

Baptist & Reflector

Midstate Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 8; March 9, 2005

1,570 make spiritual commitments

YEC '05 draws 12,300 teens to midstate

Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Last weekend 12,300 teens descended on Middle Tennessee State University's Murphy Center here for the Youth Evangelism Conference '05 which is held by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. One result of the event was that 1,570 teens made spiritual commitments on Friday night.

That is the largest response in a decision time of the YEC in the past seven years he has led the event, reported Kent Shinton of the TBC staff.

Also the attendance was up from 11,500 last year. This year's Friday night session was held to capacity. Next year a dedicated Friday session will be held as in years past, said Shinton.

The youth and their sponsors gathered Friday night and Saturday afternoon at Murphy Center and met in smaller groups in area churches on Saturday morning.

See YEC, page 3



YOUTH SING AND CLAP to music led by Dave Hunt of Nashville at the Youth Evangelism Conference '05 held at Murphy Center of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. — Photo by Connie Davis Bushey

BC CP gifts still ahead of budget

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — After four months of the current fiscal year, gifts from Tennessee Baptist Convention churches are ahead of budget needs.

In February Tennessee Baptists gave \$2,959,200 through the Cooperative Program. For the year-to-date, BC churches have given \$2,012,086, an increase of \$81,628 or 8.12 percent over the amount given during the same time frame last year.

Gifts are \$160,469 or 1.35 percent over budget requirements after four months.

"We are appreciative to Tennessee Baptists for their increased support of the Cooperative Program," said James Porch, TBC executive director-treasurer.

"It demonstrates the commitment our churches have to meet ministry and mission needs not only in Tennessee, but around the world," he said. □

Prayer prepares hearts for Crossover, say TBC leaders

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Crossover 2005 leaders, host churches, and volunteers are preparing for the largest pre-Southern Baptist Convention evangelistic thrust ever, but Don Pierson urges all planners to remember one thing: don't forget to lay a strong foundation through prayer.

"Prayer is the primary way we prepare the soil," said Pierson, prayer strategies specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

TBC Executive Director James Porch agreed.

"Crossover 2005 provides a phenomenal opportunity for Tennessee Baptists to sow the seed of the gospel throughout Nashville and the adjoining area. It is my prayer that our people will be spiritually prepared to present the gospel in a variety of ways into prepared hearts," he said.

Porch also noted that "through our communion with

the living God in prayer, we can become open to His leadership and receptive to His direction."

To date, more than 9,000 volunteers and 200 host churches have committed to participate in Crossover 2005. Crossover is sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven Baptist Associations.

Seven venues make up the massive evangelistic thrust that will take place in June across a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area that includes 1.3 million people. Venues include: (1) prayer journeys, (2) sports evangelism, (3) block parties, (4) ethnic ministries, (5) personal evangelism, (6) kindness explosion, and (7) collegiate evangelism.

In churches that will be focusing on prayer journeys, also called prayer walking, teams of volunteers have been assigned "to saturate a large area with

prayer," Pierson said.

"We have more volunteers who have requested to do prayer walking than we have host churches requesting that kind of saturation. We are looking for host churches," he added.

Churches interested in hosting prayer teams may e-mail

Also, he noted, "With some of our venues prayer walking can take place simultaneously with the evangelistic outreach. For example, door-to-door evangelism lends itself to prayer walking as volunteers go from place to place."

Pierson said prayer training is taking place in a variety of ways in churches and associations. In addition, his office is providing copies of a DVD

for individual training in prayer walking.

He said he hopes excellent prayer preparation and the largest army of volunteers in the history of Crossover will lead to community-changing spiritual results. "We would really like to see God move through the greater Nashville area in such a way that is unlike any other harvest we have experienced. It would be awesome if spiritual awakening and revival were the ultimate results."

— See Prayer, page 4

CROSSOVER 2005

crossover@tnbaptist.org or call Jerry Essary, TBC Crossover coordinator, at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2059.

In addition to churches where prayer walkers will saturate the neighborhood with prayer, Pierson emphasized that prayer must be part of every Crossover venue.

"Every host church is encouraged to prepare the soil through prayer, using their intercessory ministries as well as prayer walking. This means some of the prayer walking needs to begin now," he said.

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Supreme Court hears arguments

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Defenders of Ten Commandments displays on government property expressed optimism after listening to oral arguments on the issue before the U.S. Supreme Court March 2.

"I would be surprised if the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Ten Commandments displays in question violate the U.S. Constitution," said Pat Trueman, senior legal counsel for the Family Research Council, in a written statement. "[A] clear Supreme Court majority appeared very reluctant to suggest that the Ten Commandments violate the establishment clause of the First Amendment."

The justices heard oral arguments for two consecutive hours in separate cases, one involving a stand-alone monument on the Texas state capitol grounds in Austin and the other framed displays of the Decalogue in two Kentucky courthouses as part of exhibits of historical documents that included the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Magna Carta.

Religious liberty litigator Jay Sekulow told reporters outside the court building he "thought the arguments went very well." He expressed confidence the court would uphold the display in Texas but thought its ruling on the Kentucky exhibits would be closer.

The justices are "hard pressed to just order their removal," said Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, before predicting what their consolidated decision or separate opinions would look like. "It's going to say that the Ten Commandments, in and of themselves, are constitutional. [The justices] are going to look at context. I don't think they're going to go broader than they have to."

The case for the Kentucky displays is hampered by the fact that the original displays consisted only of the Ten Commandments. The other documents were added after the ACLU of Kentucky challenged the exhibits in court. □

Roy Moore details legal battle in new book

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — If anyone is waiting for former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore to apologize for refusing to remove his Ten Commandments monument, don't count on it.

After being removed from office in the fall of 2003, Moore continues to travel and speak publicly on the state's right to acknowledge God. He remains

Humility, reverence keys to worship: Clark

By Emily Stopher
Union University student writer

JACKSON — Though many people may genuinely desire to worship God, not all of them do it correctly, according to a staff member at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"God is the seeker in worship," said Paul Clark, worship and music specialist for the TBC. "He is seeking worshippers, and He wants people whose hearts are yielded toward Him."

Clark spoke Feb. 25 to Union University students and faculty in a chapel service about the importance of daily worship.

"There are indications that in your generation there is a capacity and perhaps a calling from God to become a part of something much, much bigger than yourselves," he said.

Humility and reverence are key themes when worshipping. Clark referred to a song by Kyle Matthews to explain the importance of these two points: "God forbid that I find you so familiar that I think of you as less than who you are. God forbid that I should speak of you at all without a humble reverence in my heart."

Clark said thoughts about God should give pause and break prideful desires in the hearts of Christians, Clark said.

Simply stated, the very premise of worship is, "God is God," and that simple phrase is the starting point of worship.



CLARK

"Worship doesn't happen until we understand that God is who He says He is," Clark said.

He said many times people try to control their own lives and take hold of the reigns. Self people wish for others to love them and their every desire. These feelings occur when is trying to be God. Clark made clear that must know who God is so that one can worship Him properly and unselfishly. That recognition of God for who He is puts everything into perspective because it completely humbles people.

In addition, Clark said a Christian's entire life should be in worship, because worship is a condition of the heart and isn't confined to a certain place or time. Thus, although some may think they have to go to church to worship, Christians should instead worship God everywhere they go.

"We often think we 'go to worship,' when in fact we should 'go worshipping,'" Clark said. He added that worship can happen in private where an individual can confess everything. Worship can happen in festivals, where people have individual experiences within the mass, he continued.

But perhaps the hardest kind of worship is congregational simply because there are so many different personalities within a congregation, Clark explained. There are all ages, from grandparents to teenagers, but regardless there is a place for everyone in a church family.

Worship should occur continually, no matter where one is, who one is with, or what circumstances are taking place. "Praise God, not because everything's OK, but because of who He is," Clark said. □

B&R most viewed page on TBC site

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The *Baptist and Reflector* was the most viewed page on the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site (www.tnbaptist.org) for the period between Feb. 8-March 6.

During that time frame, the Tennessee Baptist state paper was viewed 8,479 times.

The next four most viewed pages were: Calendar of Events, 6,400; Youth Evangelism, 4,961; Events — Evangelism, 3,052; and Events — Youth, 2,850. □

Belmont to offer six new majors in School of Religion

Belmont University news office

NASHVILLE — Belmont University's School of Religion will offer six new undergraduate majors starting with the fall 2005 semester.

In addition, the School of Religion has begun offering a new evening program for working adults who feel called to change careers and join the ministry. The bachelor of arts in ministry will be offered only via evening classes in conjunction with Belmont's University College program, which provides evening college programs for working adults.

The School of Religion currently offers one undergraduate major, a bachelor of arts in religion, but has reshuffled its course offerings and added 11 new courses in order to offer un-

dergraduate students six distinct religion majors:

- (1) biblical languages, with a focus on learning biblical Hebrew and Greek;
- (2) biblical studies, with a focus on the Old and New Testaments;
- (3) religious studies, with a focus on theology and religious history;
- (4) Christian leadership, with a focus on preparation for church or para-church ministry;
- (5) Christian ethics, with a focus on Christian leadership outside of the church community;
- (6) religion and the arts, with a focus on the preparation for a career in ministry that involves the arts. □

SBC opens exhibit on 'Miss Bertha'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — An exhibit honoring the life and ministry of Bertha Smith, missionary to China and Taiwan, has opened for a two-year run at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in the Southern Baptist Convention building here.

The Spartanburg County (S.C.) Baptist Network, an association of 92 churches, donated the Olive Bertha Smith Collection to the SBC a year ago. The exhibit includes many artifacts collected by the legendary Southern Carolinian affectionately known as "Miss Bertha," though not her official correspondence with the former Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) during her years of active service in China and Taiwan. □

YEC '05 draws 12,300 teens to midstate ...

Continued from page 1

They heard Tony Nolan, the evangelist of Woodstock, speak in the two main sessions. On Friday night Nolan led the youth to imagine they had just been diagnosed with a terminal infection of the heart. Then a famous person gave them a heart for a transplant. That is what Christianity is, said Nolan. Every person is sick. His son, Jesus, is the famous son who through His actions provided each person a new heart. Finally, in the spiritual surgery, the transplant recipient is to live forever, pointed out Nolan.

He also suggested that the heart can be considered a health risk and God "the greatest doctor in the world."

Everyone has the same terminal infection, he said, and that is selfishness.

Dr. God says that we can't imagine how bad the infection is. It will lead to death, as cited in Romans 3:23, said Nolan.

Many students say "No, not me. Not me." But he challenged them. He said many of them are driving over the speed limit because they are in a hurry; they are taking drugs because it is fun; they are practicing premarital sex because everybody is "so hot"; they are lying and cheating; they are hating others because "you don't know what they did to me."

He asked the teens what they are all about — shopping,

clothes, TV, movies, guys, girls, being cool?

"Most of us are all about ourselves."

In response to the question, some might say, "Yea, there's a trace of that going on, but so what?"

"God's health book says it's a very big deal," declared Nolan. Such sin can lead to physical and eternal death.

He noted they might be afraid of death, which is the top fear of Americans. But more importantly, are they prepared for death, he asked.

God will judge their lives after death, he said. It's like "the ultimate report card day," he described, when God will "evaluate the condition of your heart." He also will decide where they will spend eternity.

In our post-modern culture when many people don't want to accept responsibility for their actions, hell is something people "don't like to talk about," said Nolan. Hell is a place where people are in a "state of dying that never ends."



TONY NOLAN, youth evangelist of Woodstock, Ga., speaks to the crowd at one of the two main sessions of YEC '05.

"If you never treat your rebellious heart condition, you will spend eternity burning to death," proclaimed Nolan.

He told the story of a young man who was burned in an accident. He was visited by a fellow minister of Nolan. The young man was in such great pain and so disfigured that he was asking to be killed.

Some of the students are "just gaming with God," he declared. "It's not a game."

God is not mean or hateful because of hell and its suffering. "Not Dr. God," proclaimed Nolan. "Have you heard of John 3:16? God loves you."

God showed that He loves people, continued Nolan, by sending His son, Jesus, to die on the cross for their sins.

Nolan referred to the death Jesus suffered in which He was brutally treated. He said Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion," showed only "a slight hint of what happened to Him."

What Jesus really did was "give up His heart to give you a new one," he said, referring to His death for sin as a "spiritual heart transplant."

The metaphor is also confirmed by the psalmist when he says God gave him a new, clean heart.

Students must beware of the devil, said Nolan, who will try to distract them from choosing God and His way, said Nolan.

He noted heaven will be a place without terrorism, death, war, tears, alarm clocks, watching siblings, curfew, and school cafeteria lunches.

"What people kill for here we will walk on there," he said, referring to gold.

To go to heaven, they must stop trying "to figure it all out," admit they need surgery from a specialist, and sign the consent form.

"Listen, stud, stop arguing with God. Agree to change your rebellious heart. Wouldn't you like to have a heart transplant?"

Students were then invited to commit themselves to God. They stood to show their commitment and filled out cards which were gathered by their adult sponsors for follow-up.



STUDENTS, from left, front row, Calla Ketchens, Eboni Lewis, and Shaévada Triplett of Kenwood Baptist Church, Clarksville, enjoy The Skit Guys during a main session.

Saturday session

In the Saturday afternoon session, Nolan used the story of a convenience store robbery to show the students the devil is trying to rob them although actually unarmed. Nolan referred to Colossians 2:15.

The devil is known for ambushing, attacking, and raging at Christians who then say, here are my emotions, here are my thoughts, "just don't attack me anymore."

Christians need to know that Satan and his followers, rebellious angels or demons, are the principalities and powers referred to in Colossians 2:15. They have been disarmed by God, he stated.

In the Garden of Eden, God warned Satan and then "ignominiously defeated the devil." The battle has already been won though Christians are needed for smaller struggles. One of those is witnessing.

Students don't witness because they will be ostracized and won't be in the clique anymore, he suggested.

"Go back to your campus and go back with a passion, a passion for the Word of God," encouraged Nolan. "Share the message of Jesus."

They shouldn't worry about the results, but leave that up to God.

He noted students of another faith who believe they serve the true God strap bombs to themselves and die for their God. Yet Christians "won't go out and spread life."

"What is true about you is not what Satan is saying about you. What's true about you is what God says about you in the Word of God."

Finally, Nolan encouraged them to form a plan for witnessing such as being involved in the Connect events of the TBC which are evangelistic meetings held for youth across the state.

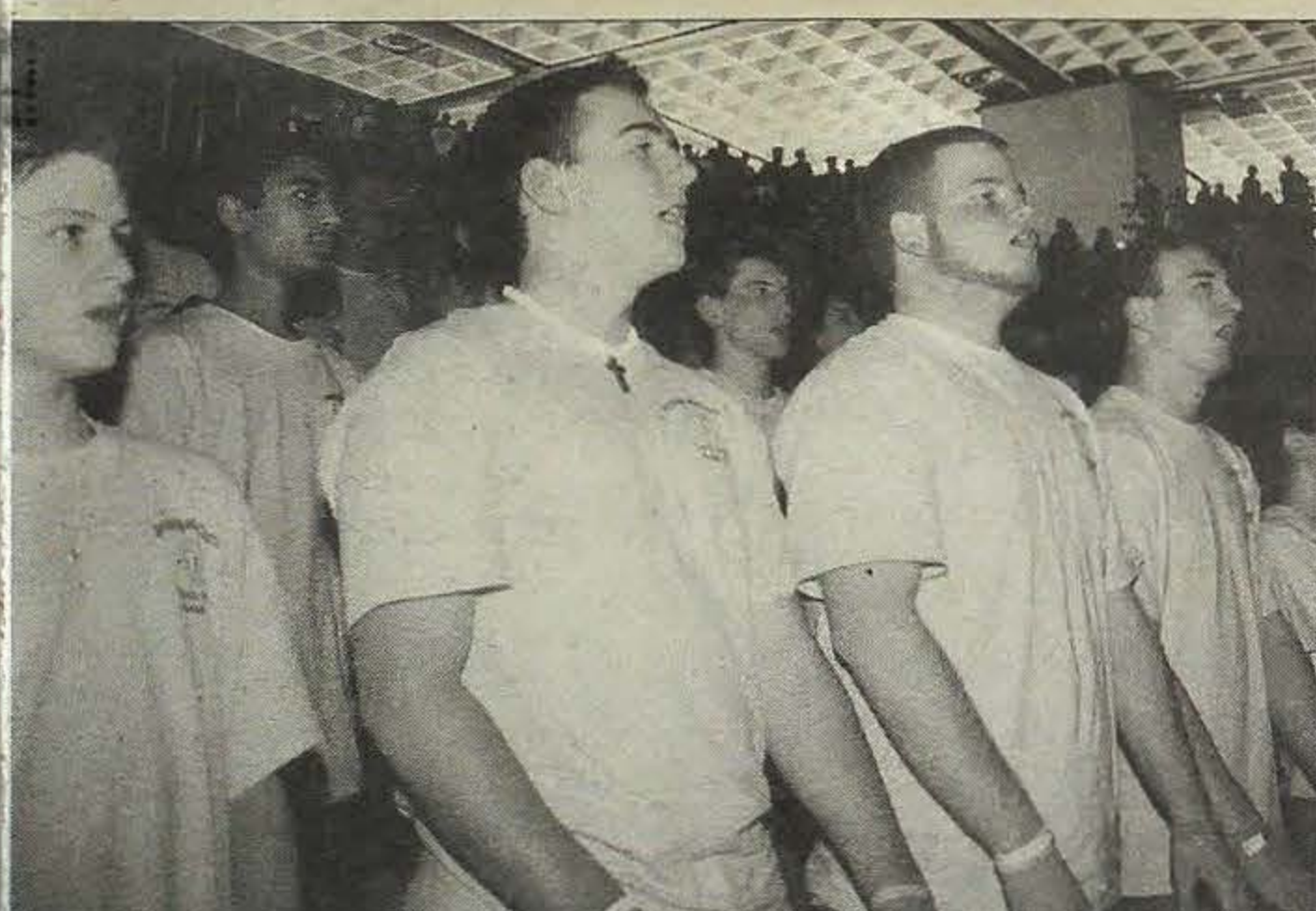
Offering for Rio

On Saturday a love offering was collected for the project involving 68 students to support the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership this summer. This is the third group Shingleton has led to Rio.

Other leaders

Presenting drama to support the messages were The Skit Guys, Tommy Woodard of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Eddie James of Dallas, Texas. While they were in high school, one of them invited the other to church. As a result, the one became a Christian.

Dave Hunt of Nashville led the music. Performing was the music group, Building 429 of Franklin. □



MEMBERS OF BEECH GROVE Baptist Church, Kodak, from left, Key Hutton, Chris Hutton, Robbie Ellingwood, and Blaine McGill sing during a main session.



JUSTIN BALL, left, of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, talks to Sarah Hull, second from right, of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, about the school. The exhibit area was in Murphy Center, the site of the YEC main sessions. With Hull are her mother, Darby, and her brother, Jacob.



ELIZABETH HARDING of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, gives the speech which won the 2004 Youth Speakers Tournament of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



AARON PUDLO of Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, presents his speech which was the runner up winner of the TBC 2004 Youth Speakers Tournament.

Prayer prepares hearts for Crossover, say TBC ...

— Continued from page 1

Pierson said he sees evidence of many ways God has been working to prepare Middle Tennessee for Crossover that could lead to revival and spiritual awakening.

For example, at the 2004 Tennessee Baptist Convention in November, "there was a renewed interest in a Crossover



PIERSON



PORCH

for Clarksville (site of the 2005 TBC annual meeting). "To me that is just another confirmation of what God is doing in this Middle Tennessee and greater area."

Also, planning for the Great Commission Prayer Conference held March 18-19 in Nashville was planned three years ago, before Crossover 2005 planning had started.

"I believe the theme and the whole emphasis of the Great Commission Prayer Conference, 'A Cry for Revival,' also was a confirmation that God was in this," Pierson said.

He also cited a saturation prayer walk scheduled for

Prayer requests for Crossover efforts in Middle Tennessee

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to begin now praying for Crossover 2005 that takes place in June.

Don Pierson, TBC prayer strategies specialist, urged beginning with prayer for the laborers and then for the harvest.

Requests for Crossover laborers

➤ Pray for a filling of the Holy Spirit in the life of each volunteer.

➤ Pray for boldness and the ability to proclaim the gospel with clarity.

➤ Pray for the ability to remove thorns, stones, and break up hard soils in the lives of the lost whom volunteers encounter.

➤ Pray for laborers to be sent to the many Crossover ministry opportunities.

➤ Pray for laborers to go out with a spirit of expectancy and anticipation of a great harvest.

➤ Pray for sponsors to be raised up for new church starts.

➤ Pray for the follow-up efforts with new believers. Pray that none will be left alone.

➤ Pray that everyone involved in Crossover will be delivered from the enemy.

Requests for the Crossover harvest

➤ Pray for receptive, fertile hearts to the messenger and the message of the gospel.

➤ Pray for open doors of opportunity into every people group of the greater Nashville area.

➤ Pray for God's drawing in the lives of the lost of greater Nashville.

➤ Pray for the Crossover ministry opportunities, including:

(1) "The Gathering," a June 18 big rally and toy run at Riverfront Park in Nashville;

(2) Block parties being held throughout the Crossover area;

(3) The International Festival at the Tennessee Fairgrounds;

(4) The follow-up center at First Baptist Church, Nashville;

(5) The evangelism response center;

(6) Door-to-door outreach;

(7) ICE (inner-city evangelism) teams;

(8) Collegiate evangelism efforts around Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro;

(9) Kindness Explosion;

(10) Probes into new church starts; and

(11) Prayer journeys. □

April in Robertson County Baptist Association that "was planned long before they started thinking about Crossover." A similar event is being planned in Concord Baptist Association.

In addition, 175 Tennessee prison inmates have committed to pray daily for Crossover. (See article on this page.)

Pierson said two 2004

events laid a foundation for Crossover. Prayer walking was a major focus of the Acteens Congress that met in Nashville in the summer of 2004. The statewide Prayer Saturation emphasis in September "was another step in this. I see all of these things working together."

He urged churches and individuals to begin now praying for Crossover, focusing

on the laborers and the harvest.

"Overwhelmingly in the New Testament, you begin praying for the laborers," he said. "That's where Jesus directed the disciples to pray."

"The next direction is to pray for the harvest," Pierson continued.

"Pray for the opening of eyes and ears so that hearts

will become receptive praying for the harvest you need to pray for the various Crossover teams." (List of prayer requests on page.)

To register online for Crossover 2005, visit www.crossoversbc.org.

More information about Crossover activities will appear in upcoming issues of *Baptist & Reflector*. □

Inmates pray for Crossover

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Approximately 175 Tennessee prison inmates already are praying daily for Crossover 2005, according to Gene Williams, Tennessee Baptist Convention men's ministry specialist.

Williams, whose work also includes restorative justice ministries, has visited eight Tennessee prisons and a county jail in the past two years. He has been personally involved in ministries at the Tennessee Women's Prison and the Williamson County Jail.

In the process, he has learned "there's a vibrant church in just about every prison I visited. Their (inmates) prayer life is admirable." He cited a deep spirituality in what he termed the Church Behind the Wall.

Williams had begun working to develop a network of inmates to pray for needs of Tennessee churches when he learned about Crossover Nashville and felt this could become a first object for prayer. He wrote to Tennessee prison chaplains, asking if they would be willing to invite inmates to commit to praying for Crossover.

"We emphasized this was not for the denomination or the convention," he said. "We're asking them to pray for fertile ground in the hearts of those with whom we will minister."

By late February, 175 inmates from two prisons and one jail had made commitments.

"They are enjoying the blessing of being an intercessor for Crossover," Williams said. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Parkway Baptist Church in Smyrna, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2229, Smyrna, TN 37167.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Manley Baptist Church in Morristown, Tenn., is seeking a part-time senior adult ministry coordinator. A great opportunity of ministry for a retiring or retired pastor. All interested individuals please e-mail resume to jobs@manleybaptist.org or mail to Manley Baptist Church, 3603 W Andrew Johnson Hwy., Morristown, TN 37814 c/o Senior Adult Search Team.

Carson-Newman College Center for Baptist Studies Presents

The 2005 T.B. Maston Lecture

Dr. Fisher Humphreys

Beeson School of Divinity
Samford University

March 21

7:30 p.m.

"Understanding
Fundamentalism"
Thomas Recital Hall

March 22

9:30 a.m.

"Christian Virtues"
First Baptist Church
Jefferson City



www.cn.edu

Developing healthy habits for a lifetime

Good Health



By Tamara Quintana

We teach our children to walk and talk. We help them learn to read and write. But are we teaching your children how to be healthy? Obesity in children has become an epidemic. According to a report by the University of Michigan Health System, the number of overweight children in the United States has more than doubled in the last two decades. And because overweight children are most likely to become overweight adults, the children continue to be at risk for developmental heart disease, high blood pressure, and stroke.

Let's get physical

Inactivity is a major contributor to the obesity epidemic in children. On average, as children get older, they participate less and less in physical activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts that unless kids start eating less and exercising more, one in three American children born in 2000 is expected to develop diabetes.

Make it a family affair

Children learn best from example. According to a study conducted for the American Dietetic Association Foundation, fewer than 6 percent of children said they engaged in daily physical activity with a parent. In comparison, 29 percent said they watched TV every day with a parent.

If you want an active child who will grow up to be an active adult, you have to be active

yourself. If your children see you involved in and enjoying physical activity, they are much more likely to do the same.

Turn off that TV!

"There are a lot of reasons why children are less active today, but the biggest culprit is the television set, followed closely by video games and computers," says Edward Laskowski, M.D., a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation and co-director of the Sports Medicine Center at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

Studies have shown a direct link between obesity and the number of hours children spend watching television. As the hours of viewing increase, so does weight. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limiting TV and video games to a maximum

of two hours per day.

Setting limits in advance heads off arguments and helps children plan their limited viewing time better. Try making a trade off — an hour of physical play for every hour spent in front of the TV.

You might even choose one night a week that your family leaves the TV turned off completely.

By helping your children to enjoy fun, physically exerting activities, you'll have a healthier family, and you'll help them to develop healthy habits that last a lifetime. □ — Quintana is a graduate of All Saints Episcopal Hospital School of Vocational Nursing and the director of the employee wellness program for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

110 and still going strong!

This week Tennessee Baptists are joining with other Southern Baptists nationwide to observe the Week of Prayer for North American Missions (March 6-13). We also will begin promoting and taking up the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

As I looked over some "facts" about the offering that were supplied by the North American Mission Board, I was reminded that the first offering for North American missions, which was initiated by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, was taken in 1895.

Southern Baptists provided \$5,000 that first year.

Needless to say, the need for an offering to help with missions in the United States (and now Canada) continued to grow and Southern Baptists have responded in an incredible way.

Since that first offering 110 years ago, more than \$1 billion has been given through the offering that was named for famed home missionary Annie Armstrong in 1934.

Just last year, Southern Baptists gave \$53.8 million. This year's goal is \$55 million.

Why do we give to this special offering? The answer is simple: to help our North American missionaries reach the estimated 235 million lost people in the U.S. and Canada for Jesus Christ.

The Annie Armstrong offering provides 44 percent of the North American Mission Board's \$120 million budget. The Cooperative Program funds 36 percent of NAMB's budget, so we can see that reaching our nation is a high priority for Southern Baptists.

And we need to remember that North America includes our own state. We have at least seven appointed career missionaries and spouses who live and minister throughout Tennessee. These couples (Kelly & Karen Campbell, Alcoa; Randy & Julie Bonner, Cleveland; Margaret & Al Patterson, Ducktown; Alan & Connie Teel, Jackson; Randy & Cindy Pool, Trenton; Carol & Bud Webb, Knoxville; and Bill & Cindy Black, Gatlinburg) work in our associations and churches to share Christ with Tennesseans who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We need to pray for all of our missionaries during this special season of prayer for North America. We also need to give generously to the AAEO.

Time has proven that WMU made a good decision to begin this offering 110 years ago. May this offering continue to grow and be used for the honor and glory of our Lord! □

U N I O N U N I V E R S I T Y P R E S E N T S

PREACHING POINTS

F E A T U R I N G

T H E M E

"The Authority of Scripture"

Thursday, April 21, 2005 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch)

Registration deadline: April 14, 2005

2005: THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE



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For more information call 731.661.5160 or visit www.uu.edu/forms/conferences/preachingpoints

A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE FOR CHURCH LEADERS

SBC CP gifts up 3.32 percent

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up 3.32 percent compared to the same time frame in 2004, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of Feb. 28, 2005, the year-to-date total of \$83,008,038.23 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$2,668,275.99 ahead of the \$80,339,762.24 received at the same point in 2004. For the month, receipts of \$16,393,095.95 were 9.52 percent, or \$1,425,313.80, above the \$14,967,782.15 received in February 2004.

Designated giving of \$89,778,720.07 for the same year-to-date period is 4.24 percent, or \$3,974,402.67 below gifts of \$93,753,122.74 received at this point last year. The \$52,199,386.33 in designated gifts received last month is \$2,224,023.30 below the \$54,423,409.63 received in Feb-

ruary 2004, a decrease of 4.09 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$83,008,038.23 is 108.74 percent of the \$76,334,039.20 budgeted, or \$6,673,999.03 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. □

Baptist volunteer detained for distributing Bibles

Baptist Press

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — A 72-year-old Southern Baptist from here who was detained for distributing Bibles in the United Arab Emirates was released from custody March 2.



Vivian Gilmer, a grandmother and member of First Baptist Church here, was on a mission trip with the Tom Cox Evangelistic Association in the Middle East country when she was charged with illegal activity by government authorities Feb. 19, according to the *Myrtle Beach Sun News*.

Another American, Marie Bush of Waxahachie, Texas, who also was held in Dubai, was released at the same time.

The women are prohibited from leaving the country but are expected to be released sometime this week, Bruce Crawford, pastor of First Baptist, told Baptist Press.

In the United Arab Emirates distributing Bibles is legal as

long as tracts or other evangelistic material are not distributed with the Bibles, Crawford said. Gilmer and Bush were conducting mission efforts with a group, he added.

The rest of the group was expelled from the country, but the two women's passports were confiscated, he said. While in custody, Gilmer has demonstrated faithfulness to Christ and continued to proclaim the truth of Scripture, the pastor said.

"Tom Cox World Ministries was notified (on March 2) that Gilmer and Bush would be home by the weekend and today we praise the Lord that they are home with their families," the Arkansas-based ministry said in a statement. □

'Passion' earns Templeton award

Baptist Press

LOS ANGELES — "The Passion of the Christ" received the John Templeton Foundation Epiphany Prize as 2004's inspirational movie during the Annual Movieguide Faith & Values Awards Gala Feb. 24.

Each year at Oscar time the Templeton Foundation bestows Epiphany Awards to film television programs that are well-crafted and have redemptive, uplifting, spiritual content above all, help increase man's understanding and love of God.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Beaver Dam Baptist Church north Knox County is searching for a full-time associate minister of music and media. Candidates should have experience organizing in vocal and instrumental music, as well as knowledge of various musical styles. A college degree or equivalent experience in church music is required. Resumes should be submitted March 25, 2005, to Ron A. P.O. Box 18710, Knoxville 37928.

First Baptist Church King, Tenn., is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of music/ship leader with an appreciation of traditional and creative worship styles. A seminary degree is preferred, but not required. Resumes may be sent to Minister of Music Search, Baptist Church, 215 N. Kent St., Kingston, TN 37763. Resumes will be accepted through March 31, 2005.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

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

Preschool/children's ministry is an exciting opportunity for an experienced leader. Ministry area includes AWANA, UPWARD Bound, and children's work. College degree is preferred, seminary being a plus. Please submit resume to Preschool/Children's Search Committee, Judson Baptist Church, 4900 Franklin Road, Nashville, TN 37220 or e-mail kaye.martin@judsonbaptist.org

Minister of youth and activities, Sterling Park Baptist Church SBC church in northern Virginia with a membership of 250, is accepting resumes for minister of youth and activities through March 29. Please send resumes to Youth Minister Search Committee, Sterling Park Baptist Church, 501 N. York Rd., Sterling, VA 20164.

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

book review

Matt Crawford

Science and Christianity:
Conflict or Coherence

by Henry F. Schaefer
The Apollos Trust, 2004

Perhaps one of the most difficult issues which evangelicals face today is how to understand and articulate the relationship between science and Christianity. Scientific discoveries are regularly announced, many of which do not easily coincide with the divine revelation recorded in the biblical account. What is a follower of Jesus Christ to do when faced with these challenges?

If God is a God of truth who acts according to rationality and is sovereign over all His creation, then it follows that all truth is God's truth. Thus, whatever truth the scientist uncovers about God's creation, is indeed truth, and these truth claims must cohere, rather than conflict with the truths of Christianity. This makes the task for the disciple of Christ a difficult one, but one which should nonetheless be embarked upon. Henry F. Schaefer has done all Christians in this position a great favor by writing his book *Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence*.

Schaefer is a well-qualified individual to write such a book. He has taught chemistry in major universities for the past 30 years and is one of the best well-known and distinguished physical scientists in the world. Dr. Schaefer is also a Christian. Schaefer begins by examining the question of whether or not one can be a scientist and a Christian. To this he answers with a resounding yes. As evidence of this fact, he gives a brief historical survey of the religious beliefs of many of the most important scientists in the past 400 years, effectively showing that science developed within a Christian context.

In addition, Schaefer discusses the Big Bang theory and shows how it has caused some atheistic scientists to rethink their atheism. Also included in the book is a chapter on evolutionary science and its relation to the Genesis creation account, wherein Dr. Schaefer reveals many of the inadequacies of modern evolutionary thinking, while raising the possibility that the Genesis account was never intended to be interpreted in a literal scientific fashion. Other chapters are on quantum mechanics and postmodernism and the difference between science and scientism according to C. S. Lewis. Finally, Schaefer ends his book with a description of his own faith journey, recounting how he came to personal faith in the divine-human person of Jesus Christ.

The book is, for the most part, well-written, although in certain sections, Schaefer repeats what has been said in another section and occasionally includes information which seems irrelevant. Nonetheless, it is obvious that Schaefer is not only a brilliant scientist but also is very well-read and knowledgeable in the area of theology. It should be noted that one must not necessarily agree with all of Schaefer's conclusions to benefit from reading the book and that Schaefer does not attempt to extensively answer all of the questions in this area. One ought not to be intimidated by some of the more intellectual level subject matter. Schaefer's book is written for the layperson in such a way that the non-scientist can easily follow. As one who has wrestled with some of these issues, I found this book to be helpful. □ — Crawford is a student at Union University, Jackson.

Jesus: our king

By Robert Segrest

Focal Passage: John 12:12-15;
18:33-37; 19:1-3, 14-16

Since America won its independence through a successful revolution against a king, the Constitution avoids placing sole power in one person. However, the people of the United States and the world do have a king. His name is Jesus. Many don't acknowledge Him as sovereign ruler of the universe, much less of their lives, but one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. This week's lesson encourages everyone to allow Jesus to be the King of his or her life.

Many will but only if He is their type of king. The enthusiastic crowd that welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem five days before Passover characterizes this group. Fueled by news that He had raised Lazarus from the dead, the people waved palm branches and openly declared Jesus to be the king of Israel and their Savior.

They must have thought it strange that their conquering king rode on the back of a young donkey rather than a powerful horse. They were certain the Messiah would be a warrior-king like David. However, Matthew reveals that Jesus' mount was in fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy that taught the Messiah would come in humility and peace.

Jesus' popularity with the people convinced the Jewish religious lead-

ers that unless they moved quickly, everyone would believe in Him. Indeed on Monday it appeared to be happening, but by Friday morning things had drastically changed. Jesus had been arrested by the Jewish religious leaders who captured Him because they were absolutely certain He was not Israel's expected king. Jesus simply did not fit their preconceived Messiah paradigm. So, feeling totally justified, the Jewish Sanhedrin held a quick pre-dawn trial and then sentenced Jesus to death for blasphemy because He said He was the Son of God.

The religious leaders, knowing that Roman law prevented them from executing anyone, took Jesus to the palace of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. Pilate summoned Jesus to stand before him and asked bluntly if He was the king of the Jews. Jesus said that He was, but assured the Governor that His kingdom was not of this world.

Feeling that Jesus was no threat to the Roman Empire, Pilate wanted to set Him free, but the Jewish religious leaders would not stand for it. The Governor then gave the Jews the choice of having Jesus or the terrorist Barabbas released as a Passover custom. The crowd shouted for Barabbas. They preferred a real revolutionary to Jesus who had never incited insurrection against Rome.

Pilate then tried one more tactic to gain Jesus' release. He had his soldiers severely flog Him. They then belittled Him by placing on His bloody back a purple robe. Next they

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
March 13

put a crown of thorns on His head and in His hand a scepter of reeds. Bowing their knees before Jesus, the soldiers mockingly cried, "Hail, O King of the Jews." The soldiers laughed as they struck Jesus in the face. Surely Pilate thought that would pacify the mob. So standing Jesus before them Pilate said, "Here is your king. Shall I crucify your king?"



SEGREST

The chief priests then said an amazingly hypocritical thing: "We have no king but Caesar." And because of them, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, Pilate got in one last jab at the Jewish religious leaders for forcing his hand. He had a sign placed above the head of Jesus that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The Jewish leaders demanded that the sign be changed to read that Jesus only said He was the king of the Jews, but Pilate refused to change it. This pagan Roman Governor had unknowingly gotten it right. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

Guard against sin

By Michael Julian

Focal Passage: Jeremiah 5:1-5,
7-8, 11-12

Young men and women enthusiastic about life and brimming with potential descended upon a tiny group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. The destination was Pearl Harbor. Commanders and leaders of the Pacific fleet believed Pearl was not susceptible to attack. After all, the Japanese were incapable of steaming a navy across the Pacific undetected. Some counter measures were enacted, but the overwhelming feeling pervading Pearl Harbor was safety and security. America was caught unawares in the morning haze of Dec. 7, 1941. The enemy found an easy target bunched together in a confined space.

Interestingly enough, the great enemy of all God's children regularly finds exposed targets to attack. In the battle for obedience and holiness, many have been caught inattentive and unawares. In our lesson today, we will explore the dangers associated with being unguarded against sin and recognize God's mercy even in the midst of judgment.

Repetitive sin that borders on the habitual produces dangerous attitudes and jaded hearts. God challenged Jeremiah to search the streets of Jerusalem that perhaps a righteous person could be located (v. 1). Unlike in Sodom where Abraham needed to find 10 righteous men, Jeremiah needed only to locate a single person that God might extend His abundant mercy. Yet, the pervasive-

ness of sin and idolatry had petrified their hearts. Indeed as Jeremiah reported in chapter two, the dread of the Lord evaded and escaped His chosen people.

Then the Lord allows Jeremiah a deeper look into the recesses of man's heart. God reveals to the prophet how the people of Judah have spouted false and hollow oaths before Him characterized by hypocrisy (v. 2). The treachery deepens as God's people refuse His rebuke and call to repentance by making



JULIAN

their faces harder than rock (v. 3). My friends this path awaits the stubborn and rebellious person that scoffs at the Lord's offer of repentance, but the path also swallows those who fail to consistently guard against sin. Dress yourselves in the armor of God and experience Jesus' offer of abundant life.

At this point, Jeremiah comes to a realization. His search has been conducted among the poor of the city, but now he will broaden his search to include the great, powerful, and educated. They know the ordinances of God and are intimate with God's ways, surely among them Jeremiah will find a righteous person. Disconcertingly Jeremiah acknowledges the fruitlessness of this exercise (vv. 4-5). The leaders and the followers have abandoned God to pursue other gods. The pervasive and cancer-like

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
March 13

nature of sin reached its zenith. Sin wants more, and will not stop until it wholly engulfs the unguarded and careless person.

The Lord then singles out the treachery of Israel and Judah. Yet notice the response of the people. It appears their treachery knows no bounds, as they arrogantly revel in God's supposed unwillingness to bring misfortune, sword, or famine among His people (vv. 11-12). Such pretension does not go unnoticed. God's people were presuming upon His covenant faithfulness. The warning should not go undetected for us either. Believers are to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

As I mentioned before, in wrath God remembers mercy. Once in chapter four, and twice in chapter five, God tempers His judgment testifying He will not execute a complete destruction. How true that remains for us today in that we all deserve the fires of Hell, but God in gracious love and mercy provides a Lamb as atonement for sin. Take up the resolve of Job who made a covenant with his eyes that he might not look lustfully upon a woman. Guard against sin by the power of the Holy Spirit, the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ, and the provision of God. □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist, Mt. Pleasant.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
Tennessee Baptist Convention

Funding missions in Tennessee
and around the world

Leaders

◆ **Ronnie Pressnell**, pastor, Midway Baptist Church, New Tazewell, was honored Feb. 13, along with his wife, **Linda**, for their 10 years of service to the church.

◆ **James P. Smith** has resigned as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Harrogate.

◆ Grace Baptist Church, Pleasantview, has called **Harold Miller** as associate pastor recently.

◆ Unity Baptist Church, Summertown, called **Jamie Bone** as pastor, effective Feb. 6. He formerly was pastor of a church in New Duck River Baptist Association for seven years.



BONE

Bone is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southwest Theological Seminary in Louisiana. Bone and his wife, Tammy, have two children.

◆ Bethel Baptist Church, Yorkville, has called **Ben**

Lownsdale as youth director.

◆ **David Sullivan** has resigned as minister of music, Chapel Hill Baptist Church, Milan. **Ken Bowman** is now serving the church as full-time minister of youth/education. He was serving part-time. The church also called **Ronnie Ragan** as minister of children.

◆ Gibson Baptist Church, Gibson, has called **Curtis Denison** as interim pastor.

◆ **Jim Reynolds** has resigned as pastor of Oakwood Baptist Church, Milan.

◆ Old Bethlehem Baptist Church, Rutherford, has called **Jimmy Sorrell** as pastor.

◆ **Bob Ervin** has resigned as pastor of Smyrna Baptist Church, Humboldt.

◆ **David Cooper** of Bolivar was ordained to the ministry on Valentine's Day 65 years ago. He continues to volunteer at nursing homes and hospitals, as well as serve as a supply and interim minister and revival speaker.

◆ Mountain View Baptist Church, Johnson City, has called **Brian Hollaway** as pastor. He previously served at Highland Park Baptist Church,

Lenoir City; Piney Baptist Church, Oakdale; and as a staff minister of First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville.

◆ Zion Baptist Church, Benton, has called **Kurt Benson** as pastor.

Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church, Paris**, will hold revival March 13-16, Sunday - Wednesday. James Porch, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, will speak. Jim Murray will lead the music.

◆ **Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold a Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 26, at 11 a.m. Games, activities, and egg hunts will be provided for children. For more information, contact (615) 255-0468 or www.edgefieldbaptist.org.

◆ The sanctuary choir of **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will present "Man of Sorrows King of Glory" Easter, March 27, at 10:45 a.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 227-2961 or www.shelbyavebaptist.com.

◆ **Oak Street Baptist**

Church, Soddy-Daisy, will hold Praise Festival, a music and drama presentation of the life of Jesus, Friday, April 1, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 3, at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Kim Chapman at (423) 266-7074 or the church at (423) 332-2300.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Woodbury**, will host Joe Martin, recording artist, pianist, author, and composer of Austin, Texas, Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. Martin will perform on the piano and the choirs of the church including choirs of children, youth, and adults, will perform choral music composed or arranged by Martin. His first solo piano recording, "American Tapestry," was nominated for a Dove Award. He has over 750 compositions in print and co-authored a piano learning method called "Keys for the Kingdom." For more information, contact the church at (615) 563-2474 or FBCYC@hotmail.com.

◆ **Grace Baptist Church, Pleasantview**, will hold revival March 27-30, Easter Sunday - Wednesday. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak. For more information, call the

church at (615) 746-4008.

Associations

◆ **Holston Baptist Association**, based in Johnson City, will hold a Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway Sunday, April 2. Teri and Ed MacDonald, brother and racing competitors, will be at the Family Day. Deadline for tickets is March 16. For information, contact First Baptist Church, Bluff City, at (615) 538-7922.

Schools

◆ The Belmont Little Theatre of **Belmont University**, Nashville, will present "The Fever," a one-man production performed by Zack Ritchie, student. It will be performed Friday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, at 7 p.m. It is free. Also the school Department of Theatre and Dance presents "Mixed Blood," an original dance production at the school's Massey Performance Arts Center. It will be performed Sunday, March 20, at 7 p.m. It also is free. For information, contact Gatrell at (615) 460-6012.



SIAM BAPTIST CHURCH, Elizabethton, has been helping the Abortion Alternative Pregnancy Crisis Center in Elizabethton recently. Members have made baby quilts, volunteered once a month at the center, and Sunday School classes have collected money in baby bottles for the center. **IN PHOTO ABOVE**, members show quilts they made. They are, from left, Evelyn Hamilton; Leslie Treadway; Jeannie Roddy; Kathy Bennett; Angie Odom, founder of AAPCC; Lois Campbell; and Glenda Estep. **IN PHOTO BELOW**, members, from left, Katie Rednour, Christie McKay, Kelsey Bennett, Jessica Arnold, and Brandi Allen, work at the center.



FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE attended the first fundraising dinner of Christian Women's Job Corps - Nashville Thursday, March 3, at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood. **IN PHOTO ABOVE LEFT**, participant Cassandra Keebles speaks while Lauryn Moody, her mentor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, listens. **IN PHOTO ABOVE RIGHT**, Creely Wilson, left, founder of the Nashville ministry and coordinator for the state's 11 other CWJCs, is honored by Becky



Sumrall, CWJC - Nashville executive director. Wilson spoke on the history of the ministry which is seven years old. CWJC is a ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union. Wilson is the new co-minister of missions, Brentwood Church, along with her husband, former pastor, Bill Wilson. **IN PHOTO BELOW**, a gift from Brentwood Church of \$10,000 was presented to the ministry by Mike Glenn, pastor. Wilson accepted the gift.

