

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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week's
news

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YEC attendees collect \$21,081 for missions

Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Students and adults who attended the Youth Evangelism Conference March 4-5 gave \$21,081.24 to send Tennessee students to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this summer.

The love offering will be divided equally among the Rio mission trip participants.

This will be the third trip to Brazil that the youth evangelism office has promoted. Dates for this year are set for June 3-12.

Students will work with Sharon and Ray Fairchild, Southern Baptist missionaries in Rio.

"We are overwhelmed and blessed beyond our greatest expectations with this wonderful response from our YEC attendees," Kent Shingleton of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff said.

"We are excited about what God is going to do in Rio this June and we can't wait to see the impact this trip will have on the 67 high school students and adult sponsors going with us to Brazil." □

At Thompson Station

Draper addresses state's younger leaders

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

THOMPSON STATION — During his third face-to-face meeting with younger Southern Baptist leaders across the nation, James T. Draper Jr. said he realizes his generation cannot assume a natural transfer of power will occur like it has within the convention in the past.

"There has always been a need to include younger leaders and to transfer passion and vision to those who come behind us, and that's not always an easy thing to do. It's harder today," Draper told a group at Thompson Station Baptist Church here March 3.

"When I grew up, it was natural to be Southern Baptist. That's all I knew. We didn't have all these options," said Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, who initiated the dialogue series.

But now, young people enjoy a vast array of conferences, retreats, seminars, curriculum, and other resources. And a good number of those are solid even though they're not Southern Baptist, Draper said.

"The bottom line is, I don't believe we can assume that leadership is going to transfer



JAMES T. DRAPER JR., left, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, speaks with younger leaders at Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station, March 3, as part of his effort to listen to — and address — concerns the next generation has about the Southern Baptist Convention. — Photo by Kent Harville

naturally like it has in the past. I think it has to be more intentional," he continued.

Draper began to focus on the denomination's next generation of leaders last year after expressing to messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis his concern over the growing distance between current convention leadership and younger leaders — often categorized as age 45 and younger.

He is in the process of hold-

ing several informal sessions to listen to the opinions of emerging leaders and work toward improving relationships for the future. In each session, the younger leaders spend a couple of hours in small groups brainstorming solutions to problems that have been raised on the web site Draper set up for discussion, www.lifeway.com/youngerleaders. Then they have time to speak directly to Draper and hear his responses.

"I have no agenda. This is your meeting," Draper said before the brainstorming began March 3.

"I have an incredible appreciation for your generation. I believe that you are the sharpest, most disciplined, most passionate generation I've ever seen. You're willing to go to the hard places, and your dreams have made an impact by penetrating the darkness."

— See Draper, page 4

Church, friends honor Rogers on his retirement

By Tim Ellsworth
Baptist Press

CORDOVA — Ginger Hall has been a member of Bellevue Baptist Church for 26 years. She's spoken to her pastor, Adrian Rogers, and shaken his hand, exactly twice.

"A lot of people tell me they don't know how I could be a member at a church this big, but I love him," Hall said. "I love Joyce. They're our family."

That was a sentiment shared by thousands March 4-6 as Bellevue said an emotional goodbye to its pastor after 32 years of service. Thousands on Friday night celebrated Rogers' pastorate at Bellevue. Thousands more on Sunday morning heard Rogers preach his last sermon as pastor of the Memphis-area congregation. And on Sunday night, the throngs gathered to bid a final farewell to their beloved leader.

They honored Rogers for being a good shepherd, a faithful preacher, and a wise servant of God. They honored him for his devotion to his family and as a denominational statesman. And they honored him for his tireless efforts which have helped Bellevue become one of the largest churches in the world.

"Pastor, we knew that you were God's man for this church," said Al Childress, chairman of the pulpit committee that recommended Rogers to Bellevue in 1972. "But we never could have imagined all that He would do in these 32 years," Childress told the audience.

When Rogers became Bellevue's pastor, the church had 8,739 members. Today it has more than 29,000 members. Rogers is heard in more than 150 countries on more than 12,000 television stations and 2,000 radio stations on his weekly program, "Love Worth Finding."

He is a widely published author and has been a key leader in the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative resurgence. Rogers served three terms as SBC president.

But Rogers also is a spiritual leader outside Southern Baptist circles. He has visited with U.S. presidents and other leaders. Tim Goeglein, a White House spokesman, was at Friday's service to offer a greeting and to read a letter from President George Bush.

"I commend your dedication to serving others in the Memphis area, and indeed, around the world," the president wrote. "Your efforts have helped put hope in people's

hearts and a sense of purpose in their lives."

Numerous speakers showered Rogers with praise over the weekend events, including James Dobson of Focus on the Family; SBC President Bobby Welch; and SBC entity heads Richard Land, Morris Chapman, Paige Patterson, and Bob Reccord.

Dobson of Focus on the Family said he loves and respects Rogers as much as anyone else in the country.

"The highest compliment that I can pay you is that you remind me a lot of my father," Dobson told Rogers. "You draw me to Christ. When I am with you, I feel closer to the Lord."

Rogers remained cheerful through the tributes and showed no hints of a tear. That changed on Sunday evening, as his wife Joyce stepped to the pulpit to thank him for the 53 years he has been not only her husband, but her pastor.

"Thank you for teaching me to love the Word of God in a way I wouldn't have if it weren't for you," she said. "Thank you for helping me to love Jesus more than I ever thought I could.... Thank you for loving me and being faithful to me. You'll always be my one and only sweetheart."

— See Church, friends, page 4

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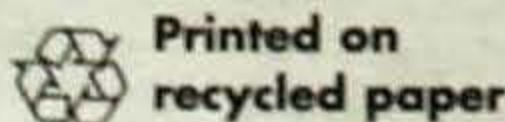
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Clergy continue education via classes, seminars

Baptist Press

PHOENIX — Most Protestant clergy are actively continuing their education through classes and/or seminars, according to a study released in the March/April edition of *Facts & Trends* magazine published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

While slightly under half of Protestant clergy say they are encouraged by their church's leaders to continue their education using church time and/or funds, most feel their budget for additional education is insufficient, according to the study by Ellison Research of Phoenix.

Only 9 percent of all senior pastors had not attended any classes, conferences, or seminars in the last two years.

The Ellison study, utilizing a representative sample of 860 Protestant church ministers nationwide, asked pastors about their participation in classes, conferences, and seminars as well as their church's budget for such activities.

The most common types of educational opportunities attended by clergy were: leadership/management skills, 54 percent; church growth, 52 percent; prayer/spiritual growth/renewal, 49 percent; evangelism/outreach training, 45 percent; personal skills training, 28 percent; discipleship/small group development, 26 percent; worship planning and ideas, 24 percent; marriage and family ministry, 19 percent; and financial management/fundraising, 16 percent.

The study showed that church growth and leadership or management skills development are less common among pastors in small churches than among those leading churches with 100 or more in regular attendance.

Relatively few differences by the pastor's age or the church's region of the country were found in the study, although younger ministers are more likely than older ones to have focused on leadership or management skills as well as marriage and family ministry. Youth ministry and personal skills training are both particularly popular in the Northeast, while evangelism and outreach training is particularly popular in the South. Fifteen percent of pastors age 60 or older had not completed any continuing education courses in the last two years, compared to 8 percent of those under 60.

Several significant differences according to denomination were found. The average minister has received continuing education on 3.6 different topics during the last two years, while the average among Methodists is 4.5 different topics and Southern Baptists, 4.0.

Some topics are particularly popular in certain denominational groups. Church growth training, for example, is something undertaken by 70 percent of Methodist ministers and 60 percent of Southern Baptists, but just 44 percent of Presbyterians and 28 percent of Lutherans. Another example is that 62 percent of Southern Baptists have continuing education with evangelism or outreach, compared to just 33 percent of Pentecostal/charismatic pastors.

The sample of 860 Protestant ministers included only those who are actively leading churches. The study's total sample is accurate to within ± 3.2 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level with a 50 percent response distribution. The study was conducted in all 50 states, using a representative sample of pastors from all Protestant denominations. Respondents' geography, church size, and denomination were carefully tracked to ensure appropriate representation and accuracy. □

Teens discount evolution: Gallup

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — America's public schools may be teaching evolution, but a significant number of teenagers aren't buying it, and an overwhelming majority of them believe that God one way or another was involved in the creation of humanity, according to a new Gallup poll.

The poll of 1,028 teenagers ages 13-17 found that 38 percent don't believe in evolution, believing instead that "God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so." Another 43 percent believe that humans "developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided" the process. All total, 81 percent believe that God was somehow involved.

Only 18 percent believe that evolution took place without God playing a role.

Mark Hartwig, a social research analyst for Focus on the Family, said the poll underscores the fact that creation itself points to a creator. Hartwig also serves as a fellow for the Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture.

"You have to be educated into not seeing the design around you in the natural world," he told Baptist Press. "... You have to be either bullied or ... socialized out of it."

The Gallup poll also asked teens their opinion about the evidence behind Darwin's theory of evolution. Only 37 percent said they thought Darwin's theory was "well supported by evidence." Thirty percent said it was "just one of many theories" and one that "has not been well supported by evidence." Thirty-

three percent said they did not yet know enough about Darwin's theory to answer the question.

Secularist evolution — that is, the idea that the universe was created naturally and apart from God — is a "minority position" among not only teens but also adults, Hartwig said.

Adults actually are somewhat more likely not to believe in evolution. In a Gallup poll of adults last November, 45 percent said they believed in creationism while 38 percent believed that God guided the process of evolution. Only 13 percent of adults said they believed that evolution occurred without God's guidance.

A CBS News poll in November found an even larger percentage of adults disagreeing with evolution. In that poll, a majority of adults, 55 percent, believed that God created humans in their present form. Twenty-seven percent believed that God guided the process of evolution, while 13 percent believed in a God-less evolution. Sixty-five percent of adults in the CBS poll favored schools teaching both creationism and evolution, while 37 percent said creationism should be taught instead of evolution.

"Education has changed considerably since the famous 'Scopes Monkey Trial,' but the debate about teaching evolution hasn't ended," Gallup's Heather Mason wrote in an online article. "... Data from Gallup Youth Surveys and adult surveys alike reinforce the notion that evolution is far from a foregone conclusion among large numbers of Americans."

Such polls, Hartwig said, are bad news for the academic world and for evolution supporters.

"They're frustrated by it," he said.

The Gallup poll of teenagers, released March 8, was based on telephone interviews and was conducted Jan. 17 to Feb. 6. The Gallup poll of adults was based on telephone interviews with 1,016 adults Nov. 7-10.

The CBS News poll was conducted via telephone Nov. 18-21 among a sample of 885 adults. □

Alabama voters to decide on same- sex 'marriage'

Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The national movement to ban same-sex "marriage" continued March 10 when Alabama legislators sent a constitutional marriage amendment to voters.

The Alabama Senate passed an amendment by a vote of 30-0, two days after the House passed it 85-7. It will go to voters during the next statewide election, which right now is in June 2006. It will go to voters this year if a special election is held.

This year alone legislatures in three states have sent amend-

ments to citizens. Kansas citizens will vote on an amendment April 5, while South Dakotans will vote on one in the 2006 general election.

A marriage amendment has never failed at the ballot box. Last year voters in 13 states passed amendments with an average of 70.8 percent of the vote.

The amendments are in reaction to events in Massachusetts, where that state's high court issued a ruling legalizing "gay marriage." Massachusetts did not have a marriage amendment. □

Cuba native to lead Northwest Baptist Convention

Baptist Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Northwest Baptist Convention messengers voted by acclamation March 9 to elect Gustavo Suarez as NWBC executive director-treasurer during a special meeting at Northside Baptist Church in Vancouver, Wash.

Suarez, a native of Cuba who has led the Baptist Convention of New Mexico's missions division since 1997, will begin his new duties April 16.

He becomes the eighth executive director in the Northwest convention's 57-year history and succeeds Jeff Iorg, who resigned last year to become president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California. □

GuideStone to go 'second mile,' says O.S. Hawkins

Baptist Press

DALLAS — "The theme for our work during 2005," O.S. Hawkins told trustees of GuideStone Financial Resources, is "the year of the second mile," — a theme drawn from Matthew 5:41.

Hawkins, in his president's report to trustees during their Feb. 28-March 1 meeting in Dallas, said, "In order to go the second mile, you must go the first mile. The first mile is doing what is required, doing the job you are tasked to do. The second mile is doing more than what is required."

"While the first mile is motivated by law, the second mile is motivated by love," Hawkins said.

Trustees also were told that total assets were \$8.3 billion as of Dec. 31, compared to \$7.3 billion at Dec. 31, 2003. Reporting on the results of the annual external audit, Jeffrey P. Billinger, GuideStone's chief financial officer, told trustees, "The independent auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers, provided a clean audit opinion with no detection of fraud or concern for such and no concern with internal controls." □

West Tennessee church sued for \$2.5 million by builder

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

SELMER — A West Tennessee Baptist church is still dealing with problems related to a fire which caused about \$2.6 million in property damage nearly five years ago.

On March 21, 2000, a fire destroyed the sanctuary of First Baptist Church here, along with other parts of the facility.

The church's insurance company, GuideOne Insurance, an endorsed provider of GuideStone Financial Services of the Southern Baptist Convention, paid the claim promptly and the church began reconstruction.

About 18 months into the rebuilding process, however, the church had to be torn down due to structural defects.

The new sanctuary was finally completed in 2003 and dedicated by the church on June 29. All the work on the facility was not completed until 2004.

According to Kenneth Hawkins, who chaired the church's building steering committee, First Baptist ended up paying about \$4 million for the new facility, roughly \$1.4 million more than was covered by the insurance.

Hawkins said the \$1.4 million in extra costs was about double what the church had expected to pay.

Hawkins and other members of the committee told the *Baptist and Reflector* that the process "has been a nightmare for the church." But after the building was completed and the "bills had been paid," church leaders thought the matter was behind them.

"When the building was completed, we thought it was over. We paid every dime we owed," Hawkins said. He added that the church even kept a credit line of \$150,000 open for awhile, just in case there were unexpected expenses.

In January, however, the church learned that its contractor, GuideOne Taylor Ball had filed a lawsuit in district court, seeking \$2.5 million for losses sustained due to construction delays.

The construction company is affiliated with GuideOne Insurance, which handled the claim caused by the fire.

Though the insurance company is an

endorsed provider, the construction company is not endorsed by GuideStone, according to a GuideStone spokesman.

The construction company's action has put the church into a position it does not want, Hawkins said, noting they have been advised by an attorney in the church to countersue.

Filing suit goes against the church's convictions and Scripture, Hawkins stressed. "We don't want to sue anybody. That's not the church's way. It's not biblical," he said.

GuideOne Taylor Ball issued a statement to the *Baptist and Reflector* detailing events which led to the company's decision to file suit.

The statement noted that repairs on the new building began in 2000. "During the course of construction, a number of problems arose with architectural and engineering designs, drawings, and specifications, along with deficiencies with subcontractor performance and materials," the statement said.

"Work was halted and in January, 2002, First Baptist directed GTB to demolish the structure.

"Instead of walking away from the project, GTB did demolish the incomplete structure, replaced subcontractors and suppliers, and commenced constructing the building again. The ultimate cost of this re-build was estimated at \$2.5 million, none of which was paid by First Baptist," the statement said.

Hawkins said FBC never "directed" GuideOne Taylor Ball to demolish the structure. "We brought problems to their attention. We had no way of knowing if the building had to be torn down. They told us that was what needed to be done."

Hawkins said church leaders continually pointed out problems, such as "the building was not square and steel was going up in the wrong places" to the attention of GTB officials, but to no avail.

One committee member said the construction of the new building "became a joke in the community." "An old farmer in the area stopped by one day and told our pastor (Max Walker, who retired in January) that the beams were crooked," said committee member Edward Smith.

"The building could not be finished the way it was going," said Jim Dickey, a com-

mittee member who served as the church's representative on-site during the construction. "Everyone in the home office (of GTB) knew there were problems from day one," Dickey said.

The committee noted that after the church "shut off the money," the company took action.

GuideOne Taylor Ball's statement also noted there were "unpaid change orders and delay costs of approximately \$250,000" during the rebuilding process.

According to the statement, GTB "was continually forced to obtain 'change orders' which represent a situation where on-site conditions different from contract documents." The statement went on to note that "the architect eventually ceased approving change orders while demanding the changes take place. GTB has not been paid for some of these change orders. GTB is not aware if these changes were even communicated to First Baptist by the architect."

That statement also noted the project "was delayed for weeks due to the failure of the engineer to obtain approval for certain aspects of the plans from the state fire marshal. Under the terms of the contract, GTB was entitled to be paid for the extra costs incurred as a result of the delay."

Church leaders said that the fire marshal stated construction could continue on portions of the building not affected by a change order.

The statement concluded: "Notwithstanding the change order/delay claims, GTB believes that the primary responsibility for the deficiencies which led to the decision to demolish the initial construction rest with the professional errors and omissions on the part of the architect and the engineer. GTB has made this position known to First Baptist, the architect, and the engineer repeatedly, and even though GTB assumed the \$2.5 million cost of the demolition and re-build, none of the other parties have demonstrated any willingness to take responsibility for the situation."

"GTB's contract is with First Baptist, not the architect, or engineer. In order to recover any part of the \$2.5 million loss from the architect and/or engineer, suit had to be filed against First Baptist,"

the statement continued.

"Other than the change order/delay claims, First Baptist can minimize its participation in the lawsuit by simply tendering defense of the professional error and omission claims to the architect and engineer — as provided in the contract — and require the architect and engineer to step up and take responsibility for their own performance errors."

"What is not acceptable, in our view, is for First Baptist to walk away from this situation and leave GTB holding a \$2.5 million loss, when GTB acted responsibly when the initial errors were discovered and completed the project properly."

Curtiss Doss, the architect for the church, provided the following statement to the *Baptist and Reflector*.

"McGehee Nicholson Burke Architects, PC, and the engineers associated with our firm for this project take great exception to the statements made by GuideOne Taylor Ball.

"Should GuideOne Taylor Ball choose to pursue this matter further, we are confident that the truth will prove our position and reinforce the statements of the church about this matter. This is a very unfortunate event in the life of First Baptist Church and the entire design team stands firmly with our client."

Hawkins and the committee said they feel their architect tried to work with construction officials to remedy problems.

Dickey noted that the company's first project site manager "was even reluctant to let the fire marshal enter the building."

"No one made them lose money except themselves," Hawkins said. "We don't feel like we owe them anything."

Hawkins said the lawsuit potentially could force the church to close its doors.

"The bottom line is if we lose this \$2.5 million lawsuit, we'd have to move out of the church. We simply do not have the money," Hawkins said.

During a February business meeting, the church approved the expenditure of up to \$15,000 to retain an attorney and to proceed with a lawsuit if needed.

He stressed again the church did not want to countersue, but "we've been put in a position where we have no choice." □

In Christian studies

Agee to lead new graduate program at Union

Union University news office

JACKSON — Oklahoma Baptist University president emeritus and former Union University administrator Bob Agee will direct the new master in Christian studies degree at Union University. Union president David S. Dockery has announced.

"We are delighted that Dr. Bob Agee has agreed to serve in a key leadership role for the new master in Christian studies program," Dockery said. "Dr. Agee is recognized as one of the premier leaders in Christian education in Baptist life and across the country. His strengths will underscore the work of the master in Christian studies program for the good of churches throughout this region."

Agee served as vice president for religious affairs, professor of practical studies in the reli-

gion department, and as special assistant to the president for institutional planning at Union before taking the helm at OBU in 1982. He served as OBU president for 16 years, and in 1998 was selected as the executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, a position he will continue to hold.

In addition to his leadership role in the master in Christian studies degree, Agee will also serve as professor of educational leadership.

Launching this fall, the MCS degree is a 42-hour program designed for students already serving on church staffs or church members who are interested in expanding their education. Classes will typically meet one day a week, and the degree can be completed in two years.

"The churches of the area will benefit from the master in Christian studies degree because that degree is designed to help people get to the next level in their education, who are already out there doing ministry," said George Guthrie, chairman of Union's Christian Studies department. □



AGEE

Steeple fire delays church's move

Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Members of New Covenant Baptist Church hoped they would be in their new facility on Easter Sunday, but a steeple fire changed everyone's plans.

While workers were welding the steeple on their new building March 7, the steeple caught fire, according to Delores Brabson, wife of the church's pastor, Fredrick Brabson.

The steeple was destroyed but because the church had a metal roof, the damage was contained to that area, she added.

Chuck McNeil, a Rural/Metro Fire Department spokesman told the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* that a welding tool used by a construction worker caused the wood portion of the steeple to heat up and catch on fire.

McNeil told the *Knoxville paper* that the fire, "which

scorched a portion of the roof and caused surface damage to the brick in front of the building, only took about 15 minutes to put out."

The church was to have been out of its old facility, which has been sold, at the end of February. They have been meeting in the interim at Knox County Baptist Association's office building and may have to continue doing so for a few more weeks.

The church began construction on its new building last March. The church's pastor told the *Knoxville paper* these are "exciting times for the church because it has always been centered on growth."

"The reason we started building was because we'd outgrown our old church," Brabson said.

It will take about four-six weeks for a new steeple to arrive, according to Mrs. Brabson. □

Draper addresses state's younger leaders at ...

— Continued from page 1

Draper also reminded those in attendance that as leaders of local churches, they are at the "pinnacle of Southern Baptist life"; to him, there is no greater privilege than to serve at a local Baptist church.

"We believe deeply that Baptist headquarters is the local Baptist church," he said. "The denomination exists to serve you. My job is to help you succeed. If you don't succeed, I don't succeed."

After the younger leaders discussed issues among themselves for a while, some of them asked questions of Draper directly. Kevin Shrum, pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church in Nashville, told Draper his father is Draper's age and part of the generation that helped build "this wonderful behemoth" now known as the Southern Baptist Convention, complete with six seminaries, two mission boards, and other entities.

"What he's wanting to do now is give it to me," Shrum said. "I'm deciding whether I want it or not."

Shrum asked Draper to

advise younger leaders on what he would do if he were in their position, being offered leadership of a strong convention but unsure of how to make it relevant to their generation.

"I'd take it. Then I'd make the changes I think ought to be made," Draper said. "That's what some of us tried to do in 1979 [by starting the conservative resurgence]. We saw some problems ... There were some changes that had to be made, and it cost a lot to make those changes. And it's going to cost you."

Because he stood for changes that were often unpopular, Draper said he lost some of his best friends. He also saw families torn apart over doctrinal issues, and the fight was hard. But it was worth it.

"I know I'm in the last section of my life and the best of my energy and time is behind me," he said. "But you all have that in front of you. So ask God how to use the incredible energy you have to stand for the changes. They won't come easy. Southern Baptist life is like any organism — you try to change it and it's going to resist. That's

just the way it is.

"What I want to say to you is it won't be easy because there will be enough of my generation who will hang around long enough to give you fits. But there will be enough of us, hopefully, who will be around to encourage you and say, 'Hang in there. It's worth the struggle,'" Draper said. "You have to understand we are not handing you a self-contained cylinder that can't be changed."

The local Southern Baptist church is autonomous, Draper reminded the leaders, and its simple system of polity means any messenger can stand up at an annual meeting and make any motion he or she pleases, and if seconded, it could be approved.

"It's a lot easier to say, 'I don't need that.' It's a lot easier to say, 'I'm just going to win my community to Christ. I'm just going to focus on Inglewood.' That's great, but the Great Commission is still the Great Commission. The world is still lost," Draper said after emphasizing that the SBC's strong theological educational system and mis-

sion-sending organizations rank among the best in the world.

"I say take it and make it what you want it to be."

Other younger leaders present at the dialogue in Thompson Station suggested churches consider allowing more young people to participate in SBC annual meetings by blocking off a certain portion of the church's messengers for leaders ages 25 to 35. Often, older church leaders take all of the allotted messenger spots before younger members have a chance to sign up.

Another issue involved mentoring, and one younger leader said he would like to have more opportunities to be mentored by older pastors or convention leaders. Draper said he's not aware of a meeting of entity trustees that is not open to any Southern Baptists who want to observe, and he encouraged them to attend an Executive Committee meeting or a LifeWay trustee meeting to see how they operate.

Keith Mowery, pastor of Tusculum Baptist Church in Greeneville, said he thought the session with Draper was

worth his time and worth driving 300 miles to share his viewpoint.

"I think without a doubt it's worth the effort on [LifeWay's] part. It's worth the effort on my part and the church's part for allowing me to be gone and to come and represent them — not only to represent myself as a young leader but to represent the church that I serve," Mowery told Baptist Press.

Based on what Mowery has read about Draper's two previous meetings with younger leaders and the comments posted to the web site's discussion board, he thinks the opinions are being taken seriously, though he is not yet sure how those perspectives will be implemented within the convention.

"I think we've been challenged to take it and mold it as the previous generation has done. We've got to take it up ourselves. We can't let the past victories be all that there is," Mowery said.

"I tell our folks that our dreams have to be bigger than our memories, and I think that's what we were challenged to do here." □

Tennessee Baptists continue relief to tsunami victims

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Though the devastation of South Asia from the December tsunami has disappeared from the front page, Tennessee Baptists are continuing to respond to this catastrophic disaster.

Several avenues of specific service have recently become open and Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief officials have renewed their call for eligible volunteers. All volunteers must be in excellent health and physical condition in order to serve in this response.

"We have committed to be in South Asia for the long-term, responding to the human needs of the various people groups in the region," stated Tim Bearden, interim state Disaster Relief director. "While there is still a critical need for doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals, we are now getting requests for more clean-up and rebuild volunteers in the rugged and remote areas."

Teams are currently being formed for two-week trips to do a variety of work including medical clinics, well reclamation, ditch digging, construction, and a variety of other tasks. Most teams will need a mixture of personnel. "We need eligible volunteers with a servant's heart, willing to serve as needed on the field," Bearden stated. It is anticipat-

ed at this point that teams will be needed at least through June.

Due to the very strenuous nature of this work, the unsafe living conditions, and the extremely hot locale, only eligible volunteers are being allowed to participate. In order to determine eligibility, all volunteers are being asked to complete an application process. All eligible volunteers are required to successfully complete in specialized training before being assigned to a team. "While we would normally want to send everyone who wants to go, the unique nature of this response demands that only those best suited for the work and the conditions be sent," Bearden explained.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the Volunteer Missions Office at the TBC for an application at 615-371-2061 or by e-mail to Hwilson@tnbaptist.org

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

All contributions made to the Asian Tsunami Relief Fund will be used to provide relief assistance. □ — Marcia Knox

Church, friends honor Rogers ...

— Continued from page 1

Throughout the weekend the church showered Rogers and his wife with gifts. They presented him with an antique Scottish grandfather clock, made between 1811 and 1830. They gave him a 2005 Mercury Grand Marquis and a trip to Gainesville, Fla., to see his beloved Florida Gators play. They built him a miniature model of the Bellevue building, which opened to reveal hundreds of cards written by church members.

With every gift, Rogers responded with characteristic humor. On one occasion: "If I had known that retirement was this wonderful, I'd have done it 20 years ago."

On another: "I'm trying to read the signals," Rogers said. "They've given me a clock and now a car. I think they're saying it's time for me to get out of town."

Bellevue also voted to designate Rogers as pastor emeritus. In addition, the church announced that the Memphis City Council had agreed to rename part of Appling Road, on which the church sits, as "Dr. Adrian P. Rogers Parkway."

"I'm setting up a toll booth on my road," Rogers replied.

On Sunday evening, after saying thanks so many times, Rogers offered his last address to his flock.

"Tonight God has touched and anointed the service," he said. "We've laughed together.



DEACONS FROM Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, pray for their retiring pastor Adrian Rogers and his wife, Joyce.

We've wept together. We have glorified the Savior. We've expressed love to our brothers and sisters in Christ."

But Rogers said the day was about more than just one service. It was a reflection on more than three decades Rogers and Bellevue shared as pastor and congregation.

"There were tears, obstacles, victories, multiplied thousands coming to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," he continued. "How good God has been. Now before the man of God closes the book of God, I've chosen a verse. Finally brethren, farewell. Be perfect. Be of good comfort. Be of one mind. Live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

During his final message as pastor of Bellevue earlier that day, Rogers talked about his salvation experience as a boy in Florida and his courtship and

marriage to his wife Joyce. He talked about his call to the ministry and about becoming Bellevue's pastor in 1972.

But mostly — as he usually does, reflecting the passion that has marked his life and ministry — Rogers talked about Jesus and pleaded for any unbelievers to come in faith to Christ.

Rogers pleaded with the lost to place their faith and trust in the saving work of Jesus Christ. He warned them that good works and ritualistic religion aren't enough for salvation, that only the sacrifice of Jesus is sufficient.

"Jesus on the cross suffered, bled, and died to take your sin debt and mine with His precious blood," he said. "I promise you on the authority of the Word of God, if you will trust Christ as your personal Savior, He will save you." □

TIPs do more than just preach on Sunday

making
Christ
known

By Bill Northcott



Your pastor has just announced his resignation. Feelings in the congregation run the gamut of emotions. Some saw it coming. Some are surprised. Some feel grief. Others feel jubilation.

If the pastor has left under duress, some may blame others for his exodus. Regardless of the emotions, life goes on — the church must face the future. In this environment, the church should consider the question of who will step up to lead the congregation. Nature abhors a vacuum. The exodus of the pastor may result in a scramble among those in the church who want to "take over the reins."

If the pastor has left in response to growing conflict, the problem is exacerbated. Which "side" will fill the vacuum? The

potential for loss is great. It is to be hoped that there are lay leaders in the congregation who will recognize the critical need for a capable leader who can guide the church through the interim period.

Transitional Interim Pastor (TIP)

More and more, congregations without pastors are recognizing the strategic role of what has been variously referred to as "Intentional Interim," "Transitional Pastor," "Temporary Shepherd" and/or "Transitional Interim Pastor." Regardless of the nomenclature, the peculiar role of this person is to provide positive and helpful leadership that will bring stability, continuity, and consistency to the congregation during the interim period.

Unique opportunities

The TIP is not just an "interim preacher." Through training, skills, experience, and giftedness, he is especially prepared to lead the congregation through that period between the departure of one pastor and the arrival of the new pastor.

The ministry of the TIP in-

cludes the work that is usually associated with a regular pastor. However, by virtue of the distinct character of the interim period, the Transitional Interim Pastor will have the opportunity to help the congregation in specific ways, which include:

(1) Helping the congregation work through the grief it is experiencing over the loss of its previous pastor.

(2) Facilitating the renewal of trust in the office of pastor (in congregations where the pastor has broken trust).

(3) Helping to resolve unfinished business that may be crippling the church.

(4) Leading the congregation to rediscover and reaffirm its unique calling and mission.

(5) Assisting the congregation in its understanding of call and ministry, which will enhance the congregation's effectiveness in partnering with its new pastor.

(6) Renewing understanding and appreciation for fellowship and reconciliation.

(7) Helping equip a stronger, more focused pastor search committee.

(8) Providing assurance that the ministries of the church will continue with quality and without interruption (worship, ministering to the sick and shut-ins, education ministry, administration of the ordinances, weddings, funerals, meetings, etc.).

(9) Preparing the church for a positive experience for the next pastor.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is providing a training opportunity for ministers who are interested in pursuing the ministry of TIP. Registration fee, meals, and lodging costs are \$100 per person single occupancy, \$50 per person double occupancy.

The training will take place at Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport. It begins on Monday, May 23, at 2 p.m. and ends on Wednesday, May 25, at noon.

Registration and payment are due by May 2. For more information about this training, call 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2018 or e-mail jclaycorby@tnbaptist.org. □ —Northcott leads the TBC's Leadership Development Group.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Right or left — the hammer fits

I recently had the privilege of spending almost a day with some senior adults from our church as we worked on the chapel renovation at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport.

I walked up as Billy Warren, who is in his 70s, was on his knees hammering nails into some steps. I told him I would be glad to take over but he was using a left-handed hammer.

He stopped, looked at his hammer, flipped a switch (figuratively), handed me the hammer, and told me it would now work right-handed.

I took the hammer and drove in the remaining nails. Odd though, the left-handed version seemed to drive them in faster and straighter than the right-handed side. Must have been bad batteries.

That little exchange is just one small example of the fun you can have working with senior adults. Over the years I have worked with Billy and his wife, Janice, and several other "senior" couples in the church on various missions/ministry projects.

Each time, I have received a blessing beyond measure. I have even learned a few "handyman" tips along the way, although my wife has been hesitant to turn me loose in our house.

Working in ministry projects with senior adults like the Warrens, Jerry and Judy Malone, J.P. and Linda Kirkham, Bobby Cloyd, and others, goes beyond having fun. These men and their wives are role models for myself and "younger" folks in our church. I see their love for God and willingness to serve Him and it is an inspiration.

Every Tennessee Baptist church has a valuable resource in its senior adult population. And, like the hammer, our churches should "fit" all ages.

We would do well to keep our seniors involved and active in our churches. We don't need to put them out to "pasture" or allow them to become simply a group that takes "sightseeing" tours. They have so much more to offer.

The renovation at Carson Springs will continue for several months. There are numerous opportunities for people of all ages to serve. Time slots are available for an entire week or just for a weekend. When possible, serve with a team comprised of all ages. You will receive a blessing.

For more information about the renovation project at Carson Springs, call Mark LeMay at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2076 or Keith McKinney at 1-877-704-6336, ext. 1002. □

Praying for a new pastor in light of the Lord's Prayer

guest
columnist



By Ray VanNeste

One of the most important decisions a church makes is the calling of a new pastor.

The ramifications of this decision are large and the task is arduous — seeking capable candidates often by sifting through piles of resumes, trying to ascertain the character, calling, and giftedness of a man from a piece of paper.

As anyone who has ever served on a pastor search committee can attest, this is hard, draining, often soul-wrenching work. In this situation, we are reminded of our need to pray for God's direction.

As I have worked with churches in this process I have turned to our Lord's model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) for guidance for a church in pray-

ing for a new pastor.

There are many things to pray, but Jesus gave us this prayer to help us pray in line with biblical values. What follows are some meditations on how we can pray each petition of the Lord's Prayer in the specific circumstance of searching for a new pastor. I offer them in hope that they may be of benefit to those in this situation.

Our Father

• We come to a God who is our father. Thus, He bids us ask believing that He will meet our need (Matthew 7:7-11).

• God desires to give you a good pastor.

• Since God is sovereign He has a man for you.

• So we must come seeking to discern His will.

Hallowed be Thy name

(May your name be regarded as holy)

• Give us a man who will hold before us the holiness of God.

• Give us a man who is concerned with the glory of God,

who yearns for others to encounter and reckon with the awesomeness of God.

• Deliver us from any man who has small thoughts of God.

• Give us a God-centered, God-saturated man. Not someone who will simply entertain us with cute stories, self-help sessions, and other drivel; but someone who from the depths of his own wonderment will point us to the glory, majesty, and awesomeness of God!

Thy kingdom come

• Give us a kingdom man — a man who is zealously committed to the advancement of God's kingdom but has no interest in the building of a personal kingdom, a man who will see this pastorate as his outpost in the kingdom not a stepping stone in a career.

• Give us a man whose ambition, like Paul's, is to be pleasing to God, to seek first the kingdom of God without a care about whether it is noticed by denominational offices or the media.

• Give us a man who submits himself to the reign of God, and, then, shows us how to live in submission to the King in our various vocations.

• In our search process help us not to be concerned with prestige or the opinions of man but only the advancement of your kingdom.

Thy will be done

• We lay aside our presuppositions, plans, and desires and seek to take up a biblical view of what we need and what a pastor should be.

• Direct our committee in their searching and the candi-

date and the congregation as we make decisions. Guide us and then intervene in whatever way necessary to keep us on track.

Give us this day our daily bread

• We need the bread of life, the spiritual nourishment of your Word preached.

• Meet our needs by giving us a man of God who will break open the Word of life and feed our souls.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

• Forgive our faults in this whole process: the ways in which we limit you and fail to trust you. Forgive us for feeling that you are as uncertain and confused as we are. Forgive us for doubting your care and provision. Forgive us for our impatience. Forgive us for grasping to our own agendas rather than seeking your will. Forgive us for failing to believe that you as sovereign Lord have this together and are working this out to your glory and our good. We believe; help our unbelief.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

• Protect us from candidates who are doctrinally unsound, who lack the conviction and courage to stand on your Word and rebuke us when necessary, from those who lack character and purity.

• Protect us from any divisiveness in this period. □ — VanNeste is assistant professor of Christian studies and director, R. C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies at Union University, Jackson.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"These folks seem friendly, the sign says: PRESS BUTTON IF YOU ARE CHURCH VISITORS"

30-year evangelist assesses vocation's realities, trends

By Tim Ellsworth
Baptist Press

JACKSON — Jerry Drace had a problem as he considered moving from a church position into full-time evangelism — he didn't like the image evangelists had.



DRACE

"To be very honest, I didn't have a good taste in my mouth about evangelists — their image," Drace said. "Thirty years later I still don't in many cases."

Drace's 30 years in full-time evangelism were celebrated during a late-February pastors' breakfast at his home in Humboldt, and a banquet featuring Focus on the Family Vice President H.B. London at Englewood Baptist Church in nearby Jackson.

Looking back over his experiences, and examining the present state of evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention, Drace sees both negatives and positives.

One of the biggest problems is evangelists themselves,

Drace said. Like they did with him, many evangelists turn people off by their image.

"The flash, the loudness, the brashness, the manipulation during the invitation," he said. "Many times they're very ego-driven."

Though there are exceptions, Drace thinks too many evangelists aren't as accountable to others as they should be for their personal behavior and their finances.

"There is no room in evangelism for the lone rangers that are out there," he said.

These concerns prompted Drace in 1999 to lead the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, which he served as president, to adopt a 10-point code of ethics for Southern Baptist evangelists.

At the time, Drace said the code of ethics would "affirm before the Lord and each other our accountability as evangelists."

Drace also is concerned about a declining trend of churches using full-time evangelists. When he started 30 years ago, the SBC had about 600 full-time evangelists, both

preachers and singers. Now Drace said there are no more than 200.

Why the decline?

"I see the traditional revival — the Sunday through Wednesday revivals — getting smaller and smaller and smaller," he said. "Why are more and more pastors having fewer and fewer traditional revivals? The answer they tell me is because people will not come anymore. We're so time-conscious."

Drace said most of the churches that do have revivals don't spend as much time in prayer about the meetings as they should. Of the 1,000 churches where he's preached over the past 30 years, he said only about 50 had prayed sufficiently.

"When a church has paid the price to prepare for revival, anybody can show up and preach," he said. "If a church has paid the price in prayer and preparation,

God's going to be there."

But while revivals may be on the decline, Drace is encouraged by other developments, namely the growth of "event evangelism" such as women's conferences, family conferences, and men's outreach by wild game dinners and special events to reach doctors, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and other professionals.

He's also pleased that even though traditional evangelists are declining in number, new types of evangelism are

"We've got people who do drama. We've got people doing skateboard evangelism. They're doing biking evangelism."

Most importantly, Drace is excited by what he sees taking place evangelistically all over the world, and not just in Southern Baptist circles.

"I have so appreciated meeting men and women around the world who are not Baptists, but they are dedicated, on-fire Christians," said Drace, who has participated in various worldwide initiatives for evangelists sponsored by the Billy Graham organization.

"The Great Commission is being fulfilled without the knowledge of Southern Baptists. Somewhere along

the line we as Southern Baptists believe if we don't do it, it won't get done. I have learned that God is going to get His Kingdom work done whether we do it or not, and we'd better get in on it." □

No longer do you have to be just a preacher or a musician to be an evangelist. We've got people who do drama. We've got people doing skateboard evangelism. They're doing biking evangelism. — Jerry Drace

springing up.

"What's happened in the last five or six years — and I'm glad to see it — is that no longer do you have to be just a preacher or a musician to be an evangelist," Drace said.

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For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him, and the power to do what pleases Him. 1945 Romans 8:13

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As part of group for 33 years

State DOM and wife sing Southern Gospel music

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

DRESDEN — If you like toe-tapping, melody-soaring, harmony-intricate, and message-dependent Southern Gospel music, then you will like the music Wayne Perkins, director of missions, Weakley County Baptist Association, and his wife, Linda, make.

They have been singing and playing Southern Gospel music since they were children. For the past 33 years, they have been a part of the Melody Makers, a quartet and accompanist which performs regularly and has released four recordings.

Southern Gospel music is unique, explained Perkins, who still teaches folks how to read music using the shaped note, do, re, mi, system which is associated with the style of music. He, his father, and grandfather also led music schools which taught the shaped note system.

Southern Gospel doesn't have the twang of country or the whine of bluegrass, he described. It is known for its lilt and strong rhythm, he added.

The Melody Makers are well-known, especially in West Tennessee. They are also family. The Perkins are joined by Wayne's sister, Ginger Verdell, her husband, Billy Verdell, and their son, Wendell Verdell. The Verdells are members of Beech Springs Baptist Church, Gleason. Ginger is the accompanist for the quartet.

The two couples have performed as part of the group for 33 years.

The Melody Makers, known for such songs as "When Morning Sweeps the Eastern Sky," have performed with the Goodman Family, and recorded at their studio in Madisonville, Ky. They also have performed with the Blackwoods, the Kingsmen, and the Chuck Wagon Gang.

"We're like a mule running in the Kentucky Derby. We can't

win but we're running with some fine horses," Wayne quipped.

The Perkins also have gotten to know Hugh Gordon Stoker of Nashville, a member of the Jordanaires who sang as backup to Elvis Presley. Stoker is from Gleason.

Musical heritage

The Perkins have combined pastoral ministry and denominational ministry in the association with music ministry for most of their lives. They find it natural because of their musical heritage.

Wayne has served as pastor of West Tennessee churches for over 32 years, 10 of those years as a bivocational pastor while he was a banker in Dresden. He has been DOM of Weakley County Association for six years. He also served in the U.S. Army in Germany.

Wayne met Linda when she took piano lessons from his sister, Virginia, in the Perkins home. Linda was 13 years old and Wayne was 18.

Linda's family, the Garners, were members of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Dresden, were as musical as the Perkins family, who were members of West Union Baptist Church, Dresden.

Wayne's father taught the music schools using the shaped note system during the depression to help him feed his seven children. The system was advanced by James D. Vaughan of Lawrenceburg, noted Perkins.

"We could read music before we could read reading," explained Wayne Perkins. "I can never remember not being able to read music."

When Linda was 11 she joined a church quartet which included her father, Leon Garner, and at 15 the Joyfulaires which included her father. When Wayne was about 15, he joined two of his sisters and formed the Perkins Trio, which performed in West Tennessee and Kentucky for five years. In 1960

Wayne and his two sisters formed a group called the TriCounty Quartet which performed for two years. After he returned from Germany, he married Linda. Then Wayne and Linda's dad formed a quartet called the Family Five. It included Linda, and Linda's sister and brother-in-law, Trudy and Eddie Joe McKelvy of Greenfield. Trudy was the accompanist.

In addition to singing in the Melody Makers, Wayne and Linda sing duets and Linda plays the piano. And Wayne, who sings lead alternately with Linda, sings solos. He is especially requested to sing "Beulah Land" at funerals. He has sung for four funerals in one weekend.

Busy schedule

"We're in this for a blessing and a place of service," explained Wayne Perkins. The couple joked the Melody Makers have received as much as \$1,000 in a love offering and as little as their supper for performing.

"We never considered that a motivation to be in this work," Wayne added.

They have only had to cancel an engagement because of illness of a member one time recently in all 33 years.

The Melody Makers require a piano to perform. They don't use recorded music as accompaniment. The group sings mostly for church homecomings, harvest days, and special events.

The group doesn't perform for political meetings or for most fundraising events. They will raise funds for churches who have been in disasters, Perkins said.

They have performed for company events, like for the local Goodyear company, and community events, including the Obion County Fair. They also



THE MELODY MAKERS include, from left, Wayne Perkins, director of missions, Weakley County Baptist Association, based in Dresden; Linda Perkins, his wife; Wendell Verdell of Gleason; and Ginger and Billy Verdell of Beech Springs Baptist Church, Gleason. The two couples have been members of the Southern Gospel group for 33 years.

perform in retirement centers and nursing homes.

The Perkins' music ministry has been heartily endorsed as a part of any ministry Wayne has been involved in, they reported. Of course, he has assured church and denominational leaders he will not allow the music ministry to take away from his main ministry. The Melody Makers recently have begun to have to limit their schedule somewhat, but not much.

They still gather almost weekly to practice and learn new songs. They memorize the words, melodies, and parts, and work on diction so listeners can understand the words, explained Linda.

The group's members can do that because they have somewhat flexible schedules. Billy Verdell is a field representative for a feed company. Wendell Verdell operates an insurance business. Ginger Verdell, a former teacher at Gleason High School, Gleason, teaches private piano lessons. Linda Perkins is administrative assis-

tant for the association.

The Perkins also are proud of the musical legacy they are leaving through their family. Their two sons and son-in-law are ministers of music in Baptist churches. Their daughter is children's director of First Baptist Church, Kenton. And all are musical. In fact, the whole Perkins family sings together as a group and even when everyone isn't there.

Wayne and Linda also lead an annual singing which they started five years ago. This year it will be held Friday, July 29, at First Baptist Church, Dresden, from 7-10 p.m. Hugh Gordon Stoker may be in attendance, said Wayne. The event drew about 500 last year.

Southern Gospel is "a small part of the musical assortment that's out there, but that's where God has equipped us to serve," said Wayne Perkins.

To order a CD of the recent Melody Makers recording or to book the group, contact the Perkins at (731) 364-3739 or wbaptist@frontiernet.net. □

Southeast Conclave draws 730 youth leaders to Chattanooga

By Brenda Harris
For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — On Feb. 17-19 over 730 youth leaders gathered at the Chattanooga Convention Center for the seventh annual Southeast Conclave. The weekend was packed with seminars, general sessions, an elaborate exhibit hall, and plenty of networking and fellowship.

The conclave is a joint venture of the Baptist Conventions of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

The event offers a unique platform for youth ministry professionals and lay volunteers from these four states as well as Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, and other states who

gather for the purpose of training, fellowship, and worship.

This year's program personalities included Doug Fields, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, Calif.; Walt Mueller, Center for Parent-Youth Understanding, Elizabethtown, Pa.; Adrian Despres, chaplain for the University of South Carolina football team; Allen Jackson, New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; and Richard Ross, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Todd Fields of Alpharetta, Ga., led worship music and comedy was provided by Third String Varsity of Atlanta, Ga.

Tennessee seminar leaders included Tony Rankin, Nancy Hamilton, and Brenda Harris of

the TBC staff; Diane Cobb, The People's Church in Franklin; Jeff Lovingood, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville; Jason Hayes, Concord First Baptist Church, Knoxville; Jay Strother, Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood; and Micah Huebner, Belmont University, Nashville.

Bruce Edwards, TBC youth ministry specialist, said, "Our Tennessee youth leaders totaled over 300 this year! It was definitely our best year yet."

According to Kent Shingleton, TBC youth evangelism specialist, over 100 exhibitors from 14 states were represented this



WORKING AT THE "FULL SERVICE" TBC exhibit were, from left, Micah Huebner, student, Belmont University; Nancy Hamilton, Andrea Knight, Kent Shingleton, Nicki Brooks, Brenda Harris, Matthew Meredith, Bruce Edwards, and Rachel Watson, all of the TBC staff.

year at conclave.

Next year, conclave will return to the Chattanooga Convention Center on Feb. 16-18.

Contact the TBC office, (615) 371-7906 or www.tnyouthministry.com, about conclave and other youth ministry events. □

State handbell festivals encourage groups in this unique ministry

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Festivals for handbell choirs were conducted over the past month in three locations: West Tennessee Festival at Germantown Baptist, Middle Tennessee Festival at First Baptist Mt. Juliet, and the East Tennessee Festival at Carson-Newman College. The annual events provide opportunities for handbell choirs to ring under the direction of a clinician known for composition, conducting, or technique skills in handbell ringing, and for choirs to ring for constructive analysis for improvement and idea application provided by adjudicators enlisted by Tennessee Baptist Convention Worship & Music Ministry team members who plan the annual events.

TBC handbell consultant Dan Arterburn, minister of music at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church in Hermitage, works with a team of music ministers and TBC staff to plan and conduct the events.

Paul Clark, TBC worship & music specialist said the value of the festivals in this way, "as groups work to prepare music for these festivals and gather with other choirs from different churches they refine their skills, but they also get ideas of different ways they can use these unique skills in ministry."

"For example, I know of churches who utilize very contemporary music in their weekly services, but whose handbell choirs ring frequently at malls, street festivals, community Christmas programs, and other events outside the church as a means of community relations and opening opportunities to share the gospel."

Like other music ensembles handbell choirs can add to worship services in many different ways based on the mood of the music selections, Clark said. At these large festivals the music selected for all choirs to ring



HANDBELL CHOIRS gathered at First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, recently for the Middle Tennessee Festival. Similar festivals also were held at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown.

together under the direction of the clinicians provided a good example of diversity, with pieces ranging from a very contemplative hymn arrangement for quiet worship to an arrangement of "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" often played and sung during times of celebrating our nation, he noted.

This year's West Tennessee festival provided unexpected excitement when law enforcement officers interrupted the Friday night session to inform leaders that the Germantown church building and parking lot were being searched for a group of armed robbers who had committed a crime and whose car had been located in the church's parking lot. Church leaders, security workers, and local law enforcement assisted participants to their vehicles without incident. Ringers joked the next day that for awhile the night before they thought they may

have been attending the first state handbell lockin, Clark said.

Clinicians for this year's events included Billy Strickland, Samford University; Tim Waugh, Bluefield, West Virginia; and Lyndel Littleton, First Baptist Church Joelton. Hosts for the 2005 festivals included Lujan Howard, worship & music ministry associate at Germantown Baptist; Jonathan Gardner, minister of worship & music at First Baptist, Mt. Juliet; and Clark

Measels, Music Department chair at Carson Newman, along with

Kim Bowen, minister of music at First Baptist Jefferson City. □

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Hispanic evangelism thrust to go statewide during Crossover

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — More than one thousand volunteers from outside Tennessee will spend June 11-19 in the state, working with Hispanic Baptist churches to reach people for Christ and to start 10 new Hispanic churches, according to Chuy Avila, Hispanic church starter for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Planning for the statewide evangelism and church planting effort began two years ago, Avila said. To date, 36 of the state's 68



AVILA

Hispanic Baptist churches have committed to participate with more expected to join. Participating churches already have led their members to identify the names of at least 10 unsaved persons and begin praying for them.

This Hispanic initiative is part of Crossover 2005, the pre-Southern Baptist Convention evangelism thrust. While most Crossover venues are targeting a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area, the Hispanic evangelism initiative will cover the state. Crossover is sponsored by the TBC, the North American Mission Board, and seven Baptist associations.

Avila said volunteers for the Hispanic initiative will arrive in

Nashville on Saturday, June 11, and be sent out in groups to work in churches June 12-17.

They will lead evangelistic outreach activities including soccer tournaments, VBS, gospel concerts, door-to-door visitation, WMU evangelism clinics, a conference for men, and activities for children and teens.

Avila said Anglo churches can help by volunteering to conduct a one-day VBS, a block party, or provide drama, puppet, or clowning teams. Activities for children and youth will be conducted in English.

Anyone interested in providing assistance may contact Avila at 615-371-7913 or 1-800-558-2090.

At the conclusion of the week, teams will travel to Nashville on Saturday, June 18, to attend the Crossover International Festival at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. (See article to right.)

Then on Sunday morning, churches involved in the emphasis will have worship services and then attend a Sunday evening rally at Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

Also, on June 19, "we are planning to launch 10 new churches," Avila said. "Our vision is to have 150 Hispanic churches in Tennessee by 2010. We have started 50 in the past five years."

"My dream is to have a Hispanic church for every 12,000 Hispanics statewide," Avila continued.

He said U.S. census figures

International festival slated for June 18

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two to three thousand people living in the Nashville area from countries around the world will gather June 18, 1-4 p.m., at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds for an International Festival of entertainment, music, food, giveaways, and the opportunity to hear the gospel presented.

The festival is a first for Nashville and is part of Crossover 2005, the pre-Southern Baptist Convention evangelism thrust blanketing a 40-mile radius of 1.3 million people. Crossover is sponsored by the SBC North American Mission Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven Baptist associations.

Tim Hill, TBC language church planting ministry specialist and one of the festival planners, said Scriptures will be distributed at the festival in a variety of languages. Activities will be provided for children, including face painting, moon walking, and clowns.

Andrew Hong, language missions director for the Nashville Baptist Association, said 15-



HILL

minute programs will be presented by representatives from different countries. Persons who register will be eligible for giveaways including food being donated by a Texas grocer and two airline tickets.

The Nashville Baptist Association has 47 ethnic churches representing 13 countries, while Bible study or worship in the languages of 30 ethnic groups is held throughout Tennessee.

To reach language groups a promotion flyer is being developed and translated into several languages for distribution through the churches and other means. "We're hoping a lot of ethnic churches will invite lost people they know," Hill said. "I don't see this as just a time to bring different groups together but to plant a seed and win some to the Lord."

Hill and Hong asked Tennessee Baptists to pray that festival planners and ethnic churches will find ways to get information about the festival to language groups throughout Nashville and that many will attend.

In addition to the International Festival and other ethnic ministries, Crossover ministry venues include sports evangelism, prayer journeys, block parties, personal evangelism, kindness explosion, and collegiate evangelism.

For more information about Crossover, visit www.crossoversbc.org. □

show 146,000 Hispanics living in Tennessee, but he believes the number is closer to 320,000. Some of these are undocumented workers and others have a natural reluctance to answer questions from people they don't know.

"Wherever I go in Tennessee I find Hispanics," Avila said.

He cited a recent study, "21st

Century Hispanic Realities" by Daniel R. Sanchez of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, that emphasizes that the growth of the Hispanic American population exceeds the boldest predictions. He said the Hispanic population of the U.S. grew from 9.6 million in 1970 to 35.3 million in 2000.

At the conclusion of Crossover, Avila said discipleship training for Hispanics will be conducted June 23-25 in Jackson, Nashville, and Sevierville to support follow-up efforts.

Avila urged Tennessee Baptists to begin praying for work among Hispanics by praying for Hispanics in their communities. He listed three requests for the June initiative.

(1) Pray for the volunteers

coming from other states and countries.

(2) Pray for the weeklong activities taking place statewide.

(3) Pray for discipleship and follow-up actions.

More information about Crossover is available at www.crossoversbc.org. □

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9:30 a.m.

"Christian Virtues"

First Baptist Church
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www.cn.edu

'Everyone Can' web site online

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — EveryoneCan.net, a new web site to support the Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge evangelism blitz planned for June 17-19 in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, is now online.

The evangelistic thrust is a partnership of LifeWay Christian Resources, the North American Mission Board, SBC Executive Committee, and Tennessee Baptist Convention.

LifeWay will serve as the lead entity for the Crossover Nashville Door-to-Door part of the event June 18, preceding the SBC's June 21-22 annual meeting here. Approximately 200 area churches are expected to serve as hosts to the 10,000 volunteers for the outreach.

SBC President Bobby Welch's "Everyone Can" Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism tour has heightened enlistment for the effort.

In addition to the web site, registration information and other details about the 2005 Crossover Nashville Door-to-Door plans can be obtained by calling toll-free 1-877-324-8498. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — DOM

The Associational Missionary Search Committee of Shelby Association (Alabama) seeks resumes of qualified candidates. Send resume with cover letter by April 15 to Search Committee, c/o Allan Murphy, 4605 Burning Tree Lane, Pelham, AL 35124.

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.

Crossroads 2005 prepares students for life's questions

Baptist Press

CHATTANOOGA — The blinking sign outside the conference room reads, "Preparing for Tough Questions" and inside University of Alabama minister Matt Kerlin is exploring basic apologetics with the crowd of 200 college students spilling over into the hallway.

Meanwhile in yet another overflowing conference room, a group of students hold a panel discussion on what Scripture says on free will versus election, while still others prepare to prayerwalk the streets of Tennessee.

During Crossroads 2005, Feb. 4-6 here, more than 2,000 college students from Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama were challenged to see what a life ignited for Christ would look like on their campuses. Sponsored jointly by the collegiate ministry groups in each state's convention, the conference theme was "Ignite: a passion for growing in Christ and making Him known."

"I want our students from Tennessee to have a chance worship, pray, and share faith

alongside students from outside our state. Combining resources, talent, and passions of several states is not only good stewardship, but provides an amazing synergy and momentum for the conference. We are able to create something together we could not build alone," said Bill Choate, TBC collegiate ministry group leader.

The conference, which takes place every three years, gives the students a chance to meet people from other states and different campuses and see how God is working through their generation.

"We want to give every college student the opportunity to experience this larger conference once in a four year cycle ... this larger experience is good for students to see how God is working during their student generation on campuses and in churches outside of South Carolina," said Ken Owens, director of the collegiate ministry group for the S.C. Baptist Convention.

The conference, which comes right as students are just getting back into the routine of college after the semester break, but also as the drudge of papers, tests, and lectures of setting in, offered times of corporate worship with teachers such as Mike Satterfield, Rick Ousley, Becky Pippert, and Jim Shaddix as well as worship leaders Tree 63.

In keeping with the two-fold conference theme, breakout sessions such as "Exploring a Call to International Missions," "Great Tips for Sharing the Gospel," and "Reaching Your Campus for Christ" focused on putting feet to faith on college campuses, but conference speakers urged participants to back up and examine their personal passion for faith before taking on the world.

Rick Ousley, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., challenged the students to live a life of servant leaders on their various campuses. □

Boy Scouts end public school ties due to ACLU threat

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Boy Scouts of America is removing the charters of thousands of scouting units from public schools after an American Civil Liberties Union threat to sue taxpayer-funded institutions that charter BSA units.

The ACLU sent a letter to the Boy Scouts of America in February threatening legal action against public schools and other governmental agencies that charter Boy Scout groups on grounds that their

sponsorship amounts to religious discrimination and violates the separation of church and state.

Boy Scouts open their meetings by holding three fingers aloft and repeating an oath in which members vow their allegiance to God and country, resolve to help others, and commit to keeping themselves morally straight. Central to the BSA's stated mission is character development and values-based leadership training.

ACLU leaders view these conservative emphases as warrant for legal action, according to documents on the ACLU web site.

While BSA is continuing to assess the number of Boy Scout and Cub Scout units that will be affected, BSA national spokesman Gregg Shields said units whose charters will be pulled from public schools would number in the thousands. BSA is America's largest youth organization that includes thousands of units and 1.3 million adult volunteers.

Defending against a wave of ACLU lawsuits would cost schools untold thousands of dollars, Shields said. Instead of risking financially draining litigation, the BSA is pulling scout units from schools as a matter of stewardship, he said.

"We obviously don't want that [expensive lawsuits against schools] to happen," Shields said. "Instead, the Boy Scouts have tried to protect the resources of our education partners by moving our charter from public schools to other community-based organizations such as parent-teacher organizations or Salvation Army units or nearby religious organizations."

Shields said the Boy Scouts of America is counting on community organizations, such as churches to take up the charters of scouting units that have been removed from public schools and other governmental organizations. □



CHOATE

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Calvary Baptist Church of Lenoir City, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music and youth. College degree is preferred with seminary being a plus. If you are interested please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 300 West First Ave., Lenoir City, TN 37771 or e-mail to DRJCBC@wmconnect.com. For more information call Dr. Charles Jenkins at (865) 986-3567.

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Team, First Baptist Church, 205 E. Main, Gallatin, TN 37066.

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Mission Teams Needed

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



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book review

By Dawn Ferguson

Surrenderby Nancy Leigh DeMoss
Moody Publishers, 2003

Are you a servant or a slave, asks author Nancy Leigh DeMoss in her book *Surrender*?

Webster's defines servant as "a person employed to perform services ... for another." But a slave is a "human being who is owned as property by, and is absolutely subject to the will of another."

DeMoss believes that in order to make Christianity more palatable to the masses we've redefined who we are by emphasizing servant instead of slave to Jesus Christ. As a result, we call Him Lord and then continue to try to run our own lives.

DeMoss paraphrases Jesus' question asked in Luke 6:46, *Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?* Writes DeMoss: "In other words, 'Why do you claim that I am in charge of your life, but you run your life as if you were in charge? You don't ask Me what I want you to do, and even when you know what I want you to do, you still insist on doing it your way!'"

In this excellent, easy-to-read, scriptural book DeMoss makes it clear that Jesus wants and demands total surrender. That means submitting "every detail and dimension of our lives to His sovereign, loving rule." Until you do that, you'll never know the peace and joy that only He can give.

Surrendering is never easy. In fact, it's unnatural. "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5). We are born with our own desires — desires of the flesh — of self. Our will is opposed to His will. "The very points on which you refuse to surrender will become enemies that rule over you — lust, greed, possessions, food, sloth, immorality, anger, etc." says DeMoss. "We will end up being controlled by that which we are seeking to keep within our own control."

DeMoss focuses on Luke 14 as Jesus' primary call to total surrender. In it, Jesus tells the crowd who is listening that *anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple*. According to DeMoss, "Everyone listening to Jesus knew that a cross meant only one thing — death. He was calling them to come and die to everything that competed with His reign and rule in their lives."

Until we submit every detail to Jesus, we'll never experience the host of blessings waiting for those who do — "blessings that cannot be experienced any other way; the grace to obey God, release from having to run our own world, the peace of God, unexplainable fullness of joy, and greater fruitfulness than we ever dreamed possible."

When Jesus deliberately set out on the path that led Him to the cross, He was expressing full surrender to God and to God's will. He is our role model, and we should pattern everything we do after Him. "Every time your flesh ... crosses the will of God and we choose to bow the head in surrender to the Spirit of God, our will is crucified and Christ is exalted." And isn't that our purpose in life?

If you have any doubts about true and full surrender, read DeMoss' book. It will help you understand what it is and make you praise God just once more for His glorious grace! □ — Ferguson is a freelance writer in Gallatin.

just for today

By Fred Wood, Memphis

Start With a Smile: Bureaucrat (interviewing man about a job with his agency): "What can you do?" Applicant: "Nothing." Bureaucrat: "Good, you're hired. We won't have to break you in."

Take This Truth: "Many people would rather die than think. In fact, they do so." — Bertrand Russell

Memorize This Scripture: "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." — Romans 12:11

Pray This Prayer: Lord, help me to use my abilities I have so I do not need to depend on others to plan my agenda. □

Jesus: our sacrifice

By Robert Segrest

Focal Passage: John 19:28-37;
Hebrews 9:22-26

Only those who by God's standard live absolutely perfect lives will go to heaven when they die. And since no human being knowing right from wrong will ever attain perfection, since all have sinned and come short of God's glory, there is no hope of anyone gaining eternal life by merit. That's why the Father allowed His Son to be put to death on the cross. Jesus alone was God's perfect sacrifice for our sin.

One dictionary definition of the word perfect is satisfying all requirements. By His death, Jesus accomplished everything His Father required to make salvation a reality for everyone who trusts Him as Savior and Lord.

This fact is clearly seen in the final words of Jesus from the cross as recorded in John 19:28-30. Having hung crucified for six agonizing hours, the Lord asked His executioners for something to quench His overwhelming thirst. Some suggest that Jesus wanted to moisten His mouth to clearly utter three important words. A soldier lifted to His lips a sponge soaked in sour wine and Jesus received it. Then in a clear voice, Jesus shouted with deep emotion: "It is finished!" Then He died.

What Jesus had finished or completed was God's plan to redeem humankind from sin. The events of

His life had perfectly fulfilled Old Testament Messianic prophecy, so Jesus died as a victor and not a victim. Crucifixion did not kill the Master. He voluntarily gave up His life at the time He chose just as three days later He would again take it up.

After Jesus died, prophecy continued to be fulfilled. The pious religious leaders who demanded that Pilate execute Jesus did not want to violate the Passover Sabbath by leaving bodies on the cross. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the three crucified men broken to hasten their deaths. When the soldiers came to break the legs of Jesus, they discovered He was already dead, so they left Him alone. That fulfilled prophecy in Exodus 12:46 relative to the Passover lamb whose legs were not to be broken. Jesus was the perfect lamb of God sacrificed for humanity's sin.

Just to make certain Jesus was truly dead, a Roman soldier pierced His side with his spear. He must have ruptured the pericardial sac surrounding the heart of Jesus because a mixture of blood and water gushed out of the wound. The gospel writer John said he was an eye witness to this event as proof that Jesus had truly died. This event also fulfilled prophecy recorded in Zechariah 12:10. The soldiers were not following a set plan, but God was. As always, He was in total control.

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
March 20

We now shift our attention to the ninth chapter of Hebrews to consider Jesus as God's perfect substitute for sin. Since the time of Moses, the Jews had maintained a divinely ordained system of sacrificing certain types of animals to atone for their sin. They were taught from the Scriptures that without the regular shedding of this blood in the temple, God could not forgive them.

All of that changed the instant the heart of Jesus stopped beating. He was God's final sacrifice for sin. Never again would the High Priest need to enter the Holy of Holies in the temple with animal blood to atone for the sin of God's people. Jesus had taken every person's sin upon Himself. Consequently the physical pain Jesus endured throughout the entire crucifixion ordeal was nothing compared to the agony He must have experienced while bearing our sin upon Himself.

Jesus paid it all when He died for us on the cross of Calvary. Therefore nothing remains for us to do to save our souls except to repent of our sin and invite Jesus to be the Savior and Lord of our lives. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

Demonstrate your trust in God

By Michael Julian

Focal Passage: Jeremiah 7:1-15

Great stories come to us in unexpected places. In a recent movie, a certain man awakens from the routine and mundane to discover he is unhappy with much of his life. After a series of events, the man unfurls a secret plan to take ballroom dancing. Obviously, suspicions arise within his wife as he repeatedly comes home late from work. The suspicious wife hires a private detective to follow her husband. The man is discovered and caught in the act of ballroom dancing. When the couple rationally discusses the issue, the man states that he could not tell his wife that he was unhappy for fear of hurting her feelings. And then it finally hit me. This couple had violated an essential element for relationships, trust. Which is easier to display, a vocal affirmation of trust, or a visible affirmation of trust? In any relationship trust is essential to build, exacting to maintain, egregious to violate, and expensive to re-establish.

Our text this week deals with the demonstration of trust. In verses 1-2, Jeremiah stands to deliver a clarion call to the people of Jerusalem. Notice that the word of the Lord comes to Jeremiah and prompts him to speak at the temple's entrance. The people would flock rank and file to the temple to worship the Lord, and there on this day stands Jeremiah as a mouthpiece for God. How would you feel

some Sunday morning if your preacher were waiting on you at the entrance doors of the church to proclaim a message from the Lord because he had a burdened soul?

As we progress in the text, verses 3-11 capture the burden on Jeremiah's soul for God's people. When reading Jeremiah, I have found that reading Deuteronomy simultaneously proves quite beneficial. There, Moses stipulated the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience. Under conviction from the Lord, Jeremiah confronts the coarseness of the heart of God's people. They were continuing in the ritual practices of worship, but grossly neglecting the weightier matters of love, justice, and righteousness. Vocal affirmations of trust abounded, while visible affirmations of trust disappeared. Specifically God calls to mind three groups of people being neglected by Judah, the alien, the orphan, and the widow. They are viewed as the helpless, deserving God's protection and provision.

God, through Jeremiah, also calls attention to the people's incessant thirst to shed innocent blood and follow false, lifeless gods. The outcome of these pursuits and negligence is ruin. Jeremiah seeks to stoke the smoldering embers into flame by reminding the people of God's deliverance from bondage in Egypt. He sets forth again the conditional elements of God's covenant to His people, as spoken by Moses, desiring to awaken them to obedi-

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
March 20

ence so that this ruin may not befall them.

And as if that were insufficient, Jeremiah thunders again pinpointing the hypocrisy of the people. Week after week the people practiced abominations in the Lord's sight, and then came into the temple claiming deliverance. The same could be said of people in our day who promote Sunday religion, yet weekly abstention from the things of God. The people of Judah trusted in false and deceptive words, regular rituals, and a beautiful building. The Lord declares this place to be like a den of robbers in His sight because of the people's actions. What does the Lord say about our places of worship?

The conclusion of our text sees God challenging the people of Judah to learn from the former religious epicenter at Shiloh, in verses 12-15. If the people of God keep insisting to trust in rituals and edifices rather than the living God, then their ruin and destruction shall be swift. Indeed, the Lord will cast them from His sight. Trust in God is more accurately demonstrated in righteous living and practice. Demonstrate your trust in God daily. □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist, Mt. Pleasant.

Leaders

◆ **Joe Frazier**, pastor, Henards Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville, resigned March 6 to go into full-time evangelism and sports evangelism through Joe Frazier Ministries.

◆ **Round Lick Baptist Church**, Watertown, called **Steve W. Mayle** of Corbin, Ky., as pastor, effective March 6.

◆ **Paul Martin**, pastor, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Cypress Inn, has been called as pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Waynesboro.

◆ **Chad Ball**, pastor, Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waynesboro, has resigned effective May 29 to attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

◆ **The Jerry Drace Evangelistic Association Inc.**, Humboldt, celebrated its 30th anniversary in February.



DRACE

H.B. London, director of pastoral ministries at Focus on the Family, spoke at the anniversary dinner. London also addressed a West Tennessee pastors breakfast sponsored by JDEA. The evangelistic ministry of Jerry Drace has conducted over 1,000 revivals, numerous area wide crusades, and has served in 20 countries since it was organized in 1975. For more information, contact



JOY BRACKETT, financial secretary/administrative assistant, East Ridge Baptist Church, Chattanooga, for 37 years stands with her pastor, **Ronnie Mitchell**, during the church's recognition of her. She retired recently.

JDEA at 236 Sanders Bluff Rd., Humboldt, TN 38343 or jdea.tn.org or www.HopefortheHome.org.

◆ **John Adams** has been called as pastor, East Union Baptist Church, Jackson, effective Feb. 27. He is retired assistant to the president for church/pastor relations, Union University, Jackson. He served at the school for 17 years during which he served as interim pastor of 25 different congregations.

◆ **Arnold C. "Bud" Pate** was named pastor emeritus, Boones Creek Baptist Church, Gray, Jan. 9 and thanked for his many years of service to the church. **Richard Ratliff** is interim pastor.



MEMBERS OF a team from Beulah Baptist Association, based in Union City, pause during their work in St. Thomas in the Caribbean. They worked on the construction of a church building, welding, pouring concrete, and painting. Team members are, from left, front row, Charles Davis; Renee Hazlewood; Mary Matthews; Amy Bright; Deborah Griffin; Melissa Pritchard; Ryan Potts; Jack Long, director of missions, Beulah Association; back row, Mike Hazlewood; Donnie Clapper; Danny Hazlewood; John Bright; John Griffin; Cody Pritchard; and Scott Cole.

◆ **Sunset Village Baptist Church**, Bristol, has called **Oscar Edwards** as pastor. He has pastored churches in Virginia.

Churches

◆ **Dupont Baptist Church**, Seymour, will hold revival March 27-30. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

◆ **Inglewood Baptist Church**, Nashville, will present, "A.D., A Musical for Easter and Beyond," on Saturday-Sunday, March 19 at 7 p.m. and March 20 at 10:45 a.m. The church's Celebration Choir will be directed by Marvin Copaus and the drama will be directed by Angela Beck. For more information, call the

church at (615) 228-2546.

Associations

◆ **Western District Baptist Association**, based in Paris, will hold its Evangelism Rally Wednesday, March 30, at 6:45 p.m., at First Baptist Church, Paris. Russ Cooper will speak. For more information, contact the association at (731) 642-4641 or www.wdbap-tassoc.com.

Schools

◆ To celebrate Women's History Month, **Belmont University**, Nashville, is holding several events. On Thursday, March 31, Hazel O'Leary, president of Fisk University, Nashville, and former U.S. Secretary of Energy,

will present a keynote address at 5:30 p.m. On Wednesday, March 23; Karen Wieckert, assistant professor of information systems, College of Business Administration, will present, "The Pipeline for Women in Computing." The Leu Art Gallery has an art exhibit focusing on local women artists. For more information, call the school at (615) 460-6793 or <http://forum.belmont.edu/umac>.

◆ **Union University**, Jackson, will launch a women's intercollegiate soccer program at both the varsity and junior varsity levels; and build a new field house. Soccer competition will begin in the fall and be led by Brandon Boylan, women's soccer coach.

SBC president Bobby Welch speaks at FBC, Clarksville

Baptist Press

CLARKSVILLE — The spiritual war Christians are called to fight is not inside the walls of the church but outside where people yearn to hear the gospel, Bobby Welch said at



WELCH

First Baptist Church here March 6.

Welch urged church members to realize they only gather together in order to depart with renewed vigor for the task at hand.

Continuing his speaking tour of churches leading up to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville in June, the SBC president reiterated his message for God's people to leave the comfort zone of the church and spread the gospel on the

streets where God is waiting to start a revival.

Welch, a former Green Beret and Vietnam War veteran, said Christians cannot afford to mistake the purpose of the church.

"In military jargon, this church is like a forward operational base," he said in Clarksville, which is home to the Army's 101st Airborne Division. "The forward operational base is out there in order to take care of the troops who are on the front lines."

When troops on the front lines retreat to the forward operational base, they don't find a resort atmosphere with coffee shops, malls, or large pools for relaxation, Welch said. Instead, they come to retrieve more supplies, sometimes have wounds treated, hear a word of encouragement from a commander, and to be briefed on the latest battle strategy so that they can return to the action better pre-

pared to confront the enemy.

"That is exactly what the church is all about," Welch said. "If you think the church is the place you come to, you have missed the whole point. The church is the place we leave from."

"You came today to leave," he said. "You didn't come to stay here. If you did, they would have rolled out beds."

"... We come here to get equipped to go out there because out there is where you rescue the perishing. Out there is where you care for the dying. Out there is where you meet people and minister to their lives. Outside these walls is where the action is," he said.

Welch recounted his 50-state tour last fall to promote evangelism and baptism among the convention's 43,000 churches.

"Everywhere I got off that bus, I put my foot down in the

spirit of Joshua and Caleb, spying out our promised land called the United States. I claimed that ground for Christ and for lost souls," he said. "And there are some giants in the land. There is some opposition and some obstacles and some struggles out there, but I've got great news for you: There's not one giant in our promised land that our God can't whip the socks off of."

Having shared Christ by knocking on doors for 40 years, Welch said he has never seen a hungering and a searching going on in the world like he

Welch invites members to commit to six challenges toward increasing the success of the harvest. The "Everyone Can 'Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism'" asks Southern Baptists to train and equip themselves and others, witness and win others to Christ, help another follow Christ in baptism, learn and apply the biblical teachings of stewardship, be involved in Vacation Bible School, and help start new units during the upcoming year.

Southern Baptists will have a major opportunity to enter the harvest fields during Crossover Nashville, which will precede this year's SBC annual meeting. Welch is working to enlist 10,000 Southern Baptists in door-to-door evangelism. More than 5,000 already have committed to the effort, and an energetic campaign is underway to recruit the rest. □

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sees now. There's a stirring, and he believes God is ready to do something huge in the harvest fields if His people will accept the call to be laborers and enter the fields.

At every church he visits,