

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.12; March 30, 2005

Dyer Association volunteers raise church in two days

Marcia Knox
Dyer Baptist and Reflector

DYERSBURG — The smell of fresh wooden trusses wafted over 70 men and women Saturday, March 12, who gathered in the newly built Evansville Baptist Church near here for a memorial service to honor the oldest active church member whose prayers were being remembered.

Even though the members of Evansville Church were at the funeral for 84-year-old Tennie Mae Yarbrow, several members of sister churches in Dyer Baptist Association remained and helped with building the new church.

At 11 a.m. the time of her funeral, the Dyer Association Men's Ministries volunteers paused during a brief memorial and prayer service to their respects to the woman who wanted a larger church. By the time on Saturday, the new church had now doubled in size compared to the older church.

The new facility will seat about 100 people compared to the old sanctuary and also have four classrooms, a

small kitchen, and a fellowship area.

The smaller older building, which stands next door to the new church, served as a dining hall and kitchen where more than 175 associational volunteers from 22 different churches ate lunch in shifts. Women's Ministries volunteers from the association provided meals.

The former building had served its time period first as a home moved onto the property in 1961 until 2003 when it constituted as a church. It also withstood two severe storm systems on Oct. 18, 2004, which spawned some tornados and straight-line winds leaving damage to its roof and structure.

The City of Dyersburg was very patient with Evansville Church and did not condemn it, said Joe Wright, Dyer Association director of missions.

The idea of raising a church in two days, like raising a barn, had occurred to Wright to solve the problem. "The Evansville Church had approached the association for help with the labor, because the church already had the money for materials.

"The association's Men's Ministry leadership team felt there was a sense of urgency on behalf of the Evansville Church, because the church



VOLUNTEERS from various churches in Dyer Baptist Association work on the roof of Evansville Baptist Church near Dyersburg. Baptist men from the association helped build the church's new building in two days. — Photo by Joe Wright

was on the verge of being condemned," added Wright. "We decided to do a two-day church raising to emphasize the need."

With two sunny days of mild temperatures and a mass of volunteers, the church was way ahead of schedule by Saturday afternoon. Work began on a previously completed concrete slab Friday morning at 7 a.m., by 11 a.m. all the walls and some trusses were up, by 3 p.m. all the trusses were up in place. Saturday morning at 7 a.m. the decking for the roof was on, by 11 a.m. the shingles were added, and the finished time was 4:30 p.m.

More than 60 volunteers

worked on Friday, and more than 115 worked on Saturday to help the 95-member church.

"One of the goals for Dyer Association is to focus on church relationships," said Wright. "We've been planning this church raising for three months, which began with the January associational board meeting.

"This work on the new church building during the last two days defines for the community that we love one another and that we have love for the community," Wright added during the brief time of remembrance.

"The new church is a standing monument to the Word of God in this place. We have honored Tennie Mae Yarbrow by putting up this church and by having a memorial service. Miss Tennie Mae didn't think her church was big enough, and she knew the kingdom was not big enough."

"Miss Tennie Mae hated to see the old church go, but she wanted to see the new building," said Evansville Church pastor Danny Griffin. "She loved coming to church and was always there. She was very faithful to her Lord, and she was a plain spoken Christian woman."

— See Dyer, page 9

this week's news

Union women claim 2005 NAIA national championship. — Page 3

About 700 Tennesseans prepare for VBS 2005. — Page 3

Editor considers Terry Schiavo issues. — Page 4

Check out "Men's Ministries Newsletter." — Pages 5-8

Another earthquake hits area struck by tsunami

Baptist Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Three Southern Baptist workers on an island near the epicenter of a massive earthquake that struck off the coast of Sumatra March 28 escaped the initial damage from the temblor's violent shaking, but their vehicle was destroyed by falling buildings in the mountain town where they were staying.

Dozens of people were feared dead underneath rubble on islands hit by the earthquake.

The three workers were trying to find a motorcycle to travel into a coastal town nearby at first light but were reporting damage to roads. Several hundred thousand people live on the island. They were being warned, along with others in the region, to move away from the coast and be prepared for the potential of tsunami waves following the quake.

However, fears of a tsunami were lessening when one hadn't struck coastlines several hours after the quake. It hit in the same region as the huge 9.0 temblor that struck Dec. 26, spawning a tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people

in southern Asia.

A number of Southern Baptist tsunami relief volunteers working elsewhere in the region also were shaken by the March 28 quake but were not injured. They reported seeing no damage in their immediate area.

"All of our personnel are safe," said a Southern Baptist worker in Indonesia who had talked by satellite phone with the workers — including those on the island near the epicenter.

"Communications are off. Electricity is off. We are warning everyone to watch for the ocean receding," the worker said. "There are two warnings of a tsunami: The first sign, of course, is an earthquake. Then, if the ocean water withdraws, there will be a tsunami. So they're warning everyone to watch the ocean."

"We've been in contact with our volunteers. They were all frightened by the massive earthquake, but no one was injured. As far as they can tell there's no damage, but in the dark they can only see from where they're at," the worker said.

Other reports said many people in Banda Aceh, the region hit hardest by the earlier quake and tsunami, were fleeing

their homes in panic.

Even if a tsunami doesn't follow the new quake, damage and deaths may be significant in the quake zone — particularly on islands near the epicenter — because of the temblor's size, the worker warned.

"The three-person survey team on this particular island were there to survey tsunami damage from before, so they will immediately make a survey of what we need to do at this point," he said. "If there needs to be any type of response, they're prepared and have cash on hand to do so."

The new quake, which struck just before midnight local time, lasted about three minutes. It packed an estimated magnitude of 8.2 — later revised upward to 8.7 — and caused widespread panic. The epicenter was located about 125 miles off the Sumatran mainland and was felt as far away as Malaysia. Monitors immediately warned of the possibility of a "widely destructive tsunami."

The quake was felt across the region including Malaysia.

Thailand, Japan and Sri Lanka issued tsunami alerts. There are reports the quake also was felt in India. □

about your newsjournal

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

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

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

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

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

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

Office — Baptist and Reflector,
5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

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

Phone — (615) 371-2003

FAX — (615) 371-2080

Web Site — www.tnbaptist.org

Publisher — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

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

Postmaster —
Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

Frequency of issue —
Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

Printed on
recycled paper

New missionaries robbed at bush orientation camp

Baptist Press

LIMURU, Kenya — New missionaries attending a camp designed to teach them about life in Africa got an unscheduled — and frightening — lesson when they were robbed at machete-point.

Robbers entered a campsite early March 21 where new missionaries sent out by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and SIL were sleeping. They stormed into a tent housing a family of four, waving their machetes and demanding money. The missionaries handed over everything they had, which was less than \$5, before the robbers ran off into the night. No one was hurt in the incident.

A group of 45 missionaries and staff were in the final days of a special orientation program for new workers in central, eastern, and southern Africa when the incident happened.

The program, called "40 Days and 40 Nights," introduces missionaries to life in Africa. They experience a little bit of everything, from living in the city to living in a village. During the camp segment of their training, the missionaries were learning how to live and function in the bush — cooking over an open fire, fetching and purifying water, washing clothes by hand.

Southern Baptist missionary Judi Sprayberry, who directs the orientation camp with her husband, Jack, said that God definitely watched over the new missionaries. During the first day of the bush camp part of orientation, the group prayer-walked around the campsite, asking for God's protection.

"God really answered those prayers," she said. "He protected this family and the rest of the camp."

The orientation continued despite the incident. After some debriefing and counseling, the participants decided to finish the last 10 days of training in the villages. □

Florida agents planned to take custody of Schiavo

Baptist Press

PINNELLAS PARK, Fla. — For days now, pro-lifers have urged Fla. Gov. Jeb Bush to ignore a judge's ruling and have Terri Schiavo taken into custody. Apparently, such an attempt already took place.

The *Miami Herald* reported Easter Sunday that agents with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement were en route to take custody of the 41-year-old disabled woman March 24 when they learned that local police sta-

Evangecube has become a powerful tool for evangelism, says former missionary

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Ease of use is what makes the Evangecube, a picture tool used to present the gospel of Jesus Christ, so effective, says Steve Cretin.

"It is a simple tool," says Cretin, director of U.S. Ministries for Evangecube Global Ministries and a member of First Baptist Church, Franklin.

Cretin, a former Southern Baptist missionary and employee with LifeWay Christian Resources, is knowledgeable about evangelism training.

He is certified in numerous witnessing programs such as Evangelism Explosion and served on a LifeWay team that helped develop FAITH.

"I love them all," Cretin said of the witnessing programs he has used.

"Learn as many ways as you can to share the gospel," urged Cretin, who demonstrated the Evangecube at the State Evangelism Conference held recently in Knoxville.

Even with his knowledge of other witnessing programs Cretin is sold on the Evangecube for its ease of use. It requires no memory work.

"You simply look at the pictures and tell a story," Cretin said.

He said it is a good tool for anyone, but especially a layperson. A teacher or business professional can put it on his or her desk, and when he or she is asked about it, can share the gospel, he noted.

tioned outside of Schiavo's hospice were not going to let them in. The state agents — acting on behalf of the Department of Children and Families — backed down, fearing a constitutional crisis, *The Herald* reported.

The local law officers were following a judge's order preventing the seizure of Schiavo. The DCF was acting on behalf of its power under the state's adult protection law. The action could have resulted in dueling law officers, according to *The Herald*.

"We told them that unless they had the judge with them when they came, they were not going to get in," a source told the newspaper.

But even if the DCF had taken custody of Schiavo, that may not have resulted in the reinsertion of her feeding tube.

Officials at Morton Plant Hospital said that when news broke that Schiavo might possibly be taken into custody, they were studying Florida law to see what they lawfully could do. In order to re-insert the tube, Schiavo would have been taken from the hospice to a hospital — possibly Moron Plant.



STEVE CRETIN of Franklin demonstrates the Evangecube, tool used to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Evangecube has gained in popularity since it was introduced in 1999 by Global Mission Fellowship.

In the last four years, two million cubes have been distributed all over the world, Cretin said. They also have been translated into 13 languages.

Cretin related that though employed by Evangecube Global Ministries, he raises his own support.

All the money earned from the sale of Evangecubes are used to purchase cubes to give away overseas, he said.

He's a strong believer in this new ministry he has been involved in for about 18 months.

"My goal is not to sell an Evangecube to every person, but to have every believer share the gospel on a regular

basis. If the Evangecube can help them do that, praise God."

Ray Luck, director of missions for McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association, based in Athens, said he plans to use the Evangecube with volunteers in his association who will be going to the Ukraine and Iowa later this year.

He also plans to introduce to workers at an upcoming Vacation Bible School training session. "I see it as a great tool to use in VBS," Luck said. "Kids like visuals and can get excited about it."

Luck, too, likes the simplicity of the tool. "It's something anybody can use. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure it out," he said.

For more information about the Evangecube, contact Cretin at 1-888-354-9411 or stevecetin@evangecube.org.

"Hospital officials were working with their legal counsel, and their advisers, trying to figure out which order superseded which, and what action they should take," a source told the paper.

Responding to criticism that he hasn't done enough, Bush told CNN on Easter that his hands are tied. □

NBC highlights 'Faith in America'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — During the week of March 20, NBC has carried a series it calls "Faith in America," taking a closer look during each news broadcast at the various elements of faith in today's American culture. Topics have included covenant marriage, biblical dieting, religion's role in sex education, managing money God's way, and Christian sports ministries, among others.

In a segment titled "The faith-at-work movement," NBC featured Southern Baptist pastor Ronnie Floyd of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., who hosts a weekly lunch for busi-

ness leaders that has attracted successful figures such as former CEO of Blockbuster Entertainment, the CEO of Tyson Foods, and the late football star Reggie White.

NBC said after the tragedy Sept. 11, 2001 and the scandal at Enron, WorldCom, and other leading companies, a movement is afoot to embed Christian principles into corporate structure. And a door has been opened faith in the workplace to test "the transforming power of evangelical leadership."

David Miller, executive director of Yale University's Center for Faith and Culture, noted NBC that Northwest Arkansas — where FBC Springdale is located — is home to megachurches Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, J.B. Hunt, and others.

Floyd told the broadcast company that it's one thing for a "rabid right-winger" to talk about God but quite another the head of a corporation to have access to a worldwide network of contractors, suppliers, retailers to be inspired by Great Commission of making disciples of all nations. □

Churches, campus ministry partner for Crossover venue

Janda Lawson
List and Reflector

RENTWOOD — The Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro churches, and volunteers from outside Middle Tennessee will join forces June 18 to reach to MTSU students with free food, entertainment, and the good news that loves them.

The collegiate evangelism venue is one of seven that make up Crossover 2005, the massive evangelistic effort that precedes the June 21-22 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville. In addition to collegiate evangelism, approximately 10,000 volunteers are committed so far to participate in arts evangelism, prayer journeys, block parties, ethnic ministries, personal evangelism, and kindness explosion. Events take place over a 40-mile radius of million people.

Crossover is sponsored by the North American Mission Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven associations.

"MTSU has the largest undergraduate population in the state," said Bill Choate, TBC collegiate ministries group leader.

"This is an opportunity for students to know that churches in the area care about them and to get connected to churches.

"We know there are a lot of students who come to college and walk away from their church involvement. Our hope always is to call them back and to find the folks who don't know Christ yet."

Activities will begin on Friday night with special training for participants, along with prayer walks of the campus and apartment complexes where many students reside. Prayer walks also may take place on other campuses. Then on Saturday, grilling stations will be set up outside several apartment complexes by Murfreesboro churches to offer free hamburgers and hot dogs and conversation. Students then will be invited to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry that night for entertainment and other activities.

Choate cited the involvement of more Murfreesboro churches as the greatest need for the student evangelism venue.

Steve Hutson, minister of senior and single adults at Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, said about 25 persons from the church's collegiate group will participate and target two complexes.

"We see this as a great opportunity to reach out to the community," Hutson said. "The students won't all be here in June, but a large percentage will be."

Hutson, who said the church's student ministry has experienced growth over the last 18 months, anticipates reaching out both to students with a church background and those who have never been involved in a church.

Choate said the Crossover event will target areas that are difficult for Baptist Campus Ministry to make contact with.

"Folks who live off campus are tough for us to reach."

In addition to strengthening the church ministries with students and the MTSU Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Choate said he believes volunteers will benefit as well.

"We hope they'll realize how many young adults are in their communities and, when they go back home, they'll be looking for them," Choate said.

Murfreesboro-area churches interested in helping with the student evangelism venue may contact Amber Vaden, MTSU Baptist campus minister, at (615) 893-5035, or Stacy Murphree, TBC collegiate ministries program specialist, at (615) 312-1993.

In addition to the involvement of more churches, Choate requested prayer that managers of student-specific apartment complexes "will be open to working with us," and that logistics and organization details will be worked out smoothly. □

CROSSOVER

Union women claim 2005 NAIA national championship

Union University news office

JACKSON — Second-seeded Union University defeated top-seeded Oklahoma City University 77-63 in the championship game of the 25th Annual NAIA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship.

The win clinched the title, the first since 1998 and the first under current head coach Mike Campbell — in his sixth season at the helm of Union.

"You cannot describe the feeling we are going through right now," said Campbell. "What is it? It is the satisfaction of seeing the girls enjoy something that is not easy to achieve. It is awesome to see the players do so well, and come together at the end like this."

Freshman Merideth Richardson led Union with 15 points on 5-for-15 shooting from the floor, and 3-for-13 shooting from behind the arc. Richardson finished the tournament with 18 total three-pointers, one short of the all-time tournament record of 19. Tournament Most Valuable Player Stephanie Clark was held to 14 points on 6-of-14 shooting from the floor, while grabbing a game-high 16 rebounds. Jennifer Henson chipped in with 12 points on 4-for-7 shooting from the floor, all three-pointers, while Ena Daniels chipped in with 11 points on 4-for-11 shooting from the floor. Daniels finished the tournament with 26 steals, three short of the tournament record of 29.

Union shot just 39.7 (25-for-63) percent from the floor, while hitting on just 31 (9-for-29) percent from behind the arc.

"A lot of people expected us not to be here," said Stars senior Kenzi Bond. "I am proud that we have been here three straight years. Being the runner-up for three years in a row has been tough, but being the number two team in the country is pretty good."



MEMBERS OF THE Union University Lady Bulldogs celebrated their second NAIA national title win March 22 after a 67-63 win over Oklahoma City University. — Photo by Morris Abernathy

cent from behind the arc.

"A lot of people expected us not to be here," said Stars senior Kenzi Bond. "I am proud that we have been here three

straight years. Being the runner-up for three years in a row has been tough, but being the number two team in the country is pretty good."

A couple of NAIA National Tournament records were broken in the process of the national championship game as Oklahoma City University broke the total points scored in a tournament by scoring their 418th point tonight. The old record was 413 set by Oklahoma City in 2003. Union University broke the tournament record for three-pointers in one tournament, shattering the old mark of 35 set by Southeastern Oklahoma in 1995. The Lady Bulldogs hit 51 for the tournament.

Union concluded their championship season with a 35-5 record.

"I am very fortunate to have the opportunity from the Lord to work at Union, and to do what I love and to get paid for it," said an emotional Campbell. □

Trained leaders key to reaching children, parents through VBS: Trundle

Stacy Murphree
List and Reflector

RENTWOOD — During the week of February 21-26, more than 700 VBS associational leaders and team members received training for the 2005 LifeWay VBS curriculum.

Kathy Trundle, TBC VBS consultant, notes that 64 out of 66 associations in Tennessee were represented at the training events held in Johnson, Gladeville, Johnson, and Lenoir City.

A team of 19 individuals, including Trundle as well as TBC staff and church associational VBS leaders, provided the training.

All were very experienced in their age group conference, having taught or led that group for several years," Trundle.

Training was provided for the 2005 LifeWay VBS theme, "Ramblin' Road Trip, Which Way Do I Go." The theme focuses on Psalm 25:4 and encourages children to choose God as their guide.

The events also offered ideas for the 2005 Club VBS theme, "Beach Blast." Trundle notes that Club VBS is a second line of themed VBS curriculum. "It is designed not only for the smaller church but also as an alternative theme for any church," she says.

Individuals attending the events attended small-group training sessions specific to age groups from babies through adults. Small group sessions were also offered for leaders on topics such as special education, organizing the worship rally, Mission VBS, as well as others. Also, for the second year, Spanish VBS conferences were provided.

Many who attended the training events expressed the importance of how these small group sessions enabled them to network with other leaders and learn from each other. "It was a great time of sharing ideas," says one conference attendee.

Trundle also notes the value of interaction and sharing ideas. "Leaders can learn a lot from talking with others, seeing how they do training in their association, and finding something that will work for them in their area," she says.

Early Bird Conferences became a new addition to the VBS training events this year.



TRUNDLE

"These conferences were well received, and we were able to offer information in addition to the age-level training received in the basic conferences," says Trundle.

This additional information included topics such as "Children and Salvation" and "VBS Promotion and Enlistment."

One highlight of the Gladeville training event was Jeff Slaughter who came to speak and lead music. Slaughter composed the VBS music for this year as well as the music for the past several years.

"He shared with us how God gave him the words and music for VBS 2005. Everyone enjoyed him actually leading songs and getting to meet him personally," says Trundle.

The associational leaders who received training at these events will now begin providing training sessions in their

own associations. A list of these training events can be found at www.tnbaptist.org. These dates and other information related to VBS is included under the childhood section on the web site.

Because VBS is often the largest outreach to children and families for many churches across the state, Trundle encourages church leaders and VBS workers to attend training sessions.

"We need to take advantage of every opportunity we have to be trained, not only in how to use the materials effectively, but also on how to witness to those children and parents who will be coming to our church facilities this summer," she says.

Trundle can be contacted with questions related to VBS at (865) 805-9946 or by e-mail at ktrundle@tnbaptist.org. □

Terri Schiavo — the question not answered

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Last week I went back and read numerous Baptist Press and other media accounts of Terri Schiavo, the 41-year-old brain-damaged woman whose story has become "front-page" news in most secular media outlets. I was trying to find out if Terri is a Christian (more on that later).

Fifteen years ago, at the age of 26, Terri Schiavo suffered brain damage after her heart stopped. In recent months the battle over whether or not she should live has been fought through the legal system.

Finally, on March 18, a Florida judge ruled that her feeding tube should be removed. Keep in mind that she was not hooked up to any other life support means, such as a breathing or heart machine.

The removal of the feeding tube will ultimately lead to her death by starvation and dehydration in the next few days.

By March 20 Congress and President George W. Bush intervened with legislation which said a federal court should decide the matter. On March 21, a federal judge ruled in favor of the Florida judge and agreed with the removal of the feeding tube. Other attempts at appeals have failed.

Most people are aware that Schiavo's parents have been fighting a legal battle with their son-in-law. Simply put, he says his wife has a "right to die" while her parents believe just as strongly that she "has a right to live."

While Schiavo insists that his wife told him years ago she would not want to be kept alive under these circumstances, there is no written declaration from her.

There are no easy answers to the questions that have cropped up in this case.

The parents have qualified physicians who say she is not in a "persistent vegetative state" as some doctors (probably equally qualified) contend, but rather she is in a "minimally conscious state." From video clips I have observed, she appears to be aware of who is around her, even though she cannot communicate.

Who do you believe when you have "people in the know" on both sides of the issue with two radically different opinions?

Let us know your opinions

The *Baptist and Reflector* would like to know what our readers think about whether the feeding tube should have been removed from Terri Schiavo. Keep your views brief and to the point (100 words or less). Preference will be given to shorter letters so we can share a variety of views. Letters will be printed on a first come basis as space permits and we cannot guarantee every opinion will be published. Send letters to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024 or e-mail the editor at lwilkey@tnbaptist.org. □

And then there is the matter of the husband, Michael Schiavo, who I feel has lost credibility because he has lived with a "girl-friend" for 10 years and has fathered two children with her. Does he really have his wife's best interests at heart? Again, questions for which we do not know the answers.

I have had mixed emotions as to whether the tube should have been removed. If it were me, I wouldn't want to be kept alive that way. But without knowing what she wants, she should be given the benefit of a doubt and be allowed to continue living.

Unfortunately, there are too many people who have tried to take the issue out of God's hands, especially now that the courts and politicians have gotten involved. I'm afraid Pandora's Box has been opened and the lid will never fit tight again.

I affirm both Terri Schiavo's right to live and her right to die. The only problem is no one knows for sure what she wants because she is in no condition to tell us.

Her case has made numerous people, including me and my wife, seriously consider a "living will." Neither Joyce nor I want to be "kept alive" if there appears to be no hope for recovery. We plan to prepare living wills so our children some day will not be placed in the position of having to decide for us. I would not want to put them through the stress and anguish that decision would cause.

Now, some will question how we, as

Christians, would want a living will that would allow someone to cut off our life support.

After all, we serve a God who still performs miracles. I agree wholeheartedly. God could make Terri Schiavo well this very minute, but after 15 years He has not yet chosen to do so. God doesn't need man or artificial means to give Him "time" to do His will. He will proceed on His timetable.

The very reason I wouldn't want to be kept alive is because I am a Christian and I can draw upon God's promises in His Holy Word. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, *For I know the plans I have declared the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

My hope and my future is in Jesus Christ, and my ultimate destination is an eternity with Him in heaven.

As mentioned earlier, the one question about Terri Schiavo that I have not heard addressed or answered is, "Is she a Christian." I have tried to find out, but to no avail.

If Terri is a Christian, then God will soon honor His promise to her "to prosper you and not to harm you." If she is not a Christian, then my prayer is that she will be kept alive because her only hope would be a miracle of healing so she could then have the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord of her life.

In addition to making people consider moral and ethical issues related to life and death matters, Terri Schiavo's case should make every Christian want to share the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone possible. One day Terri Schiavo was a vibrant young woman with her whole life ahead of her. The next day she was in a hospital with brain damage. No one is guaranteed tomorrow so we need to take advantage of every opportunity to share Christ when we can. My prayer is that Terri Schiavo heard and accepted the good news of Christ.

There are too many questions and complications involved with this case. We may never know the answers. The only thing certain is that God is ultimately in control. For that, we can be eternally grateful. □

Church Furnishing
Reupholster, Pews, Steep
Baptistries, Chairs, etc
Free Quotes Free Catalog
CISCO 800-365-2568
(615) 326-0816

Affordable Beachside
Vacation Condos
www.gulfshorescondos.com
All size units available, Spring Sp
2 night weekend, \$160.00
4 weeknights, \$250.00 Efficiency
(2 Adults, 2 Kids) Good thru 5-
(205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-11

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Ebenezer Baptist Church is seeking an excited and motivated individual to serve as part-time minister of music. Ebenezer is a growing and family-oriented church that enjoys a blended style of both contemporary and traditional music. With average worship attendance of 175 people, Ebenezer seeks to reach the community through music, drama, and media. The applicant should have demonstrated experience in preparing blended worship service through leading and growing choir program or praise team. Selected candidate will work hand-in-hand with the pastor to prepare each service. Applicants need to send a resume and a video tape of a recent service (available) to Ebenezer Baptist Church, 6028 Ebenezer Greenbrier, TN 37073, or by mail to (615) 643-0639. You can also contact the church office at (615) 643-0637 or at Office@Ebenezer.org.

Smith Springs Baptist Church is seeking openings for music minister and pianist. Would prefer married couple but all applicants will be accepted. Call (615) 361-7921 or e-mail to ltidwell2@msn.com.

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, Tenn., is presently searching for a full-time minister of music. HBC is a church with priority on bold expository preaching, strong evangelism, soul winning, and celebrative singing worship. We have a choir of 50 with gifted band and music. We do an upbeat, blended Christ-honoring style of music. We love for Jesus, the Bible, and the local Church is required with a heart desiring the will of God. If you feel the Lord is calling you, send a resume and audio or video of your preaching/pastor services to Pastor G. Denton at Hillcrest Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2009, Lebanon, TN 37088. E-mail broglenn@hillcrestbaptist.org.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Miracle Baptist, LaVergne, is seeking an opening for pianist. Please send resume to Miracle Baptist Piano Committee, P.O. Box 100, LaVergne, TN 37086.



Large Selection of Buses
Ready For Delivery
New and Used



- Safety
- Comfort
- Reliability
- Value



3 Locations Convenient to You! *

Georgia • Louisiana • Mississippi

866.287.4768 866.726.5142 800.423.9826

On-Site Service & Support
for "your peace of mind"

www.busgroup.com

The Splendor of Niagara Falls and Toronto

May 16-21, 2005

Enjoy the spectacular beauty of Niagara Falls, Queen Victoria Park, Floral Clock, Niagara on the Lake, dinner overlooking the Falls, CN Tower, the World's Tallest Building, 1 Dinner show. Escorted motor-coach travel from Chattanooga, Sevierville/Knoxville, Loudon. A great vacation. This trip will sell quickly. Ask for a detailed brochure soon.

Good News Travels and Tours — Sevierville, TN — 800-464-7687
\$549.00 per person, maudesisco@bellsouth.net

The Charm of New England Fall Foliage

10 Days — Sept. 29-Oct. 8, 2005

Chattanooga/Cleveland, Knoxville/Sevierville

Ask about other pick up places

Virginia and Pennsylvania Amish Country, Boston Historical Tour, Longwood Gardens/Hershey World, Franconia Notch State Park, Castle in the Clouds Mansion. Learn about New Hampshire History, Kancamagus Scenic Byway, Shelburne and Maple Museum, Lincoln's Hildene Mansion, Deluxe Motorcoach Travel.

Call now for a detailed brochure ~~~ \$1,299 per person dbl.

Good News Travels and Tours, Sevierville, TN
Maude Sisco, Travel Director — 800-464-7687

Groups can
register online

Men's Ministries Newsletter

BRENTWOOD — All Baptist Men on Mission, Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, and MissionKids groups are encouraged to register their ministries, groups, and chapters online with the North American Mission Board, according to TBC Men's Ministry specialist Gene Williams.

To register groups online, go to Namb.net to each Mission age program section and select the registration links. Baptist Men on Mission can also be registered at Bmen.net at http://sub.namb.net/educate/bmom/bmen_reg.asp. Challengers groups can be registered at Challengers Central Studentz.com. See www.studentz.com/challengers/registration.htm. RA chapters can be registered at dzplace.org. See www.kidzplace.org/adult/royal-ambassadors/ra_chapter_registration.aspx. MissionFriends can be also listed at Kidzplace.org. See www.kidzplace.org/adult/missionkids/missionkids-register.asp. Information about groups to register online with NAMB is then sent on to the TBC Men's Ministry team, according to Williams. "This enables the Men's Ministry team to contact the groups when special events are held and distribute information and materials. After registering online, the groups will receive promotional items from NAMB." □

Russellville church
holds men's rally

Men's Ministries Newsletter

RUSSELLVILLE — Around 100 men attended a "Men Working in Truth" Men's Rally Jan. 28-29 here at Russellville Baptist Church. Speakers and their topics were: Richard Emmert, pastor of Lanley Baptist Church, "A Man and His Ever Life"; Ken Sparks, head coach of Carson-New College, Jefferson City, "A Man and His World"; Emmett Dey, physician from Jefferson City, "A Man and His Church"; Ronnie Owens, evangelist from Tazewell, "A Man and His Family"; and Hollie Dyer, pastor of Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, "A Man and His God." □

Nashville Association draws 270 to Men's Rally

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

NASHVILLE — Nashville Baptist Association sponsored a Men's Rally Feb. 26, at Haywood Hills Baptist Church here where 270 men attended from 34 churches including some churches outside the association.

"Becoming God's Man" was the title of the rally, which featured five preaching sessions from area speakers discussing the emphasis along with special exhibits and a catered lunch.

Speakers and topics were: Dick Moore, layman from College Heights Baptist Church, Gallatin, and owner of Clinard's Home Improvement, "God in a Man's Professional Life"; David Wilson, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, "A Man's Purpose"; Andre Dugger, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, "A

Man's Purity"; Phillip Barnett, pastor of Haywood Hills Church, "A Man's Prayer Life"; and Tom McCoy, pastor of Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station, "Being Passionate about God."

Buddy Mullins, full-time music evangelist from Spring Hill and former lead singer with the Gaither Vocal Band, led worship for the rally.

"The Men's Rally was an exciting time for men in the area," said Barnett. "We want to do it again."

"Numerous men came to the altar, prayed, and counseled with the pastors. Several rededications were followed up in each man's church."

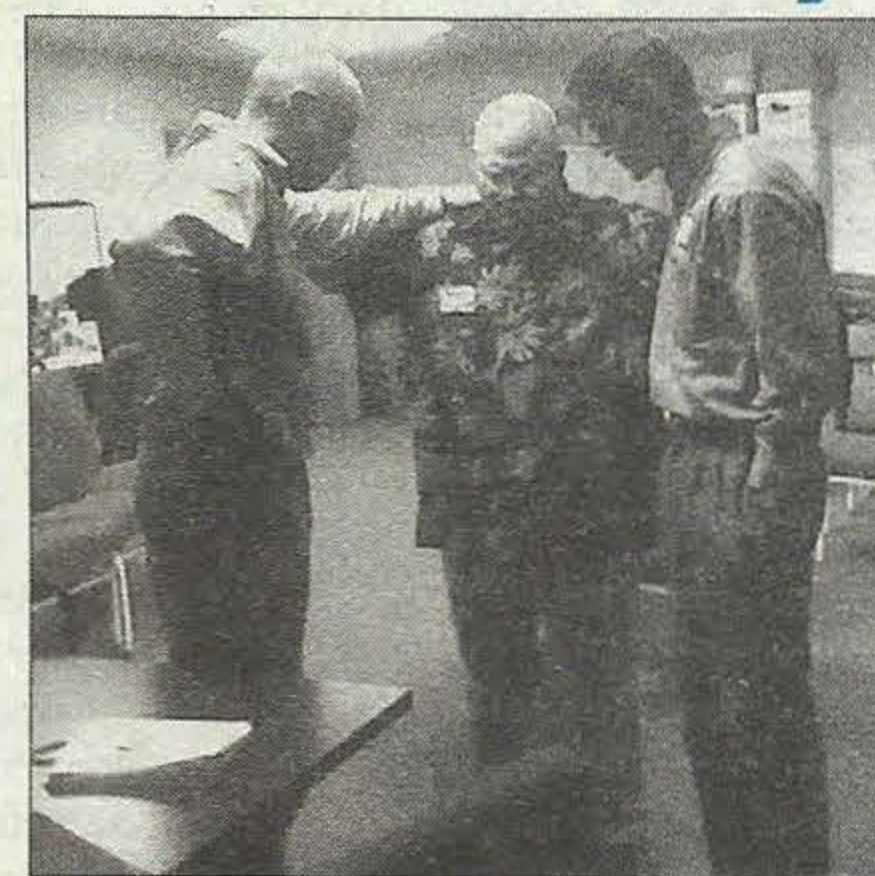
"The main emphasis of the conference seemed aimed at the leadership role of the husband and father at home and at church as presented in the Bible," said Garey Southern, Haywood Hills Church member.

"For us single folk, while a lot was aimed at our future, there still was the need for fellowship with God and fellow Christians. As a man we have to not only be a leader, but we have to be an example."

"The Rally was sponsored by our Pastor and Church Staff Development Team of the Nashville Association," said Rusty Sumrall, NBA associate executive director.

"The team felt that the best support that they could give to pastors was to offer a rally that would encourage men to become the leaders in their homes and churches like God would have them to be."

"The Rally was a time of challenge and encouragement



PRAYING WERE three of the conference leaders for the NBA Men's Rally at Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, from left, were: Haywood Hills Church pastor Phillip Barnett; Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, pastor Andre Dugger; and Thompson Station Baptist Church pastor Tom McCoy.

to all the men in attendance. Many pastors have thanked our leadership team for offering this special day for their men." □

'Church behind walls' grows in Pulaski

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

PULASKI — "A church with a kingdom mindset is willing to receive inmates who receive Christ as members of their church," according to Gene Williams, TBC Men's Ministry specialist.

One church that is baptizing inmates into their fellowship is Thompson Chapel Baptist Church, Pulaski, which has a weekly jail ministry to the Giles County Jail in Pulaski.

Every Tuesday night a group from Thompson Chapel Church, made up of dedicated men and women, go to the County jail to lead Bible study for the inmates.

Cliff Riddle, a member of the church, serves as the Gideon coordinator and leads the jail ministry team. His wife Linda Riddle also leads the women inmates in Bible study. Also joining the Riddles on the team are church members: Jack and Christine Byrne, and Foster Northwood.

Others serving on Tuesday nights are Robert Cross, a member of Temple of Praise Missionary Baptist Church, and Jerry Yent, a member of First Baptist Church of Pulaski, both in Pulaski.

"Riddle has a heart for inmates," said Johnny Garrett, who serves as Thompson Chapel Church pastor. "The



WORKING ON a bible study for the Giles County Jail in Pulaski are members from Thompson Chapel Baptist Church: from left, Christine Byrne, Linda Riddle, Cliff Riddle, pastor Johnny Garrett, Foster Norwood, and Jack Byrne.

church supports this ministry in every way. At least 15 inmates have been baptized in the horse trough in the jail courtyard.

"Jail ministry is exciting stuff. We take Survival Kits and use them for discipleship of the inmates. We also made up our own book, called *New Life in Christ*, which discusses belief and baptism."

Garrett, who is a native of Franklin and came to the church in 1999, added that since the jail ministry began of those inmates baptized by the church, two came out of the jail to the church, and some have moved on to the Big House.

Even though mentoring and discipleship is difficult in the cell pods, the church gives inmates Bibles, holds mentoring groups, and makes them members of the church while

still in jail.

"The church recognizes that the jail ministry team has their ministry, and the team baptizes the inmates," said Garrett.

"The church resources the team in what they give to the Lord."

"We knew God wanted us (Cliff and Jerry) to be there as Gideons, and we prayed for a year about a possible jail ministry," said Cliff Riddle. "Cross encouraged me to distribute Bibles to the jail."

In May 2001, the team began witnessing to inmates. "We had 10 salvations on the first night, and over 100 men have been saved over the last four years."

"The other day we were talking to an inmate about how long we have been serving in the jail ministry, and he pulled out his New Testament and told us he got it in 2001." □

New publication
for BMEN leaders

Men's Ministries Newsletter

BRENTWOOD — A new "Second Edition" Leading Baptist Men on Mission has been published by the North American Mission Board in 2005, according to Gene Williams, TBC Men's Ministry specialist.

"I highly recommend the new Second Edition of the manual, written by Bob Record, NAMB president, and Patrick Morley, Man in the Mirror Ministries chief executive officer, because it is the basic training manual for Baptist Men's groups," said Williams.

"As a BMEN leader, we know your desire is to draw men into the kingdom, and into the mission of God," said Nate Adams, NAMB Missions Mobilization vice president.

"In the book, you will find practical, biblical help in leading the men of your church to take responsibility as spiritual leaders in their homes; assume servant leadership roles in the church; actively engage in both the ministry and mission of the church; and accept responsibility for mentoring boys, teenagers, and other men into godly, biblical manhood."

The manual may be ordered by calling NAMB Customer Service at 1-866-407-6262. □

A Word from Gene

When it comes to Bible study, one pastor from my past stands out above all others who taught me. He shared with me one of his methods for gaining a better understanding of almost any passage of Scripture.

He was a passionate organizer as you will notice in the instructions that follow. For this layman, it became my favorite system of Bible study.

He suggested taking a legal pad, turning it sideways, and marking five equal columns.

At the top of each column write the following labels: Scripture, Immediate Observations, Questions, Answers, and Life Application.

In the first column, write each verse of the focal passage. You may be tempted to avoid writing the Scripture. But let me guarantee you, this only works as you pen each word. Ponder the verse as it appears. Write slowly and allow the Holy Spirit to speak as you form each word. By the way, leave a lot of room. I may record three words of the verse, write a relatively long observation and continue the verse below. I rarely exceed two or three verses to a page.

As you become proficient, you and the Spirit will have a lot of conversations that later you will be glad you recorded. This system disrupts our normal habit of reading quickly through the entire verse while never pondering the depths of each word pregnant with spiritual insight.

If the Spirit speaks, stop writing the verse and record your immediate observation in that column. If you form a question in your mind, write it in the appropriate column immediately. Write everything down as you work. As a result of using this system, I have grown in my sensitivity to and recognition of the soft voice of the Spirit.

What about answers? I find that most of the time they come as I ponder a subsequent portion of the text. Quite often answers don't come until later in the week as I contemplate and dwell on the passage. Discuss your questions with your wife.

As a last resort, I consult my favorite author who has written about the passage. I value the works of prestigious writers. But we will remain weak, if we continue to let others dominate our thinking. I find that the Holy Spirit and I can work out quite a bit of the answers by ourselves.

I receive great pleasure working through a question,

forming an answer, and finding that a noted author, who has spent many years getting an education and years of experience, has come to the same conclusion. When that happens, this layman comes off the floor.

My pastor helped me understand that gathering facts about the Bible, which is valuable, is a weak effort unless a connection can be made with one's walk with the Lord and applied to life. A man who is growing in the Lord is constantly finding new ways to apply Scripture to his daily walk. Much too often we search Scripture and apply our finding to the lives of others. God's message is to you. Compare your life to what you are discovering in Scripture. My greatest mission field is within the shirt I'm wearing.

As in the previous suggestions for each column, when a life application is identified, write it down. These will become the markers for transforming moments in your daily living. This last column will provide the bridge that link God's Word to your heart.

After exhausting your "new ideas" about the text, start forming an opinion about its main theme. Why did the Lord insist that these words be recorded? Who wrote them? To whom were they written? Write two or three sentences that describe all that is contained in the focal passage. The Holy Spirit just led you to discover the main theme of a portion of Scripture. Wow!

Lastly, declare a title for this study. If you were to condense everything you read and wrote into two or three records, what would it be? Record all that comes to mind and choose one. Remember this is your stuff. You can change it any time.

Now you are free to consult any book about your subject. Read all you can find and compare it with your studies. Each item you find that confirms your study will bless your soul. Occasionally you may have to adjust your thinking, but more often you are going to ring the bell.

After you complete this process, by the time you get to your Bible study class, you will be torqued. You will be excited about gathering with your fellow class members for the purpose of sharing your insight from the Lord. Have at it brother for His glory.

This is hard work. But if done consistently, you will come to the point that you desire more meat at your spiritual meals.

Gene

Gene Williams
Men's Ministry specialist



WILLIAMS

Men's Ministry at church takes lead

Men's Ministries Newsletter

CEDAR HILL — "Cedar Hill Baptist Church in Robertson County Baptist Association believes that if the church is going to experience revival then men must be responsible and take the lead," according to David Lyon, Cedar Hill Church Men's Ministry director.

"Men's Ministry is in the forefront of Cedar Hill Church, and just recently 65 men went to the Mid-South Men's Bible Conference, sponsored by Kirby Woods Baptist Church in Memphis."

Cedar Hill Church, which averages 200 in Sunday School, took 11 men to the first Men's Conference at Union University in Jackson that was sponsored by Kirby Woods Church in 2001.

In 2003, the conference was moved to Kirby Woods Church's new sanctuary in Memphis, and 19 men went from Cedar Hill Church. In 2004, 40 men from Cedar Hill Church along with 6 men from 2 other churches chartered a bus to the conference.

"This year the men were challenged to contact other men and bring them to the conference," added Lyon. "Our men provided scholarships to many of these other men. One of the guests on the trip was saved which made it all worth the trip."

"The conference at Kirby Woods Church had around 1,700 men in attendance. Cedar Hill Church found out that by chartering a bus, the men enjoyed fellowship and built lifetime relationships on the trip down to Memphis and back home.

"Our goal next year is to take 2 buses and 90 men. These have been life-changing experiences for the men of our church. Many present leaders of our church were changed after going on this trip and accepted responsibility in the church. It has been a jumpstart for our Men's Ministry, and each year it continues to bless our church."

In addition to this conference, the men at Cedar Hill Church are involved in other ministry activities including a monthly prayer breakfast on

the first Saturday of each month, Kick-Off Cookout and Testimony at a Jo Byrns High School football practice, various construction projects, Mission meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, Grifter Mission Trip each summer, and other avenues that will introduce men to God.

In January 2005, Cedar Hill Church hosted the Association Wild Game Supper where over 300 men attended and one man was saved.

Cedar Hill Church's Men's Ministry follows the concepts described in a book, entitled *Drawing Men To God*, from LifeWay. "The primary focus of every event is to help men come to know God and to get them involve in His work," noted Lyon. "We have men that have a passion for seeing other men saved."

"God is good all the time. We give God all the glory for what he is doing at Cedar Hill Church. We tried to do it in our own strength and failed. God took over, and he is doing great things. We are just joining him where he is working." □



SOME MEN FROM Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, visit with Mid-South Men's Bible Conference leaders. Standing in the center from left is the pastor of Cedar Hill, Brad Shockley; Jerry Spencer; and Junior Hill.

210 inmates to be involved in Crossover

By Marcia Knox

Men's Ministries Newsletter

BRENTWOOD — One of the seven Crossover Nashville 2005 Ministry Venues will be prayer journeys June 17-19 which includes prayerwalks within a 40-mile radius of the city. However, over 210 of these prayer journey participants will be confined to their prison cell blocks that weekend across the state of Tennessee.

These inmates have made commitments to pray before, during, and after the Crossover weekend, according to Gene Williams, TBC Men's Ministry specialist.

Williams, who serves as a volunteer for the Tennessee Prison for Women (TPFW) in Nashville and the Williamson County Jail (WCJ) in Franklin, also works as the TBC coordinator for the use of Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions funds for restorative justice.

"As a result of prayer emphasis with Crossover, and my involvement in restorative

justice, I began asking the inmates to pray for fertile ground in the hearts of Nashvillians and bold witness for the volunteers," Williams said.

"We also invited each chaplain across the state to enlist inmates who would pray Kingdom prayers to join us in praying for Crossover."

Besides TPFW and WCJ, other institutions with inmates that are praying are: the West Tennessee State Penitentiary in Henning, the Bradley County Jail in Cleveland, and Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex in Petros.

"This prayer effort partially began in preparation for establishing a network of prayer partners in prisons and jails," Williams added. "The idea also excited TBC Prayer Strategist specialist, Don Pierson, who saw the possibility of a new avenue of ongoing prayer intercession."

"As far as we know, this is the first time that Christian inmates have been enlisted for any Crossover ministry." □

A Word from Frank

If you missed the National RAs/Challengers/Baptist Men's Rally Feb. 25-27 in Gatlinburg, you missed a lot. There was the usual great music, testimonies, worship times, breakout sessions, and marketplace that have been trademarks of the event.



GREEN

As in all previous years, it was a terrific event and my life-changing decisions were made. My folks from Tennessee churches were in attendance. The final count is not yet available. If you did not attend, you missed something else. It was the last one and the last time the event will take place in Gatlinburg. Due to NAMB guidelines, the Rally will be postponed to another meeting in 2007 probably in the summer months. No definite details were given.

To be honest, this news was depressing to me. I had been to these gatherings since the first one. All of them have been well-attended, super events. Evidently there were not enough numbers to support the Rally as its own event. For me, it is a sad end to a quality event that has had an impact on thousands of young men over the years. I suppose that I am like a

lot of other folks. I sometimes resist change. It is even harder to accept change when things seem to be working. My assessment would have been that the Rallies were worth the cost. However, I only have my own criteria to judge that one.

I have to trust that our leaders of NAMB are seeing the big picture. I also have to believe that they have talked this over with God. I do trust and believe in our leadership at NAMB, SBC, TBC, and our other Baptist entities. I know many of these folks personally, and I know that they are Godly folks, who seek to do His will in their ministries.

An old friend of mine Kenny Rains, NAMB Partnership Events manager, said, "I have learned two things in my life: there is a God; and I am not Him." Kenny is correct. We need to realize again that God is in control. He is on His throne. He will take care of it if we let Him. There is a lot of sound theology in Kenny's observation.

Let us continue to look to God and continue to pray for the leadership of our churches, associations, state convention, and our other Southern Baptist entities.

Frank

Frank Green
RA/Challengers field worker

RA Wilderness Challenge set for April

Men's Ministries Newsletter



NASHVILLE — The Nashville Baptist Association Royal Ambassador Leadership Team will hold its fourth annual RA Wilderness Challenge April 15-16 at Boxwell Boy Scout Reservation near Gallatin, according to Brian Holt, NBA RA Team leader.

Sponsored by the Nashville Association RA Team and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Wilderness Challenge is a camping adventure, designed to test the campcraft skills RAs learn during their weekly chapter meetings.

The cost of Wilderness Challenge is only \$10 per person. Pre-register by April 15

and adults get in for \$5. This cost includes the use of the facilities and insurance. Friday check-in begins at 5 p.m. and Saturday checkout is at 4 p.m.

Wilderness Challenge events include: Friday Worship — geared to reach boys in the first through sixth grades; Royal Racers — double elimination pine wood

derby races divided into 3 divisions: Lad, Crusader, and Adult; Campcraft Skills School — learn new skills and practice those needed for the Rodeo; Campcraft Rodeo — best time events in Knot Tying, Fire Building, Compass, and Tent Pitching; and Award Service and Closing celebration — recognizing outstanding performances of those who participated in the event.

Spend some time camping and getting to know other RAs from all over Nashville. For registration information, a copy of the event rules, and a tentative schedule call the Nashville Association office at (615) 259-3034. □

Family Day set for April 2 at Speedway

Men's Ministries Newsletter

2:05 p.m. in the speedway.

BRISTOL — Family Day at Bristol Motor Speedway will be held Saturday, April 2, here. Family Day will feature a Praise Celebration at 9:30 a.m. at the Bristol Dragstrip and the Sharpie Professional 250 race at

The Praise Celebration will feature "Cross Country," a musical group, and Comedy Relief.

Teri and Randy McDonald, sister and brother racing competitors, will be the guest speakers. □

Mid-South RAs hold RA racer competition

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

MEMPHIS — Mid-South Royal Ambassadors held its most recent RA Racer event Feb. 19 at Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, which was hosted by Hope Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

Over 110 people attended the RA Racers event including 60 boys and their dads,

families, and leaders. Around 10 different Baptist churches in Tennessee and Mississippi participated in the event.

"The whole reason for this event was to provide opportunities for dads and boys to get together, which is part of the Sons of Virtue study in RAs," said Mike Freeman, Mid-South Baptist Association RA director. "This was also a collective effort to provide an event with a food drive. Each

race participant had to bring a can good for an entrance fee."

The can goods were donated to Brinkley Heights Baptist Ministry Center, Memphis, which is part of the Mississippi River Ministry area.

Jeff Jenkins, Hope Church RA director, and his staff coordinated the event. To view the winners go to www.mid-southras.org. □



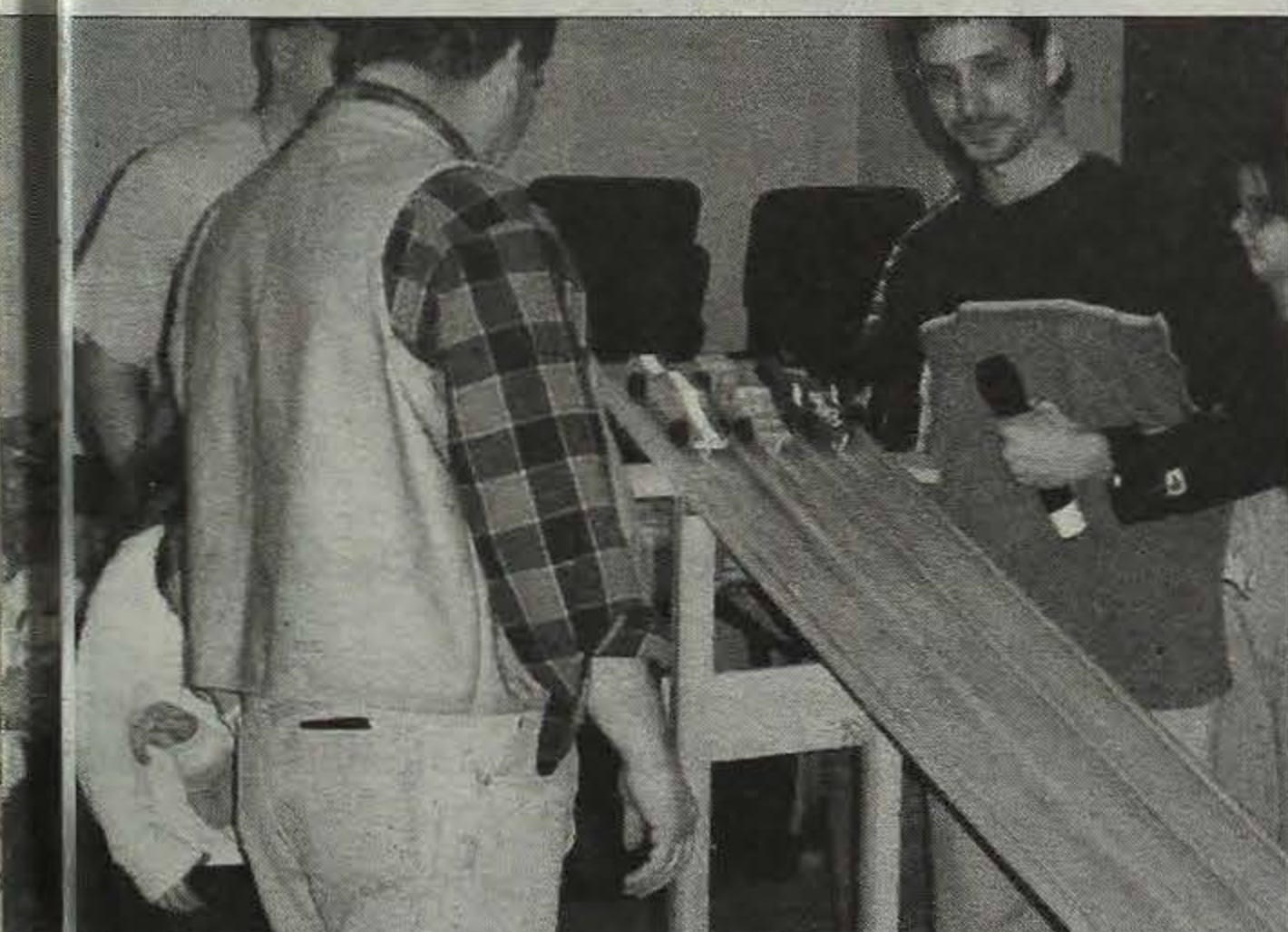
MID-SOUTH RAs competed in several RA Racer heats Feb. 19 at Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, which was hosted by Hope Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Miss.

RAs help tsunami victims

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

ILAN — Gibson Baptist Association held a co-ed Royal Ambassador Race March 9 at Chapel Hill Baptist Church to collect hygiene packs for the tsunami victims, according to RA Associational director Tony Moore.

Over 200 people attended the co-ed racing event including 77 children and 5 adults who registered cars. "The hygiene pack was the registration fee," said Moore. "It was kids giving to kids. This mission activity emphasized the NAMB Week of Prayer." □



PUTTING THE cars on the track at the Gibson Association RA car race at Chapel Hill Baptist Church, Milan, are: from left, Tony Moore and Jay Hufstедler.

Fishers of Men Tournament trail runs from February through September

Men's Ministries Newsletter

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee's three grand divisions of the Fishers of Men (FOM) Tournament Trail began in February and will continue through September.

The East Tennessee Division of FOM held their opening tournament Saturday, Feb. 26, at Anderson County Park on Norris Lake with a Friday night, Feb. 25, pre-tournament meeting at Bethel Baptist Church in Clinton.

J.C. Newman and his quartet presented outstanding music. Gary Miller, pastor of Pump Springs Baptist Church, Harrogate, gave an inspirational message, which resulted in two salvations and five rededications.

At least 43 teams were in competition on Norris Lake Saturday. The team of Archie Wilson and Kevin Edwards led the field with a limit of five fish and brought home first place. The team of Mike Napier and Steve Napier won second place. Bill Sivyver and Mike Bolton took third place.

Special thanks go to local sponsors who were: Bethel Baptist Church, Tazewell; and

Miller from Pump Springs Church.

The Central Tennessee Division of FOM held their opening tournament Saturday, March 5 at Holiday Landing on Tims Ford Lake with a Friday night, March 4, pre-tournament meeting at Center Grove Baptist Church, Tullahoma, where pastor David Wall and his crew hosted the event. Robert Cain preached. There were 2 rededications and many decisions. FOM National president Al Odom was also present.

On Saturday the team of McCullough/Smith came in with five brown small mouth to win first place. Second place went to the champs from last year Sentell/Sentell. Third place winners were McGuire/McGuire. At least 25 teams competed in the opening tournament. The next tournament will be held April 2 at Ragland Bottoms on Center Hill Lake.

The Western Tennessee Division of FOM held their opening tournament Saturday, March 12, at Pickwick Landing State Park on Pickwick Lake with a Friday night, March 11, pre-tournament meeting at First Baptist Church of Counce. □

Lewis' book advocates community focus

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

BRENTWOOD — *The Church of the Irresistible Influence*, a book by Robert Lewis, pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Ark., and the founder of Men's Fraternity, has peaked interest in churches networking outside their walls.

The book, published by Zondervan and co-authored by Rob Wilkins, chronicles how over 100 churches networked and moved outside the walls of the church and transformed the people in central Arkansas' perception of Christians, according to Billy Skinner, Mid-South Baptist Association church strategist in Memphis.

Gene Williams, TBC Men's Ministry specialist, noted Lewis' book is about building bridges to the community. "Most communities are indifferent toward the church and deem its activities irrelevant in 'real' life circumstances," said Williams. "Lewis lists many ideas that can reconnect your church with your community."

Featured in the book is the ShareFest Celebration, a community-wide weekend good works event, which has evolved since 1999 to numerous cities across the country. See ShareFest.com.

"ShareFest was never meant to be just an event," said Lewis. "No one wants or needs another event that disappears as it came. Through ShareFest we desired a whole new beginning for the churches of central Arkansas. ShareFest would be our catalyst for launching a movement that would help turn churches

outward: to our neighbors, to new partnerships with our community, and to real needs.

"The idea was simple. Don't preach. Prove! Serve! Give! Put flesh on the Word of God. Make it tangible, observable and undeniable.

"For a whole week, do these as humbly and as authentically as we know how. Then walk away, asking nothing in return. Finally, repeat this every year until our churches discover a better way to build bridges that incarnates Christ and grace to our community."

According to Skinner, the first ShareFest brought all denominations together including Southern Baptists and Assemblies of God churches. ShareFest has been repeated over several years in numerous cities.

ShareFest received so much publicity and praise from the community and the press that the governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee, a noted Southern Baptist, came and celebrated the 1999 results in Little Rock.

Some results noted by Skinner in 1999 and 2000 were: "over 100 churches involved, 100 community projects involving more than 3,000 church volunteers; 1,186 units of blood collected in three days; 2 Habitat homes built; 20,000 meals donated; 2,410 coats collected; 4,067 new toys donated for needy children; 1,002 organ donor cards signed; 26 central Arkansas schools renovated, repainted, and refurbished; 8,000 Christians gathered in Alltel Arena in Little Rock to pray for central Arkansas principals, teachers, and students; and 350 cases of school supplies

donated for needy public schools, and more.

"When the world thinks about the church, they don't think about grace," said Skinner. "Our weary, troubled, and confused world hungers for us, the church, to give them proof of grace. And if we do, they will give our God the glory."

According to Skinner, he first became interested in Lewis' book after hearing about the Men's Fraternity program, which was being held at Crosspointe Baptist Church in Millington. Skinner had previously heard of Bible Fellowship Church through members of First Baptist Church of Union City where he served as the pastor from 1989-97.

"ShareFest is a coordinated effort of churches in one area along with networking," he added. "We are trying to build a huge network in the Mid-South Association including other churches besides Baptists. Lewis got the cooperation from the churches. We can also do this in Memphis. This would change the image of the church in Memphis. They don't think about grace."

"Any wise Christian will be careful to judge the merits of statements, made in the book, and discern those appropriate for local usage," added Williams. "I am not advocating every thought put forward in the book, but I do embrace the overall theme.

"The bottom line of the book is that our churches must begin building bridges into the communities that they serve and invest significant effort that results in renewed respect for and desire to be a part of the church." □

Outdoor network attends turkey federation meeting

Men's Ministries Newsletter

NASHVILLE — When around 40,000 people attended the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) 2005 annual convention Feb. 18-20 at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center, the Tennessee Outdoor Network (TON) was there to greet them.

TON, Tennessee Baptist's answer for outdoor ministry, gets a booth each year when the convention is in Nashville, according to its founder, Jason Cruise, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, senior pastor.



CRUISE

"Our purpose in attending the convention is to pass out tracts called the Turkey Hunter's 10 Commandments, and it includes God's Great Commandment," said Cruise. "We also promote our ministry and what it does to help the local church."

"I had ordered 4,500 tracts, figuring there would be a 2 year supply. We passed out all 4,500 in the first 2 days of the 3-day convention. I was amazed to say the least."

TON has trained Baptist churches all across Tennessee in how to set up outdoor ministry. Since about mid-2004 TON began to get out-of-state inquiries so they made a DVD to provide the same training for an out-of-state church.

"Before the NWTf convention, TON was represented by at least one church in 13 other states. Now we are represented in 27 states, and in most states there are multiple churches.

"I am praising God for an amazing anointing on our TON evangelism effort. It was a sight to behold. Thank you to those who helped and prayed for us. Also special thanks goes to the Tennessee Baptist Convention of whom we are ministry extension for their support in so many ways. Were it not for the TBC, we would not be able to do this at all."

Baptist Men's Ministry Dates 2005

April

15-16 RA Wilderness Challenge, Camp Boxwell, Gatlinburg

September

23-24 Men's Ministry Fall Retreat, Fall Creek Falls Conference Center, Pikeville

30 - Oct. 1 Tri-State Camp-O-Ree, Camp Cordova, Cordova

October

22 Smoky Mountain Regional RA Challenge, East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville

Tennessee Baptist Camps 2005

Camp Linden at Linden — for registration call Camp Linden at (877) 354-6336 or Nancy Hamilton at 1-800-558-2090.

June 10-12 — Journey Weekend for Dads/Sons & Mom/Daughters

June 13-15 — Journey Mini Camp for Boys

June 13-17 — All Nations Camp

June 15-17 — Journey Mini Camp for Girls

June 27 - July 1 — Journey for Kids

July 11-15 — Youth IMPACT

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville

June 27 - July 1 — Super Summer

Camp Carson at Newport — for registration call Camp Carson at (877) 704-6336 or Nancy Hamilton at 1-800-558-2090.

July 8-10 — Journey Weekend for Dads/Sons & Mom/Daughters

July 22-24 — Journey Mini Camp for Kids

July 25-29 — Mission IMPACT

Dyer Association volunteers raise church in two ...

Continued from page 1
Over the next two weeks electricity, plumbing, and dry rock will be completed," said Wright. "We are looking two to three weeks before we occupy the church. The new church has to be torn down as well."
Project coordinators for the church were: Paul Seratt and Roy Childress, both members of Hillcrest Baptist Church.
Seratt served as a trouble-shooter and helped deck the east side wall of the church. He worked on the roof and the siding. Seratt, who took vacation time from his steel miller job to work on the new church, prefers a hands-on approach.
"I'm doing the work here, because I love Jesus," said Seratt. "I also love to fellowship with the guys. The older ones here for support. They also like to tell stories." This was Seratt's first time to supervise

for the association.
Childress, a licensed contractor, had several jobs Saturday on site and circulated to keep everybody working. This was his second time supervising for the association and had previously worked on the 1,000 square foot deck of the Missions/Ministry Centre at the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists in Cochrane, Alberta.
"Since I retired from the Fire Department, the older people at church needed things done," Childress said. "I do this now instead of working. Now by working for the Lord I am helping people out."

"Over a period of years, the Brotherhood and Men's Ministry groups that were meeting in both the large and smaller churches contacted the association office about what they could do, and they began to pray about it," said Ed Benthall, men's ministries director for the association and member of Hillcrest Baptist Church,

Dyersburg. "Then the men and the increasing numbers began to show up at the meetings and the work projects."

Wright explained the Men's Ministry associational response to build the new church was a result of putting the word out in the association three years ago to develop a new vision of Brotherhood.

"Meeting and eating was not fulfilling the functions of the local church and the associational Brotherhood," said Wright. "The men desired to reach out in the community and to help meet the needs of others."

"We dreamed in the association to move away from the old standard programming to create a new vision of finding the life niches. For three years we have been focusing on Men's Ministries, and next year we will focus on Women's Ministries. It will be a new vision fulfillment for the association."

"We are also putting together an associational Men's Ministry Disaster Relief response team, because we are at the backdoor of tornado alley, in the flood area of the Mississippi River, and sitting on the New Madrid fault," added Wright.
"God is a great resource



THE FIRST WALL of a new facility for Evansville Baptist Church is raised on Friday morning with the help of volunteers from various churches in Dyer Baptist Association. — Photo by Joe Wright

manager. We are building Disaster Relief teams. We have already held two Disaster Relief Chain Saw Training events, and we purchased four new chain saws. We have 35 men trained in chain saw. Dyer Association is developing a vision of emerging response teams that will encompass all of the Disaster Relief efforts of our association."

While the new church was under construction, Griffin added, "I can't give enough praise for the people who have come to help. Brother Joe Wright, Ed Benthall, and Men's Ministries volunteers were the ones who initiated the mission project to build the new church.

There are still a lot of good people in the world who want to help someone. The Lord was just working."

"Words can't describe the overwhelming feeling of God's presence on Friday when the sun beamed out as the first wall went up on the building," said Barbara Richards, Evansville Church member.

"We truly appreciate everything that the churches of the Dyer Association did in assisting with our church raising," said Evansville Church member Kathy Fisher.

"We still have those people who are continuing to reach out and expressing an interest in helping." □

Myrtle Beach Ocean Front

Corner condo, smoke-free, pool view and lazy river.
Call phone: (843) 602-0466
Home phone: (843) 248-4561

Call for Free BROCHURE

BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
www.fiberglasschurchprod.com

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

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

PREACHING POINTS

F E A T U R I N G



David S. Dockery
President,
Union University

T H E M E

"Southern Baptists and Biblical Authority"

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

Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch)

Registration deadline: April 14, 2005

2005: THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE



1050 Union University Dr. • Jackson, Tennessee 38305

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

A O N E - D A Y C O N F E R E N C E F O R C H U R C H L E A D E R S

LifeWay provides resources in Portuguese

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — What is the most effective way to impact Brazil with scriptural truths from such noted authors as Henry Blackaby, Beth Moore, and Gary Smalley?

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention believes it has discovered the answer to this question through its partnership with LifeWay Brazil.

Nearly four years ago, LifeWay initiated a partnership with the Brazilian company Bom Pastor, and established a division called LifeWay Brazil. A licensing agreement allows LifeWay Brazil to translate into Portuguese materials published by LifeWay Church Resources and Broadman & Holman Publishers for distribution in Latin America.

To date, 13 titles have been translated into Portuguese, generating in excess of \$100,000 per year in sales.

The most popular book has been Blackaby's *Experiencing God*, which has sold more than

80,000 copies. Other popular titles include Moore's *Breaking Free* and Smalley's *Making Love Last Forever*.

"There are more born-again Christians in Brazil than in all the rest of Latin America put together," said Jim Cook, vice president of international sales at LifeWay.

"There are 40 million Christians in Brazil, and there's not that much [material] available in Portuguese.

"This type of material is what the churches down there said

they needed the most. They needed discipleship training and leadership training for their churches and leaders and the lay leaders."

The partnership with LifeWay Brazil is administered by LifeWay International, the LifeWay department responsible for overseas training events and negotiating printing contracts with overseas partners.

The division is also responsible for sales of Spanish-language materials inside the United States. □



LifeWay
CHURCH BUSES

Buses provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter Bus Sales
Franklin, TN • Since 1953

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

Thirsty for an intimate love relationship with God?

Enjoy a weekend of spiritual refreshment with...

Nancy Leigh DeMoss

Worship leader John G. Elliott



Bellevue Baptist Church

Memphis, TN

April 29-30, 2005

To register, call
(901) 347-5739 or go to:
www.ReviveOurHearts.com

Refresh.
Revive.
Rekindle.
Rejoice.
Rest.

Join *Christian Life Tours* for a 7 night **ALASKA** inside passage and glacier cruise departing June 17. Also taking reservations for a **MEDITERRANEAN AND GREEK ISLES CRUISE** departing September 8 for 12 nights. Call 877-557-0073 (toll free) or e-mail ddale1950@aol.com.

Baptist Minister to Host

Hawaii

2-Weeks, 4-Islands;
Depart August 29, 2005

Join Rev. Clarence Freeman and other Southern Baptists on the most affordable two-week, four-island Hawaiian vacation you will ever find at the guaranteed lowest price. This will be Rev. Freeman's fourth trip as a clergy host, taking a group to Hawaii. Rev. Freeman is retired after being pastor for 18 years, of Leewood Baptist Church in Greenville, SC. Your group will depart Monday, August 29, 2005 and return home Tuesday, September 13, 2005. First fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two nights on Maui, one night in Hilo, and three nights in Kona. Sightseeing on every island includes; a Honolulu city tour with Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial, the Wailua riverboat cruise to the Fern Grotto, Iao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina, a Hilo orchid garden and Rainbow Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more! Your price, from only \$948 (per person, double occupancy) includes all taxes, baggage handling, Hawaiian owned hotels, and escorted sightseeing on every island. Add \$380 for inter-island airfare and \$700 for round trip airfare from Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville or Memphis. **'Your Man' Tours** specializes in Hawaii and has had its own office in Honolulu since 1967. Prices are guaranteed to be the lowest because travelers buy wholesale, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. Friends and Family are welcome! Space is limited and reservations with a \$100 deposit are now due.

For a brochure, information, reservations, and letter from Dr. Clarence Freeman call 7 Days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Prayerfully seeking God for time Hispanic pastor. His Mission, Cherokee Baptist Church, Memphis. Must be bi-lingual. Send resume to Hispanic Pastor Search Committee, Cherokee Baptist Church, 5340 Quince Rd., Memphis, TN 38119. (901) 683-7349, e-mail: garry.burkacki@cherokeebaptist.org.

Parkway Baptist Church in Smyrna, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please send your resume to Parkway Baptist Church, P. O. Box 100, Smyrna, TN 37167.

First Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 20 Main, Gallatin, TN 37066.

Fellowship First Baptist Church, High Ridge, MO, is seeking a full-time conservative Southern Baptist pastor. Located in a rapidly growing area of Jefferson County. Accepting resumes through April 30, 2005, please send to Pulpit Search Committee, 2735 High Ridge, High Ridge, MO 64049. E-mail: Fbchr@brick.net; www.fellowshipbaptisthr.org.

MINISTRY — DOMESTIC

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 Buena Vista Lane, Pelham, AL 35124.

MINISTRY — OTHER

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

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Seeking part-time/bivocational minister to youth for Central Baptist Church. Send resume to Central Baptist Church, 186 Sanders Ferry Rd., Hickoryville, TN 37075 or e-mail: ccentral@bellsouth.net, Hickoryville, TN 37075.

Oakwood Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., is looking for a bivocational youth minister. Please send resume to Oakwood Baptist Church, 111 E. Columbia, Knoxville, TN 37917, Attn: Minister Search Committee.

book review

Joseph Gould

**A God-Entranced Vision of All Things:
The Legacy of Jonathan Edwards**

General Editors: John Piper & Justin Taylor
Crossway, 2004

In October 2003, John Piper's Desiring God Ministries held a conference celebrating the 300th birthday of Jonathan Edwards. At this conference, various speakers roughly 2,500 people in looking at the legacy of Jonathan Edwards, specifically his "God-entranced vision of all things" (p. 13). Editors John Piper and Justin Taylor compiled 10 essays from this conference, forming a book published by Crossway Books. What emerges is a biography of a dedicated pastor who found true joy through glorifying God. As Piper says, Edwards teaches "the chief end of man is not merely to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, but to glorify God by enjoying Him forever" (p. 27).

The book is divided into three parts. The first part explores Edwards' legacy. This part contains three chapters, written by John Piper, Stephen Nichols, and Noël Piper. John Piper explains why studying Jonathan Edwards is still important, arguing that American evangelicalism is hollow when compared to the Christianity of Edwards. According to Piper, we would do well to gain the vision Edwards held, by seeing joy as "the art of what it means for God to be God" and "what it means for us to be God-glorifying" (p. 26). Nichols gives a biography of the life of Edwards, and Noël Piper writes a biography of his wife, Sarah Edwards.

In part two of the book, authors J. I. Packer, Donald Whitney, Mark Dever, and Sherard Burns each contribute a chapter dealing with a specific aspect of the life and ministry of Edwards. Packer looks at the mind of Edwards, Whitney looks at what we can and should learn from the disciplined life of Edwards, Dever studies the biblical conviction of Edwards that led to his being removed from the pastorate at Northampton, and Burns discusses why the theology of a slaving-owning man should be studied and trusted.

The final part of the book contains three helpful essays dealing with Jonathan Edwards' major writings: Original Sin, The Freedom of the Will, and Religious Affections. Contributed by Paul Helm, Sam Storms, and Mark Talbot, these essays are useful in providing succinct summaries of the arguments of Edwards, and also include the author's evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the works.

Overall, this book paints an accurate portrait of Edwards, one that is much more honest than the one-sided, fire and brimstone preacher most think of because of our acquaintance with "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Also, the authors do well in focusing on his broad view of God while not sweeping his sin under the rug, particularly his defense of slavery. *A God-Entranced Vision of All Things* is a worthy read, and laymen and pastors alike would do well to read it, if for nothing other than because the church has a need to remember the heroes of the faith, in hopes that we would both learn from them and be encouraged as we read about their commitment to God and God's faithfulness to His people. As Scripture commands, *Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith* (Hebrews 13:7). □ — Gould is youth pastor at Harvest Baptist Church, Nashville, TN.

Needed: real faith

By Robert Segrest

Focal Passage: James 1:16-18, 21-27; 2:14-19

Everyone has some kind of faith in something or someone, but not all possess real or genuine faith, which is the opposite of phony or dead faith. Real faith is characterized by what we believe and then do while phony faith travels no farther from the mind than the mouth. The type of faith we practice is up to us, but in making a choice each person should be aware that only real faith saves because it's centered upon God in Christ.

In the book that bears his name, James wrote to fellow believers about the vital importance of living a Christlike life and then doing godly works as a demonstration of their faith. Some were being deceived by Satan to think that God was not good and that He actually tempted people to sin. That prompted them to assume that since God could not be trusted, they would not take sin seriously.

But James assured them that God was good all of the time and that He could always be fully trusted. He told his brothers and sisters in Christ that since only goodness flowed from the heart of their loving heavenly Father, He would always do what was best for them. His readers were reminded that the major evidence of God's love was His gift of the new birth.

Next, James challenged his fellow Christians to intentionally rid themselves of all moral filth and evil excesses, such as anger and gossip, because they had received the Word of truth God planted in their hearts when first they embraced Jesus. God's Word, though, was not to lie dormant in their lives. It had the active purpose of guiding each believer to live as Jesus lived and to unselfishly minister to others in His name.

It was absolutely wrong for these believers to have received the Lord's instructions on how they were to live and serve and then conduct themselves as though the Word had no claim upon their lives. Living that way made as much sense as a person looking at his or her face in a mirror and then walking away to forget what was just seen. By gazing into the mirror of God's Word, each believer came to understand how the Lord saw his or her life and what lifestyle change needed to be made.

James reminded them that living in obedience to the Lord's commands would always free them to enjoy His richest blessings. He added that the secret of being blessed by God was to abide in His Word and to live out its precepts. Some assumed they were right with God because they knew what the Scriptures taught, but in reality that knowledge was useless because it made little or no difference in

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series April 3

what they said and did. James wrote that to believe in one God was indeed a positive step in the right direction, but added that such faith was incomplete for even Satan's demons believed that God existed and they trembled in His presence.

An example of real faith is given in James 1:27. There, James wrote that *pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world*. In other words, those who follow Jesus will purpose to live pure lives and then look for ways to care for those in need just as the Lord did when He walked on earth. True believers will never pass by someone in need and do nothing because they cannot.

So, real saving faith is the combination of a person's faith in Jesus Christ and the Christlike deeds that flow from that belief. Just as an airplane must have two wings to fly, so true believers must own both faith and works to belong to the kingdom of God. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

Learn to obey the Lord

By Michael Julian

Focal Passage: Jeremiah 11:6-14

Can obedience to the Lord be learned? Does the believer possess a natural desire to zealously follow the Lord? We should all raise our hands and confess that momentary lapses of obedience spring up within us from time to time. Anyone who refuses such confession, meet me at the altar Sunday morning. The lesson God has placed before us this week addresses the topic of obedience to the Lord.

In Psalm 23, David provides a stirring and beloved description of obedience. The psalmist has learned the discipline of being shepherded. The opening lines affirm his trust in the Lord's role as shepherd. Even though the shepherd guides the sheep into a wasteland or the valley of the shadow of death, serenity prevails. Fear dissipates in the presence of perfect love. Being shepherded is a discipline just as obedience is learned.

Once again Jeremiah is admonished to proclaim God's Word publicly, this time in the cities and streets. The crux of the message was obedience to the Lord. God desired fervently that His covenant be honored among His chosen people. He leads Jeremiah to recount the repeated warnings God dictated to the people upon leaving bondage in Egypt. My

Bible notes that the persistent warning is the equivalent of rising early and warning the people of impending doom for disobedience. Dissatisfaction gripped their hearts, and where dissatisfaction reigns disobedience is born.

The response of the people reveals the callousness of their heart. Each one has turned to the stubbornness of his evil heart, even to the point of conspiring together against the commandments of God. The slightest hint of unfaithfulness to the Lord sets us upon a course of descent from the blessing of God, if left unchecked. Friends are we traversing the pathway of obedience? Do we merely hear the Word, or are we becoming doers also? When you leave a paint container undisturbed for a period of time, a sticky film develops on the paint's surface. We need the gentle stirring of the Master's hand to whisk away the hardened and sticky film that settles upon unmoved hearts. A heart that is unmoved is a heart absent of God's kingship. A heart that is absent of His kingship is a heart floundering in disobedience. And a heart floundering in disobedience is a life on the brink of God's judgment.

With this in mind, Jeremiah continues the strong message from the Lord. He offers the people the terrifying prospect of God refusing to listen to their cries for help. In desperation the people call on the false gods they have been pursuing, but to no avail. These are life-

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible April 3

less idols, incapable of action. The Lord God who rescued Israel from bondage, who rescued us from sin and death is the only provider of deliverance, pleasure, and satisfaction. God wants to give you Himself. He wants to shepherd you. He wants to satisfy you.

Our lesson this week closes in darkness. God commands Jeremiah not to intercede for the people. Judgment will visit the people of Judah. They have repeatedly refused God's Word. We must not read into the text. God still expects us to be ministers of reconciliation. Later in Jeremiah 12, God states that He has forsaken His house into the hands of her enemies. But He follows the edict with a remark of hope. God expresses His desire to return with compassion upon the people, in order that they might return to the land of promise. We should echo the word of Isaiah that reads that His ways and thoughts are above our ways and thoughts. Indeed, the depth of God's riches and wisdom are unfathomable. Learn to obey the Lord, for He is worthy and His reward is great. □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant.



Funding missions in Tennessee
and around the world

Deaths

◆ **Curtis Vaughan**, retired distinguished professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, died March 23 in Fort Worth following a brief illness. Vaughan, 80, served as a seminary faculty member from 1950-95 although he continued to teach classes for five years. He was the author of Bible study commentaries on many books of the Bible. Born in Humboldt, he graduated from Union University, Jackson, and Southwestern Seminary. He served as pastor of Westover Baptist Church, Jackson; and two churches in Texas. He was interim pastor of churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

Leaders

◆ **Ron Mouser**, associate pastor, Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, Knoxville, recently celebrated 20 years of service to the church.

◆ **Michael McEntyre** has been called as minister to youth and Carol McEntyre, his wife, has been called as minister to university students, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, effective April 24. They are from Augusta, Ga.

◆ **Darryl Taylor**, pastor, Jones Chapel Baptist Church, Paris, has been called as pastor of Bethel

Baptist Church, Clinton.

◆ **Roy Stinson** continues to serve as interim pastor, Springville Baptist Church, Paris.

Churches

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

◆ **McConnell Baptist Church, Martin**, will hold revival Saturday - Wednesday, April 2-6. Don Womack, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **Oak Grove Baptist Church, McEwen**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, April 17-20. Johnnie Hall of Nashville, who is retired from the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, will speak. For more information, contact Dwayne Smith, pastor, at (931) 551-4758.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Fayetteville; First Baptist Church, Taft; and New Grove Baptist Church, Ardmore**, are holding the 2005 Day of Worship and Praise Saturday, April 23. The event for youth and leaders of all denominations to spread the gospel will be held at Riverside Christian Academy in Fayetteville. It will be from 3-5:30 p.m. A meal will be pro-

vided. Another session will begin at 7 p.m. Simply the Truth Ministries of Fayetteville is organizing the event. Craig Tackett of Inlightened Ministries, Franklin, will speak. Infiltrate, a music group, will perform along with praise teams from the area, Alabama, and Middle Tennessee. For more information, contact Sonia Bradford at (931) 205-2452 or Darrell Haney at (931) 937-8925.

◆ **Colonial View Baptist Church, Cookeville**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, April 17-20. Wayne Squyers will speak and Roger Longoria, both of Louisiana, will lead the music.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Troy**, will hold "Don't Miss Your Life!" a ladies and girls conference, on Saturday, April 23. Charlene Baumbich will speak. She is author of *Mama Said There'd Be Days Like This*, *How to Eat Humble Pie*, *Don't Miss Your Kids*, and *The Book of Duh! (Celebrating Those Less-Than-Magic Moments)*. For more information, contact the church at (731) 536-4710 or troychurch@bellsouth.net.

◆ **Meridian Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, April 3-6. David Burton will speak.

◆ On March 20 **Sharon Baptist Church, Knoxville**, celebrated its 124th anniversary. David Tullock, pastor, First Presbyterian Church,

Ooltewah, spoke. Also the church is organizing a disaster relief mission trip this summer to Perry, Fla., to help hurricane victims. For more information, contact the church at (865) 938-7075 or sbcofknox@frontiernet.net.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Huntingdon**, will hold its ninth annual Women's Conference Friday - Saturday, April 8-9. For more information, call the church at (731) 986-5000.

◆ **Concord-Grandview Baptist Church, Brentwood**, will hold an Adoption Benefit/Open Mic Night at its HolyGrounds Coffeehouse on Saturday, April 16, at 7 p.m. The benefit will help bring a baby girl from China. For more information, call Lauri Chaudoin at (615) 776-5392.

◆ **Mansfield Baptist Church, Mansfield**, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Sunday, June 26.

Associations

◆ **Western District Baptist Association**, based in Paris, will hold "Nite Life," a youth evangelistic night on Wednesday, April 27, during the fish fry at the fairgrounds. For more information, contact the association at (731) 642-4641 or wdbapt@bellsouth.net.

◆ **Polk County Baptist Association**, based in Benton, will send a team to Jamaica July 8-16. For more information, contact the association at (423) 338-2749 or

director@wingnet.net.

◆ **Bradley Baptist Association**, based in Cleveland, is coordinating a mission trip to New York City May 12-17. Volunteers will be a part of the International Food Festival which will draw about a million people. For more information, contact the association at (423) 476-5493 or bcbac@bellsouth.net.

◆ **Nashville Baptist Association**, based in Nashville, will hold a Spring Adult Spring Rally at the Cumberland Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Thursday, April 14. Activities will include conferences. For more information, contact the association at (615) 259-3034.

Schools

◆ The Entrepreneurship Program of Belmont University, Nashville, has ranked a Top-10 Entrepreneurship Emphasis Program by *Entrepreneur* magazine the second straight year. The program is the Top-10 ranked university entrepreneurship program in Tennessee in any category. The *Entrepreneur* magazine ranked universities in three categories. The Emphasis in Entrepreneurship category is the middle category and features programs that offer either an entrepreneurship major or the ability for students to emphasize entrepreneurship within a business or economics major.

Giles County Association meets needs in, outside county

For Baptist and Reflector

PULASKI — Members of Giles County Baptist Association churches have been helping people in and outside their community.

On Saturday, March 5, men of two churches, Liberty Hill Baptist Church, Ethridge, and New Zion Baptist Church, Pulaski, built a wheelchair ramp for a family with a handicapped child at the family's residence in Giles County.

The association learned about the need from the Giles County mayor's office, said Bill Alexander, director of missions.

"The family came to her asking for help," said Alexander, referring to the mayor. "She called me and our men

got it done," he said. The lumber was donated by Fayetteville Lumber Company in Fayetteville, he added.

This winter, the association learned about several widows who heated their homes with firewood but were unable to buy enough firewood.

In response, the association coordinated the delivery of 10 pickup truck loads of firewood to several widows. Volunteers "cut it, split it, delivered, and stacked it," reported Alexander.

During the past year, the association has given and delivered household items to 12 families following house fires.

Alexander explained the association developed a list of new items designed to help a family of four begin housekeeping following a fire. The cost is \$300. Volunteers of the association deliver them.

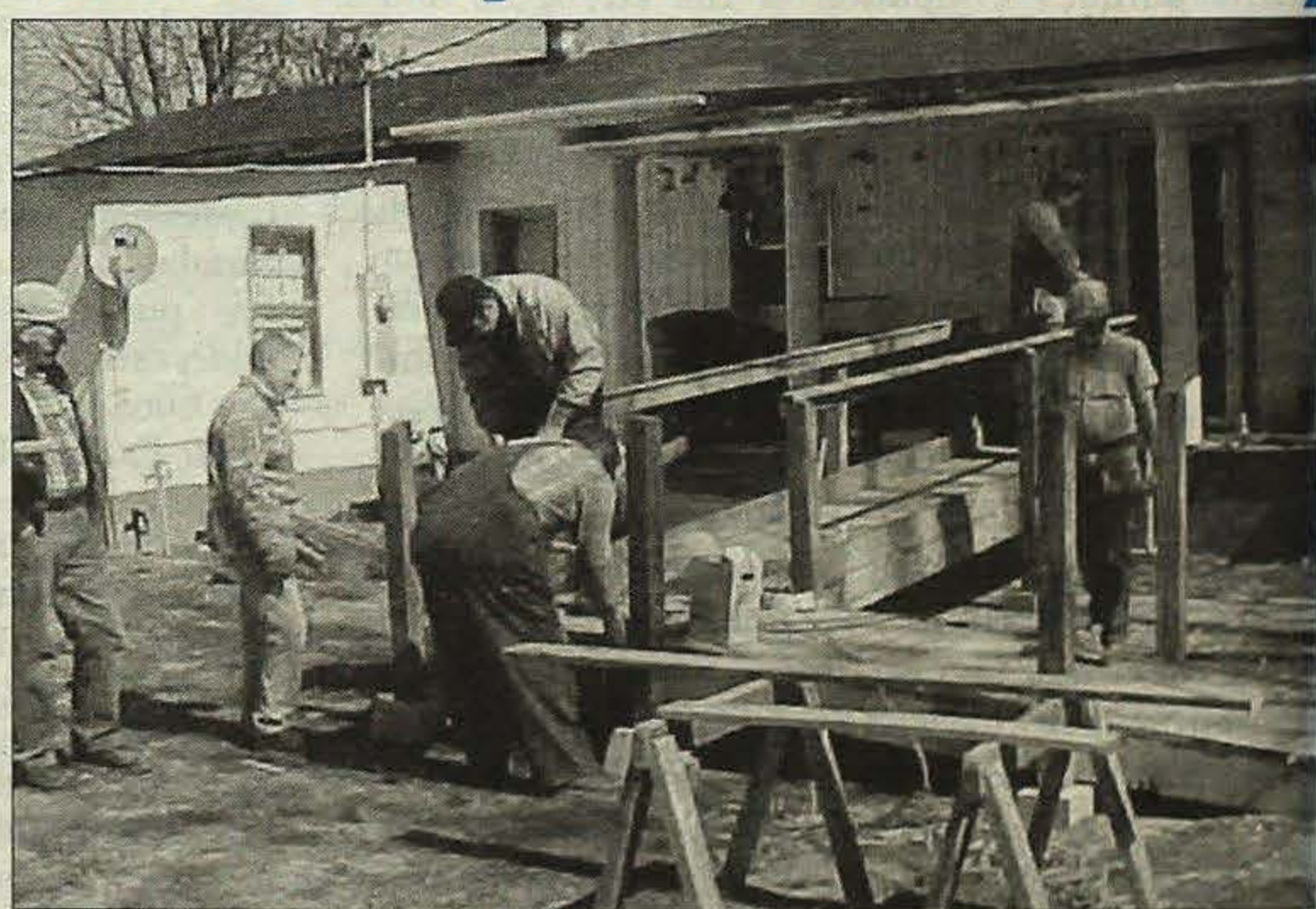
Alexander is proud of the fact that the association helps people in these ways although

they are limited ways. At this time the association doesn't have the financial ability to help people with rent money or utilities, he noted.

"We do have volunteers who will give of their time and abilities to help those in need," said Alexander.

Last year the association sent two disaster relief teams to help victims of Hurricane Ivan in Atmore, Ala. The first team, a chain saw crew, worked before electricity had been restored. The second team helped residents clean up their homes.

Also last summer a team traveled to Creston, Iowa, to support the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership. The team members helped a



A TEAM FROM THE association build a wheelchair ramp for a family who lives at this home. Workers are, from left, Elwood Marsh, New Zion Baptist Church, Pulaski; Wayne Ashford, pastor, Liberty Hill Baptist Church, Ethridge; Randall Inman, Liberty Hill Church; Ronnie Bledsoe, New Zion Church; Kelly Bledsoe, New Zion Church; and David Ris, Liberty Hill Church.

church there build a new worship facility.

Creston is similar in size to Pulaski but has only one Southern Baptist church in the city and for about 50

miles, reported Alexander.

"Because we have voluntarily united together, we are able to do these ministries," noted Alexander.