

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.11; March 23, 2005

this week's news

Martin Babb writes book. — Page 3

Editor, cartoonist consider Easter. — Page 5

Association finds counseling center meets needs. — Page 6

"Green Light" provides information on TBC activities. — Pages 7-10

Crossover draws most volunteers ever involved

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — As of March 16, almost 250 churches and associations have committed to host events related to Crossover Nashville, the pre-southern Baptist Convention evangelism thrust, and 9,972 volunteers have been enlisted. "We currently have the greatest participation in the history of Crossover," Don Smith, Crossover coordinator from the Southern Baptist North American Mission board, told participants in a March 17 steering committee meeting at the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Baptist Center here. "It would be wonderful if we could see 100 persons come to Christ." The largest of the seven Crossover venues, personal evangelism, has 5,822 volunteers who will be working with 16 churches and associations. That venue will be coordinated by LifeWay Christian Resources. Other venues include sports evangelism, prayer journeys, rock parties, ethnic ministries, madness explosion, and collective evangelism. Crossover will take place across a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area with 1.3 million people. Crossover is sponsored by AMB, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven Baptist associations. □ — Linda Lawson

Tennesseans challenged to 'fish with Jesus'

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee Baptists were challenged to "go fishing with Jesus" and do their part in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the state's nearly 4.6 million unchurched people during the State Evangelism Conference held March 13-14 at Grace Baptist Church here.

The conference drew about 600-700 during the two-day event. A similar conference held in Jackson in January drew about 650 participants.

The opening session featured Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch who has been on a whirlwind tour encouraging Southern Baptists to participate in Crossover 2005 to be held June 18 prior to the SBC annual meeting slated for June.

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., reminded those in attendance of the difference between church growth and growing a church.

Church growth is "filling up a building with people," he observed.

"Growing a church is filling the people inside so they will go out and share their faith with others," Welch said.



SBC PRESIDENT Bobby Welch, left, speaks with Lee Porter of Greenback, former SBC registration secretary, during the State Evangelism Conference in Knoxville.

Welch is concerned that churches are focusing inwardly and not outwardly. "We are turning churches into self-centered fortresses and forsaking the world outside."

A large church cannot win North America and the world at large to Christ, Welch stressed. But when a church gets "at large," it can, he continued.

Welch exhorted conference participants to go outside their church walls and tell people about Jesus. "You're the only hope they've got for the gospel."

The Sunday night session



JERRY JOSEY, left, of Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, visits with State Evangelism Conference speakers James Merritt, center, pastor of Cross Pointe Church, Duluth, Ga., and Fredrick Brabson, pastor of New Covenant Baptist Church, Knoxville.

also featured Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla., who challenged those in attendance to care about people who are hurting.

"As long as the church ministers to hurting people it will never lack for an audience," Roesel said.

Roesel also challenged ministers in the audience to "loose their laity" and to find new creative ways of ministry.

"If we're going to reach the world for Christ we have to loose the laity," he stressed.

The Leesburg pastor also

challenged churches to "do the old things well" while being willing to do "some new stuff" to reach people with the gospel of Christ.

Tennessee speakers

Three Tennessee Baptist pastors and an evangelist were among the speakers on Monday, March 14.

Evangelist Bill Edmonds of Oliver Springs led off the Monday morning session. "People are lost now and we need to do something about it," he challenged.

He exhorted pastors to model — See Tennesseans, page 11

In November 2006

Tennessee voters to consider marriage amendment

By Michael Foust
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Tennessee's legislature passed a constitutional marriage amendment March 17, sending it to citizens for a November 2006 vote.

The amendment — which would ban same-sex "marriage" within the state — passed the Tennessee House 86-7. It already had passed the Senate.

Tennessee is the fourth state legislature this year to send a marriage amendment to voters, following similar actions in Alabama, Kansas, and South Dakota. Kansans will vote on their amendment April 5. Citizens in Alabama and South Dakota will consider their amendments next year.

A marriage amendment has never failed at the ballot. Last year amendments went 13-for-13, passing with an average of 70.8 percent of the vote.

"If you destroy the definition of marriage, then it would have an adverse effect on society," Tennessee state Rep. Bill Dunn, a Republican and an amendment sponsor, said during floor debate.

The national movement to ban same-sex "marriage" is a reaction against court rul-

ings in other states — particularly Massachusetts, which saw its highest court legalize same-sex "marriage." Massachusetts had no marriage amendment.

Marriage amendments protect states from Massachusetts-type rulings. So far, 16 states have passed them. A 17th state, Hawaii, has an amendment that allows the state legislature to ban same-sex "marriage."

Dunn asserted that the traditional definition of marriage fills an essential role by allowing children to have both a father and a mother in the home. Same-sex "marriage," he said, falls short of that goal.

"We know that fatherless homes are not good. It's not the best that we can offer," he said. "Motherless homes are not the best."

Johnny Shaw, a Democrat, told Dunn he was supporting the amendment because of what the Bible says.

"The only reason why I would vote for this amendment is not because you bring something to put in the constitution, but because marriage was defined by God," Shaw said, addressing Dunn. "And none of us — I don't care what we do and what we say — none of us will ever change what God has said."

Dunn also referenced the Bible, quoting Christ's words in Matthew 19:5.

"The most influential human being ... that ever walked on the face of the earth about 2,000 years ago said, 'A man leaves his mother and father and clings to his wife and the two become one,'" Dunn said.

Dunn said he chose to sponsor the amendment even though he knew he would receive many negative e-mails and phone calls.

"As people have complained about my definition I often ask them, 'What is your definition?' And they'll give me one and it always leaves somebody out," he said. "And I don't accuse them of being a bigot, of being discriminatory. And I think so many times they recognize that there has to be a definition."

Approximately 15 other states are considering state constitutional marriage amendments. Pro-family leaders support state marriage amendments but say that a federal marriage amendment will provide the only lasting protecting. The state amendments have one significant weakness — they can be challenged in federal court. Nebraska's and Oklahoma's amendments are in federal court. □

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phone — (615) 371-2003

FAX — (615) 371-2080

Web Site — www.tnbaptist.org

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Disaster Relief responses reach all-time high

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief responses in 2004 reached an all-time high, including record numbers for meals prepared, buildings repaired, and cleanup and recovery projects.

More than 15,000 trained Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers gave their time, talents, and energies in response to 193 natural disasters which included hurricanes, an earthquake, floods, tornados, and ice storms.

Southern Baptists prepared more than 3.5 million meals, repaired more than 2,600 buildings, and completed nearly 11,000 cleanup and recovery projects — all record responses.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief reported 382 volunteers who prepared 352,000 meals, cleaned 127 yards, provided 1,208 showers, and trained 689 volunteers in 2004. The meals prepared by TBC DR volunteers ranked second among reporting state Baptist conventions.

Among the disasters Southern Baptists responded to were four hurricanes which struck Florida beginning last August.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief officials conservatively estimate the value of the labor provided by volunteers in a two-month period following the four hurricanes at \$6.9 million. And nearly \$700,000 was given through NAMB for disaster relief ministries by donors from August through December.

"The hurricane response was the largest in history," said Terry Henderson, NAMB's national director for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

So far this year, more than 120 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers from 10 states have been helping prepare meals and serving in medical clinics in Indonesia following the tsunami that hit the region in late December 2004. □

Amendment on marriage resurfaces in House

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A constitutional amendment banning same-sex "marriage" has been re-introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., introduced the amendment March 17 — three days after a judge in his home state issued a ruling legalizing "gay marriage." That ruling is being appealed.

Although Lungren once did not support a marriage amendment, he has changed his mind in light of recent court rulings. Lungren served as California's attorney general from 1991-99.

It has been dubbed the "Defense of Marriage Amendment."

The amendment, H.J. Res. 39, would prevent any court — state or federal — from legalizing "gay marriage." In doing so it would invalidate Massachusetts' same-sex "marriages." A different version of the amendment has been introduced in the Senate. It is S.J. Res. 1. □

Bush signs into law bill which could save Schiavo

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — In an extraordinary and historical action the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation early Monday morning that could save Terri Schiavo's life, and President George W. Bush signed it into law. It passed at 12:42 a.m. EST time by a vote of 203-58.

The bill provides Schiavo's parents the opportunity to appeal the case to a federal court which would give a complete review of the facts. In essence, the judge would be starting over, with new witnesses and new evidence allowed. The narrowly tailored bill applies only to Schiavo's case.

Bush signed the bill less than an hour after it passed the House.

Supporters of the bill hope that a federal judge will order the re-insertion of Schiavo's feeding tube, which was removed Friday.

The bill passed the Senate on a voice vote Sunday afternoon. If the feeding tube is not put back in she will die of starvation and dehydration within a week or so.

"If prisoners on death row are guaranteed federal review of their cases, Terri Schiavo deserves at least as much consideration," Joseph Pitts, R-Pa., said on the floor.

The bill had broad bi-partisan support in the House, with 156 Republicans and 47 Democrats voting for it. Voting against it were five Republicans and 53 Democrats. Because it was an expedited bill it required passage of two-thirds of the members present.

Schiavo's case has captured the nation's attention in recent weeks. For years her parents and her husband have been in a legal struggle over whether she should live or die.

While her husband, Michael Schiavo, says she would not want to live in her present state, no written request exists. Meanwhile, he has lived with his girlfriend, by whom he has fathered two children. Her parents say she has the capacity to swallow and could learn to eat food orally. Terri Schiavo is 41.

While some doctors have said Terri Schiavo is in a persistent vegetative state, others have said she is in a minimally conscious state.

"No less than 14 independent medical professionals — including six neurologists — have said she is not in a persistent vegetative state," Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., said. □

Muslims ask hard questions, says IMB missionary

Baptist Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The tsunami in southern Asia shook people in the region to the core of their being — and God is helping them understand the depths of His love for them, a Southern Baptist missionary told International Mission Board trustees during their March 14-16 meeting here.

Trustees also heard encouraging reports on how missions partnerships are multiplying global outreach and on innovative ways Southern Baptist congregations are getting "hands-on" involvement in reaching the least-reached.

Trustee chairman Tom Hatley urged board members to feel what God feels for a lost world, while 38 new missionaries were appointed during a March 15 service at First Baptist Church.

The massive death toll in the Dec. 26 tsunami left Muslim survivors in particular with some very difficult questions, said the veteran missionary (who is unnamed for security reasons).

"Muslims believe that everything that happens is commanded by God and that He blesses those who are faithful," he said.

"They also believe that Christians are their enemies and Muslims are their brothers."

"They are asking, 'If we are beloved by God, why did this happen to us? If Christians are our enemies, why are they here helping us? And if Muslims are our brothers, where are they?'"

Aided by nearly \$13.9 million given so far by Southern Baptists for tsunami relief in the region, Christians have come alongside survivors, helping them clean up and rebuild and doing dirty jobs some aid workers won't do, the missionary said. Many Muslim leaders, meanwhile, say wealthy Muslim nations are doing little relief work. Christians are listening as people share their grief, with the result that bridges of understanding are being built between local Muslims and people they thought were their enemies.

"God declared that He would shake the nations for His glory," the missionary said. "May this be that moment."

IMB President Jerry Rankin challenged trustees "return immediately to sending out more than 1,000 new missionaries a year — a level from which the board drew back in 2003 because of a financial shortfall. He also challenged them to draw up a

budget adequate for support much larger numbers of personnel, with an eye toward increasing the overseas missionary force from the current 5,220 to 8,000 over the next five years.

"God is calling out more candidates than ever before, and He has given Southern Baptists far more resources than are needed to provide their support," he said. □

Zambia leader accepts Christ

Baptist Press

LUSAKA, Zambia — The president of Zambia, in acknowledging his faith in Jesus Christ, recently was baptized in a public service, Southern Baptist missionaries report.

A crowd clapped and cheered as President Levy Mwanawasa (mwah-nah-WAH-sah) rose from the water in an outdoor baptism behind a Baptist seminary chapel in Lusaka, Zambia's capital.

The event drew hundreds of people, including public officials, leaders, and pastors from the area and neighboring countries.

"This baptism was an incredible occasion for the Baptist witness to many people who have not had in church before," said Troy Lewis, a Southern Baptist missionary in the southern African nation of more than 10 million people. "They heard the gospel of Jesus Christ."

On the day of his baptism Mwanawasa shared his spiritual journey before a packed chapel service. He told listeners he had been "struck" by Jesus — similar to the Apostle Paul's experience on the road to Damascus.

Mwanawasa remembered attending a Baptist school as a boy, but his relationship with Christ began to transform when he started attending Twin Palm Baptist Church in Lusaka in 2003. The small church meets the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia in Lusaka.

The president began asking questions about the Christian faith and how he could join the church. Church members answered his questions and ministered to him during difficult times. After Mwanawasa began attending the church, several family members died unexpectedly.

Mwanawasa soon shared his faith with his wife, Paula, and that he wanted to be baptized. Franklin Kilpatrick, missionary in Zambia for 35 years, helped disciple Mwanawasa during this process. Kilpatrick and his wife, Paula, are members of Twin Palm Baptist Church.

"The impact is not just Zambia; this could have impact on an international level," said Kilpatrick, who temporarily on U.S. assignment.

"He could impact a lot of leaders. He is in a position of influence, and people need encouragement." □

Humor just comes naturally for Springfield minister

Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

SPRINGFIELD — Humor comes as naturally to Martin Babb as eating does for most folks.

The ability to laugh apparently runs in his family, according to the associate pastor/education at Springfield Baptist Church here.

Both of his parents (now deceased) had a great sense of humor, Babb related. "At their funerals there was more laughter than there was crying."

In addition, Babb said his wife, Beverly, and two children, Meredith and David, all have a good sense of humor.

As an elementary music school teacher, Beverly especially has to have a sense of humor just to survive each day, Babb said of his wife.

Babb's ability to laugh at just any situation, combined with his ability to make others laugh as well spills over into his ministry.

"Humor is a big part of my ministry because it is a big part of my personality," Babb added.

Actually, Babb believes all Christians should have a good sense of humor. He cited Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like medicine..."

Christians ought to be

happy and ought to be able to laugh," he said. After all, Babb continued, "we have the ultimate answer. We know how the story ends."

Babb said most people don't think of church as a "funny place," but "I do. Humor has a healing effect on people," he observed.

Though not an ordained minister, Babb often is asked to assist in funerals. "In every one I've done, I have been asked to be myself and to say something funny."

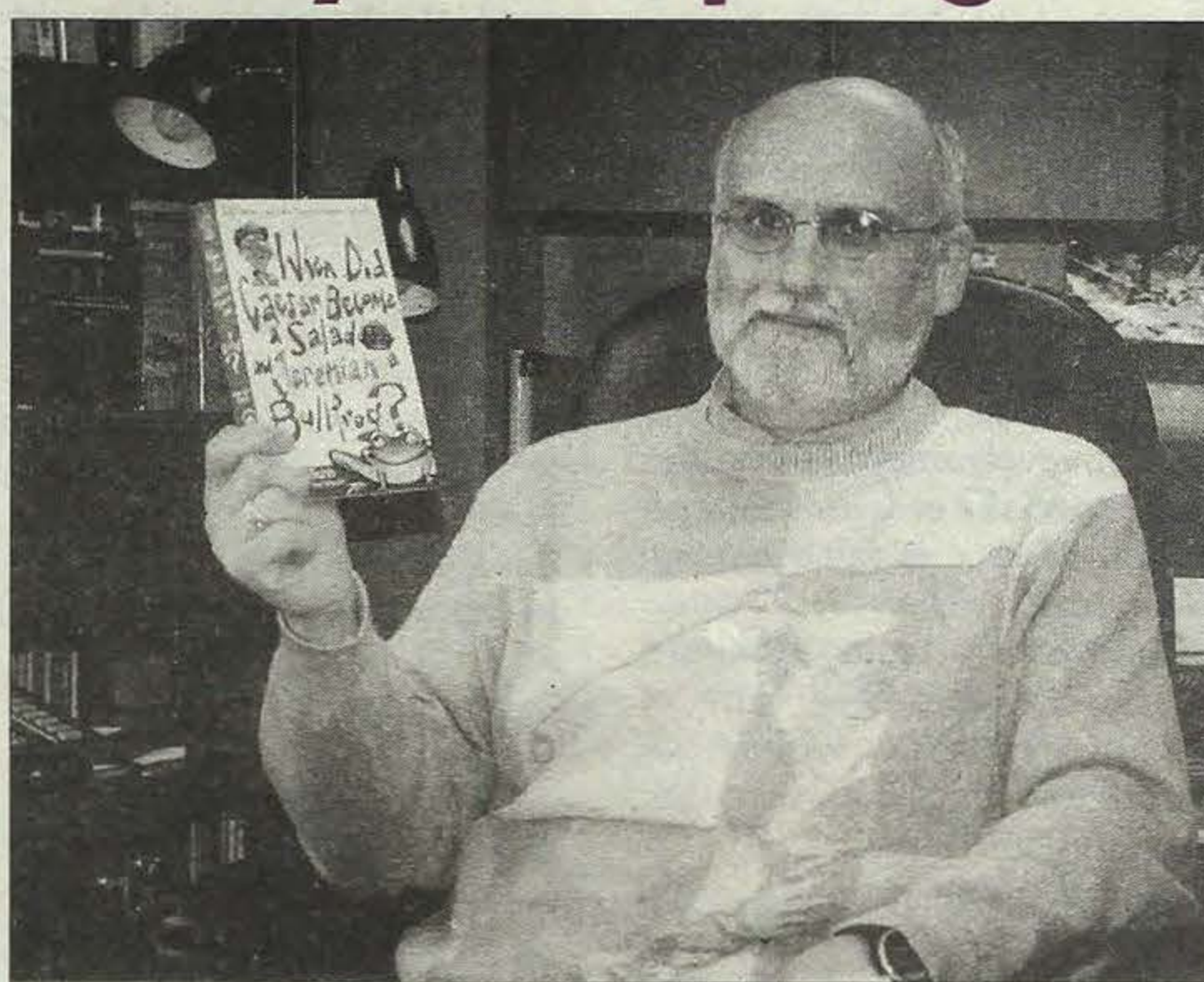
Over his 25-plus years of ministry which includes experience in both education and youth ministry as well as service as a youth consultant with the Sunday School department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Babb has written numerous articles for newsletters and other publications.

And almost every one contained elements of humor.

Babb recently compiled many of those articles he has written into a new book published by Howard Publishing Company, *When Did Caesar Become a Salad and Jeremiah a Bullfrog?*

Most of the stories in the book are humorous, Babb said, although a few are not. "They are just stories that needed to be told," he said.

The publisher describes the book as "100 Clever, Funny,



MARTIN BABB, minister of education at Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, displays a copy of his new book, *When Did Caesar Become a Salad and Jeremiah a Bullfrog? Humor is a part of Babb's daily life and ministry.*

and Insightful Lessons for Life."

Babb described most of the stories as being comprised of two-thirds humor with one-third being a religious thought or truth that "ties it together" at the end.

Writing has become an extension of Babb's ministry.

"I can do something different through writing. It's another way I can minister," related Babb, who aspired to be a journalist before God called him into the ministry.

Babb said the publication of his book is the fulfillment of a

20-year dream.

And whether the book sells a large number of copies or not doesn't really matter to Babb. One phone call has already made it "successful" in his eyes.

He related the story of a woman he knows well who has a mother suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

"She called to tell me how she had to stop reading my book to her mother because she was laughing so hard.

"The measure of the book's success will not be by sales but by the number of people who

tell me they have been touched by the book," said Babb, a native of Little Rock, Ark.

Babb is hopeful the book will be an encouragement to people. "We don't encourage people enough," he said. "It would make me feel good to know that one of my stories helped someone get through the day."

Babb also hopes the book will be used as a tool to talk to someone about Jesus. "A person might not pick up an intellectual book, but he or she might read a 500-word story," he noted.

He related that he can be "religious" in his stories and the reader "doesn't know it's going to be religious until it's too late."

"Humor," he added, "relates to both the Christian and the non-Christian."

Should the book do well, Babb already has enough stories for another book. Plus, he develops new ideas into stories continually. "I don't think I will run out of material," he said.

The book can be ordered off amazon.com and is in LifeWay Christian Stores, Books-a-Million, Barnes & Noble, and Media Play, he said. The book is also at CrossRoads Christian Store in Springfield where Babb will sign his book on Saturday, March 26, from 1-3 p.m. □

Nashville church realizes missions is more than short-term

Erin Royalty
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Forest Hills Baptist Church here learned a new lesson in missions in January.

The congregation was elated to see the successful launch of Ridgeview Community Church in Franklin. Their connection with this church is not small by any means.

With the commitment of 75-

80 members, and \$100,000 in funds Forest Hills is experiencing first hand what it means to be an Acts 1:8 Church. "... you ... will tell people about me everywhere — in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jerry Winfield, pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church for almost 12 years, says that their church has always been missions minded. In fact, they already have nine mission trips planned for this year with a goal of one every month. They have supported a church plant in Montana, and even sent people on short term mission trips to help them in the process, but, Winfield says, "this facet of being an Acts 1:8 church was missing."

About three years ago, Forest Hills began the visioning process with a group of members called "VisionTeam 1:8" who came away with 3 recommendations for their congregation: (1) for the church to go through a study of the 40 Days of Purpose, (2) to elect and empower a master

planning committee, and (3) to begin the process of starting a new church. They knew that they needed to do a thorough study of their current site and facility, and then get beyond their current location to reach more people.

In May of last year the church officially voted to start the new church. They brought on Ridley Barron, former student minister of six years, and Georgia church planter, to pastor the new church. After initially turning down the offer in 2003, once Barron realized that this was what God was calling him to nothing would deter him from this mission — not even the tragic passing of his wife and young son.

In August of 2004 Forest Hills brought Barron as an official staff member and sent him on the task of starting this new work. He began to meet in the fall with the core group, and launched the first public service of Ridgeview Community Church in January to the tune of 300 attendees.

Of the 75-80 members of

Forest Hills who made a commitment to Ridgeview — some permanent, some for a limited time, 45-50 of those are adults and the majority of those held a variety of leadership positions at Forest Hills. This has helped Forest Hills to "encourage, identify, and enlist new leaders," said Winfield. "New people are able to step it up to the plate — to step it up a notch."

Giving up close to 10 percent of their membership might have seemed daunting to Winfield and the rest of the congregation, but it has instead been an avenue of growth. Since 2004 missions giving has increased as well as weekly Sunday School attendance.

Forest Hills had the opportunity to realize that the term "missions" is more than just short term, and "it's not just international." If we are sending people to Ukraine, we can send people to Franklin. Their goal is to repeat this process every 2-3 years. "This is our first — not our only, but our first," said Winfield. □



FOREST HILLS Baptist Church was recently honored as a "Partnering Church of the Year" in Middle Tennessee. Wayne Berry, left, of the TBC staff presented the award to Jerry Winfield, right, pastor, and Ridley Barron, pastor of the church plant.

Crossover festival for special needs children set for June 18

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — As many as 1,000 children with special needs and their siblings will gather in downtown Nashville on Saturday, June 18, for a day of making new friends and learning about what God did each day He was creating the world.

It's called Stone Soup Festival, and an event especially for children with special needs is a first for Crossover, the pre-Southern Baptist Convention evangelism thrust held each year in the convention city. The festival will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Nashville Convention Center.

Approximately 250 volunteers already have committed to work with Stone Soup Festival, according to Ross McGary, a coordinator of the festival and pastor of Redeemer Fellowship, a partner church with Judson Baptist Church, Nashville. A total of 800-1,000 volunteers will be needed.

In addition to individuals, McGary said families may wish to volunteer to work at the festival. Also, he said church groups could volunteer to serve as part of a mission project. (See article on this page.)

He said volunteers are not required to have experience in working with children with special needs. Training will be provided.

Stone Soup comes from the name of the ministry to children with special needs carried out by Redeemer Fellowship. It comes from an old

French children's tale about a village where the people joined forces for a common cause amid unlikely circumstances, said McGary who also is president of the Jonathan Edwards Education Foundation.

Through the festival, McGary said, "We want to foster the involvement of families with special needs in the larger community of faith here in Nashville."

In what McGary termed a "discovery museum" type of setting, children will move through venues representing each day of creation.

For example, day four — the creation of the sun, moon, and stars — will be led by Don Winget, chair of the department of astronomy at the University of Texas, Austin, and an experienced children's worker.

When families register their children for the festival, McGary said they will be able to choose a day of creation and a project related to that day to complete before the festival.

McGary said Redeemer Fellowship volunteered to coordi-

CROSSOVER

nate a Crossover festival for children with special needs because of the priority of the ministry through their church. Instead of Sunday morning worship, church members work with the weekly Stone Soup Ministry under the leadership of Lynn McGary, director. Their worship service

Nashville youth stay home for mission trip

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Approximately 40 high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors from First Baptist Church, Nashville, have elected to minister at home instead of taking their annual mission trip this summer, according to Tony Rankin, interim youth minister and Tennessee Baptist Convention family ministry specialist.



RANKIN

With thousands of South-

ern Baptist volunteers coming from all over the country to work in Crossover 2005 in June, the youth and their leaders felt they should work side by side with brothers and sisters from other states, Rankin said.

While they will work in a variety of projects leading up to June 18, approximately 15 will spend that Saturday assisting children with special needs participating in the Stone Soup Festival at the Nashville Convention Center.

The festival will enable as many as 1,000 children with special needs and their siblings to make new friends while learning about how God created the world. (See article on this page.)

Rankin emphasized the FBC, Nashville, is a mission-oriented congregation with youth involved each year in 12-15 projects.

"We want to prepare our students to understand what missions looks like," he said. "Then when they graduate and move to other places they are not only aware of missions but fully capable of doing missions."

FBC youth will stay at Thompson Station camp during their weeklong mission trip.

"By the time the week is over I think our youth will have found their experience just as meaningful as going to Chicago or Montana," Rankin said. □

takes place at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to Sunday mornings, Redeemer Fellowship sponsors a monthly Friday night respite program where parents can enjoy a night out, knowing their children (those with special needs and their siblings) are well cared for. Saturday holiday camps before Thanksgiving and Christmas also are provided, enabling parents to shop or complete other holiday preparations.

"The thrust of Redeemer Fellowship is to reach people who are not being reached," said McGary. He noted that as many as 85 percent of parents of children with special needs

divorce due to the stress of their life situation.

McGary said family circumstances as well as a ministry commitment are the driving forces behind his and his wife's involvement in Stone Soup Ministries. Three of the McGary children have faced significant medical challenges and they understand the need for family support.

McGary said Stone Soup Festival planners "hope to encourage families that God has made their child in His image and that we believe they have a contribution to make to us and not just us to them. We also hope families will feel a level of respect and engagement in the community that maybe they haven't felt before."

In another area, McGary said he hopes the Stone Soup Festival will be a catalyst to encourage other churches to provide ministries for children with special needs and their families.

Promotion of this first-time Crossover event is taking place by word of mouth among families of children with special needs. Also, "We have people involved with Stone Soup who already are leaders with the Special Olympics here in Nashville, with the Autism Society, the Association of Retarded Citizens, and with Down Syndrome," McGary said. Promotion through the media will take place closer to the event.

McGary said efforts are in process to raise funds for the festival and follow-up. If 1,000 families are involved in the festival, "we need to be able to follow up and have some ongoing ministry with at least 300 families," he said.

Questions may be directed to Lynn McGary at (615) 593-326.

Coordinators hope at least two other churches will step forward to work with Redeemer Fellowship in providing Stone Soup on Friday nights, beginning in July.

Information about the Stone Soup Festival is available at www.stonesoupnews.com. Families may register children via the web site. Volunteers may register at www.crossoversbc.org.

Crossover prayer requests

Jerry Essary, evangelism specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and one of three Crossover coordinators, has requested prayer for several items related to the Crossover evangelism effort in Middle Tennessee.

(1) Pray that God will prepare volunteers to carry out their responsibilities and be tuned with the needs of the community where they serve.

(2) Pray that God will prepare the hearts of those who receive ministry to be open to the gospel.

(3) Pray that volunteers will actively share their faith.

(4) Pray for good weather because many Crossover activities will be held outdoors.

In a March 2 article in the *Baptist and Reflector*, Essary emphasized the need for the Crossover effort.

"The 40-mile radius which Crossover will be conducted has 1.3 million people and 80 percent of them are going anywhere (to church). What we're beginning to see is that Tennessee is very religious, but very lost." □

First person

Crossover — the Great Commission in action

By Roger P. Freeman
TBC president; pastor, FBC, Clarksville

Our Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch is leading us so ably and strongly to reach out to our lost world. Bobby Welch has helped to give us the FAITH witnessing plan to lead people to Christ. He is urging and inviting Tennessee Baptist pastors and members to participate in Crossover Nashville on Saturday, June 18, before the SBC annual meeting meets in town the next week.



FREEMAN

Please make your plans to be at the rally and worship service at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville. We will then go out on our ministry assignments of evangelistic outreach in the Nashville area to mission points and to assist new church starts in prospect visitation.

Pastors, please give June 18 to Crossover Nashville and invite your deacons and church

to join you. Put June 18 on the church calendar now. Charter a bus if you need to in order to get your group to Nashville.

The greatest joy on earth is to lead a soul to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Crossover is a great evangelistic effort. You will partner with Christians from all over the United States to witness about the gospel and to share your faith in Jesus Christ. God will go before us and have "divine appointments" ready for souls to win to Christ.

Men without Jesus are lost, doomed to an eternal hell. The Great Commission invites us to tell men about the only Savior. Jude 23 says, "Save others by snatching them from the fire; on others have mercy in fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."

You may register in advance to participate in Crossover by contacting your associational office or director of missions. The evangelism office at the Tennessee Baptist Convention can also assist you in registering to participate.

All Tennessee Baptists can unite behind Crossover because Crossover is simply the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in action. □

Easter reminds us of what Jesus did

Reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Easter Sunday means different things to different people. I hope for all Christians it means a time of remembering and honoring what Jesus did for mankind more than 2,000 years ago.

Sometimes Christians celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas and forget the significance of Easter.

Jesus came to earth for one purpose — to hang on an old, rugged cross for the sins of mankind, yours and mine.

As Christians we must never forget that.

Lenoir City pastor and cartoonist Thom Tapp reminds us this week of the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," which so vividly portrayed the crucifixion and death of Jesus. It was hard to watch, but it was something we needed to see. We have sat through too many Easter presentations which show Jesus with a little bit of ketchup (blood) smeared on his chest. Until Mel Gibson's movie came out last year we really could not imagine

the pain and suffering that Jesus went through on the cross.

Last week, the Tennessee Baptist Convention held its second evangelism conference in Knoxville. Speaker after speaker stressed the need for Christians, and particularly Tennessee Baptists, to begin "fishing" for souls.

Statistics show repeatedly that on any given Sunday in Tennessee, an average of 80 percent of the population of any county in the state is not in church. We're talking Tennessee,

not some Third World nation where many people have never heard the name of Jesus.

Why are so many people in our state unchurched? Maybe it's because we've never asked them to attend. In the terminology of one guest evangelist last week, we aren't catching fish because we don't know where the fish are (they are all over the state) and it's not because we don't have the right bait (we do, it's called the gospel of Jesus Christ). We aren't catching the "fish" because we are

not going fishing.

It's time for us to get busy and do what Jesus commanded each and every one of us to do — to share His message with a lost and dying world.

What better time to do that than on Easter Sunday and the days that both precede and follow this special, holy day?

Be in church on Sunday and invite a friend to hear about the wonderful news of the life of Jesus Christ and what He did on Calvary's cross for you and me.

Have a joyous Easter! □

making Christ known



By Beverly Smothers

Tennessee missionaries answer the call

"Answer the Call" is the theme of the 2005 North American missions emphasis.

In Tennessee, seven career missionaries and their spouses have answered God's call to full-time mission service.

These missionaries are Kelly & Karen Campbell, Alcoa; Randy & Julie Bonner, Cleveland; Margaret & Al Patterson, Ducktown; Alan & Connie Teel, Jackson; Randy & Cindy Pool, Trenton; Carroll & Bud Webb, Knoxville; and Bill & Cindy Black, Gatlinburg.

They are joined by one USC-2 (USA and Canada) missionary, Christina Nye, who finishes her two-year term later in 2005.

When you give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering you are assisting with their salaries as well as ministry project funds.

Our Tennessee missionaries serve from the flatlands in the west to the mountains in the east.

They serve regionally, in ministry centers, and on association staffs. Their work ranges from resort/leisure lifestyle ministries to inner-city community development to volunteer mobilization. Job descriptions usually include administration, volunteer recruitment, direct teaching, and most importantly — introducing persons to Jesus Christ as Savior.

In 2004 your missionaries reported more than 450 professions of faith.

On behalf of these missionaries, gratitude is expressed to Woman's Missionary Union for its emphasis on mission support through prayer, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotion, and volunteer involvement.

Our missionaries also are grateful to Tennessee Baptist Convention churches which generously contribute to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

You can be assured of the faithfulness and integrity of your North American missionaries serving in Tennessee. I join with our Tennessee missionaries in wishing you a blessed Easter season. □ — Smothers is strategic ministries specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Church of the Covered Dish

By Thom Tapp



letters to the editor

Baptist tsunami

This silly nonsense we are seeing and hearing about has been adapted into what I call a Baptist tsunami. It is a killer wave that is ravaging Southern Baptist churches throughout America.

I was taught by pastors in my days and years gone by that Baptists were people of the Book (the Bible). But that is no longer true. We have preachers who will proudly say they believe the Bible to be inerrant but their actions prove differently. They load up the wagon and run off to Saddleback, get in on Rick Warren's rock concerts, and head back South. They snatch their ties, put on their t-shirts and blue jeans, and bring a little 15-minute sermonette they call relevant and crank up their rock band and have their people sing songs that they do not even understand, and call it worship. It may be worship, but it is not worshipping the mighty God of the Bible.

This killer wave is far more destructive than the Asian tsunami. It is telling sinners they are okay, just believe. It is telling the thousands are responding to this silly nonsense they call church. They never hear a message on the precious blood of Christ without which no one could even be saved. These so-called preachers never mention hell and people

going there without Christ. They never tell their congregation they have to repent. It is a killer wave that is sending souls to hell.

In hearing and seeing what is going on among Baptists today, you will get the impression that Robert Shular, Bill Hybels, and Rick Warren are the authors of the Bible.

If we Southern Baptists continue down this trail we will lose our witness. In fact that has already begun. Let us turn back to the Book that our forefathers believed.

Vaughn W. Denton, pastor
Magnolia Baptist Church
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Great influence

This letter is in reference to the story, "Tennessee bill would permit change of birth certificate" which appeared in the Feb. 16 issue.

In my opinion our legislature needs to spend their time, energy, and our money on things that will affect the majority of our citizens, such as "state budget," "TennCare," etc.

In light of this I have made up a petition opposing "Senate Bill 0037/House Bill 1682. I have also scheduled myself to speak to my local ministerial association in McKenzie where I reside.

I intend to ask pastors to take my petition to their church-

es to obtain signatures. I realize this needs to be done by laypeople like myself to keep the church & state separated.

Personally I feel we need to find Senator Steve Cohen another hobby where he can't affect honest working people.

H.S. Carter
McKenzie 38201

Invite a friend!

Did you happen to pick up on the recent happening in the Memphis area? They felt the effect of an earthquake that had measured 4.0 on the Richter scale! It had originated a short distance up the road in Caraway, Arkansas and it made me wonder how I would have reacted, if a little after eight one morning, my house started to vibrate and the ground shook.

What would your thoughts have been — your reactions? It's not the first time that the folks in that area have had such an experience. The media indicated that it occurs about once a year. Regardless, it makes one think!

There have always been reports of occurrences that surprise us, some of which even blow us away. The horrific tidal wave (tsunami) that devastated Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and the adjacent areas was unimaginable to most of us.

Mother Nature doesn't

always announce her intentions and the mind of man doesn't always post notice to a proposed action. God however, heralds it across heaven and earth by way of His Word. Go to your Bible and read Psalms 37:5.

Why wait for a storm to come calling. Take an accounting as to what you are, who you are, and how you came to be. Find a mirror and check it out. You were molded to His design, intricate in detail and unequalled in craftsmanship. You are awesome and He loves you. He gave His only Son to prove just that!

This world of ours is bound and determined to keep us guessing.

There has never been a time since creation, that it was as important for God to be included in our existence as now!

If you spoke with Him this morning, that's great. If you spent time with Him or just included Him in your moments today, that's wonderful, but the next time you head to the Cross, invite a friend or friends to join you.

There's strength in numbers and your action touches His heart. Ask God to help you fulfill His plan and watch storms of all kinds become less threatening.

Let Him know that you know He loves you. Mention your friend and your fellow man to Him.

John Kramer
Bolivar 38008

Big Hatchie Association provides counseling ministry

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

COVINGTON — A lady arrived at the Big Hatchie Baptist Association office here for her appointment with the association's counseling center.

She was a single mother with a young son. She had been referred by her physician. She couldn't pay the fee but was insured by TennCare which was one of the insurance providers of the counseling service.

The young lady met with counselor Carmen Pfeifer for several months. She didn't attend church. She eventually told Pfeifer she had been raped.

Other clients who arrived that day were a couple who had been referred by their pastor. They were having problems with their relationship. They were able to pay for their counseling session.

A middle school student came who was referred to the center by a school principal. The school doesn't have guidance counselors any more. The boy has problems which are affecting his schoolwork and relationships with others at school.

The boy's family doesn't have insurance and can't afford to pay for the counseling. The counseling center provides it anyway. The center also provides counseling on a sliding fee scale based on the client's ability to pay.

A family of four meets with Pfeifer because the county government children's services department directed them there. Another family with divorcing parents comes to work out custody of their children as directed by a local judge.

Many soldiers and their families come for counseling. The military has reported that about 75 percent of soldiers who serve in Iraq divorce within a year of returning home.

Counseling ministry

All of the above illustrations are fictional but are representative of what occurs at the association's Big Hatchie Counseling Center. Confidentiality between counselor and client is an important part of the relationship, said Pfeifer, who is a licensed professional counselor in the areas of children, adolescents, and family therapy. She has served through the association for three years.

Another important aspect of Pfeifer's counseling besides confiden-

tiality is her faith in God.

"God has called me to this," she said, referring to her work.

Pfeifer refers people to God during counseling, encouraging them to discover His plan for their lives. And she refers clients to biblical principles. About 50 percent of her clients don't attend church, she noted.

Of her clients who do attend church, she has found that church-goers may not want to talk to their pastors about certain problems. For instance, women and girls often don't want to talk to a man about sexual issues, she noted.

Counseling also is needed by people "because this is a different time and age," said Pfeifer. In the past Christians could just tell people the answers to their problems are in "the Bible and this is it. Change your life and do it." Now people don't always respond to that approach, she added.

Needed ministry

Pfeifer, who is from Florida, has lived in Tennessee for about four years. When she and her husband first moved to Atoka, which is located near Covington, she realized she could develop a counseling practice easily because of the great need. No Christian counselor was practicing in Tipton County and few counselors were practicing.

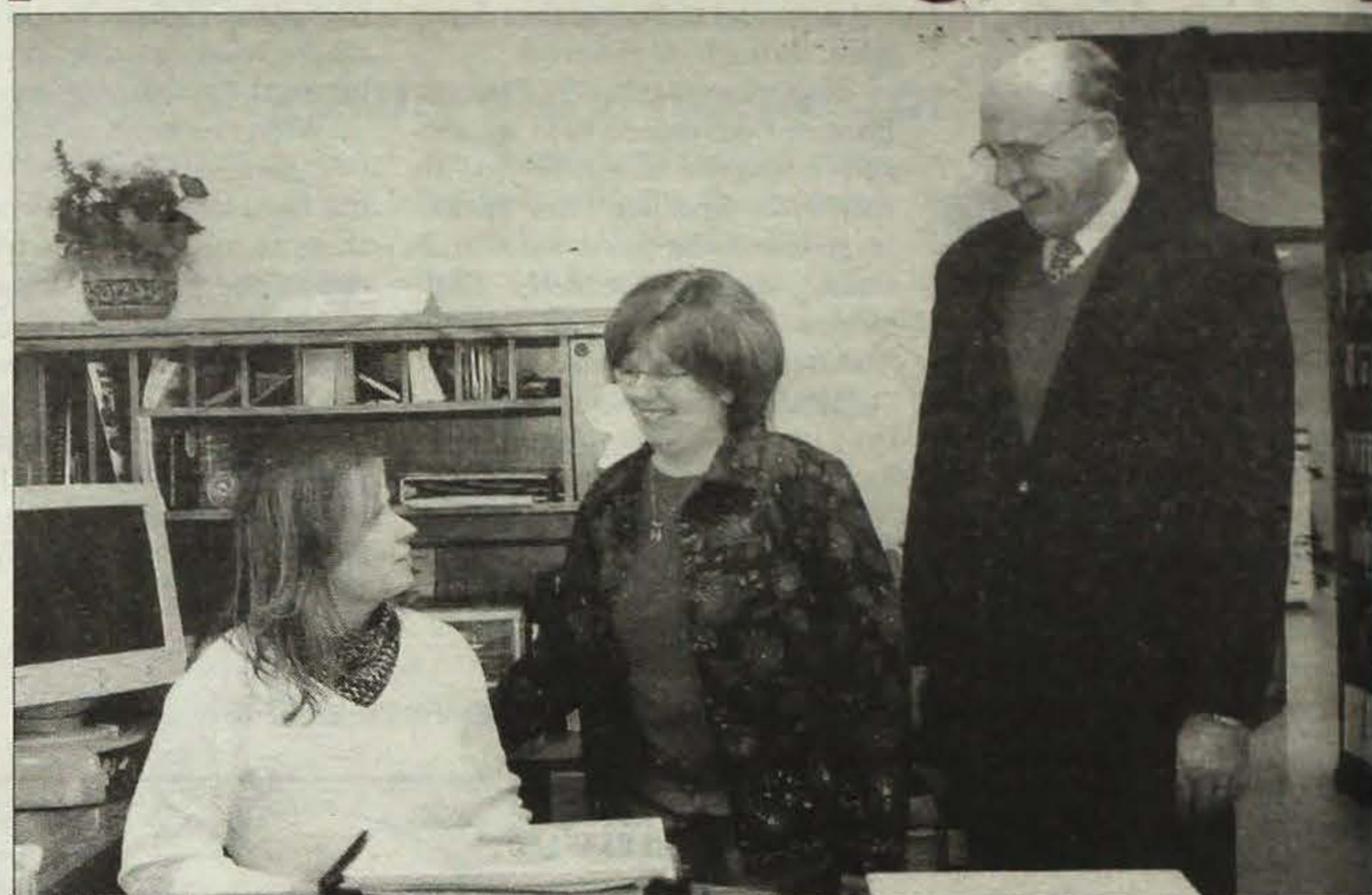
But she had just had the couple's first child so she waited.

A few years later former co-worker Paul Barkley of Memphis called Pfeifer. Barkley is a former Memphis pastor who is associate professor of psychology and religion at Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis. He also has a private counseling practice, in which Pfeifer worked after she and her husband first moved to Tennessee.

Barkley told Pfeifer that Ray Jones, director of missions, Big Hatchie Association, was seeking referrals for a counselor.

Pfeifer responded and soon she and Jones had developed the association's first counseling service.

Jones said association leaders started planning for a counseling ministry in 1997. The association could use funds for such a ministry from the Tennessee Baptist



CARMEN PFEIFER, center, counselor of the Big Hatchie Counseling Center of Big Hatchie Baptist Association, visits with Cindy James, left, who works with the center and the association, and Ray Jones, director of missions of the association, in the association office.

tist Convention. They needed to find a Christian counselor who would work within the parameters of associational insurance liability restrictions and be independently employed.

Then, just at the right time, Jones learned about Pfeifer who was a great fit, he said.

The association also learned that Cindy James was working for Pfeifer filing insurance claims and doing other office work. The association already knew James. She and her husband, Byron, were planting a new church, Hope Community Baptist Church, Atoka, through the Nehemiah Program of the North American Mission Board and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, in coordination with the association.

The association needed an office worker, so it hired James with the agreement she could continue to work for Pfeifer, who also works part-time. To provide the rest of the needed office work of the association, Donna Jones, wife of Ray, responded. She had recently retired as secretary of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Covington.

"The Lord just worked it out so that everything worked well," said Ray Jones.

He added that people often come up to

him in places like the grocery store and thank him for the counseling ministry saying it "has meant so much to us and our family."

Personal ministry

Pfeifer said she has wondered why God called her to be a counselor since she felt called by God to the profession.

"I'm just a person like anybody else," she said. She has a physical disability, scoliosis, which "God has used in my life," she described. It helps her to deal somewhat with the stigma of being a therapist since she is familiar with it.

Her disability helps her relate to clients in that she has a physical disability just like they have a mental health disability, she added.

She also can relate to them because she sins too, she stated.

"I would love to see everybody succeed, however it's not my choice. It's theirs. I can encourage change, show them how great a relationship with God can be, but they have to make the choice and some are ready and some are not."

"If you're willing to do whatever God wants you to do, He'll do it, believe it or not," concluded Pfeifer, referring to God.

Association develops Gospel Wagon to assist with block parties

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

COVINGTON — Mike Owens is mission development director for Big Hatchie Baptist Association based here. Last year he and the association developed the first trailer equipped for a block party in Tennessee, as far as he knows. The association calls it the Gospel Wagon.

It will be used in June to help a Nashville area church hold a block party as part of Crossover, the annual evangelistic event held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The Gospel Wagon will come with a full complement of workers from Big Hatchie, said Owens.

Last year the Gospel Wagon helped Olive Branch Baptist

Church, Ripley, kick off its Vacation Bible School. The year before the church drew nine children to VBS. After the block party they drew an average of 40 to VBS.

Another church, Liberty Baptist Church, Covington, borrowed the Gospel Wagon and held a block party in a subdivision. At the time Liberty had about 100 coming to Sunday School. The church drew about 200 people to the block party and identified 25 families who were unchurched.

The Gospel Wagon has been used almost every weekend since volunteers were trained on how to use it last June, reported Owens. He was able to use training curriculum already developed by the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

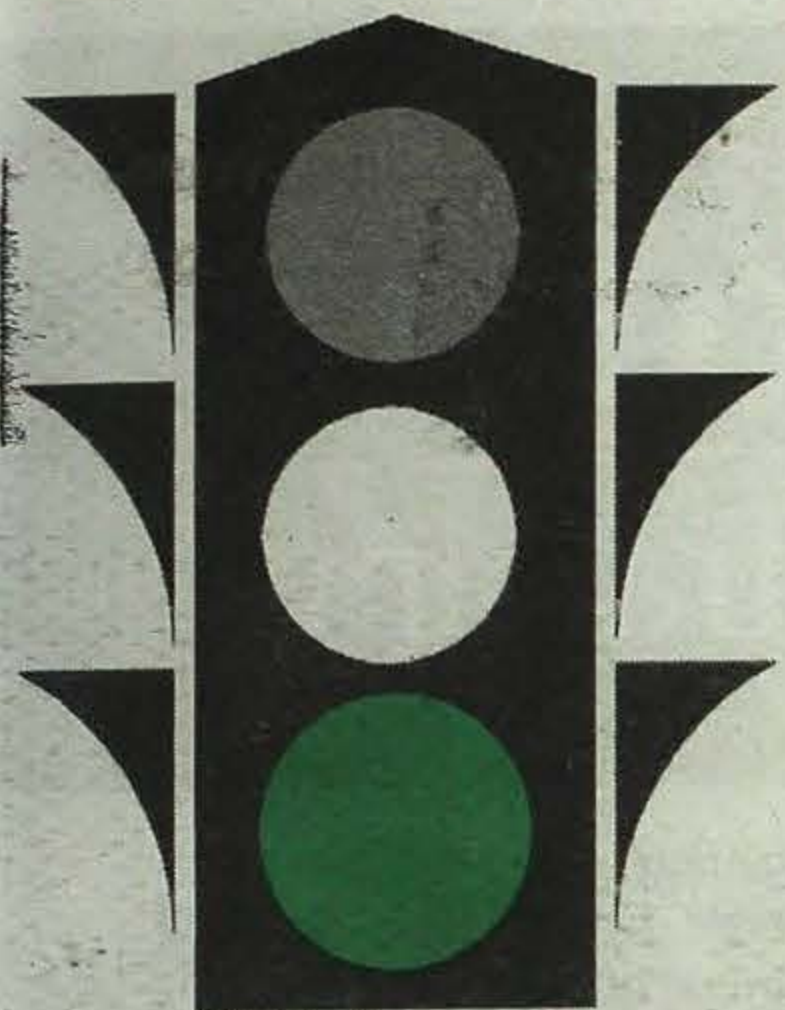
He also trains volunteers "to maximize the evangelistic potential" of the block party. He said during a block party volunteers can identify prospects they should later visit or contact, he explained.

The trailer will be used all over Tennessee and in other states, said Owens. It can only be used by a member of an association church who has been trained because of insurance purposes. It cost about \$8,000 and was funded mainly through gifts with help from the association.

The Gospel Wagon includes a tent, inflatables, cotton candy maker, popcorn machine, and snow cone maker. These items help produce a "fair atmosphere," described Owens, which draw children who then bring their parents, said Owens. □



MIKE OWENS, left, pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church, Millington, who developed the block party trailer for Big Hatchie Baptist Association, stands in it with Ray Jones, DOM of the association.



Green Light

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



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Welcome to the great state
of Tennessee!

If you have moved to our state within the last year,
we invite you to attend our

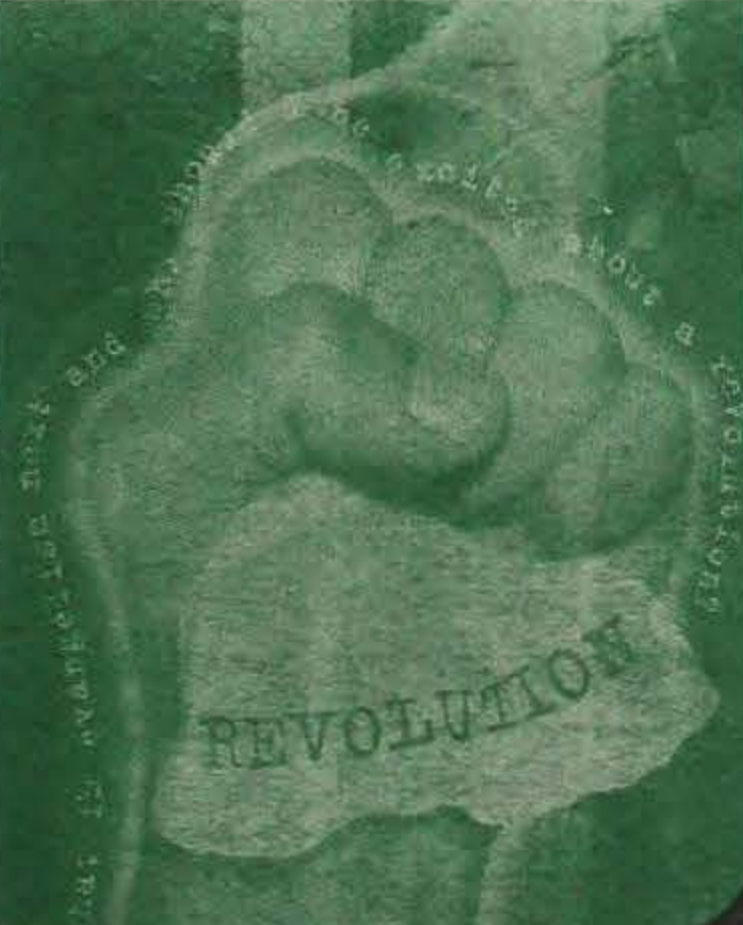
New Church Staff Orientation, May 2 - 3, 2005, at the Baptist Center in Brentwood.

New Pastors / Staff will have the opportunity to meet the "One Servant Family" State Missionary Staff and to learn about resources available to help enhance the health of Tennessee Baptist Churches. To register or obtain more information, contact Linda Estey at 1.800.558.2090, ext. 2088.

well known speakers:

e-v@ngelism
neXt

An Innovative Evangelism Conference



April 25-26 First Baptist Church, Smyrna

Worship led by: Ron Alley and the worship team from First Baptist Church, Smyrna.

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

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



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

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

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



→ DON'T FORGET! ←

April 1-2 **Sunday School Leadership Retreat**, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center. Vital signs for a Healthy Sunday School. Sunday School training for all age group workers, Sunday School directors, and pastors. To register call Linda at 877.354.6336. For more information, call 800-558-2090 ext. 2054 or visit the website at www.equippingu.com.

April 8-9 **Dramatic Arts Festival**, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. Clowning-Drama-Interpretive Movement-Puppetry-Mime. To register call Charlotte at 615-371-7908 or 800-558-2090 ext. 7908 or email at chanon@tnbaptist.org Visit the website at www.tnworshipandmusic.org

April 8-9 **Healthy Family Relationships**, Gatlinburg Convention Center (in conjunction with WMU Get Together). For more details and registration visit www.tnfamilyministry.org or contact Tony Rankin at 800-558-2090 ext 8136 or Brenda Harris at bharris@tnbaptist.org.

April 8-10 **WMU Get Together**, Gatlinburg Convention Center. *Christ Followers*, For more information on the conference schedule and topics, how to register, suggested hotels and this year's mission project, visit www.tnwmu.org or call Rebekah Wales at 615-371-2038 or email rrwales@tnbaptist.org.

April 8-10 **Connection**, Gatlinburg Convention Center. A missions event for junior high and high school girls. Held in conjunction with WMU Get Together. For more information, contact Andrea Knight at 615-371-7919 or email aknight@tnbaptist.org. Visit www.tnwmu.org for more details.

April 10 **Cooperative Program Day**. For CP materials, contact Jane Garvin at jgarvin@tnbaptist.org or 800-558-2090 ext. 7912.

April 11-12 **Tennessee Baptist Convention Secretaries Conference**, Tennessee Baptist Center, Brentwood. Find out more information on lodging, registration, and conference schedule visit our website: www.tnbaptist.org or by contacting Lana Rose at 615-371-2008.

April 15-16 **Royal Ambassador Wilderness Challenge**, A Camping Adventure for all RAs. For registration information, a copy of the event rules and a tentative schedule call the Nashville Baptist Association office at 615-259-3034.

April 16 and April 23 **Children's Bible Drills, Youth Bible Drills and Speaker's Tournament**. For specific dates and locations in your area, visit www.tnbaptist.org or contact your local association.

April 18-19 **Church Administration Conference**, Bell Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. Featuring Richard Hammar. Hosted by Tennessee Baptist Convention and GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. For more information, visit www.tnchurchadmin.org or call Brittany Powers at 800-558-2090 ext. 2013.

April 22-23 **Cross Cultural Training**, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. A 12-hour training event for anyone going overseas on a mission trip. Contact Heather at hwilson@tnbaptist.org or call 800-558-2090 ext. 2061 for more information.

April 22-23 **Disaster Relief Training**, Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison. Friday: 2 pm - 10 pm and Saturday: 7 am - 4 pm. Contact Elizabeth Holmes for further information and for registration at (615) 371-7926 or eholmes@tnbaptist.org.

April 25-26 **e-v@ngelism neXt**, First Baptist Church, Smyrna. An innovative evangelism conference with break out sessions for Youth Ministers, Language Pastors, Church Planters, and Pastors seeking new ways to equip church members in evangelism. Visit www.evangelismnext.org for costs, registration, conversation topics and an event schedule or call 800-558-2090 ext. 7933.

April 27-30 **National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries**, Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, NC. Look for more details at www.nasbs.net and www.tnbaptist.org or contact Lana Rose at TBC, 615-371-2008.

April 30 **Healthy Family Relationships**, Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett. This event has been CANCELLED.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

Belle Aire Baptist Church
Murfreesboro, TN
April 18-19



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



Special Music: Kyle Matthews.

BREAKOUT TOPICS INCLUDE:

Church Administration A to Z

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

Medical Insurance Options

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

Personnel Policy Development

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

Financial Management

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

Cost: \$125 per person
Early Bird Registration: \$110 per person by March 15
*\$15 to bring a guest to the banquet.

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

*CEU Credit available from NACBA.



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

TRANSITIONAL Interim Pastor Training

Purpose: Preparing ministers to take advantage of the unique ministry opportunities inherent in the interim period between the departure of one pastor and the arrival of another.

Guiding
Reconciling
Preparing
Shepherding
Rebuilding

May 23-25, 2005
Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center
Newport, TN

Registration Fee, Meals, & Lodging Cost: \$100 per person single occupancy, \$50 per person double occupancy. This event starts on Monday, May 23 at 2:00pm and ends at noon on Wednesday, May 25.

For more information, call 800.558.2090, ext. 2018.
jclaycorby@tnbaptist.org

TBREA Spring **Rolling** Retreat

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Legacy Center

May 4-6, 2005

Driver: Allan Mathews

\$55 for meals & bus, additional cost for lodging.

Deadline for registration: Friday, April 15

To make hotel reservations for Wednesday and Thursday, contact the Legacy Center at 1-877-444-SBTS or 502-736-0600. For more information, contact Tammy Harris at 615-371-2054, tharris@tnbaptist.org or visit www.tnbaptist.org.



**Remember
CP Day
is April 10.**

**For Cooperative Program materials contact:
Jane Garvin jgarvin@tnbaptist.org or (800) 558-2090 Ext. 7912**

An Evening of Worship Through Song



May 5
Central Baptist Church
Fountain City in Knoxville
7 p.m.

Directed by Paul Clark

Accompanied by Mary McDonald, Dora Ann Purdy, and Vicky Wright

With special recognition of Mary McDonald, accompanist and arranger for the Tennessee Mens Chorale for 20+ years — commissioned anthem composed by Craig Courtney will be debuted with Courtney accompanying.

Live Recording will be made of the evening's presentation.

A freewill offering supporting music mission projects of the Tennessee Baptist Church Music Conference will be received.

For more information, contact Charlotte Hanson at 615-371-7908 or e-mail at chanson@tnbaptist.org

Youth Ministry Updates

A time of networking and sharing with youth leaders in your region!

May 5: Northwest Region

Host: David Hagan, NW Regional Youth Consultant
from Calvary Baptist Church, Union City
731-885-2961

May 10: North Central Region

Host: Bill Stone, NC Regional Youth Consultant
from First Baptist Church, Cookeville
931-526-7108

May 17: Northeast Region

Host: Don Pratt, NE Regional Youth Consultant
from First Baptist Church, Elizabethton
423-543-1931

For information and locations, go to www.tnyouthministry.com or call 800-558-2090, ext. 7906.

COMING UP...

For information on the Tennessee Baptist Camps listed below, visit www.tnbaptistcamps.org or call 800-558-2090, ext. 2085.

June 10-12	Journey Weekend for Dads & Sons and Journey Weekend for Moms & Daughters, Camp Linden
June 13-15	Journey Mini Camp for Boys, Camp Linden
June 13-17	All Nations Camp, Camp Linden
June 15-17	Journey Mini Camp for Girls, Camp Linden
June 27-July 1	Journey Camp for Kids, Camp Linden
June 27-July 1	Super Summer, Austin Peay State University
July 8-10	Journey Weekend for Dads & Sons and Journey Weekend for Moms & Daughters, Camp Carson
July 11-15	Youth IMPACT, Camp Linden
July 22-24	Journey Mini Camp for Kids, Camp Carson
July 25-29	Mission IMPACT, Camp Carson

June 17-19 **CrossOver 2005**. Crossover is an annual effort by Southern Baptists to touch the people of the host city during the annual meeting with the gospel of Jesus Christ. To find out volunteer opportunities, visit www.crossoversbc.org.

June 19 is **Father's Day** and the opportunity for churches to receive a **Father's Day Offering for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes**. This year's theme is "Honor Your Father with a Timely Gift" and the statewide goal is \$175,000. Order your free resources on the web at www.tnbaptisthomes.org.

June 19-20 **WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting 2005**, Christ Followers—Pass on the Passion, First Baptist Church, Nashville. Admission is free. No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, visit www.wmu.com.

June 24-25 **Disaster Relief Statewide Regional Training**, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville. Registration fee: \$25. For more information and registration, contact Elizabeth Holmes at 615-371-7926 or visit www.tnbaptist.org.

You are making a difference!

Here is just a few of the many examples of how you helped "Empower Kingdom Growth."



<79 Attended

79 attended the Black Church Leadership Conference to receive training and inspiration.

Many Tennesseans were able to serve as career missionaries with the International and North American Mission Boards.



<12,637 Impacted

Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center and Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center hosted 296 groups and held 15 weeks of camp, impacting 12,637 for various kinds of spiritual development.

<Disaster Relief

Tennessee Baptists have been able to respond to disasters in Kentucky, Giles County, Nashville, and Florida.

College students were provided opportunities for high learning in a Christian environment at Belmont University, Carson-Newman College, and Union University.

The Children's Homes ministered to 190 children in residential care, 79 family members in family preservation, 6 foster care, and 21 college. 28 children made profession of faith and 6 adult family members.

Working with the New Church Start Team 50 new churches were started.



<11,874 Attended

11,874 students attended the Youth Evangelism Conference where 274 teenagers received Christ as Lord and Savior.

57 BCM Summer Missionaries>

BCM raised \$72,000 for summer missions sending 57 students as TBC BCM summer missionaries.



The Baptist & Reflector was able to print and mail each issue of the paper to church family plan subscribers at a price below the cost of production.

46 new church planters and planter teams were trained through Basic Training for Church Planters.



<35 College Campuses

Tennessee Baptists have a person on 35 college campuses through Baptist Collegiate Ministries. These BCM programs raised a total of \$180,000 in order to involve over 900 students in short-term missions experiences.



<800 Church Leaders

Over 800 church leaders were trained in the drama and worship conferences.

1,242 Children's Bible drillers participated from 255 churches and 55 associations

Find out how you can help impact your neighborhood, your state, and your world.

For more info please contact:

Gary Rickman

800.558.2090, Ext. 2020,

grickman@tnbaptist.org

or visit www.tnbaptist.org.



Because
you
gave
in 2004

...someone's
life
was
changed.



Tennesseans challenged to 'fish with Jesus' ...

Continued from page 1

elism for their congrega-
"You need to lead your
le to Jesus. You need to
your people," he said.

e reminded ministers in
dance that God "has set us
to preach the gospel.
Don't give God your lip with-
our heart."

m McCoy, pastor of Thomp-
Station Baptist Church,
apson Station, focused his
age on "Fishing with
Jesus."

e presented three principles
fishing with Jesus, found in
5.

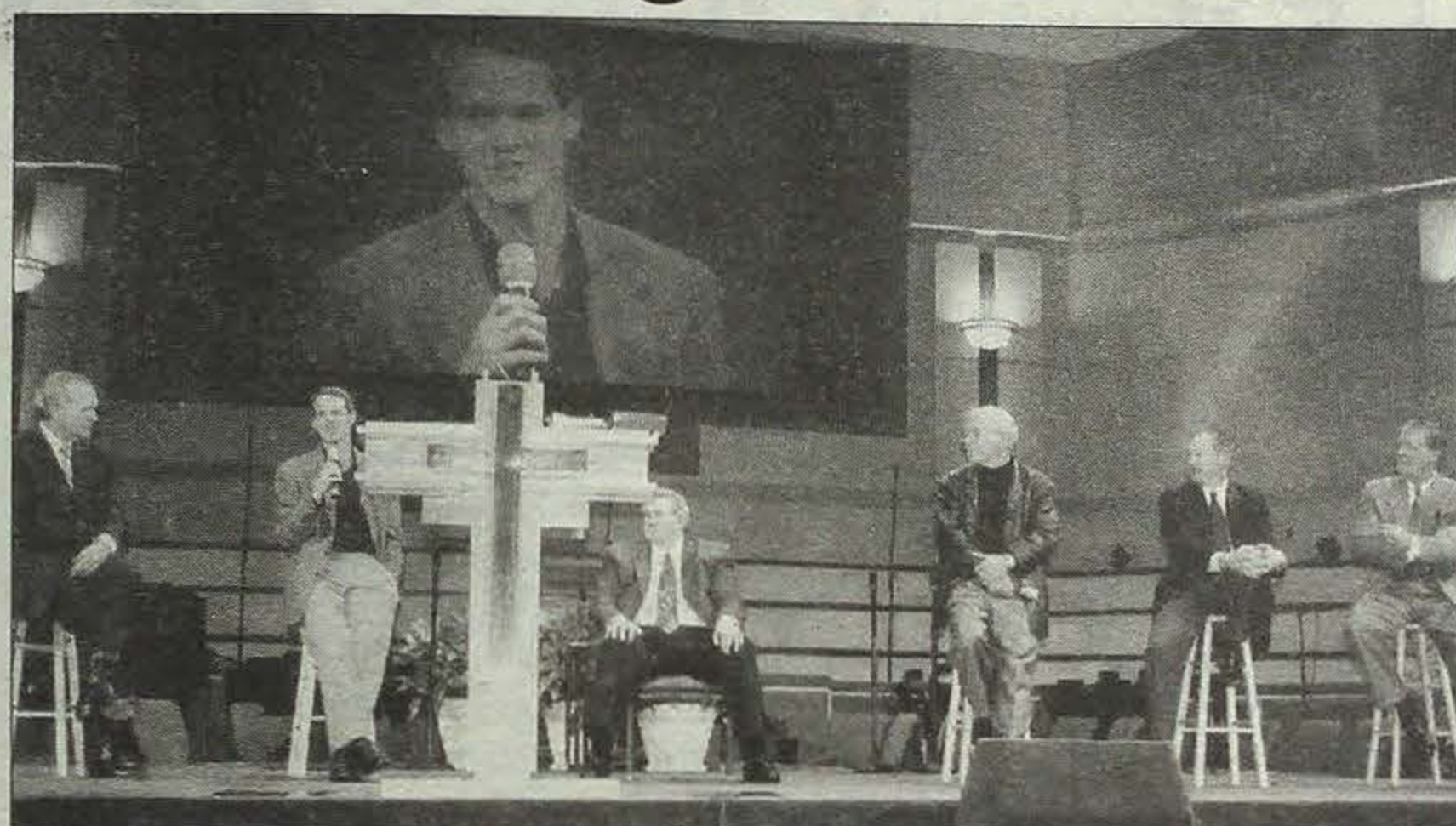
) You have to launch out
the deep, he said. He noted
ches are "fishing too close"
ne shore. "It is time for
ches to launch out into the
where the lost people are,"
oy said.

) Let down the net, McCoy
nued. He observed that
of the reasons churches are
d to let down the net is "we
believe in the power of
Word. Just put out the word
God. He will bring the
ts."

) You have to leave every-
g and follow Jesus. "Every
you follow Christ, you will
enazed," he promised.

the final message of the
noon session, Ron Stewart,
or of the host church, cited
ways a pastor can lose his
stry.

) Begin thinking that
vision for your ministry
urs and not God's, Stew-
said. "Your vision for
church must be God's
n. His vision is greater



TOM MCCOY, second from left, answers a question during a panel discussion at the State Evangelism Conference held last week in Knoxville. Conference speakers on the program included, from left, Ken Hemphill, McCoy, Bill Edmonds, Charles Roesel, James Merritt, and Ron Stewart.

than any person's."

(2) "Ministry can be lost if you forget where your power comes from," Stewart observed.

He reminded pastors that when David had God's vision, he conquered Goliath. When he lost it, he couldn't conquer lust, Stewart said.

"God has a vision and a purpose for your life," he challenged ministers. "Your vision from God empowers you," he continued. "If you forget where your power comes from, you'll lose your ministry."

(3) A pastor can also lose his ministry if he ignores the "real enemy," Stewart said. "The enemy attacking the church is not a person, but it is Satan who wants to destroy the vision God has given to the church."

(4) The last way to lose your ministry, Stewart told pastors, is

to "forget others are dependent on you to receive God's blessing on their life."

He recalled that he used to be a paper boy and his job was to get the paper as close to the customer's door as possible.

"I'm going to deliver God's Word as close to their front door every week. It's a Word that will change lives," Stewart said.

"If I don't do my job as God's paper boy, some people will lose God's blessing and I will be held accountable for it."

Knoxville pastor Fredrick Brabson of New Covenant Baptist Church, spoke during the closing session on Monday night.

"One of the great tragedies of the Christian experience is the lack of professing believers to share our faith," he said.

He noted that every believer

God has done for him or her. Something is wrong when a believer can't articulate an experience with Jesus," Brabson contended.

Taking his message from John 9 about the blind man whose sight was restored by Jesus, Brabson noted the blind man had a personal encounter with Jesus that he could share with others.

"We're not going to be effective telling about what Jesus did for someone else," Brabson said.

Final speaker

Former SBC president James Merritt, pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga., gave the closing challenge. He too used the analogy of fishing with evangelism.

He encouraged conference attendees to become "fishing buddies" with Jesus.

Merritt observed that the primary reason Christians aren't leading others to Jesus Christ is "nobody is going fishing."

He cited some steps to "catching fish" found in Mark 1, beginning with verse 16.

First, he said, a Christian must follow the Savior. "The greatest single decision you make every day is are you going to follow Jesus or not."

Second, Merritt continued, fish do not come to the fisherman. "It's our job to go out, find the fish, and bring them into the kingdom of God."

He observed that Jesus didn't give us a "you all come" religion. He told us to "go tell."

Bringing people to Jesus simply involves following the Savior, finding the sinners, and then "freeing the Holy Spirit."

"He will do the rest. Let the Holy Spirit work through you," Merritt concluded. □



LARRY GILMORE, left, state evangelism director, and Ron Stewart, second from right, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, welcomed Bobby Welch, right, and Charles Roesel to Grace Baptist, site of the State Evangelism Conference held last week. Stewart also spoke during the two-day meeting.

Bivocational pastors need support, encouragement, says Gilder

orm Miller
st Press

NOXVILLE — "Since
st half our Southern Bap-
churches are led by bivoca-
l pastors, I believe it's high
we recognize them and
er them," SBC President
y Welch told the East Ten-
ee Bivocational Evangelism
erence.

Welch, who was among the
ured speakers during the
h 11-12 gathering, noted
a bivocational pastor will
ch during the June 21-22
hern Baptist Convention
al meeting in Nashville.

[f] we are going to evangel-
merica," Welch said, "it will
e without the crucial efforts
our bivocational pastors."
ne bivocational evangelism

conference, held at Grace Bap-
tist Church here, was sponsored
by the Tennessee Baptist Con-
vention and organized by bivo-
cational pastor Ray Gilder, who
also serves as bivocational min-
istries specialist for the state
convention.

Some bivocational pastors
"get a 'Lone Ranger' mentality,
but they need the fellowship,
they need encouragement, and
they need to be around their
peers," Gilder told Baptist Press.

Many of those attending the
conference gave up a day off
from work. "These guys don't
come to our seminars and con-
ferences just to coast. They come
to get," Gilder said. "They've
made an investment of time to
be here, and they'll take what
they learn and put it in practice
in their pastorates."

Time management is the
number one issue for bivocational
pastors, Gilder said, noting,
"We juggle job, church, and fam-
ily." In some cases, it's "sad to
say that the family gets the
short end of the stick," said
Gilder, pastor of Farmington
Baptist Church in Lewisburg.

The bivocational pastor's ten-
dency is to be so eager to do a
good job with the church that he
will neglect his wife and chil-
dren. "But probably the best
message they'll ever preach is
their family and their home,"
Gilder said. "So, I go heavy on
telling our men to put their fam-
ilies before the church. Some
Baptists think that's unspiritual,
but I believe the only person
that comes before family is
God."

Gilder said he divides his
waking hours evenly among
home, church, and job, spending
about 30 hours at each per
week.

"You might come to my house
on Tuesday afternoon and see
me working in the garden with
my wife," he said. "But that's the
way bivocational work goes. We
have to juggle everything in
order to get anything done."

A bivocational pastor spend-
ing time with his wife is vitally
important, Gilder said, explain-
ing, "She needs fellowship, and
she needs to know the feelings
she may be having are pretty
common —

resentment,
bitterness,
frustration,
and questions
like, 'Is this
what God real-
ly wants us to
do?'"

Retreats
sponsored by
the state convention help
address these and other issues,
said Gilder, who noted their
growing popularity, saying he's
looking now for a larger facility
for next year.

So many couples in ministry
need some fresh wind; they need
to be encouraged, refreshed, and
challenged, he said.

Though bivocational pastors
face struggles, they do have
many advantages. "Some full-
time pastors relate little to their
local culture, but bi-vo pastors
have intimate knowledge of
what everyday people face every
day," Gilder said. "They get to

relate to the real world and have
more opportunities for evangel-
ism."

Bivocational pastors have a
better financial base with two
incomes, which helps to give the
pastor job security, Gilder said.

"Of necessity, the laypeople
have to get involved in min-
istry," Gilder continued,
"because the bivocational pastor
cannot do it all, and the mem-
bers accept that fact."

Gilder lamented that, "Too
many churches are killing their
preachers. We expect them to be
Superman. But the Scriptures
teach that the pastor is to equip
the members to do the work of
the ministry."

Gilder added, "A lot of people
think a bivocational pastor is a
guy who can't get a full-time
church or has some sort of chap-
lain-type ministry. But the truth
is some of the greatest preach-
ers out there are bivocational."

One of the keys to successful
bivocational ministry is to be
sure it's God's will, he said.

"There is no big assignment
or small assignment in God's
kingdom."

"If you are where God put
you, there is no move up." □



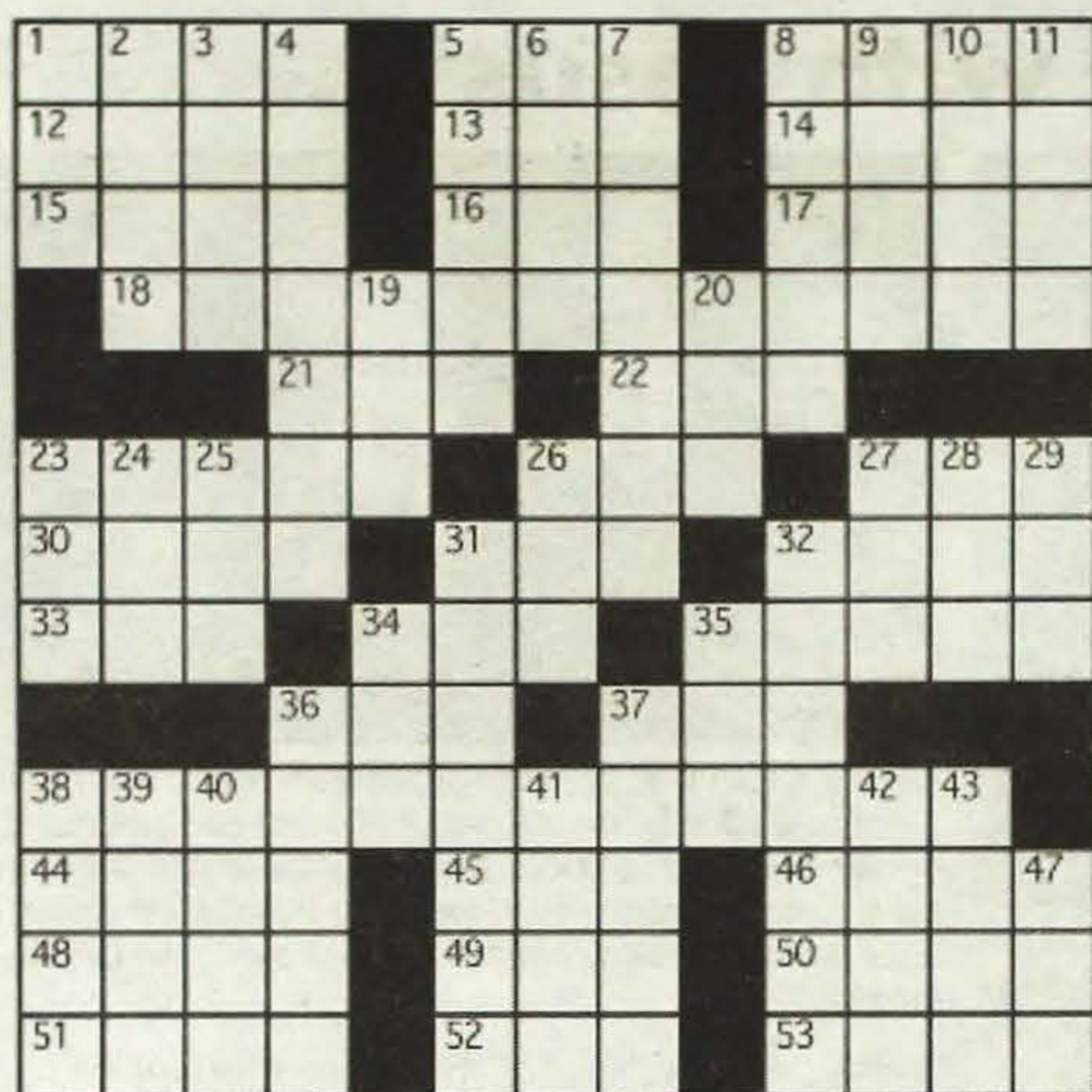
GILDER



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See answers on page 14

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. "There was a marriage in _____ of Galilee" (John 2:1)
5. Headwear
8. "When they saw the _____, they rejoiced" (Matt. 2:10)
12. Son of Jerameel (1 Chron. 2:25)
13. "If we confess _____ sins" (1 John 1:9)
14. "Her _____ shall be holiness to the Lord" (Isa. 23:18)
15. Mexican money
16. Suffix meaning "process or function"
17. "For I have slain _____" (Gen. 4:23) (2 words)
18. "Thou hast made us to drink the wine of _____" (Ps. 60:3)
21. "The archers _____ him" (1 Sam. 31:3)
22. Shoe width
23. "It shall be health to thy _____" (Prov. 3:8)
26. Girl's name
27. "That I may _____ Christ" (Phil. 3:8)
30. "It shall be a statute for _____" (Lev. 23:31)
31. "Samuel arose, and _____ him up from Gilgal" (1 Sam. 13:15)
32. Son of Zerah (1 Chron. 2:6)
33. Money owed the government
34. "_____ also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David" (2 Sam. 20:26)
35. "Thou shalt call his name _____: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21)
36. Onassis
37. "Babylon is taken, _____ is confounded" (Jer. 50:2)
38. "To _____ of goods, or to imprisonment" (Ezra 7:26)
44. "There was also _____ for the tribe of Manasseh" (Josh. 17:1) (2 words)
45. Place for experiments
46. "Strain at a _____" (Matt. 23:24)
48. Belonging to me
49. Compass point
50. Prefix for half
51. Not rich
52. Of the, Sp.
53. Very, Fr.

DOWN

1. Police officer (slang)
2. Vicinity
3. Scottish lake
4. "There arose _____ generation after them" (Judg. 2:10)
5. "_____ it all joy" (James 1:2)
6. Comb. form for ear
7. "Now therefore _____ yourselves before the Lord" (1 Sam. 10:19)
8. "How long will you turn my glory into _____?" (Ps. 4:2)
9. "My _____ is at hand" (Mt. 26:18)
10. Brother of Uz (1 Chron. 1:42)
11. "A great and strong wind _____ the mountains" (1 Kings 19:11)
19. "They ... their lamps, and took no _____ with them" (Matt. 25:3)
20. "Even as a _____ gathereth her chickens" (Matt. 23:37)
23. "For he shall pluck my feet out of the _____" (Ps. 25:15)
24. "And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon. . . and from _____" (2 Kings 17:24)
25. "For they _____ you with their wives" (Num. 25:18)
26. Auto club, abbr.
27. "And the child _____ cured" (Matt. 17:18)
28. First son of Caleb (1 Chron. 4:15)
29. Naval Air Station, abbr.
31. "The rams ... are ringstraked ... and _____" (Gen. 31:12)
32. "But his _____ is in the law of the Lord" (Ps. 1:2)
34. A son of Bela (1 Chron. 7:7)
35. Type of airplane
36. "They returned from searching of the land _____ forty days" (Num. 13:25)
37. "And the beginning of his [Nimrod's] kingdom was _____" (Gen. 10:10)
38. "I will _____ against thee" (Isa. 29:3)
39. Miscellaneous mixture
40. Something forbidden
41. "Sweet _____ from a far country" (Jer. 6:20)
42. Latin prefix meaning "burden"
43. "Ye might have life through his _____" (John 20:31)
47. Poetic contraction for "it is"

Inmate discovers redemption through Union's R.G. Lee Center

By Tim Ellsworth
Union University news office

JACKSON — In a former life, Jerry Hughes was a criminal. In a former life, Jerry Hughes did the reprehensible — and earned 30 years in prison as a result.

"God has forgiven me so much," Hughes said. "I feel horrible about what I did, but I can't go back and change it. I can't harp on it because He's forgiven it and He's forgotten it. It feels great to know you're forgiven, especially when you've done something as bad as I've done."

Hughes, 63, is a different man now.

He still lives in prison, but he walks with God. And he's using the abilities he knows God gave him to make himself a better person.

Hughes received a diploma in Christian ministry from Union University in a Feb. 25 ceremony at the Turney Center Industrial Prison and Farm in Only, where he is incarcerated. His instructor, Phil Mitchell, and Charles Fowler, Union's senior vice president for university relations, were on hand to award Hughes with the diploma.

Other inmates at the ceremony celebrated the completion of their General Educa-

tional Development courses or various vocational training. Only Hughes had completed a college program.

"God gave me the intelligence to learn and He expects me to learn," Hughes said. "All praise goes to Him."

Hughes began taking the classes through Union's R.G. Lee Center for Christian Ministry in 1999. He had been in the state's penitentiary system for 13 years at that point, and the classes had an immediate impact on him.

Though he made a profession of faith as a boy and was baptized when he was 8, in Hughes' words, "It didn't take."

"I came back to Christ through this program," he said. "I've tried to live for Him ever since. I'm totally dependent upon Him, and I trust Him absolutely and completely. A lot of that trust I built through this program."

Mitchell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Adamsville, has taught Hughes for the past six years.

"Jerry's a good student," Mitchell said. "He does well on tests. His papers are well written, and he always hands them in before deadline. He's really been faithful to the program."

A prison setting might be intimidating for some, but Mitchell welcomes the oppor-

tunity to teach men like Hughes. He likes the academic challenge it presents. enjoys the fellowship.

"I like those guys, too," Mitchell said. "I've made so good friends. I enjoy being around them, believe it or not."

Hughes said he and classmates have a great amount of respect for Mitchell and the work he does with them.

"I think the world of Phil Mitchell," Hughes said. "He has done so much for me. He got a style that's perfect for the types of classes that teaches. I think everybody in this class really appreciates it."

And although he has completed his diploma in Christian ministry, Hughes is not done with college classes. He wants to continue his studies and has his eyes on completing an associate's degree in his current setting. When he gets out, he'd like to finish his bachelor's degree.

Hughes isn't sure what that will be. Although the state says he has nine or 10 more years to serve, Hughes knows the state isn't the ultimate authority on such matters.

"Until Yahweh decides to get me out," he said. "When He decides it's time for me to go, I'll go." □

Disaster Relief Training



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- Service and Delivery Training

Registration Fee: \$25 (cover materials and meals). Make check payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. **Contact Elizabeth Holmes** for further information and registration at (615) 371-7926 or eholmes@tnbaptist.org or see www.tnbaptist.org.

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

Pastor, rabbi help churches find significance in Passover

John Pierce
Special to Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — A growing number of Baptist churches and other Christian congregations are including a Passover meal as part of their Holy Week celebrations. This Jewish commemoration of Israel's deliverance from slavery was the context in which Jesus connected the wine and bread to his impending death leading to the Christian ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

Some churches will hold a Passover meal (called "seder") on Maundy Thursday, the traditional day Christians remember the Last Supper. Maundy Thursday is on March 24 this year, the evening before Good Friday.

Other congregations will observe the seder on or around the traditional Jewish Passover set for April 24 this year. Either way, a Jewish rabbi and Baptist pastor here are eager to help these and other congregations plan the Passover seder with more understanding and significance.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro and Mike Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, struck up a friendship following a panel discussion on the controversial film, *The Passion of the Christ*. The church sponsored the event at a local bookstore.

Their conversations soon turned to Shapiro's interest in how Christian churches understand and celebrate Passover.

Shapiro, an author and lecturer on contemporary Jewish spirituality, said he was surprised to learn that so few churches even attempt to recognize Passover and disappointed to see how some of them tried to pull it off.

"I had gone to a church seder and found the people were really trying to make it meaningful," said Shapiro. "They went through the motions, but they didn't have a clue; they weren't sure how to do the rituals."

Shapiro realized that Christian ministers needed a "Haggadah" (a script) that adequately explained the Jewish

Passover as well as engaged the congregation in a way that addressed their Christian faith. He turned to his Baptist friend for help.

Let Us Break Bread Together: A Passover Haggadah for Christians by Michael Smith and Rami Shapiro was released last month by Paraclete Press.

"By the time Rami and I met," said Smith, "I was primed to take on a project such as this."

Smith said his fascination with the Jewish roots of Christianity and the Jewishness of Jesus probably goes back to his childhood fascination with Old Testament stories. However, he credits his former seminary professor Glenn Hinson with stirring his interest in Jewish-Christian conversations.

"He taught me that such conversations were possible, could be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect, and might enrich one's faith experience," said Smith. "Friendships with Jewish rabbis in the succeeding years heightened my interest in such dialogues."

Haggadah literally means "the telling" or "the story." For Jews, the story is the freeing of Israel from Egyptian captivity, said Rabbi Shapiro, an emphasis he saw missing in the Passover he attended at a local Catholic church.

He was also surprised that the obvious connection to Jesus was not made.

"Freeing ourselves from Egypt is the Jewish story," said Shapiro. "Being freed from sin by Jesus is the Christian story."

Smith said his congregation has yet to hold a seder, but hopes they will. He sees some real educational and spiritual benefits.

"I think we forget all the time (that Jesus was a Jew)," said Smith. "The Passover story and the larger Exodus story were very important to him. The better we comprehend the mind of Jesus, the better we may identify with and follow Him."

Smith said the themes of the seder speak to the reali-

ties of our lives: our enslavement to many things, our need of liberation from such slaveries, the God who makes possible our liberation, and the power of community to help us remain free.

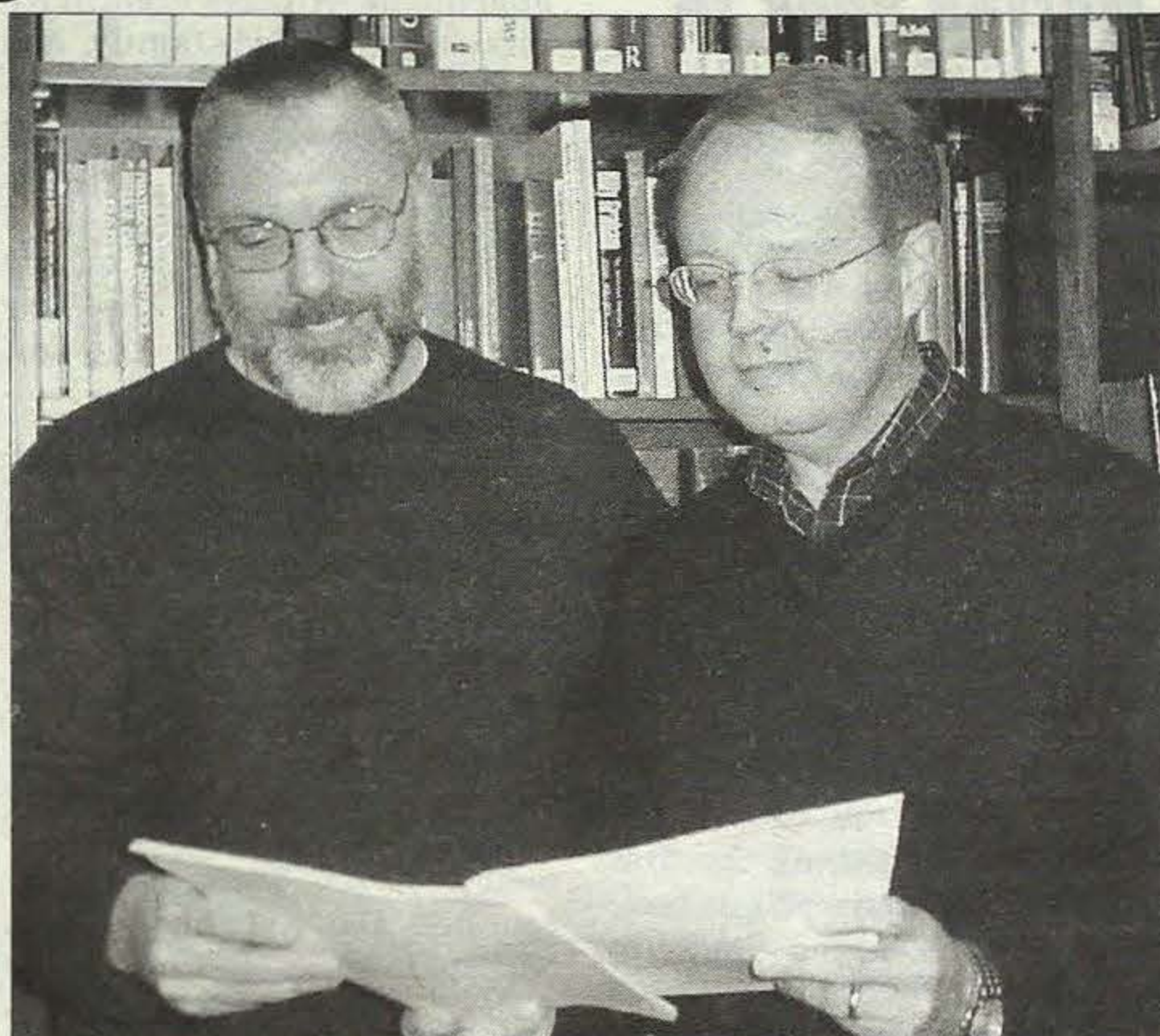
"We need to continually create structures and rituals to help us pass along knowledge and theological themes to our children," said Smith. "The seder provides one such structure."

Shapiro admitted that some Jews might consider a Christian Passover celebration to be "stealing." It is an issue he resolved after some consideration.

"The seder itself did have an impact on Jesus," said Shapiro, "and should be part of the Christian Holy Week."

And the rabbi, with help from his Baptist friend, wants to make sure congregations get the rituals right. He recalls seeing one Christian minister use a rack of lamb when the symbol calls for a bone of a lamb.

So Smith and Shapiro's guide gives clear instructions on every aspect of the service from preparing the table to the spoken words. Those wanting to know even more than the book offers can look forward to a seminar the rabbi and pastor now have in the works. □ — Pierce is editor of *Baptists Today*.



RABBI Rami Shapiro, left, and Mike Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, recently teamed to write *Let Us Break Bread Together: A Passover Haggadah for Christians*.

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Hostage reads Warren book to alleged killer

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Ashley Smith, the Atlanta-area woman taken hostage by the subject of the largest manhunt in Georgia history March 12, calmed the alleged killer by reading an excerpt from *The Purpose-Driven Life* and talking with him about God. She escaped by persuading him to let her pick up her daughter from an AWANA children's program at a Southern Baptist church.

Smith read the chapter for Day 33. After hearing the first paragraph, the alleged gunman, Brian Nichols, asked Smith to read it again, and she did.

On Day 33 of the book, author Rick Warren, a Southern Baptist pastor in California, writes, "We serve God by serving others. The world defines greatness in terms of power, possessions, prestige, and position. If you can demand service from others, you've arrived. In our self-serving culture with its me-first mentality, acting like a servant is not a popular concept."

Nichols, allegedly overpowered an Atlanta courthouse deputy as he was being escorted to court for a rape trial March 11. He then shot and killed the presiding judge and a court reporter before killing another deputy as he left the courthouse. Later he killed a federal agent in an attempt to flee authorities.

Nichols, 33, held Smith at gunpoint outside her Duluth apartment around 2:30 a.m. March 12, apparently having chosen her at random as she returned from a trip to a nearby store. Once he removed his hat, she recognized him as the man wanted for the killing spree and chose to cooperate with his demands. He tied her up and then began to converse with her.

Smith asked Nichols not to kill her because she was scheduled to pick up her 5-year-old daughter the next morning. Four years ago, Smith's husband died in her arms after being stabbed in a knife fight, according to *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and Smith was concerned that her daughter would become an orphan.

As time passed during the early morning hours at the apartment, Nichols and Smith talked about God, family, and life experiences while the fugitive apparently became more comfortable with the hostage. She began to help the gunman consider the families of the victims he had shot that day and asked him if he thought about how they might be feeling.

When he was hungry, Smith made pancakes for Nichols and they talked more about God.

By 9:30 a.m., Nichols agreed to let Smith leave to pick up her daughter. When she reached the first stop sign on her route, Smith dialed 911 and within minutes a Gwinnett County police SWAT team had surrounded the apartment with Nichols inside, according to *The Journal-Constitution*. Nichols waved a white piece of cloth to signal his surrender and was taken into custody.

"I believe God brought him to my door so he couldn't hurt anyone else," Smith said. □

GuideStone seeks retirees in need

GuideStone news office

DALLAS — GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced a concentrated effort to locate retired Southern Baptist workers, ministers, or widows whose income is insufficient to meet their daily needs.

"We are seeking the help of laypersons, pastors, and associational directors of missions to aid us in finding individuals or couples who may not be aware

that assistance is available to them," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins.

For more than 80 years, GuideStone and the Adopt An Annuitant ministry have provided critical financial relief to thousands of retired Southern Baptist workers, ministers, or their widows.

Assistance from the program is not limited to pastors or their widows. Any retiree age 65 or older with 10 or more years of paid Southern Baptist service is eligible to apply. Other eligibility guidelines include income of less than \$1,250 per month for single applicants and less than \$1,665 per month for married applicants. Applicants also must have less than \$30,000 in assets, excluding their home.

Recipients must meet the eligibility guidelines and will have to re-qualify for the assistance every two years. A widow/widower, married at least 10 years to an individual who would have

met the qualifications, is also eligible to apply.

Qualified individuals receive \$200 a month and qualified couples receive \$265 a month. Depending on their situation, they may receive monthly support, a one-time grant, or emergency assistance.

Anyone with knowledge of an individual or couple who may qualify can call GuideStone's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511. □

Calif. judge strikes down ban

Baptist Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A California judge March 14 ruled that the state's ban on same-sex "marriage" violates the state's constitution, overturning a law that had been approved by 61 percent of voters in 2000.

Superior Court Judge Richard A. Kramer, a San Francisco

judge, ruled that all of state's laws that limited marriage to one man and woman were unconstitutional under the state's equal protection clause. The ruling will be appealed, and likely ultimately will be decided by the California Supreme Court. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Smith Springs Baptist Church has openings for music minister and pianist. Would prefer married couple but all applicants be accepted. Call (615) 7935 or e-mail ltidwell2@msn.com.

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Parkway Baptist Church, 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 37166.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

MINISTRY — DOM

The Associational Mission Search Committee of the Alabama Baptist Association (Alabama) is seeking resumes of qualified candidates. Send resume with cover letter to April 15 to Search Committee, c/o Allan Murphy, 4605 Burdette Lane, Pelham, AL 35124.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Manley Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn., is seeking a part-time senior adult ministry coordinator. A great opportunity for ministry for a retiring or retired pastor. All interested individuals please e-mail resume to jobs@manleybaptist.org or to Manley Baptist Church, 100 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy., Morristown, TN 37814 c/o Senior Adult Search Team.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

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book review

John Ferguson

Holiness

by Nancy Leigh DeMoss
Moody Publishers, 2004

Our society has become desensitized to sin. "Most of us in today's world aren't in pursuit of holiness; rather, they think nothing of sin. Behavior that was considered unacceptable—even by unbelievers—is considered normal," writes author Nancy Leigh DeMoss in her book *Holiness*.

Too many of us think if we're not committing adultery, cheating or murdering anyone, we're okay. In fact, we're pretty good! But the subtle sins are just as bad. Sin can destroy your heart for God with jealousy, anger, anxiety, worry, or gluttony as well as others. "There is no such thing as a small sin," DeMoss states. According to Charles Spurgeon, "Those who tolerate sin in what they think to be little things, will soon indulge it in their other matters."

And to this end, DeMoss focuses her book. We've lost our desire for holiness. As expressed in her other books in this series, *Surrender* and *Broken*, DeMoss believes we are too accommodating to the masses. We are "making ourselves out" to attract new members. "We are accommodating to the world rather than calling the world to accommodate to Christ. When will we realize the world is not impressed with a religious version of itself? Our greatest effectiveness is not to be found in being like the world; it is to be found in being distinct from the world, in being like Jesus," she says.

That's just exactly what holy means—set apart, distinct, different. "Make every effort . . . to be holy" (Hebrews 12:14). And DeMoss believes we're making little effort. She states that you can't be holy without a close relationship with God and without constant use of His Word. Holiness doesn't just happen. "We have to be intentional about cultivating new patterns of holiness. This can take place only by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God," she writes.

Nancy Leigh DeMoss has a burden for revival on her heart. This is the third book (following *Brokenness* and *Surrender*) in her "Revive Our Hearts" series. One theme that runs true in all three is that we who profess to be Christians aren't "walking the walk." We've wandered down what it means to be a Christian because there are things in our lives that we don't want to give up. We're willing to be servants, but not slaves to Christ. We call upon the Lord, but we continue to try to do things on our own—according to our own will. And, we think that because our sins don't appear to be great, we're okay. DeMoss is passionately calling upon us to distinguish ourselves from the crowd. To show the world that Christ is in our lives. She is writing for Christians. Not unbelievers.

Her series is worthy of study. There is a wedding coming and we should prepare to meet our Bridegroom with the enthusiasm and preparation that brides put into their weddings today. *Having therefore these promises, dearly loved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*—1 Corinthians 7:1 □ — Ferguson is a freelance writer in Memphis.

just for today

John Wood, Memphis

Start With a Smile: Bank robber: "Fill this bag full of money or you will be geography." Teller (laughing): "mean history, don't you?" Robber: "Don't change the subject."

Take This Truth: "What is all our history but God forgetting Himself, shaking and trampling on everything He has not planted." — Oliver Cromwell

Remember This Scripture: "Agree with thine adversary quickly." — Matthew 6:25

Pray This Prayer: Lord, help me to recognize who's large and cooperate with that person. □

Jesus: our high priest

By Robert Segrest

Focal Passage: Mark 16:1-7;
Hebrews 7:23-28; 9:11-14

After hanging on a Roman cross for six agonizing hours, Jesus was dead. His lifeless body was taken down from the cross before the start of the Passover Sabbath and placed in the new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Finally a huge stone was rolled in place to cover the tomb's entrance and then Jesus' friends went home.

At least two of the Lord's followers, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, knew where Jesus had been entombed and planned to come back when the Sabbath was over to properly anoint His body. So, at sunrise on Sunday, five women who had cared for Jesus in life walked together to the tomb to care for Him in death.

On the way, they wondered how they would gain entrance to the tomb because of the stone. However, when the women arrived they saw that it had been rolled from the door. Stepping inside they were alarmed to see a young man dressed in a white robe sitting to the right. The man, obviously an angel, told the women not to be afraid. Then he told them the great news that Jesus of Nazareth, who had been crucified, was no longer there. He had risen from the dead. The women were invited to see for themselves and sure

enough, just as the angel said, the body of Jesus was gone.

Then the angel instructed the women to go and tell Jesus' disciples—especially Peter—that the Lord would meet them in Galilee just as He had promised before His death. Like these women, believers today are to share the glorious message of Easter with lost sinners letting them know that Jesus Christ is alive and that in love He waits for them to come to Him by faith for salvation and life.

The gospel writers report the glorious reality of Jesus' resurrection, the various appearances to His followers, as well as His ascension to heaven. The book of Hebrews then explains the Lord's current work prior to His return.

Until Jesus' death, the Jews had for centuries maintained a God-ordained priestly system overseen by descendants of the tribe of Levi. The priest's primary task was to serve as a bridge from the people to a holy God regularly offering in the temple their animal sacrifices to atone for their sins. Chief among the priests was the high priest who once a year entered the temple's Holy of Holies to make a blood offering for the people's sins and for his as well. These offerings, though, were only temporary and had to be repeated again and again. Also, being human, each high priest eventually died and was replaced by another.

Celebrate the resurrection

By Michael Julian

Focal Passage: John 20:19-29

As we approached our apartment door after the Sunday morning worship time, my wife noticed a lone buttercup in full bloom. As I thought about that lonely buttercup, God began to fashion a timely object lesson. Shamefully, our little flower bed had suffered much neglect in the late fall and winter seasons. In the midst of an abundance of dead, decomposed, dormant, and unkempt plant life stood a lovely, yellow buttercup. God painted a picture of life within an abode of dead things. With the sweep of His brush, my senses were alerted to His presence.

Can you see the painted picture on God's canvas? He brings life from death. We were dead in our trespasses and sins, and God being rich in mercy made us alive together with Christ. Jesus declared that He was the resurrection and the life. Paul informs us that if Christ has not been raised then we are a hopeless and pitiful people. But this is not our reality. The reality revealed to us is that Christ has been raised from the dead, sin and death and Satan have been defeated. Jesus has ascended to the right hand of the Father, and the imperishable crown of life has been placed upon the heads of those who believe. The reminder to us all this week is to jubilantly celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Our lesson begins with the

evening after the resurrection of the Lord. Earlier on resurrection day, Peter and John witnessed the empty tomb, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, and He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. That evening, the disciples had gathered behind the security of locked doors, seemingly perplexed and confused about the events of the past three days. All of a sudden, the resurrected Christ enters their dwelling place and announces peace to them. As Malcolm Yarnell notes, this band of brothers deserted the Lord in His most troubling hour, yet He confers the kind of peace upon them that signifies wholeness and well-being. Most assuredly, we can never hold a measure to the vastness of God's love.

As Jesus visibly reveals His hands and side to the disciples, they break forth in rejoicing. Spiritual eyes are opened to behold the Lord of glory. I imagine that the rejoicing lasted for more than a few seconds or minutes. They had tremendous cause to celebrate. Their Master, Leader, Savior, and Lord whom had been crucified and buried now stood in their presence alive. Jesus Christ was alive! And He is still alive today and will be forevermore!

Again, Jesus opens His mouth proclaiming peace and a mission. This mission is impossible by human standards, but entirely possible by God's empowerment. Christ instructed the disciples to

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
March 27

er. Therefore, neither the high priest nor the sacrifices he offered was permanent.

But when on Calvary Jesus became God's final and perfect sacrifice for sin, His death also eliminated the need for a human high priest. Jesus is now God's perfect and permanent High Priest who sits at His right hand lovingly interceding for lost sinners who seek eternal life. He is the only way repentant sinners can come to God. The precious blood of Jesus completely hides their sin from God's holy eyes thus enabling them to enter into His presence any time they choose.

Jesus is our living Lord, our permanent High Priest, and also our totally sufficient Savior who gives not only eternal life, but also an abiding personal relationship with our heavenly Father. Therefore, with consciences cleansed from any thought that our dead works can save us, let Easter's glorious message motivate each Christian to faithfully serve the risen Savior by serving others in His wonderful name. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
March 27

receive the Holy Spirit, but we should interpret that to mean that they were to prepare themselves to receive power from above on the day of Pentecost, for the Holy Spirit was not given on two separate occasions. The disciples were commissioned to go and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God. Just as the Father sent Christ, and as Christ sent the 12, we too have been sent to preach the gospel to the world. Proclaiming the gospel is an ongoing celebration of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the situation would have it, one of the 12 was missing that resurrection evening. The other disciples reported to Thomas about the events that transpired that evening, and he countered their testimony with an obstinate disbelief. Thomas wanted visible proof. Eight days later the disciples were behind locked doors again, and Jesus manifested His presence. He answered Thomas' objections, and celebration pierced the room as Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and my God." May our shouts of rejoicing pierce our communities as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this week, and every day thereafter. □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist, Mt. Pleasant.

Leaders

◆ **Fred Steelman**, senior pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, for 30 years, has announced he will retire by the spring of 2007. The church has 2,800 resident



STEELMAN

members who have started three congregations and done missions work in many sites during his tenure. He was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1983. He was a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., from 1994-98 and Foreign Mission Board from 1983-89. Back in the state he has been a member of the TBC Executive Board from 1975-81 and 85-87. Steelman was a trustee of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, from 1995-2004 and chairman of the trustee board. He was a trustee of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood. Steelman holds the doctor of divinity from Carson-Newman; doctor of ministry from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; master of divinity from Southern Seminary; and bachelor of science from Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss. Steelman also served as pastor of churches in Florida, Kentucky, and Mississippi.

◆ New Vision Church of Athens has called **Neil Richerson** of Riceville as associate pastor. The church ordained Richerson March 13. He has served several churches in Tennessee as minister of music and been a music evangelist.

◆ Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton, has called **Chris R. Hughes** of Elizabethton as pastor, effective March 6. He is a graduate of Emmanuel School of Religion, Johnson City, and recently served as chaplain at retirement/health care center in Johnson City.

◆ **Harold Miller**, who was called recently as associate pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Pleasant View, will be ordained by the church Sunday, April 3. Bob Hammer will preach at the ordination service.

Churches

◆ The Iowa Mission Team of **Miracle Baptist Church, LaVergne**, will hold a fundraiser Saturday, April 9, from 5-8 p.m. at the LaVergne Rescue Squad Building. A spaghetti dinner, concert, and silent auction will be held. For more information, contact Mike Slinker

at (615) 793-5448.

◆ An introduction program to **Celebrate Recovery**, a Christ-centered recovery program for purpose-driven churches, will be presented Thursday, March 31, at **Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville**, at 7 p.m. It will be led by Roger Payne, pastor, Miracle Mountain Baptist Church, Cookeville. The purpose of Celebrate Recovery is to bring together people who are dealing with struggles that are similar. It is a Christ-centered fellowship that offers a safe and welcoming place. Training in the program will begin at Miracle Mountain Church in April. For more information, contact Stone Baptist Association office at (931) 525-4655 or stoneassoc@citlink.net.

◆ **Hickory Hills Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet**, will hold a "New Life" conference Sunday - Wednesday, April 3-6. Terry Wilkerson, former pastor, Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown, will speak. Leading the music will be Joshua Horne, minister of music, Hickory Hills Church. Georgia Wilkerson, wife of Terry, also will sing and present a mini-concert. For more information, call the church at (615) 754-2575.

◆ **Hopewell Baptist Church, Springfield**, will hold a one-day revival on



WELCH

Tuesday, April 5. Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak. A pastors/wives banquet will be held at 5:30 p.m. followed by the service at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Pastor Jim Woodard at (615) 384-4826 or 384-6945. There is no charge for the banquet, but reservations need to be made by call-



A TEAM FROM UNION GROVE Baptist Church, Beech Bluff, pause during their recent construction work at Crest Baptist Church, Creston, Iowa, to support the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership. The team worked on a new worship center for the church. A church team also helped the church in 2003. Workers are, from left, Jack Couch, Parkburg Baptist Church, Jackson; and James Johnson, Robert Johnson, and Lynn Walker of Union Grove. Walker is pastor of Union Grove Church.



MEMBERS OF First Baptist Church, Counce, gather on Sunday, Feb. 27, for Celebration Day at their Faith Thermometer. The congregation celebrated raising \$750,000 from members and non-members for the construction of a new sanctuary, which will begin soon. Standing in front of right of center is Ken Storey, pastor.

ing Robertson County Baptist Association at (615) 384-8197.

◆ **Barfield Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold a community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, at 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-11, with lunch following. For more information, call (615) 896-2490.

◆ **Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold its spring revival Friday - Sunday, April 1-3. Burney Enzor of Troy, Ala., a retired Brigadier General Army Chaplain will speak. For more information, call the church at (615) 361-8051.

◆ **West End Baptist Church, Newport**, will hold revival Sunday - Friday, April 10-15. Jack Bratton will speak. For more information, contact Tom Mooty, pastor, at ch923@bellsouth.net or the church at (423) 623-4785.

◆ **Point Pleasant Baptist Church, Paris Landing**, held Men's Day on Sunday, March 13. Life stories were shared by Jack King, Johnny Oliver, Wes Reiglemann, and Lynn Treece. Leading the music was Chuck Fertig. Special music was presented by Danny and Jeff Fletcher in the morning and Jason Weaver in the evening. As a result, two people joined the church asking for baptism and one person joined the church by letter.

include demonstrations by 12-year-old Junior Dr. Chelsea VanCleave, an fire truck rides, door p silent auction, and compe for best vehicle chose TBCH residents. Car truck enthusiasts are en aged to enter their vehi advance by contacting nessee Spokes Sports Club at tennessee-spoke or by calling Bethany Hav at Lane Motor Museu (615) 742-7445.

Events

◆ The Tennessee Spokes Sports Car Club will hold its annual **Kars 4 Kids Open Car/Truck Show for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home** at the Brentwood campus on Saturday, April 23 beginning at 8 a.m. The show is sponsored by Lane Motor Museum, Bridgestone, and Sonic Drive Ins. Events will

◆ **Christian Won Job Corps - Nashville** hold Volunteer Train Thursday, April 14, noon - 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., and Mentor Training urday, April 16, from 12:30 p.m. Registration deadli Wednesday, April 13. For information, contact F Sumrall, executive direct bsumrall@cwjcnashville.or the ministry at (615) 3669.



NORTHERN AND MIDLAND Baptist Associations dedicated a disaster relief trailer on March 14. The new unit will be used by the associations's chain saw/mudout teams. The trailer has 1 stocked with chain saws, ladders, and general tools. Pictured the new unit are Mike Viles, right, director of missions for associations, and Wayne Brewer of Union Baptist Church, Ha