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Baptist & Reflector

wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 169/No. 34; Sept. 17, 2003

## sue highlights saster Relief

tist and Reflector

RENTWOOD — Ten-ee Baptist Disaster Relief lebrating 25 years of min- and the *Baptist and Re-or* is helping them cele-e with this special com-orative issue, according itor Lonnie Wilkey.

Tennessee Baptists have ministering to and meet-he needs of people affect-disasters for 25 years," ey said.

The *B&R* has been telling stories since the begin- and we are pleased that uld be involved with the versary celebration with pecial issue.

e hope this will be an is-eople will want to keep reference in years to " he added. ❑

## recommends uced budget 2003-04

nie Wilkey
and Reflector

ENTWOOD — The Execu-oard of the Tennessee t Convention, recognizing receipts this year are be-pectations, adopted a re-budget for 2003-04 after erable debate.

proposed budget of 0,000 presented to the tive Board during their 9 meeting was a 5.4 per-eduction from the current of $37,191,907. The rec-nded budget must be ap-l by TBC messengers at nual meeting Nov. 11-12 est Jackson Baptist h, Jackson.

ed on receipts thus far, ions are that receipts will pproximately $34,000,000 e year, leaving a budget of more than $3 million.

nes Viar, a member of Baptist Church, Cookeville, airman of the Budget and am Committee, said the ttee had to base its recom-tion on "hard dollars."

r said the committee un-od that the budget had to to be brought in line with ts. "Changes aren't easy. aren't fun," he acknowl-

Board, page 17

# Tennessee Disaster Relief is 25 years old

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

***STATE DISASTER RELIEF** leaders stand with former leaders. From left are Tim Bearden, leader, Missions Mobilization Group, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Lloyd Blackwell, Disaster Relief coordinator; and Archie King and Cameron Byler, retired directors of the TBC Brotherhood Department.*

BRENTWOOD—For a quarter of a century, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have been serving hot meals to people driven from their homes by tornados, hurricanes, floods, and terrorist attacks.

They have cleared fallen trees from yards and driveways at no cost, prompting questions about why they would do such a thing when others were charging exorbitant fees.

They have swept mud from flooded houses, cleared dust from New York City apartments, and rebuilt homes, churches, and businesses.

They have provided temporary emergency child care.

They have offered listening ears, hugs, and a Christian witness.

Tim Bearden, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Missions Mobilization Group, and Lloyd Blackwell, Disaster Relief coordinator, believe the 25th anniversary of Disaster Relief ministry is an occasion to celebrate.

"We want to take this opportunity to recognize what these volunteers have done through the years and to recognize the ministry," Bearden said. "If it weren't for the volunteers, there would be no Disaster Relief work in Tennessee."

Added Blackwell: "It is one of the major touch points of Tennessee Baptists in local communities. Through Disaster Relief ministry people are introduced not only to Baptists but to Christ."

Blackwell said this commemorative issue of the *Baptist & Reflector* is part of the 25th anniversary celebration, along with the official event to be held Saturday, Sept. 27, at Gladeville Baptist Church (see article below).

When TBC Brotherhood Director Archie King launched Disaster Relief ministry in 1978, he had one vehicle and enlisted teams from across the state to work with him.

Gradually, some associations began ministries and purchased equipment.

Today, Blackwell said 10 associations have feeding units and about 30 associations have cleanup and recovery teams. Some churches also have teams and more responses are taking place locally.

"We say every response is a local response," Blackwell said.

However, all church and association units work through Blackwell who coordinates responses in the state, works with the North American Mission Board on responses outside Tennessee, and with the International Mission Board on responses outside the U.S.

As evidence of the growth of the ministry, King, the first coordinator, led responses to 20 disasters in his 11-year tenure, 1978-89.

Cameron Byler succeeded King and directed responses to 18 disasters in six years, 1989-95. Bearden then coordinated responses to 49 disasters in seven years, 1995-2002.

Since assuming leadership in December 2002, Blackwell already has led responses to seven disasters, including the May 2003 storms which dam-

— See Tennessee, page 2

# DR anniversary will be celebrated Sept. 27

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The 25th anniversary celebration of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief ministry will be held 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Gladeville Baptist Church.

Lloyd Blackwell, Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief coordinator, said workers with Disaster Relief units from across the state are being invited to set up their units on the church parking lots. Displays about Disaster Relief also will be available.

Registration will open at 9 a.m. and the exhibit area will be open, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

A concert by Nashville recording artists, "No Other Name," will be held at 11:30 with lunch served from the Disaster Relief kitchen, 12 noon-1:30 p.m.

The 25th anniversary celebration will take place at 1:30 p.m. and will feature several guest speakers including Mickey Caison, North American Mission Board adult volunteer mobilization manager, and James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

PORCH

Registrations may be made by calling Blackwell at (615) 371-7927 or by emailing Erin Israel at eisrael@tnbaptist.org. Registration at the event will be $15.

Blackwell said anyone who has been involved in Disaster Relief or who would like to know more about it is invited to the celebration.

Following are directions to Gladeville Baptist Church.

From East Tennessee: Take I-40 West. Just past Lebanon, merge onto TN-840 West via exit 235 toward Murfreesboro and follow for 6.8 miles. Exit onto Stewarts Ferry Pike (Exit 70). Turn right onto Stewarts Ferry Pike and follow for 4/10 of a mile to intersection of Gladeville Road and Stewarts Ferry. The church is on the left just past the stop sign.

From Nashville: From Nashville, follow I-40 East toward Knoxville. Merge onto TN-840 West via exit 235 toward Murfreesboro for 6.8 miles and exit onto Stewarts Ferry Pike (Exit 70). Turn right onto Stewarts Ferry Pike and follow for 4/10 of a mile to Gladeville Road and Stewarts Ferry. The church is just past the stop sign on the left.

From I-24 at Murfreesboro: Take TN-840 East toward Knoxville. Exit onto Stewarts Ferry Pike (Exit 70). Turn left onto Stewarts Ferry Pike and follow for 5/10 of a mile to the intersection of Gladeville Road and Stewarts Ferry. The church is just past the stop sign on the left.

The phone number of the church is (615) 444-9550. ❑

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**Web Site** — www.tnbaptist.org

**Publisher** – Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

**Convention Communications Committee** —
Marty Comer, chairman; Mark Gregory, vice chairman; Mickey Basham, Orvind Dangeau, Mary Beth Duke, Jack Hilliard, Pat Hood, Jay McCluskey, Bob Osburn, Larry Parrott, Carlos Peterson, Vern Powers, Glenda Roach, Joseph Sorah

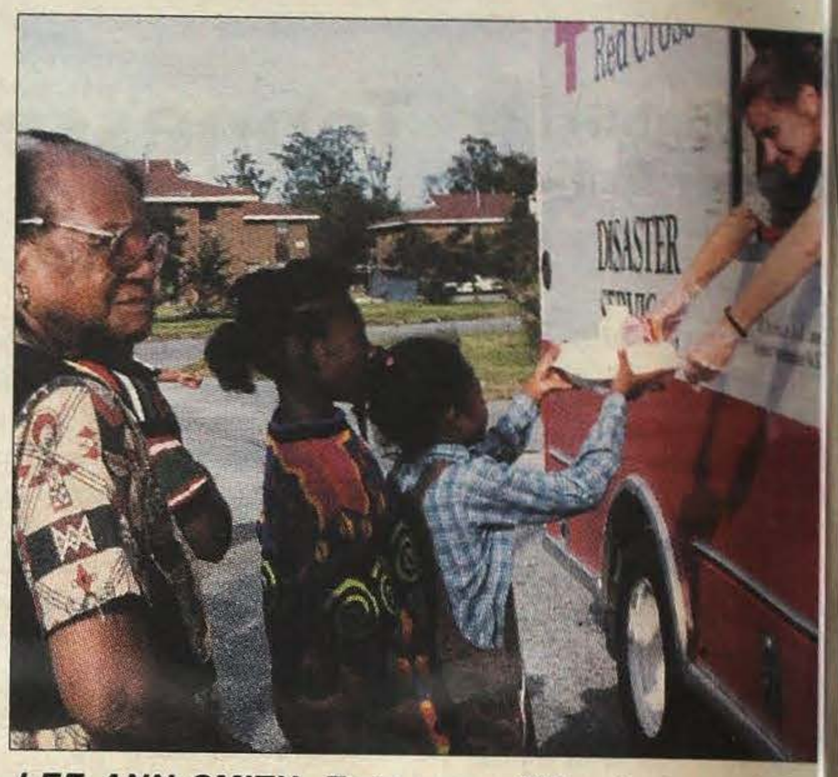
**Postmaster** —
Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

**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

***ANN PEOPLES*** *of First Baptist Church, South Pittsburg, hands a meal to a victim of October 1999 flooding in Kinston, N.C.*

***TENNESSEE DISASTER*** *Relief workers in Jackson after the January 1999 tornado are, from left, Conroy Ryan of Madison-Chester and Crockett Baptist Associations; Gene Williams of the TBC staff; Mike Stricklin of Hopewell Baptist Church, Savannah; and John Cole of First Baptist Church, Huntingdon.*



***LEE ANN SMITH,*** *Tennessee DR volunteer of Ce Baptist Church, Crossville, hands a meal to a child in ston, N.C., after Hurricane Floyd caused severe floodi October 1999.*

***ALTHOUGH IT IS*** *after dark, state Disaster Relief volunte serve meals to hungry victims during a disaster.*

# Tennessee Disaster Relief is 25 years old ...

— Continued from page 1

aged 12 counties and involved 450 volunteers, all from within Tennessee.

While Tennessee Disaster Relief ministry began with a feeding unit, it quickly expanded to other services. During Tennessee's first out-of-state response after Hurricane Frederic in Alabama in 1979, volunteers not only fed victims but brought chain saws to clean up downed trees. Mud out after floods also became a service along with rebuilding efforts.

Child care workers were enlisted as volunteers and a trailer of equipment put together to provide temporary emergency child care at disaster sites. The first international rebuilding response took place November 1998-December 1999 as volunteers traveled to St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Along the way, a shower unit was added and the ministry of crisis intervention was launched after 9/11.

"I think the future is going to become more local response-based with more people responding to the local disasters around them every day," Bearden said. "I think we'll be aware of more disasters.

"If we can help meet those needs and share Christ's love with the victims, I think we will have been a part of God's bigger purpose of extending the kingdom," Bearden added.

Coordinating disaster responses and training efforts will continue to be a state convention role, Bearden and Blackwell noted.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Centers in New York, they said interest in Disaster Relief ministry escalated dramatically. Today, the number of trained volunteers in Tennessee has doubled to 2,000.

"People wanted to do something after 9/11," Bearden said. "Not only was our country attacked, but people saw themselves as attacked personally, and they wanted to do so thing about it. We said, 'We use you, but you have t trained.'"

Bearden and Blackwell phasized the importance of Golden Offering for Tenne Missions in providing fund including $20,000 for the vehicle — to carry out Disa Relief ministry.

Bearden paid tribute to *Baptist and Reflector* as primary message piece for ting people know what T nessee Baptists have don Disaster Relief minis They've been our friend, supporter. They have told story for us." ❑

# ...r 25 years Tennesseans have responded well to crises

...ections

...onnie Wilkey, editor

... yellow caps and jackets ...ted with Tennessee Bap... ...aster Relief have become ...liar and welcome sight ... crisis happens. ...never a disaster strikes, ...ver it may be, rest as... ...olunteers attired in that ...iss yellow color will be ...roviding meals, cleanup ...ons, childcare, or what... ...e need may be.

... issue of the *B&R* spot... ...he 25th anniversary of ...see Baptist Disaster ...nd provides a glimpse ... past as well as a look ... present and a glimpse into the future.

For 25 years Tennessee Baptists have rallied around Disaster Relief. Volunteers have stepped forward when called. We have sent Tennessee Baptists literally all over the world, not for their personal glory, but to bring glory and honor to the One in whose name they minister — Jesus Christ.

Volunteers go to meet physical needs, but over the years many volunteers have returned to tell story after story of how they were able to share the good news of Jesus Christ with someone who did not know Him simply because they were there ministering in His name.

Only God knows how many lives have been impacted because of the efforts of Tennessee Baptists through Disaster Relief.

My first major involvement with Disaster Relief came in the fall of 1989 after Hurricane Hugo struck the coast of South Carolina near Charleston.

Tennessee Baptists were quick to arrive on the scene as they set up operations at Providence Baptist Church in the small community of Moncks Corner, about 45 minutes or so from Charleston.

The damage was so extensive that Tennessee Baptists worked in South Carolina for months. I went to Moncks Corner on Thanksgiving weekend, almost two months after the hurricane hit the area. Tennessee Baptists were on hand, repairing homes and churches and even rebuilding new homes.

I recall meeting Dave Tracy, a deacon at Providence Baptist Church. Here is what I wrote in the issue following my trip.

"Though he vowed not to, Dave Tracy wept. A big man, Tracy could not hold back the tears as he recalled the events following Hurricane Hugo which struck the coast of South Carolina and surrounding areas in late September.

"On the 21st day of September, God showed Dave Tracy His power.

"After that display of power came God's grace, His love, and His mercy in the form of Tennessee Baptists," Tracy said.

What a powerful statement. God indeed used Tennessee Baptists as His instruments of love and mercy and grace to those South Carolinians whose lives had been devastated.

That same statement could apply to hundreds upon hundreds of other situations that have developed over the past 25 years as Tennessee Baptists have responded to needs.

All Tennessee Baptists have reason to be proud of what has been accomplished in the name of Christ through Disaster Relief during the past 25 years. And because we give through the Cooperative Program and to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Baptists, everyone has a part in the ministry of Disaster Relief.

We cannot rest on our laurels. Until Jesus returns, disasters will continue to plague us and Tennessee Baptists must be ready to respond.

Continue to pray for our Disaster Relief staff and volunteers. Become a trained volunteer yourself. Pray and give generously through the Cooperative Program and our Golden Offering so we will be ready to respond and show God's love and hope to those who desperately need it when tragedy strikes. ❐

# ...e leaders receive their power and authority from God

...ing ...st ...wn

... Bill Northcott

...ding to Leighton Ford, ...e associate of Billy ..., "True leadership ...o receive power from ... to use it under God's ...erve people in God's ...hat is a solid defini...

... are a couple of things ...is definition that grab ... it emphasizes that the leader's power comes from God. True power (authority) does not come because of credentials, experience, genius, position, or programs. These may be helpful, but they are not the sources of the power. Neither is it something the minister must/can generate. We are not supermen! Recognizing where the power comes from is really quite liberating.

Of course, in order to receive the power, we must be close to the power source. When we do not have God's power, we have to create our own. That leads quickly to overload and burnout, not to mention the decrease in our effectiveness.

In the second place, Ford's definition underscores the sovereignty of God. "God's rule" is the phrase Ford uses. He is talking about God's kingdom-will, and I think it is interesting that he connects that with "serving people in God's way." Don't miss this. We do not run the church the way General Motors is run.

What is the difference? The difference is the "bottom line!" G.M. is concerned with making money.

The church is concerned with making disciples. I am encouraged that congregational leaders across the country are finally placing the emphasis where it needs to be — church health. This, in my opinion, brings balance to the mission mandate of our Lord, as well as adding integrity to the church's purpose. It is not enough to bring them in; we must have a strategy for maturing them in their relationship with Christ and His bride.

Finally, I like Ford's emphasis on the leader as servant. Most of us have known people, in whose lives there is a remarkable absence of the Spirit, who aspire to leadership positions or worse demand a following based upon position. I think it is biblically accurate to say that the Spirit-filled leader will be like Christ.

Our Lord declared both by His preaching and His passion that He came to give His life in sacrifice and service.

Obviously, His person and passion are unique; after all, Jesus was the uniquely begotten Son of God. However, we, too, must embrace and incarnate His Spirit of servanthood.

As leaders, we must serve people not "my" way or Maxwell's or Barna's or Warren's or LifeWay's or Tennessee Baptist Convention's way, but in God's way. That does not mean these people and organizations can't help us, but it does mean that our center will be in Christ who has revealed the will of the Father. It is at that address that we find our focus, power, and fulfillment. ❐

— Northcott is leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board's Leadership Development Group.

# ...nvention's trustee selection process is open and fair to all

...t ...nnist

... Joseph Rosas III

... recently reminded of a ...t I made at last year's ... meeting of the Ten... ...Baptist Convention. I ...against changing the ...ee on Committees and ...ee on Boards selection ... by giving the conven... ...ident appointive pow...

... ommittee on Commit... ...inates the Committee ...ls and vice versa. But ... engers elect these com... And messengers have ...had the right to make ...ions by amending the ...f either committee by a ... ajority.

...is is an option rarely ..., and for good reason. ... a process that is open ...o all.

The reports of the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees were published in the Aug. 27 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector,* a full 90 days before the TBC annual meeting. This allows all potential messengers to be fully informed well in advance of the convention. Any questions or concerns can be raised, fully investigated, and, hopefully, resolved.

These two committees have consistently sought recommendations from all Tennessee Baptists. Mail outs, articles in the *Baptist and Reflector,* and the convention's web site have encouraged broad participation in an open and fair process.

Committee members work with the names received. Prayerful reflection, fact-finding, and deliberation are time consuming but essential. Geography, lay and clergy ratios, gender, varying size and type of churches all become part of a procedurally required delicate balance. Like others, I have nominated people who were not asked to serve. But I am convinced we have an open and fair process.

Our institutions use a modified version of this process. These trustees are nominated based upon the needs of the institution. Recommendation of the leadership of the institutions and from any other Tennessee Baptist will be considered. Our bylaws require mutual agreement between institutional leadership and the Committee on Boards before potential trustees can be elected by the convention. This is the process we have overwhelmingly approved.

Members of the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards are known across our TBC family. These are fellow ministers and lay leaders of our churches. They are brothers and sisters in Christ. They are friends. Most of those serving did not seek their positions. But when Tennessee Baptists asked, they were willing to serve.

Committee members have invested untold hours in carrying out their assigned tasks. They have earned the gratitude of Tennessee Baptists. At the very least, a recent mail out announcing plans for substituting names for the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards before these reports had even been released seems unwise and not in keeping with the best spirit of mutual respect.

Being Baptists, we have the right to challenge these nominations. Our bylaws request that persons who plan to amend these reports notify the appropriate committee at least 21 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting.

This basic courtesy allows the committees to have time to notify the affected nominee and/or institutions. Any potential replacements should be screened by the same process required of all nominees. Any changes or clarifications could then be published on the first day of the annual meeting. Of course, a messenger may move to amend the report without prior notification. But, generally speaking, Tennessee Baptists have opted for courtesy and honored the bylaw request.

I am grateful that the members of the Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards have done the hard work requested of them by Tennessee Baptists. We should diligently consider their recommendations, be Christ-like in any disagreement, and, above all, seek to be open and fair with one another. This is what our process is intended to be and this is what we should seek to be.

Nearly half of our state is without Christ. Many more are unchurched. In Nashville alone we have more than 96 language and ethnic people groups. God has brought the world to us and the field is ripe for harvest.

Let's put aside pettiness, pray for the Spirit's power, and be God's kingdom people! ❐

— Rosas is pastor of Crievewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

# Don Byrd, Curtis Fowler each volunteer for 25 years

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

KNOXVILLE — When Archie King began looking for volunteers from East Tennessee as part of launching Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief ministry in 1978, Don Byrd and Curtis Fowler were two of his first recruits.

Both have been helping people rebuild their lives ever since.

Byrd said he was attracted to Disaster Relief because of his own poor childhood as one of eight sons. He remembers a group of men knocking on his family's door one Christmas when his parents couldn't afford gifts or even buy food for a special meal. They came from the church his parents attended, bringing food and presents.

"I guess ever since I've felt it was payback time," Byrd said.

Fowler said he gains great satisfaction in "assisting people" in the crisis times of their lives.

He and Byrd, members of West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, increased their involvement in Disaster Relief when they retired more than 17 years ago.

"We asked the Lord to provide us something to do," Fowler said.

In addition to working disasters, Byrd has been involved with World Changers and other mission and ministry projects.

He said the volunteers he has worked with over 25 years have become his friends as well as Christian brothers and sisters. They share a bond that cannot be broken.

Byrd said he has seen evidence of God's direction in countless ways through ministry.

He recalled going to Slidell, La., after Hurricane Juan in 1985. Before the team left Tennessee, they were given a supply of pillows and blankets to give to victims.

"We couldn't seem to find anyone who needed them," Byrd said.

But coordinator Archie King told the team if someone had donated the items, there must be a need. He called the group to prayer.

***PREPARING** a meal for participants of a 1997 National Disaster Relief Roundtable in Nashville are Don Byrd, center, of Knoxville, Charles Manley of Bolivar, and Joyce Curington of Mascot.*

***CURTIS FOWLER,** right, of Knoxville, and long-time Disaster Relief volunteer Ed Sim[illegible] Trezevant discuss relief efforts to flood vi[illegible] Madisonville, Ky., in 1997.*

At the conclusion of the prayer time, a worker said he had thought of somewhere the bedding might be used.

"We went to that location and we had just enough blankets to meet the need and we had one pillow left," Byrd said.

Fowler said one of the most challenging disasters in his service was Hurricane Hugo in 1989. That also was the first time he stepped into the coordinator role when Cameron Byler, state coordinator, had to return to Tennessee to fulfill other responsibilities. After the initial disaster response, Fowler went back to South Carolina to help with clean up and recovery.

Three years later, when H[illegible] Andrew hit south Florida, Fov[illegible] he spent more than eight week[illegible] Richmond City feeding site.

He called 9/11 a "terrible th[illegible] happened" and noted it was t[illegible] man-made disaster I've worke[illegible] could see and smell the smoke."

Fowler and Byrd have no pla[illegible] tire from Disaster Relief ministr[illegible]

"As long as I'm able to go, I'm[illegible] go," Fowler said.

To anyone considering Disast[illegible] ministry, Byrd advises, "If y[illegible] something fulfilling, it's the be[illegible] Southern Baptists have." ❑

# DR: lives touched in Jesus' name

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

MURFREESBORO — It is the stories of changed lives that Archie King remembers about the formative years of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief. And, in the telling, tears still come to his eyes as he recalls the needs and the gratitude of the people.

***Trenton, Tenn., Sept. 1982***

The Disaster Relief unit arrived in Trenton after 13 inches of rain had fallen, flooding 30 percent of the town.

King recalled a young man coming to the site to eat and asking for two plates of food to take to his grandparents.

In the course of a brief conversation, the young man "told of his grandmother's sadness because her Bible had been destroyed," King said. "It was here that I gave out the first Bible that had been given to us. The young man came back and told me of his grandmother's rejoicing."

***Maxton, N.C., March 1984***

After a tornado wreaked havoc in North Carolina, the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief unit was assigned to an American Indian community, Johns Station, near Maxton. King and the volunteers set up the feeding unit near a small Baptist church that had been damaged too badly to be used.

L. Gale Lyon, field leader of the relief operation and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, was quoted in the *Baptist and Reflector* about his impression of Tennessee Baptists' service in Johns Station.

"I do not think I have ever worked on the disaster team at a place where I have really felt God's presence working in the lives of the people as I have here. ... People were afraid they were going to take too much. They had been hurt by the things that had been taken from them and were afraid to take things away from others. We had to tell many of them that we had enough for everybody," Lyon said.

***Pikeville, Ky., May 1984***

Floods in Kentucky had washed out more than 20 bridges, making it difficult for Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers to even get to their assigned site. They had just begun serving meals when a man walked up with three children, asking if food were available for his children.

KING

"I'm not asking for myself, if you'll just feed my children," Archie King recalled the man saying.

"He wouldn't eat. We fed his children."

Later in the day, a man pulled up in a car, got out, and approached the van holding out a few coins.

"This is all I've got. How much food could I get for this?" the man asked a volunteer.

The volunteer told the man the food was free and urged him to bring his wife and children from the car for a hot meal.

"They can't get out," the man responded. He then told how quickly the flood waters had poured down on his trailer the previous night. The family had run for their lives in their night clothes to their car which was parked on higher ground.

The volunteers carried meals to the car and later delivered clothes for every member of the family.

***Slidell, La., October 1985***

In the aftermath of Hurricane Juan and the associated flooding on the Louisiana Coast, Tennessee Baptists were assigned to the city of Slidell.

Joe Nave, a member of Haywood Hills Baptist Church in Nashville, was working his first disaster. He was quoted in news coverage by the *Baptist and Reflector*.

"I helped carry food to a couple this morning whose house was built on stilts over the bayou," Nave said. "When the water rose, they lost everything they owned on the first floor. We walked through mud three inches deep in their living room to get to the stairs to the second floor where they are living. We carried them a Bible and some hot food and the woman was so grateful she was crying when we left." ❑

# Archie King extends thar[illegible]s

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Before he was interviewed for this [illegible]cial anniversary issue, Archie King, the Tennessee Baptist C[illegible]en-tion Brotherhood director who launched Disaster Relief [illegible]the state in 1978, wrote the following expression of gratitude.

***Thanks!***

➤ To **WMU** for the provision of $20,000 from the [illegible]en Mission Offering for our first unit and for $4,000 to st[illegible]e-curing supplies.

➤ To the ***Baptist and Reflector*** for keeping our [illegible]ole informed about the service that was being rendered.

➤ To the **spouses and secretaries** who worked [illegible]he background to support those who worked on site.

➤ To the **hundreds who were trained and will[illegible]nto serve.** This number of Good Samaritans reached fro[illegible]the Mississippi River to the mountains of East Tennessee.

➤ To the many **churches and businesses** who gav[illegible]een-erously to support the need.

➤ Special thanks to **Dr. Ralph Norton,** then exe[illegible] secretary, and **Dr. Tom Madden**, convention ministr[illegible] rector (and later executive secretary) for their encourag[illegible]ent and support from the beginning.

➤ My admiration goes out to **Cameron Byler, Tim[illegible]** den, and **Lloyd Blackwell** for the tremendous grow[illegible] program has experienced. The enlargement has been [illegible] my fondest dream.

➤ **We all give thanks to our wonderful Lord f[illegible] guidance, direction, and wisdom in decision m[illegible] throughout the years.**

*To God be the glory. Great things He has done.*

We are happy that we were able to feed the hung[illegible] meet other physical needs. But, most of all, we are th[illegible] for those who became followers of Jesus Christ and tho[illegible] rededicated their lives to His service. ❑

# King launched state DR, met needs in Christ's name

Linda Lawson
ptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD—When hie King thinks about the ster Relief ministry of Tenee Baptists, he doesn't think about feeding units, short e radios, or other equipment. He recalls stories of the needs eople being met during a crime in their lives by compasate Christians offering a cup old water in Jesus' name.

King was serving as pastor of theast Baptist Church in freesboro in 1977 when Tenee Baptist Convention Exece Director Ralph Norton ind him to join the TBC staff Brotherhood director, workwith men across the state.

ing told Norton he probably n't the right man for the job. e were to lead Tennessee ist men, King said he would to build on the foundation ission education to involve in hands-on ministry.

e recalls Norton responding, t's the reason we want to ou."

ng headed Brotherhood in Tennessee for the next ars, launching Tennessee st Disaster Relief and ing hundreds of volunteers ghout the state. They d in 20 disasters in Tene and other states.

ng believes the Lord en- him to see, even as a boy, the importance of g others during times of le. When he was in first King said the home his had built for the family to the ground.

remember how people re- ed in helping us," he said.

g had barely moved into BC office when he received er inviting him to attend a ence on Disaster Relief at ta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. It was to be led by Dixon and Laddie Adams headed established mins in the Baptist General ention of Texas and the st General Convention of oma. The Louisiana and ssippi Baptist Conventions ust started Disaster Relief tries.

rton and Tom Madden, convention ministries direcncouraged King to attend the conference with the idea of starting something in Tennessee.

Returning from the conference, King knew a large vehicle would be needed to launch a ministry. "We found a unit (31-foot motor home) that we could buy for $20,000, but we didn't have any money at the time," King said.

Woman's Missionary Union stepped in and allocated funds from the 1977 Golden Mission Offering — $20,000 for the unit and $4,000 to start an operating budget.

"That was really the launching pad," King said.

However, before the van could be readied for ministry, a disaster occurred.

### *Explosion in Waverly*

At 2:59 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24, 1978, an L&N Railroad propane gas tank exploded in Waverly, killing 12 and hospitalizing 40.

Maurice Coleman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Waverly, told King one of the biggest expenses in the aftermath of the tragedy would be in helping burn victims with transportation to and from hospitals and doctors' appointments.

King and the late Al Shackleford, editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*, traveled to Waverly to deliver to Coleman a check to help victims of the explosion.

In a letter published in a March edition of the *B&R*, Coleman wrote: "Being a part of the fellowship of Tennessee Baptists was a lifeline of support in crisis. The *Baptist and Reflector* and Missions and Brotherhood departments had representatives here on the scene immediately. Other departments called to express their concern. These were messengers of God embodying the living hope which is in Christ."

### *Flood in Lavergne*

In May 1979, King received a call from Carl Scarlett, pastor of Miracle Baptist Church in Lavergne, reporting that 14 families had been flooded out of their homes and asking for help.

King quickly rounded up a team of volunteers to take the Disaster Relief unit on its maiden excursion.

"We fed about 60 people, from the homeowners to the friends who had come to work," he said.

King quickly saw that the presence of the TBC Disaster Relief ministry attracted volunteers and offers of help. Elaine Morris, a member of First Baptist Church, Smyrna, and the mail carrier on the route that was flooded, volunteered to help cook and serve families who came to the van for meals.

"I know so many of these families. I just wanted to come," she told a *B&R* reporter covering the disaster.

### *Hurricane in Alabama*

Hurricane Frederic struck the Alabama coast in September 1979 and the Tennessee Disaster Relief team hurried to its first out-of-state disaster.

In addition to feeding, more than 60 team members were ready with chain saws to clear trees from driveways. Already people seeking to make money from the tragedy of others had shown up offering to do the job for fees ranging from $1,000 to $1,500 per tree.

"When our volunteers went out and offered to do it for nothing, people wanted to know why. The volunteers would tell them the story of the Good Samaritan and tell them about Jesus," King said.

### *Floods in Missouri*

In December 1982, floods hit eastern Missouri, from below St. Louis south to Cape Girardeau.

King and the Disaster Relief team had just begun to set up on the parking lot of a funeral home in Ste. Genevieve when he was told someone from a radio station wanted to interview him.

In the course of the interview, the man asked King if he knew that Ste. Genevieve was about 90 percent Catholic. King acknowledged he hadn't known.

"Would you have come if you had known that?" the radio personality asked.

"Why, yes," King replied. "We're just here in the Lord's name, trying to do what He said to do."

The man then asked King if his team had any needs the community might meet. King said they were almost out of the individually packaged cakes they had brought to provide as dessert with the meals they were serving. He requested that if anyone wanted to bring desserts to their site, they would be glad to serve them.

"We started having pies and cakes brought," King recalled. We covered the counters and the couches of the van. Pies and cakes were everywhere. I called the man back and said, 'You're going to have to tell the people we've had such a response that our needs have been met for some time."

### *Growth of Disaster Relief*

With the publicity of each disaster, interest increased in relief ministry and soon trained teams had been established throughout the state.

When a disaster struck, "I tried to be ready to leave this building in six hours after I got the call," King said. When workers headed for a disaster, they carried with them enough food for at least 5,000 meals.

"There were some teams I could call and they would never say no. In fact, they kept bags packed," he said.

Eventually, an antenna was installed on the roof of the TBC building to maintain radio contact with the teams. Several radio operators became volunteers and would arrive at disaster sites as soon as possible to direct other teams to their location.

King said one of the most significant developments for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief occurred in September 1986 when a working agreement between Southern Baptists and the American Red Cross was signed. It spelled out how the two groups would work together and included the provision that the Red Cross would provide the food that Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units would cook.

Before the agreement, "we had to shuffle for ourselves to get food. We just used whatever we had. It happened that it was always adequate."

Every night at a disaster site, King convened a debriefing meeting "to learn where there were pockets of needs we hadn't touched. We had reports about witnessing opportunities that had occurred and what happened and we had a devotional together."

King saw the ministry grow dramatically, but he described its status when he retired in 1989 as "the early stages of elementary school" compared to the present which he said is "more in the senior area of college."

After his retirement, King helped his successor, Cameron Byler, with the response to Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina and helped train volunteers. He also assisted Concord Baptist Association near his Murfreesboro home to establish a Disaster Relief ministry and acquire equipment.

When asked how he felt about his role in establishing Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, King responded with one word, "Grateful." He went on to specify his gratitude in seeing "how many people have been fed that were hungry and who have had their lives turned around."

In 2003, King was honored by the North American Mission Board for his leadership in Disaster Relief as the third recipient of the Bob Dixon Award. ❑

**RALPH NORTON,** *TBC executive director, takes the wheel of the 31-foot motor home purchased in 1978 for Disaster Relief ministry.*

***TBC LEADERS** stand in front of the first vehicle, a 31-foot motor home, purchased in early 1978 for the new statewide Disaster Relief ministry. Pictured are, from left, Archie King, Brotherhood director and head of the new ministry; Ralph Norton, executive director; and Tom Madden, convention ministries director.*

**NESSEE DISASTER** *Relief volunteers prepare meals for victims of flooding in the Hermann, area in 1986 after 72 levees broke.*

**ARCHIE KING**, *left, TBC Disaster Relief director from 1977-89, has served with Concord Baptist Association Disaster Relief unit since his retirement. He and three other volunteers prepare to serve a meal at a World Missions Conference.*

# Curingtons help children through DR

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

KNOXVILLE — After Hurricane Floyd hit Kinston, N.C., in September 1999, Joyce and Bill Curington learned a lesson that broadened their understanding of the importance of Disaster Relief ministry.

The lesson — the needs of children can easily be overlooked — is depicted in a photo of Joyce hugging a nine-year-old girl.

A woman came to the Tennessee Baptist feeding site one day with a bag of stuffed animals she had carefully cleaned up and asked if Disaster Relief volunteers could use them. Not sure exactly how the animals might be distributed, the volunteers accepted the bag.

Later in the day, a mother and her daughter came to the site for a meal. The child was crying and volunteers learned the family had lost all their possessions in the flood, including the child's favorite stuffed animal.

Joyce Curington reached into the bag brought earlier and handed the child a stuffed animal. The girl squealed with delight and hugged Joyce as the volunteers learned the animal resembled the one she had lost.

Today, when the Curingtons depart for a disaster, they carry not only a suitcase of clothing, but also a bag of toys for the children.

Bill Curington's first experience in Disaster Relief ministry was Hurricane Andrew in August 1992. He got a cast off a broken foot one day and headed to Florida the next.

Since then the Curingtons — members of Roseberry Baptist Church, Mascot — have served in many disasters and construction projects. They don't mind the hard work.

"You work hard on all of them, but it's not work," Bill Curington said. "I've gone to bed worn out and gotten up rejuvenated and ready to go. I know the Lord takes care of us." ❑

***A NINE-YEAR-OLD** flood victim's tears turn to smiles and a hug for Joyce Curington who gave her a stuffed animal resembling one lost in the flood.*

***BILL AND JOYCE** Curington of Roseberry Baptist Church, Mascot, pause during their work in Kinston, N.C., in 1999.*

# Lyles keep a bag pack

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

JOHNSON CITY — Long-time Disaster Relief vol Keith and Vivian Lyle keep a bag packed to be ready on short notice for ministry after a disaster.

Keith retired from the Johnson City school system "he wanted to do some work for the Lord," Vivian sa first disaster was Hurricane Andrew in August 1992.

Vivian, a school nurse, retired in 1994, but wasn't su aster Relief ministry was for her.

"Keith would come home so excited," she recalled. like the Lord was leading me in that area, though I want to leave the comforts of home."

Allowing God's leadership to overcome her person cerns, Vivian elected training with the feeding unit so Keith could work together. Keith serves as a lead coo first trip was also her first time to fly. They traveled to aster Relief mission project in Arizona where voluntee thousands of campers spending the winter in the war the desert.

"I felt really blessed," Vivian said. "The people you with have such a closeness to the Lord. I got hooked."

Since then, the Lyles have spent 10 days in Nashvill the February 1998 tornado and 15 days in Kinston, N.C. Hurricane Floyd in September 1999. They also worked a fire hall feeding recovery workers in West Virgini worked 11 days in New York City after 9/11.

From their experiences in Disaster Relief, the Lyle seen first hand how God always provides.

"We know wherever the Lord leads He provides for us.

"It's really a rewarding work. We feel that anything we can do to further the Kingdom, we want to do," Vivian said. ❑

***KEITH AND VIVIAN** Lyle are members of tral Baptist Church, Johnson City.*

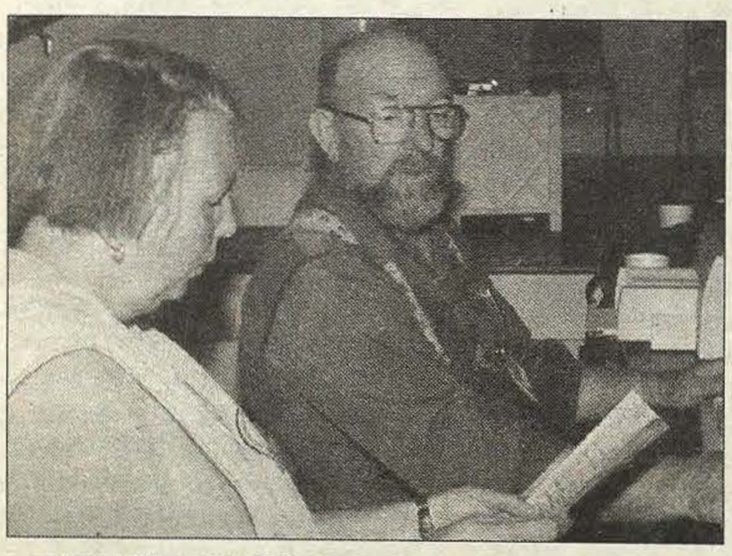
# Coles work full-time in ministry, missions

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

HUNTINGDON — When John Cole retired, he told the Lord he was going to get a part-time job and also work for Him part-time.

When a newspaper ad drew no response, Cole decided God wanted him full-time, and he's been working in Disaster Relief and mission projects ever since.

Cole's first disaster was the 1993 Midwest floods when the Tennessee unit worked at Cape Girardeau, Mo.



***JOHN AND VIRGINIA** Cole work on a computer inventory file in Kinston, N.C., in 1999.*

Nicknamed "McGyver" after a TV character because he can fix anything, Cole's main role in disasters is maintenance and trouble shooting. He and his wife, Virginia, also keep inventories of food and supplies by computer.

"We go everywhere together," Cole said.

Two disasters the Coles found most challenging took place in Louisiana where they were in charge of a warehouse for seven other kitchens and in Mechanicsburg, Penn., where the temperatures dropped as low as 13 degrees and they were cooking outside.

In West Virginia in 2002, Virginia Cole spent time consoling a woman whose house had been damaged in the floods. "Her daughter became a Christian because of the seed that had been planted," John Cole said.

This summer the Coles have traveled 9,000 miles and spent five weeks working in World Changers, a youth mission ministry where teenagers do construction projects.

While the Coles' RV caught on fire while parked in their yard this summer, that won't slow them down in service to the Lord.

"We just bought another RV yesterday so we can keep on going," John Cole said.

They are making plans to be in Gladeville for the 25th anniversary celebration of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief ministry.

However, "if a disaster happens, we won't be there," Cole said. ❑

# Volunteers serve God through

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

ANGLETON, Texas — Longtime Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers Elberta and Ray Roberts described long days in serving the Lord as they worked in the Tennessee unit stationed at Angleton, Texas, after 1994 flooding in south Texas.

"On these trips, I never quite know what day it is," said Mrs. Roberts, a retiree. "Christ lived for othe know this is an opportu do the same."

Volunteer Ed Simp McLemoresville B Church, McLemoresvill ed, "Anyone who can mop or broom, or wh wash pots and pans this. This is a way I ca of my time."

As of November 1994 son said he had "given to the Lord this year" was ready to give more.

# About 200 volunteers help after 1991 tornados

*Baptist and Reflector*

MCNAIRY COUNTY — About 200 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers responded after March 22, 1991, tornados killed three and injured 73 in McNairy, Benton, and Lewis counties, according to the *Baptist and Reflector*.

In McNairy County, the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief unit served meals at the Tri-Counties Community Center in Adamsville while the Hardeman County Association Disaster Relief Unit stationed itself on Hwy. 45 in Selmer.

Cameron Byler, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief coordinator, said, "There was beautiful cooperation out of the local community." The volunteers worked without electricity for five days and without telephone service for six days.

***BYLER***

Cleanup workers used their own equipment to help residents remove trees that had fallen on houses, install plastic sheeting over damaged areas of buildings, and haul debris, Byler said. ❑

# Deacon thanks Tennessee work

*Baptist and Reflector*

MACEDONIA, S.C. — "We've seen the power of God, and now we're seeing His grace and mercy right behind it," Dave Tracy, a deacon at Providence Baptist Church, Macedonia, S.C., told Baptist Press in September 1989 as Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers set up to minister after Hurricane Hugo.

"I've been aroun world several times an under it in a submarin I'm still amazed at wh seen happen here," sai cy, who had retired fro U.S. Navy.

"The people who cam from Tennessee hold a s place in my heart. I v the middle of someth didn't know how to h They taught me how to Tracy said. ❑

# 'ameron Byler builds state Disaster Relief ministry

inda Lawson
*ist and Reflector*

OLENSVILLE — As state
al Ambassadors director for
Baptist General Conven-
of Texas in the 1960s,
eron Byler was a key play-
the beginnings of Disaster
ef ministry among South-
Baptists.
exas Baptist Men were the
among Southern Baptists
spond to a disaster, Hurri-
Carla in 1964, and the
to have a mobile feeding

yler went on to work in
ster Relief in the Alaska
ist Convention and, in
became national coordi-
for Disaster Relief at the
ern Baptist Brotherhood
mission (SBC entity
d with the North Ameri-
ission Board). Four years
in 1989, he became the
d director of the Ten-
e Baptist Convention's
er Relief.
ne might view a move
national leadership to a
convention as a step
but Byler saw it as an
tunity to work more
with volunteers and en-
hands-on ministry.
ster Relief in Tennessee
ly 11 years old when
succeeded Archie King,
nding director.
chie had laid a good
tion in getting it start-
ting some budget, and
getting equipment," Byler said. "It was good equipment. Archie had done a good job of training across the state. I inherited a lot of good trained volunteers to come in and work with me who knew the equipment."

Byler believes Disaster Relief is "probably the greatest way Tennessee Baptists have of showing people they are cared for. We have a personal, hands-on type relationship when people most need help."

A veteran of 76 disasters throughout his career, Byler led Tennessee Baptists in responding to 18 during his six-year tenure.

### *Hurricane Hugo hits South Carolina*

Just a few months after becoming Disaster Relief director in Tennessee, Byler was faced with the biggest challenge in the state's ministry — Hurricane Hugo — which struck the South Carolina coast in September 1989.

Within 24 hours, the Tennessee Disaster Relief unit was on its way to Macedonia, S.C., outside of Charleston. They ministered from Providence Baptist Church.

"Someone has to help them with basic needs," Byler told the *Baptist and Reflector* shortly after the Tennessee unit arrived. "People are in such shock. They have lost everything they have."

Because of the scope of needs after Hurricane Hugo, Byler believes the Tennessee Disaster Relief moved to another level.

"It was a large disaster and created a demand on us. For the first time, I think, we put out over 100,000 meals in a disaster. Hugo really expanded the vision of Tennessee," Byler said.

"After we came back from Hugo, we were able to get more equipment to go out and meet a big disaster. Also after Hugo, we had a new awareness across the state for training. We began to get more volunteers trained. I would say during my ministry that we trained about a thousand volunteers," he added.

### *Hurricane Andrew strikes Gulf Coast*

After Hurricane Andrew had laid flat much of south Florida in August 1992, Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteer Curtis Fowler told a reporter in a cell phone interview, "We'll need everybody we can get."

Byler described the scene in another interview like this: "In this area, there's just total destruction of homes. It looks like it's been bombed out."

In size, length of stay, and volunteers involved, Hurricane Andrew was the biggest disaster Tennessee Baptist volunteers had faced.

Two numbers are ingrained in Byler's mind related to Hurricane Andrew. First, the state unit worked on site for 49 days with volunteer teams rotating in and out. Units from Hardeman County Baptist Association and Carroll-Benton Baptist Association also worked in south Florida. A total of 819,000 meals were served.

"That was the largest, I think, that any state had ever done in one disaster," Byler said.

The volunteers, located at Glendale Baptist Church in Richmond City, assisted with repair to the church facility in addition to serving meals. While many of the meals were taken to other locations for distribution, Byler estimated 3,000 people a day "walked through the serving line and picked up a plate."

"This was hands-on ministry," Byler said. "We were giving the people a smile and asking, 'How are you? Are you getting cleaned up? Are you getting the help you need?' We provided encouragement and often times had an opportunity to share the gospel with the people."

In addition to Florida, the Tennessee temporary emergency child care unit was assigned to Houma, La.

Byler called Hurricane Andrew the most taxing disaster in his career.

***CAMERON BYLER,*** *right, directed Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief efforts from 1989-95.*

### *Growth of ministry*

In addition to an increase in trained volunteers, Byler worked with associations to start Disaster Relief ministries.

When contacted by an association wanting to build a unit, Byler would respond, "Okay, we'll allow you to build a unit. You respond to your association first and allow us to call on you if we need you."

And they were needed.

In February 1994, for example, Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers were working in six locations in the aftermath of an earthquake in California and ice storms in Tennessee and Mississippi.

In another area, a need was realized for temporary emergency child care after disasters. With the help of the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, a child care trailer was built and filled with equipment to enable workers to move into a vacant building and set up a temporary child care center.

"The Red Cross liked to have child care at the service centers, because of people coming in and registering for help. We had Bible stories and videos and things like this for the children," Byler said.

Looking back on his career, Byler feels one of his strengths was building relationships.

As national Disaster Relief coordinator in 1986, he helped to forge a statement of understanding with the American Red Cross that spells out how Southern Baptists will work with the organization, an agreement that remains in force today.

After his retirement, Byler made three trips to Taiwan to work with Baptists, other religious groups, and the Taiwan government to forge a disaster plan that was first put into use after an earthquake. He was honored by the Taiwanese government for his efforts.

For his outstanding service in Disaster Relief ministry in three states and at the Southern Baptist Convention level, Byler in 2001 became the second recipient of the Bob Dixon Award for outstanding service. The first award recipient was Dixon, Byler's mentor and colleague from Texas Baptist Men. ❑

***R THE LEADERSHIP*** *of Cameron Byler, TBC Disaster Re-
ordinator, child care equipment and a trailer were pur-
to enable volunteers to provide emergency child care at
r sites.*

***TESTING THE*** *temperature of meat in Cape Girardeau, Mo., are DR volunteers, from left, Don Byrd of Knoxville; Jack Edmonds of Clinton; B.J. Neely of Camden, and Dwight Baldwin of Camden. Cape Girardeau suffered flooding in July 1993.*

***NESSEE BAPTIST*** *Disaster Relief volunteer grills meat to feed of Hurricane Andrew which struck south Florida in August 1992.*

# TBC, Red Cross partnership referred to as a 'gem

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

KNOXVILLE — "The Southern Baptist partnership with Red Cross is not only a gem in Tennessee but all across the country as well," said Patrick Fitzsimmons, director of services for the Knoxville Red Cross chapter which also coordinates Disaster Relief responses in the state.

"Baptists have developed a niche in Disaster Relief with their feeding units and they are an integral partner with us," Fitzsimmons said. "It's much better for us if a group comes to us with a service they can provide than if they ask, 'How can we help?' "

He noted that through a formal agreement between the American Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Convention the Red Cross provides food that Southern Baptists prepare and the Red Cross distributes.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief leaders partner with many groups in addition to the Red Cross. These include the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Tennessee Emergency Management Administration (TEMA), Volunteers and Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB), the Salvation Army, and the International Mission Board (IMB).

In addition to feeding, Fitzsimmons praised Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief personnel for being "flexible enough to do different things. When we have an unmet need after a disaster, the first ones we call are the Baptists."

He cited the willingness of Baptist volunteers to help with rebuilding projects. "It's a great benefit for us."

***VOAD***

In another partnership, VOAD serves as a liaison among organizations involved in Disaster Relief, including Tennessee Baptists, according to President Richard Ramey.

"During a disaster we are involved in what we call the four C's: coordinate, communicate, collaborate, and cooperate," Ramey said.

Also, VOAD holds quarterly meetings among participating groups where "we talk about what we need to do better and let other organizations know what's out there and what they do," he said.

Ramey described the quality of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief ministries as "very good. Their leaders and volunteers are highly professional."

***TEMA***

Bill Cooper, TEMA policy manager for disaster preparedness improvement, said the relationship between his organization and Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief is "more than a partnership. It's a family relationship. We could not do our job without the assistance of volunteers and groups such as Tennessee Baptists. They do things government cannot do."

***The Salvation Army***

The newest disaster relief partnership has been formed between NAMB and The Salvation Army. The Feb. 7, 2002, agreement recognizes the faith-based foundations and mission of the two organizations.

The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief first teamed with the Salvation Army to serve 10,000 hot dogs and drinks for a National Day of Prayer event in Chattanooga.

"This was a great way to meet one another and experience once again how valuable this partnership really is, not only to The Salvation Army, but to those we serve," said Chattanooga Salvation Army Area Commander, Maj. Stephen Justice.

Maj. Bette Jo McDonald, Salvation Army Divisional Secretary for Tennessee and Kentucky, said, "How incredible it is to have two teams who serve the same mission, sharing the love of Christ, by meeting needs in His name without discrimination. Together we share the hope found only in Christ to those who have experienced such a loss during a disaster."

***NAMB***

While Mickey Caison served as national Disaster Relief coordinator at NAMB until earlier this year, he learned the value of Disaster Relief ministry from Tennessee Baptists who were assigned to his church — Providence Baptist Church, Macedonia, S.C. — after Hurricane Hugo ravaged the town in 1989.

The Tennessee unit fed victims from his church parking lot for 14 days and sent volunteers for the next six months to help with clean up and rebuilding.

"After Hugo, we committed to build the first disaster unit in South Carolina because of our experience in its value through the work of th nessee unit," Caison said. He enl team of volunteers who were tra Tennessee under the leadership coordinator Cameron Byler.

Southern Baptist Disaster while coordinated at the na level for multi-state re es, is possible only wi volunteers and e ment of state co tions, Caison sai

As national c nator, Caison manager of adu unteer mobiliz regularly calle Tennessee u "When we've ne them, they've through."

***IMB***

In another partnership IMB works with NAMB in coord ing responses to disasters outsid United States, according to Jim B IMB director of world hunger and ministries.

"They offer an unparalleled p resource — people trained to go a whenever, wherever, however," B said.

For example, he said state Dis Relief ministries took the lead in moting this year's project to colle pound food boxes for delivery t people of Iraq.

"Tennessee is one of the top s for getting available people quick projects. They have their bags pa and their passports ready," B said. ❑

# Golden Offering funds Tennessee Disaster Relief

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

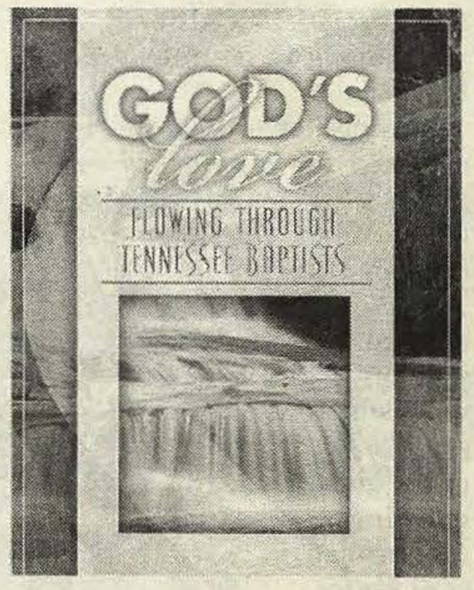
BRENTWOOD — In early 1978 when Tennessee Baptist Convention Brotherhood Director Archie King needed a large vehicle to launch Disaster Relief ministry, he turned to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

A total of $24,000 was provided — $20,000 to purchase a 31-foot motor home and $4,000 for operations.

For 25 years now, the annual state missions offering has provided funds to train Disaster Relief volunteers, maintain and upgrade equipment, and carry out special projects to meet needs of people whose lives have been devastated by disasters, according to Candy Phillips, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union which promotes the offering.

While Disaster Relief is only one of many causes receiving funding through the Golden Offering, Phillips believes its ministry impact throughout the world is significant.

Disaster Relief ministry "is immediate and it meets the needs of people in crisis when




they're most open to hearing the gospel," Phillips said. "There are so many folks who ask, 'Why are you doing this?' 'How much do I owe you for this?' or 'Can I pay you for this?' It's so nice to be able to say, 'No, Tennessee Baptists are doing this for you, because God loves you."

The goal for the 2003 offering is $1,620,000 and includes two allocations for Disaster Relief — $40,000 for communication, equipment maintenance and replacement, volunteer training, and special projects and $8,000 to make trained regional crisis intervention team leaders available to provide immediate, effective, and efficient response in a time of disaster.

Lloyd Blackwell, TBC Disaster Relief coordinator, said the Golden Offering makes Tennessee Disaster Relief ministry possible.

"That is the vast majority of our operating funds that go directly to responses, training, and equipment," he said.

Phillips said the Golden Offering, now in its 101st year, is named after the first executive director of Tennessee WMU.

"She had a vision that we should be supporting missions and ministry in Tennessee," Phillips said. "Because of her commitment and her connection to WMU, we've always been the main promoter of the Golden Offering. It's a real privilege and a huge responsibility."

At the beginning of each year, forms are submitted from Tennessee ministries requesting funds. A joint committee of WMU and TBC representatives interview everyone making requests in February. Decisions are then made about what will be included in that year's offering and a goal is set.

Phillips said her desire is that "all Tennessee churches support the Golden Offering in some way — if not through their budget then through a special offering."

She urged all churches to hold a week of prayer for state missions and keep members informed about causes funded by the Golden Offering. "We have to pray first, and then God will move people to give," Phillips said. "People don't give to an offering just because an offering plate is coming by. It's got to be a cause they see a result from."

PHILLIPS

For the future of Disaster Relief ministry, Phillips said she hopes more from the Boomer generation will be trained to take up the mantle of leadership.

"I would hope Tennessee Baptists would recognize this is a real way to contribute to the community in a time of need. It's not something you can plan for; you just have to be ready." ❑

## 'Well done, good and faithful servants'

*Baptist and Reflector*

During the 25 years Disaster Relief ministry some volunteers wh served faithfully have gon to be with the Lord. Whil this is not an exhaustiv list, these names symbo ize all disaster relief vo unteers who have give their time to serve othe in Christ's name durin disasters in Tennessee, na tionwide, and around th world. Well done, good an faithful servants.

Jim Dykes
Hoot Gibson
Bob Ledbetter
L.O. "Bird Dog" Miller
Jim Morton
Jimmie Ray
Richard Todd
Darryl Watson

# olunteers recall serving after 9/11 in New York City

inda Lawson
*ist and Reflector*

EW YORK CITY — When an Lyle arrived in New City to minister after 9/11 learned she would be ding her first night sleepn a van, all the horror stoshe had ever heard about e in that city flooded her .

just asked the Lord to be us and relieve my fear and id," said Lyle, a longtime ter Relief volunteer and ber of Central Baptist ch, Johnson City. "The ust went away."

ter that first night, Vivian ner husband Keith, along many of the Tennessee st Disaster Relief volunslept in the offices of the building near their feedce.

In addition to preparing food for distribution to workers at Ground Zero, "We were able to minister to a lot of policeman," Vivian Lyle said. "They would come by and eat meals with us."

One day, an NYPD police sergeant told the volunteers about a group of people working 12-hour shifts in a nearby building, notifying family members of the dead. He asked if these people could take a break from their grim responsibilities and visit the feeding unit for a meal.

"They came and we were there to offer food and a listening ear," she said.

For Norman Hodges, ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, 9/11 was his first disaster. He told the Franklin *Review-Appeal* he and other volunteers were impressed with the appreciation expressed by New Yorkers.

"We went by vans from our hotel to the feeding area and there were always crowds at several intersections with American flags and placards saying, 'Thank you to the Tennessee Baptists.' "

Hodges said the volunteers could also feel the pain of New Yorkers, "particularly the workers sifting through the debris. It was a sad trip, but it was a gratifying trip, because we felt we'd done something to help."

In the aftermath of 9/11, Disaster Relief volunteers received numerous expressions of thanks for their efforts.

The New York Police Department sent the following message:

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your servant hearts and outreach ministry to the citizenry of New York City in the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center. You have warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits during our time of need. May God Our Heavenly Father bless you in all that you do for His Kingdom. May the peace that surpasses all understanding keep you all of your days."

American Red Cross volunteer Pat Miller, who had served on about 40 disasters when she was kitchen coordinator in New York City after 9/11, told the *Baptist and Reflector*: "Your organization is so organized. You make sure the food is fixed and gotten on the ERVs (Emergency Response Vehicles) and gotten out. You've certainly prepared your hearts, and your souls are certainly in it."

On the first anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, Tennessee Senator Bill Frist paid tribute on the Senate floor to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers.

"I'm especially proud of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, who sent 30 volunteers to help prepare food for the rescue workers at the World Trade Center," Frist said.

After visiting Southern Baptist Disaster Relief sites in New York City, North American Mission Board President Robert E. (Bob) Reccord wrote the following in the Fall 2001 edition of *OnSite*:

"The volunteers were working hard — most units were pulling 24-hour shifts. The volunteers were motivated, and their work was highly efficient. ... Clearly, God has placed a high calling on the lives of thousands of people to serve Him through Disaster Relief ministry. Beyond the work of preparing meals, personal ministry was taking place around the units by the volunteers. More than just cooking, volunteers were ready to share the hope they have in Jesus Christ." ❑

***OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT*** *to members of the New York Police Department are Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers Laura Gross, center, and her husband Arnie, right, members of ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin.*

***FOR THE CLEARVIEW*** *Baptist Church team, 9/11 was its first disaster. Three members of the team were, from left, Nancy and Coleman Boyd and Norman Hodges.*

## ream of Manhattan urch becomes reality

nda Lawson
*st and Reflector*

EW YORK CITY — The n of starting a church in icinity of Ground Zero born even before South- Baptist Disaster Relief teers had finished their try in Manhattan.

d in California, God had ed a vision in the heart of ive New Yorker for leadchurch plant.

March 9, 2003, pastor Farah led the first worservice of Mosaic Man- n Church, meeting in PS locks from the World Fi- al Center at the corner Vest and Chambers ts.

rah said God's hand in ic Manhattan was clearly nt when permission was for the congregation to in a public school. They he first church in Man- n allowed to rent space chool. Farah lives in the ory apartment building of the five-story school.

ce the March 9 begin- "we've welcomed over 300 first-time visitors," Farah said. During the summer they have averaged about 80 in attendance for worship each week with small groups meeting on other nights and at other locations. For the fall, they will hold a 40 Days of Purpose event based on the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

In addition to their local sponsoring congregation, Graffiti Church, eight other churches around the country are helping by providing funds and personnel as needed. Funding to launch Mosaic Manhattan came from the Enduring Hope Fund of post-9/11 contributions given through the North American Mission Board.

One Tennessee church, ClearView Baptist in Franklin, is among the congregations helping with Mosaic.

"We got involved because our people had been up there as Disaster Relief volunteers," said John Gardner, minister of missions. "This is a way to continue the ministry our people had started." ❑

## isis intervention added as Disaster Relief ministry

a Lawson
*and Reflector*

NTWOOD — While Ten- Baptist Disaster Relief had considered launchrisis intervention min- r some time, the needs e Sept. 11, 2001, terrorcks on the World Trade brought the need to the t.

Pierson, TBC Disaster risis intervention coordisaid the 9/11 request e North American Misard called for volunteers d in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) or the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA).

***PIERSON***

"We were not prepared to respond at that time," said Pierson. However, NOVA training was scheduled quickly and teams from Tennessee were sent in the following weeks and months. Now, approximately 150 Tennessee Baptists have been trained in crisis intervention and volunteers have worked in the U.S. and internationally.

Pierson said crisis intervention may take place in groups or one on one.

For example, "after the Coffee County storms the Salvation Army requested crisis interveners to go with them into homes due to the traumas victims were experiencing," Pierson said.

In April 2002, Pierson said the New Duck River Baptist Association under the leadership of director of missions Dan Clevenger provided crisis interveners in the aftermath of a factory closing. Clevenger also is a trained crisis intervener.

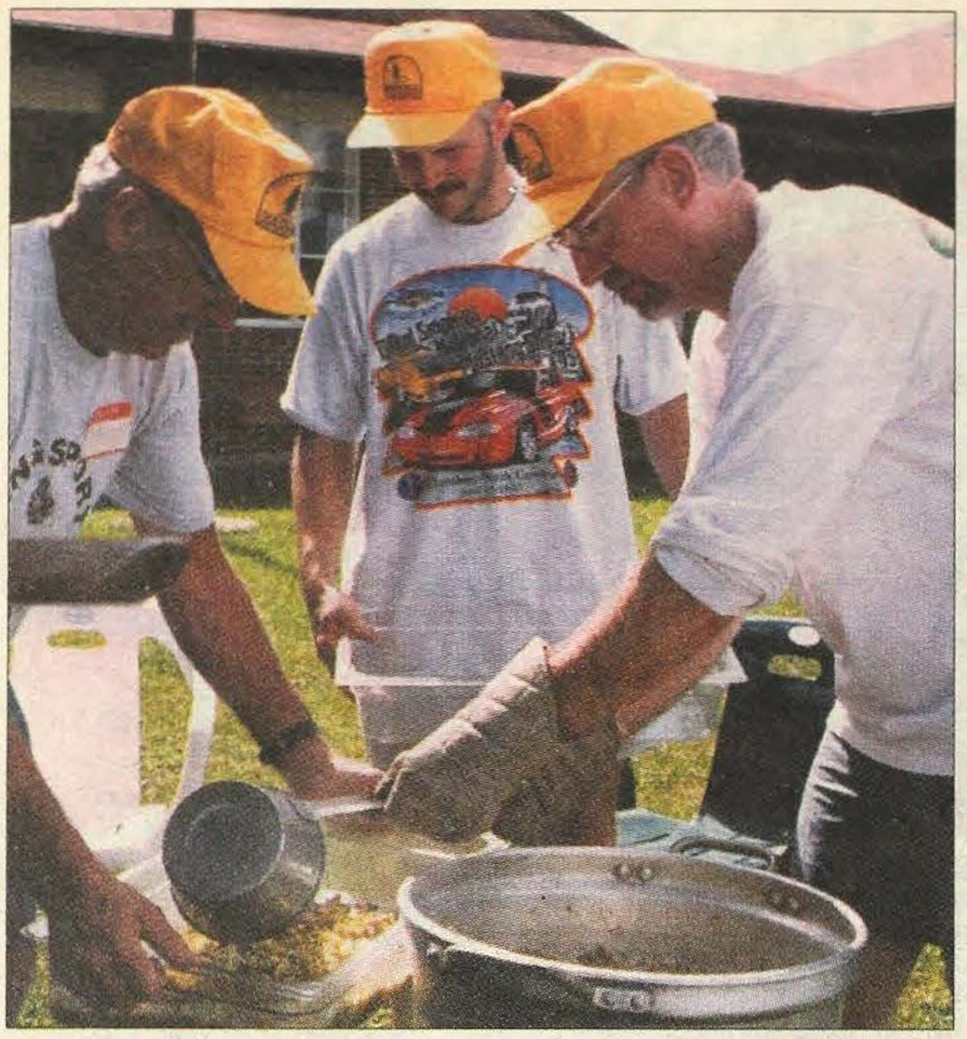
"This was well received by the city," Pierson said.

Crisis interveners help in six areas, beginning with safety and security, he said.

In the third area, ventilation, "people are allowed to tell their story as they experienced it." In validation, the fourth issue, Pierson said people are helped to see that their reactions to the crisis are normal for the type of situation they have experienced. The fifth issue, predictive, is where people are provided help to avoid repeated injury from the crisis and, in the sixth, educative, they are helped with coping mechanisms to enable a quicker recovery.

Pierson said one of the greatest needs related to crisis intervention is getting the word out across the state about their availability.

"We're still new and the terminology is new to the people," he said. Eight crisis intervention leaders across the state have been commissioned to make "people in the region aware of who we are and what we offer." ❑



***FILLING A CONTAINER*** *with hot vegetables in Jacksonville, N.C., after Hurricane Floyd hit the area in October 1999 are Charles Mullins, left, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Kingsport; and Leroy Gott, Sullivan Baptist Church, Kingsport; as Beeler Mullins, Cedar Grove Church, Kingsport, looks on.*

***J.D. CHRISTIAN,*** *left, pastor, First Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant, and Raybon Kelly, Maury Baptist Association, repair a chain saw as they help clean up tornado damage in Dyersburg in May 2003.*

***ROYAL AMBASSADORS*** *admire a motorcycle purchased with monies raised through the 1978 RA Congress Offering for use in the Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief ministry.*

***TITUS BEACHEY*** *of the Robertson County Baptist Asso tion moves tree limbs as Tennessee DR volunteers clear storm damage in Dyersburg in May 2003.*

***TENNESSEE BAPTIST*** *Disaster Relief volunteers, led by Cameron Byler of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, worked on the grounds of Glendale Baptist Church, Richmond City, Fla., after Hurricane Andrew leveled south Florida in August 1992.*

***CLEANING POTS AND CAMBROS*** *after a tornado struck Nashville in 1 are Ronnie Snoderly of Maryville and Gilbert Ray, left, of Hohenwald. Tennessee DR site was at Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville.*

# MILESTONES
## in Tennessee Disaster Relief Ministry

### February 1978

**Railroad tanker explosion in Waverly, Tennessee**
Tennessee Baptists delivered a check to help First Baptist Church, Waverly, with expenses in transporting burn victims to medical appointments.
*"Being a part of the fellowship of Tennessee Baptists was a lifeline of support in crisis,"* said Maurice Coleman, pastor of the church.

### April 1978

**First disaster relief vehicle purchased**
A 31-foot motor home was purchased with funds from the Golden Mission Offering as a launching paid for Tennessee Baptist disaster relief ministry.

### May 1979

**Flooding hits Lavergne, Tennessee**
Tennessee disaster relief volunteers responded to their first disaster, providing meals to flood victims.
*"I know so many of these families. I just wanted to come,"* a volunteer from a nearby church said.

### September 1979

**Hurricane Frederic strikes Alabama Gulf Coast**
Tennessee Baptists respond to their first out-of-state disaster, providing meals and chain saw crews for clean up.
Clean up crews moved trees from yards and driveways at no cost, generating opportunities for ministry as victims inquired about why they were there to help.

### September 1989

**Hurricane Hugo decimates South Carolina**
In the largest disaster handled by Tennessee Baptist volunteers to that time, more than 100,000 meals were prepared and served. *"Hugo really expanded the vision of Tennessee,"* Cameron Byler said.

### August 1992

**Hurricane Andrew levels parts of South Florida and Louisiana**
Tennessee volunteers served 819,000 meals, working on site in Florida for 49 days. Volunteers described the devastation in South Florida as looking like it had been *"bombed out."*

### November 1998

**Hurricane Georges, St. Kitts, Caribbean**
First international rebuilding project for Tennessee Baptist disaster relief volunteers.

### November 1999

**Hurricane Mitch, Nicaragua**
Longest disaster response. Tennessee Baptist volunteer teams spent 18 months rebuilding in Nicaragua.

### September 2002

**New York City**
Tennessee volunteers provided food, listening ears, and a caring presence in New York City after 9/11. Today, a Southern Baptist church ministers near Ground Zero.

### April 2003

**Family Food Box Project for Iraq**
In a response to hunger needs in Iraq, Tennessee Baptists collect more than 3,000 70-pound boxes of food being delivered this fall.

25th Anniversary
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
DISASTER RELIEF
TENNESSEE
1978 2003

## Interveners comfort victims

By Marcia Knox
*Baptist and Reflector*

BELLEVILLE — Shortly after an F-1 tornado struck the Belleville community near Fayetteville on May 5, two trained Tennessee Baptist crisis interveners were on hand to help victims cope with the disaster.

Don Russell, pastor of Parks City Baptist Church, Fayetteville, and Charles Richards, director of missions for the William Carey Baptist Association, received their training in February 2002.

"We visited with a lady at her home who lost everything in the tornado," Russell said. "We also visited with an elderly lady in the front of a state trooper's car whose house was also destroyed."

Russell said he and Richards "were really impressed with the tornado victims' openness to us. They seemed to appreciate us coming and drew strength from it. They all told us their individual stories, and we walked them through the crisis intervention steps. They were very receptive to the intervention and we also prayed with them."

Russell and Richards also talked with members of Oak Hill Baptist Church and other volunteers who were working to clean up and restore homes.

Richards visited Oak Hill member Kenneth Rozar at a local hospital where he was being treated for injuries sustained in the tornado. ❑

***SPEAKING WITH** a lady who just lost her home in the May 5 Fayetteville tornado is crisis intervener Don Russell, pastor, Parks City Baptist Church, Fayetteville.*

## Tornado rips Jackson in 1999

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

JACKSON — David and Regina Williams lost everything they owned in a tornado that ripped through the Westover Road area on Jan. 18.

Despite their circumstances, the couple continually gave volunteers a smile, followed by the simple words, "God bless y'all," as they accepted food and clothing Southern Baptists had donated to the Madison-Chester Baptist Association.

"It could have been so much worse, but God will have His way even in a whirlwind," said Regina Williams.

Amanda Mayo, a disaster volunteer at East Union Baptist Church, said care packages were given to victims as they came to the church and also were delivered to storm victims across the county.

"It's wonderful to see the community pulling together like this," a volunteer said. "It restores your faith."

Operating from the Hardeman County Disaster Relief Feeding Unit, about 30 volunteers served more than 8,000 meals. ❑

## Lawrenceburg flooded in 1998

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

LAWRENCEBURG — Tennessee Baptists helped Lawrence County residents "dry out" from what some described as the worst flood in the county's recent history.

Approximately 10 inches of rain fell in a short period of time July 13, causing severe flash flooding. The Hardeman County Baptist Association Disaster Relief unit was activated and began serving one hot meal a day on July 16 at First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

Pastor David Lawrence said the latest disaster (tornados have struck the area in recent months) has once again opened doors to ministry. "It also has increased awareness that we need to be better prepared (for an emergency) in the future." ❑

## Team helps to rebuild in Nicarag

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

NICARAGUA — A team from First Baptist Church, Pulaski went to Nicaragua in 1999 to build shelters for families who lost everything in Hurricane Mitch. Lewis Thomas wrote of their experience:

"On Monday, June 14 we rose early to build four structures that day. We were stopped by our lack of knowledge and the heavy rain. After completing only two and one-half shelters, we felt a sense of frustration because the need was so great.

"We did find a bit of sunshine in the smiling faces of some children who became our friends. We could not understand each other's language, but we were able to teach them the motions to "Lea and "Jesus Is the F we drove away, ou were filled with the the children, but we membered the look lessness on the fac people. ...

THOMAS

Thursday, June 17 last day to work bef ing home. We started ing under each stru had built. With eac my composure was m cult to keep for I knew would leave." ❑

## Floods follow Hurricane Floyd in N.C.

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

KINSTON, N.C. — While Curtis Fowler and Don Byrd had been involved in Disaster Relief work for 21 years, they said they continue to be amazed at the work that can be accomplished by volunteers, many of whom are retired. Volunteers often work from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. they noted. Also, they often work outside.

Faye Tomlinson, First Baptist Church, Middleton, said she retired early from her job with the state of Tennessee to accompany her husband, Billy, on Disaster Relief projects.

Herbert Adams, 70, First Baptist Church, Alamo, said he and his wife, Marie, serve because they see God work out problems and because "God has blessed us so much." ❑

***HERB AND MARIE** Adams of First Baptist Alamo, pause during their work in Kinston, Sept. 1999.*

## Responding to hurricane in the Caribbean

*Baptist and Reflector*

GERMANTOWN — Tennesseans were among Southern Baptists responding to the needs of hurricane victims in the Caribbean and Central America in late 1998 and early 1999.

They gave not only money and goods but themselves. Tennessee Baptists gave $34,000.

Acteens from Germantown Baptist collected $11,000 toward the purchase mattresses requested by missionarie Dominican Republic. The Acteens a three displays of mattresses and dr flannel pajamas in the foyer of the chu ing up donations in pillow cases. Ab display, a sign asked, "What if you dic a place to lay your head?" ❑

### What is a Cambro?

*Any Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer involved in feeding quickly learns about Ca These bright red, blue, and beige plastic containers can keep food hot or cold. Prepared placed in Cambros at the feeding units for distribution to other sites. Cambros must be tho cleaned after each meal. DR volunteer Larry Triplett, left, of First Baptist Church, C Knoxville, walks by Cambros in New York City following 9/11. The cloud of dust and smoke the site of the fallen World Trade Center towers.*

# ellow hats symbolize ministry, Tim Bearden says

nda Lawson
st and Reflector

RENTWOOD — After the tornado that wreaked hav- Nashville, Tennessee Bap- Disaster Relief volunteers swarming over a woman's in their distinctive yellow and jackets, cutting ed trees and clearing .

e woman kept hearing e refer to the "yellow

lecting on how much the those wearing the yellow was meaning to her in a f crisis, the woman com- d, "They're not yellow hey're crowns of glory."

Bearden, who served as ssee Baptist Convention ter Relief coordinator 002, said the story serves onstant reminder to him importance of Disaster ministry.

aused me to think about portance of the volun- nd that even the hat on ead has a significant ng to people who are g," said Bearden, TBC ns Mobilization Group

rden first became in- in Disaster Relief min- the early 1980s as state ator for the Georgia Convention. He then joined the staff of the Brotherhood Commission, working in youth ministry, before returning to Disaster Relief in 1995 as TBC coordinator.

He inherited a 17-year-old ministry launched by Archie King and expanded by Cameron Byler.

"The volunteer leadership was already in place, so we really never missed a beat," Bearden said. "While the men hated to see Cameron go, at the same time, they were supportive of me as I came on. We just moved on together."

And move on they did — responding to 49 disasters over the next seven years.

He paid tribute to TBC staff members who have jumped in to provide help during disasters.

"And then there are the volunteers themselves," he added. "These folks are willing to assume leadership roles and they are highly capable to do it. Basically, what I tried to do was support them in what they saw needed to be done."

Bearden quickly learned that every disaster is different and has unique challenges.

In his first response after an ice storm in Mechanicsburg, Penn., in January 1996, Bearden said volunteers "were cooking outside and had to stay warm and keep the pipes from freezing. Even the journey back and forth was icy."

**DOUG FLATT,** *kneeling, left, of Mt. Juliet, and John Cole of Huntingdon work on a trailer hitch as Tim Bearden, center, and others look on before leaving for New York City to minister following terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The others are, from left, Dusty Rhodes of Murfreesboro, Max Campbell of Nolensville, J.B. Blanks of Nashville, Bearden, Virginia Cole of Huntingdon, Tawana Flatt of Mt. Juliet, and E.D. Simpson of McLemoresville.*

The 1998 Nashville tornado "was the largest response we had had inside our own state up to that point."

After Hurricane Floyd struck North Carolina in September 1999, he said flood waters decimated the area, making it impossible to deliver meals in traditional ways. Helicopters were used to get food to people.

"9/11 was a benchmark for all of us," Bearden said. "It was our first urban response. In addition to feeding and getting people back and forth, we had crisis intervention and cultural differences we had to overcome. The crisis itself created some special needs. We had to prepare incident sensitive meals."

He paid tribute to King and Byler who assisted with the 9/11 response. Byler served as off-site coordinator, working 14 days out of the TBC.

"Those guys laid the foundation and we've continued to build on it," he said. "They're both fantastic guys to work with."

In addition to disaster response, Bearden led volunteers to make other uses of equipment.

In the summer of 1996, the state feeding unit was first used in Clinton and Oak Ridge to provide meals for World Changers, Baptist teenagers working on construction projects. Since then, the state and association equipment has increasingly been used for missions and ministry.

Food delivery and collection projects were added in the late 1990s. In 2002, the vehicles were used to deliver anti-lottery materials to associations across the state and, this year, to collect food boxes for Iraq.

As a result of 9/11, Crisis Intervention was begun and a communication unit command post was acquired.

"The equipment is disaster response equipment, but it is also needs response equipment," Bearden said.

For the future, Bearden sees "Disaster Relief becoming more local and regional in response. We will continue to respond to the big disasters out of state. We will respond to international disasters. At the same time, we will respond to disasters locally." ❑

**LUNTEERS** *climb high to repair a in St. Kitts which was damaged by Hur- Georges in November 1998.*

**OLLIE STEWMAN,** *left, and Don Byrd, second from left, of West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, along with other volunteers prepare food at Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, after an April 1998 tornado hit the city.*

**RICKMAN,** *right, TBC ministry coordinator, and International Mission nissionary Keith Stamps visit with a family living in a "borrowed" home in ua after Hurricane Mitch destroyed property there. To acquire land from ernment, Nicaraguans had to place a house on the property, but this fami- borrow the lumber which would later be returned.*

**TIM BEARDEN,** *center, TBC Disaster Relief coordinator, talks with members of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, who helped reload trucks sent to Arkansas for flood relief in April 1997. From left are Steve York, Jack Lewis, Jim Inman, and Scott Etheridge.*

# *Baptist and Reflector* reports on state Disaster Relief ministry

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — The four men who have led Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief in the state paid tribute to the value of publicity by the *Baptist and Reflector*. They said it not only informed Tennessee Baptists about what was taking place, but also stimulated interest by others in getting trained and establishing volunteer teams. Below are excerpts from stories appearing in the *B&R* over the past 25 years.

***May 1978 — Flood in Lavergne***

Carl Scarlett, pastor of Miracle Baptist Church in Lavergne where 14 families were flooded out of their homes, said, "I have never felt the hand of God more than I have in this experience. People have seen the love of God through the efforts put forth here. As far as I know, none of the families who have come to be fed attend any church."

***May 1984 — Flooding in Pikeville, Ky.***

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers served more than 12,000 meals after flooding in Pikeville, Ky., in what Disaster Relief Coordinator Archie King said, "may have been one of our most difficult missions."

"We would have never been able to help reach as many people as we did had it not been for the strong leadership of local people," King observed, citing that members of area churches drove vans and trucks to help deliver food, assisted in locating food and equipment, and provided hospitality.

***October 1986 — Hay Lift to Tennessee Farmers***

Drought-stricken Tennessee farms got some relief when two boxcars of hay were delivered through the efforts of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Kansas-Nebraska Convention, and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

One local farmer said he had never set foot in a church house. "But, I've never had any church folks give me hay either. What the folks in Kansas, Nebraska, and Tennessee have done is a wonderful thing. I'm not sure, but I may have to think about going to church now."

***September 1989 — Hurricane Hugo hits South Carolina***

Mickey Caison, pastor of Providence Church, Macedonia, S.C. (where Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers worked) and also a volunteer fire chief, called the South Carolina Baptist Convention for assistance after Hurricane Hugo wreaked havoc in Macedonia. Within 24 hours, the Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief unit had arrived at the church and begun serving hot meals. Caison said he was overwhelmed by the change the Disaster Relief efforts had brought about in his church.

"Our people are just elated to be part of such a ministry," Caison said. "I hope our witness will be more credible in the eyes of people because they have felt love expressed."

***November 1994 — Floods in South Texas***

It's vacation time, but the last place you'll find Roscoe England is on the beach. England, a member of Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, is a machinist with a company in Oak Ridge. This is the third week of vacation he's taken this year, but instead of soaking up the sun on some exotic beach, England is burning the midnight oil serving on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief unit.

"I receive a blessing from it. It has to be a calling ... there's really no other way to explain it. In fact, I think you have to be just a little bit crazy to do this kind of work," England said.

***January 1998 — Flooding in Roan Mountain, Tennessee***

Jan. 7, 1998, will forever be etched in the memory of Richard Stout, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roan Mountain, Tenn. It was late in the evening when the Doe River overflowed, flooding the small town, and leaving millions of dollars worth of property damage in its wake. Flood waters moved the FBC sanctuary off its foundation and damaged much of the inside. The building was later condemned.

Following the disaster, "Tennessee Baptists poured in from every nook and cranny in the state," Stout said, as they helped clean up the church's fellowship hall and prepare it to be used as the worship center.

"God will be glorified" out of what happened, Stout is convinced.

***September 2001 — New York City***

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers working in New York after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center were helping victims and workers, but they also received special treatment from grateful New Yorkers.

Max Campbell of H Hills Baptist Church, ville, was given free r two cab drivers when he a hospital for treatme swollen knee. The city p free use of city water feeding unit and len owned generators whe Tennessee units broke d manager of an area San gave volunteers the s they had come to buy York, a volunteer from H Hills Baptist Church, Juliet, said New Y "hearts are open. ... If w have an opportunity to Christian witness, sha us."

***May 2003 — Storm Memphis***

When the bow echo th storm hit Memphis on J Todd Delaney, pastor of side Baptist Church, was taking his wife to a phis hospital for surgery. lated the terrifying event email to friends: "At 7: we were sitting on the the interstate in the mi the worst part of the sto could see trees bending beside us and then the w erally lifted our car ground and moved it ar don't think I have ever frightened. Neverthel made it safely." ❑

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# Blackwell coordinates seven disasters in 10 months

inda Lawson
ist and Reflector

RENTWOOD — Almost imiately after becoming Tenee Disaster Relief coordina- n December 2002, Lloyd kwell was contacted by the h American Mission Board a request to send seven saw teams to North Car- to assist in recovery after storm.

at request was met and has been little down time as he has directed six disaster responses in addito leading training efforts arrying out other responsi- s.

ckwell became involved in essee Disaster Relief as a teer in the early 1990s. He d to help people and rel- the fulfillment of meeting al and spiritual needs.

November 2001, he as- a staff role with the Ten- e Baptist Convention as ate Disaster Relief coordiand was promoted to state nator in December 2002, former coordinator Tim n for additional responsi- as leader of the Missions zation Group.

ckwell works with the American Mission Board aster responses outside see and with the Interal Mission Board on re- outside the U.S. He also ates with the American ross, Salvation Army, l Emergency Manage- dministration (FEMA), ee Emergency Manage- dministration (TEMA), and Volunteers and Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD).

His biggest challenge in his 10-month tenure came in May when tornados and thunderstorms ripped through 12 counties in Tennessee.

"We responded to the Red Cross for two (feeding) kitchens — one in Jackson and one in Chattanooga. We also set up a kitchen in Chattanooga for the Salvation Army. We worked through the local associations in all areas to send in chain saw or cleanup crews. In Jackson, where most of the work took place, we worked through the city and county government, along with working with the local association," Blackwell said.

Blackwell estimated 450 volunteers were involved in the response across the state, "the biggest response we have had in state people-wise in the history of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief efforts."

Blackwell said the most rewarding disaster response he has coordinated to date has been the Food Box Project for Iraq. In the aftermath of the war, food supplies continue to be short in many parts of the country.

Tennessee Baptists were provided lists of food to pack 70-pound boxes that are being delivered this fall through the auspices of the IMB.

Individuals, families, Sunday School classes, churches, and other groups across the state responded enthusiastically to the project and 3,100 boxes of food were collected, along with

***JIM SHAMBLIN,** left, of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, completes packing the last two food boxes in preparation for sending to Iraq. Rodney Cathy assists, while Owen Jones looks on. LifeWay employees contributed 162 food boxes. — Photo by Kent Harville*

$22,000. The money was used to buy additional food and approximately 250 more boxes were packed by Tennessee Baptist Convention staff and Disaster Relief volunteers.

While this project was different from a response after a natural disaster such as a hurricane or tornado, Blackwell emphasized, "Disaster Relief is about meeting basic human needs, and hunger is a part of that."

To collect the food boxes, Blackwell said the IMB contracted with a trucking company to place trailers across the state.

"Our volunteers helped get the trailers loaded and transported some boxes to the trailers."

In addition to dealing with disaster response in 2003, Blackwell said training has been redesigned to be more intense and more hands-on. Four regional training events are being held in addition to numerous association training events.

Incident Command Training has been upgraded to provide a greater team focus to enable improved coordination in statewide responses.

Equipment also is being upgraded.

For 2004, "We will not be just encouraging associations to respond but equipping them," Blackwell said. "We want to set up regional response teams."

Since 9/11, Blackwell said, "We have gotten a lot of younger people trained. That is one reason we are emphasizing local responses. They may be able to do something locally when they're not able to take off from work immediately to go somewhere else."

Blackwell said anyone interested in becoming a Disaster Relief volunteer should contact their association office or contact him.

"We can provide information on what steps to take or where training will be held," he said.

Training begins with a basic overview. Then basic and advanced tracks are offered in feeding and recovery. Also, several kinds of training are offered in crisis intervention.

"Volunteers must complete training and get involved with a team. We can help a trained volunteer find a team close by," Blackwell said. ❑

***NG A BOX** of food for an Iraqi family are, from left, Tim n, James Porch, and Lloyd Blackwell of the TBC staff.*

***CUTTING A TREE** into movable pieces are members of the Bradley County Baptist Association DR chain saw crew May 9-10 at a residence in Williamson County. The tree was felled by a storm.*

## nessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief fleet

ed below are vehicles in the Tennessee t Convention Disaster Relief fleet. In addi- D associations have feeding units and other ations and a few churches have vehicles n ministry.

- ding unit trailer and truck
- port truck and wash trailer
- refrigeration unit
- rice truck with mechanic's tools, welding ols, and others.
- Childcare trailer
- Tool trailer — 36-foot trailer with building tools
- Pick-up truck to pull trailers
- Shower trailer
- Storage trailer
- Large gas grill on wheels
- Generator
- Command and communications post

## Former missionary thanks volunteers

By Linda Lawson
*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — After her farm was damaged by May 2003 storms, former Southern Baptist missionary Clara Lynn Williams wrote to the *Baptist and Reflector* to commend the efforts of Disaster Relief volunteers.

Here is part of her letter:

"Tears came to my eyes as we received Baptist men from Knoxville with large saws to cut up huge trees, some over 100 years old, on our small farm soon after a tornado twisted through our property. They were very skilled and professional.

"Words cannot express the appreciation of our family for their volunteer services. We would never have been able to pay them for their work. We thank Tennessee Baptists for their Disaster Relief efforts and especially for the Knoxville Baptist men who encouraged us to keep the faith in this crisis." ❑

## LifeWay expects record revenues

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — LifeWay Christian Resources reported to its trustees Sept. 9 that the company expects to post record 2003 revenues of almost $421 million, $6.3 million more than last year. LifeWay's fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

"LifeWay has demonstrated good stability in a weak economy," chief operating officer Ted Warren told trustees during their semi-annual meeting at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center. He credited the introduction of new books, Bibles and literature, sound operations, and tight expense control for LifeWay's success during a time when the economy continued to be soft.

Funds provided from operations — money for reinvestment in ministry expansion after all expenses are paid — are expected to be $14 million, or 3.3 percent of revenue, consistent with LifeWay's goal of financial performance.

In their Sept. 8-9 meeting, the trustees adopted a record 2004 operating budget of $445.4 million, a 5.8 percent increase over projected 2003 revenues, along with capital expenditures of $14.7 million. In other action, trustees approved steps to financially strengthen LifeWay's pension fund for the long term and received reports from the company's business units. ❐

## SBTS mourns death of new student

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Timothy Bononi became a Christian in 2001 and soon sensed that God had orchestrated his life in a way that had prepared him to serve as a hospital chaplain.

But on Sept. 4, the 30-year-old student from Springfield, Ill., died of heart failure at the outset of his first semester as a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bononi collapsed while touring an apartment complex on the school's campus and was rushed to nearby Baptist East Hospital where he died some hours later.

During a chapel service Sept. 9, seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. read Bononi's words from an autobiographical essay he had submitted as part of the admissions requirements for Southern Seminary. Mohler said Bononi's death should serve as a reminder to all of the brevity of life.

Bononi was born with a congenital heart defect and had battled heart disease for much of his life. Doctors performed open heart surgery on him for the first time at 11 months of age and again at 14.

Bononi was in and out of the hospital with various complications over the years, but he wrote of how God had shown him grace through the heart condition and had used it ultimately to draw him to salvation at age 27. ❐

## McCartney resigns as PK president

Baptist Press

DENVER — Bill McCartney, founder and president of Promise Keepers, is resigning his post effective Oct. 1 in order to care for his wife and spend more time with his family, the international men's ministry announced Sept. 9.

PK board chairman Retired Army Lt. Gen. Alonzo Short said board members have formed an internal committee to prayerfully select McCartney's successor.

Short will continue serving as interim president, a role he assumed when McCartney requested a six-month sabbatical in March in order to care for his wife, Lyndi, who is battling a severe respiratory illness.

"God has assigned me to be a husband and a grandfather," a PK news release quoted McCartney as saying. "The ministry of Promise Keepers is not finished; it is needed now more t... I am confident that the ... direct and empower the ... to move forward in str... support. The opportu... PK are limitless." ❐

## Alabama tax reform plan n...ed

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Al... — Alabama voters sent a ... message against new ta... they defeated the mu... cized tax reform propos... one in a Sept. 9 referen...

The vote dealing ... largest tax increase ... state's history attracte... 1.3 million voters with ... cent voting against the ... 32 percent supporting it.

Gov. Bob Riley's $1... tax package would ha... hauled the state's tax ... and prevented what ... mean massive budget ... both the education and ... fund. With the failure ... plan, the Alabama leg... met in special session S... adopt an education and ... fund budget for 2004.

"I have heard what t... of Alabama have said ... said less than two ho... the polls closed. The pe... smaller government ... government can prov... good steward of the ... money, he noted.

Political analysts sai... package was too com... and too much, too s... many are also saying th... vote was as much a si... trust as it was to oppos... increase. ❐


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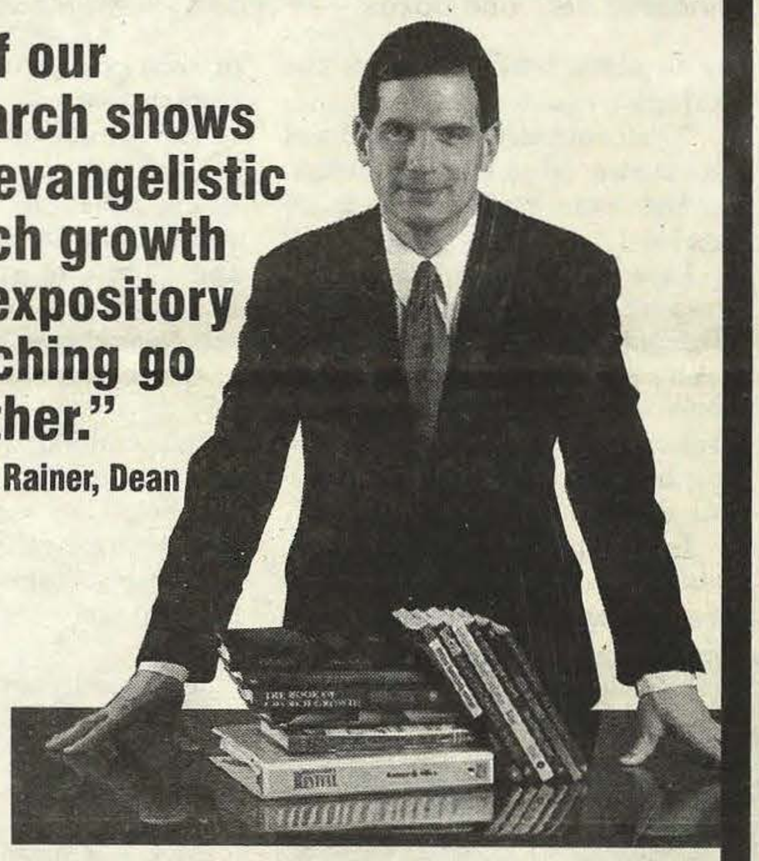

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# Board approves reduced budget for 2003-04 ...

ontinued from page 1

Is it (the proposed budget) derful? No. Is it good? be. Is it the best after nuous meetings and a lot of agation? Yes," Viar said.

nder the proposed budget, hree Tennessee Baptist col- (Belmont University, Car-Newman College, and Union ersity) were the hardest hit their budgets (based on last budget) pared by $387,190 a 15.5 percent cut. The acdollar amount reduction, d on anticipated receipts year, would be about 000.

e colleges each will receive 7,520, compared to 4,710 in this year's budget. r said one question of con- s "Why is there less mon-

cited the economy and givatterns of churches as the ry culprits. Six churches ed their giving patterns by sing the Tennessee Baptist ntion and sending receipts y to the Southern Baptist ntion, Viar noted.

r also said the committee deal with fixed items such as the Church Annuity Plan which had to be fully funded.

While acknowledging the colleges had to bear the brunt of the cuts, Viar noted the committee recommended that "any amounts received in excess of the total approved budget will be allocated equally to Belmont, Carson-Newman, and Union until each school has received a total annual allocation of $2,504,710. Overage thereafter will be allocated on the percentage basis of the budget shown."

"At the same time the colleges are being cut, we hope and pray Tennessee Baptists will be moved to give more money," Viar said.

"We're telling the colleges that as quick as we get it, they will get it back," he added.

William Owens, pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, and chairman of the Education Committee, agreed that when budget dollars are tight, cuts must be made.

He offered an amendment to the budget of an "across the board" 5.4 percent cut except for the fixed items.

Viar said the committee looked at that option but decided against it because of the potential impact on the Executive Board operations which had already reduced its program budget earlier this year and had eliminated 12 positions over a three-year period.

Union University President David S. Dockery was recognized by the Executive Board to speak on behalf of the colleges.

He noted that it was difficult for the schools to be informed of a 15 percent cut in funds. Dockery observed that all three colleges are already in next year's budget and that they had budgeted the same amount they were granted for this year.

Dockery said the reduction in unrestricted funds from the TBC could mean personnel layoffs.

Dockery also cautioned that the reduced funding is not a "one-year" reduction. "This sets us back seven to eight years and will impact us for several years to come," he said.

He said the colleges would be willing to help people understand that budget dollars are not there, but asked that the cuts "be shared equally among every entity in Tennessee Baptist life." Dockery urged board members to vote for Owens' amendment. "If not, there will be a fragmentation in Tennessee Baptist life that I don't think any of us want," he said.

Viar responded that the committee looked at how the cuts affected every entity.

He noted the proposed budget meant a 1.7 percent decrease in total revenue for the Executive Board, which gets most of its funding from the Cooperative Program.

When the cuts are applied to the educational institutions' total revenue, they negatively impact Carson-Newman 1.4 percent, Union, 1.3 percent, and Belmont, 0.7 percent, Viar said.

"It's not as one-sided as you might think initially," he said.

*ELECTED AS officers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board were, from left, Lynn King, pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg, vice president; Donna Cardwell of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, recording secretary; and Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville, president.*

Marty Lasley, a member of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, spoke in favor of the amendment, noting that approving the proposed budget would send the message that when there is a budget crunch and serious cuts need to be made, then Christian higher education is the place to start.

"I don't think that is what we want to say," Lasley said.

Catherine Via, a member of Cross Roads Baptist Church, Bells, also spoke for the amendment. "I think we need to be fair to everyone involved and support an across the board cut," she said.

An across the board cut would have reduced every TBC entity's budget 5.4 percent.

Roger Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, spoke against the amendment, noting that "we are presenting a realistic budget. The cut Tennessee Baptist missions and ministries is taking is identical on average to what the colleges would be reduced by our cuts," he said. Freeman also stressed "this is not a Brentwood versus anyone out of our building issue. A lot of this money goes back to your associations," he observed.

TBC Executive Director James Porch noted that $787,746 had already been cut from the Executive Board budget. "Based on the amendment before us, we have a challenge to cut $410,000 of additional programming activities," he said.

Porch cited numerous programs that have been cut due to lack of funds.

"While we have made significant adjustments we anticipate this would put us a decade behind of ministry we have attempted to build across this state."

After several other members debated the pros and cons of the issue, one board member requested a ballot vote.

The amendment failed by a 41-25 vote with nine abstentions. The budget then was approved with minimal opposition.

After the vote, Owens noted that as chairman of the Education Committee his committee was unaware of the cuts. He suggested in the future that the Budget and Program Committee bring other entities "into the loop."

In other action, board members elected new officers — Leonard Markham, pastor, Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville, president; Lynn King, pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg, vice president; and Donna Cardwell, Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, recording secretary.

At the suggestion of board member, Vern Powers of First Baptist Church, Nashville, a letter will be sent from the board to the family of Paul Durham expressing sympathy and appreciation for Durham's ministry with Tennessee Baptists.

Board members also recognized TBC employees for years of service, approved a restatement of the Board's Business and Financial Plan and a recommendation from the Committee on Boards that Gary Braden of Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, complete a term as a trustee of the Baptist Health System of East Tennessee. ❐


## CLASSIFIED

**NISTRIES — PASTOR**
ptist Church, Surgoinsville, is currently accepting re- or the position of full-time Please forward all mail to aptist Church, P.O. Box urgoinsville, TN 37873, astor Search Committee. s may also be faxed to 5-2275.

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g Park Baptist, a SBC n Northern Virginia with a ship of 350, is accepting s for senior pastor through . Please send to Pastor Committee, 501 N York rling, VA 20164.

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e Baptist Association is applications for director of . Please send resume to Committee, P.O. Box 214, n, TN 38570-0214.

## CLASSIFIED

**MINISTRIES — COMBINATION**
Growing new church seeks full-time minister for music and education. Send resume to Fair Haven Baptist Church, Search Committee, P.O. Box 1528, Shelbyville, TN 37162.

**MINISTRIES — MUSIC**
Seeking a part-time music director for Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church, Crossville, Tenn. Send resume to Music Search Committee, CHBC, 4427 Hwy. 127 South, Crossville, TN 38572 or call (931) 484-5523.

**MINISTRIES — EDUCATION**
Growing church seeks a seminary-trained minister of education to oversee all aspects of Bible study, discipleship, and children's programs. Familiarity with FAITH preferred. Full-time with salary and benefits. Mail resume with experience, education, and salary requirements to Pastor Paul Berkley, First Baptist Church, 1447 S 7th St., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

**MINISTRIES — ADMINISTRATOR**
First Baptist Church, Sierra Vista, Arizona is seeking an administrator for the church and a private Christian K-8 academy. Prior administrative experience required, education experience helpful. Full-time salary and benefits. Mail resume with experience, education, and salary requirements to Pastor Paul Berkley, First Baptist Church, 1447 S 7th St., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

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# Disaster Relief Responses by Tennesseans 1978 – 2003

| Event | Response | Location | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Led by Archie King*** | | | |
| 1. Tanker car explosion | Financial Assistance | Waverly, Tenn. | April 1978 |
| 2. Flood | Mass Feeding | Lavergne, Tenn. | May 1979 |
| 3. Hurricane Frederic | Mass Feeding/Clean up | Mobile, Ala. | Sept. 1979 |
| 4. Flood | Mass Feeding | Fort Wayne, Ind. | March 1982 |
| 5. Tornado | Mass Feeding | Marion, Ill. | May - June 1982 |
| 6. Flood | Mass Feeding | Trenton, Tenn. | Sept. 1982 |
| 7. Flood | Mass Feeding | Ste. Genevieve, Mo. | Dec. 1982 |
| 8. Hurricane Alicia | Mass Feeding | Kemah, Texas | Aug. 1983 |
| 9. Tornado | Mass Feeding | Maxton, N.C. | March 1984 |
| 10. Flood | Mass Feeding | Pikeville, Ky. | May 1984 |
| 11. Hurricane Diana | Mass Feeding | Long Beach, N.C. | Sept. 1984 |
| 12. Ice Storm | Mass Feeding | Tracy City, Tenn. | Jan. 1985 |
| 13. Hurricane Elena | Mass Feeding | Pascagoula, Miss. | Sept. 1985 |
| 14. Hurricane Juan | Mass Feeding | Slidell, La. | Oct. 1985 |
| 15. Hurricane Kate | Mass Feeding | Apalachicola, Fla. | Nov. 1985 |
| 16. Tornado | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Cleveland, Tenn. | Feb. 1986 |
| 17. Drought | Hay Lift | East Tennessee | Sept. 1986 |
| 18. Flood | Mass Feeding | Hermann, Mo. | Oct. 1986 |
| 19. Tornado/Flood | Mass Feeding | Millington, Tenn. | Dec. 1987 |
| 20. Tornado | Mass Feeding | Williamson Co. Tenn. | Dec. 1988 |
| ***Led by Cameron Byler*** | | | |
| 1. Hurricane Hugo | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Macedonia, S.C. | Sept. 1989 |
| 2. Flood | Mass Feeding | Copperhill, Tenn. | Feb. 1990 |
| 3. Flood | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Elba, Ala. | March 1991 |
| 4. Tornado | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Adamsville, Tenn. | March 1991 |
| 5. Tornado | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Selmer, Tenn. | March 1991 |
| 6. Hurricane Andrew | Mass Feeding/Recovery | South Florida | Aug. 1992 |
| 7. Hurricane Andrew | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Houma, La. | Aug. 1992 |
| 8. Flood | Mass Feeding | Cape Girardeau, Mo. | July 1993 |
| 9. Earthquake | Mass Feeding | California | Feb. 1994 |
| 10. Ice Storm | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Lawrenceburg, Tenn. | Feb. 1994 |
| 11. Ice Storm | Mass Feeding | Mississippi | Feb. 1994 |
| 12. Ice Storm | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Jackson, Tenn. | Feb. 1994 |
| 13. Ice Storm | Mass Feeding | Clarksdale, Miss. | Feb. 1994 |
| 14. Ice Storm | Recovery | Iron City, Tenn. | Feb. 1994 |
| 15. Flood | Temporary Child Care | Albany, Ga. | July 1994 |
| 16. Flood | Mass Feeding | Houston, Texas, area | Oct. 1994 |
| 17. Flood | Mass Feeding | Kenner, La. | May 1995 |
| 18. Flood | Mass Feeding | Dyersburg, Tenn. | May 1995 |
| ***Led by Tim Bearden*** | | | |
| 1 Flood | Mass Feeding | Mechanicsburg, Pa. | Jan. 1996 |
| 2. Hurricane Fran | Mass Feeding | Clinton, N.C. | Sept. 1996 |
| 3. Flood | Food Distribution | North Korea | Nov. 1996 |
| 4. Flood | Recovery | Dyersburg, Tenn. | March 1997 |
| 5. Flood | Mass Feeding | Madisonville, Ky. | March 1997 |
| 6. Flood | Recovery | Grand Forks, N.D. | June 1997 |
| 7. Flood | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Roan Mountain, Tenn. | Jan. 1998 |
| 8. Snow/Ice | Recovery | Tennessee | Jan.1998 |
| 9. Snow/Ice | Recovery | Tennessee | Feb. 1998 |
| 10. Tornado | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Nashville, Tenn. | April 1998 |
| 11. Tornado | Recovery | Wayne County | April 1998 |
| 12. Flood | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Lawrenceburg, Tenn. | July 1998 |
| 13. Hurricane Bonnie | Mass Feeding | Elizabeth City, N.C. | Aug. 1998 |
| 14. Ice | Mass Feeding | Van Buren County | Dec. 1998 |
| 15. Hurricane Georges | Rebuild | Caribbean | Nov. 1998 – Jan. 1999 |
| 16. Tornado | Mass Feeding/Recovery | Tennessee | Jan. 1999 |
| 17. Tornado | Shower Unit | Kan,/Neb./Okla. | May 1999 |
| 18. Tornado | Recovery | Linden, Tenn. | May 1999 |
| 19. Hurricane Floyd | Mass Feeding/Rebuild | Kinston, N.C. | Sept. 1999 |
| 20. Hurricane Floyd | Rebuild | Bahamas | Sept. 1999 |
| 21. War Relief | Food Distribution | Kosovo | Oct. 1999 |
| 22. Earthquake | Food Distribution | Turkey | Oct. 1999 |
| 23. Hurricane Mitch | Rebuild | Nicaragua | Nov. 1999 |
| 24. Flood | Rebuild | Venezuela | Dec. 1999 |
| 25. Flood | Rebuild | Honduras | Dec. 1999 |
| 26. Flood | Rebuild | Venezuela | Dec. 1999 |
| 27. Tornado | Recovery | East Nashville, Tenn. | Jan. 2000 |
| 28. Flood | Food Distribution | Mozambique | April 2000 |
| 29. Tornado | Recovery | Hickman Co., Tenn. | May 2000 |
| 30. Fire | Mass Feeding | Glorieta, N.M. | May 2000 |
| 31. Storms | Recovery | Tennessee | May 2000 |
| 32. Drought | Water Distribution | Summertown, Tenn. | July 2000 |
| 33. Drought | Water Distribution | Pikeville, Tenn. | Sept. 2000 |
| 34. Ice | Recovery | Arkansas | Dec.2000 – Jan.2001 |
| 35. Earthquake | Rebuild | El Salvador | April - May 2001 |
| 36. Floods | Mass Feeding/Rebuild | Peytona, W.Va. | July - Aug. 2001 |
| 37. Floods | Recovery | Greene Co., Tenn. | Aug. 2001 |
| 38. Terrorist Attack | Feeding/Crisis Intervention/Dust Out | New York City | Sept. 2001 – June 2002 |
| 39. Floods | Damage Assessment | West Virginia | Jan. 2002 |
| 40. Floods | Mass Feeding | Bristol, Va. | April 2002 |
| 41. Floods | Long Term Rebuild | Fayette Co., W.Va. | June 2002-03 |
| 42. Factory Closing | Crisis Intervention | Lewisburg, Tenn. | April 2002 |
| 43. Law Enforcement Memorial | Crisis Intervention | Roanoke, Va. | May 2002 |
| 44. War Relief | Crisis Intervention/Food Distribution | Gaza/West Bank, Israel | June - July 2002 |
| 45. Floods | Mud Out | Roseau Co., Minn. | June 2002 |
| 46. Riot Trauma | Crisis Intervention | Ardmore, Tenn. | June 2002 |
| 47. Floods | Child Care | Texas | June 2002 |
| 48. Hurricane Lili | Recovery | Kenner, La. | Oct. 2002 |
| 49. Tornadoes | Recovery/Mass Feeding/Crisis Intervention | Tennessee | Nov. 2002 |
| ***Led by Lloyd Blackwell*** | | | |
| 1. Ice Storm | Recovery | Thomasville, N.C. | Dec. 02 – Jan. 03 |
| 2. Tornado | Long-term rebuild | Morgan County, Tenn. | Jan. 03-04 |
| 3. Ice Storm | Recovery | Ohio | Jan. 2003 |
| 4. War Relief | Food Boxes | Iraq | April - May 2003 |
| 5. Tornadoes/storms | Recovery/Crisis Intervention/Mass Feeding | Nine Tenn. counties/Lincoln County, Tenn./Madison/Hamilton Counties | May 2003 |
| 6. Floods | National Incident Command Team | Indiana | July 2003 |
| 7. Storms | Recovery | Memphis, Tenn. | July 2003 |

## minister's corner

oger Freeman

***Why Should I Join A Church?***

Forsake not the assembling of yourselves togeth- s the manner of some is but encouraging one an- r, and so much the more – as you see the Day ap- ching" Hebrews 10:25.

omeone asked recently, "Why do I need to join a ch? I'm a Christian. What difference does filling a piece of paper make just to say I am a Church ber?"

prayed about the question, and here are some hts from the Word and God's Spirit.

Some might also call marriage "just a piece of r," but a marriage license means commitment t than a casual relationship. Church member- is an indication of full commitment rather than easy believism.

Actually you do not "join" a church. You "join" t by being saved, and you automatically are of His body. "Joining" a church is a public ex- on of your salvation experience. Uniting with a body of believers is the next step after being

The local church practices the ordinances of m and Lord's Supper. When a person is saved, st Biblical expression of faith is believer's bap- You need to be a member of the church to par- e in Christ's ordinances.

What if everyone took the attitude, "Why do I o join the church?" Then there would be no es at all. Churches are only as strong as the ual members.

eing a member of a local church places the be- nder the Biblical authority of the preaching ching of the Word of God.

is very popular today to practice "Lone " Christianity. When we pray the Lord's we pray, "Our Father" not just "My Father." r we are the Body of Christ not individuals Nowhere in the New Testament do we find the int." No one is a saint by himself. We are the of God together as the body of Christ in the

e local church does ministry, and ministry re- Faithful people who will be present and ac- for consistently. A non-church member can a fully ministering Christian.

sus loved the church (Ephesians 5:25) and mself for the **church**. You want to love what oves. If you love something or someone, you nt to be as close to them as possible to join em in everything. When you love Jesus total- vill want to join the local church.

ristian without a church is like a student who to school, a soldier without an army, a citi- won't vote, a sailor without a ship, a child a family, and the list could go on and on.

be a churchless Christian. See you in church ! ❑ — Freeman is pastor of First Baptist Clarksville.

## just for today

**Fred Wood, retired pastor, Memphis**

**t with a Smile:** Mother to preschooler who ning to read by calling out road signs on way da: "You're doing fine. Are you tired? Why u take a nap?" Boy: "I am tired, mama. I will take a nap." Mother, near end of trip: ap son, we are in Canada." Boy, looking at ns in French: "Mama, mama, while I was forgot how to read."

**this Truth:** "Lots of things can happen e are asleep. Take Rip Van Winkle, for in- He slept through a revolution." — Frank M.

**orize this Scripture**: "Awake thou that ... and Christ shall give thee light." — Eph- :14

**this Prayer:** Lord, help me to stay awake when I am not sleeping. ❑

# Kingdom priorities

By Jim Cross

***Sunday School Lesson***
***Family Bible Series***
***Sept. 21***

***Focal Passage: Matthew 6:19-34***

The battle of materialism has been fought and won by the evil one and for the most part the church never knew what was happening. The materialistic mindset of the world has become so much the norm of the church that it is very hard to find a difference between the ways a Christian thinks and acts about their "stuff" compared to a non-Christian.

**Eternity stuff (vv. 19-21)**

For the many years my wife and I were with the International Mission Board we learned the art of moving our stuff. In ten years with the IMB we moved ten times. In one of these moves we had to store our stuff in one room of a house prior to returning to the USA for a year of home assignment.

Upon our return we began the process of opening boxes of stuff we had not seen in over a year. With each discovery we asked the same question, "Do we really need this if it wasn't used for over a year?" But being true products of our American church culture we kept unpacking and sorting through OUR stuff.

**Mine or not? (vv. 22-24)**

As you read this passage of scripture pause for a moment and look around the room you are in: "do you see your stuff?" How many items can you count around you? Now what kind of dollar value can you add up for the items in the room? What is the dollar value of "your stuff?" Enjoy it for a moment, it's all yours. You worked for it. You choose it. You paid for it. This is your stuff.

Wait a moment, who is the King and who are the subjects? What belongs to the King and what belongs to the subjects? Could it be, that the King only deserves ten-percent? Or does the King have rule and ownership over one-hundred percent? Since the battle has been fought and won by the evil one, the subjects of the Kingdom have no theology of enough and little concept of stewardship.

**No dollar value ... priceless (vv. 25-34)**

I sat around a dinner table of twenty Islamic men as the only Christian. It was time to eat, the food was on the table, but no one would start; they only looked in fleeting glances in my direction. I thought to myself, "Is it that I am the guest of honor so I am to start eating first, I didn't think that was right." Then a prompt from the Spirit, "They are waiting for you to pray."

"Gentleman, with your permission, I would like to offer a prayer of thanksgiving before we eat." With permission given I prayed a simple prayer, "Father God, I thank You that You know me, I thank You that You know my needs and that You have provided for me this food to meet my needs today. In the name of Jesus the Messiah I pray, Amen."

CROSS

After the meal one of the well-to-do Muslim men from the table offered me a ride back to my motel. Once there he invited himself in to ask me a question. "This prayer you prayed," he asked, "in this prayer you said that God knew your needs, how do you know God knows your needs?"

"Sir the only way I can answer that question with any authority is from my Holy Book, may I share with you from my Holy Book?" With agreement given I turned to Matthew 6:25-34. I placed the Holy Book into the hands of my Muslim friend and said, "Sir would you read to me what the Holy Book says?"

The meal was costly, the reading ... priceless, to the King. ❑ — Cross is pastor, First Baptist Church, Donelson.

# Like-minded believers

By Bill Vest

***Sunday School Lesson***
***Explore the Bible***
***Sept. 21***

***Focal Passage: Philippians 2:1-11***

The Philippians possess great power in their relationship with God. They possess great knowledge in their relationship with the apostle. But this power is in danger of waning. Previously, in 1:27 Paul encouraged the Philippians to live lives worthy of the gospel and glory of Christ. In Chapter 2 he connects the thought from 1:27-30. Although there is terror and suffering possible from outside the church, there is also a looming danger from within: pride and the internal division it cultivates. So the Philippians are warned that they can only avoid problems and put their power into practice by humbly uniting with each other.

Communion is often easily fostered between "non-peers", (i.e., the Philippians to Paul, their apostle and to Christ, their Lord), while it languishes between fellow believers in the same community. Our passage for this week finds Paul encouraging the Philippians to nurture communion by teaching that the basis for communion is inextricably linked to our understanding of our equal footing in Christ; we are all the recipients of God's mercy administered by his love.

Lack of communion is a church-killing problem, but true fellowship with God and our brothers and sisters in Christ is an unstoppable power in the church's possession. Paul encourages harmony among the believers and with God, then he gives Christ's life and work as collaboration.

Paul first calls the Philippians to foster communion by calling them to humility. He encourages them to focus on their experience of God's activity in themselves which provides: unity with Christ, comfort from his love, fellowship with His Spirit, and salvation through His love and mercy, (v. 1). Paul then states that the experiences of verse 1 should motivate the believers to have: a spirit of teamwork, to express the love of Christ to others, to have an overall disposition of unity, and to put this spirit of togetherness into practice, (v. 2). Concluding this section, Paul warns that pride is competitive and by nature seeks to lift itself above others, whereas humility accepts a place of service-being concerned with others more than ourselves, (vv. 3-4).

VEST

Verses 5-11 comprise an ancient hymn that Paul employs to reveal Christ as the model for the admonishments of verses 1-4. Paul teaches us many things that are academic about the work of God incarnate, but we must not lose sight of his pastoral initiatives. There is a vital link between understanding the work of Christ and our behavior toward others. If we miss this aspect, we miss the power of the passage. Jesus did not use His divine powers to exalt Himself but laid them aside to come to us, (v. 6). Jesus "made Himself of no reputation" not to exalt Himself, but to redeem us from the mire which is infinitely below His natural state of glory, (v. 7). Even in coming from His exalted place in Heaven to fallen, darkened Earth, He did not assume a position of status but of servitude. His humiliation was completed with His death on the cross (v. 8).

The work of Christ did not end with His humility. In the exaltation of verses 9-11 we see the intervention of God. God takes the worst possible tragedy and turns it into eternal triumph, and the basis for all expressions of glory that flow to Christ from all creatures past, present, and future. While humility may seem weak to earthly eyes, God demonstrates His magnificent power over the entire universe as it bows in submission to Christ. This will be done: "to the glory of God the Father" (v. 10).

When we confess Jesus is Lord both with our lips and our lives, God receives glory. That is, when we live under the sovereign reign of God, submitting entirely to His care, we radiate the wonderful character of God to the world. And, the primary way in which we confess that Jesus is Lord is by putting the interests of others ahead of our own, as He did. ❑ — Vest is pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church, Englewood.

## Deaths

◆ **Emerson Knott,** 80, of Nashville died suddenly Sept. 6 after a fall. His wife, Linda Knott, is prison ministry coordinator, Nashville Baptist Association, and a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

## Leaders

◆ **Raymond "Buddy" Boston,** pastor, First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, for 26 years, will retire Nov. 2. He has served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board; on the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention; chaplain of the Dyersburg Police Department; on various committees of Union University, his alma mater; and in leadership roles of Dyer Baptist Association and the community. He will be honored by the church on Nov. 2. For more information, contact the church at (731) 285-4811.

*BOSTON*

◆ **Steve Linginfelter,** former pastor of First Baptist Church, Benton, was called as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Townsend, effective June 29.

◆ Cumberland Drive Baptist Church, Clarksville, has called **Bill Repsel** as minister of music.

◆ **Bill Irvin,** pastor, Lucy Baptist Church, Millington, has resigned due to health problems. He served the church for 18 years. He still lives in Millington and is a member of the chu

◆ **Franks,** associate serving as interim pa

◆ **Gary Shirley** called as youth mini on City Baptist Chu Hickory, effective Sep

◆ First Baptist Livingston, called **Ga** as minister of music Sept. 7. He previous as interim minister of

## Church

◆ **First Baptist St. Bethlehem, Cla** will celebrate its 45th sary and dedicate building Sept. 21. A service will be held following a lunche church just complete million project. For m mation, call (931) 648-

◆ **Hillcrest Church, Nashville,** revival Sept. 25- Gleaves of Elkhorn Church, Campbellsv will speak. Also on homecoming service held at 10:30 a.m. A and music will fol Cavaliers will perf more information, 256-4539.

◆ **First Baptist Morristown,** celeb 200th anniversary Homecoming Day rec Walker spoke during morning worship ser his wife, Esther, spok Sunday School class ternoon service Gospel music.

***MEMBERS OF NEW MIDWAY*** *Baptist Church, Kingston, break ground for a new building. It will include a 275-seat san ary, 1 classrooms, library, and pastor's study. Much of the construction is being done by church members, reported Wayne Prove , pas tor.*

***LEADERS OF GUM STAND*** *Baptist Church, Sevierville, broke ground recently on seven acres of land in Pigeon Forge. The first phase of the new facility will include a 500-seat sanctuary and classrooms. From left are Ronald Reagan, pastor; and building committee members Bill Stinnett; Eddie Perryman; Jason Harvey; Dennis Brackins; Ronnie Yates; Charles Cash; Al Cusick; and Steve Merritt.*

***VOLUNTEERS FROM MISSISSIPPI*** *work on an additio nial View Baptist Church, Cookeville, which will seat 22 teers from Louisiana also worked. They were recruited b pard, pastor, who served a church in Mississippi prior Colonial View for the past two years. He led the M church to send out construction teams.*

## Women on Mission of association serve again in Ky.

For *Baptist and Reflector*

ATHENS — The Women on Mission of McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association, based here, served recently for the ninth year in Wheelwright, Ky. The group, a part of Woman's Missionary Union, serves two times each year, reported Willie Bryant, team leader of East Niota Baptist Church, Athens. On one trip they focus on activities for children and youth and on the other they hold a retreat for women and offer sewing classes.

This year the area was flooded soon after the Tennesseans arrived. Working with Charles Wilson, missionary, and Margie, his wife, the team tried to meet the needs of residents while conducting a day camp for children and Youth Bible School in the evening.

The Tennesseans fed a Kentucky Disaster Relief team and residents. They fed residents who were flood victims, helped them clean their homes, and bought water and bleach for them.

Bryant reported they drew 52 children and 25 youth to the day camp and Bible school. As a result of the camp and school's family night, three people made initial commitments to God and one person made another spiritual decision. ❑

***TENNESSEANS*** *from McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association stand with Charles Wilson, missionary to Wheelwright, Ky., and his wife, Margie, during their trip there.*

***THE CHILDREN OF*** *the area present music on family night of the children's and youth activities provided by the Tennesseans.*