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Belmont wins Dove Award

Belmont University News Office

NASHVILLE — Belmont University won a prestigious Dove Award April 28 at the Gospel Music Association's 35th Annual Dove Awards held here.

The song "Poor Man Lazarus" from the Fisk Jubilee Singers' album "In Bright Mansions" won a Dove for "Traditional Gospel Recorded Song of the Year."

The album was produced by Belmont's student-operated record label, Acklen Records, in a joint venture with Curb Records.

"In Bright Mansions" was the first commercial release from Acklen Records.

"I know of no other student/university label to be nominated for both the Grammy and Dove, and to actually win a Dove Award," said David Herrera, instructor of music business at Belmont's Mike Curb College of Entertainment & Music Business.

The Fisk project also was nominated for "Best Packaging" for both the Dove and Grammy Awards.

"These nominations reflect the peer recognition for excellence from recording industry professionals of our product," Herrera said.

"This is a unique first for any student/university label to be recognized from both the general markets and gospel markets," he added. □

C-N grad to be nominated as SBC 2nd vice president

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — After serving in several leadership positions within two state conventions, Mark Stephen Hearn will be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention second vice president during the SBC's annual meeting June 15-16 here.

Hearn, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Indianapolis, will be nominated by Charles W. Sullivan, former executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. He is a 1981 graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City and a former Tennessee Baptist pastor.

"During the past several years, various leaders of our convention have talked with me about someone from Indiana being nominated," Sullivan said in a statement to Baptist Press. "I believe the time has come for that to be a reality. Therefore I will nominate Mark Stephen Hearn."

Hearn has been pastor of Northside Baptist Church since May 2002. Northside leads the state in giving to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon offering for international missions. Hearn currently serves as co-chairman of Crossover Indiana, the pre-convention evan-

SBC honors Bearden for disaster relief work

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

HENDERSONVILLE — Tim Bearden, Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Mobilization Group leader, was presented the Outstanding Achievement Award April 27, during the 14th annual SBC Disaster Relief Roundtable at First Baptist Church here.

Bearden was one of two recipients. Also receiving an Outstanding Achievement Award was Larry Murphy, a disaster relief volunteer from Alabama.

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented to: a local, state, or national volunteer or staff person, who has demonstrated "Christ in the Crisis," who has provided outstanding leadership in disaster relief, and who has demonstrated outstanding ability or an accomplishment in disaster relief.

Bearden has served as disaster relief director for both the State Baptist Conventions of Georgia 1981-1987 and most recently in Tennessee 1995-2003. His emphasis during his tenure in Tennessee was striving for local church preparedness.

"During Bearden's leadership, Tennessee made great strides in the areas of training, equipment, responses, and rep-



TIM BEARDEN, right, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Missions Mobilization Group, received an Outstanding Achievement Award April 27 at the 14th annual SBC Disaster Relief Roundtable held at First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. The award was presented by Mickey Caison, center, Adult Volunteer Mobilization manager for the Southern Baptist Convention North American Mission Board, and Terry Henderson, national disaster relief director.

utation and at the same time established great relationships with other organizations," said Mickey Caison, NAMB Adult Volunteer Mobilization Manager.

"Under Bearden's leadership Tennessee has also added response capabilities for crisis intervention."

In addition to the 50 responses during his days as the State Disaster Relief director, Bearden also served as the Tennessee Baptist Convention State Brotherhood director 1995-1997 and later as the Mis-

sions Mobilization Group leader 1997 to the present.

Over the years, Bearden's Disaster Relief responses include more than 60, which include those led since 2003 by Larry Blackwell, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief coordinator, who nominated Bearden for the award.

Bearden's award was deserved, said James Peck, TBC Executive Director.

"He has exemplified an exceptionally high commitment to humanitarian needs in the name of Christ," Peck said.

gistic emphasis in Indianapolis. He serves as a trustee for LifeWay Christian Resources.

Previous convention service includes election as first vice president of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia in 2001. The nominee also has been first vice president of the State Convention of Baptists of Indiana in 1997 and president of the Indiana Baptist Pastors Conference in 1996. Hearn was elected to the SBC Committee on Nominations in 1996. He also has been a trustee of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, where he served on the presidential search committee.

Hearn is the second nominee for the post. John Hays of Ohio was announced as a candidate in March. □

SBC voter education effort now on Internet

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Before Americans go into the voting booth Nov. 2, Richard Land hopes they will do their homework.

"To be uninformed or to not be involved in the process is to be irresponsible and to become part of the problem rather than part of the solution," said Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

It is incumbent upon Christians, like all Americans, to be

an educated part of the political process, continued Land, host of Salem Communication's nationally syndicated radio program, "Richard Land Live!" "It means that you become an informed voter. Voters need to look for candidates who endorse their values and their convictions."

In an effort aimed at fostering a more informed populace, the ERLC has launched a far-reaching initiative to register and educate voters. The goal of the "grassroots voter mobilization and education effort" is to register 2 million previously unregistered but eligible Americans for the 2004 election cycle. The initiative also will emphasize an awareness of the immediate and long-term importance of "values-based voting."

Since most American homes have a personal computer connected to the Internet, Land knew the effort to register and educate voters had to have a strong online presence. In the end, the initiative's Internet site became the linchpin of the entire effort and even gave the project its name — iVoteValues.com.

The initiative, which seeks to "promote awareness of the immediate and long-term importance of values-based voting," will encourage people to register to vote and aid individuals in helping their friends and family members register to vote. The bottom line, Land said, is that voters vote their values, "not their pocketbook or their party."

Christians have more than a right to be involved in the politi-

cal process, they have an obligation, Land said, expressing that iVoteValues.com will facilitate Americans' participation in the voting process.

The iVoteValues.com site lays out a simple plan for voters to make a difference in the election. Land explained: "Step 1 — register to vote; step 2 — encourage your friends to register to vote; and step 3 — vote your values."

The Internet site event will offer voters a side-by-side comparison of the major presidential candidates' values gleaned from the candidate's political party platforms. All issues that will be addressed on the site are abortion, fetal cell research, same-sex marriage, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the public display of the Commandments. Each issue will be addressed from the perspective of God's Word.

The web site also will encourage church leaders in discerning the type of political activity that isn't legal for a church according to the Internal Revenue Service.

The initiative calls on churches to mark Sunday, July 4, Sunday, Sept. 26, as "National Voter Registration Days."

Land said the site provides a wealth of information and resources for church leaders and others interested in bringing individuals up to speed on the electoral process, and it provides a link to a universal voter registration form that individuals can fill out, print out, and submit to their local supervisor of elections office. □

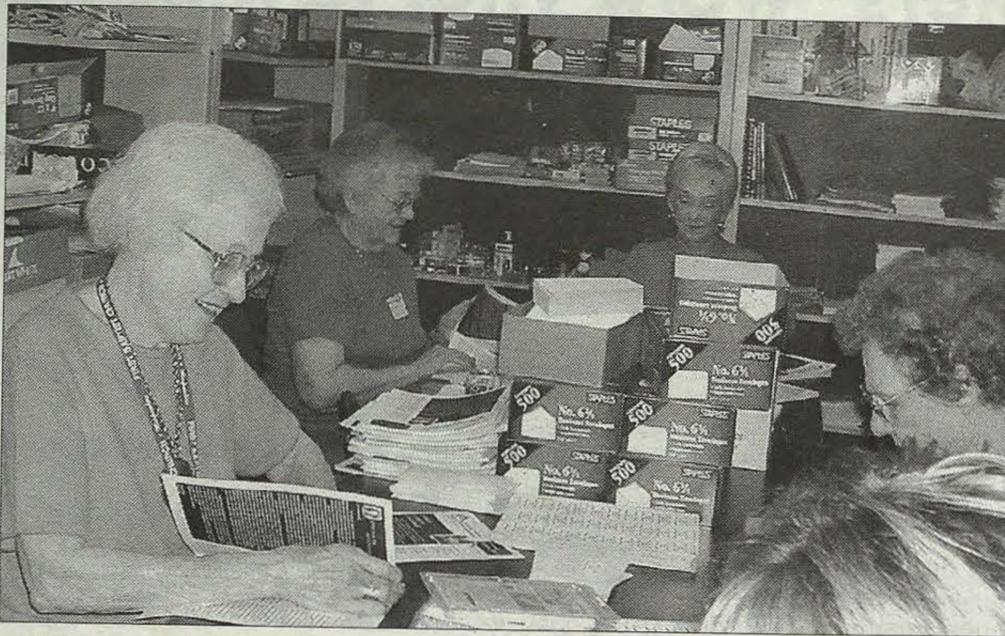
BC, Murfreesboro, members blanket city with ministry

Linda Lawson
Artist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Almost 200 members of First Baptist Church here set aside Saturday April 24 to give eight hours ministering in Jesus' love to the needs of people in our community.

A total of 293 members volunteered their services (1,667 volunteer hours) during Operation Inasmuch that included a multitude of activities such as painting signs, washing toys, visiting senior adults with homes, conducting a yard sale, assembling food bags and hygiene kits for the homeless, visiting a Habitat for Humanity site, working in a ministry for elder and domestic violence, writing cards, and facilitating health screenings.

Pastor Michael Smith who visited each ministry site estimated that almost two months of work was accomplished in one day at Greenhouse Ministries. The volunteers organized the pantry, career clothes closet, and GED resource



WOMEN FROM First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, left to right, Mary Tom Berry, Marian Penrod, Lyla Russell, Louise McLain, and Shannon Jakes worked at the Habitat for Humanity office, preparing 3,000 newsletters for mailing. — Photos coordinated by Steve Butler

room. Others entered data into the computer system. Similar results were reported through other projects.

"We set out to try to be the presence of Jesus in Murfreesboro for a day," Smith said. "Our prayer is that many of our members will come away from the experience prepared and eager to make hands-on ministry a lifestyle."

Operation Inasmuch is a one-day outreach project begun in 1995 by David Crocker, who was pastor of Snyder Memorial Baptist Church, Fayetteville, N.C. Crocker is now pastor of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City. The name is based on the Bible verse, Matthew 25:40, where Jesus said, *Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the*

least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

Kristina Brown, lay ministry coordinator at FBC, Murfreesboro, said she hopes Operation Inasmuch "will raise awareness in Murfreesboro that First Baptist is a church that ministers to the community. I also hope that some of our folks who have not been volunteering in any way are going to make a connection" and volunteer on a regular basis.

Three church members who participated in Operation Inasmuch cited benefits they saw first hand.

Jimmy Hicks, a member of the lay ministry team and site coordinator at the Salvation Army, led a group of 25 volunteers. They put together toiletry starter kits and sorted items contributed for the Salvation Army's indoor sale slated for May 1.

"I think there are so many people willing to volunteer their time. They just don't know how to get involved," Hicks said. As a result of Operation Inasmuch, he said he believes more church

members will volunteer on an ongoing basis.

Lenore Stringer, also a member of the lay ministry team, worked with two other women in the career clothing closet at Greenhouse Ministries where people can obtain clothes for job interviews and, after obtaining a job, get additional clothing to wear to work.

"We measured the clothing that didn't have sizes, put away winter clothing and arranged spring clothing by size," Stringer said. As a result of seeing the work of Greenhouse Ministries, she is considering further involvement. "I think several of our people will want to go down there and volunteer." Phil Nixon coordinated a team of 15 who painted the West Main Mission. While the hard-to-reach top of the mission's wall hadn't been painted before, the team used ladders and extensions to reach the area with a fresh coat of paint.

"We didn't do this to help the church or get more members," Nixon emphasized. "We did it

because we're supposed to serve others." When the team completed its work, they "prayed and thanked God for letting us get it done."

In other activities, high school and college students conducted an indoor garage sale in the church gym, providing many items including children's clothing and toys at affordable prices. Sales generated \$4,000 for the student summer mission trip to the Bahamas.

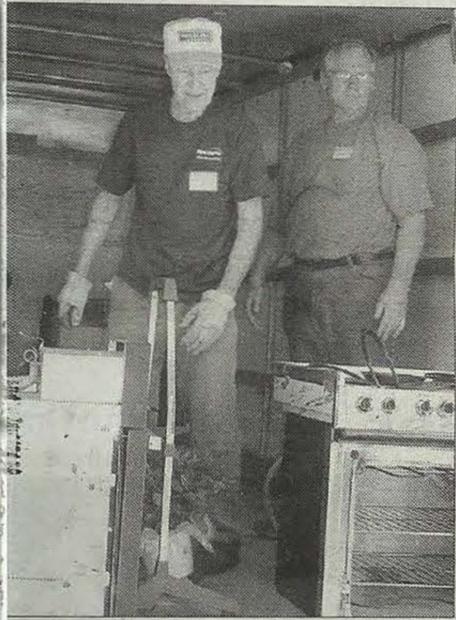
In cooperation with Meals on Wheels and Community Helpers, a team of FBC members went to the homes of seniors and persons with disabilities to help with household projects such as changing light bulbs and checking or installing smoke detectors.

For the future, Brown said she hopes "Operation Inasmuch will be at least an annual event. I would like to see us do it twice a year."

More information about how to conduct Operation Inasmuch is available on the Internet at www.operationinasmuch.com. □



GARY GREEN, left, and Alex Chesnutt washed toys at the Exchange Club Family Center for Child Abuse.



KENDRICK, left, and Carl Miller picked up donations for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

Memphis college students discover missions 'begins at home'

Lucy Murphree
Artist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Nearly 800 Baptist College Ministry (BCM) students spent their spring break serving in missions. Some groups traveled or flew many miles to their ministry sites.

However, 11 BCM students from the University of Memphis spent their spring break doing missions without going out of the city.

The week consisted of cleaning, yard work, light construction work, and other community service projects all within the city of Memphis.

"It was awesome to do ministry locally in our own city. It is also helpful in establishing relationships within your community," says Rachelle Pichardo, Interim Graduate Ministry Specialist, University of Memphis.

The team partnered with Service Over Ministries (SOS). SOS is an inner-city ministry that provides free services as home repairs to the community. Besides helping with SOS, the BCM team

assisted with several other ministries around Memphis.

One of the first things the group did was to help tear down a shed and clean up around an elderly woman's home that was damaged by a storm last year.

The group also helped with repairs on several area churches. One afternoon the team painted the Mission of Hope Church.

They also worked at the International Baptist Church which has a ministry to the homeless. "They are a vital part of the city where the people rely on them for some of their basic needs," says Pichardo.

Part of the team cleaned, worked on electrical problems, and prepared food for the evening meal. Others helped with the food pantry and clothes closet the church sponsors.

"A couple of the students were able to minister to the homeless men as they checked in to get food and clothing," says Pichardo.

One day the students worked at the United Methodist Neighborhood Center. The center provides a thrift store, food



UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS student Aaron Gilbert removes debris from a Memphis resident's shed that was destroyed by a storm last year.

pantry, and childcare for people in need. The team helped by painting the thrift store.

"By the time we were finished, you

could see the difference it made in the store," says Pichardo. After painting some of the students stayed to help with the after-school tutoring program provided by the center.

Another day the BCM students worked at Lester Community Center. This is an inner-city community center that provides after-school activities for children such as tutoring and playing sports. The center also offers outreach to the community with job fairs and carnivals throughout the year.

The team helped with cleaning the center. They swept, mopped, waxed floors, cleaned windows, and picked up trash around the outside of the building.

Pichardo notes it was a special experience for the team to have so many missions opportunities in their own city.

"People think that you have to go elsewhere to do missions, but you don't. The organizations we worked with are doing ministry and impacting the city. You can serve the people in your own community, and sometimes they need it the most," she says. □

Bivocational pastors' work vital to kingdom: Draper

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association gathered for a time of encouragement and renewal here April 22-24, celebrating the theme of "Beyond the Walls and Into the Marketplace," based on the II Corinthians 10:16 mandate to "preach the gospel in the regions beyond you."

James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources, spoke to the group about the work that really lasts, noting bivocational ministers share a perspective unlike those who work only in the kingdom world. By working both in the secular world and the kingdom world, bivocational ministers are better able to discern the work that really lasts, he said.

Acts 18 tells of Paul, Priscilla, and Aquilla as bivocational ministers who worked as tent-makers by trade but were faithful to preach the gospel to a society much like the one ministers face in America today, Draper said.

"We need to realize that the gospel did conquer in the midst of a pluralistic society in the first century, and the gospel can still conquer today," he said during the evening session April 23.

Draper noted that Ephesus was a financial center, the an-

cient equivalent of the World Trade Center, yet in all the opulence Paul was able to make great advances with the gospel. Similarly, Corinth was a boomtown, the Vanity Fair of the Roman Empire. Vast, vivid marketplaces abounded, and life was extraordinarily animated. Nobody noticed Paul when he came to town, yet what really lasted in Corinth? Today more people visit the city to see the remains of the house church where Paul preached than to see the ruins of the marketplaces or the institutions that once flourished in Corinth, Draper said.

And when people consider who they remember most from the city, the names of Claudius and Gallio are not on their minds but instead they think of Paul, Priscilla, and Aquilla — those who labored intensely for the gospel.

The method they used, and the one Draper encouraged bivocational ministers today to use, is the Acts 19 strategy of preaching with bold clarity where there is a response to the gospel, changing the strategy decisively and creatively where there is a need until all who want to hear have heard.

"And we ought to expect to be very successful," Draper said. "Scripture says to expect success."

Pointing to verse 10 of chapter 19, which says, *This went*



STEVEN LYNCH, right, of Chapel Hill learns about the new Holman Christian Standard Bible from Rodney Duckett, a marketing specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources, during the recent Bivocational Ministers Association conference in Nashville. — Photo by Kent Harville

on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord, Draper said Paul's strategy was remarkably successful.

"That is one of the most remarkable statements you could hear in Scripture. Even allowing for hyperbole, this is an arresting, astonishing statement," he said. "Everyone living in the Roman province of Asia heard the gospel of Jesus Christ within 24 months! It doesn't say they were all saved. It just says they all heard."

"Christians have been try-

ing to tell the gospel in America since 1611 at the founding of Jamestown. Why has it taken us 396 years to do what the early church did in two years?" Draper said, challenging the bivocational ministers to keep working hard for the kingdom.

David Hankins, Cooperative Program vice president with the SBC Executive Committee, spoke about the importance of working together to reach the world for Christ. "You are our partners," he said.

Preaching from Matthew 9, Hankins said Christ empha-

sized the need of organization in taking the gospel to a world. Southern Baptists must get "serious" about educating "a new generation of past about the Cooperative Program," he said.

The Cooperative Program founded in 1925, is Southern Baptists' method for funding the various missions and ministry initiatives of state conventions and the SBC.

The SBBMA exists to provide ministry opportunities, resources and encouragement to the nearly 20,000 bivocational ministers serving through the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Bivocational work is a big part of our convention — probably larger than some might realize," said David Keith, president of the association and pastor of Carlton Baptist Church in Texas.

"We are trying to stress the validity of intentional bivocational ministry as a legitimate Christ-honoring model of Christian ministry, and just something you do until you can find a full-time church," Keith said.

During the annual meeting, LifeWay Church Resources distributed a new e-newsletter for bivocational ministers called "Today's Bivocational Pastor." To register for the free newsletter visit the LifeWay web site www.lifeway.com/newsletters.

IMB appoints 78 missionaries to other countries ...

— Continued from page 1

reported the lack of funds which caused the board to limit the number of appointments has been reversed. He reported gifts to the 2003 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering were projected to be up over 20 percent.

He said in recent years many barriers to missions work have been crossed and that one more barrier, the Muslim world, was being crossed.

"We sense that God is shaking that barrier," he said.

The new missionaries spoke during the service. Those with state ties referred to many things which led them to missionary service. They referred to serving in other countries, sometimes many years. They credited an Acteens conference, Mission Friends, Centrifuge, a Campus Crusade conference, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis.

They said they were influenced by godly, mission-minded parents; Sunday School teachers; and a minister who was a retired missionary. Finally, they discussed resisting the call, objections which were dismissed, and lack of opportunity in a chosen profession which helped them affirm their call.



LILLIAN FISHER, 10, a Girls in Action member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, carries a flag in the procession of flags from the countries of the world.

Rankin referred several times to the four missionaries killed and one injured this year in Iraq; the two killed and one injured in Yemen, Africa; and the one killed in the Philippines. He cited Hebrews 11:38, calling these missionaries people who were not worthy of the world.

He noted the appointees were living in a dangerous world.

It is a myth to believe the safest place a person can be or the most successful place is in God's will, he stated. However, for the Christian, being in the center of God's will is "the only place to be," he added.

Military might isn't the answer for the world, said Rankin, nor is U.N. diplomacy. "It is only Jesus Christ that can bring hope to the world and Jesus has told you to go."

He noted the new missionaries and their families are selling their homes and leaving their careers. They are going places where they may have to live austere lives, often in isolation. Finally, they must identify with and suffer with people who are unlike them.

"The world doesn't applaud those kind of decisions," said Rankin.

"Embrace the risk and dangers and live for the glory of



NEW MISSIONARIES with Tennessee ties who could be photographed based on their security level were, from left, Paul Rose and Karyn Rose and Kris and Stephen Ward. The Roses are recent graduates of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Paul Rose considers First Baptist Church, Athens, his home church and Karyn considers Central Baptist Church, Johnson City, her home church. The Wards are recent graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Stephen considers First Baptist Church, Andersonville, his home church. Karyn Taylor Ward is a missionary kid who grew up in Brazil. Both of their parents live in Knoxville.

God." Then they should prepare for a great reward from God, he added.

"Thank you for being those of whom the world is not worthy," said Rankin.

He invited members of the crowd to respond to the call to

missions by moving to the platform area. About six people did.

After receiving certificates the new missionaries joined family and friends, some of whom had traveled many miles to attend, at a reception. □

Editor re-learns valuable lesson — don't believe all you hear



Lonnie Wilkey, editor

which a pregnant 16-year-old teenager was going to decide who would adopt her baby.

The radio host made it sound like an episode of "The Bachelor" or one of those other so-called "reality" shows. He was inciting his listeners, including me, about how ABC had "crossed the line." Now, to be honest, I had a bias against ABC and most other networks already because there are very few worthwhile programs aired today. It was easy to believe they would do what the radio host was saying.

The next day I did some investigating and went to the ABC web site (www.abcnews.com) and found the page for "20/20."

There I found a message from

Barbara Walters who hosted the segment on open adoption. Open adoption, as I would learn, basically allows the birth mother to be involved in her baby's life.

Open adoption apparently is becoming more common as an option to the traditional "closed" adoption in which the mother does not know who adopts the baby and the child does not know his or her birth parents.

In her web message Walters said the segment provided an opportunity "to document what many see as the cutting edge of adoption."

She acknowledged "there was a great deal of misunderstanding about the program. Some of that may be due to overly zeal-

ous promotion on our part; frankly, some of our initial on-air promos went a little over the top. But I urge you to withhold your judgment until you watch the program."

I did. I was out of town, but my wife taped the program and I watched it. Frankly, I think there are a lot of potential problems with open adoption, but the segment was not offensive. The adoption was done through a legal agency and 20/20, according to Walters, "did not choose the participants nor exert any influence on what they did."

Instead, it showed the harsh reality of a decision a 16-year-old and her family had to make.

It showed her love as a moth-

er in wanting to do what was ultimately best for her baby and it showed the love five prospective couples had for a child that was yet to be born.

Another positive element of the episode was a statement the 16-year-old's stepfather made on national TV — "Abortion was never an option in this household."

Above all, the episode reminded me of something I already knew but failed to adhere to. Don't believe all you hear or read, especially if it is a controversial subject. Get the facts for yourself, then make a decision based on truth.

As Christians, that's a lesson we all need to remember. □

Thank God every day, not just once a year, for your mother



Carolyn R. Tomlin

My own mother, Linnie McKnight Ross, left this earthly place three years ago and is now in her heavenly home. But not a day goes by that I don't recall bits of wisdom and sound advice she offered. Without a doubt, she knew God called her to be a mother and this was a most honorable role.

Like many other important things in life, Christian parenting never changes. Values we teach include:

(1) Be responsible. Say what you mean and do what you say. If you want to become a responsible adult — be a responsible child.

(2) Treat everyone the same. Regardless of the person's culture or ethnic background all people have the same basic needs — which include food, shelter, education, health care, and the right to be loved.

(3) If you can't say something nice about someone — don't say anything. Realize that not all babies are pretty, but all babies are sweet.

(4) Treat people like you would want to be treated. Pretend you must "walk in their shoes" for a day.

(5) Understand and accept the value of living near an ex-

tended family. Instead of having one "mother and father," you may have numerous aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins who love and spend time with children.

(6) Never date anyone you wouldn't want to marry. Mother realized that one of the most important decisions a person makes in life is whom they select for a lifelong partner.

(7) Things of value require time.

(8) Use this rule when a need arises that requires money: Use it up, make do, substitute another, or do without.

(9) A child is a member of the

family. Everyone has responsibilities. Therefore, everyone works. And in so doing, children learn how to plant and harvest vegetables, grow flowers to make life beautiful, understand basic skills associated with running a household, know how to prepare meals, care for clothing, provide health care, and make sound economic purchases.

Yes, being a mother is an exhausting task! But being a mother is a gift from God and one in which no other can compare. Take a moment to thank God for the mother he has given you. □ — Tomlin is a freelance writer in Jackson.

Letters to the editor

Am for both

... would be making a serious mistake by completely forgoing the use of old, time-honored hymns, but we would be amiss if we did not allow ourselves the privilege of learning the wonderful conary songs that bless and many of us.

... el fortunate that in my there is a wide variety of presented: the great old, uplifting praise chorus, frequent special music in ly all styles.

... n such variety, I believe everyone in our congress is inspired and touched n a type of music that esy speaks to them.

... must never discard the that have uplifted and inthe generations before us, e must allow the Holy to express Himself in e had not imagined.

Charles Tunstall
Greeneville 37745

ve concerns

... ve grave concerns over oposed withdrawal of the ern Baptist Convention e Baptist World Alliance. ... ve researched in Christ- agazines and on the In- and have been amazed extensive and diverse he BWA addresses the al and physical needs of all over the world as the

world faces continuous and catastrophic events day after day.

BWA is there when an earthquake strikes Iran. It is there in the remote corners of Africa. BWA is there to assist and help the hungry, the destitute, and poor and helpless children.

The SBC and BWA should be arm in arm addressing the world's problems. The BWA deserves our prayer support, our manpower support, our WMU support, and our financial support.

What an opportunity for the SBC to rise above petty politics and make a difference in the world through a fine, existing organization.

What an opportunity also for the SBC to unite with other Christians, numerous and diverse, from all over the world.

Let your voice be heard. We can make a difference for Christ in this world by joining hands with our fellow Christians all over the world.

Are we Christians different across Tennessee? Of course. Do we use different approaches across the TBC and SBC? Certainly.

Does the rest of the world address issues differently on occasion? Absolutely, just as different Sunday School classes in my home church in Sevierville take different approaches.

Does BWA have problems? Oh, yes. Does SBC have problems? Oh, yes.

But we have a common Savior in Jesus Christ and through Him we can do amazing things. I am excited that we Christians can unite and celebrate our diversity in ways that can bring glory to Jesus Christ all over the world and begin a new spirit of cooperation.

We can do all things through Christ. Let's do it.

I have a poster in my office which says, "God bless the whole world — no exceptions." Let that be our sincere prayer.

Dwight E. Stokes
Kodak 37764

Questions policies

I read the article, "No guarantee of purity in investing" in the April 14 issue.

It states that the Annuity Board owns \$16 Million in Carnival Corporation stock. According to one ad on the Internet, Carnival Corporation has the world's largest on board gambling casinos. The Annuity Board invested in Comcast. In our church bulletin recently there was a bulletin insert from American Decency Association saying that Comcast was the largest distributor of pornography on cable.

I would hope the Annuity Board would sell any stock that is discovered to deal in vices.

The Annuity Board should ask themselves, "Is the money we are investing helping lives or

destroying lives or would this be a company Jesus would invest in?"

Don Allmon
Dyer 38330

Relevant today

On April 29, as I was reading the daily devotional in Oswald Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*, I was drawn to a paragraph that I believe speaks to Southern Baptists today. I would like to quote from today's reading.

"Immediately we abandon to God, and do the duty that lies nearest. He packs our life with surprises all the time. When we become advocates of a creed, something dies; we do not believe God, we only believe our belief about Him. Jesus said, 'Except ye . . . become as little children.' Spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God, but uncertain of what He is going to do next. If we are only certain in our beliefs, we get dignified and severe and have the ban of finality about our views, but when we are rightly related to God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy.

'Believe also in Me,' said Jesus, not — 'Believe certain things about Me.' Leave the whole thing to Him, it is gloriously uncertain how He will come in, but He will come. Remain loyal to Him."

The dust cover on my copy

makes this comment; "These thought-provoking daily devotionals are as relevant today as when first spoken by Chambers over 70 years ago." I agree, except it has now been about 90 years ago.

Think on these things.

Tom Brown
Murfreesboro 37130

Rallying point

Occasionally all of us as Baptists have minor disagreements with one another. We may, truth be told, even become a bit unsettled with one another or even, perhaps, angry.

But all in all, Baptists, and particularly Southern Baptists, continue to work together, pray together, and serve together.

The schisms now facing other denominations over the ordination of homosexuals have not yet raised their heads in our denomination, and I hope they never do.

We may disagree about minor issues but to this point in time we have stood together for the central truths of the faith.

The Bible continues to be the rallying point of our ministries and the final court of appeal of our decisions.

Baptists, please pray that it may ever be so. And thanks for being the greatest body of Christian fellowship the world has seen since the earliest church.

Jim West, pastor
First Baptist Church
Petros 37845

Up to 31 in two years

Counseling ministries of associations multiply

— Continued from page 1
called as pastor of a church after retiring as an army chaplain. When that didn't happen, he accepted a job as director of an alcohol and drug counseling agency in Elizabethton. While in this job, he realized many families in the area needed counseling but couldn't afford it.



WEBB

After resigning from that job, Webb was called as pastor of Powder Branch Baptist Church, Johnson City. While serving the church, the association started its counseling ministry in 1987, and asked Webb to be the counselor. Webb was serving Powder Branch as bivocational pastor so he could accept the job.

The association provides the counseling service free of charge. And people in the area began to learn about it. He has had all of the counseling he can handle since.

Webb said he is glad the association sees counseling as a Christian ministry. Christians don't charge for preaching and other ministries, so, when possible, they shouldn't charge for counseling, he said.

He's also glad because the association has "leveled the playing field," he described, in that those without money are treated the same as those with money.

He sees about 18 people a week and supervises master level students in Marriage and Family Therapy from East Tennessee State University in their counseling practicum. He works with about four students a year who increase significantly the number of people seen each week.

In the mid-90s, Webb developed a part-time chaplaincy ministry for a local rayon plant. After the plant closed, Webb counseled people because of con-

tacts made there. And he still gets referrals from those employees, he said.

He has probably heard every problem a person can have in the span of his counseling career, he recalled. He's seeing more people with addictions, especially to pornography on the internet. "We're really going to see more and more of that in the future," said Webb.

He also sees many adult women who were sexually abused, people who have been in the church a long time but have doubts about their relationship with God, and "hurting families" which are already too broken to repair.

He copes, said Webb, by recognizing "those problems are their problems, not mine. You learn not to take those problems ... home with you."

He also believes church involvement protects him. That keeps "me in the Word and I enjoy doing that."

New counseling ministry of Lawrence County Association

Barbara Collier of Lawrenceburg is providing a counseling ministry out of the Lawrence County Baptist Association office, based in Leoma. She has been serving for nine months and is seeing about five clients a week.



COLLIER

The association is providing the use of office space and its endorsement. Clients can provide donations to the center if able, but if not, counseling is provided free.

Collier, who works part-time in Atlanta in several jobs, moved to Lawrenceburg to withdraw from a hectic schedule. Then through her church, Deerfield Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Ray Maynard, director of missions, Lawrence County association, learned about her

counseling credentials which include a Ph.D., and the rest is history, said Collier. She is director of counseling for the American University of Biblical Studies in Atlanta.

Collier didn't realize the need for counseling in the area, she said, but when she learned, she was willing to serve. She can't say no to someone who needs counseling, she said.

She uses the Bible as the basis for her counseling.

"I cannot change anyone, but the Word of God can. I have them (clients) think of their issues in relation to what the

Bible says and have them resolve the problem by following God's solution."

Collier said she gets the chance to witness often through counseling, even introducing people to the Bible for the first time. She also meets people who go to church but haven't thought much about what it means to be a Christian.

She has seen people with marital problems, often too late to repair them, and many people with drug addictions, especially to prescription drugs. People "hide behind the drugs to avoid the responsibilities of

life," she explained.

She also sees people with securities, which she describes as a "lack of knowledge of what God wants us to address those circumstances and situations."

Of course, pastors can be good counselors, but most don't have time, some aren't comfortable counseling people, and some have trouble applying Scripture to a life circumstance explained Collier.

"I'm willing to serve," she said. □ — Contains reporting by Connie Davis of the Baptist and Reflector and Tony Rankin.

Baptist Associations Providing Counseling Ministries

Association	Location	Counselors	Contact Information
ALPHA	Centerville	Amanda Dye	(931) 729-4571
Beech River	Lexington	Herman DeBoard	(731) 885-2151
Beulah	Union City	Herman DeBoard	(731) 885-2151
Big Emory	Harriman	Ricky Nation	(865) 435-5706
Big Hatchie	Covington	Carmen Pfeifer	(901) 476-6759
Bledsoe	Gallatin	Ray Cleek	(615) 824-3772
Central	McMinnville	Dede Vines	(615) 599-7501
Chilhowee	Alcoa	Ricky Harrison	(865) 435-5706
Copper Basin	Ducktown	Margret Patterson	(423) 496-7977
Cumberland	Clarksville	Billy Bowie	(615) 604-5614
Cumberland Plateau	Crossville	Ralph Samuelson	(931) 267-1987
Duck River	Tullahoma	Barbara Singleton	(931) 455-5072
East Tennessee	Newport	Ricky Harrison	(865) 435-5706
Fayette/Haywood	Somerville	Bob Ahlers	(901) 937-5150
Gibson County	Trenton	Herman DeBoard	(731) 885-2151
Hardeman County	Bolivar		(731) 658-9378
Knox County	Knoxville	Ricky Harrison	(865) 435-5706
Lawrence County	Leoma	Barbara Collier	(931) 766-6294
Loudon County	Lenoir City	Bill Wilkinson	(865) 986-2292
Madison-Chester/Crockett	Jackson	Pepper Pratt, Paul Deschenes	(731) 668-5690 (731) 661-5322
Maury	Columbia	Dennis Aubry	(931) 489-5767
McMinn-Meigs	Athens	Jim Price	(423) 745-2248
Robertson County	Springfield	Beth McCaw	(615) 384-8197
Sequatchie Valley	Whitwell	Kirk McDermott	(423) 421-8350
Shelby	Memphis	Betty Siler	(901) 568-6424
Shiloh	Adamsville	Pepper Pratt	(731) 632-0145
Sullivan	Kingsport	Tim Perry	(423) 378-4863
Sweetwater	Madisonville	Larry Salsbury	(423) 442-6604
Union	Sparta	Lloyd Kerr	(931) 738-3250
Watauga	Elizabethton	Art Webb	(423) 543-1451
Weakley County	Dresden	Keith Roach	(731) 364-3739

Sevierville evangelist helps train pastors in other countries

For Baptist and Reflector

SEVIERVILLE — Tennessee Baptist evangelist and former Oak Ridge pastor Ron Herrod is convinced that training national pastors is the most economical way to help fulfill the Great Commission.

As a result of that belief, Herrod's ministry, Ron Herrod Evangelism Ministry Association (R.H.E.M.A.) based here, has developed the R.H.E.M.A. Institute.



HERROD

"Our greatest need is to have trained pastors and leaders shepherding new believers," said Herrod, who began R.H.E.M.A. in 1995 after 36 years in the pastoral ministry.

Through the Institute, "we have found a way to accomplish that task."

Herrod, a former trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign (International) Mission Board, observed it normally takes \$60,000 to \$100,000 annually for international missionaries to live and work overseas.

By contrast, he said, nationals can live on as little as \$100 per month.

Also, he continued, international missionaries average 35 percent total ministry time due to furloughs, recovery time, and yearly vacations. "National pastors are on the field 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

National pastors are also culturally sensitive, socially sympathetic, linguistically superior, physically adapted, and politically secure, Herrod added.

The R.H.E.M.A. Institute is held in different locations each year using rented or leased facilities.

The approach is designed to meet the challenge of practically, adequately, and effectively equipping pastors and leaders

who have no formal training at the Bible college or seminary level, according to Herrod.

"Through the R.H.E.H.A. Institute, we are able to train hundreds of pastors and church leaders in 10 weeks with curriculum that normally takes two years," he said. The institute pays for the pastor's training, which includes going to class 40 hours a week, transportation, lodging, food, and curriculum, he noted.

Students are trained in the following disciplines: Bible study methods, Old and New Testament surveys, Bible doctrine survey, personal spiritual life, church history, missions/evangelism/discipleship, preaching and pastoral ministries, and more.

After the pastors receive their training and diploma, R.H.E.M.A. pays for their first year of service while they are starting a church and then continues to encourage them and hold them account-

able during their subsequent ministry, Herrod explained.

Since the inception of the institute three years ago, Herrod said 300 men have been trained and 125 churches have been started.

The program has been effective and has gained in popularity as evidenced by invitations to conduct six institutes a year, Herrod said. Financial restraints have limited those to three — in Bombay, India, Nepal, and one in either Nicaragua or Venezuela, Herrod said.

The institutes are "supported through the gifts of God's people," Herrod noted. "We will have to do some serious fundraising this year, but it is obvious that the Lord has been in this because He has always met our needs."

For more information about R.H.E.M.A., contact Herrod at (865) 732-3222. □ — Article contains reporting by Melanie Lloyd of *The Mountain Press*.

Memphis area churches minister at apartment complex

Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Bent Tree Neighborhood Center (BTNC) is a new community program located in the 379-unit Bent Tree Apartment complex at the corner of Winchester Airways Blvd.

Our mission is to develop, coordinate programming, strengthen families and facilitate normative growth and development while empowering individuals to enhance their personal, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being through education and development," said Jenni Bearden, a master of social work student (University of Tennessee) and volunteer coordinator for the center.

with Hope Fellowship Baptist Church, Memphis; Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, and management of the Bent Tree apartments to offer a variety of programs and services to the residents of Bent Tree, including GED and literacy classes, job-hunting assistance, information and referral, and after school tutoring for the children.

Hope Fellowship Church has been meeting in the Bent Tree apartment complex for about five years, according to Bearden.

"The staff and volunteers of the congregation work with the children and young people through after school tutoring, weekend outings to local nursing homes, and mission projects," she noted.

On March 27 BTNC teamed with Hope Fellowship Church

and the management of Bent Tree Apartments to conduct a community Fair for the men, women, and children of Bent Tree and the neighboring communities. The fair was held in the rear of the Bent Tree apartment complex next to the Hope Fellowship Church building. Residents and guests had the opportunity to learn about many of the services available to them and their families.

"We wanted to provide an outlet where men, women, and young adults may find ways to reach their personal and family goals," Bearden said.

Agencies that participated to answer questions from residents regarding the services they offer: Memphis Works, Friends for Life, CAAP, Inc, Aging Commission, Shelby County



SANDRA WILLIAMS of Hope Fellowship Baptist Church passes out prizes to children during the recent Community Fair held at Bent Tree Apartments.

Sheriff's Department, Belhaven College, Southwest Tennessee Community College, Victims to Victory, Shelby County Emergency Management Agency, and Memphis Police Department. A local radio station, WHAL Hallelujah 95.7 FM, broadcasted. A voter's registration booth was also set up for residents.

Donations were given from several businesses and organizations as door prizes for residents attending the Community Fair.

Volunteers from the University of Memphis, University of Tennessee College of Social Work, and Bartlett Church and

Cherry Road Baptist Church, Memphis, assisted with this event. These volunteers also conducted a survey of adult attendants to aid in the planning of future events for the Bent Tree community.

"The need of Memphis families to live more self-sufficiently is evident all around us," Bearden said.

"We believe this community fair was a great opportunity for the residents of Bent Tree and the surrounding communities to see that there are many agencies in Memphis that want to assist families and individuals in obtaining their goals." □

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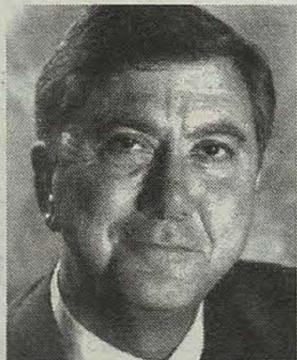
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The Mother's Day Offering 2004

Honoring special women who care for children

Each year, the Mother's Day Offering for the children of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes provides incredible, life-changing opportunities for the minds and spirits of precious children. Your gifts to this once-a-year offering provide a critical 25% of the annual funds needed to change a child's disadvantaged circumstances to opportunities of love, Christian development, and leadership. Order FREE offering envelopes, posters, and supplies by calling 1-800-624-8591 or on-line at www.tbch4kids.org/form_mom.htm. Thank you for helping children by remembering the women of your congregation through the Mother's Day Offering.



"No ministry of Tennessee Baptists is more clearly spelled out in the Bible than that of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. I invite you to join our congregation and a growing list of churches in supporting the children at TBCH through the Mother's Day Offering and missions projects. The Mother's Day Offering is a wonderful way to recognize all the women of your congregation for their care and nurture of children."

Dr. Glenn Weekley, Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church, Hendersonville



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

www.tbch4kids.org

Dr. Bryant Millsaps, President/Treasurer

P. O. Box 2206 • Brentwood, TN 37024-2206 • 800.624.8591 • 615.376.3140

Our Locations: Memphis, Brentwood, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Kingsport, Oakdale, Johnson City, Millington, Union City, and Greeneville

In Indianapolis

'Kingdom Forever' is SBC focus for June 15-16 meeting

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Southern Baptists will gather here June 15-16, continuing their Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative by focusing on the theme "Kingdom Forever."

The theme, drawn from Matthew 6:13 — *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever* — is the second consecutive year in which the theme has centered on the EKG (Empowering Kingdom Growth) initiative, which began in 2002. The initiative asks all Southern Baptists to examine if they are kingdom-focused.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is an opportunity for us to share with the world what God is doing in our lives, in our churches, and through the people known as Southern Baptists," SBC President Jack Graham said. "This gathering will challenge us all to renew our passion for the Great Commission and issues of eternal impact."

The annual meeting will feature "Kingdom Challenge" sermons by such speakers as David Jeremiah and Franklin Graham, singing by the Gaither Vocal Band, and will coincide with the release of *EKG: The Heartbeat of God*, written by EKG national strategist Kenneth Hemphill. The book traces the history of God's kingdom from biblical days through today.

Some significant business matters will be presented to messengers, including:

Business items

(1) The Baptist World Alliance. Messengers are scheduled to vote on a recommendation adopted by the Executive Committee to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance. The committee, as well as a study committee on SBC/BWA relations, has cited various theologi-

cal concerns with the Baptist World Alliance.

(2) Sole membership. A motion pertaining to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and sole membership may be considered. The seminary remains the only SBC entity not to adopt the corporate model of sole membership, which would clarify that the SBC owns the seminary. Recently New Orleans trustees voted to present 2 alternatives to messengers in 2005 instead of adopting the recommendation of the Executive Committee to name the convention as sole member of the seminary's corporation.

(3) Annuity Board name change. Messengers will consider a proposal to change the Annuity Board's name and expand its ministry opportunities. It has been approved by the Executive Committee. The entity's name would change to GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, and it would be permitted to serve evangelical ministry organizations outside the SBC.

President's message

Jack Graham will preside over his final convention, having served his second one-year term. He will deliver his president's address at approximately 11:10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 15. That afternoon, around 2:30, messengers will elect a new president. Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., is expected to be nominated to succeed Graham.

Kingdom Challenge

Following a pattern begun last year, this year's convention will feature "Kingdom Challenge" sermons by prominent national and Southern Baptist leaders.

David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in California,

Pastors Conference — 'Jesus Came Preaching'

Baptist Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Ted Traylor's burden for biblical preaching in America's pulpits drove his planning for this year's June 13-14 Southern Baptist Pastors Conference in Indianapolis.

"My prayer is to raise the awareness of the validity and need for biblical preaching week-by-week in our churches' pulpits," Traylor, senior pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, told the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

In light of Traylor's burden and goal for the Pastors Conference, the theme of the meeting is "Jesus Came Preaching" from Mark 1:14.

The conference will explore the theme through four sessions, with each emphasizing one aspect of Jesus' preaching: the gospel, the kingdom, repentance, and the Word.

Among this year's featured speakers are Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.; **Stephen Olford, president of Encounter Ministries in Memphis; Adrian Rogers,**

pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova; and Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Explaining his decision-making in choosing the conference speakers, Traylor said, "I looked for those men who model biblical preaching and have a great track record in this discipline."

One of the unique features of this year's Pastors Conference will be the involvement of a "reclaimed, redeemed" former homosexual, Mike Haley.

Traylor noted that the Focus on the Family staffer may be the first "major speaking slot given to one with this testimony." Haley is a leader of Focus' "Love Won Out" conferences addressing the issue of reaching homosexuals with the gospel.

Haley's "story is one that needs to be highlighted," Traylor added.

The complete schedule for the meeting is as follows:

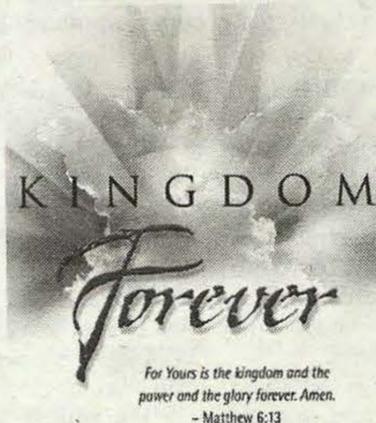
Sunday, June 13: Jesus Came Preaching the Gospel — Paul Negrut, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Oradea, Romania; Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First

Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.; Paige Patterson, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Monday, June 14, morning session: Jesus Came Preaching the Kingdom — Bryan Smith, pastor, First Baptist Church, Van Buren, Ark.; Fred Luter, pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans; Ergun Caner, professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.; Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis.

Monday, June 14, afternoon session: Jesus Came Preaching Repentance — Don Wilton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.; Ed Hindson, professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.; Mike Haley, Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Co.; Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

Monday, June 14, evening session: Jesus Came Preaching the Word — Voddie Baucham, Voddie Baucham Ministries, Spring, Texas; Stephen Olford, Encounter Ministries, Memphis; Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga. □



will speak at 3:13 p.m. Tuesday, while Jay Strack, president of Student Leadership University in Florida, will speak at 8:38 that night.

Roy J. Fish, evangelism professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will deliver the third Kingdom Challenge message at 10:09 a.m. Wednesday, with Franklin Graham capping the night at 8:53 p.m.

Both night sessions likely will be attended heavily.

The Tuesday night session features a message by Strack, followed by the North American Mission Board report (9:08 p.m.).

Wednesday night's schedule includes the International Mission Board report (7:53 p.m.), the Gaither Vocal Band (8:23

p.m.), and Franklin Graham.

Steve Gaines, pastor of First Baptist Church in Gardendale, Ala., will deliver the convention message at 11:29 a.m. Wednesday.

Entity reports

The Executive Committee will deliver a report at 9:55 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. Part of its report will be the de-funding of the Baptist World Alliance.

LifeWay Christian Resources will present its report at 3:33 p.m. Tuesday, followed by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission at 6:49 p.m. that night. The Annuity Board will present its report at 11:04 a.m. Wednesday.

The Woman's Missionary Union report will take place at 2:14 p.m. Tuesday.

All six Southern Baptist seminaries will present a separate report, with three taking place each day. On Tuesday messengers will hear reports from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (2:48 p.m.), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (4:22 p.m.), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (8:08 p.m.). Wednesday's reports will include Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (9:44 a.m.), Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (10:29 a.m.), and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (6:15 p.m.).

Crossover Indiana

The week prior to the convention, hundreds of Southern Baptists will come together for "Crossover Indiana," an evangelism-focused strategy that uses

block parties, door-to-door visits, and other efforts to spread the gospel in and around Indianapolis. In addition, in an effort to plug new believers in churches, harvest revival services will be held June 10-12 in churches across the region.

Resolutions

Messengers wishing to propose resolutions must submit them at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider them. Detailed guidelines for submitting resolutions are available on the Internet: www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

Online registration

For the second consecutive year, online registration is available to churches and their messengers. Churches can register their messengers online through the SBC web site, www.sbc.net, to avoid waiting at the counter upon arrival at the convention while a registration volunteer types in various lines of information.

More than 40 percent of messengers to the 2003 annual meeting in Phoenix registered online, and more are expected this year.

By registering online, the SBC web site gives a church "messenger reference number" form to be printed out and presented by each messenger at the SBC registration booth in exchange for a nametag and a set of ballots. The appropriate church-authorized representative must complete all online registration. □

Jim Freedman of Nashville leads DOM group

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Building healthy associations in the 21st century will be the focus of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions' 43rd annual meeting June 13-14 here.

"Together ... To Pray ... To Care ... To Share!" will be the theme of the conference, which opens with a 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, June 13.

"I believe these three aspects of associational ministry are foundational to a healthy association," said **Jim Freedman**, president of the SBCADOM and executive director of the Nashville

Baptist Association. "Our responsibility as DOMs is to lead the churches of our association to pray for people, care for people, and share Jesus with people."

The president's address is slated for the first Sunday afternoon session.

Gary Vidito, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky., will deliver the after-dinner entertainment Sunday evening.

Also featured during the two-

day conference will be Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; O.S. Hawkins, president of the Annuity Board; James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources; and Robert E. (Bob) Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board.

Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will speak about healthy associations sharing Jesus with people during the final session.

The conference's meetings will be at the Radisson City Centre in Indianapolis. □



FREEDMAN

Christ's Followers' featured at WMU missions celebration

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Through a and inspiring testimonies, WMU will launch the 2006 emphasis of "Christ Followers" during its annual Missions Celebration June 13-14 at the Indiana Convention Center, RCA Dome here.

"Building on the new emphasis, this year's event is designed to encourage, equip, and motivate us all as we take a closer look at key attributes of a true follower of Christ," said Wanda S. Lee, executive director-treasurer of national WMU.

"Together we will discover how God is working around the

world through committed Christians who live a missions lifestyle because of a genuine love for Jesus Christ and for others."

Laurita Miller, a nationally known Christian dramatist, will bring biblical followers of Christ to life through dramatic monologues she writes and performs.

Other leaders of WMU's Missions Celebration include Amy Moody, worship leader, speaker, and singer; Wanda Lee; Janet Hoffman, WMU national president; 2004 Acteens panelists; and a host of field personnel representing the North American and International Mission Boards who will share their testimonies about their ministries.

Sessions begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 13, and conclude Monday evening prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's June 15-16 annual meeting. Everyone is welcome; no pre-registration is required and the event is free of charge. Childcare will be provided.

In addition to five plenary sessions, the gathering also will provide opportunities for leadership training during three one-hour break-out sessions. Along with WMU age-level and language tracks focusing on the latest resources and research, a track on "missional living" will be offered. The track will encourage participants to explore issues that are foundational to

missions involvement, including worldview, spirituality, relationships, leadership, communicating the gospel, and one's unique calling to ministry. It is ideal for those who desire to grow in their commitment and understanding of God's mission.

In conjunction with WMU's Missions Celebration, the WMU Foundation will host the Legacy Dessert Party on Sunday, June 13, at 9 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency. The WMU Foundation will present the 2004 Dellanna West O'Brien Women's Leadership Development Award, the CWJC site award, the Sybil Bentley Dove Award, and the Lillian Isaacs Literacy Missions Award during the event.

The Legacy Dessert Party is the only portion of the WMU program that requires pre-registration. The dessert party is free, but tickets must be reserved by May 15. To reserve a limit of four tickets, call the WMU Foundation toll-free at 1-877-482-4483.

For additional information regarding the 2004 WMU Missions Celebration, call 1-888-968-032. □

Moore to address ministers' wives

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Bible study teacher and author Beth Moore will be the featured speaker at this year's Ministers' Wives Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15 here.

Moore will be joined by Travis Cottrell, worship leader for her Living Proof Live events.

The conference theme will be "The Designer's Label," based on the Message translation of Colossians 3:10, *Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of*

life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete.

Advance tickets, at \$10 each, may be ordered by sending a check payable to the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Marilyn Foley, University of Mobile, P.O. Box 13220, Mobile, AL 36663-0220. Advanced ticket orders must be postmarked by May 15.

Tickets purchased at the SBC annual meeting will be \$12 each.

Organizers are anticipating a capacity crowd of 2,000 women. □

Tennessean leads SBC evangelists

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Evangelists will focus on the theme of "Jesus ... Not Ashamed!" during the worship service sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists prior to each year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The worship service in Indianapolis will be from 9 a.m. to noon June 13 at the Indiana Convention Center and is open to all pastors, messengers, families, and local residents.

Three Southern Baptist evangelists will be the featured speakers: Johnny Tucker of International Missions Association in Citronelle, Ala.; Sammy Tippit of Sammy Tippit Ministries in San Antonio; and Jerry Burgess of Divine Design Ministries in Whitley City, Ky. Music will be led by various Southern Baptist music evangelists.

In addition to the worship service, the Vocational Evangelists Annual Retreat will be June 11-12 at the Holiday Inn Select near the airport in Indi-

anapolis. Sponsored by the North American Mission Board's event evangelism unit, the retreat theme will be "Passion for the Journey."

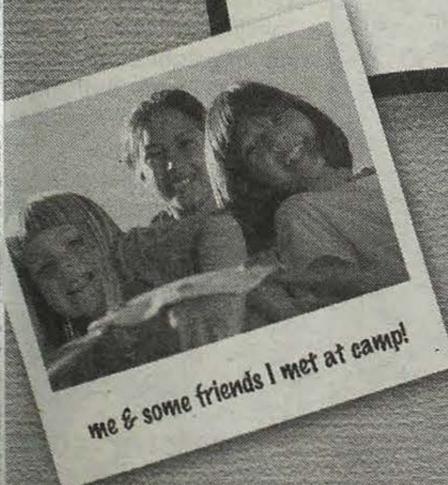
Among the retreat speakers will be Bailey Smith, former SBC president and founder of Real Evangelism, Inc., in Atlanta; Gerald Harris, editor of *The Christian Index* in Atlanta; and **Benny Jackson**, president of COSBE and founder of the Benny Jackson Evangelistic Association in Germantown.

All Southern Baptist vocational evangelists are invited to participate in the retreat and may make reservations by contacting Melonie Wallace at mwallace@namb.net or (770) 410-6304.

The annual business meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will begin with an 11 a.m. luncheon Monday, June 14, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. COSBE members may make reservations by contacting Margaret Allen at alensingers@aol.com or (405) 359-7146. □

Dear Mom and Dad,
 Thanks so much for sending me to camp this year!
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 and we talked a lot about missions. We even had
 someone teaching sign language! I took a class on
 cooking and can't wait to make dinner for you guys
 when I come home! I also took a class on
 babysitting so that I know what to do when I
 take care of Aunt Julie's baby. In our free time
 we did all sorts of messy games! I took lots of
 pictures. They have hiking and lots of team
 sports. I'm already looking forward to next year!
 See you soon!

Love,
 Anna



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Road to Olympics leads through Belmont University

Belmont University News Office

NASHVILLE — Belmont University's Curb Event Center will host a portion of the 2004 U.S. Gymnastics Championships June 2-5, 2004, which will determine national champions and U.S. national team members, and help choose the athletes who will compete at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials later that month.

The Olympic trials determine the make-up of the U.S. Olympic Team that will compete later this year in Athens, Greece.

Nearly 200 of America's best gymnasts will compete throughout the four-day competition, including 2003 World All-Around Champion Paul Hamm, plus members of the silver medal-winning men's 2003 World Championships Team. Women expected to compete include 2003 World All-Around silver medalist Carly Patterson, and 2000 Olympian and two-time National Champion Tasha Schwikert.

The Curb Event Center will host the Trampoline, Tumbling and Rhythmic Gymnastics events, while the Artistic Gymnastics events will be held at the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

The Championships will be televised nationally on NBC Sports, with women's event finals from 2-3 p.m. EST on June 5 and all-around finals 1-3 p.m. June 6. □

AB releases multi-language retirement videos

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Annuity Board is responding to the growing needs of language congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention with the introduction of a new retirement video series.

A 15-minute video in Spanish, Korean, and English is now available to ministers and church employees.

The video highlights the benefits of the Church Annuity Plan, a 403(b) retirement plan designed exclusively for Southern Baptist ministers and church employees. This retirement plan also provides disability and survivor benefits and matching retirement contributions for eligible participants.

Vietnamese and French Haitian versions will be released this summer. Free copies of these videos are available by calling

the Annuity Board at 1-800-262-0511. Callers can also request translation assistance through the number. □

AB plans wellness walk during SBC

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Annuity Board, along with several of its life and health vendors, is sponsoring its second annual one-mile wellness walk at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis. In addition to the

one-mile walk, a new 5K course will be set up for runners and walkers who want the additional challenge.

The 2004 Living@YourBest Wellness Walk and 5K Run will be held Monday, June 14, at 6:30 a.m. at White River State Park, within walking distance from most hotels in the downtown Indianapolis area. A warm-up stretch will begin at 6:15 a.m.

Healthful refreshments will be served to all participants at the end of the walk.

Anyone interested in partici-

pating can register online at www.absbc.org. The first 500 registered walkers will receive a free "Living@YourBest" T-shirt. □

Golden Gate elects Jeff Iorg

Baptist Press

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary elected Jeff Iorg as the seminary's seventh president at the beginning of their April 26-27 meeting at

the northern California campus.

Iorg will assume his new position Aug. 1, succeeding William O. Crews, who retired after leading the seminary from 1986-2003. Iorg has served as executive director-treasurer of the Northwest Baptist Convention since 1995. □



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MINISTRIES — MUSIC
 Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, 2433 Mt. Herman Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37127, (615) 893-... is seeking a full-time minister of music. If interested, please e-mail (climerl@msn.com) or fax (615-893-4642) re: Attn. Music Search Committee. ♦♦♦♦

Bells Campground Baptist Church, Powell, Tenn., is seeking a part-time music director (15-20 hours per week) to blend worship services with traditional hymns. Please mail resume to the following contact us by phone if you like more information regarding this position or interim fill in: torbill@frontiernet.net, bellsgroundbaptistchurch@frontiernet.net, jillmoore@frontiernet.net, or (865) 947-6254.

MINISTRIES — PASTOR
 Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Henderson, Tenn., is seeking resumes for the position of a part-time, bivocational pastor. Pastors available. Please send resumes to Hugh Russell, 4470 Mt. Ararat Rd., Darden, TN 38328.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN
 First Baptist Church of Crossville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister to care for children and families. This individual will become an integral part of the ministerial team and will continue an established children's ministry for ages birth through grade. Seminary education and prior experience in children's ministry is preferred. A competitive compensation and benefits package is available. Interested applicants may send a resume to First Baptist Church, 42431, Attn. Diann Wilson, ddwilson@charter.net.

MINISTRY — OTHER
 Cumberland Homestead Baptist Church, Crossville, is seeking a part-time secretary. For more information call (931) 552-3523 or send resume to: 38572, Attn. Personnel Committee.

remember in prayer

Editor's Note: The following prayer requests are from Pierson, prayer strategist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. These prayer requests will be printed monthly in the *Baptist and Reflector*. Following are requests for May.

Tennessee

Every year on Pentecost Sunday, May 30, we join evangelical Christians around the world for a week of fasting and prayer for an unreached people group. The focus this year is the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula. For more information, call the International Mission Board at 1-800-999-3113 or <http://resources.imb.org>.

Appalachian Regional Ministries

Many of the ARM ministry sights are gearing up a summer full of ministry. Pray for the ministry leaders as they prepare for the incoming teams. Pray for the teams and their leaders as they come to East Tennessee area to minister.

Mississippi River Ministry

Mike Hazelwood is praying for construction teams to come to the Beulah Association to help with seven current needs.

Iowa

Pray for Larry Hays and Marlene Hays. Larry is pastor of First Baptist Church, Carter Lake, Iowa, and has been diagnosed with cancer, believed to be treatable. In addition to serving as pastor, Larry also works with Marlene in directing the church's large and effective ministry center. Pray for Greater Faith Baptist Church in Davenport, Iowa. Pray for Russell Harrington, pastor, as his church seeks to expand its facilities to accommodate new growth.

Canada

Pray for the Bridge International Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. At the beginning of March the church freed Jesse Morales, senior pastor, to do church planting in the Calgary area. The new senior pastor is John Schaffner. Pray for Morales and Schaffner.

Brazil

Pray for the following teams which will be traveling to Brazil:

- FBC, Clarksville - veterinarian team
- Tennessee WMU - Glenda Palmer, team leader
- Belmont University - basketball team

Portugal

Pray for Mary Ann Pangle and Janelle Puryear who will be working with IMB missionaries Don and Rose McCain this month. They will be conducting English as a Second Language clinics in Bomel, Portugal.

Mark Your Calendar: Mark your calendar for September Prayer Saturation Month, which is a time of prayer for revival and spiritual awakening.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I'm sorry you didn't like my sermon Sunday, but I really didn't care for your snoring either!"

Loving spouses

By Jim West

Focal Passage: I Corinthians 7:1-6; Ephesians 5:22-25, 28-33

No one needs to be told that marriage in America is in crisis. Attacked from within by the corrosive effect of adultery, abuse, and divorce and attacked from without by the homosexual agenda and societal pressure the bonds of marriage are so easily disregarded that now the divorce rate is well near 60 percent. We have the highest divorce rate in the world because we have forgotten the Biblical vision for marriage and the family. If we return to our roots we will find stability and power to resist the secular onslaught. So let's

Love and respect (Ephesians 5:22-25, 28-33)

The foundation for marital success is mutual support. Ephesians 5:21 is the heading for this section and it urges all believers to be subject to one another! Being subject does not mean being a slave. It means being considerate and cooperative. Wives are to cooperate with their husbands and husbands are to cooperate with their wives. Indeed, husbands are called on to love their wives just as Christ loves the Church! Christ loved the Church enough to die for her. You get the point. Just as wives must cooperate with their husbands, so too husbands must so value their wives that they would do anything for

them (just as Christ has done everything for the Church). When marriages are based on this level of commitment there will not be such resounding failures as we see today.

Sexual exclusiveness (I Corinthians 7:1-2)

Marriage is about commitment, as we have seen, and such a commitment that the wife is for the husband and the husband is for the wife. America, it is fair to say, is obsessed with sex. Since the popular push for contraceptives for teens began, teenage sexual activity and pregnancy have increased 400 percent. Seventy percent of unwed teen mothers will go on welfare. Of teens who marry because of pregnancy, 60 percent will be divorced in five years. Further, a study at a Midwestern school showed that 80 percent of the women who had intercourse hoped to marry their partner. Only 12 percent of the men had the same expectation. If we forget our promise to one another in marriage, we are doomed to divorce. And if we do not wait for marriage, we will more than likely end up single with children. The biblical injunction to monogamous purity is for a very good reason adhered to by people who are wise.

Marital intimacy (vv. 3-6)

Husbands and wives, in a genuinely Christian relationship, recognize that they belong to one another. This is simply the personal and pri-

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series May 9

vate application of the teaching of the gospel as a whole. That is, we do not live for ourselves, we live for others. We do not rule our own lives. Our lives are ruled

by Christ. Even as married people we live to serve and not to be served. In other words, if Christian couples modeled servanthood even in the most intimate aspects of life they would surely model servanthood in the marketplace and the workshop. Every area of life should be directed by a servant's heart. J. Laney notes in this connection that Niccolo Paganini willed his marvelous violin to the city of Genoa on condition that it must never be played. The wood of such an instrument, while used and handled, wears only slightly, but set aside, it begins to decay. Paganini's lovely violin has today become worm-eaten and useless except as a relic. A Christian's unwillingness to serve may soon destroy his capacity for usefulness. And an unwillingness to serve also decays our relationships. □ — West is pastor, First Baptist Church, Petros.



WEST

Serve confidently

By Ken Polk

Focal Passage: II Timothy 4:1-22

This chapter may be the last words ever written by the Apostle Paul. When a man of such character and calling speaks or writes on an occasion such as this, his words are bound to be supremely serious. Combine this with the knowledge that his words also are God's Word to us, and we realize we are peering into both Paul's heart and the heart of God. This entire passage has the distinctive aura of personal victory along with a challenge to Timothy to continue serving confidently.

God's awesome presence and call should cause us to serve with confidence.

In the image of a swearing-in ceremony, Paul brings us into God's court. Before the Father and the Son, we are charged to make a commitment that has eternal and kingdom consequences. The primary call is to "preach the Word" (v. 2). In God's plan to save man, there has always been a preacher (Noah, Jonah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, etc.). Proclaiming the message is not a call only to pastors and evangelists but to all Christians. Laypeople have pulpits where their pastors will never stand.

Proclamation will not always be "convenient" (v. 2), nor will people always be receptive (vv. 3-4). Some will only accept bits and pieces of scriptural truth because they cannot "tolerate sound (the whole) doctrine." Others will want teachers who simply scratch their itch of intrigue or who give them more feeling than truth. But even if it seems

everyone has turned away from God's truth (v. 4), the confident Christian can, with a clear head and a patient spirit, win souls and fulfill ministry (v. 5).

God's promise of Christ's return and future rewards should build confidence for service. Paul is facing death in a Roman prison, and yet he writes as one filled with a spirit of victory. Paul knew how to live — as a *drink offering* (v. 6). This was a temple offering poured out on burnt offerings wherein the steam created a fragrance, enhancing the aroma of the sacrifice (see Numbers 18). Paul lived to fill the world with the sweet smell of the Savior's sacrificial love.



POLK

Living this way also prepared him for his time to die. He awaits a righteous judge who will give him a *crown of righteousness* (v. 8). This crown (Greek: *stephanos*) is the laurel wreath, not made of gold and jewels but of flowers and fig leaves. This serves to remind us that the real prize is in "the winning" and not in the physical crown. Because Jesus gives this crown, we can be sure it is a reward of righteousness that will last forever (I Corinthians 9:24-27).

Believing in Christ's second coming will certainly motivate us to confident service. There is always extra energy and motivation to clean the house, fix a meal, or wrap a present when someone we truly love will soon arrive. Confidence belongs to *those who have*

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible May 9

loved His appearing (v. 8).

God uses people and experiences to grow our confidence. Paul knew people who deserted him (vv. 9-10) and others who deliberately hurt him (v. 14). In contrast, men like Luke and Tychicus remained faithful to him and to his ministry (vv. 11-12). The mention of Mark reminds us that those who fail us (Acts 15:36-40) can be forgiven, and that past failures do not necessarily make life a failure. Paul's greatest confidence rested in the one who never fails — Jesus.

Jesus would deal with those who hurt Paul (v. 14). Jesus would always be his defender (v. 17). Jesus would always rescue him "from every evil work." Best of all, Paul knew Jesus would eventually bring him safely *into His heavenly kingdom* (v. 18). Paul lived to serve Jesus and, after death, he longed to see the face of Jesus (II Corinthians 5:8). That alone should motivate any Christian to confident service.

Living and serving confidently is a powerful witness to our faith and our love for Christ. As Chuck Swindol has written, "People can argue with your philosophy, they can deny your theology, they can bring up all kinds of arguments, all kinds of statements that will get you sidetracked, but there's one thing they can never deny and that's an exemplary life." □ — Polk is pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

Leaders

◆ The School of Religion faculty and staff of **Belmont University**, Nashville, invite Tennessee Baptists to a retirement reception honoring **Lloyd Elder**. Elder serves as the founding director of the Moench Center for Church Leadership. The reception will be held on Thursday, May 13, from 1-3 p.m., with a short program at 2 p.m. The reception will be in the Vince Gill Room in the school's Curb Event Center. For more information, contact Joyce Byrd at (615) 460-5580.

◆ On May 8 **Herbert Gabhart** will deliver the keynote address to graduating **Carson-**



PAULINE COFFEE, pauses during a recent recognition by **Butler Baptist Church**, **Butler**. Coffee was honored on her 95th birthday for having served 52 years as **Sunday School secretary**. She is still faithful and active in her church and community. She has been coordinator for **Meals on Wheels** for 13 years.

Newman College students, 70 years after earning his C-N degree. The college located in **Jefferson City** will graduate over 300 students in its spring commencement. A 1934 C-N alumnus, **Gabhart** began serving as president of **Belmont College**, **Nashville**, in 1959. During his 23-year tenure, he oversaw the construction of seven new buildings on the campus. He has since been credited for laying important groundwork for the university's success. Upon his retirement as president in 1982, he became **Belmont's** chancellor.

◆ **Kirby Ogden** of **Halls Westside Baptist Church** is helping lead a **Benefit Gospel Singing** for **Steve Williams**, accident victim of **Newbern**. The benefit will be May 15 at **Center United Methodist Church**, **Newbern**, at 7 p.m. For more information, contact **Ogden** at (731) 589-2178 or (731) 286-2179.

Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church, Baileyton, Greeneville**, will hold revival May 16-19. **Morris Anderson**, evangelist of **Maryville**, will speak.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Hohenwald**, will hold a **Creation/Evolution Conference** with **Kent Hovind** June 26-27. For more information, call (931) 796-3062 or (931) 628-1486.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Columbia**, will host the **David Phelps Revelation Summer**



MEMBERS OF a committee of **Mount Olive Baptist Church**, **Knoxville**, which recently helped church complete the renovation of its sanctuary pause during its recent dedication. They are, left, first row, **Kelly Berry**; **Janice Pierce**; **Debbie Lay**; **Angie Bush**; **Jesse Cook**; **Jim McClain**; **Wender**; second row, **Fred Berry III**; **Danny Buchanan**; **Sam Evans**; **Charles Crawford**; **Ray saps**; back row, **Deron Cobb**, pastor; **Bill Berrier III**; **Jim Buchanan**, committee chairman; **Thompson**; **Bill Harper**; and **Russ Fredrick**. Renovation is now in progress in the kitchen, st building, and education building. Church members began the renovations by giving a \$503,000 on Dec. 7, 2003. The cost of the renovations is \$500,000. The church also is working strategic plan for the future.

Tour Kick-off June 3 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (931) 987-2424 or www.david-phelps.com.

◆ **Brook Hollow Baptist Church, Nashville**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary May 16 at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow the service and a 7 p.m. concert will feature the music group, **Selah**. For more information and to make meal reservations, call the church at (615) 352-1295.

◆ **Orchi Baptist Church, Memphis**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 6. Former pastors will speak during the 10:45 a.m. service. A luncheon will be served followed by an afternoon program featuring the **Call to Worship** quartet of **Memphis**. For more information, call the church at (901) 388-0263.



JACKSON LIFEWAY Christian Store manager **Andy M** right, a member of **West Jackson Baptist Church**, was honored as a **Manager of the Year Runner-Up** during an awards banquet April 19 at the chain's corporate national sales meeting held at **LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center** in **Ridgecrest, N.C.** pictured with his regional director, **Walker Downs**.

Radio personality speaks at C-N leadership conference

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — **Knoxville** radio personality **Hallerin Hilton Hill** described two kinds of hope to those gathered recently at **Carson-Newman College's** **East Tennessee Church and Lay Leadership Conference**. "There is hope the verb and hope the noun," he proclaimed.

Hill, a man of many hats, is an author, motivational speaker, and Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter. He hosts and produces his daily call-in program on **Knoxville's WNOX, NewsTalk 99**. He also appears weekly on "A View from the Hill" as part of **WATE's** news broadcast.

While hope is important to all people, **Hill** insisted that it is vital to those who minister. "Hope, the verb, is a desire with confident expectations," he explained, citing the example of a marriage proposal. The prospective groom has hope in what the answer will be.

"Hope, the noun, however, is the place of last resort," **Hill** countered, challenging those

in attendance. "People can have hope, but there are people who are to be hope."

Those who are called to the ministry are often the very definition of hope to those in need, said **Hill**, noting the vast number of people who have been battered by life through divorce, grief, unemployment, or other situations. He also offered encouragement to attendees who have suffered hardships, saying that those who have been hurt make the best healers.

"That's what we do," declared **Hill**. "We're in the hope business. When hope meets hope, that's where miracles happen."

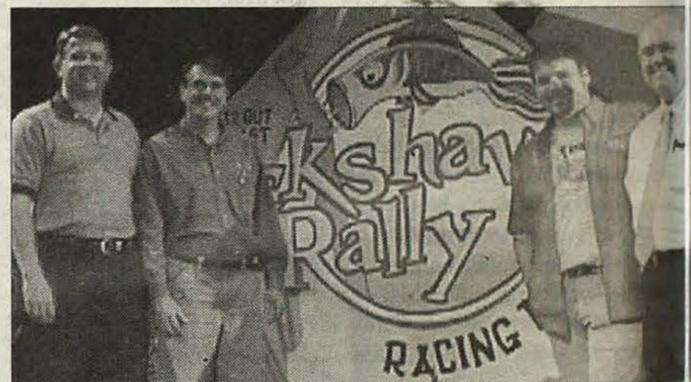
Carson-Newman will hold its annual **Fall Pastors Conference** Oct. 28. The event will feature **Beeson Divinity School's** **Calvin Miller** and **Brian Harbour** of **George W. Truett Theological Seminary**. □



HILL

Associations

◆ **New Duck River Baptist Association**, based in **Shelbyville**, will hold a **Senior Adult Conference** Saturday, May 15, at **Farmington Baptist Church**, **Lewisburg**. Sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and lunch will be served. Speakers will include **John Kurtz**, evangelist of **Nashville** with the professor; **Jamie Bone**; **Bobby McGee**, **George Sinquefield**, **Don Mauldin** of the **Tennessee Baptist Convention** staff; and **Gary Coltharp** of the **Tennessee Baptist Foundation** staff. For more information, call (931) 684-6592.



ABOUT 115 PEOPLE attended the **Vacation Bible School** held by **Duck River Baptist Association**, based in **Tullahoma** April 26 at **Grace Baptist Church**, **Tullahoma**. **Jeff Slaughter**, author of the music for this year's **Southern Baptist curriculum** the special guest. **BELOW**, youth of **Grace Church** perform. **Slaughter**, center. They are, from left, **Ryan Hare**, **Chris Slaughter**, **Justin Bradford**, and **Dawn Basham**. **IN PHOTO ABOVE**, leaders of the clinic pause. They are, from left **McGehee**, pastor, **Grace Church**; **Michael Brown**, worship pastor, **Grace**; **Slaughter**; and **Baylon Hilliard**, director of missions, **River association**.

