

Baptist & Reflector

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 14; April 13, 2005

Wide Edition

2,000-plus Acteens, women challenged to follow Jesus Christ

Connie Wilkey
Staff and Reflector

GATLINBURG — A decision to hold two major events at the same time and same location proved to be a good idea for Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

The annual Missions Get-Together and Connection, an event held for Tennessee women, drew a combined attendance of 2,031. The two events joined together for a worship service on Sunday morning, April 10.

"We thought our Baptist women would enjoy seeing the leaders of Woman's Missionary Union in the same place with them," said Candy Phillips, executive director-treasurer of Tennessee WMU. Phillips said she was pleased with not only the attendance but how participants responded to two opportunities to give.

Those attending the two events brought 2,008 pairs of shoes and more than 4,000 pairs of socks for Project: Help. The items will be distributed



BAPTIST WOMEN attending the Missions Get-Together last weekend were challenged to bring dimes for the Touch Tomorrow Today endowment, managed by the Woman's Missionary Union Foundation which also is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Participants responded with more than 28,000 dimes for an offering of \$2,844. Displaying some of the dimes are David George, center, president, WMU Foundation; Doris June Large, left, Tennessee WMU endowment promotion team leader; and Candy Phillips, executive director-treasurer of Tennessee WMU.

equally among Mississippi River Ministry, Cumberland Regional Ministry, and Appalachian Regional Ministry, Phillips said. "The shoes and socks will be distributed

quickly to those who need them," she said.

In addition, Baptist Women brought more than 28,000 dimes to be given to Touch Tomorrow Today, an endow-



JESSICA FRADY, a student at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, helps place socks in shoes for a ministry project held in conjunction with the annual Get-Together in Gatlinburg last weekend. Approximately 2,088 pairs of shoes and more than 4,000 pairs of socks were donated for the effort.

ment that benefits both national and Tennessee WMU.

And, in the annual offering Tennessee Baptist Women gave an additional \$6,700 which will be used for endowment and a partnership Tennessee WMU has with WMU in Brazil. "We wanted to give

our women options. People want choices for how they use their time, talents, and money," Phillips observed.

Annual meeting

The Saturday morning session featured the 117th annual meeting of Tennessee WMU. — See 2,000-plus, page 3

Volunteers needed for SBC meeting

Staff and Reflector

NASHVILLE — For the first time in 91 years the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will be held in the city that houses its national offices here.

And it will be the first time the annual meeting has been held in Tennessee since the convention met in Memphis in 1925.

With the annual meeting comes a need for volunteers and leaders among Tennessee Baptists for help.

About 600-700 volunteers will be needed for the four-day period between June 19-22, said Jack Wilkins, vice president for business and finance for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The annual meeting is slated for June 21-22 at the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

Nashville pastor Kevin Shrum of Greenwood Baptist Church is serving as local arrangements coordinator.

"This is an opportunity to be involved in a historic event that may come to Nashville again for a long time," he said.

See Volunteers, page 3

Now leads state work

Dream comes true for former Tennessee Acteen

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Andrea Knight of the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union staff based here was excited about Connection held last weekend in Gatlinburg.

Just a few years ago she was attending the forerunner of Connection, Acteens Summit, for junior high and high school girls.

The former Andrea Aldridge attended the Acteens Summit four years with a group of Acteens from First Baptist Church, Waverly. "It was fun; I had a good time, but I had no idea what was involved."

During her senior year in high school while a state Acteens panelist, she helped lead the Acteens Summit in Nashville. "I thought I was really in the know."

Now as director of Connection her experience is "very different. You learn a whole lot, real fast," she explained.

As preparations geared up last week, she was overwhelmed at times, she admitted. "I would come back at least once a day to the knowledge that

God has called me here," said Knight.

"Knowing that girls' lives are going to be changed (at Connection) is a humbling task and it's scary sometimes," Knight added.

Knight can attest that lives are changed by being involved in Acteens because her life was changed through the organization and its leaders, she says.

Her church leaders like Tammy Saffel, now WMU director of First Church, Waverly, influenced her. At Trace Creek Baptist Church, New Johnsonville, where Knight also was a member, her mother, Jean Aldridge, was a great Girls in Action leader, she said.

Her state Acteens leader, Amanda Day of the Tennessee WMU staff, also was a strong influence in her life, said Knight.

Day and Knight first became close while Knight was a state Acteens panelist. Up to six high school girls are named to the position each year. They help lead state Acteens events.



KNIGHT

Also while a high school senior, Knight served as national Acteens panelist and as a counselor for TBC Acteen/GA camps.

Knight recalls meeting with Day at a restaurant in Dickson. Knight sought her advice and Day responded. Knight told Day that evening that she hoped in the future to be doing the work Day was doing.

While a camp counselor at Camp Linden Knight remembered preparing to leave for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, La. As a national Acteens panelist she would serve as a SBC page. She was frightened of the responsibility, she said. But Day was there again to encourage her.

Knight went on to graduate from Union University, Jackson, marry Corey Knight, and work as a communications specialist for Alabama WMU in Birmingham. After a four-year stint in Alabama, the couple felt led to return to Middle Tennessee.

Knight's mother called her and told her Day was leaving Tennessee WMU after serving from 1995-2004. Day had health problems related to multiple — See Dreams, page 2

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your
newsjournal

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NBC program skewed, say Jenkins, LaHaye

Baptist Press

WHEATON, Ill. — Jerry Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, whose *Left Behind* series made end-times theology a nationwide topic of discussion, have expressed wariness of NBC's apocalyptic mini-series "Revelations," which premieres April 13.

One of the series' main characters, "Dr. Richard Massey," a skeptic Harvard professor played by Bill Pullman, looks as though he is headed toward becoming "a firm believer," as Jenkins put it, during the course of the six-hour series.

But, said Jenkins, who has viewed the first Revelations episode, "[W]hat he promises to come to believe is a mishmash of myth, silliness, and misrepresentations of Scripture.

"Acknowledging that not everyone agrees with my particular take on end-time prophecies, at least they are based on some commonly accepted study," Jenkins said. "Revelations seems to draw from everywhere and nowhere."

LaHaye, the creator of the *Left Behind* series and a prophecy scholar, described the show as "unbiblical" and "weird."

"This story is based on some writer's imagination about the Book of Revelation," LaHaye said. "However, the writer clearly has not studied the book or maybe even read it."

The producers of NBC's Revelations have been quoted as saying they hope to appeal to the same audiences that made "The Passion of The Christ" and the *Left Behind* series crossover hits. LaHaye said he feels Reve-

lations will fall short, noting, "This is a good example of someone who doesn't know the message [of The Passion or Left Behind] and doesn't know that he doesn't know."

But Jenkins said the series is not all bad news. "I believe in end-times events, and I want to see the subject of the return of Christ remain on the table of public discourse for as long as possible," he said.

If productions such as NBC's miss the mark and are commercial failures, however, the seeming awakening of Hollywood to spiritual themes may become another passing fad, Jenkins said.

Christians who watch Revelations may be able to discuss its inaccuracies with friends and family, Jenkins added. "I recommend watching it but with a healthy dose of skepticism," he said. □

Conn. Senate bucks trend

Baptist Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Bucking a nationwide trend, the Connecticut Senate passed a same-sex civil unions bill April 6 with ease, but opponents held out hope that it still could be defeated in the House.

The bill would make Connecticut the second state in the country to legalize same-sex civil unions and the first to do so voluntarily. Vermont's legislature legalized civil unions following a court order.

Civil unions grant homosexual couples many of the same legal benefits of marriage without using the word "marriage." California has something similar but calls them "domestic partnerships."

The bill passed the Connecticut Senate, 27-9, receiving support from 21 Democrats and six Republicans. Six Republicans and three Democrats voted against it.

It now moves to the state House, where it is favored to pass before going to Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell, who has indicated her support for civil unions.

Rell and Senate Republicans favored amending the bill so that it explicitly bans same-sex "marriage." Connecticut has no such law. But such an amendment failed on a 23-13 vote.

The margin in the Senate is veto-proof. Opponents, though, hope the bill either is defeated in the House or that Rell vetoes it and the House fails to override her veto.

"We believe we have a very good chance to stop this in the House," Brian Brown, executive director of the Family Institute of Connecticut, said, according to the *Hartford Courant*.

The newspaper reported that the bill's supporters say they already have the votes for passage in the House. □

Virginia Baptists, Averett sever ties

Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Virginia Baptists have approved a joint statement developed with leaders of Averett University that will end their 145-year-old ties to the school.

The Virginia Baptist Mission Board adopted the statement during its spring meeting April 6. Averett's trustees are set to consider the statement at their regular meeting April 15.

The vote by the Mission Board — which is authorized to

act for the Baptist General Association of Virginia — ends a century-and-a-half relationship with the school in Danville that was clouded the last two years by disagreement over homosexuality.

The most recent flap was a school-approved gay advocacy group — prompted the best discussion and the statement.

"Because of our current differences, we now resolve to separate paths with blessing on one another, recognizing these paths might join again a future time," said the statement, which was drafted by Mission Board leaders. Averett's president and trustee chair at a March 17 meeting.

In practical terms, "separate paths" will mean dissolution of the covenant approved last year between the BGAV and Averett and ending the BGAV's practice of nominating a portion of Averett's trustees.

Last year, in response to an earlier disagreement over sexuality, the BGAV reduced its annual financial allocation to Averett — in recent years averaging about \$350,000 — to fund theological education in Roanoke. The joint statement stipulates that responsibility for the Southwest Virginia Christian Leadership Network, which was to be jointly administered by Averett and the Mission Board, will be assumed solely by the BGAV.

"We take this action with bitterness or ill will but with strong resolve," said BGAV executive director John Upton, an Averett graduate.

"Our position has long been clear and decisive that homosexuality is a lifestyle that is contrary to Scripture and is contrary to stated Virginia Baptist core values." □

Kansas is 18th state to pass amendment

Baptist Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Demonstrating that the national movement to ban same-sex marriage shows no signs of slowing, Kansas voters passed a constitutional amendment April 5 by an overwhelming margin of 70.30 percent.

The amendment, which bans both "gay marriage" and "domestic-style civil unions," is in all but one county.

All total, 18 states now have adopted marriage amendments and others are almost certain to join that list in the next few years.

Incredibly, the 18 amendments have passed with an average of 70.3 percent of the vote. Only two of them — Idaho (59) and Oregon (59) — received less than 60 percent support.

A marriage amendment

Dream comes true for former Tennessee ...

— Continued from page 1

sclerosis and was returning to her parents' home in Tucson, Ariz.

But Knight told her mom she wasn't interested in the job. "I didn't want to come in after Amanda. She's somebody I will always look up to so I couldn't imagine that."

Then "God moved us here,"

explained Knight. Corey was working in Nashville and she was looking for a job.

"God just opened the doors. I applied for the job and got it. God knew this was it even though I didn't. He had to convince me."

She's experienced some strange feelings in her new job as WMU preschool, children,

and student specialist, which she has held for five months.

Saffel, her former Acteens director from First Church, Waverly, came into the state office in Brentwood recently in her role as chairman of the Tennessee WMU scholarship committee. Knight said it was strange to see Saffel from the perspective of her new job.

Of her new assignment with Tennessee WMU, Knight said, "I never would have expected it. Well, I guess that's really not fair to God.

"You don't really expect your dreams to come true, but they do," said Knight. □



ASSEMBLING BAGS of materials for Connection participants at the Baptist Center, Brentwood, are Andrea Knight, center, of the TBC WMU staff, with help from Jenni Claggett, right, state Acteens panelist of Nashville; her mother, Denise, left; and sister, Ashley.

10,000-plus Acteens, women challenged to follow Jesus ...

Continued from page 1
her executive director's
Phillips reminded the
that "WMU is a love
started by women who
of the Lord.
Today we carry on that love
of God, that love of missions,
that love of people," she

Bill George of the TBC Evan-
gism Strategies Group told the
present of the urgent
for new church starts in
Tennessee.

He noted that there are three
million people in Tennessee who
have no relationship with Jesus
Christ, and that 82 percent of
more than 5.6 million people
live in Tennessee will not be
in church on any given Sunday.
"You are living in a mission
field," George noted and
stated that new churches are
needed to reach many of those
unreached people.

He thanked the women for
their efforts in promoting the
Women's Offering for Tennessee
missions and encouraged them
to increase their efforts, both in
forming more churches to give to
WMU and for churches cur-
rently giving to increase their

"The harvest is not waiting.
We must win them and win
them now," George said. "Let's
make a difference."

Tennessee WMU members
heard reports from various
missions sponsored by WMU
and an update on their endow-

Shelby Lord, a member of
the Baptist Church, Lenoir
County, was elected to a third term

as president (see photo of offi-
cers on this page).

Missions challenge

Connie Cavanaugh of Cal-
gary, Alberta, Canada, was the
featured worship leader for the
Get-Together.

"Do you want to follow
Christ?" she asked the partici-
pants on Saturday night.



CAVANAUGH

If so, she
said, be pre-
pared to walk
through the
fire.

She encour-
aged the
women not to
be afraid of
the fires in life
they will face. "God uses the fire
of our circumstances to refine us
and purify our faith," she said.

Cavanaugh told participants
that following
God "through the
fire" will require
walking by faith
and reckless obe-
dience.

She noted that
God may be call-
ing "you to some-
thing that seems
impossible or is
crazy.

"Don't get
caught up in the
swirling waters of
doubt. If you do,
you might sink.

"Recklessly
obey and keep
looking for the
miracles," Cava-
naugh chal-
lenged. □



NEW OFFICERS AND PROMOTION DIRECTORS of Tennessee WMU include, from left, Anna Jo Crabb, vice president, west; Dorothy Adams, promotion director, east; Phyllis Cobb, vice president, middle; Louise Borden, promotion director, southeast; Dottie Kelly, promotion director, northwest; Delores Coffey, vice president, east; Shelby Lord, president; Jimmie Lynn Phillips, promotion director, southwest; Sharon Lunsford, recording secretary; Elaine Pearson, promotion director, central; and Ruby Brown, promotion director, south central. Promotion directors not available for photo were Norma Hancock, north central, and Phyllis Finchum, northeast.



GARY RICKMAN, TBC ministry coordinator, shares information about the Cooperative Program with **Ginger McMinn** of Ellendale Baptist Church, Bartlett.



TBC ACTEENS PANELISTS, from left, Brigitte Peery, Sarah Ginn, Dani Westerman, and Jenni Claggett help load boxes of shoes destined for the Servant's Heart Ministry in Columbia. Assisting the Acteens was David Graves of Servant's Heart Ministry.

Volunteers needed for SBC annual meeting in Nashville ...

Continued from page 1
Shrum noted the Nashville
meeting will give Ten-
nessee Baptists who have not
attended a convention "an
opportunity to be involved in an
organization they love."

Shrum said the convention

provides
opportunities
to move on
"inside"
to see what
conven-
tion is about.

A lot of
of the
members
have
been to
the annual meeting," Shrum
said. "Volunteers can come
and participate in a mean-
ingful way something they have
experienced through the Cooper-
ative Program."

Wilkerson also noted the
annual meeting provides oppor-
tunities for local Baptists to
participate alongside other Bap-
tists they normally would not

It's an opportunity to build
relationships with other Bap-

tists in the city and state,"
Wilkerson said.

The greatest need for volun-
teers is ushers, although work-
ers also are needed in registra-
tion, child care, and other
areas, he said. Wilkerson added
that "we will find a place to
serve" for any
volunteer
willing to
work.

Volunteers
can work one
shift or multi-
ple shifts, the
two men
noted.

"We will
take volunteers for four hours
or four days," Wilkerson said.

Most of the volunteers will
work at the GEC, Wilkerson
said. He noted, however, child
care will be held in the conven-
tion center which is connected
to the GEC by an underground
walkway.

Wilkerson emphasized there
is something for all age groups.
Child care will be provided for
ages birth-kindergarten, while
a children's conference is

planned for ages 6-12, and a
Centrifuge event is slated for
teenagers 13 and above.

An effort was made so it
would be family friendly, Wilk-
erson said.

Both Shrum and Wilkerson
feel the excitement that has
been created by SBC President
Bobby Welch about Crossover,
an evangelistic thrust which
will be held prior to the annual
meeting, has created additional
interest in the annual meeting
and may boost attendance.

Wilkerson said he antici-
pates between 10,000-12,000
messengers, which would be up
considerably from the approxi-
mately 8,600 who attended last
year's annual meeting in Indi-
anapolis, Ind.

"Bobby Welch has generated
excitement and energy for peo-
ple to come," he observed.

Additional information
about the SBC annual meeting
will be available at
www.sbc.net. Potential volun-
teers can also contact Shrum at
(615) 228-2546 or Lynn Rich-
mond in Wilkerson's office at
(615) 782-8602. □



SHRUM



WILKERSON

SBC volunteer opportunities

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Volun-
teers are needed to help at
the annual meeting of the
Southern Baptist Convention
in June. Following is a list of
areas, along with contact
information for the person
responsible for enlisting volun-
teers in that area. Unless
noted otherwise, all phone
numbers are in the (615) area
code.

**Local Arrangements
Committee** — Kevin Shrum,
chair, Inglewood Baptist
Church, 228-2546

Ushers Subcommittee —
Sterling H. Lance Jr., co-
chair, Two Rivers Baptist
Church, 726-2216; Randy
Early, co-chair, Inglewood
Church, 963-2613

Registration Subcommittee —
Rusty Sumrall, co-
chair, Nashville Baptist Asso-
ciation, 259-3034; Andre

Duggar, co-chair, Grace Bap-
tist Church, 865-6262

**Transportation Subcom-
mittee** — Kevin Shrum, 228-
2546

First Aid Subcommittee —
Erin Israel, chair, Inglewood
Baptist Church, 782-8667

**Information Subcommit-
tee** — Mike Shelton, chair,
Bellevue Baptist Church,
646-2711

Preschool Subcommittee —
Jennifer R. Enzor, chair,
Bellevue Church, 277-8612

Prayer Subcommittee —
Joy Nabi, chair, Harpeth
Heights Baptist Church, 662-
0327

Anyone interested in vol-
unteering for any of these
areas may call the person(s)
directly.

For additional informa-
tion, contact Shrum at 228-
2546 or ichurch@aol.com or
Lynn Richmond at 782-8602
or lrichmond@sbcc.net. □

Welch meets Nashville mayor; voices prayer for city, convention

By Michael Foust
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch met with Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell April 5 and asked him to pray for the convention in the weeks leading up to the SBC's June 21-22 in the state's capital city.

Welch and Purcell met in the mayor's office alongside Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, and James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources, for about 30 minutes.

"Southern Baptists have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the city of Nashville," Welch said afterward, adding that he wants to make the relationship "stronger and stronger."

Purcell, a professing Christian, will deliver the city's welcoming remarks at the annual meeting in Nashville, while recording artist Ricky Skaggs, a Southern Baptist, will deliver the convention's response.

During the meeting the men paused to allow Welch to pray

for Purcell in his work as mayor and to pray for the city and the upcoming SBC meeting. Welch also asked Purcell for his prayers for the SBC sessions.

"This part of the world has some of the most loving and gracious people in all of the United States and the world, and we want to foster that relationship," Welch told Baptist Press. "I wanted to personally meet and say hello to the mayor, since he is going to give our welcome."

Welch is pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., but moved temporarily to Nashville in late February to speak to area churches and encourage participation in the convention — specifically in the Crossover evangelistic thrust set for June 18, when thousands of people will take to the streets to spread the gospel.

"I think we have the poten-

tial of having one of the most thrilling meetings we've had in a long, long time," he said.

Welch will move back to Daytona Beach in early May. By then, he will have spoken to around 100 churches and groups throughout middle Tennessee.

"My heart's desire for this meeting is that the pastors and the people of these churches will feel ... encouraged because, after all, the Southern Baptist Convention is made up of pastors and people in local churches," Welch said.

"My going out there [to speaking engagements], moving around to large places and small places, and places that are rural and places within the city is to try to communicate the fact that we're all important in the kingdom of God and in this convention." □



WELCH

Tennessee Baptists to serve on SBC Resolutions Committee

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — SBC President Bobby Welch has named the members of the Resolutions Committee who will serve during the June 21-22 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting here.

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., appointed Gene Mims, interim pastor of College Heights Baptist Church in Gallatin as committee chairman.

Two other Tennessee Baptists were named to the 10-member committee — Joseph Rogers, pastor, First Baptist Church, White House, and David Wilson, pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville.

According to SBC bylaws,

proposed resolutions be submitted as early as April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider submissions. Resolutions may no longer be submitted during the annual meeting.

Bylaws also state proposed resolutions must be accompanied by a letter from a church requesting that the individual submitting the resolution be in good standing.

No person will be allowed to submit more than two resolutions per year, according to SBC bylaws. □

Brentwood hosts national conference

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A team of outstanding Southern Baptist preachers will be featured at the 2005 National Conference on Preaching (NCP), which will be held April 18-20, 2005, on the campus of Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood. The conference is sponsored annually by *Preaching* magazine, and this year's theme is "Preaching With Passion."

Although day-time sessions will be restricted to conference registrants, three evening worship sessions will be open to the public. The evening worship services are at 7 p.m. on Monday

through Wednesday, April 18-20.

The featured Southern Baptist speakers include: Jim Shaddix, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, Colo.; Robert Smith, professor of preaching at Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.; Mike Glenn, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church; Rick White, pastor of First Baptist Church, Franklin; and Jerry Drace, evangelist and conference leader from Jackson, and past president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

For additional information call (toll free) 1-800-288-9673, or visit the conference web site at www.preaching.com/ncp. □

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You may download registration forms from our web site at www.redbankbaptist.org

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Remembering the pope — a Baptist perspective



By David S. Dockery

ast week many around the world mourned the death of John Paul II. Born Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II was shaped by his Polish upbringing, particularly the aftermath of World War II. He was archbishop of Krakow in Poland and pope in recent memory. He had the impact of John Paul II as he toured across the world during the early years of his papacy, stirring millions, particularly young people, to more faithful commitment to the church and to humankind. He was trained in drama and acting during his college years. There he learned the importance of a "pivotal moment," which has, to the amazement of many, been a key which has connected with young people in such

an exciting way all around the world.

The pope was a voice of hope for those who suffered at the hands of tyranny and communism. The freedom of the oppressed in Poland, the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, the fall of Latin American dictatorships, and the new openness to religion in Cuba cannot be understood apart from the obvious fingerprints of Pope John Paul II on these events.

At the heart of this pope's message over the past two decades was the resounding theme that it is the task of men and women to make life more human, to achieve full dignity. Freedom, he maintained, is the condition of this dignity, but freedom is under threat from oppressive governments, from atheism, from consumerism, and from a misunderstanding of human rights. He did not waver from his message over the past 26 years.

A second major theme was society's obligations toward the poor, and the achievement of greater social justice. While

serving as a powerful and active advocate on behalf of the poor, he was especially critical of Marxism and liberation theology, in what he saw as misguided efforts in behalf of the poor — efforts that are not faithful to Scripture or the historical Christian tradition. In this regard he called for the silence of Brazilian liberation theologian, Leonardo Boff. This pope did not lack courage in challenging and disciplining thinkers like Boff or others he considered to be out of line with the church's tradition, such as the Swiss theologian Hans Küng or the Sri Lankan Tissa Balasuriya.

The crisis in the American Catholic Church over the priesthood and inappropriate sexual activity with parishioners, especially young men, was a scourge on the church and a source of much grief for the pope. He attempted to balance his concerns with redemptive discipline that nevertheless brought criticism from numerous sectors inside and outside the church.

Pope John Paul will best be

remembered as a champion of human rights, as an advocate for the poor, as a voice for peace, and as a stalwart of Catholic orthodoxy, particularly on matters like abortion and homosexuality. John Paul II spoke powerfully against the culture of death and his legacy will be grounded in his call for a new commitment to a culture of life. As the Roman Catholic Church enters a time of transition, it will be built upon this pope's efforts over the past three decades. In the future the church will likely be looking to the southern hemisphere for future leadership with the expanding influence of African and Latin American bishops.

As Baptists and evangelicals we will continue to have significant and substantive theological differences with the pope's teaching, including the very concept of the papacy itself. Yet, at this time we offer thanksgiving for the life, legacy, and moral courage of Pope John Paul II. □

— Dockery is president of Union University in Jackson.



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Wrong is wrong regardless of one's religion

An interesting story from Baptist Press (April 6) passed my desk last week. According to the article, leaders of three major world religions are uniting to oppose a homosexual pride festival expected to draw thousands of people to Jerusalem in August.

The article went on to note that Christians, Jews, and Muslims are speaking out against the festival, which is set to include a parade, film festival, art exhibitions, conferences, and parties. The article noted thousands of homosexuals are expected to attend the event in the Holy Land. According to BP, a dozen top religious leaders formed a rare alliance March 29 to draft a joint statement urging the Israeli government to stop the festival.

The statement said: "We are shocked to have received notice that a worldwide assembly ... is scheduled to be held in Jerusalem this summer, which will offend the very foundations of our religious values and the character of the Holy City," the leaders said, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. "Such an event would constitute a major affront to the hearts and souls of adherents of all religions — Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike."

I'm grateful that leaders from three diverse religions had the courage to stand together and speak out on the issue.

Too many times we are afraid to stand with people who we disagree with on many issues, even when we find a matter we can agree on. Just because I might agree with a Muslim and a Jew that this meeting is offensive does not mean I endorse their other beliefs.

Wrong is wrong regardless of religion.

One of the reasons our nation and our world is drifting so far from God is people will not take a stand for morality, regardless of where one stands religiously or politically.

As I write this, I can't help but wonder what Jesus would do. I believe He would have tried to stop the festival. After all, He ran the money changers out of the temple.

I also know, however, that if the festival was held, Jesus would be there among them, preaching His Word in love.

And that's what Christians should do if efforts to stop that meeting fail. We should never fail to take advantage of any opportunities to share Jesus Christ and His love. □

Letters to the editor

Heartfelt thanks

Let me offer you my heartfelt thanks and a word of encouragement. Having lived in several states, and subscribed to the best state paper in each, I unequivocally say that the quality of the *Baptist & Reflector* is the best by far. You achieve not only balance, but keep us well-informed about current life, relevant and current issues, and news items that we could never hear about anywhere else. I eagerly await my copy each week. The additions of the crossword puzzle and book reviews have only made it better. I look forward to what is coming next, as the *Reflector* enriches my life, challenges me to think, and as my walk with Christ, as my funnybone, and as my viewpoint. Thank you for striving for excellence and balance, looking to our Heavenly Father for guidance. I am confident that, as you stand before the God of the universe, He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Gail Stephens
Mount Juliet 37122

Memorize now

For the first time in my memory I forgot to change our plans and so I sat at my typewriter instead of being at church with my friends. My thoughts went back to my Bible School. For two weeks we went to church every two hours and studied the Word with each other. We sang by the piano and sang

"Jesus Loves Me" and "Praise Him, Praise Him" as loud as we could. Then we sat at the tables to hear stories of the Bible such as David and the giant and Daniel and the lions den.

We were given little cards with a picture and a memory verse each week.

It was many years later that I learned about Jesus living in my heart, but the foundation I had made it easy for me to understand.

When we are old and blind it is the memory we have that brings blessings into our lives each day. May we never fail to teach the stories of Jesus and encourage children to memorize the Scriptures.

Dorothy Witt Blake
Alcoa 37701

Issue settled

Concerning the treatment of Terri Schiavo, or lack thereof, I have no way of knowing because I do not know what her wishes were.

Our lives are a gift of God and He is the one to control it from conception to natural death.

As for me, no one will have to wonder. I have it in black and white that my body is not to be kept alive after all consciousness has expired. I expect that my wife will see that my wishes are honored no matter what opposition she encounters.

After experiencing the deaths of two sisters who were brain dead, it is like a death every day to see them in that condition.

Henry G. Harris
Clarksville 37040

Next step?

What is our next step in church music? Is it pompoms and clogging feet, somersaults over the pulpit while the orchestra/piano jazz a well-known hymn? Pastors, can't you do something to get our music directors back to their original calling and give us a decent worship experience again? Or is this what is wanted? A crowd at any price!

B.B. McKinney, Hines Sims, and many others labored for years to raise the spiritual and intellectual level of music in our churches. Are we going to throw all this wonderful heritage away?

Secular music is written to display the ability of the composer and allows the performer to display his or her artistry. In secular music, if words are used with the composition, the message is of much less consequence.

In contrast, religious music, while containing compositional skills, presents a verbal message in an attractive musical form to produce worship — a submission of self to the will of the creator. Participation in sacred music will bring the worshiper to repentance and openness to scriptural instruction. Religious words put to just any "tune" do not make it worshipful.

Some of our musicians are forcing on us a type of "praise" music that is neither worshipful or of good composition.

Current "praise" music also is "dumbing" down our congregations with lyrics that are intellectually infantile.

Hymns and anthems meet

needs. They bring comfort, praise, repentance, commitment to others' well being, magnification of the church, and eternal joy. They are intellectually stimulating as well as spiritually motivating.

Surely limits need to be set. If our music directors won't set limits, maybe our pastors should. If they won't isn't it time the congregations acted?

Norris Gilliam
Kingsport 37664

Consider Scripture

Mr. Wilkey (*B&R* editor, 3-30 issue) says he is considering a "living will." He wishes to let his children know his wishes when there is "no hope for recovery." He needs to consider Matthew 25:31-46.

Does he want his children standing before Jesus Christ and having to answer why they pulled the plug and let Him "die with dignity?"

Terri Schiavo could swallow her saliva. The judge ordered that no one was to give her food or drink by mouth.

One of the least among us was starved and dehydrated.

Ramona Sumner
Chattanooga 37415

Event cancelled

The Evangelism Next Conference, scheduled for April 25-26 at First Baptist Church, Smyrna, has been cancelled due to lack of registration. If you have questions, call Rachel Watson at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7933. □

Baylor women win national title

Associated Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Baylor University's Lady Bears basketball team won the university's first NCAA title in a major sport with a decisive 84-62 victory here over the Michigan State Spartans April 5.

The Baylor women's team finished the season with a 33-3 record, including 20 straight wins. They entered the NCAA tournament winner's circle by posting victories over three number one seeds — North Carolina, Louisiana State University, and Michigan State.

The Lady Bears' title made Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson the country's first women's basketball coach to play for a national championship team — 1982 at Louisiana Tech—and then win a championship as head coach.

Mulkey-Robertson, a former All-American and member of the 1984 Olympic gold women's basketball team, took the reins of the women's team at the Texas Baptist school five years ago, when the Lady Bears were last in the Big 12 Conference with a 7-20 record.

Baylor is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. □

Wellness run to be held at SBC

Baptist Press

DALLAS — GuideStone Financial Resources (Annuity Board) will sponsor the third

annual Living@YourBest Wellness Walk/Run during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Nashville.

SBC messengers and their families and Nashville-area Southern Baptist churches and denominational employees are invited to join GuideStone staff and local volunteers at 6:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, at Hilton Park across from the Country Music Hall of Fame. Start times will begin at 6:30 a.m. and will be staggered for runners and walkers.

"With the participation of local churches and Southern

Baptist organizations, we're expecting a record turnout this year," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said.

"We want Southern Baptists across the country to see this walk as an outward demonstration of GuideStone's ongoing commitment to wellness."

As a provider of life and healthcare coverage for Southern Baptist employees, GuideStone has made a commitment to promote healthy lifestyles and physical fitness.

The 5K course will take participants over the Cumberland River, around the Coliseum, home of the NFL's Tennessee

Titans, and back to Hilton Park. Healthful refreshments will be served to all participants at the end of the walk. Interested individuals can register online at www.GuideStone.org or by calling 1-800-262-0511.

Registered walkers can pick up their bib numbers at the SBC annual meeting site, the Gaylord Entertainment Center, on

Sunday, June 19, or June 20.

The first 750 registrars (age 10 and older) to their bib numbers will receive a free T-shirt. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUS

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, Tenn., is presently searching for a full-time minister of music. HBC is a church with priority on bold, expressive preaching, strong evangelism, soul-winning, and celebratory singing and worship. We have a choir of 50-60 with gifted and musicians. We are upbeat, blended, Christ-like style of music. A Jesus, the Bible, souls, local church is required with heart desiring the will of God. You feel the leadership of the Lord you can send a resume or audio or video of your past services to Pastor Denton at Hillcrest Church, P.O. Box 200, Lebanon, TN 37088. broglenn@hillcrestbaptist.org

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

Part-time music minister with strong desire to free will and worship the Lord. Ability to reach people of all ages. Contact Memorial Baptist Church, 2342 Duncan Rd., Maryville, TN 37803 or (865) 984-0465.

MINISTRY — PAST

Prayerfully seeking God for a full-time Hispanic pastor. Located in the Mission, Cherokee County, Memphis. Must be bilingual. Send resume to Hispanic Search Committee, Church of the Holy Spirit, 5340 S. Rd., Memphis, TN 38117, (901) 683-7349, garry.burkacki@cherokeebaptist.org.

Hillhurst Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Hody Dr., Nashville, TN 37203.

First Baptist Church of Union Grove is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 4201 Mobbs School Union Grove, AL 35175.

MINISTRY — CHILD

A full-time minister to children being sought by First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, AR. This first-time position will be suitable for working with children through 6th graders. Resumes to FBC, 2350 Ave., Hot Springs, AR 71901. mkmom@cablelynx.com

CLASSIFIED

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.

Seeking a full-time minister of students and outreach for a purpose driven church located in suburban Saint Louis County. Must have a passion for youth ministry and reaching students for Christ. College degree preferred. Please send resume and/or recommendations to Minister of Students Search Committee, c/o Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 Saint Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, MO 63044.

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.

Grace Baptist Church of Nashville, in the Madison area, is seeking a mature Christian for a ministry assistant position. The opening is a flexible 30-hour week placement. Must be computer literate with all Microsoft Office applications and type 60 wpm. Please include current church affiliation in your resume. Send to David Harbison, Associate Pastor, 1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207.



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book review

awn Ferguson

Getting Through the Tough Stuff

by Charles R. Swindoll
W. Publishing Group, 2004

ven when we're on the mountain top, we experience h stuff. "It's always something," admits author Charles Swindoll in his book *Getting Through the Tough Stuff*. Swindoll states that his purposes in writing this book are to show that "nobody is immune" from the tough stuff and to offer hope so that readers can face the tough times and get beyond them. "Mainly I wanted to assure you that you are not alone in the struggle," he writes. "The One who made you understands you. While He may push you through what seems to be your breaking point, He is never far from you. Because He cares, He stays near, even though you may not see Him. And because He loves you, He will make you make it."

Swindoll accomplishes his purposes in a book well worth reading today whether you're in the midst of pain or suffering or floating temporarily on a calm sea.

Swindoll devotes one chapter on each of the following: depression, miscommunication, anxiety, shame, doubt, divorce, remarriage, confrontation, pain, prejudice, crisis, inadequacy, disqualification, and death. And, if you're not experiencing a valley in your life right now or what most people would consider an extremely difficult or tough time, you're still faced with daily temptations, misunderstandings, anxieties, and most certainly, inadequacies and can benefit from reading this book.

Swindoll's face it. To be human is to feel inadequate," writes Swindoll. "We pretend we've got it all together. We act as if we are capable of handling the most challenging situations in life when, in fact, we're really not. We are basically powerless to face most of what we will encounter in this life. And actually there is a simple reason for that: it's because we've been created. It's how God made us."

God's Word states that our inadequacy comes from our sin (II Corinthians 3). He allows those feelings so that we may learn to rely on Him for our power and strength. In fact, Paul called his handicap "a gift" to keep him "in constant touch" with his "limitations." Potent words to remember when you're feeling overwhelmed and ill-equipped.

Throughout his book, Swindoll uses the gospel to show how Jesus faced the same tough times in his life. He refers to the movie *The Passion* and discusses the controversy surrounding Mel Gibson's bloody interpretation of the agony and suffering that Jesus endured in His death. Swindoll believes that one of the reasons God allowed Jesus to suffer like He did was to show us that there's nothing that we experience that Jesus hasn't suffered, therefore, He understands what we're going through. Swindoll points out that Gethsemane means "oilpress." There is no place more alone than one's own Gethsemane. You'll always feel a deep loneliness while you're getting through the tough stuff of pain. That's when Christ is there. Your best friends may fail you. Some will try to understand, but often they can't. . . . In the agony of need for relational support, you'll have all you need in Christ. . . . I know. He has met me in my own Gethsemane, and He will do so again and again and yet again.

"I don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. We've been through weakness and testing, experienced it all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get his help. He is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help." Swindoll quotes Hebrews 4:15-16, *The Message*. □ — Ferguson is a free-writer in Gallatin.

Controlled speech

By Robert Segrest

Focal Passage: James 3:2b-12; 4:11-12; 5:12

Mature Christians, with God's help, are able to control what they say and do. That's because their words and deeds flow from hearts surrendered to Jesus Christ. Conversely, immature believers, because they are prone to be more self-controlled than God-controlled, find speech management difficult at best.

In three chapters of his epistle, James had some significant things to say about the direct link that exists between real faith and godly speech. Apparently some of his readers had serious spiritual problems relative to some of the things they said. So, he wrote to help them understand the damage they were doing with their tongues and the changes they needed to make in their hearts to act and speak as mature believers.

James first focused upon the positive power of the tongue to do good with two illustrations of small things that control much larger things. The first was a small bit in the mouth of a horse that enabled its rider to control the large animal. The second was the rudder of a ship. Compared to the vessel's massive size, its rudder was extremely small. However, when moved by the helmsman it was capable of guiding the ship wherever he wanted it to go even on stormy seas.

Like a bit in the mouth of a horse or the rudder on a ship, the human

tongue, speaking Spirit-filled words, can accomplish great things for God. Think of how the Lord has used the simple but profound words of Billy Graham to move the hearts of thousands upon thousands to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord.

However, James assured his brothers in Christ that the tongue, apart from the Spirit's control, could do great damage. Like the vast destruction of a forest by a fire started with a single spark, uncontrolled words spoken by verbal arsonists can instantly wipe out relationships and reputations. Consider the firepower that springs forth from gossip. Once hearsay and slander leave the tongue to enter the ears of eager listeners, there is virtually no way to keep it from spreading. That's why James contended that the uncontrolled tongue is set on fire by hell. It perfectly serves Satan's destructive purpose.

James reminded his readers that human beings can train many types of animals to do what they want, but added that no person, without God's help, could tame or control the tongue. He described the undisciplined tongue as a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James asked with amazement how Christians could use their tongues to bless God and then turn right around and employ them to curse someone made in God's image. He wondered why if a spring could not give both sweet and bitter water, and if a fig tree could not produce olives or a grapevine produce figs, how the same mouth

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could speak both godly and sinful words? The answer was, of course, that it could not. Anyone doing that proved himself or herself to be a hypocrite before God and others. James added with a note of sadness: My brothers, these things should not be this way.

In chapter four, James told his readers not to criticize each other because that was taking God's prerogative as judge. This prohibition against criticizing others excluded the honest confrontation Jesus commended in Matthew 18:15-17 and Paul's instructions in Ephesians 4:15-16 to speak the truth in love to build up the church. His warning prohibited destructive criticism that tore people down with no attempt to build them up.

James' final admonition in chapter five instructed his brothers to always tell the truth and never to fall under God's judgment by attempting to reinforce their lying words with oaths. Every Christian's reputation should be so solid that a simple "yes" or "no" would suffice.

The tongue can either confess Jesus as Lord or deny that He is. Uncontrolled, it will always cast a shadow of doubt upon the genuineness of one's faith. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

Lead others to the Lord

By Michael Julian

Focal Passage: Jeremiah 28:1b-4, 7-11, 15-17

We reside in a world ignorant of the truth. A plurality of voices campaigns from the streets of human wisdom for attention. Competing truth claims parade the marketplaces wooing potential buyers. Yet even in the midst of rival world-views, God's people must not waver in leading others to the Lord, for we are armed with and empowered by the truth.

The prophet Jeremiah landed in a similar situation before the fall of Jerusalem. Hananiah, a prophet from Gibeon, confronted Jeremiah in the temple in the presence of the priests and all the people. The confrontation occurred on account of Jeremiah's message. He had been urging the people to submit to the yoke of Babylon. The people could claim their own lives as booty through submission to Babylon, and ultimately God's will. Diligently and persistently Jeremiah had been calling the people to trust in God and not the temple. He had repeatedly warned them that Jerusalem is not impervious to foreign attackers. Consistent and willful disobedience had opened the portals of God's judgment. They have made their bed and they must lie in it.

But Hananiah offers a competing claim. He announces to Jeremiah and the people that God has broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. In two years time, things will essen-

tially return to normal. No longer will life in Jerusalem suffer disruption by foreign, pagan invaders. Scholars debate if Hananiah was sincere or if he deliberately sought to deceive the people. Regardless, history teaches that he was a false prophet. The true test of a prophet is the accuracy and veracity of his words, and Hananiah's words withered under the scorching blaze of the truth.

In response to Hananiah's prophecy, Jeremiah opened his mouth to speak. Surprisingly, his first response was Amen! Jeremiah had the emotional desire to see this thing come to pass. However, Jeremiah had the sure Word of God that the exile would last 70 years. The task of the prophet is not to announce his emotional wishes that drip like honey from his lips, but to pronounce the sure Word of God whether that word is for building up or tearing down. Faithfulness to lead others to the Lord consumed Jeremiah. He would blow the trumpet of truth, no matter the cost.

Imagine that you are a resident of Jerusalem. You know the covenant God made in reference to the land of promise, and you know that the temple is God's dwelling place. One man announces destruction and another man announces deliverance. The man announcing destruction entreats you to submit to the yoke of Babylon in order that your life may be spared. The suggestion is unthinkable. Rebellion against the Lord would actually

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mean fighting against these pagan invaders. Where is the Lord, and why would He abandon us? Who should you believe?

Not to be squelched just yet, Hananiah took the yoke from Jeremiah's neck and broke it as a sign of how God would deal with Babylon. And the Scripture relates that Jeremiah went his way. Soon, however, the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah again.

Jeremiah this time speaks directly to Hananiah. His message is pointed and startling. Hananiah is encouraging a mutiny. Jeremiah exposes Hananiah as a false prophet for leading the people to trust in a lie. The situation darkens as God declares that Hananiah will be removed from the face of the earth. His death is foretold. Hananiah counseled the people to rebellion and mutiny against the Lord. In the seventh month of that year, Hananiah died.

In this passage we witness that rebellion will lead to death and submission will lead to life. The same holds true today. Submission to the Lord Jesus Christ brings life. The counsel pouring from our mouth should lead others to the Lord, not away from him. □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist, Mt. Pleasant.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world

Leaders

◆ **Mark Miller**, general leadership specialist for the Church Growth Strategies Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, recently was named the Outstanding Young



MILLER

Religious Education Leader for 2005 by the Baptist Association of Christian Educators. The recognition took place during the association's 50th anniversary celebration in Atlanta. Miller has served as minister of education at churches in Texas and Arkansas, and was minister of education at Hilldale Baptist Church in Clarksville prior to joining the TBC staff.

◆ **Victor (Tony) A. and Heidi F. Higgins** have been appointed as missionaries in Nashville by the North American Mission Board. Tony Higgins is a Nehemiah Project church planting missionary. Higgins, a Texas native, is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He is working with the Nashville Baptist Association to help start new African American and Anglo churches and lead discipleship and follow-up efforts for Crossover, the annual evangelistic event held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. This year Crossover will be held June 17-19 in Nashville. Higgins formerly was an associate pastor of Life Community Church, Brentwood, for two years, and an actor for 12 years in Atlanta, New York, and Los Angeles. Heidi Higgins, a native of Illinois, is a graduate of the University of Georgia, Athens. For nearly 20 years, she has worked as a professional songwriter, vocalist, vocal coach, and instructor. The Higgins have two daughters, Abigail, 9; and Elisabeth, 3.



T. HIGGINS



H. HIGGINS

◆ **Sung (David) E. and Sujin H. Choi** have been appointed as missionaries in Nashville by the North American Mission Board. Sung Choi is a Nehemiah Project church

planting missionary. He is helping start a church to reach the Korean-American community. A native of South Korea, Choi is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has served as a youth pastor in South Korea, Kentucky, and Ohio. For nearly two years, Choi served as the English pastor of Nashville Church of the Lord, Nashville. Sujin Choi, also a native of South Korea, helps lead Christian education ministries. The Chois have one daughter, Crystal, 4.

◆ **Edward L. Click** was called as pastor, Highland Park Baptist Church, Lenoir City, March 20. He also has been pastor of Central Baptist Church, Loudon; McPheeters Bend Baptist Church, Church Hill; First Baptist Church, Riceville; and New Midway Baptist Church, Kingston.

◆ **Ben Ward** has been called as pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Lenoir City. He is from Maryville. He has served two other churches as pastor since 1995.

◆ **Central Baptist Church, Loudon**, has called **Bud Slaton** of Greenback as pastor. He previously served as pastor of a church in Crossville. He also is maintenance division head for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

◆ **Donald Jordan** has been called as youth ministry assistant, First Baptist Church, Jackson. He is a senior at Union University, Jackson.

◆ **David Taylor** has been called as pastor, Shepards Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville. He formerly was pastor of First Baptist Church, Bulls Gap.

◆ **Tim Johnson** has resigned as pastor, Fishers Creek Baptist Church, Rogersville.

Associations

◆ The Woman's Missionary Union of **Nashville Baptist Association**, based in Nashville, will hold its annual meeting Thursday, April 28, at First Baptist Church, Nashville. Speaking are Myrtice Owens, retired International Mission Board missionary to Africa, and Clair Sumrall, who served recently for two years as a missionary in Indonesia. For more information, contact the association at (615) 259-3722.

◆ **Loudon County Baptist Association**, based in Lenoir City, held its biannual meeting on Monday, April 11, in the new addition to its office building. Roberto Souza, director of ethnic Baptist work in



CHILDREN, IN PHOTO above, who attended the Easter Celebration of Bible Hill Baptist Church, Parsons, show the eggs they found in an egg hunt. In photo below, adults of the church and some visitors gather. The celebration was held on Saturday, March 26, and drew about 95 people.



New England, spoke.

◆ **Bradley Baptist Association**, based in Cleveland, will hold "Women Reaching Women" on Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Cleveland. The event is a women's ministry leadership training event being led by staff of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville. For more information, contact the association at (865) 476-5493 or bcbaclev@bellsouth.net.

Churches

◆ **Fairfield Baptist Church, Centerville**, will hold revival May 1-4. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **Elkton Baptist Church, Elkton**, will hold an RU4Real Youth Rally Saturday, April 30, at 6 p.m. Chris Walker will speak and Paul Harbison will provide music. They are both from Gadsden, Ala. Group sessions will be held from 3:45-5 p.m. A pizza party will be held from 5-6 p.m. Walker is involved in the First Priority ministry and leads True Love Waits rallies. For more information, contact Dennis Cleveland, pastor, at dleveland-jn114@yahoo.com or the church at (931) 468-2569.

◆ **Meridian Baptist Church, Knoxville**, is planning to send a team to Guatemala July 23-30. For more information, contact the church at (865) 577-6617 or www.meridianbaptist.org.

◆ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold an East Nashville Crossover 2005 Evangelism

Rally Sunday, April 24, at 5 p.m. Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., will speak. Crossover 2005 is an annual evangelism project held prior to the SBC annual meeting. This year Crossover will be June 17-19 in Nashville. For more information, contact the church at (615) 227-2961 or www.shelbyavebaptist.com.

◆ **Ramer Baptist Church, Ramer**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, April 17-20. James Shutt will speak and Charles Cooper, minister of music, will lead the music. For more information, contact the church at (731) 645-3019.

Schools

◆ **Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City**, will hold its East Tennessee Spring 2005 Church Staff and Lay Leadership Conference on Thursday, April 28, at 9 a.m. The theme is "Your Church is Alive" and will be addressed by Bob Dale. For more information, contact Kathy Lawson of the college at (865) 471-3218 or klawson@cn.edu.

Statewide Events

◆ **Tennessee Campers on Mission** will hold a State Rally and work week beginning Friday, April 15, at Cordova Baptist Camp and Conference Center in Cordova. For more information, contact Sonny and Irene Guest of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, at (615) 758-7213.

Mid-America hold meeting distinctives

For Baptist and Reflector

GERMANTOWN — In a postmodern age where distinctions between denominations are often blurred or even considered irrelevant, how do Southern Baptist churches maintain their traditional positions of doctrine and identity? If so, how can they maintain their important distinctives and effectively reach emerging generations?

These questions will be addressed in a conference during some of Southern Baptist's leading theologians April 21-22, nine leaders will speak to a gathering of pastors, staff ministers, and at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary her "Maintaining Baptist Distinctives."

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will address the issue of "Church Authority." Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Committee, will speak on "Separation of Church and State: The Necessity of Baptist Distinctives" is the focus of an address by Michael Sprague, president of Mid-America Seminary; while B. Grayson, seminary president, will speak on "Baptist Mission-Minded People."

Other speakers include Danny Aiken, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Steve L. Provost of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Gerald Cowen, senior pastor and dean at Southeastern College in Wake Forest, Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Bob Pitman, pastor of Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis.

Additional small group sessions will address other issues including Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

The conference is open to the public. Conference sessions will begin on Thursday, April 21, with a banquet at 7 p.m., continuing on Friday, April 22, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for registration is \$30 for the conference, \$40 for conference banquet. To pre-register (required for banquet tickets) or for more information, call 800-968-4508 or (901) 8453. □