

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 1; Jan. 12, 2005

this week's news

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TBC CP gifts show increase

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists demonstrated their giving spirit in December by sending \$3,429,969 through the Cooperative Program.

After two months of the current fiscal year, Tennessee Baptist churches have contributed \$6,342,519 through the Cooperative Program. The total is \$570,831 or 9.89 percent above the total given after two months last year.

Receipts also are \$416,710 or 7.03 percent over current budget requirements.

"We are pleased that Tennessee Baptists have responded sacrificially to help meet missions and ministry needs in Tennessee and around the world," said TBC Executive Director James Porch. □

Baptist relief work in Asia to be long-term

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptist relief workers shifted into high gear as the New Year dawned over tsunami-devastated southern Asia, where millions are homeless and desperate for help.

Working with local churches and officials, the Southern Baptist workers continued to provide food, water, medical supplies, and other aid to survivors in heavily damaged coastal villages in Thailand and Malaysia. Meanwhile, assessment teams and specially trained disaster relief volunteers were heading for Sri Lanka and the Indonesian province of Aceh, where more than 100,000 people have died.

"We anticipate a long-term response — and we're going to need divine leadership," said Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

By Jan. 3, the International Mission Board had approved \$300,000 in project requests from relief workers on the field for planned aid — with more aid requests expected.

The relief funds will pay for food, clean water, water purification equipment, blankets, tents, sheeting, basic medical — See Baptist, page 6

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief accepting funds for Asia; volunteer teams on standby

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Now labeled as the largest disaster on record from the South Asian 9.0 earthquake and its resulting tsunami, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief began its response Dec. 29 by establishing an Asian Tsunami Relief Fund.



BEARDEN

"Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief teams are on hold," said State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden. Trained disaster relief teams may respond in the future. It is expected that recovery will take years, Bearden said.

Some Tennessee Baptist churches have been able to send teams because of direct contacts in the certain areas of the world. For example, a team of volunteers from First Baptist Church, Concord, in Knoxville is expected to leave soon for an area affected by the south Asian tsunami, according to Phil Nelson, First Church missions pastor.

The team is a diverse team made up of specialized volunteers ranging from medical, engineers, to crisis intervention personnel. The team is expected to do body retrieval and recovery among other things.

"At this time in-kind donations are not being accepted only monetary donations are

needed," added Bearden.

"Funds contributed to the Asian Tsunami Relief Fund will be used to send Disaster Relief assistance to the countries where it is needed. This will be a long term response which may last as long as two years."

Conditions in the South Asian countries are considered primitive at this time with roads and power outages, and fuel and water shortages.

Transportation into the countries is an obstacle with no plane seats available for at least five weeks. Volunteers are asked to be self-contained with sleeping bags and one carry on bag. Immunizations and travel insurance are needed. Cost of the airfare, land costs, and visa permits are estimated at \$2,000.

Monetary contributions can be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024. Checks may be made payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention. Please write for "Asian Tsunami Relief Fund" on check. Donations can also be made online at www.tnbaptist.org.

Contributions made to the Asian Tsunami Relief Fund will be used to provide relief assistance.

The TBC Cooperative Program and Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provide for staff support and administration of funds received. □ — Marcia Knox

TBC executive director will remember James L. Sullivan

By James Porch
For Baptist and Reflector

Editor's Note: Southern Baptist statesman James L. Sullivan, retired president of the former Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) died during the Christmas holidays. Following is a first-person remembrance of Sullivan's life and legacy by his son-in-law. A news article on Sullivan and several other prominent Tennessee and Southern Baptist leaders who died over the holiday period can be found on page 3.

BRENTWOOD — Today, a traveler can make the trip from Silver Creek, Miss., to Nashville, Tenn., in a few hours.

For James L. Sullivan, the pilgrimage from his birth place to the executive position of the Baptist Sunday School Board encompassed a period in excess of 40 years — an era in the hands of his Heavenly Father preparing him to be more than a leader in Baptist life for over half a century.

While articles and books chronicle the



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James Porch, right, "interviewed" James L. Sullivan during the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1999.

facts of his life, the nature, essence, and impact of the man defy all attempts at sentence structure and narration.

His death on Dec. 27, 2004, unleashed for me a wide scope of emotions born out of the gratitude that I knew him in such a

unique and marvelous way.

He was to me father-in-law, granddaddy to my children, counselor, confidant, and most of all friend. I was to him as a son to a father, pastor to pastor, denominational servant, student to teacher, and recipient from a giving life.

Choices beckon me in several directions in offering a tribute to him. My desire in this setting is to call Baptists to remember a man whose life in the hands of the living Christ gave meaning to being a Baptist in the best meaning of the word. Shortly after his death, the Baptist family heard a growing consensus of focus on Dr. Sullivan's crucial role as a Baptist leader during the social crisis of the 1960s and early 1970s. Assuredly this Mississippian bore his Christian witness to the brotherhood of mankind patiently with conviction and courage. Nevertheless, the impact of his life and ministry extended far beyond the dynamics of the era. Primarily, I attribute his big impact to the reality that he maintained the discipline of a student throughout his life. — See TBC, page 3

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**Publisher — Tennessee Baptist
Convention Executive Board**

Convention Communications Committee —

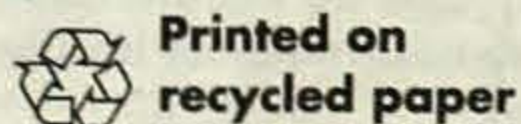
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Postmaster —

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

Frequency of issue —

Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.



Printed on
recycled paper

Asian tsunami response

IMB answers frequently asked questions

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Here are some answers from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to questions many Southern Baptists are asking about the Asian tsunami disaster and how they can respond:

(1) What are Southern Baptists doing?

Initial efforts have focused on delivering food, water, medical supplies, and other essentials to survivors in heavily damaged coastal villages in southern Thailand and Malaysia. Assessment teams and trained disaster volunteers have arrived in — or are heading toward — Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia/Pacific Rim, and other areas where more than 100,000 people have died from the Dec. 26 earthquake and subsequent tsunamis.

(2) How much money has been allocated for relief efforts?

As of Jan. 5, projects totaling \$300,000 had been funded, with additional relief projects to be funded as teams evaluate needs and design projects to meet those needs.

(3) What will Southern Baptists do long-term?

Meeting human needs as an extension of the hands of Christ means that the assistance needs to produce eternal repercussions, emphasized "Pat Julian" (name changed for security reasons), coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief in Asia. After the first wave of aid agencies has come and gone, it will be easier to see exactly what the true, lasting needs will be for the people and communities affected by tragedy, he said.

(4) What makes Southern Baptist work unusual?

"The timing of the relief work

is going to be as important as the supplies we distribute," Julian said. "We want to help people immediately; that's always our first instinct. But we don't want to be just another relief agency. We want our work to have a face. We want to establish relationships so they see us as individuals who love and care."

(5) How do I volunteer to help at disaster sites?

In the early stages of relief, only volunteers already trained in disaster relief will be effective. If you qualify, contact your state Baptist disaster relief office (See story on Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief response on page 1). After initial urgent needs are met, more volunteers, including individuals who haven't been trained in disaster relief, may be needed.

(6) How do I give to help those hurt by the earthquake and tsunamis?

Checks may be sent to: Asia Earthquake Disaster Relief, International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond VA 23230.

Checks may also be sent to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024. Checks may be made payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention. Please list "Asian Tsunami Relief Fund" on check.

(7) Is my gift tax-deductible?

Yes. Whichever method you use to give, you will receive a receipt by mail for tax purposes.

(8) Can I trust the International Mission Board to use my gift responsibly?

One hundred percent of what you give will be used to meet disaster needs. The International Mission Board is one of the few organizations who can make this claim — but only because Southern Baptists provide ongoing

support through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. That often means personnel are already in place who know the ropes — language, culture, and local infrastructure — to evaluate needs and design the best systems for meeting them. It also means the structure is already in place to publicize the needs, receive gifts, and channel them to where they're needed most.

(9) How does the International Mission Board decide where to send relief funds?

Assessment teams with expertise in disaster relief visit areas to determine needs. They often work with local Baptist churches and other evangelical Christians in determining where help will do the greatest good — not just at the moment, but in the long run. Field personnel then request funding for specific projects. The IMB World Hunger and Relief Ministries office and Office of Overseas Operations evaluate each project by criteria designed to ensure effective and strategic response.

(10) My church is still collecting gifts for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Should we send our money for relief instead?

No, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is needed to keep overseas personnel on the field and send new ones, including those responding to this disaster and others that may come in the future. Missionaries are uniquely qualified not only to respond to physical needs in disasters, but to provide a caring touch, a listening ear — and to help answer spiritual questions survivors struggle with.

(11) Why isn't the International Mission Board listed among relief agencies we see in

the news?

Many news media use a list released by Associated Press. AP gets its list from an organization that requires members to sign a covenant that does not match the International Mission Board's mission. IMB staff members are contacting specific news organizations to ask to be added to their lists.

(12) How were Southern Baptist missionaries affected?

Southern Baptist missionaries are safe and in place to minister to survivors.

(13) How can I pray?

God's consolation, peace, and mercy for those who have lost loved ones or cannot find their loved ones

* protection and provision for those who have lost their belongings and are on the street

* Christ to be seen through those sharing His love

* Christians to make a great spiritual impact as they serve alongside people of other faiths

* tensions among cultures to dissolve in the light of the greater need for understanding and mercy

* relief workers to hold onto hope

* people around the world to provide resources for short-term relief and long-term reconstruction

* government officials to accept offered help and resist temptation in the presence of money and resources

* clean drinking water and Living Water

* those in distress to call to the Lord

Updates on ongoing efforts can be found on the web at www.imb.org and will be printed regularly in the *Baptist and Reflector*. □

Hispanic Evangelism Conference set

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Hispanic Baptist Evangelism Conference will be held Friday, Jan. 21, and Saturday, Jan. 22 at Red Bank Baptist Church, Red Bank, Chattanooga.

The theme is "Hay Vida en Jesus (There is Life in Jesus)."

Speakers include Rene De Alejandro of San Antonio, Texas, and Joshua del Risco, interfaith evangelism missionary, North American Mission Board, based in Oklahoma City, Okla. De Alejandro is former pastor of Central Baptist Church, Robstown, Texas.

Saturday morning's breakout sessions will include training conferences for Hispanic ministers and church members who will participate in the Tennessee Hispanic Crossover, reported Chuy Avila of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff.

Crossover is an evangelistic

emphasis which is held prior to the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting. This year the SBC annual meeting will be held in Nashville June 21-22.

Avila and Gabriel Almazan, president of Hispanic Baptist Churches of Tennessee and pastor, Hispanic Baptist Mission, Highland Park Baptist Church, Columbia, said 50 of the state's 68 Hispanic Baptist churches are committed to being involved in the Hispanic Crossover.

Another feature of the evangelism conference is that del Risco will speak on how to witness to people of the Catholic faith.

Avila and Almazan encouraged Hispanics to participate in the evangelism conference and to learn more about it by calling Ilka Marks at (615) 371-6916 or 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7916 or visiting www.tnbaptist.org. □

Southern Baptist tsunami aid giving: \$1.4 million and climbing

IMB news office

RICHMOND — Checks. Thousands of them. Overflowing mail tubs and filling work bins. All for tsunami survivors.

The checks — and online donations — have been streaming into the International Mission Board from Southern Baptists around the nation since the tsunami ravaged Asia Dec. 26.

Among them, one stood out. Clipped to it was a colorful, butterfly-decorated note that read, "This is all I have that I can claim as my own." The cashier's check for \$3,963.01 and unsigned note left no clue who had been so generous. But the intent was clear:

"It is my most prayerful and heartfelt wish that every cent go to the victims and their families. God bless you in your efforts to help these people in such a tragic time."

Southern Baptists have re-

sponded to the earthquake and resulting tsunamis in the Pacific Rim and South Asia with characteristic compassion and lots of money.

How much? More than \$1.4 million had been given by Jan. 6. "We've just been overwhelmed by the response," said Ritchie Lipscomb, who directs the department handling financial receipts at the board.

Gifts ranged from three \$1 bills in an envelope to thousands of dollars in a single check. Most checks came in smaller amounts — \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200. But some were made out for \$1,000, several for \$5,000, others even larger.

Two of the largest individual donations came from Georgia and Mississippi. A homebound widow in Jackson, Miss., sent a check for \$20,000. The notation on the check read simply, "Asia Earthquake Relief." There was no other note. □

Southern Baptist, Tennessee Baptist leaders die during break

Compiled by *Baptist and Reflector* staff

BRENTWOOD — Several prominent Southern Baptist and Tennessee Baptist leaders died over the holiday break. Among them were:

James L. Sullivan

James Lenox Sullivan, Southern Baptist statesman and retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), died Dec. 27 at Alive Hospice in Nashville, following a brief illness. He was 94.

Sullivan served as president of the Sunday School Board, the denomination's ministry enrichment, education, and publication entity, from 1953 until his retirement in 1975. He was widely known as an authority on Southern Baptist polity and had been actively involved in denominational service since his first pastorate in 1932.

"He was president at one of the most crucial times at the Sunday School Board during the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and '60s," said LifeWay Christian Resources president James T. Draper Jr. "He led in production of materials promoting the biblical view of human worth, regardless of race, and modeled his beliefs by providing an equitable work environment for a multicultural staff."

"He was my friend and supporter, and a great statesman. His counsel, wisdom, knowledge of Baptist history and of the Southern Baptist Convention was incomparable. As we have worked to strengthen the institution, he has given generously of his experience and insights to encourage us. Today our staff continues building on the foundation he laid."

"In a time when there are not many heroes, he has certainly been one of my heroes. I have lost a great friend."

He served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Tennessee (Belmont Heights Baptist in Nashville), Mississippi, and Texas; as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and as trustee of numerous Southern Baptist universities, seminaries, and hospitals. He also served as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. Sullivan served one year as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, being elected in 1976.

Sullivan wrote many articles and books, including *Your Life and Your Church*, with a distribution of more than a million copies, and *Baptist Polity: As I See It*, published by Broadman & Holman in 1998.

"He was a personal friend and faithful mentor," said Lloyd Elder, president of the board from 1984 to 1991. "He was truly a man of God, a man of his times by being ahead of his times, a peerless leader, fearless prophet, and caring servant. Dr.

Sullivan developed the Board into a profoundly Christian, Baptist denominational ministry, based on sound business principles and practices. At a personal level, he was forever learning and participating with others."

Sullivan's wife, Velma Scott Sullivan, preceded him in death in 1993. His daughter, Martha Lynn (James) Porch of Tullahoma, Tenn., died in 1999.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Beth (Bob) Taylor of Nashville; a son, James David Sullivan of Oxford, Miss.; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Roy Honeycutt

Roy Honeycutt, retired president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Dec. 21, one day after suffering head injuries in a fall at his home in Louisville, Ky. He was 78.

Honeycutt, a noted Old Testament scholar, was elected president of Southern Seminary, also in Louisville, in 1982. His 11-year tenure as president paralleled much of the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative shift.

Pledging in 1982 to "look to the seminary's historic strength" to chart its course, Honeycutt affirmed his commitment for Southern "to be rooted in the Word of God, devoted to the centrality of the local church, and obedient to the call of Christ to evangelism, missions, and preaching."

Duke McCall, Honeycutt's predecessor as president of Southern, recalled that Honeycutt "functioned in a troubled time in which he was the irenic spirit trying to find middle ground and a solution to a situation where there was no middle ground."

"He was a denominational statesman in the best sense of the word,"

McCall added. "He served as an example to staff, faculty, and students and was in all situations both the committed Christian and the man of God. It's a great pity that he couldn't find the solution that he longed for and sought."

Honeycutt was succeeded by current president Al Mohler. Describing his predecessor as "a Christian gentleman," Mohler said, "He gave so much of his life to the Southern Baptist Convention and to Southern Seminary in particular. He led during difficult times and was not afraid of controversy."

"On a personal level, he was as gracious a human being as you could ever expect or hope to meet."

Paul Hall

Paul Hall, a longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor and state missions leader, died Jan. 3 in Clarksville. He was 87.

Among Hall's Tennessee pastorates were Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster; Rome Baptist Church, Lebanon; Mt.

Olivet Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet; Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville; First Baptist Church, Camden; First Baptist Church, Loudon; and Calvary Baptist Church, Kingsport.

Prior to joining the TBC missions department led by Leslie Baumgartner in 1970, he served as director of missions for Holston Baptist Association, headquartered in Johnson City. Hall retired from the TBC in 1987 and served as interim pastor of several area churches.

Colleague Carroll Owen described Hall as a "goodwill ambassador for the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

"I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. He was a real Christian gentleman," Owen recalled.

Vern Powers, another longtime friend and colleague, agreed. "He was a happy, positive guy to be around. He loved Tennessee Baptists and served us well in the missions department of the state convention."

He was preceded in death by his wife, Claire. He is survived by two daughters, Joyce Crain and Deborah Bishop, and two grandchildren.

Bob Norman

Bob Norman, pastor emeritus of ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, and a longtime leader in the Tennessee Baptist Convention died Dec. 31.

Norman served churches in Alabama and Texas in addition to pastorates at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville (1964-79) and ClearView (1985-96).

He was a former trustee of Baptist Hospital, Nashville, and Belmont University, Nashville. Norman was a frequent speaker at Tennessee Baptist Convention-related events. Norman also led Bible conferences, revivals, and many other religious meetings around the world.

After his retirement he served numerous churches as interim pastor, including West End Baptist Church, Columbia, where he was serving at the time of his death.

"I had the privilege of having Bob Norman as my pastor after coming to the convention in 1991," said Gary Rickman, TBC coordinator. "He had that wonderful ability to make a person feel as though he had known you all your life."

"He was the most optimistic pastor, and maybe person, I have ever known."

Norman also was a former pastor of retired *B&R* Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen.

"Bob Norman influenced hundreds, if not thousands of lives for Christ. He was a true disciple, an evangelist, a willing and able conveyor of the Good News," Allen recalled.



HALL



NORMAN

"While many people know of him and his ministry, he walked tall behind the scenes. He blessed scores of young and struggling pastors, as a mentor and friend. He chose revivals and weekend retreats for churches of all sizes, and went where he was needed," Allen said.

Noting Norman's love for people and his sense of humor, "his legacy, to me, is when God called him to preach, he picked a joyful pulpiteer and pastor."

Norman is survived by his wife, Jean, and sons Robert M. Norman, J. Douglas Norman, and John Andrew Norman, and three grandchildren.

Anderson "Andy" McCulley

Andy McCulley, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, from 1958-81, died Dec. 27. He was 82.

In addition to FBC, McCulley also served as pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Knoxville and First Baptist Church, Niota. He also held numerous interim pastorates.

He was a member of the TBC Executive Board and served as a trustee for Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour and Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He was a former vice president of both the TBC and the Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference.

"Andy is my earliest memory of a pastor," said Bill Choate, leader of the TBC collegiate ministries group. "I still carry the image of his easy, gracious, caring way of doing ministry."

"He served First Baptist, Sweetwater, faithfully and consistently, even serving as volunteer senior adult choir director the last weeks of his life. In the years after his retirement, he developed a reputation as a healing, rebuilding, interim pastor across southeast Tennessee," Choate recalled.

Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville, followed McCulley at FBC, Sweetwater, in 1982. "He was always a Christian gentleman and supported me as pastor. Andy was not only loved and esteemed at First Baptist, he was also very much loved by the people in the community. In some ways, because of his long tenure at the church and his kindness, he was the pastor of all Sweetwater."

He is survived by his wife, Ruby, and children Neil McCulley, Sarah Carroll, and six grandchildren.

W. Howard Bramlette

W. Howard Bramlette, veteran student leader among Southern Baptists, died Dec. 30 at the age of 81.

Bramlette had been a resident of Pinehurst Alzheimer's Center in Tyler, Texas, since September of 2001. Funeral services were held in Jacksonville, Texas.

Bramlette joined the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in 1956 as a consultant with Baptist colleges. He later joined the staff of the former SBC Education Commission before returning to the BSSB in 1976 as editor of *The Student* magazine. □

TBC executive director will remember James L. ...

— Continued from page 1

His education began early with a keen readiness to take advantage of the opportunities and to live led by God, a character trait affectionately attributed to his good beginning and nurture from his parents.

No list of awards, recognitions, and accomplishments ever displaced his contentment and happiness of being the one and only James L. Sullivan. This authenticity influenced by his

Scotch-Irish ancestry moved him often to take opportunity to stay in touch with his roots with a sense of wholesome pride.

While Sullivan the student held tenaciously and spoke carefully his beliefs and convictions, at the same time he possessed a desire to listen with intent to understand another person's different views. In essence, his gift of dialogue enabled him to communicate with people on even grounds and walk away with

their respect. Quite possibly this trait grew rapidly through the encouragement of his teachers, both at Mississippi College and the Southern Baptist Seminary of the 1930s.

As a pupil of history, Dr. Sullivan knew his big Baptist family and understood his responsibility to honor with integrity and respect the wide scope of Baptist views. His ministry time span covered years of a variety of big and potentially cataclysmic

changes. Yet, he continued to maintain faith that the rank and file Baptist family continued to possess their Great Commission role to play in the Father's kingdom. He never lost that belief.

As heir to his preaching library, I quite often use his study Bible as a guide in sermon preparation and personal devotion study. The New American Standard version indexed to over 200 select volumes, all now out of print, bears testimony to

his study skills and openness to a wide variety of commentaries on biblical truths. These tomes, now more precious than ever, stand on shelves in my office and daily remind me of my journey with a real student who finished his course and kept the faith.

A final word. I knew him enough to know he would not want to be remembered for what he did, but rather for who he was in the hands of the loving Heavenly Father. □

Tennessee Baptists need convictional, cooperative leadership

a word
from our
president



By Roger Freeman

That at least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. — Acts 5:15

Leadership is influence. Leadership is casting the shadow of a man's convictions over the lives and directions of people.

Every great movement is but the shadow of the influence of a great leader. The Church is the shadow of the life, power, and Spirit of Jesus Christ.

After the day of Pentecost, the leadership and influence of the Apostle Peter reached its zenith. People were healed when his shadow fell upon the sick lying in streets of Jerusalem. When leaders pass by, the shadow of their influence will change people. This is the heritage of the Holy Spirit upon the pastors and leaders of the Church.

There is but one common characteristic among leaders; they know where they are going. The powerful, pointed preacher Vance Havner testified that his

young life was changed when he met the mighty man of God, R. H. Torrey while riding a train in the early 1920s. Havner was young and his ministry unfocused. The eyes of Dr. Torrey, the old associate of D.L. Moody, pierced into young Havner's being and asked him, "What are you doing in ministry?" Havner answered by saying he was doing a little of this and a little of that. Torrey said, "Young man, focus on one thing and do it." Vance Havner testified that the probing challenge from the great old prophet of God's Word changed his life and ministry. Havner set his heart then and there and forever that God had called him to be a preacher, nothing more but nothing less. Leadership sets a man's heart ablaze to one calling with all his heart for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls.

The day in which we live in Tennessee Baptist life demands two facets to our leadership if we are going to see a revived church that touches a lost world which needs the gospel. None of us has arrived in leadership, but here is where we need to be headed.

Convictional Leadership

If we are going to cast our shadow across our world and reach lost souls for Christ in Tennessee, pastors and Baptist leaders must have *Convictions*.

Baptists are people of the Book. We believe every word of the inerrant and infallible Word of God. We believe that God created the world out of nothing just as the book of Genesis says. We believe in the Virgin Birth. We believe in Blood atonement. We believe that no one will enter heaven who does not know Jesus as Savior and Lord. We believe in salvation by grace which is to be followed by a life of good works which begins with the believer's immersion in water baptism in obedience to Christ. We believe the primary Christian body is the local church and that all New Testament ministry is rooted in the local church. We believe there is an eternal heaven for the saved and an eternal hell for the lost.

We believe in the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and in His bodily return to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

There can be no leadership on any level in Baptist life without all of these convictions. We cannot assume that all Baptists know these convictions.

A generation has arisen "that knows not Joseph" Exodus 1:8.

We must proclaim our commitment to these convictions boldly and repeatedly. A good leader is a good follower. A good Christian leader is a devoted fol-

lower of the Word of God. Without convictional leadership, we are going nowhere.

Cooperative Leadership

Uniting with convictional leadership we join the powerful force of cooperative leadership.

Southern Baptists are heir to the greatest plan of missionary support since the day of Pentecost. This is the Cooperative Program, the wise and mighty plan of our Baptist forefathers that supports over 10,000 missionaries worldwide, that sponsors six of the largest theological seminaries in the world, that trains and equips local churches for ministry, and that provides countless medical, benevolence, world hunger, educational, and disaster relief agencies in every corner of the planet. The Cooperative Program is our handle on the world to take the gospel to every creature in obedience to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Each Tennessee Baptist church should give at least a tithe (10 percent) of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.

Offerings over and above the tithe can be given to other godly enterprises, but the tithe should go to the Cooperative Program. The average Baptist church gave 9 percent to the Cooperative Program just a few years

ago. Now the average Tennessee Baptist church gives but 7 percent.

We will never reach Tennessee and the world with the gospel by 7 percent faithfulness. Some churches give more than a tithe to the Cooperative Program. They are leaders and pacesetters. For the rest, I urge you to lead your church to give a tithe to the Cooperative Program and pray for God to change the world for Jesus Christ.

Our missionaries are depending on us. Luther Rice said to Baptists, "We will go down if you will hold the ropes." Our rope is the Cooperative Program. Be a cooperative leader and support the Cooperative Program to help reach a world for Jesus Christ.

Cooperative leaders will hold the rope of the Cooperative Program together to reach a lost and dying world.

Convictional leadership and cooperative leadership will cast a shadow across the state of Tennessee that will bring in the lost, disciple the saved, and lift up our Wonderful Savior Who is the "Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." □ — Freeman is pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Baptists asked to recommend members of TBC boards, committees

Baptist and Reflector

At right are replicas of the forms which have been developed for Tennessee Baptists to use to recommend people for service on Tennessee Baptist Convention boards or committees. Please DO NOT use the replica forms.

Each year the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees conduct a lengthy process to select nominees to the convention for positions on the boards and committees of the convention. This process is dependent upon Tennessee Baptists nominating qualified people for these positions.

Forms for both the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees processes are being mailed to each church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Additional forms are also being mailed to directors of missions. Your prayerful attention to this opportunity to recommend Tennessee Baptists for positions is encouraged.

The completed form should be mailed to Chairman (either Committee on Committees or Committee on Boards), TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 by Feb. 11. Also, forms may be

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Convention Committees, TBC 2005

East Middle West

Please use this form, or the electronic form found at www.tnbaptist.org, to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Committees. Mail all recommendations, or submit electronically, to Chairman, Committee on Committees, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or fax to 615-371-2093. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Committees. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. All members of Tennessee Baptist Convention churches are encouraged to submit recommendations by February 11, 2005 of trustees of institutions, Executive Board, and committees. Recommendations received after February 11, 2005 will be considered as vacancies occur. (This form will be copied for all committee members. To insure legibility, please type or print as neatly as possible).

I recommend _____ for the _____ committee.

☐ Committee on Arrangements ☐ Committee on Boards ☐ Committee on Resolutions
☐ Committee on Audits ☐ Committee on Constitution & Bylaws ☐ Historical Committee
☐ Committee on Credentials

Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____
 City _____ Zip _____ (Business)
 Approx. Age _____ Gender: M F _____ Ordained Minister _____ Lay Person _____
 Church Membership _____ Association _____
 Address _____
 Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____

After you have secured this person's permission to submit their name for recommendation, please complete the following questions:

- List the nominee's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s)/Committee(s) and dates of service.
- Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist and SBC causes in 2004. \$ _____
- Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific.
- Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended? Yes _____ No _____
- What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?
- Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: () _____
 (Person Submitting Recommendation)
 Church Name: _____ Association: _____ Layperson _____ Minister _____
 How do you know this individual? (pastor, director of missions, fellow church member, friend or other _____)

RECOMMENDATION FORM

For Executive Board/Institutional Boards of Trust, Committee on Committees, TBC 2005

East Middle West

Please use this form, or the electronic form found at www.tnbaptist.org, to recommend resident members of Tennessee Baptist churches to the Committee on Boards. Mail all recommendations, or submit electronically, to Chairman, Committee on Boards, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or fax to 615-371-2093. All recommendations are considered by the Committee on Boards. However, no person submitting a recommendation should assume his recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. All members of Tennessee Baptist Convention churches are encouraged to submit recommendations by February 11, 2005 of trustees of institutions, Executive Board, and committees. Recommendations received after February 11, 2005 will be considered as vacancies occur. (This form will be copied for all committee members. To insure legibility, please type or print as neatly as possible).

I recommend _____ for the _____ Board/Committee.

☐ Executive Board ☐ Belmont University ☐ Adult Homes
☐ Committee on Committees ☐ Carson-Newman College ☐ Children's Home
☐ Baptist Health System, Memphis ☐ Union University ☐ Tennessee Baptist Foundation
☐ Baptist Health System, East Tennessee ☐ Harrison Chalmers Academy

Address _____ Telephone (Home) _____
 City _____ Zip _____ (Business)
 Approx. Age _____ Gender: M F _____ Ordained Minister _____ Lay Person _____
 Church Membership _____ Association _____
 Address _____
 Church Staff Member? Yes _____ No _____

After you have secured this person's permission to submit their name for recommendation, please complete the following questions:

- List the nominee's present and/or past experiences on any TBC Board(s)/Committee(s) and dates of service.
- Indicate the amount of the nominee's church's mission gifts given through Tennessee Baptist and SBC causes in 2004. \$ _____
- Indicate the nominee's occupation (former occupation, if retired). Please be specific.
- Is the nominee willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Board/Committee for which he is being recommended? Yes _____ No _____
- What gifts, abilities or experience does the nominee possess that qualifies him/her for consideration on a Tennessee Baptist Board/Committee?
- Describe the nominee's present involvement and activity in his/her local church.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: () _____
 (Person Submitting Recommendation)
 Church Name: _____ Association: _____ Layperson _____ Minister _____
 How do you know this individual? (pastor, director of missions, fellow church member, friend or other _____)

faxed to the Executive Leadership Group at (615) 371-2093.

An electronic form can also be found and submitted at www.tnbaptist.org.

Each recommendation form is copied and submitted to each member of the respective committees.

Tennessee Baptists are re-

minded that numerous recommendations are presented and all recommendations are given consideration.

No person making a recom-

mendation should assume his or her recommendation will automatically be submitted to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

□

A look back at '04 and new opportunities in 2005

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

The year 2004 was challenging in many ways for Tennessee Baptists, both in the state and at the national level.

On the Southern Baptist Convention front, we ended a 99-year relationship with the Baptist World Alliance, but joined hands with Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers from all across the nation to help Floridians and others affected by the rash of hurricanes which hit the state hard late last summer.

The move to officially end the relationship with BWA occurred at last year's annual meeting in Indianapolis. It was the culmination of several years of tension between the 211-member body BWA and the SBC. While

the action was overwhelmingly approved by SBC messengers, some Southern Baptists still believe in the purpose and mission of BWA. Those individuals and churches have the right and ability to support BWA on their own. It's time to move on.

The disaster relief efforts once again demonstrated "what's right" with Southern Baptists.

Though Southern Baptists can get distracted at times, our ability to join together to meet human needs in the name of Jesus Christ continues to amaze the non-Baptist world.

Thousands of disaster relief volunteers from Tennessee and elsewhere dropped what they were doing last August and September and rushed to Florida, Alabama, and other states affected by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan.

Elsewhere in our state convention, Tennessee Baptist churches used Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" as a non-threatening way to introduce non-Christians to the

gospel of Jesus Christ. Only heaven can record the number of lives and decisions made for Christ as a result of the opportunities for witness afforded by this film.

Tennessee Baptists also dealt with a proposed covenant from Belmont University which basically would take away the convention's responsibility of electing trustees for the university and would allow Belmont to have non-Baptist trustees. The covenant was in response to a request from the TBC Executive Board.

The TBC Executive Board empowered its Education Committee to dialogue with Belmont trustees on differences over the proposed covenant.

Tennessee Baptists honored a request to allow the committees to work and have been in prayer over the matter since September.

How this matter is resolved will be one of the opportunities and challenges Tennessee Baptists will face in 2005. The *Baptist and Reflector* will keep Tennessee Baptists informed on

progress and resolution of the matter as details are released.

During the holiday season, the tragic earthquake and resulting tsunami which took more than 155,000 lives and left hundreds of thousands of others in turmoil provides Southern Baptists untold opportunities in this new year for Christian witness and ministry in an area of the world where Christianity is barely on the radar screen.

Barely two weeks after the tragedy, Southern Baptists are again showing our willingness to meet human needs.

According to a story on page 2, Southern Baptists gave \$1.4 million in tsunami relief aid in Asia between the time of the disaster on Dec. 26 and Jan. 6. And dollars are continuing to pour in to relieve some of the suffering in these Asian countries.

As always, Tennessee Baptists are ready to take advantage of volunteer work to go and to be a witness for Christ.

As of press time on Monday, most of our volunteer teams

were placed on standby by the IMB.

It has to be frustrating for volunteers who want to go and minister in the name of Jesus Christ to just wait. We must trust that the IMB is working as hard as humanly possible to work within restrictions placed on them by the countries involved. A variety of circumstances requires us to work within systems and processes already in place. Pray that our volunteers will be able to go and minister to the untold needs that exist in these Asian countries.

Tennessee and Southern Baptists no doubt will have challenges and problems in 2005, but we also will have numerous opportunities to share Christ with a non-believing world.

May we give all our challenges over to God and allow Him to work while taking advantage of all the opportunities He will provide us this year.

And may the end result of all our endeavors in 2005 bring glory and honor to God. □

It takes an entire church to raise an 'on mission' Christian

guest columnist



By Carol Pipes

It takes a church to raise an "on mission" Christian.

The church body has a responsibility to model on missions behavior for other Christians, especially those who are new to the faith and are just discovering their "new spiritual DNA." Developing an on missions lifestyle doesn't just happen overnight. It's a process. And during that process, people come alongside us and help us develop certain behaviors that become part of who we are as Christians and, hopefully, it will be multiplied in others.

My process began years ago as a child growing up in a

Christian home and a missions-active Southern Baptist church — First Baptist in Tullahoma.

I remember the men and women in that church who had a profound impact on my life and who helped shape me into the woman I am today.

I know it's not an accident that I work at the North American Mission Board. God has been preparing me for this all my life. I'm a product of Girls in Action (GAs), Sunday School, and Church Training. Missions, evangelism, and church planting have always been a part of my church life.

The girls and I learned about missionaries in Hawaii as we ate fresh coconut (for the first time) and strung together silk flower leis. I'll never forget the pinata I made out of a brown paper grocery bag that was supposed to serve as a teaching aid when we learned about missionaries in Mexico.

I also learned why the Coop-

erative Program makes the Southern Baptist Convention unique. I'm so thankful to Cindy Pelphrey for making missions education a priority in our church. She and the other GA and Acteens leaders instilled in me a passion for missions.

I also remember Eleanor Hodge who was the president of the WMU at our church for years. I was just a little girl during her "reign," but I'll never forget how she emphasized missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering year after year. It was always a big deal. I'll never forget how she talked about these special offerings and how they supported our missionaries at home and overseas.

I'll also never forget my first missions trip. I was 14 and so excited that I was finally old enough to go. It was almost like a rite of passage. Our team of adults and youth loaded into

vans and cars before the crack of dawn and caravanned all the way from Tullahoma to Houghton Lake, Mich. I loved every minute of that trip. We led Backyard Bible Clubs during the day and held concerts at local churches at night. This was the first time I realized that there were children in the United States who had never heard the song, "Jesus Loves Me."

It was an awakening moment for me as I saw first hand the need to share the gospel in North America. Our church had a partnership with an association in Michigan and over the next several years our church sent teams to help start churches, lead Bible clubs, and construct buildings for existing churches.

Our pastor, James Porch (now executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention), was the catalyst for these mission trips and many other mis-

sion activities within our community. He saw the importance of assisting churches in areas where there was little or no Christian witness. I am so glad he modeled those on mission behaviors for me. And I am so thankful for a church that was committed to missions.

I'm amazed at how God continues to put people in my life who encourage me in my on mission lifestyle. And He places others in my life who I can come alongside and encourage.

Look around your church and discover people who God has placed in your life. Could you be a mentor, investing yourself in them as others invested in you? □ — Pipes, the daughter of Jerry and Nancy Spurlin of Tullahoma, is managing editor of *On Mission* magazine, published by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. This column is adapted from a recent issue and is used by permission.

It's never too late to make a difference in the life of a child

a parent speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

As parents, do you ever wish you could start over with your children? Are there areas in which you would like to begin again?

If you answer "yes" you're not alone. As children grow up and leave the nest, often parents are heard to say, "If I could just do it over, I would ..."

(1) Spend more time with my family than with my work. How

often have you heard an elderly person say, "I wish I had spent more time at the office?"

(2) Realize that integrity — with God, my family, my friends, my work — counts in life. Integrity is the measure of a person's character when you think no one is looking.

(3) Realize that other people observe what I do, whether it is the sales clerk who gives me too much change; the racial slurs I make or the jokes I tell. Or perhaps it's the silence I keep instead of speaking up on the subject and expressing my opinion when I know something is wrong.

(4) Have more patience

with my children.

(5) Realize that being a role model is one of the best ways to teach youngsters. Is it any wonder that the boy Timothy devoted his life to the teaching of Christ? His mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, were godly women who were role models of the Christian faith.

(6) Lead my children to Christ. A friend said, "Don't allow someone else to rob you of this most important aspect of parenting. Go to church as a family. Participate in the various programs. Talk to your child and answer their questions when they reach the age of accountability. Winning your child

to God ensures eternal life.

(7) Spend more time playing with my children. Playing together as a family requires talking. Talking requires listening. Listening means you communicate and share ideas. Burton White, child psychologist, said that if play is the best way children learn, make their world their play.

(8) Realize that the relationship I have with my spouse will be the best way to teach my child about a Christ-centered marriage. God planned for families. He planned for parents to provide for children, to teach and guide as they mature and develop.

(9) Find joy in everyday things, be it a wild flower in a chubby hand, a redbird on wing, or the mystery of a spider weaving a web.

(10) Resolve to depend more on God, pray daily and to trust this process daily.

Becoming a parent doesn't come with a "how-to" manual. Yet, it's one of the most important aspects of life. During the coming months think of ways you can reclaim your family. It's never too late to make a difference in the life of a child. □ — Tomlin writes from Jackson where her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church.

Baptist relief work in Asia to be long-term ...

— Continued from page 1

supplies and body bags. More than \$200,000 will go to the hard-hit Indonesian island of Sumatra and the devastated Aceh province there.

\$300,000-plus already contributed

By New Year's Eve, more than \$300,000 in aid had been contributed online at www.imb.org through the IMB relief fund. That amount nearly doubles the \$170,000 given online to the mission board for all of 2003. The online total was rising rapidly and doesn't include checks sent by regular mail in the days immediately following the tsunami disaster.

"I think Southern Baptists saw the need and they responded in an outstanding way," said David Steverson, IMB vice president for finance.

"We are grateful for the outpouring of compassion and concern expressed in praying for the people who have been impacted by this tragedy," Rankin said. "With a significant number of Southern Baptist missionaries in most of the affected countries, we are positioned for providing immediate aid and long-term ministry in partnership with local government officials and other Christian organizations. Because you already support missionary personnel and administration through your gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, 100 percent of relief funds will go to help those in need."

Rankin appealed to churches to give "over and above" to the relief effort — not at the expense of year-end Lottie Moon gifts to support missions.

"A massive outpouring of support for disaster relief is needed by our missionaries seeking to minister to the suffering," he said. "This need is coming on the heels of

the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, when many churches have already given generously to support the International Mission Board, and others are planning to do so. If giving were to be diverted by those yet to give to the Lottie Moon offering, it would undercut the foundation of our ability to respond to relief ministries that are needed."

Hard-to-reach areas

Gaining access to parts of Indonesia has been particularly tough, with roads and bridges destroyed, communication lines down, and flooding as far inland as 14 kilometers in some areas of low-lying Aceh. Still, assessment teams have been allowed to enter the regions most devastated by the waves. IMB disaster relief personnel are working with Indonesian Baptists to get immediate aid to stricken areas.

Food, water, and plastic shelters are being shipped in and distributed by relief teams — primarily local Baptists supported by IMB resources and planning. Southern Baptists also are sending water purification units.

Aceh lies on the northernmost point of Sumatra. This heavily populated area, closest to the epicenter of the earthquake that launched the tsunamis in the Indian Ocean Dec. 26, already has reported more than 100,000 deaths. That toll almost surely will rise. In recent years the region has seen ongoing conflict between Muslim extremists and the government. However, groups previously in conflict with the government have declared they are ceasing resistance activity to allow aid to flow more freely into stricken areas.

In Sri Lanka, workers and volunteers will try to respond to the most critical needs: clean water and sanitation, food,

clothing, and shelter. The first IMB disaster relief team was scheduled to enter Sri Lanka Jan. 9. Specially trained volunteer teams from various states are expected to follow in the weeks to come.

"At present there are scores of government and non-government organizations at work and entering the affected areas," said a mission leader in the region. "It's difficult for outsiders to even book flights into the hardest-hit places. A month from now, 80 percent of these foreign aid agencies will be gone. However, the needs will continue for many months and even years to come, and the IMB intends to be there assisting with the rebuilding of homes and lives."

A representative from the IMB International Prayer Strategy Office thanked Southern Baptists for their persistent prayer and asked them to continue.

"Pray for Christians to lean upon the Lord's strength and to be strong witnesses of His mercy," the representative said. "Please pray for relief workers as they press on in the midst of such tragedy — that they will have endurance beyond measure and wisdom in organizing their work. And for all who wake up each morning wondering how they can continue in this day of trouble, please pray that they will heed the answer of God."

Volunteers urged to be flexible

Relief specialists also appealed to volunteers anxious to rush to the region to wait until the time is right.

"The first wave of response after a disaster does not always meet the most critical needs," stressed "Pat Julian" (name changed for security reasons), IMB relief coordinator based in Southeast Asia. "What we need at this point is for churches and conventions preparing to help out

to be flexible. Be willing to be assigned to areas that are out of your normal partnerships. A church or convention may be in direct contact with personnel in one of these affected areas, but we may need their expertise more in another area to make a greater impact."

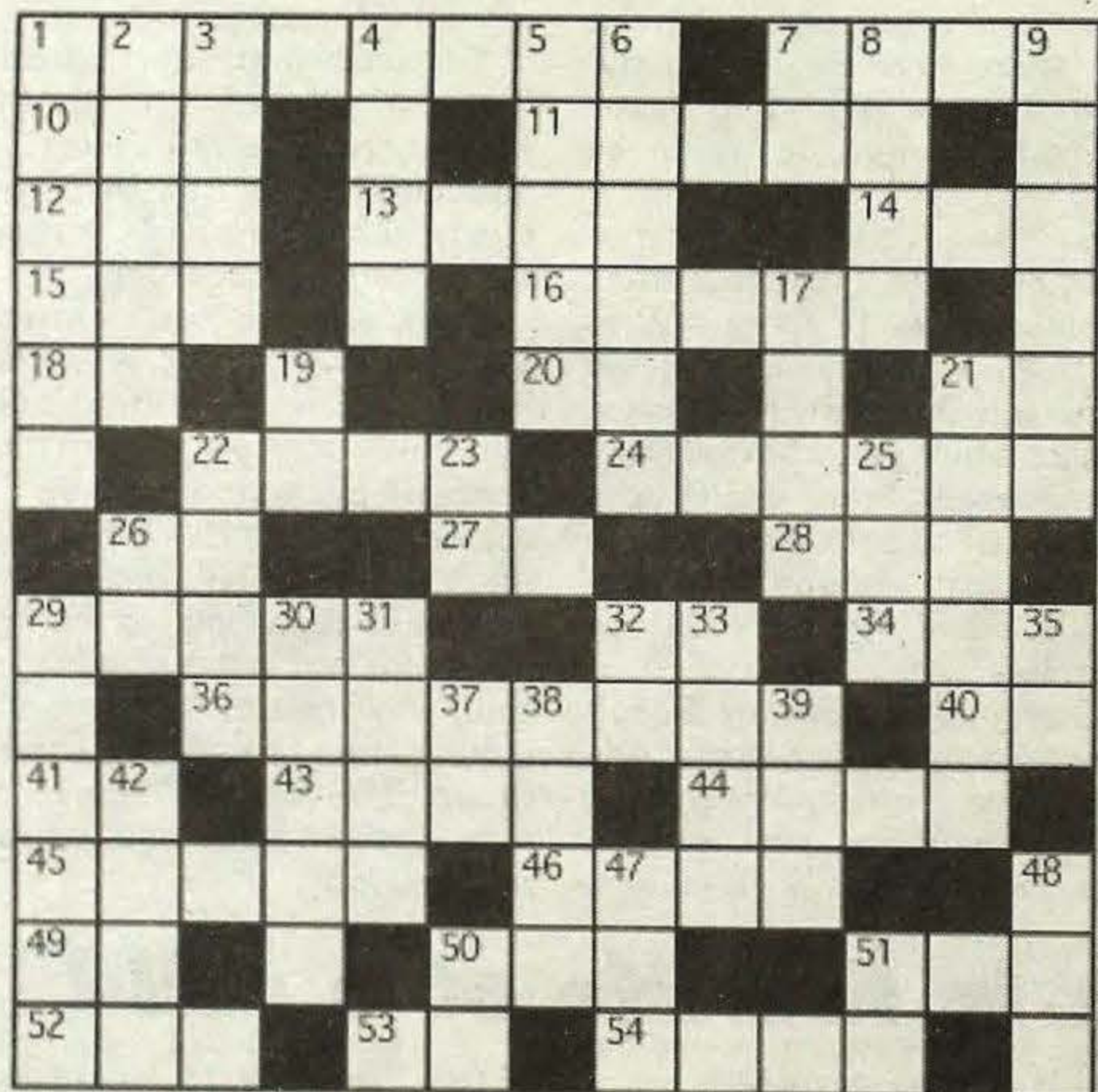
In Sri Lanka, certain areas cut off by water and landslides have been seen only by aerial photography. Large parts of decimated Aceh in Indonesia remain inaccessible by rescuers.

"As these places continue to open up, emergency response teams will continue to be needed," Julian said. "When they open up, we will be able to see where the imbalance is [in aid and supplies]. While time is of the essence, volunteers need to think in terms of effectiveness accompanied by flexibility."

Many Southern Baptists already have offered their services. "We're grateful for the interest of Southern Baptists who want to volunteer," said IMB state and association services director Terry Sharp.

Due to the extreme nature of this disaster, the first volunteer teams will be limited to trained disaster relief volunteers. They won't have clean water to drink or even beds where they can rest. Those conditions — along with the need to minister cross-culturally to those who have lost their families, friends, and everything they own — dictate that initial volunteer teams be limited to those trained to work in such situations.

After initial urgent needs are met, though, it's likely that more volunteers will be needed, including individuals who haven't been trained in disaster relief. Those interested in future volunteer opportunities may contact the IMB or Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief. □



See answers on page 8

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. "Receive his mark in his _____, or in his hand" (Rev. 14:9)
7. "If the foot shall say, Because I am not the _____, I am not of the body" (1 Cor. 12:15)
10. Imperial Chemical Industries, abbr.
11. "In the day thou wast born thy _____ was not cut" (Ezek. 16:4)
12. Bird's beak

DOWN

13. "Let _____ esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3)
14. Speed measurement, abbr.
15. Car fuel
16. Peruvian beast of burden
18. The letter that follows "em"
20. East Indies, abbr.
21. Either
22. "Fall by the _____ of the sword" (Luke 21:24)
24. Activity or movement
26. Preposition
27. Fifteen, Rom. num.

28. Wing of a building
29. "I am escaped with the skin of my _____" (Job 19:20)
32. The letter that precedes "em"
34. "A man's pride shall bring him _____" (Prov. 29:23)
36. "The government shall be upon his _____" (Isa. 9:6)
40. Midwest state, abbr.
41. Negative
43. Last, prefix
44. Violent group
45. Sticky
46. "God ... spake in time _____ unto the fathers by the prophets" (Heb. 1:1)
49. First person plural pronoun
50. Female, suffix
51. Sheep's noise
52. And so on, Lat. abbr.
53. Verb of being
54. "The _____ of every man is Christ" (1 Cor. 11:3)

6. Flower
7. Fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet
8. Soul, Lat.
9. Remove horns
17. The widow's _____
19. Edward, for short
21. Kind of tea
22. "Having _____, see ye not?" (Mark 8:18)
23. Used-to-be, prefix
25. "Love worketh no _____ to his neighbour" (Rom. 13:10)
26. Exist
29. "The _____ is a little member" (James 3:5)
30. "Take of his blood ... upon the _____ of their right hand" (Exod. 29:20)
31. "_____ is the Lord of Hosts" (Isa. 6:3)
32. Word reviser, abbr.
33. "They brake not his _____" (John 19:33)
35. First person plural pronoun
37. Arizona's neighbor, abbr.
38. "Only her _____ moved, but her voice was not heard" (1 Sam. 1:13)
39. Rodent
42. To drive out
47. The remains of burned wood
48. "With the _____ bone of an ass ... have I slain a thousand men" (Judg. 15:16)
50. Printer's measure
51. Minister's undergraduate degree, abbr.

TN missionaries safe in Thailand

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Scott and Valerie Payne, Southern Baptist missionaries in Thailand who hail from Tennessee, are safe, according to an e-mail update from the Paynes.

Prior to their appointment, Payne served as Baptist Student Union (now Collegiate Ministries) director at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. He also served at that role at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma.

"Many of you have written us with your concern about the recent tsunami waves that have caused so much destruction in our part of the world," Payne wrote.

"The southern part of Thailand was hit hard, with a great deal of destruction and loss of life. The damage did not affect us physically, since we are located in the northeast, but our hearts are grieving for the Thai people and the foreign tourists who lost friends and family members in the disaster," Payne wrote.

Payne asked for prayer for all those affected by the disaster "and for the Thai Christians and missionaries who are working to provide relief and demonstrate God's love." □

Goodlettsville author leads effort to help military moms

By Ken Walker
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — After watching talk show host Oprah Winfrey lead "The World's Largest Baby Shower," author Rebecca Ingram Powell wanted to get a message of eternal value to mothers in the military.

"I thought, 'They need my book,'" Powell said of the October program where Winfrey presented diapers, strollers, high chairs, and other merchandise to 600 expectant mothers at Fort Campbell, Ky.

"They need the stuff she was giving and I know what a difference this made for these women," Powell added. "But the Word of God being planted in this new mom when they're vulnerable — this is important. I thought if Oprah can go down there and do that, why can't we?"

That was the inspiration for "Mission: Military Moms." So far, the effort has generated donations to provide approximately 400 free copies of Powell's book, *Baby Boot Camp: Basic Training for the First Six Weeks of Motherhood* to new mothers.

The 42-day devotional features military themes and is designed to let women know they aren't alone in their grueling new routine. One entry reviews the plan of salvation.

Initially, copies have been donated to chaplains at Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Campbell, which are in the midst of baby booms fueled by the return of soldiers from duty in Iraq.

Fort Stewart first saw birth rates zoom in May and June, when they rose

nearly 30 percent over last year, according to Laurie Kemp, public affairs officer at Winn Army Community Hospital.

At Fort Campbell, which straddles southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee, the average monthly rate of 130 babies jumped to nearly 200 in November.

It is projected to be at 218 for December, 2016 in January and stay above 170 through next May, according to Laura Boyd, public affairs officer at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Fort Campbell.

Boyd said the national attention originated with a story last summer in the *Louisville Courier-Journal* about an anticipated baby boom following the return of some 20,000 soldiers that were deployed in early 2003.

The "Today" show and "Inside Edition" are among other national media that have spotlighted the situation and provided donations to mothers.

In addition, author Rick Warren has donated 100,000 copies of a military edition of *Purpose-Driven Life*. And psychologist Greg Smalley — son of popular author Gary Smalley — led a marriage conference for 350 couples in mid-November, said chaplain David Trogon.

Trogon called Powell's book "another piece of the puzzle" that is helping Fort Campbell's efforts to strengthen families who face separation during wartime and economic pressures.

About 70 of the 225 copies they have received had been distributed by early December, the chaplain said.

Many young mothers, Trogon said,

couldn't afford to purchase the book because of tight finances, so they are excited and appreciative to receive *Baby Boot Camp*.

Although it carries a retail price of \$9.99, *Baby Boot Camp* copies are available for \$8 apiece and can be ordered from Powell's web site, www.rebeccapowell.com.

Thus far, churches or ministries that are participating have had personal ties to Powell, such as her home church, Parkway Baptist in Goodlettsville. Parkway has purchased nearly 200 copies to give to all new mothers — military and non-military — since its original release three years ago, pastor Jimmy Moore said.

After Powell announced her effort to provide copies to the military, the church donated funds for 20 copies. A women's Sunday School class took up an offering to buy 40 more, Moore said.

"It's so encouraging, helpful, and inspiring," Moore said. "My daughter and daughter-in-law had babies right after the book was written and it was so helpful to them. It's well written and a great benefit to new mothers."

At Powell's parents' church, North Knoxville Baptist, the congregation voted to send 50 copies. Individuals provided 11 more, pastor Guy Milam said.

The church's ties to the military were an added incentive — one member landed in Baghdad Dec. 8 and another in the



AUTHOR REBECCA POWELL talks with an expectant mother at Fort Campbell, Ky., whose husband is in the military.

National Guard may be deployed soon.

"I'm a stickler for helping these young people that are in this situation," Milam said. "This is a door of opportunity to witness."

The mother of three children, ages 7 to 13, Powell has made two trips to Fort Campbell to meet new mothers and hand out books.

One mother she prayed with in November was expecting her fifth child and was caring for her disabled mother-in-law while her husband is in Iraq.

The demands of the constant care and feeding of an infant can feel overwhelming, Powell said.

Powell said her goal is to help new mothers look to the Lord for strength and develop a relationship with Christ if they don't already have one. □

Mark Your Calendars
February 17-19
Chattanooga, TN

LOCATION:
Chattanooga Convention Center
Chattanooga, Tennessee

DATES:
February 17-19, 2005
Early-bird registration open until February 3, 2005.

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www.southeastconclave.org
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11,000 students worship God at Passion '05

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — More than 11,000 college students from all 50 states converged here Jan. 2-5 to worship God as a generation united for His renown during "Passion '05."

Students gathered at the Gaylord Entertainment Center to be led in worship by Passion singers Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Charlie Hall, and the David Crowder Band and to hear challenging messages from John Piper, Joshua Harris, Beth Moore, and Passion founder Louie Giglio.

"We are here for one purpose: to taste and see that the Lord is good," Giglio told the crowd. "To see what it means to 'taste and see' and discover the hope of glory, Christ in you."

In addition to the general worship sessions and various breakout sessions, Passion participants were divided into community groups of 800 to 1,000 students and then into family

groups of about eight students each for more personal interaction. The entire event was a continuation of the Passion movement among the 268 Generation, a label based on Isaiah 26:8, which says, "Yes, Lord, we wait for You in the path of Your judgments. Our desire is for Your name and renown."

Piper, author of *Desiring God*, spoke to the students about the true definition of love and how it has been misrepresented in American society.

"You feel loved when someone makes much of you — that's the air you breathe in America," he said. "Love is not making much of you. It is laboring and suffering, if necessary, to enthrall another person that will make them eternally and infinitely happy."

Harris, author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, told students in a breakout session to stop "dating the church." He described church daters as those who visit church to church and never settle on one congregation.

Moore, author of various Bible studies including *Believing God*, spoke to the women during a breakout session about becoming a mighty woman of God in a submissive role. Pointing to Ephesians 5:21, which says Christians should submit "to one another in the fear of Christ," Moore said everyone must submit to someone. Christian women must be both mighty and submissive — and not one or the other — Moore said.

Submission is about order and not about inferiority, Moore said, explaining that the Greek

word indicates placing something under in an orderly fashion. □

Poorer states give more to charities, says new report

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — After United Nations emergency relief coordinator Jan Egeland called America's initial commitment of \$15 million in tsunami relief aid "stingy," citizens began to live up to their ranking as the second-most generous people on earth.

Last year, Americans contributed \$241 billion to private charities, according to reporter Peter Brown of *The Orlando Sentinel*. Only Israel ranked higher.

In the midst of Asia's current tsunami crisis, Americans are contributing money at record rates, not to mention the number of people volunteering to travel to the country and help personally.

But a closer look at charitable giving in the United States shows the poorest states give the most. As a percentage of income, giving is highest in states where the average household income is lowest — states like Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, according to a *Christian Science Monitor* report on the Catalogue for Philanthropy's Generosity Index for 2004.

On the other hand, states known for high incomes like

Connecticut, New Jersey, and Massachusetts rank near the bottom in charitable giving rates. The *Monitor* noted the states that give the most correlate to the red states — those who voted for George W. Bush in the last election — while the states that give the least are the blue ones that voted for John Kerry. The color pattern has continued each year since the index began keeping track in 1997.

"The reason low-income states give a lot is religion," George McCully, president of the Catalogue for Philanthropy, told the *Monitor*. "They are tithing, evangelical Protestants, and they are giving in proportion to their income." □

Newdow again to challenge pledge

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Michael Newdow has renewed his effort to remove the name of God from the Pledge of Allegiance, and this time he has a few more legal allies.

Newdow, whose challenge to the words "under God" in the pledge was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in June, filed a federal lawsuit Jan. 4 in Sacramento, Calif., asking a court to

rule as unconstitutional a 1955 law inserting the phrase about deity into the pledge, the *Sacramento Bee* reported. Eight other parents of students in northern California public schools of students themselves — joined Newdow in the suit, according to the *Bee*.

The co-plaintiffs provide Newdow's case with something the high court said last year he did not have — legal standing. The justices reversed a federal appeals court decision without deciding whether "under God" is constitutional. Instead, a majority of the court ruled that Newdow, as a father without primary custody of his elementary-age daughter, did not have standing to represent her in the suit.

The parents who are co-plaintiffs with Newdow have custody of their children. They and the students joining in his latest challenge are either atheists, agnostics, or pantheists, according to the *Bee*. Newdow is an atheist.

Newdow's daughter is not a party in the case and does not oppose the pledge, the *Bee* reported. □

Answers to Puzzle on p. 6

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49	U	S		B					50	E	S	S		
52	E	T	C		A	M			54	H	E	A	D	

Conversational English Workshop

There will be a 16-hour Conversational English Workshop on February 4-6, 2005 at the Salem Baptist Church, 8201 Hill Rd., Knoxville, (865) 922-3490, contact Candace Haley, (865) 688-5746. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be lead by Bob and Ann Sullivan, Literacy Mission Consultants, Knoxville. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register or request additional information, please contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 800-558-2090, ext. 7916 or go to www.tnbaptist.org news & events or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org. The deadline for registration is January 28, 2005.

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Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training

On February 11 & 12, 2005 there will be an Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training at Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The topic of this conference will be "Cult-Proofing Your Friends and Family." Dr. Bill Gordon, Interfaith Evangelism Associate, North American Mission Board, will be leading the conference. The times of this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The cost of the workshop is \$15.00 and the deadline for registration is February 4. The Tennessee Baptist Convention will cover the cost of materials and meals while at the conference. For more information on this conference call Tim Hill or Ilka Marks at 800-558-2090 or go to www.tnbaptist.org news & events or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org.

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MINISTRY — STUDENT

Full-time minister to students responsible for overseeing a ministry to students from 6th grade through college. Preferred secondary degree. Send resume and inquiries to Sharon Baptist Church, 7916 Pedigo Rd., Knoxville, TN 37938; fax: (865) 938-7076; e-mail: sbcofknex@frontiernet.net, Attn. Search Committee.

Part-time interim youth minister for grades 6 through 12. Send resume and inquiries to Sharon Baptist Church, 7916 Pedigo Rd., Knoxville, TN 37938; fax: (865) 938-7076; e-mail: sbcofknex@frontiernet.net, Attn. Search Committee.

First Baptist Church, Lebanon, a Bible-believing, mission-minded, fellowship, prayerfully seeks a minister to youth to oversee a large and active ministry to junior high, senior high, and college students. This is a full-time position. A seminary degree is preferred, but not required. Resumes may be sent in confidence to Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 311 N. Madison, Lebanon, MO 65536. Resumes will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2005.

Poe explores concept of sin in new book

Union University news office

JACKSON — A cultural change in the understanding of sin means Christians now face new challenges in sharing the gospel, according to Union University professor Hal Poe.

Poe, the Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture, addresses these challenges in his new book, *See No Evil: The Existence of Sin in an Age of Relativism*, published by Kregel Publications.

"For centuries people in the west have understood what sin was," Poe said. "We've lived in a culture where Christianity had made its mark. Even if you didn't believe in God or have faith in Christ, you knew the vocabulary. All that's changed."

For much of the last century, Christians talked about sin as a legal matter of breaking the rules. But now, Poe said, when people don't believe the rules anymore, there is no sin.

"So we have a situation in which sin is no longer thought of as a reality," he said. "Christians have a challenge in ex-

plaining to our culture what it means to be saved from sin. If that's what Christianity is about — a savior — then what is sin?"

Poe, the author of seven books and two more forthcoming, argues in *See No Evil* that today's culture is one of relativism in which people don't believe in absolutes — there's no right and wrong, there's only feelings. What's right for one person may be wrong for another.

"When C.S. Lewis wrote *Mere Christianity* in the 1940s, his whole approach is the moral argument for the existence of God," Poe said. "We have this sense of right and wrong, and we have this evident evil in the Nazi attempt to conquer the world. He had a great advantage, because people during World War II understood what evil was. His argument made sense."

Now, however, Christians no longer have that advantage. Thus, Poe's book is "an effort to reintroduce people to the concept of sin, not as breaking the rules but as falling short of the glory of God." □



POE

elect a president, but they likely will be sued to prevent him from taking office.

Joe Aguillard, 47, a conservative professor and chair of the education division at the Louisiana Baptist school, will be nominated as president Jan. 17, trustee chair Timothy Johnson announced Jan. 6.

Critics say Aguillard's nomination — and likely election — are in violation of the school's bylaws because the search committee was illegally appointed. A group of school alumni and supporters planned to file a lawsuit Jan. 11 to stop the election.

The school has been in turmoil for more than a year. After a dispute with trustees over textbook and faculty-election policies, the college's president, chief academic administrator, and trustee chairman resigned.

In December the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools placed the college on probation — one step short of withdrawing accreditation — for violating the association's standards for academic freedom and proper governance, saying trustees were unduly influenced by the Louisiana Inerrancy Fellowship.

The crisis deepened after Texas educator Albert Yarnell suddenly withdrew as president Nov. 23 — two months after his election but before taking office — citing "governance issues."

The search committee then nominated as president Stan Norman, a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, who had been the committee's second choice. But

trustee officers, who reportedly preferred Aguillard, responded by trying to expand the search committee to add more conservatives or dismiss the original committee.

Aguillard supporters say the original committee's power expired when Yarnell was elected president. But members of the original committee insist no contract was ever signed with Yarnell and the bylaws require them to remain in place until a president is hired. □

Englewood hosts evangelism conference

Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — The first state evangelism conference of 2005 will be held Jan. 21-22 at Englewood Baptist Church here.

Rather than one statewide conference in Middle Tennessee as has been the tradition in recent years, several conferences geared to specific groups will be held this year, according to Larry Gilmore, leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Evangelism Strategies Group.

An "early-bird" conference featuring Ken Hemphill, SBC national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth, will be held on Jan. 21 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

In the early bird conference Hemphill will be sharing principles on "How to Implement Evangelism/Missions Strategies for Reaching Your Community for Christ."

On Friday from 2-4 p.m., the

Fellowship of Tennessee Evangelists will hold their sessions. Vocational evangelists Charles "Toonie" Cash, Henry Linginfelter, and Morris Anderson will be the afternoon speakers.

The Friday-Saturday schedule is being followed in this conference to accommodate the schedules of the many bivocational pastors and staff members serving our churches.

TBC staff member, Ray Gilder, has scheduled multiple breakout conferences for Friday afternoon which will address various needs from a "how to..." approach.

The Friday night sessions will feature Hemphill and SBC President Bobby Welch.

The Saturday schedule includes three pastors — Kyle Beverly, The Potter's House, Harriman; Tom McCoy, Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station; and David Landrith, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

A new twist to the Evangelism Program is being added this year. Immediately after lunch on Saturday, until 3 p.m., Beverly, McCoy, and Landrith will be on a panel for a question and answer time.

Other conferences scheduled this year include:

March 11-12 — Bivocational Evangelism Conference, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville.

March 13-14 — State Evangelism Conference, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville.

April 25-26 — ev@ngelism neXt, First Baptist Church, Smyrna.

For more information, contact Gilmore at 615-371-7915. □



HEMPHILL



WELCH

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

South Clinton Baptist Church, Clinton, Tenn., is prayerfully seeking resumes for a senior pastor. South Clinton Baptist is an established place of worship, and currently averages 125 in attendance on Sunday mornings. This person should have a seminary degree from an accredited school. Strong administrative skills are required as pastor will be involved in all aspects of church development and maintenance; thus, a minimum 5 years of experience as pastor is required. Please prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to serve in our church. Send resume with cover letter and video or audio tape to Pastor Search Committee, South Clinton Baptist Church, 1000 Clinch Ave., Clinton, TN 37716, web site: www.southclintonbaptist.org.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Seeking full-time youth/children's pastor. Please send resume to Search Committee, P.O. Box 239, LaCenter, KY 42056.

♦♦♦♦♦

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Lawsuit may block new LC president

Associated Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. — Trustees of embattled Louisiana College will meet Jan. 17 to try again to



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

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MINISTRY — MUSIC

Seeking full-time minister of music/worship leader for a Southern Baptist congregation that engages in a blended style of worship. The church's television ministry covers a 5-state area. Seminary degree preferred. Submit resume to Music Search Committee, Attn. Music Office, 2890 Broadway, Paducah, KY 42001.

MINISTRY — EDUCATION

Parkway Baptist, located 20 miles south of Memphis in Hernando, Miss., is seeking a spiritually mature, aggressive, motivated, outgoing team member to lead the Lord's church in its educational ministry. Parkway is a growing church with an unlimited potential. Please pray about this, and if the Lord is leading you, contact the Personnel Committee at 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632; fax (662) 429-6076; e-mail bailey_pbc@yahoo.com.

SBC CP gifts ahead of last year's pace

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up nearly 2.21 percent compared to the same time frame in 2003, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of Dec. 31, 2004, the year-to-date total of \$46,271,985.66 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$1,002,275.81 ahead of the \$45,269,709.85 received at the same point in 2003. For the month, receipts of \$14,281,730.64 were 5.13 percent, or \$696,570.81, above the \$13,585,159.83 received in December 2003.

Designated giving of \$10,376,456.44 for the same year-to-date period is 15.97 percent, or \$1,971,868.29, below gifts of \$12,348,324.73 received at this point last year. The

\$4,125,884.19 in designated gifts received last month is \$122,841.16 below the \$4,248,725.35 of December 2003, a decrease of 2.89 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$46,271,985.66 is 101.03 percent of the \$45,800,423.52 budgeted, or \$471,562.14 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. □

IBS distributes Bibles in papers

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The International Bible Society is taking some heat for one of its latest efforts to spread the gospel in Colorado Springs, Colo. The group, which began in 1809, paid the standard advertising rate to insert 91,000 copies of the New Testament in the Dec. 19 issue of *The*

Colorado Springs Gazette as a Christmas gift to the community.

More than 125 local churches, businesses, individuals, and organizations such as the Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family contributed funds for the endeavor but, in response, some Jews and Muslims have complained that they felt like they were being proselytized in their homes, *The New York Times* reported Dec. 24.

The distribution method also has raised questions in journalistic circles regarding freedom of speech. "I do think it's important that any newspaper that engages in new or different types of advertisement approaches think carefully about how their independence from this particu-

lar product is achieved," Aly Colon, an ethics in journalism professor at The Poynter Institute, told *The Times*.

"And I think the Bible takes on some additional meanings at times like this, as people are trying to balance religious freedoms and concern about the separation of church and state."

Bob Burdick, publisher of *The Gazette*, told *The Times* he doesn't think papers should back

away from ideas just because they're religious ideas, just as they shouldn't back away from ideas because they're political ideas. He also reported that the paper received 195 positive messages about the insert and 61 negative messages. Five people canceled subscriptions. □

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MINISTRY — MUSIC

West Paris Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1285, Paris, TN 38242 (731) 642-5917, is seeking a bivocational minister of music. If interested, please mail resume to Attn. Personnel Committee.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The First Baptist Church of Tellico Village seeking a part-time minister of music. Senior adult congregation, of approximately 150, residing in recreational retirement of Knoxville. Strong music program with 35-40 in choir. We lean toward more traditional worship style but enjoy learning new praise music. Anyone who has a deep love of the Lord and celebrates that love through music please send to Karen Hardesty, 128 Daleyuhski Way Loudon, TN 37774.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Henderson Chapel Baptist Church is seeking to fill the position of part-time music worship leader. Address your resume or questions to the church or phone Dave Tinker at (865) 428-0276 Henderson Chapel Baptist Church, 407 Henderson Rd., Pigeon Forge, TN 37863, Attn: Search Committee. Job description available upon request.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Neely's Bend Baptist is searching for a bivocational minister of music. Please send resume to 1345 Neely's Bend Rd., Madison, TN 37115.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Oakfield Baptist Church seeking a part-time music minister. Located about 10 minutes outside of Jackson, Tenn. Please send resume to Oakfield Baptist Church, 3527 Old Medina Rd. Oakfield, TN 38362.

MINISTRY — HOUSEPARENT

Immediate need for full-time relief houseparents at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Chattanooga. Married couples only. Call Lynn Jordan or Bob Segrest at (423) 892-2722.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Part-time secretary/receptionist needed to work in a positive environment at a local church. Must have experience with Microsoft Office Applications. This person should have positive personal relationship skills. This job is perfect for someone with school-age children. Send resume to Hopedale Baptist Church, 5370 N State Hwy NN, Ozark, MO 65721.

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book review

By Matt Crawford

Sinners in the Hands of a Good God: Reconciling Divine Judgment and Mercyby David Clotfelter
Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004

What is the gospel? This question is perhaps one of the most important questions with which Southern Baptists today need to grapple. Often the version of the gospel commonly presented consists of little more than the assertion that God loves everyone and, furthermore, anyone can be saved simply by praying a certain prayer sincerely. This lack of theological depth is, in reality, a castration of the gospel and has resulted in horrendous consequences in many Southern Baptist churches. Many are convinced that they have experienced conversion when this is in fact not true. Moreover, most of those members within the church, perhaps even some pastors, are unable to clearly understand and explain the significance of such terms as justification, imputation, adoption, and propitiation which are crucial in understanding the work of Christ.

David Clotfelter has done the church a great service by helping to answer such questions in his book *Sinners in the Hands of a Good God*. Some, upon hearing the title of the book, might realize that Clotfelter is playing off of the famous sermon called *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* by the eighteenth century New England pastor and theologian Jonathan Edwards. The book is a description of Clotfelter's journey from holding the theology of George MacDonald, a nineteenth century author and preacher, to that of Edwards. The theologies of salvation of MacDonald and Edwards were virtually diametrically opposed.

In the first section Clotfelter deals with the agonizingly difficult issues of hell and God's justice and wrath. It was, at times, difficult to read these opening chapters. Nonetheless, the church must hear the truth about these doctrines. Christians will not understand the significance of the goodness and love of God until they understand the wrath and justice of God. In the book, Clotfelter uses Scripture to show that God must justly judge sin and that hell is a place of eternal conscious torment.

The middle section of this book deals with the mercy of God. Here Clotfelter systematically puts forth and defends the five points of Calvinism. His discussion is well-reasoned and convincing. He notes several other alternate explanations for the biblical doctrine of predestination and notes the inadequacies of these other explanations. Mentioning such topics inevitably cause a rise of emotions among many. However, before one makes any pre-judgments of Clotfelter's position, one should honestly and humbly read Clotfelter's arguments and rebuttals.

In the third and last section of the book, Clotfelter attempts to lay out the goodness of God. This section is as sweet as the first section was agonizing. Here Clotfelter walks through the order of salvation, commenting on calling, conviction, regeneration, repentance and faith, justification, and sanctification.

This book is essentially a theology of salvation for the average church member. Clotfelter does not do much to add anything new to these debates, but he summarizes the primary positions and arguments well, in an easy-to-understand manner. Scripture runs throughout Clotfelter's book and provides the primary basis for all of his arguments.

Clotfelter, like the author he most depends upon, Jonathan Edwards, is both a pastor and a theologian, so the book is written very warmly and transparently, as one who has wrestled with these issues for some time himself.

Finally, Clotfelter's book moves the Christian to understand better his salvation and worship God for who He is and what He has done. May God use this book to stir His people to these ends. □ — Crawford is a student at Union University in Jackson.

Protect human life

By Jerry Massey

Focal Passage: Exodus 1:15-20; Jeremiah 19:3b-6; Romans 8:1

How did our communities ever come to this? Who would have expected the protection of innocent human life to become such a controversial issue in America? How did we succumb to such a lapse of moral integrity wherein careless attitudes increasingly prevail toward the sanctity of life from the unborn to the aged? What a travesty it is to see people in the "Anywhere Baptist Church" allowing their convictions toward the sanctity of life to be shaped by the unbiblical and prevalent practices in our culture. Our lesson this week warns America and her churches to be courageously vocal on this issue, thereby discouraging such perverse thinking from becoming acceptable rationale. Our silence would surely invite the wrath of God upon us.

Jeremiah passionately writes that we are to be warned about God's judgment (19:3b-6). The people of Judah were guilty of corrupting God's purposes for human life. The most repulsive and horrifying aspect of their apostasy was child sacrifice. Scholars tell us that when the Judeans were fearful, needed consolation, or sought security, they offered their children upon the altars of paganism to appease their false gods. *They have built places to Baal on which to burn their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal....* (v. 5).

Are we very far removed from such thinking today? The unborn are slain because the mother or father did not want to be inconvenienced with a child. And consider adult children who would shun the responsibilities of caring for aging parents, and rather contemplate the prospect of euthanasia?

Because of Judah's abuses, judgment was forthcoming, *The God of Israel says: I am going to bring such disaster on this place that everyone who hears about it will shutter, because they have abandoned Me and made this a foreign place...* (vv. 3-4). Dr. Clyde Francisco summed up the inevitable horror this way: "There comes a time when it is too late for the clay to be molded. When a heart turns to stone, there is nothing left to do but abandon it. One day a sovereign God will eventually realize His purpose and those who resist it will be destroyed."

After such a jolting declaration, Jeremiah later implores his listeners to receive and proclaim God's forgiveness (33:6-9). God allowed the invasion from the north to bring disaster on Judah. Siege conditions were so severe that cannibalism became the norm (19:9). Still Jeremiah had a message of hope for them, *I will bring health and healing, peace, and truth. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Israel.* Yet, none of this was automatic; it was conditioned by the demand that people call to the Lord (v. 3). God would respond, creating a city of joy,

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praise, and glory before all the nations... (v. 9). God's mercy and grace transforms desolation into blessings. For those who are "in Christ" there is "no condemnation" since God's mercy has erased every one of their sins (Romans 8:1). Even those guilty of abusing human life can find new life and restoration. God places His forgiven children in a shielded sphere where His wrath can never reach them.



MASSEY

As we close, note how the Bible illustrates that we are to strive to protect human life (Exodus 1:15-20). The two Hebrew midwives were dauntless in their courage. They "feared God" more than they feared the king's infanticide request (v. 17). They quietly resisted the order to slay the newborn males. Our personal commitment to the preservation of human life will be blessed of God (v. 20). All life is precious and God-given. Make your influence count to help preserve the helpless. Save a life ... just as Jesus did for us when He gave His on the cross. — Massey is pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris.

What about helpless people?

By Lee Porter

Focal Passage: Luke 4:17-21; 6:18-21; 9:46-48; 18:15-17

While studying and preparing for this lesson, the words of an old song I knew as a child kept coming to my mind. It was a song that was sung in our church at least once a month. The time frame of history was the Great Depression and the Second World War. The song "Does Jesus Care?" was written by Frank Graeff and is based on a phrase from I Peter 5:7 which says, "... He cares for you."

DOES JESUS CARE?

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained

*Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress*

And the way grows weary and long?

*Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary,
the long night dreary,*

I know my Savior cares.

The Scriptures we study today clearly teach that Jesus cares for the poor, the needy, the oppressed, the captives, the hurting, and the helpless.

As we study this material we must ask ourselves the question,

"Do we really care and what are we doing about it?"

As Jesus was beginning His Galilean ministry He returned to Nazareth. While in the synagogue He read the Scripture which told of His ministry assignment from God, *To preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives,*

to set at liberty them that are bruised (Luke 4:18-19). The ministry of Jesus was to help persons — both physically and spiritually.

Great crowds gathered on many occasions to hear the message of Jesus.

Even in the large crowds individuals heard the message as just for them. They believed in Jesus, confessed their sins, and trusted in Him as their personal Savior. Others gathered hoping to be healed by Jesus.

Throughout his ministry Jesus healed many of their diseases and ailments.

Our lesson concludes with a strong emphasis on the love of Jesus for children. Among the poor, the needy, the hungry, and the

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sick it is often the children who hurt and suffer the most. Jesus makes it very clear how much He values children and also how much He wants His followers to love and value them.

The song we sang as children is so very true. "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red, yellow, black and white — they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world."

It is one thing for us to study about and to think about the poor, the needy, and the helpless, but doing something for them is the ultimate goal.

Let me urge you and your class to spend the last 10 or 15 minutes of your class time planning what your class will do to minister to those in need who are all around you.

Jesus expects His followers to be involved in ministry to the helpless and needy. □ — Porter is a retired employee of LifeWay Christian Resources and former SBC registration secretary. He now lives in Greenback.



PORTER

Leaders

◆ **Sidney Waits**, an associate minister of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, retired Dec. 31. He served the church for five years. He also has been pastor of nine churches, four in Tennessee, and interim pastor of five churches. Waits and his wife, Marie, will continue to live in Nashville. He is available for part-time ministry work and can be reached at (615) 832-0613.

Churches

◆ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will host the Manuel Family Jan. 30 at 10:45 as part of its Fifth Sunday Concert Series. For more information, contact the church at (615) 227-2961.

◆ **Beech Grove Baptist Church, Louisville**, will hold revival Jan. 30 – Feb. 2. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will host Joseph



THOMAS A. GREER JR., a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church, Dunlap, was honored Dec. 11 for teaching for more than 50 years.

and Renay Peters Joubert, a concert pianist and soloist respectively of New York City, on Sunday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. Joseph Joubert has collaborated with renowned concert artists and is a composer. Renay is a



FRANCES AND JOHN RAYBURN, retired pastor, Bethel View Baptist Church, Bristol, stand by the new car given to them by the church recently on his retirement. Rayburn served as pastor of the church for 25 years.

regularly featured soloist with the CenturyMen. For more information, contact the church at (865) 546-9661 or Eugene Hattaway, minister of music, at aehattaway@fbcknox.org.

◆ **Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison**, will hold a Women's Ministry Event on Saturday, Feb. 12. It will feature Jan Silvius who will speak on how to avoid "little girl behaviors" and the music group, Evidence. For more information, contact the church at (423) 344-8327 or www.baysidebaptist.org.

◆ **Ninth Street Baptist Church, Erwin**, and two Methodist churches prepared Thanksgiving dinner for about 400 people. The meals are delivered to residents of Unicoi County, especially in the rural areas of the county. The recipients are referred by church members and members of the community who are aware of the ministry because the churches have been offering



LARRY THRAILLKILL, longtime trustee of Belmont University, Nashville, receives an honorary doctorate from Bob Fisher, president, Dec. 17 during the winter commencement. Thraillkill, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, and an attorney, has served on the board since 1980, during which he was chairman from 1992-94, 95-97, and 98-04.



LEADERS OF MT. PELIA Baptist Church, Martin, stand by a new cornerstone which was installed during the church's recent 175th anniversary celebration. The church is the oldest church in the Beulah Baptist Association, based in Union City. It was established in 1829. From left are deacons and the pastor, Larry Coleman; Bob Stewart; Ryan Potts, pastor; James Smothers; Kenneth Springer; Sam Brooks; and C.T. Brooks.

the meal for several years. The recent event was held although it was snowy, reported Teresa Mitchell, church secretary.

Associations

◆ **Holston Baptist Association**, based in Johnson City, will hold its 2005 Leadership Institute Jan. 13-14. It will fea-

ture Daniel Block, professor in the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. The theme of the retreat is Biblical Worship. It will be held at Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City. It is open to ministers and other church leaders. For more information, call (423) 929-1196.



THIS GROUP FROM Immanuel Baptist Church, Lebanon, stand with gifts they gave to needy people in Appalachia this Christmas. During 2004 a total of 115 members have served in Honduras, Africa, Belarus, Mexico, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Russia, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and three counties in Tennessee. The chairman of the missions committee of the church is Tommy Strong, retired manager, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden.

Corryton Church showers Christmas gifts on Virginia families

For Baptist and Reflector

LEE COUNTY, Va. — Members of Corryton Baptist Church, Corryton, returned here for a second year to give Christmas presents to needy families.

This year the church showered 15 families chosen by Powell River Baptist Association with gifts worth about \$50,000. About 200 members of the church led the Dec. 4 event.

The Tennesseans got to know a woman who is 28 years old, has two children, has breast cancer, and whose husband is serving in the military in Iraq. They met a man in his 60s who has one hand, cancer, and is raising two adopted children and three grandchildren. They also got to know a woman who is 80. She is

a native of Germany who served in a labor camp during WWII.

The families enjoyed lunch, an impromptu Christmas skit featuring their own children, and heard a message from Rocky Ramsey, pastor on Christmas. Each family received an explanation of how they could have a

relationship with God.

Children and parents selected gifts separately, which were then wrapped and delivered to homes. Several truckloads of gifts and goods also were given to the Powell River Baptist Association Ministry Center, based in

Jonesville, Va.

The church began the ministry after a tornado hit the Mossy Grove community of Tennessee two years. That year Corryton church helped families have Christmas from that area.

"It had such an

impact on the 200 Corryton members who set up and attended the party that they had to have more," said Ramsey.

Some members give gifts to this project rather than to family and friends, he noted. □



LEE COUNTY children represent angels in an impromptu Christmas play.



JACK AND MARY KERR of the church prepare a room filled with bikes for shoppers.



SHOPPER Melisa Johnson, left, is assisted by Renonda Kirk and Sherry Drummer of the church.