

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 7; Feb. 23, 2005

this week's news

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Aspects of prayer are addressed at conference

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — At last weekend's 2005 Great Commission Prayer Conference Richard Blackaby, president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, said he has asked God the same questions the biblical prophet, Habakkuk, asked God — why are we in this situation and how long must we wait for God to answer our prayers?

The meeting drew about 200 to Harpeth Heights Baptist Church here.

Blackaby noted that in the last year of his work and pilgrimage he has faced many spiritual challenges in which "I didn't even know what to ask God to do." That was unusual, he said, because in the past he's not been "at a loss for what I wanted God to do."

But just like Habakkuk, Christians can ask God why terrible things are happening and how long we must wait for Him to answer our prayers.

The school Blackaby leads is part of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention. The convention is currently participating in

the Tennessee/Canada Baptist Partnership.

Interestingly, Blackaby said, God didn't rebuke Habakkuk for his questions in Habakkuk 1:1-4. In fact, God answers him in the passage.

One thing Christians can learn from the prophet is to ask God questions rather than make requests, suggested Blackaby.

Blackaby also suggested Christians might need to take a spiritual inventory if their prayers don't "seem to be effective. Is there something in me that needs to change before I offer one more prayer?" he asked.

Habakkuk was asking how long he must wait until God relieved the Israelites of the rule of the Assyrians who were "cruel oppressors" for three centuries, noted Blackaby, and who had obliterated the Northern Kingdom.

Sin was "running rampant," even among the Israelites, and it seemed that God was not punishing them, even the spiritual leaders, explained Blackaby.

Habakkuk was grieved by the situation, which was "intolerable to him."



SPEAKERS FOR the Great Commission Prayer Conference were, from left, John Franklin, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, and Nashville pastor; Richard Owen Roberts, International Awakening Ministries, Wheaton, Ill.; and Richard Blackaby, Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, Cochrane, Alberta, Canada.

Blackaby asked those in attendance if they have become complacent to today's world. He cited violence, martyrs for the Christian faith, and scandals in the church as signs of distress for Christians.

"I think the people of God have got to become as desperate as Habakkuk was before they will hear God," declared Blackaby.

He considered Habakkuk's "why" question about the terri-

ble things happening to his people.

Blackaby said he realized he had become desensitized to the needs of people when he skimmed an article on Christians in Southeast Asia who were killed by Muslims because he was looking for a story on this year's hockey lockout.

"God spoke to me," he said, and asked me "Have you lost — See Aspects of, page 4

Memphis church feels call to develop multi-cultural congregation

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — The largest city in the state, Memphis, is home to more blacks than whites — about 61 percent blacks to 34 percent whites according to the 2000 census.

As is the tradition in the South, the city's churches are either black, white, Hispanic, or some other ethnic group.

Broadmoor Baptist Church here, located in the northeast suburb of Raleigh and a historically white church, feels called to offer an alternative. The church feels called to develop a multi-cultural congregation.

The church's new calling came several months ago, said Bo Grace, pastor.

Grace, who joined the staff about a year ago, explained the congregation was in a unique situation. Several years ago it considered whether to remain in the community.

Broadmoor Church is located south of Millington and Tipton County and just west of incorpo-

rated Bartlett. The decision was so divisive for the congregation that at one point, the church staff, who wished to stay but was without a pastor as leader, spoke against a church committee who wished the church to relocate. The church decided to wait to make the decision until

it had a new pastor.

Unfortunately, during this period the congregation continued to dwindle.

As one might imagine, Grace came to the situation reluctantly. He was pastor of a church in Athens, Ala., which was prospering. He only came because of



STAFF MEMBERS of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, from left, Mike Reynolds, administrator/minister of education; Bo Grace, pastor; and Charles Howard, minister of evangelism, meet.

God's direction, he explained.

Grace noted God's vision for the church makes sense because Raleigh, a growing community, has a mix of about 50 percent black residents and 50 percent white and Hispanic residents. And the number of Hispanics living in the area's many apartment complexes is growing. Another reason multiculturalism at Broadmoor makes sense is that the church is blessed with debt-free facilities, including a 2,600-seat worship center and ballfields, on 37 acres.

God also confirmed his vision to Grace and the congregation.

Last summer Charles Howard moved his family from Florida to Memphis to help his mother-in-law who was ill. In Florida Howard was a church planter for the North American Mission Board. He moved although he couldn't find a job and he and his wife, Augusta, have six children.

Howard explained he felt God calling him to serve in Memphis and, a few days after he arrived, specifically to visit Broadmoor,

although it was a white church.

Grace learned that formerly Howard was NAMB Church Planter of the Year (1999). He served for six years in California and Florida, planting 24 congregations. Howard is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Grace also learned that Howard felt drawn to Broadmoor by God and was looking for a church where he could bring five members of a family he had led to the Lord the day after his family arrived. Howard met the family through relatives.

"We really hit it off," said Grace of Howard. Howard and his family started attending Broadmoor although they were the only black family in attendance.

They had been attending for a week or two when Grace felt called by God to present God's vision God for Broadmoor.

In a few months the church called Howard as minister of evangelism and was started on a new course — to become a multi-cultural congregation.

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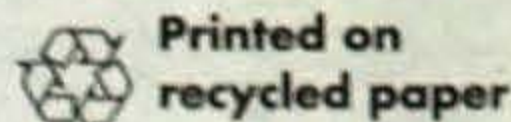
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Tsunami response gifts to IMB top \$10 million

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — As ministry to Asian tsunami survivors begins the transition from emergency relief to long-term recovery, Southern Baptist gifts to the aid effort through the International Mission Board have topped \$10 million.

By Feb. 17, total contributions received from Southern Baptist churches and individuals for tsunami aid had surpassed \$10,209,000 — an unprecedented outpouring of compassion over such a short period, according to IMB finance officials.

So far, about \$2.5 million has been disbursed for nearly 50 aid projects across South and Southeast Asia, ranging from food and water distribution, medical care, temporary shelter, and sanitation to providing fishing nets and reconstruction materials for villagers struggling to rebuild their lives and communities.

Many more projects will be funded in the months to come, said Jim Brown, the mission board's specialist for world hunger and relief ministries. They will support ongoing relief as well as longer-term efforts to help ravaged communities recover and rebuild. Every penny given will go to tsunami-related ministry.

"The resources we're using have come through Southern Baptists, but they've come from God," Brown said. "When it's all said and done, I'm sure we will have utilized all we've received — and then some. With a crisis of this magnitude, it may take a year. It may take two years or even longer. But it's going to give our people the opportunity for building long-term relationships" in many places once difficult to reach by outsiders.

Recovery projects after other natural disasters — such as Hurricane Mitch, which devastated parts of Honduras in 1998 — often continue for years, Brown said. □

Marriage bill moves ahead in Tenn. legislature

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Legislatures in three states advanced constitutional amendments during the week of Feb. 13.

In Tennessee, an amendment passed a House committee 13-4 and a Senate committee 7-2. If it passes the full House and Senate by a two-thirds margin, it will go to voters in 2006.

In Virginia, an amendment passed a Senate committee by a vote of 11-3. The Virginia House and Senate previously passed varying versions of an amendment in early February and are

Tennessean Jim Henry challenges editors

By Tony Cartledge
For Baptist and Reflector

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — State Baptist editors, along with pastors and church staff members, should learn to recognize when they need to take a break, a prominent pastor said.

Tennessee native Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, spoke twice to editors during a gathering of state Baptist executives and editors meeting in Fort Lauderdale Feb. 15-18.

Basing his initial comments on the feeding of the 5,000 in Mark 6, Henry talked about "Living Beyond Your Circumstances."

"Jesus is aware of our circumstances," Henry said, just as He knew the disciples were tired and needed a break. We get tired and need to come apart, especially as we get older, and learn to enter a "ministry of leisure," he said.

A ministry of leisure must be earned, but learning to get away refreshes people to do their job better when they return, he said.

"Nobody in seminary ever taught me and no pastor ever mentored me" to take time



HENRY

away, Henry said, noting that his wife finally persuaded him that it was important. Henry said he "hit the wall" in 1983 due to excessive job demands, and recognized the need for a sabbatical. It took a month just to wind down and relax, he said. Finally, a day came when he sat on the porch of a mountain cabin and spent an entire afternoon watching ants disassemble a wasp's carcass. "I realized I had never taken the time to watch God at work," he said.

Henry now tells younger staff to plan their leisure just like they plan anything else.

Jesus understands that circumstances change, Henry said, as when thousands of people sought Jesus, who had compassion on them and realized they were hungry. "Jesus cares about our circumstances," Henry said, and wants to help us — but He also puts us in circumstances where we need to help ourselves. The disciples thought there was no way to feed the crowds, but Jesus used the opportunity as an object lesson to teach the disciples that just as God fed the Israelites in the wilderness, He could provide nourishment in the present.

Jesus often works through other people, Henry said, such as the little boy who contributed the loaves and fish.

"There will be times when God will use other people in our circumstance to assist us

in it and through it," he said. The help may come from unexpected places or people, but that's a part of God's serendipity, he added.

Whatever our circumstance, we should learn to give it back to God, Henry said, and learn to be blessed by trusting Him for what happens. As we do, we will be blessed, not only by the results, but also by the leftovers. After leading the disciples to assist in blessing others, Jesus blessed the disciples with a basket of leftovers each.

"No matter what you face in life, if you give it to Jesus, He will always have some leftovers for you," Henry said. "If it matters to you, it matters to Him."

Henry also talked about the challenges of prayer and belief. Speaking from the story of Jesus' healing of a child who suffered from epilepsy and demon possession (Mark 9:14-29), Henry noted that the father and the disciples struggled with issues of belief and prayer.

"Come to Jesus with your doubts," Henry said. "Don't just lie there with the other paralyzed people." If there were no room for doubt, there would be no room for us, Henry said. Like Thomas, we can bring our "question marks" and put them on the table. □ — Cartledge is editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, based in Raleigh, N.C.

in the process of working out the differences.

In Alabama, a marriage amendment passed overwhelmingly in separate House and Senate committees. Both chambers previously passed differing amendments and now are ironing out a compromise. The amendment could go before voters this year.

The only marriage amendment loss came in New Mexico, where a House committee tabled an amendment that some said was worded too strongly. *The New Mexican* newspaper reported. □

Denominational leaders challenged to rethink funding

Associated Baptist Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The financial future of denominational organizations like the Southern Baptist Convention could be in jeopardy if they do not recognize and adapt to changes in the church and the broader culture, David Schmidt told a gathering here Feb. 15-18, of state Baptist executives and editors.

Schmidt, a financial consultant

and author of *Choosing to Live: Financing the Future of Religious Body Headquarters*, talked about growing challenges to the Cooperative Program, the SBC's central funding channel for national and international ministries.

The percentage of church budgets given through the Cooperative Program has been in a period of decline for some time, Schmidt said. Weak discipleship, a "radically local" church mindset, a self-absorbed culture, growing church costs, a loss of denominational loyalty, and competition from other charitable organizations are among the factors exerting downward pressure on cooperative giving, Schmidt said. Denominational turf wars and infighting also discourage giving, he said.

In sessions for state executives only, Schmidt discussed ways the Cooperative Program might be adapted or "re-invented" in response to contemporary and future needs. Schmidt said denominational leaders are "in denial" if they don't recognize that a new approach is needed, according to a meeting participant.

Pat Terry, a Samford professor who teaches nutrition and dietetics, spoke to the editors about healthy eating and

healthy living. The editors also held roundtable discussions for professional development.

Trennis Henderson, editor of the *Western Recorder* of Kentucky and president of the Association of State Baptist Papers, challenged editors to think about the state of their own ministry pilgrimage, and the state of ASBP.

As a Christian journalist, he said, he cannot effectively serve anyone without fairly serving all. As individuals, editors should seek to make a positive difference in other people's lives, he said.

ASBP, now in its 110th year, is one of the most diverse groups in Baptist life that meets for fellowship, Henderson said. Different theological and political perspectives challenge the fellowship, he said, leaving editors to choose whether they will work to build or erode fellowship. Henderson challenged editors to become prayer supporters and encouragers of each other.

In business matters, the state executives installed Jack Kwok of Ohio to serve as president. ASBP members installed John Loudat of the *Baptist New Mexican* as president and elected William Perkins of the *Baptist Record* in Mississippi as president-elect. □

Guest commentary

Age is a faulty filter for judging ability

By Bob Terry

It was a church I knew well, and I believed the person I wanted to recommend as pastor would be a good fit for the congregation. Yet I hesitated to write the recommendation letter and forward the resume.

It was not the ability of the candidate that caused my hesitancy. He is a good and godly servant of the Lord. He has led several churches effectively during his ministry career. He has been active in his local Baptist associations. His resume is impressive and I knew he would be open to a new place of ministry.

My hesitancy came because of his age. He was a few years beyond those "golden years of opportunity" for ministers of the gospel, which are 35-50. That is the age range the vast majority of churches specify when looking for a pastor. Not even the aging of the baby boomer generation has caused the desired age span for pastors to expand.

The golden years of opportunity are not new. For decades churches have specified they wanted their new pastors to be between 35 and 50 years of age. Among pastors, it is an axiom that by age 53, you had better be where you want to end your ministry, because the chances of moving after that are slim.

I called the chairman of the search committee and told him about the person I wanted to recommend. When I told him the age, the chairman responded that was above what the committee had initially anticipated but that the committee was rethinking its guidelines.

It seems that the interim pastor at

the church was also beyond the golden years of opportunity. Yet he was doing a great job relating to everyone in the congregation. He was well liked by young and old alike.

The committee reasoned that if the interim could relate to people much younger than himself, perhaps an older, full-time pastor could as well.

That search committee had come to an insightful conclusion. It is not the age of a pastor that counts as much as it is the abilities of the pastor. Some older men do a masterful job of leading a church, of preaching the gospel, of relating to members of all ages.

Wise beyond their years

At the same time, some who have

negate these ministry gifts.

Sometimes a church concludes that by calling a younger man as pastor, the church can attract younger members. That does not mean that calling a more mature man means younger people will not join the church.

People are attracted to churches where there is life-changing worship, where there is effective ministry, where members love one another, and are open to new people. A younger minister may lead a church to achieve these goals. A more mature pastor may do the same.

Certainly, if there is dissension in the church or if members do not care for one another, few if any new members will be added no matter the pastor's age. That is why churches do well to make sure the new pastor can relate to and care for the current membership as a starting point.

The pastor search committee chairman with whom I talked said he would like to have the resume and recommendation. He promised to share it with the committee and said it would be seriously considered. Whether the church will call this man only God knows, but that is the case in every situation.

A few days later a letter from a friend lamented that "having reached the wonderful age of 59, it has become very difficult to be considered" by a church. I knew he was right, but I also knew that some churches are realizing that the age of a pastor may not be the most important item on the list of qualifications for the new pastor. — Terry is editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, based in Birmingham, Ala. Column is used with permission.

Age is a faulty filter in determining who can or cannot lead a church. It is far better to look at the man's abilities, his sensitivity, his compassion, his people skills.

not reached the threshold of their golden years may be wise beyond their chronological ages and able to do wonderful jobs as pastors.

One First Baptist Church in a college town called a 27-year-old as senior pastor. His early years there were his best in ministry.

Age is a faulty factor in determining who can or cannot lead a church. It is far better to look at the man's abilities, his sensitivity, his compassion, his people skills. Especially with men of experience, it is important to look at their record and see what it says about their ability to lead and to relate. Celebrating a few more birthdays does not

Don't let temptation rob you of a blessing

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Temptation. It has been around ever since the serpent tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, who in turn, tempted Adam.

Sometimes we resist temptation. Often times we do not.

Last week I attended the annual meeting of the Association of State Baptist Paper Editors in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The weather was great all week, but Thursday offered an especially beautiful, sunny, extremely warm afternoon, the perfect day for a round of golf.

Our free afternoon had been the day before and I did take in a round. As usual I played poorly, but I had that good last hole that made me want to try golf "just one more time." Funny, as I look back, I have played a lot of "just one more time" rounds.

The program, however, on Thursday afternoon featured a session geared for spiritual renewal. Satan hit me hard. That little voice whispered, "You go to church. You have a great pastor. You don't need to be spiritually renewed." Sounded good, but like all little whispers from Satan, his advice was a lie. We all need to be spiritually renewed on a regular basis.

So I fought temptation and attended the session which was led by Tennessee Jim Henry, former pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, and now pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.

As was every time I have heard Jim Henry, he "hit a home run." He reminded us that God would "get us through" the difficult circumstances we often face and that no prayer is too small or insignificant for God to listen to and answer.

Resisting temptation that day brought me a blessing I would have otherwise missed. It worked for me. It will work for you as well. □

Conference will equip people to win their Jerusalem, and beyond

making Christ known



By Larry Gilmore

The East Tennessee State Evangelism Conference is scheduled for March 13-14 (Sunday evening and Monday) at Grace Baptist Church in Knoxville. The conference is designed to assist churches in fulfilling their mission of winning their Jerusalem to Christ. But Jerusalem is just the beginning. We also have a Judea, Samaria, and the world included in the scope of our mission.

The program speakers will address multiple approaches we may take to accomplish this God-sized task. Laymen, as well as pastors and church staff, will hear how each fit in and can be used by God in fulfilling kingdom responsibilities.

Charles Roesel has been pastor of the First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla., for 30 years. He

began leading the church to implement ministry evangelism as a means to reach its community.

Today, there are over 70 ministries on their campus including a medical clinic with local doctors serving thousands each year, half-way houses for those recovering from addictions, children's home, crisis pregnancy center, food pantry, and the list goes on. It is an amazing story of how a church has captured the attention and support of a community by meeting felt needs. But that is not the end. The ministries are a means of demonstrating the love of Christ, but the many volunteers and staff are intentional in sharing how one may have a relationship with God through Christ.

Our Southern Baptist Convention President, Bobby Welch, has demonstrated this past year his passion for winning and baptizing one million new believers this next year. He has traveled into literally every state, modeling soul winning approaches and challenging believers in the "Everyone Can" Kingdom Challenge. This challenge combines a simple plan that unifies all

Southern Baptists around Christ, God's Word, and evangelism while allowing each Christian and church to use their own uniqueness, diversity, timetable, and methods to carry out "The Kingdom Challenge."

Pastors, encourage your laymen/women to hear a man who is passionate about winning his world to Christ ... and has a walk that backs the talk! He is the originator of the FAITH strategy of evangelism and he developed and implemented the strategy in the First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach where he has been pastor for the past 30 years.

The Monday schedule will include evangelist Bill Edmonds, past president of the Fellowship of Tennessee Evangelists, and three Tennessee pastors.

Tom McCoy was a church planter who went to a town of 750 and with eight people, began a church meeting in the only public building available to them ... a "honky tonk." Sixteen years later, they have 1,600 gathering each week.

Host pastor, Ron Stewart, is another pastor who has demon-

strated "stickability." Planting his life at Grace Baptist, he has led the church in developing multiple ministries, including a Christian academy. Behind the exciting story of Grace is a man who is leading his people to be intentionally evangelistic through their ministries. We can all learn from what he has to share.

Fredrick Brabson is our other Tennessee Baptist pastor on the program. Not only will he be speaking, but he will be bringing the New Covenant Celebration Choir. They will be joining the choir from Grace Baptist under the direction of Jeff Brockleman. It promises to be a wonderful day of celebration and inspiration!

Other nationally known speakers will be Ken Hemphill and James Merritt. Hemphill, SBC national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth (EKG), will present the EKG strategy for reaching your Jerusalem and beyond. It is visionary and practical.

James Merritt, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will close the conference Monday evening. Merritt

has been a favorite at evangelism conferences across the SBC. In recent years, he started the Crosspointe Church in the Atlanta area. It continues to be a growing fellowship with a dynamic, intentional focus on reaching the unsaved for Christ.

A new feature of the evangelism conference will be offered on Monday afternoon. A panel of our speakers will participate in a Question and Answer time. These are men who have been blessed to serve in key evangelistic ministries. They will be honest about what they have experienced in their journey. We can learn from their challenges, successes, and failures.

The conference will offer some practical ideas to assist you in working with your church in reaching your Jerusalem and beyond. Pastors and laymen can be on the same page as together, you focus on winning your Jerusalem to Christ.

You may find additional information by visiting our web site, www.tnbaptist.org, and clicking on evangelism. □ — Gilmore is leader of the TBC Evangelism Strategies Group.

Aspects of prayer are addressed at conference ...

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my heart?"

The natural response is to stop letting "it keep breaking your heart, yet God says it always breaks my heart."

So much "strife and contention" exist in the world, Blackaby noted, even in churches. He told of meeting recently with a pastor who had been told by a deacon in a deacons meeting that he worked for them and wasn't going to run the church. The other deacons allowed the man to say these things. The pastor was crushed, reported Blackaby.

Today more people are exposed to the Scripture through the internet, radio, TV, Bible teaching, conferences, and churches, he continued. "But it doesn't seem to make a difference."

In Canada, less than seven percent of people are members of an evangelical church. Most of the country's provinces have legalized same-sex marriage. Most Canadians believe legislation will soon be passed to redefine marriage.

Additionally, literature which condemns a lifestyle termed hate literature is illegal. The law exempts religious literature, but a Canadian has been charged and fined for publishing Bible references, not whole verses, condemning homosexuality on a billboard, Blackaby explained to the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Habakkuk turned "to the one who can make a difference" in his situation, Blackaby pointed out, referring to God.

He told about being around his father, Henry Blackaby, speaker and author of the "Experiencing God," study, which has been distributed worldwide, and many other books.

"He is a great man of God. I admire him greatly," said Richard. He and his father are able to serve together at times. Over the years, Richard said, he has observed many people come up to his father and tell him that the words he wrote in

"Experiencing God" changed their life years ago.

Interestingly enough, those same people don't ever ask his father a question so they can hear more of his wisdom. Instead, they often leave without hearing one word from Henry Blackaby.

We know the person who has "all the answers, who knows the future and knows why He's not intervened yet," declared Richard Blackaby.

God "delights in persistent prayer."

"Are there some questions you need to be asking God?" Blackaby asked.

After Christians make any adjustments needed in their lives they should take "comfort" that "His answer is coming" and that God is faithful.

"God will bless in the coming days," he concluded.

Richard Owen Roberts

Also speaking at the prayer conference was Richard Owen Roberts, founder of International Awakening Ministries, Wheaton, Ill., and a former pastor and church planter.

Roberts spoke on the state of Israel cited in Isaiah 63-64 and how America's situation is similar.

The God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament, he noted.

Just like God's reaction to the sin of Israel, God has reacted to the sin of America and "has turned himself and become our enemy and is fighting against us," declared Roberts.

This is true despite the fact that America at one time was a Christian nation which was favored by God.

He cited 12 issues that affect revival — holiness of God, great evil of all sin, judicial timeliness, total depravity of man, eternal love of God, glory of God, immensity of the need, need for spirit of brokenness and contrition, need for single-mindedness, importunity, need for faith, and need for realization that revival is beyond

Ways to help the Canadian seminary

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Richard Blackaby, president of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada, is thankful for the current Tennessee/Canada Baptist Partnership and is excited about the Tennessee/Canadian Seminary Partnership which will begin in 2006.

He said Tennessee Baptists can make a difference in Canada in the following ways.

(1) Tennessee Baptists can "adopt" a student and his or her family and assist them through their seminary studies and into their first ministries. This is needed because so many of the seminary's students are from families who aren't Christian, because the Christian and Baptist network of support in Canada is weak because of small numbers of Baptist ministers, and because of the demands of ministry in Canada. About one half of students will be trying to plant a church after seminary.

(2) Tennessee Baptists can teach a seminary class.

(3) Tennessee Baptists can assist the staff by doing office work (the seminary staff has one secretary), assisting the librarians, planting flowers (which encourages the students), and doing renovation and building on the seminary's buildings.

(4) Tennessee Baptists can work with the seminary and a local church at the same time or on the same trip. □

our capacity.

Christians often spend time praying for physical or temporal things. In James 1 Christians are warned against praying "cheap prayers," he noted. Instead, Christians should spend their time praying for great spiritual issues.

When Christians pray for people to be healed they should consider that God made the body with "an amazing healing capacity" and that God allows illness, said Roberts. Instead we may ought to pray, "Lord, will you teach him the purpose of his suffering."

Roberts referred to reports that 50 percent of Americans are born again. He questioned that, suggesting that "the vast majority of members of evangelical churches are as lost as Satan himself."

Pride is a grievous sin, said Roberts,

and stems from Christians comparing themselves to other people rather than God. Instead, Christians should "live in brokenness and contrition."

Christians are "busily piling up dead works," he said, which are any "endeavor to gain merit from God. It's silly to think that revival is going to come through dead works." He explained that dead works "cannot be touched by the spirit of God and made alive."

Instead of developing idols and worshipping them, said Roberts, Christians today "are content to worship the God of our imagination."

Because God is only judging America remedially at this time and He is never late, Christians should be "propelled to pray for revival."

"I believe with all my heart that it's not too late for America." □

Memphis church feels call to develop multi-cultural ...

— Continued from page 1

Making strides

Broadmoor is seeing God work, reports the staff. It is seeing God move the church toward being multi-cultural, although everyone Grace and the staff consulted said it wasn't possible, especially in Memphis. The staff was even told a couple of years ago by a denominational leader it should prepare to close its doors.

Several blacks have joined the church since the Howard family joined last year. One man, who is confined to a wheelchair because he is an amputee, confided to Grace that after he saw Martin Luther King shot here, he hated all white people.

Recently, with tears in his eyes, the man told Grace he had never felt any more accepted and loved than at Broadmoor.

Last year the church gained about 100 members.

Last fall the church offered the drama, "Heaven's Gates, Hell's Flames" which drew about 6,000 people in six nights. Most of the people were black. Five hundred and eleven people made professions of faith.

The church's new English as a Second Language ministry is reaching many Hispanics, Grace reported. One man, a student, recently made a profession of faith. The students have many

needs, the teachers have learned.

An expectant mother was asked by her teacher if she needed anything for her baby. The woman replied with tears in her eyes that her family didn't have the money to prepare in any way for the baby.

The ESL teachers gave her a baby shower.

A Saturday basketball league led by Howard has been continued beyond its original schedule. Most of the players aren't members of the church but come from nearby schools, said Grace. Parents also who aren't members of the church gather in the church's gym to watch their children play.

Finally, relationships are being built with the staff and PTOs of nearby public schools, reported Howard, a former public school teacher in Memphis. He lived here before beginning his church planting work. The reception has been great, he said.

A school plans to use Broadmoor's worship center for its graduation ceremony. Church members plan to serve students and parents a meal afterwards.

The church and nearby schools will hold a community day at Broadmoor. It was the idea of a school principal. Plans are being made for it

now, said Howard.

Personal views of staff

"We're not saying we're right and everybody else is wrong," said Grace. "I'm not saying everybody ought to do this. The only reason why we're doing it is it's a God thing."

He believes God prepared Broadmoor uniquely by bringing it "to a point of challenge."

Grace said he felt God didn't want Broadmoor to be another "slot church" like most Southern Baptist churches. The slot churches fit in one slot and draw members who are alike. To reach other cultures, they "start a black slot church so we can stay in our slot church," described Grace.

People probably think Memphis "would be the last place that this would happen but God has given us this vision," said Grace.

Mike Reynolds, administrator/minister of education, said, "Our sister churches are doing what they're supposed to do and we're proud of them. We're just trying to do what we're called to do."

"God's bringing the people directly to us and we're thrilled about it," added Reynolds, who has served the church for 15 years. "The people of the church are volunteering and want to be involved."

In a sign of God's work at the church, Grace and Reynolds reported, Broadmoor members have responded positively to Howard, in the new ministries he is leading but also as he leads Tuesday night outreach or as he and his wife meet with senior adults. The senior adults in the church love the Howards, Grace added.

"Howard is not the black pastor, not the pastor to black people," explained Grace. "He's the pastor of evangelism — to all people, and it's all worked."

Grace said it is rewarding to see all four ministers of the church, including Acie Ford, associate pastor of senior adults and pastoral care, standing at the front of the church during invitation time and people going to all

four to discuss their decisions.

Coming to Broadmoor "was my miracle," explained Howard who said during all the years of evangelism and planting black churches he wondered why he was just focusing on black people. He can communicate with people of all races, he said. "I know God is still doing things in Memphis and the vision they have here is exactly what I anticipated."

"The only way this city is going to change is by seeing people get saved," he noted. "The church should be the place for the races to meet in a sense of love."

"God can bring the races together through Jesus Christ and that's the only way," he concluded. □



THE WORSHIP CENTER of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Memphis, faces Austin Peay Highway or Highway 14 northeast of Raleigh. Other facilities of the church are located behind it on either side.

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

Note:
New edition on
Disaster Relief,
Construction

Seeking TBC specialist

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — TBC Executive Board is seeking a Disaster Relief/Volunteer Construction specialist, according to Tim Bearden, Interim State Disaster Relief director.

This specialist would provide leadership in the mobilization of Tennessee Baptists to engage in Disaster Relief and Construction ministries within the volunteer mission ministry of the Convention.

Interested persons must submit an application to be considered for the position. Applications may be obtained by contacting the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, (615) 371-2013, or by downloading an employment application from www.tnbaptist.org. □

Regional DR training set

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Three Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Regional Trainings will be held in 2005, according to interim State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden.

They are: March 11-12, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Covington; April 22-23, Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison; and June 24-25, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

All events will be on Friday from 2-10 p.m. and on Saturday from 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Training classes will include: Introduction to Disaster Relief; Chain Saw Training; Chaplain Training; Communication; Crew Chief Training (for church and association crews); Mass Feeding; Mud-Out Training; Rebuild Training; and Service and Delivery.

To simulate an actual disaster response as part of the training, participants are encouraged to stay on site. The host church will provide lodging, and a Disaster Relief show-trailer will be available. Please bring a sleeping bag or cot.

Registration fee is \$25 including materials and meals. Make check payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

Contact Elizabeth Holmes, Administrative assistant, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7926 or eholmes@tnbaptist.org for further information and registration, or see www.tnbaptist.org. □

Tsunami volunteer says project was 'God thing'

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

Editor's Note: Name is withheld for security reasons.

BRENTWOOD — God called him to go, and he is willing to go back. These are the words of a volunteer who recently returned after serving on a nine-member water purification and body recovery team in South Asia.

The volunteer from Chapel Hill sees his trip as a "God thing," because of the way it came together before he left home.

The volunteer heard about helping in the Tsunami response and was told that it would be 3-5 weeks before anything would happen, because the IMB was still getting the project requests.

"When I hung up the phone, I told God it's His deal, and let somebody call me," the volunteer said. Later that night when the volunteer received a phone call, the caller indicated that four people had given his name, and that a team would leave the next week.

"I had to go get shots for all types of diseases so I went the next day to get them. I told my church that God was calling me to the response. They took up a love offering that included money donated by a farmer who sold some livestock, because of a promise to God. Others paid for my shots.

"Even people in the community of Chapel Hill gave to help me go. I told people that I didn't know where I was going, but that God had called for me to go for two weeks."

"We did water purification

and body recovery in South Asia. We pulled over 50 bodies out of the rubble left by the Tsunami while we respected their cultural laws and put them in the body bags."

According to the volunteer, people in the area had tried to recover their relatives' remains when possible, but there was a cultural thing about not touching the dead. Some survivors still remain in shock; some are still looking for their relatives. A lot of the bodies that the team recovered were beyond recognition.

The volunteer felt like his crisis intervention team training and practical experience nationally and in his home community had come in handy for this response.

"Seeing the fear and hurt in the children's faces and also the sense of loss in the adults

was widespread in the area. Everyone lost somebody whether it was family or friends. Everyone had a story to tell, and they wanted to tell their story.

"I am concerned that the children in the disaster area will be scared for the rest of their lives, and I am concerned that they are psychologically scared."

According to the volunteer, he also aided a lady UNICEF worker from Sweden who worked with children in displacement camps. "No one knows how many children are orphaned," he added.

"There are babies who do not remember their moms and dads. There are other children in shock who cannot talk. Hopefully their families will raise them." □

180 DR volunteers attend hurricane relief debriefing

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — It was not surprising that over 180 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers and their families attended the 2004 Hurricane Response Debriefing Jan. 8 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

"Boom, boom, boom," is how one Disaster Relief worker described this fall's onslaught of hurricane season in the southeast while other Disaster Relief volunteers said that with the increased number of hurricane responses began for some "five weeks when time and the world stood still."

The debriefing was led by Interim State Disaster Relief director Tim Bearden for volunteers who responded to the hurricanes in Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina, which numbered around 658 different volunteers. Many of these volunteers responded to multiple responses.

Volunteers were able to share their favorite and not so favorite memories of hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and

Jeanne through words and photos with their fellow volunteers.

Virginia Cole, a member of First Baptist Church of Huntingdon, remembered a cross that was carved on the playground by a chain saw team from Utah at First Baptist Church of Atmore, Ala., following Hurricane Ivan.

Tim Jones and his wife, Norma, members of Cross Creek Baptist Church, Indian Mound, were in Atmore when Linda Mayes, a member of First Church of Atmore, came to help the Disaster Relief volunteers on the State Feeding Unit serving line. Mayes told the Joneses that she had to get out of the house, because she had recently buried her husband. The Joneses later found out that Mayes had buried her husband on Thursday before the volunteers had arrived on Saturday.

Jerry McClain, a member of Hopewell Baptist Church, Springfield, who was part of a 14-member chain saw team from Robertson County Baptist Association, witnessed to three ladies in Atmore whose homes the team worked on with cleanup crews. The ladies accepted Christ, and the team felt like they had planted the seeds.

"We became very close to the residents in Atmore," said McClain. "We still contact them. The people of Atmore were very outgoing and gracious."

Bonnie Manning, a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Tazewell, found it remarkable that the Lord supplied the energy for people her age, over 60, to get the job done on the feeding units in Fort Myers and Pace, Fla.

Linda Kirkham, a member of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Nashville, and her friend, Marjorie Johnson, a member

of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, enjoyed serving food to the garbage collectors in Atmore during the first week of September.

"We would take food to the four garbage men and sometimes save them plates, because they always came at different times to the State Feeding Unit," said Kirkham, who was on-site with her husband J.P. Kirkham and others on a Nashville Baptist Association team.

"We talked a lot to the garbage collectors and got to know them. They were responsible for picking up our trash and also the trash that was brought back to First Church of Atmore. It was a thankless job."

According to Kirkham, the men gave them cards and hugs before their Disaster Relief team left town. "I wouldn't take a million dollars for my card. It had my favorite Bible verse on it. It was signed by the Atmore Street Department Garbage Collectors with all four names on it."

Willard Dale, former pastor of Cumberland View Baptist Church, Crossville, and Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association Disaster Relief coordinator, had a lot of volunteers who wanted to go help, but the four Crossville schoolteachers from one school who went to do laundry in Atmore really impressed him.

Laura Brock, Debbie Green, Jerri Sue Davis, and Lori Davis, all teachers at Stone Elementary School in Crossville, and their friend Frankie Lynch, all members of Central Baptist Church, Crossville, took their fall break to serve in Atmore. "They were all willing to go," said Dale. "I am trying to set up Disaster Relief training now for the ladies and

— See 180 DR, page 6



INTERIM STATE DR director Tim Bearden leads the Hurricane Response Debriefing Jan. 8 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

First Church, Concord, holds DR celebration for 400

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

KNOXVILLE — Over 400 Disaster Relief volunteers along with their families attended First Baptist Church of Concord here for a Disaster Relief Ministry Supper and Fellowship Nov. 19, 2004, to celebrate their responses this year while serving others.

"The volunteers enjoyed sharing photographs and remembering the blessings that they received while ministering to the victims of the storms," said Ken Chipley, a Disaster Relief chain saw and rebuild volunteer from First Church.

"I never imagined that we would get the response that we had to this dinner," said Lou Mulsand, First Church associate Disaster Relief director.

"Chipley came up with the idea of having the dinner, which was originally planned for volunteers from our church. We were talking about the dinner idea in Atmore, Alabama, during the hurricane response," added Mulsand. "Ken, who had

served on all three hurricane responses, thought it was a good idea, and he decided it would be held on Nov. 19."

What started out as a church thing soon grew, and the First Church group decided to invite everybody who responded this year. Several hundred e-mails were sent with the idea to forward them to all Disaster Relief volunteers.

"It almost became a full-time job trying to notify everybody," noted Mulsand. "The response became a testimony to the personal relationships that we formed during the responses. Since some people came on the response without training, we had a lot of new people who helped."

The dinner for 50 people soon mushroomed into several hundred people with Doug and Suetta Young, First Church members, cooking and donating barbecue. Another First Church member, Emmett Thompson, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening.

"This event gave us an opportunity to fellowship, sell T-

shirts, see audio visual presentations, and eat supper," said Mulsand.

"In addition to the sharing and fellowship activities, the volunteers participated in some small group brainstorming sessions where they recorded some valuable 'lessons learned' and made some suggestions about how future responses could be improved," said Chipley.

Also during the meeting West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, member and Disaster Relief rebuild coordinator, Curt Fowler talked about long term rebuild at Atmore and upcoming training.

"Everyone who attended the dinner thought it was a great program and supper; we have received e-mails asking us to do it again next year. It was a real blessing for us," noted Mulsand.

"People even opened their homes to other people, some stayed in hotels near the church, and the church opened up the family Life Center for people to sleep in after the dinner. It became a joke that vol-

unteers could stay in the church and simulate a volunteer response."

Terry and Carol Webb, also First Church members, made over 400 placemats with the Disaster Relief logo on them. "This made for a special banquet," noted Mulsand.

"What started out in First Church's chapel and fellowship hall soon moved to the church's Cleft building, because of the enormous numbers of RSVPs that we received."

"We just praised the Lord, and it raised our expectations when over 400 people showed up for the dinner."

"It was good to see so many Disaster Relief volunteers gathered in one place during a time of no disasters," said Tim Bear-



FIRST BAPTIST Church, Concord, members Royce and Gary Brooks visit during the Nov. 19 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Ministry Supper at the church.

den, Interim State Disaster Relief director. "This was the largest recorded gathering of volunteers at a non-disaster event."

"The volunteers pray that their services are not required for the types of responses in the future like we had last year, but they stand ready to minister to disaster victims if and when they are needed," Chipley said. □

180 volunteers attend hurricane relief debriefing ...

— Continued from page 5
their husbands."

Willard himself served in September at Vero Beach, Fla., following Hurricane Frances on a chain saw team.

Dorothy Dale, wife of Willard Dale, worked Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, in Escambia County and also served in the laundry unit in Atmore.

Dorothy was concerned when she found an old man who owned a country store, which had been looted after Hurricane Ivan struck. The man was upset because his store had been broken into several times and he had lost a roof. But he told Dorothy that he was blessed, because he and his wife had survived with four children who were all fine.

His uplifting attitude impressed Dorothy, because the family didn't have insurance. They couldn't afford the insurance premiums due to previous break-ins.

"Even their son's body shop repair garage had been destroyed in the storm and his equipment had been looted," said Dorothy. "The family didn't know what they were going to do about their present situation. However, Disaster Relief chain saw teams helped the family put the roof back on the building. It lifted my spirits, because the family was so thankful and gracious since the Lord had saved their lives."

Charlie Dunaway, Holts Corner Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, spent time talking with Faith Hill and her husband, not the country music stars, who lived in Pensacola, Fla. in an apartment complex that they managed. Even though they lost everything, Mrs. Hill was able to find her faith following Hurricane Ivan.

When Charlie and his wife Nancy Dunaway, also a member of Holts Corner Church, stopped in the area to eat, they found a young couple who had returned to Florida only to find that they lost everything. The girl was crying, because there was nothing left of their home on the coast. The Dunaways told the couple where to get food at the feeding unit and how to get help.

Paul Burton, a member of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, thought the staff did a great job at McGregor Baptist Church, in Ft. Myers, Fla., after Hurricane Charley with everything from trash removal, communication, and working with everybody.

There were also tough things that people saw during the hurricane responses.

Neil Gwinn, a member of Saint Bethlehem First Baptist Church, Clarksville, said, "I saw pure poverty to devastation, and it was hard to watch in Freemanville, Ala, near Atmore following Hurricane Ivan."

Gwinn and eight others on

his chain saw team from Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville, worked in an economically disadvantaged area in Escambia County, which was largely African American.

"We had one job scheduled on Freemanville Road, which turned into 40 jobs for the chain saw team," he noted. "One family that touched me lived in a two room home with the outside walls made of paneling, no insulation, and a roof made of plywood and tar paper. The lady homeowner, who had diabetes, lived with seven children and four grandchildren in the house."

Sharing the faith is an important part of Disaster Relief volunteers reported. Tim Baggett, a member of Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, explained that the Cumberland Association chain saw team was in Ft. Myers for Hurricane Charley, and then came back home and waited as two more hurricanes hit.

"God spoke to me," he said. "He told me that He was going to send me where He wanted me, when He wanted me, and who He wanted me put in front of, but I just had to be patient."

"When Hurricane Ivan hit, we went to Atmore where Marion Johnson's pecan tree had lodged over a propane tank at her home on Freemanville Rd. When we went to look the project over, we told the lady we would have to

pray over the situation. We didn't have the equipment to handle this project."

"We came back the next day to help with a forklift crew to get the tree. God had spared the house, protected the family, and watched over them all this time. I had been praying for two weeks where I was supposed to be, and I told 'my sister' in Atmore that she had 'many relatives' down here. I knew then my prayers had been answered. Now I have many relatives in Freemanville."

There were also around 100 others at the meeting who were also able to share their faith during the hurricane responses.

Larry Chatman, pastor of Holts Corner Church, who served as a chaplain in both Florida and Alabama, told that the team ran out of Bibles in Atmore.

"A lot of Hispanic people were coming through the State Feeding Unit lines," said Chatman. "A lady at First Church of Atmore found a large supply of Hispanic Bibles left over from VBS."

"That day I led three Hispanic guys to the Lord. That night I also led two New Jersey Red Cross workers to the Lord at the site. I personally led 18 to the Lord in Atmore during the week."

Chatman also noted 4,000 VBS Bibles and "Home Life" magazines that arrived that

week from LifeWay. He saw that people enjoyed reading the magazines while standing in the feeding lines.

One volunteer added, "Everybody gained a family at Vero Beach, Atmore, and Port Saint Lucie, Fla."

What the volunteers learned on the hurricane response were: the answers to their prayers, stepping out of their comfort zones, and how fortunate they are to serve.

"We brought people's lives together," another volunteer concluded.

Curtis Fowler, a member of West Lonsdale Baptist Church, Knoxville, asked the volunteers to return to Atmore and help the elderly and uninsured. Housing will be provided at the Atmore armory.

After lunch the volunteers split into several teams to discuss how to improve responses.

Leading the group discussions were: Doug and Tawana Flatt, both members of Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville; Joe Exum Sr., a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson; Don Davis and Murray Johnson, both members of Two Rivers Church; John and Virginia Cole, both members of First Church of Huntingdon; Tim Baggett; Ann O'Neal, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Shelbyville; and Don Byrd, a member of West Lonsdale Church. □

Making friends along the way

For "TBVMN Update"

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. — A Georgia Baptist church minister of education and administration wrote a "thank you" e-mail Sept. 6, 2004, to former TBC State Disaster Relief coordinator Lloyd Blackwell following the aftermath of Hurricane Frances.

Bert Sandifer, Friendship Baptist Church, Warner Robins, minister of Education and Activities, noted:

"Friendship Church is very grateful and privileged to have hosted your state's Disaster Relief Team as they prepared to go to Florida after Frances. Under the leadership of Mike Overcash, (Tennessee Incident Commander, TBC retiree, and a member of Valley View Baptist Church, Nashville), your teams were ready, willing, and able to serve wherever the need arises.

"As you are in Florida now, you are well aware Frances took her time coming north. Many folks wondered when they would get the call to head south to Florida as the teams arrived Sunday afternoon in middle Georgia for staging.

"God orchestrated your unit being with us as Tropical Storm Frances battered our church facility Monday night. If the Tennessee Disaster Relief Unit had not been with us waiting out the storm, then our buildings would have sustained far more damage than they did. God had you here as parts of our roof were torn back and water gushed through our east entrance doors.

"We were blessed to help and be helped by our Tennessee brothers and sisters in Christ. We are praying now as the teams are deployed and sharing Christ's love to millions even as another storm may hit Florida next week.

"Thank you again to Tennessee Baptists who heard the voice of God to serve. Words cannot describe our gratitude in Warner Robins." □



VOLUNTEERS of First Baptist Church, Jackson, pray for a hurricane victim after working at the person's home in Warner Robins, Ga.

Charley workers benefited, they report

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

FORT MYERS, Fla. — A Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer says when she comes back from Disaster Relief responses that she is more blessed than before she left.

"I am amazed that I always come back from these Disaster Relief responses more blessed than before I left," said Laura Gross, a member of ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, who with her husband Arnie traveled with a six-member team in mid-August to Ft. Myers, Florida, for Hurricane Charley response.

According to Laura, a lady came to McGregor Baptist Church in Ft. Myers where the State Disaster Relief Feeding Unit was in operation hoping to exchange some soy baby formula for some other type of baby formula.

"The lady, who was a mem-

ber of another local church, was trying to help several families of migrant workers who had babies," she said. "It was near the time when the unit was to shut down its operation.

"We didn't know about the baby food and formula and other types of baby things at the site, because the palettes had been covered up near the unit. We thought we had nothing to give her. Then we started looking around, and we found all the baby stuff.

"God provided for everybody's needs, because we found a palette of baby formula, baby food, and other things. We also had bottles of water to give out, because people needed water."

According to Mrs. Gross, the lady added that God had sent her to find Laura.

"I shared with the woman some Bible verses. That's how I became very blessed during this response." □

Team sees hungry people after Frances

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Like several Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, Larry Doss, a member of First Baptist Church of Concord, knows he went through four hurricanes while losing all aspect of time and the world during the four weeks he spent in Florida, and one week in Atmore, Ala.

However, Vero Beach, Fla., following Hurricane Frances sticks in his mind, because the people followed the Disaster Relief convoy into the designated setup area asking for food.

"There was one couple in a mini-van with three children, who had been living off crackers and water for two days while out of their home," he said. "The mother was also upset, because the toddler had not had any baby formula."

"I immediately gave them cokes and anything else I had on hand until we could get the State Feeding Unit set up. A lot of people showed up at the unit who hadn't eaten in 3 days."

According to Doss, the unit was supposed to set up at the First Baptist Church of Vero Beach, but was moved to the First Church of God, because of the city's traffic problems. However, the volunteers were lodged at the First Baptist Church.

At least eight couples approached Doss, a member of First Church of Concord's chain saw team, who needed food before the unit was set-up in the church parking lot. He also noted that the line of cars was a mile and a half long just for ice and water at Vero Beach.

"For me, chain saw is the

best part of Disaster Relief ministry, because the chain saw unit gets to touch people where they live. We minister by listening to their stories.

"We meet people, who haven't been to church in 10 years, and we minister to their needs. I wouldn't trade it for anything; chain saw ministry is worth its weight in gold. For me it's the best thing."

Another family that touched Doss' heart, while working in a neighborhood in Vero Beach, was an elderly lady who lived with her mother. Doss saw one of the women on the porch and went to talk to her. The ladies also had not eaten in days, but they had lived off crackers.

Doss took them lunch from the unit, and he later returned with supper and a lady chaplain. The ladies, who had no water and no electricity, enjoyed talking with the chaplain.

Doss was on the team that evacuated to Friendship Baptist Church in Warren Robbins, Ga., before going to Vero Beach. At Friendship Church the team helped hold the roof on the church when Hurricane Frances came through the area. □



DR VOLUNTEERS work outside the First Church of God in Vero Beach, Fla., feeding and serving people hot food, ice, and water.

Team encourages ill resident after Frances

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

PORT SAINT LUCIE, Fla. — A 13-member chain saw team from First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn., were given an encouragement opportunity here following Hurricane Frances while cutting down trees at a resident's home.

The First Church chain saw team worked on Virginia Koman's home while her husband was in the hospital recuperating from open-heart surgery, according to Joe Exum Sr., team leader.

When Koman found out that

some people on the First Church team, who worked Sept. 8-11, 2004, in her community while staying at the First Baptist Church of Port St. Lucie, had heart by-pass surgeries, stints, and other related illnesses, she called her husband at the hospital to say, "invalids were working on their home."

"She called her husband, because he was in one of the many stages that come with heart surgery recovery," said Exum. "Since several of us had a similar experience like her husband, we stayed in contact with her and her family after we returned home."

Koman later sent the First Church team an e-mail saying that the team had made all the difference in the world in her husband's recovery from open-heart surgery.

The chain saw team also served at Friendship Baptist Church in Warner Robbins, Georgia, on their way to Port St. Lucie.

Chain saw teams from First Church along with other Madison-Chester Baptist Association churches also responded earlier to Hurricane Charley Aug. 13 in Ft. Myers, Fla., and later made two trips to Atmore, in October for Hurricane Ivan. □



DR Chaplaincy Training

Dan Clevenger, director of missions, New Duck River Baptist Association, based in Shelbyville, trains volunteers to serve as Disaster Relief chaplains Dec. 10-11 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. About 60 chaplains were trained.

Grandmother's call leads DR workers to Ala.

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

PARIS — When a grandmother called the TBC Disaster Relief Mobilization Center in Brentwood Sept. 17, 2004, to request help for her family and friends in Monroe and Escambia Counties in Alabama following the onslaught of Hurricane Ivan, she had no idea her prayers would that day be answered.

Jane McInnish, a member of First Baptist Church of Paris, had decided to take the direct route for her family and friends to receive help by calling the Mobilization Center, but she ended up with "vertical help" instead.

McInnish had talked to Bob Bertouille, First Church Disaster Relief director, about her concern for her family and friends in Alabama. Bertouille told her there were procedures that had to be followed before the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Units responded. She decided to take the direct approach and called the Disaster Relief team at the Baptist Center.

McInnish was concerned, because her family and friends had been without power and possibly food for several days. A team member told her that the Disaster Relief Units were on standby to go, but the North American Mission Board had

not given a destination for the State Feeding Unit at that time.

The team member assured her that prayers would be offered for her family and friends in Alabama. Prayers were requested for her son and his family in Monroe County and her friends in Escambia County.

Within 10 minutes, NAMB called the Mobilization Center and deployed the State Feeding Unit to First Baptist Church of Atmore, Ala., in Escambia County. The Disaster Relief team then realized that McInnish had prayed them to Escambia County.

Jim and Jennifer McInnish, son and daughter-in-law of Jane McInnish, and their three children had earlier ridden out the hurricane in a neighbor's basement in Monroeville, Ala., in Monroe County. The McInnishes and their neighbors had cut their way out through tree limbs to find their home not damaged. However, they were without electricity for a week.

Ronda Daniel, Jane McInnish's friend, and a second elderly lady friend, both in Brewton, Ala., had also survived the storm in Escambia County. Brewton is around 25 miles northeast of Atmore.

"The Lord just provided, because they were in the same county," said Jane McInnish. She had realized that Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief

volunteers were in the same area after she read a newspaper.

"Even now my son travels back and forth to Brewton, and he is still overcome by the damage from the storm. Hurricane Ivan devastated the Gulf Shore and Pensacola, but nobody was hurt in Brewton and nobody was killed. It's amazing to me that there were no more injuries reported.

"My friends say it will never be the same again in the area. My son said half the houses in Monroeville had roof damage. But my family and friends were fine, and I feel like I was blessed." □



DR VOLUNTEERS from First Baptist Church, Sevierville, work at a home in Atmore, Ala.

FBC, Nashville, helps stranded bus travelers

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

NASHVILLE — First Baptist Church of Nashville's Disaster Relief team recently opened its church's doors during Christmas to stranded bus passengers from the Greyhound Bus Station.

Bill Latham, First Church Disaster Relief volunteer, found out about 15 stranded passengers Dec. 23, 2004, and went to the Greyhound Station to offer them shelter. Seven men including two young men in the service on their way home for Christmas decided to take First Church up on its overnight offer for a place to stay. According to Latham, the other passengers were afraid to leave the bus station fearing travel would resume without them.

Marshall Walker, First Church Disaster Relief coordinator, headed up the organizational effort to house and feed the men. This included taking the church bus driven by Latham to pick the men up and return them the next day to the bus station.

The men were housed in First Church's Recreation Center where the church also furnishes a homeless ministry for Room at the Inn. Out of

the 32 Disaster Relief volunteers at the church, six volunteers worked to help their stranded guests by bringing food, setting up the gym, and feeding them breakfast.

"This was not just another Disaster Relief response," said Latham. "This was done to raise awareness at the church for members to help with any kind of disaster needs such as house fires, family crisis, etc. In addition, several members of our Disaster Relief team are trained in crisis intervention through National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA) and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). We call them 'First Friends.'"

"The Disaster Relief team got the call from Rus Roach, First Church minister of Pastoral Care, about the stranded people at the bus station," said Walker. "It was a privilege to provide a night's shelter for service men and working men who were trying to get home for Christmas," said Walker. "It was especially rewarding for me since the service men were on their way home for Christmas before heading out to Iraq."

"The men told us that they had never been treated this nice before, and it would spoil them." □

DR volunteers honored in Atmore, Ala., magazine

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

ATMORE, Ala. — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers were recently honored in three issues of the "atmore" magazine, which is published by Grace Publishing here.

"What a wonderful ministry," said Sherry Digmon, publisher of "atmore" magazine. "Hurricane Ivan came through Atmore months ago, yet we still hear people talking about 'the Baptists' and how much your help was appreciated. It's amazing how important ice and water can be to a person, and I can tell you firsthand that a hot meal is priceless."

"I really believe this ministry will have long-lasting effects in our town. As for the believers, our own faith was strengthened by your service. The non-believers couldn't help but see the service done in the name of the Lord. We can only pray that they realize His hands served us in the weeks following the storm. Your ministry will not soon be forgotten here."

"I had the opportunity to work with the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief group serving meals during the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan," said Myna Monroe, Digmon's right hand associate at "atmore."

"I have never witnessed such an ambitious undertaking as feeding all of Atmore. The organization was unbelievable. You Baptists really know how to lend a helping hand to those in need. Thank you for finding your way to us." □



REPAIRING A ROOF in Atmore, Ala., are members of Sharon Baptist Church, Knoxville, Rick Thompson, left, and Joe Atkins.



Nashville church team works

Members of Valley View Baptist Church, Nashville, from left, Rick Ghee, Darrell Pridy, Tommy Smith, and Willie Dickens remove a tree from a residence in Nashville last year.



Training for three associations

Members of churches of Lawrence County, Giles County, and Maury Baptist associations gathered Jan. 28-29 in Lawrenceburg for Disaster Relief training. About 60 people were trained. Wayne Tenpenny of First Baptist Church, Jackson, led the chain saw training.

Building repair help offered by DR to annuitants

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — TBC Annuitants who are in need of construction work may contact Kim Margrave, TBC Volunteer Missions specialist, or Richard Skidmore, Church Ministers Finan-

cial Support specialist, for assistance.

Both Margrave and Skidmore may be contacted at 1-800-558-2090 or call them directly at Margrave (615) 371-2021 or Skidmore at (615)-2009. Or e-mail them at kmargrave@tnbaptist.org or rskidmore@tnbaptist.org. □

SBC registration opens for childcare, students

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Registration is now open for families who wish to enroll their children in the preschool childcare, the children's conference, or the youth Centrifuge June 19-22 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting here.

For all information regarding registration, visit www.sbc.net and click on "2005 SBC Annual Meeting, then Children/Students."

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

First 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) 338-2066, e-mail: robspeights@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

A full-time minister to students is prayerfully being sought for a strong Southern Baptist church (averages 580 in SS) to lead ministries for middle school, high school, and college students. Send resume to Dr. Herb Hester, 108 E. Grundy St., Tullahoma, TN 37388.

First Baptist Church of South Pittsburg, Tenn., seeks part-time youth minister. Call (423) 837-7455 or e-mail fbcspn@aol.com for more information.

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.

Childcare. Childcare for infants through age 5 will be available from Sunday afternoon through the Wednesday evening session; no childcare will be available during the Wednesday afternoon break, however. A \$10 one-time nonrefundable registration fee is charged for each child. For each session, a \$5 per child fee is charged, with a maximum charge of \$40 per family for the full four days of childcare. Lunch will be available for the children on Monday and Tuesday for a cost of \$5 per lunch. This year the children will be learning from the Vacation Bible School curriculum Beach Blast.

Registration information

may be obtained in one of three ways:

— e-mailing childcare@sbcc.net, including the sender's name and address.

— downloading a set of forms for each child at www.sbc.net.

— writing to SBC Childcare, Bellevue Baptist Church, 7400 Hwy. 70S, Nashville, TN 37221.

To assure your child is registered, applications and fees must be submitted promptly. Once the completed forms and registration fee for each child are received, a family ID number will be assigned and a confirmation packet with a family confirmation card, parent handbook, security information, and procedures for check-in and check-out will be sent.

The postmark deadline for preschool childcare registration is May 20. Parents desiring to register their children after May 20 may print the required information and bring it to the convention, where they will be registered on-site on a space-available basis.

Children. The SBC children's conference, meanwhile, will be led by the staff and team from Children's Conferences International from Indianapolis, who perform skits, object lessons, stories, songs, crafts, games, juggling, and music.

The children's conference will begin Monday morning, June 20. With the theme "Frontiers of Faith," children will experience a western town, "Lawless Gulch," where the Ten Commandments have just been posted. Kids ages 6-12 will learn how to share what they have learned with the various characters who show up in town.

To register, visit www.sbc.net.

net or www.childrensconferences.com and click on Nashville.

Students. Also at the convention this year, students in grades seven through 12 are invited to be part of a Centrifuge-style camp sponsored by Fuge Life-Changing Camps. Centrifuge has provided quality camp experiences for SBC churches since 1979. The theme of the SBC Centrifuge, which begins Monday evening, June 20, is "Honor," focusing on how teens can honor God with their relationships.

Centrifuge registration will be \$40 per student, with \$12 per day during the two-day "Fast 50" training seminars following the SBC annual meeting.

Registration may be handled online at www.lifeway.com/fuge/youth/sbc.asp, by clicking on "register online," or by calling 1-877-CAMP123. E-mail inquiries can be sent to fuge@lifeway.com. □

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

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True Love Waits launches community effort

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — LifeWay Christian Resources kicked off its new True Love Waits initiative, "Takes the Town," with a reception for youth ministers and community leaders and a concert featuring Christian recording artist Barlow Girl.

The Takes the Town theme encourages communities to unite by involving schools, local governments, businesses, churches, health organizations, and others to promote abstinence.

"We hope it broadens the impact of the commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage," Jimmy Hester, coordinator for the True Love Waits team and the senior director of LifeWay's

student ministry publishing department, said during the Feb. 11 event at LifeWay's offices here.

True Love Waits spokesperson Paul Turner said the new theme developed as the logical next step for the 11-year-old ministry. "We've done a good job with churches and making students understand," he said. "I think God has prepared the culture to take a stand for sexual purity."

Several local YMCA employees attended the reception and voiced their support for the program and the impact it has made. Dawana Wade is the YMCA's vice president of community development as well as the mother of two teenagers.

"It makes sense for me to connect myself with people that have the same views of sexual

purity that I do," Wade said. "If we as a community embrace and recognize the [long ranging effects] of sexual activity, maybe the youth at the Y will too."

Since 1993, an estimated 2.5 to 3 million youth have signed cards pledging to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. Turner said he believes communities have the power to help that number continue to grow. "If everyone is saying the same message, students start to say, 'You know, there might be something to this.'"

Hester said the True Love Waits team has set a goal of in-

volving 50 communities in this unified effort during the first year, noting, "This is the kind of emphasis in a community that could really sway [youth's] choices."

A study by the American Journal of Sociology found that teenagers who pledge abstinence until marriage are 34 percent less likely to have sex than those who do not make that pledge.

The study suggested the pledge is effective because it creates an "identity movement" or "moral majority" that offers peer support.

True Love Waits is designed to encourage sexual purity through adherence to biblical principles and positive peer pressure. The pledge to abstinence comes after eight weeks of teaching and study. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Full-time minister of music and education, Slayden Baptist Church, 2534 Highway 72, Lamar, MS 38642. Send resume to Search Committee (address above) or e-mail to slaydenchurch@bellsouth.net. For more information call (662) 252-4559.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Associate pastor for children, youth, and families. First Baptist Church, Boone, N.C. seeks full-time associate pastor. Emphasis on assimilating interns and laity to help in all ministries for children, youth, and families. He/she should be a seminary graduate with some reasonable experience, possess strong people skills, proven organizational and communication skills, and the ability to direct multiple projects while paying attention to details. Applications accepted until position is filled. Send resume to

FBC, P.O. Box 2751, Boone, NC 28607.

MINISTRY — DOM

New Salem Association of Baptists, composed of 10 churches, and located in Smith County, Tenn., is seeking a bivocational director of missions. Send resume to Mark Stinnett, 129 Alexandria Hwy., Brush Creek, TN 38547, phone (615) 683-8925.

MINISTRY — PRESCHOOL

Large SBC church near the Nashville area is seeking a full-time minister to preschoolers. College degree is preferred and seminary is a plus. Please submit resume to Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Attn. Preschool Search Team, 3475 Lebanon Pike, Hermitage, TN 37066. You may also e-mail to dmoody@hermitagehillsbaptist.com.

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book review

By Dawn Ferguson

Finding Favor With the King

by Tommy Tenney
Bethany House, 2003

To find favor with the King, you have to fall in love with Him first ... not in love with what He can do for you. But in love with Him for who He is! Author Tommy Tenney believes this is the greatest lesson we can learn from the book of Esther.

In his novel *Finding Favor with the King*, Tenney states that he believes that the story of Esther is one of the "wildest romances of them all!" The coming together of a peasant and a King! "Why did Xerxes pass over as many as 1,459 other candidates from other nations and Persia's own 127 province-nations to select Esther? Was it just because of her beauty, or did she know a secret," he asks.

He then proceeds to share what he thinks Esther's secret was in his 204-page, thought-provoking book — a book that he's also used as the basis for a work of fiction and a motion picture entitled "One Night with the King," which is scheduled to be released this spring. (For more information about the novel or movie, go to www.Hadassah-Onenightwiththeking.com)

The book of Esther — the one book in the Bible that does not directly mention God — is all about God's providence — God working behind the scenes when it may look to us like He's not there at all! We may not see Him, but He's there ... working invisibly. Working to complete His sovereign plan.

Tenney draws an interesting analogy between Esther's preparation for the King and our preparation for worship. The Bible says Esther was "lovely and beautiful." "The Hebrew term translated lovely refers to her outward beauty, and the term for beautiful seems to mean literally that Esther was 'good through and through' describing her internal beauty." In essence, Tenney says she had a good heart, and he proves it by examining how she prepared for her one night with the King.

Tenney states that probably one of the most important things Esther did was to seek and heed the advice of King Xerxes' trusted chamberlain, Hegai. Following a year of preparation, each virgin would be given an opportunity to take "anything she wanted ... to the king's palace" for her one encounter with the King (Esther 2:13). When it came her turn for her encounter with the King, instead of taking what she wanted, Esther sought the advice of Hegai because she knew that he knew what the King liked — what pleased him the most. Tenney theorizes that Esther desired to please the King more than she desired anything for herself and for this reason she won the King's favor.

The gospels give many examples of people seeking Jesus for what He could do for them. Unfortunately, many people seek Him today also for that very reason. Tenney states that God wishes that we would be more like Esther ... that we would "fall in love with the King rather than the King's blessings."

"If we can ever refine our pursuit to the point where we genuinely value the King more than the kingdom, we'll be amazed to discover what the King will do for us," writes Tenney. *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him* — I Corinthians 2:9. □ — Ferguson is a freelance writer from Gallatin.



Funding missions in Tennessee
and around the world

Can God fix this?

By Jerry Massey

Focal Passage: Hosea 14:1-9

The question this week is not whether God can fix a broken life, home, or church, but will sinners relinquish what is keeping them from coming back to God? It doesn't matter how appalling the sin, the situation, or how hopeless it all appears, God can turn things around for His glory. Nonetheless, such a rotation comes with a price. The sinner must be willing to approach God in true repentance. Hosea's closing message to us is a word of glorious heaven-sent hope. No matter how radically we have failed the Lord, we can find our way back home to the Father via the highway of repentance, which is paved with mercy and grace.

Accepting this note of grace and hope that God calls all sinners back to Him, the sinner must initially acknowledge sin (vv. 1-2). *Israel, return to the LORD your God ... take words (of repentance) with you* When do sinners repent? Is it when we think we have taken the wrong road? When we get caught? When we realize we have made a big mistake? When we begin to deliberate the error of our ways? No! It is only when we turn around, and go back to the intersection where we made the wrong turn, and get back on the right road. We'll know when we have repented, *Forgive all our sin ... so that we may repay You with praise from our lips.* It will be evident in our new attitude of grati-

tude and praise to God for His mercy and grace.

Once we repent, we establish commitment (v. 3). Israel had to come to the realization that her hope was not in alliances with other nations, military might, nor her own ingenuity. The Israelites had to resolve to depend upon God and God only for their deliverance from idolatry.

The only true security we have is Jesus! Why do people desperately chase the gods of this world? It is baffling! But every day you can see the actions of reckless people doing the irrational in hopes of a better life and some much-needed security. *For the fatherless receives compassion in You.* By her own promiscuity Israel found herself an orphan. She needed to realize that there really was no other alternative for peace and security, except through God. Otherwise, she would remain orphaned, *Not My people* (1:9).

God promised Israel if she would accept healing, then she would find Him faithful to cure her sin sick disease (14:4-8). *I will heal their apostasy; I will freely love them.* God's first response would be immediate and full of compassion. God would change their hearts and rid them forever of their idolatrous desires. Notice how He vows His healing hand will bless them. They will see God afresh and anew "like the dew." Israel will become pure and again blossom "like the lily." She will be deeply rooted in the

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Feb. 27

Lord's strength "like the cedars of Lebanon." She would resume her fruitfulness in the Lord and sweet smelling savor before Him in true worship, for her "splendor will be like the olive tree."

When we abide in Him, we too, can produce much fruit, *I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me* (John 15:5).

Hosea's concluding report is that Israel should walk in wisdom (v. 9). So should we. *Let whoever is wise understand these things, and whoever is insightful recognize them ... walk in them* The old story tells of a steamboat worker who fell overboard into the mighty Mississippi River. His captain jumped into the waters rescuing him. The worker said, "Ever since then I love to point my captain out to others." May we never forget the awe of our rescue by our blessed Captain, for *while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8). □ — Massey is pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris.



MASSEY

Jesus lives forever

By Lee Porter

Focal Passage: Luke 24:22-36,
50-53

When Jesus died on the cross the veil was rent from top to bottom. The temple veil was a heavy curtain separating the holy of holies from the surrounding area. Only the high priest could enter once a year on the Day of Atonement to make intercession for Israel's sins. The curtain was made of expensive scarlet, purple, and other fabric with beautiful embroidery. It was 80 feet high, 24 feet wide, and several inches thick. The tearing of the curtain means that God is available and accessible because Christ had opened the way and torn down the curtain which separated people from God. Persons can go directly into the presence of God without the need of any high priest.

A man named Joseph from the city of Arimathea in Judea went before Pilate to request the body of Jesus for burial. Bodies of those who were crucified were often left on their cross for weeks to decay. Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin and was well known as a righteous man. Along with the help of Nicodemus, Joseph took the body of Jesus down from the cross and wrapped it in a linen cloth and prepared it for a quick burial since the Sabbath would begin at sundown. They laid the body in a stone tomb, which belonged to Joseph, in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Thirty-six hours later, very early on Sunday morning women returned to the tomb hoping to anoint the body of Jesus with burial spices and ointment. To their surprise they found the stone in front of the tomb had been rolled away. The stone was not removed to let Jesus out, but was removed to let observers in. The women found the tomb empty. As they stood there in confusion and bewilderment, two



PORTER

men in bright shining garments came to stand by them. This frightened the women.

The explanation given by the men was really a rebuke. *Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here for he has been resurrected! Remember how He spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and raised on the third day?'*

As the women remembered the words of Jesus they had a great faith experience. This good news had to be shared! Quickly they returned to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard.

The disciples did not believe them for their words seemed like nonsense. Peter however, decided to check out the situation for himself. He ran to the tomb and when

he looked into the tomb he saw only the linen cloth. Peter was totally amazed by what he had seen and heard.

Two disciples walking along the road to Emmaus were discussing the events of the past few days when Jesus appeared and entered their discussion. Later the disciples recognized that their guest was Jesus. Moments later Jesus disappeared and they returned to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples what had occurred.

To their amazement they found the other disciples discussing various reports of the resurrection of Jesus and all concluded that the Lord had indeed been raised from the grave. Jesus then appeared in their midst. He showed them His wounded hands and feet. The disciples touched Jesus and even watched Him eat a piece of fish. He was alive! Jesus was alive! Jesus spoke to the disciples and told them they were to be his witnesses.

What a wonderful Savior is Jesus Christ our Lord who saves from sin. We must tell that story! □ — Porter is a retired employee of LifeWay Christian Resources and former SBC registration secretary. He now lives in Greenback and is interim pastor, Rocky Branch, Walland.

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Feb. 27

Leaders

◆ New Vision Church of Athens licensed **Dillard Sneed** to the ministry Feb. 6.

◆ **Rick and Gina Bennett**, ministers of children/young adults, Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville, have resigned. Rick Bennett has been called as children's minister, Grassland Heights Baptist Church, Franklin.

◆ North Etowah Baptist Church, Etowah, has called **Eric Atkins** as associate pastor. He is the son of **Gerald Atkins**, pastor. Eric Atkins is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

◆ Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church, Crossville, has called **Brian Smith** as pastor. He formerly served as pastor of Haley's Grove Baptist Church, Crab Orchard, and a church in Middlesboro, Ky.

Churches

◆ **Ross Maroney**, pastor, Stones River Baptist Church, Smyrna, will lead the March 13-16 revival at **Barfield Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**. For more information, call (615) 896-2490.

◆ **Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Ridge**, will hold revival March 6-9. **Morris Anderson**, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Michie**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, March 6-9. **John Mahony** will speak and **Ricky Sample** will lead the music. For more information,



JEN GASH of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, and founder of *Sweet Sleep* receives a \$4,000 check from **Mike Glenn**, pastor, Brentwood Church, which is a gift from Kairos, a mid-week worship gathering at the church, to *Sweet Sleep*. The presentation was made Feb. 15. *Sweet Sleep* is a ministry started by Gash to build 700 beds for an orphanage in Moldova. Gash also is executive assistant to Nashville Mayor **Bill Purcell**.

call the church at (731) 239-8538.

◆ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, is holding "Believer's Money Management" led by **Ray Stewart** on consecutive Mondays at 6:30 p.m. It will be offered Feb. 28 and March 7. For more information, contact the church at (615) 227-2961.

◆ **Mt. Pelia Baptist Church, Martin**, will hold revival March 13-16, Sunday - Wednesday. **Jerry Spencer**, former pastor of the church and an evangelist through **Jerry Spencer Ministries**, will speak. For more information, contact **Ryan Potts**, pastor, at (731) 235-2882 or potts@crunet.com.

◆ **New Harmony Baptist Church, Paris**, will host a spring women's conference on Friday - Saturday, March 11-12. **Iris Blue** will speak and

Gracie Rosenberger will lead the music. For more information, call the church at (731) 593-5276.

◆ **Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville**, will celebrate its 35th anniversary April 24. **Bobby Bowden**, head football coach of Florida State University, will preach. For more information, contact the church at (615) 824-0001 or bluegrassbaptist@comcast.net.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Kenton**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, March 6-9. **Jerry Spencer** of Brownsville will speak and **John Berry** of First Baptist Church, Union City, will lead the music. For more information, call the church at (731) 749-5780.

Associations

◆ **Holston Baptist Associ-**

ation, based in Johnson City, will hold a Family Day at the Bristol Motor Speedway Saturday, April 2. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. and the race will begin at 2:05 p.m. **Teri and Randy MacDonald**, brother and sister racing competitors, will speak at the Family Day. Cross Country and Comedy Relief will perform. Deadline for tickets is March 16. For more information, contact the association at (423) 764-0534 or holstonbaptist@cs.com. To prepare to minister to about 200,000 fans on April 2-3, people can be trained as chaplains Feb. 26 at the Bristol Motor Speedway office. For more information, contact **First Baptist Church, Bluff City**, at (423) 538-7922.

◆ Thirty-four of the 73 churches of **Cumberland Gap Baptist Association**, based in Harrogate, have given more than \$30,000 to the International Mission Board, Richmond, Va., for tsunami relief, reported **Clayton Dunsmore**, director of missions. He said the response had been "mind boggling" because he has seen churches become involved in missions giving for the first time in four years.

Schools

◆ **Jeanie Miley**, author and member of the Minister/Church Relations Committee for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, spoke to students of **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, six times as part of the school's **Ashe-Henderson Lectures**. Music was directed by **Noel Tredinnick**, organist and director of music, All Souls Church,

London, England. The lecture-ship is sponsored by **Victor Ashe** and his wife, **Joan Ashe** is the former mayor of Knoxville who is U.S. ambassador to Poland.

Statewide Events

◆ The **Bivocational Evangelism Conference of the Tennessee Baptist Convention** will be held Friday - Saturday, March 11-12 before the **TBC Evangelism Conference** Sunday - Monday, March 13-14. Both meetings will be held at **Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville**. For more information, contact **Ray Gilder** of the TBC staff at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2019 or rgilder@tnbaptist.org.

◆ The **Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Conference** will be April 11-12 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. For more information, contact **Lana Rose** at (615) 371-2008 or selecting "Slice," a newsletter, at www.tnbaptist.org.

◆ The conference, **Healthy Family Relationships**, will be held by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Feb. 25-26 at **First Baptist Church, Smyrna**; March 19 at **North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland**; April 9 at the **Gatlinburg Convention Center** in conjunction with the **Woman's Missionary Union Get-Together**; and April 30 at **Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett**. For more information, visit www.tnfamilyministry.org or contact **Tony Rankin** at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 8136 or (615) 371-8136 or **Brenda Harris** at bharris@tnbaptist.org.

At Daytona, Tennessee collegian realizes NASCAR dream

By David J. Roach
Baptist Press

JACKSON — Sure, it's warm. Sure, it has great beaches. Sure, it has world-renowned golf courses.

But for **Union University** senior public relations major **Amanda Jones**, going to Florida isn't about getting that perfect tan or sinking a birdie putt on the back nine. It's about taking part in the biggest weekend in motor sports — and not simply as a spectator.

Growing up a racing fan in Paris, Jones and her dad loved going to NASCAR races. She is a member of **West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson**.

One of her favorite things to do while at the track was to get up early and watch all the crews enter the garage area. Unfortunately, to actually enter the garage area required

credentials. So instead, she would sit as close to the garage area as she could, watching and soaking it all in. It was here that Jones realized her dream.

Those dreams have become a reality now for Jones, who will participate in her first **Daytona 500** this weekend as a public relations representative for **Bobby Hamilton Racing**.

"I knew from a young age that I wanted to be in public relations," Jones said. "I would always look for the [public relations] people for the teams. They are easy to spot with their team jackets and laptops."

Jones became so enamored with the thought of working in NASCAR that she started asking people at races how she could get involved. One person Jones kept in especially close contact with was **Lori Shuler**, a public relations representative

for **Bobby Hamilton Racing**.

"I got the feeling Lori believed in me," she said. "I made sure to e-mail her every month just to keep in touch."

Jones' persistence paid off and in July 2004 she became the first intern for **Bobby Hamilton Racing** as a member of the #18 Craftsman Truck Series team.

Jones admits that the opportunity caught her off guard.

"Honestly, I never thought about working in the truck series," she said. "But I would rather be winning with a good team in the truck series than not winning with a Nextel Cup team."

Winning certainly wasn't a problem with **Bobby Hamilton Racing** last year. Hamilton won the truck series championship and **Chad Chaffin**, the driver Jones worked with

directly, won twice. Combined they had six wins, the most by any team in the series.

"People kept telling me last year that I was spoiled. Looking back, I can see that they were right," Jones admitted.

As a public relations representative for **Bobby Hamilton Racing**, Jones' jobs include scheduling meetings and interviews for the driver, keeping up a portfolio of how their truck is doing on the track, sending out two press releases per week and encouraging other members of the crew.

The truck series schedule lasts 25 weeks and Jones is planning to be there for almost all of them this year. She is going to have to miss a few races during school but will travel with the team full-time after her graduation in May.

After graduating from Union she is also planning to

move from Jackson to Nashville, where the **Bobby Hamilton Racing** headquarters are located.

As for the future, even Jones doesn't know for sure.

"I can see myself staying here at least two or three more years, but there is a high turn-around in this sport, not necessarily with people leaving, but with people switching teams," she said.

For now though, Jones is quite content with where she is.

"I love what I am doing and love working with NASCAR," she said. "I also love **Bobby Hamilton Racing** and I want to be a part of helping them grow, but I could also see myself going somewhere else if something else comes up in the future." □ — Roach is a student at Union University, Jackson.