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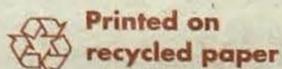
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## Graham crusade could be postponed

Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY — The Heart of America Billy Graham Crusade general committee is exploring all options — including possible postponement — for the crusade scheduled June 17-20 in Kansas City in light of the 85-year-old evangelist's current hospitalization.

Larry Ross, a spokesman for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said the Kansas City committee is committed to moving ahead with the crusade on the scheduled date or on an alternate date.

"The committee wants to pursue every option, including postponement," Ross said.

Graham, 85, was recovering from a partial hip replacement performed Jan. 6 when he fell at his home May 14 in Montreat, N.C.

"Billy Graham has expressed his burden and passion for coming to Kansas City, and we want to reiterate our commitment to him by giving him time to get well," said Richard Hastings, chairman of the Heart of America Billy Graham Crusade general committee. □

## Johnson City pastor seeks Day of Prayer

Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Michael Oaks, pastor of University Parkway Baptist Church here, is organizing a Day of Prayer on June 20 to show support for the armed forces and their families.

"We hope other churches in the region will join in the observance," Oaks told the *Johnson City Press* on May 12.

A proclamation designating June 20 as a Day of Prayer in Washington County, has been presented to the Johnson City Commission and Washington County Commission for their consideration and adoption, the *Press* reported.

The proclamation states June 20 "is a day when all persons who may choose to participate and acknowledge their respect and express their gratitude to those men and women who are faithfully serving our country in all branches of our military service.

"This Day of Prayer will also acknowledge our gratitude to God and ask His protection for all who serve and for their families. All persons are invited to



## New collegiate ministers begin work

Two new Baptist collegiate ministry specialists were introduced during the recent meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention by Choate, center, leader of the TBC Collegiate Ministries Group. Vaden, right, will serve at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, beginning in June. A native of Bryant, Ark., she recently is the associate collegiate minister at Arkansas State University. Jeff Jones, will begin service in June at the University of Memphis. A native of Memphis and graduate of Union University, Jones is currently a pastor/church planter in Topeka, Kan. Jones has served as a student minister at First Baptist Church, Martin and First Baptist Church, Dyersburg.

observe this day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance."

University Parkway Church has issued special invitations to families of members of the Tennessee National Guard from Gray, now mobilized, and the

278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, soon to be mobilized according to the Johnson City *Press*.

Carol Ann McElwee, ed and grief counselor, will be featured speaker at University Parkway Church on June 20.

## Southern Baptists launch 'Acts 1:8 Challenge'

By James Dotson  
Baptist Press

WOODSTOCK, Ga. — Missions leaders from every level of Southern Baptist life celebrated a unified hope May 19 that every church in the convention would see itself as a worldwide mission center — developing strategies to advance the Great Commission at local, state, national, and international levels.

That concept — known as "The Acts 1:8 Challenge" — sets forth a framework for a unified denominational missions strategy based in the local church.

"This could be the beginning tonight of revival around the world, for the hearts of men to be aflame with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ," said Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, at the opening of the celebration service at the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church in Woodstock.

Participants included trustee boards of both the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board, state convention executives, associational directors of missions, and Woman's Missionary Union leadership.

Earlier in the day IMB and NAMB trustees met together — a first in the history of the boards — to adopt a resolution affirming the Acts 1:8 challenge. Trustees also met for an extended joint prayer session.

In accepting the Acts 1:8 Challenge (www.ActsOne8.com) churches commit to embracing a comprehensive missions strategy in partnership with associational, state, national, and international missions. Taken from Christ's challenge to His disciples to take the gospel to the nations, "Jerusalem" corresponds to the local Baptist association, "Judea" to the state convention, "Samaria" to the North American Mission Board, and "the ends of the earth" to the International Mission Board.

"IMB chairman Doug Sager (pastor of First Baptist Church, Concord, in

Knoxville) was most gracious in inviting me to be present to affirm the Acts 1:8 joint mission venture of the IMB and the North American Mission Board," said James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"I feel the strong commitments made by both Jerry Rankin and Bob Reccord through this cooperative mission effort will enable Tennessee Baptists through our associations and churches to play an even greater role in kingdom mission intentions.

"I pray that many Tennessee Baptist churches will follow the leadership of First Baptist Concord, under the guidance of Dr. Sager, in supporting this most worthy Southern Baptist mission enterprise," Porch said.

The service included a public commitment by the first two churches to accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge — Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., and First Baptist Concord of Knoxville. The "Acts 1:8 Covenant" was signed by the churches' pastors — Terry Fox in Kansas and Doug Sager in Tennessee — who serve as chairman of the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board, respectively.

The covenant indicates partner churches will "be intentionally engaged in the Great Commission, awakening Christians to God's calling to join Him on mission, and helping take the gospel to all people groups," and committing to comprehensive missions involvement in the local community, the state, the continent, and the world.

The covenant also suggests a series of "kingdom-growing responses to the commitment — including raising awareness of missions in the church, prayer, giving, personal participation in missions and evangelism,



IMB CHAIRMAN Doug Sager of Knoxville, seated to the left, signs the "Acts 1:8 Covenant" with NAMB chairman Terry Fox. Among those looking on are James Porch, TBC executive director, right, and Walter Taylor, second from right, director of missions for Knox County Baptist Association.

and starting new churches."

Jim Freedman, president of the National Directors of Missions and Director of Missions for the Nashville IMB Association, noted that associational ministry has been around for 279 years before state or national bodies. And there that churches first realized the value of cooperative missions.

"The churches that had been established at that time realized that we can do more if we link with [other churches] right here," he said.

"We can reach more people for Jesus together. With Baptist associations and the Southern Baptist Convention, we can reach our Jerusalems."

IMB President Jerry Rankin and President Bob Reccord also presented challenges to participants at the meeting, host pastor Johnny Hunt.

Churches interested in learning about or accepting the Acts 1:8 Challenge should visit www.ActsOne8.com or 800-4ACTS18 (1-800-422-8718). This is also an opportunity for individuals to share the concept with their pastors or church leaders. □ — B&R Editor Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this article.

**With unconventional approach**

**New congregation in Harriman area grows ...**

Continued from page 1  
 received any financial help from Tennessee Baptist Convention programs for new churches.

Though he has been and is in many ways, "a suit and tie," he explained, he has tried to reach folks.

Beverly has been a part of traditional church all of his life and believes new approaches are needed because "too many people are falling through the cracks," he described.

"The need to reach folks out in the world," accepting them as they are," he added, and to create a "place of refuge" for

one of the main ways to do this, according to Beverly, is to have church members be authentic so they can accept people

because of his love of hunting, fishing, and sports has helped him in his ministry. He and Judy, his wife, have two teenage sons who help them reach youth. His business techniques come in handy in his new ministry, he added.

While a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, King County, God began to deal with Beverly. He was a member of that church for 40 years and a youth worker. He read an article in the *Baptist Reflector* about the number of churches not baptizing people in the need. He began to minister in churches and develop angelistic ministry. He has ministered in Tennessee and several other states.

When Fred Davis of Lenoir County Church planter strategist, Tennessee Baptist Convention, was serving as interim pastor of Cedar Grove Church, he engaged Beverly to consider starting a church. He attended TBC training for church leaders and soon he was meet-

ing with a core group, at first for lunch following his speaking engagements at churches.

Then a group of 17 met for worship under a tent on some property Beverly owned. That day a man who had been a drug addict for two years made a profession of faith.

"That's when the church was born," declared the pastor.

Early on in the development of the church, Beverly invited youth to join him on his land. He has regularly ministered to youth and men there as they have fished or sat around bonfires.

The church has continued to meet on the land and also began meeting in a public school. Church leaders are glad they have the land to meet on because the school is not always available during the summer, explained Judy Beverly, because of needed maintenance.

The congregation hopes to locate a facility near Midtown, an unincorporated community which is growing. The church may have a building soon, said Beverly, but Potters House will continue to focus on reaching folks with the gospel.

Nearly every week members conduct some type of servant evangelism. Recently about 20 youth from the church worked on Saturday building two ramps for residents who use wheelchairs. Since they completed the work, Beverly learned Big Emory Baptist Association, based in Harriman, will reim-



**KYLE BEVERLY**, left of center, pastor, Potters House Fellowship, shakes a man's hand and speaks to several people following the baptismal service.

burse the church for the materials.

Members also have ministered at several nursing homes, visiting residents, giving away gifts, and building a gazebo.

Another emphasis of Potters House is the development of men. Beverly meets a "lot of men who are living like I was," he said.

The church has seen men called to the ministry. Several have begun seminary classes and are preaching, some who haven't spoken to a group before.

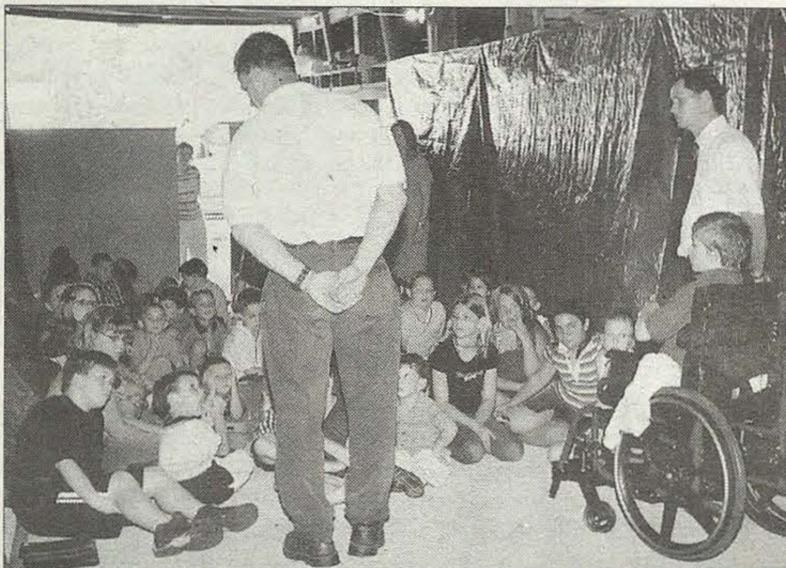
Also the congregation sent two to Brazil last summer and is sending 14 this summer.

To reach people, Beverly uses a technique from business. He keeps a list of everyone he comes in contact with who may have a spiritual need. He uses that list as a prayer guide and contact guide.

His personal journey has been a challenging one, explained Beverly. He rejected the call to ministry at the age of 18 by leaving his job as youth director of Providence Baptist Church, Seymour. He pursued wealth



**ALLEN RUSSELL**, worship leader of the church, leads singing during the morning worship service held under a tent.



**BRYAN WOODY**, children's director of the church, leads Children's Church for children in a barn at the church's meeting site.

and status for 20 years.

"God just started wearing me out," said Beverly. He "rocked my world. I knew there were going to be some consequences if I didn't give in."

After his commitment to the ministry, "God started changing me," he added.

He and Judy even placed their land where the church meets for sale. They hoped to build a house on it some day. Beverly has fished and hunted

on this land with his sons since they were children. It was a big decision and a sacrificial one for him and Judy. The land didn't sell.

"I had to be willing to give that property up," he said.

He gives Fred Davis and the TBC staff credit for preparing him well for starting the church.

"What we have done is witness God really do the work," he said. "God's using us." □

**Nashville FBC honors long-time organist Sharron Lyon**

*Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — First Baptist

Church here will honor long-time organist Sharron Lyon on June 5-6.



**SHARRON LYON**, organist at First Baptist Church, Nashville, steps down in June after serving the congregation for 40 years as church organist. She is shown with the 59-Rank Hantz organ installed in the church in 1970.

Lyon will retire as church organist effective June 1 after serving in that role for 40 years.

A graduate of Union University, Lyon moved to Nashville from Jackson to earn her master of music degree at George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

After completing her degree she began serving as organist at First Baptist. She has served under four ministers of music: Robert Snead (1963-71), William J. Reynolds (1971-72), David Ford (1972-77), and Mark Edwards (since 1977).

"Sharron has been an anchor in the ministry of church music which has undergone tremendous change in the last four decades," Edwards said.

"Her ministry and influence have extended beyond our church to the reaches of our Baptist family through her 30 years of work at the Baptist Sunday School Board, now LifeWay Christian Resources," Edwards continued.

"Her contribution on both fronts has been great and both shall miss her."

Lyon retired last year from LifeWay as senior editor-in-chief of music, publishing, and recording.

On June 5 a reception will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the foyer of the church for friends and colleagues to visit with her and thank her for her years of service to the church and community.

A service of celebration will be held during the morning worship service June 6 at First Baptist. □

**People point ...**

— Continued from page 1

In the earlier survey of 1,500 Southern Baptist church leaders, 69 percent said a purpose of their discipleship ministry was to inspire and motivate people in their Christian walk.

"It's interesting to note that all five of these discipleship purposes encourage personal growth — from motivation to building daily habits and skills to encouraging other group members," McConnell said.

"Then, when you look at what the people in the pew — both adults and youth — say they want their churches' help with, it's clear that these needs can be met through discipleship studies."

Miller said the TBC Church Growth Strategies Group is committed to helping Tennessee Baptist churches develop people-centered discipleship ministries.

For information, call Miller at (615) 371-2048. □

# Will you hear God ask, 'Why were you silent?'

## reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

On May 17 the state of Massachusetts basically said "When it comes to marriage, anything goes."

If that would apply only to Massachusetts, so be it. The people of that state one day will answer to God for making a mockery out of His definition of marriage — a union between one man and one woman.

We are living in a fantasy world, however, if we honestly believe that same-sex "marriages" will be confined to that one state. It is only a matter of time before homosexuals in every state in America will want the same treatment and validation of their lifestyle.

Because of the action in Massachusetts, same-sex couples have stronger grounds for federal lawsuits, demanding

that their marriage licenses be recognized and honored in other states.

The United States has a law on the books which prevents the federal government from recognizing same-sex "marriages." This law, known as the Defense of Marriage Act, was passed in 1996 by both the House of Representatives and Senate. It was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton.

That law also gave states the option of not recognizing another state's same-sex "marriage."

Proponents of same-sex marriages argue that the Defense of Marriage Act violates the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause which states that "full faith and credit" must be given in each state to the "public acts, records, and judicial proceedings" of every other state, according to a recent Baptist Press article.

If the judicial system decrees (and no doubt will) that marriage licenses are the same as "public acts and records," then the Defense of Marriage Act will soon be history.

According to Baptist Press, one lawsuit against this law has been filed in a federal court in Florida and with this action in Massachusetts, more are likely to follow.

With activist judges serving on our nation's courts, the only way to protect the traditional definition of marriage is passage of a federal marriage amendment within the U.S. Constitution.

Passing such an amendment will not be easy. It must receive two-thirds passage in both the House and Senate and then be ratified by 75 percent of states.

The concept of marriage and family must be protected.

Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, wrote a column last week about the issue.

He raised some additional concerns most people have not given thought to in regard to homosexual marriages.

Draper wrote, "Think about the long-term implications. This is not just a question of a marriage license. When same-sex 'marriage' becomes broadly codified, referring to 'mother' and

'father' will be disallowed because those two names will be irrelevant.

"Pictures in children's books will show same sex couples as the norm and children will be instructed that disapproval of homosexual relationships is fanaticism and will not be tolerated. Ironic, considering one of the criticisms of Christians by those pushing the homosexual agenda is that we're intolerant."

Whether or not Draper's predictions come true is anyone's guess, but because of the Massachusetts action, they are closer to reality than ever before.

I know Christians who think we should be silent on this issue or they honestly do not see anything wrong with what has transpired. It doesn't affect us, they say. It does affect us. It will definitely affect our children and our grandchildren.

As Christians we can choose to ignore this, but in doing so we are choosing to ignore God's Word, thus risking His wrath upon us. We must take a stand for morality and not be afraid to say homosexuality is a sin and it

is not a lifestyle that needs given societal approval. Two people do on their own to them. They will ultimately be accountable to God. But if they try to legitimize their lifestyle through our government, we have to make things known as well.

Contact your senator or representative. The Internet address for the House is <http://www.house.gov/Website> and the Senate address is <http://www.senate.gov/>. Information about your congressman or senator can be found in your zip code. You can call (202) 224-3121 for either House or Senate.

Also contact your Tennessee congressmen and women who are considering an amendment that would bolster the laws in our state prohibiting same-sex "marriages."

Speaking against same-sex "marriages" won't make us unpopular in society. So be it. I'd rather be unpopular here than have to stand before God and hear Him ask, "Why were you silent?" □

# Meetin' and greetin' at church: Does anyone here care

## from both sides of the pulpit



By Johnnie Godwin

### A Five-Hug Sunday!

"It was a five-hug Sunday!" exclaimed Methodist brother-in-law Tom Murphy after we got home from church. Now, what's so unusual about that? Well, I'll tell you. Tom was raised in a broken home with an alcoholic father and shuttled back and forth between his parents. His growing-up years were hard and lacked affection. Soon after an early marriage, Tom became a marine drill sergeant, a father, and then a workaholic oil executive until retirement. At the end of his career, Tom was reclusive, estranged, cynical, and had vacuums in his life: namely, little affection, no God, no faith, and no focus on others. So what happened to him? What changed him?

Well, when life began to cave in on Tom with marriage problems, prostate cancer, and no spiritual foundation to support him, he found God — who had been pursuing him all along. In Tom's own words of testimony, from six years ago, "I made a faith commitment to Christ." Now, fast-forward six years to Easter 2004: "It was a five-hug Sunday!" His life is rich and full with Christ, family, church, and faith to face his cancer. Tom told me, "The last six years have been the happiest years of my life." Further, he commented on his continuing struggle with cancer, "I may die of cancer, but I'm not going to die from worrying about it." Tom is warm, pliable,

approachable, and a strong servant in his church. He and his wife laugh, and he and his children are a loving family. But one of Tom's greatest joys is meetin' and greetin' at church.

### The meetin' and greetin' need

Regardless of a person's background, everybody comes to church with a need. Besides communing with God in worship, there's the fellowship need for everyone at church to welcome and be welcomed (II Corinthians 13:13; I Peter 5:14). The New Testament word for "greet" is the word "embrace."

Some people are never going to be comfortable with a hug. They weren't raised that way, and even becoming a Christian may not mean they overcome their discomfort of being hugged or touched. So it's good to be sensitive to varying degrees of intimacy and yet still embrace everyone in some way with a welcome.

Along with others, Phyllis and I have prepared for a mission trip to Japan this spring. In one meeting an expert on Asian culture told us that psychologists have discovered a smile communicates in every culture in the world. It is a universal expression of welcome and happy greeting. You and I can welcome visitors or strangers at church without risking a hug that might be unwelcome or cause the person to respond with rigidity. Why, on Tom Murphy's first visiting Sunday at his Methodist church, a hug likely would have driven him away. But in time, Tom came to cherish hugs and greetin'.

### Cliques and unmet needs

Match the meetin' and greetin' need appropriately, but be sure everybody at church gets this need met—whether they recognize it as one of their needs or not.

Phyllis and I love to visit a church where I served twice as interim pastor and came to know the members intimately. Going back there for worship and fellowship is like going home, but it's also a time when I observe new people and any changes. On a recent visit, we slipped in the back door just as worship began. When greetin'-and-meetin'-time came, lots of folks discovered we were there and greeted us with hugs and holy kisses. But my eyes fell on a young woman who was standing alone and was obviously a visitor. No one hugged her, and I didn't see anyone shake her hand or meet her with a smile and introduce themselves. Whatever motives brought the young woman to church that Sunday, I fear she went away with one of her key needs unmet.

Now, I don't mean to criticize that church, which I love like Paul loved the one at Philippi; rather, I mention the incident as an example of concern about our being sensitive to everyone. A "clique" refers to a small exclusive group of people within a larger group. Cliques can and do happen in churches. We tend to map out our seats, our visiting territory, and routinely greet the same folks every Sunday. That's human nature, but it's God's nature to notice every single person and lovingly care about that person. We need to be on guard against cliques and the danger of failing to meet people's needs.

### A fine distinction

Although I've spoken about meetin' and greetin' at church, there's a fine distinction between the two. In one sense, meetin' may mean we meet people we haven't known. In another sense, a meeting is more than a greetin' and is a longer time of conferring. Pastors suffer almost

every Sunday from members who don't preserve the fine distinctions between meetin' and greetin'.

Just a couple of points here:

(1) The question about how you're doing is a greeting and not an invitation for a recitation of how you're enjoying poor health.

(2) Others also want to greet the pastor, so members ought not monopolize the pastor with a meeting when it's just a time for greeting. If you need a meeting, schedule one with the pastor or his staff members. Otherwise, don't entangle the pastor with your hypochondria or complex and long-term situations. He'll appreciate it, and so will others who enjoy the mutual greeting of pastor and all the people. Further, as a former pastor, I always appreciated it when people refrained from cluttering my God-focused mind with distractions just before I got up to deliver His message.

### Finally, from the pew side

Airing pet peeves seldom wins friends and influences people positively. However, if the pet peeve relates to the larger needs of meetin' and greetin', maybe it's OK for one time. Anyway, one of my pet peeves is when pastors or others greet someone with a howdy and a handshake but are already looking off to someone else. A real pastoral greeting honors personhood when the pastor makes good eye contact, holds it with a smile, and doesn't let go of the eye contact until he lets go of the handshake. While pastors can't really greet everyone every time in large churches, each little meetin' and greetin' should be a precious few seconds of focused attention.

I wouldn't mention this little matter if I hadn't observed it making a big difference in

meetin' and greetin' people the years. Each person's special, and this one little polishes that sense of being special. It makes the moment Thou moment instead of moment (with apologies to Martin Buber).

### Does anyone here care

Being the gadget person I go to a lot of stores — especially computer and electronic stores. In more than one store I've been totally ignored: no greetin' at the door, no meetin' at the moment I move to, no one as they could help me. The folks who are working in the area of excellence comparison aren't on commission. But a few days ago, I needed something in one of those stores and generally what I wanted. After I looked around and saw every sign of being some need of help, I was still alone without an employee in sight. Finally, I said in a loud voice, "Does anybody work here?" Well, that got some attention and a couple of employees from the fringes to move toward their central reason for being there: namely, to care about the customer and wait on him.

Some churches treat visitors and strangers the way they are treated me.

The unchurched church for some reason and some need. If no one takes the time to meet and greet you, they may be silently yanking themselves, "Does anyone here care?" Let it be you who cares. Let it be me. Let it be Christ in us who cares for the person that care in the expression of personhood and good news.

— Copyright 2004 by Johnnie Godwin, who welcomes you and greetin' you via [johnniegodwin@comcast.net](mailto:johnniegodwin@comcast.net).

# UPDATE

Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; Phone - (615) 371-2021; FAX - (615) 371-2014; Internet - www.tnbaptist.org/page.asp?cat=news&subcat=mobilize

## Training offered

**BVMN Update**  
**BRENTWOOD** — Two Volunteer Missions Team events will be held in 2004, according to Kim Taylor, TBC Volunteer Missions Specialist. The first event, Cross-Cultural Training, is for teams who will be working in another culture. Working in another culture is a great blessing, but it does come with certain challenges to overcome. In cooperation with the IMB, the TBC offers training for volunteers on how to minister to a different culture. This training is available to the preparatory team. Take advantage of this great opportunity for \$15 per participant. The second event, Team Leader Training, is specifically for those who are going to lead a group. Team Leader Training is \$15 per participant. Cross-Cultural Training is 8-9, Stevens Street Church, Cookeville. Team Leader Training is 24-25, Knox County Association, Knoxville. To register two weeks before the events, contact Heather Wilson, TBC Volunteer Missions Ministry, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 51, or e-mail her at h.wilson@tnbaptist.org. □

## Tennesseans make a difference in Rio

By Marcia Knox  
 For "TBVMN Update"

**RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil** — Can Tennessee Baptists make a difference in the lives of the 12 million people who live in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil? Tennessee Baptists who served during the 2004 Rio Spring Simultaneous Revivals in April believe it's possible.

Joe Sorah, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, said, "We as Tennessee Baptists have been given an opportunity to shape the future of the churches in Rio as we disciple young believers. People question whether we can make a difference in 12 million people's lives, but we are making a big impact, because of the lives of the young people who are the churches in Rio."

One example is Rafael Fuly, a young believer who served as Sorah's personal translator during this revival and had previously served as an evangelism translator for a college team at the Barros Fihlos Baptist Church in the 2000 Crusade.

"In particular, it was great to see Rafael again, who had served as a translator in 2000 as a 17-year-old boy. Now he is a 21-year-old man," Sorah added.

"It was God's providence on this mission trip that I was

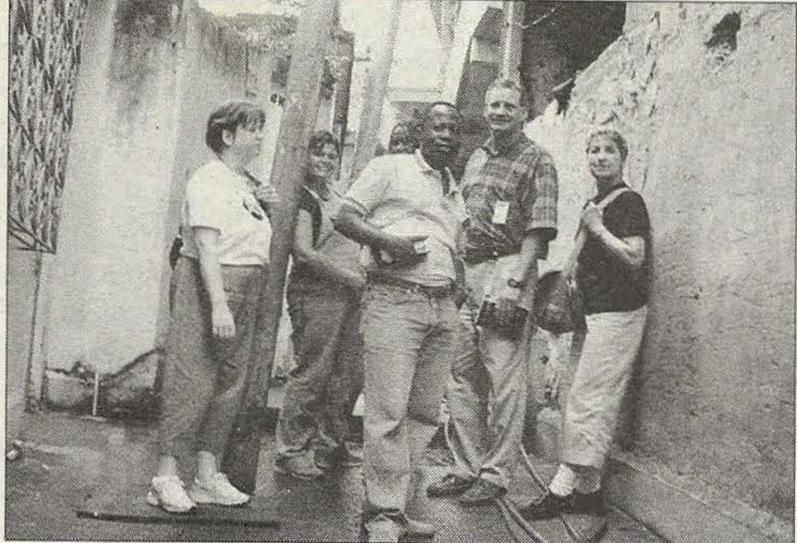
paired up with Rafael again whose English skills have improved. He has become a man of God. What blesses me more than anything was seeing the spiritual growth in this young man.

"It's neat to see people, lead them to faith, and to preach in Rio, but to see disciples grow is rewarding. I see the future in the churches in Rio when I see these young people, and it gives hope to Rio."

During this most recent revival where Sorah worked on Governor's Island with two of his church members at Cacua Baptist Church, the teams visited in several of the slums. Sorah along with Calvary church members, Woody Woodward of Watauga and Tom McNeil of Elizabethton, visited in homes Wednesday-Friday in the afternoon with translators and Cacua Church members. Each Tennessean was paired with a translator and a local church member.

Since Sorah had experienced witnessing during a revival in Rio, he was not caught off guard by the experience of being split off into smaller teams. But for Woodward and McNeil, who had not been to Rio before, it was an eye opening experience.

"Woody and Tom were basically on their own with a translator," said Sorah. "They



**ENTERING THE SLUM** of Dende during the revivals to visit people in their homes are, from left, Donita Piper; a translator; Pastor Nkoski; Ron Edmondson; and Sue Goad.

learned on the job witnessing in Rio. It was a 'baptism by fire for them,' but they did great on leading people to the Lord.

"It unnerved these guys on the front end of the witnessing, but within a day or two they had it down. Even though they had been through orientation and had trained to witness, until people get out there and do witnessing, it then becomes different. But they learned it, and they did surprisingly well."

"Those guys fell in love in Rio with the people there, and we also feel great about our translators. Our group saw drugs, drug deals, and men

with machine guns in the slums. We were permitted to enter the slums by the armed men, because we have earned the right as Baptists to be there. It's not a safe environment, but God protects us."

Another volunteer who has seen hope in Rio was Ron Edmondson, interim pastor for Crossland Community Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He served as team leader for a seven-member team from First Baptist Church of Clarksville. The church has adopted the Governor's Island churches as part of the Rio/Tennessee partnership.

— See Tennesseans, page 6

## Two state Deaf churches work together in Portugal

By Marcia Knox  
 For "TBVMN Update"

**BRENTWOOD, Portugal** — A six-member team from two Tennessee Baptist Deaf churches visited March 29-April 7 here and established a relationship with the Cacem Baptist Church and its neighboring community. They helped bring congregation catchment ministry vision. The team members from Memory Woods Baptist Deaf Church including the pastor, Chip Penland, and four-member Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church including their director, Mark Kirby Woods; Susan and Jimmy Marshall, and Ruth Bruffey, all of Brentwood Church. According to Penland, pastor of Ferreira of the Baptist

Church in Cacem, had been trying to establish a relationship with the Armadora Association for the Deaf in a neighboring town for a year. Ferreira had been inspired by the work with the Deaf at Recife Baptist Church outside Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

When Ferreira contacted the Deaf association and told them that there were Deaf Americans staying with him in Cacem, the president of the association invited the mission team to dinner Saturday, April 3.

"When the Deaf concluded their semi-annual business meeting before dinner, we found ourselves among the leadership of the Deaf community," said Corey. "There were over 100 Deaf in the local chapter meeting, and we discovered various talents within the group from bakers to actors. The Deaf gather every Saturday evening for dinner and con-

versation, which continues until early morning."

The team's first accomplishment was at this meeting when they established a relationship between the Baptist Church of Cacem and the Deaf association where they discovered around 1,000 Deaf members in this association.

"The Deaf gave the mission team a Portugal Sign Language book and extended an open invitation to the pastor to rejoin them at future Saturday evening dinners," added Corey.

A second accomplishment of the team was in the relationships forged within the Baptist Church at Cacem. The team gave testimonies and shared about Deaf ministry. The team also led both the morning and evening worship services on Sunday.

"We were able to share about God's love for the world



**VISITING WITH** a Deaf family are, from left, a Portuguese Deaf father; Susan Marshall; Ruth Bruffey; Chip Penland; a Deaf mother; and a hearing daughter.

including Deaf people, said Penland. "We encouraged the church to support their pastor's vision of having a Deaf ministry. In addition to the church services, we also developed personal relationships with individuals in the congregation.

These conversations allowed members of the church to practice communicating to Deaf people."

A third major accomplishment occurred when the team met with members of the — See Two state, page 6

# Statewide Prayer Saturation Month set for September

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — September Statewide Prayer Saturation Month is a call to prayer for Tennessee Baptists to saturate their communities with prayer for the lost, the unchurched,



PIERSON

and for spiritual revivals across Tennessee, according to Don Pierson, TBC Prayer Strategy specialist. "After 125 Tennesseans converged on Iowa for a weeklong prayer blitz in April 2003, God burdened their hearts to pray for the lost in their own state," Pierson said. "From that

burden came the call for Tennessee Baptist churches to saturate every community across the state.

"As Tennessee Baptists unite in prayer for revival and spiritual awakening, God will direct each church and association uniquely. Though there are many ways (prayerwalking, prayer and fasting, prayer revival, cottage prayer meetings) that we can saturate our state in prayer, one thing is clear: God is calling us to pray for revival. Join Tennessee Baptists during September in saturating our state with prayer."

For information on the September Statewide Prayer Saturation, contact the Prayer Strategies office, Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1-800-558-2090, ext 7925. □

September Statewide Prayer Saturation Month

30DaysofPrayer

*A call to pray for the lost, the unchurched, and for spiritual revival across Tennessee.*

## Two state Deaf churches work together in Portugal ...

— Continued from page 5  
church to develop a strategy with clear goals for them.

"We had a business meeting with a group of about 20 from their church," noted Corey. "We shared our proposal to their church, which had three elements for the upcoming year. The first goal was to establish a Deaf Ministry Team and choose a team leader. It would be this team's responsibility to pursue the other two goals. The second goal was to continue to develop relationships with the Deaf community specifically the Deaf association. The third goal was to have a church member attend the sign classes at the association. That person would then have a class at the church to teach others the language."

"I believe that God was also present as we met to discuss possible strategies to use in reaching the Deaf in Lisbon," said Penland. "This meeting was crucial; absolute clarity was an important part of the discussion. God guided our discussions so that we were able to challenge and equip at the very same time.

"Though God may change this strategy, I feel this was a major accomplishment due to the fact that the church had no strategy for reaching the Deaf in place when we arrived," added Penland.

"The church members were challenged to go to the Deaf and show their interest in them and let the Deaf be the teachers. This would allow the church to be proactive rather than wait," reported Corey.

A fourth major accomplishment came with the evangelical television network in Portugal when the team was interviewed. The interview included questions about Deaf ministry in America, reasons for being in Portugal, and the future of Deaf ministry in Portugal.

"This exposure should create awareness of the need for ministry to the Deaf and open doors for future work in Portugal," noted Penland.

The team's principle assignment was to meet a large 2-3,000 gathering of Deaf people in Fatima. When the team arrived in Portugal, IMB missionaries Don and Rose McCain

and Ferreira told them that there would be no large gathering of the Deaf in Fatima. The team was encouraged to attend a business meeting of the Deaf association.

"This news came as a shock," said Penland. "However, if we had missed the Deaf association meeting, we would not have been able to establish vital relationships for Ferreira and his church.

"It's ironic that if we hadn't of gone to Portugal that week then we would of missed the bi-annual Deaf association business meeting and fellowship meal."

"Prior to the dinner invitation, the team traveled to Fatima to witness an ongoing Catholic ceremony," Corey noted. "We met a Deaf couple and their hearing daughter. They drove an hour to give thanks to Mary, the mother of Jesus, for giving their daughter a car and to ask Mary to protect their daughter."

Though their initial assignment was to prayerwalk, the team decided to walk two by two around the shrine while

signing each other in prayer. The Deaf couple saw their signing and approached the team.

According to the Deaf couple, people from different countries travel to Fatima shrine to give thanks to Mary for her powers to heal or grant them wishes, or to pray to Mary for healing and other needs. This shrine was built in honor of Mary, because of her appearance in early 1900s to three Portuguese children. Her apparition led to a shrine and a place where people could honor Mary by praying, burning candles, participating in mass, and doing penance. Fatima is considered one of the largest shines to Mary in the world.

"We witnessed adults and children on their knees crawling a long distance to the statue of Mary to pay penance," said Corey. "They suffered and praised Mary. Twice a year, 1.5 million people gather to worship Mary. Once a year in the spring, the Deaf gather on site to worship Mary."

"From the beginning God let us know that He would take charge of this mission trip by

tearing down all of our p Due to this we knew we be utterly dependant up throughout our stay," sa land. "As we toured the and walked through the munities, God would con ly place someone in our that was related to the Portugal in some manne

They also met family bers of Deaf individuals three occasions. "All alon brought people into our for us to share with and op relationships with to municate His plan," add Penland.

"God also worked as w and communicated with 150 Deaf people in the Ara Association. They sign Portuguese, and we com cated via American Sign guage. This created a con cation barrier, and we w without adequate interpr

"This forced us to be c and use gestures to comm cate. As we sat and ate, v tured and laughed at one other. This led to strong between the Deaf Portug and us." □

## Tennesseans make a difference in Rio ...

— Continued from page 5

Edmondson, Sue Goad, and Donita Piper, all from Clarksville, worked with Dende Baptist Church during the day in home visitation and at Monero Baptist Church in the evening holding revivals. Others serving from Clarksville were: Charles Currie, Mollie Bird and Kari Rassas at Duas Praias; and Larry King at Vila Juaniza. The Clarksville team recorded 135 evangelism decisions.

"What a difference it has made in their lives in Rio and in our lives," said Edmondson, on his sixth visit to Rio. "Having been several times, I am now beginning to see what a difference Tennessee Baptists are

making in the people's lives in Rio churches.

"We are training them in evangelism and discipleship. They are gleaning training from us. However, they have a strong faith in God and a strong presence in worship, and that impresses us. It's become a trade-off.

"It really impressed me this trip how God told me that we're making a difference in the Rio Baptists, but they are making a difference in us."

According to Edmondson, the team entered into the slum of Dende each day passed a bar, called "Zifa's Bar," to visit homes. The team sometimes waved at the people as they

went by the bar. On the last day, Bird handed the people in the bar some witnessing tracks while the host pastor was on the phone. After she noticed that they were interested in the tracks, the team went over and spent an hour with the people and several made decisions to accept Christ.

"It reminded me that we often pass by the very ones God has for us to share the gospel with while we go about doing the work of the church," Edmondson added.

Another team leader, Kevin Luckadoo, an optician and a member of Persia Baptist Church in Rogersville, remarked, "Tennessee Baptists

have an influence in Rio, because of the numbers of decisions that we witnessed during the revivals."

This was Luckadoo's second trip to Rio. He served with Johnnie and Teresa Johnson, both of Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison, working with the Central do Rio Church. "During the first of the week, the three of us with our translator saw over 78 decisions for Christ," added Luckadoo.

On Thursday evening, Luckadoo preached on a soccer field near Felleche Church where a group of about 100 youth and children gathered to see the Jesus video. Around 30 people accepted Christ as Savior. "It just

blew me away when they peated the salvation pray said.

During the week 446 sions were recorded and volunteers made 462 vi Ironically, "Jesus is the hope for Rio" was the em for the first Rio Simultane Revivals and Crusade in

Over 15 evangelism te three people are needed f Fall Revival in Rio Oct. 4- The teams will be made u an evangelist, musician, s layman. Teams will be ho revival services and doing to-door evangelism. To vo teer, contact Heather Wil hwilson@tnbaptist.org or 558-2090 ext. 2061. □

## Volunteers meet in Rio de Janeiro, to honeymoon there

Marcia Knox  
BVMN Update

**BECHGROVE** — When Tennessee Baptist volunteers went on a construction trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2002 to build a church, Claudia neither expected to find a spouse. However, their friends had ulterior motives. Annie Basinger, a registered nurse, and Buck Barton, supervisor for plant operations at Aerospace Testing Alliance in Tullahoma, both sinners, attended two different Baptist churches for 18 years that were 20 miles apart. However, they ended up going on the same construction mission trip, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Association in Nashville. Basinger who attended First Baptist Church of Woodbury and Barton who attended Lake-

wood Baptist Church, Beechgrove, were the only two singles on the 12-member construction team. They spent a lot of time together in Rio and sat by each other on the plane trips.

Before they left for the construction trip, Basinger was told to "keep an eye on Barton" by Wade Campbell, pastor of Lakewood Church, she said. Campbell also told Barton to "watch out for Basinger and keep her out of trouble," Barton said. She also had another girl friend, who worked with her at the hospital, tell her to also "keep an eye on Barton," Basinger added.

After building the Vila Claudia chapel and returning to Tennessee, Barton called Basinger a few times about the trip report that they were to give to the church. She later changed churches and joined him at Lakewood Church where they taught VBS in the

summer of 2002. Then he went on another trip to Brazil in September 2002 for the Crusade and Simultaneous Revivals.

They both returned to Brazil in August 2003 to chaperon two young people from their church who wanted to go on the Simultaneous Revivals. Then they later went with Nashville physician Dewey and Bobbie Dunn on a medical/evangelism trip.

In between mission trips to Brazil, they became engaged and were married Feb. 29 at Lakewood Church during the morning worship service. The reception was a covered dish luncheon following the wedding.

They plan to return on their two-week mission trip honeymoon in July serving the first week on a medical trip and the second week a construction trip for Salem Association.

According to Basinger, she never planned on getting remarried and told God that if He did send someone her way that the man had to meet three qualifications. They were: he had to be older than her oldest child; he had to have no minor children; and he had to have daily devotionals. God answered her prayers with Barton, who is a grandfather, and is also feeling called to youth ministry.

Basinger likes the fact that their relationship started as friends and then worked its way into love. Since they spent so much



**LAKWOOD CHURCH** volunteers outside Primeira Igreja Batista Do Bairro Adriana are, from left, an interpreter, Scott Pack, Annie Basinger, Buck Barton, Alicia Pickett, and Pastor Adiel.

time together as friends, they didn't realize that they had started dating.

In addition to medical and construction skills, Barton said that Annie is now working with puppets. □

## BCM team of 13 from APSU serves in Portugal

Marcia Knox  
BVMN Update

**CLARKSVILLE** — A stuffed dog in a shirt labeled, "Go at me like a dog," became an inspiration for a 20-28 team of 11 BCM students from Austin Peay University, Clarksville. The dog graced a room in the Multicultural Children's Home in Porto, Portugal. The phrase suggests a flip attitude, but also one accepts whatever challenges God brings along with gratitude," said Peay sophomore Steve Bridgers IV. "The dog represents the mindset of a successful missionary and necessary element of hu-

mor in a mission trip."

Listed as a light construction and sports ministry opportunity at the Portuguese Children's Home, the team was led by Austin Peay University BCM director Jim Alexander and his wife, Estelle. The mission trip impacted the 11 college students as much as it impacted the residents of the homes, according to Jim Alexander.

"The BCM students shared the love of Christ with the children even though there were barriers of language," said Alexander. "But the language barriers were broken, and the students were challenged on the mission trip about their lives, careers, and international mission service.

"The students were impacted, because the week in Portugal was intense. Since the children at the home live with the experience of being abandoned, the students are continuing to build relationships by e-mailing and writing the children. Our students' hearts were broken when they left the children, and the mission trip was a good experience for them."

The team painted and visited with 80 children and with 40 elderly adults at a Senior Citizen's home. They held sports

ministry events, conducted worship services, and also sang to the Senior Citizens. Alexander noted that one college senior asked about extended missions service after college following the mission trip.

"We stayed up late nights, because the kids needed someone to talk to them," added Bridgers. "No matter how tired we got, we were busy spending time with the kids or working on improving their situation. "Humor was a vital part of our mission trip. No matter how tired we got, our set of jokes kept us in a cheerful mood and gave us the energy boost necessary to successfully serve God during the week. We had a great time with the kids and our lack of knowledge about Portuguese made them laugh.

"We also loved them by trying to learn as much Portuguese as we could. Love is expressed in understanding, and we tried to understand what they were saying by spending hours flipping through dictionaries with them."

According to Bridgers, the team swallowed their pride and laughed with the children about how pathetic the team members were when it came to speaking another language. Since the stuffed dog was a big joke the entire week, the team made each other laugh when they quoted its shirt.

"Humor brings joy and that is an essential element in a spirit-filled life. Happy are the people who worship God. If we are going to share God across the world, we need a spirit of

joy, or we will fail every time."

Bridgers said, "We gave all of the love in our hearts to the kids that we spent time with each day. We dropped every bit of selfishness to make these kids realize how special they were and how much God loved them.

"Students humbled themselves athletically and played soccer with the kids. Portuguese kids live soccer so they schooled us every time we tried to beat them at their own game. I had eight-year-old kids scoring goals on me a million times.

"The Austin Peay guys and gals carried the kids around on their shoulders giving them the opportunity to see what it was like being tall while spending one-on-one time with them."

The team also participated in games that the children made up like interesting clapping games and a weird game called pole where hitting the pole of a soccer goal with a basketball scored points.

Besides working with the children, the team also poured love into their painting. "We did our best to clean up any specks of paint that fell on the floor. We laboriously went over previous covers of paint making sure that our job was well done. We did it, because we loved them and wanted them to be able to take pride in their rooms.

"Symbolically, the dog, which had a sense of humor, loved to do hard work if it helped people. Its shirt welcomed the hardships that go along with serving God," said Bridgers. □

## Decatur team serves in Iowa

By Marcia Knox  
For "BVMN Update"

**DECATUR** — A seven-member Winter Bible Study team from First Baptist Church of Decatur served recently at First Baptist Church of Lamoni, Iowa, where they taught an all day Winter Bible Study conference.

Team members from the Tennessee church were: associate pastor, Steve Harmon, and his wife and son, Nancy and Brady Harmon; Wayne and Sonya Price; and Larry and Shirley Jennings. Steve Harmon served as worship leader for the conference. The Harmones and the Prices worked with the children while Larry Jennings worked with the adults and Shirley Jennings worked with the youth.

The team was invited by Lamoni pastor Scott Kellum to conduct the Bible study. Ironically, First Church of Lamoni is located in Decatur County, Iowa. Almost 35 people attended the conference.

"As the weather outside hovered near the zero degree mark, Christian love and fellowship provided warmth inside the church as the participants met to worship and learn," said Shirley Jennings.

Adults met in the sanctuary to study I and II Timothy. Team members valued Harmon's message about mission trips. "We should not make plans and then ask God to bless them," he said. "We should ask God what the plans are, follow them, and rest assured that He will give them his blessing." □



**PAINTING THE ceiling** at the Portuguese Multicultural Children's Home in Porto are, from left, Molly Thomas, Courtney Sepulveda and Daniel Gregory.

## Partnership Projects

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
<b>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Projects</b>				
Rio		Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses helpers needed for medical clinics.	7/30-8/8 8/16-15, 8/27-9/5, 10/8-17, 10/22-31	open
Rio	70197	10 teams of 3 to lead revival services and door-to-door visits.	10/4-12	30
<b>Portugal Projects</b>				
Ponto Delgado	70082	Help church develop a radio station.	open	2
<b>Iowa Projects</b>				
Ames	IA-04-67	Block parties and servant evangelism.	July-Aug.	7-15
Council Bluffs	IA-04-56	Donation of children chairs and tables for church.		
Fort Dodge	IA-04-66	VBS.	June	10-15
Quimby	IA-04-31	Install carpet in sanctuary and foyer.	open	5-10
<b>Canada Projects</b>				
Calgary, AB	04MID008	Conduct high energy youth programs.	July	2-10
Charlottetown, PEI	04ATL002	Teams to finish taping and painting, complete some plumbing and general finishing to ministry center.	open	2-10
Cochrane, AB	04MID001	Conduct outdoor concert in downtown Cochrane.	open	50-100
Cochrane, AB	04MID002	Conduct BYBC and/or sports camps in community parks and homes of church members.	July-Aug.	2-10
Cochrane, AB	04MID007	Community youth outreach for ages 13-17. Sports, music, skateboarding are big in community.	July-Aug.	5-40
Cochrane, AB	04MID011	Assist with VBS.	7/12-16	10-30
Edmonton, AB	04MID010	Conduct a sports day camp.	7/5-9	5-10
Montague, PEI	04ATL001	Teams to insulate and board the ceiling of a small worship center.	open	2-8
Surrey, BC	04CAP002	Team to conduct sports camps, children/youth outreach.	July-Aug.	4-10
Surrey, BC	04CAP005	Conduct VBS.	7/4-9	5-10
Toronto, ONT	04MID006	Conduct children's ministry at Annual National Convention.	7/5-8	4-8
Westbank, BC	04CAP001	Work with new church plant doing servant evangelism, random acts of kindness, children outreach events, etc.	July-Aug.	2-15
Whistler, BC	04CAP004	Team to work with church plant in reaching community through variety of activities.	open	2-50
<b>Western Canada Projects</b>				
Blackfalds, AB	CAN0704-04	Team to scout new community through prayerwalking and other ministries and build relationships.	July or Aug.	open
Cranbrook, BC	CAN1001-04	Team to scout area and build relationships.	July or Aug.	open
First Nations Comm.	CAN1801-04	Churches to adopt and reach unreached native communities.	2004-2005	open
Invermere, AB	CAN1002-04	Team to scout and initiate new work through prayerwalking and platform ministries.	July or Aug.	open
Miller Lake, AB	CAN1209-04	Team to assist new work in conducting VBS.	7/11-17	open
Moon Lake, AB	CAN1207-04	Team to conduct VBS and work with new church plant.	7/11-17	open
Red Deer, AB	CAN0705-04	Team to assist in follow-up visitation from contacts made during the summer outreach emphasis.	August	open
Rochfort Bridge, AB	CAN1210-04	Team to assist new work in conducting VBS.	7/11-17	open
Southern, AB	CAN1101-04	Teams to prayerwalk new communities with no Southern Baptist presence.	open	open
Summerside, AB	CAN1208-04	Team to scout, prayerwalk new community.	7/11-17	open
<b>Long-term Opportunities in Canada</b>				
Edmonton Region	CAN1202-04	Semester missionary to serve at Grant MacEwan College and The Bridge Student Church.	8/15-12/15	1
Okotoks, AB	CAN1003-04	Volunteer to start a children's ministry at new church plant. Min. of 6-8 mth. commitment.	2004	1
Okotoks, AB	CAN1004-04	Volunteer to start a youth ministry at new church plant. Min. of 6-8 mth. commitment.	2004	1
Red Deer, AB	CAN0702-04	Single or couple to start work on the new Deer College campus.	2004	1/2
Stettler, AB	CAN0703-04	MSC single or couple to initiate new work.	2004	1/2
St. Albert, AB	CAN1205-04	Volunteer to coordinate volunteer teams, work with youth and assist in church planting.	9/1/04 - 8/31/06	1
Sylvan Lake, AB	CAN0701-04	MSC couple to initiate new work. Couple would work alongside church planter in Red Deer.	2004	2

## Tennessee Projects

## East Tennessee — Appalachian Regional Ministry

► **Benton** — Volunteers to work in home repair ministry to low-income families. Home repair involves roofing, painting, wheelchair ramps and general carpentry work. Number needed: Up to 50 each week. Dates: Each week starting May 30 - Aug. 13. Teams need to arrive on Sunday and depart Friday. Contact: Debbie Brock, Camp Agape, (888) 528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net.

► **Benton** — Volunteers to work in servanthood evangelism-acts of kindness, BYBC, prayerwalking, park ministries, nursing home ministries. Number needed: Up to 50 each week. Dates: Each week starting May 30 - Aug. 13. Teams need to arrive on Sunday and depart Friday. Contact: Debbie Brock, Camp Agape, (888) 528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net.

► **Cleveland** — Volunteers to work in home repair ministry to low-income families. Home repair involves roofing, painting, wheelchair ramps and general carpentry work. There are also opportunities for evening evangelistic block parties in the communities where home repair is taking place. There is also a need for a group to assist with VBS in the inner city for one week. Other ministry/mission options exist such as: nursing home/assisted living, sports clinics, concerts and more. Number needed: 12 or more each week. Dates: Each week starting June 6 - July 31. Teams need to arrive on Sunday and depart Friday or Saturday. Contact: Randy Bonner, Ocoee Outreach, (423) 339-3782 or o2randy@bellsouth.net.

► **Cleveland** — Volunteers to do resort ministries on the Ocoee River and surrounding areas. Project will be customized according to groups talents and gifts. Number needed: 25 or more each week. Dates: Each week starting June 2 - Aug. 9. Teams need to arrive on Wednesday afternoon and depart

after lunch on Monday. Contact: Chris Stewart, Ocoee Resort Ministries, (423) 339-3782 or ornchris@bellsouth.net.

► **Harrogate** — Volunteers to help with need upgrades to building. Restrooms in the basements need to be converted to be handicap accessible. Number needed: 3-6. Dates: open. Contact: Clifton Dunsmore, Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, (423) 869-8716 or cgba@communicomm.com.

► **Johnson City** — Volunteers to conduct BYBC for children in the community. Number needed: 10. Dates: June-July. Contact: Ginger Dalton, Johnson Baptist Association, (423) 543-8398.

► **Monteagle** — Volunteers to complete upper walls of steel and put steel roof on church. Contact: Roger Everett, Monteagle, FBC, (931) 728-8868.

► **Mountain City** — Volunteers to conduct BYBC projects at Christian family camp. Projects include: log cabin village for married couples, mowing area, garden, trails, road work, landscaping. Volunteers also needed to do crafts for family out weekends and food services. Number needed: open. Dates: May - Oct. 30. Contact: Samantha Stephens, Uphill Ministries at Cherokee Cove, (423) 727-8560 or camp@preferred.com.

► **Townsend** — Volunteers to conduct day camps for area campgrounds Monday-Friday. In selected campgrounds teams will conduct family evening programs as well. Dates: Each week (Sunday-evening) starting May 31 - July 31. Contact: Kelly Campbell, Chilhowee Baptist Association, (865) 982-0499 or kelly743@bellsouth.net.

► **Vonore** — Volunteers needed weekly through the summer to do home repairs for low-income families. Contact: Randy Fullbright, Circle G Ministries, (423) 295-2299.

## Middle Tennessee — Cumberland Regional Ministry

► **Greenbrier** — Volunteers to convert a metal horse barn (90 x 60 ft.) into a worship and education facility. Dates: Open. Contact: Verlon Moore, Solid Rock Baptist Church, (931) 503-8000.

► **Smyrna** — Volunteers needed to build onto existing church building. Team needed July 18-24. Contact: Terry Campbell, Giles Creek Baptist Church, (615) 714-1001 or 459-6119.

► **Nashville** — Volunteers needed on a regular basis to teach GED, crafts, creative writing, writing or painting, pencil sketching, etc., at Women's Prison. Teams to come in spring/summer to participate in games or tournaments (basketball or softball) and drama groups. Contact: Linda Chaplain for TN Prison for Women, (615) 741-x1231 or lbknot@mindspring.com.

## West Tennessee — Mississippi River Ministry

► **Memphis** — 1) Teams of up to 50 to clean up vacant lots, paint, repair low-income housing, distribute meals, BYBC. Dates: Anytime. 2) Teams of 10-50 needed to conduct BYBC in low-income housing area. Teams will also help in community clean-up, housing rehab, sports camps, and meal distribution to low-income children. Dates: June-Aug. Contact: David Cox, Brinkley Heights Baptist Church, (901) 324-3022 or 832-8147.

► **Galloway** — 1) Adult male team to do various remodeling projects for church facilities in low-income small town. Dates: Anytime. 2) VBS team of 5-10 during June and July. VBS is in poverty area with low-income families. Contact: Karen Grunewald at (901) 867-7259 or characterwtn@earthlink.net.

► **Memphis** — 1) Youth and/or adult team up to 10 to help with construction, painting, and cleaning in an inner city storefront church. Dates: Anytime. 2) Team of 5-10 experienced roofers (for flat sloping roof) for inner-city storefront building which houses church activities. Dates: Anytime. 3) Experienced brick masons to do tuck-pointing on inner city storefront building. Dates: Summer. 4) Team of 5-15 to assist in VBS or BYBC. Dates: Summer. 5) Single male with willing spirit to live in inner-city church and assist with activities of residential dis-

cipleship program for homeless men. Dates: July-Aug. Contact: Wrex Hauth Jr, International Brotherhood of Men Church, (901) 835-4654 or wrexh@hotmail.com

► **Memphis** — 1) Teams of 12-30 for church and/or remodeling in inner-city areas. Dates: Anytime. 2) Teams of 12-30 to conduct BYBC in inner-city locations and trailer parks. Dates: Anytime. Contact: Lisa Travis, Shelby Baptist Association, (901) 373-6161.

► **Memphis** — 1) Plumbers needed to change old defective plumbing with new modern fixtures. Dates: Anytime. 2) Teams to conduct VBS in inner city. Contact: Lawrence Huelskamp, Monument of Love Baptist Church, (901) 565-744-1883.

► **Memphis** — Team to help with community projects, such as survey, BYBC, sports camp, painting, evangelism, etc. Dates: July. Contact: Beth Ham, Leewood Baptist Church, (901) 328-1010.

► **Union City** — Teams of 8-10 adults for relocation of doublewide trailer for drug abuse ministry. Dates: Anytime. Contact: Marti Doss at (731) 3039.

► **Ripley** — Volunteers to brick the sanctuary educational building. Must be able to mix mortar and lay brick. Dates: Anytime. Contact: Patricia Heathcott at (731) 635-7117.

## Year-Round Opportunities

► **Memphis** — Individuals or team to work in clothing room and assist persons with emergency clothing needs. Dates: Year round for 1-2 days per month. Contact: Bobbye Clark, Brinkley Heights Alliance Clothing, (901) 458-0617 or 386-8141.

► **Memphis** — Individual or team of 6 to talk and pray with families coming through the food and clothing ministry. Dates: Year round for 2-3 days per week. Contact: Quinn Rowell, Brinkley Heights Alliance Counseling, (901) 388-6245.

► **Memphis** — 1) Individuals to tutor 2nd to 5th grade children on Mondays for two hours. Volunteer will work one-on-one with the children. Dates: Every Monday from Sept.-April. 2) Coaches with a willing spirit and ability to teach basics for boys and girls sports (basketball, baseball, softball, etc) in inner city setting. 3) Adults with willing spirit and Christian maturity to enter a one-on-one mentoring relationship with youth boys and girls, grades 6-9. Contact: Sam Wilson, Brinkley Heights Baptist Church, (901) 465-5170.

► **Memphis** — Groups to sing, witness, do prayer and feed the homeless. Services on Sunday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. Lunches and clothing are provided to the homeless after the service. Contact: Mable Williams, New and Living Way Ministries, (901) 870-4761.

► **Memphis** — Adult female with Christian maturity and willing spirit to enter a one-on-one mentoring relationship with women moving from dependence to self-sufficiency. Dates: One hour weekly for 6 mo. - 1 yr. Contact: Linda Davis, Christian Women's Job Corps, (901) 372-7651.

► **Memphis** — Volunteers needed to serve 1 month to 3 days/wk. in food pantry serving individuals in need of emergency food assistance. Contact: Ken Hardin, Brinkley Heights Baptist Church, (901) 754-0272.

► **Dyersburg** — Adult individuals or teams needed to assist lay people who go into the jail on Sunday mornings to conduct Bible studies and worship. Contact: Joe Wright, Dyer Baptist Association, (731) 327-2727.

# TSU/Fisk students take part in Impact Northeast

Stacy Murphree  
Baptist and Reflector

ASHVILLE — Recently 20 Tennessee State University and Fisk University Baptist Collegiate Ministries students had the opportunity to minister in serving with BCM in Hartford, Conn. primarily the group worked on the campus of Trinity College

in Hartford, where a BCM program is being developed.

"This is an emerging region for Baptist collegiate work," says Roosevelt Walker, collegiate ministry specialist at the two colleges located here.

Walker notes that even though the BCM work is in the beginning stages, there are plans to start a Bible study and fellowship time this summer on

the campus of Trinity College.

The TSU and Fisk BCM students established relationships with students, faculty, and staff on the campus through various ministry opportunities including dance, drama, and choir performances.

"Key relationships were built between Trinity College and BCM," says Walker.

Walker first learned of this unique ministry opportunity through Jackie Flake. Flake serves as the BCM coordinator for Western Connecticut.

One of the major events the BCM students took part in was participating as featured guests in the Trinity College Gospel Choir annual spring concert. According to Walker, about 100 people were in attendance at the concert.

Through this event, the TSU and Fisk students were able to present the gospel on the campus through dance and drama.

"Some of the students really opened up to us, and we were able to share about the Lord,"

says Ashley Rogers, TSU student.

The TSU students participating are known as "Restoration," a dance and interpretive movement team which is part of their BCM. Students from Fisk are part of "Imani," a drama and dance group also associated with their BCM.

Through dance and drama these BCM students were able to use talents that they enjoy to reach out to other college students at Trinity. Walker notes the impact this experience had for the TSU and Fisk students.

"It clearly had a tremendous impact on the students' resolve and realization about their utility to expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ," he says.

This team already has an invitation to return to this area

and lead more drama and dance outreach. Walker notes that one of the local churches invited them to come again next year and provide outreach ministries for youth. "This was a great opportunity to serve and assist in the development of ministry in the Northeast," says Walker.

This trip was part of several ways BCM students continue to take part in the Impact Northeast partnership, a joint venture with several other Baptist state conventions.

Since January, more than 200 Tennessee BCM students from seven different campuses have participated in mission trips to areas in the Northeast including major cities such as Boston and New York City.

In addition, in the fall BCM will have two semester missionaries serving in the Northeast. Holly Knox, a senior at East Tennessee State University, will serve in Maine, and another student will be appointed to serve in New York City. □



WALKER



STUDENTS involved in Baptist Collegiate Ministries at Tennessee State and Fisk universities in Nashville recently traveled to Hartford, Conn., to lend support to BCM work that is in the beginning stages at Trinity College.

## Cookeville is site for 'Rally to Rescue America'

Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — A "Rally to Rescue America" will be held June 4 at the Tennessee Tech University Memorial Gymnasium here at 7 p.m.

The theme of the rally, sponsored by Vision America is "Enough is Enough," according to Don Wynn, pastor of Westhaven Baptist Church in Cookeville.

"This rally is not only to save the Ten Commandments, but also to encourage our families, friends, neighbors, and parishioners to register and go to the polls to vote," according to Wynn.

In a letter to local pastors, Wynn noted his primary task "is to feed my sheep as we come to the spiritual table for corporate worship.

"I deal very little with political issues, but there is a time when we must stand up for and speak out for the truth God lays before us and say, 'enough is enough,'" Wynn wrote.

Rally speakers include Rick Scarborough, president and national co-chairman of Vision America, based in Houston, Texas, and Laurence White senior pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Houston, and national co-chairman of Vision America.

Admission to the event is free. □

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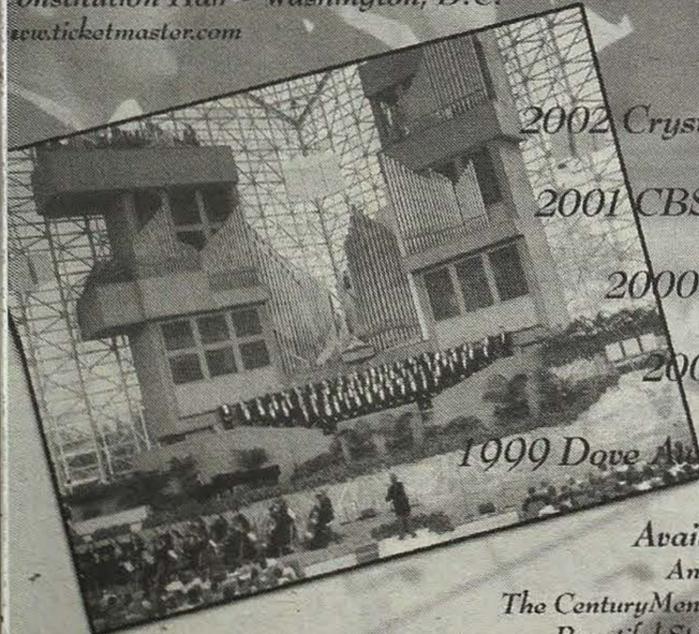
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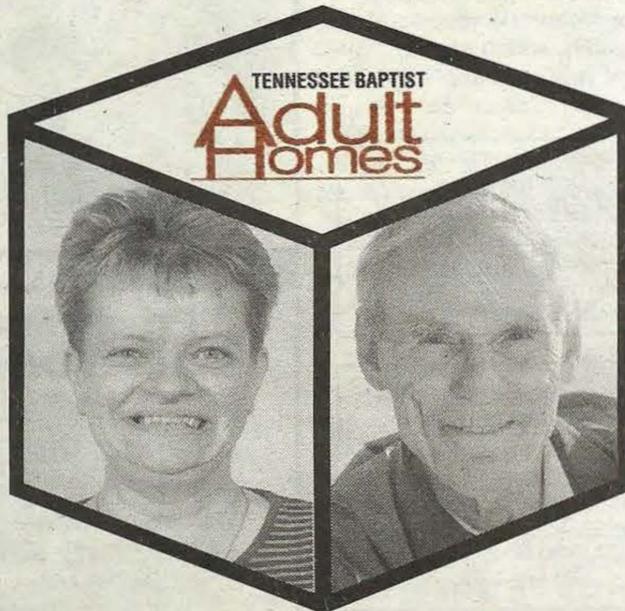
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## Two-thirds of Americans support marriage bill: poll

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The same day that Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex "marriage," a new poll was released showing that two-thirds of Americans support the Federal Marriage Amendment that is now before the United States Senate.

The poll, conducted by Wirthlin Worldwide for the Alliance for Marriage, found that 57 percent of Americans strongly favor and 10 percent somewhat favor the wording of an amendment that would protect the traditional definition of marriage, thus banning same-sex "marriage." Combined, 67 percent of Americans support the amendment while 30 percent oppose (23 percent strongly oppose, 7 percent somewhat oppose).

"The constitutional problem created by almost a decade of activist lawsuits to destroy our marriage laws demands a constitutional fix," Matt Daniels, president of the Alliance for Marriage, said in a statement.

"AFM's marriage amendment has been introduced with bipartisan sponsorship in two successive sessions of Congress in order to protect the common sense view of marriage shared by the vast majority of Americans of every race, color, and creed."

The poll of 1,000 adults was conducted April 2-5. Among the poll's other findings:

(1) 79 percent of Republicans, 63 percent of independents, and 56 percent of Democrats support the amendment.

(2) 66 percent of men and 66 percent of women favor the amendment.

(3) 67 percent of whites, blacks, and Hispanics support the amendment.

The poll question asked:

"There has been some discus-

sion, recently, about how marriage should be defined in the U.S. I am going to read you the wording of a possible amendment to the U.S. Constitution and then ask you whether you would favor or oppose such an amendment. The amendment says, 'Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.'

The amendments before the House and Senate differ slightly. □

## Baylor regents vote 18-17 to keep president

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University President Robert Sloan narrowly retained his position when the school's regents voted 18-17 in his favor May 14.

The vote, in a closed session, followed a 28-5 no-confidence vote May 4 by the faculty senate, which said Sloan "has made only limited and inadequate attempts to address the problems that face Baylor University," according to the

Waco Tribune-Herald.

Baylor, affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has experienced significant turmoil in recent months, beginning with the slaying of basketball player Patrick Dennehy and the subsequent arrest of a former player on murder charges.

The investigation led to the disclosure of major NCAA violations within the basketball program, including allegations that former coach Dave Bliss had made nearly \$40,000 in improper payments to Dennehy and other athletes and then encouraged players to lie to investigators.

School officials announced May 12 that Dennehy's mother, Valorie Brabazon, had decided

not to sue Baylor in relation to the slaying after reaching a resolution with the school. The school's attorney said all parties had agreed not to comment further on the resolution, according to the Associated Press.

But some observers indicate the disapproval of Sloan has more to do with the university's financial troubles than the basketball scandals. At their regularly scheduled meeting May 14, regents approved a 9.1 percent increase in the budget while operating expenses for the next school year were reduced by 20 percent and overall capital expenses have been cut by 50 percent from the previous budget, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Also, new hires and salaries have been frozen for faculty staff at Baylor, and Sloan's critics cite tuition increases and new debt in criticizing the school's massive building campaign as too costly. □

### CLASSIFIED

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

**MINISTRY — OTHER**  
Part-time church secretary, 20 hours per week; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday; \$12.00 per hour. Computer, good communication, and accounting skills required. Fax resume to (615) 711-8118.

**MINISTRY — COMBINATION**  
Minister of education and evangelism: East Side Baptist Church in Paragould, is seeking a full-time minister of education and evangelism. Send resume to Don Edmiston, East Side Baptist Church, 529 East Court Paragould, AR 72450 or don@eastsidebaptistchurch.com

Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Mendenhall, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music and evangelism. Send resume to Poplar Springs Baptist Church, 362 Poplar Springs, Mendenhall, MS 39114 or to cody1950@bellsouth.net Telephone (601) 847-2555 Woodard, pastor.

**MINISTRY — DOMESTIC**  
Tri-County Baptist Association of Arkansas, is accepting resumes for full-time associational director of missions. Send to Dr. Kirkland, P.O. Box 1835, Memphis, AR 72303.

Mineral Area Baptist Association's director of missions committee is accepting resumes until July 1, 2004. Must have the Missouri Baptist Convention and SBC and the 2000 MABA DOM Search Committee. 5169 Flat River Rd., Farmington, MO 63640-7404.

**MINISTRY — STUDENT**  
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**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

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

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minister's corner

Richard Dickerson

Our pastor has been preaching from the Book of James. When he first shared this with me, I was excited because James is one of my favorite books in Scripture.

I remember vividly the first time I read the book when I was a teenager with the youth group from the Baptist Church in Bolivar. We were attending a retreat in the summer of 1974. It was the first time that God's Word really came alive in my life. Such words though written somewhere around 45-48 A.D., yet so practical for me as a teenager.

*You do not have because you do not ask* James 4:2. This one verse just jumped out at me when I read it. I sincerely believe that numerous added blessings could come to us, but we simply live without them because we do not ask. This says to me that our loving Father would give us far more than our daily requirement of grace if we come to Him boldly and receive it.

From the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", I am singing so faithfully the following words: "O what a friend we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear — because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!"

Charles H. Spurgeon wrote in a devotional guide, "Do not be satisfied with the daily run of average requirements. Honor Him when we expect great things from Him." There is more so much more that awaits us. God truly has extras for us." For each of us this means extra joy, extra love, extra blessings, and even extra patience for those who ask.

Read carefully Ephesians 3:20-21, *Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Keep praising for our choir and our church in the coming year!* There is more, so much more!

His love has no limits, His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth and giveth and giveth again" (the hymn, "He Giveth More Grace"). □ Dickerson is minister of music at Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

# Being friends

By Jim West

**Focal Passage: Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:5-6, 9-10, 17; Philippians 4:1-3, 10, 14-16**

We are who we associate with, says the old proverb. Or, in another version, "show me your friends and I'll show you who you are." The Bible would certainly support these proverbial notions because the Bible stresses the importance of both having and being the right kind of friend. Today's lesson leads us to reflect more on what kind of friends we should be than what kind of friends we should have. But that one follows the other is fairly clear. Be a friend in the biblical model!

**Always be dependable (Proverbs 17:17; 18:24)**

All of us have had "fair weather friends." We are not to be such! There was once a sign seen in a textile mill, "When your thread becomes tangled, call the foreman." A young woman was new on the job. Her thread became tangled and she thought, "I'll just straighten this out myself." She tried, but the situation only worsened. Finally she called the foreman. "I did the best I could," she said. "No you didn't. To do the best, you should have called me."

That is the kind of friends we too should be. When those we care about get in situations that are tangled and confused they should know that they can, and ought to call on us for help. Instead of allowing

themselves to get in a bottomless mess, we need to encourage them to rely on us.

**Speak the truth in love (ch. 27:5-6, 9-10, 17)**

All of us need to be the kind of friend who honestly assesses the behavior of those we care about. Lying to our friends about their situations or decisions does no good whatsoever. There is a commercial running on TV right now which shows a girl in a lake drowning while her friend stands on the pier and watches her. The narrator says "if your friend were drowning, you would do something to help, wouldn't you?" When our friends are drowning we need to tell them so and then do something to stop it, even if it means they become angry with us for a bit. Soon enough they will come to themselves and appreciate our intervention.

**Help settle disputes (Philippians 4:1-3)**

People disagree. Sometimes they become disagreeable in their disagreement and it is our task as "Ambassadors of Reconciliation" to intervene to bring them back together. Two men who lived in a small village got into a terrible dispute that they could not resolve. So they decided to talk to the town sage.

The first man went to the sage's home and told his version of what happened. When he finished, the sage said, "You're absolutely right." The next night, the second man

## Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series May 30

called on the sage and told his side of the story. The sage responded, "You're absolutely right." Afterward, the sage's wife scolded her husband. "Those men told you two different stories and you told them they were absolutely right. That's impossible — they can't both be absolutely right."



WEST

The sage turned to his wife and said, "You're absolutely right." What does this mean? It takes two to tango. Get one to stop fighting and the fight ends!

**Meet needs (vv. 10, 14-16)**

Friends are friends not only in times of plenty but also in times of need.

In an 1865 letter from William Tecumseh Sherman to U.S. Grant: "I knew wherever I was that you thought of me, and if I got in a tight place you would come — if alive." That is what we Christians are to do for our friends. When they are in a tight spot, we should go help them. Our only excuse for not doing so is that we are dead. □ — West is pastor, First Baptist Church, Petros.

## Writers selected for June-Aug. commentaries

RENTWOOD — Writers have been chosen for the June-August Sunday School commentaries which are featured in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Due to the publication schedule around the Memorial Day holiday, the paper will not be printed on June 2. The next issue will be dated June 9.

Lessons for June 6 will be posted on the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). Dennis R. Jones, pastor of Gateway Baptist Church, Nashville, will write the Explore the Bible series.

David E. Leavell, a native of Millington, Jones is a former church pastor and general evangelist with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. He served in Durban, South Africa. He also has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Mississippi, and North Carolina.

Jones is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and holds the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, the former Cynthia Ann York, have three daughters, Andrea Kristin, Rachel Leigh, and Morgan Elizabeth.

David E. Leavell, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, will write the Family Bible series.

Leavell was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, and is the son of Landrum and JoAnn Leavell. His father is retired president of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Leavell has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and NOBTS, where he earned the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees.

Leavell and his wife, the former Vicki René Harrell, have three children: John David, Laura Leigh, and Justin Ker. □



JONES



LEAVELL

# Good deeds

By Ken Polk

**Focal Passage: Titus 3:1-14**

Although our lesson and this chapter of the Bible have the theme of "good works" (vv. 1, 8, 14), the word that gives energy and clarity to our study is "devote" (vv. 8, 14). The word translated "devotion" is repeatedly used by Paul to emphasize the need for good management in our homes (I Timothy 3:4, 5, 12) and good leadership in the churches (I Timothy 5:17). Christian leaders must be devoted to those they serve and lead. Here we are told that the entire Christian community must be devoted to a ministry of "good works." As A. T. Robertson puts it, "Paul is anxious that 'believers' may take the lead in good works." When we speak of devotion, it often has such a sublime ring. We talk of devotion to country, family, spouse, parents, and even to God. Here we learn that Christians are to be devoted to good deeds toward other people.

Paul pointedly reminds us that our mission field is the world. Our deeds and service should send a message "to all people" (v. 2) and, particularly, to the governed society around us (v. 1). We grieve over the declining moral standards of our society, and Christians have every right and responsibility to be politically active by exerting a godly influence on public policy, lawmaking, and elections. Still, our highest calling is not to force the culture to be like us externally, but it is to so serve our world that they want to be like us internally. Our opportunity

for impact opens or closes in reaction to "how we treat people." It is an awesome spiritual task to maintain high Christian standards, while also maintaining our high sense of duty to serve the society around us. Remembering what we were before salvation will help us remain on task and stay sensitive to the needs of lost people (v. 3). In our devotion to "every good work," it is essential for us to remember that only God can change lives. This is the message of verses four through seven. The only reason we Christians are different and can serve others on behalf of God is because "He saved us" (v. 5). A believer can take absolutely no credit for or pride in personal salvation and a changed life. God has done it all according to his mercy and through the sanctifying work of "the Holy Spirit" (vv. 5-6). We do not



POLK

"serve to get saved," but we are "saved to serve."

Just as God expects "all people" to be served by Christians, He also expects all Christians to devote themselves to good works (v. 8). "Everyone" (every Christian) is charged with this responsibility. Again, our good deeds must bear the testimony of a "changed life." To serve well, we must avoid foolish debates (v. 9). Any debates Christians participate in better be worthy because the world is watching. The church must learn how to deal with

## Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible May 30

the issues that divide them without being "divisive" (v. 10). "Divisive" people usually have self-willed opinions above and beyond revealed truth. They are a law unto themselves with no biblical foundation for their arguments. If we intend to effectively serve nonbelievers, we must show a nonjudgmental and redemptive spirit when differing about the nonessentials. Those who seriously desire to serve may even have to break with divisive, professing Christians (v. 10).

We will never serve the world well if we have not learned to serve one another within the church. Devotion to "good works" enables us to be even more fruitful and productive (v. 14). As we serve, we aid the fruitfulness of others and fruitfulness in ourselves (v. 14). You could say, "Devotion produces more devotion." The story of Paul's life cannot be written without listing the names of those who he served, who served him, and who served with him. Paul served these Christian friends with such a passion and devotion. He likewise wanted the Church at Crete to "make every effort" (v. 12), "diligently help," (v. 13), and, once again, "learn to devote themselves" (v. 14). You can be sure you are moving toward maturity when your Christian life becomes more about others than self. □ — Polk is pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

## Churches

◆ **Mascot Baptist Church, Mascot**, has begun building a facility which will be used for fellowship, recreation, and education.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Morristown**, is planning a mission trip to Kenya, Africa, Oct. 4-12. For more information, contact the church at (423) 586-0522.

◆ **West Franklin Baptist Church, Franklin**, a new church is sending its first mission team of 13 to Townsend June 13-18. The team will be conducting resort ministry. It is being led by **John Rush**, who also is on the staff of **Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Brentwood**.

◆ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold its annual Spring Give-Away June 5 from 10 a.m. until everything is gone. Clothing items and shoes for men, women, children, and babies are available. Household items including cookware, dishes, furniture, bedding, and some appliances also are available.

All items are free and given on a first-come, first served basis. For more information, call the church at (615) 227-2961.

◆ **Hillview Baptist Church, Goodlettsville**, will hold a youth rally June 5 from 4-6 p.m. "Twice Born" will sing and Don Stock Jr., will speak. A meal also will be served. For more information, call (615) 851-1427.

◆ **Trinity Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival May 30 - June 2. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

## Schools

◆ **Belmont University, Nashville**, has completed the NCAA certification process, the National Collegiate Athletic Association announced today. The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification announced that Belmont has completed the association's second cycle of athletics certification, the purpose of which is to ensure integrity in the institution's athletics program and to assist institutions

in improving their athletics departments.

## Associations

◆ **Concord Baptist Association**, based in Murfreesboro, will hold a picnic for senior adults June 7 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Barfield Crescent Park in Murfreesboro. Activities will include experiencing and being involved with the broadcast of a radio show for senior adults hosted by Jim Dooley of the association. Lunch will be served and music performed. Safety will be discussed by the police department and prizes will be given away. For more information, call (615) 414-3344.

## Leaders

◆ **Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville**, has called **Archer Thorpe** of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff as interim pastor. The church also has called **Douglas Burr** of Springfield as interim music director. They will be honored at a reception at the church on

May 30 at 12:30 p.m.

◆ **Kelvin Moore** received Union University's Faculty of the Year award and **Helen Butler** was named Staff Member of the Year during the school's annual Awards Day ceremony. Moore is professor of Christian studies and Butler serves as coordinator of programs for the school of education and human studies. Moore joined the faculty in 1991 as an assistant professor of Christian Studies and Butler in 1992 as an administrative assistant. Moore also is pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church, Idlewild. Butler is a life-long member of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson.

◆ **Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in a Contemporary Context** by **David P. Gushee** and **Glen H. Stassen**, received the top award in the theology/ethics category in *Christianity Today's* Book Awards 2004. Gushee is Graves professor of moral philosophy at Union University, Jackson. Stassen is Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif.

Judges for the *Christianity Today* award described the book as "a highly readable text on Christian ethics intertwined to the Sermon on the Mount." "The primary message is people who are introduced to the subject of ethics for the first time," Gushee said.

◆ **Clay Richardson** has been called as pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Joseph.

◆ **Jaime Hagan**, minister to students, First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, has been called to serve as pastor in Alabama.

◆ **Bobby Garland** has signed as pastor of Keefer Baptist Church, Dyer.

◆ **Cedar Fork Baptist Church, Philadelphia**, has called **Shannon Ketchum** as pastor.

◆ **Kemp Wynn** has been called as pastor, John Baptist Church, Knoxville.

◆ **Lyons Creek Baptist Church, Strawberry**, has called **Richard Veal** as pastor. He formerly served as pastor in Georgia.

# Sevier County Association holds OMC, plans mission trip to Nicaragua

By Veta King  
For Baptist and Reflector

SEVIERVILLE — When 35 visiting missionaries left from a recent On Mission Celebration of Sevier County Baptist Association, they left behind a challenge that grew into action. Through testimonies during the celebration, Baptists here were reminded of the great need for missions and immediately began planning their own association-wide mission work in Nicaragua.

Residents in Sevier County interacted with missionaries from around the world at the celebration's mission fair, through mission talks in the schools and churches, and on

a leisure trip into the Great Smoky Mountains.

They were encouraged to pray for unity among the diverse churches dispersed throughout Alaska's vast spaces. They learned of new churches in West Virginia and were told of a strong desire to reach out to young Muslims. Prayer requests were made for the astonishing large numbers of people in areas of non-Christians and for many other needs.

"Don't pray that the Lord will keep us safe," Loren Dickey of Nicaragua told one church. "Pray that God will use us." He and other missionaries urged churches to learn of specific needs and to pray specific prayers.

Mission work for Christ becomes so real during these On

Mission visits, stated one church member. Churches send their money and people pray for and read about the lives of Southern Baptist missionaries. But to have them in your home and to see their faces as they tell of God's mighty works and how He is so ever present in their lives is a touching spiritual experience that challenges believers in our churches.

Southern Baptists' new name for the former World Mission Conference, On Mission Celebration, expresses an emphasis of being on mission for God daily. Kaye Thomas, Sevier County Association's OMC committee chairperson, echoed that emphasis. "I challenge you to be on mission for the Lord. Don't just write a check to contribute, even though that is sorely needed.

But get in there, get your hands dirty for the Lord, and make a difference in this world. It will make a difference in your life.

"By the celebration end, new people who had never been on mission trips were expressing interest in going on mission," said Thomas.

"To hear these missionaries tell how God is moving in other parts of the world ... causes us to have a greater desire to be involved in missions. We are fortunate to have these dedicated men and women who are willing to sacrifice much to go where God sends them," said Ronnie Davis, director of mis-

sions for Sevier County.

"It has been a joy to see God's people get so excited about mission work," Mike Webber, pastor, West Grove Baptist Church, Sevierville.

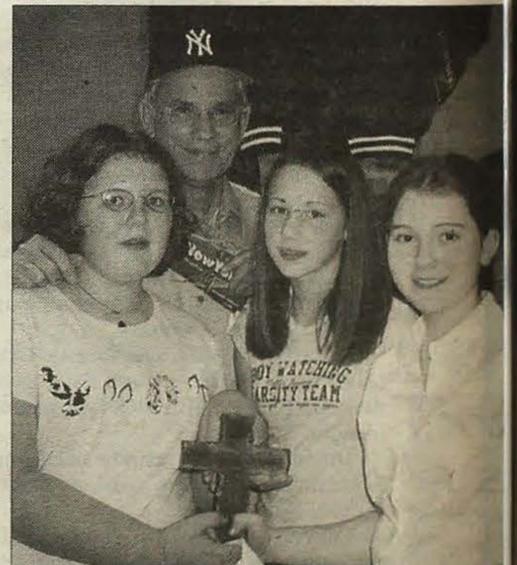
"He has truly brought the world to us and placed it on our hearts. I believe the OMC will have a tremendous impact, not only on the way we respond to God's mission in the world, but also on the way we respond to God's mission right here in our own communities," he concluded.



**RON REAGAN**, left, pastor, Gum Stand Baptist Church, Sevierville, visits with **Wesley Rankin**, missionary in Brazil.



**ROY JACQUES**, left, church planter in Maryland, shows photos on his computer to **Andrew Ehlers** who holds his daughter. **Mrs. Ehlers** sits with them.



**MEMBERS OF Oldham's Creek Baptist Church, Sevierville** from left, **Katie Wilson**, **Cheryl Botkin**, and **Allison King**, look at a cross from the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City after 9/11 with **David Dean**, retired pastor of missions, Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. **Dean** now lives in Rutherford County.