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**Plans set for TBC  
camps in 2004**

*Baptist and Reflector*

BRENTWOOD — Plans have been finalized for the new Journey and IMPACT camps to be sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 2004 at LindenValley Baptist Conference Center in Linden and CarsonSprings Baptist Conference Center in Newport.

The camps will provide small group Bible studies, worship, recreation, fellowship, hands-on mission experiences, and more, said Nancy Hamilton, TBC camping ministries specialist.

"These camps are for kids, youth, and adult sponsors. There is something for everyone," she said. "Every aspect of camp will challenge participants to live out their relationship to Jesus Christ," she added.

Journey camps for children who have completed grades three through six include:

Journey for Kids. Children may choose a variety of tracks such as missions, drama, sign language, sports, messy games, and choir among others. God-centered lessons will be taught through fun and recreation. Roy Broughman will serve as camp pastor and Jonathan Elder will lead worship. Dates are June 7-11 and June 28-July 2 at LindenValley and July 26-30 at CarsonSprings.

Journey for Boys. Boys will experience worship, Bible study, recreation, and tracks which include outdoor adventure, water sports, and hiking. Broughman and Elder also will lead these camps. Dates are June 21-25 at LindenValley and July 12-16 at CarsonSprings.

Journey for Girls: Activities for the girls will include Bible study, worship, and specialty tracks such as girl talk, missions, drama, cooking, and crafts. Camp leaders include Stacey Broughman and Beverly Smothers. Flyfaith will lead worship. Dates are June 14-18 at LindenValley and July 5-9 at CarsonSprings.

IMPACT camps for youth who have completed grades six through 12 include:

Youth IMPACT which will challenge youth to a new and deeper relationship with Christ as they learn how they can live out a relationship in their home, school, church, and community through Bible studies, creative and relevant worship, special interest tracks, and more. The date for Youth IMPACT is July 5-9 at LindenValley.

Mission IMPACT is a youth camp and mission trip all in one. Youth will be serving, feeding, reaching, and teaching in Jesus' name at ministry sites in and around Newport. They also will have Bible studies, worship, and more. The date is July 19-23 at CarsonSprings.

For more information on any of these camps, contact Hamilton at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2085. □

**Catalogs provide gifts for ministries**

By Mark Wingfield  
Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — A number of Christian ministries have borrowed a page out of the Neiman-Marcus Christmas Catalog.

Like the upscale retail chain, these ministries use the seasonal catalogs to offer unique gift ideas, ranging from the simple to the extraordinary. But unlike Neiman-Marcus, which offers a luxury ice-fishing house and a custom-made mermaid outfit, these Christian ministries provide alternative Christmas gift options that benefit third parties.

Organizations such as World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, and even Dallas-based Buckner Baptist Benevolences publish Christmas catalogs as an extension of their year-round efforts to help the world's neediest people.

The idea is to shop for something to help a person in need and then send a gift card to a friend or loved one announcing that this item has been donated in their name.

A pioneer in this field is Heifer International, a non-profit organization based in Little Rock, Ark., that works to end world hunger by providing livestock and small animals to farmers and impoverished families.

The Heifer Christmas catalog features a barnyard variety of gift ideas, ranging from a flock of chicks or ducks for \$20 to a sheep or goat for \$120, a llama for \$150, or a heifer for \$500. The extravagant giver may choose The Ark for \$5,000, which will provide a veritable Noah's Ark of animal sets.

For the listed price, Heifer will purchase and transport animals to those who need a sustainable source of nutrition and income. They, in

turn, are asked to share the gift with someone else.

For example, a family that receives a heifer obtains a source of protein to nourish children and adults alike. A good dairy cow, Heifer reports, can produce 4 gallons of milk a day — enough to feed the family and have some additional to sell. Further, a healthy cow may bear a calf once a year, furthering the supply of nourishment for a community.

A family that receives a heifer is asked to donate to another needy family the first female calf born to their cow.

Heifer International works in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, and the South Pacific.

This year's Heifer International catalog features a plethora of celebrity endorsements, from Walter Cronkite and Jimmy Carter to author Barbara Kingsolver.

World Vision, an international Christian humanitarian relief organization based in Federal Way, Wash., offers a similar catalog but one that stretches beyond animals.

Through World Vision, donors may give Christmas gifts of water wells in Haiti (\$10,000), wheelchairs for disabled children (\$250), education for an orphan child for one year (\$150), or immunizations for a child in a developing country (\$25). This is the eighth year for World Vision's Christmas catalog. Last year, the catalog raised \$5.8 million from more than 30,000 donors.

"The gift catalog vividly communicates the needs of our global neighbors and explains the help that caring individuals like you can provide," explains a promotional piece. "It's a great educational tool for families that also helps instill compassion in children." □

**\$400,000 winner  
credits God on TV,  
announces tithe**

Baptist Press

NATCHEZ, Miss. — A man who was awarded \$400,000 and enjoyed a few brief minutes of fame during halftime of the SEC Championship game Dec. 6 said he prayed for the opportunity to be a testimony of God's faithfulness and will tithe to the Southern Baptist church where he is a member.

Chuck Bartlett, a deacon at First Baptist Church here, entered the "Throw for Dough" contest after reading about it on a Diet Dr Pepper can. He was selected as one of 10 finalists to meet in Atlanta for the chance to win \$1 million during the Georgia and LSU game at the Georgia Dome. After winning a preliminary round Dec. 5, Bartlett advanced to the game-day stage where he threw footballs into a giant Dr Pepper can on the goal line.

With full pressure on, Bartlett made four of the five balls from the 5 yard line and then missed all five from the 10 yard line. But he completed the bonus 30-yard pass to add another zero to the \$40,000 he had already accumulated for a total of \$400,000.

After moments of jubilation and pointing heavenward while saying, "Thank you, Jesus!" Bartlett told CBS' Jill Arrington "Jesus Christ gives me all the strength I need to do whatever I

need." When she asked what he would do with the money, he said first he would tithe to his church and then he would give to several Christian missionary charities.

He will receive \$40,000 annually for the next eight years. □

**Akin choice to  
lead Southeastern**

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's presidential search committee will recommend to the board of trustees the election of Daniel L. Akin as the seminary's sixth president.

The board will meet in special session on Jan. 15 at 2 p.m. at the school's campus here to vote on Akin.

"Dr. Akin is a man with great vision, keen insight, and spiritual understanding," said Timothy D. Lewis, chairman of the search committee as well as the head of Southeastern's board of trustees. "His enthusiasm is contagious and genuine. We do not feel any other man in Southern Baptist life could better follow [former President] Dr. [Paige] Patterson than Dr. Daniel Akin."

Akin, 46, is currently the vice president for academic administration/dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has connections to Southeastern, as he was professor of theology, dean of students and vice president for student services at Southeastern from 1992-96. □

**Faculty criticize  
textbook decision**

Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. — Louisiana College trustees have approved a policy change designed to establish accountability regarding selection of textbooks and other instructional materials. The action has been reported in newspapers across the state, defended in an open letter to Louisiana Baptists by the college's president, Rory Lee, and criticized via a faculty vote.

As approved, all materials used at the school now must be approved by department coordinators or chairs and the vice president of academic affairs. Previously, faculty members had complete control over selection of materials. The action came after prolonged discussion in executive session during the scheduled trustee meeting in late November.

Trustees presented the policy change following a two-hour executive session. Consideration of the issue also came after Lee ordered two books (*A Road Less Traveled* by Scott Peck and *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines) removed from the college bookstore storage area recently. □



AKIN

## In Sparta

## Less than 2-year-old church gives birth to mission

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — When The River Community Church began here about 18 months ago, it set some lofty goals, including having a vision to plant a church every two years.

They missed the target, but met the goal.

With their two-year anniversary still a few months away, The River Community Church already is officially a "mother."

The church planted a mission in Sparta earlier this summer — The Rock Community Church which is meeting in the offices of Union Baptist Association in Sparta.

The River moved along with planting a mission earlier than anticipated when God began putting in place a series of events, said Steven Tiebout, pastor of The River, which meets at Cane Creek Elementary School in Cookeville.

He noted that last January a couple (Joan and David Barrett) visited the church, learned of their vision, and asked if the church had considered Sparta as a potential site.

"We started praying about it," Tiebout recalled.

"We were new to the area and while we were building a house in Sparta, we were living temporarily in Cookeville," Joan Barrett said.

Barrett said they jokingly told Tiebout they would like him to "pick up The River and place it in Sparta."

He also noted they enjoy the celebratory style of worship both churches use.

Then another person came to The River (Dean McKenzie) and announced that he wanted to be part of a church plant, Tiebout

recalled. He is now serving as worship pastor for The Rock.

"We began to pray for a church planter," Tiebout said, adding they also began to consult with Wayne Terry, church starter strategist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

In the meantime, Duane Graves, who had planted churches in Louisiana and Alabama, moved to the area due to the poor health of his wife's father, who lives in the Livingston area.

In addition, Tiebout heard from a couple in Sparta (Billy and Nori Conley) who had a vision for a church plant in their community.

"It was as if God said, 'This is it,'" Tiebout recalled.

He arranged for those interested in planting a church in the Sparta area to meet Graves.

"It was the easiest church plant I have ever heard of," Tiebout laughed.

After that meeting with interested parties, a meeting was arranged with Lofton Graves (no relation to Duane), director of missions for Union Baptist Association.

Lofton Graves admitted there was some resistance to the idea at first because The Rock Community Church would be the association's only total contemporary congregation.

The DOM noted that Tiebout and Duane Graves came to an associational prayer breakfast to meet with leaders and to answer questions about their theology and purpose.

"After a period of time, we began to see it was something God could use to reach those not coming to our churches," the DOM shared.

While the association does not have the new work in its



**INVOLVED IN THE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH**, a new start in Sparta are, from left, seated, Joan and David Barrett; Lofton Graves, director of missions, Union Baptist Association; Steve Tiebout, pastor of The River Community Church in Cookeville; standing, Duane Graves, pastor, Rock Church; and Dean McKenzie, worship pastor, The Rock.

budget directly, it provides space for the church and an office for the pastor. In addition, churches in Union Association are helping out as well.

Duane Graves had been praying for a place to live when First Baptist Church, Doyle, offered him and his family their parsonage rent-free.

Lofton Graves said the action of the Doyle congregation reflects how the association is warming to the idea of its first contemporary church.

"We have gone from resistance to an 'opening up' as our churches realize there are people (in the association) they will never reach," the DOM noted. "What happened at Doyle is part of the process," he added.

With the help of volunteers from The Rock, the parsonage was spruced up for the Graves family in no time. Their new

home is only five miles from downtown Sparta.

"I have seen God's hand in the whole process," Duane Graves said.

Though his salary is much less than what it was before the move, God has counteracted that by helping the family bills drop \$1,700 each month.

In addition to the free housing, a car was provided to the family after Graves' wife, Diane, had an accident and totaled their car.

"We have had some neat miracles," the mission pastor said.

The Rock has been meeting as a congregation less than two months, but already is reaching the limits of the associational office space as attendance has grown from 28 the first Sunday to about 40.

And it has basically been done without a lot of outreach efforts.

"We are praying for a building we can make a six-month commitment to," said Duane Graves. After that period the church should be ready for land and more permanent facility, the mission pastor added.

And as to the mother church, "giving away" some of its members and funds have not hurt The River at all, Tiebout stressed.

"We have actually gone up in attendance since we made a commitment to start the church in Sparta," he said.

Duane Graves and members of The Rock share the same vision and desire of the mother church to begin a mission as soon as possible.

"It won't happen next Sunday, but it's going to happen," Duane Graves assured.

He and Tiebout share the same philosophy about starting churches.

"Everything that lives reproduces, including churches," Tiebout said. He also noted that if a church does not plant a new church in three years, it probably will not happen.

The TBC's Terry agreed. "Less than 5 percent of existing churches ever help start another church," Terry observed.

Duane Graves noted that "planting a church is the most effective way to reach the lost."

Tiebout is convinced the entire process has been led by God.

"I really believe it is a God-thing. When you consider all the elements that had to come together and it was done in less than six months," he said.

Tiebout noted that God was there every time The River took a step of faith. "He provided in such a way that it could only be of God." □

## TBC staffer gives personal gift to children without hair

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Rachel Watson readily admits that hair is important to a woman.

But, in her case, so are children who, for whatever reason, cannot grow their own hair.

As a result, Watson recently had her hair cut so she could donate it to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Watson had long hair most of her life but decided to cut it when she was a junior at Union University. She graduated from Union in May of this year.

"When I started growing it out again, I didn't purposely do it for Locks of Love," she recalled.

But she learned of the organization when friends at Union donated their hair and also was reminded of it last Novem-

ber when her sister-in-law, Shantel Watson, donated her hair to the Florida-based organization.

"Once my hair was long enough I decided that (Locks of Love) would be the reason to cut it again," said Watson, who serves as a ministry assistant in the Evangelism Strategies Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"That's a small sacrifice I can give to a child who cannot grow their own hair," she observed.

She noted there is a definitive process donors must go through in order to donate their hair.

The hair must be cut in a ponytail and must be at least 10 inches long, she said.

In her case, her hair was so long and thick that it was divided into six ponytails, 13 inches long.

A hair stylist in Clarksville cut and styled her hair at no cost when she learned the purpose of the cut. That is not un-



**TBC STAFFER Rachel Watson, right, is shown with her friend Wendy Wiltshire at their graduation from Union University in May.**

common, Watson said. "If you're willing to donate hair to Locks of Love, many hair stylists and salons will cut it for free," she said.

Once the hair was cut it had to dry completely. It took about two weeks before Watson was able to send her hair



**RACHEL WATSON serves as ministry assistant in the Evangelism Strategies Group of the TBC.**

to Locks of Love.

Reactions from family and friends have been positive, including that of her boyfriend.

"He thought it was great," she said.

Having short hair again has been an adjustment, but "it is definitely worth it," Watson shared.

Watson acknowledged giving one's hair away is a most unusual gift. But going through the process has helped her see things that are normally taken for granted.

Hair that normally is cut and tossed in garbage bags "can be someone else's treasure."

Would she do it again? More than likely, she acknowledged. Watson noted it took two years for her hair to grow out after it was cut before.

"I think it would be worth it to grow it out and go through the process again," she said.

According to the Locks of Love web site, the organization was begun in 1997.

It receives 2,000 hair donations each week. The number of hairpiece donations has grown from 23 the first year to more than 1,000. Locks of Love recipients live in all 50 states and Canada.

For more information on Locks of Love, visit their web site at [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org). □

## For convention

## Liz Lee reflects on 20 years of children's work

By Connie Davis  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Liz Lee, Children's Ministry Specialist, describes her TBC work for the past 20 years in two ways — pervasive and personal.

She has met with over 6,000 teachers of children and visited nearly 2,000 churches. Each year she leads the competition for about 1,400 Bible drillers. The Bible Fun Days she held drew more than 600 children and leaders last year. She also developed the Special Friends Camp for mentally challenged adults and children and led it for 13 years.

Lee also recalled her service in a personal way. She has encouraged children's teachers who called, complaining that they couldn't keep the children quiet and feeling they should quit. She usually convinced the teacher to stay one more week and consider not trying to keep the children quiet but to involve the child in learning through creative activities.

Lee also recalled being with church staff, "laughing with them and crying with them and trying to figure out how to help a young pastor not to get discouraged and loving on his wife so she will hang in there one more year."

She can relate to church staff members. Lee and her husband, Tom, served churches in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana

before Tom was called to LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, in 1976. Liz Lee worked at LifeWay for five years before Wendell Price, Sunday School Director of the TBC, asked her to join the TBC staff in 1983.

She said she basically has said what she thought and done what she believed as her calling for the TBC. She is appreciative of her supervisors and the folks in the state who have given her the freedom to fulfill her call to children's ministry.

Lee hopes Baptists will continue to hold children's work, especially on professions of faith, worship, and entertainment, which will consider the child and be based on Scripture.

#### Thoughts on making a profession of faith

Children's teachers and parents need to know that faith development mainly occurs from the ages of 4-8 but begins at birth. And parents are of primary importance in a child's development of faith, she said.

When a young child expresses interest in salvation, it is good to answer with a question, asking the child to explain how to be saved as if they were telling a best friend, said Lee. In this way, the child's understanding can be measured.

Too many children of this generation are being re-baptized as they grow older, sometimes several times, said Lee, because they made spiritual commitments prematurely.

She encouraged parents to "live the life and talk the talk and be ready to answer questions." Parents also should be ready to tell about their commitment to God and allow the child to talk about God, added Lee.

Finally, parents should be more matter-of-fact than emotional as they discuss faith, described Lee. This is difficult, but helps the adolescent realize the decision is not concerned with a person's emotions, but with God who is dependable.

#### Children in worship

Lee believes one of the best ways to prepare children for faith in God is to include them in the full worship service, not just a portion of it.

"We're overlooking a generation and we're going to wake up and wonder where they are," submitted Lee.

By removing children after the music portion of the service, Baptists are teaching children "if it's not entertaining, don't come."

She referred to the Old Testament story of the Jewish leader who spoke to people for three days. She noted the Scripture says the people did not leave. She said one can assume that meant the children did not leave either.

"God's plan from the begin-

ning was for us to be together as we worship, intermingled with our family."

Congregations should make worship more family-friendly, continued Lee. For instance, churches can develop sections for families with appropriate seating for all ages. Variety can be added as well as activities which involve all ages.

For instance, in one church children placed ornaments related to the Christian faith on a Christmas tree during the service. Another idea is to allow children during worship to report what they learned in Sunday School.

Of course, a children's time in a worship service is very effective, said Lee. She encouraged pastors to lead them. Sitting by the pastor, she stated Often if a child sees himself as a buddy of the pastor, he or she will behave in the service, she added.

#### Veggie Tales

When asked about popular teaching tools for children including Veggie Tales, Lee said Veggie Tales are very confusing to children, who cannot determine real from make believe.

The Veggie Tales have inanimate or unreal objects represent real people. For instance, Jonah may be a cucumber in a Veggie Tale.

Also because the stories rely on pun and comedy, they aren't biblically accurate, added Lee. Such teaching is not allowing the "genuine learning process.

Children must unlearn this and so their learning is slowed down by these [tales]," said Lee.

#### Thoughts on teaching

Age graded activities should include "moving and maybe even getting your hands dirty," said Lee. Unfortunately teachers often endured teaching which wasn't activity-based, so they tend to teach without activities.

They should use methods which are "exciting and fun," said Lee. Children learn by doing, she stated.

Learning and understanding biblical concepts changes behavior, but it is "slow and takes time," she added. To be effective, teachers must spend time with children in relationships of trust and example.

Learning in church is important because in what they experience at church is what they carry with them as adults, she explained.

She encouraged teachers and church staff members to visit children of the church in their homes just as they visit adults. This is a lost art of ministry, said Lee. "That's where your people love to see you, appreciate you, know you."

Of her service at the TBC, Lee said in her humble way, "I feel like I've had a great time making my mess and now it's time for somebody to come along and clean it up."

"I've learned as much as I've taught."

She and Tom will retire in Clinton. □



LEE

## Tennessee Baptists support Operation Christmas ...

— Continued from page 1

The couple also worked with 10 relay centers which collect boxes to be taken to the collection center. One Baptist church in the area was a relay center — Liberty Baptist Church in Bristol. Operation Christmas Child is a non-denominational ministry.

Lisa Lance reported the project has continued to grow as they have been involved. The first three years they served participation increased each year by 20 percent. This year it increased by 25 percent.

The Lances already are making plans for next year's ministry.

#### TBCH

The Franklin Campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes served as a relay center in Middle Tennessee. Amy Farrow of the TBCH staff coordinated the project with help from Ray Sandusky of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, and Nancy Hale of Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, who served as co-chairs.

The TBCH received 3,657 shoe boxes, nearly 1,000 more than last year.

To support the ministry, Hale called about 120 churches



YOUTH OF WEST HILLS Baptist Church, Lebanon, wrap shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child as a youth project. They contributed 87 shoe boxes to the ministry. Youth minister Patrick Fraley said the project is a good one because "children stand in line for hours to receive one [shoe box], which in most cases is the only Christmas gift they get."

and organizations. Then with help from the TBCH staff, Hale and Sandusky mailed packets from Operation Christmas Child to the organizations.

During a collection week in November, Sandusky said, they were helped by about 80 volunteers they and Farrow recruited.

The volunteers included a homeschool group and a moving company who moved without charge the boxes from the campus to Thomas

Nelson Publishers in Nashville, the collection site for the region.

Sandusky said he was able to be involved because his work as a wood artist and student is somewhat flexible. He said he was glad to be involved.

"You receive a lot in return," he said. "It almost makes you cry when you see those shoe boxes coming in, not because of the work [involved] but because of the outpouring."

Farrow said the children's home was glad to be involved because children who are residents participated. The project helped them know "that there are children all over the world that don't have anything."

Both he, Hale, and Farrow have already met to begin plans for next year's shoe box ministry.

#### Churches

In West Tennessee, First Baptist Church, Fishersville, participated in the project for the first time, according to Bonnie Essary, a member and educational secretary at the church.

The project was sponsored by the Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls in Action (GAs) but the entire church was involved, Essary said.

"We loved doing it," she noted. Essary said the church held a special ceremony to dedicate the boxes before they were taken to a collection point at Bartlett United Methodist Church.

Because of the excitement created by the project, Essary said she is "quite sure First Baptist will participate again next year."

Tulip Grove Baptist Church

in Old Hickory has been participating in Operation Shoe Box for six years, according to Jeff Gilliam, who coordinates the project for the church. During the first year more than 500 boxes were donated. That number has grown each year, culminating with 735 boxes this year, he said.

"Our members have seen a legitimate need to show Christ's love to a deserving child in an impoverished country," Gilliam observed. In addition, he continued, the shoe box program enables the plan of salvation to be presented to those children in their own language.

Gilliam noted the shoe box project is easy to do and allows families to be involved together in a mission project. "We take our daughter, Callie, who helps to choose the presents that go in the box," Gilliam said. "It is something families can do together as well as others who might want to participate in a mission project but would never have the opportunity to go to another country," he added.

Officials of Operation Christmas Child were contacted for specific information but did not respond by deadline. □

# Do you have Christmas spirit or Christmas Spirit?



reflections

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

parties, work parties, Christmas cantatas, you name it.

So many of us get caught up in the "busyness" that we tend to put off the real meaning of Christmas until the night before when many churches hold special Christmas Eve services.

This Christmas season started slowly in our household. We didn't even have decorations inside the house until last week.

In fact, there was some consideration about not even putting up a tree or getting out Joyce's hundreds (or so it seems when I get them out of storage) nativity sets.

For the first time in our house, our daughter Joanna has not been home for the Christmas season. She will be home for Christmas but we will travel back to South Carolina to see family and friends there. It almost didn't seem worth the trouble. There was no Christmas spirit or Christmas Spirit.

Even our son, Daniel, who always has been excited about Christmas, seemed less joyous.

But then we realized we were falling into the same trap that so many Christians fall into this time of year. We began to think and, perhaps believe, that the Christmas season is all about us. It's not. Christmas is all about Jesus.

And therein lies the difference between Christmas spirit and Christmas Spirit.

Christmas Spirit with the little "s" is the attitude that Christmas revolves around self.

Christmas Spirit with the capital "S" is the attitude that Christmas is about Jesus, nothing else.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to determine if you have spirit or Spirit.

(1) Has my time been spent primarily being concerned about buying presents (spirit) or remembering the only reason

we celebrate Christmas (Spirit)?  
 (2) Are the sights and sounds you hear at Christmas primarily happy, loud Christmas music and bright decorations (spirit) or are they sounds of stomachs growling from hunger or folks with torn and tattered clothing (Spirit)?

(3) Are you looking toward Christmas morning with anticipation of what you will get (spirit) or seeing the faces of people who receive what you give (Spirit)?

(4) Do you toss money into the Salvation Army pots at the department stores thinking you've done your part to help the poor (spirit) or do you get involved in personally helping to meet physical needs of those less fortunate (Spirit)?

These are just a few questions. There no doubt are more.

Consider this. After Christmas has passed, the presents have been opened, and the decorations put away, has your

Christmas spirit, little "s," also been packed in a box, not to be opened until Dec. 1 of next year?

Or, do you still have the Christmas Spirit, capital "S" that gives you the desire to be concerned and compassionate about the needs of others year-round, not just at Christmas.

We find Christmas spirit in the worldly things associated with Christmas. We find Christmas Spirit when we remember that Christmas is all about Jesus and not just the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Christmas is also the baby who grew into manhood, and who some 33 years later would hang on a cross bearing our sins.

My prayer is all of us will have the true Christmas Spirit this Christmas and in all the days that follow in 2004.

May you have a Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous new year. ☐

## Parents, help put joy into home this Christmas season



a parent speaks

By Carolyn R. Tomlin

think of sharing material possessions and time to help others.

That baby named Jesus, born in a manger in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago is as real today as when the shepherds saw the star and came to worship Him.

This Christmas think of ways your family can put joy into making this holiday season one of your best. Wouldn't it be wonderful if your family could look back and say, "You know, Christmas 2003 was one I'll always remember?"

Here are some ideas to help make that happen.

(1) Make a list of lonely people in your community and church who will spend Christmas alone this year. Make a special visit and take a plate of holiday cook-

ies your family prepared.

(2) Attend a Christmas Cantata as a family. Introduce children to the traditional anthems and hymns based on Scripture from the Christmas story as recorded in Matthew and Luke.

(3) Encourage your family to take winter walks. Bundle up the kids, drive to a nearby park or walk in your neighborhood. Walking clears the mind and helps the body cope with everyday stress. Don't forget the dog — he needs exercise, too.

(4) Rise before the family and have a few minutes of solitary time. Watch the sun come up in the eastern sky. Search for lacy patterns of frost on windowpanes.

(5) Invite neighbors in for a soup and sandwich lunch. Make

time for friends you really enjoy.

(6) Volunteer to serve meals at a homeless shelter. Make this a family event that includes older children. Research shows that children, who contribute as youth, continue this service as adults.

(7) Save loose change for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Place a container in a visible place so all the family will be reminded.

(8) Help children make personal gifts for friends and family members. It's much more fun than purchasing a ready-made gift.

(9) Watch the faces of children as they sing Christmas carols. Thank God for each precious child.

(10) Fill your home with the

aroma of cooking during the holidays. Save orange peel; add a sprinkle of cinnamon and a dash of nutmeg to a pot of water. Simmer throughout the day.

(11) Decorate your home with natural greenery. Teach children to identify those that grow in your area, such as cedar, pine, holly, spruce and mistletoe. If available, plan a trip to a wooded area and cut your own. Talk about the beautiful products of nature God made for us to enjoy.

(12) Say a prayer, thanking God for life, for family, and for coming into the world so that we might have eternal life. ☐ — Tomlin writes for numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

## Magic words from daughter makes dad forget football game



guest columnist

By Gene Fant Jr.

When my little girl whispered those words into my ear, however, the game disappeared as a priority. I grabbed my Bible out of my briefcase, took her hand, and led her back into the bedroom in which we all were staying. Her twin brother Ethan and my wife Lisa joined us on the bed as I talked about sin, Christ's love for us, and the meaning of the cross and the resurrection.

When Lisa and I found out that we were expecting our children, we began praying for their salvation while they were yet in the womb. Our parents began praying for them, too. I knew that in that evening, sitting together on that bed, our prayers for Emily were going to be answered.

After talking to Emily, Lisa and I were convinced that this was a genuine decision. Emily wasn't just parroting what she had heard; she meant what she said. I then led her in the sinner's prayer, and we all hugged as spiritual brothers and sisters,

not just as parents and child. Ethan wasn't ready to make his decision, but he was just as excited as the rest of us.

We walked back into the living room, and Emily announced to everyone what had just happened. It was especially moving for my father, since Thanksgiving Day was also his birthday. Now he and his granddaughter share the same birthday.

In adults who have become recent converts, I have always seen an overpowering desire to devour the Word and a compulsion to share their faith with others. With my daughter, it's been the same pattern. How sweet it has been to watch her fall asleep at night reading her Bible. To watch her tell everyone she meets that she has asked Jesus into her heart. To see her excitement in learning who are her new brothers and sisters in Christ.

In II Timothy 4:2, Paul wrote that we should proclaim the

message; persist in it whether convenient or not (HCSB). What a blessing from God to be able to deliver my own child into His kingdom right in the middle of a football game on a national holi-

day. ☐ — Fant chairs the English Department at Union University in Jackson. With his wife Lisa, he is the author of *Expectant Moments: Devotions for Expectant Couples* (Zondervan, 2002).

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"No no no! There were no reindeer at the manger! They came later... with the wise men!"

Remains 'home' for Christmas

East Tennessee is good substitute for Australian

By Charles Key  
For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — For Matt Cram-Smith, a holiday trip home is a little more than over the river and through the woods. It's more like through two continents and across the ocean.

A native of Perth, Australia, Matt is one of 87 Carson-Newman College international students who finds himself far from home for the holidays. "I couldn't help but think today in class how many of my classmates will get to go home in a few days," says Matt, who will spend his break away from his family.

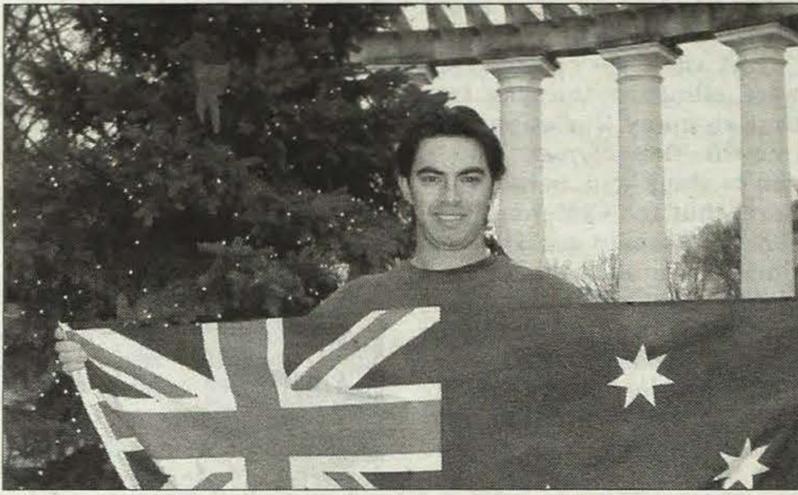
However Matt says that being able to spend Christmas with his girlfriend's family in Lafollette will help. "Several of my Australian mates will stay here on campus for break," says Matt, citing expensive airline tickets as a big factor. "One of my friends was able to find a round trip flight for \$1,500 a ticket." Matt explains that such a find is a great deal when compared to some ticket prices topping \$5,000 for a trip down under.

The C-N senior admits that this time of year makes him long for Perth, citing weather as one of the reasons. "It's summer right now at home," says the Aussie. "My dad called me yesterday and told me they were planning a barbecue on Saturday, and I thought to myself, 'it will probably snow here on Saturday,'" he chuckled.

Matt says that though most Australians don't care for the cold temperatures, many share similar traditions as Americans. "We sing the same carols and enjoy being with family. We even sing 'White Christmas,' even though we know there's not a chance of that," he laughs.

The general studies major says that there are also differences between some Australian traditions and those of East Tennessee. "A lot of times families in Australia will play a game of cricket after Christmas lunch. It's kind of like getting friends together for a game of touch football here, but it's a sport everyone can play."

Matt says that his mother's



**MATT CRAM-SMITH**, holding a flag from his native country of Australia, found not only a new home at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, he also found Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

food is another reason for his homesickness. "I miss my mom's plum pudding," he says. "She would always start making it in October and then she lets it ferment. We eat it on Christmas day and it's just wonderful."

Though he misses his mother's kitchen, Matt says that he's also enjoyed a number of home-cooked meals in the States. "I've certainly not gone hungry since I've been here," he adds.

Matt says he's been moved by the outpouring of those who have been willing to open their homes to him. After spending last Christmas with a friend in Rutledge, he says that he has felt the same warm hospitality this year. "I've probably had 15 people ask me to spend the holidays with them," he smiles. "That's why I love it here at Carson-Newman," says Matt. "I guess it's the Christian values that really come out during the holidays. You just don't see that back home. It gives you a great feeling."

Each year Carson-Newman offers holiday events that ready students for the advent season and hopefully help with any holiday homesickness felt among students. From decorating the parlors of Swann residence hall to hearing a book-reading by *Plastic Santa* author, Mary Hodges, students find that December at C-N has plenty to offer. Many opt to attend traditional campus events such as the performance of "Messiah" or the Christmas tree

lighting service in the Tarr Music Center. There are also outreach opportunities including Christmas in Jefferson County, Operation Christmas Child, and gathering goods for Samaritan House.

One of the unique events held this year was solely for international students. Phyllis Hoover, who serves on staff at the College's Center for Global Education organized a party for the group.

"We celebrate the students' birthdays so they can experience what happens at a traditional American birthday party," she explained. "This last event, we combined the occasion with a Christmas party." Hoover said that Christmas presents given by C-N faculty, staff, and students made an unforgettable impact on the group.

"Each international student received a new sweater, many from people they didn't even know," says Hoover, who coordinates international student activities.

The warm gifts were a hit, notes Matt. "I was so surprised; I just couldn't believe it. It brought one of my friends to tears."

While Matt appreciates the Christmas gesture, he will tell you it's not the greatest gift that he has received since coming to Appalachia. "I transferred here from a state school. I really noticed the Christian influence around here, especially through the professors' teachings."

Matt says that it was the blending of faith and learning that opened up a new world to him.

"You can really get much more out of it when you consider how the two go together," he adds. "It helped me to become a Christian. I wasn't a Christian before I came here, and it has just really changed my life."

It may not be his native home, but because of its impact on his life, Matt says that Carson-Newman is a good surrogate. "It feels like home a lot of the time," he says. "The people here really have become like family to me." □

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**Cumberland Regional Ministry**

Attention: Middle Tennessee chaplains, collegiate ministers, directors of missions, associational WMU directors, and other community ministry leadership

(an exploration meeting re: ministry specific to Middle TN; i.e. Appalachian Regional Ministry in East TN and Mississippi River Ministry in West TN)

**Monday, Feb. 23, 2004**  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**TN Baptist Convention Building, Brentwood, TN**

Lunch is provided — reservations must be made by Feb. 13, 2004.

Contact Beverly Smothers or Elizabeth Holmes in Missions Mobilization, 1-800-558-2090.

## Tri-State Camp-O-Ree draws almost 700 to Cordova

By Marcia Knox  
"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

**CORDOVA** — The 26th annual Tri-State Camp-O-Ree was held Oct. 10-11 at Camp Cordova, Cordova, with almost 700 people in attendance even though it was rainy weather, according to Hershel Wells, co-director of Camp-O-Ree.

"It was one of our best camp-o-rees that we have ever had with participants from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas," said Wells.

Besides mission groups, participating were: the Memphis Police, Memphis Fire Department, and Shelby County Sheriff's Departments with their helicopter, rescue teams, fire trucks, and numerous other units.

"We also had six missionaries and an instant computer link with a missionary in Thailand, which the children enjoyed."

The Shelby Baptist Association Royal Ambassadors in cooperation with the mission education departments of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee Baptist conventions sponsored the event. Besides Tennessee, several Mississippi and Arkansas churches attended.

The two-day event camp challenged

boys and girls in grades 1 through 12 with competition in campcraft and shared Christian interest activities. The purpose of the overnight event is planned specifically for children and youth with activities directed toward developing strong Christian relationships and a sense of personal worth.

The program included several competitions including Youth Speak-Out and Lad Show and Tell. Winners from Tennessee Baptist Convention churches were: Lad, Jonathan Chow; Crusader, Chris Chow; and High School Baptist Young Men, Sam Parrish; all from Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett.

Tennessee Baptist Convention honor chapters were: Lad, Crusaders, and HSBYM, all from Faith Church; Lads, First Baptist Church of Covington; Crusaders, First Baptist Church of Millington; Crusaders and Challengers, all from Hope Baptist Church of Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Tennessee Baptist Convention Derby RA Racers winners were: Lad, Seth Grant, Faith Church; Crusader, Doug Young, Oak Valley Baptist Church, Franklin; and Challenger, Kerry Deshazo, Hope Church. Special guest was Anthony Clark, the strongest man in America. Guest musicians were Josh Smith and the East Side band. Both



**ROYAL AMBASSADORS** enjoy a fire at the 26th annual Tri-State Camp-O-Ree held Oct. 10-11 at Camp Cordova, Cordova.

IMB and NAMB missionaries were present.

Other activities included fishing, canoeing, rafting, LifeWay Book Store, computer missions learning center, night hikes, hot air balloon, drug awareness displays, and lake-

side campfire service.

The next Camp-O-Ree will be held Oct. 8-9, 2004. For registration and fee information see web site at [www.tristatecamporee.org](http://www.tristatecamporee.org), or contact Wells at [Hwells1@midsouth.rr.com](mailto:Hwells1@midsouth.rr.com) or call him at 901-568-0466. □

## Mounted ministry to carol again soon

By Marcia Knox  
"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

**CULLEOKA** — Singing Christmas Carols on horseback is a new twist on caroling, but people in Culleoka are getting used to it as a service of the Maury County Mounted Ministry.

Kenny and Angie Nix, David and Shelia Woody, all members of Friendship Baptist Church, Culleoka, along with other equestrians will travel the roads again this Christmas and serenade their neighbors in Culleoka and Lynville.

Officers of the Mounted Ministry are: Kenny Nix, president, Shelia Woody, secretary, and David Woody, vice president.

"We're reaching out to the people of Maury County that like to ride horses and trail ride," said Kenny Nix. "This ministry is for people

who are looking for a place to ride that is clean and wholesome, a place where they can bring their families to ride and fellowship, and have a good ole time."

The Mounted Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry dedicated to reaching out to the people of Maury and surrounding counties. Their motto is "Ride for the Son."

A non-denominational ministry, the equestrian ministry tries to reach the unchurched and those who are no longer attending church to share the Good News in an environment that is non-threatening. There are 25 people who participate with the group.

The ministry has been going for a year and is being promoted by word of mouth and fliers. The group will soon put together a riding schedule for 2004.

For information on equestrian ministry in the state contact Gene Williams, Men's Ministry specialist, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2064 or e-mail him at [gwilliams@tnbaptist.org](mailto:gwilliams@tnbaptist.org).

For information on the Maury County Mounted Ministry contact Kenny Nix at (931) 987-0657 or e-mail him at [kanix.1@net-zero.com](mailto:kanix.1@net-zero.com). □



**MEMBERS OF THE** Maury County Mounted Ministry held a benefit trail ride in Hickman County in October for St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

## Church Renewal offered

For "Men's Ministries Newsletter"

**MARYVILLE** — Church Renewal is God's creation coming back to life and thriving. It's all too easy to allow your "first love" for the Lord and your intimacy with one another as a church family to fade.



**HANLE**

Your church's place in God's mission is too important to let that happen. Won't you invest a weekend in the life of your church, and invite God to bring you a fresh encounter with Him?

The Church Renewal Journey (CRJ) includes: The Lay Renewal Weekend; The Lay Ministry Weekend; The Experiencing God Weekend; and several more are available.

How does it work? Most Church Renewal Journey (CRJ) resources are available free by visiting [www.churchrenewal.net](http://www.churchrenewal.net). The weekend coordinator and the entire team come to your church at their own expense. Meals are provided and the team is housed in homes of the church members.

Each team is determined by the size of the church. For example, a church with a Sunday School attendance of 80 would need a team of approximately 15. Many team members are married couples so only seven or eight host homes would be needed.

The CRJ is a church-wide renewal for all ages including children, youth, and adults.

Most weekend events begin at 5 p.m. on Friday. Saturday is completely dedicated to the renewal process with small groups and general sessions. The day concludes with a time of prayer and commitment.

Sunday concludes the weekend with team members teaching Sunday School classes and leading in the worship service. The team departs after lunch. The highlight of the process is the Sunday evening worship service where church members freely share and evaluate what the weekend meant to them, and how they will take what they learned into their homes and personal marketplaces.

If your church is interested in pursuing this program, contact Don Hanle at (865) 681-1465 or e-mail him at [donalhanle@charter.net](mailto:donalhanle@charter.net). Or write him at 1013 Sandy Court, Maryville, TN 37803-7533. □

## A Word from Gene

We men would do well to slow down and prepare ourselves to hear the gentle voice of God.

According to I Kings 19:11-12, God chose not to reveal Himself to Elijah through dramatic events that were powerful enough to break rocks, cause earthquakes, and start a fire. In this instance, He chose to speak through a still small voice.

While in Kosovo a few years ago, we were woken before daylight each morning by the electronically amplified Muslim call to prayer, the first of five throughout the day. Interestingly enough, the first call to prayer was the only one we heard. The remaining calls to prayer were lost in the noise of daily activity.

I think we miss a lot of God's messages, because His still small voice is drowned out by the noise of our busy lives. Deadlines, appointments, trips, meetings, ministry responsibilities, family care, and dozens of other opportunities call for our precious time.

Do not hear me say that these activities are unimportant. Major accomplishments are a potential blessing as a result of our involvement in these matters. But what matters most is your personal relationship with God through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

One day, our race will be over. When we stand before the throne, will our previous plans, projects, or properties have any significance? Will our degree of success in accumulating wealth or power have the same appeal?

I suggest that we will be most pleased if we have developed a vibrant, intimate, growing love relationship with the Father. The first of all commandments (Mark 12:29-30) is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. I think many of us have fallen short of this greatest of all commandments, because we fail to step out of the race, steal away to be alone with Him, and listen to His still small voice.

Listening requires time. If you do not have it to give, you have little chance of developing a love relationship with the Lord the way He wants to be loved. I have made a decision to not allow a new thing to come into my life without giving up an old one. In the spring, I will start cultivating a new relationship with a small group of men in my church only after giving up my Tuesday morning session with some men in Franklin.

Please simplify your life, pare down your agenda, and whittle away the busyness that keeps you from resting in the Lord. Seek some place of silence and do nothing, but seek Him. Listen and wait.



WILLIAMS

How long? Until He speaks, which will be uncomfortable for some. Perhaps you have tried it before, and felt like you failed. Satan will always urge us to give up when we are attempting to get closer to the Lord. Be prepared to be uncomfortable.

How much time? How much are you giving now? Increase that time. If you spend five minutes a day praying to the Lord, then I suggest you give five minutes more just listening. He wants a two-way conversation. Shut up and listen. Uncomfortable? I expect so, but be prepared. In fact, you may want to confess just that. He will understand.

What if the Lord chooses not to speak today, this week, or for six months? Be faithful. It will be a time to develop spiritual ears, cleanse your heart, and prepare for the grand moment when you experience Him. Expect to cry. Expect to go deeper into a moment of devotion than you have ever experienced. It is real.

Have you ever sat in a room with someone with whom you wanted to start or continue a conversation, but you can't think of anything appropriate to say? Those minutes seemed like an eternity didn't they. Then if you manage to find some area of common interest, the conversation flows freely. All of a sudden the effort seems worthwhile. It is similar to my experience beginning a two-way conversation with the Lord. It moved me off of my plateau.

God is waiting for a conversation with his children in the same way this father's heart pounds with joy when one of my girls call home. In II Chronicles 16:9, we find that God is searching for a man into which to pour His power. That man will have a heart to listen, be instructed, and receive a message just for Him.

He will start to love on the Lord the way the Lord wants to be loved. Things will never be the same. That man will never need to be prodded into service. He will begin to read Scripture one verse at a time, shut his eyes, and listen. That man will ask, "What are you saying to me Lord?" He really wants to tell you.

As I mentioned earlier, I am a member of a rather large group of men who meet early each Tuesday morning for Bible study and worship. Our leader suggested two items to pray each day: "Lord let me understand your spirit," and "Help me walk in the power of your spirit." The first request is for instruction. The second is for obedience.

We will not understand God's spirit or walk in His power until we listen to His still small voice.

*Gene*

Gene Williams  
Men's Ministry Specialist

## Evangelism meeting to focus on laymen

By Marcia Knox  
"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

BRENTWOOD — Layman's Night will be held Tuesday evening, Jan. 27, during the annual 2004 State Evangelism Conference, at Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, according to Larry Gilmore, TBC Evangelism director.

Featured during the Layman's Night will be: This Hope, a 5-member male vocalist group with a unique blend of a cappella and accompanied music; Bob Roberts, founding pastor of Northwood Church of Keller, Texas; John Bisagno, pastor

emeritus of First Baptist Church of Houston, Texas; and Gene Large, a contractor from Gallatin.

Praising the Layman's Night speakers, Gilmore said, "Roberts has led his church to establish 60 new churches this year around the world. He is experienced in mobilizing the laity to complete the task of evangelizing the world.

"Bisagno took a dying inner-city church and made it a leader

in evangelism in SBC church life," he added.

"Large is a layman and a member of College Heights Baptist Church in Gallatin who is winning people to the Lord."

The Layman's Night session will begin following dinner at 6:15 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. The State Evangelism Conference will begin Monday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. with the Vocational Evangelists session at Two Rivers Church.

This year's theme is "Intentionally Focused Evangelism."

For information see [www.tb-baptist.org](http://www.tb-baptist.org) or call 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2058. □



GILMORE

## Men need 'crockpot ministry': Hadden

By Marcia Knox  
"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

FRANKLIN — What is the difference between men's crockpot ministry and microwave ministry?

An example of men's crockpot ministry would be 2,000 men committed to a long-term relationship with a group of 12 guys to learn leadership and relationship principals, based on a relationship with Jesus and the Bible. An example of men's microwave ministry would be the many short-term Bible study programs available.

At least that is the way Hal Hadden of Franklin explains it. Hadden backs his theory up with 2,000 men that have taken his Christian Leadership Concepts (CLC) long-term course which meets 2 hours a week, has 20 minutes of homework, and has retreats. Usually the groups meet from 6-8 a.m. in neighborhood churches or at the men's workplaces.

"We are teaching men from all denominations how to be equipped to lead to make an impact for God and develop close relationships with other men," said Hadden. "It's a leadership and relationship program to help men lead in their homes, churches, communities, and marketplaces."

CLC's mission is dedicated to equipping men to provide leadership, based on a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and sound biblical principles, applied to every area of their lives.

Men who complete the comprehensive course will be equipped in what Scripture says, leadership, and relationships through 11 modules, designed to equip the whole man to be a leader for the Lord.

"It's designed not to just be a Bible study, it's comprehensive so that the men catch a lifestyle with the Christ," noted Hadden.

Hadden became involved in 1982 that Christian men wanted to be equipped to lead in order to make an impact for God, and that men wanted to develop close relationships with other men that go far deeper than most of their day

to day acquaintances.

"It's not a service, fellowship, support, accountability, or prayer group," he added. "We use all these principals to encourage and be accountable to make disciples. We're a crockpot ministry instead of microwave ministry."

It's not the usual 13-week Bible study course, because the men have to memorize several memory verses, use the Bible, read contemporary Christian authors, and work the curriculum.

Hadden is a former Young Life minister and has worked as an ordained minister for 30 years, licensed through the Evangelical Church Alliance, a non-denominational association. He has a doctorate from Vanderbilt University in pastoral counseling and is a member of Christ Presbyterian Church, Nashville.

Open to all denominational and non-denominational groups, CLC has served several Baptist churches, including Brentwood Church, Brentwood; First Church of Hendersonville; Judson Church, Forest Hills Church, and First Church, all of Nashville.

"We have a real desire to serve a church that would like to go deeper in its commitment," said Hadden. "The CLC program challenges men to grow in their faith and experience the journey of standing together with other men as they learn to lead together."

The meetings are a combination of curriculum review and relationship building, designed to help men get outside of themselves and teach them to share in the struggles of others as well as their own.

Members can expect to be given opportunities to move beyond their comfort zone, spend time studying God's Word, share together in prayer, discuss tough issues, and be challenged and encouraged to develop lasting friendships.



HADDEN

John Gifford, a member of First Church of Nashville, began meeting with a CLC group in 1988 that was interdenominational. Later in 1991 he actually taught an interdenominational group.

"What's great about the groups is that the men make great friendships," Gifford said. "The men learn they can grow old together."

Gifford joined with another member of First Church in 1995-1997 and again in 1999-2001 to lead two groups of men from the church in CLC.

"Some of the byproducts of the groups are maintaining the relationships at least once a month, men having opportunities to be in a Jonathan-David relationship, and bonding together and getting to know each other," he added.

Gifford has benefited from both interdenominational groups and the interchurch groups. "In the interdenominational groups, Christian guys get to explore the meat of Christianity that is usually not given contextually in churches like discussing the nature of God and His on-going relationship with us.

"The curriculum models flesh out all aspects of the Christian life and allows participants to take a deeper look in all these areas of their faith. It allows them to articulate where those areas are and to discuss how they are dealing with them. It also allows guys to develop relationship skills that they never had before and provides confidentiality."

According to Gifford, the program shows men where their talents and gifts fit in the scheme of God's plan and encourages them to be at peace in the plan so they can be the best layman that they can be.

In addition to serving men, CLC also has a retreat center that is located near Ashland City, called The Hiding Place, which is available for church retreats for couples, Sunday School classes, and other church groups.

For more information on CLC groups, contact Hadden at (615) 370-5081 or at [www.clcq.org](http://www.clcq.org). □

**A Word from Frank**

Christmas is always a very hectic and busy time of year. It seems that we never have enough time to do everything we need and want to do.

This is the case around the Green household. When the children were small, there were always lots of special things we wanted to do, special treats and food to prepare, and truckloads of presents to buy and wrap.



**GREEN**

God has always blessed us around the Christmas holidays. When the children were small, we started a tradition of purchasing everyone an ornament every year for the tree.

As the years have passed, we relive those past Christmases when we decorate the tree. We have spent Christmas in the mountains of east Tennessee, on the beach in Florida, and even at a favorite theme park.

Our three children are now grown. The youngest is a college sophomore. If you ask them what their favorite Christmas was, all three would give you the same answer.

Around 10 or 12 years ago, we cut short our Christmas morning family time and joined other members of our church in preparing food and feeding the homeless and shut-ins in our community. We cooked, served, packaged, and delivered food most of that day to folks who were usually alone on Christmas. That day still touches and humbles our family. It was our best Christmas.

We have another tradition on Christmas morning. Wherever we are, we read the Christmas story from the Bible, and pray before we do anything else. We always pray for the missionaries. Many of the missionaries are away from some of their families at Christmas.

Take a little time to remember our missionaries at Christmas time. Pray for them. If you know some special ones, e-mail them and let them know that you are praying for them. They will be blessed, and you will be blessed.

It would be my prayer that you feel God's rich love in a real way this Christmas.

Wow! These past six months have been quick ones. My father-in-law once said that the older you get then the faster time passes. His words were very true.

December began my seventh month as Royal Ambassador RA/Challenger Field worker. I have been privileged to share that time with many who labor faithfully in the area of Mission Education in your church and association.

The statistics are still being compiled, but we can praise God and take pride in what has al-

ready happened. Together, we have seen at least seven new RA or Challenger units started. I have visited at least six churches and five associations to update their leaders on new materials. Over 104 leaders were trained at these new starts and leader updates.

I have also been honored to promote, speak, and/or participate in 18 other special events or worship services. It is uplifting to spend time with the great folks in our Tennessee churches. It is precious time that I am grateful for especially in service.

All of these meetings and services have been special to me, but three of them deeply impacted me. During training at Rover Baptist Church in Eagleville, one of the RA leaders said, "God has laid it on my heart to work with these boys, and I intend to do it."

Also during a Men's Ministry breakfast at First Baptist Church of Lebanon, the RAs led everyone in the pledges to the American Flag, the Christian Flag, and the RA Flag. The Baptist Men's director recognized the boys and their leaders, and he presented gifts of appreciation to the leaders.

At the TBC Annual Meeting in Jackson, we asked some of the local leaders and RAs to help us promote the program and the new updated materials. The boys were to demonstrate the Christian virtue of servanthood by shining shoes. The leaders also explained about the new materials and the virtues of RAs. The RA director from First Baptist Church of Humboldt noted that the boys learned that serving the Lord can sometimes be a lot of fun.

Gibson County Association Baptist Men's director, Tony Moore said, "I don't know when I have had this much fun at church." Moore was not satisfied with just talking, because he grabbed a shoe shine kit and did some shoe shining himself.

It was the attitude and commitment of these leaders and the willingness of the boys to serve that touched my heart. I whispered a prayer of thanks for the opportunities of service God has given.

A lot has been accomplished in these six short months. However, the surface has just been scratched. Your TBC Men's Ministry team is focusing on leadership training and promotion of Mission Education in all of Tennessee.

Let us know how we may serve you and your church in this area. Contact us at mktracts@blomand.net or call 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2025.

Frank Green  
RA/Challengers Field Worker

**Association holds pinewood derby**

"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

MEMPHIS — Shelby Baptist Association Royal Ambassadors held their second annual Pinewood Derby Championship Nov. 15 at Union Avenue Baptist Church here.

Every participant was asked to bring cans of food for the Brinkley Heights Baptist Church inner city ministries. Churches participated in both the races and the food drive.

In addition, Jeff Jenkins, RA director of Hope Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Mississippi, and his crew operated and organized the successful event. □



**WINNERS OF THE SHELBY** Baptist Association RAs Pinewood Derby Championship and their churches are front row, left to right, Ty Johnson, Hope Baptist Church, Olive Branch, Mississippi; John Calvery, Union Ave. Baptist Church, Memphis; Justin Phifer and Kirk Dshazo, both of Hope Church; back row, Joey Wright, First Baptist Church of Millington; Dakota Rung, Hope Church; and Alex Dillenbeck, Union Ave. Church.

**Association holds conclave for boys**

"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

ADAMS — The Robertson County Baptist Association RA and Challenger Conclave was recently held at Camp Cold Stream near Adams, according to Associational RA director David Lyon.

In previous years, the attendance was between 70 to 100 participants. This year on Sept. 19-20 the participation grew to 144 campers from 9 churches.

"Our churches need to encourage their Challengers to come to the conclave," said Lyon.

Chris Causey, children's music leader at Cedar Hill

Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, led this year's music and Bart Gibbs, an IMB missionary from Burkina Faso, presented the Mission Focus. The RAs learned several songs and Bible verses in the heart language of Burkina Faso.

A cookout of hot dogs and hamburgers was served on Friday evening. Saturday morning activities included: the log sawing contest, scavenger hunt, and bottle rock launch. Circling the flagpole and praying for our country concluded the conclave.

"I want to thank all the RA and Challenger leaders that dedicated their time and re-

sources to leading and teaching these boys and young men about Christ and missions and preparing our future missionaries," said Lyon.

"You never know when a RA or Challenger that you are leading may become a missionary to Russia, because it has happened to me. RA and Challenger programs influenced many of our missionaries, and it is important to keep these ministries going to enable young men to be called into missions. I appreciate the faithfulness and continuity of the same leaders who work in RAs and Challengers each year. They will reap a harvest." □

**County celebrates Royal Ambassador Week**

By Marcia Knox  
"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

MEMPHIS — Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton Jr. proclaimed Nov. 2-8 as Royal Ambassador Week by sending his representative to present a proclamation Nov. 2 at Kirby Woods Baptist Church here.

Danny Kail, deputy administrator of human resources for Shelby County, served as the mayor's representative and presented the proclama-

tion to the Kirby Woods Church RAs.

The proclamation said: "The focus of the Shelby Baptist Association of Churches is to spiritually awaken churches and encourage them to assist each other for the honor and glory of God; and RAs is a Bible-centered, church-based, Southern Baptist organization that teaches young men in grades 1-12 how to help other people in Christ's name; and Shelby County should recognize orga-

nizations that promote high moral character and help youth to become successful citizens."

"The county mayor is very outspoken and visual in the churches and the community in promoting and recognizing good programs and the great benefits that come from them," said Kail. "Royal Ambassadors is a good program for the overall community. The RA program builds self esteem in young men and makes them feel special." □



**DANNY KAIL**, left, of Shelby County representing the mayor, presents the proclamation at Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, to Jim Scott, RA director, and RAs Tommy Gray, Conner Bailey, Michael Spain, Brooks Jones, Jared Thompson, and Will Hawkinson.



**Baptist Men's Ministry Dates  
2004**

<b>January</b>	
25-31	Baptist Men's Week
<b>February</b>	
6-8	Challengers Rally, Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg
6-8	Church Renewal Conference, Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa, Georgia
27-28	Associational Men's Ministry Leadership Training, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood
<b>April</b>	
2-3	RA Wilderness Challenge, Camp Boxwell, Lebanon
<b>October</b>	
8-9	Tri-State Camp-O-Ree, Camp Cordova, Cordova
16	Smoky Mountain Regional RA Challenge, East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville
<b>November</b>	
1-5	National Royal Ambassador Week
28 - Dec. 5	Week of Prayer for International Missions



**Preparing for Baptist Men's Day, Men on Mission Week**

By Marcia Knox  
"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

BRENTWOOD — The North American Mission Board has spelled out on their web site how to prepare for a Baptist Men's Day or a Baptist Men on Mission Week in the local church.

In fact, NAMB has set Jan. 25-31 as Baptist Men on Mission Week and has posted a free planning resource which is downloadable from their web site at [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net). Go to the Baptist Men on Mission home page and download the pdf, which is complete with clip art.

This year's Baptist Men on Mission Week emphasis is: "Walking with God in His Mission." The web site planning

resource includes: "Nothing Comes Without Commitment" by Sean Taylor, Baptist Men on Mission National director; "Planning for Baptist Men on Mission Week," which tells how to do the program; "Baptist Men's Day Sample Sermon" by Bryan McAnally, *Baptist Men on Mission* editor; "Baptist Men on Mission Prayer Breakfast," which tells how to do the breakfast; "What Can Men Do?," which lists volunteer opportunities available for mobilizing during the week and beyond; "Who Do I Include?," which shows how to enlist volunteers; and "Resources."

To access the planning resource go to [www.namb.net/root/educate/bmom/pdfs\\_and\\_docs/mensweek04.pdf](http://www.namb.net/root/educate/bmom/pdfs_and_docs/mensweek04.pdf). □

**Gibson association holds Men's Night Out**

"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

HUMBOLDT — The Gibson Baptist Association held a Men's Night Out Sept. 25 at First

Baptist Church of Humboldt for training in Men's Ministry, according to Gene Williams, TBC Men's Ministry specialist.

"The Men's Night Out was an organized



GENE WILLIAMS, Men's Ministries specialist of the TBC, teaches a conference at the Gibson Baptist Association Men's Night Out.

training session to whet the appetite of men in the Gibson Association to sensitize them to the need for more personalized training," said Williams.

Williams taught a class on Baptist Men. Other speakers for the night included: Don Hanle, Church Renewal; Frank Green, Challengers; and Ken Cole, Royal Ambassadors. □

**Disaster Relief worker witnesses of his faith**

By Marcia Knox  
"Men's Ministries Newsletter"

BRENTWOOD — For most people locking one's keys up in a car can be a source of unnecessary stress unless there is an alternate plan.

However, a Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer recently listened to God and chose to witness to a Red Cross official while waiting on his wife to bring the extra set of keys.

Charles Manley, Hardeman County Baptist Association Disaster Relief Feeding Unit Blue Cap, locked himself out of his truck one night during the 13-day May Spring Tornadoes response in downtown Jackson at West Jackson Baptist Church.

While Manley was waiting on his wife to bring an extra set of keys from Bolivar, he responded to God's call to witness to a Red Cross official who was in charge of the emergency shelter and the Emergency Response Vehicles.

Earlier in the week while the Hardeman County Feeding Unit was turning out over 57,000 meals in the church's parking lot, Manley had not been able to talk to the official when she was in the area.

"I asked her about her relationship with the Lord," Manley said. "She told me she was not a practicing Catholic so I asked her if we could talk about it later. She told me 'sure.'"

Manley later shared with Hardeman County volunteers that they needed to pray for the official, because he planned to talk with her again.

Following a Sunday night service when Manley gave his feeding report to West Jackson Church, he found that he had locked himself out of his truck. Since everybody had already left the church, he sat and waited for his wife to come

with the extra keys. Then the Lord told Manley to go look for the official, who Manley knew was in another part of the building. Finding her, they sat in the hall and talked about Jesus. For 15 minutes nobody came by, Manley was able to share with her using the EvangeCube.

She made a profession of faith, and they both prayed. Manley gave her the cube and a Bible. Later the Hardeman team encouraged her in her new walk of faith.

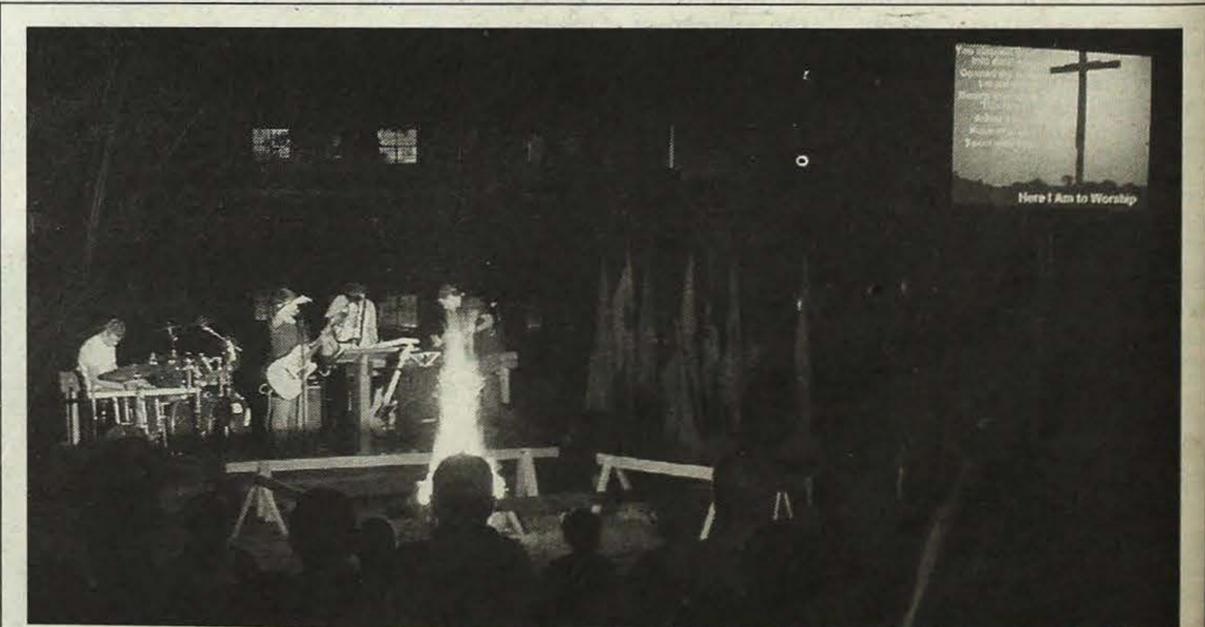
"The Lord provided the time," Manley added.

Manley also shared the official's decision with Hardeman County Baptist Association director of missions Jim Koonce, who planned to pass her name on to a director of missions in Illinois. Manley also wrote her a follow-up letter, but he hasn't heard from her.

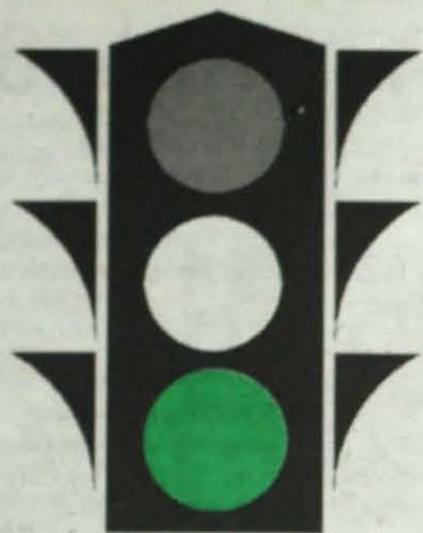
Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief receives funds through the Cooperative Program and Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. □



MANLEY



THOSE ATTENDING the Tri-State Camp-O-Ree held recently at Camp Cordova, Cordova, of Shelby Baptist Association enjoyed music, a campfire, and media in one evening service.



# Green Light

January 2004

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



## STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Two Rivers Baptist Church  
Nashville  
January 26-27

The Conference begins at 1:45 p.m. on Monday and the evening session begins at 6:15. Tuesday session are at 9:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., and 6:15 p.m.

### Program Personalities:

- John Bisagno, pastor emeritus, FBC, Houston, TX
- Russ Cooper, pastor, Watson Chapel BC, Vonore
- Ann Davenport, Women's Evangelism volunteer consultant, TBC
- Jerry Essary, evangelism strategist, TBC
- Gary L. Frost, Strategic Partnerships, NAMB
- Phil Glisson, president, TN Fellowship of Evangelists
- Joey Hancock, American Tract Society, Atlanta
- Pat Hood, pastor, FBC, Smyrna
- Benny Jackson, president, Conference of SBC Evangelists
- Gene Large, contractor, Gallatin
- Carolyn Outland, Women's Evangelism volunteer consultant, TBC
- Bob Roberts, Northwood Church, Keller, TX
- Kent Shingleton, youth evangelism strategist, TBC
- Jerry Spencer, evangelist, Brownsville
- Michael R. Spradlin, president, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary
- Jerry Sutton, pastor, Two Rivers BC
- Scott Thomas, pastor, Beaver Dam BC, Knoxville
- This Hope, male vocalists
- Larry Gilmore, Evangelism Strategies, TBC

To receive more information or a list of hotels in the area, contact *Evangelism Strategies Group*, TBC, at 800.558.2090, ext. 2058.

January 23-24  
Carson-Newman College  
and First Baptist  
Church, Jefferson City

### Highlights:

- Worship times centered on ways God can speak to students and use them in youth choir
- Fun times for planned recreation and other large group gatherings to encourage fellowship and a positive atmosphere.
- Recording of Youth Project finale for memory keepsake.
- Demo Choirs: Youth choirs demonstrating what they sing at their own church
- A Cappella choir from Carson-Newman

Program personalities include: Eric Thorson, CNC; J C Neely, McAfee School of Theology student; Larry Overton, minister to students, First Baptist Church, Dandridge; Kim Bowen, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jefferson City; Jonathan Bundon, Beeson Divinity School student; and Paul Clark, worship and music specialist, TBC.

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern time) at the church, with dinner at 6 p.m. The Youth Project concludes at 3:45 on Saturday afternoon.

Register online at [www.tnworshipandmusic.org](http://www.tnworshipandmusic.org). Click Youth Project. E-mail information to [chanson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:chanson@tnbaptist.org).

To receive registration information, including a list of hotels, call Charlotte Hanson, *Leadership Development Group*, 800.558.2090, ext. 7908.



YEC2004

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Youth Evangelism Conference  
March 5-6  
Murphy Center, MTSU, Murfreesboro  
(See next month's *Green Light* for more information.)

## HEALTHY FAMILY relationships

- |             |  |          |                                   |
|-------------|--|----------|-----------------------------------|
| January 24  | Paris Landing State Park, Buchanan       | April 17 | First Baptist Church, Chattanooga |
| January 31  | Giles County Association Office, Pulaski | May 1    | Union University, Jackson         |
| February 28 | Belmont University, Nashville            |          |                                   |

Ministers, counselors, deacons, laypersons, parents, couples, college students preparing for ministry, and chaplains are urged to attend one of the Healthy Family Relationships Conferences.

Seminars include: *How to Conduct Premarital Counseling and What to Include*; *Blended Family Issues*; *Ministering to Families in Crisis*; *Church as a Healing Community (How to Conduct Support Groups)*; and *Covenant Marriages*.

The Conference begins at 8:15 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast. Registration fee of \$10 (\$5 for students) includes notebook, materials, and breakfast.

For more information, or to receive registration materials, contact Tony Rankin, *Church Growth Strategies Group*, at 800.558.2090, ext. 7906. Registration is also available online at [www.tnbaptist.org/cgs/familyministries.htm](http://www.tnbaptist.org/cgs/familyministries.htm). When registering online, the fee is payable at the conference.

**HISPANIC EVANGELISM CONFERENCE**  
**JANUARY 23 - 24**  
**POPLAR HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON**

Theme: *Jesus said, "Do you believe?"*

Guest Speaker: Bob Sena, NAMB

Schedule: Friday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Lunch will be provided on Saturday!

To receive more information, contact Chuy Avila or Ilka Marks, *Evangelism Strategies Group*, at 800.558.2090, ext. 7916.



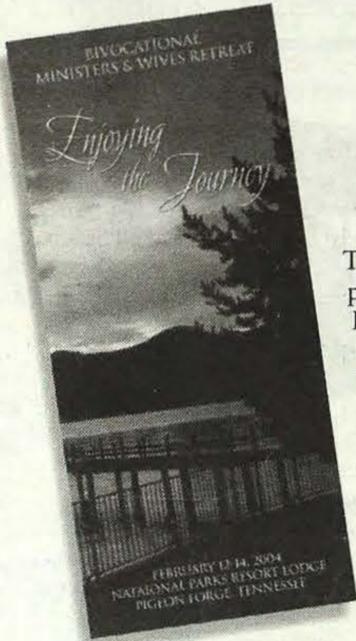
**BIVOCATIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE**

January 16 - 17  
 Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville

Schedule: January 16, 1:00 until 8:00 p.m.  
 (Complimentary meal at 6 p.m.)  
 January 17, 9:00 a.m. until Noon

Program Personalities: Johnny Carr, Jerry Essary, Ray Gilder, Larry Gilmore, Bruce Grubbs, Tim Hill, Andy King, Henry Linginfelter, Candy Phillips, Don Pierson, Tony Rankin.

This Conference is provided by the Leadership Development Group and the Evangelism Strategies Group, TBC. It is made possible by the faithful gifts of the Tennessee Baptist churches giving through Cooperative Program. To receive more information, contact Ray Gilder or Joy Clay-Corby, *Leadership Development Group*, at 800.558.2090, extension 2018.



*Bivocational*  
**Ministers and Wives Retreat**

February 12 - 14  
 National Parks Resort Lodge\*  
 Pigeon Forge

The Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat begins with registration at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 12 and closes following lunch on Saturday, February 14.

Program personalities include Johnny Carr, pastor of Shepard's Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville; Jerry Essary, TBC Evangelism Strategist; Steve Holt, TBC Leadership Specialist, Larry Gilmore, Evangelism Strategies Group Leader; Linda Gilmore, Ladies Conference Leader; Candy Phillips, WMU Executive Director-Treasurer; Joe Wright, Dyer Baptist Association DOM; and Ray Gilder, TBC Bivocational Ministries Specialist.

The cost of the retreat is \$150 per couple and includes hotel accommodations and meals, (including the Dixie Stampede). Send check (\$75 deposit or \$150 full payment) payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention to: Joy Clay-Corby, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. Include registration information: name, spouse's name, home address, phone number, name of church/association, and e-mail address (optional).

For more information contact Ray Gilder or Joy Clay-Corby, *Leadership Development Group*, at 800.558.2090, extension 2018.

\* National Parks Resort Lodge is located at traffic light #1, Pigeon Forge.

**COMPENSATION** study

**COMPENSATION STUDY ASSISTANCE**

Attention: Pastors, Church Secretaries, Church Treasurers

During January, all TBC churches will receive a packet of survey forms to be completed by the church treasurer. When the form for each staff position is completed, all forms should be returned, by April 15, to TBC in an envelope provided in the packet. *Specific data for any individual church WILL NOT be shared with anyone.*

Every church is encouraged to participate in the survey so that accurate information will be readily available for use as a budget-planning tool. The full report on the combined data should be available online in June 2004. The 2004 Compensation Study includes 35 participating conventions in cooperation with the Annuity Board, SBC.

If you have questions or comments, contact Richard Skidmore or Lana Rose, *Leadership Development Group*, at 800.558.2090, extension 2053.

**GREAT COMMISSION PRAYER CONFERENCE**

February 20-21 - Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson  
 Theme: *Seeking His Face*

**Keynote Speakers:** Bruce Schmidt, prayer and missions pastor, FBC Woodstock, GA; and Gregory R. Frizzell, prayer and spiritual awakening specialist, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. **Other Program Personnel:** Tammy Alsup, National Day of Prayer coordinator for Tennessee; Paul Clark, worship / music specialist, TBC; Charles Couey, consultant, ministries with the blind, TBC; Jason Cruise, senior pastor, Belmont Heights BC, and founder of Tennessee Outdoor Network; Jerry Essary, evangelism strategist, TBC; John Franklin, pastoral ministries specialist, LifeWay Christian Resources; Bill Graham, ministry of missions, FBC, Clarksville; Elaine Helms, prayer associate, NAMB; Leighann McCoy, pastor's wife, and author "Oh God Please!"; Greg McFadden, pastor, FBC, Humboldt; Randy Pool, associational missions coordinator/Mississippi River Ministry coordinator, Gibson Association; James Porch, executive director-treasurer, TBC; Chris Schofield, manager, Prayer Evangelism Unit, NAMB; Gene Williams, men's ministry specialist, TBC; Thomas Wright, prayer strategist, NAMB; and Don Pierson, prayer strategies specialist, TBC.

The Conference begins on Friday at 1:45 p.m. and concludes on Saturday at 4 p.m. Registration fee of \$25 per person includes lunch on Saturday. Child care will be provided at Englewood Baptist Church by reservation. Contact Don Pierson or Bernie Baker, *Missions Mobilization Group*, at 800.558.2090, ext. 7925, if you will need child care or if you desire further information regarding registration and nearby hotels.

**2004 Camp Schedule**

Camp Carson	
July 5-9	Journey for Girls
July 9-11	Journey for Families
July 12-16	Journey for Boys
July 16-18	Journey for Moms/Daughters
July 19-23	Mission IMPACT
July 23-25	Journey for Dads/Daughters
July 26-30	Journey for Kids
Camp Linden	
June 7-11	Journey for Kids
June 11-13	Journey Dad/Son Adventure
June 14-18	Journey for Girls
June 18-20	Journey for Moms/Daughters
June 21-25	Journey for Boys
June 25-27	Journey for Dads/Daughters
June 28-July 2	Journey for Kids
July 5-9	Youth Impact Camp
August 2-6	All Nations Camp

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY RETREAT**  
*Counting the Cost and Paying the Cost of Christ*

January 30 - February 1  
 CarsonSprings Baptist Conference Center, Newport

Featured speaker: *Emily Chambers*, former IMB Journeyman to Sudan

The retreat includes worship, games, food, fellowship, and cultural sharing.

Seminars to be offered for International students and church leadership.

Cost: \$10 - Registration deadline is January 16

For more information contact: Collegiate Ministries at 800.558.2090 ext. 1993

*Regional Handbell Festivals 2004*

**WEST**  
 February 6-7 • *First Baptist Church, Jackson*  
 Host Minister of Music - David Vaughn

**MIDDLE**  
 February 27-28 • *Mt. Juliet Baptist Church*  
 Host Minister of Music - John Nettles

**EAST**  
 February 27-28 • *Carson Newman College*  
 Host - Clark Measles, Music Dept. Chairman

For more information, contact Paul Clark or Charlotte Hanson, *Leadership Development Group*, at 800.558.2090; or e-mail at [chanson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:chanson@tnbaptist.org).



## Union initiates M.E. Dodd award

Union News Office

JACKSON — Union University trustees voted unanimously Dec. 5 to establish the Union University M.E. Dodd Denominational Service Award. The annual award will be presented to a Southern Baptist for service and leadership in behalf of Tennessee Baptists and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The award is named in honor of one of Union's most distinguished alumni — M.E. Dodd. Dodd is recognized as the father of the SBC's Cooperative Program. Noted evangelist Billy Graham once said that Dodd was "one of the greats, not only to Southern Baptists, but to the church at large during the last generation."

Dodd, a Union University graduate, was the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church Shreveport, La. He also served as president of the SBC and president of the SBC Pastors Conference.

University president David S. Dockery said the institution created the award to honor Southern Baptists who are committed to the Cooperative Program.

"M.E. Dodd is often linked to the founding and shaping of the Cooperative Program in the Southern Baptist Convention and this award is a way that Union University can encourage faithfulness to and cooperation among Tennessee Baptists as well as among the broader Southern Baptist Convention in days ahead," Dockery said.

In his 1930 book, *Missions Our Mission*, Dodd called on Southern Baptists to embrace the Cooperative Program. "The Cooperative Program is our obligation in perpetual effort to meet opportunity," Dodd wrote.

"It is Christian desire constantly directed to the discharge of duty. It is power persistently and purposefully promoted to produce prosperity for Christ's causes. The Cooperative Program is the soundest, safest, surest, most successful, most scriptural method ever found for carrying out Christ's will for the whole lost world."

The inaugural award will be presented in 2004, Dockery said. □

## Noted theologian Carl F.H. Henry dies

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Carl F.H. Henry, a staunch defender of biblical authority, a giant evangelical theologian of the 20th century and the founding editor of *Christianity Today*, died Dec. 7. He was 90.



HENRY

Known as the dean of evangelical theologians by some, Henry helped shape evangelical thought during the middle of the 20th century by arguing that fundamentalism and its belief in separation from culture was ineffective. Evangelicals, he asserted, must engage the culture.

In the later half of the century Henry defended the doctrine of biblical inerrancy, asserting that heresy is rooted in an improper understanding of God's revelation. His six-volume "God,

Revelation, and Authority," released from 1976-82, served as a monumental guide to the centrality of the doctrine of revelation.

Henry, a member of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., died in his sleep in Watertown, Wis.

"The mission of the church is to embrace both evangelism and cultural impact," he said in a 2001 interview with *Southern Seminary Magazine*. "To neglect either is catastrophic. This is the lesson of both Protestant liberalism and fundamentalism."

David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, said Henry's death leaves "a huge void" in American Christianity.

"No Christian thinker in this country has done more to advance orthodox theology and full-orbed Christian worldview thinking than Carl F.H. Henry," Dockery said. "Evangelicals across this country and the en-

tire world stand in debt to Dr. Henry for his years of service and leadership across the evangelical world." □

## Barrows donates music collection to SBC seminary

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — While relocating his residence from Atlanta to Charlotte, N.C., this fall, Cliff Barrows realized his vast collection of hymnals and music books also needed a new home.

Barrows, longtime music and programming director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, called an old friend, Donald Hustad, retired professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and former organist for Billy Graham's crusade teams, for his counsel on where the collection might best be used.

"I knew I wouldn't be able to

use all those hymnals," Barrows said. "When we moved here [Charlotte] from Atlanta, it was the perfect opportunity to donate them. I asked Don [Hustad] what I should do with all these hymnals. I wanted to give them to a library that will allow people to continue to use them."

Last month Barrows donated his collection — 298 hymnals and 13 additional music-related books — to Boyce Centennial Library at Southern Seminary. He chose the seminary at Hustad's urging and because of existing connections with Billy Graham via Southern's school of missions, evangelism, and church growth which bear Graham's name.

The Barrows collection includes songbooks from Graham crusades, compilations by Barrows, along with solo and duet songbooks used by the Graham ministry. □

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

First Baptist Church, Summerfield, NC, four miles north of Greensboro, fast growing area, seeking a full-time minister of music. Three morning worship services, two traditional and one contemporary. Oversee music program: preschool through senior adult. Seminary graduate in music preferred with at least five years experience. SBC affiliated. Send resume to Minister of Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 400, Summerfield, NC 27358 or e-mail [sumfbcc@triadbiz.rr.com](mailto:sumfbcc@triadbiz.rr.com). [www.summerfieldfbc.com](http://www.summerfieldfbc.com).

### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Bluegrass is seeking a senior pastor. Please submit your resume to the Pastor Search Committee at 1907 Ebenezer Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922.

### MINISTRIES — COMBINATION

Seeking minister of music/education. Send resume to Mark Gilbert, Cullendale First Baptist, 277 North St., Camden, AR 71701.



Minister to preschool/children/families. Experience in large church setting and seminary degree preferred. Resume to Westside Baptist Church, 10000 W Newberry Rd., Gainesville, FL 32606, Attn. Office Manager, e-mail: [dmcalhany@westsidebaptist.org](mailto:dmcalhany@westsidebaptist.org), fax: (352) 333-9009 Attn. Office Manager. No calls please.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Used songbooks for sale, \$3.00 each. "New Songs of Inspiration" volume 12, approximately 200 books available, new and used, in good condition. Call Peytonsville Baptist, (615) 794-1970.

### DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Mobile Baptist Association is currently receiving resumes for the director of missions position. Send to Mobile Baptist Association, Attn. Personnel Committee, DOM, 616 Azalea Rd., Mobile, AL 36609.

## 15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

LifeWay has the solution—a 15-passenger mini-bus that meets Federal safety standards.



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### SERIOUS CONCERNS

- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

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## CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE TENNESSEE EXTENSION CENTER at First Baptist Church Kingston

Announces

Classes Beginning January 12, 2004  
Register Now!

Classes Offered:

1. Worship & Music Ministry (3 hrs.): Monday, 6:00-9:00 P.M.
2. Old Testament 6 (The Prophets, Part Two, 2 hrs.): Thursday, 5:00-7:00 P.M.
3. New Testament 6 (Galatians, 1&2 Thessalonians; 2 hrs.): Thursday, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Cost: \$150.00 per semester hour; \$60.00 per hour for audit  
(Financial Aid available)

Contact Information:

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College  
300 Clear Creek Rd.  
Pineville, KY 40977  
(606) 337-3196  
Billy Howell-Admissions Dir.  
E-mail: [bhowell@ccbcb.edu](mailto:bhowell@ccbcb.edu)



FBC Kingston  
215 North Kentucky St.  
Kingston, TN 37763  
(865) 376-6041  
Dr. Roy Graves-Pastor  
E-mail: [royg@lstbaptistfamily.com](mailto:royg@lstbaptistfamily.com)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number, (404) 679-4501) to award the Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts Degrees. Clear Creek is also accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 26, Orlando, FL 32822-1781; telephone number, (407) 207-0808), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

## New Lower Rates For Term Life Insurance!

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25	\$11.08	\$13.39
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## Alaska Cruise

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## minister's corner

By Jerry Powell

## Matthew 2:1-12

One of the most neglected scenes in the Christmas story is that of the Wise Men. The question *Where is He that is born King of the Jews?* (v. 2) began the drama of a double search. It really all began in the pages of the Old Testament where we find God coming down into the Garden of Eden, searching for Adam and Eve, saying *where art thou?* (Genesis 3:9). They chose to break the perfect fellowship with God through their disobedience. God began by searching for man. When Jesus came into the world we see the other side in the drama.

The Wise Men followed this star until it stood over where the young child was. They followed the star and arrived at their destination. We see an attitude of complete devotion in these men. *They presented unto Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh* (v. 11). These gifts were expensive and had significant meaning.

The gold represented royalty, and yet it also had a practical value. Perhaps it was given so that Mary and Joseph could provide for the Christ Child. Frankincense was a rare and expensive gift used in worship. This gift was symbolic of Christ's whole life and death, which was pure and fragrant in the eyes of God. The third gift was myrrh. The priest used myrrh in the Temple worship. This bitter tasting gift was symbolic of suffering and of Christ's death on the cross.

Another thing we witness in this special story is the changed destiny (v. 12). God warned the Wise Men in a dream that they should not return to Herod, therefore they depart to their own country another way. The Wise Men knew not to go back to the wicked king, but to take an alternate route.

When an individual comes to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb and recognizes the reality of Jesus, he will never be satisfied with his old life. The old way never feels the same because it is not the same. The true spirit of Christmas is that Christ came into the world to change the destiny of man. □ — Powell is interim director, Beulah Baptist Association, Union City

By David Green

## "Messiah"

Many of us have heard about Handel's oratorio "Messiah." We may also be familiar with some of its music: "For Unto Us a Child is Born" and the famous "Hallelujah Chorus." What we may not know is that before writing his masterpiece, Handel was in poor health. He suffered from depression. He was having a hard time financially and was being threatened with imprisonment. Besides all that, he was partially paralyzed. At one point Handel seriously wondered whether life was worth living any longer. Once he got involved in writing "Messiah," however, he was so inspired that he composed the entire piece in less than four weeks. He was able to work day and night with incredible skill. How was Handel able to do all this? Some people say he was simply carried away on a wave of artistic energy. Maybe, but the music itself suggests a better answer.

The tremendous message of Jesus' life captured Handel's mind and spirit. It was so powerful that he was able to do something he could never have done in his own strength.

We must also strive to live in a strength that is not our own this holiday season and throughout the year. The same Christ that was born in a manger can be born in you and give you strength.

The Christmas season is a time for family, gifts, music, and joy. Christmas is also a time for strength. This is the season in which we celebrate the embodiment of our strength in the birth of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said, *I can do everything through him who gives me strength* (Philippians 4:13). □ — Green is pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville.

## What child is this?

By Bill Sims

## Focal Passage: Luke 2:4-7; 27-38

A popular bumper sticker read, "I brake for CHRISTmas." The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year. Who has time to take a break? If you visit any shopping center in the middle of December, read the newspaper advertisements, or look under the tree on CHRISTmas Day, you will discover that gifts have become the focus of this holiday. As Christians, we know the deeper meaning of CHRISTmas. CHRISTmas is the joy of the birth of our LORD and Savior.

The greatest birth in the history of mankind was the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem some two thousand years ago. The birth of a child usually brings great joy. So it was with the birth of Christ. In fact, the wondrous birth of Christ has brought more joy to mankind than any other birth. No birth has ever been celebrated so long and so faithfully as His birth. Many have tried to stamp out the memory and mention of Christ, but every year the celebration of His birth continues.

## Delivery of Christ (vv. 4-7)

Noting the city where the couple was living helps us learn about the long and tiring trip they had to make to obey the decree of Caesar Augustus. The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is in the neighborhood of 75 miles. Bethlehem was some 2,300 feet above sea level which meant they had much rugged "up hill" traveling in their trip. Joseph and Mary were of the lineage of David. This was very important to the claims that Jesus

Christ would make for the throne of David. Thus there was no excuse for Israel. Verse 6 is very prominent, this is prophecy being fulfilled. The fulfillment of this promise certainly did not look good, for Mary was many miles from Bethlehem. This truth teaches us that God is not bothered by circumstances. They do not hinder Him from accomplishing His purpose and fulfilling His promise.

The timing of God's providence is always instructive. God was not late in fulfilling the promise at Bethlehem, and He will not be late in any other promise. The phrase "firstborn Son" in verse 7 not only means first in succession but also denotes rank. The child born to Mary was no ordinary child. He was the eternal Son of the living God.

## Development of Christ (vv. 27-32)

Joseph and Mary fulfilled the Mosaic Law concerning the firstborn male. This took place 40 days after His birth. Simeon had become convinced that he would see the promise of God fulfilled. Immediately when Simeon saw the baby, he praised God. Again, prophecy had been fulfilled.

## Description of Christ (vv. 33-35)

Joseph and Mary marveled at what Simeon expressed about their son. The word marveled in verse 33 expresses surprise, wonderment, and

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amazement. There would be surprise that Simeon knew all of this about the Christ child who at that time was only six weeks old. Then there was surprise at how Christ was described. The word sign in verse 34 means mark or indication. The word is often translated miracle in the New Testament. In our text Simeon tells of the great rejection of Christ and of the great folly of the rejection.

## Delight of Christ (vv. 36-38)

Mercy, what a beautiful sight to behold, two God fearing people, Simeon and Anna showing adoration to the Christ child. That made the adoration more honorable and acceptable. In verse 36 we meet Anna. Her name means grace. Anna lived her name. She was from the tribe of Asher. Asher was one of the 10 tribes that was taken captive by Assyria which did not return to Palestine. Anna had a good and godly heritage. She was 84 years old and living for her LORD. Anna's performance in serving God was superb. Scripture describes it in a few brief words, but these words say plenty. When Anna saw the Christ child she gave thanks. She beheld the Christ child with gratitude in her soul.

Our prayer: All the CHRISTmas presents in the world mean nothing without the presence of CHRIST. Blessed CHRISTmas. □ — Sims is pastor of First Baptist Church, Union City.

## Rejoicing in the Savior's birth

By Sam Creed

## Focal Passage: Matthew 1:1-25

Christmas is a most wonderful time of the year. It is a time for families, celebrations, giving, and most importantly, the time Christians celebrate the birth of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas is more than shopping, more than overflowing parking lots around the malls, more than packages, bows, colorful paper, and decorated trees, as Dr. Seuss' Grinch found out and we should already know. Christmas is more than the most profitable time of the year for the merchants. Christmas is the recognition of the birth of the Son of God in Bethlehem. Christmas should be the celebration of the historical, biblical, and theological world-changing event of the coming of God to dwell among us as a man (read Philippians 2:5-11).

Christmas is the Incarnation. The calendar hinges on the birth of Christ in spite of the attempt by moderns to replace BC and AD with BCE and CE to delineate the eras before and after the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Christmas is one of those events which when it occurred everything that followed was impacted and changed as a result.

Christmas is older than creation. The Incarnation of the Son of God to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world was in the heart of God before the beginning we read about in Genesis 1. *Before the beginning ever began, the Word already was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God before the beginning ever began. All*

*things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men* (John 1:1-4).

Christmas is more than a New Testament story, it is a biblical story that starts in Genesis and ends in the Revelation. The beginning of the human history of God's purpose to redeem His sinful creatures is found in the Old Testament, and the culmination of that redemption is found in the New Testament.

Four key Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled at Christmas are found in Numbers 24:17 (see Matthew 2:1-2); Isaiah 7:14 (see Matthew 1:18-25); Micah 5:2 (see Matthew 2:1-6); and Isaiah 9:6 together with 11:1-3 (see Matthew 1:1-17; 3:16). The prophecy that the Messiah would descend from Jesse (King David's father) recorded in Isaiah 11:1-3 focuses attention on this week's Sunday School lesson found in Matthew 1:1-25.

Genealogies are not usually read, especially to children, because the listing of ancient names of fathers and descendants tends to be boring. Neither do the genealogies found in Scripture make for stimulating reading in public. However, don't miss the profound teaching of Scripture in Matthew 1:1-25. The story behind almost every name on the list is a lesson of God's grace. Matthew, chapter 1, is a revelation of how God has presented and preserved His purpose through generation after generation. It is the testimony of God's grace that wonderfully and miraculously protected and used each generation to develop the ancestral lineage He chose to give

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birth to Jesus in Bethlehem. It is amazing, but true. God has ordered human history to accomplish His purpose. Can He not also order our personal history when we will follow His will for our lives? Read Romans 12:1, 2 very carefully and you will discover how the will of God can be perfect for your life.

Furthermore, this genealogy shouts out above the din of busy shopping malls that neither our worst sins, our rebellious natures, nor our half-hearted commitment can stop the grace of God and His purpose. The genealogy includes four women (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba) with, to say the least, bad reputations, and they were not Jewish! Know this, the reputations of the characters that are the ancestors of our Lord are not being publicized ala Jerry Springer. The grace of God is on display. Rahab is notable not because she was a harlot, but because God changed her heart and cleansed her of all unrighteousness.

That same grace that made adulterous King David fit to be an ancestor of Jesus is the same grace that is active today. That same Jesus who completes the family tree is today saving people from their sins. If you choose not to read the genealogy when you read the Christmas story, don't overlook the message of God's grace. That's grace that is greater than all our sins. □ — Creed is pastor of First Baptist Church, Ashland City.

## Leaders

◆ Lyle Lane Baptist Church, Nashville, has called **William P. Jones** as bivocational pastor. He has been serving as interim pastor since August. Jones has served as interim pastor of several churches in Lawrenceburg.

◆ **Randall Cheatham** has been called as interim pastor, West Emory Missionary Baptist Church, Knoxville.

◆ **Joe Copeland** has been called as pastor, Farmer's Grove Baptist Church, Clinton.

◆ Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Lexington, has recently called **Winald Walker** as pastor. He formerly was pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Jackson.

◆ **Charles E. Gibbs Jr.**, is serving as interim director of missions for Riverside Baptist Association, based in Livingston. He also is interim pastor of Etter Baptist Church, Byrdstown. His wife, **Carol**, is serving as interim ministry assistant of the association. Charles Gibbs has served as a full-time pastor for 41 years. In Riverside he has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Byrdstown, and First Baptist Church, Jamestown. Gibbs also has been a trustee of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and Belmont University, Nashville.

◆ South Knoxville Baptist Church, Knoxville, called **Richard Phipps** as pastor Dec. 7. Phipps formerly was pastor of a church in Jacksonville, Fla. He is a graduate of the University of the State



**MEMBERS OF THE** Woman's Missionary Union of Maple Grove Baptist Church, Maryville, held a party recently focusing on the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. They are, from left, front row, Donna Bowman, WMU director; Shelia Mason; Cindy Buchanan; second row, Melissa Mason; Jennifer Sneed; and Cissy Sneed; top row, Ginger Whitehead; Pam Nichols; Pams Sims; and Mary McCain. They used an orange theme and emphasized six ministries receiving GOTM funds, said Bowman.

of New York and Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, Ga.

◆ **Wade Smith** has been called as minister of music, First Baptist Church, Greenbrier. He formerly was on the staff of a church in Louisville, Ky. Smith holds degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas; and Austin Peay State University, Clarksville. In Tennessee he has served on the staff of First Baptist Church, Henderson; and Fairview Baptist Church and Siam Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

## Churches

◆ Hoyt Wilson spoke at the Sunday School banquet of Im-

manuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, recently. Wilson presented principles of Sunday School growth that were effective at First Baptist Church, Lexington. Wilson is retired pastor of the Lexington church.

◆ **Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville**, held revival recently which resulted in 27 people making professions of faith. In addition, five people made other spiritual decisions. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, spoke. The revival was preceded by a week of intensive prayer and outreach ef-



**YOUTH OF PARKS CITY** Baptist Church, Parks City, stand with the children they cared for recently as part of their babysitting ministry. The youth cared for the children for five hours at the church, reported Jere Singleton, youth director, providing snacks and activities. The youth plan to combine Sunday School-socials and babysitting nights in the future. The youth also plan to offer a live nativity at Christmas, sing carols to the elderly and shut-in, work in the church nursery, assist families in need, assist the children's Bible school in the summer, and support the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

forts by the church's Sunday School, reported Mark Conway, pastor.

◆ **Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida**, will hold a one day revival Dec. 28. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

## Schools

◆ Mike Boyd, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will deliver the commencement address of **Carson-Newman College's** winter graduation ceremony Dec. 20. College officials expect to award 131 degrees at the 10 a.m. event to be held in Holt

Fieldhouse on campus. For more information, call the school at (865) 471-4000.

◆ **Belmont University, Nashville**, has begun a national search for the next dean of the university's School of Religion. The current dean, Steven H. Simpler, professor of religion, has announced he will step down at the close of the 2003-2004 academic year. Simpler will continue to teach full-time in the School of Religion. He has served as dean of the school since 1990. The school has about 100 students working to earn undergraduate degrees and more than 1,000 students in its general education courses.

## Union community hosts annual Carl Perkins Christmas special

By Mariann Martin  
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — The Union University community joined together Dec. 3 to provide what they hope will be a memorable Christmas season for some of the city's neediest boys and girls — complete with a holiday meal, Christmas presents, and a visit from Santa Claus.

The annual Carl Perkins Christmas Special, hosted annually by the Student Activities Council, was held in the Penick Academic Complex.

Forty-one children from impoverished areas of the community were brought to Union from the Carl Perkins Center for Child Abuse for a day of holiday cheer.

"These are children who won't have much, if anything, to open on Christmas morning," said Mark VanderHaar, director of student programs and coordinator for the event.

"Just knowing they are helping to make a child's life

better is the highlight for the faculty and students that participate."

VanderHaar said the children thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Union's holiday revelers.

"Sometimes the most special part of the night for the children is being able to talk to an adult," said VanderHaar. "The sponsors pray with their children and let them know that they are special and worthy of attention. That means a lot to a child."

Thirty different groups and individuals sponsored children during this year's event, according to Amy Coxwell, vice president of SAC.

"We have a lot of new organizations participating in the Christmas Special this year," she said. "That has been really exciting."

"The biggest reward is watching the kids," VanderHaar said. "They walk out of here carrying presents often bigger than themselves, with the hugest smiles." □

## Newport pastor serves in Cuba twice this year

For Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — Baptists and Christians should be encouraged, says Frank Bell, pastor of Webb Baptist Church here. This year as he visited Cuba twice he saw first-hand how "God's work can survive communism," he said.

Because of his experiences there, Webb Church and a church in Santiago, Cuba, have entered into a partnership. The Cuba church has 500 members, nine mission congregations, and 40 house churches.

"Baptist there [in Cuba] have more liberty than I ever dreamed they had," said Bell. "They have 10 percent liberty and use 100 percent of it and we have 100 percent liberty and use 10 percent of it."

Cuba "is a Baptist country," added Bell. The country has two large Baptist conventions with a total of 426 churches. The country also has more than 4,000 house churches.

Bell traveled to Cuba in March with a group of graduates of Luther Rice Seminary based in Lithonia, Ga. They helped lead a crusade for the East Baptist Convention there which resulted in 5,000 people making professions of faith.

He said the Baptist seminary in Cuba is a major factor in the country's church growth and "is a monument to the work of our missionaries."

Bell returned to Cuba in September. He went with Pete Galvez, a member of his church who is a native of Cuba. Galvez became a Christian in January after being witnessed to by John Bell of Newport, son of Frank Bell. Galvez served as Bell's translator and guide on the trip.

While there, Galvez had the opportunity to

lead his daughter and two granddaughters to Christ. Webb Church provided the funds for the trips to Cuba.

Bell said he saw "the purest form of New Testament Christianity that I've seen since I was a young boy."

The Cuban Baptists are very humble and courteous, he described.

He was told President Fidel Castro is sympathetic toward the work of the East Baptist Convention. Bell presented a bilingual Bible for President Castro to the president of the East Baptist Convention and a letter of fraternal greetings from the East Tennessee Baptist Association, based in Newport.

"I think there are better days ahead for Cuba. Please pray for Cuba," said Bell. □



**PASTOR FRANK BELL**, right, stands with Pete Galvez, a fellow church member who is a native of Cuba. Galvez accompanied Bell on one of his mission trips to Cuba this year.