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**Lonnie Wilkey, editor**  
(615) 371-2046,  
lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

**Connie Davis, news editor**  
(615) 371-7928,  
cdavis@tnbaptist.org

**Susie Edwards, circulation/  
executive assistant/advertising**  
(615) 371-2003,  
sedwards@tnbaptist.org

**Mary Nimmo, church  
pages/administrative  
assistant**  
(615) 371-7929,  
mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

**Betty Williams, bookkeeper**  
(615) 371-7930,  
bwiliams@tnbaptist.org

**Office – Baptist and Reflector,**  
5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

**Mailing address** – P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024

**Phone** – (615) 371-2003

**FAX** – (615) 371-2080

**Web Site** — [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org)

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## **Stance on civil unions key to '04 presidential race**

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Presidential candidates who support legalizing same-sex civil unions could lose votes in the 2004 election, a new poll by National Public Radio shows.

The poll of 1,002 likely voters found President George W. Bush was favored over an unnamed Democrat candidate by a margin of 46-42 percent. But those numbers changed significantly when voters were asked who they would support if Bush opposes civil unions but the Democrat candidate supports them. In that scenario, Bush wins 51-35 percent.

Legal only in Vermont, civil unions give same-sex couples many of the legal benefits of marriage without using the term "marriage."

The poll was conducted Dec. 10-15 by Republican pollster Bill McInturff and Democrat pollster Stan Greenberg.

"This is front and center of the 2004 debate, and for a lot of the core Republican religious conservative constituency, this is a critical issue," McInturff told NPR. "And I think it's going to be one of the three or four big things we debate in 2004."

But the divide between Bush and the Democrats may not be as wide as the poll suggests. All of the leading Democrat candidates support legalizing civil unions or similar same-sex con-

## **'Churches Praying for Churches' launched**

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In an effort to promote supportive prayer among the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, a new initiative called "Churches Praying for Churches" enables both individual believers and church prayer groups to pray not only for their own churches but for every Southern Baptist church during 2004.

The campaign, launched Jan. 1 by the SBC Executive Committee, the North American Mission Board, and the Empowering Kingdom Growth Task Force, already has received thousands of responses.

To be a part of the prayer effort, Southern Baptist individuals or church prayer groups may register online at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) or by calling 1-888-PRAYER2. Registrants should provide their name, e-mail address, and church identification number, which may be found by searching for their home church in the ChurchSearch database at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net). Each registrant will be assigned a personal volunteer identification number.

Registrants can commit to pray for one to five Southern Baptist churches each week for 12 weeks, including lifting up specific requests presented by the sister churches.

"What could be better than to pray for our sister churches and their ministries, that God

tracts. While President Bush has not said he supports civil unions, he has indicated he would leave the issue up to the states.

The largest divide between Bush and the Democrat candidate may come on the issue of a constitutional amendment protecting the traditional definition of marriage. Bush has said the country "may need" such an amendment, while every Democrat candidate opposes it. Four polls in 2003 showed national support for an amendment to

be between 54-58 percent. A *New York Times/CBS News* poll in December had support at 55 percent. □

## **NAMB taps pastor to lead department**

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — A longtime Georgia pastor and former military chaplain has been named director of chaplaincy evangelism for the North American Mission Board.



LAND

## **Equipping for pro-life cause among key ERLC aims: Land**

By Dwayne Hastings  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Whether it's the struggle in Florida to keep Terri Schiavo alive or the rulings by two federal courts to stay the ban on partial-birth abortion that made the legislative victory short-lived, the matter of the preciousness of human life is headline material.

Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land isn't surprised at the give-and-take over human life. On his "Richard Land Live!" radio program recently, Land noted that contemporary culture is home to two very disparate civilizations: the Judeo-Christian civilization, which is based upon the sanctity of all human life, and the neo-pagan civilization, which zealously promotes a relativist quality-of-life perspective.

"When these two totally antagonistic worldviews come up against each other, it makes a real difference in peoples' lives because real people die when the quality-of-life ethic usurps the sanctity-of-life ethic," Land said, warning that 30 years of Roe v. Wade has severely eroded the sanctity of human life ethic in the United States.

"By allowing this barbarity — for over 30 years now we have been killing a baby every 20 seconds — we have brutalized our whole society, including our court system, in that we have devalued and de-sanctified

human life to the point that a court can as casually sentence a human being to die by malnutrition and dehydration as it can allow a partially delivered healthy baby to be murdered by a physician."

The only hope, Land said, is for the people of God to stand up and say enough is enough. Marking his 15th year as head of the SBC entity for ethical and moral issues, Land said in the November-December 2003 *Light* magazine, "We stand at a critical juncture, and the choices we make will produce long-lasting results. In another 15 years we will live in a different climate than we do today."

Land is fond of saying that if the culture is going to be redeemed, it hangs on the response of Southern Baptists. And that is no truer anywhere than in the sanctity of human life issue.

The ERLC understands that many church leaders need resources to help educate members of their congregations on this important issue, Land said, recommending that pastors consider inserting the ERLC's Faith & Family handouts that focus on life issues into church's bulletin in January (Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is observed Jan. 18 on the calendar of the Southern Baptist Convention). Also avail-

able are pamphlets, such as "What the Bible Teaches about Abortion," "What They Never Told You About the Facts of Life" and a tract by Land titled, "Is Life Right?"

The ERLC also produces a suggested sermon outline and Bible study on the issue, along with theme posters and an extensive fact sheet. "There's no better way to keep Southern Baptists aware of these critical social and moral issues than for them to receive *For Faith & Family's Light* magazine," Land added, referring to the entity's bimonthly periodical that churches can order by a bulk annual subscription.

Land said the commission also offers a wide array of books and videos on the sanctity of human life issue, drawing particular attention to text he recommends "The Right to Die? Caring Alternatives for Euthanasia" by Mark Blocher.

"The America we will know [in 10 years] will be much better or much worse than it is now. We will live in a society that has much more aggressively affirmed Judeo-Christian values or much more aggressively affirmed neo-paganism, where the only absolute is that there are no absolutes," Land said, warning that one way or another society will move off the balance point upon which it rests today.

Where it falls is totally up to Southern Baptists and other believers and their response to God's leadership, Land said.

might bless them in a mighty way?" Morris H. Chapman, president of the Executive Committee, said in a sound clip at [www.oneinamillion-prayer.com](http://www.oneinamillion-prayer.com).

Churches Praying for Churches also allows individual churches to submit specific prayer requests, such as church growth, evangelism, and mission opportunities or general prayer requests for the pastor, staff, and members. Requests may be made at the same location as registration at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net).

Many churchgoers are familiar with the passage from II Chronicles 7:14, which states, "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

"I know that's the prayer of every Southern Baptist for our nation and for our convention," Chapman said.

"Would you join us in this prayer effort? It could result in the greatest blessing which God would ever pour out upon this convention. May we pray for spiritual awakening, may we pray for revival, may we abandon self for the cause of Christ and just say, 'Lord, I can't, but You can help us reach this nation for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.' □

Pete Sharber, 64, joined the NAMB staff Jan. 5 from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst, Ga.

Sharber will help provide ministerial support and resources for more than 2,400 Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains sharing the gospel in settings such as prisons and military, corporate, and health care institutions.

Last year nearly 14,000 people made professions of faith in Christ through chaplain ministries. □

# TBC churches respond well to IMB needs through ...

Continued from page 1

"For a church of our size and local economy, this is certainly the widow'smite," Kirkpatrick wrote.

"He said the church members were aware of the difficulties faced by the IMB. We realize that our \$3,750 is a drop in the proverbial bucket, but our drop combined with those of other missions-minded churches will work God's will abroad," Kirkpatrick wrote.

## Surplus funds

The Church at Crosspoint, which meets at Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, budgeted \$1,200 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

"When we heard about the missionaries who could not be sent to the field, we wanted to do something to help," said Tim Fisher, a member of the church who also serves as Kingdom growth coordinator for Concord Baptist Association.

At the end of the budget year the church had a surplus in its budget, so members voted to take \$25,000 of the surplus and give it to the Lottie Moon offering, Fisher said.

He noted that commitment to missions is one reason he and his family joined the three-and-a-half year old congregation which now averages between 150-200 in worship.

The generosity of the congregation is tremendous for a new church, Fisher observed.

A West Tennessee church also drew from its surplus to give to the Lottie Moon offering.

The members of Bethel Baptist Church, Greenfield, have a commitment to giving. The church draws about 150 on average to Sunday School but gave \$1,500 to the LMCO.

The church's goal was \$13,000. Members gave \$16,500 but added \$35,000 from the budget to make the total.

Last year, the members added \$30,000

from the budget to the LMCO, explained Steven Kyle, pastor.

The church is featured in this year's LMCO information produced by the International Mission Board because of its outstanding giving. LMCO giving per active member of Sunday School is about \$343 each.

Kyle, who has been pastor for about a year and a half, said the church also gives sacrificially to the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions, Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, and Mother's Day Offering for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. Bethel gave \$30,000 to the TBCH last year.

If questioned about not keeping more money for the church, church leaders say the more the church gives, the more it receives. It has proven to be true, said Kyle.

## Second largest total ever

The LMCO goal of First Baptist Church, Milan, was \$14,500. The congregation gave \$26,000.

They were motivated by the fact that missionaries were willing to go, but were turned away by the International Mission Board because of lack of funds, said Skip Parvin, pastor.

The offering was the second largest offering given to the LMCO by the church, said Parvin. The church draws about 675 to Sunday School on an average Sunday.

Parvin said one way the need was communicated was by several children holding pairs of shoes to represent the shoes which couldn't be filled by missionaries until the funds are available.

The other time the church gave a bigger LMCO was because of a gift by an individual. So Parvin attributed the LMCO to the sacrificial gifts of members.

"When they know a need they respond," said Parvin. The members of the church are very mission-minded, he added, noting members also travel to conduct missions work regularly.

## One-day offering

The members of First Baptist Church, Byrdstown, give a one-time offering to the LMCO, explained Ivan Raley, interim pastor. Raley also is director of the Franklin Campus of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

The congregation gave \$10,217 that Sunday morning, outgiving its goal of \$6,500. The congregation only has about 105 on average in worship.

Raley added proudly that the church also increased its Cooperative Program giving recently two percent.

## Saw missionaries sent

LMCO giving at Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, nearly doubled over last year due in part to a personal connection, reported Bill Northcott, interim pastor of the church.

Last year Smyrna's pastor, Jeff Walters and his wife, Melanie, were appointed as International Mission Board missionaries to France, where they are currently serving.

The couple sent a video tape to the church in early December which introduced their work, Northcott said.

The video also showed the Paris area and underscored in a powerful way the magnitude of the need to share Christ in that part of the world, Northcott added.

The church showed one segment on Sunday morning and the other two on Wednesday night. "Our church was moved by that experience," Northcott said. The church gave \$4,539 to the offering this year, compared to \$2,674 last year.

## \$100,000 above goal

At First Baptist Church, Sevierville, members set an offering goal of \$70,000.

When the final total was tallied, members at FBC gave about \$180,000, said Randy Davis, pastor of the church and a trustee for the IMB.

Davis noted that Glenn Metts, minis-

ter of evangelism at First Baptist, led the efforts. One Sunday Metts placed 100 pairs of shoes in front of the sanctuary to remind the church of the 100 missionaries the board could not send due to lack of funds. "We made it a point to let people know the needs," Davis said.

The church has given generously over the years to the offering though it traditionally sets a low goal, Davis said.

Last year the church set a goal of \$60,000 and gave about \$125,000.

Davis noted his desire was to see the church exceed not only its goal but last year's giving by 33 percent, which was the challenge of IMB President Jerry Rankin.

"We basically said here is our goal, but this is what we should give and our people have responded," Davis said. "They saw this as a great need as well as an opportunity to impact the world for Christ."

## TBC partnerships credited

Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, gave more than \$14,000 above its \$90,000 goal for a total of about \$104,000. The goal was the highest in the church's history.

Sandy Bolton, volunteer director of missions ministries at the church, credited partnership volunteer mission trips for the increased response. The church sent three volunteer teams to Des Moines, Iowa, in 2003.

In addition to the church's involvement in missions, Pastor Mike Boyd, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, also credited an international missions banquet, a preaching emphasis, and a visual display of 100 pairs of empty "missionary shoes" that sat on racks in the sanctuary as additional factors. For each \$1,000 given, a pair of shoes was replaced by a Bible, he described. □ — This article includes reporting by Mark Kelly for Baptist Press and Connie Davis, Marcia Knox, and Lonnie Wilkey for the B&R.

# Southern Baptist statesman Albert McClellan dies at age 91

By Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Albert McClellan, one of the Southern Baptist Convention's key staff members for more than 30 years, died the morning of Jan. 9 after a lengthy illness. He was 91.

McClellan had a hand in the formation of the committee that drafted the SBC's 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement of beliefs and he was one of the 20-plus members of the SBC Peace Committee during the mid-1980s.

James L. Sullivan, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) from 1953-75, described McClellan as "a very brilliant man, totally dedicated to his work." Sullivan also noted his integrity and his freedom to be himself. He didn't have anything to hide."

McClellan, when he retired from the SBC Executive Committee on Dec. 31, 1980, held the position of associate executive secretary and director of program planning. He joined the Executive Committee staff in 1949, serving 10 years as director of publications, which included responsibility for Baptist Press, the convention's news service. He assumed his program

planning assignment in 1959.

Sullivan told Baptist Press he had so many exchanges with McClellan over the years "that I doubt I could isolate any one of them because his work overlapped ours in various areas. We could have had a dogfight any day [about an SBC-related matter], but he was always fair, open, above-board. You knew exactly where he stood, what his objectives were, what his relationships were."

"He served the whole convention," Sullivan said.

McClellan was editor of the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger* from 1945-49, pastor of First Baptist Church in Waurika, Okla., from 1942-45 and a rural schoolteacher for three years. A native of Bowie, Texas, he graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee in 1939 and earned a master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1941.

He authored 14 books and hundreds of articles for denominational publications.

McClellan's part in the formation of the committee to draft the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message involved a meeting he and Porter Routh, then-executive secretary of the Executive Committee, had with Herschell Hobbs, then-president of the

SBC, in Oklahoma City, where Hobbs was pastor of First Baptist Church.

The three men met to discuss controversy from a commentary on the Book of Genesis by a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, and published by the Sunday School Board, that departed from a high view of Scripture.

The three men "decided to propose to the Executive Committee the appointment of a special committee to study the Statement of Faith that had been developed from the New Hampshire Confession of Faith and adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1925" in response to controversy at the time involving the theory of

evolution, Jesse Fletcher wrote in his history of the SBC published for the convention's 150th anniversary in 1995. Their plan was modified during the 1962 SBC annual meeting from a proposed committee of seminary presidents to one consisting of the presidents of state Baptist conventions.

When theological controversy erupted again in the SBC in the

late 1970s, McClellan was among those named to the Peace Committee, which issued a report in 1985 that sought to address points of contention between conservatives and moderates.

"Albert McClellan was the consummate Southern Baptist on every level," said David George, McClellan's longtime pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville.

"As a former pastor he had a deep commitment to the local church," George said of McClellan. "As a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville since 1955, he was the most supportive and dedicated member imaginable. He faithfully attended all the services unless he was out of town. He was there Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday night, whatever the program. He chaired most of the key committees of the church, including a long-range planning committee early in my pastorate. He was the pastor's friend, always encouraging and sometimes challenging and correcting."

"He was also committed to the work of the local Baptist association, which he believed to be a vital unit of Baptist life. He worked with many state conventions, and of course, he helped to lead the national denomination

during some of its most productive years," George said. "He also represented Southern Baptists throughout the world as he traveled to mission fields and meetings with Baptists in other countries. When he was away on convention business, he always sent his itinerary to the church office to let us know where he was."

Leonard Hill, who worked under McClellan as managing editor of *The Baptist Program* publication for more than 20 years, said, "When I think of Albert McClellan — whether as friend, 'boss,' denominational worker, servant of Christ — I remember a small two-sided sign he designed himself which used to rest on his desk.

"On one side were the words, 'What are all the facts?' On the other side was printed, 'What is the spirit of the matter?' The sign disappeared over the years, but the principles remained as guideposts in Albert McClellan's life. He never ceased searching for all the facts. He never ceased exhibiting the finest Christian spirit, even in the toughest of times."

McClellan is survived by two sons, Alan of Nashville and Renick of Chicago; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mabel, in 2000. □



McCLELLAN

# Keeping good cholesterol level a key to good health

good  
health



By Branda Polk

According to the American Heart Association, one out of every three adult Americans — an estimated 105 million people — have border-line high (200-239 mg./dl.) or too high (240 mg./dl. and above) blood cholesterol levels.

That's one out of every three members of your church, co-workers, friends, or family members. And, the harsh reality is it's probably you and you don't even know it.

High cholesterol is the leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke. As believers we are given the responsibility to properly care for the body God has given us to live and minister through. Knowing your cholesterol level and taking the steps to properly manage it are steps of physical stewardship that honor God.

Here are a few facts about cholesterol: Your body makes the waxy substance in your liver, and it is used to make cell membranes, produce hormones, and insulate nerves. God designed your body to produce the right amount of good cholesterol that is beneficial to your health.

We run into problems when we eat foods that contain high levels of cholesterol. These foods include animal products such as meats, poultry, fish, and dairy products, highly processed foods, and foods cooked with or fried in animal fat. Excess cholesterol produces plaque that is stored in the artery walls throughout your body. As the build-up increases, it hardens and decreases the flow of blood to your heart or brain. When an artery is completely blocked and blood flow is stopped, the result is a heart attack or stroke.

Preventing and managing high cholesterol is vital to staying healthy and strong throughout your life. Consider implementing the following recommendations to increase your awareness and properly care for your body:

(1) Have your cholesterol lev-

el checked annually. A blood test with a complete lipid profile will reveal your total cholesterol and the breakdown of good (high density lipoproteins or HDLs), bad (low-density lipoproteins or LDLs), and very bad cholesterol (very low-density lipoproteins or VLDLs). High total cholesterol greatly increases your risk for developing heart disease or having a stroke.

(2) Educate yourself on health habits to manage or lower your cholesterol level. The American Heart Association is an excellent resource. Visit their web site at [www.american-heart.org](http://www.american-heart.org) for more information. Also ask your doctor for recommendations or referrals to other health professionals that could offer assistance.

(3) Avoid foods that are high in saturated fat and cholesterol. Remember, all meat contains cholesterol. Limit your portions of lean meat to four ounces per day. Use the information on food labels to keep your cholesterol intake low. The following foods are high in saturated fat and cholesterol. Minimize these in your eating plan:

◆ Whole milk, cream and ice

cream. Try nonfat milk and low-fat frozen yogurt instead.

- ◆ Butter, egg yolks, and foods that include them, such as cakes and pies.

- ◆ Bakery goods made with egg yolks and saturated fats.

- ◆ Cheeses and foods that include them. Try low-fat cheeses or string cheese instead.

- ◆ Organ meats such as liver, kidney, and brain.

- ◆ Saturated oils such as coconut oil, palm oil, and palm kernel oil.

- ◆ High-fat processed meats such as sausage, bologna, salami, and hot dogs.

- ◆ Fatty red meats.

- ◆ Duck and goose meat.

- ◆ Chicken and turkey with the skin on.

- ◆ Solid fats like shortening, stick margarine, and lard.

- ◆ Fried foods such as fried chicken, french fries, and potato chips.

(4) Enjoy a wide variety of healthful foods that are low in saturated fat and are cholesterol free.

- ◆ Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables every day.

- ◆ Eat six or more servings of cereals, breads, pasta, and other whole-grain products.

- ◆ Eat fish, poultry without skin, and leaner cuts of meat.

- ◆ Eat nonfat or 1 percent milk dairy products.

(5) Maintain a healthy weight. While weight is not an automatic indicator of high cholesterol, managing your weight with a healthful eating plan and regular exercise will greatly decrease your risk of high cholesterol.

(6) Exercise at least 30-60 minutes on most days of the week. Exercise has been proved to increase the good cholesterol and reduce bad cholesterol and total cholesterol levels.

(7) If medication is necessary to manage your cholesterol levels, take it as prescribed by your doctor. Medication along with healthy lifestyle changes will work together to decrease your risk for heart disease and stroke. Talk to your doctor about all the options available to you.

*Therefore, honor God with your body (I Corinthians 6:20)*

□ — Polk is a certified fitness instructor, personal trainer, and wellness coach in Memphis.

## Letters to the editor

### Prayer warriors

The greatest New Year's gift we can give this year is to become a prayer warrior for our nation.

An army trained in spiritual warfare, praying to bring peace to all mankind is needed. Loving God with all our heart, soul, and spirit will bring us into loving and praying for world peace and bringing people to know the King of kings, the Lord Jesus, as their Lord and Savior.

Join today and become a prayer warrior for Jesus.

Janice Scruggs  
Dandridge 37725

### Door opened

By way of introduction, my wife, Jan, and I have served with the International Mission Board since our appointment in 1976. We have served in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico. We are planning to retire from the IMB in October of next year.

I suppose that there are very few, if any persons in the USA or perhaps the entire world that does not know of the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Besides the obvious implications, there is another implication that has not been addressed, and this is how it will affect the spread of the gospel in Iraq and the entire Arab world.

The term that the IMB is using for this opportunity is "open door." This open door will make it possible for a rapid advance of the gospel in Iraq which would change forever the character of Iraq and its citizens.

We have to be realistic and realize that other groups such

as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, are also going to be welcome in this "open door" situation.

The problem for Southern Baptists at this moment is the fact that the International Mission Board's financial structure is literally stretched to its limit and beyond.

Southern Baptists have within their grasp what could become the greatest evangelistic opportunity of this century.

May God in His glory give us wisdom as to how to take full and complete advantage of this "open door" and may we go through it with a sense of destiny as Southern Baptists. May God provide not only the people to go to carry the Good News, but also the financial support that it will require to do so. May we as Southern Baptists lead the way into this door and show the world that we are today, as we have historically been, a missions minded people who are willing to make personal sacrifices in order to make our commitments become realities.

Charles Collins,  
missionary-in-residence  
Union University  
Jackson 38305

### VBS important

In 1952 I joined a Baptist church in Nashville and became involved for the first time in Vacation Bible School.

The theme that year was Psalm 24. We sang the theme song every morning and memorized the verses. It made an impression on me that I have not forgotten in more than 50 years.

The news reports that there

is a controversy over the theme of VBS for 2004. Is it possible we may be centering on missions more than the actual study of the Bible?

It is my opinion that young people today do not know the Word of God so well that they do not need this extra emphasis once a year to help them grow. Sunday School cannot provide in a short time each week what several hours together can teach children.

Having worked with young children at times, I know the love they have for the real stories of Jesus. They do enjoy a good time, but the stories are important to them.

I believe these are the things they will remember long after the themes of Vacation Bible School are forgotten.

Dorothy W. Blake  
Alcoa 37701

### Read with interest

As a 1973 graduate of Carson-Newman College I read with interest the letter in the Dec. 10 issue which documents what appears to be a serious situation at the college. And, the concerns expressed, I believe, deserve more of an answer than the one given by the college officials.

In their response they maintain that the science professors are all creationists, explaining that this means they believe God created the heavens and the earth. Very good, but what about the creation of man and woman, as opposed to an evolutionary process?

I thought a creationist was one who not only believed Gene-

### Reminder about letters: editor

I frequently am asked about letters to the editor.

Quite frankly, dealing with letters to the editor is one of the things I like least about my job. It would not have to be that way if letter writers would follow the guidelines the Convention Communications Committee has approved for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

These guidelines are printed periodically. Space does not permit them to be printed every time letters are used.

Briefly, these are the guidelines: Letters should be 300 words or less, deal with issues relevant to Tennessee Baptists, not deal with personalities or

sis 1:1, but also Genesis 1:27 and 2:7 which reveal the creation of man and woman as literal human beings. Do the professors at Carson-Newman believe this? Do they believe that we are all descended from two historical individuals, namely Adam and Eve? Or do they believe that we are the random result of some evolutionary process that took millions of years? What do they teach our students?

It is certainly of no little significance that there are absolutely no transitional forms from one species to another. In fact, it is reported that the senior paleontologist at the prestigious British Museum of Natural History (which houses the world's largest fossil collection) has confessed that he knows of no evolutionary transitions, fos-

sil or living. Think of it. Six million fossils in one museum and not one shred of evidence that favors evolution.

Are our professors making students aware of these facts or are they giving credence to the untenable theory of evolution? This is a critical time in the lives of young college students. Not only should their faith be strengthened, but they need solid biblical training in how to defend it.

Is it asking too much for these questions to be answered in a forthright manner and without ambiguity. Since Carson-Newman is one of our schools, I believe it is time for clear answers to be given to these questions and concerns.

Marc Drake, pastor  
Cherry Road Baptist Church  
Memphis 3811

# Evangelism in Tennessee needs to be intentional

making  
Christ  
known



By Larry Gilmore

placing them in a frame allows the patient to see clearly those objects that were previously only fuzzy images. The difference? Intentional focus!

So it is with our ministries as servants of the Lord Jesus. Being "in the ministry" does not guarantee that we are spiritually "fruitful" or "effective" in our ministries. I've often found myself spending countless hours, busy about relatively insignificant details, gone home exhausted with a euphoria feeling of importance, only to reflect upon the day to recognize that little of eternal value was accomplished. What a downer! That's not how I want to spend

the 86,400 seconds allotted to me each day. My life must count for more! I am a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the God of Glory! And so are you!

A follower of Jesus is a disciple of Jesus. "Disciple" comes from the same root as "discipline." The implication is that there is a disciplined learning process where the heart and soul of the master teacher is transferred to the receptive student follower. The passion of the master becomes the passion of the follower. This takes place only when there is an intentional focus on the master and His heartbeat.

What is the passionate heartbeat of Jesus? Jesus, Himself, tells us in Luke 19:10: *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*. Let us pursue His heart.

The 2004 State Evangelism Conference is designed to help us become more intentionally focused on that which Jesus did and that which Jesus has called us to. Would a more intentional focus cause the fire of evangelism to burn passionately in your heart for lost souls? Do you need Dr. Jesus to fashion new eyes through which you can clearly see the world as He sees it? Maybe the State Evangelism Conference can be used in our

lives to help us be more intentionally focused on the more than three million lost people in Tennessee whom Jesus is seeking and longing to save.

My friend David Burton, from Florida, says it well. "It's only good news if they hear it in time."

Hope to see you at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville on Jan. 26-27 for the State Evangelism Conference. God will be there and He is up to something great. You want to be a part of it...don't you? □ — Gilmore is leader of the Evangelism Strategies Group of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

## Who says the days of 'old-fashioned' revivals are over?

guest  
columnist



By Henry Linginfelter

tion is the "setting of the sails."

My heart is blessed when I hear reports of genuine revival. I spoke with pastor Jess Love of Concord/Grandview Baptist Church in Nashville and found that he baptized for four consecutive weeks after a recent meeting where God moved in revival power. There were 10 professions of faith and five who joined the church by letter. That's an increase of some 15 percent of their regular attendance. May it happen again and again as we make preparation and believe God!

The following article by evangelist Henry Linginfelter is fresh evidence that revivals still occur.

— Larry Gilmore

This article is an impossible attempt to describe the Wednesday evening service at the revival meeting I conducted recently at Concord/Grandview Baptist Church.

Momentum had been building all week as we had great attendance and decisions in every ser-

vices. On Wednesday evening, however, heaven came down.

As I closed my message on the "Danger of a Hardened Heart," and offered the invitation, a mentally-challenged boy came and spoke a word to the pastor and fell down at the altar to pray. Then, a couple about 40 years old came arm in arm down the aisle. The husband was sobbing. They looked at the pastor and he looked at them. They then fell at the altar weeping and praying. In a moment their 14-year-old son came and knelt with his parents. He, too, was crying.

Another couple came and the pastor was talking with them. Others began to come to the altar to weep and to pray. We needed counselors. I caught the eye of the chairman of deacons and motioned him to come and help us. When he got to the altar, I pointed to the couple and their teenage son — not knowing it was his son and grandson. The grandson was lost and many had

been praying for him. The grandfather knelt with them and led his grandson to Christ. The place broke up! Others began to come, weeping and praying.

All of a sudden, about a dozen teenagers came at the same time and fell down at the altar weeping and praying. I motioned a couple of ladies to come and pray with the teenagers and see if they needed help. Two of the girls accepted Christ.

About that time, Holy Spirit pandemonium broke loose and many others came forward. The minister of music who was trying to lead the invitation hymns during all of this suddenly stopped and came to the altar weeping and rejoicing with those whose lives were being changed forever.

That left me trying to lead the invitation hymns. I didn't need to plead the invitation anymore as the blessed Holy Spirit had taken complete control. Others kept coming as people were being saved and families were

put back together. There was weeping, rejoicing, and repenting. This went on for about 30 minutes.

Finally, I gave the service to the pastor and he tried to share his feelings through his tears and express his gratitude to God for a mighty moving of the Spirit. Others began to share and praise God. This went on for another 15 minutes. We finally closed with a prayer of gratitude.

Do not try to tell Jess Love, pastor of Concord/Grandview, and his congregation that the days of old-fashioned revivals are past. They will never believe you.

The Lord blesses us with similar services quite often and I fully realize that it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

It is also the culmination of prayers and the work of people in the churches, plus the prayers and support of those who undergird my ministry. □ — Linginfelter is an evangelist from Alcoa.

## In 2004 consider making (and keeping) family resolutions

a parent  
speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

they "wanted to stay for church or go home and play." One of the best Scripture verses for raising children in the Christian faith is found in Proverbs 22:6, *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it* (NIV).

◆ Commit to healthy meals. With a little planning, families can enjoy nutritious foods that are low in calories, fat, and sugar. Quick, does not mean "fast food." Quick does not mean eating out several times a week. Instead, involve your kids in helping plan simple meals that are the cornerstone of good health. Block off a couple of hours each week to prepare recipes and freeze for later use.

◆ Return mealtime to family time. Only a generation or two ago, the dinner table was a time for families to share fellowship and food together. What happened? Could television have replaced a period for talking and bonding with parents and children? Be flexible as to schedules so everyone can share several

meals throughout the week as a family unit.

◆ Make time to play. Life should be fun, agreed? And one of the best ways to stay positive about yourself is to feel good. That's where exercise comes in. Make a list of ways to get your family moving. For example, walk the dog as a family. Put on music with a beat as "everyone" helps in cleaning house. Playing together as a family refreshes the body and soul. Proverbs 17:22 says, *A cheerful heart is*

*good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones* (NIV).

◆ Organize your life. If you're like many parents, you have more activities than hours in the day. Making a list, with those of highest priority at the top works for many busy families. As you accomplish each, mark off each with a red pen. And what if you don't complete each daily task? Write it at the top for the following day.

◆ Choose one daily activity you really love. How do you use

your leisure time? Could a new hobby sooth your soul and produce hidden creativity? Boost your self-esteem through personal accomplishment and along the way you may discover a family whose love grows stronger each day.

Make this a year of change for your family by using practical ideas that will enrich your household. □ — Tomlin, contributes to numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

### P.K. Preacher's Kids



**Although adoption is rare in culture**

## Memphis Hispanic pastor, wife adopt Hispanic baby

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — In the Spanish culture, adoption of babies is very rare because extended families take care of babies who can't be cared for by the immediate family. However, it occurred recently here because of God's provision, people report.

David Herrera is pastor of La Iglesia Bautista la Buena Esperanza or Good Hope Baptist Church, Memphis, which meets at Leawood Baptist Church. He and his wife, Leyla, can't have children biologically so in October of 2001 they visited an adoption agency. They wanted to adopt a Hispanic child.

They were told the process would take at least two years and cost about \$10,000. The couple left discouraged. They had waited for the nine years of their marriage for children and they didn't have the money for the adoption.

The Herreras asked friends Marvin and Jean Fitts, associate members of Good Hope Church, to pray for them. The Fitts, retired missionaries, agreed to do so. The Fitts served in Peru and Mexico 27 and 30 years respectively.

Then Miriam Bissett of Florida, a friend of the Fitts, visited them. Bissett is a former missionary to Mexico. Bissett met the Herreras. A few weeks after her visit, she called the Fitts to tell them of a series of events that made it possible for her to give a gift to the Herreras. Jean Fitts suggested Bissett give it for the adoption.

After learning about the gift, the Herreras considered their options. They considered going back home, to Honduras, to obtain a baby. Some of their family encouraged them to ask a family member who recently had a baby to allow them to raise it.

But the couple learned the Immigration and Naturaliza-

tion Service and the adoption agency warned against such an action because of international and legal complications.

Months passed and then the Herreras received a call from the adoption agency. A Hispanic woman had visited the agency because she wanted to give her expected baby to a family before she returned to her native country.

To prepare for the possibility, the couple sold one of their cars to pay some of the fees.

On Dec. 17, 2002, the Herreras received the phone call they had hoped for. They called the Fitts and asked them to meet them at the adoption agency to provide any needed explanations of the process in Spanish.

Herrera said when he met the mother of the baby girl at the hospital, he told her how Moses was raised by someone other than his natural mother but that God used him in a great way. Herrera told the



PASTOR DAVID HERRERA and his wife, Leyla, hold Elizabeth, their adopted daughter.

natural mother he would be praying that God would use her daughter in great ways too.

Interestingly, that day also was the wedding anniversary of the Herreras. The couple named the baby girl Elizabeth.

The adoption of Elizabeth was completed at the Shelby County Courthouse in November.

Jean Fitts said after 45 years of "loving and living among the Hispanic people, this is the first time that I have known about a legal adoption."

The large extended family is still of great importance to Hispanic people, she said. A popular saying of theirs is "casa pequeña, corazón grande" or "little house, big heart." In other words, there is always room for one more, explained Fitts.

The series of events that led to the adoption can't be attributed to luck or coincidence, she observed, because they are so unlikely. For instance, the couple adopted Elizabeth in just over a year.

Fitts doesn't see the events as the result of miracles because natural laws and human affairs weren't changed. She sees the adoption as a sign of the providence of God.

"Without being aware of it, God controls many of the details of our daily lives and then we suddenly realize that it was He who was putting everything together for our good and for His eternal purposes," stated Fitts.

Another sign of God's provision has been that Elizabeth has two dimples just like her new father. □



GOOD HOPE BAPTIST Church or La Iglesia Bautista la Buena Esperanza which meets at Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis, gathers with its pastor, David Herrera, left.

## Orlinda Baptist Church tries to help ill man in the Philippines

For Baptist and Reflector

ORLINDA — Kathy North, missionary nurse to the Philippines who is from Orlinda Baptist Church here, was really worried about Pedro. She and the other health care workers at the clinic in Lipa City, Batangas, had done all they could for him.

Pedro, 25, is a severe hemophiliac who has used the services of the free clinic for more than a year. But a few weeks ago when he had to have several teeth pulled, he started bleeding.

North knew Pedro needed factor eight, but the cost was prohibitive. Pedro was from a poor family which was why he relied on the clinic. He could not afford to go to a doctor or hospital. Pedro was one of 13 children, of which five had died from hemophilia.

North really wanted to help Pedro. Through contact

with Christians he had become a Christian. He holds a weekly Bible study in his home which draws about 30 people.

As the medical crisis spiked in December, North saw it as an opportunity for people around the world to pray for Pedro. So she contacted her mother, Sandra Sons of Orlinda Church by email asking for prayer. North attended the church as a adolescent and youth.

Soon church members, including North's grandmother, Catherine Adams, were praying for Pedro.

Members knew in just a week Sons was traveling to the Philippines to be with the Norths for Christmas.

The congregation decided to act. Pharmacist Dan Green of the church who owns Thomas Drugs of Cross Plains confirmed he could obtain factor eight for \$1,320 and it could be trans-

ported on dry ice to the Philippines.

The Sunday night before Sons left, the congregation took up an offering to buy the medicine. All but about \$300 was given. The \$300 was delivered to the church office the following Monday morning by church members.

But the church learned that morning that Pedro had miraculously been

healed. The bleeding had stopped and he had been sent home with only a nasogastric tube.

It's like God said let's see how well you'll meet this need, said Lee Ann Wright, secretary of Orlinda Church. Then when God saw Christians respond, He said, "I'll take care of it on my own power."

The gifts for the medicine were returned to members,

said Wright. It seems that most gave their gifts for the medicine to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, Wright added. They know the LMCO pays the expenses of missionaries like the Kathy North and her husband, Kim.

The congregation, which averages about 155 in Sunday School, gave \$5,700 to the offering, exceeding its goal of \$4,500, reported Wright. □

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## Choate family prime examples

# Part-time, voluntary music leaders vital in TBC life

By Stacy Murphree  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "It runs in the family" is a true expression of the Choate family when it comes to serving their churches through the music ministry.

Siblings, Gene Choate, Joyce Choate Culpepper, Dan Choate, and Bill Choate, have combined total of 106 years serving Tennessee Baptist churches as music ministers.

Gene Choate currently serves at First Baptist Church, Delano. Joyce Choate Culpepper serves Wetmore Baptist church, Etowah. Dan Choate retired volunteer music minister from Goodsprings Baptist church, Etowah, and Bill Choate retired in 1995 from full-time music ministry at First Baptist Church, Kingston. Since retirement, he has held 3 part-time interim positions in Tennessee.

As is the case with the majority of Tennessee Baptist music ministers, these four have served or are currently serving on a volunteer or part-time basis.

Actually, more than 80 percent of those who lead music in their churches across the state do so in a part time or volunteer capacity.

"These are people who truly love what they do," says Paul Clark, Worship and Music Ministry Specialist for the

Tennessee Baptist Convention. "They are school teachers, professional businessmen and women, factory workers, or full-time moms who have a love for their church and recognize the importance of music in the life of their congregation."

Even though these music ministers are volunteer or part-time, their dedication to the work often makes a second job for them.

"Most of these churches have a fairly full music program," says Clark. Besides the duty of leading congregational hymns on Sunday mornings, bivocational music ministers lead children, youth, or adult choirs, work on special music, and provide leadership for special productions at Christmas or Easter.

Despite the time it consumes, bivocational music ministers offer their time because the music ministry is something they want to be a part of at their church.

"I just really enjoy doing it," says Dan Choate.

Many volunteer and part-time music ministers have had no formal music training, but in some cases experience has been a great teacher.

"Over the years I've learned a lot. It's been a growing process. You kind of learn as you go," says Gene Choate.

Gene has been the music minister at First Baptist



**THE CHOATE FAMILY** included four siblings who served Tennessee Baptist churches in music ministry in either a full-time, part-time, or voluntary capacity. From left are Gene Choate, Joyce Choate Culpepper, and Dan Choate. Not pictured is their brother, Bill Choate. Their dad also served as a music minister.

Church, Delano for the past 35 years. For many years he volunteered without pay, and recently the church has begun supplying a small compensation.

It is not surprising that the Choate children grew to love music. Gene Choate notes how they grew up with a family of singers, and his father served as the music minister at Goodsprings Baptist Church, Etowah.

"We always had music around the house growing up. It was natural for us to continue with music," he says.

"It had an influence on all of

our family. It [music] is what we did," says Bill Choate.

Dan Choate notes how at every Christmas or family gathering, singing together was always a focal point. "Singing has always been second-nature for our family," he says.

Many music ministers share a similar story as the Choate family. They may have grown up with a parent leading music from the pulpit or playing an instrument for congregational singing, and they naturally followed the lead of their parents.

For the Choate siblings, the love for music extends to their individual families as well. Both Dan and Gene's wives have served as either pianist or organist at their churches for over 50 years.

Gene's daughter, Beth, serves as pianist for North Etowah Baptist Church, and his son, Phil, is part of the orchestra at Bayside Baptist Church in Chattanooga. Bill's daughter teaches voice at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Many times when God leads us in doing something, He allows time to shape us and prepare us for that opportunity.

Gene Choate began leading music occasionally as a teenager, and eventually began serving as the music minister of a church.

While attending Carson-Newman College, Bill Choate served as pianist for the Baptist Student Union and a student revival team. He was on a team that was leading a revival in a church in Knoxville when the church asked him to lead music for them every week. Bill served the church for two years until his graduation from Carson-Newman. It was at that time when he decided on the music ministry and went on to attend Southwestern Seminary.

"I felt that's what God wanted me to do, and that's

what I have done all my life," says Bill Choate. His son, also Bill, is Collegiate Ministries Group leader for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Like many music ministers starting out, Gene Choate never thought he would be doing this for more than 30 years. "I never said this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life. I just started," he says.

Dan Choate refers to his start at leading music when he became the "elected volunteer." This is true in many smaller churches where the person who can read music or loves to sing is encouraged to lead the music.

### Same issues

Just as the Choate family, many music ministers are in those positions because of the musical influence from their family or encouragement from church family. These music ministers, not only love music, but also recognize it as an important aspect of worship.

Clark indicates that bivocational music ministers face many of the same issues that full-time music ministers face. "Worship format and musical style issues are not unique to churches served by full-time music ministers," says Clark. "Decisions regarding music materials, organization, and worship planning may be even more difficult for the bivocational, or volunteer musician if for no other reason due to a simple lack of opportunity for exposure."

Clark notes that one important way his office tries to help music leaders is through individual consultation, and by helping them connect with other music ministers in their area.

"If I can help a bivocational leader connect to those around them who are fellow bivocational leaders or full-time staff then I feel I have provided longer term assistance," says Clark.

Ray Gilder, bivocational ministries specialist with TBC is working with Clark on two Praise Festivals designed for choirs led by bivocational music leaders scheduled for this summer at CarsonSprings and LindenValley.

"We hope this will serve not only as a training opportunity, but also as a celebration of some of the wonderful work that is taking place in our churches whose music is led by these special servants," says Clark.

Clark also sends out a weekly e-mail newsletter to music and worship leaders across the state to provide information and encouragement. □

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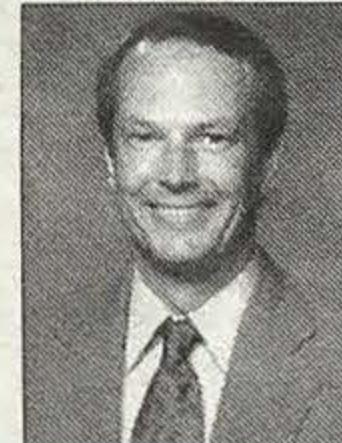
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CLARK

## SBC CP gifts ahead of last year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up 6.88 percent compared to the same time frame in 2002, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman.

As of Dec. 31, 2003, the year-to-date total of \$45,269,709.85 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$2,913,303.29 ahead of the \$42,356,406.56 received at this same point in 2002. For the month, receipts of \$13,585,159.83 were 9.15 percent, or \$1,138,776.11, above the \$12,446,383.72 received in December 2002.

Designated giving of \$12,348,324.73 for the same year-to-date period is 21.85 percent, or \$2,214,608.79 above gifts of \$10,133,715.94 received at this point in 2002. The \$4,248,725.35 in designated gifts received last month is \$405,422.30 above the \$3,843,303.05 of December 2002, a 10.55 percent increase.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$45,269,709.85 is 99.32 percent of the \$45,580,777.50 budgeted, or \$311,067.65 under budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America.

The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christ-

mas Offering for International Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, and other special gifts. □

## Billy Graham plans June crusade in K.C.

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Beloved evangelist Billy Graham will conduct a crusade here June 17-20 at Arrowhead Stadium, officials with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association announced Jan. 8 during a news conference at the Arrowhead Pavilion adjacent to the 80,000-seat open-air facility.

Billed as "The Heart of America Billy Graham Crusade," it will mark the third time Graham has conducted such an event in Kansas City, the last being in 1978.

Graham and the BGEA team are coming "in fear and trembling and in weakness, but with great joy and dependence upon the Holy Spirit," said Cliff Barrows, Graham's longtime associate and song leader who spoke at the news conference attended by several hundred media, area pastors, and lay leaders.

Barrows said Graham's broken left hip, which required surgery and a partial replace-



GRAHAM

ment Jan. 6 at a hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., would not deter him from his 415th crusade.

"Mr. Graham is doing wonderfully well," Barrows said. "The hospital expects a complete recovery. He'll plan to be here as scheduled, and we're praising God for that."

Graham suffered the broken hip when he fell in a hotel room on the grounds of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, where he was reporting for a semiannual checkup.

Larry Turner, vice president of crusades for the BGEA, read an acceptance letter from Graham that expressed how deeply the renowned evangelist wants to return to Kansas City.

"I never expected to still be preaching at the age of 85, and yet my call to proclaim the gospel is as strong as ever," Graham wrote. "For the past two years, the Lord has given me a burden for Kansas City, and the heart of America. ... Therefore, health permitting, I will be glad to come to Kansas City. My associates and I are honored to join hands with you in proclaiming the Good News, praying that many will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior." □

sponsor a pay-per-view football game featuring scantily clad models during halftime of the Super Bowl Feb. 1.

Dodge announced its sponsorship of the "Lingerie Bowl" at the beginning of December, saying the game of two seven-women teams of models playing tackle football in lingerie would attract the Dodge brand's core demographic of primarily males ages 18 to 34.

The American Family Association and other action groups encouraged their members to contact DaimlerChrysler, the parent company of Dodge, and local dealerships to voice their disapproval of the plans.

DaimlerChrysler announced Dec. 17 that it was pulling out of its sponsorship of the Lingerie Bowl.

"Dodge brand's sponsorship of the Lingerie Bowl has become a distraction," said George E. Murphy, senior vice president of global marketing at

DaimlerChrysler. "The event was diverting media and consumer attention from current products and from the great new products we are preparing to launch next year."

The bowl will proceed without the automaker's sponsorship.

Donald Wildmon, AFA founder and chairman, was pleased with Dodge's reconsideration of the sponsorship.

"I think Dodge placed themselves in a position of offending too many 'soccer moms' who promised to abandon the brand loyalty to the company," Wildmon said.

The reversal by Dodge marks another example of consumer companies changing plans that are considered offensive by many.

In December, clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch decided to discontinue its quarterly catalog, which had been criticized for pornographic content. □



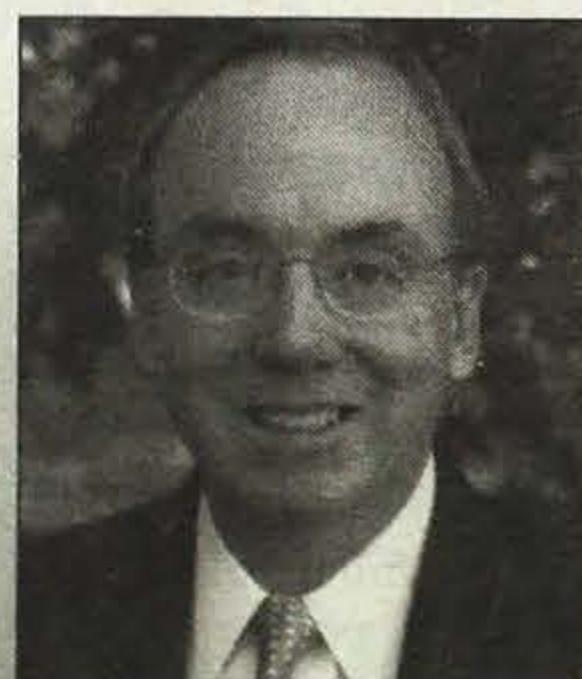
## Dodge withdraws sponsorship of 'Lingerie Bowl'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — After being bombarded with criticism from consumers and morality advocates, Dodge will no longer

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## Convention staff members participate in Christmas projects

or Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention staff conducted several Christmas projects. They provided presents for the children of two inmates of the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville and for the children of about six families in the Copper Basin Baptist Association.

The Church Growth Strategies Group bought presents for six families of the Copper Basin Association area again this year. Sue Raley who has tired this past year from the group led it to begin helping children through the Christmas program of the association, based in Ducktown. The group has provided presents

for about three years, reported Leanne Robbins, administrative assistant of the group.

The association requests the Christmas wish letters of children of needy families in the area. The staff members used the letters as a guide.

The group's 12 staff members who work in the Brentwood office participated. The group also consists of six contract workers who work from their homes. The project was coordinated this year by Ken Marler, general leadership growth specialist.

Robbins said she accepted the Christmas list of an 11-year-old boy whose mother has leukemia.

She said all he asked for was clothes which revealed his

need. She bought him clothes, but also a couple of fun items like a Titans toboggan and a pair of boxers. She also bought the boy a couple of games and included some money which possibly could be spent for Christmas lunch, she said.

Robbins said she was so moved by the boy's letter that she spent more on him than she did on her nieces and nephews.

As a group, the staff members also provided a Bible for each family.

Marler delivered the gifts to Ducktown to Al Patterson, director of missions, who works with his wife, Margaret.

The Missions Mobilization Group of the TBC staff responded to a prayer request of

women inmates who missed the deadline of the Angel Tree program of Prison Fellowship, a Chuck Colson ministry.

Gene Williams, Men's Ministry specialist, who ministers along with his wife Pat at the women's prison, voiced the prayer request in a staff meeting.

Williams picked up the Angel Tree forms at the prison for two ladies and their families including a grandmother caring for an 18-month-old and a family of four children.

He then distributed them to the group, which includes 13 people. Members of the group also contacted the family caregivers for the children for gift suggestions for the children. They pledged \$80 for each

child. Then the group went to work buying presents.

"The Angel Tree program provides Christmas gifts in the name of prisoners to their children," said Williams. "The program is in every prison in Tennessee and is available to all churches and individuals who would like to provide the Christmas gifts."

The group wrapped the presents Dec. 12 at its Christmas retreat held at Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville.

Beverly Smothers, strategic ministries specialist, and Lloyd Blackwell, volunteer missions specialist, delivered the presents to a caregiver in Murfreesboro and others sent presents special delivery to a Lewisburg family. □

## Though long time in coming, mission now meets needs ...

Continued from page 1

sponsor the first Hilham Family Festival which featured food, games, and entertainment. At that festival information was passed out to those in attendance about the formation of a Southern Baptist mission church in the community.

With help from others Allons church also prayerwalked the Hilham community before the first service was held at the new mission.

McMaster helped secure a local grocery store to host the first meeting which began on Thursday nights last January.

After a couple of months the church moved to Hilham Elementary School.

In the meantime, however, a new mission would need a pastor and Allons had not secured one for the new start.

During the same period, God began calling McMaster to preach, but he said he had not even considered the possibility of going to Hilham.

"We had been looking for a church planter," Thomas recalled. "And God raised up out of our midst a Hilham resident who knew the community," Thomas added.

After securing a place to meet McMaster recalled that he asked Thomas, "Who's going to preach?" Thomas responded, "You."

McMaster said he had thought he would be "moving on" after surrendering to preach. "I never thought it would be me," he said, referring to serving as the church planter/pastor at Hilham.

On March 2 the church met at the school for the first time with 22 in attendance and that included three families Allons sent as a core group to help the new mission. Some of those

have since returned to Allons.

The mission, however, is continuing to average 25-28 on Sundays and 40 on Wednesdays. The great majority of those on Wednesday are youth and children, said McMaster, who is serving the mission in a bivocational role and is helped greatly by his wife, Cindy, and Bill Land, the local postmaster who serves as music director for the mission.

The church provides food and activities on Wednesday nights. "We draw children who would never be allowed to come on Sunday," the mission pastor said.

To help spur interest Allons Baptist Church sent a copy of the "Jesus" video anonymously to more than 1,500 households in Hilham.

"We have seen results from this," McMaster noted, as kids and families watch the video and begin to ask questions.

The mission is so confident that it will continue to grow that it recently purchased eight and a half acres on Highway 85, the main road in Hilham.

"Our desire is to build a 60 by 100-foot free-standing metal building," he said. McMaster added that the mission is estimating they will be reaching about 80 people by the end of the year, with 60-65 of those being children.

"We need that kind of facility to reach the children. The bulk of them are unchurched," he said.

And, he continued, the chil-

dren are beginning to ask their parents to come to church with them. Thomas noted that was a positive sign for the mission.

"Kids are the gateways into the homes," he observed.

McMaster is committed for the Hilham mission to be a church for the community, and God has responded by blessing the small congregation. "That is why we are prospering.

"When we quit giving to the community, we will quit getting from God," McMaster said.

And though they desire to build a building, McMaster is determined not to allow that to interfere with the church's ministry to the community.

"If we have to stop ministering to the community to build a church, we will stop. That is my heart."

Allons also has been blessed by its effort to reach the Hilham community, Thomas said.

The commitment Allons made to the Hilham mission has not hurt the church attendance wise or financially, Thomas asserted.

"We have not lost any in attendance and have even picked up some families," the Allons pastor said.

Financially Allons also is doing well even though they budget \$4,000 for the mission and even gave them a used van.

"I tell our people that this (the Hilham mission) is a hands-on work that we can be a part of and still worship at Allons. This is missions," Thomas said. □

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## Former SEBTS president dies

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Lewis A. Drummond, denominational statesman and former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, died of a heart attack Jan. 4 in Asheville, N.C., as a complication from treatment for cancer. He was 77.

Drummond was well-known among Southern Baptists and other evangelicals as a scholar with a passion for evangelism and spiritual awakening. At the time of his death, he was evangelism professor in residence at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville and chancellor of schools of DRUMMOND evangelism for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Drummond's tenure at Southeastern, from 1988-92, was a crucial time of transition at the campus here as he endeavored to instill a passion for evangelism and missions that still marks the spirit of Southeastern.

Drummond's legacy includes Southeastern's Lewis A. Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies, which has been a resource to missions workers around the world for more than a decade.

Prior to his Southeastern presidency, Drummond was the Billy Graham Professor of



## LMCO receives \$1 million-plus from FBC, Dallas

Baptist Press

DALLAS — First Baptist Church here has announced that members of the storied congregation have given more than \$1 million through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, more than four times its gift last year and twice as large as the biggest sum ever sent through Lottie Moon to fund Southern Baptists' work abroad.

Mac Brunson, First Baptist's pastor, and his wife, Debbie, an International Mission Board trustee, made the announcement in late December via a videotaped message. Brunson

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Louise Mandrell  
Host

and his family were leading a mission trip to Beirut, Lebanon.

IMB President Jerry Rankin filled the pulpit in Brunson's absence.

Rankin said this is the largest single offering ever given to the IMB through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering; as of Dec. 28, First Baptist's offering stood at \$1.16 million. The previous best was just under \$400,000.

Last year, First Baptist Church's \$240,000 placed it among the top 10 churches in Lottie Moon giving. This year, the church raised the bar by setting a challenge goal of \$300,000.

First Baptist's offering comes in the midst of a \$44 million "Rising Together" building campaign.

The IMB had challenged some of the larger Southern Baptist churches that are tradi-

tionally large contributors to the Lottie Moon Offering to give \$500,000 this year. However, Rankin said he never expected this type of response.

"Talk about being blown away and overwhelmed," Rankin said. "It's more than I can even comment on. This is just awesome. I think it reflects the heart that First Baptist Dallas has for missions."

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRIES — MUSIC

Oak Street Baptist Church prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of worship. Applicant must meet biblical qualification for leadership and have necessary skills to lead corporate worship through contemporary and traditional music with choir, vocal, and instrumental ensemble. Resumes or inquiries by 2-8 p.m. to Search Committee, 804 Oak Street, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Canaan Baptist Church, a conservative SBC church located in the south county area of St. Louis, MO, is seeking a full-time minister of music. Candidate must be self motivated, a team player, and committed to excellence with an attention to detail. Resumes will be accepted through Jan. 15, 2004. Some of his responsibilities will include aggressively managing a growing music program, including developing new and existing choir bands, etc. He should be able to handle a blended service and familiar with various styles of church music (traditional, contemporary, and southern gospel). Minimum of a bachelor's degree in a related field preferred. Send resume to Paul Schmidt, Canaan Baptist Church, 5409 Baumgardner Rd., St. Louis, MO 63129 personnel@canaanbaptiststl.org

### MINISTRIES — PASTOR

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

### MINISTRIES — COMBINATIONS

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

New Hope Baptist Church, Meridian, Miss., is seeking a full-time associate pastor of youth and education. Please send resume or letters of interest to New Hope Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 6573 Highway 145 South, Meridian, MS 39301.

### DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Powell River Missionary Baptist Association of Lee County, Virginia, is seeking a director of missions. Anyone who is interested in this position, please send a resume to DOM Search Committee, P.O. Box 22 Jonesville, VA 24263. Deadline is Jan. 30, 2004.

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**Monday, August 16**

PM 7:00 Welcome & Celebration Carl Mays, Louise Mandrell, Sarah Holloway, Beverly Kerr  
8:00 Break & Stretch  
8:25 Citico Creek presents Gospel Grass™  
9:10 Dismiss

**Tuesday, August 17**

AM 10:00 Creative Worship with Carl Mays, Sarah Holloway, Beverly Kerr  
11:00 Break & Stretch  
11:25 Phil Campbell  
12:10 Dismiss  
PM 7:30 Louise Mandrell Show  
8:30 Break & Stretch  
8:50 Louise Mandrell Show  
9:35 Dismiss

**Wednesday, August 18**

AM 10:00 Integrity Concert  
10:45 Break & Stretch  
11:10 Integrity Concert  
11:55 Conference Conclusion with Carl, Louise & Integrity  
12:10 Dismiss

## minister's corner

by Thom Rawls

I was recently driving home from work when I encountered a horrific back up of traffic on I-65. I was not at all pleased since it was nearly 7:30 p.m. and I was still 20 miles from home. Besides it was cold and drizzling rain. The forecasters said it was going down into the upper 20s and I still had to get those two giant ferns into the house.

So, instead of sitting in traffic and fuming I took my favorite detour route. As I was traveling, I was surprised to find a little black puppy out in the middle of the road. Good thing I was not going any faster or this story would not have a happy ending. So I stopped and got out of the truck to see about her.

Judging from the way she was crying loudly and going from one side of the road to the other I would guess that someone had just dropped her out. She was wet, shivering cold, and when I picked her up I could feel her little heart bounding with a disco beat you could dance to. I looked around to make sure she was indeed all alone. I felt so sorry for her out there all by herself, scared to death and separated from her pack. I had no choice but to take her and give her a new home. I thought, "well, I sure was not planning on getting a dog."

We stopped at the store for some puppy chow and new treats then went home for a warm bath and lots of loving. She was covered in fleas and had a couple of sores on her, one pretty bad one on her back. A little hydrocortizone cream and a good arm towel made her feel much better and totally at home.

I allowed her to sleep on the bed the first night to make sure she felt secure and "part of the pack." Since then she has been sleeping on the floor or in her crate that a friend at work donated to her.

Monday was my off day this week so we went to the vet for a check up. The vet estimated her to be about 10 weeks old and guessed her to be part border collie and part sheltie. She weighed in at a whopping 5 pounds and 9 ounces!

After her preliminary exam she was given a clean bill of health and I was given a bill for \$104. There is an issue or two to deal with, but generally she is very healthy. They diagnosed her with a certain kind of mange — the kind that is easy to treat on animals but is very contagious to people! Yikes! After handling her almost non-stop for 3 1/2 days I learned that her skin condition is contagious to me! Please pray that I don't get the mange! Stop laughing, it's not funny!

She seems to be very intelligent and is almost housebroken already. She loves to play with all her new toys, especially a ball that she is quickly learning to fetch. She is sleeping all night in her bed, safe, secure, and content. She is learning what to chew on and what not to chew on.

After going through many name choices, I decided to call her "Sheba." I think that when I was a boy had a black female dog named "Sheba," so it seemed appropriate.

It's wonderful how God answers our prayers in unique and creative ways. I had been praying about some loneliness and feeling like I needed someone to come home to. Little did I know that God had a beautiful new girl for me — a little black puppy I could call "Sheba."

When I first picked her up I remember saying "I wasn't looking for a puppy but I guess you weren't looking for me either" ... or was she?

I was sitting in the floor playing with her Saturday night when it hit me — God had answered my prayer!

What a sweet and gentle way God has of giving us the desires of our heart. I am so grateful that I serve the Creator of the universe and He knows me and loves me. And cares for me. Because He is the Creator He does things in creative ways. I wouldn't have asked for a puppy, but God knew that was just what I needed.

What do you need to pray about? Whatever it is — do it. Yes, as the old saying goes, God works in mysterious ways, ways we do not understand. But He always works! □ — Rawls is associate pastor, minister of music and worship at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Springfield.

## God values human life

By Bill Sims

**Focal Passage: II Samuel 11:1-5, 14-17; 12:5, 13; Psalm 139:13-16**

Since the infamous Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973 more than 30 million unborn babies have been killed. That number is greater than those lost in all of the wars that have been fought in the history of America. Abortion has been called "The American Holocaust." Since the Supreme Court handed down the landmark decision, abortions have been performed in astronomical numbers. We must not remain silent as a Christian community. In 1970 there were less than 200,000 legal and illegal abortions in America. In 1973, the first year of abortions on demand, 750,000 unborn children were killed by abortionists. One and a half million a year are still being killed! Consider that 30 million is the equivalent of the combined populations of the states of Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and half of Oklahoma. That is 10 states! Tragically, America has lost the reverence for life. We are on a slippery slope of sin, which leads us to disrespect life.

**Accept life (Psalm 139:13-16)**

Every individual needs to read this great passage concerning the value of life. This Psalm declares God is the initiator of all life. God is the source of every child born. God

alone is the creative power of human existence. Remember the book of Genesis how God breathed into man. You take God out of the formula, and there is no life. The word knit in verse 13 conveys the meaning that God is involved in every fine detail of every child born. We are His workmanship created in His beauty. He is creator, sustainer of life.

**Anticipate temptation**

(II Samuel 11:1-5)

Chapter 11 is the dark hour of David's life. David plays with the fire of temptation and receives third degree burns. No one, not even the preacher or the parishioner in the pew is immune from the terrible stain of temptation. The month of Nisan is equivalent to our March and April, the season for battle. David sends Joab to besiege Rabbah to do a task that kings usually perform. While Joab laid siege against Rabbah, Satan the accuser laid siege against David. He was idle and inactive. David chooses the wrong fork in the road and finds his biggest weakness. The word enquired in verse three means to pursue or follow after. Bathsheba is Uriah's wife, and Uriah is one of David's mighty men.

**Acknowledge consequences**  
(vv. 14-17; 12:5)

David takes pen and parchment and writes as he has often done, only this time the message is different. This letter is not a song of praise or adoration for the Lord. The jotting of each letter hardens his heart and

**Sunday School Lesson**  
**Family Bible Series**  
**Jan. 18**

David is in big trouble. The cost of coverup is getting expensive. Now David is plotting Uriah's death. David thought he could control it, contain it, and even cover it up, but no one does. Uriah falls into battle and dies and even the servants of David are killed.

The Lord makes the first move to help David. God sent Nathan to David to restore and reach him. Nathan would need courage and holy wisdom in confronting David. Nathan proceeds to reach David by painting a word picture for him. The parable is a picture of David, Uriah, and Bathsheba. David is the rich man, the poor man is Uriah, and the lamb is Bathsheba. The traveler is one who is trying to be satisfied.

**Affirm forgiveness (v. 13)**

Psalm 51 will reveal the broken heart of David. David realized his faults, failure, and his following after sin. He acknowledged his sin before a Holy God and is fully restored. David repented to God and found grace in the Lord.

Dear Lord, please forever keep me near the cross. Thank You, O Lord, for your mercy and grace. Thank you for my life, may I value each day as a gift from you. Amen. □ — Sims is pastor of First Baptist Church, Union City.

## Wisdom of protecting human life

By Sam Creed

**Focal Passage: Exodus 1:15-17, 20-2:10; Proverbs 24:11-12**

The biblical story of the loving protection and care of newly born Moses by his mother, sister, and the Jewish midwives, in contrast to the careless, murderous, politically motivated Egyptian government, is a provocative foundation for our study of the sanctity of human life.

In our homes and families, and in our lives as citizens of our nation, wisdom is speaking and must be heard. This wisdom is that our God created human life in all its stages and potential as a sacred gift, not to be carelessly discarded, abused, or taken for granted. The mother of Moses knew this and arranged the safety of her son. Moses' sister understood the seriousness of her mother's actions and instructions and devoted herself to her baby brother.

The Hebrew midwives feared God and protected the young, innocent, helpless children. Even the daughter of the Pharaoh recognized the value of the life of a young baby floating in a reed basket in the pool where she bathed (Exodus 2:1-8). God was with the child Moses who lived to become a dramatic hero of faith (read Hebrews 11:23-29).

However, our modern day culture is supremely a politically-correct world in which a philosophy of politically correct death dominates, legitimated by legal rulings and supported by the scaffolding of Orwellian "double-speak." If Christians are to be anything as citizens of such a

world order, it is that we be salty and activist enough to strenuously advocate the sanctity of human life with the sharp two-edged sword of good biblical interpretation. Christians and their churches must see the value of human life through the spectacles of a biblical world-view. "Life, all life, is of eternal value because life arrived by design of the Creator, and human life has the distinctive and eternal value of being designed and created in the image of God."

I recently experienced a renewed awareness of the perilous depths to which our culture has sunk when my first grandson was born. So far as this child is concerned, he was a wanted, priceless, wonderful miracle from the moment we knew he was going to be born. When he was born families rejoiced, grandparents fawned, and church families from two or three congregations gathered to welcome him at his birth. The unfathomable contradiction is that this child could have been destroyed prior to his birth up until the minutes of his birth based merely on a choice of expediency. I wonder how many unborn children were chemically put to death in a clinically efficient, sanitary, merciless, uncompromising manner at the same hour my grandson was born.

Furthermore, unborn children are not to be the only focus of our attention. Our Christian ethics must include an assessment of the value of the aged, the infirm, and invalid. Christian teachers and leaders must be advocates of learning and knowing how to answer the loud, demanding voices of the ideological patrons

**Sunday School Lesson**  
**Explore the Bible**  
**Jan. 18**

of euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, i.e., any philosophy that devalues human life for the sake of expediency or under the guise of a God-scoring humanitarianism. At the end of the day, can we take the story of Moses being protected from legal infanticide ordered and approved by the Pharaoh and defend an ethic regarding the divine value and sanctity of human life?

Tennessee Baptists must also put their money where their mouth is. Money is needed for the support of the Tennessee Baptist ministries such as Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Special Friends Camp, and Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes with its commitment to family preservation. Churches and associations that provide practical and direct help to those needing counseling before choosing abortion, and a bushel basket full of other problems must have financial support.

There must be an alternative to the devaluing and the destruction of life. For the mother of Moses and his sister there was a plan in place when Moses was discovered by the daughter of the Pharaoh himself. That providential plan worked and Moses was saved for a higher calling to become the deliverer of his people. Who can know the ultimate value of the life spared and enriched by a deep, convicting belief in the sanctity of all human life? □ — Creed is pastor of First Baptist Church, Ashland City.

## Deaths

◆ **Hugh Vancel**, 97, retired pastor of Tazewell, died Dec. 22. He was pastor of 41 Baptist churches in four states. Much of his service was as a bivocational pastor. Vancel also started many churches and served as an evangelist in 17 states. He was ordained in 1933 by Blairs Creek Baptist Church, Tazewell, which he served as pastor twice. Vancel is survived by a son, Joe Vancel of Tazewell; daughter, Connie Belle McCloud of Nashville; 10 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and 1 great great grandchild.

## Leaders

◆ **Tal Thompson**, director of missions, Holston Baptist Association, based in Johnson City, was honored recently on his 20th anniversary of service.

◆ Central Baptist Church, Alcoa, has called **Ken Strickland** of Greenback as minister of youth. He recently completed service in the United States Navy in Virginia Beach, Va.



STRICKLAND

◆ First Baptist Church, McMinnville, recently ordained **Sean G. Gossett** to the ministry. Gossett is minister of music of the church, where he has served for about three months. He has served on the staff of churches in Texas and North Carolina. Gossett is a



**WARD'S GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**, Jackson, held a Children's Thankful Day and County Fair on Nov. 22. Children were asked to bring their favorite dish to share during a Thanksgiving meal. Then the children were able to participate in games and activities outside such as the sack race in which, from left, Ryan McKinley, Faith Edwards, and Matthew Paschal participated. Three days after this event the church held its annual churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner. John Troutman, pastor of Eldad Baptist Church, Trenton, presented a message and he and his wife sang.

graduate of Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

◆ **Paul Frick**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Clinton, has been called as pastor, Liberty Baptist Church, Wartburg.

◆ **James Sanders** has been called as pastor, First Baptist Church, Decaturville.

◆ Huron Baptist Church, Huron, has called **Jeff Todd** as pastor.

◆ **Gaylor Wiley**, pastor of adults, and **Jim McClanahan**, executive pastor, Central Baptist Church, Hixson, Chattanooga, will retire in February. Wiley has served the church since 1991 and McClanahan has served since 1997. He served in an interim

role prior to that.

◆ Luray Baptist Church, Beech Bluff, has called **Clint Burkhead** as pastor.

◆ Southwestern Baptist Church, Johnson City, has called **Matt Judd** as youth director.

◆ **Nathan Sawyer** has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Baileyton.

◆ **Joseph Hensley** is serving as youth director of Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church, Bluff City.

◆ **Roger D. Duke** was called as interim pastor of Merton Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis, effective Dec. 12. He teaches religion and communication at Baptist College of Health Sciences, a division of Baptist Memorial

Hospital of Memphis.

◆ **Bob Cardinal**, executive pastor/administration, Towering Oaks Baptist Church, Greeneville, was recently ordained by the church to the ministry.

◆ **Jason Martindale** of Adamsville has been called as interim pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Savannah.

◆ **Richard Shinault** has been called as pastor of River Bend Baptist Church, Bristol.

◆ **Craig Ponder** has been called as pastor of New Salem Baptist Church, Limestone.

◆ **Kerney Bailey**, who served as pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, for nearly 15 years has been named pastor emeritus of the church.

◆ South Knoxville Baptist Church, Knoxville, has called **Richard Phipps** as pastor. He formerly was pastor of a church in Jacksonville, Fla. He is a graduate of Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, Ga., and the University of New York.

◆ Colonial View Baptist Church, Cookeville, recently elected **Charley Craig**, **Byron Epps**, **Harold Howell**, **Beecher Underwood**, and **Ben Van Beber** as deacons.

## Churches

◆ **Sand Ridge Baptist Church**, Lexington, would like to take a church van to a church in Mexico it works with. Sand Ridge Church serves in Mexico each year. The congregation in Mexico is growing but most of those



**GERALD O. SMITH**, pastor, Madison Baptist Church, Jackson, and his wife, Linda, are retiring after serving the church 25 years. They will be honored Jan. 25 at a reception at the church from 1:30-4 p.m. Smith also has served as pastor of Beech Grove Baptist Church, Dyer; Clear Creek Baptist Church, Dyer; First Baptist Church, Trimble; and Bethel Baptist Church, Greenfield.

who attend don't have vehicles so they depend on the church for transportation to church activities. All churches in the United States are running into problems securing church vans. Sand Ridge Church will leave Mexico Feb. 26. If a church would like to donate a van contact Marty Comer, pastor, at (731) 968-4597.

◆ The Children's Choir, West Hills Baptist Church, Lebanon, presented the Christmas program, "From Our Herd to Your Herd, Merry Christmas." The participants who portrayed cow characters learned they had a lot in common with the shepherds who learned about Jesus at birth.

◆ Clear Springs Baptist Church, Mascot, will hold a revival Feb. 1-4. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

◆ City View Baptist Church, Knoxville, preparing for a mission trip to Brazil by holding a benefit concert April 2. The concert will feature Michael Combs and gin at 7 p.m. The mission team is planning to build a church on a university campus in June. Advance tickets are \$10 and tickets the night of the concert are \$13. For more information, call the church at (865) 522-2364.

◆ First Baptist Church, Kingsport, recently sent a team of 13 members led by Jim Kalonick to Nicaragua. The team completed construction on a church. The team also did some outreach and fed several hundred people while there. The Tennesseans served in the same church another time in 2003.

◆ Central Baptist Church, Erwin, recently served the 50th anniversary of the church.

## Knoxville church promotes VBS in Christmas parade

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Inskip Baptist Church here is already promoting Vacation Bible School, which is usually held during the summer. The church promoted VBS in the Fountain City Christmas Parade.



**BOBBY MAUK** of Inskip Baptist Church, Knoxville, pulls a "bullet train" full of children in a Christmas parade. The bullet train was built by Mauk for participants of Vacation Bible School next summer. VBS 2004 focuses on the Asian culture.

church, has made two rickshaws and plans to make more to share with other churches, reported Kathy Trundle of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff. Mauk also will give plans for the rickshaw and bullet train to churches, said Trundle.

Mauk has been involved in



**KRISTIN BEELER** is pulled by Michael Hickman of the church in a "rickshaw." The VBS 2004 theme is "Rickshaw Rally."