

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.5; Feb. 9, 2005

TBC exploring ways to be involved in tsunami relief efforts

Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — In an effort to facilitate the growing commitment by Tennessee Baptists to participate in both short-term and long-term tsunami relief, the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief ministry is exploring additional Southern Baptist avenues of involvement.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief has a list of at least 85 volunteers ready to assist in short-term tsunami relief efforts.

But relatively few projects have been approved by the IMB since the tsunami and its resulting earthquakes hit south-east Asia after Christmas. Currently, one Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief team has been assigned, but will not leave until March 7.

All other projects have been filled through April 11, according to IMB officials.

From the beginning the Southern Baptist International Mission Board has viewed its role as a long-term effort. So, IMB efforts, by policy, must supplement existing strategies.

In a Jan. 7 Baptist Press news story, relief specialists appealed to Southern Baptist volunteers to be patient.

"The first wave of response after a disaster does not always meet the most critical needs," stressed "Pat Julian"



A GROUP of students from Radnor Baptist Academy, Nashville, visited the Baptist Center last week to present a check for \$2,051.57 to be used for tsunami relief efforts. The students adopted a slogan of "Paying a Mile to Make Someone Smile." Their goal was to pledge ten cents for each mile between Nashville and Thailand (more than 10,720). The students exceeded their goal. Making the presentation to TBC Executive Director James Porch, center, were, from left, Fran Davis, sponsor; Chrissy Davidson; Krislyn Durham; Judy Trac; Danielle Hummel; Porch; Steve Durham; headmaster and interim pastor of Radnor Baptist Church; Emily Durham; Victoria Finley; Anthony Ceragioli; and Nancy Ford, sponsor.

(name changed for security reasons). IMB relief coordinator based in south-east Asia.

According to the BP story, Julian stressed the need for churches and state conventions wanting to help to "be flexible."

Tim Bearden, interim Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director, understands and agrees with the long-term view.

"We are in it for the long haul, from

the beginning to the end."

He acknowledged, however, that some volunteers are frustrated "because we have not been in it from the beginning." But we will be in it until the end," Bearden pledged.

TBC Executive Director James Porch, who has given much time and energy to this effort, noted that "almost daily we are bombarded with pictures and accounts of tragedy, hurt, and pain in the



RIVERSIDE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, based in Livingston, recently sent a check for \$23,184.66 to the Tennessee Baptist Convention for tsunami relief. It is the largest single contribution from an association to date. Holding a check are Don Cobb, pastor of First Baptist Church, Livingston, and treasurer of the association, and Chrisie Ward, ministry assistant for Riverside Association. Since that check was written, other gifts have come in and total more than \$31,000. Cobb said 24 of the association's 28 churches have given to the relief effort. Only four of the churches average more than 100 people in Sunday School, Cobb added.

large area affected by the tsunami.

"From the very beginning, Tennessee Baptists have demonstrated their passion and concern for the people affected in these areas.

— See TBC, page 4

TBC CP gifts ahead of budget for 1st quarter

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — For the first time since 2001, gifts for a quarter have exceeded the Tennessee Baptist Convention budget.

In January TBC churches gave \$2,710,367 through the Cooperative program.

For the first three months of the current fiscal year, churches have given a total of \$9,052,885. The amount is \$298,800 or 3.41 percent over the amount given after the first quarter of last year.

Gifts are \$164,173 or 1.85 percent over current budget needs of \$8,888,713.

"This is the first quarter since 9/11 (2001) that we have been over budget," said TBC Executive Director James Porch. "This is very encouraging."

Porch expressed his hope that TBC churches will continue to meet the missions and ministry needs not only in Tennessee, but around the world as well. □

To be paid for by donors

C-N to construct new Burke-Tarr Stadium

Carson-Newman news office

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman College officials announced Jan. 20 an ambitious plan to open the 2005 football season in a brand-new Burke-Tarr Stadium.

C-N President James Netherton said the best news about the project is that it will be paid for "thanks to the generosity of donors deeply committed to Carson-Newman."

While the prospect of new construction on a college campus is always exciting, this project is especially so because it places no financial drain on Carson-Newman's resources," he added.

"We were facing a two-and-a-half million dollar renovation undertaking that safety engineers had said was mandatory. And now, instead of having to pay for a renovation that would give us a facility life-span of 20 years, we

are receiving a \$3.8 million stadium that will last for at least 50."

C-N leaders hope construction on the stadium is completed by early September so it can be dedicated in time for the Eagles' home opener. "We haven't finalized next season's schedule, so we don't know who we'll be playing yet," chuckled Ken Sparks, head coach of the Eagle football team. "But we intend to dedicate the new facility, and begin to write a new chapter in the annals of Carson-Newman football."

To protect the college from financial liability incurred by the project, C-N's board of trustees established the Eagle Foundation, a sole member entity whose directors are selected by the Board. The new foundation will actually own the facility until it transfers the deed back to the institution upon the project's completion.

C-N Vice President for Advancement David Nowell, who was recently named executive director of the foundation, said he is excited about what the new organization can mean to the College. "The Eagle Foundation's singular purpose is to

generate support for Carson-Newman College. While our first order of business is to build a new football stadium, I am confident that this Foundation will benefit the institution as a whole."

— See C-N, page 3



JAMES NETHERTON, president of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, accepts a gift from 6-year-old Luke Kindred, who wanted to contribute to the college's new football stadium. See story on page 3. — C-N photo

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Publisher — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

Convention Communications Committee —

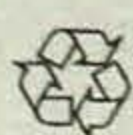
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Postmaster —

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

Frequency of issue —

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



Printed on
recycled paper

Belmont plans to double campus size

Compiled by *Baptist and Reflector*

NASHVILLE — Belmont University is planning to double the size of its campus, according to an article in the Feb. 5 issue of *The Tennessean*.

The article noted the school hopes to double its size "by buying homes around its existing land-locked campus to build new dormitories and classrooms to accommodate growing enrollment."

School officials held a meeting with neighbors and home owners around the campus on Feb. 7.

Belmont President Bob Fisher said the university is already near its goal of 4,000 students by 2007, with an enrollment of 3,950 last fall.

"We really have to think hard now about size," Fisher told *The Tennessean*. "How big do we need to be? I don't know the answer, but that's what we'll be thinking about."

The article noted it could take years for the school to buy the needed property from dozens of private landowners. □

MTV programs more offensive, according to study

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — For years, parents have complained about the sexually explicit and vulgar content of programs on broadcast television. As it turns out, a cable channel marketed to their children — MTV — may be even worse.

A study released Feb. 1 by the Parents Television Council found that MTV has considerably more sexual content and foul language than its counterparts on primetime broadcast television (ABC, CBS, NBC, etc.).

The study — which surveyed 171 hours of MTV programming — found that the cable channel has an average of nine sexual scenes per hour and 8.9 "unbleeped" uses of foul language per hour.

By comparison, the 10 o'clock (Eastern) hour on the broadcast networks has 5.8 sexual scenes per hour and 6.5 uses of foul language per hour. That hour, the final one of the primetime lineup, usually has more adult-themed programming — meaning that round-the-clock MTV programming is more offensive than broadcast TV's "adult hour."

According to Nielsen Media Research, MTV is watched by 73 percent of boys and 78 percent of girls ages 12 to 19, the study said.

MTV's reality programs contained the most sexual content, according to the study. Its music videos had the most foul language and violence.

In fact, the study showed that MTV's depictions of violence

were higher than that of broadcast TV. There were six incidences of violence per hour on MTV, compared to broadcast TV's 5.8 incidences per hour during the 10 o'clock time slot.

In addition to the 8.9 "unbleeped" foul words per hour, MTV programming also had 18.3 bleeped profanities an hour, the study found.

"This should be a wakeup call for parents everywhere to take drastic action to protect their children's eyes and ears from this immoral indoctrination," Randy Thomasson, president of the Campaign for Children and Families, told Baptist Press.

The Parent Television Council's study was based on MTV programming between March 20 and March 27, 2004. Much of it included MTV's spring break coverage.

The study is dubbed: "MTV Smut Peddlers: Targeting Kids with Sex, Drugs, and Alcohol."

In the entire 171-hour study, the Parents Television Council documented 1,548 sexual scenes, containing 3,056 depictions of sex or forms of nudity and 2,881 verbal sexual references. They found 1,518 uses of unedited foul language and 3,127 bleeped profanities, and 1,068 violent incidences. □

10-state ARM to be housed at Ky. convention

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Appalachian Regional Ministry, a 10-state ministry partnership, will shift its headquarters from West Virginia to Kentucky effective April 1.

Bill Barker, ARM's director since 2001, will continue in that role as an associate on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team.

Barker, a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board-approved missionary, was elected to the KBC staff Jan. 27 by the KBC mission board's administrative committee.

ARM, launched in 1999, stretches along the Appalachian region from Georgia to Pennsylvania. In addition to Kentucky and West Virginia, the partnership includes nine other state conventions: Georgia, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio, Maryland-Delaware, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. The 11 conventions also partner with NAMB and national Woman's Missionary Union.

The region is home to more than 19 million people, including an estimated 12.6 million people who are unchurched or unreached with the gospel.

The 10-state coalition, as described by ARM, is "an intentional missions response to the spiritual and physical needs of

persons living in the Appalachian region."

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists housed the partnership for the first five years of the effort. □

FamilyNet to be aired in areas near Chattanooga

FamilyNet news service

FORT WORTH, Texas — FamilyNet Television joins the Comcast Digital line-up throughout the Chattanooga market as a part of the Digital Plus package.

FamilyNet can be seen on Comcast Digital Plus, channel 296, which serves customers in the following Tennessee and Georgia communities: Chattanooga, Collegedale, Dade County, East Ridge, Hamilton County, Lakesite, Lookout Mountain, Marion County, Red Bank, Ridgeside, Sequatchie County, Signal Mountain, Soddy-Daisy, Walden, Walker County, Catoosa County, Fort Oglethorpe, Chickamauga, Rossville, and LaFayette.

FamilyNet Television is a faith-based cable channel with award-winning programs that entertain and equip today's family. FamilyNet carries programs that appeal to all ages.

FamilyNet programs include the Chattanooga-based Precepts for Life with teacher Kay Arthur. Kay's Bible study program deals with real-life issues and offers biblical solutions every Friday at 10 a.m. ET on FamilyNet.

Customers who wish to subscribe or upgrade their service to FamilyNet can telephone 1-800 COMCAST.

Fred A. Steelman, senior pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, expressed his pleasure about the addition of FamilyNet.

"I am excited about the arrival of FamilyNet to our viewing area. It is a welcomed choice for Christians of all faiths. It will certainly be promoted in our church family." □

'40 Days' study led to increase in baptisms

Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. — Saddleback Church here baptized 2,029 people in 2004, the highest total in its 25-year history.

"Those 2,000-plus new believers are the direct result of the '40 Days of Purpose' program," said Warren, senior pastor and founder of Saddleback. Warren also wrote the book that is used with the study.

"Those 40 days revitalized our people and revolutionized our church like nothing else we've done," Warren said.

To date, more than 25,000 churches have used the "40 Days of Purpose" campaign, which in-

cludes weekend messages, group studies, daily devotionals and other features.

The record-breaking baptism total represents a much broader growth at the church. Weekly attendance in 2004 grew more than 3,000 people to an average of almost 20,000. It's the largest single-year growth in the history of the church. □

Judge says N.Y. must legalize gay 'marriage'

Baptist Press

NEW YORK — A New York judge struck down the state's marriage statutes Feb. 4, ruling that same-sex "marriage" must be legalized, making New York the third state nationwide where such a ruling has been issued in recent months. The ruling likely will be appealed.

New York Justice Doris I. Cohan ruled on behalf of five homosexual couples who sought a marriage license from New York City but were denied and subsequently sued the city's clerk. They are represented in part by the homosexual legal group Lambda Legal.

Ling-Cohan ruled that the state's current marriage law violated the due process and equal protection clauses of the New York constitution.

"[T]he institution of marriage has evolved over time," Ling-Cohan wrote in her 62-page decision. "... The exclusion of plaintiffs from entering into civil marriage indisputably discriminates against them on the basis of sexual orientation."

Ling-Cohan sits on the state Supreme Court, which is at the trial-court level in New York's legal system. The Court of Appeals is the highest court.

New York is the third state in the past 16 months where the court has ruled for same-sex "marriage." In November 2004, Massachusetts' highest court legalized "gay marriage." The ruling took effect last May.

And last year, two judges in Washington state issued similar rulings. Both cases are now before Washington state's highest court, which will hear the cases in March. □

SEBTS contributes \$40,050 to IMB for tsunami relief

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here recently contributed \$40,050 to the International Mission Board of Southern Baptist Convention for tsunami relief efforts in southeast Asia.

The gift included \$10,000 from the SEBTS operating budget and the remainder from donations by the school's trustees, faculty, staff, and others. □

for the lost and for laborers

Prayer conference offers intentional, proactive praying

Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Participants at the Great Commission Prayer Conference to be held Feb. 18-19, at Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, not only will learn more about prayer, they will be praying for the lost and the laborers.

"Intentional proactive praying for the lost and the laborers was the charge of Jesus to his disciples, and it is the charge to the church today," said Don Pierson, prayer strategies specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Tennessee Baptist intercessors are concentrating on the lost and the laborers," added Pierson. Church intercessors are spending more time praying for the lost. Churches are finding creative ways to pray for the lost and the laborers."

One example of this intentional praying is occurring at Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, which has an Elijah Force, a group of ladies who pray during the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, according to Scott Terry, minister of evangelism at the church.

The ladies pray for the services, the pastor, the worship leaders, and the people in the services including the lost people. The ladies are usually placed strategically in the sanctuary.

During the Wednesday night House of Prayer at Belle Aire Church, the lost and

the laborers are prayed for and also during a daily one-hour prayer ministry, called the Watchman Prayer Ministry.

Joy Nabi, prayer coordinator for Harpeth Heights Church where the Prayer Conference will be held, said there are many opportunities for praying for the lost and laborers at her church throughout the week.

On Wednesday nights, Harpeth Heights Church has a weekly School of Prayer and small group prayer at 6:15 p.m. "People learn how to pray at the School of Prayer and then they graduate into the small groups," she said. "During the Wednesday night early prayer sessions the people use prayer guides. The prayer guides contain requests for the lost and other prayer requests."

The church also meets at 7 p.m. for corporate prayer, which may consist of group prayer for lost people and other prayer requests.

"Sunday night small groups are called SHAPE which is an acronym for Shared Life, Helping Others, Grow Accountability, Prayer, and Evangelism," added Nabi. "During the SHAPE groups, people may call out the names of the lost. We are also currently studying an Intentional Witnessing program, which will be launched May 6 at the church."

Nabi attributes the growing interest in prayer for Harpeth Heights Church to her pastor Chuck Frazier. "Frazier has a tremendous heart for prayer having been mentored by T.W. Hunt, author of numerous prayer books.

"Frazier writes the church's quarterly prayer guides which deal with kingdom issues, and I coordinate the events," she

said. "We also wrote a prayer guide to pray for the pastor in October 2004."

Other examples of praying for the laborers at Harpeth Heights Church are the Pitt Crews, which pray for everyone on the church staff. Each staff person has his or her own Pitt Crew.

Also on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings beginning at 5:30 a.m., people pray for one hour in the prayer room at Harpeth Heights Church. Nabi noted that she is trying to build in more prayer opportunities for everybody at the church.

Harpeth Heights Church has been praying for some time for the Great Commission Prayer Conference to be held at their church.

Nabi will join her husband, Gene Nabi, TBC special education consultant, in teaching a session on "How to Saturate Your Church with Prayer" during the prayer conference. Frazier will also teach a session on "Revival Praying."

Jerry Essary, TBC evangelism strategist, will also speak on "Getting the Church Ready for Praying Evangelistically" and "Praying for the Lost" at the conference.

First Baptist Church of Powell kicked off its Lighthouses of Prayer training sessions Sunday, Feb. 6, according to the church's prayer coordinator Kathy Patton.

"Around 70 families in the church signed up to become lighthouses in their neighborhoods," said Patton. "They will be trained in praying for their neighbors, prayerwalking their neighborhoods, doing acts of kindness for their neighbors, how to invite their neighbors into their

homes and take advantage of God giving the opportunities to share the gospel with their neighbors.

"Surveys in the church area have shown that a large portion of their neighbors are lost or unchurched. The training sessions will continue through February and into March at the church hoping to impact a lifestyle of evangelism on the participants."

"The 70 Lighthouses of Prayer that Powell is starting is an incredible increase to our state's lighthouses," noted Pierson. "According to the North American Mission Board, Tennessee has only 150 Lighthouses of Prayer. Powell's move to start 70 lighthouses is a 'God Thing.'"

Pierson is also teaching "Prayerwalking" and "Asking, Seeking, and Knocking" at the prayer conference. He is available to teach conferences on praying for the lost and laborers at churches.

Keynote speakers at the prayer conference are: Richard Owen Roberts, founder of International Awakening Ministries; Richard Blackaby, president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary; and John Franklin, Pastoral Ministries specialist at LifeWay and pastor of Woodmont Bible Church, Nashville.

For conference and registration information contact Bernie Baker, prayer strategies ministry assistant, at 1-800-558-2090 at ext. 7925 or (615) 371-7925, or see www.tnbaptist.org.

Registration is \$30 per person. Make check payable to "Tennessee Baptist Convention" and mail to: Prayer Strategies, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. □

C-N to construct new Burke-Tarr ...

— Continued from page 1

The new Burke-Tarr will seat some 5,300 fans when complete, as opposed to the old facility's capacity of 4,500, including increasing the visitor-side bleachers to a capacity of 1,000. Pending a funding structure like that of the stadium and approval by the Board of Trustees, future phases of the development could include a football operations center and an indoor practice facility.

The complex will meet codes mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, including accessible handrails, restroom facilities, access ramps, and an elevator. There will be six entrance/exit tunnels in the new facility compared to only one in the current stadium.

A main concourse located on the ground level will be equipped with two large concession stands, a souvenir area, and an information and security booth.

The concourse will also house the Eagle Club lounge for members of the booster organization. Other concourse features will include referee locker rooms, as well as storage for maintenance equipment other C-N athletic teams.

Entrances into the new Burke-Tarr Stadium will be user-friendly with a ground-level pedestrian drop-off area at the north entrance, a VIP park-

ing lot on the southern end, and paved walkways from the Maddox Student Activities Center. Each entrance will be level with the main concourse of the stadium and will feature architectural elements reminiscent of the campus gates which are located at the intersection of George and College Streets. The stadium will feature columns which are similar to those at the MSAC and other buildings on campus.

The press box will be a state-of-the-art facility which will meet the needs of members of the media, guests of the college,

and game-day administrators. The press box will be accessible by two stairwells from the ground level, two entrances from the top of the grandstands, and an elevator.

Features include coaching booths for each team, a president's box, and a game operations center.

The stadium will be encircled by an element of brick piers and fencing.

Those interested may access the Carson-Newman website (www.cn.edu) for renderings and drawings of the new facility. □

Stadium's donors include 6-year-old

Carson-Newman news office

JEFFERSON CITY — When Luke Kindred heard that Carson-Newman College had received gifts that would fund replacement of the school's 38-year-old football stadium, he wanted to help.

The 6-year-old who attends First Baptist Church here with his parents, heard them talking about the press conference in which the \$3.8 million construction project and its funding by anonymous donors had been announced.

He left the table and later returned with a withdrawal from his piggy bank — a \$1 bill.

The next day his mom and dad, who is on the C-N staff, took Luke and his brother to see the demolition on the old stadium and then to President James Netherton's office so he could officially make his contribution.

In thanking Luke for his generosity, the college president was reminded of Acts 20:35. "It's more blessed to give than to receive," Netherton said, raising his eyes from the youngster to his parents.

As the family was about to leave his office, Netherton smiled at the Kindreds and said, "These are the times when it's easy to be a college president." □

Christians can help tsunami victims, says Bledsoe Association staffer

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami are finding hope for the future because Christians are ministering to them in their distress — ministry that will open the door to revival that so many believers have sought for so long, a minister who has returned from the region reports.

Steve Nelson, director of pastoral care for Bledsoe Baptist Association, based in Galatin, recently returned from 10 days in southern India where he helped a disaster relief team



NELSON

from Hindustan Bible Institute in one of the hundreds of tsunami-ravaged fishing villages along the coast.

The cost of his trip was underwritten by a ministry supporter, and \$27,000 donated by churches, students and friends in Middle Tennessee was directed 100 percent to relief efforts in the affected area.

The people he met are utterly distraught, said Nelson,

a member of First Baptist Church in Hendersonville.

"These people have been fishermen for centuries. The ocean was their life. It provided their livelihood," he said. "It was like their god. Then it turned on them."

The villagers have moved inland — but not far, because of their attachment to the water, Nelson said. The grief and fear they feel is hard to imagine.

In one instance, as Nelson and other members of the disaster relief team sat talking with village leaders near the water, a larger than usual wave broke on the shore. The village leaders screamed and scattered in panic.

"After things calmed down, we asked them if we could pray for them for God's peace."

The team distributed relief supplies, trained grief counselors to help the traumatized villagers, and put up tents for the displaced families — digging post holes in the sand by hand. A team from the Bible school also conducted a medical clinic.

They helped village leaders begin to dream about a kind of future for their people that they had never before envisioned. □

Youth Project 2005 draws 300 singers to Jackson

For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Participants in Youth Project 2005, an annual event for youth choirs, heard songs and testimonies from two youth choirs, listened to Union University's premiere vocal ensemble, Proclamation, and participated in a mass chorus with all 300 singers.

They also were engaged in times of worship and meditation led by Ricky Clark, West Jackson's Minister of Music, and Dr. David Platt, preaching professor from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The event took place at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jan. 28-29, and was co-sponsored by Tennessee Baptist Convention Worship and Music Ministry and the Music Department of Union University.

Tennessee Baptist Convention worship and music specialist, Paul Clark, conducted the large chorus of singers in five music selections of varying styles.

Commenting on the experience he claimed, "There is no greater privilege for a minister musician than to stand in front of people and invite them to blend their voices and hearts in a collective worship of God, and teens have a special sound and energy to offer in praise. This is an important investment in the future health of our churches, as these students grow in their understanding of worshiping together."

An important focus of the Youth Project event is to emphasize the spiritual focus of youth music ministry. David Platt spoke of taking the Christian

song outside the walls of churches so that all nations and peoples can know God. His messages were peppered with illustrations from recent trips he made to India and the Sudan, where people were living in constant danger because of their faith in Christ. He challenged the youth to be on the "front lines" in making God's glory known.

Jonathan Nelms, minister of music and worship, First Baptist Church, Cookeville, attended and reported a participant made a profession of faith during Youth Project. And another student he brought made a spiritual commitment Sunday night back at First Church "to share with the church that she is praying about God's call for her to be a missionary. Dave Platt's messages and our guest speaker on



MEMBERS OF THE Youth Choir of First Baptist Church, Cookeville perform at Youth Project 2005.

Sunday night made a real impression on her."

Student Leanne Curtis of Eastanallee Baptist Church, Riceville, said, "The Youth Project is a great worship experience. I encourage anyone who

loves God and likes to sing to attend. It will be a weekend unlike any others."

The next Youth Project is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 27-28, 2006, at First Baptist Church Jefferson City. □

Dockery addresses significance of Union's new faith statement

Union University news office

JACKSON — Although a statement of faith doesn't ensure future adherence to Christian orthodoxy, it still serves as a type of guardrail in theological matters, Union University president David S. Dockery said Feb. 4.

"The statement of faith, while true and trustworthy, is no guarantee that in itself it will prevent the rise of error on this campus," Dockery said. "Yet, it nevertheless is a safeguard and it is an identity marker of our orthodox and evangelical convictions, and it demonstrates our connectedness with the primary emphases of historic Christianity."

Dockery spoke to the Union community in a chapel service about the significance of Union's newly-adopted confessional statement, developed to solidify the university's mission and to strengthen its identity.

Following Dockery's address, campus leaders took turns signing a statement pledging their commitment to the confession.

Too many once-Christian universities and institutions — like Harvard — have abandoned their heritages and embraced secularism, Dockery said. The Union statement was designed to help prevent the same thing from happening to Union and to tie the university to its Christian roots.

The purpose of Union's confession is to "cultivate across the campus a holistic orthodoxy," Dockery said. That orthodoxy includes a high view of Scripture and strong commitments to "the Trinitarian and Christological consensus of the early church."

"Only in this way will we avoid a kind of fundamentalist reductionism on the one hand or liberal revisionism on the other," he said. "Such revisionism often takes place without notice at an institution over a period of time. Certainly that is what has happened in dozens and hundreds of institutions who at one time held forth a vibrant Christian commitment."

Dockery cited Harvard University as an example. The school's original motto,

"Veritas pro Christo et ecclesia," means "Truth for Christ and His church." Eventually "and His church" was dropped from the motto, followed by "for Christ."

Now Harvard's motto is simply "Veritas," or "truth," and Dockery said some might question Harvard's commitment even to that.

Though not "distinctively baptistic" in nature, Dockery said the Union statement of faith is consistent with affirmations found in Baptist confessions. It also recognizes common convictions Baptists share with other orthodox Christians "who stand in continuity with the consensus of the early church on matters such as the truthfulness of holy Scripture, the doctrine of God, and the person and work of Jesus Christ."

Dockery described Union's statement of faith as a summary of other well known confessions, such as the Baptist Confession of 1678 (often called the Orthodox Confession), the Nicene Creed, the Apostle's Creed, and the Chalcedon confession. These statements have success-

fully and succinctly articulated the first order principles of Christianity.

"We recognize this morning that we drink from wells that we did not dig and eat from gardens that we did not plant," Dockery said. "And thus today we are accepting our responsibility to receive this tradition and to pass it on to others here at Union University, and therefore to pass it on to the ends of the earth."

The Union president acknowledged that the statement of faith isn't on the same level as Scripture. It is not infallible, nor is it free from possible revision in the future.

"The Union statement has been developed at a particular time as the university seeks to clarify what it means to be a Christ-centered institution within the larger secularized academy of higher education, for it is in this context that we carry out our commitment to academic excellence in the Christian tradition, ever recognizing that we are swimming upstream in doing so," Dockery said. □

TBC exploring ways to be involved in tsunami relief ...

— Continued from page 1

"We will continue to pursue every opportunity we can to be a part of the great relief effort and pray for every opportunity to share the message with the grace of God in these endeavors," Porch said.

Bearden, Porch, and other TBC staff members communicated last week with Terry Sharp, IMB state and association services director, and other IMB staffers involved in volunteer missions mobilization.

Sharp said the IMB appreciates the position the TBC and other state conventions are in.

"We have scores of people who want to go," he said. "There are intangibles we cannot predict. Our heart is in the long-term."

He said the process of getting projects "on the book" have gone slowly.

One of the problems, Sharp said, is "we can't receive a large number of volunteers at one time."

The IMB officials verbally encouraged TBC Disaster Relief to explore other volunteer avenues.

Sharp acknowledged that there are some Southern Baptist churches (including Ger-

mantown Baptist Church, Germantown, and First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville) that had relationships or partnerships in southern Asia and they have been able to go into these countries because of those relationships. In addition, the South Carolina Baptist Convention and other state conventions have partnerships with countries in south Asia.

"We applaud the efforts of Germantown Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Concord," Porch said.

He noted TBC staff are in the process of contacting the two churches to offer the assistance of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief.

"We also expect to join with our Christian brothers and sisters in the South Carolina Baptist Convention. We welcome the opportunity to work with them," Porch added.

The TBC leader also expressed gratitude for the contributions Tennessee Baptists have given for tsunami relief efforts.

To date, the convention has received more than \$230,000 for the efforts.

These funds are being used to provide relief assistance Porch said.

Contributions are still being accepted. Checks should be made out to the Tennessee Baptist Convention and designated for "Asian Tsunami Relief Fund." They can be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Donations can also be made online at www.tnbaptist.org. □

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Conversational English Workshop

There will be a 16-hour Conversational English Workshop on March 18-20, 2005 at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, 605 Rock Hill Road, Lexington, Tenn. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be led by Anne Towns. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register or request additional information please contact Mike Thrower at the Beech River Association, (731) 968-7071. The deadline is March 11.

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Tsunami relief efforts will involve love and patience

Reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

We have all heard the joke, Lord, please give me patience, but give it to me now."

No doubt we all have felt that way at one time or another in our lives. Patience is easy to preach, but hard to practice.

No one knows that better than myself.

Patience is really not an option for Christians. Galatians 5:22 lists patience as one of the fruit of the spirit," along with love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control.

The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary notes that patience and "patient" are used to describe several Hebrew and Greek words. Patience is "endurance, steadfast-

ness, long-suffering, and forbearance."

I agree that patience involves endurance and steadfastness. We must always remember that our timetable may or not be God's timetable.

We must also be willing to stay focused on the task at hand, not giving up because things are going "too slow" to suit what we expect. We must always remember that what we do for God "is not about us. It is all about Him."

Tennessee and Southern Baptists, especially those involved in disaster relief work, are going to have ample opportunity to demonstrate that type of patience in the months ahead.

We are all familiar with the tragic scenes we have witnessed from news reports of the tsunami which struck southern Asia the day after Christmas.

We have seen the photos of people searching for bodies. Our hearts have cried out for those who have survived and

now have nothing.

Our first response is to do something "now," not tomorrow, not next week, not months from now.

It is much easier to respond when a tragedy such as this happens in the United States. For instance, after the rash of hurricanes hit Florida late last summer, the Red Cross was on the scene immediately and within a few days Tennessee and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers were on the scene, distributing food and showing God's love to those affected by the hurricanes.

We can't drive our disaster relief trucks and feeding units over the ocean, so we have to help in other ways.

Our patience no doubt will be tested. We have at least 85 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers on a waiting list. There are probably others who want to go as well. Numerous Tennessee Baptists have sent in money for tsunami relief efforts. They want to make a difference in the lives

of those who have survived the tsunami disaster.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board has a list of more than 200 volunteers ready to share God's love and His grace with people in need. The IMB also has received an incredible amount of funds (more than \$6 million at last count) for the relief efforts.

The IMB is doing all it can to facilitate relief efforts in southern Asia. We must remember that in some of these countries, Christians are not welcome. The IMB must be cautious. They do not want to do anything that would place anyone in danger.

The IMB is working through channels and so is Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief. A story on page one tells of efforts to find ways to be involved. TBC Executive Director James Porch has given a lot of energy to tsunami relief efforts. He has pledged to "pursue every opportunity we can to be a part of the great relief effort and pray for

every opportunity to share the message with the grace of God in these endeavors."

We have one team lined up to go in early March. No doubt there will be more in the future.

As IMB leaders have said from day one, tsunami relief will not be done overnight or in a few weeks. It will be a process that will take months, maybe even years, to complete.

We will have an incredible opportunity to share God's love as we show compassion for the tsunami victims.

And while we may not be able to "hop" on the first plane headed to southern Asia, we can continue to pray for the victims of the tsunami and to give so that when our volunteers can get to the field, they will have what they need to work with.

We just need to be patient. The work will get done, but it must be done on God's timetable, not ours. After all, His timetable is the only one that really matters. □

GuideStone attorney takes note of tax changes for '04, '05

Guest columnist



By Julie Bloss

Recent changes could affect our 2004 federal income tax return and your tax planning for 2005. Here are some highlights:

(1) Taxpayers who itemize can choose between deducting their state and local income taxes or their sales taxes. This

change will have the greatest impact on taxpayers who live in states without state income taxes, such as Texas and Florida — and it will affect both 2004 and 2005 returns.

The IRS will provide tables for taxpayers who don't want to save all their receipts, but taxpayers can add taxes paid on cars and boats to the amounts on the tables. Look for changes on Schedule A and for tables in Publication 600. That publication was not available at the time this article was written, but it will be available on the IRS web site, www.irs.gov.

(2) The standard mileage rate for business miles driven in 2005 is 40.5 cents, up from 37.5 cents in 2004. The standard mileage rate for deductible medical expenses and moving expenses is 15 cents in 2005, but remains at 14 cents for services to a charitable organization.

(3) The maximum amount of wages subject to Social Security ("old-age, survivor, and disability") tax is \$90,000 in 2005. Wages above that amount are still subject to Medicare tax.

The maximum allowable IRA contribution for taxpayers

under age 50 jumps to \$4,000 in 2005 from \$3,000 in 2004. Special catch-up contributions are available for eligible taxpayers who are 50 or older. Some taxpayers will also benefit from increased contribution limits to 403(b) or 401(k) retirement plans.

Tax law changes may mean that you'll pay less in 2005 even if your income stays the same.

You may need to adjust your withholding or your estimated tax calculations after estimating what you'll owe.

This is only a brief overview

of some of the changes that could affect your federal income tax return.

Be sure you consult other sources, including a competent tax professional, if you need more help.

Ministers can learn more about tax developments affecting them in GuideStone's annual Ministers Tax Guide for 2004 Returns. Look for it on our web site at www.GuideStone.org. □ — Bloss is a communications attorney for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Parents need to tell and show children of their love for them

A parent speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

During the month of February, Valentine's Day and National Heart Month focus on showing and expressing love for others.

But what about showing love to our children?

Parents show love to your children and tell them they are loved. Recently, I discovered that some adults and those of earlier generations lived in families where the words "I love you" were never spoken. A friend said, "I never doubted my parents loved me. This was evident by their hard work to provide for my needs, such as clean

clothes, three meals a day, supporting me in school and church activities. But I can't recall a time when they simply said, 'I love you.' Perhaps their Victorian upbringing didn't allow such sentiments."

God's plan for families includes parents to care for and instruct their children. The following suggestions will not only teach your children to love others, but to demonstrate to your offspring that you love them, unconditionally. When we "love," we also take action.

(1) Say, "I love you," often. One family never ends a telephone conversation with their adult children or grandchildren without this simple statement. Regardless of a child's age, it's important to hear these three little words.

(2) Provide spiritual development in the way Jesus would have us live. Read the Bible and schedule family devotion time. In I John 4:11, we read,

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another (NIV).

(3) Provide healthy meals that keep our bodies in top form for the present, as well as for the future.

(4) Encourage reading good literature by setting an example.

(5) Help my child develop friendships by opening our home to their peers.

(6) Make sure my child has an annual physical checkup by our family health care provider.

(7) Establish a home where children are loved and respected as an individual and not compared to another sibling.

(8) Provide a safe haven in our home where the cares of the world remain outside and the inside holds a warm, comfortable environment.

(9) Schedule meals together as a family as often as possible. Mealtime should be a time for talking about the pleasant ex-

periences of the day — never a time for scolding or fussing. What will your children remember about mealtime as a family when they become adults? Will they continue your practices?

(10) Block out time to enjoy exercising and physical activity together.

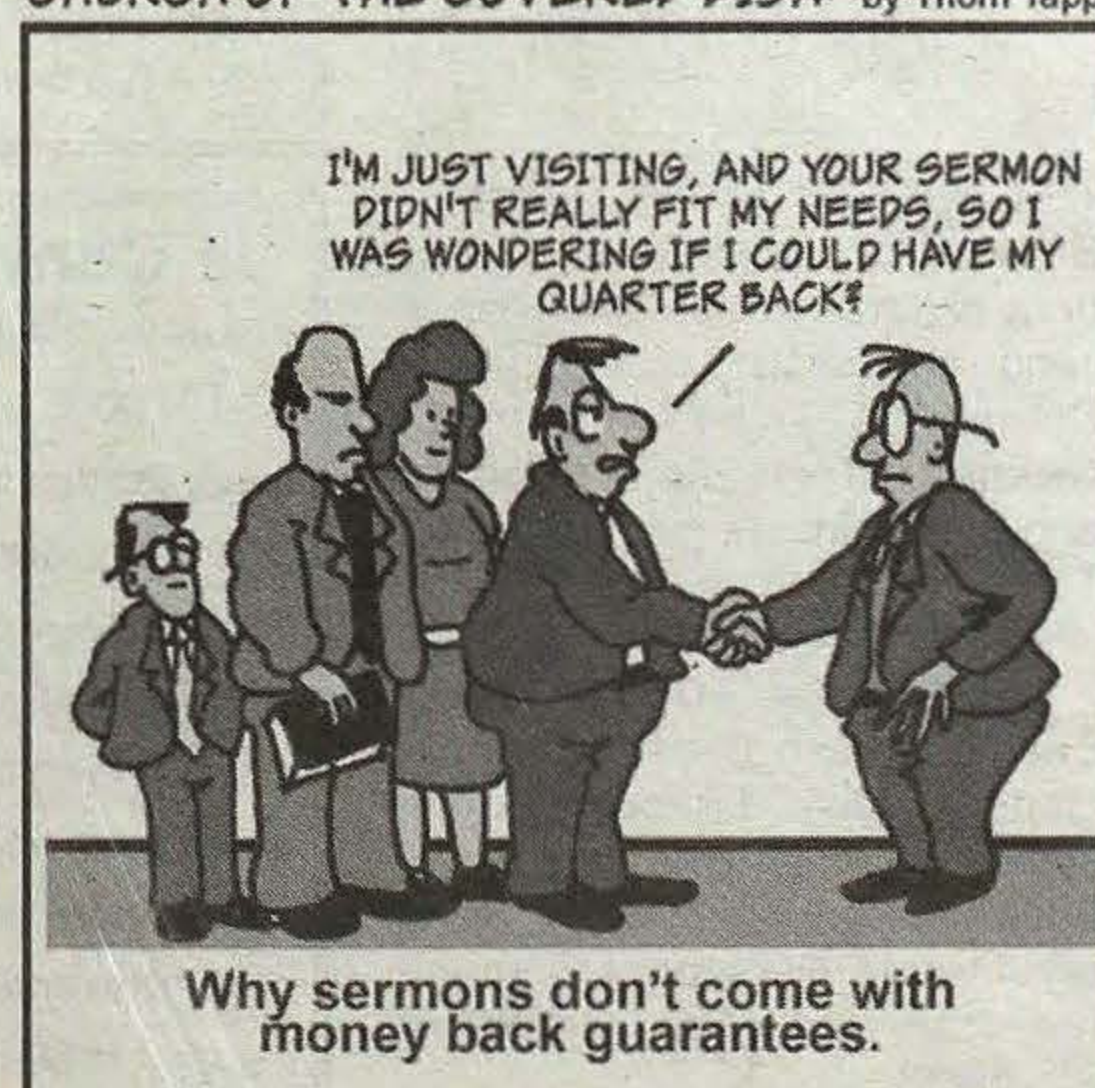
By using these guidelines, you will help your child develop spiritually, mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally.

Let your children hear you say, "I love you" often. Ask God to help you be the kind of parent that will be a role model

for your own children as well as others in your community. □ —

Tomlin contributes to numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Dockery elected to chair CCCU board

Union University news office

JACKSON — Union University president David S. Dockery was elected chairman of the board of directors for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities recently in Washington D.C.

"This is a great honor for Union University," Dockery said. "I am pleased to represent Union in this significant way and to help give guidance and direction to Christian education in this country and around the world in the coming days."



DOCKERY

Headquartered in Washington D.C., CCCU is an international higher education association of intentionally Christian colleges and universities. It has 104 member institutions in North America and 68 affiliates in 24 countries.

Members include such schools as Wheaton College, Biola University, Gordon College, Azusa Pacific University, and Taylor University.

Dockery is the first president of a Southern Baptist college or university to hold this position with the CCCU. He will serve a two-year term as chairman. □

Tennessee Acteens chosen to serve on national panel

WMU news office

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Dani Westerman is a shining example of how God is developing dynamic and emerging leaders through Acteens, in addition to nurturing a missions lifestyle.

Westerman, a member of Sylvia Baptist Church in Dickson, has been selected by national Woman's Missionary Union as one of six young women to serve on the 2005 National Acteens Panel. She is the only Tennessean on the panel.

"We are so proud of Dani and all the ways she has been involved in missions," said Andrea Knight, Tennessee WMU ministry specialist for preschool, children, and students.

"She is a young woman who



WESTERMAN

truly seeks to fulfill her part of God's plan for her life and this world."

Acteens is a WMU ministry organization for teenaged girls in grades 7 through 12 who are interested in missions. In Acteens, members grow in their understanding of God and of themselves and are engaged in hands-on missions opportunities in their communities and beyond. Acteens are also actively involved in learning about missions and praying and giving to missions. □

SBC CP gifts up 1.9 percent over last year's giving

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up nearly 1.9 percent compared to the same time frame in 2004, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of Jan. 31, 2005, the year-to-date total of \$66,614,942.28

for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$1,242,962.19 ahead of the \$65,371,980.09 received at the same point in 2004. For the month, receipts of \$20,342,956.62 were 1.2 percent, or \$240,686.38, above the \$20,102,270.24 received in January 2004.

Designated giving of \$37,579,333.74 for the same

year-to-date period is 4.45 percent, or \$1,750,379.37 below gifts of \$39,329,713.11 received at this point last year.

The \$27,202,877.30 in designated gifts received last month is \$221,488.92 above the \$26,981,388.38 received in January 2004, an increase of 0.8 percent. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Rocky Branch Missionary Baptist Church of Walland, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Applicants must be Southern Baptist. If you are led by the Holy Spirit to answer this ad, please send resume to Rocky Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Attn. Pastor Search Committee, 4620 Cambridge Rd., Walland, TN 37886. Deadline for resumes is March 31, 2005.

MINISTRY — POSITIONS

Two staff positions: minister of music and associate pastor/church administrator. Culpeper Baptist Church, Culpeper, VA; 1,000 members; two worship services, contemporary and traditional. Moderate conservative church founded in 1774; job description available for associate pastor/church administrator by request. Resumes for both positions received at Personnel Committee, 318 South West St., Culpeper, VA 22701; tfuson@culpeperbaptist.org; (540) 825-8192; affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Association, BGAV, CBF, and SBC.

MINISTRY — PRESCHOOL

Large SBC church near the Nashville area is seeking a full-time minister to preschoolers. College degree is preferred and seminary is a plus. Please submit resume to Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Attn. Preschool Search Team, 3475 Lebanon Pike, Hermitage, TN 37076. You may also e-mail to dmoody@hermitagehillsbaptist.com.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Ebenezer Baptist Church, East Knox County, is currently seeking a full-time minister of education and students. Interested applicants please send resume to Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2200 Midway Rd., Knoxville, TN 37914, with attention to the Education/Student Ministry Search Committee.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Seeking full-time recreation and evangelism pastor able to give creative leadership in the context of a contemporary/innovative church. Must be able to administer sports outreach programs and large Upward leagues, as well as able to give evangelistic leadership and training. Substantive experience with a successful track record required. Send resume to Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303 or fax to (270) 685-5134.

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MINISTRY — STUDENT

First Baptist Benton in Polk County is searching for a part-time youth minister. If you are interested please contact Robbi Speights at FBC Benton, (423) 338-2066, e-mail: robspeights@yahoo.com.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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: sbcofknnox@frontiernet.net, Attn. Search Committee.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Camden, Tenn., accepting resumes for student pastor. Send resume to Search Team Secretary, c/o Lisa Keller, 110 Norwood Dr., Camden, TN 38320.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church of Marion, IL, is seeking a full-time youth minister. The person will be responsible for developing and maintaining the youth program and college career. They will also direct the recreation program. Benefits are salary/housing allowance/annuity/health insurance/dental insurance and disability. Please send resume to Mike Malone, Church Administrator, First Baptist Church, 40 W. Union, Marion, IL 62959.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Henderson Chapel Baptist Church is seeking to fill the position of part-time music worship leader. Address your resume and questions to the church or phone Dave Tinker at (865) 428-0270. Henderson Chapel Baptist Church, 407 Henderson Rd., Ferguson Forge, TN 37863, Attn. Search Committee. Job description available upon request.

Christian Children's Home in N. Mississippi providing long-term residential care seeks couples as houseparents. Liberal benefit package includes health insurance, paid vacation, and retirement plan. Contact Bob Schwanebeck at (662) 328-5704, ext. 113 or bschwanebeck@palmerhome.org.

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MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Seeking a bivocational or student children's minister. Please send resume to Oakfield Baptist Church, 3527 Old Medina Rd., Oakfield, TN 38362. Located about 10 minutes from Jackson, Tenn.

MINISTRY — EDUCATION

East Gadsden Baptist Church, Gadsden, Ala., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of education/administration. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 2187, Gadsden, AL 35903.

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Conversational English Workshop
There will be a 16-hour Conversational English Workshop on March 11-13, 2005 at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1:30-5:30 p.m. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be lead by Kathy Evetts. There is a \$20 registration fee. The Tennessee Baptist Convention will cover the cost of materials and meals while at the conference. To register or request additional information, please call 800-558-2090, or go to www.tnbaptist.org news & events or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org. The deadline for registration is March 4, 2005.

minister's corner

Does February really matter?

Randy Pressnell

Don't tell me that you have forgotten that February has the unique distinction of being the month for Valentine's Day? You know the day I am talking about, don't you? The day that you give your sweetheart a sweet card that ultimately will get to the point of asking your beloved if he or she will be your Valentine. If you are not into cards and mushy words you can always opt for a box of candy. Now you do understand that not just any old ordinary box of candy will do, don't you? It must be a box of Valentine's candy in its heart-shaped box of red foil. Flowers maybe?

I have heard that there are other unmentionables at some people buy for this special day.

Regardless of how one expresses their love to their loved on this day, I don't see how anyone can forget this day! No, the previous statement is not a self-righteous exclamation intended to show my astuteness to remember Valentine's Day and honor the love of my life. What I mean is that if you have taken yourself out of the hollow or off the hill where you live and have gone anywhere, you could not help but remember this day. Since the day after Christmas, stores and restaurants and gift shops have been showcasing the hearts and cupid's and other Valentine's Day related wares. It would take a complete fool to have missed the well-organized displays designed to gain both your attention and your extra cash.

But the cards, candy, and other assorted gifts are what make Valentine's Day special if you stop and think about it. I really do believe that Christians men and women should practice the concept not only annually but also everyday that God gives them the gift of a special person in their life. It is a good thing to express your love and devotion to your love. God ordained the institution of love and marriage between a man and one woman for life. Yet the divorce rate among believers hovers around the fiftieth percentile. Maybe a little more active expression of one's love for each other would help curb that horrendous statistic. Does it have to be a day marked on the calendar and promoted by advertisers to be a good day to buy your love a rose, card, or candy? Does the Bible have anything to say on the subject? Glad you asked!

Paul wrote in Ephesians that a believers reverence for Christ should motivate husbands and wives to submit to one another (5:21). That is, our love relationships should not be motivated entirely by sexual attraction and other physical or emotional rewards. God is the creator of sexuality and healthy emotional needs such as love and companionship. However, He never intended for these needs to be met outside of the marriage relationship. Nor did He intend for these needs to be neglected within the bonds of matrimony. What Paul is getting at seems to be the principle that true love leads to voluntary mutual submission of husband and wife to one another as they submit themselves to the Lordship of Christ.

Wives are to submit themselves to their husbands as to the Lord" (5:22). Not so quick guys! Don't start reading that verse and the one that follows over your wives just yet. Go on now and look at 5:25. Paul states that husbands are to love their wives "just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Wives are to yield their own wants and even their rights to their husbands as an act of submission to the Lord. And husbands are to devote themselves to their wife's good. In fact, husbands are to give themselves up to death for their beloved. Both are to sacrifice what might seem like their own good for the good of their beloved.

The cards, candy, flowers, and other gifts will take on a whole new meaning when you become a biblical husband or wife and begin placing the good of your loved over your own good. And in so doing you will bring praise, honor, and glory to the crucified, buried, resurrected, and soon returning Christ.

And it could be that the divorce rate among believers would take a nosedive like daytime highs in January in the East Tennessee highlands!

Don't forget Valentine's Day and the candy, card, wares, or whatever. □ — Pressnell is senior pastor of First Baptist Church, New Tazewell.

How much does sin cost?

By Jerry Massey

Focal Passage: Hosea 4:1-9; 5:13-15

The timeless message of Hosea forewarns the dangerous consequences of "no acknowledgment of God in the land." We read this week of God's guilty verdict toward Israel for her desertion. Hosea maintains the timeless edict "reaping what we sow" to be a Divine apportionment applied even to God's children. Does it matter how we live? How we sin? Hosea emphatically answers, "yes!"

Acting as Heaven's prosecuting attorney, the LORD indicts Israel for their unfaithful allegiance and immoral behavior birthing the reality of sin (4:1-3) in a person's or nation's life. The charge of "no truth (faithfulness), no faithful love, and no knowledge of God in the land" (v. 1) described the lack of an intimate relationship with God. Rather than choosing the path of integrity, the Israelites craved expedient gratification for their self-centered sins. This was not an overnight occurrence, but a gradual, inner decay. Today's post-modern proponents have much in common with Israel of old when they declare no need for God, and certainly not His interference with "what they want to do, when they want to do it." As Hosea predicts, a society that looks to itself for truth and ethics will not be responsible, dependable, and kindhearted; it will rather become a people of "cursing, lying, murder,

stealing, and adultery" (v. 2). With godless conduct the Ten Commandments are discarded right out the window as if they never existed. The Israel of Hosea's day had become morally corrupt and deserved God's judgment, which in time would come. Sadly, innocent land and nature itself would reap the consequences (v. 3).

Hosea testified that there would be no arguing with God about sin's consequences, (vv. 4-9). God charged *let no one dispute; let no one argue, for My case is against you priests* (v. 4). These unfaithful priests personally rejected God's Word and ceased to share it with the people. *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge* (v. 6). A vastly important principle is coupled here, "like priests, like people." The populace observed the priests' example and followed suit. Because the clergy was found guilty of sinning at a higher level, greater would be their guilt and punishment. God justly holds those in authority and responsibility *more accountable for their influence. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your sons* (v. 6). The "overlooked" God was alerting the priests that they were adrift. God's protection and support would no longer be present. Divinely imposed consequences for their disobedience awaited them. All of this was happening while the ecclesiastics were thriving by dishonestly stealing from the people. Their

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series Feb. 13

greed and abuse of the sacrificial system was in effect requiring excessive offerings from the people whereby their livelihood might prosper (vv. 7-9). What the priests and the people received in judgment would be commensurate with their sins of neglect and indifference toward God.



MASSEY

Desperate Israel searches for healing (5:13-15). *Ephraim went to Assyria* (v. 13). Pagan Assyria didn't hold the answer for Israel's rehabilitation and revival. Ironically, God allows the Assyrians to cast judgment upon the Northern Kingdom, and as portrayed, *tear (Israel) to pieces* (v. 14). With the forces of decay and destruction already at work, the divine judge returns to His heavenly places to watch and wait for their submissive turn. *I will return to My place until they recognize their guilt and seek My face* (v. 15).

When sinners earnestly seek God, they will find Him. Whether Israel or America, Jesus alone makes the difference! □ — Massey is pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris.

Jesus' ministry continues

By Lee Porter

Focal Passage: Luke 22:14-22, 41-44, 66-71

As we start our study of Luke 22 it is one day before the cross. The Jews are celebrating Passover. This festival commemorates the final plague on Egypt (Exodus 12) when all of the first-born of the Egyptians died. The first-born of all of the Israelites were spared because they had followed God's command to smear blood in a pattern symbolizing the cross on the doorposts of their houses.

Thousands of Jews had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast. The chief priests, the scribes, and other religious leaders wanted to destroy Jesus. They were afraid to arrest and kill Him because it might cause a riot. If a riot did occur they felt the Romans might destroy the temple and most of Jerusalem. On that occasion Judas Iscariot opened his heart and mind to Satan and Satan enters into Judas. He then goes to the temple and meets with the religious leaders. They contrive a hideous plan whereby Judas, for 30 pieces of silver, will betray Jesus to them in the dark of night. This will enable the religious leaders to put Jesus on trial and condemn Him to death before the majority of the people in Jerusalem will know what is happening. As Christians it is wonderful that we can have Jesus Christ in our hearts and

minds, but we must always remember that Satan also wants to come into our lives to lead us astray. All of us from time to time will face battles with the devil. We should pray daily for ourselves and for fellow Christians as we face this battle.

Later on that Thursday afternoon Jesus gathers together His disciples to celebrate the Passover meal. Jesus had sent Peter and John earlier that day to a secret location to make all



PORTER

of the arrangements. At the proper hour that evening Jesus and His disciples recline around the banquet table. He tells them how happy He is to eat the Passover meal with them. He then delivers a startling announcement that He will not eat with them again as He is going to suffer, which is a reference to His impending death on the cross.

The main course of the Passover feast was a lamb that had been slain. Jesus would understand the special symbolism of the lamb for the next day He would be the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the whole world. Jesus then tells them that one of them would betray Him. The disciples began to question themselves asking if they were to be the one to betray Jesus. As

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Jesus passes the food to Judas He says, "What thou doest, do quickly." Judas leaves the room. The disciples assume that since Judas is the treasurer of the group he is leaving to pay the host for the meal and the banquet hall (John 13:21-30).

The Passover meal was a reminder of how God had delivered His people from slavery and bondage in Egypt. Jesus initiates the Lord's Supper as a symbol. As Jesus gives the disciples the bread and the juice He explains the symbolism of the bread as His body which will be given for them and the juice as His blood which will be shed for them. The disciples and all Christians are to observe from time to time the Lord's Supper. This will remind them of Jesus' death on the cross which made possible their deliverance from the bondage of sin and provided for their eternal salvation.

Take time today to thank God for providing us with a great salvation. We also must thank Jesus for being our Savior. □ — Porter is a retired employee of LifeWay Christian Resources and former SBC registration secretary. He now lives in Greenback and is currently serving as interim pastor at Rocky Branch in Walland.

Leaders

◆ **Jeffrey Perkins** has been called as pastor of Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg. **Elza Braden** was the former pastor.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Loretto**, has called **Clayton Wilbanks** of Madison, Miss., as minister of music and senior adults, effective Feb. 20.

◆ **Riley Jones** has returned to Shady Grove Baptist Church, Rogersville, as pastor. He previously served as pastor of the church.

◆ **Darrell Ramsey** has been called as pastor, War Creek Baptist Church, Sneedville.

◆ **Steve Griffith**, minister to adults, First Baptist Church, Clarksville, has been called as minister of education and administration, First Baptist Church, Portland. Griffith has served the church for five years.

◆ **Bill Campbell**, who is from Oliver Springs, earned his

doctor of ministry degree recently from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

◆ **Eugene Hattaway**, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, recently observed his 25th anniversary of service.

◆ **Reelfoot Baptist Church, Troy**, has called **David Long** as youth director.

◆ **Jo Anne Swann**, church administrator, First Baptist Church, Clinton, was honored Jan. 9 by the congregation on her 20th anniversary of service.

◆ **Jim Fitch**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gallatin, has retired. Prior to serving the church he was on the staff of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

◆ **Terry McDonald** has been called as interim pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Humboldt.

◆ **Clear Creek Baptist Church, Dyer**, has called **Charles DePriest** as pastor.

◆ **Fellowship Baptist Church, Milan**, called **Wayne Day** as music director effective Jan. 16.

◆ **Donnie Overton**, pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Waynesboro, for 21 years, resigned, effective Jan. 30.

◆ **Chris Wright** has been called as youth minister, Caldwell Springs Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ **Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Bethel Springs**, called **Larry Higgins** as minister of music, effective Feb. 6.

◆ **Fred Tate** has been called as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Maryville.

◆ **Bob Moore** was licensed to preach by Lynn Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Jan. 16.

◆ **Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Cleveland**, has called **Matt Rush** as youth ministry and **Truitt Cockrell** as pastor.

◆ **Phil Adcock** has been called as youth director, Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Livingston**, has called **Gilbert Aldridge** as minister of music, effective Feb. 14. He formerly was bivocational minister of music and youth at Fairfield Glade Baptist Church, Fairfield Glade.

◆ **Chris Hughes** was named pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton, Jan. 23. He had served as interim pastor since September.

◆ **Jerry Wilson** has resigned as music minister of Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Fall Branch**, has called **Jennifer LaFollette** as music director. The church also named **Victor Wallace** pastor emeritus Jan. 2.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Blountville**, recently ordained **Matt Chambers**, pastor of a new congregation, Journey Fellowship, which meets at a coffee shop in downtown Bristol.

◆ **James Lemay** has resigned as pastor of Blooming Grove Baptist Church, Blooming Grove.

◆ **Randy Nelson** has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Ethridge.

Churches

◆ **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.

◆ **Ararat Baptist Church, Jackson**, held revival Sunday, Jan. 24, which resulted in 10 people making professions of faith, one person joining the church by letter, and many others making other spiritual commitments. Don Womack, evangelist of Memphis, spoke.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Dunlap**, will hold revival Feb. 20-23. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ About 20 ladies of **Point Pleasant Baptist Church, Paris Landing**, gathered recently for a luncheon, program, and to make turbans for cancer patients. The turbans were made in honor of Lucia Libby. Gail Davis spoke on "The Tongue and the Bible," reported Jolene Howell.

◆ **True Life Baptist Church, Jefferson City**, constituted as a church on Jan. 9 with 101 charter members and 213 people in attendance. Jimmy Inman is pastor.

◆ **Central Baptist Church, Selmer**, retired its debt with a noteburning service recently.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Clarksville**, burned a note to represent the debt-free status of its worship center, which was completed four years ago and cost \$12.5 million.

◆ **Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage**, will dedicate its new facility on Sunday, Feb. 13, from 10-11:30 a.m.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Greeneville**, sent 32 church members to Cancun, Mexico, Dec. 27 - Jan. 3 where they did mission work. One team renovated a pastors home and the



RAY EDWARDS, center, is honored recently by Piedmont Baptist Church, Dandridge, for serving as a Sunday School teacher for years and being a member of the church for 82 years. He was presented a plaque and framed poem by James Kinser, left, and Michael Knight, pastor. Edwards is 95 years old.

other used drama and arts in a program which drew about 2,000 people.

◆ **Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City**, is forming a team to do construction work on a dormitory at the Word of Life Bible College in Budapest, Hungary. The team will serve March 12-19. For more information, contact Reggie Weems, pastor, at (423) 926-2139 or reggie@hbcjc.org.

◆ **Towering Oaks Baptist Church, Greeneville**, will host Steve Green in concert March 18 at 7 p.m.

Associations

◆ Ryan Dobson and Richard Ross will speak at the 21st annual Spring Student Conference of **Holston Baptist Association**, based in Johnson City. The conference will be held March 18-20 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C. Dobson, a youth speaker and author, is the son of James Dobson of Focus on the Family. Ross is professor of student ministries, Southwestern Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. He will speak to adult youth leaders. Other speakers include Brad Borders on Islam, Karen Pressley on Scientology, Tal Davis on Mormonism, and Steve Russo on witchcraft/occult. Music groups also will perform. For more information, contact the association at (423) 929-1196 or www.hbsc2005.com.

◆ **Holston Valley Baptist Association**, based in Rogersville, recently bought a trailer which will be used for disaster relief and community ministries. Funds came from association churches and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. James Shackelford, associational Men's Ministry leader, is equipping the trailer.

◆ The 28th Annual Associational Music School of **Watau-**

ga Baptist Association, based in Elizabethton, will held Monday - Tuesday, Thursday - Friday, Feb. 28 - March 3-4 at Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton. Preutte Plemons, music minister, First Baptist Church, Malden, S will lead the school to learn "Thank You for the Cross" Marty Parks. An orchestral youth praise team, children's choir, and preschool choir will be involved. The free concert at the school will be Friday, March 4, from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, contact the association at (423) 543-1451 or bassc@preferred.com.

Schools

◆ **Belmont University**, Nashville, will host Rob Sirico, a Catholic priest who co-founder of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 4:45 p.m. He will speak about "The Entrepreneurial Vocation," addressing the importance of the entrepreneur and the fact that the vocation of business is undervalued within the religious community. For more information, contact the school at www.belmont.edu/cd (615) 460-6793.

◆ Author and theologian Millard Erickson will lecture in conjunction with the School in-Residence Program at **Union University**, Jackson. Erickson, distinguished professor of theology, Truett Seminary, Waco, Texas, and at Western Seminary, Portland, Ore., will speak four times about the role theology plays in relation to other academic disciplines. He will speak on March 9, 15, and 16 at noon or 12:15 p.m. Lunch will be available. For more information, contact Randall Bush, professor of Christian studies at Union at (731) 661-5271.

Church sends 61,000 shoes to tsunami victims

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Joyell Dalton of Grace Baptist Church here hoped to collect a couple hundred shoes to send to tsunami victims. She learned about the project on Jan. 5 from her uncle. The national project is being led by a Christian footwear company executive who used to live in nearby Old Hickory working with a Chicago-based ministry.

Instead, as the word spread through e-mail and the media, the church collected 61,000 used and new shoes. Over 20 schools became involved and many churches, even churches in Kentucky, reported Dalton, in addition to companies and individuals.

Because of the outpouring of shoes, the church extended shipping schedules and sent three tractor trailer loads to Chicago. Shoes which wouldn't fit in the last small load will be sent in the next few days. Lloyd Sawyer of First Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and owner of Capitol Motor Freight Express, transported two tractor trailer loads free of charge. Other costs have been covered by donations.

Dalton, a homemaker, said she learned that her faith was "just so small" but that God used her anyway. □