

Baptist & Reflector

statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 6; Feb. 16, 2005

courthouse

County mayor works to keep 10 Commandments posted

Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

MADISONVILLE — Allan Watson, mayor of Monroe County, is leading his county in a fight against the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee to keep the Ten Commandments posted in the Monroe County Courthouse here.

Up to this point, the results of a year-long court struggle have encouraged Watson. The Ten Commandments are still posted in the 108-year-old courthouse. The issue will be decided this summer by the United States Supreme Court.

Watson, a member of First Baptist Church here, explained, "I didn't go into this looking for a fight."

The situation began in 1995 when June Griffith of Rhea County visited the County Commission meeting on a cold January evening and challenged them to act to post the Ten Commandments in the courthouse. The nine commissioners "passed unanimously without a lot of thought," recalled Watson, who

has served as county mayor for 15 years. "Everybody is for the Ten Commandments," he added.

Over the years everyone who commented on the display was "complimentary," said Watson, adding he never heard one negative comment about it.

Then in 2003 the state legislature and several counties including Monroe County passed a resolution known as the "God resolution," described Watson. The resolution supports the recognition of God as the foundation of the national heritage.

"It was a great resolution. American law is all about God," said Watson.

The Knox County commission refused to pass the resolution and their action was endorsed by many citizens who aired their views in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.

For weeks Watson read the letters to the editor and editorials against the resolution. Not one writer supported the resolution.

He felt "compelled," he said, to write a letter to the editor. He realized he was an elected government official. Many ad-

vised against it.

However, he felt "that God wants me to answer this controversy."

His response was unlike him, he explained. "I am always mediating things rather than trying to stir things up."

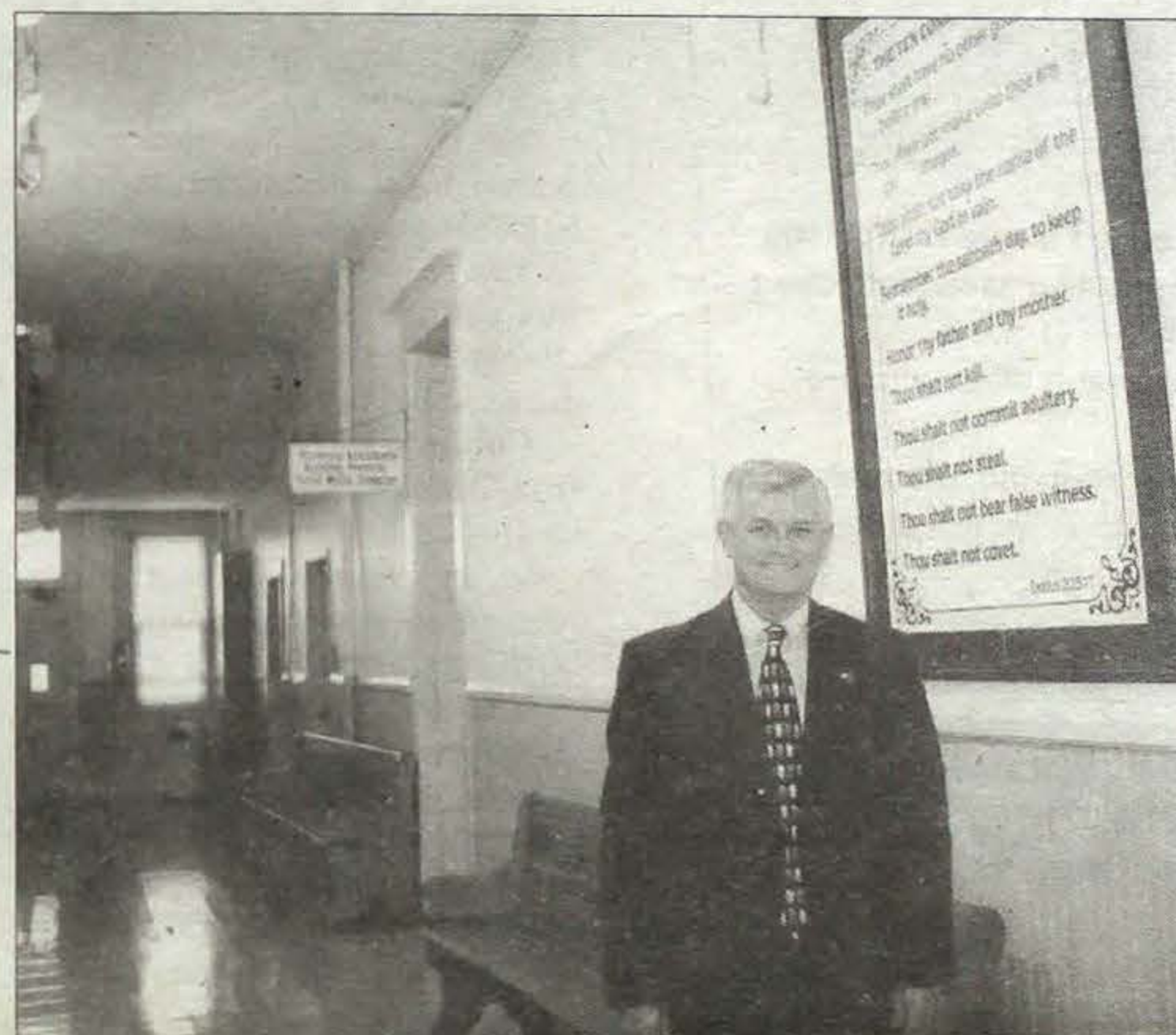
He wrote the letter, which was published. He may have gone "too far" in a part of the content, he analyzed. For whatever reason, the ACLU took the letter "as a challenge."

Several months later he received a phone call from a friend and fellow resident of Monroe County. The friend told him the county commission should remove the Ten Commandments or the county would be sued.

"I told him I'll do what I think is right for this county and the people I represent," said Watson.

Monroe County is sued

Soon a Knoxville attorney and the ACLU filed suit against Monroe County claiming that the attorney was offended and that the display in a public building smacks of governmental sponsorship or establishment of religion, violating the Estab-



ALLAN WATSON, Monroe County mayor, stands by the display of the Ten Commandments in the lobby of the Monroe County Courthouse in Madisonville.

lishment Clause in the U.S. Constitution.

The suit was filed by the Knoxville attorney because the ACLU "could not find anyone in

Monroe County to file suit," observed Watson.

Watson and the commission faced a turning point. Sharon Lee, — See County, page 6

this week's news

Union's school earns major award. — Page 2

Hermitage church dedicates new facility. — Page 3

Tsunami tragedy hits close to home for Nashville pastor. — Page 3

See "Green Light" for upcoming TBC activities. — Pages 7-10

How should churches respond to illegal immigrants? — Page 11

LifeWay's Draper to retire in '06

By Chris Turner
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — LifeWay Christian Resources' trustees immediately will begin the search for a new president following a Feb. 7 announcement by James T. Draper Jr. that he plans to retire from the position effective Feb. 1, 2006.

"For many years I have asked God to make clear to me when I need to retire," Draper told the full board of trustees during its semiannual meeting. "My prayer has been that He'd allow me the strength to finish well, serving Him until He sees fit to bring me home. In that regard, retirement from LifeWay is simply a transition from one ministry opportunity to another. I believe there are exciting days ahead for both LifeWay and for me."

A presidential search committee was formed following Draper's comments. The search committee includes Ken Jones of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, who will serve as secretary. The committee will begin accepting resumes and

recommendations immediately. Deadline for having applications to Chairman Rick Evans is April 15, 2005, and can be sent to his attention at Dalraida Baptist Church, 3838 Wares Ferry Road, Montgomery, AL 36109.

Draper said an approximate timeline is for the committee to bring a candidate to the full board at its next meeting, Sept. 12-13 in Nashville, with the intention of approving the candidate as president-elect.

Draper said he will work side-by-side with the president-elect until Feb. 1, when he'll step down and the new president will assume full responsibility for the position. "I am looking forward to this process and to a smooth transition of leadership," he said.

Draper, who will be 70 in October, told trustees his decision to retire is borne out of his "love for LifeWay" and his "commitment to do what is best" for the



DRAPER

organization and its kingdom ministry. February 2006 will mark his 15th year as president, and he stated it is time for new leadership.

"We are seeing a great response in our effort to connect with younger leaders across our denomination," he said, "and we need a younger man who can lead this organization to continue that trend. The younger leaders are ready to be kingdom leaders, and LifeWay should reflect a full commitment to partner with them as they follow God's call."

"We need a younger man with great vision, one who will not rest upon the great resources of this organization and maintain the status quo. We need a younger man who sees future possibilities through God's eyes."

"We need a younger man who can guide LifeWay to be a relevant resource for the church for decades to come as the church faces tumultuous cultural times. One thing is certain: We cannot become what we need to be by staying the way we are."

— See LifeWay's, page 6

Tennesseans to work with SCBC in disaster relief

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are partnering with South Carolina Baptist Convention teams to serve in the spring in south Asia to help survivors of the Asian tsunami.

Volunteer teams are scheduled to work on the field March 20-April 2 and May 15-28. The teams will be comprised of medical, construction, and crisis interventionist volunteers.

In the meantime, a team of eight medical volunteers is also set in early March to respond to the relief effort.

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

— See Tennesseans, page 6

about your newsjournal

Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 47 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$11; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.75 per subscription; other plans available

Lonnie Wilkey, editor
(615) 371-2046,
lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

Connie Davis Bushey, news editor
(615) 371-7928,
cdavis@tnbaptist.org

**Susie Edwards, circulation/
executive assistant/advertising**
(615) 371-2003,
sedwards@tnbaptist.org

**Mary Nimmo, church
pages/administrative
assistant**
(615) 371-7929,
mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

Betty Williams, bookkeeper
(615) 371-7930,
bwilliams@tnbaptist.org

Office — Baptist and Reflector,
5001 Maryland Way, Brent-
wood, TN 37027

Mailing address — P.O. Box
728, Brentwood, TN 37024

Phone — (615) 371-2003

FAX — (615) 371-2080

Web Site — www.tnbaptist.org

**Publisher — Tennessee Baptist
Convention Executive Board**

Convention Communications Committee —

Mark Gregory, chairman; Mickey Basham, vice chairman; Marty Comer, Orvind Dangeau, Mary Beth Duke, Pat Hood, Jay McCluskey, Bob Osburn, Larry Parrott, Carlos Peterson, Bob Riley, Mildred Thompson, Dennis Trull, Pat Whaley.

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

Tenn. bill would permit change of birth certificate

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A Tennessee state senator has introduced a bill to allow a person who has undergone a sex-change operation to change his or her birth certificate.

Senate Bill 37, introduced by Memphis Sen. Steve Cohen on Jan. 13, states that Tennessee is one of only three states that "refuse to allow transgendered persons the opportunity to correct their birth certificate." That point parallels a chart on the Internet by Lambda Legal, a homosexual legal organization, which lists Tennessee, Ohio, and Idaho as the only three states that do not permit a birth certificate change after a sex-change procedure.

Cohen's bill further asserts that Tennessee is "the lone state in the country with a statute specifically prohibiting the correction of sex designation on a birth certificate."

The bill proposes to amend the Tennessee Code to state: "Upon receipt of a sworn statement by a licensed physician indicating that the gender of an individual born in Tennessee has been changed by surgical procedure, the certificate of birth of the individual shall be amended to reflect the change."

Cohen, reached by telephone by Baptist Press Feb. 11, described the bill as serving a homeland security purpose as well as "reflecting reality, that the person's sex has changed."

Both the original birth certificate — which "will remain as is" — and the amended birth certificate would be kept on file by the state, Cohen said.

Ann Bennett, a longtime pro-family advocate in Kingsport, told Baptist Press, "To me, sex is determined by your chromosomes. Somebody who has been altered surgically and chemically really should not have their identity protected from people who might get involved emotionally with them."

"Our current laws should protect a person from being victimized by an emotionally needy person hiding from who they are," Bennett said.

Concerning the three states where birth certificates cannot be altered after sex-change operations, Bennett said, "It's a surprise to me that the homosexual movement has already achieved this legislation in so many other states."

The Tennessee legislature, in 1977, added the guideline to the Tennessee Code regarding the amendment of vital records to prohibit the changing of birth certificates after a sex-change operation. The 1977 guideline reads, "The sex of an individual will not be changed on the original certificate of birth as a result of sex change surgery."

Union's education school earns major award

Union University news office

JACKSON — Union University's School of Education has won the 2005 Model of Excellence Award from the Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education, which has a membership of more than 220 private universities nationwide.

The AILACTE award is based on "moral and ethical dimensions of the learning community," and recognizes the School of Education for its success in integrating moral and ethical values into its program.

The Models of Excellence program is designed to identify outstanding teacher education programs as examples to other schools and to the American public.

"We are integrating moral and ethical dimensions in our knowledge base, in our assessment system, and in our field components," said Tom Rosebrough, dean of Union's College of Education and Human Studies. "It's what we're about here at Union. I'm just really thrilled for our faculty to be encouraged like this. We are serious about integrating faith, character, and service into everything we do."

Rosebrough added that the Teacher Education Program, under the leadership of Dottie Myatt, is guided by the philosophy of incorporating character and faith into the curriculum.

In selecting Union for the award, AILACTE cited:

(1) a strong institutional mission that is infused throughout the program, people, and policies.

(2) the close connection between the mission/purpose of the institution and the conceptual framework.

Cohen's bill has been referred to the Tennessee Senate's General Welfare, Health & Human Resources Committee. □

IMB workers' son dies after fall in Thailand

Baptist Press

CHIANGMAI, Thailand — John D. ("J.D.") Pettit Jr., 8, son of International Mission Board workers John and Shannon Pettit, died Feb. 10 from injuries in a fall he suffered while the family was on a holiday outing in Thailand.

The Pettits, of Spartanburg, S.C., serve in southern Asia. J.D. was with his parents at a waterfall Feb. 9 when the accident happened. He was rushed to a hospital critical care unit in Thailand, where he died the next day.

"We are a family, and a tragedy such as this is felt deeply by us all," IMB President Jerry Rankin said. "We are grateful for the Pettits and their dedication to reach a spiritually deprived area of the world. This death was the fourth among our workers' children within the last three months. It is a reminder of how we need to pray for God's hedge of protection around our personnel and their families, who are so vulnerable as they share the Gospel overseas."

Pettit is survived by his parents; two sisters, Coralie, 6, and Simone, 10; and numerous relatives in the United States. □

Baptist college grad selected for 'Amazing Race'

Baptist Press

TIGERVILLE, S.C. — Kelly McCorkle, 2002's Miss South Carolina, will be part of the seventh season of CBS' reality show "The Amazing Race."

McCorkle, a 2001 North Greenville College graduate, will be teamed with her boyfriend Ron Young, a former Iraq War POW.

McCorkle currently works as a legislative correspondent for U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina. Young is a student at the University of Georgia and a motivational speaker.

After growing up with a learning disability, McCorkle graduated cum laude from North Greenville College, which is affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. After winning the Miss South Carolina pageant, she was a top 15 finalist in the Miss America contest.

The race proved to be a life-altering experience for McCorkle. "God taught me so much about myself through the whole experience," McCorkle said. "I am really excited about the show." □

States consider marriage bills

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Faced with the threat of a court ordering the

(3) the clear and consistent focus to prepare candidates in the ethical and moral dimensions.

(4) innovative experiences and activities that support the modeling of research-based teaching and learning practices that are ethically viable.

(5) knowledgeable and supportive documentation from colleagues outside the college about the impact of the program on the wider learning community over time.

(6) the program's continuous self-assessment.

The application required three letters of support from people outside of the institution. Teresa Luna, a teacher at Madison Academic High School in Jackson, wrote one of those letters on Union's behalf.

"Standards set by Union faculty members indicate that expectations are extremely high," Luna said of the School of Education. "The education profession is viewed by them as the most critical of all professions for the future of our country. Therefore, Union unapologetically advocates Christian ethics as the foremost quality a great teacher needs."

Rosebrough and Ann Singleton, associate dean of education, will accept the award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Feb. 20. In addition, Union's award will be acknowledged in Washington at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the largest teacher education group in the country with 785 member institutions.

"This outstanding recognition is an incredibly significant tribute to Union University in general and to the School of Education in particular," Union president David S. Dockery said. "I congratulate Dean Tom Rosebrough, Dr. Ann Singleton, and Dr. Dottie Myatt for their excellent leadership." □

legalization of same-sex "marriage," state legislatures nationwide continue to propose constitutional amendments.

Legislatures in at least 15 states are considering amendments that would ban "gay marriage," and amendments in five of those states have made recent progress.

In Kansas, an amendment passed the House and Senate with the required two-thirds majority and now will appear on the April 5 ballot — making this the first time this year to take the issue.

A marriage amendment in Alabama passed the Senate 35-10 and the House 85-7 on Feb. 10. Because the two amendments are slightly different, the two chambers must now agree on which version to send to voters. The state may hold a special election this year.

The Virginia House passed an amendment 78-18 Feb. 8, the day after the Senate passed a slightly different version 30-10. Negotiators now will work out the details. It must pass another session before going to voters, which would be 2006 at the earliest.

In Indiana, a Senate committee passed a marriage amendment Feb. 8 on a vote of 7-4. Indiana's amending process is lengthy, so a vote by citizens won't take place until 2008, the earliest, according to the Associated Press.

South Dakota House members passed an amendment 14 Feb. 3. It now goes to the Senate, which must approve for it to go to voters in 2006. □

Hermitage Hills Baptist

Church dedicates new facility; starts planning for future

Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

HERMITAGE — Members of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church here culminated an eight-year process Feb. 13 with the dedication of their new 1,807-seat worship center.

The church has seen its average worship attendance increase from 200 (before Christmas) to about 700-1,800 after moving into the new worship center on Jan. 9. That special "Opening Day" service drew 2,158.

Pastor Poly Rouse, pastor of the church since August of 2000, said plans for the worship center were drawn out three years before he became pastor.

He acknowledged the process wasn't always easy. "The first time we voted to build, it was voted down by 60 percent of the vote," he recalled.

"We stepped back and addressed concerns of the membership," Rouse recalled.

Some of those concerns were a need for more educational space and a desire to continue two worship services even after a new worship center was built.

While it may have been frustrating at the time, Rouse is now confident that it was all in God's plans and His timing.

"It took faith and patience," the pastor said.

The delay had its benefits. More people caught the vision of what the church hoped to accomplish with the new facility and allowed the church to get more money down on the \$9.6 million worship center, Rouse said.



ROUSE

It also gave the church more time to "rethink what we would do with the rest of the building," he added. He explained that the former sanctuary will be renovated into a Family Life Center that will be used for a new recreation ministry and the church's growing student ministry.

The dedication service not only celebrated the new facility, but it also kicked off the church's new "Opening the Doors" campaign, a plan to reduce the church's debt, open doors to new ministries (such as recreation), and to buy property for a future satellite church, Rouse said.

He said church leaders hope to pay off the balance of the new worship center (about \$4 million) in three years.

"We didn't want to build a new building and say, 'We've arrived,'" the pastor said.

The recreation ministry would offer athletic teams for children and youth to provide an alternative to the youth leagues that insist on having Wednesday night practices/games and even games on Sunday, Rouse said.

Another new ministry the church is launching is "Heartbeat Ministries." This benevolent ministry will be housed in a rented 2,700-foot warehouse, located a few miles from the church on Central Pike. The ministry will provide food, clothing, and other essentials to families in need, particularly single mothers, Rouse said.

The dream for a satellite location in nearby Wilson County is born out of both a sense of desire to reach out and the reality that the church has no room for expansion of its facilities at its present location on Lebanon Road in Hermitage.

"Our maxing out (the property) is a good thing," Rouse acknowledged. "It



MEMBERS OF Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, dedicated their new 1,807-seat sanctuary Feb. 13.

makes us be forward in our thinking."

Rouse has a desire for Hermitage Hills to start a number of satellite churches in the years to come. "We want to find out where the growth is going, get out in front (by purchasing property), and starting a church."

His vision would be to take 200-300 people from Hermitage Hills and "plant" them at a satellite location. "That drops our number, but we can grow back, then plant another one," he said.

Rouse said he is convinced that the church of the future will not be a megachurch in one location, but a megachurch on multiple sites.

He likes the concept of a satellite church as opposed to a mission. A mission church will be released one day and may or may not be able to continue on its own, Rouse said.

A satellite church on the other hand is connected financially and has vision

and leadership from the mother church, he continued. "You do not lose momentum."

Rouse acknowledged that a satellite church could eventually become larger than the mother church and that would be fine. He noted Hermitage Hills currently has three-four pastor leaders on staff, all of whom could preach at a satellite church. "The idea is that at any location you would not know who would be in the pulpit until you arrived on Sunday morning."

"We don't want it to be about a personality. We want it to be about loving God, one another, and His Word. That's what grows a fellowship for the long haul," said the Florida native who served on staff at First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., before accepting the pastorate at Hermitage Hills.

The satellite plans, however, are "still in the birthing, planning stages," he stressed. □

Tsunami tragedy hits close to home for Nashville pastor

Editor's Note: The name of the Nashville pastor is being withheld for security concerns.

Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — When Nashville pastor John Smith (not his real name) heard about the tsunami disaster in southern Asia, his ears perked.

When he discovered that one of the hardest hit areas was a province on the northern tip of Sumatra in Indonesia named Aceh, the tears began to fall.

Smith formerly served with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board as a strategy coordinator for the unreached people group of Aceh.

The Aceh province is comprised of extreme Muslims, Smith said. That province brought the Islam religion into Indonesia, he continued. Residents of Aceh call their province "the front porch of Mecca," Smith shared.

While working with the people

of Aceh, Smith and his wife developed many friendships and a love for the people of that province even though he did not actually live there. He traveled there, however, on countless occasions.

Smith related that he and his family were on vacation when they heard the news about the tsunami.

It was not until a few days later they learned that the epicenter of the tsunami hit the northern tip of Sumatra.

"A five-story high wall of water traveling at over 500 miles per hour hit Aceh," Smith related.

There were entire villages of "people we knew who are gone. We had friends and ministries there."

The tragedy struck Smith and his wife in a special way.

"We spent three days glued to the television, flipping through channels trying to find out more information," he recalled. "It was a miserable vacation," he added ruefully.

After the shock wore off, Smith admitted to a "pity par-

ty" during the first week following the tragedy as he began to acknowledge the fact that so many had died and gone to hell because they were "stiff-necked Muslims." Included in the count were many whom he considered "friends."

"I began to relive how I spent my time and think, 'What else could I have done,'" Smith said, as tears began to flow unashamedly.

After the first week, Smith began to put the tragedy into perspective as he realized with God's help that he did not "intentionally waste many moments" while he was serving and ministering to the people of Aceh.

"For the people of Aceh it is devastating and painful. But for the province of God, it's an answer to prayer."

Smith said that ever since he and his wife were first introduced to the people of Aceh in 1992 their prayer has been for the Lord "to pour out His spirit and open the hearts of the people of Aceh to hear the gospel of Christ."

"It's happening now, but it's

not how I would have planned it," Smith said.

Christians are working in an area now that has been closed for the most part, Smith said.

The people of Aceh are now realizing that it is Christians who are coming to help them, the pastor continued.

They are having contact with "real" Christians, who are so different from the "evil concept of Christians" they have been taught at the local mosques, he continued.

While the people are being helped by the relief efforts, that close contact with Christians "will be the real relief effort," the former missionary noted.

"My hope is the Aceh people who have been touched (by relief efforts) will have a point of reference in their heart and mind for the Christian message" when they hear a Christian radio broadcast or see a "Jesus" video, Smith said.

"I can't help but believe that this will radically change the spiritual makeup of that province," he added. □

Tennessee student helps transform Indonesian village

By Tim Ellsworth
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — As the team of relief workers arrived in the Indonesian village, they noticed villagers digging a hole.

Although Amy McCutcheon at first thought they were working on a mass grave, through crude translation she and her fellow workers determined that the hole was instead a latrine.

Relieved and anxious to help, McCutcheon and her teammates grabbed shovels and started working. They were excited that the Indonesians seemed ready to improve their village and get life back to normal.

But as the hours passed, body bags started to accumulate on the side of the road. She thought she was digging a latrine. She was wrong.

— See Tennessee, page 4

GuideStone's retirement and relief benefits top \$443 million

GuideStone news office

DALLAS — Retirement and relief benefits paid by GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention rose 9.5% in 2004, to reach more than \$443 million.

In 2004, GuideStone distributed retirement benefits totaling more than \$437 million. The amounts paid out included annuity option payments, installment payments, withdrawals, and rollovers. There were 30,114 persons receiving these benefits on Dec. 31, 2004, and 2,305 new benefits were established.

Relief benefits of \$5.5 million were paid to 2,472 individuals or couples in 2004, most of the money going to retired ministers or their widows who receive inadequate retirement benefits. GuideStone received approximately \$1.4 million from the Cooperative Program during 2004. All Cooperative Program funds received by GuideStone are

spent on relief ministry. Individuals and churches provided an additional \$4.1 million to fund this vital ministry.

"GuideStone was established as the Commission on Ministerial Relief and Annuity in 1918 with the goal to provide monetary relief for Southern Baptist ministers, their widows and orphans, and to encourage investments leading to retirement benefits," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins. "Numbers represent lives touched and we are pleased when benefit and relief payments are distributed because we see our efforts being rewarded."

"The heartbeat of our ministry remains with the pastor at the crossroads and we strive every day to enhance the financial security of Southern Baptist pastors and church staff members," Hawkins added.

In addition to benefits paid through retirement plans and the relief ministry, GuideStone

paid more than \$8.5 million in protection benefits to 908 participants or their families. The protection benefits are provided at no cost to the participant or the church and are a value-added feature of the Church Annuity Plan available to eligible Southern Baptist ministers and church employees.

These benefits are the Disability Income Benefit and the Survivor Protection Benefit. The Disability Income Benefit provides an income of up to \$500 per month if a participant becomes disabled plus \$35 is contributed to the participant's retirement account each month of the disability.

The Survivor Protection Benefit is paid to a participant's beneficiary if the participant dies prior to retirement. The benefit amount depends upon a participant's age at death, but can be as much as \$100,000. These benefits are paid in addition to all the money in the retirement ac-

count and in addition to any other disability or life insurance program the participant may have.

"GuideStone works closely with each Baptist state convention to provide these protection benefits as a safety net for ministers and church employees. Every year hundreds of our participants and their families who face a financial crisis discover that these benefits become an answer to their prayer for financial help in a time of real need," said Robert Henry, director of GuideStone's Church Retirement Marketing Department.

In 2004, GuideStone distributed more than \$4 million in disability benefits to 750 participants and paid more than \$4.5 million in survivor benefits to 158 participants' families.

"The historic relationship between GuideStone and the Baptist state conventions of providing protection benefits to ministers and church employees is as

crucial today as it was when was first offered in the 1970 said Richard Skidmore, Church Ministry Support Specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Recently, a pastor in our state died in an accident. I've



SKIDMORE

long remember meeting with his wife a being able to tell her she would be receiving \$75,000 survivor benefit in addition to her husband's retirement accumulations, just because of her husband's participation in the Church Annuity Plan.

"From my experience, the benefits are invaluable to many families and often become the major part of income need during difficult circumstance," Skidmore added. □

Tennessee student helps transform Indonesian village ...

— Continued from page 3

"We discovered we weren't digging a latrine after all," said McCutcheon, a member of Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown. "We were digging a grave. We buried 15 people that day."

So went McCutcheon's first experience at the village of Suaktimah during her recent trip to Indonesia. A senior at Union University, McCutcheon and 14 others from Global Ministries Foundation in Memphis offered what little help they could to a village devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami that so far has claimed roughly 300,000 lives.

McCutcheon decided in January she wanted to help in the relief effort. Many have chosen to help monetarily.

"I'm not financially able, as a college student, to give any money," she said.

"But I knew there had to be something I could do."

She decided that while she might not have the money, she had the time. Because Union's spring semester didn't begin until the first week of February, McCutcheon knew she had a timeframe where she could go to Indonesia herself. She relied on those with the money to fund her trip.

"Before I left I didn't have all the money," she said. "When I got back home, it was all there."

McCutcheon spent the days prior to her departure collecting the supplies she would need. Team members took their own tents, their own food, their own water.

She packed 10 days worth of provisions — granola bars, tuna fish, trail mix,

peanut butter and crackers, and Gatorade.

"I don't even like tuna," McCutcheon said. "But it got us through. I'm still here."

She also spent those days preparing herself mentally and emotionally for what she knew would be a taxing experience. She discovered no amount of preparation would have been adequate.

"When we first came into the city, it was mostly earthquake destruction, not from the tsunami," she said. "I thought this was going to be a more devastated area. When we got up the next morning we went into downtown Meulaboh, which as far as the eye could see was nothing but flat land — where resorts used to be, buildings — nothing but broken concrete."

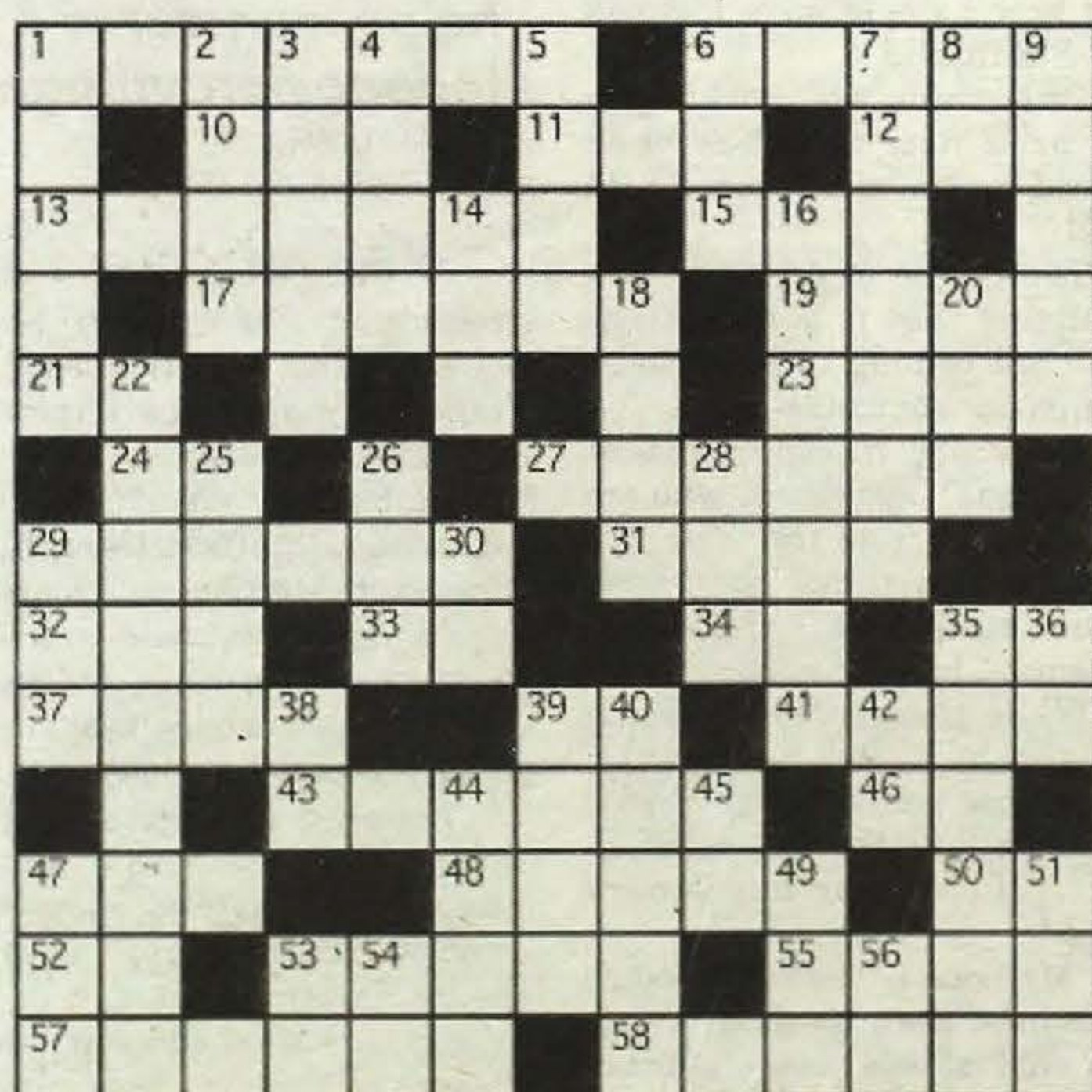
McCutcheon could also smell the hint

of dead bodies.

"They weren't buried, but they were exposed either," she said. "The bodies were only in places where debris had been moved yet. The only thing we saw were body bags."

As she toured the leveled city, McCutcheon saw various evidences of a former way of life. A baby sandal here. A toothbrush there. A way of life now vanished. A city in ruins everywhere she looked.

"People used to live here," she thought to herself. "As far as you could see there was nothing but — nothing. It was so bad I felt like there was no way I could help. It was so overwhelming. I've come all the way across the world, and now there's nothing I can do. What can one person do to help this?" □



See answers on page 15

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. "A _____ that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Tim. 2:15)
6. "The word of God ... is

sharper than any two-edged _____" (Heb. 4:12)

10. Friend, Fr.
11. When you will arrive, approximately, abbr.
12. In favor of

13. Belonging to God's chosen nation
15. Young lady, Fr., abbr.
17. Man's name
19. Sons of Judah, Er and _____ (Gen. 46:12)
21. Edward, for short
23. Chinese dynasty
24. Firstborn son of Judah (Gen. 38:2-3)
27. Primps
29. "_____ not yourselves" (Rom. 12:19)
31. "When the morning stars _____" (Job 38:7)
32. "Jesus thou _____ of God" (Matt. 8:29)
33. Letter before "em"
34. Teletypewriter, abbr.
35. In order that
37. Small particle
39. Translation, abbr.
41. Son of Adam
43. Prophet during David's reign
46. Masculine article, Fr.
47. Indicate agreement with a movement of the head
48. "These _____ Milcah did bear" (Gen. 22:23)
50. Letter after "em"
52. Preposition

53. "Lion will not _____ himself" (Isa. 31:4)
55. Sea lettuce
57. "_____ obtained favor" (Esther 2:15)
58. Moisten

DOWN

1. "As _____ as snow" (Rev. 1:14)
2. "A _____ thing" (Dan. 2:11)
3. Department store chain
4. Appearance
5. Sea monster of loch
6. America's uncle
7. "_____ the ears, but he heareth not" (Isa. 42:20)
8. Transportation on tracks, abbr.
9. "Let us not be weary in well _____" (Gal 6:9)
14. "_____ my people go" (Exod. 5:1)
16. Brief periods of time
18. Hills
20. Response, abbr.
22. "I ... beheld your _____, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Un-

- known God" (Acts 17:23)
25. City in Nevada
26. "Delivered when she was past _____" (Heb. 11:11)
28. "Take it, and _____ it up" (Rev. 10:9)
29. Josaphat's father (Matt. 1:8)
30. Binding wing
35. To stow, especially in a ship's hold
36. Exclamation
38. St. Paul is the capital of this state, abbr.
39. Not that
40. "The heathen _____" (Ps. 46:6)
42. Masculine article, Sp.
44. "Lest he _____ my soul like a lion" (Ps. 7:2)
45. New England state, abbr.
47. "As it was in the days of _____, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26)
49. Stomach, for short
51. Girl's name
53. Syllable of satisfaction
54. Exist
56. Low pressure, abbr.

On the preaching side of the pulpit — for a spell

from both
sides of
the pulpit



By Johnnie Godwin

have their place in the scheme of things.

Optimum time for interims?

So how long should an interim last? Usually until the church calls a new pastor and he's in place. Sometimes more than one interim is involved. Actually, only God knows how long an interim should serve. Without trying to second guess God or a pastor search committee, I usually suggest that six months to a year might be an optimum time for me to serve as interim. Why? Well, I'll tell you.

An interim pastor tends to be somewhat like a granddaddy. He mostly just loves the people and preaches positive messages. Any discipline the church gets from him is mostly formative and not corrective. He doesn't spank with a belt, demand time-outs, or do any grounding. He just loves the people and preaches to them. Now, who wouldn't love a granddaddy-interim pastor and want to keep him a long time? But churches need a 24/7 pastor who lovingly preaches formative messages and prophetic messages of correction — much like a wise parent instead of a benevolent granddad.

When I was interim pastor of the late Ralph Grubbs, he and I became good friends. One Wednesday night, he told me, "Johnnie, I saw an interim pastor on TV this morning getting recognized for his service. He had been interim pastor of

the same church for 42 years. Are you interested in anything like that?" I smiled and declined.

An old preacher story tells about an interim pastor that stayed at one church a long time. When asked why, he responded, "Well, it's this way: They don't want much of a pastor, and I'm not much of one; so we're a pretty good match." Churches can get too comfortable doing too little for too long.

In a sense, all earthly pastors are interims. Some just stay longer than others. But, ideally, a church should pray for a pastor whose sense of calling is so strong that he buys his plot and gravestone when he moves in. My counsel: Search for that pastor!

The pastoral priority (including interims)

We know pastors are God's gift to churches and have biblical requirements to meet (Ephesians 4:11-16; I Timothy 3:1-7). Most churches know the pastor comes to equip them for ministry alongside of him and not be minister in their place (II Corinthians 5:18).

The pastor's priority is to love the Lord and feed the sheep. The resurrected Jesus repeatedly asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Each time, Peter replied yes. Each time, Jesus commanded, "Feed my sheep" — including the lambs (John 21:15-17). Paul told the elders from Ephesus, "Feed the church of God" (Acts 20:28). Peter told the elders, "Feed the

flock of God" (I Peter 5:2). Above all, a preacher is to feed the sheep with God's Word.

I know a husband and wife who had only one reason for leaving a church and pastor they loved. In a nutshell, the preaching side of the pulpit wasn't feeding them. They both have a good devotional life and find nourishment in it and in other groups.

I also know "it's not about us," but the Bible says the preacher side of the pulpit is to feed the sheep. What a pity that year in and year out some churches endure sermonettes for Christianettes instead of getting fed the meat of God's Word. All pulpits are occupied by those who have feet of clay, but a requirement of their office is that they feed the sheep from the Word of God. It's a pastoral essential.

Just one pastor is eternal and perfect

It's interesting that the word "pastor" appears only one time in all the New Testament (and eight times in Jeremiah). The Geneva Bible was the first one to use "pastor" instead of "shepherd" in Ephesians 4:11; and other translations have followed suit. (The synonyms "bishop," "overseer," and "elder" appear elsewhere along with words for minister and servant.) All earthly pastors are "undershepherds" to feed the sheep and lead them to the Eternal Shepherd.

The original Hebrew and Greek words for pastor and shepherd literally mean feeder.

Jesus identified and exemplified the Model Pastor in John 10. We might say that Jesus is the Chief Pastor (I Peter 5:4) and the Great Pastor (Hebrews 13:20). When Revelation 7:17 speaks of Jesus as the Lamb, it implicitly includes His eternal role as the Perfect Pastor in heaven. When I read Psalm 23, I love to translate, "The Lord is my Pastor; I shall not want."

Back to interim pastors

For now, I'm delighted to be on the preaching side of the pulpit. This side of the pulpit reminds me that when sheep are fed, they are to respond to the Great Shepherd. They do that by accepting Christ as Lord and Savior. They do it by being baptized and by identifying in a covenant relationship with the church for which Christ died.

Some of the sheep show their response by amens, nodding, smiling, clapping, and even uplifted hands. Whatever the response, I'm grateful. I've preached to enough dead audiences.

On a recent Sunday, one pre-teen girl drew a picture of me on the back of an envelope and smiled as she handed it to me at the end of the service. The sketch was accompanied with these words: "Dear Mr. Godwin, I think you did very well on your sermons." What a treasure! Is it any wonder I'm enjoying being on the preaching side for a spell? □ — Copyright 2005 by Johnnie C. Godwin, who can be reached by e-mail at johnniegodwin@comcast.net.

P is a gift of God to help His people reach out to needs of world

Best
columnist

By O. Wyndell Jones

Our world continues to sink in light of modern technology and serious disasters. Within minutes we can see the events as they unfold and see the enormous devastation as it occurs.

We were strongly encouraged to send 4,000 missionaries to Japan many years ago by one of our generals, but we failed to do so. However, we sent far more men than that a short time later, not armed with Bibles, but with guns and other means of destruction.

The Great Commission gave us a mandate many years ago to go into all the world and make disciples of people. It seems that other things have taken precedent over our priorities and there are yet people who do not have access to the Gospel. The percentages we see through our churches constantly diminish, yet the needs continue to rise.

It is a pleasant sight to see the overwhelming response by our nation to the most recent disaster in Asia. Could it be that through this awful tragedy our world will awaken to the real needs and see the plight of people all over the globe? It is not difficult to see such unbelievable needs by means of cable and network news. If one has seen with his or her own eyes the horrible conditions in most of these countries, then we must realize the acute realities which exist.

What should be our real response as we see these things?

Empowering Kingdom Growth is an effort to help all Christians everywhere to realize our Lord said more about His kingdom than any other subject. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us how to be kingdom people. If any Christian is serious regarding his or her faith in Christ, then he or she needs to spend a great deal of time in the first three chapters of Matthew. The Christian community should be concerned about gathering people into the king-

dom. God is interested in His people and their growth and the development of His kingdom.

There appears to be a growing interest in prayer and that is absolutely wonderful. In the development of this reality, we should remember what our Lord taught in the model prayer regarding His kingdom.

God wishes to engulf the world in the arms of His people and the hour is upon us to turn our eyes upon the fields and see how far spent the harvest really is. Jesus said, "The fields are white unto harvest and when wheat turns white in the fields" it is almost passed harvest. Our world is in turmoil, and primarily because it has turned its back upon its Creator. The time is now to turn and see this world as God sees it. He sees it in need of a Savior.

The Cooperative Program is a gift of God to help His people reach out to the needs of this world in a consistent fashion.

The tithe is God's means of growing His people and teaching them how He wants to reach this world. The chal-

lenge is upon us to begin this year with a determined effort to be and do what our Father wants done in His world.

How soon can we rise to

that challenge? □ — Jones is executive director-emeritus of the Baptist Convention of Iowa and former editor of the *Iowa Baptist*. He now lives in Franklin.

You know you're a PK when ...

Editor's Note: The following list was compiled and submitted by Paul Gunn, minister of youth at First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet. The list was compiled by Gunn and his brothers and sisters (Dann, Cathy, Gina, and Jesse) in honor of their parents, Paul R. and Sylvia Gunn, who have been in the ministry for 30 years. Gunn has served as pastor of Irving College Baptist Church in McMinnville since 1989.

To the PKs (preachers' kids) of Tennessee. You know you're a PK when ...

- (1) You're too sick for school, but never too sick for church.
- (2) People ask you what your dad does during the week.
- (3) You adopt Bible words like "Lodebar" to describe things you don't like.
- (4) Your idea of rebellion is skipping Sunday night church.
- (5) You've never seen the first half of the Super Bowl in real time.
- (6) You settle family problems with called family business meetings.
- (7) Despite your objections, but to keep peace, you read "Three Rusty Nails" while the quartet hums in the background.
- (8) You bathe in the baptistry because the parsonage pipes are frozen.
- (9) You don't attend VBS because you are teaching it.
- (10) The visiting evangelist takes over your bedroom. □

County mayor works to keep 10 Commandments ...

— Continued from page 1

county attorney who is now a judge in the Circuit Court of Appeals in Knoxville, felt the county had a good case because the Knoxville attorney did not have "standing" to file the suit. He rarely worked in the Monroe County courthouse.

Lee's opinion was substantiated by an attorney with the American Center for Law and Justice which offered to represent the county at no cost. The center is defending nearly 20 local governments across the nation — including Monroe County — in their battles to retain Ten Commandments displays.

Watson and the commission then turned to the community for its opinion. The public meeting on a Tuesday evening in December of 2003 drew about 400 into the courthouse to fill the courtroom, overflow into the lobby, and spill outside. It was the largest crowd to attend a commission meeting during Watson's tenure, he said.

The meeting lasted about an hour to allow everyone to speak, recalled Watson. One resident noted Hamilton County had spent \$40,000 in such a fight and lost. Only one other resident spoke against the legal battle. Many residents defended it, along with Watson.

The crowd then waited for an hour during a closed session of the commission. When they heard of the unanimous vote to defend the display, the crowd responded.

"Boy, you talk about hollering and shouting all over that building. It was very heartwarming," he described.

Watson noted the commis-

sion had agreed to spend from \$5,000-\$10,000 to fight beer permits "knowing we couldn't win." Fighting "the first round" of the court battle for the display would cost about the same amount of money.

The reality of the struggle, though, sank in several months later as Watson and the commissioners sat in a Knoxville federal courtroom.

"I felt like Daniel in the lions den," he said.

The judge, a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, ruled the attorney did not have "standing" and that the two sides must enter mediation. "He could have ruled to take them down," said Watson, referring to the display.

In mediation, the county commission offered to broaden the display by adding such items as the Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, and preamble to the Cherokee Constitution. Federal courts have ruled this display is acceptable.

But the compromise was rejected by the ACLU which filed an injunction asking that the Ten Commandments be removed.

Victory for display

In response to the injunction, U.S. District Court Judge Tom Varlan issued a stay in the lawsuit on Dec. 3, 2004 to give time for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide two similar lawsuits — one from Texas and another from Kentucky — that the nation's high court has agreed to consider this term. It was a victory for the county's display, according to Watson.

Varlan could have forced Monroe County officials to take



ALLAN WATSON holds one of the yard signs residents have posted to show their support of the county's stand on its Ten Commandments display in the Monroe County Courthouse.

down the display pending the outcome of the Supreme Court lawsuits. A similar suit in Rutherford County resulted in the removal of the Ten Commandments.

Courts across the nation have issued many conflicting rulings, reported the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, prompting the Supreme Court in October to take on the issue in the Texas case, which involved a Ten Commandments monument on the state capitol grounds, and the Kentucky case. In the Kentucky case, officials of two counties hung framed copies of the Ten Commandments in their respective courthouses and later added other historical documents, including the Declaration of Independence.

The Supreme Court will consider the two cases on March 2, said Watson. He hopes Chief Justice William Rehnquist can

rule although he is ill.

Personal views

"We've got unity on this issue," said Watson, referring to the about 42,000 residents of Monroe County, "and hopefully we'll get a positive outcome from the Supreme Court."

Because of the struggle he has experienced the "biggest blessing" of his entire tenure as county mayor. That has been the "groundswell of support of people" on this issue, he said. Residents have posted thousands of yard signs featuring the Ten Commandments. The yard signs have been produced and sold by various residents.

"Enough is enough," declared Watson, who believes the entertainment field and liberal federal judges "have created the moral decay in our country today. Judges have started making laws instead of interpreting them."



IN THE LOBBY OF the Monroe County Courthouse visitors can view the Ten Commandments.

People think if a federal court has ruled, the decision can't be changed and it's a waste of time and money," he said.

"There's a lot of hypocrisy going on in Washington," he added.

The Supreme Court begins every session with prayer, he noted. Moses is depicted on the facade of the building. Oak doors of the building are decorated with the Ten Commandments which also appear in the courtroom of the Supreme Court.

The ruling of the Supreme Court will be important, because the court "gives direction to our lower federal courts," said Watson.

"Our fathers started the government on the foundation of God. It's something I believe in and feel very strongly about."

"But we'll do whatever the law requires," he concluded.

LifeWay's Jimmy Draper announces plans to retire in 2006 ...

— Continued from page 1

Draper cautioned trustees to diligently seek God's direction in filling the position, saying that many people will "tell you they know who ought to be here and what you ought to do. Listen graciously to them, but realize that the decision is yours alone. None of you should have a personal agenda, and do not entertain the agenda of others."

Draper recounted how reluctant he was to leave the pastorate when approached about taking the position, saying the greatest job in the world is being the pastor of a local church. The last night offered trustees the following counsel: "Find somebody who has no ambition to be here, and when you come across someone actively pursuing this position, run from him. Your only purpose is to find God's man."

Draper said he has no desire to choose his successor or to interfere in the search process in any way. Rather, he wants to be available to share his insight with the presidential search committee when asked. His "strong desire," he said, was to make the transition "efficient and effective." He said his passion was to pass to the next leader the legacy that had been passed to him, beginning 114 years ago with founder J.M. Frost.

Draper said the next president must lead LifeWay to engage six strategic

challenges as LifeWay's ministry moves deeper into the 21st Century. Draper said LifeWay must:

- (1) Continue to grow in its understanding that it is a kingdom enterprise;
- (2) Intensify its effort to have a greater spiritual impact in the SBC and in the United States;
- (3) Continue to attract and retain the best and brightest people in order to sustain and grow the ministry and business;
- (4) Operate profitably in order to remain a strong ministry and to continue being a viable competitor in the marketplace;
- (5) Champion Southern Baptist doctrines and values and be a unifying force that pulls Southern Baptists forward and together as a denomination;
- (6) Become successful at capital fund raising, recognizing that there are a number of ministry opportunities available to LifeWay that would greatly multiply its spiritual impact, but that currently cannot be engaged because they fall beyond the scope of LifeWay's operating budget.

"These are serious times and there is a desperate need for serious organizations staffed by serious people," Draper said. "LifeWay must be a serious organization as we move deeper into this century if we are to turn these six chal-

lenges into opportunities. I sense we are gaining momentum in some of these areas and this presidential handoff needs to be an explosive surge forward."

Draper stated he has no desire to retire to a life of leisure. "Listen, don't cue the sunset and launch into a verse of 'Happy Trails to You,'" he said. "Retirement from an administrative position in today's world may sometimes be construed as a departure from labor altogether. In no way is this my intention. As a minister, I will never retire. I cannot retire from ordination, the call to preach, or the compulsion of the Holy Spirit to work and witness as a Christian minister."

Draper indicated there are no current plans for what he might do beyond his retirement from LifeWay.

Draper reassured trustees that there was no truck waiting in the parking lot in which to load his office belongings. "I told you last year during this address at our trustee meeting that I've got as much energy and vigor now for this ministry as I did when I came into this position. I don't intend for this last year to be a farewell tour. I don't intend to back away from getting in there and mixing it up. We must aggressively pursue the ministry opportunities God has placed before us by being the most efficient business possible. I said these are serious times and I deeply want to be a seri-

ous person."

Draper closed his address by challenging trustees to make the next several months some of the most intensely focused months of prayer they've ever spent with the Father.

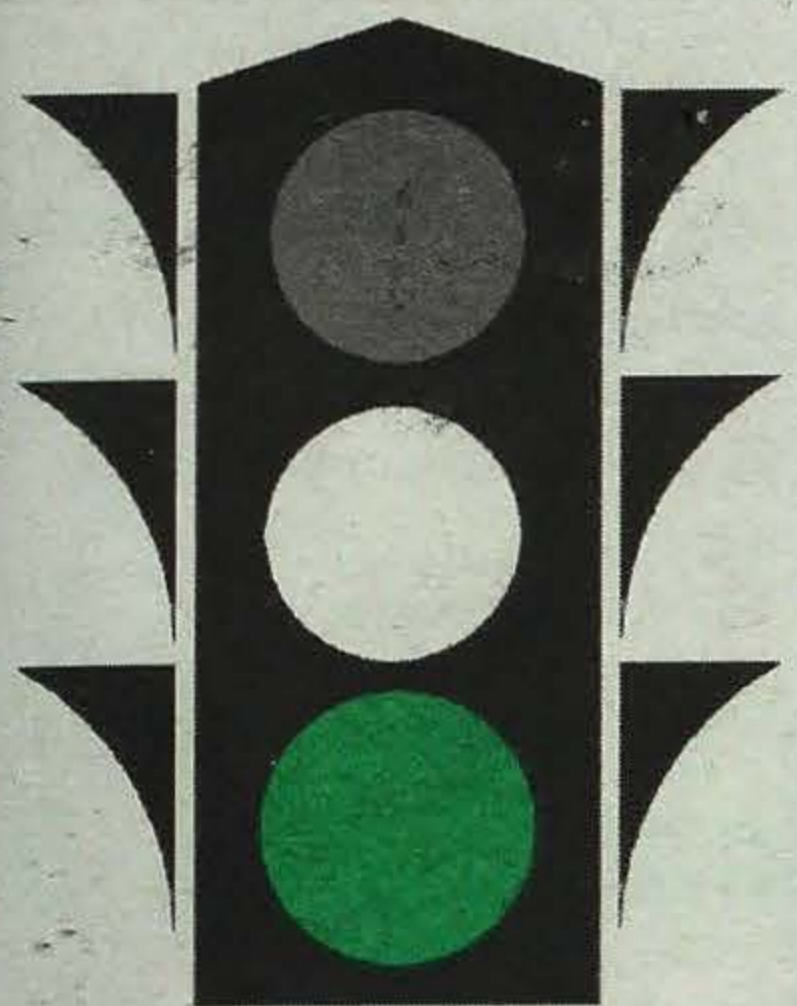
"I have unwavering confidence the God will honor your humility in prayer and deliver to you the man who is to lead LifeWay in the very critical year ahead," he said. "May the Father be glorified by our actions over the next several months." □ — Turner is media relations manager for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

Tennesseans to work ...

— Continued from page 1

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



Green Light

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



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

well known speakers:



Randy Frazee is senior pastor at Pantego Bible Church in Arlington, TX. He is the author of *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Find out more about Randy Frazee at www.pantego.org

Leonard Sweet

is author of more than 100 articles, 500 published sermons and 20+ books, each volume in Sweet's postmodern trilogy—*Soul-Tsunami* (1999), *AquaChurch* (1999) and *SoulSalsa* (2000). Find out more about Leonard Sweet at www.leonardsweet.com



Ed Stetzer

has trained pastors and church planters on five continents. He has planted churches in New York and Pennsylvania. He holds two masters and two doctorates. His Ph.D. dissertation addressed the issue of what helps new churches grow. His book, *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*, helps church planters to start and grow biblically faithful and culturally relevant churches. The book has become a standard church planting textbook in many evangelical seminaries.



e-v@ngelism neXt

An Innovative Evangelism Conference

April 25-26 First Baptist Church, Smyrna

Worship led by: Ron Alley and the worship team from FBC Smyrna.

Conversation Sessions for: Youth Ministers, Language Pastors, Church Planters, Pastors Seeking new ways to equip your church members in evangelism.



Visit www.evangelismnext.org for costs, registration, conversation topics and for event schedule or call 800.558.2090 ext. 7933

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP Retreat

EQUIPPING SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS WITH THE TOOLS NEEDED FOR BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY



Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center
Linden, TN • April 1-2, 2005

Worship Leader: Rick White,
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Franklin, TN



Music Leader
Paul Clark, Music and Worship Specialist,
Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, TN

Conference Costs

Conference & Meals: \$55/person (Friday & Saturday)
\$33/person (Saturday only - conferences & lunch)
Lodging: \$65/room (1 or 2 people per room - Conference Center)
\$75/room (3 people per room - Conference Center)
\$85/room (4 people per room - Conference Center)
\$14/person (Semi-private lodging - Camp Lodge - Carson Springs)
\$12/person (Semi-private lodging - Camp Lodge - Linden Valley)

Schedule

Friday Evening		Saturday Morning	
1:30 pm	Registration	7:45 am	Breakfast
3:30 pm	Early Bird Conference	8:45 am	Age Group Conferences
4:45 pm	Early Bird Conference	11:15 am	Worship
5:45 pm	Dinner	12:00 pm	Lunch
6:45 pm	Worship		
7:45 pm	Age Group Conferences		

To register or for more information on the Sunday School Leadership Retreat, call 800.558.2090, ext. 2054. Visit the website at www.equippingu.com.

→ DON'T FORGET! ←

March 4-5 **Youth Evangelism Conference**, MTSU, Murphy Center, Murfreesboro. Register online with a debit or credit card at www.yectennessee.org. For more information, call the Youth Evangelism Office at 615-371-7933 or 800-558-2090 ext 7933; email rwatson@tnbaptist.org

March 4-5 **Handbell Festival**, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City. For more information on music selections, registration, schedule and clinicians, visit www.tnworshipandmusic.org.

March 6-13 **Week of Prayer for North American Missions** and the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**.

March 11-12 **Bivocational Evangelism Conference**, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville. Contact Ray Gilder at rgilder@tnbaptist.org for more information or visit www.tnbaptist.org for the full conference schedule.

March 11-13 **Conversational English Workshop**, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The deadline for registration is March 4. For more information, call 800-558-2090 ext 7916 or email imarks@tnbaptist.org.

March 12 **Bible Fun Field Day**, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center. For leaders and children in grades 1-6. Track 1 8:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Track 2 11:45 a.m.- 4:45 p.m. Registration and payment prior to event is required for official registration. Contact Barbara Owens at bowens@tnbaptist.org or call 800-558-2090 ext.7905.

March 13-14 **East Tennessee State Evangelism Conference**, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville. For a conference schedule and speakers, visit www.tnbaptist.org or call the Evangelism Office at 800-558-2090.

March 13 **Tennessee Ladies Chorus**, First Baptist Church, Covington, 7 p.m.

March 18-19 **Mid-Continent Bivocational Celebration**, Promising Young Leaders Bright Hope for Tomorrow, Lannom Conference Center, Dyersburg. To download the registration form visit www.tnbaptist.org or contact Ray Gilder at rgilder@tnbaptist.org for further information.

March 18-19 **Cross Cultural Training**, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. A 12-hour training for those going overseas on a mission trip. Contact Heather at hwilson@tnbaptist.org or call 800-558-2090 ext.2061 for more information.

March 19 **Bible Fun Field Day**, Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, 8:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Registration and payment prior to event is required for official registration. Contact Barbara Owens at bowens@tnbaptist.org or call 800-558-2090 ext.7905.



Belle Aire Baptist Church
Murfreesboro, TN
April 18-19



Featured Speaker: Richard Hammar, author of the book *Pastor, Church and Law* and the *Church and Law Tax Report* newsletter.



Special Music: Kyle Matthews.

BREAKOUT TOPICS INCLUDE:

Church Administration A to Z

- Hey, I Am So New At This
- Okay, I've Got My Feet on the Ground Now
- Whew, I'm an Old Hand, but Things Keep Changing
- But We Don't Have a Paid Administrator.

Medical Insurance Options

- Details on Health Reimbursement Accounts
- Details on Health Savings Accounts
- Details on Flexible Spending Accounts

Personnel Policy Development

- Implementing a Policy Manual for the Smaller Church
- Implementing a Policy Manual for the Larger Church
- Keeping Your Policy Manual Updated
- Forum: Open Discussion on Specific Policies

Financial Management

- Cash Management and Related Banking Issues.
- There is More than One Way to Borrow Money
- Long-term Fundraising
- The Budget Process in the Smaller Church

Cost: \$125 per person

Early Bird Registration: \$110 per person by March 15

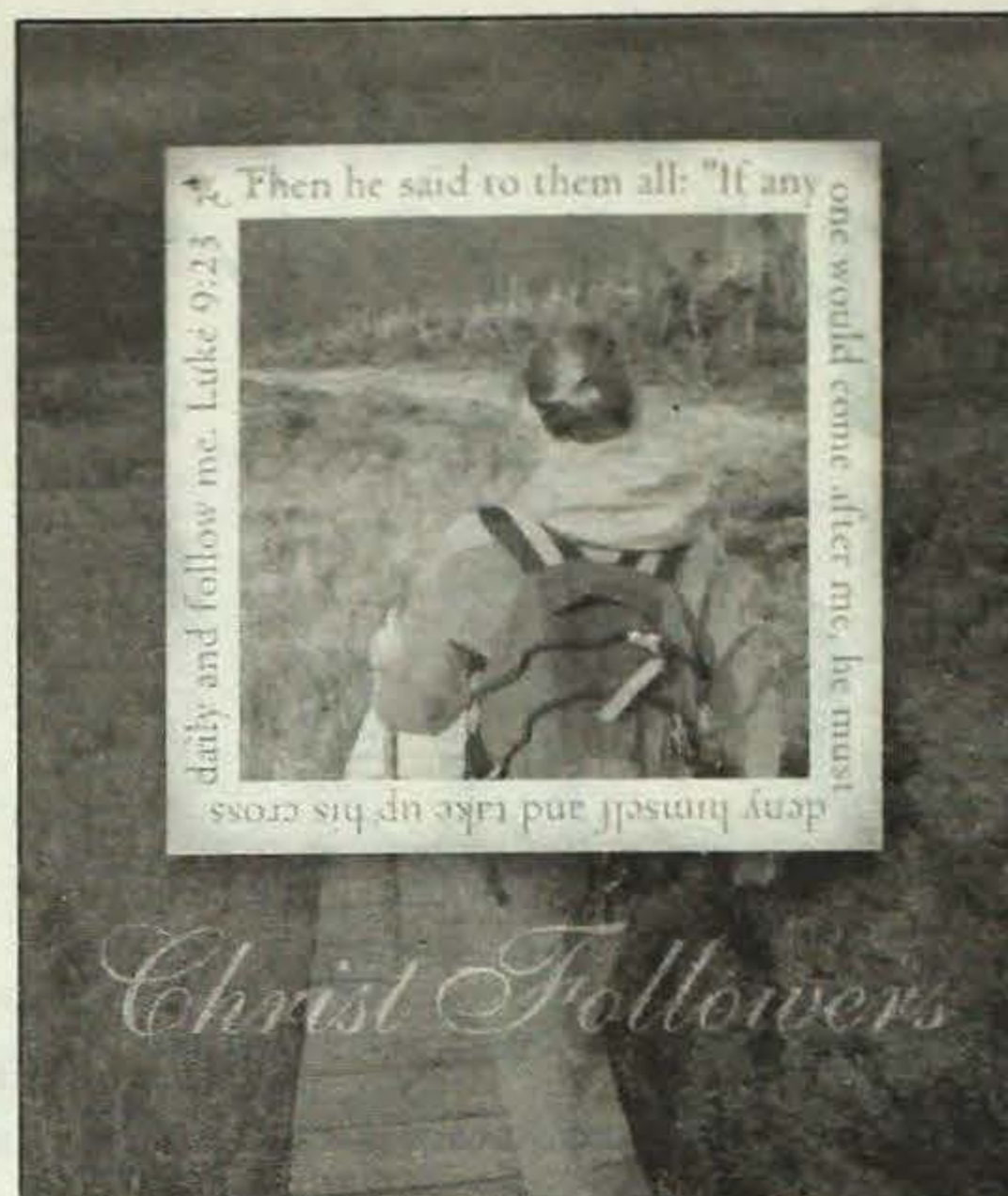
*\$15 to bring a guest to the banquet.

For more information, visit us online at www.tnchurchadmin.org or call 800.558.2090 ext. 2013. You can register online and pay with either MasterCard or Visa.

*CEU Credit available from NACBA.



Hosted by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



WMU Get Together *Christ Followers*

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.' Luke 9:23
April 8-10 Gatlinburg Convention Center



Keynote Speaker:

Connie Cabanaugh
Christian Writer and Speaker
Cochrane, Alberta, Canada



Worship Leader:

Alison Stevens
Christian Singer/Songwriter
Franklin, Tennessee

For information on the Conference Schedule and Topics, How to Register, Suggested Hotels and this year's Mission Project, visit us at www.tnwmu.org or call Rebekah Wales at 615-371-2038 or email at rwales@tnbaptist.org.

**Get Together will be held in conjunction with Connection, an event for girls grades 7-12.*



APRIL 8-10

GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER

BIBLE STUDY LEADER...Debbie Cannada

Tina Hutchinson...WORSHIP LEADER

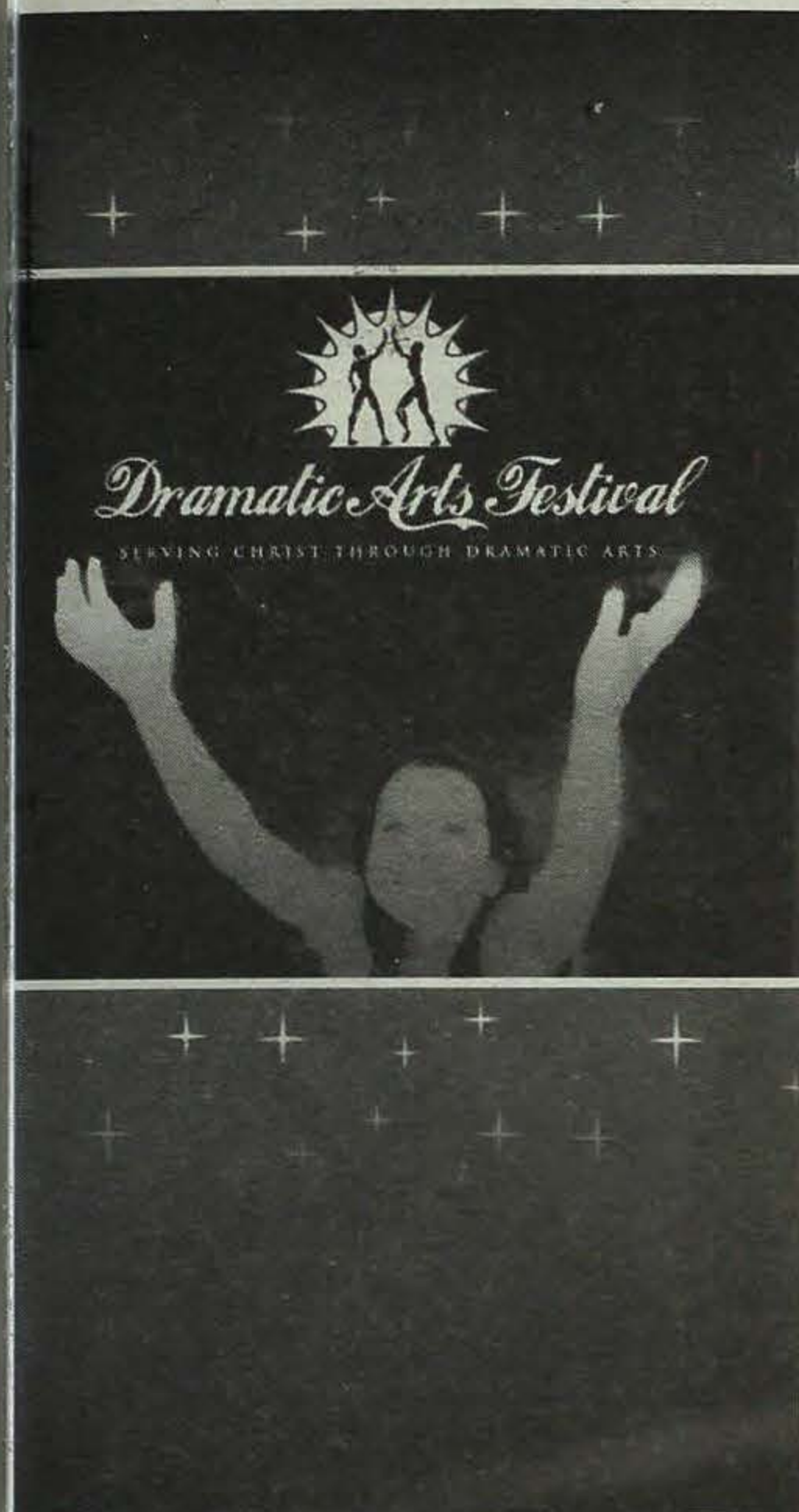
CONFERENCE FEE...\$35 per person, \$40 after March 25

CONFERENCE TOPICS:

- You are what you wear
- Real, Live Missionaries
- What does my faith have to do with making decisions?
- For Seniors Only
- What will happen if I...?
- Worshiping God through movement*
- My friend says she's gay, now what?

**Girls interested in "Worshiping God through movement" conference should bring all black loose-fitting clothing for one worship experience.*

For more information, contact Andrea Knight at 615-371-7919 or e-mail at aknight@tnbaptist.org. Visit www.tnwmu.org for more information.



April 8-9,
First Baptist Church,
Hendersonville

Clowning-Drama-Interpretive
Movement-Puppetry-Mime

PLUS: Guest/Participant
Performances, Special Puppetry
Classes in VBS Programming,
Creative Arts Training for
Mission Trips, Utilization of
Drama in Creative Worship

Registration Cost: \$40 Early
bird price before March 14,
\$50 after March 14
(price includes t-shirt, lunch,
resources & conference)

To register call Charlotte at
615-371-7908 or
800-558-2090 ext.7908 or
email at chanson@tnbaptist.org

2005 Summer Camps



Registration Deadline for Summer Camps is March 2

Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center

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

Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center

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

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

Who is invited?

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

Conference Topics:

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

Conference Dates:

February 25-26
First Baptist Church, Smyrna
March 19
North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland
April 9
Gatlinburg Convention Center
(in conjunction with WMU Get Together)
April 30
Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett

Registration fee:

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



ROYAL AMBASSADOR WILDERNESS CHALLENGE
CAMPING ADVENTURE FOR ALL RAs
April 15-16

Sponsored by the Nashville Baptist Association Royal Ambassador
Leadership Team and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Boxwell Boy Scout Reservation (near Gallatin, Tennessee)
Events include: Campsite and Project Contest, Campcraft Rodeo, RA Racers and RA
Worship Service

Cost \$10 per person. If you pre register by April 15 adults get in for \$5.
For registration information, a copy of the event rules and a tentative schedule call
the Nashville Baptist Association office at (615) 259-3034.

COMING UP...

April 29-May 1 Special Friends Retreat, Camp Linden, Linden, Tennessee.

May 2 - 3 New Church Staff Orientation If you have moved to our state within the last year,
we invite you to attend our new church staff orientation at the Baptist Center in
Brentwood. New Pastors and Staff will have the opportunity to meet the "One Servant
Family" State Missionary Staff and to learn about resources available to help enhance
the health of Tennessee Baptist Churches. To register or obtain more information, con-
tact the Executive Director's office at 1.800.558.2090, extension 2088 (Linda Estey).

May 4-6 TBREA (Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association) Spring Rolling
Retreat, Conference Center: Legacy Center, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.
For questions, contact Tammy Harris at 615-558-2090 ext.2054 or go to [www.tnbap-
tist.org](http://www.tnbap-
tist.org) for registration information.

May 5 Tennessee Mens Chorale and Tennessee Ladies Chorus
In Concert at Central Baptist Church Fountain City in Knoxville, 7 p.m.
Directed by Paul Clark with Mary McDonald, piano, Dora Ann Purdy, piano and Vicki
Wright, organ
Honoring Mary McDonald for 20+ years of arranging and accompanying the Tennessee
Mens Chorale Special Debut of Commissioned Anthem presented by the two groups,
accompanied by composer Craig Courtney

May 27-29 Special Friends Retreat, Camp Carson, Newport, Tennessee.

Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Conference

April 11-12
Baptist Center, Brentwood
Serving With Purpose, Serving With Passion

Conference Topics Include:

- Organizing a Church Office
- How to Minister in Benevolent Crises.
- Financial Issues in the Church Office
- Tax issues Facing the Church Office.
- Party with a Purpose-Creative ways to share the love of Christ.
- Not Far From Here. (recognize divine appointments that lead to ministry)
- How Southern Baptists Got Here.
- Changing Lives by Degrees
- How to Lead a Conference.
- Pampering with a Purpose.

Find out more information on lodging, registration, and conference schedule in the January issue of "Slice" and on our website: www.tnbaptist.org or by contacting Lana Rose at TBC, 615-371-2008.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST SECRETARIES

April 27-30
Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, NC
(starts Wednesday 5 p.m., concludes 11 a.m. Saturday)

Building on a SOLID Foundation

'For we are God's fellow workers you are God's field, you are God's building. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.' 1 Corinthians 3:9,11 (NKJV)

Look for more details at www.nasbs.net and www.tnbaptist.org or contact Lana Rose at TBC, 615-371-2008



Children's Bible Drill/ Youth Bible Drill and Speaker's Tournament

Region	Date	Location
•East (rest of East)	April 23	Edgemoor, Clinton
•East/Southeast (Knoxville/ Sevier/Chilhowee/Loudon)	April 23	First Baptist Concord, Knoxville
•Southeast	April 23	East Athens, Athens
•Northeast	April 23	Manley Baptist, Morristown
•Central	April 23	First Baptist, Hendersonville
•North Central	April 23	Stevens Street Baptist, Cookeville
•South Central	April 23	First Baptist, Columbia
•West/Southwest (Mid-South/Big Hatchie/Fayette)	April 23	Bellevue Baptist, Cordova
•Southwest (Rest of West)	April 23	First Baptist, Jackson
•Northwest	April 16	First Baptist, Martin

Visit www.tnbaptist.org to find contact information for coordinators.
For more information, contact your local association.



Remember CP Day is April 10.

For Cooperative Program
materials contact:

Jane Garvin jgarvin@tnbaptist.org
or (800) 558-2090 Ext. 7912



April 22-23
Disaster Relief Training
Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison
Friday - 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Training Classes:

- Introduction to Disaster Relief
- Chainsaw Training
- Chaplain Training
- Communication
- Crew Chief Training (for those volunteers that will be leading church and association crews)
- Mass Feeding
- Mudout Training
- Rebuild Training

Registration Fee: \$25 (cover materials and meals) Contact Elizabeth Holmes for further information and for registration at (615) 371-7926 or eholmes@tnbaptist.org.



CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING



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

You will:

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

April 22-23
Tennessee Baptist Convention,
Brentwood

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

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

International student retreat bridges cultural barriers

Stacy Murphree
List and Reflector

KEVILLE — Nearly 125 students from more than 10 different countries converged for a weekend of praise and worship, Bible study, fellowship, and cultural sharing. The annual International Student Ministry Retreat was held recently here at Creek Falls State Park. Most of these students are exchange students who are attending different colleges across Tennessee. Some of these students have been in Tennessee for several months, while others just arrived a couple of weeks ago to begin the new semester. Countries represented included Korea, China, Brazil, Hungary, Japan, Sudan, Lebanon, and others. Celebrating Our Common Faith in a Global Community, taken from Titus 1:4 and Romans 1:8 was the theme for the weekend. Speakers throughout the weekend highlighted the fact

that although cultures can be very diverse, our faith in Christ unites us.

"The notion that you have believers from around the globe present and in His presence at one time is clearly some foretaste of Heaven," says Roosevelt Walker, TBC collegiate ministry specialist at Tennessee State University and Fisk University in Nashville. Walker also serves as chair for the international retreat planning committee.



WALKER

This retreat provides a unique opportunity to reach out to students from so many cultures without going outside of Tennessee.

"We have an impact without having to pack and go," says Walker.

As well as large group praise

and worship times, students also had the opportunity to attend small group seminars and discuss things such as global issues and adjusting to new cultures.

Students always look forward to the talent show and culture exchange time. Students share song, dance, and other talents related to their home country.

A highlight of this year's retreat was several international students who shared their testimonies.

Students shared how God has provided strength for them during times of persecution, living in a refugee camp, and also things such as how God has been with them through adjusting to living and attending school in the U.S.

"These were personal stories that spoke of the common thread of belief in Jesus Christ, yet varied Christian experiences demonstrating strong faith and courage, sometimes even in the face of death and persecution,"

says Nenet Measels, Carson-Newman College BCM Director and member of the international retreat planning committee.

"The testimonies served to make not only the event but also the people who attended more real and transparent," says Walker.



MEASELS

The retreat also provides opportunities for BCM and church leaders to come together and share ideas about ways to reach out to international students on their campus and in their community.

For the second year BCM students from Seoul, Korea were able to attend the retreat. These students are visiting the U.S. for about a month performing drama and dance at schools and churches.

Several students were from

South Asian countries that were affected by the December 26th earthquake and tsunami. A special time was set aside to pray for those affected by this natural disaster as well as an offering taken to donate to the TBC tsunami disaster relief fund.

Funds provided by the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions (GOTM) make this event possible.

"These GOTM funds help us reach students from places we might never reach by traditional mission sending. We also equip them to reach their own cultural group when they return to their home country," says Bill Choate, Group Leader for TBC Collegiate Ministries.

The international student retreat is only one part of the way Tennessee Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) is reaching out to international students. Several BCMs across the state sponsor events such as Thanksgiving dinners and weekly Bible studies for internationals. □

Baptist family in Texas describes life as undocumented aliens

Ken Camp
Associated Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Ernesto describes as a deacon at a Hispanic Baptist church in Austin. His wife, Maria, works in various ministries at the church. And 1.1 million other people in Texas and more than 9.3 million in the United States, they are in the country illegally. Ernesto — who asked that his name not be revealed — left his home in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas more than seven years ago. He and Maria could have scraped by on 1,800-pesos-a-month pension, but their daughter dreamed of attending university in Monterrey and studying to become an orthodontist. To make that dream a reality, Ernesto entered the United States on a tourist visa and started work-

ing in construction, lawn service — any job he could find where an employer demanded hard manual labor but didn't ask questions about legal residency.

"I needed to work," he said through an interpreter. "I thank the Lord he has given me the strength to do any kind of work."

Initially, he was able to travel readily back and forth between Texas and Mexico. But in 2000, his tourist visa was cancelled when authorities discovered he had a Texas driver's license. To cross back into Texas, he enlisted the service of "coyotes" — smugglers who illegally transport undocumented aliens into the United States.

After paying a fee, the smuggler gave Ernesto the phone number of a contact whom he called when he reached Diaz Ordaz, across the border from Mission, Texas. That person helped

him and several other people cross the Rio Grande in a large rubber raft.

Once they crossed the river, Ernesto and seven other Mexicans were led through a wooded area to a designated spot where they met their driver. He transported them an agreed-upon distance in the back of a tractor-trailer rig, and then they were transferred to smaller trucks for their journey to various Texas destinations.

That arduous trek in 2000 marked the first of several times Ernesto entered the United States as coyotes' human cargo.

"The problem is that it's important to have money, so when you want to move you have the money to pay someone," he said. "If you have good money, you get good coyotes." By the same token, he added, immigrants know

if they use some less-expensive coyotes, they risk being treated less humanely.

Ernesto began a regular routine — sending part of each paycheck back to Mexico to support his family and saving part to pay a smuggler so he could re-enter the United States after his next visit home.

Sometimes, the high cost of coyotes and increased security along the border after the 9/11 terrorist attacks combined to make those visits infrequent. On one occasion, Ernesto and Maria did not see each other for two years.

"You miss your partner," he said. "When I did go home, I would use the money I had saved here, and we would take a vacation at the beach."

Finally, in February last year, Maria joined Ernesto in Austin. For the last four years,

he has worked with the same company on a drywall construction crew.

Ernesto said it would be "wonderful" to have papers where he could travel freely back to Mexico. He lost his pension from his former employer in Mexico because he was not there to fill out the necessary paperwork. Ernesto and Maria see their daughter only when she can afford to come visit them.

"She can come to us, but we cannot go to her," he said. But for now, he said: "I feel calm about it. We're trusting in the Lord, and we're not afraid."

When asked what he would want Baptists to know about him and his family, he responded simply: "We are here illegally. If we could obtain legal residency, it would be so much better."

"But we are here. And we are Texas Baptists too." □

Churches, immigration is more than policy, says BGCT staff member

Associated Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Immigration is not a political issue — it's about churches and ministry, said Suzi Paynter, director of citizenship and public policy for the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission.

So many of our Baptist churches have members who are in need of some kind of legal status in regard to their residency in the United States, Paynter

said. "It's a very large issue in our church, and it's been brought to us by people coming to the United States from Central American countries, where the Catholic Church is dominant, used to turning to the church for help."

"Traditionally, the point of contact for an immigrant seeking information in a safe environment is the church," Paynter said. "They have a tradition of

going to the priest."

In Central America, people consider the church a "point of sanctuary," and the church sees its efforts to help people as a "redemptive mission — the mission of helping people find their way to solve their problems," she said.

The Catholic Church in the United States has established immigration centers in their churches and invested more than \$300 million in providing immigration services, Paynter said. "The Catholic Church was ready to help its members."

Hispanic Baptist churches minister in that same cultural environment, but efforts to provide immigration services have been limited.

These Baptist churches want to respond to their members, their families and their communities, Paynter said.

"If [immigrants] can't turn to us, they will turn to other churches and other traditions that will help them," she said. □ — Ken Camp

What can Baptist churches do legally to help illegal immigrants?

Associated Baptist Press

- Q. Can a church get in trouble for helping an undocumented immigrant?
- A. It depends on the kind of help offered. A church is free to provide basic benevolence services — food, clothing, shelter and medical help — to anyone.
- Q. Is a church obligated to ask about anyone's immigration status?
- A. Normally, the only time a church needs to ask is before hiring someone.
- Q. Is there ever a time when a church would be required to determine someone's immigration status before providing basic benevolence?
- A. If a church receives government funds for its community benevolence program, the government might require recipients to present legal identification.
- Q. Is a pastor or church leader under any legal obligation to report an undocumented immigrant?
- A. No.
- Q. Can a church get in trouble for employing an undocumented immigrant?
- A. Yes. And employment extends beyond church staff positions. If a church provides benevolence ministry to an undocumented immigrant and he or she offers to mow the yard, paint a room, or perform some other service for the church in gratitude, that can present a legal problem.
- Q. Can a church help people fill out forms and help them with immigration issues?
- A. Yes, but it is advisable to obtain expert advice from an attorney who specializes in immigration law. □ — Source: Baptist General Convention of Texas immigration task force.

LifeWay trustees elect new vps

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — John Kramp and Jerry Rhyne were approved as new vice presidents of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention during the entity's trustee meeting Feb. 8.

Kramp will become vice president of LifeWay's church resources division effective March 1, after serving as interim vice president since August 2004.

Rhyne will serve as chief financial officer and vice president of the finance and business services division, succeeding Jim Carter July 1.

Kramp, who has served at LifeWay in a variety of roles for nearly 13 years, will direct the operations of the LifeWay division that produces Sunday School curricula, discipleship materials, church training events, music, audio and video products, and two Vacation Bible School lines. With more than 600 employees, church resources is one of LifeWay's largest divisions.

Rhyne currently serves as director of finance and corporate controller and will take the helm of the finance and business ser-

vices division after 32 years at LifeWay. Rhyne said this new role as chief financial officer gives him the opportunity to help "insure the continued ministries of LifeWay by promoting sound financial decision-making."

He succeeds Jim Carter who will retire June 30.

The finance and business services division encompasses finance and accounting, human resources, legal services, investment services, purchasing, facility and risk management, strategic planning, corporate services, and logistics. □

Meeting explores 'Women in Baptist History'

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Women in Baptist History" will be the theme of the Baptist History and Heritage Society's June 2-4 annual meeting to be held at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

The meeting will include keynote speaker Sarah Anders, plus 26 other speakers, representing several ethnic traditions and countries.

The auxiliary Fellowship of

Baptist Historians will also meet on June 2.

For more information about the meeting, including topics, hotels, and registration, go to www.baptisthistory.org. □

Murfreesboro pastor, rabbi team to write new book

For Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Michael A. Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church here and Rabbi Rami Shapiro have teamed to write a new book, *Let Us Break Bread Together: A Passover Hagadah for Christians*.

The book explores the opportunity to experience an authentic Jewish Passover seder from a distinctly Christian perspective.

The book, which is respectful of the differences between Judaism and Christianity, provides a complete guide (plan and script) to a meaningful seder experience, a deeper knowledge of the great themes of the Exodus story, in combination with Christian insights, and opportunities for a better understanding of Lent and Holy Week.

**Holston Baptist Association
2005 Spring Student Conference**
March 18-20
Ridgecrest
Conference Leaders:
Ryan Dobson, Richard Ross,
Tree 63
Call (423) 929-1196 or
www.hbsc2005.com
for more information

Join **Christian Life Tours** for an unforgettable **ALASKA CRUISE**. A wonderful 7-day northbound inside passage glacier cruise on a Celebrity ship departing June 17 with an optional land tour extension. The best ship, the best itinerary, and an escort with 30 years experience. Call 877-557-0073 (toll free) for more information.



Get the right bus at the right price
from **America's #1 Church Bus Dealer!**

- 15 passenger buses (no CDL required)
- Over 80 new & used buses in stock
- Van replacement vehicles

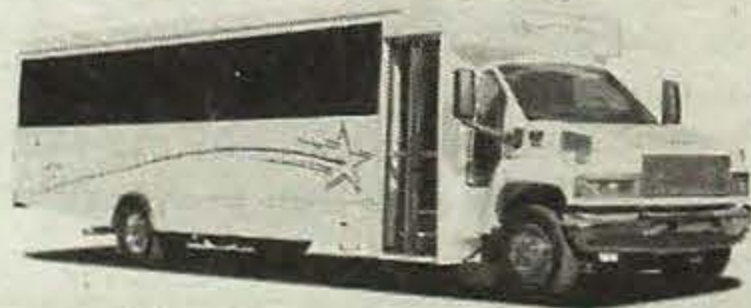
- Rental buses
- Trade-ins welcome
- 15 to 46 passenger buses



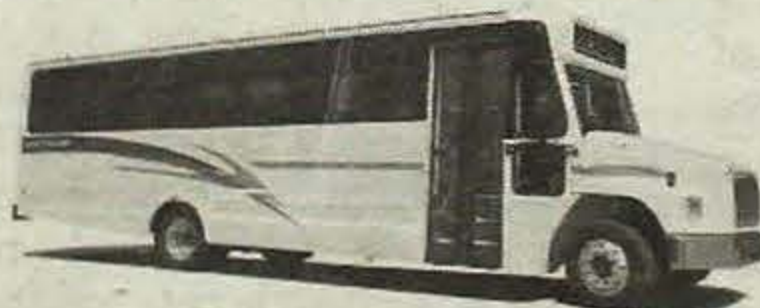
15 Passengers



18-26 Passengers



30-34 Passengers



46 Passengers

Monthly Specials

Stock No.	Year	Make	Capacity	Price
24081	2004	Ford/Starcraft	15	\$38,500
241199	1999	Chevrolet/Goshen	22 + wheelchair	\$36,900
235199	1999	Ford/Eldorado	14	\$19,800
24354	2005	Ford/Starcraft	26	\$47,960
246398	1998	Ford/Federal Coach	25 w/ Rear Luggage	\$31,900
25012	2005	Chevrolet/Starcraft	34	\$79,620

Buses are provided for LifeWay by

Carpenter
BUS SALES
Franklin, TN

1-800-370-6180
1-615-376-2287
www.carpenterbus.com

Since 1953

POWER IN THE PULPIT



Alistair Begg

March 14, 2005

On the campus of Southern Seminary
in Louisville, Kentucky

If you're looking to add power to your proclamation and passion to your preaching, Southern Seminary's Power in the Pulpit is just what you need.

Spend the day with pastor Alistair Begg, R. Albert Mohler Jr. and Hershael York as they share their passion for the ministry of the Word.

Registration: Just \$25 covers registration, materials and lunch

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2005

For more information, call 1-800-626-5525, ext. 4890

or visit us online at www.sbts.edu.



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Road · Louisville, Kentucky

NAMB trustees elect John Avant new vice pres.

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — North American Mission Board trustees elected a new vice president of evangelization and celebrated key achievements of 2004 highlighted by a record number of new church starts — during their Feb. 9 meeting here. Trustees also approved the appointments of 13 missionaries and 34 chap-



AVANT

With a leading oval, trustees unanimously elected John Avant, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., to lead NAMB's evangelization group. Avant succeeds John Brough, who earlier this year named vice president of NAMB's group responsible for agency's Strategic Focus Initiative, associational

strategies, and leadership development.

NAMB President Robert E. (Bob) Reccord cited Avant's evangelistic zeal, commitment to missions and denominational leadership as qualities that will serve Southern Baptists well.

Avant currently serves as a member of the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth Task Force and is a regular keynote speaker at evangelism conferences across the country and around the world.

During Reccord's report to the trustees, he highlighted some of NAMB's most significant accomplishments in 2004, including:

- (1) NAMB helped start a record-high 1,781 new churches, of which 59 percent were African American or ethnic.
- (2) More than one million Southern Baptists were trained and equipped to share the gospel.
- (3) More than 24,000 mission volunteers participated in 81 World Changers projects resulting in 1,173 professions of faith.
- (4) A record-high 2.4 million meals were prepared through Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts during a 78-day response in the wake of four hurricanes.
- (5) 5,126 missionaries and

2,395 chaplains served throughout North America.

In other business, trustees agreed to seek approval from the SBC Executive Committee to authorize FamilyNet to solicit financial support through its on-air programming. □

Nashville CWJC plans fundraiser to aid ministry

By Dawn Ferguson
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Cassandra was trying to live on \$234 a month and raise three children. Angela was in a dead-end job and her marriage was on the rocks. Marcia was in prison and needed someone on the outside to help with her home plan for parole. Bonnie had given up exotic dancing and wanted her GED so she could have a better future. Twyana lost her insurance and needed employment skills to get a better job with benefits.

All of these women had one thing in common — they needed hope and encouragement. That's when they sought the services of Christian Women's Job Corps -

Nashville. With the assistance of this organization, each of these women has turned or is in the process of turning their life around.

Two of them will share how CWJC gave them "A Hand Up, Not A Hand Out" and enabled them to overcome numerous challenges during the organization's first fundraiser Thursday, March 3 in Wilson Hall at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood.

"That's what we're all about," said CWJC - Nashville Executive Director Becky Sumrall. "Transforming lives. And we do that with an incredible organization of volunteers."

Sumrall states that one of the distinguishing characteristics of this non-profit organization is its focus on mentoring. Each participant is given a mentor — someone who makes a commitment to meet with her woman once a week for a year and encourages, supports, and helps her in her effort to reach her goals.



SUMRALL

CWJC - Nashville serves women who are not on Families First — Tennessee's welfare reform program. "These women are the working poor," added Sumrall. "They are part of the fastest growing population segment in our society, and one that is mostly neglected by other service organizations."

To help support the program financially, the organization's first fundraiser is scheduled for March 3. The Grateful Bluegrass Band will provide entertainment, and WTVF's Harry Chapman will emcee. Creely Wilson, founder of CWJC - Nashville and Tennessee's CWJC state coordinator, is the honorary chair of the event.

"Anyone who is interested in supporting our organization through this fundraiser is invited to attend," said event chair, Carolyn Hunter. Advance reservations are required and may be obtained by calling Hunter at (615) 833-7668 or event co-chair, Mary Frances Turner, at (615) 373-9521. "Seating is limited," added Hunter. "So anyone interested in participating should call us as soon as possible." □

GuideStone assets hit all-time high

Baptist Press

DALLAS — GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention reached an all-time high of \$8.3 billion in assets at the close of 2004 — a 12.05 percent increase over the 2003 closing numbers of \$7.3 billion.

"We are pleased to surpass the \$8 billion mark again and it speaks well of our investment philosophy and the performance of the equity markets the past year," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins. In addition, the 13 AB Funds Trust mutual funds available to Southern Baptist participants turned in a positive performance for 2004 as well. □

CLASSIFIED

Call for Free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
www.fiberglasschurchprod.com
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Holston Baptist Association
2005 Spring Student Conference
March 18-20
Ridgecrest
Conference Leaders:
Ryan Dobson, Richard Ross,
Tree 63
Call (423) 929-1196 or
www.hbsc2005.com
for more information

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — HOUSEPARENT
Christian Children's Home in NE 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.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION
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.

HAWAII TOUR April 25-May 3: Join Christian Life Tours for a fabulous escorted tour to Hawaii! Only \$1,795 plus air including all hotels, 12 meals, sightseeing, and an authentic luau. With 30 years experience, **Christian Life Tours** is still the best. Call **877-557-0073** (toll free) for more information.

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.

BusGroup
Church Bus Sales

Large Selection of Buses
Ready For Delivery
New and Used

- Safety
- Comfort
- Reliability
- Value

3 Locations Convenient to You!
Georgia • Louisiana • Mississippi
866.287.4768 866.726.5142 800.423.9826

On-Site Service & Support
for "your peace of mind"
www.busgroup.com

New Lower Rates For Term Life Insurance!
Low, low non-smoker monthly cost (male)

Age	\$150,000	\$300,000
25	\$11.08	\$13.39
35	\$11.35	\$13.91
45	\$19.76	\$30.45
55	\$42.45	\$73.24
65	\$103.46	\$194.78

Please call The Insurance Store
(Knoxville, Tenn.) Toll Free
1-800-583-0970, 9-9 Mon.-Sat.
Level premiums that do not increase for the first 15 years. Written by an A+ life insurance company. Preferred Male rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and Female rates.

Mission Teams Needed
Coastal Empire Ministries of the Savannah Baptist Association needs Mission Teams who are on fire for the Lord to do ministry from January — October 2005. Opportunities include incarcerated, resort, sports, service, construction, family, urban. Look at our web site at www.sbassocation.org; e-mail MJL10CEM@comcast.net; or call Martha at (912) 354-5831.

MINISTRY — STUDENT
t Baptist Benton in Polk County is searching for a part-time youth minister. If you are interested please contact Robbie Speights at FBC Benton, (423) 2066, e-mail: robspeights@fbc.com.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
king part-time youth/education ministry worker for grades 7-12. Forward resume to Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 285, Baxter, TN 38544.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
Baptist Camden, Tenn., accepting resumes for student pastor. Send resume to Search Committee Secretary, c/o Lisa Kelley, Norwood Dr., Camden, TN 38202.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
Baptist Church of Marion, is seeking a full-time youth minister. The person will be responsible for developing and maintaining the youth program/age career. They will also direct the recreation programs. Benefits are salary/housing allowance/annuity/health insurance/dental insurance and disability. Please send resume to Malone, Church Administrator, First Baptist Church, 401 Union, Marion, IL 62959.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
Zion Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of youth and young singles. Minister will serve 70% as youth minister to 7-12 grade students and 30% as minister to young adults to age 30. Send resume to Jeff Walker/YM Search Committee Chairman, 114 Sunscape Huntsville, AL 35806 or skwalker@knology.net. Deadline submission is Feb. 27, 2005.

Rising costs force NAMB to cut future retiree benefits

Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The North American Mission Board has eliminated some benefits for retiring employees in order to cut costs, prompting some of the SBC agency's 1,100 insured employees and missionaries to retire sooner than planned rather than lose the benefits they expected.

A similar move by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has prompted several retirements in that organization. Cutting benefits has become an increasingly common way for denominational entities — typically generous with benefits but less so with salaries — to deal with slumping budgets.

The NAMB rules affect all employees and missionaries who will retire from the agency,

which is the evangelism and church-starting agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. The changes will not affect the mission board's 1,000 current retirees.

New NAMB retirees, who previously were covered by the agency's self-funded medical insurance, will now receive only Medicare benefits and a Medicare supplement. The retirees will pay a slightly larger share of the premiums for the supplement.

Most affected by the changes are NAMB employees who retire early. NAMB now requires 15 years of service, instead of 10, to retire early, and the minimum age was raised from 50 to 55. Early retirees will no longer qualify for any NAMB medical insurance. They would qualify for Medicare and a supplement when they reach normal retirement age.

According to the agency, healthcare expenses for NAMB

missionaries, staff, and retirees have increased by double-digit percentages each of the last three years. "A review of the agency's health benefits last year revealed that one area where changes could be made without affecting current staff, missionaries, and retirees was in health benefits for future retirees, primarily those who decide to retire early," according to the statement provided to Associated Baptist Press.

NAMB said 360 employees and missionaries eligible for early retirement were notified of the changes late last year. Fourteen employees opted to retire under the old benefit system, which was available until Dec. 31. Missionaries have un-

til March 31 to decide if they want to retire under the old benefits.

"NAMB's health and retirement benefits remain, in many respects, the most generous in the Southern Baptist Convention, and are more than competitive with other ministries as well as secular businesses," said Joseph Outlaw, director of human resources.

The Atlanta-based NAMB has 425 employees on its staff. Of its 5,126 missionaries, about a third are career employees (including positions jointly funded with state Baptist conventions or local associations), a third are partially funded by the agency, and a third are self-funded missionaries, like Mis-

sion Service Corps workers, all take part in NAMB medical insurance. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Southern Baptist Church, Bryant, Ark., is prayerfully seeking God's will for a full-time pastor to lead our congregation. We will be accepting resumes March 31, 2005. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 604 S Reynolds Rd., Bryant, AR 72022.

MINISTRY — POSITION

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 association. Pastor/church administrator request. Resumes for both positions received at Personnel Committee, 318 South West Culpeper, VA 22701; tfuson@culpeperbaptist.org; (540) 881-8192; affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Association, BGAV, and SBC.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

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

MINISTRY — PRESCHOOL

Large SBC church near Nashville area is seeking a time minister to preschool. College degree is preferred; seminary is a plus. Please send resume to Hermitage Baptist Church, Attn. Preschool Search Team, 3475 Leba Pike, Hermitage, TN 37076. You may also e-mail to dmoody@hermitagehillsbaptist.com.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Full-time minister of music, education, Slayden Baptist Church, 2534 Highway Lamar, MS 38642. Send resume to Search Committee (address above) or e-mail to denchurch@bellsouth.net. For more information call (662) 455-4559.

MINISTRY — DOM

Director of missions position. Mineral Area Baptist Association, \$50,000.00 salary and benefits, \$3,500.00 convention and travel. Send resume to DOM Search Committee, Mineral Area Baptist Association, 5169 Flat River Farmington, MO 63640-7404. March 15, 2005



Gary Claxton • Christian Country Comedian
"Mouth of the South"
Wild Game Banquets • Senior Events
and Family Ministries
888-465-0438
southmouth22@aol.com

JOIN OTHER BAPTISTS DEPARTING JULY 23 or AUG. 20

National Parks Tour of the Golden West

2-Week Tour Departs 2005

Visit 6 Western National Parks + More!

Join other Southern Baptists on this terrific 15-day motor coach tour departing (your choice) July 23 or August 20, 2005. Fly round-trip to Salt Lake City and visit six national parks: Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks. You'll also visit Fresno, CA; Reno, Carson City, Pyramid Lake, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, and Las Vegas, Nevada; Liberace Museum; Ethel M Chocolate Factory; a city tour of Salt Lake City including Mormon Square, The Beehive House, Great Salt Lake; Kennecott Copper Mine; and more! Prices, including all taxes, airport transfers, baggage handling, and daily escorted sightseeing, start at only \$948 (per person, double occupancy). Add \$400 for airfare from Nashville, Knoxville or Memphis. Space is limited and \$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For brochure with day-to-day itinerary call:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS

1-800-968-7626

Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

GATLINBURG GETAWAY

2bd/2b condo - full kitchen
walking distance to parkway.
Owners - very reasonable
(251) 666-2175
pdw@worldnet.att.net

Affordable Beachside Vacation Condos

www.gulfshorescondos.com

All size units available, Spring Special
2 night weekend, \$160.00
4 weeknights, \$250.00 Efficiency Unit
(2 Adults, 2 Kids) Good thru 5-25
(205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524

Depart with **Christian Life Tours** on July 1st for 10 spectacular days on the **GRAND ALASKA ESCORTED LAND TOUR**. You'll see the best sights in Alaska while you enjoy the comfort of a luxury motor coach and awesome views found only on the Alaska railroad. Secure your reservation by calling **877-557-0073** (toll free) today.

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.

Enjoy a MEDITERRANEAN & GREEK ISLES

CRUISE with **Christian Life Tours** departing September 8 for 12 nights. Round trip air is included to Barcelona, Spain. Learn from a great Bible scholar the biblical and historical significance of Rome, Athens, Patmos, and other unique ports of call. Your escort with 30 years experience will help make this cruise unforgettable. Call **877-557-0073** (toll free) for more information.

MINISTER'S INCOME TAX SPECIALIST

Have your taxes prepared by a minister who understands clergy taxes.

Receive guidance for next year

Professional Service

Call

Church & Clergy Ministries
(615) 781-8138

book review

Does God want me back?

By Jerry Massey

Focal Passage: Hosea 11:1-11

"Back to the Father and home," could aptly be the theme of Hosea 11, our lesson for this week. Even in times of correction, the Father is ever inviting His wayward children back to His waiting arms of infinite love. Many see God as only a God of wrath and judgment, but His very name means "the Loving One" to us who know Him.

Drifting away from God was Israel's perpetual sin (vv. 1-2). *I loved him*, are the words God used to describe His heart toward His people since conception. It has been said that a compassionate person is one who feels and acts to relieve another's suffering. John Traylor shares a parable that illustrates this distinction. "Compassion and Concern were passengers on an ocean liner. When a man fell overboard, Concern cried: 'Man overboard!' Compassion cried: 'Man overboard,' but jumped into the sea to rescue the imperiled man." "Loved," describes God's redemptive efforts to rescue Israel from their prodigal son inclinations. He tried to reach them through the prophets ("they called them"); however Israel, like a stubborn child, sought even more the false gods of a pagan world they wanted so much to emulate. Remarkably these verses affirm a profound, altruistic, principle — God always speaks tenderly to His disobedient children in ways they can hear, wooing them back

home. That's compassion!

Not only does God call us back to Him, but He does so with a persistent love (vv. 3-4). Israel's Father "loved," "taught," "led them," and "bent down to give them food," and still Israel ignored their Great Benefactor's care. The more tenaciously they distanced themselves from God, the more steadfastly the Father reached out to them. Barry Morgan says it best as he comments on "ropes of kindness." "God led Israel with humane and compassionate kindness, making ample allowance for Israel's shortcomings and obstinacy." Now that's compassion!

Despite a Father's unceasing love that supplied all of Israel's needs in the days of the Exodus and their journey to the Promise Land, they still demonstrated a determined rebellion (vv. 5-7). Israel always preferred the aid of Egypt in hard times. Yet, God would not allow it this time. *Assyria will be his king, because they refused to repent*. The sword of the Assyrians would ravage Samaria and take a portion of the people into exile. Israel was obsessed, *bent on turning from Me*. They were so self-focused that their pride would not allow for deviation God-ward. Perhaps they thought He wouldn't forgive them; how little they actually comprehended about their Father. Moreover, as long as they called Him by the name of the pagan gods, "Him on high," God would not respond. He was not just one of the gods; He

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Feb. 20

was "the" God, and should be acknowledged as such if they expected His forgiveness. The very fact that He would still be willing to forgive them is the epitome of mercy. That's compassion!

There is no other way to describe the heart of God than amazing grace (vv. 8-11). With tenderness beyond imagination, filtrating from His broken heart, God asks, *How can I give you up, Ephraim?* God would never stop loving His children, *My compassion is stirred...I will not turn My back to destroy Ephraim*. Just as Hosea refused to let Gomer go and eventually purchased her and brought her home, so on Golgotha's hill did God likewise do the same for Israel and for all of us. But God's judgment upon His children was imperative with the yearning prospect of their eventual restoration.

Martin Luther once said, "If I were God, I would kick the world to pieces."

But praise God our God is God, and not man. That's compassion! □ — Massey is pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris.



MASSEY

Jesus offers forgiveness

By Lee Porter

Focal Passage: Luke 23:32-47

After Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper for the disciples and for future Christians, He continues teaching them about service and faithfulness. The disciples continue a discussion about which of them might betray Jesus. That discussion changes to a debate as to which disciple is the greatest. Jesus then warns Peter that he will face a battle with Satan. The discussion continues as Jesus and the disciples walk back to the Mount of Olives. Upon arriving at the Mount of Olives, Jesus urges the disciples to pray that they may not enter into temptation. Jesus withdraws from them into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray privately. He kneels to pray and then falls on His face in total humility and surrender. His prayer to God is, *Not my will but thine be done*. I am convinced this is a prayer that all of us as Christians need to pray more often.

Judas and a multitude of temple guards approach and Jesus is taken captive. They take Him to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, where He is questioned and abused by the guards. When morning comes Jesus is taken before the Sanhedrin, a Jewish council of 70 members. They quickly convict Jesus. Earlier in Jewish history this would have been the death penalty, but now under Roman law the Sanhedrin had lost that power.

The Sanhedrin take Jesus before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, where they make many false charges against Jesus hoping that Pilate would condemn Jesus to death. Pilate finds no fault with Jesus, but to escape the pressure of the Sanhedrin, he sends Jesus to the Jewish king, Herod. The king and his soldiers treat Jesus with contempt and mock him. Herod returns Jesus to Pilate. For the third time Pilate tries to find a way to release Jesus. He is allowed to release one prisoner during the Passover. Pilate brings Barabbas, an insurrectionist and a murderer and Jesus before the crowd so they can choose the one to release. Under the influence of the religious leaders the crowd calls for the release of Barabbas and for the crucifixion of Jesus. As Christians we should examine the actions of any person or group seeking to manipulate us to actions or decisions known to be contrary to God's will and purpose.



PORTER

Jesus is then taken to an area where the entire Roman battalion lived. They strip Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him, press down a crown of thorns on His head, mock Him as King of the Jews, spit in His face, and then for more than an hour they repeatedly beat His body.

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Feb. 20

Jesus is taken to Calvary to be crucified between two proven criminals. They nail Jesus to the cross and some of the soldiers gamble for His garments. Many in the crowd at the cross began to hurl abusive language at Jesus. Some of the scribes and priests mock Him. Amid all of the suffering and shame Jesus begins to pray, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing*. WHAT A FORGIVING JESUS!

One of the criminals begins to mock Jesus. The other criminal defends Jesus by saying that Jesus does not deserve to die. He admits his own guilt and sins and asks Jesus to remember him.

In those moments just before he dies, Jesus' last words to a human being were forgiveness for sins and a promise to be with Him in heaven. OH, WHAT A LOVING SAVIOR!

Even today Jesus is still forgiving sinners of their sins and promises them a home in heaven. As Christians we must share that wonderful message with others. □ — Porter is a retired employee of LifeWay Christian Resources and former SBC registration secretary. He now lives in Greenback and is interim pastor of Rocky Branch, Walland.

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church

by Mark Dever
Crossway, 2004

Numerous leaders have argued that the vast majority of churches are not healthy, even many churches that appear to be "successful" and "growing." For example, the size of the average church membership roll exceeds the number which regularly attend the church. We have become dulled to this lack of health and no longer realize it. Shouldn't the weekly attendance at the local church in fact exceed the number on every member attending and some visitors? Impossible, you say? Well, it has been done in centuries by faithful Baptists and it is in fact being done now in a church within the SBC.

Mark Dever is pastor of the 700+ member Capital Baptist Church in downtown Washington, D.C. He has written on the topic of the health of the church his book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. In it Dever outlines nine marks which he considers to be distinguishing characteristics of a healthy church.

Mark one is expository preaching. Expository preaching is preaching in which the preacher's points are the same as those of the authors of Scripture. This is the central mark because the word of God is central to a healthy church. The regular diet of a local church should be expository preaching, not topical preaching. Mark two is biblical theology. All churches espouse a theology, and this theology should be in accordance with the Scriptures.

Mark three, four, and five are interrelated. They are respectively a biblical understanding of conversion, evangelism, and church membership. These are the areas in which the modern church has often failed. We must realize that saving faith is something that works in us, evangelism proclaims both the urgency and cost of coming to Christ, and church membership is only for the regenerate and carries with it responsibilities.

Mark six, seven, and eight pertain to life within a church and are church discipline, discipleship and church growth, and biblical church leadership. Church discipline, although rare today, must be regained for a church to be healthy. Dever argues we should make it difficult to join our churches and remove those whose membership who continue in unrepentant sin. Mark nine, we should seek to ensure that those who join our church exhibit evidence of conversion and a willingness to commit to be a regular part of the local church. Furthermore, a church must be concerned about church growth among the members. Growth is primarily the result of Christians pursuing holiness in their lives. Those who do not grow might in reality not be Christians. Finally, the ninth mark is biblical church leadership. Dever advocates congregational church government, but also argues that a group of men called elders/pastors bear much authority in the church.

His book directly addresses many of the problems of the local church in a helpful, direct manner. Pastors and church members, if you want your church to be healthy, what is needed is not the latest 10 step program to make the church more marketable. Rather, what is needed is a return to the basics as outlined by Dever in his book. I rarely say this, but every Christian who is concerned about the state of the local church should read this book. □ — Crawford is a student at Union University in Jackson.

1	W	O	R	K	M	A	N	6	S	W	O	R	9
2	H	10	A	M	I	11	E	T	A	12	P	R	O
13	I	S	R	A	E	L	S	15	M	16	M	E	I
17	T	E	R	N	E	S	T	18	O	19	N	A	N
21	E	D	T	T	O	23	M	I	N	G			
24	E	R	26	A	27	P	R	E	N	S			
29	A	V	E	N	G	30		31	S	A	N	G	
32	S	O	N	33	E	L	34	T	35	S	O		
37	A	T	O	M	39	T	R	40	41	S	42	T	H
43	I	N	A	T	H	A	N	45	46	L	E		
47	N	O	D	48	E	I	G	H	49	T	50	E	N
52	O	N	53	A	B	A	S	E	55	U	L	V	A
57	E	S	T	H	E	R	D	A	M	P	E	N	

Deaths

◆ **James Spivey**, former pastor of Independence Baptist Church, Eidson, died recently.

Leaders

◆ **Joe Chandler**, associate director of missions, Knox County Baptist Association, based in Knoxville, will retire March 31 after serving 15 years.



CHANDLER

Chandler will be honored Thursday, April 14, at Central Baptist Church, Bear Den, Knoxville. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Chandler served as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Knoxville; First Baptist Church, Roan Mountain; Rucker Baptist Church, Murfreesboro; and churches in North Carolina and Virginia.

◆ **Robert McBroom** has been called as pastor, Madison Baptist Church, Jackson. He formerly was student pastor, Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station.

◆ **Lynn Garden Baptist Church**, Kingsport, has called **Dusty Stout** as senior pastor. He has earned his doctor of

ministry and theology from Covington Theological Seminary, Rossville, Ga. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee for the past 25 years.

◆ **Mack Arnold Jr.**, has been ordained to the ministry by Bakers Gap Baptist Church, Mountain City, which called him as pastor.

◆ **Mike Swift** has been called as pastor of Rock Springs Baptist Church, Butler.

◆ **Adams Chapel Baptist Church**, Dresden, recently called **David Scarbrough** as minister of education and **Matthew Scott** as youth minister.

◆ **Gearins Chapel Baptist Church**, Greenfield, has called **Jerry Powell** as pastor.

◆ **Everette Martin** has been called as interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Bruce-ton.

◆ **Central Baptist Church**, Brighton, has called **Scott Little** as youth pastor.

◆ **South Gate Baptist Church**, Antioch, has called **Dan Mihaila** as pastor. He has served in ministry roles in Romania, North Carolina, and Virginia. Mihaila is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., where he earned a masters in Christian education and counseling.

◆ **Broadway Baptist Church**, Knoxville, called **Tim-**

othy C. Turley as pastor, effective Jan. 3. He formerly was pastor of a church in Cincinnati, Ohio, which he served for 10 years. He and his wife, Debbie, are natives of East Tennessee.

◆ **Calvary Hill Baptist Church**, Ripley, has called **Tom Griffin** as interim pastor.

◆ **Gateway Baptist Church**, Atoka, has called **Billy Skinner** as interim pastor.

◆ **Liberty Baptist Church**, Covington, has called **Brandon Lindsey** as youth pastor.

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

◆ **Mike Rhodes**, pastor, Gibson Baptist Church, Gibson, has been called as pastor, First Baptist Church, Puryear.

◆ **James Ferguson** has been called as pastor of Fruitland Baptist Church, Humboldt. He formerly was pastor of Old Bethlehem Baptist Church, Rutherford.

◆ **Liberty Hill Baptist Church**, Washburn, has called **Denver Johnson** as pastor. He served the church previously as pastor.

◆ **Travis Cross** has been called as children's ministry coordinator of Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport.

◆ **Terry Moore** has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Andersonville.

◆ The book, *Reading Acts:*



THE NEW FAMILY LIFE CENTER of First Baptist Church, Clinton, will open March 6. The addition is the first for the church since 1960. The 25,000 square foot facility houses a gymnasium, head walking track, weight and fitness facilities, classrooms, commercial kitchen, hearth room, and new youth facilities. The center also has audio and video equipment and a stage to provide music, drama, and worship for the church and community. For more information, contact the church at (865) 457-9353.

The Lector and the Early Christian Audience has been published recently. It was written by **William David Shiell**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Knoxville. The book is a part of the Biblical Interpretative Series, v. 70. In the book Shiell proposes that the book of Acts was performed orally by a lector in the early church. He supports his hypothesis by describing the instances in the book of Acts that refer to the conventions for performers' gestures, facial expressions, and vocal inflections which are mirrored in Greco-Roman literature and art. For more information on the book, contact the church at (865) 546-9661 or www.fbc-knox.org.

◆ **Rick and Gina Ben-**

nett, ministers of children and young adults, Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville, resigned.

◆ **Roger Underwood** has been called as ministry coordinator, Sharon Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Churches

◆ **Prospect Baptist Church**, Loudon, will hold a revival Feb. 27 - March 2. **Ris Anderson**, evangelist, Maryville, will speak.

◆ The men's quartet, **Men of the Road**, will appear in concert Sunday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. at **West Hills Baptist Church**, Lebanon. The group will perform Southern Gospel music.

Thirteen Tennesseans see 11,286 Filipinos make commitments to God

Baptist and Reflector

KENTON — A team of 13 mission volunteers serving on the Cross Partners Ministry team from here returned Feb. 8 from Luzon Island in the Philippines. They saw 11,286 people make professions of faith in Christ and 362 other people make other spiritual decisions.

They worked with 36 churches in three Baptist associations for two weeks. The team was led by Charles Pratt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kenton, and president of Cross Partners Ministry, Inc.

The Republic of the Philippines is a third world country that consists of 7,100 islands which are home to about 80 million people. A partnership developed about 17 years ago by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Philippine Baptist Convention has been continued by Cross Partners Ministry (CPM) which was founded by Pratt.

"Truly this was an awesome experience like a modern Day of Pentecost where over 1,000 souls were swept into the kingdom of God in just a matter of days," said Pratt. "We were there and saw the mighty hand of God, but we cannot take any credit for such a powerful happening."

Tommy Griggs of Bethpage Baptist Church, Kenton, stated, "it was unbelievable just to see how God worked as we shared the gospel with the Filipinos."

Tony Michael, pastor, Bethpage Baptist Church, declared, "I have been blessed beyond measure by the amazing things God has done with this team."

Bethpage member and schoolteacher Brenda Griggs commented, "I felt such a peace and the greatest blessings as I shared God's word with the Filipino people one day in a remote area where no church existed."

Another member of Bethpage, Bobby Brown, stated that "God wanted to speak to someone through me and He did, although I don't know exactly who. I was merely His messenger."

Pratt has been leading teams to the Philippines over the past 16 years and has developed some great relationships with the Filipino Baptists. The three Baptist associations in which the team served are located in the most populated province (state) in the central part of Luzon Island which is inhabited mostly by peasant

farmers and fishermen.

Jerry Foster, layman from Brownsville on his 15th trip, said, "I was so blessed by being able to be a part of the CPM team and seeing the great harvest of souls."

Most of the team members raised their own funds for expenses, as well as money for New Testaments and Bibles. They gave away over 9,000 New Testaments, hundreds of entire Bibles, and over 26,000 gospel tracts.

A baptismal service was conducted in the South China Sea where over 130 candidates were baptized who had been attending discipleship training.

Johnny Michael of Roellen Baptist Church near Dyersburg brought a message on the meaning of baptism prior to the baptismal service. He commented, "God has given me the greatest blessings of my life by allowing me to serve in the Philippines."

The CPM team assisted Filipino pastors in baptizing the candidates in the ocean. Pastor Randy Crews of Ashland, Miss., noted that, "My heart was so humbled to see what God does when we are faithful."

Pratt recounts the story of how he was taken to a national high school one day to conduct a crusade and where, "I was invited by a high school teacher to preach the gospel to the student body of

over 1,600 students."

Over 400 of the students voluntarily came and sat on the concrete basketball court in a shaded area while he shared God's plan for their lives. Over half the students prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior.

He added, "I was moved to see the students opened their hearts to receive the truths of God's Word. So many children are considered so poor that they cannot attend even the public schools."

In a finale of events, the Filipino Baptists hosted a celebration service for the American volunteers. Special recognition was given to each of the volunteers at the service. Pratt brought an evening message before the team departed.

Team members were Tony Michael, Tommy and Brenda Griggs, Jo Griggs and Bob Brown, all of Bethpage Baptist Church; Johnny Michael, Roellen Baptist Church; Lanny Abernathy, First Baptist Church, Newbern; Don Williams, Beech Grove Baptist Church near Halls; John Hayes, physician and pastor, South Fork Baptist Church near Dyersburg; Jerry Foster, Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville; Jerry Alexander and Pratt, First Baptist Church, Kenton; and Randy Crews, Ashland, Miss. □



PRATT