

Baptist & Reflector

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.13; April 6, 2005

Wide Edition

this
week's
news

Says NAMB leader

Churches must follow-up Crossover efforts

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — As churches prepare for evangelistic outreach through Crossover 2005, they must also develop a strategy for following up with those who accept Christ as their Savior, Dick Church told pastors and other church leaders attending a March 16 follow-up awareness luncheon at the Baptist Center here.

"With the potential of perhaps 5,000 new babes in Christ through Crossover, your churches will be the beneficiaries and have the opportunity to assimilate them into your church," said Church, personal evangelism unit manager at the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Crossover is the multifaceted evangelism thrust taking place prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Approximately 10,000 volunteers have committed to work in seven venues across a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area.

"Evangelism and follow-up go hand in hand," Church said. "You must have a good strong follow-up strategy to match a strong evangelism strategy. Follow-up is typically the hardest thing that we do."

After becoming a Christian, Church said a person will need the help of fellow Christians to



DICK CHURCH of the North American Mission Board makes a point during a presentation to leaders involved with Crossover 2005 during a recent meeting at the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Baptist Center in Brentwood.

do five things: tell others about the decision, be baptized, get involved in a church, find a place of service, and grow.

Within 24 hours after someone becomes a Christian, he said that person may experience several crises. These may include: experience ridicule or rejection, face a moral dilemma, be asked to compromise convictions, commit a sin and feel guilty, be asked a question about conversion he can't answer, question his salvation, and conclude his life hasn't gotten any better.

"New believers are very open to growth, but they're also open to confusion," he emphasized.

"We as the church must be intentional about following up and putting them in a position to win.

"My encouragement to us is to use every resource we can to follow up on new believers in Christ," Church said.

He provided follow-up materials to participants and overviewed what he termed the "Ten-Four Plan" for follow-up developed by NAMB. "This basically consists of 10 touches with a new believer in the four weeks after he becomes a Christian.

The 10 points of contact include the following:

(1) Review with the new

believer material in a tract provided by NAMB and fill out the decision card.

(2) Introduce the new Christian to another believer.

(3) Send a follow-up card to the home of the new believer.

(4) The pastor or a staff member calls the new believer.

(5) A postcard is sent from a Sunday School class.

(6) A deacon or church member calls the new believer.

(7) The pastor sends a letter with Christian growth materials.

(8) A Sunday School class member calls.

(9) A home visit is made.

(10) The home visitor calls.

After the points of contact, Church said follow-up must continue to involve the new believer. It may be helpful to "give the new Christian a mentor or helper."

Tony Higgins, Crossover catalytic intern with the Nashville Baptist Association, said he will provide a worksheet for each church coordinator to monitor follow-up efforts with each new believer. He and other members of a team will work with churches to implement follow-up strategies.

"We want to partner with you," he said.

Crossover, including follow-up efforts, is sponsored by NAMB, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven associations. □

Volunteers safe; relief workers rush to new quake zone

Baptist Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Southern Baptist relief workers in Indonesia rushed March 29 to join a relief team already surveying damage on Nias, the island off Sumatra's western coast devastated by a second massive earthquake in the region.

The relief team on Nias when the quake hit — visiting to assess damage from December's tsunami — rode out the temblor's violent shaking in a mountain town where they were spending the night. After the quake subsided, they abandoned their four-wheel-drive vehicle and traveled by motorcycles around huge cracks and chunks of cement on the roads to reach Gunung Sitoli, the devastated coastal capital. Officials estimate hundreds of bodies lie buried under collapsed buildings in the city.

The relief workers found heavy destruction there — and most of the dazed population of the city sitting or sleeping outside. Most of the buildings over two stories collapsed or sustained heavy damage, local officials say.

cially say.

No Southern Baptist workers or volunteers were injured in the earthquake. Tragedy struck local believers on Nias, however. A pastor accompanying the tsunami assessment team in the mountains reached Gunung Sitoli to find his home destroyed, one of his two sons killed and another in critical condition.

"Please ask our Father to heal and protect this injured young man and his family," the Baptist worker asked.

Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteers who were serving in South Asia when the earthquake struck March 28 also are reported to be safe.

Southern Baptists are preparing additional volunteer teams to respond to the new crisis.

"The state Baptist convention disaster relief network is again being mobilized to furnish specialized volunteers in response to the earthquake," reported Jim Brown, human needs coordinator for the International Mission Board. "I know the up-front

groups are going to be medical until we hear more. We had already thought about doing some rebuilding of schools and houses in these islands. That's going to stay the same, but now we'll have more emergency response there than what we had anticipated."

Brown emphasized that relief response to both the tsunami disaster and the latest quake's damage will continue for months and years to come. Trained disaster relief volunteers interested in serving should contact their state convention disaster relief offices. In Tennessee, call (615) 371-2061.

By March 29, Southern Baptist churches and individuals had given more than \$14.6 million for tsunami response efforts throughout the region.

Monetary contributions can be sent to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Checks should be made payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention and marked for "Asian Tsunami Relief Fund." Donations can also be made online at www.tnbaptist.org. □

Crossover block parties will reach people who won't attend church. — Page 3

Better writers discuss Terri Schiavo issues. — Page 4

New congregation in Columbia started from ministry center. — Page 6

N students respond call to ministry, missions. — Page 7

CP gifts show increase over 2004

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Convention churches gave \$3,204,960 through the Cooperative Program in March.

The March gifts are the highest monthly total for the current fiscal

year. For the year-to-date, Tennessee Baptists have given \$217,046 through the Cooperative Program. The amount is \$753,226 or 5.21 percent over the amount given over the same time last year.

After five months of the current fiscal year, CP gifts total \$402,525 or 2.72 percent over budget needs.

"We are excited and grateful that Tennessee Baptists are continuing to give sacrificially to meet missions and ministry needs in our state and around the world," said Executive Director Les Porch.

"We are confident that if churches continue this level of giving, we will meet our budget for the first time in 2000," Porch added. □

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Union trustees adopt record budget; honor Rogers

Union University news service

JACKSON — Union University trustees adopted a record \$45.6 million budget and approved plans to proceed with construction of a new science building at their April 1 meeting on the Union campus.

They also adopted a name for the new athletic field house scheduled for construction and recognized retired Bellevue Baptist Church pastor Adrian Rogers with the institution's highest denominational service award.

Union president David S. Dockery said the adopted budget was a significant step for the university.

"This is by far the largest budget in Union history and represents a 10 percent increase over this past year," Dockery said. "It will enable the university to take the first steps in implementing the 2010 plan approved by the board in December."

Construction of the White

Hall science building was originally scheduled for completion by 2005. But the building project has been delayed due to tornadoes in 2002 and 2003, as well as funding and space issues. Trustees gave the green light to move forward with the building, with estimates for the three-story facility to open no later than spring 2007.

White Hall will be a \$13.5 million, 60,000-square foot facility that will house the departments of biology, chemistry and nursing. The building name will honor Roy L. White of Memphis, who gave the lead gift for the project.

"The long-awaited start of White Hall appears imminent with the go ahead from the trustees at this week's meeting," Dockery said. "We are delighted with the prospects that this



DOCKERY



ROGERS

building holds for advancing excellence in the sciences and the entire academic program of Union."

Trustees selected Rogers for the M.E. Dodd Award for his contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention. Rogers recently retired as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, where he served for 32 years.

Dockery will present Rogers with the award during this year's

SBC annual meeting in Nashville in June. "The M.E. Dodd Award is the highest denominational service award given by the institution," Dockery said. "It will be a great honor and privilege to grant this significant recognition to Dr. Adrian Rogers for his longtime support of Union University and, moreover, for three decades of

amazing leadership at B. Baptist Church."

Trustees also recognized Benny and Norma Fesmire their \$500,000 gift to the university by naming the planned athletic field house in their honor. Construction on the Field House, an 18,000-foot facility that will support men's and women's teams, the men's baseball and the women's softball is scheduled to begin this

The facility will include 9,000-square foot turf locker rooms and show each home and visiting coaches offices and an training room.

"We are grateful for the unanimous generosity of and Norma Fesmire and Fesmire family found Dockery said. "Their \$500,000 will enable the university to move forward on the athletic field and the athletic house project that will serve athletic department well decades to come." □

New group seeks ties with SBC

Associated Baptist Press

LYNCHBURG, Va. — A new international group of Baptists has been formed and is seeking ties with Southern Baptists, who last year withdrew from the Baptist World Alliance, an international fellowship Southern Baptist leaders described as too "liberal."

But the executive director of the new International Baptist Network said March 31 the group does not intend to become an "alternative" or competitor to the Baptist World Alliance, which unites 211 national and regional Baptist unions.

Several prominent Southern Baptists are involved in the new organization, including Paige Patterson, but Southern Baptist Convention chief executive Morris Chapman said the SBC will proceed with its own plans to form an alternative to BWA.

The International Baptist Network had its "first public meeting" Feb. 9 at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, drawing "representatives from more than three dozen denominations, theological seminaries, colleges and mission boards, and individual churches," according to an article in the April 2005 issue of the *National Liberty Journal*, published by Jerry Falwell's Liberty University.

The article, written by Liberty University co-founder Elmer Towns, said the International Baptist Network was "launched to counter [the] leftward drift of Baptist World Alliance" and praised the SBC's withdrawal

from BWA.

Southern Baptist leader Gene Mims, who became executive director of the new group in January, said the IBN "probably wouldn't work without Southern Baptists." Mims, former vice president of LifeWay Christian Resources, said he was asked to lead the effort because "they needed someone who really knew Southern Baptists pretty well." Mims also is a former Tennessee Baptist pastor, having served at First Baptist Church, Cleveland.

But Mims told Associated Baptist Press he does not expect the SBC to join officially. Instead, pastors and individuals likely will participate in IBN. "There are more Southern Baptists than there are any other Baptists," he said. "This network would be incomplete without Southern Baptists."

The International Baptist Network will function as a loose fellowship of individuals and churches, providing "relationships, information and opportunities" to "like-minded Baptists" around the world, Mims said.

The network already has a confession of faith, membership policy and office in Atlanta.

In addition to Southern Baptists, the organization is targeting four independent Baptist groups — Southwide Baptist Fellowship, World Baptist Fellowship International, Independent Baptist Fellowship International, and Baptist Bible Fellowship International. The IBN is funded by the John Rawlings Foundation, named for the key leader of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. Rawlings deferred questions to Mims.

The *National Liberty Journal* article says the SBC's with-

drawal last summer from BWA "set the stage" for organization of the International Baptist Network. But the article does not claim SBC involvement or endorsement.

In voting to leave the Baptist World Alliance last June, the SBC agreed to use some of the funds withdrawn from BWA to form or support an alternative for "like-minded" Baptists.

But the International Baptist Network is not that group, said the SBC's Chapman. In an e-mail interview with ABP March 30, Chapman said he met with Mims and was aware of formation of the IBN, but Southern Baptists have not joined or pledged support.

He reaffirmed that members of the SBC's Great Commission Council "are participating in an exploratory meeting in Warsaw [Poland] to talk about how best to fellowship with conservative Christians around the world."

Chapman said the meeting with conservative European Baptists will be the springboard for whatever alternative group the SBC forms. After the July meeting, the council will advise an SBC task force, which will recommend "how best to proceed in building a fellowship of like-minded Christians around the world," he said. □

SBC CP gifts up 3.3 percent

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up 3.30 percent compared to the same time frame in 2004, according to a news release

from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of March 31, 2005 year-to-date total \$98,606,116.31 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions, \$3,151,231.70 ahead of \$95,454,884.61 received at same point in 2004.

For the month, receipts \$15,598,078.08 were 3.2 percent, or \$482,955.71, above \$15,115,122.37 received March 2004.

Designated giving \$116,557,160.90 for the year-to-date period is 1.3 percent, or \$1,558,294.21, gifts of \$118,115,400 received at this point last year.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget year-to-date total is 107.6 percent of the \$91,600,847.0 budget, or \$7,005,269.27 budget. □

LC president's election ruled void

Baptist Press

PINEVILLE, La. — A strict judge has ruled Louisiana College's new president, Joe Aguillard, was not elected by the board of trustees although he did not follow the college bylaws.

A group of LC alumni faculty members filed a lawsuit contesting Aguillard's election by trustees in January. On March 17, Judge J. Ryland of Louisiana's 9th Circuit District ruled in favor of the election, noting the election of a president included nominations from the floor, which is how Aguillard was elected. □

ays Jay Austin

Crossover block parties will reach people other efforts won't

Linda Lawson
List and Reflector

NASHVILLE — As a church planter with a passion for evangelism, Jay Austin needed to serve as general coordinator for approximately 3,000 Crossover block parties because he has seen how they make a real difference in ministering people to the gospel.

They (people) come into a different environment, a fun place. There are Christians here with the intention of bringing Jesus' love with them. Most of times people come to a block party who would never come to a church," he said.

Austin, pastor of Life Community Church in Nashville, has led his church to partner with First Baptist Church, Nashville, to conduct a block party at the soccer fields in Nashville.

As he talks with other church planters, Austin said he finds agreement that people today are more open to conversations about spiritual matters and the informal environment of a block party provides excellent opportunities for conversation.

You see it in the questions people are asking about what's really important in their lives," he said. "It's become a lot easier to talk to people about their faith. Even if they are agnostic or atheist, they are more kind in the way they talk about it and why they feel the way they do."

As of March 31, 26 churches have committed to block parties "we're shooting for 30 or

more," Austin said. A total of 950 volunteers have committed to assist.

"The main purpose of the block parties is to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to people in a non-threatening environment with the purpose of developing relationships that will extend past the party," he added.

Crossover is a multifaceted evangelism effort taking place across a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area on June 18 and surrounding days prior to the June 21-22 Southern Baptist Convention. In addition to block parties, other venues include sports evangelism, personal evangelism, student evangelism, ethnic ministries, kindness explosion, and prayer journeys.

Austin provided information about block parties and their impact in response to questions from the *Baptist & Reflector*.

B&R: Can churches already involved in another Crossover venue still commit to conducting a block party?

AUSTIN: Yes. That's the message we're trying to get out. Also, we really encourage churches to join together for a kingdom effort. Even if they haven't chosen to do a block party at this point and there's a church that has, they can join with them and the block party will have a bigger impact. That's where we see the benefit of coming together to have a bigger event and reach more secular people who wouldn't go to church.

B&R: What resources are available to help churches do

block parties?

AUSTIN: We're providing training on April 18-19. We're offering all the witnessing material (through the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board, and the Nashville Baptist Association) a church will need. We're also offering \$300 per church to do the block party.

B&R: What happens at a block party?

AUSTIN: We encourage churches to feed the people who come. We encourage them to feed something sloppy so people will sit down. It's easier to talk with them that way. A good menu is barbecued chicken, baked beans, and slaw. We encourage them to focus on one of two areas: people in need or children. If you focus on children, you have a greater chance of touching their parents, too. There's a continual gospel message being given from a stage through testimonies, not preaching. There is music and entertainment, games for children, and giveaways from local businesses.

B&R: Why have giveaways?

AUSTIN: To attract people and so you can register and do follow up.

B&R: How long does a block party last?

AUSTIN: We typically encourage people to do them for three or four hours maximum. We encourage doing it over the lunch hour so you can feed them. A good time is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. because the first

hour is going to be slow. Then it's okay to start serving lunch at 11, but you need to program the whole time.

B&R: How many church members does it take to plan and conduct a block party?

AUSTIN: If a church has 15-20 people, they can do it well. In addition to a chair, there are several coordinators for prayer, food, registration, evangelism, and follow up. If the steering team has seven or eight people and each coordinator has three to four people, you can pull this off. Then outside volunteers also are available to help.

B&R: You mentioned follow up. How important is that?

AUSTIN: This is the most important thing: For any block party, the follow up needs to be in the starting place and not the ending place.

B&R: How do you promote attendance?

AUSTIN: Each group develops its own plan. We will be doing a blitz of the community

The other is The Gathering, a motorcycle toy run and concert at Riverfront Park. To date, 120 volunteers will be working with these two groups.

B&R: If you have 30 block parties, how many people do you hope to reach?

AUSTIN: We would like to see 12-15,000 attend. That would be an average of 400-500 per location. We'd like to see 10 percent of those people get involved in a church.

B&R: What would you say to a church that is giving consideration to sponsoring a block party?

AUSTIN: Take the chance to do it and see what happens. Keep it simple. Find one or two things you can do really well — the food and focusing on children. Add value by going out and getting donations and giving away some really good prizes. Most importantly, spend a lot of time praying for the event and asking God to draw those who need Christ to be there.

B&R: What prayer requests do you have for the block parties?

AUSTIN:

Our biggest prayer request is to get the volunteers connected to the right churches to have the greatest impact.

For more information about block parties, contact Austin at (615) 975-7171 or Jerry Essary at the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 800-558-2090, ext. 2059. Information about Crossover venues is available at www.crossover-tnbaptist.org. □

CROSSOVER

through signs, postcards, personal invitations, and e-mail blasts. However, in most places people stumble across the block party that day rather than making plans far ahead.

B&R: Are any other types of block parties planned?

AUSTIN: Yes, two. One is the Stone Soup Festival, an indoor block party for special needs children to be held at the Nashville Convention Center.

Bobby Welch draws 1,000 to First Baptist Church, Shelbyville

ist Press

SHELBYVILLE — Nearly 1,000 people gathered at First Baptist Church on March 21 to hear Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch, who is stumping Middle Tennessee in run-up to the SBC's annual meeting in Nashville.

But Welch isn't campaigning for reelection. The former Army Ranger is on a march for those held captive in the mess prison camp of a Christ-less life. He's enlisting as many who will join him in his Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism, an initiative designed to share the message of Jesus with a million people and also to invite them into the membership of Southern Baptist churches.

Welch's Everyone Can effort dovetails into Crossover, an annual evangelism thrust that coincides with SBC annual meetings. Crossover Nashville is scheduled for June 18.

Since moving to Nashville in February from Daytona Beach, Fla. — where he has for 30 years been pastor of First

Baptist Church — Welch has traveled in Tennessee and other states to draw attention to the spiritual needs of non-Christians as well as the need for Southern Baptists to focus on winning their friends, families, and neighbors to faith in Christ.

People from churches in the Duck River, New Duck River, and William Carey Baptist Associations listened as Welch asked amid their rising applause: "What if God has made up His mind the fire is gonna fall, and break out from [Nashville] and go around the world? And what if there's another Great Awakening? It could happen!"

"People all over the world are praying for this," he said, urging the people to join the 10,000 others who've signed up to participate in Crossover Nashville events. "I believe with all my heart and soul it's getting ready to happen, and you're gonna be a part of it."

Welch joked that he's already asked God, "If the rapture is near, put it off 'til July because I don't wanna miss June."

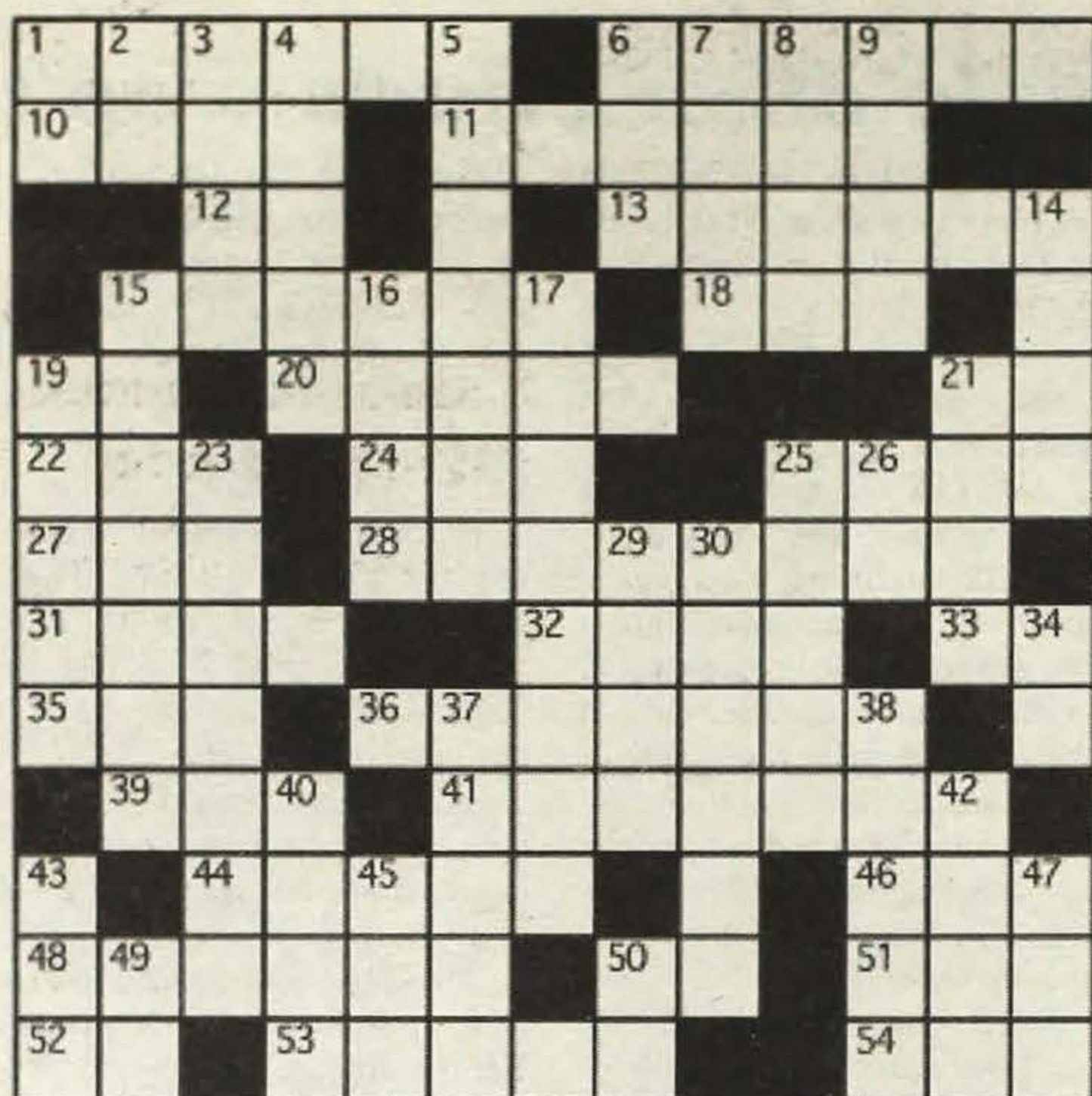


ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE filled the sanctuary of First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, on Wednesday evening, March 21, to hear Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.

"Something is happening out here now that hasn't happened before. It's been going on now for about seven or eight years. And it's more intense now than in the past. I don't know if it's in response to the tsunami or 9/11 ... or it's just the Spirit of God and maybe the second coming of Jesus. But it's happening," Welch said, adding that

people are asking important questions and looking for spiritual answers. "They're searching, they're longing, they're looking like never before."

Just about then, someone's cell phone rang. "Just tell 'em I ain't through yet," quipped Welch. "If it's Jesus, tell Him I'm ready to go — but I sure wish He'd wait 'til July." □



See answers on page 11

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. Christian disciple from Joppa who was known for her charity (Acts 9:36-43)
6. Resurrection day
10. Sixth Jewish month (Neh. 6:15)
11. Jesus did not give this to Pilate (John 19:9)
12. In the direction of
13. Derisive wit that attacks evil
15. A priest placed blood on the tips of these (Lev. 14:14)
18. Dog noise
19. Laughter noise
20. "The valley of the shadow of ____" (Ps. 23:4)
21. Live
22. Noah's boat
24. What John did to the little book given to him by the angel (Rev. 10:10)
25. Eagle (Lev. 11:18)
27. The son of Ikesh (2 Sam. 23:26)
28. Expressing gratitude
31. Ceremonial act
32. "Wilt thou break a ____ driven to and fro?" (Job 13:25)
33. In order that
35. Up to now
36. "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the ____, and length, and depth, and height" (Eph. 3:18)
39. "This is the ____ which the Lord hath made" (Ps. 118:24)
41. Absence or closure of a natural body passage
44. "I shall ____ thee wisdom" (Job 33:33)
46. The Lord makes us do this in green pastures
48. To act properly
50. "____ Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and earth" (Jer. 32:17)
51. "They sought to ____ hold on him" (Mark 12:12)
52. Edward, for short
53. One does this on the seventh day of the week
54. Feminine pronoun

DOWN

1. Dover is the capital of this state, abbr.
2. Old Latin, abbr.
3. Moabite woman from whom Christ was descended
4. Jesus ascended up to heaven in one of these
5. A day of rest and worship
6. Curved shape
7. Gone
8. Animal or plant bristle
9. Voyage
14. Son of Salah and grandson of Shem (Gen. 10:24)
15. "The child Jesus ____ behind in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:43)
16. "His ____ was locusts" (Matt. 3:4)
17. "For every one that ____ shall be cut off" (Zech. 5:3)
19. Esau was, but Jacob wasn't
21. Pleads
23. Part of the children of Zebulun's inheritance (Josh. 19:15-16)
25. "Covet earnestly the best ____" (1 Cor. 12:31)
26. Opposite of out
29. "The day of the Lord is ____" (Obad. 1:15)
30. Location of the water of Meribah (Num. 27:14)
34. Amorite king (Deut. 31:4)
37. Contests of speed
38. "The mountains and the ____ shall break forth before you into singing" (Isa. 55:12)
40. Paul continued a ____ and a half at Corinth (Acts 18:11)
42. The father of Rizpah, Saul's concubine (2 Sam. 3:7)
43. President Lincoln, for short
45. Address abbreviation
47. "Mine ____ affecteth mine heart" (Lam. 3:51)
49. Edwin for short
50. In this way

Judicial tsunami

Whether one sees it as a slippery slope or a gradual decline, it is increasingly difficult to view our nation as anything less than a judicial oligarchy. "Rule by the few" (read: judges) has trumped the "we the people" notions that gave birth to our nation.

Evidently our system of checks and balances has a huge deficit in that neither the executive nor the legislative branches can hold back the judicial tsunami that puts citizens at risk of enforced euthanasia simply because someone says an unconscious person wouldn't want to be fed artificially.

My guess is Karen Ann Quinlan just rolled over in her grave!

F. Michael Womack, pastor
First Baptist Church
Athens 37303

God gives life

I don't understand how Christians could ever be so re-educated to believe that it would ever be a good thing to end life based on the family's, physician's, or even the patient's presumptuous opinion of the remaining length or quality of life.

Life does not exist because it is good, or happy, or productive, but because God gave it, and that's a gift we don't return just because it's too short or not pretty enough.

God will walk with us during our pain and suffering, but He will never approve of our disdaining that life.

Shelly Cargill
Old Hickory 37138

Broken vows

Terri Schiavo's husband broke his marriage vows, which disqualifies him from making decisions for her. There are too many unanswered questions and uninvestigated allegations to starve and dehydrate a woman to death, on the basis of a faithless husband remembering (after seven years), that she had said she "wouldn't want to live like that."

I agree with our president, that we should err on the side of life. Those who tortured and murdered in Germany, Russia, and China, were and are following the laws of the land. That is not an excuse for murder, and some of them were tried and convicted by civilized nations.

This is an outrageous, heartless, brutal act, and one among others, that is going to bring judgment on this country unless God's people repent.

Ernestine S. Bonicelli
Millington 38053

Why not let go?

I was born and raised in the Baptist church, so I understand

the way they think.

How can you say that Terri Schiavo is bound for hell if she didn't receive Christ before her injury?

Maybe the will of God is that she live this long to make people think about death.

I believe and trust God but not as a Baptist anymore.

My next question is this, We hear how wonderful heaven will be but, then you see "Christians" fight to stay on this earth with every thing they can. Why not just let go and be in a better place sooner. Maybe their faith couldn't move a feather let alone a mountain.

Stephen Britt
Beech Bluff 38313

Basically agrees

I basically agree with Editor Lonnie Wilkey's editorial in the March 30 issue.

I would refer you to Rep. Bill Dunn's quoting of Scripture in Michael Foust's article in the March 23 issue: "A man leaves his mother and father and cling to his wife and the two shall become one."

This is the definition of a Christian marriage. If we question this, do we not abet those who are attempting to change that very definition?

Even though Michael Schiavo's actions leave a bad taste to most of us, he is lawfully her husband. As far as we know her parents did not challenge this before she became disabled, nor did she.

Until modern times, keeping a person alive so long in her condition would not have been possible. This case is only one being played out in hospitals and other facilities everywhere. At least she received good care and had many people who were concerned about her welfare. Anyone who questions this should visit their local care facilities.

Margaret Bell
Dyer 38330

Not a church

I was greatly distressed to read "Catholics, SBC largest groups; Mormons move up" in the March 2 issue of B&R.

My concern was for the references to the Mormon's as a "church." I assume you know this group is a non-Christian cult. To refer to them as a "church" in the same article as SBC, Methodists, etc., with no differentiation communicates the wrong message.

My main concern is for those who read the B&R and trust what is printed therein to be the truth. Are they to think: "Oh, the Mormon's must be OK. They are a church just like everybody else. I don't need to worry about my son or daughter or neighbor who is thinking about affiliating with them. Whew, what a relief."

Is this not a false sense of

security since the Mormons preach "another Jesus," and put it. Is this not opening the door to the wolf to come in and fold? Is this not participating in the lie of the deceiver?

You are responsible for what is printed in your paper, are you not? I look forward to your reply and some form of correction and center correction in a coming B&R.

I am not one that you should give me any notice, but Judge and Editor is the one you must answer to for how you have cared for His people.

Sam V.
Memphis

Definition needed

Life support should be what you are permanently attached to a machine and the machine alone keeps you alive.

If we consider a feeding a food delivery method, life support, we need to consider life support to be what caregiver in a hospital or nursing home hand feeds us. We can no longer feed ourselves. They refused to feed her food and water that God provided to sustain her life.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. — Mat 25:35

Cindy C.
Centerville 3

Very upset

I am very upset about feeding tube being removed from Terri Schiavo.

If her husband thought didn't want to live like why did he have the feeding tube put in to begin with?

I am a Christian and Terri was, but I think she was treated cruelly.

I could not have anything taken away from my daughter or husband that would result in their death. I am having a hard time making a decision. I do not think any judge should have any right to say yes or no to a situation like this. God will take us in our own time, and I think someone will have to pay for this.

Sue Pasc.
Paris 38

Dog vs. human

Our local court just fined and sentenced a man for "starving a dog" — for withholding food and water. If Terri can be so uncomfortable in a willing and loving environment, why should she not be given the same consideration as the dog? The person clamoring for her death is her "husband." If we have a "common law divorce," he would be her ex-husband. Plus, he stands to profit from her death. How on earth could he possibly have her best interests at heart?

Beverly C.
Savannah 38

Life's simply too short to drink bad coffee

From both
sides of
the pulpit



By Johnnie Godwin

Ever since our son Larry died suddenly, I haven't been able to get away from the brevity of life and the need to choose what's best while there is time. So I've been on everything from the need of knowing Christ as Lord and Savior to choosing the best I can drink.

After one comes to know Christ, life is still too short to worship in a style that doesn't please God and you. Christians and their churches are struggling with which worship style is best for now. I don't have the answer to that question, but I do have a personal take on it that might help some.

Extremes in worship styles
Extremes in worship styles exist greatly. Some choose to worship at church as vegged-out potatoes. Others insist on a worship ambience like that of a pep rally. Which side of the pulpit I'm on tends to notice most. When on the preaching side of the pulpit, I'm more aware of pew potatoes and their kindred. On the pew side of the pulpit, I sometimes feel like I'm at a pep rally or a rock concert.

We worshiped in first, second, and third world countries among many denominations and cultures and haven't felt the need to condemn any of the worship styles. As Paul said in so many letters to his beloved Philippians, we are like bright stars in living Christian faith without any doubting or argument, and I'll leave my ministry to you wasn't it? (author's paraphrase of Philippians 2:14-16).

Despite diversity of chosen worship styles, unity of heart in Christ is the focus we need to have before us.

Traditional or contemporary worship?

If you study church advertisements in the yellow pages, you'll quickly notice many churches identify themselves as traditional or contemporary. The difference in traditional and contemporary may mean little more than the difference in music that is mostly hymns or mostly praise choruses — with more standing usually occurring in the latter. But the differences may be more than that.

I'm concerned about the stereotypes we tend to attach to "traditional" and "contemporary": negatively, we may think dead and lifeless vs. bombastic and unfamiliar. Positively, we may realize the need to hold on to the faith of our fathers but also to allow for it to be expressed in the language of our children. Both traditional and contemporary styles of worship may differ but still be pleasing to God and to the worshipers. God looks upon the condition of the heart and the motives for worshipping Him whatever the expression may be.

Funeral or circus or what?

When I was flipping TV channels recently, I came across evangelist James Robison answering questions in an interview. He said that when he was growing up, choosing a church was pretty much like choosing between going to a funeral and going to a circus. He said most folks had much rather go to a circus than a funeral. Today churches offer worship styles with many more choices than the funeral or circus extremes. However, Robison added that some circus-variety churches have gone off on tangents and justify it by calling themselves praise churches. He said, "I tell them, you're not a praise church; you've just got a big drum and a loud band." Well, God is the judge.

Some time ago I preached in a church that was neither traditional nor contemporary. The biblical message took a back seat to loud emotion that came in vari-

ous expressions: lots of music the congregation couldn't sing and couldn't understand the words to. A leader yelled, "Give me a J; give me an E; give me an S; give me a U; give me an S. Now, shout JESUS!" When it came time to preach, I realized we were already programmed into anticlimax. The tail had wagged the dog. I don't condemn that church's worship style, but I do confess it wasn't a match for me.

Both traditional and contemporary worship?

Both traditional and contemporary worship styles that are biblical and honor God offer real choices. A key factor is for the worship to be appropriate and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). Within a single worship service, variety of traditional and contemporary may blend well with good preparation and God-honoring motivation. In blended services, worshipers need to practice the graciousness Paul called for in Philippians 4:5 (Holman CSB). If the gentle forbearance of allowing variety in worship is absent, it can lead to strife in a church. To be hypercritical of such variety is to be picky in an unchristian way. Speak the truth in love.

No room for pew potatoes in worship

Regardless of worship-style preferences, we can know God wants our individual and collective participation. He doesn't want pew potatoes. "Pew potato" is like the term "couch potato" but is applied to church. In the 1980s, TV addicts were referred to as tubers — or boob tubers. A tuber is a potato. TV viewers often sat on couches eating potato chips. The viewers were spectators, not participators, and were sedentary in a nonproductive activity. In fact, some of them found their body shapes growing similar to rounded potatoes.

Many Christian writers and preachers latched onto "pew potato" to compare those who just come to church, sit unmoved, and offer little or nothing of themselves in active

worship and participation. Now, you don't have to tap-dance to show you have heart. On the other hand, if you never shake a leg or pat a foot, you may be dead and not know it. Again, judgment lies with God; and a lot of participation may be more internal than external, invisible than visible. Still, from the preaching side of the pulpit, it's hard for me to feel good about folks who seem as inert as dirt.

When the pew side talks back to the preacher

I experience a preacher's special joy when lively souls show in some way that we're worshipping together. Often, responses are nods, amens, chuckles, puzzled looks, maybe a frown of concern, and ideally public confessions of commitment. Recently, I used an acronym in preaching but didn't make the meaning as clear as I thought I had. A layman came up with pencil and paper in hand and asked me to clarify what the last letter of the acronym stood for. I apologized for not making it clear and gladly answered his question.

Recently, I preached on "Life's Too Short to Drink Bad Coffee" (Ephesians 5:13-17). Up front I gave a caveat to recognize that some folks don't like coffee; so I asked them to substitute tea, water, or whatever they like to drink. My point was that life is too short for us to settle for anything other than choosing God's best in all of life.

After church, ten-year-old Wendy gave me a note she had written. The note said, "Life is too short to drink bad chocolate milk. I love chocolate milk." What a listener! She had adapted the message to her life. We didn't have a generation gap or a worship gap. Wendy was closer to being a cheerleader than being a pew potato, and this time it was a match for me.

Life is short. Choose to worship in a way that suits God and is also a match for you. □ — Copyright 2005 by Johnnie C. Godwin, who is glad to hear from you via johnniegodwin@comcast.net.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Same concerns, different era

In looking over back issues of the *Baptist and Reflector* for a project we are working on, I have been reading editorials of former editors.

A short column entitled "What do you think?" caught my attention. It was written by editor O.W. Taylor in the March 8, 1934 issue of the *B&R*.

Though that article was written 71 years ago, I could easily have written it verbatim yesterday.

Taylor wrote, "In a recent editorial we asked readers of *Baptist and Reflector* to comment on the paper either by way of criticism or commendation or both."

That might be one difference between his tenure and mine. I normally don't have to ask for the criticism. It seems to come naturally.

As his readers responded, Taylor wrote: "A difficulty for the paper is brought to light by these letters. About 50 percent of them call for the paper to do one thing and the other 50 percent call for it to do the opposite."

He noted that while some suggested he eliminate the Sunday School commentaries, one reader said the Sunday School lesson was the primary reason for subscribing to the paper.

Taylor knew he faced a dilemma. "The difficulty confronting the editor then, is to follow two courses at once, which is impossible," he wrote. He solved his problem by concluding that "the next course open is to strive to strike a balance and, as far as possible with the material that comes in, seek to put something in the paper to feed the souls of all at given times."

Striking a "balance" is good advice and it is something I have tried to do in my nearly seven years as editor. If Taylor were alive today, he probably would agree that unfortunately not everyone wants a "balance."

I learned early on that an editor cannot please everyone. Nor should we try. It would be futile. All I can do is to sort through everything that passes by my desk and make a judgment call. Some of those calls are better than others. Hindsight (and irate readers) tells me when I may have "missed" a call.

But I find extreme comfort in knowing that the same God who loved and directed O.W. Taylor (and all our former editors) is the same God who loves and directs me. And as long as I seek to please God first and foremost, He will give me the grace and strength to endure. □

Financial planner offers tips on reducing debt

Financial
planner offers



By Mike Harris

The number one rule of reducing debt is "Keep hope!" There are many ways to reduce hope.

First, make a list of all debts. Include the company's name, remaining balance, interest rate, and minimum monthly payment. Note that the number of creditors is actually limited. You don't actually owe everyone in the world.

Second, circle the lowest balance. Make the account with the lowest balance your first victim. Pay the other accounts their minimums and put all extra debt reduction into paying off the lowest balance. When this account is paid off, use all this money towards your next lowest account. Within a few months you might reduce your number of bills from seven to only five!

Another helpful technique can be lowering your interest rate. Often, a credit card company will lower an interest rate if their customer simply asks. Even lowering an interest rate a little will help, especially if you keep the monthly payment the same. A second way to lower the current interest rate is to trans-

fer balances for low introductory rates. Ask to have the balance transfer fee waived. Also, pay as much as possible, then transfer the balance again before the introductory rate expires.

A third "hope" sustainer while paying off debt is to keep having fun. Family outings to parks are cheaper than going to the mall. Doing nothing seems inexpensive, but it doesn't keep hope alive!

An important concept when dealing with debt is to run towards your creditors, not away from them. Even if you can't make the whole minimum payment, write a letter explaining your situation and stating your commitment to pay them in full. The worst thing to do is to try to

hide. Tell them your problem quickly. Bad news never improves with age!

Watch for God's blessings as you commit yourself to debt reduction. Time and time again we've seen God move to help people who get serious about getting out of debt. Finally, continue your generous giving to God's kingdom. When we are under financial pressure, we need God's blessings even more.

Could there be a worst place to cut back than our commitment to the God whose blessings we need? □ — Harris is a certified financial planner and area director in the church retirement marketing department at GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

New congregation in Columbia reaches lower income folk

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

COLUMBIA — Servant's Heart Ministry Church opened its doors Sunday, Feb. 13, to 65 people in a warehouse in downtown Columbia and has since moved to a park, according to its church planter/pastor David Graves.

"The Fire Marshal put a 'no occupancy' sign on the door, because the vision for the building was too big," said Graves. "We are presently meeting at Woodland Park in Columbia in a park pavilion where several people have accepted Christ. We are moving forward looking for a place to call home. Keep us in your prayers."

The church was developed to meet a need that was discovered through the Servant's Heart Ministry Center, also in Columbia, when 70 percent of its clients were found to be unchurched.

Maury County Baptist Association, led by director of missions Dale Ledbetter, pulled together several key pastors in the area as a church starters group to pray for new churches to be founded in the area.

According to Wayne Terry, Tennessee Baptist Convention Middle Tennessee Church planter, "They decided to pray for more than just one church, but for several new churches and target the low income," said Terry. "The ministry center will be the hub to those new churches."

Another strategy of the association is for folks to pray for four new church starts, including Servant's Heart Ministry Church, as they pass four Columbia intersections located near the churches. The intersections are referred to as Strategic Prayer Corners.

"Southern Baptists have not seen a lot of intentional church starts in the lower income area at least not in the last few years.

This is one of the highest need areas of church planting, and we have not done a good job at it," said Terry. He added Maury County is a prime location because of the high illiteracy rate there.

The Servant's Heart Ministry Center was started in June 2002 to give away food, clothing, furniture, and other basic needs to the working poor while sharing the gospel.

The ministry office is located at 307 West 11th Street, Columbia, where it shares a warehouse space. It also has five tractor-trailers out back used for storage.

The group works with churches and ministry organizations to provide food, furniture, and clothes through daily church/ministry referrals and large scale targeted giveaways.

The ministry also sponsors community service projects/work camps that involve children, teenagers, and adults in helping local organizations and individuals in need of light construction projects.

The church opened in February near a large warehouse area. "The key to building this church is working with the people to build relationships," added Graves. "We have already established relationships through the ministry center when the people come to get food, because they fill out a ministry form that asks if they are members of a church."

"We are targeting the working poor, a group that is not being reached by Southern Baptists," added Graves. "They make \$16,000 income or less as a family unit and have over 3.5 people living in their homes. Most Southern Baptist churches in Maury County are white, middle class churches."

The ministry has a database that sends invitations to people who are referred by government organizations for the



BAGGING SWEET POTATOES in the parking lot of a McDonald's in Columbia are Servant's Heart Ministry volunteers, who recently distributed the 4,500 lbs. of potatoes to several area ministries and four counties.

mass giveaways.

Over 250 family units in the community indicated that they were interested in a Bible study or a new church start on the ministry form. Out of the new church plant setting, the ministry center hopes to launch sports leagues, Christian Women's Job Corps, a computer lab, school tutoring services, and karate classes.

"We didn't know that it would become a church planting model where God would call me to pastor and then start multiple small churches in the area," noted Graves.

In addition, the ministry center has served Giles, Lewis, and Marshall counties by helping families whose homes have burned down by supplying furnishings and furniture. There is also a distribution point for the ministry in Mt. Pleasant, and new groups from Giles County and Ardmore, Alabama, are weekly picking up bread.

"We have partnered with numerous local churches to set up neighborhood block parties, the Red Cross to provide furniture for burnout and flood-out victims, and the Community Christmas program to provide food and clothes to the poor at Christmas," added Graves.

Partnering with the Maury County Christmas Program, the ministry recently provided food

and clothes citywide for 850 families. They also provided toys to additional 450 children.

Graves was inspired to reach the working poor following a youth conference he attended while serving as minister of youth at Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Columbia.

Graves and his wife, Sherry, searched for working poor ministries, but finally ended up in their own backyard as part of the TBC Cumberland Regional Ministries (CRM) area where nearly one-fourth of the population in Middle Tennessee has income less than \$18,000 a year. Last year, the Servant's Heart ministry had over 4,000 family contacts in Middle Tennessee.

"Economically disadvantaged people show a tendency not to respond to typical types of organized religion," said Beverly Smothers, TBC Strategic Ministries specialist who also serves as the CRM coordinator. "Years ago the Home Mission Board worked with missionaries and pastors to begin new churches in Ministry Centers, located in the midst of low cost multi-family housing developments. Elsewhere in Tennessee there are a few models of these churches."

At the first Sunday afternoon service for the new church start, McDonald's and Domino's Pizza served food while Graves shared

the vision to the churches that wanted to plant the church in the community to serve a racial unchurched field, a praise worship group, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Columbia led in worship.

"The targeted people, second generation removed from the church," Graves. "We will plant church with a lot of prayer and going out on a limb to serve heaven. We are looking to other groups to help out including the W TBC, and other churches."

"All the ministry clothes, food, and furniture are donated to us," said Sherry. "We partner with community resource over Middle Tennessee to provide the giveaways."

The food comes from main sources including America First, Murfreesboro Feed the Children in Nashville, and local community groups. Individuals and businesses in Maury County give clothes, furniture, and household items.

Most recently the new church start and the ministry center rented a movie theater in Columbia to show "The Passion of the Christ" on Easter Sunday morning where almost 100 people attended and over 20 people made decisions for Christ, including two women over 70 and one entire family.

Servant's Heart Ministry is also committed to hosting Crossover 2005 teams, which will involve 150 volunteer block parties and other evangelistic efforts June 17-19. Those who are interested in volunteering this summer may call Graves at (931) 490-6888 or (931) 286-1002.

Servant's Heart Ministry Church is sponsored by Cornerstone Church and Life Fellowship Church, both in Columbia, and Santa Fe Baptist Church in Santa Fe. □

Surgoinsville church's prayer emphasis impacts community

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

SURGOINSVILLE — First Baptist Church here recently launched 40 Days of Prayer in its community and beyond with the help of other local churches.

First Church, under the leadership of pastor Brad Smith, issued invitations to other churches in the community to pray for 40 days during the six weeks prior to Easter. Several Baptist churches in Rogersville took part in the effort.

The simultaneous 40 Days of Prayer kickoff was held Feb. 13 with the individual churches recognizing the emphasis and continuing with a prayer guide theme each week with Scripture passages and a prayer focus each day.

Two "Concerts of Prayer" for all churches in the community were held in March. Both were coordinated by Sheldon and Linda Livesay, prayer coordinators for Henards Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville, and Holston Valley Baptist Association, which has 30 church prayer teams that meet monthly.

"In the Rogersville area, our churches have given an acceptable response for the prayer event," added Livesay.

"Our God doesn't call the majority to be prayer warriors; they know who they are called



SMITH



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to turn the tide of the whole community. They are the ones who stand in the gap for the community."

Other prayer events were held

leading up to Easter Sunday, which culminated with an ending celebration of the 40 Days of Prayer at a sunrise worship service held at a Rogersville cemetery. Jim Smith, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Rogersville, led that service.

According to Smith, the 40 Days of Prayer was an outgrowth of this fall's church study emphasis of 40 Days of Purpose, because the congrega-

tion wanted to do something where they didn't have to buy a book.

Smith got the idea to pray, because it was something anyone can do as individuals, families, or friends could get together. First Baptist Church of Surgoinsville put a half page insert in its weekly bulletin with the prayer requests on it. Other area churches also did bulletin inserts.

"We have received e-mails from other churches that are excited about participating in the community effort," noted Smith. "It has also been an encouragement for area churches to do something together by having an emphasis to pray."

"Our people are encouraged to have something in hand for prayer time. We are also excited

about an upcoming church revival and see this as a biblical scheme of things for a revival in each member in their lives."

Don Pierson, Tennessee Baptist Convention prayer strategies specialist, noted that churches coming together in corporate prayer in Surgoinsville and Rogersville is scriptural.

"A quick look at Acts reveals that some awesome things happened when the church was released from prison, bold as missionaries, men were released from prison, bold as missionaries," said Pierson.

"It is an incredible thing to think that we could not because we have not asked early church knew what when faced with obstacles challenges: pray. □

Stroud celebrates 30th anniversary at Third Creek in Knoxville

Lonnie Wilkey
Pastor and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Jimmy Stroud is the first person to acknowledge that some people consider him a "controversial person."

Long-time attendees of annual meetings of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have heard Stroud's familiar "point of order" refrain on more than one occasion. But when it comes to the churches he has served, Stroud is at the other end of a "controversial" spectrum.

"I have never been run off or even come close to being asked to leave a pastorate," Stroud said.

And on a recent Sunday in March at Third Creek Baptist Church here, members of the Knox County Baptist Association congregation honored Stroud and his wife, Shelby, on his 30th anniversary as pastor.

Stroud joked that the deacons at Third Creek "tell me they have kept me around because of Shelby. She's been with me through my whole ministry and has been a wonderful pastor's wife," he said. The couple will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

Stroud became pastor of Third Creek in 1975 after serving as associate minister/education director at Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville. His nearly two years there was his second stint of service at Broadway. He first went there in

1958 as an assistant to then pastor Ramsey Pollard, who would later become pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis (now Cordova). He left Broadway in 1960 to become pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Clinton and later at Park Lane Baptist Church in Knoxville.

When he was called to Third Creek, Stroud said he had "no idea" it would be his last pastorate. "I moved into the community and grew to love the community and the people," he said.

"Early on I sensed the people (at Third Creek) loved and supported me. I never had a desire to leave or ever sought to leave," the Greene County native said.

He is complimentary of all the churches he has served. "I've been very fortunate to never have had a church that was not a loving, supportive group. I owe a debt of gratitude to the churches I've served."

Stroud noted one of the "secrets" to his longevity has been "to be a friend to the members and to treat everyone with dignity and respect. They have responded to that," he said.

During his 48 years of ministry in the state, Stroud has been active primarily in Knox County Baptist Association as well as the state convention where he has served as a parliamentarian at the annual meeting before.

"Years ago I decided that if I was going to participate in a body I needed to know



OSCAR DIXON, senior deacon at Third Creek Baptist Church, presents Jimmy Stroud a plaque in honor of his 30th anniversary at the church. The church also presented him with a love offering.

the bylaws and rules it operates under," he said.

"It's important for Baptists to be informed and to be in order when conducting their business — at both the church and convention levels," he continued.

He noted that in his association with the convention he "has won some points and lost some points." Either way he has continued to be supportive. "I'm proud to be a cooperating Tennessee Baptist," he said.

"There's not a single person in the

TBC I consider to be my enemy. I consider those I disagree with at times to be my friends.

"In the final analysis we are all brothers and sisters in Christ."

An interesting note about Stroud is that his first appearance on the floor of the TBC in 1959 was not to make "a point of order." Instead, Stroud was asked to sing a solo.

In addition to his love for the convention, he also has a strong love for his local association where he has held about every office imaginable, including moderator. "I have had a wonderful opportunity in Knox County Baptist Association," he affirmed.

At the age of 67 Stroud does not yet know when he will retire, but he is excited about the future of Third Creek which was founded in 1833 and is the oldest Baptist church in the city limits of Knoxville.

Though the church has maintained an average attendance of about 100 during his tenure it has grown slightly in recent years.

"The future of Third Creek is bright. I don't know when I will retire, but when the time comes there will be a good, strong, loving Christian fellowship there for the next pastor," he said.

"At any point I sense there's a feeling in the congregation that they need a younger pastor, I would be ready to retire gracefully," he concluded. □

Students find different routes to ministry, missions at Carson-Newman

Hannah Stuart
News & publications office

JEFFERSON CITY — Each Carson-Newman College student embarks upon a journey. They find their enrollment at a time of deep soul-searching that leads to God's calling on their lives. Some may have already felt the call, but find encouragement and support from C-N's faculty and staff.

Juniors Brittany Hall and Katie Vance both discovered a love for missions after two-and-a-half years at C-N, while senior Brett Moore knew as a freshman exactly what he would do after his college experience.

Moore grew up in the Morris home of two C-N alums. Though he was raised in East Tennessee, Brett moved with his family to Savannah, Ga., where he finished his senior year of high school. It was there that he made the decision to

return to Tennessee and make C-N his college home.

"I knew I wanted to be back in Tennessee, and that in a college I wanted something small, intimate and Christian," says Moore, who is a member of Morristown's Manley Baptist Church. "C-N sounded perfect and I felt good about my decision."

College was not the only thing Moore was starting to think about four years ago. He developed an interest in ministry through public speaking in churches and Christian conferences. When he was 18 he met Wade Morris, a full-time evangelist from Birmingham, Alabama. Morris helped Brett learn more about evangelism and began to mentor him.

Currently, Moore spends about 100 days out of the year traveling and speaking at churches, camps, conferences, and retreats.

"I hope to eventually work up

to between 200 and 250 days on the road," says Moore of his future as an expository speaker. "Every engagement is a divine occasion and God has always given me just what I can handle at the time."

Moore will graduate in May with a degree in speech communications. After graduation he plans to attend Beeson School of Divinity in Birmingham before continuing with evangelism full time. "Carson-Newman has been such an aid to my ministry," Moore said. "It has gone far beyond the classrooms and curriculum."

While C-N has supported Moore in his fulfilling God's call, it has helped others, like Hall and Vance, to realize what it is that God is asking of their lives. An early childhood education major, Hall always knew that she would attend C-N. As a child she learned of C-N through her dad, William Morgan Hall, a 1978 graduate.

While Hall had her sights on the Jefferson City campus, Vance had her mind set on a school much closer to her Vinton, Va., home. It wasn't until she learned of C-N's Bonner Scholar Program that she decided to make a place for herself in East Tennessee. She quickly enrolled in the education department, and she too began her journey to becoming an educator.

Hall grew up in the youth group at Chattanooga's Bayside Baptist Church. While there she caught her first glimpse of missions. Though domestic missions

dominated her experiences, it was an international mission trip to China after high school that proved to spark her love of missions.

With additional support from grandmother, Juanita Hall, who also had experience on the mission field, Hall recalls May 2, 2004, as the day she accepted God's call on her life. "I realized God was being very clear about my needing to go into the mission field," she said. "I felt my heart change and I sat with my mom and we cried tears of joy."

That moment led to what Hall calls a life changing summer. She worked as an intern with Germantown Baptist Church, outside of Memphis. In addition, she began a mentoring program with two missionary families who helped her better understand the life and work of an international missionary. The experience allowed her to travel on a mission trip to India with her new friends.

Upon returning to school, Hall continued with her education classes, but soon realized that in order to fill the shoes that God had set forth for her, she needed to change her direction and become a religion major.

"It was scary to switch, especially so late into my college career," she recalls. "I know that God wants me in missions and that even though I won't be in a traditional classroom, I can still help teach children."

This summer she will join Focus International and spend two-and-a-half months in

Afghanistan. "I feel called to the Middle East, and after my trip to India last summer, I feel prepared to take the next step," she says.

Vance had a similar C-N experience. An active member of her youth group at Lynn Haven Baptist Church in Vinton, she was familiar with mission trips. As a C-N student, she has assisted youth groups on military bases in Stuttgart, Germany as well as helping at an orphanage in Quanjuato, Mexico. Her time at the orphanage helped prepare her for another opportunity.

Vance recalls when a fellow C-N student told her of another chance to help children, this time at an orphanage in Rwanda, Africa. The orphanage housed 150 children all of whom have been stricken with AIDS. They told her that the biggest need is for extra arms to hold the dying children.

"I was so nervous at first," she remembers. "I knew this was what God wanted me to do but I felt like I was still missing something. I felt ill-prepared for such a tough task." After much prayer, she decided to change her major from education to religion.

With a renewed excitement for what God has planned for her in the mission field, Vance plans on seminary after her graduation. "I am still not completely sure where in international missions God is leading me," smiles Vance. "But I do feel strongly that wherever my place may be, my continued experience at Carson-Newman will help guide and prepare me." □



STUDENTS, from left, Katie Vance, Brett Moore, and Brittany Hall have found different routes to ministry at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City.

Court upholds Ten Commandments display

Baptist Press

CHICAGO — A federal appeals court has upheld a Ten Commandments display similar to one currently being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, which is based in Chicago, announced March 25 an Indiana county's display that includes the Ten Commandments is constitutional. The split, three-judge panel said it

sees no reason why the display of historical documents "must be purged of the Ten Commandments to survive constitutional scrutiny."

The Seventh Circuit decision came as the Supreme Court prepares to deliver opinions in two cases regarding Ten Commandments displays. One involves the inclusion of the Ten Commandments in a display of historical documents in two Kentucky county courthouses, while the other focuses on a stand-alone monument on the state capitol grounds in Austin, Texas.

The justices heard oral arguments in both cases March 2.

They are expected to rule on both cases in either a consolidated opinion or separate decisions before they adjourn this summer.

The latest appeals court ruling came in a case involving a "Foundations of American Law

and Government Display" in a county administration building in Elkhart, Ind. The county commission approved the display of the documents, which were privately donated, in 2003. In addition to the Ten Commandments, other documents in the display

included the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, and Magna Carta. The documents were the same size. Also included was an explanation of historical importance of each document in the display. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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 Blvd., High Ridge, MO 63049; Fbchr@brick.net; www.fellowshipbaptisthr.org.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Good Hope Baptist Church, Adamsville, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 678 Good Hope Church Rd., Adamsville, TN 38310.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Hillhurst Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 2715 Hody Dr., Nashville, TN 37206.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

MINISTRY — DOM

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

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Oakwood Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., is looking for a bivocational youth minister. Please send resume to the church at 111 E. Columbia Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917, Attn. Youth Minister Search Committee.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church, Joelton, a large, growing church in metro Nashville, is seeking a full-time minister of youth. Current youth worship attendance on Wednesday nights is approximately 140-150. A part-time youth associate and a youth intern work under the youth minister. A college degree is required, a seminary degree is preferred. Must be a self-starter, a leader of leaders and have experience leading a dynamic youth ministry. Resumes may be e-mailed to Lyndel@fbcjoelton.org. Resumes and DVDs may be mailed to Youth Search Committee, FBC, 7140 Whites Creek Pk., Joelton, TN 37080.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Miracle Baptist, LaVergne, has opening for pianist. Please send resume to Miracle Baptist Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 10, LaVergne, TN 37086.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Experienced pianist would like position of church pianist. Northeast Tennessee area, 30 years experience, member of music guild, familiar with all kinds of music, compensation optional. Patty Hanson, (423) 772-4481.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

A full-time minister to children is being sought by First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, AR. This first-time position will be responsible for working with newborns through 6th graders. Send resume to FBC, 2350 Central Ave., Hot Springs, AR 71901 or mkcmom@cablelynx.com.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach, FL on Amelia Island is prayerfully seeking a children and education minister. Located in a growing community with a deep history steeped in tradition, we are seeking a minister with a vision for the future and an appreciation of our past. A minimum requirement: seminary degree in education and/or children ministry. Resumes to Children/Education Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 416 Alachua St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

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More Americans leaving church, Barna study

ASHVILLE — The latest study by The Barna Group identifies a growing trend for spiritual Americans to exercise their faith in places other than church, and George Barna said it would not be surprising if a portion of the born-again population shifts "from the

'churched' to 'unchurched' column of the ledger over the next 10 years."

Barna found that one out of five unchurched people read the Bible in a typical week, six out of 10 pray to God each week, and 5 percent have shared their faith in Jesus Christ with people who are not professing Christians during the past year. Also, nearly one million unchurched adults tithe their income, though the money typically goes to a variety of parachurch ministries rather than a local church.

During a typical month, six

out of 10 unchurched adults worship God in a place other than a church service, Barna said. Three out of 10 study the Bible and one out of seven have times of prayer and Bible reading with family members. Four out of 10 seek Christian enrichment through television, radio, magazines, or faith-based web sites, and one-fourth of unchurched adults claim to have conversations with one or more friends who hold them accountable for carrying out their faith principles.

Overall, Barna concluded

that one in three American adults are unchurched. □

Court bars ruling because jury consulted Bible

Associated Baptist Press

DENVER — A convicted rapist and murderer should not receive the death penalty because some of the jurors who sentenced him consulted biblical law in making their decision, according to the Colorado Supreme Court.

A closely divided panel of that state's highest court ruled March 28 that jurors should not have taken biblical law into account when reaching the decision. "The judicial system works very hard to emphasize the rarified, solemn, and sequestered nature of jury

deliberations," the majority opinion in the 3-2 decision read. "Jurors must deliberate in that atmosphere without the aid or distraction of extraneous texts."

But the minority justices disagreed. "The biblical passages the jurors discussed constituted either a part of the jurors' moral and religious precepts or their general knowledge, and thus were relevant to their court-sanctioned moral assessment," they wrote.

Colorado criminal law is unusual in that it requires judges in capital cases to instruct jurors to take into account their own moral convictions in dealing with such sentencing decisions.

According to court papers, one juror testified that she consulted the famous passage in Leviticus 24, in which Hebrew law requires "an eye for an eye."

The decision means that Robert Harlan's sentence will be changed to life without parole. In 1995, he was convicted of raping and murdering a woman near Denver, as well as shooting and paralyzing a woman who was trying to help the victim escape. □

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 worship style of both contemporary and traditional music. With an average worship attendance of 15 people, Ebenezer seeks to reach the community through music, drama, and media. The candidate should have demonstrated experience in preparing a worship service and leading and growing a music program or praise team. Selected candidate will work closely in-hand with the pastor and a dedicated media ministry team

to prepare each service. Applicants need to send a resume and a video tape of a recent service (if available) to Ebenezer Baptist Church, 6028 Ebenezer Rd., Greenbrier, TN 37073, or by fax, to (615) 643-0639. You can contact the church office at (615) 643-0637 or at Office@EBC-Greenbrier.org.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Hillcrest Baptist Church in Lebanon, Tenn., is prayerfully searching for a full-time minister of music. HBC is a church with a priority on bold expository preaching, strong evangelism, soul-winning, and celebrative singing and worship. We have a choir of 50-60 with gifted band and musicians. We do

an upbeat, blended, Christ-honoring style of music. A love for Jesus, the Bible, souls, and the local church is required with a heart desiring the will of God. If you feel the leadership of the Lord you can send a resume and audio or video of your present/past services to Pastor Glenn Denton at Hillcrest Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2009, Lebanon, TN 37088. E-mail: broglenn@hillcrestbaptist.org.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Accepting resumes for part-time minister of music. Please send resume to Hillcrest Baptist Church, 380 Dover Rd., Clarksville, TN 37042, (931) 647-8915.



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Terri Schiavo dies of starvation

Baptist Press

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — Terri Schiavo, the 41-year-old disabled woman at the center of a nationwide life-and-death debate, died March 31 in her Florida hospice — nearly two weeks after her feeding tube was pulled.

Her case captured the nation's attention in recent weeks, as Congress and President Bush intervened in an attempt to save her life. But in the end, Schiavo's parents failed to convince federal courts to re-insert her feeding tube. It was pulled March 18 following a court order, and she died on her 13th full day without food or water.

Schiavo's death by starvation and dehydration brought together both sides of the ideological spectrum.

The case even brought together Sen. Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican, and Sen. Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat, both of whom supported a bill that sought to keep her alive.

The debate over Schiavo's death likely will not end soon. Congress is expected to debate what can be done to assist families in similar situations. The bill might cover all cases where the patient's end-of-life wishes are in dispute.

President George W. Bush said March 31 that he and First Lady Laura Bush extend their condolences to Schiavo's family.

"I urge all those who honor Terri Schiavo to continue to work to build a culture of life, where all Americans are welcomed and valued and protected — especially those who live at the mercy of others," Bush said. "The essence of civilization is

that the strong have a duty to protect the weak. In cases where there are serious doubts and questions, the presumption should be in the favor of life."

Schiavo suffered brain damage in 1990 when she collapsed in her home. For years, her husband and legal guardian, Michael Schiavo, battled her parents in the courts over whether she would have wanted to live.

While Michael Schiavo asserted that she would have wanted to die, no written request existed.

Her parents wanted to take care of Schiavo, and argued that Michael Schiavo was not fit to be her guardian since he lived with his girlfriend and had fathered two children by her. Doctors

were divided over whether Schiavo was in a Persistent Vegetative State, although the Florida court-appointed doctor said she was.

Florida Judge George Greer ordered that Schiavo's feeding tube be removed March 18, but in an extraordinary act Congress passed and President Bush signed a bill in the early hours of March 21 that was

intended to give Schiavo's parents a "de novo" review in federal court — that is, an avenue have a new judge consider facts from the beginning, with new evidence and new witnesses involved. Such a review would have required that the feeding tube be re-inserted. But the federal courts rejected such review, leading to Schiavo's death. □

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- Dr. Daniel Akin *Church Discipline*

Breakout Sessions 1 and 2

Thursday, April 21—7:00 p.m.

- Dr. Paige Patterson *Church Autonomy*
- Dr. Richard Land *Separation of Church and State*
- Dr. Al Mohler *Sexual Purity*

Friday, April 22—8:30 a.m.

- Dr. Gerald Cowen *The Role of Pastor-Elder*
- Dr. Steve Lemke *Do Baptists Have a Future as Evangelicals?*

Breakout Session 3

Friday, April 22—12:30 p.m.

- Dr. B. Gray Allison *Baptists: A Mission-Minded People*
- Dr. Bob Pitman *A Baptist and His Bible*



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book review

Dawn Ferguson

The Jesus Habits

by Jay Dennis

Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005

A habit is something you do unconsciously and often impulsively (or something worn by a nun!) according to Webster's. It's something you do so often, it becomes automatic for you. It's a tendency to perform a certain action or behave in a certain way. Habits can be good or bad. Biting your nails. Drinking lots of water. Exercising regularly. Wearing your seatbelt. These are all actions that can become habits. In fact, a Princeton University study claims that if you do the same thing every day for 28 consecutive days, it will become a habit.

In his book, *The Jesus Habits*, author and pastor Jay Dennis has identified 31 habits — observable patterns in the life of Jesus — that can be copied and put to practice in our own lives to make us more Christ-like. In just 25 pages, Dennis identifies these 31 habits citing Scripture as his basis and then listing some of the reasons we don't make these habits a part of our lives, such as busyness, and also listing ways to incorporate these habits into our life.

In the introduction, Dennis writes that the idea for the book came about as he was studying the gospel and observing what Jesus did. He would note in the margins his Bible habits. And that's how he determined his list. He asks readers to consider three things when reading the book.

- (1) The Jesus habits can become your habits, too.
- (2) You have to be willing to do whatever it takes to make each habit a part of your life.
- (3) Through Jesus Christ you have the power to stop bad habit and begin a Jesus habit. You have prayer, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, faith, and godly people to ensure your success.

The 31 habits Dennis has found are: seclusion, prayer, worship, building relationships, touch, confrontation, challenging the status quo, listening, love, thankfulness, faith, motivation, handling criticism effectively, family priority, obedience, honoring the government, asking questions, having fun, truth, rest, acting like a man, esteeming women, giving, kindness, fitness (Jesus walked 21,525 miles — an average of 20 per day during his three years of ministry, keeping your word, fellowshiping, using Scripture, purpose, fasting and using money God's way.

While the premise of this book is worthy — learning the habits of Jesus so that we can become more like Him — I think Jesus modeled many more habits. The habit of patience, of selflessness, of humility, of meekness, of forgiveness, of self-control. Why aren't these included in the 31? To me, these are some of the harder habits to develop and are some of the very things that set Jesus apart from other men. I doubt this book on its own will be effective in changing the lives of readers. But the book it's derived from — God's Word — certainly can! □ — Ferguson is a freelance writer in Gallatin.

Impartial love

By Robert Segrest

Focal Passage: James 2:1-13

A popular television program often focuses upon the sibling rivalry that exists between two adult brothers. Robert is convinced that his older brother Raymond is their parent's favorite. Hence the show's title: "Everybody Loves Raymond." Competition between the brothers sets the stage for some great comedy. However, in real life favoritism, partiality, or discrimination is no laughing matter. In every situation, it is cruel, hurtful, and damaging.

Favoritism can take many forms. Not only does it occur in a family setting, it also exists between races, ethnic groups, nations, or geographic regions within a nation. Discrimination is practiced relative to gender, age, wealth, intelligence, power, and physical appearance. It will even rear its ugly head within a church or denomination and be totally justified by the ones most guilty.

A long time member of a plateaued congregation became quite upset when a new comer complained about an impenetrable clique in the church. "I have never known of a clique in my church," the woman said. "Of course you haven't," replied the other woman, "you're part of the clique!"

In the second chapter of his epistle, James challenged his Jewish Christian readers to treat everyone with impartial love as they lived out their faith in Jesus Christ. Doing otherwise would completely disre-

gard Jesus' teachings on love and mercy.

Apparently James found out that some believers in the church were pretty deeply involved in the sin of partiality. Hoping for personal gain, they favored the rich and powerful over the poor who could do nothing for them because they had neither wealth nor influence. He illustrated his concern with what could have been a true story.

One day a rich man, dressed in expensive clothes, came to church and was ushered to the best seat in the house while a poor man in dirty garments was told to sit on the floor. James accused those who so blatantly favored the one and so wrongfully discriminated against the other of being evil thinking judges of their fellow man.

He then reminded his brothers in Christ that God had a special place in His heart for poor, humble believers whose simple trust enabled them to be rich in their faith and heirs of the kingdom. James also pointed out how foolish it was for them to fawn over the rich and powerful since they frequently oppressed Christians in the courts and spoke against their Savior.

According to James, the antidote for favoritism was to obey the Scripture's royal law, which commanded that they first love God supremely and then, that they love every neighbor as they loved themselves (Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:37-40). Keeping the royal law was positive because it encom-

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series April 10

passed the whole law, but showing favoritism was negative because it violated the whole law. Consequently to claim that they loved God with all their heart, mind, and soul and then consistently snub those Christ dearly loved and died to redeem was the height of hypocrisy.

The challenge James issued to those who so desperately needed to love others impartially was for them to talk and act with the clear understanding that God would judge them by the law of liberty or freedom. That law was the gospel of Jesus Christ, which freed people from their sin to enjoy life in the loving presence of God. Those who chose not to love others as Christ loved them had set themselves up as merciless judges destined to dwell in spiritual bondage. Perhaps that bondage was God's chastisement for the terrible sin of accepting some into their lives while rejecting others.

The sin of partiality is very deceptive. It can slip quickly into the lives of even the most devoted Christians. Peter and Barnabas are two examples of that fact in Galatians 2:11-14. So purpose to obey the royal law and always let mercy triumph over judgment. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

Conform to the Lord's purpose

By Michael Julian

Focal Passage: Jeremiah 18:1-12, 15-17

Have you ever carefully observed the intricate details and contours of a magnificent sculpture? A couple of years ago, my wife and I visited an ice exhibit during the Christmas season. The sculptures were imaginatively ornate and elaborate, even breathtaking. I could envision the master craftsmen laboring intensively over a huge chunk of ice, all the while driven by a vision of what he aspired to create. The result of the hard work and vision being an immaculate spectacle for public display. This week we are confronted with an indelible image that brings insight and perspective into the character of God.

As is becoming standard for Jeremiah, the Word of the Lord grips him and instructs him to arise and go down to the potter's house. Upon arrival, Jeremiah will receive the promised Word from the Lord. Jeremiah approaches the potter's house and notices the potter is hard at work. A pair of stone discs are whirling and twirling as the potter shapes and crafts a lump of clay. In that moment, Jeremiah notices something out of the ordinary. The vessel in the potter's hand is spoiled and marked by some deformity, therefore the potter reconditions and reshapes the vessel into something more suit-

able and pleasing to the potter.

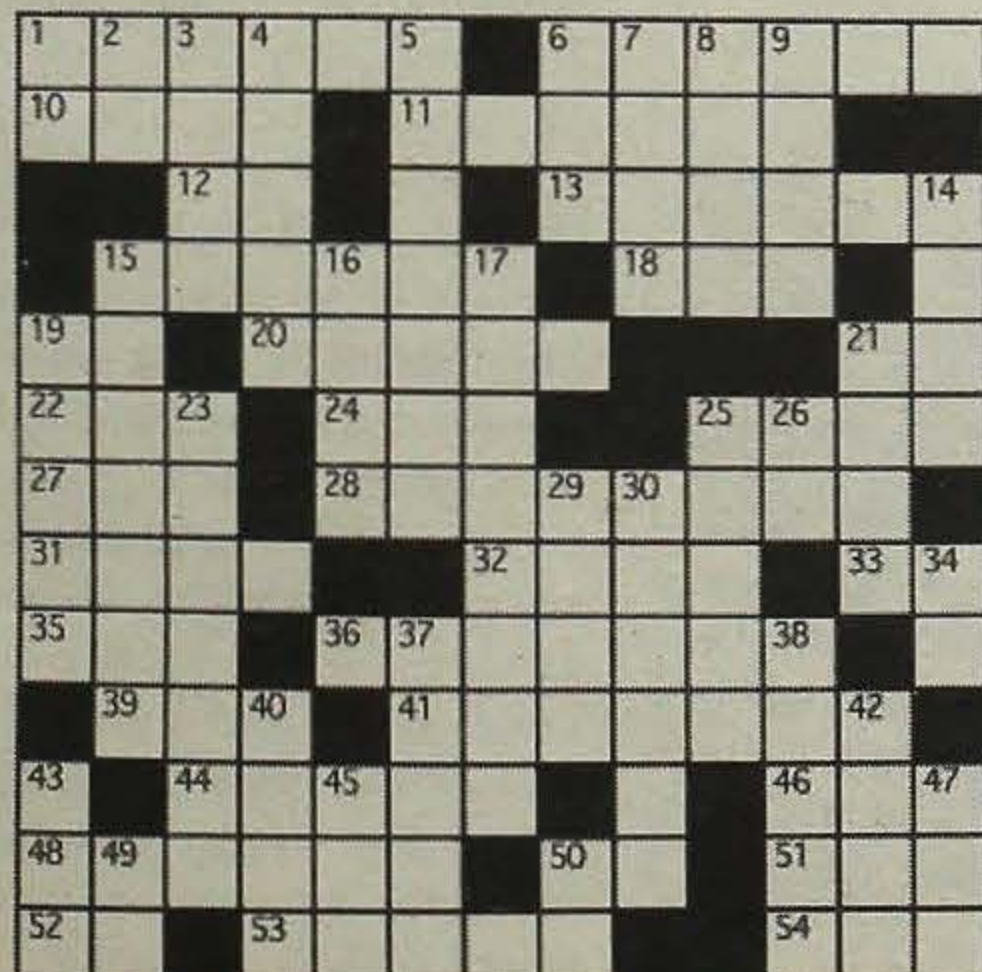
With this abiding image burning in his mind and eye, Jeremiah receives the Word of the Lord. He shall proclaim the message of God's sovereignty to the people of Judah. Just as the potter handles his clay, so the Lord desires to handle His people. God wants us to be pliable in His hand. He yearns for broken and contrite spirits, which He will not despise. We shall be conformed to the image and likeness of Christ, if we will be as clay in His masterful working hands. Instead of complaining about restrictions on human freedom, we should be announcing the independence of dependence upon God. Yield to His will and be conformed to the Lord's purpose.

The Word of the Lord continues as He juxtaposes two conditional statements. The verses above coupled with the following verses offer a fabulous view of God's character. When prophets of God announced potential judgment on God's people or surrounding nations, a common understanding pervaded the pronouncement. The Lord may speak of His intention to destroy or uproot a nation, but if the people would heed God's Word and repent of their evil ways, God would relent from the pronounced calamity. God is not being double-tongued nor is He failing to follow through on His Word, because the promise to relent accompanies the message of the prophet. The story of Jonah and

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible April 10

Nineveh is an excellent example. Likewise, God's Word to plant and build a nation is conditional upon the people's obedience. The nation of Israel and Judah presumed upon God's grace and mercy. They failed to understand their safety and continuance in the land of promise hinged on covenant faithfulness to the Lord. The blessing and cursing of Moses in Deuteronomy 28 stands as an obvious example. In these things we see God's mercy, grace, sovereignty, and judgment. God is incredibly patient with His people, but God will not be mocked or abused either.

Jeremiah concludes his discourse with these words from the Lord. *For my people have forgotten me.* May it never be that God would say that of His bride today. I fear that we have flirted with this world for far too long. We have conformed to our purposes, our agendas, and our narcissistic patterns long enough. The Lord fashioned a terrible word for the people. He would show them His back and not His face. In other words, His presence would be removed. Conform to the Lord's purpose practicing His presence daily. □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant.



Deaths

◆ **Marvin Oscar Wayland**, 98, retired minister of Hohenwald died recently. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Spring City, for 17 years, and pastor of other churches in Middle Tennessee and Kentucky. Wayland was a graduate of Union University, Jackson; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Leaders

◆ **Wayne Foropoulos of Jackson**, has been called as interim pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Friendship. He formerly was interim pastor of Middlefork Road Baptist Church, Henderson, and recently completed a second term as a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

◆ **Ransom C. Hall**, pastor, Pigeon Valley Baptist Church, Hartford, since 1996, will be honored at the Ransom C. Hall Appreciation Day on Saturday, April 16 at the Cocke County High School football stadium at 2:30 p.m. Bluegrass Gospel music will begin at 1:45 p.m. He also has served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bat Harbor, 1962-66; Shady Grove Baptist Church, Newport, 1966-72; and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Newport, 1973-95. Honoring Hall will be U.S. Congressman Bill Jenkins; State Representative Eddie Yokely; Roland Dykes Jr., mayor of Newport; Illif McMahan Jr., Cocke County executive; Fred Cagle, pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; and Michael Brooks, director of missions, East Tennessee Baptist Association,

based in Newport.

◆ **Mark Stinnett**, pastor, New Middleton Baptist Church, Gordonsville, was called as director of missions, New Salem Baptist Association, based in Carthage, effective April 1. Stinnett will serve the association in a bivocational capacity and continue to serve his church. He is a former member of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

◆ **Mike Day**, vice president, strategic initiatives, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., has been called as director of missions, Mid-South Baptist Association, based in Memphis, effective May 1. Day has served at NAMB since 1997. He was executive vice president, Brotherhood Commission, where he served from 1985-97. He also was minister to youth, Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland; associate pastor, Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville; pastor of a church in Shepherdsville, Ky. Day is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, from which he earned a doctor of ministry; and Belmont University, Nashville. He also has served as interim pastor of Raleigh Baptist Church, Memphis; Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett; Graceland Baptist Church, Memphis; and a church in Mississippi.

◆ **Christian Women's Job Corps - Nashville** is seeking a full-time **summer missionary** (19-22 years old) to serve as a childcare provider and children's Bible study leader. She also will assist mothers in training, network with community resources, and do some administrative tasks. Stipend

and housing is provided. CWJC - Nashville is a national faith-based nonprofit agency which provides education, training, and support to working, poor women and their families. Send resume and references to CWJC - Nashville, P.O. Box 22388, Nashville, TN 37202-2388 or rday@CWJC-Nashville. For more information, call (615) 244-3669.

Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church, Bruceton**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, April 24-27. Lynn Walker will speak. For more information contact the church at fbcbruceton@tds.net or (731) 586-4212.

◆ **Florence Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, April 10-13. Kevin Shrum, pastor, Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, and former Tennessee Baptist Convention president, will speak. For more information, call the church at (615) 907-4110.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Flintville**, held revival Saturday - Tuesday, April 2-5. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, spoke.

◆ **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Coalfield**, will host Jeff and Sheri Easter, a Southern Gospel music group, Sunday, May 1, at 6 p.m. Jonathan Goodman of the church will open the concert. For more information, contact Joni L. Keith at jl_keith@bellsouth.net or the church at (865) 435-6167.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Monterey**, will dedicate its new Family Life Center Sunday, April 10, during its 10:55

a.m. worship service. Luncheon will follow. For more information, call the church at (931) 839-2971.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Livingston**, will continue a revival Sunday - Wednesday, April 17-20 which was begun last September. The revival was canceled because of the deaths of two members in a car accident. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will return to speak and Gilbert Aldridge, minister of music, will lead the music. For more information, contact Don Cobb, pastor, at dlcobb@fbclivingston.com or call the church at (931) 823-2096.

◆ **Point Pleasant Baptist Church, Paris Landing**, will present "The Living Pictures of Jesus," formerly "The Living Pictures of Easter," on Thursday - Saturday, May 5-7. The presentation includes scenes, actors, and narration which are viewed by visitors from trolleys. In 2004 over 1,200 attended and in 2003 1,600 visited despite inclement weather. Scenes are changed each year. Buses and vans are welcome. For more information, call Larry Dukes, pastor, at (731) 641-6450.

◆ The Iowa Mission Team of **Miracle Baptist Church, LaVergne**, will hold a fundraiser Saturday, April 9, from 5-8 p.m. at the LaVergne Middle School. A dinner, concert, and silent auction will be held. For more information, contact Mike Slinker at (615) 793-5448.

Associations

◆ **The Hamilton County Baptist Association**, based

in Chattanooga, and **Morris Hill Baptist Church, Chattanooga**, will hold the conference, "Evangelism: The Work of the Church," on Monday, April 18, at the church. Speakers include John Yarbrough, the North American Mission Board; Rodney Keith, evangelist of Jacksonville, Fla.; Ronnie Hill, evangelist of Dallas, Texas; Larry Frick, mission director, Woodland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Eddie McBroom, minister students, Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison; Rick Markum, music director, Morris Hill Baptist Church; Steve Shoemaker, minister of worship, Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and Jerry Essary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff. Performing and speaking in the evening are Yarbrough and Chris McDaniel formerly of the Confederate Railroad. For more information, contact Morris Hill Church at geordl@bellsouth.net or (423) 892-2071.

Schools

◆ **Emory Quince**, a senior at **Carson-Newman College**



QUINCE

Jefferson City, from Knoxville took first place at the National Association of Teachers Singing (NATS) Student Auditions

held at **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**, Louisville, Ky. He is a student of C-N voice professor Ar Jones, who chairs the institution's vocal division. Quince is a tenor and music education major. Quince was one of 24 college students from Tennessee and Kentucky who competed in the March 18-19 NATS auditions.

◆ **William H. Noah**, physician and founder of the traveling museum exhibition "Ink & Blood: Dead Sea Scroll to the English Bible," will deliver a chapel address at **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, Tuesday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m. The service will be held at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. The service is open to the public. The exhibit is being shown at the Knoxville Convention Center through April 17. Noah will bring a pair of artifacts which are not included in the public display — an 18th century Torah scroll, and a second edition of the 1611 King James Bible. For more information about the service, contact the school at (865) 471-4000.

Association team reaches out to Muslims in Paris, France

For Baptist and Reflector

LENOIR CITY — A team of 17 people from seven

churches in Loudon County Baptist Association based here served in Paris, France, March 18-25.

They worked with Tony and Jamie Lynn, missionaries of the International Mission Board. The Tennesseans distributed more than 400 copies of the "Jesus" movie video to

West African Muslims. The videos were produced in three languages.

The volunteers also painted the inside of The Telegraphe Church, which has members who are native to the country. □



THE TEAM INCLUDED, from left, first row sitting, Ana Lea Atwell; Erica Brewster; Carma Brewster; Alyssa McPeck; Robb Atwell; Larry Kirkland; second row kneeling, Nikki Hellard; David Carr; Jean Rankin; Edith McPeck; Carl McPeck; back row standing, Brian Jordan; Anita Clayton; Jim Clayton; IMB missionary Jamie Lynn; Sylvia Atwell; and Bob Atwell, director of missions, Loudon County Baptist Association.



TENNESSEANS with help from Steve Springer, right, IMB missionary and translator, give a West African man a "Jesus" video in his native language. The Tennesseans are, from left, Anita Clayton, Dixie Lee Baptist Church, Lenoir City, and Larry Kirkland, Blairland Baptist Church, Loudon.