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Union game show targets students

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON - "Head 2 Head," an academic quiz show produced by Union University broadcasting majors, premiered Feb. 13 on Charter Cable's Channel 22 throughout West Tennessee.

The program was created in 1980 by Union communication arts assistant professor Steve Beverly. "Head 2 Head" aired in Columbus, Ga., for 17 years on WTVM. Beverly has reformatted the show to cover a wider variety of academic subjects and to create a faster pace.

"For years, people have enjoyed seeing college and high school students compete in academic quizzes," said Beverly, head of the broadcasting sequence at Union.

A dozen Union broadcasting majors produce the broadcasts, which are repeated Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Cable Channel 22. Union sophomore Ashley Mitchell acts as The Examiner, quizmaster of three of the show's four rounds of questions.

The first 11 shows feature a tournament of college students, who compete for an ultimate \$500 in scholarship prize money. Beverly is scouting younger students to play a high school division of the game this spring for a similar prize.

"What we're looking for are at least 21 high school students," said Beverly. "They do not have to be at the top of their classes academically, nor do they have to be a member of an academic bowl team. We'd like to see high school juniors or seniors who are well-read, are good in a variety of subjects, and have a good personality. They can be from any-

where in West Tennessee." Beverly encourages parents of high school juniors or seniors to call his office at (731) 661-5380 for more information on the younger "Head 2 Head" tournament. An informational meeting will be held March 4, at 4 p.m. at Union for interested high school entrants and their parents. □

New Bible verses, motto, pledge chosen for GAs

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - New Scripture verses, a motto, and pledge for Girls in Action were approved by Woman's Missionary Union's executive board during the national organization's January meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega, Ala.

Girls in Action (GA) is WMU's missions organization for girls in grades one through six. GA members are actively involved in learning about missions, praying for and giving to missions, and actually doing missions themselves.

With this missions focus, the new GA Scripture verse is Isaiah 12:4. The GA lifestyle verse is Micah 6:8.

Go Forward!, the approved motto for GA, dates back to 1888 when it served as the motto for WMU. Annie Armstrong related this phrase to the biblical account of God's provision for the Israelites when they reached the Red Sea in their exodus from Egypt. From the King James Version of the Bible, Exodus 14:15 states: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Is-

rael, that they go forward." The new GA pledge is: "As a GA, I will do my best to live a missions lifestyle that honors God by learning about missions, praying for missions, giving to missions, doing missions, and participating in the work of the church." □

House panel OKs tough cloning ban

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON - The Judiciary Committee has forwarded legislation prohibiting all cloning of human beings to the House of Representatives.

The committee voted 19-12 Feb. 12 for the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, H.R. 534. The measure will move to the floor, where it is expected to be taken up when the House reconvenes Feb. 25 after the President's Day recess.

It is highly likely the House will easily approve the bill. In the last congressional session, representatives passed a similar proposal by more than 100 votes. Its future in the Senate is much more doubtful. The Senate failed to act on the House-approved measure last time. □

New war movie portrays strong faith on both sides

Baptist Press

ATLANTA - A prominent Christian media critic is urging evangelicals to support "Gods and Generals," a new Civil War movie which opens in theaters across the country Friday, Feb. 21.

"The entire future of the credible, faith-filled movie on how well it does in the first weekend at the box office," Ted Baehr told those attending screening of the movie in Atlanta in January.

Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission, writes a syndicated column about entertainment on biblical values. He is also co-author of a book about film, titled Faith in God's Generals, published by Broadman & Holman division of LifeWay Christian Resources.

"This epic Warner Brothers/Ted Turner Pictures release is filled with the passion, drama, life, and death of our nation's darkest hour, wonderfully acted by Hollywood's finest," Baehr said. "Most importantly, it captures the triumph of faith and love in the midst of tragedy - a message we need to hear as the world continues to struggle with war and division."

Based on a novel by the same title by Jeff Shaara, "Gods and Generals" begins in early 1862 and continues through 1863, climaxing with the Battle of Gettysburg. It is actually a sequel to the 1993 film "Gettysburg," featuring much of the same cast and intended to be the first film in a trilogy of which "The Last Full Measure" covering the last two years of the war, would be the finale.

The film largely focuses on Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, portrayed by Stephen Lang, who played General Pickett in Gettysburg, and Confederate General Robert E. Lee, played by Robert Duvall. "The strong Christian faith of the men is unapologetically portrayed in the film. □

LifeWay projects growth despite tough economic time

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE - LifeWay Christian Resources stands to see a 3.4 percent increase in overall revenue for 2003, providing employees continue to perform well in a bleak economy, Ted Warren told trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention entity Feb. 10 here.

LifeWay's executive vice president and chief operating officer said revenues would still fall more than \$18 million short of the budget for the fiscal year of Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, with revenues down across the board within LifeWay's business units due to the sluggish national economy. Still, Warren said, each division controlled expenses well so far this fiscal year.

The international department has been especially hard hit, with revenues deeply affected by the continuing economic crises throughout many countries in South America, Warren said.

"Companies have been dealing for years with ways to deal with the fluctuation in foreign economies and that is one of the challenges we face as well," Warren said.

Warren also reported that the market value of LifeWay's retirement trust fund has dipped below its future payout obligation, but LifeWay plans to designate reserve funds to make up the current deficit.

The deficit is due to the significant decline in the stock market during the last three years, he said.

"It is important for our employees and retirees to understand that the trust fund is still well-funded and that employee and retiree pension benefits are still intact," Warren said.

Trustees approved a recommendation authorizing an increase in the price of all dated and undated Sunday School curriculum by as much as 3.7 percent, effective in the spring of 2004. The actual price and percentage increase, if any, will be determined in the summer of 2003.

Gene Mims, vice president of the church resources division, cited increased production costs and unit declines as the reasons for a possible rate increase.

Ken Stephens, vice president of Broadman & Holman Publishing, told trustees the Holman Christian Standard Bible(r) is progressing on schedule.

"The entire Old Testament is all the way through the third and final draft, and the final manuscript is due July 1," he said. "The completed Bible will be available in April 2004."

Mike Arrington, vice president of corporate affairs, reported that a committee is continuing to study water availability for proposed developments at the LifeWay Glo-

rieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

The capital resource development department raised more than \$748,000 in 2002 with plans for further fundraising in 2003. Arrington said one campaign will seek honor denominational leaders by name rooms at both conference centers after the meeting.

During his report, LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. noted that missionaries, impending war, and the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia are the current issues on which contemporary culture is being painted. "The world is asking questions. LifeWay Christian Resources has the opportunity to provide biblical solutions," Draper told trustees.

"Our purpose," Draper said, "our reason for being is to be a catalyst that brings people and churches into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. If we look at our world today we see that there are a lot of questions being asked about life in general. I'm excited because we provide people with solutions that have relevant, eternal consequences."

The challenges ahead, Draper said, must be met by a spiritually mature organization comprised of spiritually mature people. Both, he said, can be found at LifeWay.

"I wish you all could be here and walk through the halls with me," he said. "We catch the spirit of the people who work here. They are serious about serving God." □

make Christ known

Staff presents new process for church planting help

Davis
and Reflector

TWOOD — A new process for church (church starting) was presented to Tennessee Baptists of missions Feb. presentation came during Tennessee Baptist Convention One Servant Family

new process is in several factors, re- Rickman and Bill the TBC staff.

process supports the emphasis of the con- on evangelism, said One best is to new Rickman



RICKMAN

lished churches. an also referred to the of the convention to develop healthy churches. told the DOMs that funding process also is of an evaluation of church starting which re- ve lost a lot of church- have started because we to adequate prepara- tion. We're doing everything to assist them (church in planting healthy

Development

new process, which in- funding for multiple

start-up needs, was developed by a subcommittee of the TBC Executive Board's Convention Ministries Committee, the TBC administrative staff, and the TBC Church Planting Team which is made up of TBC staff members.

Proposal

The first step of the new process calls for the church planter seeking funding to prepare a Church Planting Proposal. They can be guided in preparing the proposal by completing the "Tennessee Baptist Convention Church Planting Funding Process" booklet. The proposal process will help the church planter, most often a minister, to prepare well for this new venture, explained George.

For example, as the church planter describes his calling to church planting in the proposal, "we are assisting this church planter in checking out his motivation," said George.

Sometimes ministers turn to church planting as a fall-back job when another job has failed or to show a church a certain strategy would have worked. George advised against that. Church planters need to have healthy strategies to develop healthy congregations, he said.

Church planters also need to have specific skills in addition to being called by God to start a church, he said.

The staff helps people to assess their skills and learn whether they have the abilities needed to plant a church, said George.

"Every (church) planter needs to go through basic training," added George, which is provided by the TBC staff even if they have not yet been approved for funding.

Another part of the proposal requires the church planter to have a plan for developing a core group of people who will become members of the new church. The church planter shouldn't "go out here and gather a lot of people from other churches lest he be in trouble," noted George.

The church planter also reports who is backing the new congregation. This is usually a church but may be an association which has agreed to serve as a sponsor. George said the new process also leads the sponsoring entity and new church leaders to make a covenant agreement.



GEORGE

Instead of just serving as a legal signator, George suggested the sponsoring entity be so involved in the church plant that when it sees the new "baby," members will say to themselves, "Let's do that again."

Finally, to continue to receive funding, the beginning congregation or mission must file quarterly reports with the TBC staff and give 7 percent of their tithes and offerings to the Cooperative Pro-

gram and 3 percent to the local Baptist association.

Language churches

Tim Hill, ministry specialist for language churches, said church planters trying to start language congregations will submit a more flexible proposal due to the lack of resources many language groups have.

Approval

The potential church planter will meet with a member of the Church Planting Team — Fred Davis, who focuses on East Tennessee; Wayne Terry, Middle Tennessee; Hill; or George — to submit his proposal and present the proposal to the TBC Church Planting Committee, which includes three members of the Executive Board.

During committee deliberations, committee members will be ready to ask questions directly of the applicant by phone, explained Rickman.

Mortgage loans

Another source of funding will be available from the TBC Church Planting Loan Fund, which will provide mortgage loans. It has recently been developed from two TBC loan funds to better fit the needs of new churches, explained William Maxwell of the TBC staff.

A \$50,000 limit and a fixed interest rate have been removed, he summarized.

Mortgage loans will be made to new congregations or to partnering churches or associations in four cases, reported Maxwell. They follow:

◆ Buying property for future construction of a church building or with existing improvements (land and a facility not requiring renovation) for use by new congregation.

◆ Buying property and construction of a church building.

◆ Construction of a church building on property presently owned by the new congregation or partnering church/association.

◆ As funds are available, consideration also will be given to applications for refinancing existing loans made for one of the above purposes and would otherwise be consistent with the policies of the loan fund.

Maxwell said the loans are helpful to congregations because there are no principal or interest payments required during the first three years of the loan. The full loan is then amortized over the next seven years at 1 percent below New York Prime Rate or 5 percent, whichever is higher.

There are requirements, including that the new congregation be less than seven years old, he added.

More information

For more information on applying for church planting funds or loans, contact George at bgeorge@tnbaptist.org, (615) 371-2043, or 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2043. □

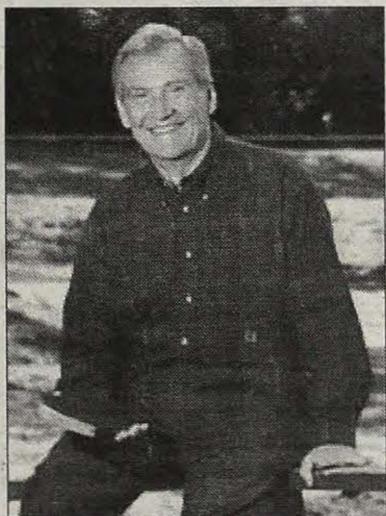


MAXWELL

Rogers inducted into Broadcasters Hall of Fame

Press

NASHVILLE — Pastor and author Adrian Rogers, author of "Love Worth Finding," is inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame during their annual convention at the Opryland Hotel here, Feb. 10. Rogers is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, which has grown from 9,000 members in 1972 to more than 100,000 members today. He developed "Love Worth Finding," a one-hour television broadcast and 30-minute radio broadcasts of his preaching, in 1987 after requests for his sermons grew beyond management.



CORDOVA PASTOR Adrian Rogers has been inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

was in "Love Worth Finding's" programming.

Rogers served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1979-80 and again from 1986-88, and he has preached in overseas crusades in Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Russia, Romania, and Central and South America.

He has been the keynote speaker for such meetings as Washington for Jesus, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the National Religious Broadcasters.

"I believe God wants us to proclaim the message of salvation in the power of the Holy Spirit by every means possible, especially through radio and television," Rogers said on the Love Worth Finding web site, www.lwf.org.

Also honored by the National Religious Broadcasters were:

◆ Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, with the Board of Directors' Award.

◆ the late W.A. Criswell, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, with the Milestone Award.

◆ "FamilyLife Today" with host Dennis Rainey, named Radio Program of the Year

◆ "Money Matters" with host Larry Burkett, named Talk Show of the Year. □

Tennessean joins BP staff

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Michael Foust has been named assistant editor of Baptist Press, Executive Editor Will Hall announced Feb. 14.

Foust will join Baptist Press' staff effective March 1. He has been director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., since July 2000. He joined the seminary's news staff in September 1999.

Baptist Press is the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Foust, 30, earned a master of arts degree in theological studies at Southern Seminary in 2002 and a B.S. degree in communications, with a journalism major, from the University of Tennessee in 1995.

He was a sportswriter at *The Leaf Chronicle* in Clarksville, from 1998-99 and sports editor/sportswriter at *The Union-Recorder* in Milledgeville, Ga., from 1995-98. He also has been a sports-

writer for *The Review-Appeal* in Franklin, and a sports correspondent for *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville and *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

Foust won a second place award in column writing from the Georgia Sports Writers Association in 1997, along with a third place for game story, and, in 1996, second place in sportswriting from the Georgia Press Association and third place in sportswriting from the Georgia Associated Press.

Foust, who grew up in Tatumville, and his fiancée, Julie Koch of Floyds Knobs, Ind., are planning a June 28 wedding.

He is the son of long-time Tennessee Baptist pastor Jerry and Patsy Foust of Nashville. The elder Foust currently does supply and interim work in the Nashville area. □



FOUST

And we haven't even sold the first ticket yet

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

I couldn't help but chuckle when I read the following headline in *The Tennessean* on Feb. 8 — "Bredesen, Cohen lottery squabble escalates: Governor upset at claim he wants to stack board, help friends." We haven't sold the first lottery ticket yet and already someone is hinting at possible corruption.

Now, to my knowledge, everything has been above board at this point and Gov. Phil Bredesen has done nothing wrong.

We have to keep things in perspective. The person making the insinuation is the same person who led the charge to legalize the lottery in Tennessee in the first place. It's apparent he wants to have some say in choosing the board of directors that will be responsible for oversee-

ing the implementation of the state lottery.

I seem to recall that when lottery opponents were pointing out that legalizing gambling could lead to corruption (remember the infamous Rocky Top bingo scandal), lottery proponents scoffed at the idea.

Now, the leading proponent of the lottery tosses suspicion toward the governor. And both belong to the same political party. I can't help but see the irony and humor in that.

While there is apparently no scandal this time, who knows what will happen in the future. When you have this much money involved (a \$200 million contract over seven years to a gaming company), the possibility for corruption does exist.

In the days that followed, lawmakers have sought a compromise that may placate both Sen. Cohen and Gov. Bredesen. A new proposal has been suggested by the legislature's Lottery Implementation Committee which would increase the lottery board from six to nine members, with one-third appointed by the

Senate, the House of Representatives, and the governor.

I'm still opposed to a lottery in our state, but if the inevitable is going to happen, I do believe that compromise is the best system. One person, no matter who it may be, should not have sole authority in appointing a board of such magnitude.

The Lottery Implementation Committee also is considering a number of other issues in regard to the lottery.

These are matters that all Tennesseans should be aware of and have a voice on regardless of how you voted on the lottery in November.

I would hope that even those who voted for the lottery would not want children under the age of 18 to be able to walk into any convenience store in our state and purchase lottery tickets.

Call or write your senator and representative and ask him or her to insist that no one under the age of 21 be allowed to purchase lottery tickets. It makes sense. Lottery tickets should be treated the same as the sale of beer and

alcohol — adults only.

I also hope most people would want our legislators to make sure to close all the loopholes that might allow video poker and other types of illegal gambling.

Those are just some of the issues the committee is considering according to a new report in *The Tennessean* on Feb. 12.

Another issue the committee has looked at is the use of credit cards to buy tickets. Don't compound the problem of losing cash and going into debt to buy tickets. According to the Feb. 12 *Tennessean* story, the committee has said the sale of tickets at outlets will be cash only but credit cards could be used when purchasing tickets from the lottery corporation. That would be a mistake. We do not need to make it easy for people to go into debt for lottery tickets.

Ann Bennett, who helped lead the anti-lottery effort in upper East Tennessee, also pointed out something else we need to encourage our legislators to do — and that is to push for a sales tax on lottery ticket sales.

It is expected that lottery ticket sales will replace the small ticket items in convenience and grocery store, according to Bennett.

Her conclusion, and I think that millions of taxable income and grocery store, could be removed from the Tennessee economy. Adding a tax to the lottery ticket help keep money in our government.

There also is quite a bit of debate over the Grade Point Average (GPA) used to determine who receives the scholarship. While some want the GPA established at 3.0, there are others who feel it should be lower. Students need to be encouraged to excel. Ask them to have a "B" average in order to get the scholarship. It is not unreasonable.

Contact your legislator if you have voice concerns.

If we are going to have a state lottery, let's make it palatable as humanly possible and enact tough laws in the beginning that will reduce the harm that will be done by the state. □

Has your family heard your testimony of faith in Christ

guest columnist

By Tom Elliff

Following is the first of a series of articles on Kingdom Families written by Tom Elliff, pastor of First Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., and chairman, Southern Baptist Council on Family Life which, in conjunction with the SBC Pastor's Conference and LifeWay Christian Resources is hosting Southern Baptist's first ever Kingdom Family Rally, at the SBC, June 16, in Phoenix, Ariz.

It was meal time at the annual family reunion and, this year, the entire family was present for the traditional time of fellow-

ship, reminiscing, and food. Little did they know that they were in store for one of the most moving and memorable moments in their lives. Their father stood awkwardly at the head of the table, cleared his throat, and asked for their attention.

"You know," he began, "I have always said there are two things I will not discuss — religion and politics. And, about religion, I have always said that it is a personal matter. Well, I still believe that religion is personal. But lately I have come to understand that it was never meant to be private."

"On this sheet of paper," he continued, "I have written the testimony of my faith in Christ. I will admit that, until recently, I didn't have a testimony. That's why I didn't want to discuss it. But, a few days ago, all that

changed and I want you to know about it. I'm a little new at this, so if you don't mind, I'd just like to read this to you.

A hush fell over the room as the father humbly read his testimony to his family. Unaware of what was happening, the father stumbled on through the brief statement of his faith in Christ. When he looked up he was amazed. Sons turned their faces toward the wall to hide the tears that were welling up in their eyes. His wife and daughters dabbed the tears that were now flowing down their cheeks. His grandchildren were looking curiously at their parents to determine just what was happening.

Little did that father know that he was setting in motion a series of events that would ultimately see all his family mem-

bers come to Christ. This would be his legacy of faith that would be passed down for generations to come. And little did the family, or the father, know that they would all gather again only a few weeks later. And this time it would be at a graveside where his earthly remains would be deposited...along with the clear assurance that he was with God.

Have you shared your faith with your family? On more than one occasion, grief-stricken children have stood at the casket of a father asking, "Pastor, do you believe my dad will be in heaven?" The pastor, of course, will try to comfort them, but he cannot give them the assurance they so desperately need.

After all, the Scripture clearly states that one of the evidences of genuine salvation is a willing-

ness to testify to that faith. As the psalmist exclaimed, "let the Lord be glorified" (Psalm 107:2).

Has your family heard your testimony of faith in Christ? In Africa they say, "When a man dies, a library is built." One day it will be impossible for your friends and family members to access all that is up in the library of your life. That is why it is imperative for you to share with them a simple story of your conversion. A legacy of faith in Christ is the most important thing you can leave with them. So, tell your story. And, while you are at it, ask them about their own. The article above is from *In Their Own Words*, by Tom Elliff and Robert Witty, to be published in June 2003, by Broadman & Holman.

Counselor offers ten tips for taming the 'terrible twos'

families matter



By Paul Barkley

The period of development that comes with a two-year-old toddler has long been vilified and feared as a time of tantrums, tears, and terror.

This is one of the most exciting times of development in the life of the child and a time of forming self-concept, trust, and confidence that will last a lifetime. I would like to offer ten tips, which I believe would be rewarding and productive.

◆ Be flexible. While the par-

ent has the God-given task and responsibility of molding that young life, the parent does not get to choose the personality with which the child will be born. The wise parent will attempt to find ways to make adjustments to his or her own personality that will allow the child to be who God created him or her to be.

◆ Give the child freedom to explore. The child needs the security of knowing that he can risk trying things out without being abandoned or punished when his attempt does not quite work.

◆ Make your home "child-friendly." Keep breakable and dangerous objects out of the reach of little hands. Find unbreakable objects that you can make available for the developing

explorer and inventive genius.

◆ Be Consistent!!! Adults tend to get frustrated with the repetitious behaviors, both good and bad, of two-year-olds. In that frustration the parent will sometimes change the rules and expectations. This is very confusing to a young child.

◆ Suggest alternative activities. This period of childhood is the budding point of autonomy. "No" is the favorite word of a two-year-old not only because all the big people around him use it, but it also is the point at which the child can begin to set his own limits.

◆ Link requests with pleasurable activities whenever possible. The parent might say, "I want you to come in the house so that we can get ready

to go to McDonalds."

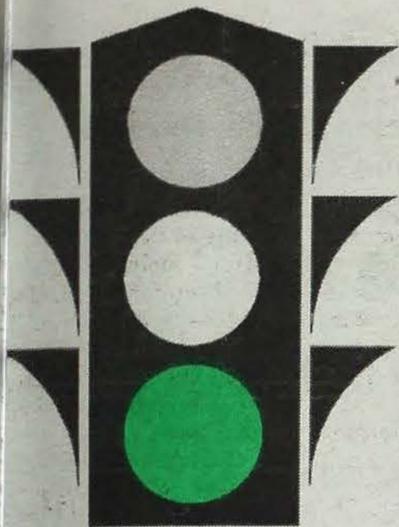
◆ Remind the child of what you expect. When we go into "big church," we must be quiet and still.

◆ Expect less self-control during times of stress in the family. Illness, divorce, the arrival of a baby sister or brother, move to a new house, loss or change of job for parent, etc. can all cause stress. That added stress in the family would make it more difficult for the toddler to exercise self-control.

◆ Expect it to be harder for toddlers to comply with "dos" than with "don'ts." "Pick up your toys" takes more time and effort than does "Don't go upstairs." Most of the time it will be easier simply not to do something than it is to take the time and energy

required to accomplish the task.

◆ Love your child. Children can overlook mistakes and head much easier than toddlers. Mistakes of the heart. Your child will be expected most often in positive, caring, responsive ways. Most parents would not do well selling their child, every child has become so frustrated with the child at some time that the parent would have gladly traded the child to a band of gypsies. We must make a concerted effort to guard our children from these frustrations and actions. □ — I am a professor, Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences Memphis, and a family therapist in private practice.



Green Light

March 2003

Your source for information and promotion of upcoming events sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Friends,

Thank you for your comments and compliments on our newly designed *Green Light*. This is the second issue to be included in the *Baptist and Reflector*, and we are pleased to have this "partnership."

You may use the *Green Light* materials, either for personal use or reproduced in your own church or associational publications, keep in mind those with whom you work in ministry. If there are those you think would benefit from the material in the *Green Light* and they are not receiving the Convention's state paper, perhaps you could encourage them to secure a subscription to the *Baptist and Reflector*. (page 2 of the *Baptist and Reflector* for subscription information.) Remember, the *Green Light* is now inserted in *B&R* each month.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding *Green Light*, please e-mail me at bowen@tnbaptist.org.

Barbara Owen
Green Light Editor

Conversational English

Workshop • March 14-16

Baptist Center, Brentwood

Friday, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Attendees must attend all sessions to receive certification!

The registration fee is \$20 per person. To register or to request additional information, contact Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at 800.558.2090, extension 7916. You may also e-mail Marks at imarks@tnbaptist.org, or Hill at thill@tnbaptist.org.

Christian and Church Counselor Seminar

Attention: Christian and Church Counselors!

Plan now to attend the two-day seminar at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, March 11-12. The seminar begins at noon on the 11th and ends at noon the following day.

The agenda for the event allows attendees to participate in round table discussion. Program personnel will speak on compassion, fatigue, family trends and dynamics, and striving for excellence in counseling skills.

To receive further information, contact D. Tony Rankin, Christian Growth Development at 800.558.2090, ext. 8136 or trankin@tnbaptist.org

INTERFAITH EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

REMINDER!

Tennessee Baptist Historical Society
February 25
Baptist Center, Brentwood

Complimentary Lunch- 11:30 a.m. followed by a presentation by TBC Executive Director-Treasurer James M. Porch on *Diverse Worship Styles in Tennessee*.

Questions? Call Charles Nored, Historical Society President at 615.893.5035.

MARCH 14-15
Baptist Center Chapel
Friday, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Christian Response to the Occult will be led by Tal Davis, Interfaith Evangelism Manager, North American Mission Board. The cost is \$15 per person (by March 3).

For more information and registration materials contact: Tim Hill, 800.558.2090, ext. 2032. Evangelism/Mission Strategies Group



Missions Get Together • March 21-23 • Gatlinburg Convention Center



The Gatlinburg Convention Center provides a great setting for Missions Get Together. At the Get Together, Tennessee Baptist women will gather to celebrate a partnership with God in His kingdom work.

This year's program theme is *God's Plan... My Part*. The keynote speaker is **Stuart Calvert**, author of the book, "God's Plan... My Part." Special music will be presented by the Tennessee Baptist Ladies Chorus on Friday evening and by the New Covenant Baptist Church on Saturday evening. Worship leader will be **Amy Nobles**, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Other program personalities include Missions Mosaic cover girl, **Denise Bronaugh**; New Hope author, **Angela Payne**; and **Carilla Ricketson**, International Mission Board representative.

Conferences include *Medical Missions Miracles*, led by a panel of **Baptist Nursing Fellowship members**, *Partnering with God in Thailand*, led by missionaries **Scott and Valerie Payne**, and *Hungry, Holy and Humble—Three Essentials to Effectiveness in God's Kingdom Work*, led by **Tom McCoy**, pastor of Thompson Station Baptist Church.

The program will highlight Tennessee's partnerships with Rio, Canada, Iowa, and Portugal. Women will enjoy reunion with others who have been on partnership mission trips. Attendees may have a passport picture taken. They will also be inspired by many ways in which to engage in missions as they browse through WMU-sponsored ministry projects.

For more information or to request a brochure, contact Leighann McCoy, Tennessee Woman's Mission Union, at 800.558.2090, extension 7920; or e-mail McCoy at lmccoy@tnbaptist.org

BIBLE FUN FIELD DAY

A FUN, FAST-PACED DAY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

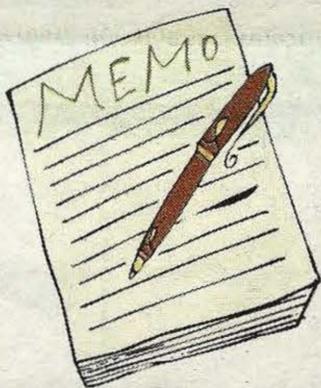
Bible Fun Field Day is scheduled at Camp Linden on March 22 and at Camp Carson on March 29. The day is designed for leaders of children in grades 1-6 along with those children, as well. The children will cycle through a variety of activities related to FUNDamentals, TEAM-KID, Bible Buddies, Learning Styles and Children's Bible Drill. (You do not have to be using these programs to attend.) Leaders will have opportunity to choose leader-training sessions or remain with the children.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The day's activities will close at 3:30 p.m.

Register by March 1 for \$15 per person. After March 1, the cost is \$20 per person. The registration fee includes T-shirt, activities, snack, supplies, lunch, and facility use. No refunds after March 15.

Send name, address, daytime phone number, and e-mail address along with check payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention, to Liz Lee, Christian Growth Development, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Also, indicate the date you and your group will be attending.

For more information, contact Liz Lee, Christian Growth Development, TBC, at 800.558.2090; or check the Web site at www.tnbaptist.org/cgd/childhoodministry



Date: March, 2003
To: Church Leaders
From: Kenny Cooper, President
Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes
Re: Father's Day Offering -2003

Watch for your resource packet in April to help you prepare for this year's Father's Day Offering in June. The packet will be filled with ideas and sample copies of resources you may order without cost to help you prepare your church for this special offering for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

Give Cheerfully is this year's theme based on II Corinthians 9:7. TBAH is grateful and pleased to announce that in 2001 there was a dramatic increase in gifts and participation of churches over the previous year.

Pray for our ministry with seniors and developmentally challenged adults, and lead your church to participate in the Father's Day Offering. The statewide goal is \$150,000.

As scheduling permits, our staff welcomes the opportunity to speak to your church without financial obligation about the ministry of Adult Homes and the Father's Day Offering. Call us at 615-271-2050 to schedule a speaker. Thank you for your prayers and on-going support for this benevolent Christian ministry! "God Loves A Cheerful Giver."

Team Leader Training

March 28-29
April 25-26

Knox County Baptist Association Office, Knoxville
First Baptist Church, Clarksville

Time: 5:30 p.m. on Friday until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday

Cost: Training provided by Cooperative Program gifts

Team leaders: Learn how to effectively lead teams on volunteer short-term missions trips. Highlight include: building your team, funding your mission project, training your team, travel arrangements, security, planning your strategy, preparing to return home, and debriefing.

Registration: email hwilson@tnbaptist.org, or by phone at 800.558.2090, ext. 2061. Register by March for the March training; and by April 1 for the April training.

To obtain more information, contact Kim Huff, Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group, 800.558.2090, extension 2026.

2003 Regional Dramatic Arts Festival

March 21-22

West Jackson Baptist Church • 580 Oil Well Road • Jackson

March 28-29

Wallace Memorial Baptist Church • 701 Merchants Drive • Knoxville

Festival Highlights

Over 100 conferences in five different tracks: Clowning, Drama, Interpretive Movement; Mime and Puppetry; Pre-Festival Leadership Experience and Youth Mini Camp; Creative Worship; Outstanding Faculty; Performance Opportunities; and Multiple Exhibitors.

Registration fee (Date refers to postmarked envelope)

Before March 10, 2003: \$40 per person (\$45 if attending early-bird events)

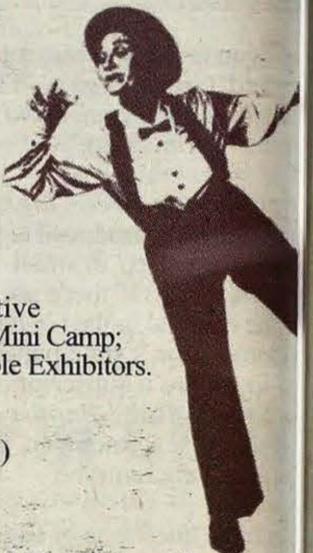
After March 10, 2003: \$45 per person (\$50 if attending early-bird events)

Performance application

Groups who desire to present a prepared piece for evaluation by Festival faculty members must apply ahead of time. Pieces must be less than five and one-half minutes in length. Because of a limited amount of time, each group should prepare only ONE piece for evaluation. However, groups may perform in more than one performance area.

Registration

To receive registration information and performance applications, contact Charlotte Hanson, Church Staff Leadership Group, at 800.558.2090, extension 7908, or by e-mail at chanson@tnbaptist.org. Hotel information is also available at www.tnbaptist.org/csl/worship&music/daf.htm



Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway

March 22



Plan now for another exciting family event at Bristol Motor Speedway! Family Day activities begin at 9:00 a.m. with pre-celebration

music. Race car driver Jason Keller will speak at 10:00 a.m. followed by worship led by a praise team, Christian comedy, and a call to commitment.

The cost of tickets for the day's events is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. You must attend the Family Day Program to receive tickets for the race. Tickets for the race will be available at 11:30 at the upper grandstand level of the Bristol Dragstrip.

Family Day is jointly sponsored by TBC Men's Ministries, Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group, Holston Baptist Association, and Bristol Motor Speedway.

To receive registration/ticket purchase form, contact Bristol Motor Speedway Ticket Office, P. O. Box 3966, Bristol, TN 37625.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Gene Williams, Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group, at 800.558.2090, ext. 2064.

Mid-Continent Bivocational Celebration

March 28-29
 Holiday Inn, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Theme: Nehemiah: Strengthening the Bivocational Ministry

Time: Celebration begins at noon on March 28 and concludes at noon on March 29

Program Personalities: Don Almond, bivocational ministries, Missouri Baptist Convention; Boundless Lov Quartet, Jefferson City, Missouri; Charles Lowery, president of LIFE, Inc., Albuquerque, NM; D. I. Lowrie, retired pastor, Lubbock, TX; Jim McNeil, drama music evangelist, St. Louis, MO; and Larry Orange, Mid-Continent College, Mayfield, KY.

Fee: \$5 per person. Send name, spouse's name, address, phone number, e-mail address, church name and address along with your check (payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention) to: Ray Gilder, Church Staff Leadership Group, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

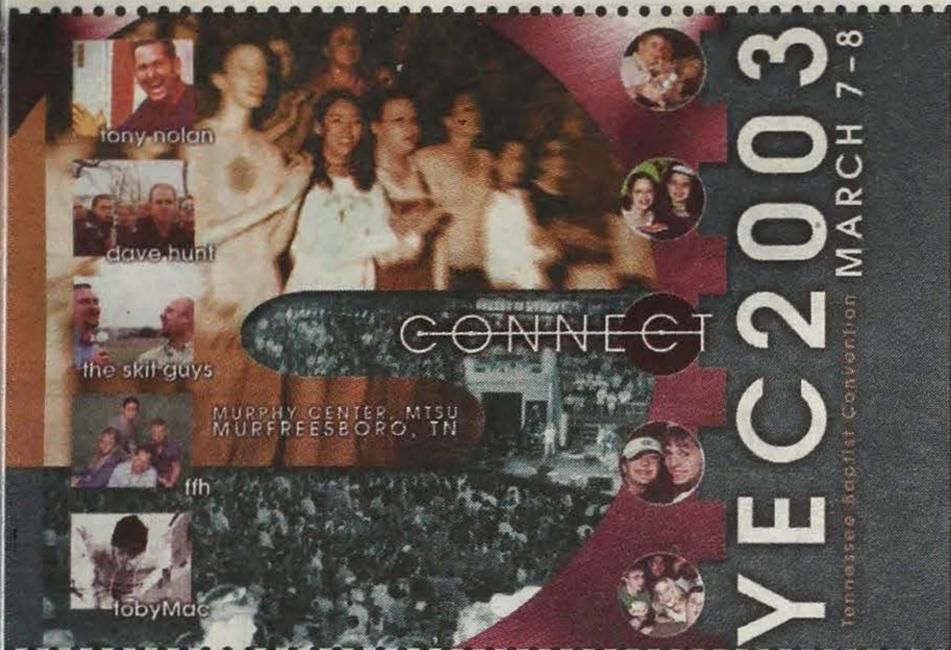
AND

Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministry Celebration Conference

March 29-30
 Holiday Inn, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 (Immediately following the Bivocational Celebration)

Theme: Partnering Together Around the World
 Saturday, 1:00 p.m. until Sunday 12:00 noon

No charge! Register through Ray Gilder, TBC Church Staff Leadership Group, 800-558-2090, extension 7907



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

March 7-8, 2003

**Murphy Center, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN**

Keynote speaker - Tony Nolan
Other Program Personalities: Dave Hunt, Skit Guys, FFH, and tobyMac

Registration cost for the conference is \$10 per person.

To receive more information, contact the Evangelism/Missions Strategies Group at 800.558.2090, extension 7933. Updated information is available at www.yectennessee.org

Cross-Cultural Training

BC Missions Awareness and Mobilization Group and the SBC International Mission Board are co-sponsors of the Cross-Cultural Training program designed to equip participants for ministry in strategic locations throughout the world.

Training Schedule:

- March 14-15 Chattanooga
- March 21-22 Jackson
- April 11-12 Baptist Center, Brentwood (collegiate)
- May 2-3 Baptist Center, Brentwood

Among the topics to be discussed during the training include: *International Travel Tips; The Biblical Basis of Missions; Cultural Shock Survival Guides; Prayer, Praise, Music and Testimonies; Feast on the Sights, Sounds, and Foods of Other Countries; and Language Tips for Volunteers.*

Registration fee of \$10 includes meals and training materials. Participants must register at least two weeks prior to the training date by calling Heather Wilson, Missions Awareness and Mobilization, at 800.558.2090, ext. 2061. Online registration is available at www.tnbaptist.org/nam/missions.

For more information, contact Tim Bearden, at 800.558.2090.

Rio Simultaneous Revivals

August 4-12, 2003

NEEDED:

100 teams consisting of a preacher, a musician, and a layperson to do personal evangelism

Cost: Approximately \$1885 per person. This amount 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.

To register (by April 4): e-mail Heather Wilson at hwilson@tnbaptist.org; by phone at 800.558.2090, ext 2061; or online at www.tnbaptist.org/nam/missions/rio.htm

For more information: contact Kim Huff, Missions Awareness and Mobilization, at 800.558.2090, ext. 2021.



**Royal Ambassador
Wilderness Challenge Camping
and
Outdoor Skills Competition**

Boxwell Boy Scout Reservation, Gallatin
March 28-29

Cost: \$10 per person

Opportunities: Wilderness Skills School, Campcraft Rodeo, Royal Racer Competition (Pinewood Derby car), and RA worship services

This event is sponsored jointly by Missions Awareness and Mobilization, TBC, and the Nashville Baptist Association.

For more information, contact Nashville Baptist Association at 615.259.3034.

March 1 Alpha Association, Growing a Great Commission Church (Pastors only)

March 3 Knox Association, Multi-Age Discipleship Leader Training

March 6 Shiloh Association, Divorce Recovery Seminar

March 10 Bledsoe Association, Making a Lasting Impression through the Sunday School

March 10 Western District, Sunday School Director Workshop

March 10 Loudon Association, Growing a Great Commission Sunday School (Pastors only)

March 10 Madison-Chester Assoc., Tennessee Single Adult Ministry Leader Training

March 17 Indian Creek Association, It's Tool Time! Multi-Age SS Leader Training

March 18 Watauga Association, Multi-Age Sunday School Leader Training

March 20 Big Hatchie, Sunday School Director Conference

Leadership Training Events are sponsored jointly by Tennessee Baptist Associations and the Christian Growth Development Group, TBC. For more information, contact the Association office for the event you are interested in attending.

**Learning Adventure Tour
for
Ministers of Education**

Bus Trip to Birmingham and Atlanta • March 11-13

Join with fellow ministers of education in touring several innovative churches in the field of Christian education. At each church, the group will have opportunity to tour the facilities and to dialog with the church's education leaders.

Schedule: The tour leaves from the Baptist Center, Brentwood, on March 11 at 9:00 a.m. and is scheduled to return at 3 p.m. on March 13.

Cost: \$45 for meals and bus. Send check (payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention) and registration information to Mark Miller, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Booking and Other Information: Contact Mark Miller, Christian Growth Development Group, at 800.558.2090, extension 2048. Miller may be e-mailed at mmiller@tnbaptist.org

2003 Leadership Training Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Day of Prayer for Revival and Spiritual Awakening Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (2-9) Week of Prayer & Mission Study for North American Missions (2-9)	3	4	5	6 Children's Mission Education Strategies, East Tennessee Baptist Association, Newport Symposium for Children's Leaders in the Smaller Church, Baptist Center, Brentwood	7 Associational Men's Ministry Conference, Baptist Center, Brentwood (7-8) Youth Evangelism Conference, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro (7-8)	8
9	10	11	12	13 Hispanic Winter Bible Study, Chattanooga Youth Ministry Update (Northwest Region), Martin	14 Hispanic Winter Bible Study, Nashville International Missions Training Institute: Cross Cultural Training, Chattanooga (14-15) Conversational English Workshop, Baptist Center, Brentwood (14-16)	15 Hispanic Winter Bible Study, Jackson
16 Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Youth Ministry Update (East Region), Knoxville	21* Tennessee WMU Executive Board Meeting, Gatlinburg International Missions Training Institute: Cross Cultural Training, Jackson (21-22) Regional Dramatic Arts Festival (West), West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson (21-22)	22 Annual Session of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg Bible Fun Field Day Camp Linden, Linden Tennessee Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol
23 On Mission: Planting New Congregations Sunday	24 Senior Adult Spring Fling, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden (24-25)	25 Youth Ministry Update (Northeast Region), Johnson City DOM (Director of Missions) Missions Conference, Baptist Center, Brentwood (25-26)	26	27 Youth Ministry Update (Southeast Region), Chattanooga Senior Adult Spring Fling, Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport (27-28)	28 Mid-Continental Bivocational Celebration, Holiday Inn, Cape Girardeau, Missouri (28-29) Regional Dramatic Arts Festival (East), Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville (28-29)	29 Bible Fun Field Day Camp Carson, Newport
30	31	* March 21, continued... 21-22 TLC (Tennessee Ladies Chorus) sing at Missions Get-Together, Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg 21-23 English as a Second Language, Teaching Children and Youth, and Adult Reading and Writing Literacy Training, Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg 21-23 Missions Get-Together, Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg				



Churches, ministers must comply with changing tax ...

Continued from page 1
 Skidmore also recommended the *Ministers Tax Guide for Returns* from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, *Church Clergy Tax Guide 2003* by David R. Hammar, and his monthly newsletter, "Church Treasurer Alert." The final two editions can be obtained on computer use at www.icl.com on the internet.

The four scenarios
 In the first situation in which a church mistakenly paid Social Security tax for the minister, the church should have advised its ministers to determine how they were going to handle their tax status and benefits, said Skidmore. When that is determined, some churches will reimburse ministers a Social Security allowance to help offset the

expense of Social Security. Churches should try to avoid the situation of another church. The 40-year-old pastor was unexpectedly killed in a car accident. Church leaders had to meet with the widow and her children without knowing if he had life insurance.

When they called Skidmore seeking help, he was able to provide some relief because the church was sending money to the Annuity Board for the pastor's retirement. That qualified him for a survivor benefit provided by the TBC through the board. Skidmore was able to arrange for a check for \$75,000 which was tax free for the family.

In the second situation, a person giving something other than money — such as stocks, cars,

art, or property — to a non-profit entity such as a church must follow IRS guidelines in determining the value of that gift for tax purposes. The church also should have the determination on file so it can note the proper amount of the gift in budgets and gift reports.

In the third situation, churches should handle a minister's expenses — such as mileage on a car for church business or the purchase of pizza for a youth event — separately from salary, suggested Skidmore.

Also an advance for expenses should not come from salary, but from the church. Any of that advance not spent must be returned to the church. "That's the church's money," said Skidmore.

To reimburse a minister, churches should require minis-

ters to regularly report their expenses along with documentation such as receipts and mileage logs.

In the fourth scenario, the church must first determine if the worker is self-employed or representing a company. The responsibility to report wages belongs to the company paid by the church provided that company has a federal employer ID number. In instances where there is no company with such a number, the church must be careful to comply with federal regulations in reporting monies paid to self-employed individuals.

Another issue related to this situation is the speaker who received a love offering. Whatever amount he or she received should be considered by the individual as income for tax purposes, noted Skidmore.

Other issues

Churches should receive designated contributions only to funds already developed by the church, said Skidmore. Churches can have many funds, but they must be set up by the church, he explained, not by an individual who wants to designate to some cause.

"People don't set direction for churches; churches set direction for ministries, and then people can give to those," he said.

Church parsonages can still be a benefit to ministers, as they were for 26 years for Skid-

more and his family, he described. But the church should make additional contributions to the minister's retirement account to be used for housing in his retirement years.

Churches also should estimate the value of that housing for ministers living in parsonages. The minister needs that value to report as income so he can pay Social Security taxes on it. To estimate that value, the church should combine the fair rental value of the parsonage and cost of utilities if provided by the church.

Churches should never provide salary to a minister in a lump sum and ask the minister to pay for his retirement, housing, insurance, and ministerial expenses from it. If they do, the minister must pay taxes on the full amount. That is not only unethical, said Skidmore, but the church "could inherit some financial liability" from that situation.

If the church will pay a minister's medical expenses directly, that money will not be taxed. If the church cannot provide medical insurance but can place money into a fund for medical expenses which it then helps pay, those funds also will not be taxed.

"A benefit plan saves taxes and keeps ministers there (at churches) longer," said Skidmore. □

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Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway

Schedule:

- 9:00 a.m. Pre-Celebration Music
- 10:00 a.m. Jason Keller
- 10:30 a.m. Praise Team
- 10:45 a.m. Christian Comedy
- 11:05 a.m. Call to Commitment

with Professional Race Car Driver **Jason Keller**

Jason will be racing in the Channel-lock 250.



Parking Information:

Free parking and shuttle service will be available at the corner of Rt. 394 and Whitetop Rd. Churches bringing full size buses should contact Kevin Berkley **no later than March 10, 2003** at (423) 989-6949 for parking passes. Passes will not be available for church vans. Paid parking is available in designated areas around Bristol Motor Speedway.

For more information visit www.bristolmotorspeedway.com

March 22, 2003

Ticket Information

Adult: \$10
 Child: \$5 (under 18)

Each adult may bring up to 5 children

Ticket Deadline March 10, 2003

Face tickets will be available at 11:30 a.m. at upper grandstand level Bristol Dragstrip. Only those attending Family Day Program will be eligible to receive tickets.

Contact Carol Davidson at (800) 558-2090, ext. 2025, or cdaidson@tnbaptist.org for ticket order forms.

Mo. paper told to vacate offices; MBC reduces work force

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — *Word & Way*, the Baptist newspaper with Missouri Baptist Convention, has been told to vacate the convention-owned space it occupies by March 1.

In addition, materials belonging to the news journal are stored in another area of the convention headquarters in Jefferson City have been locked away from the 100-plus-year-old paper's staff.

In the past two years, the boards of *Word & Way*, the Baptist Home, Missouri Baptist University, Missouri Baptist Foundation, and Windermere Baptist Conference Center have changed their charters to allow those entities — rather than the Missouri Baptist Convention — to elect trustees. In August, the convention filed legal action against the institutions.

The convention has since started its own newspaper, the *Pathway*, also housed in the Baptist Building.

In a letter to Webb, David Clippard, convention executive

director, called the newspaper's ouster from the space "appropriate" since "*Word & Way* no longer considers itself a division of or an agency of the Missouri Baptist Convention or the executive board."

But Bill Webb, *Word & Way* editor, disagreed. "I and the *Word & Way* trustees do consider *Word & Way* as still an agency of the Missouri Baptist Convention," he said in a Jan. 31 interview. "The action to elect our board was made. However, our trustees said they were committed and that *Word & Way* is committed to continuing the ministry they were engaged in. That purpose has not changed."

Although notice to vacate the building was not totally unexpected, Webb said a move within 30 days would be a challenge. "Obviously we have known for some time of the possibility," he said. "We were somewhat aware of the market, but we were not in a position to request someone to hold space indefinitely."

The editor noted that *Word & Way* trustees "had decided not to take the initiative to leave the Baptist Building," choosing instead to wait for the convention to act.

In an unrelaxed move, at least 22 Missouri Baptist Convention employees have lost their jobs as a result of the convention's current economic woes.

In a letter to pastors and other leaders, Clippard said a budget shortfall in 2002 forced the convention to reduce its work force by "just over" 20 percent in mid-January. The state convention finished 2002 almost 16 percent below its original \$19.2 million budget. □

Nashville to host Acteens convention

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Reg-

istration opened at the first of the year for SyncroNations, the 2003 National Acteens Convention sponsored by Acteens and Woman's Missionary Union. Girls from all over the world in grades from 12 will come together July 29-Aug. 1 for the event in Nashville.

Pre-registration is required and spaces are limited. Early registration is \$99; after May 15, the cost is \$125. All registration forms must be received by July 1 to receive written confirmation. Registration fees do not include lodging, meals, transportation or parking.

To register, contact Adventure Travel, the official registrar of SyncroNations, at 1-800-867-1428, or visit www.SyncroNations.com. Registration information is in the leadership edition of January's *Accent* magazine, a WMU publication for those who lead Acteens organizations. □

New Lower Rates For Life Insurance!

Low, low non-smoker monthly cost (male)

Age	\$150,000	\$300,000
25	\$11.03	\$15.49
35	\$11.16	\$15.75
45	\$20.87	\$35.18
55	\$43.71	\$80.85

Please call Jim Smelcher (Knoxville, TN) Toll Free 1-800-583-0970 (9-9 Mon.-Sat.) Level death benefit term that does not increase for the first 15 years. Written by an A-plus Life Insurance company. Preferred male rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and female rates.

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Christian Life Tours

You are invited to join our group of Tennessee Baptists on a **Cruise to Alaska** planned for June 9-16. Also available is an optional land tour the Midnight Sun Express to Mt. McKinley and Fairbanks. You will enjoy a Christian travel group with the best discount rates! We offer professional travel planning for church groups of all sizes to any destination. For a free brochure, call David (toll free) at 1-877-557-0073.

Conversational English Workshop

There will be a 16-hour Conversational English Workshop March 14-16, 2003, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Center, Brentwood. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. In order to receive certification for the workshop, attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be led by Anne Towns. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register or request additional information, please contact Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 800-558-2090, (615) 371-7916, or go to www.tnbaptist.org, or email imarks@tnbaptist.org.

Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training: "The Christian Response to the Occult"

There will be an Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training Workshop on Friday, March 14 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 15, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Building. **The deadline for registration is March 3, 2003.** This workshop is designed for volunteers, both laypeople and ministers, who are interested in and eligible to become certified as Interfaith Evangelism Associates (IEAs). The Tennessee Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board jointly sponsor the workshop. Dr. J. Tal Davis, Interfaith Evangelism Manager and Specialist for Cults, Sects, and New Religious Movement will lead it. The cost for attending this workshop is \$15. For more information on this workshop or to register, call Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7916, or email at thill@tnbaptist.org.

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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MINISTRIES — MUSI

Bivocational minister music/worship leader. Resume to South Clinton B Church, Attn. Lonnie Chairman of Search Team Clinch Ave., Clinton, TN 37033. Video/audio equipment. ♦♦♦♦

Wanted a full-time minister for a growing South Baptist Church. Please resume to First Baptist Church 308 North Spring St., Spartanburg, SC 29303. 38583. ♦♦♦♦

Bivocational music minister. Send resume to Lucy B Church, Attn. Edwin Bone, Search Committee, Lucy Rd, Millington, TN 38053. ♦♦♦♦

Silverdale Baptist Church age worship attendance (1,200) is seeking a full-time minister of worship to lead our temporary worship service. Large choir, praise team, orchestra. Please send resume to 7236 Bonny Oaks Dr., Tanooga, TN 37421. ♦♦♦♦

MINISTRIES — STUDENT

Parkway Baptist Church, Nando, Miss., is currently seeking a full-time youth minister. Send resume to Personnel Team, Parkway Baptist Church, 50 N. Parkway, Hattiesburg, MS 38632. For more information call (662) 429-6045. ♦♦♦♦

Part-time youth ministry coordinator to work with youth, grade to college. Send resume to South Clinton Baptist Church, Attn. Lesa Williams, 1000 Ave. Clinton, TN 37716. Applicant must be able to work pastor and other staff members promoting the growth of a young youth program. Mt. Southern Baptist. ♦♦♦♦

MINISTRIES — COMBINATION

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

MINISTRIES — OTHER

Grainger County Baptist Association is seeking a full-time minister of missions. Please resume to Grainger Baptist Association, Attn. Search Committee, P.O. Box 127, Rutledge, TN 37861. ♦♦♦♦

The Cordova Retreat and Conference Center is seeking time food service director. Resumes accepted by IRL Rocky Point, Cordova, TN 37033 until March 7, 2003. For information visit www.CRCCNET.org.

MINISTRIES — SINGLE ADULTS

Minister to single adults, Lexington/Midlands of South Carolina. Send resume to Search Committee, Lexington Baptist Church 308 E. Main St., Lexington, SC 29072.

minister's corner

tin Babb

chool I always did better in English than e. I could spell "sentapeade" but did not ow many feet it had ... other than one for g. I did better in History than Math. I knew he War of 1812 was but did not know when fought. From history I do remember we were volved in a conflict called the French and War. It was one of those confusing wars as participants, such as The War of the Roses ar actually fought between the Petunias and raniums. The French and Indian War basi- tted the Colonists, the British, and the gton Redskins against the French and the and Indians. We won, in spite of being on the ide as soldiers who wore kilts. With her de- oo much Cajun cooking) France gave the ana Territory to Spain, who eventually gave apoleon, a three-flavored ice cream.

803 our country was 17 years old. Being a teenager, she was prone to violent mood , extreme growth spurts, and not being able a dollar in her pocket. President Jefferson, theme song of "Movin' on up ... to the East wanted to buy the Louisiana Territory — at that time consisted mostly of trees, os, cayenne pepper, and Huey P. Long. Monroe, fresh from inventing the shock ab- bartered with France and got the land for lion dollars. He then reorganized an expedi- ad appointed Harry Sears and Bill Roebuck l it. However; they quit somewhere in Ne- a to build a general store so history only s the exploits of their understudies, Meri- Lewis and William Clark. Because the pur- ncluded Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, his- s would later refer to this rapid period of in the United States as "Manifest Dustiny." ry church has persons who are embarking ew journey, whether it is a job change, a rom one city to another, a move to a nursing or even a change in marital status. They are for uncharted territory. They are scared. re hurting. They are lonely. Do you have ends who fit these categories? Give them a send them a note.

o thousand years ago the Church embarked ourney. Its destiny, manifested by God, was and its witness. Occasionally we take a turn and try to expand our rolls without ex- g our reach. Bigger is not synonymous with , especially if our reach does not include ne around us — regardless of race, social , or any other barrier we might create. If we ing to be the church God wants us to be, we ot only minister to our own members but we reach out to people outside our church. Our s will always be limitless ... and so will our rs. □ — Babb is associate pastor, education, t Baptist Church, Springfield.

just for today

Fred Wood, retired pastor, Memphis

urt With A Smile: Young man to jeweler: ke this locket." Jeweler: "That is an expen- ocket. The price includes an engraving. l you like to include the young lady's name " Young man: "No, just put 'to the only girl I ever loved.' That way, if she gets mad and s it at me when we break up, I can use it "

ke This Truth: 'Tis better to have loved and an never to have loved at all — but it's more live.

emorize This Scripture: "I hold this st you: You have forsaken your first love." — ations 2:4, NIV

ay This Prayer: Lord, help us to remember Christ wants our complete affection and y, the kind that does not waver. □

The Bible: it's testimony

By Mike Boyd

Focal passage — John 5:37-40, 45-47; Acts 17:2-4, 11-12

I was in a leadership develop- ment meeting when the facilitator asked us to do something very un- usual. The assignment: "Assume you are talking to a person who has never tasted a banana. De- scribe its taste." That is easy enough. A banana tastes like - oh well! The ease of the assignment became more difficult with each passing moment. Finally, I gave up. The task was much more diffi- cult than I would have ever dreamed.

By the same token, how would we describe God to people who have neither known him nor read anything about him? Imagine at- tempting to do this without any knowledge of Scripture. We could throw around a few concepts and images of our personal under- standing, but substance would be lacking.

In Holy Scripture, we find testi- mony about God. "Testimony" is a term often used in a court of law. By definition, a "testimony" is a first hand account of a given situa- tion or event by someone who has personal experience. In other words, this is not hearsay, but rather a true historical account.

God's word is the vehicle where- by people may personally en- counter the one true living God. Jesus says, "These are the scrip- tures that testify about me" (John

5:39). If we are going to experience God through Christ, then we must develop a personal relationship with him. This means that we will want to learn all about him. The task may not be simply accom- plished with some mystical aes- thetic experience. The Bible offers substance.

God's word has been studied in many differing ways. Some pursue with intellectual prowess providing an academic stimulus. Others will read the Bible as a history book or a piece of literature. These exercis- es alone do not satisfy God's ulti- mate intent. There is a further purpose for its content.

Paul used the scriptures to bring people to a personalized rela- tionship with the Christ it unveils. Acts 17:2 says, "He reasoned with them from the Scriptures." Through God's word he described the prophecy and historical events that were fulfilled by our Savior. The nature and character of our LORD is defined and amplified. In Acts 17:3, he connects the concept of the Messiah with humanity when he offers, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." More plainly, "The words you are hearing are describing the very God you are seeking."

When the Bible accomplishes its ultimate goal, people enter a di- vine personal relationship. Acts 17:12 says, "Many of the Jews be- lieved." Their hearts and minds were changed (noted in 17:4 with the word "persuaded"). The process

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Feb. 23

of the Bible teaches us about God, but the goal of the Bible is to help us know God. Truly, many people know about him. Moving into a personal relationship with him provides the rich and spiritually re- warding experi- ence for which we were all created.

One of the great lessons I learned in the leadership exercise was that when describing something that is foreign to other peo- ple, there must be a frame of refer- ence. I must help people connect. Describing the taste of a banana to someone is almost impossible.

Describing God would be all but impossible for people. The Fall in the garden caused turmoil that broke our communication with God. The Bible offers us a tool to know the nature and character of God, thereby offering us an oppor- tunity to know him personally through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Thank you, Lord, for the tes- timony of your word so we may know you. □ — Boyd is pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville.



BOYD

Following the risen Christ

By Rocky Churchwell

Focal passage — John 21:1-25

After Jesus appeared to the dis- ciples and Thomas, there was a lapse of time before He appeared to them again. At least, according to John, there was enough time for some of the disciples to get hungry. When Peter suggested that he was going fishing, some of the other dis- ciples volunteered to go with him. By morning it looked like they were not going to catch anything. It was then that Jesus appeared and called them into shore.

Jesus always provides more than we expect because when they dropped the nets where He told them to, they caught fish. It might be good here to understand that when we do things following God's instructions, we usually do much better than we would on our own. In this case, the nets were so full, that John felt the need to record the number of fish in the catch. When Peter realized that it was Jesus who was standing on the beach, he jumped out of the boat. When he got to shore, Peter and the other disciples found breakfast prepared for them, but Jesus still asked the disciples to provide some of their own catch.

After Jesus had seen to the physical needs of the disciples, He then turned to the spiritual needs of Peter. It had not been long since Peter had denied even knowing Je-

sus, and now he was having break- fast with Him. What an unbeliev- able event that meal had to have been. Jesus, who had been cruci- fied, was now sitting around the fire with a few friends enjoying a good catch. But the lighthearted conversation among friends soon turned serious when Jesus asked Peter, "Do you truly love me more than these?"

There has been a lot said about how Peter answered Jesus' ques- tion. Many have said that Jesus was pointing to the other disciples when he asked how much Peter loved Him. I don't know, but I have had my suspicions that Jesus may have been pointing to the fishing boat. As a fisherman, Peter must have loved to fish. Fish- ing had been his calling before he had come into contact with the Sav- ior and now Jesus was calling Peter to something else.

Note that when Peter was asked if he loved (agapao) Jesus, he an- swered that he loved (phileo) his friend. Agape love is said to be like that given us by God. Peter was not ready to give that kind of love be- cause he may not have wanted to give up his old life. Maybe it was because Peter had denied Jesus three times, or maybe it was be-



CHURCHWELL

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Feb. 23

cause Jesus wanted to get His point across, but on the third question, Peter began to understand how im- portant his answer was. Jesus was calling Peter to share in the min- istry. Peter, who had denied the shepherd, was now called to follow the shepherd once more, and to share in the shepherd's ministry. Peter was called to "pasture" the sheep that Jesus would give him to serve.

I have always found it interest- ing that Jesus alluded to His fol- lowers as sheep. Why? Well for one thing, sheep are not known for their intelligence. They follow a shepherd wherever he goes, good or bad. If he is a good shepherd, he will lead them to the right pas- tures, but if he is not, he may lead them into harm. Sheep do not have much to say either. When the shep- herd speaks to them, all they can respond with is, "Baah." There is nothing insightful about a sheep's language, but the loving shepherd listens anyway.

When we follow Jesus, we are called to trust Him and go where He leads no matter where that is. We will also be called to help "feed" others as well. □ — Churchwell is pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mount Carmel.

Deaths

◆ Longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor **Pat L. Landrum**, 74, died Feb. 11. Landrum served as pastor of Brighton Baptist Church, Brighton, for 37 years. He was interim pastor at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Covington, where he was a member, for two years. Landrum was very active in the denomination, having served as a member of the TBC Executive Board, a trustee of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, and a trustee of the SBC Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources). He served as moderator of Big Hatchie Baptist Association on two occasions and was associational Sunday School director for 30 years. Landrum is survived by his wife, Zoan, three children, and eight grandchildren.

Leaders

◆ **Billy Stidham** has been called as pastor of French Broad Valley Baptist Church, Kodak. He previously was serving in Lyons, Ga.

◆ Dupont Baptist Church, Seymour, has called **Pete Lammon** as pastor. He had been serving in Kentucky.

◆ **Mike Mayo** has been called as interim pastor of Fountain Head Baptist Church, Portland.

◆ Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, has called **Mark Newman** as student minister.

◆ **Alan Koch** has been called as pastor of Cobbs Creek Baptist Church, Butler.

◆ **Lonnie Denny** is the new pastor at Nelson Chapel Baptist Church, Mountain City.

◆ Main Street Baptist Church, Lake City, has called **Wayne Phillips** as pastor, effective Feb. 23. He had been serving as minister of youth and education.

◆ **Wayne Rowan**, pastor of Beaver Baptist Church, Brighton, has resigned, effective Feb. 26, to pursue God's will in his life.

◆ **Cherry Road Baptist Church**, Memphis, has called **Waide Messer** as associate pastor/education. For the past 12 years he served as pastor of churches in northern and central Texas.

◆ **Eric Martin** has been called as pastor of Wildersville Baptist Church, Wildersville. He had been serving as interim pastor.

◆ **Jimmy Bryant** has been called as the first youth minister at First Baptist Church, Decaturville.

Churches

◆ **Leoma Baptist Church, Leoma**, celebrated its 90th anniversary on Feb. 2 with a special remembrance service in the morning and an "old-fashion singing and baptism" in the evening service.

◆ **Prosperity Baptist Church, Auburntown**, will host Chris Smith: The One Man Quartet on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 408-4300.

◆ **Second Baptist Church, Union City**, will

'Sweetheart banquet' reaches non-members

For Baptist and Reflector

McMINNVILLE — Crossroads Fellowship Church here didn't hold the typical Baptist church "sweetheart banquet."

Instead of an event for church members, the new church plant, a mission of First Baptist Church, Smartt, used the banquet idea to reach people in the community.

Each of Crossroads' core member families were asked to furnish the names of two couples they personally knew who were unchurched.

A list was compiled and invitations extended.

To make the event special the congregation contacted a local bed and breakfast facility for the banquet. Because the event was held Feb. 7, the week before Valentine's Day, they were able to book the facility at a reduced cost.

Fifteen couples accepted the invitation and attended the banquet with the host couples from Crossroads.

The sweetheart banquet



CROSSROADS FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, McMinnville, held a sweetheart banquet for unchurched people in the community on Feb. 7. Fifteen couples from outside the church joined the host families for the event.

was a "blast," said Pastor Mike Gay.

He noted the banquet provided an atmosphere where the unchurched couples could feel comfortable.

"They raised questions around the table about our church and we were able to answer them," Gay said.

He noted that on Saturday, Feb. 16, two couples who had attended the banquet came to church. Crossroads currently is meeting in a former shoe shop on Highway 5 in McMinnville.

"We expect to see other families come as a result," the pastor added. □

hold revival services March 16-19 with guest evangelist Steve Gaines of First Baptist Church, Gardendale, Ala. Jamie Parker of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, will serve as music evangelist.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Troy**, will hold revival services Feb. 23-26 with Fred Ward, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huntingdon, as guest evangelist. Tony Jones, music minister at FBC, Troy, will lead the music. In addition, the church will host a Women's Conference, "Swinging Back Into

Joy," on April 26 with guest speaker Becky Freeman. Deadline for registration is April 22. For more information, including costs, contact the church at (731) 536-4710.

Events

◆ James M. Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will address the annual meeting of the **Tennessee Baptist Historical Society** on Feb. 25 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Porch will present a pa-

per on "Baptist Diversity in Tennessee." The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 provided by the TBC. Reservations for the event can be made by calling Estey at (615) 371-2088.

◆ Officials from **Memorial Hospital, Collierville** and HealthCare Trust broke ground on a 60,000-square-foot, two-story medical office building that will be located on the BMH-Collierville campus. The building is scheduled to be complete in January 2004.

In the Philippines

Tennesseans see 10,157 people make professions of faith

For Baptist and Reflector

KENTON — A team of 25 mission volunteers serving on the Cross Partners Ministry team from here have just returned from serving with nearly 50 churches in three Baptist Associations on Luzon Island in the Philippines, where they saw 10,157 professions of faith and 556 other church decisions recorded.

The three Baptist associations are located in the most populated province in the central part of Luzon Island which is inhabited mostly with peasant farmers and fishermen.

The team was led by Charles Pratt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kenton, and President of Cross Partners Ministry, Inc.

The Republic of the Philippines is a "Third World Country" that consists of 7,100 islands filled with over 75 million people.

The partnership mission work was developed about 14 years ago by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and has been continued through the efforts of CPM Inc., founded by Pratt, who serves as president of the missions-sending or-

ganization for short time volunteer missionaries.

"Truly, this experience was something like a modern Day of Pentecost as over 10,000 souls were swept into the Kingdom of God in just a matter of days. We were there and saw the mighty hand of God, but we cannot take any credit for such a powerful happening that was unequal to any thing in my life," said Pratt.

Mike Hopper from Holly Grove Baptist Church, Bells, stated, "it was the most thrilling mission trip that I have ever been privileged to be a part of with a great group of volunteers and people being saved everywhere, including on the airplanes, in the jeepneys and buses as we traveled." Hopper has served on over a dozen mission trips all over the world.

Retired pastor, Jerry Legg of First Baptist Church, Dyer, said "We went to share the Bread of Life and we give God the praise and the glory, since so many hungry souls came to take the Bread of Life." Legg summed up his fourth trip and dozens of international trips as "Terrific."

Pratt has been leading teams to the Philippines over the past 14 years and

has developed some strong relationships with the Filipino Baptists.

The Women's Ministry of First Baptist of Kenton raised most of the funds needed to build a new church building in a village called Lepanto by selling cookbooks. The church has been meeting outside of a home for several years and plan to occupy the new concrete block and metal roof building in early March. Jerry Foster from Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville, and Donald Williams from Beech Grove Baptist near Halls, worked with the Filipino Baptists to construct the church building for the mission congregation.

Team members raised their own support, as well as, the money for New Testaments and Bibles. They gave away over 10,000 New Testaments, hundreds of whole Bibles and over 30,000 Gospel tracts.

A mass Baptism service was conducted in the South China Sea where more than 200 candidates were baptized that had been attending discipleship training. Rev. John Troutman brought a message on the meaning of baptism and 61 other people came forward to accept Jesus as Savior. The Tennessee team assisted the

Filipino pastors in baptizing the candidates in the ocean.

Another baptismal service was conducted by some of the volunteers on Anda Island with nearly 100 people baptized.

Volunteers included: Tony Michael, pastor of Bethpage Church, and members Bobby Brown, Tommy & Brenda Griggs, and Jo Griggs; Randy Drews, pastor of First Baptist Ruthersville, and members Tim Fair, Stuart Dunn, and Jeff Johnson; John Fields, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Dyer, and member Richard H. Scotty, pastor of Laneview Baptist Church, Kenton; John Troutman, pastor of Eldad Baptist Church, Trenton; Michael, pastor, Roellen Church, Dyersburg; Lanny Abner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Newbern; Williams, Beech Grove Baptist Church, Halls; Jerry Foster, Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville; Mike Hopper, Holly Grove Baptist Church, Bells; John Hayes, Brownsville Baptist Church; Pratt, Jerry Alford, Greg Jones, and Janice Wheeler from First Church, Kenton. □ — from an article supplied by Charles Pratt