

# Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 3; Jan. 26, 2005

## Regional evangelism conference draws 650 to hear Welch

By Connie Davis Bushey  
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — The 2005 West Tennessee Evangelism Conference and Bivocational Evangelism Conference drew about 650 people here last weekend.

On Friday night they heard Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Ken Hemphill, national strategist, Empowering Kingdom Growth for the SBC based in Nashville.

For the first time in many years, the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting was held regionally rather than in Nashville in one annual meeting. Two other regional evangelism conferences will be held.

Welch, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dayton Beach, Fla., told the crowd how he found people interested in the gospel as he witnessed to people in each of the 50 states on his presidential bus tour last year. He added that his visits were not pre-arranged and included witnessing to people in their homes and in a truck stop.

Welch said he found that people "want to know what they're missing."

"There's an overflow of ignorance of what goes on in these buildings," he said, referring to church buildings.

Too many Christians think that non-Christians "know where the church is so let them get their carcasses down here."

"The only people who do not know that outside these walls souls are searching are those who don't get outside these walls and search for souls."

His witnessing experiences in the 50 states were similar, he explained. Even though Baptists would tell him "it's different here," he said, "I wouldn't have known I was in any different place."

One reporter who accompanied Welch while visiting homes in Boston, Mass., noted that residents didn't question his southern accent, the fact that they didn't know him, or his conservative theology.

In the "presence of His divine encouragement," in the "triangulation of the trinity" residents bowed their heads and prayed with him, he reported.

"The power of the gospel unto salvation" came down to "electrify that person and

change everything they might think."

The reporter concluded, "This is different," noted Welch.

He encouraged Christians to leave their church houses and not worry about how cute or cool or charismatic they are.

"Believe and trust in the power of God unto salvation. It ain't you to start with. It's the power of God."

"All the makings of revival" exist in the United States today, he stated.

His greatest fear is that God "is trying to have a revival right out there and His church has made up its mind to not have a revival until we have a revival in here."

Welch noted in Matthew 9:36-38 when Jesus talks about the need for laborers for the harvest, the term "send forth" is very strong in the original language.

"What's it going to take for God to get us out of the house and into the harvest?" Welch asked the crowd.

He noted that when Peter walked on water the only thing



BOBBY WELCH, president of the SBC, asks each person in the crowd to participate in Crossover and the "Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge."

he did on his own was step out of the boat.

Another thing Welch has experienced as president is getting to know Baptists. Welch observed that the headquarters of the convention is the local church.

Instead of considering the convention, Baptists should consider their mother or brother or neighbor who is lost.

"Stop slouching toward the hole of cold denominationalism," he challenged. Have the "gospel guts" to be one of the laborers.

Finally, Welch said time is

of the essence because people are dying without Christian faith.

"Don't you sit there and say we've got months and months ... The harvest is now," Welch declared.

Use EE (Evangelism Explosion), CWT (Continuing Witness Training), or FAITH, he said, ASAP.

He ended with an appeal for individuals to join him in Crossover, an evangelistic project June 18 in Nashville prior to the

annual meeting of the SBC. He reported 5,000 people have volunteered and he hopes 10,000 will serve. Crossover also will launch the "Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge" to win 1 million people to Christ by June 2006.

### Ken Hemphill

Using a story from his days on the football team of Wake Forest University, Wake Forest, N.C., Hemphill challenged the crowd to stop spending so much time practicing the huddle and considering various aspects of the faith.

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### On MLK Day

## Association's Jerusalem Project attracts teens

For Baptist and Reflector

DYERSBURG — Twenty-three churches sent over 277 teens and adults to complete 29 projects on Martin Luther King Day for the 4th Annual Dyer Baptist Association "Jerusalem Project."

Each year the churches in Dyer Baptist Association join forces on the January holiday weekend for a 30-hour mission that begins on Sunday afternoon and concludes on Monday evening ... and leaves in its wake a series of mission projects completed in a neighborhood.

"It's hard to tell who receives the biggest blessing ... the youth who work to make the "Jerusalem Project" a success, or the local residents who allow us to help them with their needs," according to Stan



WRIGHT



CAVNESS

Cavness, coordinator of the event for Dyer Baptist Association. Cavness is Baptist campus minister, Dyersburg State Community College.

The association covers parts of three counties and consists of 42 churches. The Jerusalem Project rotates between neighborhoods in the northern, southern, or central part of the Associational territory. The churches in the area designated for the particular year serve as sponsors for the annual event.

"This year we were in the central part of the association," Cavness said, "This allows all of our churches to minister on their church fields and allows more of the churches to be hosts over the cycle."

On Jan. 16-17 teams of students built three porches with wheelchair ramps, cleaned siding on houses, cleaned the inside of several homes for elderly residents, visited in four nursing homes, repaired porches, painted, did yard work for residents who needed assistance, picked up trash in several neighborhoods, and did some simple carpentry repair projects.

The project began at Dyersburg First Baptist Church with team building training that included recreation for the youth, while adult project leaders met to get assignments

and review the projects with the team of carpenters who were leading some of the projects.

The entire delegation then formed a caravan and traveled to Finley Baptist Church, Finley, which provided the Sunday evening meal. Following the meal, the group traveled back into Dyersburg to Hillcrest Baptist Church for the evening worship service, followed by team meetings. The meetings covered safety issues and reviewed in detail the project.

The group brought air mattresses and sleeping bags and spent the night together in the Family Living Center of Hillcrest Church, and awoke to a hot breakfast prepared by the church.

Each team was on it's work — See Association's, page 6



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## Tennessee team set for Asian relief

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A team of eight medical volunteers will leave in March to respond to the Asian Tsunami relief effort.

The team will be coordinated through the missions office of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, and will be composed of volunteers from that church and others. Other trained Disaster Relief teams may follow in the future.

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 "Asian Tsunami Relief Fund" on check. Donations can also be made online at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://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. □

## Tsunami survivors long to see the living

Baptist Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A second wave is rushing toward the Indonesian city of Banda Aceh, but this one is a wave of compassion.

"I see myself trying to direct the flow," a Southern Baptist logistics coordinator said of the volunteers, supplies, medicine, and monetary aid coming into the country.

"I have a giant funnel with a hose attached and I have to direct the water into the places that need it most."

It is difficult, however, to comprehend the need. There is very little clean water and food in the area.

"We have one egg for every two families per day," said a village chief outside of Banda Aceh.

Southern Baptist disaster relief personnel have been flowing into Indonesia since the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami hit the area in late December, but regional personnel wonder if there will ever be enough aid to the area.

"If logistically we could handle it, there is a need for [many more] people," a regional volunteer coordinator for Southern Baptists said from Jakarta.

"These people just want to be touched," a Southern Baptist International Mission Board first responder said, weeping. "They had seen so much death that just a living touch was all they wanted."

Volunteers, food, and water supplies will alleviate malnourishment, but in addition to the large numbers of supplies, Southern Baptist personnel on

the ground stress the need for prayer for the survivors. "This problem is even too big to imagine," said an IMB worker in Jakarta. □

## Graham, Warren tops among influential leaders

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Billy Graham and Rick Warren, both Southern Baptists, hold the top two spots on a list of leaders who pastors say have the greatest influence on churches, according to a survey by The Barna Group.

Barna asked the pastors to name three individuals whom they believe have the greatest influence on churches and church leaders in America. While the pastors listed more than 300 different names, just 10 of those leaders were chosen by 4 percent or more of the ministers, Barna said in a Jan. 14 news release.

Graham was chosen by 34 percent of respondents, Warren by 26 percent. President Bush was named by 14 percent of pastors, and James Dobson was selected by 11 percent. Others on the list, in order, were Bill Hybels (9 percent), T.D. Jakes (7 percent), John Maxwell (6 percent), George Barna (5 percent), Pope John Paul II (5 percent), and Max Lucado (4 percent).

Graham led among mainline, Baptist and Pentecostal pastors.

The December survey was based on telephone interviews with 614 senior pastors from various Protestant denominations. □

## Prayer allowed to stay in Bush inauguration

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court turned down a bid Jan. 19 to have prayer removed from President George W. Bush's inauguration, handing atheist Michael Newdow a defeat and leaving intact the program for the Jan. 20 ceremony.

Without comment Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist refused Newdow's emergency appeal from a lower court, which had also denied his request. In the previous week Newdow lost twice in both the district court and the appeals court. He argues that the inaugural prayer — in both the invocation and the benediction — violates the constitutional ban on government establishment of religion.

Newdow was involved last year in the much-publicized Pledge of Allegiance case, in which he argued for the removal of "under God." The Supreme Court ruled then that Newdow did not have legal standing in the case, a ruling that left the pledge intact. He has since refiled the suit along with eight co-plaintiffs. □

## Sloan out as Baylor president

Associated Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Baylor University President Robert Sloan will step down June 1, concluding one of the stormiest periods in the 160-year-old school's history, an era marked by expansion but also division. Sloan will become Baylor's chancellor at the end of the spring semester, both he and Will Davis, chairman of the university's board of regents, announced at a news conference Jan. 21.

Sloan will focus on fund-raising, student recruitment, and promoting the university's vision, he said. And he will relinquish all executive leadership for the Baptist school to his presidential successor, Davis added.

Sloan's future at Baylor has been a topic of debate — and at least three votes among the regents — during the past couple of years. But Sloan and the regents reached their decision for transition "by mutual agreement," Davis reported.

Regents unanimously expressed their personal support for Sloan's move from president to chancellor during a Jan. 20 conference call, Davis said, noting all but two of the 36 regents participated in the evening call.

They are expected to make the decision official when they meet for their regular winter meeting, Feb. 3-4. □

## LC trustees elect president

Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. — Louisiana College's board of trustees voted 17-13 to name Joe Aguillard as the college's new president around 2 a.m. Jan. 18 as a crowd of students and faculty members awaited the decision.

Aguillard will succeed Rory Lee, who announced his resignation March 15, 2004, to become executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

In September, trustees elected Malcolm Yarnell as president, but Yarnell decided to return to his position at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas.

On Jan. 13, a group of Louisiana College alumni and former faculty members filed a lawsuit against the board of trustees, claiming Aguillard's nomination was illegal because it did not come from the original search committee. Yarnell was that committee's first choice, and when he turned down the job, it offered another choice, Stan Norman of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Other trustees rejected that selection, and a new committee was appointed. The new committee, which was affirmed by the trustees 19-8, nominated Aguillard.

The college is on a year's probation by its accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The agency

placed the school on probation after finding it was not in compliance in areas of governance and academic freedom. □

## SBC leaders say there's no plan to compete with BWA

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A statement by Richard Land, that he and fellow Southern Baptist leaders will attend a meeting in Europe "to form a new alternative to the Baptist World Alliance," prompted the BWA general secretary to say he was "shocked."

There should be no surprise, Land told Baptist Press Jan. 19.

The BWA general secretary, Denton Lotz, told a reporter that "the creation of a competitive organization to the Baptist World Alliance ... goes against everything they've told us in meetings that we've had ..."

No such organization, Land noted, is in the offing.

An "alternative to the Baptist World Alliance," Land told Baptist Press, "does not mean another formal organization."

Land said he and fellow SBC leaders have not changed their intention "to construct, in dialogue [with other Baptist leaders around the world] alternative ways of relating to each other and maintain mutual support, ministry, and dialogue." "I never intended anything differently" than what he and other SBC leaders have said leading up to and since the SBC's withdrawal from the BWA last June by a vote of messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said the meeting Land had referenced in comments Jan. 18 at a faith and politics panel discussion in Washington involves an upcoming meeting with various European Baptist leaders who, like the SBC, have had theological misgivings about the BWA.

"To call the meeting with some of the European Baptist leaders an 'organizational' meeting would be a mischaracterization," Chapman said in the statement.

"Over the next several years we hope to travel to several continents meeting with like-minded Baptist leaders with the thought of developing a network or fellowship," Chapman continued.

"All along we have said that while the convention voted to withdraw its membership from the BWA, it by no means voted to withdraw our fellowship from Baptists around the world. If anything, we hope to have a closer relationship with our Baptist brethren by developing a more personal and cohesive fellowship with those whose primary goal coincides with ours, the evangelization of the masses."

"We have no desire to compete with the BWA in its work," Chapman said. □



# Minister overcomes test of faith to build church

Kathrin Chavez  
The Tennessean

FRANKLIN — After art teacher Lin Powell's husband died, she searched for three years to find a church to meet the challenges of her life, to help heal her grieving family.

"My son would have nothing to do with God anymore," she said.

Then she found Ridley Barron, pastor at the new Ridgeview Community Church. After the first service, her son said to her, "Mom, I put up a wall for three years, and Ridley put a crack in it."

Ridley Barron earned his powers to break down walls the hard way. His own experience with loss makes it possible. His faith makes it necessary.

As his fledgling congregation grows from a series of intimate meetings to a recent public opening, more people will experience his empathy.

Tomorrow, Powell will be the first person baptized in the congregation as the church has its first public service.

Like the Powells, people who hear Barron preach are struck by his compassion.

"He understands loss, and he also understands being ministered to," said Jerry Winfield, pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church, where Barron was youth minister for six years. "Both his church in Georgia and my church here ministered to him. It made him understand how important ministry is."

## The accident

It had been a great week for Ridley and Sarah Barron and their three children. They had spent several days in Hilton Head, S.C., courtesy of a time-share sales pitch offer.

As they drove to their rural Georgia home on Good Friday 2004, they were excited about the upcoming opportunity to start a church in Franklin, where they had lived when Ridley worked at Forest Hills. Ridley drove most of the way but turned the wheel over to Sarah so he could catch up on some reading. He had his head down and never saw the man who missed the stop sign and slammed broadside into their van.

"The last thing I heard Sarah say was 'Oh, my word.'"

The next thing I knew, I could hear my oldest son, Harrison, in the back seat screaming, 'Daddy, are we in a dream? What's happening to Momma?'

"Sarah was doing what's called a death rattle. Her last breath just went out of her. I immediately started screaming at her, 'Don't leave me. I can't do this.' I began to pray. I knew beyond all shadow of a doubt my wife was dead, but still continued to pray. An amazing calm came over me. God came in that car with me, and I was able to take care of my kids."

Abby, 6, and Harrison, 9, escaped serious injury. But 17-month-old Josh had been ejected as the family van rolled over twice. He was found, still in his car seat, 10 to 50 feet away. Suffering from head injuries, Josh was airlifted to a Savannah, Ga., hospital.

Despite his injuries, doctors were saying he might be released in time to fly to his mother's funeral the following Friday. He was to be buried in Franklin, a place the Barrons thought of as home.

But another cruel sorrow awaited. The hospital phoned Barron and told him to come immediately. Josh had been given an adult dose of a medicine designed to control seizures. The dosage was too

strong for a 17-month-old heart. Josh died five days after the accident.

And, just like that, at Eastertide, Ridley Barron's life, and faith, were turned upside down.

"Right after the accident, I re-examined every inch of my faith. Why do I believe in God? How do I believe in God? I came back to some very basic answers," he said.

## The search

Forest Hills Baptist had been discussing launching a new church in Williamson County for years.

Barron heard discussions when he first came on staff there more than 10 years ago. When he left six and a half years later to start a church in his native Georgia, Forest Hills still had not made a decision.

In July 2003, Forest Hills pastor Jerry Winfield told Barron the church was ready to make a move.

"I asked if I could still be part of the conversation. He said, 'You will be the first person we'll talk to,'" Barron said.

Barron already had many contacts left here, and his good reputation from his time at Forest Hills was another plus. In addition, he had been through one church planting and was more aware of what the job entailed. The Barrons were thrilled at the prospect of returning to the area they loved so well.

But then a man ran a stop sign.

Winfield asked Barron if he wanted to postpone the church launch or cancel it altogether. Barron asked for a month to make a decision.

"After the accident, a lot of people — strong believers, other normal church-goers, and some downright atheists — questioned me about why did God make this happen, or how could a loving God let things like this happen," Barron said.

"God didn't make this happen. We live in a world that's got bad in it. Bad things

To lose him, that's bitter. That made me so bitter to see the way institutions deal with these things. ... I have to pray a lot about my attitude about that. — Ridley Barron, pastor

happen. Could God have stopped it? Yes. We have to remember that God looks at the world with the big picture in mind.

"God sees more than the 70-plus years I may be given on this earth or the 33-plus years Sarah was given. What God is more interested in is two things — No. 1, His glory, and No. 2, my character."

Barron says the search for answers was more a reaffirmation than a refinding of the faith he grew up with.

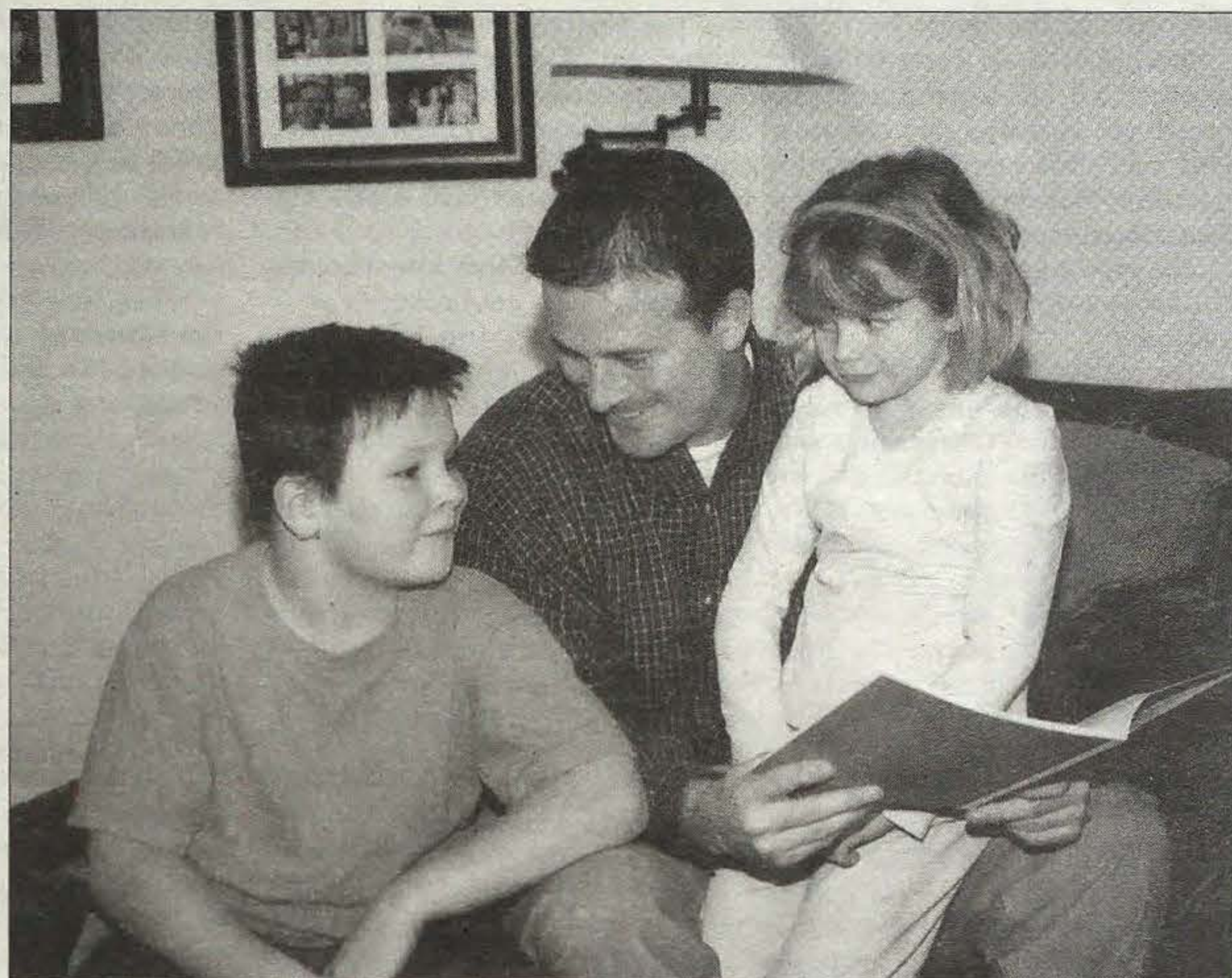
"I came to some of this in the first couple of weeks. Some of it I still lie awake at night and think about," he said.

Still, his belief in heaven was strong enough that he preached at his Douglas, Ga., church the Easter Sunday after his wife's death.

"People told me not to do it. But I said, 'If I'm not able to do it, who could?'"

That Easter Sunday, two days after his wife was killed, Barron told his congregation, "I realized this morning ... that (the reason) God took my wife Friday was so I could celebrate her resurrection today. If Jesus had never died on the cross, there was no Resurrection, and I couldn't go on."

Barron has been working on his character since the accident. Many people who knew his wife are bitter at the man



RIDLEY BARRON, center, founding pastor, Ridgeview Community Church, Franklin, relaxes with his children, Harrison and Abby, in their home. — Photo by Connie Davis

who hit their van. But Barron says he is not. The man was not drunk or on drugs. He made a simple mistake that people do every day with less tragic consequences, Barron says.

But dealing with the loss of his small son with the electric blue eyes is more difficult. He is working with the hospital on a settlement to avoid a lawsuit, but he struggles not to let his anger show.

"Everyone who knew him said he lit up a room by walking in," Barron said. "To lose him, that's bitter. That made me so bitter to see the way institutions deal with these things. It's another case to them. I have to pray a lot about my attitude about that. I think I've been good to this point."

## The church

Early in June, Barron called Winfield and said he believed God wanted him to go to Franklin and move forward with the church. He and his children moved to Franklin the next month.

A core group of 60 people from Forest Hills began organizing, and in October Ridgeview Community Church started services.

The first public worship service Jan. 9 at the school drew 327. On Jan. 16, 230 attended.

Roland Lundy, a member of the Ridgeview church leadership council, says Barron's ministry has been touched by his personal tragedy.

"He's a much better preacher since what happened to him and his family," Lundy said. "When he ministers and preaches to people, he can relate to almost every situation people have been in. It gave him maturity beyond his years, and that maturity comes across in his preaching and his ministry."

Recently members of the church were stationed at Kroger in Franklin's Independence Square to spread the word, handing out soft drinks and water. If it was raining, they offered umbrella-guarded trips to cars.

The church's vision is organized around the twin lessons of compassion and character that Barron learned in these difficult months.

"I'm 100 percent man," he said. "I grew up playing sports. All my life has

been rough-and-tumble kind of stuff. Since the accident, I have felt a deeper compassion for people around me. Even here in the traditional Bible Belt, 80 percent of people don't have a relationship with God like Sarah did. It hurts me to know that every day I walk around people at the park or the supermarket who do not know and understand the greatness of God."

Ridgeview members have to agree to certain requirements — salvation, baptism, attendance at a new member class, and a membership covenant.

"I think the church should ask more of its members. One thing we ask is not come and just sit, but to serve others," Barron said. "There's nothing more important than the faith we have and friends who help you get through things. Hopefully, our church will have a more compassionate ring to it, but there will still be expectations of those who come."

## The children

While starting a church from scratch, Barron has been learning to be a single parent of Abby, 6, and Harrison, who turned 10 recently.

Trying not to be too protective of his two remaining children, he works at keeping his composure in dealing with the day-to-day trials of being a father to his active and vulnerable son and daughter. "When I lose my patience, my wife isn't there to say, 'Calm down, honey.' I've learned to walk away, or to send them to their rooms until I calm down. Sometimes the spirit of my wife, what she was like, reminds me, 'Honey, this is how you deal with this.'"

Barron has two great fears.

"I don't want to miss what God has to show me. I don't want to get so wrapped up in feeling sorry for myself that I miss what God really wants to show me that's greater than that one event in my life."

"My second fear is making sure my kids know what an amazing God it was that Sarah served. I tell them, she loved you more than anything, but where Mom and Joshy-boy — that's what we called him — are right now, even if they could they would not come back because it's such an amazing place." □ — Used with permission from *The Tennessean*, Jan. 8, 2005 issue.



# Regional evangelism conference draws 650 to hear ...

— Continued from page 1

He noted that if each family in church would bring another family to Sunday School in a year and that family joined, the Sunday School membership would double in a year.

He challenged the crowd to "think exponentially, not incrementally."

Hemphill referred to Acts 1:3-8. He noted the passage helps Christians understand who they are, learn what "the heartbeat of God" is, and learn how Christians are empowered for the work.



**HEMPHILL**

He noted the disciples were confused about the kingdom of God. They thought it was a political kingdom. Yet, they would go on and do things greater than Jesus had done because they received the Holy Spirit to empower them to be witnesses.

"God is still about this task and He wants us to be a part of it," he said. "Jesus Christ empowered His church to finish His task."

Hemphill noted the message of the gospel is "not just good news, it is urgent news."

Christians should be sharing "with that neighbor that we'd hate to see them spend an eternity in hell."

Christians must realize that a church isn't theirs, a Sunday School class isn't theirs, and a position at church isn't theirs.

The church is God's and was given the task of evangelization after that assignment was removed from Israel, he noted.

The Holy Spirit will help Christians in witnessing, and is apparent from a person's boldness in witnessing.

Hemphill said he was saddened by the fact that 150,000 people died as a result of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. But he is saddened even more by the fact that 1.56 billion people in the world have never heard of Jesus.

God's agenda has never changed, he noted. It is to see that every person "on this planet" would know of Jesus and His love.

This task is "a mandate," he declared.

Yet Christians have their fears. They worry that if a lot of lost people join their church they might lose their fellowship.

Evangelism "is not a human endeavor, but a divine one," Hemphill continued, adding that no one will receive credit for their efforts.

"This is not a mundane task to be dreaded. This is a kingly command to be embraced."

Southern Baptists are partners in the task, which is why Southern Baptists are organized, he explained. Denominational workers "exist to help you complete the task that God has given us to complete," he explained.

He praised many of the X generation who are becoming missionaries in difficult places because they seek challenge.

Hemphill said he doesn't believe resources will limit the work.

"I believe God has the resources. God's not broke."

"Get the vision," he challenged.

## Three Tennessee pastors

On Saturday, three Tennessee pastors preached and spoke about their church ministries and then participated in a question and answer session on their ministries. They were Kyle Beverly, The Potters House, Harriman; Tom McCoy, Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station; and David Landrith, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

## David Landrith

Landrith has served Long Hollow for seven years during which the church has grown from about 300 to 2,500 in attendance. Last year it baptized 275.

Landrith, referring to I Thessalonians, said the church needs leadership, boldness, authenticity, a biblical base, to be marked by compassion, and to show effort.

"The hope of the world is the local church," said Landrith.

Churches can have different styles, but they should have the above characteristics if they are going to reach "their Jerusalem."

He said the biggest challenge of pastors is to lead themselves.

He learned it helps to be accountable to some folks who "can get in your face and say you're wrong."

He encouraged pastors to love the members of their church or they may end up "fussing at them Sunday after Sunday after Sunday," he said.

Church members should avoid insulating themselves from non-Christians, which leads non-Christians to think of Christians as judgmental, "churchy, and not real," Landrith described.

The church must be biblical, he continued. On other issues, ministers should pick their fights. Sometimes they should negotiate with church leaders rather than demanding something as pastor "to justify our oneriness."

"Don't be mad at lost people for acting like lost people," he suggested, but have compassion.

"We've won the battle of the Bible," he said, referring to the conservative swing of the convention. Now Baptists should avoid arguing over issues which are divisive such as Calvinism or whether "Baptist" should be in the name of a church.

Finally, Landrith encouraged pastors to avoid getting too busy and become busy strategically by developing skills they are weak in such as evangelism or discipleship.

## Tom McCoy

McCoy spoke from Luke 5:1-11 on how Jesus fished for men while he referenced his ministry at Thompson Station Church. When he started serving the

church 16 years ago eight people were attending. They met at a "honky-tonk," described McCoy. Today the church draws about 1,600 people each week.

He encouraged the crowd to rely on the Bible and the Holy Ghost.

The Bible teaches everything the Christian needs to know, explained McCoy. He and the ministers he serves with meet weekly and report how many quiet times they've had every week. They should have one a day, said McCoy.

He said he saw the church grow after knocking on the doors of homes and talking to people about his faith and the church.

Pastors who have been serving in the same area for a long time with few results should ask members again to visit people in their homes. They also should train them to witness, suggested McCoy.

He noted if he started declaring the Bible was inerrant, the crowd would get excited.

"It is inerrant, but if we really believed it, we'd be acting it out."

Currently about 85 members of the church visit residents each month. In the fall during a special study, 317 people were saved.

"Don't you tell me that soul winning doesn't work. We've done it at Thompson Station and it does work," he concluded.

## Kyle Beverly

Beverly, founding pastor of The Potters House, shared that he was a church leader and successful businessman with a great family when he felt God calling him to the ministry. Eighteen months ago he started The Potters House which now draws about 150 each Sunday morning. He has baptized 67 people. The church meets in a school.

Beverly said before accepting his call to ministry he was "appeasing and satisfying a lot of my flesh" and going "through the motions" as a Christian.

What he did wasn't convenient, but "serving God is never going to be convenient. We've got to be willing to lay down our life for Christ."

He realized people were "truly lost and going to hell" and



**SBC PRESIDENT** Bobby Welch signs a copy of his book, *You the Warrior Leader*, for Wyatt Turner of First Baptist Church, Dyer, as Ernie Adams of the church looks on.

that he could really "make a difference in people's lives."

He told about a "hit list" he keeps, which is a list of people who need Christ and/or a church.

Beverly said he has seen over 20 people in the congregation lead somebody to the Lord for the first time.

And although the congregation doesn't have the money to buy a facility or build one, it spent \$30,000 last year while doing missions work in other countries and plans to build a church in Brazil this year.

"We're going to build them a church and God's going to build us a church," declared Beverly.

"The church has been sitting too long," said Beverly. His congregation has become involved in overseas missions despite its size and financial resources and seen thousands of people saved.

God can move us to "get involved with our neighbors and ... when we love them how we ought, we have the privilege to share with them the love of Christ," said Beverly.

"God is challenging men and women to stir things up" although sometimes it upsets the church, he concluded.

## Question/answer period

During a question and answer period, the three men discussed their churches.

Landrith explained his

church does not have a visitation program. He said it would but the members aren't open to it partly because many commute to downtown Nashville to work and have little time during the week with their families. He said the church emphasizes relational evangelism and community efforts.

McCoy said his church emphasizes knocking on doors of homes as outreach.

Landrith and McCoy have new member classes but at Long Hollow an interview with a church leader is required, which can be done in a new member class, for church membership. In neither church are new members voted in by the congregation.

All three churches have Sunday evening programs. The Potters House has small groups. Thompson Station has two house of discipleship courses and Long Hollow has a worship service. It also has a Saturday evening service.

All three churches emphasize investing in the community, especially in the schools, often in financial ways.

The pastors also discussed church business meetings and committees, what the church votes on, and other matters.

On Friday of the conference participants had a selection of training sessions from which to choose. □



**PARTICIPATING IN A** question and answer period are pastors, from left, David Landrith, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville; Tom McCoy, Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station; and Kyle Beverly, The Potters House, Harriman.



# Walker had passion for education, compassion for others

## Reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

In December, Southern Baptists lost two widely known and respected statesmen and former heads of Southern Baptist Convention agencies — James L. Sullivan (LifeWay Christian Resources) and Roy Honeycutt (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary).

On Jan. 14, another Southern Baptist statesman joined Sullivan and Honeycutt among the saints in heaven — Arthur L. Walker Jr. (see Jan. 19 issue).

Arthur Walker is probably the least recognizable of the three names, but he had a profound impact on the lives he touched and in his area of expertise — Christian higher education.

His recent death has caused

me to reflect on my life, much more so than did the deaths of Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Honeycutt. While I had the privilege of meeting both of those Southern Baptist "legends," I didn't have the personal relationship with them that I had with Dr. Walker.

Most Christians can look back on their lives and see people God used as mentors and role models. We need to remember those individuals and let them know what they mean to us every chance we have.

Dr. Walker was the person who saw something (I still don't really know what) in a green, fresh-out-of-college, country boy from South Carolina who was just beginning a career in Christian communications/journalism. He first met me while I was on the development staff of Baptist College at Charleston (S.C.), now Charleston Southern University.

He took a chance on me and gave me a job as director of communications for the Southern

Baptist Education Commission (which no longer exists). The almost six years I spent on his staff were some of the most rewarding of my life. While there Dr. Walker gave me the freedom to learn on the job, to hone my writing and editing skills, and an opportunity to grow not only as an employee, but as a Christian. He never asked more out of me than he thought I could do, but he also pushed me to be the best I could be.

Arthur Walker was the essence of a Christian gentleman. He loved the Lord, Christian education, and Southern Baptist colleges and schools with a passion. Among the many things he taught me was patience and compassion for others.

After Dr. Walker retired in 1993 and moved to his native state of Alabama, I had only occasional contact with him. I wish I had been able to talk with him more during the past 12 years. During those few times we did talk he was always complimentary and continued to encourage

me. He was proud when he learned I had been elected editor of the *Baptist and Reflector* because he knew that serving as editor of a Baptist state paper was one of my dreams.

I have no doubt that God is the reason I am where I am to-

day. I also know that Arthur L. Walker Jr. was one of several people God used to prepare me for where I am today. For that I am grateful.

Dr. Walker will be missed by his family and his friends. He truly was a servant of God. □

## Pray for our state legislators

The 104th General Assembly is in session and our state legislators will be tackling several "hot issues" in the next few months.

One issue the legislators are expected to address is a constitutional ban on gay marriages. Defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman and placing it in the Tennessee Constitution is the only way to protect the concept of traditional marriage, according to family advocates.

Though I normally oppose changing our Constitution, I believe this issue is one that must be addressed. While Tennessee has laws which prohibit same-sex marriages, courts across the country have shown a tendency to strike down those laws. Just look at what happened in Massachusetts. Homosexuals are now able to legally wed in that state. Banning same-sex marriages in our Constitution would prohibit Tennessee courts from redefining marriage.

Same-sex marriages are morally wrong and go against God's Word. If we have to do something to keep it "illegal," then so be it.

Pray for our legislators as they grapple with this issue and others in the coming months. You also need to call or write your senators and representatives and make your views known. You can make a difference. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

## Letters to the editor

### Sullivan was wise

The reading of the death of James L. Sullivan caused me to reflect on several of the wisest bits of wisdom that ever came from the mouth of a man. He was the preacher of the baccalaureate sermon when I graduated from Union University in 1950. The following are short statements or axioms which I remember from the sermon and from later occasions:

"You are just as crooked bending over backward as you are forward"; "the best way to get bitten by a rattlesnake is running from a bull"; "the Southern Baptist Convention is like a long train; and when direction needs to be changed, you must be careful to not take sharp turns at too fast of a speed to keep from being derailed."

Dr. Sullivan was a great storyteller and used illustrations most effectively.

Southern Baptists have had many great giants in places of leadership. Dr. Sullivan is among the greatest of them.

Ira Singleton  
Cordova 38016

### Remembers friend

Paul Hall was a dear, dear friend for many years. I first met Bro. Hall back in 1976, when I was serving my first pastorate in Stewart County. He came and spoke at an associational meeting and I remember after the meeting we stood and talked for a long time. That was the beginning of a wonderful relationship.

Bro. Hall has preached a revival or preached at some special event at every church I have served as pastor, including two pastorates outside Tennessee. Throughout the years, Paul Hall was always a source of encouragement and a "bit of fresh air" to me and my family. On every

occasion that he was with us in revival he would always send a portion of his honorarium back to us with a note for "Diane to get her a pair of new shoes or a doll for Casey and Stacy."

Paul Hall was one, whom as another dear friend of mine, Tom Madden, once described another individual, "who lit fires in a damp room."

We'll miss Paul Hall, but are eternally grateful for the time God allowed our paths to cross and look forward to that wonderful time of reunion in heaven.

Steve R. Murphree, pastor,  
Midland Heights Baptist Church,  
Shelbyville 37160

### Prayer service

I was disappointed while listening to the Congressional Prayer Service this week. As I listened to each person as they came to the podium to pray, the name, Jesus Christ, was deliberately omitted by each person who prayed.

In the gospel book of John, Jesus was not boasting but stating a fundamental truth when He stated: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6).

I believe that the enemies of Jesus Christ are trying hard to run Christianity out of the United States.

Norma Cox  
Camden 38320

### Churches don't tithe

I want to thank you for publishing TBC President Roger Freeman's article in the Jan. 12 issue of the *B&R*. The president pointed out several necessary things that needed to be said about convictional/cooperative leadership. Yet, with all due respect to the president, I need to speak out against a concept that was present in the president's

article and one that often tends to surface throughout TBC life.

Freeman argued, "Each Tennessee Baptist church should give at least a tithe (10 percent) of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program." There are several things that are wrong with this statement, but in the interest of time and space I will only mention two.

First and foremost, the tithe is not something that God requires from the local church — it is something that He requires from each of the individuals who comprise the local church.

Throughout their instructions to the local church in the New Testament, not once do we find Jesus, Paul, Peter, John, or any of the other writers requiring some sort of tithe from the local church. Rather, what we do find is Christ sanctioning the practice of tithing for New Testament believers.

Second, not only are churches not obligated to give 10 percent of their income to the Cooperative Program and other mission causes, some churches simply are not capable of doing so. I've had friends who have gone to pastor churches just after a division/split has occurred or after some other horrible tragedy has taken place.

Many of these churches are often on the financial brink of closing their doors, and often the people who are affected the worst in such situations are the very pastors who are called upon to lead those churches back to successful, vibrant, growing ministry. Often, those pastors are forced to accept a drastic cut in pay just so the church can pay its bills.

I understand the spirit of the president's article — every church should be committed to local, North American, and international missions. I thank

God that I pastor a church that gives nearly 20 percent of its income to those very causes. I, too, believe that 10 percent of a church's income is a wonderful place to begin when talking about the CP. Yet, I'm convinced that there is a better way to promote Christian missions & local church stewardship than inventing some local church tithe law that is extra-biblical and often inconsiderate of each church's particular situation.

May God continue to bless the work of Southern Baptists as we seek to reach the world for Christ!

Todd Stinnett, pastor  
Grace Baptist Church  
Morristown 37815

### Remembers Sullivan

I first subscribed to the *Baptist and Reflector* in May 1952 when First Baptist Church, Collierville, called me as pastor. For the ensuing 53 years I have read each issue with keen anticipation and great interest.

The Jan. 12 issue was especially sad for me as I read of the death of Jimmy Sullivan and several of my seminary classmates and comrades in the ministry.

I enrolled in Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., in 1941 as a freshman ministerial student. That same summer Dr. Sullivan became the pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton. He was my pastor until 1943. A close friendship was formed that would last a lifetime.

I watched with great respect and admiration as he was called to pastorates and leadership roles in the SBC for the next 50 years. I would write and congratulate him. I treasure his notes and letters and the autographing of many of his books he wrote. I used his most widely read *Your life and Your Church* as a new-member guidebook in

all my pastorates.

Dr. Sullivan plowed a straight furrow, as he learned to do growing up in "Sullivan's Hollow" in Mississippi. His brilliance of thought, his integrity and honesty in leadership, his love of Jesus, His gospel and His church, his love and kindness for family and friends, leaves us a path we can all cherish and follow.

I am thankful our paths crossed in the pathway of life.

Henry West  
Henning 38041

### Proud of efforts

News reports continue to tell about the terrible hardships in the Indian Ocean nations with the tidal wave. Concerned people are asking, "What can be done?"

I am so very quick to tell them, "The nations that allow our missionaries in are already feeling the comfort and aid we can give them." Southern Baptist international missionaries aren't allowed everywhere; but where they are — things get done very quickly at times like these.

While others are trying to get organized; we have been there quietly moving in and among people with whom we pray, and upon whom we have influence, everyday.

We don't have all the answers; and should never leave out the wonderful inroads of the other groups; but none come so close to being "just what the doctor ordered" as our international missions programs.

I saw first-hand Southern and Tennessee Baptists at work when the tornados hit Morgan County a couple of years ago; and it made me extremely proud to be a Southern Baptist pastor!

Tom Moody, pastor  
West End Baptist Church  
Newport 37821



**Says Knoxville****'It couldn't get any better than this' until his deployment**By LaDonna Pettis  
Baptist Press

KNOXVILLE — A few months ago, Neal Wolfenbarger's plans for the winter centered around his studies at Harvest Institute for Biblical Studies, working for Pastor Tony Crisp at Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church in Knoxville, and being with his family.

Instead, Staff Sergeant Neal Wolfenbarger is spending the winter, and many months beyond, patrolling in Iraq with the 1-128th Infantry of the 278th Regimental Combat Team.

This is the third time Wolfenbarger has been in combat, having served in Afghanistan and in the initial troop advances into Iraq.

In December 2003 when he was placed on off-active duty, Wolfenbarger enrolled in the inaugural class at the Harvest Institute for Biblical Studies, which was begun by Chilhowee Hills Church. Crisp also offered him a part-time position as his assistant at Chilhowee Hills. And when a friend told Wolfenbarger about a National Guard chaplain candidate program, he sent in his paperwork.

Wolfenbarger had always felt that the Lord had blessed him, but at this juncture in his life it seemed like "it couldn't get any better than this."

Then an alert came down that he would be deployed again, and his first thought was, "What is God doing?"

"I didn't know why the Lord

would take me out of this great situation to go back on active duty." But Wolfenbarger said it took only "about two days" to understand God's purpose. "Militarily, they could really use my experience, and spiritually, the Lord was using me to spread the gospel and witness to other people."

He had felt the Lord's call into the ministry in December 2000, and this new deployment gave him the perfect opportunity to minister to others. In Mississippi where his platoon was training, he asked permission from the chaplain to start a church. The first service had five people but grew to highs of 45 to 50.

Wolfenbarger said the Lord has been at work in his platoon. He has had help from other Christians as well. "We have been witnessing to the guys in the group," he said. "We just plant the seeds. The Spirit has to change a man's heart."

He and several other guys put together a band with two guitars, a base, a set of bongos, and a keyboard. Several churches in Middle Tennessee donated the instruments; one church donated 25 hymnals; the Gideons donated 100 Bibles and another church donated 50 more.

Music reaches people, Wolfenbarger said. "Guys may not come to church but they listen to music," he said. "Whether it is Top 40 or 'Shout to the Lord,' they will listen and re-

spond. We try to use different means and methods to reach them."

The group saw three people turn to Jesus as Lord and Savior while in training.

"It amazes me," Wolfenbarger said. "I didn't know anyone in my platoon before [deployment] but God has done so much. I couldn't have dreamed it would happen this way. Just like the Lord providing the Bibles — someone asked what we needed and I mentioned Bibles. All of a sudden we have 150."

The group sent their instruments to Iraq and were to pick them up when they arrived in early December in order to continue the worship services.

Sometimes, traditional practices quickly get set aside when men are serving in the military. "The first time I was in Iraq, I saw a man get baptized in a tub from the chow hall," Wolfenbarger recounted. "Another time, we poured a bucket of water over someone's head."

He said he tries to stay focused on serving the Lord in between patrols. "We are doing our job but the Lord has a plan for other things — a reason for us being there. A lot of things happen with a platoon both in Iraq and back home. Men will come and ask us to pray for different things. I am thankful that the Lord has put us there for them."

"When you put your faith and trust in God ... it has to be

all or nothing. Sometimes you wonder why [things happen] but the Lord's going to use me in spite of myself. You've got to trust 100 percent ... I want to stay faithful to God and serve Him. He will make me a better person."

Although he is restricted in sharing his faith with Iraqi citizens, Wolfenbarger was excited to see ancient sites in Iraq during his first tour there. "I was in the place where Babylon was and the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. I was like, 'Wow, Abraham and the children of Israel walked here.'"

Wolfenbarger said he is trusting the Lord to take care of his wife, Kristie, and 9-year-old son, Lane, while he is on mission. "This is the third time that I have had to leave my family. I don't know how anyone who is not a follower of Christ deals with leaving family," he said. "I have a peace of mind. He [the Lord] has everything under control."

Wolfenbarger said he is going to devote the next year to studying the Bible and, when he returns to Knoxville, to pursue his master's degree in biblical studies at Harvest Institute. "When I come back, I want to be faithful in whatever He has in

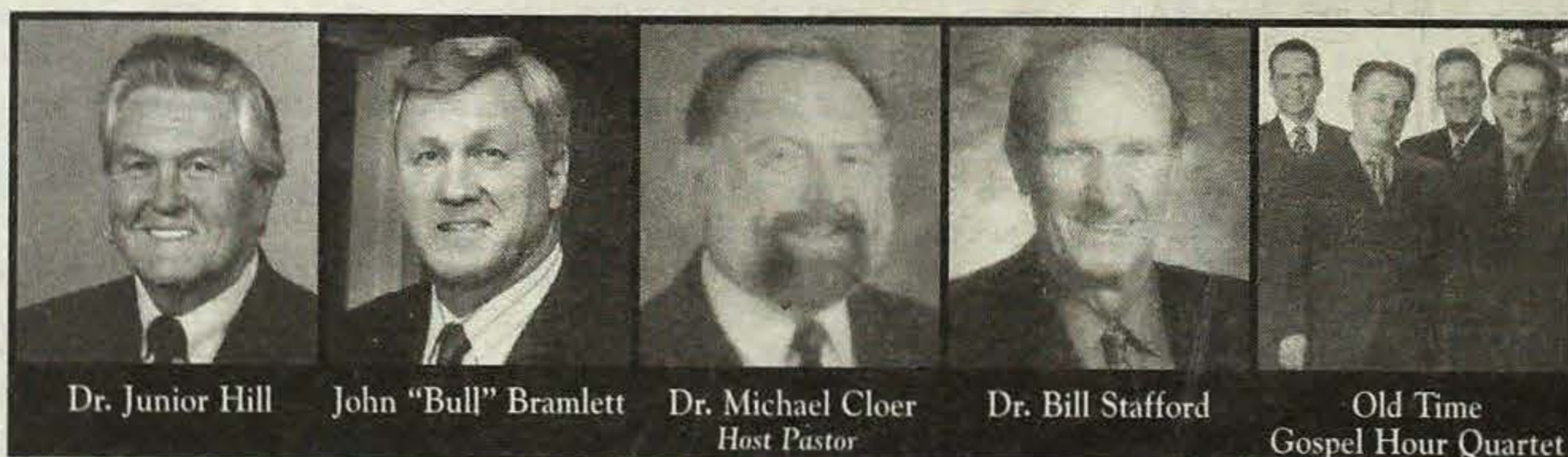


**STAFF SERGEANT** Neal Wolfenbarger of Knoxville says "God has done so much" in his 278th Regimental Combat Team platoon since their deployment for training and service in Iraq.

store for me. I love to preach and God gave me a gift to talk. I also love teaching and history, so I would also like to teach on the college level."

Wolfenbarger said the Lord is teaching him much during this time. "Pastor Tony [Crisp] said in class that the Levites couldn't be priests until they were 30 years old. People called to the ministry want to go through school and hurry and get a church. The Lord is saying [to me], 'Hold on — build your character.' He wants to get me ready." □ — Pettis is director of institutional advancement of Harvest Institute for Biblical Studies of Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville.

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## Association's Jerusalem ...

— Continued from page 1

site by 9 a.m. ... with materials delivered to each site over the weekend under the direction of Dyer Baptist Director of Missions Joe Wright. Wright coordinated the materials consignment and delivery. Dyer Baptist Association received a \$1,500 grant award from Mississippi River Ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention to provide building materials.

"Dyer Baptist Association and Mississippi River Ministries have formed this partnership to meet the needs of people who need help the most," said Wright, who has been instrumental in the development and growth of the Jerusalem Project.

Second Baptist Church of Dyersburg provided lunches for the teams on Monday. Church members cooked and prepared the lunches at the church, then delivered lunches to the various sites on schedule for a brief lunch break, then it was back to work.

All projects were completed by 3 p.m. Teams then cleaned up their sites, gathered up tools, and returned to Hillcrest Baptist for a celebration and closing ceremony where each team

was able to report and students shared testimonies about how they had witnessed God at work.

"When we began the Jerusalem Project four years ago, we had 83 people from a handful of churches," Wright said, "God has blessed each year and now we've grown substantially in the number of churches participating, the number of youth and adults who participate, and the number of projects we're able to complete."

Cavness said two churches in the northern area of the Dyer Baptist Association have already expressed interest in hosting the Jerusalem Project in 2006. □



**GROUPS OF STUDENTS** from Dyer Baptist Association were involved in projects such as yard work.



# UPDATE

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

## Teams needed for Rio revivals

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Over 30 teams of three volunteers are needed for the upcoming 2005 Evangelism Revival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to be held Sept. 26-Oct. 4, according to Kim Margrave, Volunteer Missions specialist.

Each team will consist of a preacher, a music leader, and a layperson. Contact Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions Ministry assistant, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061 or [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org), for more information. □

## Cross-Cultural training planned

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — The first of two Cross-Cultural Training events for 2005 will be held March 18-19 at the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood, sponsored by the Volunteer Missions Team.

Have questions about volunteering overseas on a mission trip? Join others who are asking the same questions at Cross-Cultural Training.

Considered how you'll relate to the people that you encounter overseas? Will your actions open doors of witness? Or will your actions close them? Find your answers through this event.

This 12-hour training will help you recognize the influences that shape your worldview and how that impacts your ministry. Discover what triggers and reduces culture shock. Discuss the unique challenges of witnessing cross-culturally. Explore the biblical basis of missions.

Included in the training are: an international dinner; ministering cross-culturally; missiological issues; incarnational ministry; and the blessing.

The second Cross-Cultural Training will be held April 22-23 at Tennessee Baptist Convention Center, Brentwood.

Registration is \$20 per person. Register on line at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org), or contact Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions Ministry assistant, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061 or [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org). □

## Canadian seminary is new 2006 partnership venue

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

COCHRANE, Alberta, Canada — The Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists is seeking to plant 1,000 churches by 2020 and through a 2006 partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and with God's help it will happen.

The TBC approved a partnership with the Canadian Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, to begin January 2006 and continue through December 2010 at its annual meeting, according to Kim Margrave, Volunteer Missions specialist.

"The purpose of the partnership is that Tennessee Baptists would work with the Canadian Seminary so that Canadian Baptist leaders could be trained to plant churches and lead churches to evangelize Canada for Christ," said Richard Blackaby, Seminary president. "Since the Canadian Convention is seeking to plant 1,000 churches by 2020, the Seminary is striving to train as many leaders as possible to make this happen.

"We need a strong convention of churches like that in Tennessee to walk with us at the seminary so we can provide the best training possible for those who will seek to claim Canada for Christ."

"The majority of our students are first generation Christians so they do not have a rich Baptist Heritage, nor do they have a good model of a healthy church," said Bill Falkner, Academic dean and professor of education at the Canadian Seminary. "They need to learn leadership principals through internships."

"There are three possibilities of teams," said Margrave. "The first is Tennessee volunteers may consider teaching semester, Intensive, or J terms at the seminary. The second is a Tennessee church, Sunday School class, Baptist Association, or group might adopt a Canadian seminary student for encouragement, prayer, or assisting the student plant a Canadian church upon graduation. The third is hosting a Canadian seminary student in Tennessee while he or she serves as an in-



SITE OF A 2006 partnership with Tennessee is the Canadian Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, located in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada.

tern in a local church and an association."

"There are many things that we would hope to see happen through this partnership," added Blackaby. "We need people who can come and teach semester-long classes. We will also need some who can teach one-week classes. We have many programs, such as our church music program and our new church planting degree that will need support from vis-

iting professors and instructors if we are to be able to sustain them.

"We would like to see churches adopt students and then pray for, undergird, and mentor them while they are in seminary and while they are planting a church. After they graduate it would be great if that same church could walk with that student for five years until their church plant was firmly — See Canadian, page 8

## Montana convention set as new partnership

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — "Jesus is not a familiar face in Montana," according to Jason Cruise, senior pastor at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, who has traveled twice to Montana.

If Cruise is correct, then Tennessee Baptist Convention volunteers will have a challenge facing them in the partnership with the Montana Southern Baptist Convention in Billings, to begin January 2006 and continue through December 2010.

"It's hard to scrape out a living in Montana, and people don't have a lot of money," said Cruise. "Alcoholism is high. People are lonely, and neighbors may be two miles down the road or even further. As for technology, churches are starving for it. Even the larger churches don't have near what we have here in Tennessee."

The TBC approved a partnership with the Montana Southern Baptist Convention in Billings, Mont., at its annual meeting, according to Kim Margrave, Volunteer Missions specialist.

"Montana is a true pioneer



EXPLORING GLACIER National Park are a team from Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, including from left, Jason Cruise, pastor; Josh Spilker; Logan Buckner of Kalispell, Mont.; Nancy Cruise; Erin Fall; Becca Killebrew; Julie Jagers; Michael Stewart; Bill Killebrew; and Silas Stamey.

state for Southern Baptists with only 130 churches," said Jeff Clark, Montana Southern Baptist Convention executive director, who is a native of Winchester, Tenn., and a graduate of Carson-Newman College. "Most people are first and second generation Christians. The needs are great within the churches and the state convention. We need discipleship and evangelism. Many small Montana towns have no churches."

"We need volunteers to go into the communities to start churches and strengthen existing churches. We need help in

discipling first generation Christians and providing training.

"Montana has large areas of rural ministry and some large towns, but the remote areas may have the closest Wal-Mart or McDonald's three and a half hours away by car. We post on our web site the ministry facts, because we don't want people to come out here to minister with a false sense of purpose."

An example of a remote area would be Winnett, with a population of 190 in the city and only 500 people in Petroleum County, according to Clark.

"We are seeking different ways to do ministry out here. There is nothing as remote in Tennessee as in Montana. Out here the nearest gas station might be 60 miles from your home."

"Contrasting with the rural areas are the metropolitan areas which are growing very fast such as the Bozeman area. This area is filling up with the ranches of the Hollywood types."

Clark explains it as two emerging extremes between the cities and the rural areas where urban church planters and remote rural church planters are needed.

"We have a broad spectrum of mission projects to offer from the traditional group project to help strengthen churches to group projects with a missions mindset such as urban area block parties."

"Our perspective of the Montana partnership is that it will be based on church relationships, and it will be done with church to church links," said Margrave.

"Montana is the size of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi combined geographically. The population is under one million." — See Montana, page 8



## Canadian seminary is new 2006 partnership ...

— Continued from page 7 established.

"We will also need building teams who can come and do construction on our seminary campus. We also have need of landscapers and librarians who can give time in the summers to help us develop our property and our library."



BLACKABY

Blackaby also noted the need for prayer supporters who will regularly lift them up in prayer as they face many challenges in Canada. In addition to prayer, other resources are needed from retired pastors and professors who would like to donate their libraries to the Seminary.

Other volunteers needed for the Seminary are those with specialized expertise in computers, distance education, architecture, and curriculum development.

In turn, the Seminary will

provide to the TBC a "Mission Experience" option for Tennessee seminary students to study for a semester or more at the Canadian Seminary in order to experience theological education in an international and multi-cultural context.

"TBC will identify possible volunteers to do short term teaching such as J terms for January and June and Intensive terms, both in residence at the seminary or from Tennessee online," said Falkner. "There will also be opportunities for visiting professors for one or two semesters."

"Academic teaching requests are already available," said Margrave. "Those interested in volunteering will have housing needs furnished and transportation needs arranged as available by the Canadian Seminary. Academic positions are expected to last around 15 weeks per semester and one week for Intensives or J terms."

"These projects may be suitable for Tennessee pastors who would be willing to take a sab-

batistical leave to teach at an accredited seminary. There is a possibility of two or more positions a semester."

"Other volunteers might be state convention people and Tennessee college students who are interested in the church planting movement."

"TBC churches and others related to the churches have



FALKNER

staff that are qualified to do the jobs," said Falkner. "There are also LifeWay personnel, TBC University and College faculty, and retired individuals who are qualified from these institutions to teach."

"We have already used TBC staff as volunteers for faculty for some classes. TBC Volunteer Missions office will serve as a clearing house, and they will send us a list of qualified people."

"Teaching is one of the significant elements of the agree-

ment," added Falkner. "We need teachers with masters degrees preferring a seminary based degree such as M. Div. or Christian Education to teach on the undergraduate level and an earned doctorate or equivalent degree to teach on the graduate level with church based experience."

"We also are looking for successful ministers who can teach what they have learned from the field," added Blackaby. "We especially need people who could give four months to serve with us during a full semester."

"Our faculty is limited, but it needs to expand to meet the needs of the growing enrollments," said Falkner. "The Canadian Seminary is considered a mission field, because all the faculty are either IMB or NAMB partnership missionaries."

According to Falkner, there are 220 SBC churches in Canada, which average around 65 people or they are new church starts. Canadian students are

destined for small churches that can be as far as 1,000 miles apart and it is a tough, isolated ministry.

"The seminary hopes to not only receive a blessing from Tennessee Baptists, but also to be a blessing to them," noted Blackaby. "We have wonderful, godly professors and staff who are excellent preachers and Bible teachers. We'd love to see Tennessee churches invite them to speak and teach for special occasions. We also want our students to get to know you and pray for your churches."

"We believe God has orchestrated this partnership. We believe that developing effective church leaders and church planters is the key to reaching Canada for Christ. The partnership could not come at a more strategic time. We are excited to see what God will do."

Volunteers interested in the project are asked to contact the Volunteer Missions specialist, Kim Margrave at 1-800-558-2080 ext. 2021 or e-mail her at [kmargrave@tnbaptist.org](mailto:kmargrave@tnbaptist.org) □

## Montana convention set as new ...

— Continued from page 7

There are six Baptist associations and five associational missionaries who serve Montana. There are also seven Native American Indian reservations.

Stevens Street Baptist Church in Cookeville has had an eight-year partnership with First Baptist Church of Poplar, Mont., which is located on the Ft. Peck Indian Reservation in the northeast corner of the state. The Ft. Peck Reservation is home to Native American Sioux and other Canadian First Nation tribes.

Stevens Street Church has taken mission trips to First Church since 1997 where they have led three-day VBS programs culminating in carnivals to community events and revivals.

"The greatest need is sharing the gospel in the area," said Tim Franks, Stevens Street Church, associate pastor. "They need the hope of the gospel on the Indian Reservation. The people are caught up in alcoholism, gambling, dysfunctional family life, and poverty, which are symptomatic in needing the hope that the Lord brings."

"When our church members come home from Montana, they come home struggling that they should return to minister out there. It's out west and a new culture. It takes years to develop relationships where the people have confidence in your

teams. Our teams have been families from Steven Street Church ranging from small to large teams."

"I came home effected by the whole thing in Montana and by especially the people," noted Cruise after his first trip to Montana in January 2004.

Doug Hutcheson, Montana Convention Evangelism department co-director, called Cruise to come speak at their annual evangelism conference on issues surrounding outdoor ministry.

"Having yet to go to Montana, I said yes on the spot," said Cruise.

"At least 43 percent of Montanans own a hunting or fishing license, so every other person you meet in Montana engages the outdoors on some level. It is a state ripe for outdoor ministry."

"I had a blast, and fell in immediate love with the people. They are down to earth folks who let you be yourself. I taught two conferences on how to build an outdoor ministry in churches, preached around the topic of 'Sharing Your Faith Through Your Life's Passion,' and then packed for home. I made some super relationships with some super people."

However, strange things happened as Cruise boarded his plane back to the Volunteer state with the Big Sky country left behind. "My heart wasn't ready to leave. I came back to my congregation and



**DISCUSSING PLANS** for the Montana partnership are, from left, Kim Margrave, TBC Volunteer Missions specialist; Jeff Clark, Montana Baptist Convention executive director; James Porch, TBC executive director; and a volunteer of First Baptist Church, Poplar, Mont.

told them, 'I don't know why, nor do I even know how, but God is going to do something with Montana and Belmont Heights Church.'"

A few weeks later a second trip was planned with a mission team from Belmont Heights Church going to Kalispell, Mont., near Glacier National Park.

"We wanted to help a new church plant, and they needed relationships so a bond was born," Cruise noted.

"Arriving in Kalispell, our missions team of 11 and the folks at Harvest Baptist Church laid down a strategy. We helped with their Creation Camp during the morning hours, which was a Montana version of VBS outdoors. In the evening hours, we would focus on church/community promotions, because you don't do 'cold call' evangelism in Montana."

The next night the team broke into groups of three and prayerwalked the neighborhoods. On Wednesday evening, the team again walked the same streets going door-to-door handing out a "Meet Your New Neighbor" flyer.

"The response was incredible. No one was led to Jesus, but roots were planted. For us to be received that well was a shock, and then again it wasn't so much a shock. Montanans are by nature very independent people; it was not so shocking in that prayer breaks down barriers of the heart."

Another Tennessee Baptist who is familiar with Montana is Larry Reagan, pastor of Adams Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden, who spoke recently at the Montana Convention Annual Meeting at Canyon Ferry Road Baptist Church in East Helena, Mont.

Reagan was asked to preach in October 2004 one of the convention sermons by B.G. Stumberg, president of the Montana Convention, which was held at Pastor Stumberg's home church. Stumberg asked Reagan to preach, because Stumberg wanted a Tennessee pastor to highlight the proposed partnership.

"They need a lot of new churches in Montana, and they need a lot of pastors who want to be church planters," said Reagan. "It is a very difficult environment for pastors to live in Montana, because of the climate and its sparsely located population."

"Since my trip to Montana I have a greater appreciation for pastors and church planters in Montana. The sacrifices that they make are tremendous."

"I hope to return to Montana to preach revivals, or lead mission trips for VBS or Backyard Bible Clubs to help in the church planting process."

Those interested in working with Montana, contact Margrave at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2021 or e-mail her at [kmargrave@tnbaptist.org](mailto:kmargrave@tnbaptist.org).

"Montana has a lot of small rural towns where six men play on a team in football," said Margrave. "We want to do church strengthening and church planting in Montana. Missions teams from Tennessee may be larger than the towns in Montana." □



## Churches, government make Scott County center possible

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

**HUNTSVILLE** — The new Scott County Help Center, a government and an ecumenical ministry center, is set to open Feb. 15 to help one of the top 10 most depressed counties in the state, according to David Acres, Big Emory/New River Baptist Association director of missions.

"Dwight Murphy, county mayor of Scott County, got the idea for a social ministry from the tornadoes in the fall of 2002 when people were left homeless in the area," said Acres, whose association encompasses churches in Scott, Morgan, and Roane counties. "Murphy wanted to do a one-stop help center of ministry for people in need, which would include a food pantry, clothes closet, house rebuild teams, soup kitchen, and other services."

Murphy, a member of Winfield Baptist Church, Winfield, in Scott County, wanted to help people who were homeless from tornadoes and burnouts, stranded while traveling, or low on funds due to the loss of jobs by setting up a social ministry for Scott County, as Acres explains it.

Murphy turned to Acres, the local branch of the Salvation Army, and the Morgan-Scott Project, a social ministry organized by several denominations in the two counties, to accomplish his goal. Murphy began his vision by getting the Salvation Army and Morgan-Scott project together with Acres in November 2003.

Sitting unoccupied in the area was the Capitol Hill Elementary School, Capitol Hill, which was a former kindergarten through eighth grade school, located outside Huntsville, the Scott County government seat.

Now a three-way partnership

is remodeling the school into four (2) bedroom apartments, one handicapped-accessible apartment, two motel style rooms, a food pantry, clothes closet, education center, and dormitory spaces with showers.

Other visions for the Help Center call for it to serve as a facility for youth mission teams to stay in while they work in Scott County, or house people who need a place to stay after a home burnout. Plans call for the school kitchen and cafeteria to be used as a future soup kitchen.

The school was leased to the Association by Scott County for \$1 a year, and the Salvation Army, the Association, and Morgan-Scott Project will have offices in it.

The school, which was built in the 1940s with 10 classrooms, office space, 4 restrooms, and formerly served as the National Guard armory, began to undergo renovation this past summer with the help of two church mission teams and prisoners from Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex at Petros, Acres added.

Under an agreement, the Association will run the Center. Scott County will pay the electricity, insurance, and utilities.

"There are no facilities in the churches in Scott County to have mission teams," noted Acres. "Plus over \$162,000 from a federal government grant has been acquired by the Center to house and distribute recycled building materials to be used to rebuild houses in Scott County, which are in constant need of repairs to redo bathrooms, replace roofs, and build ramps."

"Recently the Acts 1:8 strategy was promoted during the October 2004 Big Emory/New River Association Annual Meeting to be on mission churches to pray, promote, and participate in missions," said Acres. "This is the moving factor behind the Center

to get Scott County churches to work and support their new mission center.

"To me, it's God's hand," said Acres. "God dropped this building into our lap."

"We already saw God at work there with the county mayor and county commissioners desiring to help the people in the community, and we wanted to get involved. Morgan and Scott Counties are some of the poorest counties in the state. Through our local churches and the Association, we need to be trying to meet their needs. We are also a part of the Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) area."

"God has worked such miracles in Scott County where He has provided a ministry building, volunteers to refurbish, strategic partnerships between county/city governments and the Baptist Association, and a general openness in the community to having the gospel shared," said Beverly Smothers, TBC Strategic Ministries specialist. "Where can you experience this miracle? Go to the Scott County Help Center. If you need a good heartwarming, contact Acres, at the Association office."

Acres also noted 2004 summer mission teams from Dyllis Baptist Church, Harriman, who did cleanup, and from Woodland Baptist Church, Brownsville, who did both cleanup and painting at the Center. He also praised the prison volunteers who are skilled plumbers, electricians, and other tradesmen.

"What amazes me is that churches and government can work together for the good of the people," said Acres.

Noting the poverty level in the area, Acres sees a direct link to the decline of local area industries having an effect on the economy. "Morgan County has two big employers: the County



SET TO OPEN FEB. 15 is the Scott County Help Center in the old Capitol Hill School building near Huntsville.

school system and Brushy Mountain prison. Roane County lost its hosiery mill so teenagers who graduate from high school have to go other places to work. It results in a depressed poverty area, because no new industry has taken its place.

"Plans for the Morgan-Scott project, the Salvation Army, and the Association to open offices in the Center would be an improvement in the area. Scott, Morgan, and Roane counties could have church mission team building projects such as light construction in the morning and BYBCs in the evenings. Construction groups could build porches, rebuild roofs, and help out in the Center. Teams could stock food in the pantry or work in the Center clothes closet."

"The East Tennessee Human Resources Agency, another local social ministry agency, is also funding the projects for building ramps, and other rebuild needs; all we need is the labor force from the mission teams."

"We have also received donations from associational churches and other area churches for the rebuild ministry."

The Center is one of the results that Acres saw when Big Emory Association got a bigger view of the local needs, because

of the Nov. 10, 2002 tornadoes. This catastrophic disaster led the association to grow in social ministries.

In June 2003 Acres talked about the area needs with the Scott County mayor, and they shared their visions. In November 2003, the possibility of a social ministry center was worked out with Scott County Commission and County mayor.

In September 2004, a 13-0 vote from the Scott County Commissioners authorized the creation of a 7-member governing board for the Scott County Help Center in the old Capitol Hill school building, and gave County Mayor Murphy the authority to enter into a lease agreement with the officials of the Big Emory/New River Association, the Morgan-Scott Project, and the Salvation Army to operate the program. The Center will cater to the people in Scott County from providing temporary shelter to other basic needs.

A governing board for the Center was also created to include: some local commissioners, Murphy as the county mayor, Acres for the association, Jill Potter for Morgan-Scott project, and Dwayne Hughett for the Salvation Army. □

## Gobles of Maryville lead 35-member medical team to Rio de Janeiro

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

**RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil** — Over 420 decisions for Christ were recorded by a 35-member medical mission team from eight different states and 17 churches, who worked Oct. 22-31 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, according to Tennessee Baptist team leaders from Maryville.

"God was in this mission trip all the way," said Douglas and Ramona Goble, members of Friendship Baptist Church, Maryville, who organized the trip to Igreja Batista em Pavuna.

"It seemed as if everyone had worked together on many trips before except for 12, who were on their first international mission trip," said Douglas Goble. "The team was anxious to get started in Rio. Everyone did what was asked with-



**NURSES** working at the Rio church are Geneva Ambrose, left, of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, and Ramona Goble of Friendship Baptist Church, Maryville, and co-team leader.

out any complaints."

The Tennessee team consisted of 2 doctors, 1 dentist, 1 optometrist, 8 nurses, 5 pharmacists, and 18 medical helpers.

"If there was any murmuring, it was because there were not

enough opportunities to evangelize," added Goble, who was joined by his wife Ramona, an R.N. "This is a great problem to have."

"It is a great feeling to help people with their physical needs, but what a feeling to help people with their spiritual needs."

According to Goble, one of the greatest moments occurred when he, a doctor, and an interpreter made a home visit to an elderly man. The living conditions at the home were unsanitary. The man, who smoked about 4 packs of cigarettes per day, was blind because of cataracts. He was diagnosed with asthma.

Physician Wayne Wells, a member of Silver Springs Baptist Church, Lebanon, treated the man. Goble who prayed about how to witness, told the man that what the doctor offered would help him for a little while,

but that Jesus offered something that would last an eternity. Goble explained what Jesus had done for him. The elderly man who had tears running down his cheek prayed the sinner's prayer.

"The man prayed to receive Christ right there in his bedroom. It was an awesome experience," noted Goble. "I thank God that He gave me the opportunity to lead this team into Rio, and I am very grateful to Tennessee Baptists who help to make these trips possible."

"There were several people who touched my heart at Igreja Batista em Pavuna," said Brenda Rogers, a member of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, who worked on the evangelism team while her husband, James Rogers, a pharmacist, worked in the pharmacy.

"Some of the people who touched me were a crippled lady

in tremendous pain who worshiped and prayed on her knees, a children's choir who learned a song in English that spoke about praying for unity, and the heart of the pastor that was filled with pride for his church as they helped the mission team, and the pastor's compassion and dreams for the community."

"That week doors were opened for further work, lives were impacted for Christ, hearts were changed, and eternity will never be the same," added Rogers, who along with a 15-member team from Hermitage Hills Church plan to return in April to do construction work in Lapa.

The medical team recorded treating 851 eye patients, 438 children, 539 general medical patients, 174 dental patients, and gave out 3,101 prescriptions. □



## Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions Network UPDATE

## Partnership Projects

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil		30 teams of 3 to lead revival services and door-to-door visits	9/26-10/4	90
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil		Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses helpers needed for medical clinics	10/21-30	open
Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal	72768-72771	Prayerwalking/construction team	1/18-12/30	10
Lisbon, Portugal	74568-74571	Prayerwalking and survey	7/3-7/24	10
Ames, Iowa	IA-05-07	Summer missionary	6/1-8/5	1
Ames, Iowa	IA-05-13	Summer missionary	6/1-8/5	1
Ankeny, Iowa	IA-05-02	Youth Intern	6/1-7/31	1 male
Ankeny, Iowa	IA-05-02	Youth Intern	6/1-7/31	1 male
Ankeny, Iowa	IA-05-08	Youth Intern	6/1-8/5	1 male
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	IA-05-21	VBS and evangelism	June	open
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	IA-05-20	Community outreach through block parties census, music, etc.	July	open
Creston, Iowa	Bridge3	New church construction	10/1-12/1	open
Davenport, Iowa	IA-04-90	Help church with needed repairs	open	open
Des Moines, Iowa	IA-05-04	Inner city mission intern	6/1-8/5	2 females
Des Moines, Iowa	IA-05-05	College students to travel Iowa doing VBS, BYBC, camps, etc.	6/1-8/5	2 females
Des Moines, Iowa	IA-05-22-30	Conduct BYBC at inner city Baptist church	6/6-8/5	15-25 each week
Denison, Iowa	Bridge5	Conduct BYBC in city parks in the towns of De-loit, Vail and Schleswig	6/15-8/15	open
Keokuk, Iowa	IA-05-06	Summer missionary	6/1-8/5	1
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-03	College students to travel Iowa doing VBS, BYBC, camps, etc.	6/1-8/5	2 females
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-19	Adopt an area to help start a church	ongoing	open
Wayland, Iowa	Bridge1	Winterization of barn being used as a church. Work would include carpentry, electrical, and insulation	ASAP	open
Winterset, Iowa	IA-05-09	Youth intern	6/1-8/5	2 females
Across Canada	Canada2	Church strengthener	open	1
Across Canada	Canada3	Barnabas minister	2 year term	1 or couple
Cochrane, AB, Canada	05MID003	Minor maintenance and repair on church building	6/25-7/2	4-10
Cochrane, AB, Canada	05CON001	Provide children's program at National convention	7/4-7	10-20
Cochrane, AB, Canada	05CON002	Youth Rally/Ministry at national convention	7/4-7	5-15
Cochrane, AB, Canada	05MID001	Community outreach through servant evangelism, sports camp, BYBC, concerts, etc.	July-August	5-50
Kinistino, SK, Canada	05NOR003	Conduct VBS in rural farming community	July or August	5-10
Kinistino, SK, Canada	05NOR004	Replace church roof with metal roof	July or August	5-15
Maple Ridge, BC, Canada	05CAP001	Community outreach through sports camp, music camps, day camps	6/27-7/4	5-10
Montreal, QB, Canada	05QUE001	Jesus film distribution and prayerwalking	5/15-6/30	2-15
Penticton, BC, Canada	05ALP001	Resort ministry	June-August	5-50
Prince Albert, SK, Canada	05NOR002	Youth concert on weekend followed by week of activities on beach reaching summer vacationers	6/30-7/10 and 7/29-8/6	2-30 each week
Prince Albert, SK, Canada	Canada1	Refugee and Immigrant Associate pastor	open	1
Saskatoon, SK, Canada	05NOR001	Day camp ministry for children during associational meeting	9/2-4	4-8
St. Alberta, AB, Canada	05MID002	Sports camp and VBS family retreat	7/25-29	5-15

## Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary offers visiting faculty teaching opportunities

Semesters are approximately 15 weeks long and run roughly September 1 - December 15 (Fall) and January 15-May 15 (Spring). Intensives/J Terms are usually one week long and occur in January and mid-May to mid-June.

## Fall, 2005

- Courses related to Principles of Teaching and Christian Education-graduate and undergraduate levels (one person needed)
- Courses related to Preaching and Pastoral Ministries-graduate level (one person needed)

## Spring, 2006

- Courses related to Systematic Theology and theology elective-graduate and undergraduate level (one level needed)
- Courses related to Missions, Education Philosophy and Ministerial Development — graduate level (one or two persons needed)

## Fall, 2006

- Courses related to Pastoral Ministries — undergraduate level (one person)
- Courses related to Church Administration, Principles of Teaching, Youth Ministry — graduate level (one person needed)
- Courses related to Church Growth and electives — graduate level (one person needed)

## January, 2007 Intensive (one week)

- Church Administration-graduate level (one person needed)

## General Requirements for Teaching:

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in discipline related to teaching assignment for graduate teaching
- Masters degree in discipline related to teaching assignment for undergraduate teaching
- Minimum of five years church/denominational experience
- Some academic teaching experience preferred

## Tennessee Projects

## East Tennessee - Appalachian Regional Ministry

• **Benton** — Teams of up to 50 to do random acts of kindness, street ministries, day camps and similar activities at multi-housing areas, Polk Co. courthouse and local businesses. Dates: May 29-August 5 (Sunday-Friday). Cost: \$198.50, which includes dormitory style lodging, all meals, t-shirt, orientation, and on-site supervision. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Two volunteers are needed to help in coordinating and assisting mission teams in doing community ministries. Housing and meals will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Teams of up to 50 to do prayer hikes, river hospitality, trail ministries, beach ministries and providing family programs and campground worship services in and around the Ocoee River and Cherokee National Forest Ocoee District. Dates: June 1-August 5 (Wed-Mon) Cost: \$198.50, which includes dormitory style lodging, all meals, t-shirt, orientation and on-site supervision. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Four volunteers are needed to serve as River Chaplains while working at whitewater rafting outfitters. Volunteers will be ministering to a unique river community in southeast TN. Housing and meals will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Male volunteer needed to help in evangelism and hospitality ministries and work with mission teams. Would be working kayakers, rafters, and volunteer mission teams. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Two volunteers needed to be recreation supervisor at camp. Activities offered at camp include swimming, low ropes, climbing tower, caving, volleyball, field games, nature trail, and more. Lifeguard certification and initiatives course training desired. Housing and meals will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Male volunteer to coordinate and help facilitate daily worship and Bible study experiences for mission groups and to help assist in daily missions opportunities. Housing and meals will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Individual/couple to assist with lawn care and general maintenance duties at camp. Dates: Open. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Benton** — Individual/couple to assist with housekeeping and miscellaneous duties at camp. Dates: open. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-5528-2267 or campagape@wingnet.net

• **Walled** — Teams up to 25 to lead Backyard Bible Clubs in rural mobile home communities. Dates: May 30-August 5. Contact: Krystal McCammon, Prospect Baptist Church, (865) 681-8997

## Middle Tennessee - Cumberland Regional Ministry

• **Nashville** — Volunteers are needed for mobile medical clinic in downtown Nashville. Team will be working with Nashville, FBC, in three areas of downtown Nashville. Project will include: street ministry, evangelism team, medical, dental, counseling, and eye clinic. Revival services probable. A medical license and counseling license is required. Dates: June 12-18. Contact: Michael Vaughan, Nashville, FBC, (615) 397-4483 or m.vaughan@comcast.net

• **Nashville** — Volunteers for construction of church building that will be used for worship, Bible study and fellowship. Dates: Beginning in March. Contact: Samuel Sims, True Faith Baptist Church, (615) 838-8159.



# Steve Nelson of Bledsoe Association reports on tsunami disaster

by Erin Curry  
Baptist Press

CHENNAI, India — Four days after the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami left millions traumatized in South Asia, the Hindustan Bible Institute here, sent out a call for volunteers to help provide practical relief and spiritual guidance in the face of extreme disaster.

Steve Nelson, director of pastoral care for the Bledsoe Baptist Association in Middle Tennessee, heard the call and acted immediately. By asking friends and ministry partners to help him raise money for the cost of the trip and an additional \$10,000 in aid money, Nelson received nearly 30,000 in funds within days.

He left Jan. 10 for 12 days in the Chennai region, where he is training volunteers for

crisis counseling and helping set up tents for the thousands of families in the area who lost their homes when entire villages were destroyed by water.

In an e-mail update Jan. 14, Nelson said his team with the Bible Institute had put up 24 tents that day.



NELSON

"We dug holes with our bare hands in the sand and got the tents up in about three hours," he wrote, adding that even the smallest children helped haul tent poles to certain spots.

"The people expressed their thanks, and we had prayer with them before we left," Nelson said.

HBI, which has had a long-

time relationship with the Bledsoe Baptist Association, also is running medical clinics under some of the tents they've helped set up in the area. Some encouraging news is that local leaders have assured HBI they will be permitted to set up a church once the village settles in a permanent location, Nelson said.

"Whatever you call it — church, temple, or something else — we need a place of peace where we can go and be quiet," one local leader said.

Nelson and the HBI team also have been prayerwalking and assessing needs in order to make plans for further relief work. He noted that many villages have moved inland up to half a mile because people are afraid to be near the ocean.

"Please keep these people in your prayers that they may come to know that God is real and He cares about them," Nelson wrote. "They feel so helpless and cannot see any future. May they see His love

in us and open their hearts to the Savior."

After traveling six hours Jan. 15 to one of the hardest hit areas on the coast of India, Nelson reported that "it looks like the place has been bombed." Having served nearly eight years as director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Nelson has viewed much destruction in the wake of war, earthquakes, and other disasters. He said the current situation in India surpasses the devastation he witnessed in war-torn Bosnia.

"The people are numb with despair and desperately need crisis counseling — basically just someone to listen to their story as everyone around them is in the same shape," he wrote. "HBI has trained about 70, but many more are needed."

Nelson explained that many people not only have lost loved ones but also lost all means of supporting themselves. The fishing industry has been

eliminated since boats and nets were destroyed and consumers fear the fish have been feeding on dead bodies at sea and are now contaminated. Also, those who relied on agriculture are at a loss because the salt water swept many miles inland and ruined the soil.

Even as they try to start their lives anew, the people affected by the tsunami continue to be fearful of the ocean, Nelson said.

"The village wanted to express their thanks for the help that has been given, so they set up a bench and asked the three of us to sit down," he wrote. "The village gathered on the ground in front of us and expressed their thanks. We shared how God understands and cares about them. As we were talking, someone saw a wave hit a bit harder than usual on a rock and screamed that the ocean was coming back. The people screamed and began to run with some crying in fear."

"These folks are not in good shape. So, we prayed for them that Jesus would hold back the water and give them peaceful rest without fear."

For more information on HBI, visit [www.hbionline.org](http://www.hbionline.org). □

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## Phil Valentine responds to Keillor comments

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — National Public Radio's Garrison Keillor

announced at a Chicago chapel that evangelical Christians should be stripped of their right to vote following the recent presidential election.

"I am now chairman of a national campaign to pass a constitutional amendment to take the right to vote away from born-

again Christians," he said to thunderous applause.

Phil Valentine, a conservative radio talk show host in Nashville and member, Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, wrote in *The Tennessean* newspaper that if another group, such as Jews or Muslims, was

inserted in place of Christians in Keillor's statement, the reaction would be completely different.

"Yet, when Keillor makes derogatory remarks about Christians, nobody bats an eye," Valentine wrote. □

## NAMB to name Yarbrough, Avant to new roles

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — North American Mission Board President Robert E. (Bob) Reccord announced key leadership changes during the agency's semiannual employee Spiritual Focus Day Jan. 13. The moves include changing assignments for John Yarbrough, vice president of evangelization, calling well-known Georgia pastor John Avant as his replacement, and filling two strategic department leadership positions.

Reccord told the board's employees that he asked Yarbrough, who served six years as NAMB's evangelism vice president, to move to the board's strategic initiatives group as vice president. That position was left vacant last year when longtime missions executive Mike Day retired. In the new position, Yarbrough will have leadership responsibility for NAMB's Strategic Focus Cities initiative, the associational strategies team, and leadership development, areas that Reccord called "key to Southern Baptists' success in reaching North America for Christ."

"John Yarbrough has done a magnificent job leading [NAMB] to create the most cutting-edge effective evangelism training materials available anywhere," Reccord said. "In fact, last year more than 1 million Southern Baptists learned how to share Christ using NAMB materials. We owe a tremendous debt to Dr. Yarbrough's six years as NAMB's first vice president of evangelization."

"The challenge, then, was finding God's man to fill John's enormous shoes, and God led me to Dr. John Avant," Reccord said. Avant, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., "has agreed to allow me to submit his name to our trustee for consideration as NAMB's next vice president of evangelization when the board meets next month," Reccord said.

Avant earned a doctoral degree in evangelism and a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a bachelor's degree in religion and Greek from Baylor University in Waco. He pastored four churches in Texas before being called to New Hope in 1996. What has become known as the Brownwood Revival started at Coggin Avenue Baptist Church in 1999 while Avant served as pastor.

Reccord also announced two other leadership additions to the NAMB staff. Former Phoenix director of missions William (Bill) Agee is the new director of NAMB's associational strategies team and Michael Licon is director of the interfaith witness team. □

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## LifeWay donates \$50,000 to IMB disaster relief

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced plans to contribute \$50,000 to the \$1.4 million already donated to the International Mission Board for disaster relief efforts in south-east Asia.

"Our LifeWay family is concerned and compassionate," said LifeWay President James J. Draper Jr., noting that in addition to the corporate gift, more than 125 LifeWay employees sent individual gifts to the IMB's relief fund. "We feel it is a great privilege to share in this relief effort through giving to a fellow SBC entity. We have great confidence in the relief efforts of the IMB and know that 100 percent of our gifts will go to minister, both spiritually and physically, to Asia's poor."

Draper also said that at a time when national news reports have questioned the ability of governments to properly and effectively handle the massive monetary donations, he is confident the IMB is equipped to minister to hundreds of thousands of survivors and help rebuild their lives.

"At the same time, the physical and emotional ministry being performed is attended by a faithful witness of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ," he added. "We are privileged to participate in this effort."

Because gifts through the Cooperative Program and Lotte Moon Christmas Offering pay for basic support and administrative expenses for IMB

missionaries around the world, board personnel can use all gifts designated for relief efforts on actual relief ministries. No relief funds will be used for administrative or promotional purposes. □

## Retired GGBTS prof Roger Skelton dies in Nashville

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — J. Roger Skelton, professor of religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., died in Nashville on Dec. 29. He was 87.

A member of the California

seminary's faculty from 1967 until his retirement in 1983, Skelton was a pioneer in bringing new church growth philosophies to the seminary.

Leading the faculty to emphasize growing churches through a healthy Sunday

School program, Skelton was the first to teach classes on church growth at the seminary.

Before coming to Golden Gate, Skelton served as a denominational leader at the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources)

and as a minister of education for churches in California, Texas, and Arkansas.

He was a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville. He is survived by two children, Martha and Fredrick of Nashville. □

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

### MINISTRY — MUSIC

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 — PASTOR

Thompson Creek Baptist Church, Como, is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume, no later than March 3, 2005, to the church c/o Jerry Simmons, P.O. Box 62, Como, TN 38223. For more information call (731) 364-2737.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Boones Creek Baptist Church, 304 Pickens Bridge Rd., Gray, TN 37615 is seeking a full-time pastor. We are seeking the man God wants to lead our congregation. Please send resume to Boones Creek Baptist Church, Attn. Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 8812, Gray, TN 37615.

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**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  
9:20 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



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## Union students serve on MLK Day

Union University News Service

JACKSON — Sarah Thompson was only in Jackson for a wedding over the weekend. A graduate student at Union University who lives in San Francisco, Thompson isn't even taking a class on campus during Union's January term.

But that didn't stop her from volunteering at Birth Choice, a local woman's resource center, on Monday.

"I loved Union so much that I came for a wedding and decided that while I was here I would come and serve," Thompson said. "That's what Union does to you. It makes you want to help. I could have hung out with friends today, but I chose to come here — because this is better, anyway."

Thompson was just one of

the volunteers from Union University who participated in service projects Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. In addition to a team at Birth Choice that painted and did electrical work, Monday afternoon a second team of students spent time playing bingo with the elderly residents at Jackson's Mission Convalescent Center.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an individual who made a significant impact on this country," Union president David Dockery said. "Service projects such as these are an excellent

way for us as a university to honor Dr. King's legacy, and they are also a means for us to show our commitment to racial reconciliation, both on our campus and in our community."

An annual event, the service projects were organized by Union's Campus Ministries office. "Campus Ministries wanted to do this in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. — be a servant to the community," said Glenna Marshall, who led the team that worked at Birth Choice. □

The report said 5.4 million mothers with children under age 15 stayed at home in 2003 and 88 percent of married mothers who did so said their primary motivation was "to care for home and family."

The trend is found among low- and middle-income families as well as high-income households, the report said. Half of the stay-at-home mothers had a family income below \$50,000, and nearly 20 percent had an income between \$50,000 and \$74,999, FRC noted.

This evidence reflects a 2003 CBS/New York Times poll in which 61 percent of adults said children are better off if their mother is home rather than working outside the home.

"These trends show why we need pro-family policies which make it easier for more families to have one parent at home," FRC President Tony Perkin said in his Dec. 8 Washington Update. □

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## More moms staying home

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Family Research Council has noted a recent Census Bureau report that says nearly one million more mothers are staying home with their children today compared to a decade ago.

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### Conference Schedule

Monday, August 15

PM 7:00 Welcome & Celebration  
Louise, Carl, Cynthia  
8:00 Break & Stretch  
8:25 Citico Creek-Gospel Grass  
9:15 Dismiss

Tuesday, August 16

AM 10:00 Creative Worship  
Carl & Cynthia  
11:00 Break & Stretch  
11:25 Mayberry Deputy  
12:10 Dismiss  
PM 7:30 Louise Mandrell Show  
8:30 Break & Stretch  
8:50 Louise Mandrell Show  
9:40 Dismiss

Wednesday, August 17

AM 10:00 Integrity Concert  
10:45 Break  
11:10 Integrity Concert  
12:00 Conference Conclusion  
Carl, Louise, Integrity  
12:15 Dismiss



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# book review

Dawn Ferguson

## Brokenness

By Nancy Leigh DeMoss  
Moody Publishers, 2004

...A broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. — Psalm 51:17

Why is it God desires brokenness? Not brokenness in the sense of grief or financial difficulties or debilitating illness or the death of a loved one. But brokenness in the sense of what we speak of when we break a horse ... the horse's will has been broken — so it is submissive to the wishes of its rider. God wants us to give up our will.

What does this mean? "It means that we must be willing to die to our own interests, die to our own reputation, die to our own rights, die to our own ways of doing things, die to our own comfort, convenience, hopes, dreams, and aspirations. To 'die' means to lay it all down. To give it all up. To let it all go."

This is the basis of Nancy Leigh DeMoss' book titled *Brokenness*. "Before God can use you, He must break you," writes DeMoss.

DeMoss walks through Scriptures and the teachings of Jesus to make her point, and it is one she makes well.

DeMoss is the host and teacher for "Revive Our Hearts," a radio program for women heard daily on more than 500 outlets nationwide. She has had many public speaking opportunities, and her easy-to-read 158-page book is filled with personal examples of people who have been broken, including herself.

If you've been broken, you know the joy and peace that results from your total surrender to Christ. If you haven't been broken, DeMoss writes there are three primary instruments God uses to bring us to the point of brokenness.

They are:

(1) His Word. "Is not my word like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29). Each time we open God's Word ... it should be with the intent of allowing the Word to break us," says DeMoss.

(2) Circumstances. "The circumstances He uses may be a stressful job, a difficult marriage, a chronic illness, a financial crisis, or some other issue that brings pressure to bear on our lives. In the face of such pressure, we can choose to respond in pride, by resisting and resenting the circumstance, or by giving in to despair. Or we can choose to respond in humility, to submit to the hand of God, and allow Him to mold and shape us through the pressure.

(3) The body of Christ. As we walk in the light with our fellow believers, they can help us see areas where we need to be broken. "Faithful are the wounds of a friend," (Proverbs 27:6).

DeMoss explains that brokenness is not a one-time experience. There may come a point in your life that is a profound and life-changing spiritual turning point when you are broken. But true brokenness is a lifestyle. It involves every day choices.

"Brokenness is the shattering of my self-will — the absolute surrender of my will to the will of God," she writes.

Thank goodness we have the promise that "all things are possible with God!"

God creates out of nothing.

Therefore until a man is nothing, God can make something out of him — Martin Luther. □ — Ferguson is a freelance writer from Gallatin.

# Avoid alcohol and drug abuse

By Jerry Massey

**Focal Passage:** Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-21, 29-33; Romans 14:19-21; Ephesians 5:15-18

My parents were shocked! All of their godly influence and my church attendance appeared to be for naught. As a very small youngster I often enjoyed "playing church" at the end of our driveway. I would stand authoritatively behind the kitchen step stool, lead the music and then start preaching. But to the dismay of my parents, my sermon content was far from scriptural. I was imploring people to go out and "get your Lone Star beer!" (Only you Texans will appreciate that.)

I am consequently thankful for the two churches of my youth, and for my weekly Sunday night Training Union experience. In those settings I was taught unapologetically that not only were we to avoid abusing alcohol and drugs, but to abstain from partaking of them all together! I am saddened today that such teaching may not be as prevalent as it once was.

The basic truth of our lesson today is that people are going to ultimately be controlled. They will either surrender to the Holy Spirit, the devil, or their self-centered appetites. As children of God we need to exercise wisdom when it comes to our response to such temptations (Proverbs 20:1). Solomon advocates, *whoever staggers because of them is*

*not wise*. The best way to not be deceived and mocked by alcohol and drugs is to have nothing to do with them. The idea that you may need to drink occasionally in order to witness to drunkards is preposterous. Today 11 million Americans are hooked on alcohol and 76 million claim alcoholics in their families. "The tendency to become an alcoholic may indeed be inherited, since the sins of the fathers are often visited on the children (Exodus 20:5). This alarming possibility merely strengthens the case for total abstinence" (*Exploring Proverbs*, Dr. John Phillips).

The kingly man of wisdom further cautions us to watch out for the alcohol crowd, when he warns, *don't associate with those who drink too much wine* (ch. 23:20-21, 29-33). What man predicts won't happen, usually does happen. Such a boisterous crowd will influence us more often than not. "Daddy, they won't get drunk at this party. I promise." "There won't be any drugs there. I wouldn't take them anyway." Famous last words. The "I don't want to be left out" syndrome potentially destroys more lives each year than we could ever imagine. The picture painted in verses 29-33 affirms that the abuse of alcohol (and/or drugs) is a crime against society. Don't be deceived. What looks attractive, "in the end bites like a snake."

Paul beseeches us though we hate the sin, we should still love

## Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series Jan. 30

the sinner, and consider others in our ministry toward them (Romans 14:19-21). Space doesn't allow for us to venture into the reason behind Paul's remarks, but suffice to say, we know that

drugs and alcohol will not lead to anything positive. As we approach people with such addictions, we must demonstrate Christ-like charity. Our convictions can remain undiminished as we with grace, patience, and example share a better way to live ... the wisdom and value of total abstinence.

How can people become alcohol and drug free? Submit to the Holy Spirit (5:15-18). He is our true source, song, and strength for joy and happiness. He is the Wonderful Counselor. He is the One who loves us most. Why not be controlled by Him instead of the devil's alluring substitutes? Jesus is the real thing! He is the only enticement we need to feel good and act properly. Surrendering to Him is the best thing we can do. Abstinence is the best policy! □ — Massey is pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris.



MASSEY

# What about unbelievers?

By Lee Porter

**Focal Passage:** Luke 20:8-19

In our last lesson Jesus was leaving Jericho and traveling with His disciples toward Jerusalem. Near the city their route takes them up the side of the Mt. of Olives. When they reached the top of the mountain they are able to see the whole city of Jerusalem in the valley below. As Jesus looks at the city He begins to weep. He is crying and sobbing over the people of Jerusalem.

They were known as a religious people living in a religious city. Jesus knows that the people and even the so-called religious leaders have turned against God and that they will reject the Messiah in the days just ahead. Jerusalem is now a city of unbelievers and Jesus weeps. Jesus has cared about unbelievers throughout His entire ministry. He came to seek and to save the unbelievers. Now Jesus enters Jerusalem to teach, to preach, and to die for unbelievers.

The next day as Jesus goes to the temple grounds he finds a place of cheap commercialism instead of an entrance into a house of worship. In righteous anger He drives out all of the false religious dealers and cleanses the temple. For the next few days Jesus uses the temple grounds as a place of preaching and teaching. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the temple, and the preaching and teaching of Jesus causes the priests, the scribes, and the elders of the city to plot the destruction of Jesus. As Je-

sus is teaching on the temple grounds the leading priests and scribes challenge His authority to preach and to teach. Jesus answers their challenge with a question that the religious leaders cannot answer and they leave in defeat.

A large crowd gathers to hear Jesus. He tells a parable about a land owner who rents out his vineyard. At harvest time the land owner sends a servant to collect some fresh fruit. The tenants beat the servant and send him back to the land owner.

He then sends another servant to collect the annual rent and he is also beaten by the tenants. The owner sends a third servant who is wounded and thrown out of the vineyard. The

owner then decides to send his beloved son to solve the problem, but the tenants kill him.

The people who are listening to Jesus understand the meaning of the parable. The owner is God. The servants were the prophets who were rejected by the tenants (people) through the years. The beloved son is Jesus. Many in the crowd remembered the words that God had spoken from heaven when John was baptizing Jesus, *Thou art my beloved son* (Luke 3:22). After killing the son the tenants are destroyed by the land owner. As the crowd hears this they cry out, "God forbid!" They did not want to die be-



PORTER

## Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible Jan. 30

cause they had rejected Jesus.

They realized that accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior was the only way to be accepted by God. Many in the crowd accepted Jesus as their Savior.

As we study this lesson let us as Christians ask ourselves some serious questions. We need to give prayerful consideration to the answers to the following questions:

Have I ever cried over the multitude of the lost in our world, especially those who live in my community?

Do I really care about unbelievers and what am I doing to reach them?

How can I help my Sunday School class to decide to reach out to unbelievers?

Is my church really ministering to the needs of others?

Are you concerned about the spiritual welfare of your relatives and friends?

Will you pray daily for missionaries who are working to win others to Christ?

Did you witness to an unbeliever last year?

What individual does God want you to witness to this year?

May God help you to reach out to an unbeliever this week. □ — Porter is a retired employee of LifeWay Christian Resources and former SBC registration secretary. He now lives in Greenback.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world



## Leaders

◆ After 21 years as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Paris, **Otis Hinton** has resigned effective Jan. 31. He served four terms on the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board. He was chair of the Camp Development Subcommittee of the board which led in the development of Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden, and Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport. Hinton has served as pastor of churches for 39 years. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Obion; Poplar Corner Baptist Church, Brownsville; Curve Baptist Church, Ripley; Cairo Baptist Church, Alamo; and churches

## Belmont to consider blogging, journalism

Belmont University News Office

NASHVILLE — Belmont University announced today that the university's New Century Journalism program will host "BlogNashville," a three-day multi-part conference on journalism, blogging, and the emergence of the new citizen-participatory journalism, in May 2005, along with the Media Bloggers Association.

In the past two years, bloggers have played a key role in holding media and political figures accountable, including former Republican Majority Leader Trent Lott over his racially insensitive remarks about Strom Thurmond; former *New York Times* editor Howell Raines in regard to the Jayson Blair scandal; exposing John Kerry's "Christmas in Cambodia" story as a lie; and, most recently, the "RatherGate" media scandal in which bloggers exposed the forged documents at the heart of a "60 Minutes II" story about President Bush's National Guard service, a story CBS later retracted.

Also, last year, bloggers were invited to cover both the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention.

BlogNashville will include a computer-aided research and reporting "Boot Camp" for members of the Media Bloggers Association May 5-6. A Blogging Panel Discussion will be held on May 6. BloggerCon Tennessee will be led by blogging pioneer Dave Winer on May 7.

For more information, contact [www.BlogNashville.org](http://www.BlogNashville.org) or the school at (615) 460-6793 or <http://forum.belmont.edu/umac>. □

in Alabama and Mississippi.

◆ **Billy Joe Stewart**, pastor, Good Hope Baptist Church, Adamsville, has announced his retirement effective April 24. He has served the church for 23 years. Stewart and his wife, Nell, will retire in Adamsville. He will be available for part-time ministry work including revivals, conferences, interim and supply work.

◆ **Eric Nichols**, pastor, Hampshire Baptist Church, Hampshire, was ordained to the ministry Jan. 23 at the church.

◆ **Toby DeHay**, associate pastor/youth director Maplewood Baptist Church, Paris, was ordained to the ministry by the church. He will leave to study at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

◆ Northeast Baptist Church, Clarksville, has called **Paul Eaves** as pastor.

◆ Northside Baptist Church, Clarksville, has called **Paul Dacus** as minister of music.

◆ **Ernest Condee**, pastor, Prospect Baptist Church, Wal-land, retired Dec. 31. He served the church as pastor for six years. Condee also served as a minister of seven other churches in Tennessee throughout a 46-year ministry. He and his wife, Wilma, will retire in the Prospect community. He will be available for part-time ministry work including supply, revivals, and Bible studies and can be reached at (865) 379-2723.

◆ **Mark Jones**, pastor, Williamsport Baptist Church, Williamsport, will be ordained Feb. 6 at Richland Baptist Church, Lynnville, at 2:30 p.m. The ordination council will meet at 2 p.m. at the church.

◆ New Hope Baptist Church, New Market, has called **Allen Smith** as pastor.

## Churches

◆ On Sunday, Jan. 9, **Westhaven Baptist Mission, Cookeville**, was constituted as a church. Frank Hickman, director of missions, Stone Baptist Association; Michael Prowse, retired director of missions; Al Gaspard, pastor, Colonial View Baptist Church, Cookeville, sponsoring church; and Joe Wiles, mission development of the association; all spoke words of encouragement to the new congregation. Maxine Jones presented special music. Charles Anderson, member of Westhaven, brought the main message, challenging the church to keep Jesus Christ and outreach as the main focus. A facility is under construction which will provide space for classrooms, a

fellowship hall, kitchen, and bathrooms. Don Wynn is pastor.

◆ The Calvary Construction Company will be in concert at **Dickerson Road Baptist Church, Nashville**, on Sunday, Jan. 30, at 1 p.m.

◆ **First Southern Baptist Church, Pikeville**, First Priority, a ministry for students, and World Vision is holding the Absolute Worship Tour Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. at Bledsoe County High School in Pikeville. It will feature Todd Agnew, Big Daddy Weave and Exit East. For more information, call (423) 447-2849.

◆ **New Hope Baptist Church, Hermitage**, will host a Love Impact Event Sunday - Wednesday, Feb. 13-16. Evangelist Ken Freeman will speak. For more information, contact the church at (615) 883-6709 or [www.newhopeforyou.com](http://www.newhopeforyou.com).

◆ **Prosperity Baptist Church, Auburntown**, will host Gary Bates of Answers in Genesis, Australia, will speak Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 p.m. His topics are "Creation: A Key to Evangelism" and "Aliens, UFOs, and the Bible." For more information, contact the church at (615) 408-4300 or Answers in Genesis at [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org).

## Associations

◆ **Robertson County Baptist Association** will hold an Evangelism/Discipleship Rally on Monday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. It will be held at Temple Baptist Church, White House. Jerry Tidwell, pastor, Ellendale Baptist Church, Ellendale, and originator of the GROW Outreach Ministry, will speak. A combined choir of association churches will perform. Also a GROW workshop will be held at 6:15 p.m. A snack will be provided. For more information, call the association office at (615) 384-8197.

◆ **Jefferson County Baptist Association** will hold its Associational Evangelism Rally Sunday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. Darrell Robinson will speak. It will be held at New Market Baptist Church, New Market. At 4 p.m. a Leadership Conference will be led by Robinson. The rally will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the associational office at (865) 475-1453.

◆ **Western District Baptist Association**, based in Paris, will hold an open house in its new office facility Sunday, Jan. 30, from 2-4 p.m. For more information, contact the staff at (731) 642-4641 or [www.wdbaptassoc.com](http://www.wdbaptassoc.com).

◆ **The Northern/Midland Baptist Association**, based in Maynardville, has bought a



**TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL** Chaplain Don Long, right, presents a New Testament to Captain Charles Laxton of the Knoxville District of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The gift means Long has given 1,400 New Testaments to THP officers and workers. Long who also is pastor, Middlebrook Pike Baptist Church, Knoxville began presenting the special New Testaments six years ago. The front has a picture of the University of Tennessee football stadium and a THP car and reads: "This New Testament contains God's Highway to Heaven." The back cover has the wording, "Honesty and Integrity."



**LEANNE ROBBINS**, left, and **Scott Allen** were recognized for their tenure on the TBC staff during the Jan. 11 Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting in Brentwood. Robbins, administrative assistant, Church Growth Strategies Group, has served 15 years and Allen, collegiate ministry specialist, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, has served five years.

trailer to use in disaster relief efforts. The effort was coordinated by the Disaster Relief Team of the association and was funded by churches of the association.

◆ **Beulah Baptist Association**, based in Union City, will send an 11-member team to Puerto Rico Feb. 19-26.

◆ **Beech River Baptist Association**, based in Lexington, will hold simultaneous revivals Feb. 6-9.

## Schools

◆ **Union University's School of Nursing** has named **Timothy Smith** of the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga, as dean. He was assistant professor of UT-C and director of the school's nurse anesthetist program. Union will launch a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program in 2006.

◆ **Don Cusic**, professor of music business at **Belmont University**, Nashville, has just

## Events

◆ "Women in Baptist History" will be the theme of the **Baptist History and Heritage Society's** June 2-4 annual meeting at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Sarah Frances Anders will be the keynote speaker. Twenty-five other speakers, representing several ethnic traditions and countries; are on the program. The auxiliary, Fellowship of Baptist Historians, will also meet on June 2. To see photo IDs, and topics of the speakers plus registration forms for the meeting and the hotels, see the society's web site, [www.baptisthistory.org](http://www.baptisthistory.org).