couple that is circulating in an anonymous e-mail, but other workers have expressed support for Rankin's letter asking overseas personnel to promise to work in accord with the revised Southern Baptist statement of faith.

Just as new missionaries are not sent overseas until they have affirmed that they will work in accord with the faith statement, Willis is telling workers on stateside assignment they will not be returned to overseas assignments unless they have done so as well, said Clyde Meador, associate vice president of overseas operations. Missionaries preparing to come back to the United States for stateside assignment are being told they must make their decisions before coming back.

"These calls are not being made to inform people that they are being fired. Avery is seeking to counsel missionaries and persuade them to make the affirmation," Meador said. "Everyone was asked a year ago to decide whether or not they would make this affirmation.

"We want this to be a decision the missionaries make for themselves. We want to give every missionary sufficient time and opportunity to consider their response. If a missionary decides he cannot affirm it and therefore cannot continue serving through the IMB, we regret that but appreciate the integrity of conscience it demonstrates.

"But for IMB missionaries to say they cannot promise to work in harmony with what Southern Baptists believe would undercut the credibility of the IMB. It would be inconsistent with the accountability that has been required of missionaries since a 1965 action of the Southern Baptist Convention and expected of missionaries throughout our 157-year history."

Sixteen missionary units (32 people) have submitted resignations that cited Rankin's request as a factor in their decisions. Board officials estimate that less than 1 percent of the 5,400-plus missionaries have not announced their decisions.

The Texas *Baptist Standard* reported on two of the phone calls.

Steve and Kay Armstrong, who currently are on leave of absence in Dallas, are among the missionaries who recently received a call from Willis.

In a written summary of that Jan. 15 phone call, he recounts the events this way: "I asked if signing was still only a request. Avery said, 'Yes.' I asked if missionaries are going to be terminated for non-compliance to this request. He reacted that 'they have not made that decision yet.' But then he went on to explain that they had in fact made a decision that no missionary would be allowed to return to the field from stateside assignment or leave of absence without signing the Baptist Faith & Message statement of accountability."

When Armstrong referred to this as "termination," he said, Willis replied that the IMB is not using that word. Armstrong said he reiterated to Willis that he and his wife could not in good conscience sign the affirmation as required. "I asked him to please finalize the decision (about their future service) as soon as possible. He said, 'You can take that as a final decision.'"

A similar account is told by Leon and Kathy Johnson, who received a call from Willis Jan. 13. The Johnsons currently are serving in Mozambique and are 20-year veterans of IMB service.

The Johnsons have refused to sign the affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message because they believe it is being used as a non-Baptist creed. To sign it "would place a man-made document in authority above the Bible and God's self-revelation in Jesus," he explained. "For us to sign would be a sin in our minds. We have sought to explain our reasoning in vain."

When Willis called the Johnsons, Johnson asked him four questions, he reported:

(1) "Has the SBC taken any action to require veteran missionaries to sign the Baptist Faith & Message?" Willis reportedly answered no.

(2) "Have the trustees of the IMB taken any action to require us to sign?"

Again, Willis answered no, Johnson said.

(3) "Is there any policy of the IMB requiring us to sign?" Willis also answered no to this point.

(4) "Is this a request?" To this question, Johnson said, Willis answered yes.

Johnson then suggested that a "request" may either be granted or denied.

"Since to grant this request would be a violation of our consciences, Kathy and I deny the request," he told Willis.

By Johnson's account, Willis then warned him twice that there would be "consequences" for not signing. "Dr. Willis replied that he respected our consciences but we must sign in order to avoid loss of support for the IMB from the SBC."

The Johnsons and the Armstrongs dispute the IMB's stated position that signing the affirmation is merely a "request" and not a mandate for employment.

"If this were really only a request and only a statement of faith, no one would be going to these great lengths to pressure and demand compliance to this document, and no one would be judged or terminated for refusing to sign it," Armstrong wrote.

The *Baptist Standard* repeatedly requested additional information from the IMB, but despite promises of a statement from Rankin, no additional information

was provided by the *Standard's* print time Jan. 23, three full days after the question was made.

Among information requested of IMB officials by the *Standard* was the IMB definition of "termination." The *Standard* also sought to discover the number of IMB missionaries still serving who had not signed the affirmation as requested.

Not all missionaries disagree with IMB's request to sign the BF&M.

"We have had no problem or hesitation," wrote Chris and Eileen Carr, who were appointed to Russia in January 1999. "The newest revision of the BF&M contains nothing that conflicts with historic, evangelical, orthodox Christian doctrine. Everything in BF&M dovetails with traditional Southern Baptist faith and practice."

"When we first heard we might be asked to [promise to work in accord with the 2000 BF&M], I was against it on principle and on hearsay, and I was warned when the trustees reaffirmed us," wrote Charlotte Acree, who has served as a clinic nurse in Nigeria since 1987. "However, when [Dr. Rankin's request] came out, I followed the suggestion of comparing three editions of the BF&M and found cause for any alarm or dissension in none of them."

Another couple said they found the revised statement to be based squarely on the Bible. "We support the content of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message with reservation," wrote Keith and L. Wagner, who were appointed to plant churches in the Dominican Republic in May 2000. "We find it to be a document based on solid, biblical theology.

"We are not ashamed to be serving as missionaries with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. In fact, we feel quite honored to be sent out as missionaries from churches of the SBC. We believe, as missionaries, we should be held accountable for what we teach on the mission field — Compiled from a Baptist Press story by Mark Kelly and a *Baptist Standard* article by Mark Wingfield.

aturing  
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# UPDATE

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

## From the Group Leader

The stories volunteers tell after returning from a mission always amaze me. Whether the trip was good or had some difficulties all the trips have some things in common. For one thing there is a very real sense of the presence of God and a willingness to step out boldly to share Christ. Another commonality is that the trip has changed the person. They are somehow different when they return before the trip. This is true whether a person has been on one trip or 25 trips. Each time a volunteer is different. There is another very serious thing I have noticed about volunteers returning from a mission trip. They leave a part of their hearts behind.

A few years ago I saw a group of summer camp staffers perform a skit. I don't remember the name of the skit, but I remember its impact on me. It was that two people were given a heart of love from God. One person never shared anything of what he was given and so it began to shrink. When the other person was asked what he was holding, he immediately explained his treasure and shared a portion with



ADAM SANDERS

one asking. The difference was that every time a part of the love of God was shared, it was given in the arms of the sharer. He did not share the gift, it became unbearable. As I hear mission volunteers share their stories, I can almost feel the love of God growing in me to the point that they can't keep from talking about it. When I read the stories you are about to find in this issue of the Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions Update, I think you will find the same.

*Jim*

## Prayerwalking in Iowa set for April 12-17

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — At least 75 teams of 6 people are needed April 12-17 to join in an Iowa Prayer Blitz as Iowa Baptists pray through their communities, according to Don Pierson, Tennessee Baptist Prayer Strategies specialist.

"The Tennessee Baptist Convention has been invited to join the Iowa Baptist Convention in saturating the state with prayer as a part of their overall strategy for reaching Iowa for Christ," said Pierson.

"The purpose of our partnership is to demonstrate God's love by effectively presenting the

gospel of Jesus Christ to every individual in Iowa. With 51 counties in the state without a Southern Baptist church and only 1 church/mission for every 31,500 people in Iowa, it is expedient that God open doors that the gospel may be shared."

In fact, some Iowa counties have no evangelical churches.

"Baptists in Iowa have come to the awareness that the real work in readying us for missions will be done first in our prayer lives and then to saturate everything we do in prayer," said Ed Gregory, associate missions for the Baptist Convention of Iowa. "One of our strategic initiatives is the under girding of everything in missions with a prayer

support system to put it in place.

"We need Tennessee Baptists to do some things to establish and encourage our prayer work in Iowa. We need Tennessee Baptists to come along side Iowa churches to launch a prayer movement across Iowa."

Plans call for Tennessee teams to meet in Des Moines, Iowa, April 12, and then to disperse across Iowa to do prayer focused events and prayerwalking.

Gregory's office plans to match up Iowa churches with

specific needs to Tennessee church teams. Many of the Iowa churches would actually begin prayer ministries with Tennessee churches help.

"Tennessee church teams with experienced prayerwalkers and prayer warriors are welcome,"

said Gregory.

"Tennessee teams will be housed in homes of Iowa Baptists or in other accommodations.

"We want to see what the Lord will do with it," Gregory added.

— See Iowa, page 6



## Newport pastor helps provide Bibles in Brazil

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

NEWPORT — Over 10,000 new homes in Santa Cruz, Brazil, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro, need Portuguese Bibles, according to a Tennessee Baptist pastor. God laid it upon his heart to furnish them.

In this housing project are 10,000 little houses that were built by the Governor of Brazil for some of the multitudes of homeless to move out of the slum areas.

"The Governor set aside part of the housing project land for churches," said Adam Sanders, pastor of Wilsonville Baptist Church, here, who recently returned from his fourth trip to Brazil.

"On my third trip to Brazil in 2001, I stood overlooking the same housing area and that's when I thought of the crime, violence, fear, and drugs. I thought, oh God, if only you were in each of those houses."

"Then God spoke to my heart by saying put a Bible in each house. To be honest, I thought no more about it until

I returned home to Newport. Then I pulled out the photo that I had taken of the housing project, and once again God laid it on my heart to put a Bible in each home.

"So far I've raised money for 2,700 Bibles with 7,300 more to be raised. Plans now call for a Tennessee Baptist mission project for Brazilian youth and 100 American youth and college age students to distribute 10,000 Bibles into those homes June 1-10."

The Tennessee student trips will be partially funded by love offerings taken March 7-8 at the Youth Evangelism Conference in Murfreesboro. The 100 students will be commissioned at YEC.

According to Sanders, the Portuguese Bibles will be purchased from the Brazilian Publishing House. The Bibles will be waiting on the 20 youth and college teams when they arrive. Each Bible will have a hard cover that has the name and address of a local Brazilian church on the inside front cover and a message from Tennessee Baptists.

"The idea is to let the people

know that there is a Baptist church nearby," said Sanders.

Areia Branca Baptist Church in Santa Cruz is the closest Baptist church to the housing project and plans to establish a mission church on the government land. The church is also the host church where the Tennessee student volunteers will be working.

Sanders most recent trip to Brazil was part of a Sept. 23-Oct. 1, 2002, revival project with 66 volunteers including seven others from East Tennessee Baptist Association, who served at New Horizon Baptist Church, located in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro.

Other Newport volunteers and their churches who went on the revival project were: Tim and Teresa Grooms, Riverview Baptist Church; Daryl and Ellen Crum, Denton Baptist Church; and Steve Costner, Eddie Gray, and Charlie Ottinger, all of Wilsonville Church.

At New Horizon Church, the Crums, Ottinger, and Sanders preached every night, made home visits and used puppet shows to minister to children.

Costner did a magic show using his talents as a retired high school chemistry teacher. The team also distributed 125 stuffed toys to the children of the church where 30 decisions were recorded.

Another result of the trip was shown as messengers to the East Tennessee Association Annual Meeting voted to set aside \$5,000 to scholarship first time mission volunteers.

Sanders and the Crums will return to Santa Cruz in June along with five East Tennessee Association youth to hand out Bibles in the housing project.

Sanders is using radio promotion, flyer promotion, and word of mouth to get his message out about the needed Bibles. Bibles may be purchased for Rio de Janeiro by sending \$5 for each Bible to Sanders or to a direct deposit account.

Money may be sent to Sander's home at: Bibles for Brazil, 307 Lincoln Ave. Newport, TN 37821. An interest bearing account has also been established for direct deposit at Lowland Credit Union in Newport. □

## Tennessee Baptist students to distribute Bibles in Santa Cruz, Brazil

Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Over 100 Tennessee Baptist students and 20 adult volunteers are needed to hand out 10,000 Portuguese Bibles in a housing project in Santa Cruz, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the week of June 1-10. A special love offering to provide

scholarship funds for this Tennessee student mission project to Rio de Janeiro will again be taken this year at the Youth Evangelism Conference March 7-8 at Middle Tennessee State University's Murphy Center, Murfreesboro.

"It is both overwhelming and exciting when I reflect on the difference our teenagers in Tennessee have made by giving toward missions," said

Kent Shingleton, TBC Youth Evangelism specialist.

"Without the YEC offering, dozens of high school students would have never experienced the blessings of serving on an international mission trip. May God be glorified as His people give from the heart so that others may also know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord."

This is the fourth year that a special

YEC love offering will fund student evangelism scholarships to Brazil, according to Shingleton. At the 2002 YEC \$13,000 was given for the Bible distribution project scholarships. At the 2003 YEC, Shingleton hopes to raise at least the same amount or more for the project.

His goal is to partially scholarship the needed 100 students for the project. — See Tennessee, page 6

## Five people prayerwalk five Canadian cities in five days

For "TBVMN Update"

QUEBEC, Canada — Prayer is always cited as the number one strategy for reaching new people and beginning work in unchurched areas, according to David Brazzeal, IMB missionary to Quebec.

A five-person prayerwalking team from Tennessee helped implement this strategy as they visited the Canadian province Sept. 8-14, 2002.

The team's purpose was to pray for a new openness to the gospel in the province's five most unchurched cities: Montreal, Sherbrooke, Quebec City, Chicoutimi (now Saguenay), and Trois Rivières. These five cities are the largest cities in Quebec, and their 1996 ratios of people per evangelical church range from around 10,000 to more than 27,000 people.

According to Outreach Canada's statistics, these five Quebec cities are also the top five most unchurched cities among the 25 largest cities in Canada.

"Can you imagine walking through the five largest unharvested fields of North America and joining Jesus in praying for the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into those fields," said Don Pierson, Tennessee Baptist Prayer Strategies specialist, who led the team. "We found ourselves weeping with Jesus for the multitudes of Quebec."

Besides Pierson, team members and their churches were: Brenda Jorgensen, Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill; Car-

olyn Francis, Janice Scruggs, and Bobbie Turner, all of First Baptist Church of Dandridge.

Brazzeal, and his wife Sanan, who serve as IMB strategy coordinators in Quebec, planned the team's itinerary. Brazzeal also accompanied the group as a fellow intercessor, tour guide, and translator.

The team arrived in Montreal Saturday evening and immediately prayerwalked the city's crowded streets and prayed over the city's skyline from the top of Mont Royal.

"It was late at night when we arrived at Mont Royal," said Pierson. "None of us were prepared for what we saw as we approached the viewing area. Surrounded by total darkness was a multitude of city lights. Montreal was lit up and the sight was overwhelming as we began to pray. All I could visualize was the grains of sand on the beach as they flickered, and I thought Lord these are people, lost people with artificial light that will not last forever. Grant them your light in this darkness."

Sunday the team prayed at three new church plants in Montreal. The more intense part of their journey was packed into a Monday to Friday, five-day trek from Montreal to the other four cities, and back again.

Before leaving Montreal, the team was briefed by Glenn Smith, director of Christian Direction, an ecumenical ministry outgrowth of the Olympic Winter Games, about the history of Protestantism, some social characteristics, and current spiritual



**PRAYING AS A** group over the phone on a call to the Canadian Baptist Convention is from left: Brenda Jorgenson, Bobbie Turner, Janice Scruggs, Carolyn Franklin, and Don Pierson.

needs in the province. Smith compared the hardened hearts of many people in Quebec to the concrete that covers much of the land area in the province's urban centers. He asked the team to pray for "green sprouts in the concrete" in the places where they would visit.

Each morning started with private and team devotions. Departure from their hotel was before 8:30 a.m. with driving time ranging from two to six hours each day. Along the way, team members talked, sang, got to know each other, and prayed for topics that arose spontaneously, or for specific requests that were introduced periodically by Brazzeal.

Once they arrived in a target city, the team searched out university campuses, city landmarks, government buildings,

sports arenas, and churches as strategic places to spend time in intercession. The team prayed for strong walls to be built to replace the crumbling ones of a dead or dying faith. They prayed not just in general terms, but they also prayed for specific people or families they encountered.

At some points, certain team members could literally feel a spirit of oppression over the city of Sherbrooke, but they continued to pray.

They also found some imaginative places and ways of praying. In Chicoutimi which is ranked as Canada's most unchurched city, Brazzeal called the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptist in Cochrane, Alberta. As the team gathered in prayer around the phone booth, Bob Shelton from the CCSB offices joined them in

praying for new churches that would meet the spiritual needs in that region.

On their return to Montreal, the team met with Phillip and Kandace Connor, NAMB missionaries, who have a vision of forming a network of house churches among the diversity of ethnic groups in Montreal. Together with the Connors, the team walked down streets and stopped at specific houses, praying for specific concerns that residents had sent to the Connors on response cards, related to a Jesus film distribution project. The numbers of ethnic groups and languages represented in one neighborhood was astounding, according to Brazzeal.

The team also met with Gary Smith, pastor of Renaissance Baptist Church, Montreal, and Robert and Sharon Pinkston, IMB strategy coordinators for students in Quebec. The team began to know the needs and the "heart" of the church planters and leaders that they met. They also laid their hands on each ministry servant and prayed in significant ways for their family church, and the personal spiritual walk.

The prayer tour did not end after the road trip. "There's something special about spending time prayerwalking in a place that really seals it in your memory," Scruggs said. "When you think about it later, you can easily remember the exact setting and visualize it, almost like a photograph." □ — Compiled from a report by Marcia Knox

## Cross-Cultural Training to be offered across Tennessee

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Four Cross-Cultural Trainings will be held this year across the state. This volunteer training is designed to equip teams to minister in different countries in strategic locations throughout the world.

Highlights include: interna-

tional travel tips, biblical basis of missions, cultural shock survival guides, prayer, praise, music, and testimonies. Also feast on the sights, sounds, and foods of other countries, discover how personal world view may help or hinder ministry, learn how to share the ministry experience upon return, focus on language tips for volunteers,

and experience communicating cross-culturally.

Training will be offered the following dates and places: March 14-15, Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga; March 21-22, Union University, Jackson; April 11-12, Collegiate, Tennessee Baptist Center, Brentwood; and May 2-3, Tennessee Baptist Center, Brentwood.

Training begins at 5 p.m. on Friday and concludes at 4 p.m. on Saturday. There is a \$10 registration fee which covers meals and materials.

Register online at [www.tnbaptist.org/mam/missions](http://www.tnbaptist.org/mam/missions), or by phone at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061. Please register at least two weeks prior to the training date. □

## Team Leader Training planned

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Two Team Leader Training events, designed to prepare individuals to effectively lead teams on volunteer short-term missions trips, will be held this year across the state.

Highlights include: your missions, building your team, funding your mission project, training your team, getting there (flights, travel arrangements), security, planning your strategy, preparing to return home, and debriefing.

Training will be offered

the following dates and places: March 28-29 Knox County Baptist Association Office, Knoxville; and April 25-26, First Baptist Church of Clarksville.

Training begins at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and concludes at 4 p.m. on Saturday. There is no cost to attend this training.

Two ways to register are: by email at [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org), or by phone at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061.

Please register by March 1 for the March training, and by April 1 for April training. □

## Prayerwalking in Iowa set for ...

— Continued from page 5

"People in Iowa are realizing that there is a fresh new prayer movement in the state. Feet and hands of missions need to be empowered by the Lord as they move out of prayer."

Tennessee Baptists will join with Iowa Baptists from across the state in prayerwalks, survey work, and prayer training. The cost for this mission outreach is around \$500 per person, which includes transportation and meals.

For information, contact Volunteer Missions Team at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2021. □

## Tennessee Baptist students to ...

— Continued from page 5

The project calls for students to be divided into small evangelism teams to give out the Bibles in the community. Students will also promote the first Baptist church to be planted in the area; and they will participate in a citywide youth rally at the end of the week.

Students interested in the mission project are asked to call Kim Huff, Volunteer Missions specialist, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2021.

Previously, the 2000 and 2001 YECs funded love offerings to scholarship students for the August 2001 Simultaneous Revivals in Rio de Janeiro, Shingleton said. □

## Simultaneous revivals to be held in Rio

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Over 100 teams of 3 volunteers are needed to do personal evangelism during Simultaneous Revivals Aug. 4-12 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Each team will consist of a preacher, a musician, and a layperson.

Be a part of this exciting event either as an individual or by forming a team. Please register by April 4.

Cost of this trip is approximately \$1,885 depending on airfare. The price includes round-trip airfare from Chattanooga, Nashville, Knoxville, or Memphis to Rio; room and board, travel expenses while in Rio; IMB required insurance; Volunteer Missions shirt; translator; tourism; and visa.

Three ways to register are: by email at [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org), by phone at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061, or online at [www.tnbaptist.org/mam/missions/rio.htm](http://www.tnbaptist.org/mam/missions/rio.htm). □

# Prognosis on 'miracle baby' in Rio is good, says Fairchild

arcia Knox  
TBVMN Update"

RENTWOOD — A beautiful baby boy continues to thrive in the Rio das Pedras area in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, because God does nothing by accident, according to TBVMN missionary, who serves as the Tennessee/Caribbean Baptist Convention volunteer coordinator.

the medical miracle baby like a grandmother. "God does nothing by accident. Because God spared the baby's life since He has something special for this baby to do."

The baby that Brentwood Baptist Church's volunteer medical team help diagnosis in August 2002 with a congenital adrenal disease doesn't even look like the same baby. The baby had only hours to live when a volunteer nurse pulled him out of the line of hundreds of Brazilian patients to give priority care.

"I thought this child had no chance of making it," said Fairchild. "We sent the child and his mother to three hospitals, accompanied by a team member in a taxi. The hospitals would not accept the child."

"It was hopeless, and the baby wouldn't eat. We sent him to the fourth hospital in a van. If the baby had not gotten to the teaching hospital at Fundao and seen a kidney specialist, he would of died that night."

The baby was admitted to the teaching hospital, because the pediatrician in residence, Carla Decotelli da Silva, had formerly worked as a translator for a medical team led by physician Dewey Dunn, a

member of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

The pediatrician was able to present Jonathas' treatment as a case study at the hospital. The baby soon became the talk of the hospital as the story spread about how the Americans had flown in medications.

"Who were these American Christians who cared about a little child who nobody else cared about to treat in Brazil," said Fairchild.

When Dunn arrived with another medical team in Oct. 2002, the Brazilian pediatrician/former translator brought three of her hospital resident colleagues to experience the Tennessee Baptist volunteer

medical clinics.

Other Tennessee volunteers who have also taken interest in the baby's case following a medical mission trip in October to Rio de Janeiro are: Ron Birney and Bruce Martin. Birney, a pharmacist from First Baptist Church of Kingston, has made a commitment to provide all medications that the child needs in Rio de Janeiro. Martin, pastor of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville, has made a commitment to help scholarship the child's medicines including one, which is not accessible for the Brazilian government.

"The prognosis on the baby is good," Fairchild said. "He is

doing extremely well for his age on the baby growth scale. Both his grandmother and uncle have become Christians. His mother Vanessa Pieres has been in church every Sunday, and she is close to making a decision for Christ. The Rio das Pedras Baptist Church has taken the mother and child under their wings.

"The medical turnaround came with the first dose of medicine. Doctors saw improvement within a week after they administered medicine.

The doctors are now saying that the baby may grow out of this rare condition by the time he turns five years old," she said. □



MISSIONARY Sharon Fairchild holds Jonathas da Silva, who has made a medical miracle around according to his Brazilian doctors.

continue to pray for baby Jonathas da Silva," said Sharon Fairchild, who dotes on

## Medical team sees 490 decisions in Rio

For "TBVMN Update"

NASHVILLE — "It's amazing how God takes multiple individuals who feel called to go with us on a medical missions trip and makes a family unit — all working together for God," according to veteran Tennessee Baptist volunteer missions team leader, Bobbie Dunn.

The wife of physician Dewey Dunn, a member of Woodmont Baptist Church, here, and a veteran team leader, Dunn serves as traffic controller and coordinator of the eye team on their medical mission trips to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"Some witness through evangelism while others examine patients and prescribe medica-

tions or eyeglasses witnessing through their actions," she recently noted after leading almost 50 medical volunteers Oct. 25-Nov. 3.

The medical team at First Baptist Church of Parque Uniao saw over 2,450 patients and had over 490 decisions for Christ. Four clinics were held including dental, eye, pediatrics, and adult medicine.

"I worked as the traffic director in the clinic trying to keep the flow of patients moving into the screening area, out to the doctors, and then to the dispensing area," Bobbie said.

"All the while groups of patients came through our little hall passage area to other clinic areas."

— See Medical, page 8

Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed	
Janeiro	Medical Clinic	5/16-25	open	
Janeiro	Veterinary Clinic	9/12-21	open	
Janeiro	100 teams of 3 to do revivals. Each team consists of a preacher, musician, and layperson.	8/4-12	300	
Portugal Projects				
Boa de Gaia	62847	Prayerwalking and work with the youth at the church.	4/14-21	4
Portugal Projects				
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-43	Construction on foyer and back entry.	June-Aug.	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-44	Conduct VBS and BYBC.	6/7-14	8-14
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-45	Repair work around church.	open	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-46	Paint murals, trim trees, install gas water heater, run electricity to church sign.	open	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-55	Assist with organization and leadership of VBS and BYBC.	open	6-20
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-62	Construct new church building.	June-August	30-40 each week
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-58	VBS/BYBC in area campgrounds	open	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-59	Concerts at area campground	open	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-91	Conduct surveys in hopes of starting new work.	open	10-20
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-93	Evangelistic youth rallies and BYBC	6/23-27	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-92	VBS	7/7-11	10-15
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-21	BYBC, clown ministry, crafts, drama, sports in neighborhoods and parks for school-age children	June	12-15 per week
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-22	Work with children grades 3-7 as camp counselors, recreation leaders, crafts.	7/14-18	15-20
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-63	Construction of fellowship hall, kitchen, and restrooms	open	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-90	Reroof church building and remodel worship center.	open	15-25
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-87	VBS/BYBC	open	15-25
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-86	Spring revival and prayerwalking	open	10-15
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-100	Fall revival team	open	10-15
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-33	Deacon and Sunday School leadership training	4/13-19	20-25
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-34	Youth team to conduct children VBS.	6/8-13	20-25
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-35	Conduct revivals at night. Hand out flyers, tracts, witness during day.	7/16-20	20-25
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-36	Repair work around church	5/18-23	20-25
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-88	Repair sanctuary ceiling, build handicap access entry, strip, and refinish pews.	open	open
Boa de Gaia	IA-03-97	Evangelistic revival	March	2-5

## Tennessee Projects

### East Tennessee

- **Benton** — Volunteers needed each week from June 4-Aug. 8 to do: (1) Community ministry through sports clinics, day camps, BYBC throughout community, VBS at Boy's & Girl's Club, VBS at area churches and community centers, senior adult ministry at nursing homes and assisted living centers. Also ministry at homeless shelters; (2) Construction ministry for low-income families, single-parent families, senior adults, etc., with needed home repairs. Contact person: Beth Marshall or Debbie Brock, Camp Agape, (423) 338-4153.
  - **Chattanooga** — Group needed June 22-28 to conduct music/day camp from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with possible ministry opportunities at night. (2) One group needed to do VBS/BYBC in morning/afternoon and another group to do minor construction in the morning/afternoon. Dates: June 22-28 and July 6-12. Contact person: Greg Steele, Hamilton County Baptist Association, (423) 267-3794.
  - **Cleveland** — Volunteers needed each week from June 4-Aug. 4 to work with Ocoee Resort Ministries in resort and leisure ministries in and around the Ocoee River and Cherokee National Forest. ORM will work with each group to customize a mission experience that incorporates the team's skills and talents. Contact person: Chris Stewart, Ocoee Resort Ministries, (423) 476-5493.
  - **Elizabethton** — Volunteers needed each week from June 8-Aug. 2 to staff on-site day camp in the morning and provide resort ministry/BYBC in local state park in the afternoons. Thursday night provide family night program at local state park. Contact person: Becky Brumitt, Hale Community Ministries, (423) 547-2560.
- See East Tennessee, page 8

## Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions Network UPDATE

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
<b>Iowa Projects (continued)</b>				
Lacona	IA-03-94	Morning BYBC and afternoon sports clinics	June-July	15
Lacona	IA-03-95	Minor construction to church	June-July	10
Lacona	IA-03-96	Teach puppet ministry to church.	summer	2-5
Lamoni	IA-03-01	Winter Bible Study for every age group	3/7-10	7
Lamoni	IA-03-64	Replace church roof.	open	open
Lamoni	IA-03-65	Youth VBS	6/7-14	10
Moulton	IA-03-98	VBS/BYBC in the evenings	summer	10
Moulton	IA-03-99	Deacon and Sunday School training	open	2-4
Osceola	IA-03-72	Conduct financial seminar as an outreach to community.	open	open
Osceola	IA-03-74	Conduct parenting seminar as community outreach.	open	open
Osceola	IA-03-75	Conduct marriage seminar as community outreach.	open	open
Osceola	IA-03-76	VBS	open	10+
Osceola	IA-03-77	BYBC	open	10+
Osceola	IA-03-78	Block parties at church as an outreach to community.	open	10+
Osceola	IA-03-79	Door-to-door evangelism with concert on Thursday	open	10+
Osceola	IA-03-89	Repair work around the church	open	open
Ottumwa	IA-03-102	Light construction to church and parsonage with possible revival	summer	open
Quimby	IA-03-39	Install baptistry in church.	July-Aug.	6
Quimby	IA-03-40	BYBC	June	10
Quimby	IA-03-41	VBS	June	10
Quimby	IA-03-42	Conduct revivals	Feb.-March	3-4
State of Iowa	IA-03-06-19	Teams to prayerwalk and survey work.	4/12-17	50-75 teams of 5-6
Sioux City	IA-03-50	Lead small groups, organize recreation, lead worship, etc., at youth camp.	July	6
Sioux Center	IA-03-51	Build parade float for tulip festival and light repair work around church.	5/12-19	open
Sioux Center	IA-03-52	VBS in park and conduct ministry at the Sioux County Fair.	7/12-19	10-40

**Long-term Iowa Projects**

Anamisa	IA-03-04	Music director	3 mths. or more	1-2
Cedar Falls	IA-03-30	Start and lead student ministry on local college campuses.	1 year or more	1 or a couple
Cedar Falls	IA-03-31	Help with outreach and music leadership.	3 mths. or more	couple
Claremont	IA-03-60	Lead music at area campgrounds.	2 mths. or more	1 or a couple
Dunkerton	IA-03-20	Start and head-up young adult ministry.	1 year or more	1 or a couple
Independence	IA-03-05	Music director for small church	3 mths. or more	1-2

**Miscellaneous Iowa Projects**

Carter Lake	IA-03-46	Church needs: big copy machine, pew Bibles, snow blower and 4-ton a/c.		
Osceola	IA-03-72	Church needs a LCD projector to use in worship service.		
Keokuk	IA-03-84	Church needs pipe organ fixed.		
Keokuk	IA-03-101	Church needs a projector to use in worship service and a lap top computer.		

**Canada Projects**

Cochrane, AB	03MID003	BYBC, VBS, prayerwalking, sports	6/20-8/5	5-30
Cochrane, AB	03MID004	Outreach ministry to skateboard and trick bike riding ministry at church.	July-Aug.	3-15
Cochrane, AB	03CCSB001	Conduct children's ministry at Canadian Convention annual meeting.	7/1-3	10-15
Cochrane, AB	03CCSB002	Conduct youth track at Canadian Convention annual meeting.	7/1-3	5-15
Cochrane, AB	03CCSB003	Prepare for annual convention (photocopy, binding, assembly, etc.).	6/16-20	5-6
Cochrane, AB	03CCSB004	Assist with preparing and serving refreshments at annual convention.	7/3-5	3
Cochrane, AB	03CCSB005	Construct 6,400 sq. ft building to house volunteer teams.	June-Sept.	2-25
Edmonton, AB	03MID009	Gardening, landscaping, light carpentry secretarial/office/administration	June-Sept.	1-2
Edmonton, AB	03MID013	Office/secretarial for the pastor and maintenance and repair on the church and property	5/1-30	married couple
Fairview, AB	03MID005	Light construction and renovations to existing building	June	2-10
Maniwaki, QB	03QUE003	Renovations to Sunday School rooms, street evangelism, and VBS.	June-July	2-15
Montreal, QB	03QUE002	Prayerwalking and Jesus video distribution.	March-June	2-200
North Battleford, SK	03NOR001	Light construction and repair to church.	7/26-8/9	5-10
Prince Albert, SK	03NOR002	Volunteers to work at the Country Gospel Jamboree.	8/6-10	2-50
Prince Albert, SK	03NOR003	Construction or renovations to existing cabins at First Nations Bible Camps.	May-June	5-10
St. Albert, AB	03MID001	VBS	7/5-12	6
St. Albert, AB	03MID002	Sports Camp	7/5-12	5-15
St. Albert, AB	03MID011	Maintenance and repair to church and property, computer input, and secretarial duties.	5/1-6/30	married couple
Surrey, BC	03CAP001	VBS or family fun fair at church.	7/1-5	5-15
Vancouver, BC	03CAP004	Sports camp in conjunction with VBS	7/21-25	2-20
Vancouver, BC	03CAP005	Conduct VBS with possibility of light construction.	7/21-25	2-15
Vancouver, BC	03CAP006	Renovations to fellowship hall.	June-Aug.	2-8
Victoria, BC	03CAP002	Community outreach.	8/1-15	5-15
Victoria, BC	03CAP003	Outreach at community picnic.	6/30-7/12	15-25
Winnipeg, MA	03KEY001	Worship addition to existing structure.	7/1-15	2-50

**Tennessee Projects****East Tennessee (continued)**

- **Harriman** — Group needed June 1-Aug. to work in multi-housing ministry in the evenings and home ministry in the morning. Contact person: David Acres, Bi Emory Baptist Association, (865) 882-6444
- **Johnson City** — Volunteers needed each week from June 9-Aug. 2 to conduct BYBC for children (preschoolers, school age, and youth), block parties, games, and recreational activities. Contact person: Ginger Dalt, Holston Baptist Association, (423) 543-83
- **Mountain City** — Volunteers needed for (1) Remote campsite development, trail building, gravity solar shower construction, composting facility, solar electrical installation and landscaping. Dates are open; (2) Two construction teams and one BYBC team. BYBC will be in a trailer park and two apartment complexes with some door-to-door evangelism. Construction projects will be on homes of individuals who are unable to afford repairs without assistance. Dates: 6/1-21 and 6/21-28. Contact person: Stuart Stephens, Uphill Ministries at Cherokee Cove, (423) 727-8560.
- **Townsend** — Volunteers needed to construct multi-purpose building to an existing bath house. Also need to help winterize bath house, help with construction of two-story addition inside multi-purpose building that includes a kitchen, an all purpose room a storage. Contact person: Jim Snyder, Chilhowee Baptist Association, (865) 982-0499
- **Townsend** — Volunteers needed each week from June 2-Aug. 8 to conduct day camps at local campground. Contact person: Kelly Campbell, Chilhowee Baptist Association, (865) 982-0499.

**Middle Tennessee**

- **Clarksville** — Group needed to pave church parking lot. Dates are open. Contact person: Kwangsoo Yi, One Heart Baptist Church, (931) 431-5036.
- **Springfield** — Volunteers needed to: (1) Conduct prayerwalks in several new subdivisions and apartment complexes along with surveys and possibly block parties; (2) Work at local food distribution or clothing thrift store to help sort clothing and/or prepare food boxes; (3) BYBC at two different apartment complexes; (4) VBC or BYBC for new black church start that meets at local community center; (5) Day camp through local missions for low-income neighborhood. Team would need to prepare lessons, create music, lunch; (6) Volunteers to do light construction for elderly home owners or Christian Women Job Corp participants with light construction needs and yard work. Dates are open. Contact person: Belita Howard, Robertson County Baptist Association, (615) 384-8197.

**West Tennessee**

- **Memphis** — Conduct BYBC in apartment complexes. Dates are open. Contact person: Lisa Travis, Hope Fellowship, (901) 373-6161.
- **Memphis** — Conduct VBS June 23-27 at local church. Contact person: Durwood Howard, Highland Heights Baptist Church, (901) 454-0546.

**Medical team sees ...**

— Continued from page 7  
According to Dunn, a special experience at the eye clinic was when a man returned with his glasses on the last day. The man said his glasses hurt his eyes, because he had lied about what he had seen on the screening charts.

"God convicted him," she added. "We rechecked him and sent him back to the doctor. The patient apologized for lying, and said he knew now he could not lie to people that worked for God." □

# SBC meeting to be family-oriented, planners say

By Bart Toalston  
SBC Staff Press

ASHVILLE — It is shaping up as the most family oriented Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting yet. "Bring the family!" planners saying about the June 16 Kingdom Family Rally and other events for all ages slated in conjunction with the June 17-18 annual meeting in Phoenix.

At this year's convention, it is not simply having a rally about the family, but the whole thing is designed with the family in mind," said Tom Elliff, a former SBC president who chairs the SBC Council on Family Life.

"There has never been a convention when it has been easier to bring an entire family — and have them involved in the whole convention."

Among the family oriented facets of the convention:

- ◆ The SBC's first-ever Kingdom Family Rally on Monday evening June 16 featuring Dennis and Barbara Rainey of Family Life Today, singer Steve Green and his wife, Maryjean, and Elliff and his wife, Jeannie. The rally also will include testimonies from various SBC leaders and Baptist families; conference leader and author Gary Chapman; and video segments from James and Shirley Dobson of Focus on the Family and Bible teacher and author Beth

Moore. The rally will be part of the SBC Pastors' Conference, a June 15-16 gathering that also will be devoted to the family. The conference is open to church staff members' families as well as laypeople interested in bolstering marriage in America.

- ◆ An SBC Children's Conference for children in grades one through six, a new format for previous years' day camp which will provide teaching and activities from Monday through Wednesday. The Denton Brothers Quartet — Michael, Christopher, David, Brian — from San Jose, Calif., will lead the conference.

- ◆ Convention child care, to be available from Sunday

through Wednesday for infants through children who have finished kindergarten.

- ◆ Student Night, slated for Tuesday, June 17, with a climbing wall and other activities opening at 4:30 p.m. and a worship service and concert at 6:30, sponsored by the SBC North American Mission Board.

Various details about the Kingdom Family Rally, the June 17-18 SBC annual meeting, and other related activities are being posted and regularly updated at the SBC web site, www.SBC.net.

Registration for the SBC Children's Conference and convention child care will open Feb. 15, with registration specifics to be announced shortly.

"It is the goal of our SBC Council on Family Life, the Pastors' Conference, LifeWay,

and all our entities to 'put Southern Baptists on the map' as being good for every community because we are good for the family," said Elliff, pastor of the Oklahoma City-area First Southern Baptist Church in Del City.

"Having a great family attendance in Phoenix," he said, "will make a bold statement to the world at large — a world of people desperately seeking answers for their own families."

The SBC Council on Family Life was created during the 2000 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., and functions under the auspices of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Strengthening families," SBC President Jack Graham has said, "is one of the most important things we're going to be doing as Southern Baptists."

The rally will "encourage our pastors and laity to develop disciples among their own children and grow strong, healthy marriages and to model for the culture the family as God has planned it and designed it," said Graham. □



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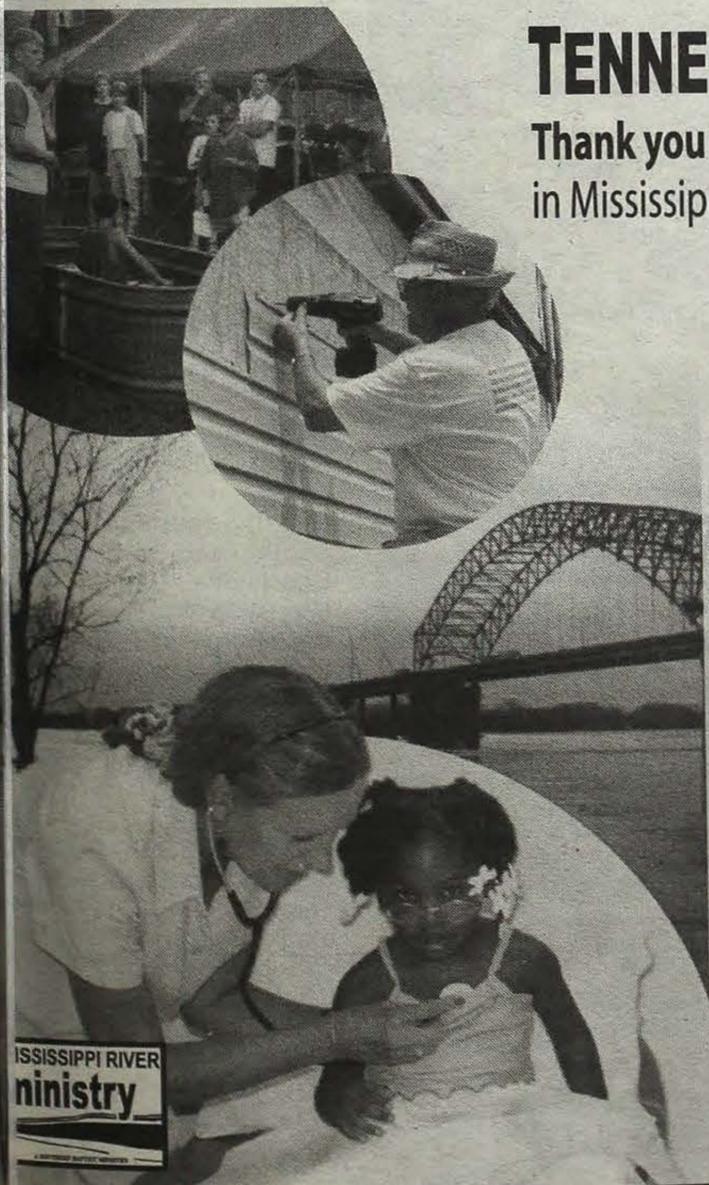
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## Nashville Baptist church calls lesbian minister

Compiled by B&R staff

NASHVILLE — Glendale Baptist Church here has called a lesbian minister, according to an article which appeared in *The Tennessean* on Sunday, Jan. 26.

The article noted that Glendale called April Baker as associate pastor with responsibilities related primarily to children and families last May.

After graduating from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary several years ago, Baker confronted her sexual orientation, which brought her to a crisis of faith, according to the newspaper article.

The article noted she "prayed to change, but that didn't happen." The article continued that church leaders acknowledged that the congregation probably will be disfellowshipped from its ties with the Southern Baptist Convention as a result of calling Baker as a staff minister.

Glendale is affiliated with the Nashville Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist

Convention, and the SBC.

For the current 2002-03 fiscal year which began Nov. 1, Glendale has given \$19.03 to the Cooperative Program and \$105 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, according to the TBC accounting office.

Furthermore, no member of Glendale currently is serving as a committee or trustee member of any TBC entity. The church also did not send any messengers to the 2002 TBC annual meeting in Franklin.

TBC Executive Director James Porch released the following statement:

"According to Baptist polity, each Baptist church is autonomous. Accordingly, decisions by Baptist churches are entirely autonomous actions.

"A church's decision, however, to employ a staff member whose sexual orientation is contrary to biblical teaching would not be in harmony with the principles of the Tennessee Baptist Convention," the statement concluded. □

## Starnes to direct communications effort at Union Baptist Press

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Todd Starnes, assistant editor of Baptist Press, has been named director of university communications at Union University in Jackson, according to David S. Dockery, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention-related institution.

Starnes, 35, will serve as the university's primary creative director for developing an integrated strategic marketing communications plan, manage publications for all programs of

the university, and supervise audio and video communications initiatives. Starnes also will provide counsel to news and media relations initiatives at the university. He will join the staff Feb. 3.



Starnes joined Baptist Press as a staff writer and was promoted to assistant editor in 2000.

At Baptist Press Starnes initiated BP Sports, a daily sports news service that provides coverage of Baptist university athletic programs and Christian

athletes; BP On Assignment an eight-page supplement *SBC Life* that featured in-depth reporting on issues impacting evangelical Christians; and coordinated the annual Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference, featuring more than 150 student journalists from Christian colleges and universities. □

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Wanted a full-time minister music for a growing South Baptist Church. Please send resume to First Baptist Church 308 North Spring St., Sparta, 38583.

Bivocational music minister. Send resume to Lucy Baptist Church, Attn. Edwin Bo. Chairman Search Committee 4005 Lucy Rd, Millington, 38053.

#### MINISTRIES — STUDENT

Part-time youth ministry coordinator to work with youth, a 6th grade to college. Send resume to South Clinton Baptist Church, Attn. Lesa Williams 1000 Clinch Ave. Clinton, 37716. Applicant must be able to work with pastor and other members in promoting growth of a developing youth program. Must be Southern Baptist.

#### MINISTRIES — COMBINATION

First Baptist Church, Kingston seeking full-time minister of education/missions. Please send resume to First Baptist Church 215 N. Kentucky St., Kingston TN 37763, Attn. Education/Missions Search Committee.

Seeking full-time minister of music/youth. Please send resume to Otter Creek First Baptist Church, 13000 Quail Run Little Rock, AR 72210, Martha Owens.

Seeking full-time minister youth and education Scottsville Baptist Church Scottsville, Ky. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 1 Scottsville, KY 42164, Sharon Davis, or email mail@scottsvillebaptist.org. (270) 237-3451 for more information.

#### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

Springhill Baptist Church, F. Tenn., phone (731) 644-1 email: Springhillpastor@yahoo.com. Small South Baptist Church in northwest Tennessee is seeking a pastor with a vision of growth and discipleship. The position is immediately available. Send resume to Townsend, 855 Steele Paris, TN 38242.

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#### Robert Smith, Jr.,

Professor of Christian Preaching at Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Alabama

#### Sandy Wilson,

Senior Minister of Second Presbyterian Church (EPC), Memphis, Tennessee

#### Grant Osborne,

Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois

#### Union University Christian Studies Professors

#### George Guthrie,

Associate Professor and Chair

#### Paul Jackson,

Associate Professor

#### Mark Dubis,

Associate Professor

#### Kelvin Moore

Associate Professor

First Baptist Church, Whiteville, Tenn., seeks two part-time staff members: Minister of youth/children; minister of music to work with adult, children, youth choirs. Please send resume to FBC, P.O. Box 5, Whiteville, TN 38075, (731) 254-8699.

minister's corner

Barry Simmons

Use hospitality one to another without grudge. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good steward of the manifold grace of God." (I Peter 4:9-10)

People come to church burdened with their problems, heartaches, disbelief, or skepticism. They have never seen the hand of the Lord move their lives as a result of their submission to His will.

Some come hoping to have their lives changed and their problems solved, while others come steeped in self-centeredness and skepticism. They dare not yield themselves to God's power.

But, for whatever reason people come to our church, the main need in their life is a touch from the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, some come unsuspecting that the power of God is about to draw them to Himself. As the Holy Spirit does, God uses us to use godly ushers and greeters to meet them as they enter God's house.

"Ushering is a lot more than showing someone to their seat. Ushering is a ministry," said Victor S. pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. "We need to move past the ushering ministry into seeing ushering as a way to spiritually and physically meet the needs of the church." Ushering doesn't just happen on Sunday. Meeting people doesn't happen by accident. It is planned and prepared.

I Corinthians 12 Paul reminds us that all Christians are parts of the body of Christ. As each part has its function in the human body, so do we in Christ's body. Whether a part be prominent or not, each is important. This is true of the ushering ministry of our church. By the very nature of some of the ministries of our church, some serve more prominently than others, but each office is vitally important. This is true of the ushering ministry of our church.

Thank you, ushers, for all that you do. Please thank us when words of gratitude are not spoken. It is because we have grown accustomed to your loyal service. May God richly bless you as you minister to Him in this vital ministry.

Ushering in all areas of ministry there is a need for education and training. □ — Simmons is associate pastor and business administrator at First Baptist Church, Paris.

just for today

by Fred Wood, retired pastor, Memphis

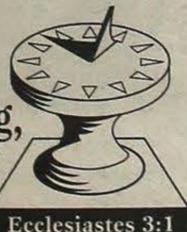
**Start With A Smile:** Mother to her crying 6-year-old child: "What's the matter? Why are you crying?" Child: "Sissy pulled my hair." Mother: "She's just 3 years old. She doesn't know that pulling hair hurts." Child (returning a few minutes later): "She knows now."

**Like This Truth:** Seeing is believing. So is believing.

**Remember This Scripture:** "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you" — I John 1:3

**Pray This Prayer:** Lord, help me to know my personal experience with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit is real and no one else can quite understand it. □

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...



# The Bible: it's origin

By Mike Boyd

**Focal passage — Hebrews 1:1-2; II Peter 1:12-21**

Reality television is presently "the thing" in the world of entertainment. Shows offer all sorts of competition and grotesque activities. Nothing is sacred including gross scenes depicting ruinous dysfunctional relationships. Women discover on live television that the man they are about to marry may not be a man at all! The crowd cheers. The host takes a commercial break. And the producers laugh all the way to the bank.

While these events do not paint a wholesome view of life, one thing may be discerned. People are looking for truth. Reports vary on the confidence Americans have that truth even exists. I have heard that less than 10% of church-going young people believe in absolute truth. Rumors claim that less than 30% of American adults believe in absolutes. (Someone has said that 87% of all statistics are made up on the spot.) Regardless, confidence in the reality of absolutes is at an all time low.

Why spend so much time on this sort of introduction to a lesson on the Bible? Because Christians have ultimate reality: Jesus Christ. He said: "I am the...truth" (John 14:6). God has given his WORD (Jesus) and His Word (The Bible).

Hebrews 12:1 offers some insight to God's communication with humans. Revelation does not begin with people, but rather with God.

## Standing for the truth

By Rocky Churchwell

**Focal passage — John 18:1-40**

While discussing the moral failures of a certain public leader with some young people not long ago, one of them commented, "It is only wrong if you get caught." My young Christian friends were not agreeing with this belief, but were pointing out that many in this generation have no absolutes, and live by a philosophy of relative thinking. They would say it is okay to cheat, steal, and lie just as long as one doesn't get caught and punished. This week's Sunday School lesson focuses on how Jesus lived His final hours, and shows us that even with the threat of death, Jesus told the truth.

After Jesus finished instructing His disciples, they went to the Mount of Olives to pray (Matthew 26:36-46). It was at the end of His prayer in the garden that Judas betrayed Jesus. Judas did not have a hard time finding Jesus because Jesus had met with His disciples in the garden on many occasions. Jesus had spoken of Judas' betrayal (John 13:18-30), and had warned Peter of his denial (John 13:36-38). As Jesus' enemies led by Judas approached Him, Jesus stepped forward to meet them. Personally, I was very humbled by John's words in verse 4. Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him, but He stepped forward anyway.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God..." If we miss the first four words of the Bible, we will miss everything that follows. Interestingly, the New Testament offers, "In the beginning was the Word..." (John 1:1). From the very onset, God was speaking.

At least four simple points may be understood relevant to the Bible. First, "all Scripture is given by inspiration" (II Timothy 3:16). INSPIRATION comes from the same root as "breath" and "spirit." The communication of God is from the very breath and heart of God. Volumes have been written on this subject, but one thing is for sure. Since He is God, He is perfect. If He is perfect, then His inspiration is perfect. If it is perfect, then it is true. Truth is reality. Reality is what people desire. Ultimate reality may only be found in the truth of God.

Secondly, we understand the Word of God as REVELATION. Revelation is an unfolding or an uncovering of something. The Bible unfolds God's Word, will, and way. Jesus is the ultimate and final Word. "In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son." God's Word reveals who God is and what He is like. Jesus says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Thirdly, there must be ILLUMINATION. "Above all, you must understand..." (II Peter 1:20). How can we understand if "God's thoughts are not our thoughts?" The Holy Spirit must be our guide. Jesus says, "He (the Holy Spirit) will

Jesus did not even wait for the guards to question Him. He asked them who they were looking for, and they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus' answer was so powerful that the soldiers were startled and fell backward. When the guards asked Him again, He gave them the same answer. Notice that Jesus did not make a target out of the disciples. He simply pointed to Himself and asked that the disciples be allowed to go their own way.



CHURCHWELL

After Jesus was arrested, He was taken before the priests for questioning. The high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teachings. Jesus simply answered, "I spoke openly to the world." Jesus had taught the truth everywhere He had gone. He taught in the synagogues and the temple. His testimony was a public record. He had nothing to hide. His words of truth must have been offensive to people who did not want the truth, because when He finished an officer struck Him for speaking to the high priest with disrespect. Jesus challenged the guard's illegal blow, and asked him to prove that what He said was a lie.

Jesus was taken before Pilate. When Pilate began asking Jesus if

Sunday School Lesson  
Family Bible Series  
Feb. 2

guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). As we read Scripture, the Holy Spirit must be allowed to illuminate our minds and hearts by guiding our "understanding." He offers confidence in the accuracy of Scripture.

The fourth point is IMPLEMENTATION. The Bible is not a work simply offered to increase the knowledge of people. It is designed to bring us into an intimate relationship with its author. As its truth becomes reality, our relationship grows. The goal of Scripture is never simple information but implementation. We must not only hear, but also heed.

This lesson began with a worldly quest for "reality" which ultimately may only be found in truth. People wander about trying to find life's answers. Satisfaction comes not in "reality television" or on talk shows where self-appointed experts expound their pseudo knowledge. Ultimate reality may only be found in Jesus Christ. As we grow in "the word," we will grow in The Word. That's reality! □ — Boyd is pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville.



BOYD

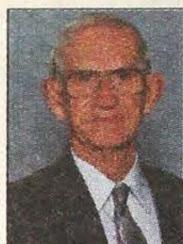
Sunday School Lesson  
Explore the Bible  
Feb. 2

He was the king of the Jews, Jesus asked him if he was speaking for himself or if someone else had told him this. When Pilate went on to ask Jesus what He had done wrong, Jesus answered truthfully that His kingdom was not of this world, and that He had come into this world to bring the truth. Pilate then asked Jesus what truth was, but never received an answer. Pilate went to the Jews and said that he could find no fault with Jesus. When he offered to release Jesus or the notorious criminal Barabbas, their hatred for Jesus was so strong that they asked for Barabbas to be released.

It is important to see that Peter did not stand up for the truth as Jesus did. Just as predicted, when Peter was confronted three times with his relationship to Jesus, he failed. We need to be careful that we do not fall into the same trap. When the eyes of the world are upon us, it will seem more advantageous to deny our relationship with our Lord and Savior. We should remember that Jesus never lied, or shirked the truth, and for this we have gained everything. □ — Churchwell is pastor of First Baptist Church, Jamestown.

## Leaders

◆ **Clinton E. Riddle**, pastor emeritus of Cedar Valley Baptist Church, Sweetwater, and moderator in Sweetwater Baptist Association, completed 45 years in perfect attendance for Sunday School and Bible study on Jan. 26. Riddle has served as president of the East Tennessee Summer Preacher's School at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and in 1998 received a certificate of recognition from the TBC Executive Board as a bivocational minister of the year. He served as pastor for 30 years in Sweetwater and McMinn-Meigs Baptist associations.



RIDDLE

Since his retirement in 1989 he has served as interim pastor for 10 churches and preached in 77 churches he had never preached in before.

◆ The Laotian ministry of Crieewood Baptist Church, Nashville, has called **Boon Vongsurith** as pastor, effective Feb. 2.

◆ **Johnny Burns**, former pastor of Unity Baptist Church, Ramer, is the new pastor at Eastview Baptist Church, Huntingdon.

◆ **Garry Woodside** of Hixson has been called as associate pastor/worship leader at New Vision Church, Athens.

◆ Mount Hermon Baptist Church, Savannah, has called **Jeff Stockdale** as associate pastor, students and education. He comes to his new ministry from Northside Baptist Church, Panama City, Fla., where he served as minister to students for seven years.

◆ **Joyce Dean Garrison**

recently announced her retirement as orchestra director at Central Baptist Church, Johnson City.

◆ **Lee Porter**, former pastor of Bell Road Baptist Church, Nashville, and staff member at LifeWay Christian Resources, and his wife, Pat, are now living near Maryville after several years in Georgia. Porter is former registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention while his wife, Pat, served in the same role for many years with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Porter is available for interim and supply work and can be reached at (865) 856-3243.



PORTER

◆ **Carla Sanderson**, Union University provost, has been appointed to a second term for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The commission is a regional accrediting body of the 11 U.S. southern states and Latin America for universities and colleges that award associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral degrees.

◆ **Bart Starr** has begun serving as the new minister of music at First Baptist Church, Manchester.

◆ **Bob Agee** has been called as interim pastor at First Baptist Church, Covington.

◆ **Rick Bell** has been called as associate pastor of education and outreach at Second Baptist Church, Union City.

◆ **Rick Bell** has been called as associate pastor of education and outreach at Second Baptist Church, Union City.

## Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church,**



**CHERRY MOUND** Baptist Church, White House, recently celebrated the raising of their new United States flag on a new pole on the church grounds. It was the latest in a series of renovations at the church which has included new pew cushions, sidewalks, steeple, roof and gutters, a public address system, and new lighting in the sanctuary. The church also made improvements in its fellowship hall. Members raise the flag.

**Waverly**, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$17,000 with a total of \$19,565.

◆ **Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville**, will hold a Men's Celebration Day service on Feb. 9. The 10:30 a.m. service will be led by men and boys of the church. The 6 p.m. service will feature the Crossmen Quartet.

◆ **Eastside Baptist Church, Burns**, will host a youth conference, "EBC Rescue," on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The conference will feature Craig Tackett with worship led by un.Done. Youth can choose three break-out sessions which feature a variety of topics. For more information, including cost, call Kent Robbins at (615) 446-5816 or 512-3642.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Union City**, will dedicate the renovation of its sanctuary on Feb. 9 during the morning worship service. Former members are invited to the celebration. A church-wide fellowship meal will follow the service. To make reservations for the meal, call the church office at (731) 885-9481.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Sevierville**, invites people to attend "A Life Worth Celebrating," led by Charles Lowery, nationally known Bible teacher, counselor, and humorist. He is a regular contributor to *SBC Life*. Lowery's topics include successful relationships, success with stress, battling the blues, steps to the life



**FOUR STUDENTS** with Tennessee ties received degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in December. Standing with NOBTS President Charles S. Kelley Jr., center, is, from left, Austin B. Amonette, Franklin, doctor of philosophy; Anthe D. Guthrie, Nashville, doctor of philosophy; Kelley; Marlee H. Maynard, Nashville, doctor of educational ministry; and Tom F. Lee, Nashville, doctor of ministry.

you've always wanted, and life of power. Services will be held Feb. 2 at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m., and 7 p.m. Services begin at 7 p.m. each night from Feb. 3-5. For more information, call the church at (865) 453-9001.

◆ **Mount Zion Baptist Church, Smyrna**, will host a Faith Conference Feb. 2-5. The first session begins at 6 p.m. on Feb. 2 and at 7 p.m. the following nights. Leading the conference will be Bill Winston, pastor of Living Word Christian Center in Forest Park, Ill. For more information, call the church at (615) 459-9017.

## Associations

◆ Members from **Gibson County Baptist Association**

will participate in a mission trip to Romania Feb. 6-15. In addition, the association will hold its evangelism conference Feb. 18 at First Baptist Church, Trenton, with guest speaker George Fridlander.

◆ David Freeman, pastor Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Martin, will lead a mission team from **Beulah Baptist Association** to Mexico Feb. 8. Terry Council, pastor Blessed Hope Baptist Church, Troy, led a team to Mexico earlier this month.

## Deaths

◆ **Cassie Mason** of Springfield died earlier this month at the age of 97. She was the widow of longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor Elmer Mason.

## Service day held by Union honors King

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — On Monday, Jan. 20, Union University observed the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday by serving two community agencies.

Members of the Union family spent the day at Area Relief Ministries and The Care Center, both in downtown Jackson.

In previous years, Union University has celebrated the holiday with a special worship service attended by Union family and members of the community. This year's commemoration stems from the desire to help the community in a tangible way.

"Instead of taking the day off, we believe spending time in service to others is an appropriate way to honor the spirit of King's life and work," said university president David Dockery.

King's efforts served as inspiration for the group. "He was relentless, and this day is a reminder of how important it is to do something tangible about the predicaments of real people," said Jay Ridenour, Union's director of discipleship ministries. "Today we're work-

ing for the glory of God in honor of Dr. King."

The Care Center is a shelter for abused or homeless women and children, and Area Relief Ministries seeks to provide for a variety of needs among Jackson's working poor.

Both organizations were

happy to have the help. "I did a wonderful job. I'll take them back anytime," said Nathan Young, Care Center director.

"We can always use volunteers," said Chanda Freeman, Director of Client Services, Area Relief Ministries. □



**LORI SMITH**, right, of Union University campus ministries Micah Taylor organize the party at Area Relief Ministries in Jackson during Union's observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. day.