

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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Executive Board to hear Belmont recommendation in May

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Members of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention were told that its Education Committee had tabled a proposed covenant agreement with Belmont University until the committee's next meeting which is scheduled for March 31.

In other matters, the Education Committee announced the procedure established to respond to a motion referred to the committee by messengers at last year's annual meeting in Sevierville. Board members also were informed of a proposed staff reorganization which will be needed to implement the Board's church health initiatives.

Belmont covenant

Board member Mike Boyd, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, and immediate past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, expressed frustration that the issue would not be dealt with at the January meeting.

"I stood before our convention and shared that we would deal with this in January. This keeps dragging out," said Boyd, who noted "his integrity" is at stake.

"This has gone on for six months. I believe that sooner or later we have to paint or get off the ladder," Boyd said.

Leonard Markham, pastor of Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville, and past president of the Executive



LEADING COMMITTEES of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention this year are, from left, Joe Stacker, Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville; Education Committee; Jack Adams, East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg; Brenton Cox, First Baptist Church, Manchester, Convention Ministries; Bill Roberts, Memorial Baptist Church, Crossville, Executive Committee; Richard Wallace, First Baptist Church, Sevierville, Central Administrative; Mark Gregory, Calvary Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Convention Communications; and Elzie Danley, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Jackson, Budget and Program. Not pictured is Robert Moon of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, Church Programs.

Board, agreed with Boyd. "It was my understanding there would be some decision brought at this Executive Board meeting."

Joe Stacker, a member of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, and chairman of the Education Committee, said the motion adopted by the Board at its September meeting did not give a "mandate" to present a recommenda-

tion in January.

The September motion called for the Executive Board to "affirm the Education Committee in discussion with Belmont University in the resolution of this matter" and for the Board to "initiate a prayer vigil for Belmont beginning Sept. 14 and lasting until the January 2005 Executive Board meeting."

The motion also noted that the "Ex-

ecutive Board requests that no recommendation or motions be made concerning Belmont University until the January 2005 Executive Board meeting, with the exception of recommendations and actions to continue and enhance a good faith relationship between the Executive Board and Belmont University."

Last August Belmont trustees, at the request of the Executive Board, had presented a covenant proposal which basically takes away the convention's responsibility of electing trustees for Belmont and would allow for non-Baptist trustees.

"We said we would work to bring a report in January," Stacker said. "We are not ready to bring a report."

Stacker said "extra time" is needed to deal with the issues and to work out a resolution that is agreeable to both the convention and the university.

"It is in the best interests of both the TBC and Belmont University to have more time to talk about this," Stacker said.

Bill Seale, a member of First Baptist Church, Morristown, and one of the convention parliamentarians, indicated he also thought there would be a resolution to the matter at this meeting.

Seale moved that the Board instruct the Education Committee to bring a recommendation to the May 10 meeting.

During discussion of the motion, Stacker assured Board members they would have a recommendation in May.

— See Executive, page 6

this week's news

Is still collecting

Church sends 20,000 shoes to Tsunami victims

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — On Monday, Jan. 17, Grace Baptist Church here sent about 20,000 shoes to a ministry in Chicago, Ill., which will ship them to Tsunami victims in Southeast Asia.

Everyone at the church is astounded at the success of the project.

It all began just about a week and a half ago. On Wednesday, Jan. 5, Joyell Dalton of the church learned from her uncle, Rob Darnell, a member of First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, of the need for shoes and the organization in Chicago collecting them for Tsunami victims. A former member of the Old Hickory church who is a shoe company executive is involved and let the Old Hickory church know.

Storm victims are going without shoes because of the devastation,

often cutting their feet in the disaster area and developing infections. Because of the unsanitary conditions, such infections could be very serious, Dalton learned.

Dalton decided she could help. She knew her family of six could donate some shoes. So that Wednesday morning the homemaker sent out an email to friends and family. She hoped to collect a couple hundred shoes. The church staff agreed to let her use a corner of the fellowship hall as a collection site.

Then on Saturday a Nash-



JOYELL DALTON, center, of Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, packs shoes at the church with help from Rob Darnell, left, of First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and Martha Bush of First Baptist Church, Madison.

ville TV station learned about the project, contacted Dalton, and reported on it. That Sunday the congregation learned about

the project during Sunday morning worship.

Dalton said she was amazed — See Church, page 3

➤ Eddie Holmes is pastor, weatherman, and teacher. — Page 3

➤ Johnnie Godwin discusses his grief. — Page 4

➤ Arthur Walker, retired education leader, dies. — Page 6

➤ "Green Light" presents opportunities for Baptists across state. — Pages 7-10

➤ Les Steckel named president of FCA. — Page 13

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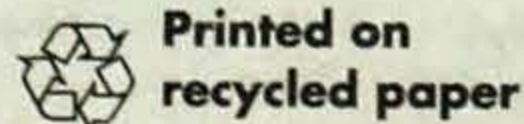
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At 2.7 million

Tsunami relief gifts meeting many needs: IMB

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Children have clean clothes and families have shelter. The sick have medicine and the hungry have food. The thirsty have water — and the hopeless are hearing about Jesus. All because of your gifts.

As of Jan. 12, Southern Baptists had given \$2.7 million through the International Mission Board Asia Earthquake Disaster Relief fund. Every penny will be used to ease the suffering of those affected by the Dec. 26 tsunami in Asia.

In Sri Lanka, relief gifts have provided school uniforms for children whose homes and clothes were destroyed. And they've given safe drinking water, food and shelter to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and others. "Your gifts have gone directly to boys, girls, men, women, grieving families — people who have lost everything," reported David Garrison, regional leader for board work in South Asia. A video of his report from Sri Lanka is available for viewing or down-

loading at <http://imb.org>.

Relief work has opened doors to share the Gospel, and local Christians have distributed more than 300 Bibles provided through board funds. "One of the most important responses we're making is a spiritual response," Garrison noted.

Southern Baptists are praying with and for people, providing Bibles and talking about survivors' spiritual conditions. People are asking questions like, "How can I find my life again?" and "Where is hope?" Workers are sharing with them that Jesus Christ is the only real answer to those questions.

"They serve as a face on the Gospel to hundreds of thousands of people who are in need at this moment," Garrison said.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia — one of the hardest-hit areas — Southern Baptists are using relief funds to set up a public kitchen. "One of the big needs in this tsunami-ravaged area is the lack of facilities to prepare food," said a Southern Baptist working there.

The public kitchen will provide food, drinking water, gas stoves, gas tanks, cooking utensils and eating supplies — allowing people to cook food and boil water for themselves.

As workers in Banda Aceh minister to children, medical personnel are working alongside them to provide whatever medical care the children need.

Additionally, relief funds have provided personal hygiene kits and large amounts of food, water purification tablets and medical supplies that may reach as many as 500,000 families in Indonesia. Medical teams will use five small water purification units to keep their hands and instruments clean.

In Thailand, missionaries Bob and Tong Ju Lee distributed food to the Sea Gypsies, who lost their fishing boats in the tsunami. Relief gifts also helped fund an eye clinic that provided care to many who lost their glasses. In Malaysia, relief funds have provided rice.

Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers will remain in the affected areas for a long

time, using relief gifts to help people rebuild their lives. In Sri Lanka, workers expect to continue providing safe drinking water, food and shelter. Eventually work may focus on helping people build new homes.

"It's an unprecedented opportunity in this part of the world to reach out in Jesus' name and share His gift of life and love," Garrison said.

In Indonesia, Southern Baptists anticipate continuing to host teams of doctors to care for the injured and prevent disease outbreaks. Additionally, people still need food, clean water, shelter and supplies for cooking, personal hygiene and medical needs.

Garrison thanks Southern Baptists for their prayers and their gifts through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering that allow missionaries to live overseas and share the love of Jesus.

And because Southern Baptists are already in place to minister, every cent of relief gifts goes to minister to the needs of those directly affected by the disaster. □

Technology gap emerges between large, small churches

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A significant gap in the use of the Internet and computers is emerging between large congregations and small congregations, a recent study has found.

Ellison Research, a full-service marketing research firm in Phoenix that conducted the research for the January/February issue of *Facts & Trends* magazine, reported that nine out of 10 Protestant ministers have access to the Internet either at home or at work, but only about half of all churches maintain a web site in this growing technological age. *Facts & Trends* is published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"As the American public becomes more and more reliant on technology in everyday life, they will logically expect churches to have things such as web sites, streaming audio or video on the site, or study materials on video or computer software," Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, said. "Small churches often don't have the budget to pay for technology, or the staff or volunteers to implement it. The increased use of technology in churches has a real potential to widen the gap even further between small churches and medium or large congregations."

In a survey of 700 Protes-

tant pastors nationwide, 91 percent said they have access to the Internet — reaching across all ages, church sizes, and denominations — researchers said.

But only 52 percent of those pastors said their church maintains a presence on the world wide web where surfers can access information ranging from service times to ministries offered. The breakdown by church size was striking: 88 percent of churches with 200 or more people attending worship services on a typical weekend have a web site, while 60 percent of churches with 100-199 in attendance have one, and just 28 percent of small churches are on the web.

A pastor's age also factors into whether his church maintains a web site, Ellison found. Among ministers under 60, 56 percent have a church web site, though among ministers 60 or older, 35 percent have a site.

When asked to rank which particular use of technology would be most important to the work of their church over the next five years, doing research on the Internet topped the list with 34 percent of pastors choosing that answer. About one of every four ministers said using Bible study software, maintaining a church web site, using PowerPoint or other graphic presentations in worship services, being able to

show DVDs or videos, and using e-mail to communicate with church members would be important uses of technology in the coming years, the study said.

Again, the size of the church gave some indication of whether its pastor would rank a certain use of technology high. Forty-nine percent of large church pastors said building and maintaining a web site would be extremely important, but only 16 percent of small church pastors said so. Similarly, 42 percent of large churches thought communicating with members through e-mail would be important while 13 percent of small churches saw that as a great need. The most worthwhile uses of technology for pastors of small churches was cited as Bible study software and doing research on the Internet, according to the Ellison study.

"Some technology is not appropriate for all churches," Sellers said. "A PowerPoint presentation in morning services wouldn't fit with the worship styles of many congregations, for instance.

"But pastors need to take a hard look at where technology might no longer be a matter of style or a luxury for the congregation, but an expectation," he added.

"For example, with a majority of Americans using the Internet, it's amazing that over one out of four medium and

large churches don't have any presence on the Web — particularly with many churches trying to figure out ways of attracting younger people, who are particularly likely to use the Internet to gather information and explore their options."

Among Southern Baptist ministers of all ages, 24 percent said a church web site will be "extremely important" in their church's ministry over the next five years, and 25 percent selected that description for using the computer to send e-mail messages to the congregation. Thirty percent said the use of graphics in worship services would be vital, while the same percentage listed use of DVD or video clips. Ellison found that 27 percent of Southern Baptist pastors considered Bible study software to be extremely important and 30 percent said using the Internet for research is necessary.

Ellison Research said its sample of ministers included only those who are actively leading churches and is accurate to within plus or minus 3.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.

The study was conducted in all 50 states, using a representative sample of pastors from all Protestant denominations. Respondents' geography, church size, and denomination were tracked for appropriate representation and accuracy. □

Jackson pastor also works as weatherman, teacher

by Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Eddie Holmes is a very, very busy man. He is pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Jackson; weekend weatherman of WBBJ-TV; weekday weatherman of WNWS-FM, Jackson, and WTBG-FM, Brownsville; and teacher/campus minister at Trinity Christian Academy, Jackson.

He is producer of the web site, www.westtnweather.com, which offers a regional forecast. Holmes also is a husband and father to two children.

"God has allowed me to do everything I've always wanted to do," explained Holmes. That's more than one thing at a time for Eddie Holmes.

He believes God has directed him to his multiple vocations which include serving as a bivocational minister for 30 years.

"God is bleeding my ministry into these other areas because I touch lives not just inside the church ... by being out in the working world.

"I can identify with my people," he added, referring to the members of his church.

Well-known as weatherman

In his role as TV weatherman, Holmes is well-known. He has been a part of WBBJ, the ABC affiliate, for five years. Before he accepted the weekend assignment, he did early morning TV forecasts during the week. Amazingly, Holmes did this each day before teaching school.

Currently he still rises each morning at 4 a.m. to prepare for and present his radio and web forecasts. He has been a radio weather forecaster for 16 years. His web site, which was launched in March 2004, has received nearly 17,000 visits. Weather forecasting today is greatly facilitated by technology, he said, which is one of its attractions to him, he added.

Grace Church has had people visit to see and meet him, he admitted.

They may be disappointed, he added, because he doesn't "talk weather" often at church. Most recently he was excited

about Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University," which he coordinated on Thursday nights. "We needed it," he said.

He wants people to come to Grace "that the Lord wants there, for whatever reason, to get the gospel out," he said.

"Any talent I have, any way that I come across, I want it to be Him," he described.

He's glad to report Grace Church is growing and people are maturing in their faith. He has served the church for a year.

Holmes has served as bivocational minister of churches in North Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee. He formerly served as assistant pastor of Grace Church from 1980-82.

Teacher for 10 years

Teaching is another vocation that Holmes feels called to. It's natural for a minister who enjoys youth, he pointed out. Since he teaches Bible at Trinity Christian Academy, the job is certainly a good fit, he added. The school has about 600 students.

He teaches 7-12 graders using curriculum from LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville. He's also known among students as a source of help for math.

He has taught math, physical science, and computer skills in three different private schools in the area for 10 years. He also was a professor for the University of Memphis, Jackson campus, last year. He taught a class one night a week.

"I have a love for young people and just to be involved in their lives some how, some way, is an extension of my ministry," he explained.

Varied Interests

Even as a young adult, Holmes had many interests. "It seems like there's always been something else, seminary courses or meteorological courses or college courses," he explained.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and the seal of approval from the American Meteorological Society.

While a young person growing up in



EDDIE HOLMES prepares for a forecast on WBBJ-TV in Jackson. He also is pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Jackson, and teacher/campus minister, Trinity Christian Academy, Jackson. — Photo by Morris Abernathy

Hopkinsville, Ky., he decided he wanted to be a meteorologist. He admired a Nashville TV meteorologist.

While studying meteorology at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Holmes felt the call to ministry and transferred to Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, Ky., to prepare for the ministry.

As he was called to serve bivocational churches, he found he needed to develop skills for secular jobs, which he did.

Schedule

"I've got the routine down. If anything gets out of sync then I can really feel it," explained Holmes.

He often has long days but he doesn't mind. Classes at the academy end at 3:30 p.m. so he has a break before any evening church activities. Grace has outreach twice a month on Tuesday nights in addition to regular activities on Wednesday nights.

He does pastoral visits on weeknights. Sometimes he isn't able to visit a person on the day he hoped, but usually he is able to within a couple of days.

He has had some blips in his schedule but God has helped him, he said. In May

2003 tornados hit the Jackson area. After Sunday evening services Holmes went to the TV station to assist the other weathercasters. He worked through the night and the next day without a hitch since he wasn't teaching at the time.

During weather crises he has been told that he "remains calm in their storm, you might say," he described, by the way he presents the weather. He was quick to add, "We (weathercasters) are hurting with the folks because of their loss."

His schedule also was interrupted in October 2004 when he spotted a tornado near Jackson while driving home from his school. He was able to call in a live phone report to the National Weather Service and a local radio station while sitting in his truck which was shaking from the raging winds.

Holmes loves meteorology and teaching young people, but that's not his drive, he said.

"My drive is letting Christ live out His life in me and through me whether that's on TV, in the classroom, or in the pastoral ministry. It doesn't matter," he stated. □

Church sends 20,000 shoes to Tsunami ...

— Continued from page 1
by what happened then.

Three visitors, all employees of shipping companies, came up to her following the service and offered shipping boxes. The need for boxes was announced during the service.

That afternoon, instead of working by herself, she worked with about 30 fellow church members, said Dalton. And lots of people brought lots of shoes.

And the shoes keep coming, added Dalton, along with phone calls. The church receptionist, Carolyn Head, and Dalton have been inundated with phone calls the past week. The project was helped by reports by two other TV stations.

The church, which is located in northwest Nashville, has received shoes from folks from out of town including Centerville and Sewanee. About 15 schools are helping. Companies and churches have joined in. Two other Baptist churches,

Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, and First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, also joined the project and became collection sites.

A company from McMinnville plans to give 1,000 new shoes prepared for the U.S. Olympic volleyball team for the project. Vanderbilt University students may become involved. A man who learned about the ministry on TV brought about 60 pairs of shoes which belonged to his late wife. She had just died five days earlier. He told Dalton it was a relief to find a good use for the shoes.

Transportation from Nashville to Chicago is being provided free of charge by Lloyd Sawyer, member of First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and owner, Capitol Motor Freight Express of Old Hickory.

Volunteers from Grace and other Baptist churches have worked every day sorting and



MAKING PLANS for packing and shipping the shoes are, from left, Ken Coleman, associate pastor of education, Grace Baptist Church, Nashville; Lloyd Sawyer of First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and owner of a trucking company; and Rob Darnell of the Old Hickory church.

packing shoes, reported Dalton. Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief helped promote the project.

Dalton can understand the response. She said she responded when she thought

about the daily life now of the victims.

"I wanted to make a difference, give them some hope for now," she said. "Giving shoes is so easy. This is such an easy

way for the community to respond."

The church is still collecting shoes and will send its final shipment to Chicago Jan. 31. Dalton and others estimate they can send another 15,000. The shoes will be delivered to Bright Hope International of Chicago which is heading up the shoe collection.

Ken Coleman, associate pastor of education of Grace Church, said "We never had the vision that this would happen," adding Dalton did have the vision.

"We are now touching lives across an ocean, not just across the street," he said. Coleman explained the church's goal this year is "Building Bridges, Touching Lives."

"It's amazing to see how God used me," said Dalton. "I've never done anything like this ... before."

The church can be reached at (615) 865-6262. □

Pastor, dad looks at grief from both sides of the pulpit

from both
sides of
the pulpit



By Johnnie Godwin

Great grief

Since our last visit, I've suffered grief too great for words. But I need to share a few words with you. Our 45-year-old son, Larry Godwin, died instantly in a one-vehicle crash. It was early afternoon on the first Thursday of this New Year. Larry was a good driver and didn't have any bad habits, so we really don't know the cause of the catastrophic crash. But when death comes, its cause isn't as important as its fact — the reality of it. Grief comes to both sides of the pulpit. That's when being Christian makes such a difference.

Heartbreak hill

The first Sunday of the New Year I was in the pulpit and comparing life to the Boston Marathon (with the text of Philippians 3:12-16). I told about Heartbreak Hill that ascends half a mile and that sooner or later in life's race everyone comes to Heartbreak Hill. I preached that God is always present to help us over Heartbreak Hill. He is with us from start to finish in the race. Little did I suspect that what I preached on Sunday would be my life on Thursday. But what I preached was true for me and for all those listening and for you too.

Dealing with heartbreak

For half a century I've been trying to comfort people in their grief from both sides of the pulpit. I myself have suf-

fered the natural grief that comes in life-cycle deaths of grandparents, parents, and other relatives; but I had never lost a child. As folks often comment, it's not natural for the child to die before the parent. I'm sure God doesn't mind our asking why. But dealing with heartbreak is more important than knowing why it came. Personally, we need faith like Job's. After Job had lost 10 children and seemingly faced death himself, he said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15, KJV). God was, is, and always will be faithful.

As Jesus faced His own death and separation from His disciples, He said He would send another Comforter just like Him to be with us and in us (John 14:16-18). He was talking about the Holy Spirit. I've experienced the Spirit's inner comfort, but just this week I've come to realize the Holy Spirit comes to hug us, hold us, and console us through God's children — the ones who have the Holy Spirit within them (Acts 1:8; 2:38). Countless numbers from both sides of the pulpit have comforted our family in our grief: our pastors, church families, and friends both present and all over the world.

Being a comforter — not an afflicter

People always want to comfort the grieving, but many of them don't know how. Would-be comforters are well-meaning but often add more grief than comfort to the survivors of the one who has died. When Jesus came upon a situation like that, He simply told the people, "Leave!" (Matthew 9:24).

Though we can't raise the

dead, we can avoid adding to the grief. The Bible shows and tells us how to comfort others. First of all, "Comforter" in the Bible literally means one-called-alongside-of. Comforters can be present literally or through some other contact such as cards, flowers, or memorials. Consoling presence is more important than words. Some who have lost a child or experienced similar grief come with empathy as well as sympathy. Romans 12:15 says, "Weep with them that weep." Jesus wept over the grief of others even though He knew He would conquer death itself. About speaking, the Bible does say, "Comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18). It was talking about the promise of reunion in heaven. But too many words are a burden instead of a comfort. So are too many questions.

The word "Comforter" is also translated helper, counselor, intercessor, advocate, strengthener, and standby. People usually ask, "What can I do to help?" And as they depart, they say, "Just call on me if I can do anything for you." The comforters are sincere, but they themselves might use a little counsel. First, just observe with wisdom what needs to be done, and do it without asking. A lot of people help in that way. They fix food, answer the phone, receive visitors, contact friends, clean the house, wash dishes, mow the grass, pick up prescriptions, and help in countless other ways without ever asking what they might do to help.

However, both during and after the immediate shock that comes with death, different comforters can help in different ways. Some may be legal or fi-

nancial counselors. Others are sensitive to know just how much presence or strength to extend to the bereaved. All of us can keep on being intercessors and be ongoing standbys for as often and as long as needed.

Dealing with sainthood

We preachers tend to want to make saints out of each person whose funeral we preach regardless of the deceased person's spiritual condition at death. It's natural to want to comfort the family and to avoid speaking ill of the dead. But only God can make a saint. And only the individual can let God do that for him.

Larry was a saint. You see, "saint" is just the word for holy one. No one is holy until he personally receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the Gift of salvation in the Holy Spirit comes to live forever in that person (Ephesians 1:13-14). When I was a pastor and Larry was just seven years old, my diary reads: "Phyllis sent Larry over to talk to me. He wanted to become a Christian — and I believe he did. He has the desire and the basic understanding for commitment. ... I feel he will probably make public his profession of faith tomorrow." He did make that profession of faith on Jan. 29, 1967; and I baptized him the next Sunday. Larry didn't become sinless, but his sins were pardoned; and he became a holy one.

The life and testimony Larry lived for the next thirty-eight years reflect the Image of the One he was being molded back into (Romans 8:28-30). His widow, children, and their chosen mates are all Christians. And so are others because of his

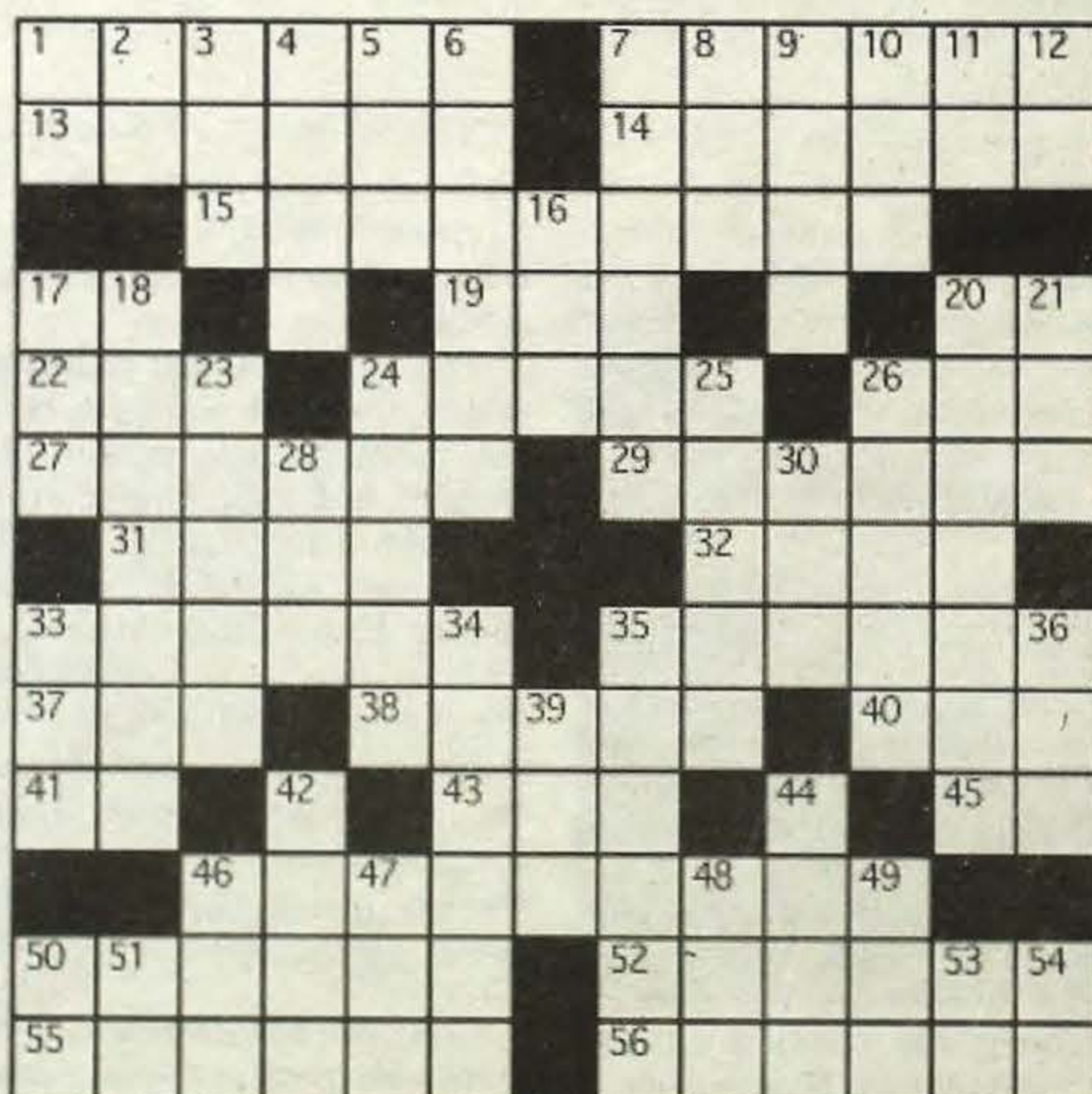
witness. Larry probably wouldn't want to be called a saint in the popular sense of the term; but in the biblical sense, he became one; and now that holiness is completed in Christ.

Great gratitude

Larry was a builder. He owned and operated a steel company. He helped people build decks or whatever else they needed help with. He had become a semi-professional photographer who won awards. He put out a yearly calendar with his choice pictures and select Scripture verses for each month. But he wasn't known as a writer. Nevertheless, when I was a newspaper columnist, he wrote one article I didn't know anything about until it was published. He titled it, "Growing Up with Godwin." The article was a light-hearted tribute to me at Father's Day in which Larry humorously identified my idiosyncrasies as "Johnnieisms." He told how he had become like me in one Johnnieism: "Words have come to interest me through the years ..."

In my opinion, in 45 brief years Larry outlived his dad. My greatest gratitude is that he followed Phyllis and me in coming to know Christ as Lord and Savior.

Our grief is great, but our gratitude is greater. I can't bring Larry back, but I can go to him. Regardless of which side of the pulpit you occupy, may this testimony of faith be one you and your family can also testify to when grief comes your way. Now, our doxology is simply, To God be the glory! □ — Copyright 2005 by Johnnie C. Godwin, who's on standby via johnniegodwin@comcast.net



See answers on page 15

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. Cut
7. "He fell into a ____" (Acts 10:10)
13. Declares
14. "The son of Geber, in ____"

gilead" (1 Kings 4:13)

15. Jesus' birthplace
17. Exist
19. The number of commandments God gave Moses
20. "____, every one that thirsteth" (Isa. 55:1)

22. Animal that Christ rode on Palm Sunday
24. Depend on others' money
26. "Whether it be good or ____" (2 Cor. 5:10)
27. Activity
29. "Then an ____ cried aloud" (Dan. 3:4)
31. Pertaining to air, prefix
32. "God hath given ____ unto your brethren" (Josh. 22:4)
33. Hastens
35. "The seed is ____ under their clods" (Joel 1:17)
37. Vigor
38. "____ died without children" (1 Chron. 2:30)
40. When you think you'll get there, abbr.
41. Three feet, abbr.
43. Relative, abbr.
45. Part of the blood that carries iron, abbr.
46. "The Lord fulfill all thy ____" (Ps. 20:5)
50. "This Agar is Mount Sinai in ____" (Gal. 4:25)
52. "We have had ____ to eat" (2 Chron. 31:10)
55. "The ____ is not dead, but sleepeth" (Mark 5:39)

56. "Thou shalt utterly ____ it" (Deut. 7:26)

DOWN

1. Verb of being
2. The Bible's new covenant, abbr.
3. Taxi
4. Article
5. Place
6. Mehir was the father of ____ (1 Chron. 4:11)
7. "He made a ____ about the altar" (1 Kings 18:32)
8. Cheer
9. "Surely I come quickly. ____" (Rev. 22:20)
10. Name, Fr.
11. Massachusetts' neighbor
12. Questioning noise
16. Man's name
17. Sheep noise
18. "There ____ not a man of them" (1 Sam. 30:17)
20. "I will save her that ____" (Zeph. 3:19)
21. "The ____ number of them is to be redeemed" (Num. 3:48)
23. Sharply inclined
24. Emotions
25. "They should not return to ____" (Matt. 2:12)
26. Sew quickly
28. Anger
30. Return, abbr.
33. "Who came in privily to ____ out our liberty" (Gal. 2:4)
34. Appearing in consecutive parts
35. "They ____ upon the Lord God of their fathers" (2 Chron. 13:18)
36. Seize for arrest
39. "I will ____ you go" (Exod. 8:28)
42. "Their ____ shall not become garments" (Isa. 59:6)
44. Nautical mile
46. Girl's nickname
47. "____ them about thy neck" (Prov. 6:21)
48. "The Lord our God is ____ Lord" (Mark 12:29)
49. "If any man will ____ thee at the law" (Matt. 5:40)
50. Commercial, abbr.
51. Radium, chem. symbol
53. Organization for young females, abbr.
54. Altitude, abbr.

Baptist and Reflector — telling the story for 170 years

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

In January of 1835 a newspaper was birthed in Tennessee. Its name was simply *The Baptist*. It was founded by R.B.C. Howell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville. Howell served as editor of the paper until 1848 when he took a pastorate in Richmond, Va.

Since that first issue 170 years ago, ownership, and even the name of the paper has changed numerous times.

In 1889 the name *Baptist*

and *Reflector* first appeared, after *The American Baptist Reflector* was combined with *The Baptist*.

Finally, in 1921, the *Baptist and Reflector*, was purchased by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. From then until 1959 it was directed by a convention-elected "Tennessee Baptist Press." In 1959, as part of a reorganization of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, it was put under the TBC Executive Board, where it still resides today.

In an editorial commemorating the paper's 160th anniversary in 1995, Editor Wm. Fletcher Allen wrote that the paper "was a product of prayer, concern, and need."

Howell, the first editor saw the need for a paper as settlers were moving westward in grow-

ing numbers. Allen wrote of Howell, "He knew in his heart that he had come to the kingdom for such a time as this. Traveling back to Norfolk (Va.) to prepare for his new pastorate in the gateway city on the Cumberland River, he held fast to the blueprint of the Baptist newspaper that he would use to help take the southwest for Christ."

Allen went on to write, "Howell was not prepared to edit a newspaper, but his insight was flawless. He perceived the proper place of a newspaper in building up Baptist work."

A lot has changed since that first issue in 1835. Then, the paper was produced monthly and cost "one dollar a year, paid in advance."

Given the rate of inflation

since 1835, the paper is still a bargain today, with 47 issues for as low as \$7.50 a year, if you're in the "every member" plan. Even the individual rate of \$11 (the highest rate) is a bargain when compared to other publications.

The paper has survived changes in ownership, wars, depression, and a myriad of other factors that have caused other publications to cease to exist.

Why has the *Baptist and Reflector* survived?

I am convinced it has persevered because as Allen wrote, it was "a product of prayer, concern, and need."

The paper has had numerous themes or "catchy" phrases over the years, but I believe the current theme, "Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists" is why the paper exists 170 years after its

founding. Yes, we have a news assignment, but I believe we have an even greater assignment of sharing the stories of how churches and Tennessee Baptists are glorifying God and helping to reach our state for Christ.

The paper is not produced as it was in 1835 and I imagine in a few years, how we "get to the people" will change even more drastically.

It really doesn't matter what form is used, whether it be newsprint, computer screen, or both, as long as the story of what Tennessee Baptists are doing to impact the kingdom of God is truthfully told with passion and with conviction. As long as the *Baptist and Reflector* does that, it will have a role in Tennessee Baptist life. □

Facing 2005 — will you be governed by choice or by chance

families matter



By Paul Barkley

As we face the prospects before us in 2005, what will govern the outcomes that we look back on our lives at this time next year? While the effects of chance occurrences and the choice of others cannot be discounted, we must all come to terms with our own participation in our destiny by the choices that we make.

God said to His children, Israel, as they stood poised to possess the promised land, "Today I

have set before you, blessing and cursing." The outcome was in large part determined by their personal choice. As we face the prospects of a new year with its potential for good and bad, we must acknowledge that the outcome will come in large part from our outlook.

Whether it is described as self-fulfilling prophecy by the psychologist or faith by the theologian, the reality is that the way we conceptualize situations has a great bearing on the way we experience them. The biblical writer reminds us that "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he!"

Many in our day would like to elude responsibility by claiming that it is "not their fault." Coming from a dysfunctional family or the wrong side of the tracks is

seen as rationale and explanation for the failure to make good choices.

We are each one in a state of flux and change emotionally, cognitively, socially, and physically. The choices we make today will affect our ability to choose tomorrow. I think of a father like David as he walked the parapets of Jerusalem lamenting "Absalom, Absalom, my son Absalom, would God I had died instead of you." Choices he had made earlier in his life with Bathsheba and business matters had molded the mind of the young Absalom to believe it all right to go after and get whatever you were big enough and bad enough to take. This attitude led to the revolt against his father's throne and the ensuing

death at the hand of Joab, commander of his father's army.

As we start this year, let us be reminded that choices made at the first of the year will have an effect on the out-come of the year. If we choose to drink and drive, we may end the year in jail or without a driver's license. If we continue to ignore our health, we may end up in the hospital.

There are even those who want to blame God for the way things turn out in their lives. This has been true since the first of human history. When confronted with his sin and the impending consequences, Adam said, "It's not my fault. It was that woman You gave me." Adam did not avoid his responsibility and neither will we. Let us

make the commitment to make wise choices prayerfully as we enter the promised land of this new year with all its potential and promise.

Each of us would do well to remember that our grand and glorious God is also very generous. He is more interested in our best good than we are. He has a fabulous year in His heart and mind for us. Let us choose to believe God and follow Him in to exceeding abundance of the life He desires for each of His children as that child follows God's plan.

God bless you as you seek to find and follow God's perfect plan for you in this new year. □ — Barkley is associate professor of psychology and religion at Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis.

Union English professor offers tips on reading 'The Da Vinci Code'

guest columnist



By Gene Fant Jr.

Christian leaders who think that the cultural phenomenon of Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code* has run its course should brace themselves for continued interest in the book. Even as it continues to hold high rankings on the best-seller lists, the film adaptation is underway, with perhaps the greatest actor of our time, Tom Hanks, in the starring role.

I have heard pastors and church leaders say that they should not waste their precious time reading such a book or researching its claims. After all, the argument goes, it's a novel, a work of fiction, so it's not true. Why should we expend mental energy on such a work?

As literary critic, I feel compelled to clarify the danger of such a view of fiction. While there is a strong impulse to link

"fiction" with "untrue," there is more to consider than this simple equivalence. In fact, following that definition, we might presume nonfiction to be by definition "true," which would be an especially dangerous statement. Just visit the nonfiction section of your local bookstore and you can see how much falsehood resides there.

By definition, fiction is imaginative, not untrue. In fact, fiction is a remarkably effective tool for communicating truth! The best-selling novel of the 19th century was written by a preacher's wife, Harriet Beecher Stowe: *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which told the abominable truth of slavery and its toll on American society. Anyone who has read C.S. Lewis or J.R.R. Tolkien's wonderful novels knows that they communicate the truth of the gospel and many elements of orthodox theology in ways that are comely to believers and non-believers alike. The stories of Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner, and many others accurately depict the truth of the fallen state of humankind.

Good fiction draws readers into the plot, allowing us to iden-

tify with the characters and to invest our own emotions in the story. This is exactly why fiction is an effective medium for communicating truth; the reader's guard is lowered while the story is being read.

This lowered guard, however, is exactly why books such as Brown's can be perilous to careless readers. While I always encourage Christians to read broadly, I also encourage them to read redemptively. By this I mean that we should know what ideas exist in our culture's marketplace, but we should always read with our minds grounded in a Christian worldview.

By reading redemptively, we apply a Christian, biblical worldview. We should ask at least three questions about anything we read, whether it is fiction or non-fiction: What grains of truth does it contain? What half-truths? What out-and-out lies?

When we do this, we are following the mandate of Romans 12:2: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what that will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* Our ideas

should be conformed to Scripture, not Scripture to our ideas. Revealed scriptural truth must be our standard, not artificially constructed human truth.

The problem with Brown's book is that most readers do not read with a biblical worldview. They conform their theology to Dan Brown, rather than holding up Brown's story for scrutiny against the clear teachings of Scripture. Critics of Brown rightly have pointed out that he has simply repackaged old heresies and conspiracy theories for an age that craves mysticism and secret knowledge. People who "believe" Brown's theories have placed his work as authoritative over and against Scripture itself. Christians, however, should elevate the Word above all other words.

As a Sunday School teacher, I find the popularity of Brown's novel to be disconcerting. The cultural phenomena represented by novels like Brown's are exactly why Christian leaders should either read novels of this kind or at least know what half-truths and falsehoods they contain. We should, in fact, teach our fellow believers to use their minds to

engage our culture.

Our culture craves truth, even as it fails to recognize it. In the truth of God's Word, we have a mighty sword. Too often we think that a sword must be used to slice and to divide; as novelist Anne Lamott reminds us, however, sometimes we should use the sword to point to the truth for those who need to see it.

When Daniel and his fellow captives were living in Babylon, they learned the language and the literature of Babylon (Daniel 1:4). They were able to use this training to God's glory exactly because they refused to conform to the culture. Their ability to engage their culture with God's truth allowed them to bring King Nebuchadnezzar to declare, *How great are [God's] signs, and how mighty are His wonders!* (Daniel 4:3a). I pray that our fellow believers would learn to engage our culture, to point to the truth of Christ and to God's Word, even as we navigate cultural phenomena such as *The Da Vinci Code*. □ — Fant, a member of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, chairs the English department at Union University.

Arthur Walker, retired Baptist education leader, dies

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Longtime Southern Baptist education leader Arthur L. Walker Jr. died early Jan. 14 in Birmingham, Ala. He was 78.

Walker held a unique position in Southern Baptist Convention life as executive director of two SBC entities — the Education Commission and the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary. He held both posts from 1978 until his retirement in 1993. Both entities were dissolved in the mid-1990s under the SBC's "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring plan.

Following his retirement, Walker returned to his native Birmingham and taught part-time at Samford University for several years.

Walker spent his adult ministry in Christian higher education. He taught for many years at his alma mater, Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham, and served as dean of students and later vice president for student affairs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also served numerous churches in Alabama as interim pastor and was author of the book, *Southern Baptist Trusteeship*. While at the Education Commission, he edited the publication's newsletter, *The Southern Baptist Educator*.

Walker was remembered by colleagues and friends not only for his dedi-

cation and love for Christian higher education but also for his integrity and Christian faith and witness.

"He balanced well his multiple staff roles as [Education Commission] head, editor, writer, teacher, counselor, and trusted friend," said Tim Fields, who served with Walker at the Education Commission.

"Dr. Walker was a man of uncompromising integrity, unshakeable faith and impeccable Christian witness," said Fields, director of communications for the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

"His churchmanship, captivating preaching, deep concern for the welfare of others, and dedication to excellence in Christian higher education are a testimony to his deep and abiding faith in Christ and to the mission and ministry of Southern Baptists," Fields added.

Juanita Wilkinson, another co-worker of Walker's, recalled being "impressed with the manner in which he encouraged each employee to reach the potential possible in personal effort and in the work assignments on hand. He was always fair in dealing with any questions that might arise."

"He was a gentleman and exemplified a complete commitment to the leadership of the Lord in daily living," she said.



WALKER

Bob Agee, former president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, worked closely with Walker during his tenure as executive director of the Education Commission. Agee currently is executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools (which at one time was under the umbrella of the Education Commission).

"He approached his work with a deep and genuine devotion to the cause of Christian higher education and with a heart to see Southern Baptists leading the way in quality education," said Agee, who now resides in Jackson, Tenn.

"His marvelous background as an educator and his commitment to historic Baptist theology and polity equipped him so well for the task," Agee said. "He was always available to help schools whenever they needed him and he was an excellent resource for schools and state conventions."

Thomas E. Corts, president of Samford University and a fellow member of Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, recounted, "As a preacher boy at Samford years ago, the potential of Christian higher education made a deep impression upon him — an impression deepened by his decades of service as a professor and administrator, and then as chief advocate for Baptist colleges and universities. He dedicated his life to that ministry."

"He brought a warm pastoral approach to all he did," Corts said. "His in-

tegrity and conviction earned great respect among colleagues privileged to work with him."

James Taylor, president of the University of the Cumberlands (formerly Cumberland College) in Williamsburg, Ky., said Walker "had a profound, significant, enduring impact not only on higher education throughout the world, but also specifically on our Southern Baptist-affiliated institutions of higher education. He will not be soon forgotten, but will be long remembered for his enduring impact on the lives of many."

The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools awarded Walker its highest honor, the Charles D. Johnson Outstanding Educator Award prior to his retirement.

Walker also had the respect of his SBC peers.

"Arthur Walker was a senior leader in SBC life when I came to the Baptist Sunday School Board [now LifeWay Christian Resources] in 1983," said former President Lloyd Elder, founding director of the Moench Center at Belmont University in Nashville.

"He graciously received me and became a valued co-worker in our [respective] assignments. I recognized in him thoughtfulness, scholarship, integrity and a profound faith," Elder said.

Walker is survived by his wife, Gladys; a daughter, Marcia Walker Hamby, director of counseling services at Samford; and three grandchildren. □

Executive Board to hear Belmont recommendation in ...

— Continued from page 1

"It may not be to Belmont's liking or to our liking, but we will bring a recommendation," he said.

Frank Crawford, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Kingsport, who made the motion that was approved in September, spoke against the motion.

He said his intention was not for this meeting to be the conclusion to the matter, but rather be a starting point.

"I want the job done right, not necessarily done quickly. That's what is important."

Belmont University President Robert Fisher told Board members that his trustees thought the matter "would be decided today."

"I hope they will accept this and we can continue to work together to resolve this."

During his brief report to the Board prior to the discussion on the Education Committee's tabling of the matter, Fisher assured the Board that "we are proud to be Baptist and proud to be associated with you."

The Board approved the motion to have the Education Committee present a recommendation in May with limited opposition.

Convention referral

At the TBC annual meeting in November, messengers approved a motion to instruct the Education Committee to "investigate and study the theological teachings of Carson-Newman College" and that the committee report to the Executive Board which would then report findings to the 2005 annual meeting. The motion was amended

twice to include all three colleges (C-N, Belmont, and Union University) and that the investigation be done in conjunction with the trustee boards of the schools.

In response to that issue, Stacker reported that the following procedure was approved to deal with those concerns.

"A letter will be sent by the chair of the Education Committee to the presidents and board chairs of the three institutions of higher education communicating the substance of the questions and concerns in the motion referred."

"We request an update of progress made at our March 31 meeting. Final reports are asked for by May 6," Stacker said.

He added that those deadlines would give the Education Committee time to present a report for consideration by the full Board at its September meeting.

Staff restructuring

During his report to the Board, TBC Executive Director James Porch shared about the Board's commitment to its healthy church initiatives.

"We moved into this about four years ago. It came out of a desire to bring the energies of the staff together with a sense of passion for something that could impact our churches for the glory of God," Porch recalled.

After a series of meetings throughout the state with pastors, church staff, and laity, the TBC Ministry Council developed three initiatives — service model, leader health, and providing a church health "assessing and responding" process.

The service model is how the TBC staff delivers its work to associations and churches, said Gary Rickman, TBC ministry coordinator.

Porch said that in the beginning "we thought changes that would be necessary would not affect the organization structurally. We realized, however, that we would have to make changes."

Porch introduced the Board to an "organizational concept. We welcome your questions and input."

The new concept will involve several components centered around a clustering of Baptist associations across the state. Details are still being worked out which prevent a release of the proposed clusters at this time, Porch said.

Porch emphasized the proposed organization is in its infancy and that more details should be available by the May meeting. Porch said the TBC staff was given the same information at a meeting last week.

Before the question was even raised, Porch told the staff he knew they were concerned about where they would "hang their hat." His simple answer, "You will."

While no time table has been established, TBC staff will begin ministry to clusters of associations during a transitional period this year, Porch said.

"We are trying to move into a dynamic area in life of convention ministry," Porch told the Board.

"We must honor the need for dynamic ministry to Tennessee Baptists and to people in our state who do not know

Christ as Savior."

President's report

TBC President Roger Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, made his first report to the Board.

He referred them to the Jan. 12 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* which contained a column he wrote regarding leadership. "This is my report," he said.

Freeman went on to stress the need for both convictional and cooperative leadership.

"We need to unapologetically say we are Baptist and say what we believe," Freeman said.

He also noted that the best way to express cooperative leadership is through the Cooperative Program.

He urged Board members to lead their churches, if they are not already doing so, to give at least 10 percent through the Cooperative Program.

"A church has never gone broke by giving too much to missions," he observed.

TBC motions

Board members voted to authorize its president, Lynn King, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg, to appoint a committee to study the procedures for dealing with motions concerning TBC entities at the annual meeting.

Though no reason was given as to why the Executive Committee presented the motion, a similar concern was expressed earlier in the meeting.

In his report to the Board, Carson-Newman College President James Netherton expressed concerns about comments made about the college on

the floor of the convention last November.

He asked the Board to think about improving policies and procedures for handling business. Messengers need accurate information. Important motions should have advance notice. All motions should be thoughtfully reviewed for relation to and compatibility with existing bylaws and policies before possible consideration.

He also asked the Board to consider the convention's stewardship responsibility toward affiliated institutions and agencies. "If we're to do our work in building up the body of Christ, we must stop letting polarization in our culture creep into how we Baptists deal with each other."

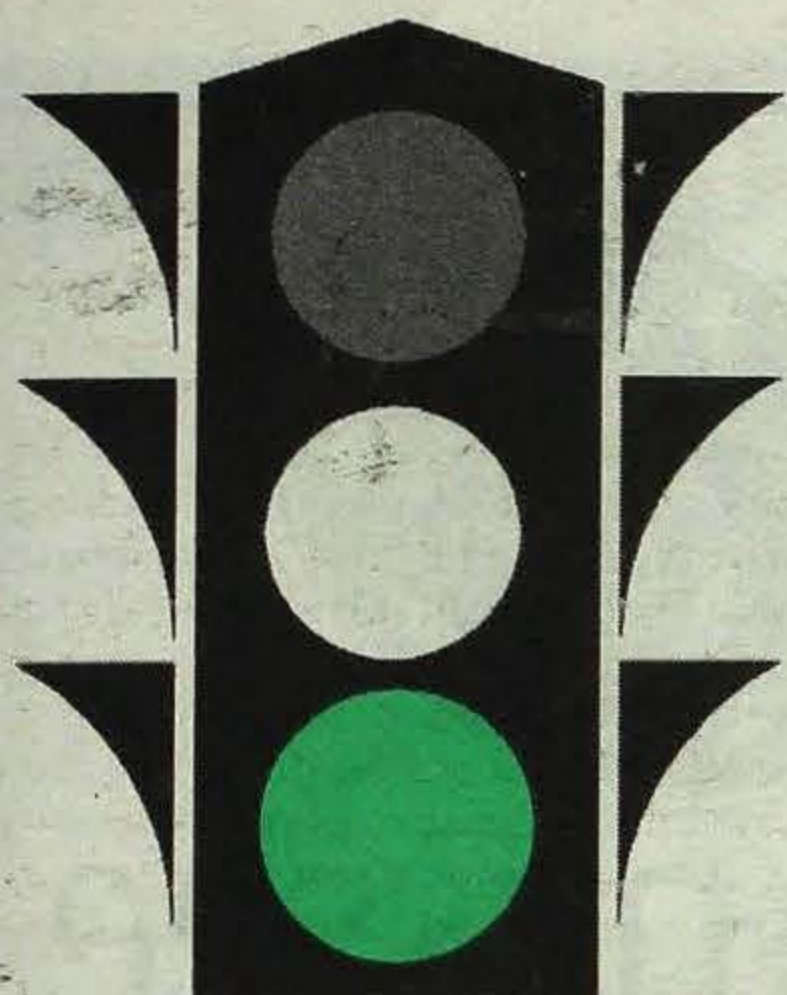
Other matters

- Board members heard positive reports from TBC entity leaders regarding their respective institutions.

- The Board approved a recommendation that the firm of current convention auditors Crosslin, Vaden, and Associates be retained for the fiscal years ending 2005, 2006, and 2007.

- Board members approved a recommendation from the Committee on Boards to add Drew Maddox, a layman from First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, to serve a three-year term as trustee of Belmont University.

- Board members were reminded of opportunities to serve on mission trips this year to Iowa and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Board members also will prayer walk ministry sites connected to Crossover Nashville following their meeting on May 10. □



Green Light

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



2005

Summer Camps



Registration Deadline for Summer Camps is March 2

LindenValley Baptist Conference Center

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| June 10-12 | Journey Weekend for Dads & Sons
Journey Weekend for Moms & Daughters
<i>For kids 1st grade & up and adults</i> |
| June 13-15 | Journey Mini Camp for Boys
<i>For boys 3rd-6th grade</i> |
| June 15-17 | Journey Mini Camp for Girls
<i>For girls 3rd-6th grade</i> |
| June 27-July 1 | Journey Camp for Kids
<i>For boys and girls 3rd-6th grade</i> |
| July 11-15 | Youth IMPACT
<i>For students 6th - 12th grade</i> |

CarsonSprings Baptist Conference Center

- | | |
|------------|---|
| July 8-10 | Journey Weekend for Dads & Sons
Journey Weekend for Moms & Daughters
<i>For kids 1st grade & up and</i> |
| July 22-24 | Journey Mini Camp for Kids
<i>For boys and girls 3rd -6th grade</i> |
| July 25-29 | Mission IMPACT
<i>For students 6th - 12th grade</i> |

To download a registration form and to find out costs for camp visit www.tnbaptistcamps.org or contact Nancy Hamilton, Camping Ministry Specialist, at 800.558.2090, ext. 2085 or camps@tnbaptist.org.

→ DON'T FORGET! ←

February 3-5 **Associational Therapists Summit**, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Call or email Tony Rankin today with questions or for further details 800.558.2090 ext. 8136 or trankin@tnbaptist.org.

February 4-5 **Mission Trip Team Leader Training**, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. Learn how to build a mission team and to train team members. Please contact Heather at 800.558.2090 ext. 2061 for more details.

February 4-5 **Handbell Festival**, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, Check the web for details www.tnworshipandmusic.org.

February 4-5 **Winter Retreat** at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden. An Impact experience for All Youth- grades 6-12, All Youth Leaders, All Parents of Youth, Featuring Craig Tackett, Preacher and Praise & Worship led by Inlightened Ministries. Questions? Call 800.558.2090 ext. 7906 or e-mail bharris@tnbaptist.org.

February 4-6 **CrossRoads**, Chattanooga, An event for College Students, www.crossroads05.com

February 11-12 **Sunday School Leadership Retreat**, Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport. Equipping Sunday School leaders with the tools needed for building an effective ministry. To register, visit www.equippingu.com or call 800.558.2090 ext. 2054.

February 11-12 **Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training** 'Cult Proofing Your Friends and Family', Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. For registration information and cost, call 800.558.2090 ext. 7916 or email imarks@tnbaptist.org.

February 15 **Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers**
Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Holston Baptist Association, Johnson City, 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.

February 16 **Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers**
Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Knox County Baptist Association, Knoxville, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

February 17 **Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers**
Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Hamilton County Baptist Association, 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.

February 18-19 **Great Commission Prayer Conference, A Cry For Revival**, Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Nashville. To download a registration form, visit www.tnbaptist.org or call 800.558.2090 ext. 7925.

February 24-26 **Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat**, National Parks Resort Lodge, Pigeon Forge. Contact Ray Gilder at 800.558.2090 ext. 2018 for more details.

February 25-26 **Handbell Festival**, First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet. Check the web for details www.tnworshipandmusic.org.

CONCLAVE!

The ultimate Youth Ministry training and worship event in the Southeast for your entire Youth Ministry Leadership Team!

Chattanooga Convention Center

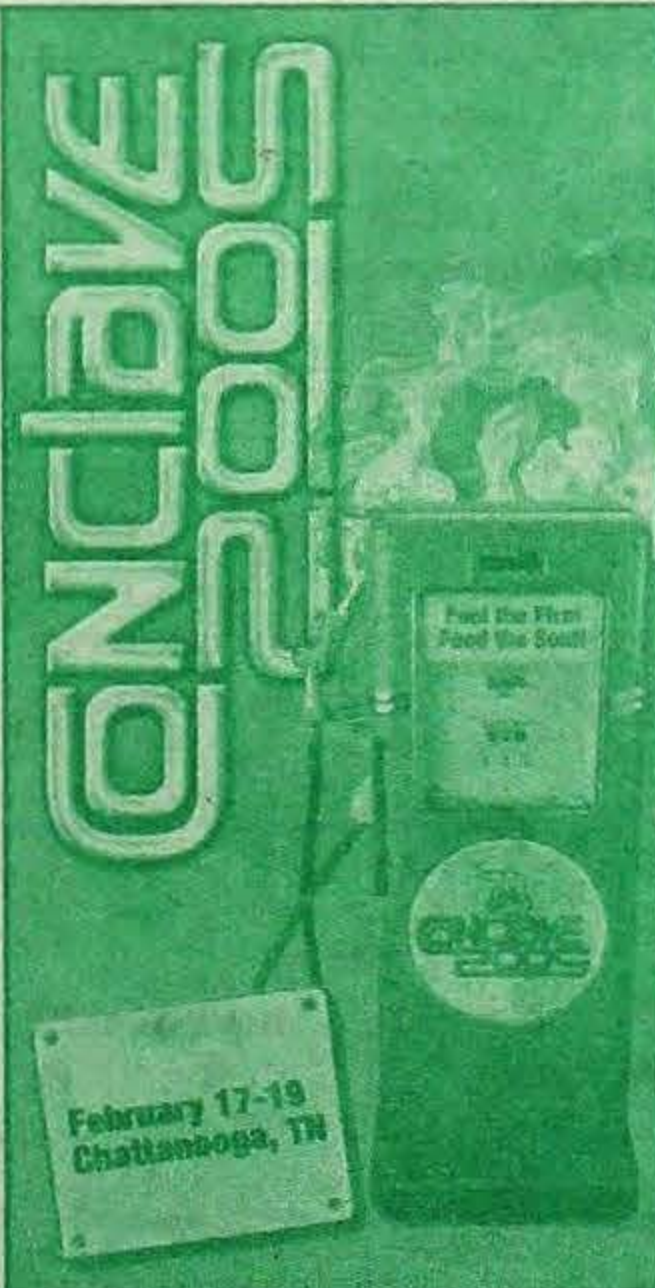
February 17-19, 2005

Early-bird registration open until February 3, 2005.

Special conferences for:

- All Youth Ministers
- All Adult Youth Leaders
- Spouses of Youth Ministers
- Core Student Leaders (grades 9-12)

For complete schedule, costs, hotel info, registration information and other details go to the Conclave web site: www.southeastconclave.org or call 1.800.746.4422 ext. 234.



Reminder: March 6-13, 2005

Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Mid-Continent Bivocational Celebration

Promising Young Leaders
Bright Hope for Tomorrow

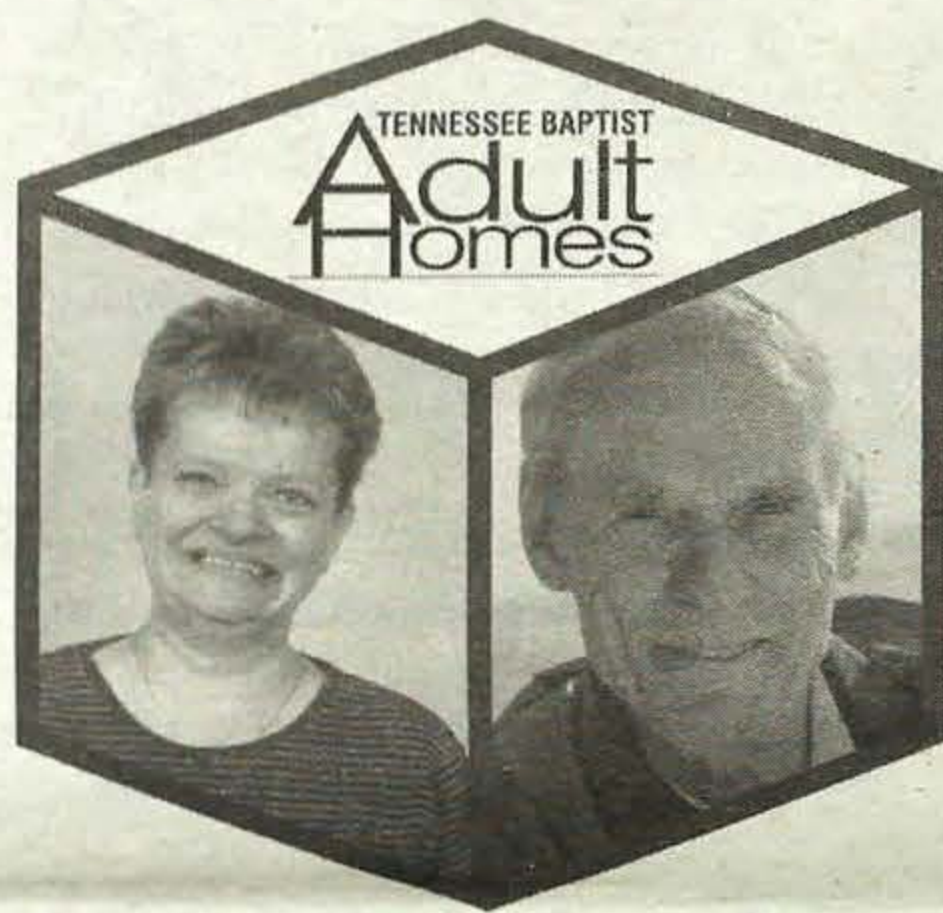
Promising Young Leaders Bright Hope for Tomorrow,
March 18-19, 2005

Lannom Conference Center, Dyersburg
Program Personalities: Ray Gilder, Bivocational Ministries,
Tennessee Baptist Convention; Chad Ozzie, Illinois; Grant and
Jen Medford, Illinois; Dr. Jimmy Draper, President of LifeWay
Resources, TN; George Thomason, Church Planting Team,
North American Mission Board

Registration

To download the registration form visit www.tnbaptist.org
or contact Ray Gilder rgilder@tnbaptist.org for further
information.

Thank You Tennessee Baptists!!!



Staff and residents of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes gratefully acknowledge and thank you for your prayers and gifts in 2004.

We were especially encouraged with the dramatic increase of churches and their gifts for the 2004 Father's Day Offering. We received a total of \$142,528 - an increase of more than \$40,000 from the previous year.

This additional avenue of support is crucial to our ongoing ministry to more than 300 seniors and 55 developmentally disabled adults at eight locations across Tennessee.

As you make your plans for this year, jot down the date of June 19 for this year's Father's Day Offering. Happy New Year!!



CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING



A 12-hour training for those going overseas on a mission trip

You will:

- discover what triggers and reduces culture shock
- discuss unique challenges of witnessing cross-culturally
- learn how to communicate in another culture
- explore the Biblical basis of missions
- participate in an international meal

March 18-19
Tennessee Baptist Convention,
Brentwood

Please register at least two weeks prior to each event. \$20 participation fee.

For more information, contact Heather at hwilson@tnbaptist.org or call 800.558.2090 ext.2061.



Tennessee LADIES CHORUS

Sunday, March 13

7:00pm

First Baptist Church, Covington, Tennessee

(There is no charge, but a freewill offering will be received during the concert.)

West Tennesseans, come and join us for an evening of worship as this unique group shares in music.

The Tennessee Ladies Chorus is a performing choir of the Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference. Formed in 2001, the Tennessee Ladies Chorus is comprised of music ministry leaders from Tennessee Baptist churches. The group includes pianists, organists, children's choir leaders, and music ministers from across the state.

Directed by Paul Clark

Worship & Music Specialist with Tennessee Baptist Convention

Accompanied by Dora Ann Purdy and Vicki Wright

Is Your Church Planning To Build Or Remodel?
Does Your Church Need To Make Better Use Of Its Facilities?
Do You Need Financial Assistance For These Goals?

CHURCH BUILDING / FINANCE CONFERENCE



February 17, 2005
Wallace Memorial Baptist Church
Knoxville, TN
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A conference designed to provide information, training, and resources for churches that will enable them to better plan to minister in their community, utilizing their facilities as a tool for ministry.

FEATURED TOPICS:

- Master Planning For Long Range Growth
- Steps in a Building Program
- Designing Space: Worship, Educational, Recreational, and Multi-Functional
- How Churches Finance Building Programs
- Planning a Building Budget: A Look At Total Project Costs
- Selecting And Working With An Architect

Registration is \$20.00 per person (includes lunch).
Call 1.800.558.2090, ext. 2040 to register

Conversational English Workshop

March 11-13

Friday6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday1:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Tennessee Baptist Convention Conferences Center
5001 Maryland Way Brentwood, TN 37027

There is a \$ 20 registration fee break & meals are provided.

Checks for registration should be made out to TBC.

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 email imarks@tnbaptist.org

The deadline for registration is March 4.

East Tennessee State Evangelism Conference March 13-14 Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville

Sunday, March 13

6:00 p.m. - Evening Session
Music: Jeff Brockleman
Charles Roesel
Testimony: Steve Creitin - EvangeCube
Bobby Welch

Monday, March 14

9:15 a.m. - Morning Session
Bill Edmonds
James Porch
Tom McCoy
Ken Hemphill
11:30 a.m. - Lunch
1:30 p.m. - Afternoon Session
Panel: Bill Edmonds, Tom McCoy, Ken Hemphill, Ron Stewart, Fredrick Brabson, James Merritt, Charles Roesel
Speaker: Ron Stewart
4:00 p.m. - Dinner Break
6:45 p.m. - Evening Session
Music - Jeff Brockleman
Fredrick Brabson
James Merritt

Bivocational Conference, March 11-12 Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville

Friday, March 11 Bivocational Conference

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Breakout Conferences
"Getting Your Church To Pray" - Leigh Ann McCoy
"Keeping New Converts In The Flock" - Ray Gilder
"If I Could Do It All Over Again" - Sonja Wood
"Making Sunday School Better" - Jim Snyder
"Leading Your Church To Be Evangelistic" - Jerry Essary
(One-hour conferences repeated three times)

6:30 p.m. - Evening Session
Jerry Essary
Testimony: Steve Cretin - EvangeCube
Fredrick Brabson

Saturday, March 12

9:15 a.m. - Morning Session
Kyle Beverly
Tom McCoy
Bobby Welch
11:30 a.m. - Lunch



Who is invited?

Parents, grandparents, couples, pastors, other ministers, Sunday School leaders, deacons, weekday caregivers.

Conference Topics:

Effective Parenting Skills
Having a Healthy Marriage
Raising Aging Parents
Understanding Single Parent Family Issues
Sexual Purity for the Whole Family
Premarital Counseling Training for Ministers
(3-hour seminar)

Conference Dates:

January 22
Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville
February 5
Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center,
Linden
February 25-26
First Baptist Church, Smyrna
March 17
North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland
April 9
Gatlinburg Convention Center
(in conjunction with WMU Get Together)
April 30
Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett

Registration fee:

\$10 per person in advance; \$15 per person day of the event. More details and registration visit www.tnfamilymistry.org or contact Tony Rankin at 800.558.2090 ext. 8136 or Brenda Harris at bharris@tnbaptist.org.

COMING UP...

April 1-2 **Sunday School Leadership Retreat**, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden, Equipping Sunday School Leaders with the Tools Needed for Building Effective Ministry. For more information visit www.equippingu.com.

April 8-9 **Dramatic Arts Festival**, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville

April 10 **Cooperative Program Day** Be sure to order your Cooperative Program supplies by visiting us at www.tnbaptist.org, or call Jane Garvin at 800. 558.2090 ext. 7912.

April 18-19, **Church Administration Conference**, Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Featuring Speaker Richard Hammar, author of book *Pastor, Church, and Law* and the *Church and Law Tax Report* newsletter. For more information, call 800.558.2090 ext 2013 or visit us at www.tnbaptist.org.

April 8-10 **Missions Get-Together**, Gatlinburg Convention Center

In conjunction with *Get-Together*:

The Acteens Connection, a missions event for girls in grades 7 through 12

April 11-12 **Tennessee Baptist Secretaries Conference**, Brentwood

April 22-23 **Cross-Cultural Training**, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, A 12-hour training for those going overseas on a mission trip. Please contact Heather at 800.558.2090 ext. 2061 for more details.

April 25-26 **ev@ngelism.neXt Conference**, First Baptist Church, Smyrna. An Innovative Evangelism Conference. Well known speakers include Leonard Sweet, Randy Frazee, and Ed Stetzer. Wanna know more? www.evangelismnext.org or call 800.558.2090 ext. 7933

April 27-30 **National Conference for Ministry Assistants**, Ridgecrest

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BIBLE FUN FIELD DAY VERSED 'N' FUN

For leaders and children in grades 1-6

March 12- Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Track 1 8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

March 12- Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Track 2 11:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

March 19- New Location, Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville 8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Cost is \$20 and covers a t-shirt, activities, snack, supplies, leadership and lunch.

Registration and payment prior to event is required for official registration.

No refunds after February 25.

For more information, contact Barbara Owens at Bowens@tnbaptist.org
or call 800.558.2090 ext.7905

>>YEC'05



March 4-5, 2005
MTSU Murfreesboro
Murphy Center

FEATURING

SOUL FEST



>>Tony Nolan

Tony is raising the bar in youth ministry by calling students to live their lives marked by holiness and purity and live close and clean before God. A graduate of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, TX, Tony has also served under Dr. Johnny Hunt at First Baptist Church, Woodstock as minister to the College Students for four years. Tony's gift is preaching and harvest evangelism, which is why in 1999 he surrendered to God's call into full time Evangelism. Tony's vision is to make Satan M.A.D. (miserable and defeated) and God glad by winning students for Christ and igniting a spiritual movement that transforms our youth culture to live an extreme, non-compromising life for Christ.

>>Dave Hunt

Dave Hunt has been leading praise and worship for over 12 years. He is a humble man with a genuine heart for leading students to worship. Dave serves as campus minister at Belmont University in Nashville. Dave produced both the Centrifuge "Freedom" CD and the "To Worship" CD. Dave was the worship leader for the TBC regional CONNECT youth rallies the fall of 2002 and was with us for YEC in 2002 and 2003 where he led 1000's of teens and adults into worship before Christ. He is back by popular demand and your teenagers will be blessed as Dave and the Refuge band lead us into worship at YEC.



>>Skit Guys

Tommy Woodard and Eddie James, two high school friends who communicate God's Word through "performance comedy" - a unique blend of comedy, drama, and improvisation coupled with a modern-day take on Scripture. Ministering for more than a decade, the Skit Guys purpose is to encourage others to develop a vital love relationship with Jesus Christ. They are not strangers to Tennessee or to YEC and you will be blessed and entertained.



>>Building 429

Building 429 is a group that strives to impact the world with their words. Their challenge to everyone is... Can you live the verse? Can you live Ephesians 4:29? Can you B429? Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let nothing unwholesome come out of your mouths accept that which is helpful for building others up according to their needs that it might benefit those who listen." Remind yourself that every word that you speak should please the Lord. Don't be afraid to hold your friends accountable, because the Bible says we should. Try it out, and watch the world around you change.



Register online with a debit or credit card at www.yectennessee.org

For more information, call the Youth Evangelism Office at 615.371.7933 or 800.558.2090 ext. 7933; e-mail rwatson@tnbaptist.org.

Tennessee Baptists find ways to minister to tsunami victims

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A team of eight Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief medical volunteers will leave in March to respond to the Asian tsunami relief effort.

"This is the first team of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers to enter the devastated region of the Asian tsunami," said State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

The team, which is being coordinated through the missions office of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, will be in the region for 14 days. The team is comprised of volunteers from FBC and other churches.

Other interested volunteers still need to contact the TBC Mobilization Center at (615) 371-2007 for information.

Due to security issues, names of the volunteers and where they are going cannot be released.

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 December 29 by establishing an Asian Tsunami Relief Fund.

More Tennessee Baptist churches have been able to send teams because of direct contacts in the certain areas of the world.

A team from Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, arrived Jan. 13 in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, to establish

a base camp for future operations to the tsunami-ravaged area.

A second group from the church left Memphis last week to connect with team members who had been involved in relief work for several days. The church is coordinating its efforts with locals, relief, and government organizations to meet the basic needs of those left behind following last month's devastation.

"We felt it was important to get there as quickly as possible, to assess the situation, and formulate a game plan for how we could best channel our resources to help," said Sam Shaw, pastor of Germantown Church.



SHAW

Shaw returned from Banda Aceh late Jan. 8.

"Having seen the devastation firsthand, we now know the areas of greatest physical need are shelter, a dependable, healthy water supply, and protection for thousands of children who are now homeless or orphaned," Shaw said.

The church left some team members in Indonesia to cultivate relationships through which future relief efforts can be channeled. Those who returned, including Shaw, are working to assemble a mechanism to ensure that people and resources who go to the area will be used effectively.

More than 80 people interested in traveling to Banda Aceh attended an informational meeting Jan. 12 at the church.

"The need there is so overwhelming," Shaw said. "It's not a situation that will be remedied in a short period of time. We want to do what we can to provide immediate relief for those trying to survive the effects of this tragedy while thinking toward the long-term well-being of the Indonesian people," the pastor said.

Those interested in the Germantown effort can contact the church's missions department at (901) 756-9450.

A team of volunteers from First Baptist Church of Concord (Knoxville) left last week for an area affected by the south Asian tsunami, according to Phil Nelson, First Church missions pastor.

First Baptist Church, Cookeville, also is coordinating volunteers teams through a parachurch group that is in partnership with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Those volunteers are scheduled to leave in February and March.

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.

All 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. □ — Compiled from reporting by Marcia Knox of the TBC and a press release from Germantown Baptist Church.



A BAREFOOT SURVIVOR pushes a wheelbarrow through debris near the center of Banda Aceh, Indonesia on Jan. 4. People across the city, desperate for help, ask for rubber gloves and masks while they help recover some of the thousands of corpses of victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami. — Baptist Press photo

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A O N E - D A Y C O N F E R E N C E F O R C H U R C H L E A D E R S

WMU provides 'safe water,' funds for victims

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union is sending more than \$37,000 worth of water purification equipment to Indonesia to help provide clean water to those affected by the devastating tsunami.

A total of 457 different items from the Southern Baptist missions auxiliary, ranging from water filter units to portable water purification systems for personal use, are going to the region by way of disaster relief teams, volunteers, and other Great Commission partners.

Sending this supply to Indonesia will deplete the supply of water filters WMU currently has had on hand. However, Jean Cullen, the organization's missions involvement specialist, said \$100,000 worth of filtering

units has been reordered and WMU is "committed to sending more water systems to help provide safe, clean water to those living in the midst of this crisis."

Cullen continued, "We are eager to help with relief efforts through this vital ministry and are in position to continue responding thanks to the generous donations from various church groups for Pure Water, Pure Love in recent years."

WMU began its Pure Water, Pure Love ministry in 1997. The main purpose of the ministry is to help support missionaries with pure, safe drinking water as they follow God's call to serve around the world. Although most water filters and purification systems are provided to missionaries serving overseas, North American missionaries who serve in areas in the United States with unsafe water also have received filters in recent years.

During 2004, WMU received more than 1,100 donations from

various church groups and individuals, which resulted in approximately 300 water filters being shipped last year.

Because of the overwhelming support of Pure Water, Pure Love, WMU is seeking to expand the ministry to include digging wells and other long-term solutions for providing clean water in areas where missionaries serve.

"Not only will this provide a source of clean water for missionaries, it also serves as a tangible expression of God's love for all people as water becomes available to those living in these areas," Cullen said.

"And now, thanks to the support we have received for this ministry, we are able to respond

to those in need of clean water in southern Asia."

In addition to provisions for safe, clean water, the WMU Foundation continues to receive donations daily to aid those living in the aftermath of the tsunami. □

Former Arizona Baptist editor dies

Baptist Press

DALLAS — James R. Staples, former Arizona Southern Baptist leader and retired president of California Baptist University, died Jan. 3 in Dallas, two days before his 85th birthday.

Staples served two stints (1960-62, 1970) as editor of the

Baptist Beacon, newjournal of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. (The *Beacon* was succeeded by *Portraits* magazine in 1997.)

In 1970 Staples became the third president of California Baptist College (now University), a post he held until his retirement in 1984. Subsequently he served as the institution's first chancellor for six years. Between stints at the *Beacon*, he was executive vice president at Grand Canyon College (now University) in Phoenix. □

CLASSIFIED

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.

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.

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Monday, August 16

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

Tuesday, August 17

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

Wednesday, August 18

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

Former Titans coach, Brentwood layman to lead FCA

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Former NFL and college football coach Les Steckel has been selected as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' new president/CEO.

Steckel, who has participated in FCA activities since 1974, will succeed the national ministry's retiring president, Dal Shealy, on March 1.

Shealy will remain involved in the operations of the Kansas City, Mo.-based organization as director of the new FCA

Football Coaches Ministry.

Steckel, 48, said he is "humbled and honored to have been chosen to be the next president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In Dal Shealy's tenure over the last 13 years, the ministry has experienced tremendous growth. As he passes the baton ... he will leave a legacy of integrity and servanthood. With God's guidance and grace, I will do the same."

Steckel, a coach for more than 30 years, currently is a national motivational speaker and member of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, where, as "coach in residence," he has led several men's discipleship programs.

During his 22-year NFL coaching career, Steckel served as the head coach of the Minnesota Vikings and helped guide two Super Bowl teams as offensive coordinator — the 1984-85 New England Patriots and the 2000 Tennessee Titans.

FCA, founded in 1954, is one of the nation's leading ministries to student athletes and coaches. FCA "Huddles" meet regularly on nearly 8,000 junior high, high school, and college campuses for Bible study, prayer, and other faith-based activities. Other FCA initiatives include summer camps, coaches and community ministries, *Sharing the Victory* magazine, and the nationally recognized anti-drug program, "One Way 2 Play — Drug Free!"

In addition to the Vikings, Patriots, and Titans, Steckel has been on the staff of five other NFL teams and, earlier, the University of Colorado, U.S. Naval Academy, and Brown University.

He also was an infantry officer in Vietnam and has retired from 30 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in athletic administration from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

A native of Northampton, Pa., Steckel and his wife, Chris, have three grown children, Christian, Lesley, and Luke.

Shealy, a member of First Baptist Church in Raytown, Mo., and former head coach at the University of Richmond during 28 years of football coaching, recounted in his column in *Sharing the Victory*

that he and his wife, Barbara, "I often share that coaching football was the first half of my life, and FCA was the second. Now I'm moving into overtime."

Shealy is a former head football coach at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and has been a trustee of the Tennessee Baptist institution.

"As I pass the baton of FCA presidency to Coach Les Steckel during our semiannual board meeting at the end of February, I do so with a positive and excited attitude of joy and confidence that Les will lead FCA with integrity of heart and skillful hands."

"Barbara and I are FCA lifetimers, and we will continue to lead the FCA Football Coaches Ministry. We will serve the coaches and their families, their players, and overall programs. We want to focus on the truth of Christ and help the football coaches understand the impact they have on and off the field," Shealy wrote.

"Just as quarterbacks and running backs are only successful through the work of the offensive line, Barbara and I have been successful through the great 'offensive line' at FCA," he continued. "We've had great Board of Trustee members, Home Office staff, regional directors, field staff, coaches, athletes, volunteers, local leadership board members, and donors who have given unselfishly. All have gone above and beyond to lead and serve the Lord through the ministry movement of FCA. □

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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](http://www.tnbaptist.org-news&events) or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org. The deadline for registration is January 28, 2005.

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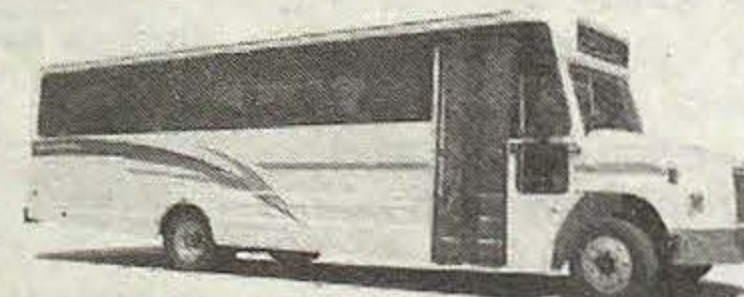
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24338	2004	Ford/Starcraft	26	\$46,830
246398	1998	Ford/Federal Coach	25 w/ Rear Luggage	\$31,900
24284	2005	Chevrolet/Starcraft	34	\$79,620

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Laity encouraged to submit names for SBC entities

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists across the convention are urged to get involved in the process of filling the vacancies to be left as people rotate off various boards of trustees and SBC committees.

Through a newly-posted web site utility, the Committee on Nominations has begun receiving names to consider for the trustee and committee vacancies that will occur effective at the end of the Southern Baptist Convention's June 21-22 annual meeting in Nashville.

Every member of a Southern Baptist church can visit the convention's web site, www.sbc.net, and click on the option titled, "Recommend SBC Trustees or Committee Members." A recommendation form will appear on the screen, and it may be downloaded and faxed or filled out and filed electronically according to instructions.

"The strength of the Southern Baptist Convention is its people," said Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee. "None are more important than grassroots Southern Baptists who faithfully serve the Lord, often in anonymity, in their churches and communities. This process is open to any and every Southern Baptist who is a member in good standing of a Southern Baptist church," Chapman said.

In addition to trustees, individuals may recommend names for the Committee on Order of Business, a standing committee of the convention.

The Committee on Nominations will meet March 10-11 to

select nominees from among the many qualified candidates. □

SBC pastor Rick Warren cited by national magazine

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist pastor Rick Warren was listed by *TIME* magazine among the "People Who Mattered 2004" in the same issue in which President George W. Bush was named "Person of the Year."

Of Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in southern California and author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, *TIME* wrote in its Dec. 27 edition:

"Spirituality sold well in 2004, but none did better than Pastor Rick and his faith-based self-help book *The Purpose-Driven Life*, which hit 20 million copies sold. Though criticized for preaching Christianity lite, Warren led by example, giving away 90 percent of his royalties, campaigning against hunger, and expanding a drug-recovery program for prison inmates." □

TV's view of religion grows more negative

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Television's treatment of religion has become increasingly negative in recent years even though mentions of God are occurring more often, according to a joint study by the Parents Television Council and the National Religious Broadcasters.

The study, released Dec. 16, said Hollywood is not accurately portraying viewers' beliefs.

PTC watched a total of 2,385 hours of primetime entertainment programming on the seven commercial broadcast networks, including ABC, CBS, and NBC, during the 2003-04 season and found 2,344 treatments of religion. In a similar study released in 1997, they found only 551 treatments of religion in 1,800 hours of programming, a Dec. 16 PTC news release said.

Among those 2,344 mentions of religion, PTC judged 22 percent as positive, 24 percent as negative, and the remainder neutral. Negative depictions of clergy were more than twice as frequent as positive depictions, the study said, and more than 32 percent of mentions of religious institutions and doctrine were negative while just 11.7 percent were positive. References to faith in general were most common and most likely to be positive, PTC said.

"These findings lend credibility to the idea that Hollywood accepts spirituality but shies away

from endorsing, or even tolerating, organized religion," PTC President Brent Bozell said in a statement.

NBC was the worst culprit. NBC programming included 9.5 negative depictions of faith and religion for every positive depiction, researchers found. An example of a mention on NBC that PTC judged as negative was on the Feb. 10 episode of "Will and Grace" in which Karen, in an attempt to cheer Grace up, remarks, "Let's go buy that historic church and turn it into a gay bar."

"Religion and the public expression of faith is a crucial element in the lives of most Americans," Bozell said. "Our findings should challenge Hollywood to accurately reflect this in television content."

More information can be found at www.parentstv.org. □

Bettye Cothen dies

Baptist Press

MIAMI — Martha E. (Bettye) Cothen died of Parkinson's disease Jan. 10 at Vitas Hospice at the Miami Heart Insti-

tute. She was 83.

A native of Chattanooga, she was the wife of Grady C. Cothen, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention). They were married 63 years.

She was a former member of the board of trustees at Golden Gate Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

In addition to her husband, Cothen is survived by two daughters, Carole Shields Westbrook of Miami, Mary Thompson of San Antonio, Texas; a son Grady Jr. of Cheverly, Md.; nine grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

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.

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 community south 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 resume with photo to Karen Hardesty, 128 Daleyuhski Way, Loudon, TN 37774.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

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 — ADMINISTRATOR

Seeking full-time associate pastor/church administrator in one of Kentucky's fastest growing Southern Baptist churches. Resident membership approximately 1,400. Send resume to Search Committee, Hillcrest Baptist Church, 920 Skyline Dr., Hopkinsville, KY 42240 or fax to (270) 886-6231.

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.

by My Spirit

Zechariah 4:6

Youth Celebration & Worship

FOR TEENS & TEEN LEADERS

June 13-15, 2005

Governor's Palace & Dollywood
Sevierville & Pigeon Forge, TN

Carl Mays is author of 13 books & speaker at over 2,500 events; resident of Sevier Co. & host of over 50 conferences in Smoky Mountains; speaker & program coordinator at Ridgecrest & Glorieta; New Orleans Baptist Seminary graduate. Commissioned writer for Broadman/Holman. Visit www.CarlMays.com



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Conference Schedule

Monday, June 13 - Governor's Palace

PM 8:00 Welcome & Celebration
Carl Mays, Teen Talent
9:00 Break & Stretch
9:20 Monk & Neagle Concert
10:20 Closing Thoughts
10:30 Dismiss

Tuesday, June 14 - Governor's Palace

AM 9:30 Celebrative Worship
Josh Shipp, Carl Mays, Teens
10:45 Break & Stretch
11:05 "Come Celebrate America"
12:05 Closing Thoughts
12:25 Dismiss

Tuesday Afternoon at Dollywood

PM Dollywood Theater
8:30 Celebrative Worship
FCA, Carl Mays, Teen Talent
9:30 Break & Stretch
9:50 Citico Creek Gospel Grass
10:50 Closing
11:00 Dismiss

Wednesday, June 15 - Governor's Palace

AM 9:30 Celebrative Worship
FCA, Carl Mays, Teen Talent
10:30 Break & Stretch
10:50 David Meece Concert
11:50 Closing Thoughts
12:00 Dismiss



Josh Shipp
Outstanding testimony
with humor & pathos



Teen Talent

Leaders will submit
audition CDs, tapes



Monk & Neagle

Acoustic duo with
great new sound



Dollywood

The Smoky Mountain
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David Meece
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book review

Dawn Ferguson

Against All Odds

By Chuck Norris

Broadman & Holman, 2004

Film and television star Chuck Norris writes in his book that the first words his mother spoke to him and repeated to him throughout his life were "God has plans for you." And while that is certainly true because God has plans for all of us, sometimes in his book it's hard to see exactly how and where God is fitting in.

The book's title comes from a rough start in life. As described on the book jacket, Norris, who was not expected to survive his birth, would also have to survive extreme poverty, debilitating shyness, and an alcoholic father. But Norris managed to conquer all these and recounts his struggle in the 246-page *Against All Odds*.

Norris' mother took him to church as a child and he was baptized in a Baptist church at the age of 12. His parents divorced when he was 16 after his alcoholic father killed a woman in a drunk driving accident. Two months after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the air force. It was there that he got his first taste of martial arts. In fact, he credits karate with helping him conquer his shyness and infusing "steel into my spine and my spirit." In fact, much of the book is about Norris' pursuit of championships and the establishment of his own school of martial arts.

Norris meets Bruce Lee - a renowned martial artist and star of the Green Hornet television series - and becomes interested in film when Lee asks him to be in a movie. He and Lee become friends and Norris begins developing his own reputation as an actor.

Norris' book is probably a great read for martial arts aficionados. (Many fights are described kick-for-kick!) But if you're looking for spiritual depth, this is not the book you want to read. It's shallow and never really goes below the surface. For instance, here's his summation of friend Bruce Lee's untimely death - "To me Bruce's death was a powerful reminder of the fragility of life. More than that, it was a wake-up call for me. It reminded me that as much as I believed in self-determination and fulfilling my own destiny, I was not the person in charge. God was. More than ever I wanted my life to be about things that mattered not merely for a moment but for eternity." That ends chapter 13 and chapter 14 starts with his decision to retire from karate competitions and to turn to teaching martial arts. "Whether my decision was greatly influenced by Bruce Lee's death or simply the desire to go out on top, I can't say for sure..." Hardly a consideration about "things that mattered not merely for a moment but for eternity" or recognition of who really is in charge!

I am not a martial arts fan, but I have been a fan of Norris' since the all too hokey "Walker, Texas Ranger" series. Primarily because I enjoy seeing the good guys win. So I wanted to read this book when it first appeared and received so much media attention. But I struggled to get through it.

To Norris' credit, he has done many good things. In 1990 he began an organization for kids to Kick Drugs Out of America, later renamed KICKSTART. The goal of the program is to help children believe that they can lead productive lives and achieve their goals and dreams. All proceeds from the sale of this book go to support KICKSTART. So, if you have a weak spot in your heart for kids and love reading descriptions of karate fights, this is the book for you! □ - Ferguson is a freelance writer from Gallatin.

Reach beyond ethnic barriers

By Jerry Massey

Focal Passage: Luke 10:25-37

Some of my most thrilling moments on the mission fields around the world have been when I was privileged to worship with Africans, Brazilians, Hispanics, and Chinese. We would sing together, and though we could not understand each other's language, we knew the songs and the bond of love we shared together in Christ. Neither race, ethnic, nor social status interfered with our fervent relationship with one another. That is really what God intends because He reaches out to all of us with the same love and equivalent intensity of heart.

During the Civil Rights era, a first-grade white girl met a black girl on the first day of school. Segregation had prevented the whites from associating with black people. Integration changed all of that and made both of the girls very fearful. When the white girl returned home after that historic day, she told her mother that she sat next to a black girl in school. The mother tensed up anticipating the worst. She asked what happened? The child said, "We were both so scared that we held hands all day!" The problems of our day, when it comes to stretching beyond ethnic barriers, could vanish with Christ-like resolve if we could learn from these little girls. Even

though it may honestly be an apprehensive thing to do, we can begin by joining our hands and hearts together for the greater glory of God's kingdom.

The Lord's example of the Good Samaritan teaches us first of all that God would have us love people unconditionally (vv. 25-28). The "expert in the law" asked Jesus the right question out of a wrong motive, *what must I do to inherit eternal life?* Jesus sent the lawyer back to the law itself by replying, *What is written in the law?* The solicitor promptly answered by quoting the law as found in Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.* Jesus commended his response and instructed *do this and you will live.* The law serves as the convicting instrument that leads us to understand our need for Jesus' gift of salvation.

If we are going to love others as Christ, then we must overcome self-centeredness (vv. 29-32). We can offer all kinds of ceremonial or fear-factor reasons for the "priest" and the "Levite" who both "passed by on the other side." Yet, the simple truth remains ... they just did not want to make the effort. The priest and the Levite lost far more by their love for self than they would have gained by love toward others. They

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forfeited the opportunity to discover the joy blessings of authentic love. They could have developed into exceptional men by exhibiting a loving influence in an uncaring world.

This teaching really leaves us no other options than to practice undeniable love to all our neighbors. To do this effectively, we must be risk-takers with love, like the "Samaritan," willing to reach beyond barriers (vv. 33-37). For 69 consecutive weeks the Bill Cosby Show propelled NBC to the top of the Nielson ratings. But such success did not come easily. ABC rejected the show altogether. Daringly, NBC put it on the air. Ralph Winter made the observation, "Risks are not to be evaluated by the probability of success, but by the value of the goal." Good Samaritans who are inspired to courageously embrace unforeseen opportunities certainly receive the "value" stamp of approval from our Savior. In so doing we never know whose life might be transformed. Let's take the risk and reach beyond ethnic barriers for the kingdom's sake. Come to think of it, that is just what Jesus did for us at Calvary! □ - Massey is pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris.

What about heavenly rewards?

By Lee Porter

Focal Passage: Luke 19:12-27

Jesus had informed his disciples that they were going to Jerusalem. He shared with them the fact of His impending death on the cross. The disciples failed to comprehend the full meaning of His message to them. As we start our lesson today Jesus and His disciples arrive in Jericho, which is less than 20 miles from Jerusalem. Living in Jericho was Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector for the area and he was very rich. Undoubtedly, Zacchaeus had heard many stories about Jesus and he had a deep desire to see Him. When he could not see Jesus because of the large crowd at the town square, he went ahead and climbed a tree. Soon Jesus came that way and Zacchaeus had his divine appointment with Jesus.

After an extended conversation with Jesus Zacchaeus accepts Jesus as his personal Savior. Zacchaeus gives expression to his changed life by telling how he is going to use his money to help the poor and to make things right for any past deeds. Jesus then announces for all to hear, *The Son of man is come to seek and to save the lost* (Luke 19:10). Just as a shepherd goes after any lost sheep, so does Jesus seek out the lost and the neglected. It is the responsibility of all of us as Christians to seek out the lost and lead them to Jesus.

Jesus then tells a parable (Luke 19:11-27). The place, the time, and the audience for this parable is open to debate among biblical scholars, commentary writers, and preachers. Many believe that Jesus tells this parable to His disciples the next day as they walk toward Jerusalem. The

disciples were probably discussing the events of the previous day in Jericho. They may have been discussing Zacchaeus' commitment to serve Jesus with his material possessions. They may have been questioning what the results would be if Zacchaeus carried out his commitment or if he failed to live up to his promises. The disciples may also have been discussing their own personal commitment to serve Jesus in seeking and saving the lost.

Others believe the parable was told to everyone at Zacchaeus' house. This would include the disciples, Zacchaeus, and his family as well as the large crowd which gathered outside the house. They had all heard Zacchaeus' commitment as well as Jesus' statement concerning His ministry in seeking and saving the lost.

Regardless of who heard the parable first the message of the parable is for all of the followers of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus is the nobleman of the parable.
- Jesus is going to leave and go to a far country (heaven).
- Before leaving Jesus is going to give instructions to His servants (his followers).
- Jesus expects each of His followers to take their gifts (abilities) and improve upon them.
- Each servant is told to occupy his gift or to do business with it (to improve the quality of their service to the master or to increase their capabilities of doing good or to be a faithful witness).
- Each servant is to report to the master when he returns (we are to give an account of our service to God).
- When a good report is given the

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
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servant will receive a reward (if we give a good report of our faithfulness in service we will receive the appropriate reward).

- When the servant failed in his assignment from the master, he was punished (when we fail in our opportunity to serve Jesus, we will receive the appropriate judgment).
- The master did not accept the various excuses for the servant's failure (Jesus will not accept our various excuses for our failures to faithfully serve Him).
- The master took the money from the servant (if we fail to use our spiritual gifts we will lose them).

The major truth of the biblical passage that we are studying today is that God expects all of His followers to faithfully serve Him in every circumstance. Every follower of Jesus is to reach out and witness to the lost. We should take time today to do a personal self-examination of our service to Jesus. We should carefully examine our moral conduct. Discuss with those in your class how all of you can more faithfully serve Jesus. Each one of us needs to ask ourselves if we are living up to the expectations that Jesus has for each of us.

All of us experience great joy when we serve Jesus. Just imagine how much greater our heavenly joy will be when we receive our heavenly rewards! □ - Porter is a retired employee of LifeWay Christian Resources and former SBC registration secretary. He now lives in Greenback.

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Leaders

◆ **Randall C. Clayton** has been called as pastor, River Rock Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. Clayton is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in several roles in Georgia and Tennessee.



CLAYTON

Churches

◆ **Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waynesboro**, gave \$10,327 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions recently. The church only draws an average Sunday School attendance of about 45. Philadelphia has increased its goals from \$1,500 in 2002 to \$6,000 in 2004, reported Chad Ball, pastor. "I am thankful for how our people have given sacrificially so that 'All Peoples May Know Him,'" said Ball, who has served overseas through the International Mission Board.

◆ **Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold Family Day Sunday, Feb. 6. During the morning worship service Jim Williams will speak. He is author of *Parenting On Point*



THE MEN'S MINISTRY of Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville, recently designed and built this wheelchair ramp for a member of the church. Gerald Marr designed the ramp. Assisting Marr in the construction was Leonard Glenn, Milton Scott, and Lemuel Wade, pastor.

and works for Students Taking a Right Stand (STARS) which works with schools. Worship is at 10 a.m. and Bible study is at 11:15 a.m. followed by a luncheon. For more information, contact the church at (615) 255-0468 or www.edgefieldbaptist.org.

Events

◆ Seven of the oldest surviving biblical scrolls are coming to Mobile, Ala., this month. After successful runs in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Houston, Texas, the traveling **Dead Sea Scrolls** exhibit opens in

Mobile's Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center on Jan. 20. With 12 authentic Dead Sea Scrolls on loan from the Israeli Antiquities Authority, the exhibit will not disappoint its many visitors. The Exploreum will host the traveling exhibit through April 24. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is a sponsoring institution for the event. "The highlight (of the exhibit) will be the Deuteronomy scroll that has the entire text of the Ten Commandments," said Ellen Herron, curator for the exhibit. Additional information about the Exploreum and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit is available at www.scrollsmobile.com.



LEADERS OF ROAN PARK Baptist Church, Roan Mountain, stand with Gary Coltharp, left, of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood, in front of part of the church facility. Roan Park is renovating its fellowship hall and building a new sanctuary. The foundation helped fund part of the project. The leaders are, from left, Walt Stewart, chairman of deacons; Wayman Jones, minister of education; and Dwight Hobbs, pastor.



DEACONS AND PASTOR of Short Creek Baptist Church, Christiansburg, pause during a Dec. 19 ordination of four deacons. They are, from left, front row, Bill Spence, Larry Frix, Charles Thomas, current deacon; back row, Keith James, Daniel Thomas, and Bobby Franklin, pastor.

Students from Dyersburg BCM serve in China during holidays

For Baptist and Reflector

Editor's Note: The names of the individuals below are being withheld to protect the identity of individuals in China.

DYERSBURG — A team of college students from Dyersburg State Community College here recently visited China and became first-hand witnesses to what God is doing among the people of that country.

Laura Beth, Stephanie, and Jessica, all student leaders with the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at DSCC, along with Stan, their BCM campus minister, made the two-week trip with funding support of the churches in Dyer Baptist Association and other area churches. The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention coordinated the Christmas In China project.

"To say it was culture shock would be an understatement," according to the group upon their return home.

"The Chinese government allows Christians to have a church in China," the campus minister said, but the church must be registered, and all that attend are monitored closely. No one under 18 years old is allowed to attend the registered

churches, and the government closely regulates how many churches are in a city, where they can operate, and who the pastor can be. They also only allow certain parts of the Bible to be discussed. They do not allow them to teach the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ nor do they allow teaching on the possibility of an eternal life with God in heaven."

It is the unregistered church that is remarkable, the group learned. The unregistered church in China is reaching more people with the gospel of Jesus now than at any time in the history of the world since the first century.

"The dedication of the Chinese Christians was simply astounding," Stan said, "We met university students and adults who know that their bold witness for Jesus Christ could mean that they could go to jail ... but that doesn't slow them down at all. Every day we were amazed at the network among Christians."

The local group described the Chinese people as very kind, humble, and giving people. The group said that the Chinese people always made them feel very safe and comfortable and would go out of their way to make the Americans feel safe and wel-

come.

The Dyersburg group was in central China in a city of 1.3 million.

China is growing rapidly as a player on the world scene, according to what the group observed in their travels. In one city they saw over 100 very large, modern buildings, being constructed simultaneously ... part of a government effort to modernize the country and provide jobs for local peasants. This was in an area where almost no one owned an automobile yet. The Chinese government was planning an initiative to move that region into a more modern era by 2020.

"Our purpose for being in China was for cultural exchange," the group explained. The Chinese government is anxious for Americans to visit China. They want to modernize and improve their economy. They want Americans to bring their money and talk about western culture with their people to help them move forward with their culture into a more westernized and modern China.

The Dyersburg group found out quickly just how effective the Christian network was in China. The second day in country, arrangements had been made for the group to visit as



THE GROUP FROM Dyersburg State Community College, Dyersburg, stand together in China where they served recently in an IMB project.

guest speakers in a local school of over 2,000 students.

Chinese middle schools are what Americans would consider grades 6 through 12. Almost everyone the group met in China under age 21 spoke some English ... but several of the students were very proficient in English. All the schools taught English as a second language and all Chinese students are required to learn English.

The Tennessee group was watched by the Chinese government regarding sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were told that they would not be able to preach ... but they could

share American culture and it would be acceptable to answer questions.

"Our strategy was simple: share American culture and let God open the doors for us to answer questions. God was moving because they asked all the right questions!" Stan said.

"By the end of our trip we had been invited into three separate middle schools across the city and were able to speak directly with over 1,000 students. They were ... full of questions ... many, many questions that opened the door for us to teach them about the love of Jesus Christ," Stan reported. □