

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 15; April 20, 2005

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week's
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TBC's Pierson agrees

Prayer No. 1 issue facing churches: survey

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A LifeWay Christian Resources survey of more than 1,300 evangelical leaders from around the world revealed that the need for consistent and passionate prayer in church and personal life is the No. 1 issue in today's churches.

The April 11 announcement of prayer as the No. 1 issue culminates a LifeWay e-business initiative to ask evangelical ministry leaders from a variety of backgrounds to rank the "Top 10 Issues Facing Today's Church."

"This project was an opportunity for us to learn what challenges churches are facing," said Gary McClure, LifeWay's e-business marketing manager. And it will provide data with which the Southern Baptist entity can have "the opportunity to propose effective biblical solutions to those issues," he said.

The LifeWay unit compiled information and multiple resources addressing each

issue and has posted the materials online. For the complete survey results and reports addressing all the ranked issues, visit LifeWay's web site, www.lifeway.com/top10.

LifeWay's e-business department began the two-month online research project last November by distributing thousands of e-mails throughout the United States and world asking ministry leaders to cite top concerns in their churches.

From the initial list of responses, the 20 most frequently submitted answers were sent back to all the ministry leaders who responded to the first round of e-mails. During December, these leaders used the same Internet survey tool to rank their top 10 from among those 20 issues.

The resulting list of 10 issues includes such diverse topics as abortion (no. 10) and evangelism (no. 4). But it was prayer that ministry leaders cited as the most pressing concern in their churches.

"In order for today's church to remain strong in the midst of an evil society, it must be a praying church," said Gary Butler, a survey participant from Gospel Lighthouse Church in Anadarko, Okla.

"If we as believers ... want to see the same mighty move of God that the early church saw, we must pray just as the early church did. Show me a praying Christian and church and I will show you a victorious Christian and church."

Don Pierson, prayer strategist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, agreed.

He noted that as he spends time with Tennessee Baptists in local churches he notes prayer "is a big issue with them."

Pierson also offered his reflections on the importance of prayer in the life of a believer.

"I often talk about prayer being the number one priority of the believer, but what I really mean to say is that prayer is the lifeline of the believer," Pierson said.

"Prayer feeds us and all that we are called to do. Without a vibrant prayer life, I will be weak and all that I will do will be the same. My worship, my witness, and my witnessing will suffer," he said.



PIERSON

Pierson also agrees that prayer is a key to a strong church.

"It is true that where a church is healthy God does not hesitate to bring the lost sheep to be fed and nourished," he observed.

"An unhealthy environment is of little good to a sheep that is needing direction and care."

"Praying for all men includes praying for one another," Pierson concluded.

"Praying for all men produces an environment in the body (the church) that is healthy for the salvation of men," he said.

— See Prayer, page 2

Album featuring Knoxville church choir nominated for Dove Award

Donnie Davis Bushey
Host and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "Closer," a new album featuring Geron Davis, recording artist and composer of Nashville; the music of Kindred Souls; and the worship choir of Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville; didn't win the Dove Award it was nominated for by the 2005 Gospel Music Association on Tuesday, April 13, here. But according to Jeff Brockelman, worship pastor of the church, it was an honor to be nominated with such choirs as the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir of Brooklyn, N.Y., which won, and the Church Choir of Knoxville.

The award category was Best Gospel Collection of the Year. Other albums were nominated for the album, which was published by Brentwood Benson of Brentwood, sold 6,500 copies last year. It was the best-selling gospel collection album of the publisher in 2004.

Part of the reason for its popularity is the fact that it fea-

tures Geron Davis, said Brockelman. Davis has written many popular worship songs including, "We Are Standing on Holy Ground," and "In the Presence of Jehovah."

The 225-member choir and the rest of the church's worship ministry is honored to have been chosen by Davis to perform with him, continued Brockelman. Davis is a member of Christ Church in Nashville. The church's choir records often and Davis could have chosen to work with them, Brockelman explained.

Davis first visited Grace Baptist Church when Brockelman enlisted him to lead part of the 2003 Easter morning service. Davis asked Brockelman to work with him so the church's musicians could be a part of the concert.

Davis really enjoyed the experience and the church, said Brockelman. Soon plans were being made for "Closer." Davis wrote music for the album and the choir learned it and joined Davis in a concert at the church which was recorded for the CD in November of 2003. A DVD of



GERON DAVIS, recording artist and composer, and his wife, Becky, a member of the music group, Kindred Souls, perform with the choir of Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, at the church in November, 2003, in a live concert which was recorded for the album, "Closer." The album was nominated for a 2005 Dove Award.

the concert will be released by the church later this year.

Last year Davis and the Grace choir collaborated and recorded another concert for an album entitled, "Sing Joy," which will be released this summer by Brentwood Benson. Davis and the choir plan

to record another album in June.

Davis was so impressed by the congregation and how God was working there, said Brockelman, that he worked with him to learn some of the things happening at Grace Church so he could incorporate them in the

songs for the album. The album includes a testimony by a choir member and a testimony by Davis.

Brockelman said he doesn't know if Davis has done this at other churches he has worked with.

— See Album, page 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phone — (615) 371-2003

FAX — (615) 371-2080

Web Site — www.tnbaptist.org

Publisher — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

Convention Communications Committee —

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

Postmaster —

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

Frequency of issue —

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



Printed on
recycled paper

SEBTS raises \$16.9 million

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's capital fundraising campaign "Scholarship on Fire!" has exceeded its first-phase goal, with more than \$16.9 million in gifts and pledges received.

Southeastern's board of trustees heard that positive report, among others, during their April 11-12 meeting on Southeastern's campus here.

A significant portion of the money of the first phase of "Scholarship on Fire!" will be used to fund the construction of the Patterson Campus Center, a 59,000-square-foot facility that will serve as the hub of campus life. The money also will be used for Southeastern's endowment and student scholarships.

"Scholarship on Fire!" is a 10-year, \$50-million investment campaign that was approved by the trustees in 2002. □

Samford's Corts sets retirement

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Thomas E. Corts has announced his retirement from the presidency of Samford University here, a post he has held since 1983. A search committee has been appointed, and if they elect his successor before his stated retirement date of May 2006, he will step down earlier.

Corts, 63, made his plans known during a joint meeting of Samford's board of trustees and board of overseers April 14 and then told a larger audience of students, faculty, and staff, saying it's "time for fresh vision and new energy" in the president's office.

When Corts assumed the presidency 22 years ago, Samford's endowment stood at \$8

Union students take gospel to Romania

By Justin Belsly
Union University news office

JACKSON — The Romanian children had never colored pictures before. That shocked Union University freshman Amelia Lewis.

"As soon as we told them they could keep the pictures they had colored, they ran up to grab theirs because they had never had anything like that before," she said.

That was one of Lewis' most vivid memories from the week she spent in Romania in late March. The Romanian trip was one of eight Global Outreach mission trips that took Union University students, faculty, and staff members all over the world for spring break.

The Romania team members loaded the Union University vans on March 19 with many fears, but with the assurance of God with them. A majority of the students had never been overseas, and there was much anxiety.

"I prepared for the trip through a lot of prayer," Lewis said. "I expected it to be a time where the Lord showed me how He works in other countries."

After arriving in Bucharest, Romania, the team traveled by bus for three hours to the city of Braila, their home base for the week. Each day presented new challenges as the mission team was driven to a new village to make house visits with the people of Romania. While many hoped to be able to bring the Romanian people to Christ, others understood God was in control.

Freshman Cameron Armstrong knew it was important to plant seeds for God to harvest, but it was not his job to save the people of Romania.

"People think a missionary is supposed to take Jesus into the world when the truth is that He is already there and at work," Armstrong said. "We really didn't have anything to offer them except for Christ."

Learning new things about the people of Romania on a daily basis, the team quickly understood the majority of the people had grown up in the Romanian Orthodox church. Many of the team encountered resistance because of different ways and fears of the Romanian people.

Armstrong said he was humbled by the needs of the people in Romania, but quickly realized that Americans who have the most need were the people there. Although the people there own very little, Armstrong realized many have more than they could ever want with their passion for Christ.

"It's so amazing how content the people are there because although they have nothing, they have Jesus," Armstrong said. "It was amazing to me that because some of them have Jesus Christ, they are so motivated to share the gospel with others."

Lewis said although it would have been physically impossible for the team to meet the needs of the Romanian people, the one hope she could give them was Christ. Even still, Lewis said it was hard for the Romanians to look past the hopelessness that follows them. She said although God has laid His hands upon the world, Satan is still working just as hard.

"That compels me and it should compel others to spread the word of Christ," Lewis said. "The whole point of missions is so that others can worship God, so we should go in hopes that others will worship the Lord along with us." □

million and today it has grown to \$258 million. Also, more than 30 new buildings have been constructed on the campus and Corts has signed and presented more than 17,000 diplomas. □

Oregon justices invalidate same-sex 'marriages'

Baptist Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — The Oregon Supreme Court handed pro-family leaders in the state a clear victory April 14, ruling that marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples last year are

invalid and refusing to take up the issue of civil unions.

The court's 7-0 decision came one day after the Connecticut House gave homosexual couples in that state a watered-down victory, passing a bill legalizing civil unions — but not before amending it to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

The Oregon case began in March 2004 when Multnomah County — the state's most populous county — began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. But the state refused to recognize them and said they were invalid. Liberal and homosexual activist groups then sued the state, seeking recognition of

the licenses, which number more than 3,000. They requested that same-sex "marriage" be legalized statewide.

Prayer ...

— Continued from page 1

According to the survey final results, the top 10 issues were:

(1) Prayer: The need for more ongoing, passionate prayer both personal and church life

(2) Discipleship: The need for involvement of every believer being continually transformed into the image of Christ.

(3) Leadership: The need for clear, biblical vision and direction by church leaders.

(4) Evangelism: The decline among Christians in personal sharing of the gospel.

(5) Doctrine/Worldview: The growing pressure to compromise principles to make truths more palatable to an audience. The widening influence of explicit anti-Christian culture and negative influences on the church.

(6) Apathy: The seeming lack of personal interest, support and enthusiasm from the people for the work of the church.

(7) Marriage: The negative effects on families that result from divorce, adultery, etc.

(8) Relevance: The seeming inability of the church to answer questions one has living in the "real world."

(9) Homosexuality: The rising social pressure to accept same-sex behavior and relationships.

(10) Abortion: The church's lack of an effective response to 30-plus years of legalized abortion. □

Album featuring Knoxville church choir ...

— Continued from page 1

His songs are "easy to sing and they really speak to people where they are," said Brockelman.

On the album is the song, "Amazing Grace," which includes the following lyrics — "Amazing grace brought hope forever, all sin erased, remembered never; I live again because He took my place, thanks to Calvary, and amazing grace."

The album, "Closer," also has a song about the first time Davis visited Grace.

Brockelman said the church's worship ministry includes a full orchestra, band and media ministry. All of the groups are made up of members of the church who are volunteers. The choir is smaller during a Sunday morning worship

service because most members attend only one of the church's two services. Grace draws a total of about 2,200 to both Sunday morning worship services.



BROCKELMAN

served the church. And God is working in the lives of the members of the worship ministry. He has seen members saved during a choir rehearsal, he said.

"His (God's) spirit is moving in such a way that we can't take the credit for it and we can't

explain it, but we know who it is," he said.

Worship leaders can learn music and be very proficient musicians, singers, and performers, but if they don't clearly communicate the gospel, they aren't doing their job, he said. And if they aren't communicating "what the heart says to the Lord," they aren't leading worship.

He noted the Bible teaches that singers and musicians are to lead marches, battles, and worship.

"If we cannot communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ, why does anybody want what we have?" asked Brockelman.

Referring to the choir and other worship leaders of Grace, he said, "We do not need awards to give praise and honor to the Lord." □

Family life is no 'three-hour cruise,' says TBC's Rankin

Annie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

ATLANTIC — Borrowing a line from the old Gilliland Island television show of the 1960s, Tony Rankin told WMU members that family life today is "not a three-hour cruise."

He compared family life to the S.S. Minnow, the ship of the castaways which was tossed and beached by a wave.

"Families will face some difficult moments," said Rankin, a family ministry specialist in Church Growth Strategies Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Rankin led seminars on "Families in Crisis" during the recent Missions Get-Together here by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

Rankin cited eight crises facing families today.

(1) Changing structure of the family. In the last 20 years, divorce has quadrupled. Regardless of how you feel about divorce, it is impacting families," said Rankin, who also is a private counseling practitioner in Nashville.

Children are affected dramatically by divorce, he noted.

Some children live with a different parent every other week-end and in some cases every other day, he said.

He also noted a new situation emerging today is more and more children are being raised by same-sex parents. "We have to figure out how to respond to families with two 'dads' or two 'moms,'" he said.

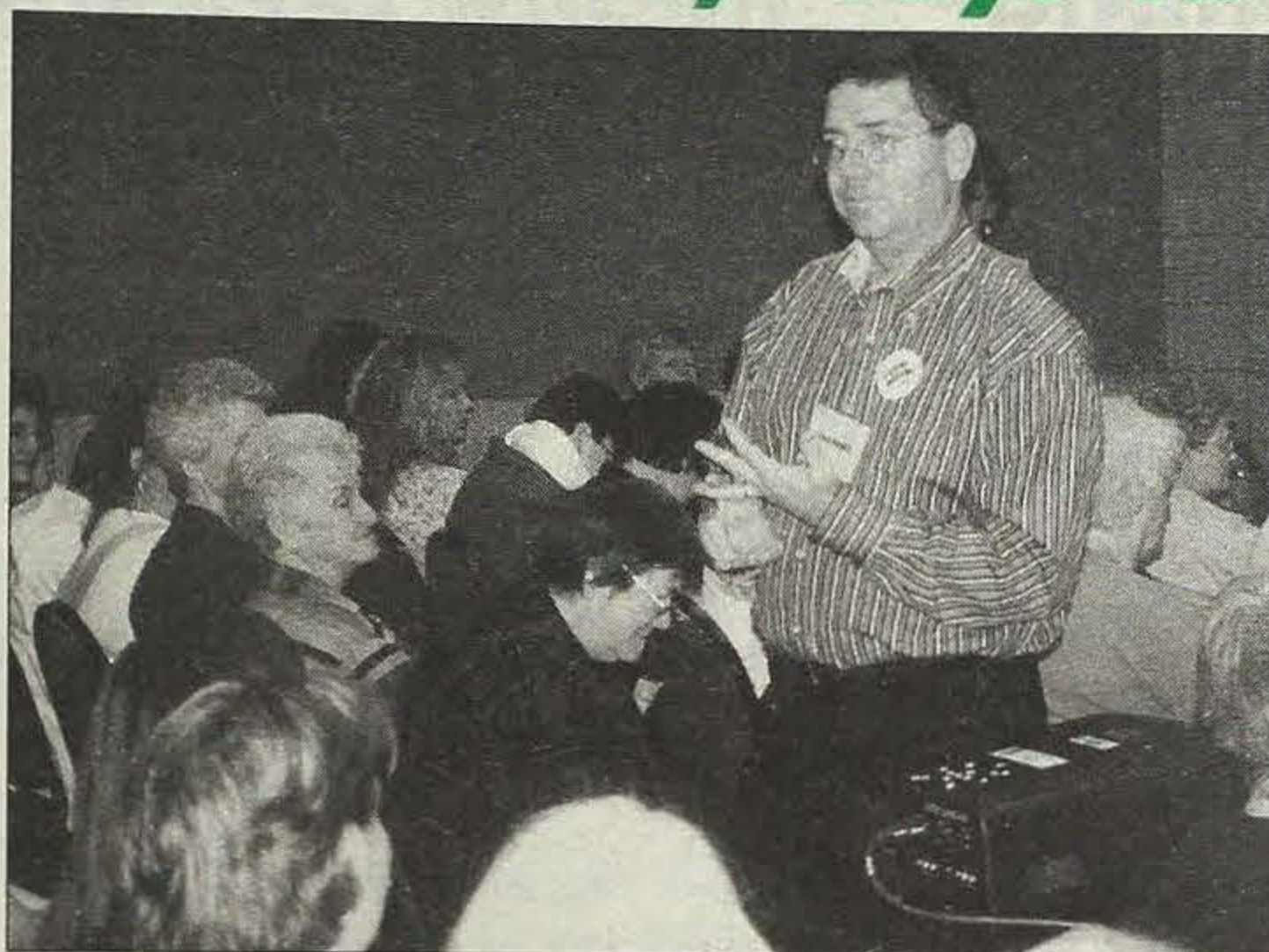
"It's a big deal for a kid in the fourth grade when his classmates don't understand when he says he has two dads or two moms," Rankin related.

(2) Struggle for moral purity. "We no longer have a dividing line between right and wrong," he observed.

What was wrong 20 years ago may not be wrong today, Rankin continued. "If we want to bring our families where they used to be with God, we have to come back to what is right and wrong."

(3) Impact of pornography and sexual material. "We have a crisis with pornographic material," he said. He urged WMU members to tackle this issue with prayer.

(4) Increase of emotional issues. Rankin noted that LifeWay Christian Resources has been keeping track of issues dealt with by kids who attend



TONY RANKIN of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff spoke recently to Woman's Missionary Union members from across the state about families in crisis.

their summer camps. "Last year the number three cause for crisis calls were the emotional calls of teenagers which included some who wanted to kill themselves the week before camp," he said.

(5) Emotional response is more intense. The experience of frustration, anger, resentment, and fear seems to intensify their emotional crisis, Rankin said.

(6) Decrease of family togetherness. The average fam-

ily today eats meals together on average two to three times a week, Rankin said, adding that 10 percent of all family meals are purchased at McDonald's.

"We are not talking or praying with our families as we should."

(7) Disrespect for authority and for rules. "No longer does a red light mean stop," Rankin said. In addition there is a blatant disrespect for people, he observed.

(8) Fear of breaking our chil-

dren. "We've gotten away from disciplining our children because we are afraid they will break," he said.

Rankin reminded conference participants that "we shouldn't be surprised as families when crises happen. They will happen," he said.

He related the story of Jesus asleep on the fishing boat in Mark 4:35-41 as a storm raged.

When awakened by His disciples, Jesus didn't minimize the problem, He just reminded them it was rain and thunder.

"Sometimes our problem is just noise. The crisis will pass. God has told us He will be with us during the storms," Rankin said.

He reminded them of the promise Jesus made to the disciples, "You will not go under."

Jesus provided that peace to His disciples and He provides it today, Rankin said.

The family crisis specialist encouraged WMU members to realize there will be families in their congregations who will face crises and he urged them to be friends to them and to help them know where to get help if needed.

"If you don't know what to say, find someone who can," he suggested. □

Tennessee lawmakers seek tougher divorce laws

Erin Curry
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In an effort to strengthen the institution of marriage, two lawmakers in Tennessee have proposed a bill to allow spouses who have been cheated on, abused, or abandoned to receive more than half of the marital assets rather than the typical 50 percent.

Two Republicans, part of a majority in the state Senate, introduced the bill, which is quickly gaining bipartisan support, according to *The Tennesseean* newspaper.

The hope is that we will be able to reintroduce some teeth to the divorce law and discourage some of the more egregious behaviors that lead to the breakup of marriages and the destruction of children that they leave in their wake," Sen. David Fowler, a sponsor of the bill, said.

Some say it's ironic that someone who fails to keep a business contract can be required to pay damages but a spouse who violates a marriage contract is not held accountable, *The Tennesseean* reported.

Under the law, a spouse would have to present clear and convincing evidence that

the other partner committed adultery, abuse, or abandonment in the year before the divorce was filed, and the person claiming to be the victim cannot be guilty of the same behavior.

"The institution of marriage has been diminished and it is not taken as seriously as it ought to be taken," Fowler said. "There are no longer any repercussions for entering into a marriage lightly and not working to maintain the marriage."

Tennessee's divorce rate ranked third in the nation in 1999 and 2000, and in 2001 it moved to ninth place — still far too high for some lawmakers.

But the proposed law is receiving some negative attention as well; mainly from attorneys who say the divorce process already is complicated enough.

"Our viewpoint is that these are already difficult enough situations and already lots of emotions involved and lots of feelings involved, and the more of these kinds of opportunities for disputes, then the more messy it's going to be," Allan Ramsaur, executive director of the Tennessee Bar Association, told *The Tennesseean*. □

Crossover to include event for bikers

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — On Saturday afternoon, June 18, hundreds of motorcyclists will rev the engines of their bikes, depart from The Coliseum in a parade around downtown Nashville, and arrive at Riverfront Park to drop off toys for children, enjoy a country music concert, and hear the gospel presented.

The activities are all part of "The Gathering" being held for the first time in connection with Crossover 2005, a massive pre-Southern Baptist Convention evangelism thrust covering a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area. The Gathering had a trial run in Muncie, Ind., in 2004, co-sponsored by 11 Baptist associations and F.A.I.T.H. Riders, a ministry of First Baptist Church at the Mall, Lakeland, Fla. The event was embraced as a Crossover event for 2005.

"We're looking for between 500 and 1,000 bikes. We're doing something bikers love, said Dave McClamma, associate pastor for pastoral care and senior adults at FBC at the Mall. He also rides a motorcycle and serves as staff liaison for F.A.I.T.H. Riders. He noted that motorcyclists are especially drawn to charity

events involving causes for children and veterans.

Toys collected at The Gathering will be distributed to children in hospitals and cancer and burn centers in the greater Nashville area.

"We want to make The Gathering a dynamic event in the city of Nashville as part of Crossover," McClamma said. "This is another vehicle to enhance the vision of Crossover. Our greatest desire is to see people come to Christ."

Crossover began in 1989 prior to the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas and has been

CROSSOVER

held annually in SBC cities. Crossover 2005 is sponsored by the SBC North American Mission Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven area Baptist associations.

While some details of the 3 p.m. event remain to be finalized, including the name of the country music artist who will present the concert, McClamma said The Gathering will include drawings for prize giveaways, free bike photos, and free food.

He said promotional information about The Gathering has been sent to motorcycle businesses in the greater

Nashville area and other cities. Also, radio announcements will be utilized, along with other biker networks.

McClamma said F.A.I.T.H. Riders began as a church ministry in 2002. To date, 173 persons have prayed to receive Christ and approximately 70 have been baptized. The church provides bike parking on Sunday mornings when approximately 100 gather for Bible study in a room that was once the garden center of a Montgomery Ward store.

As F.A.I.T.H. Riders has become an established ministry, chapters have been added in Greencastle, Ind., and in Daytona, Auburn-dale, Brandon, and Tampa, Fla. Additional chapters are expected to be added soon in Alabama, Tennessee, and Illinois.

More information about The Gathering is available at the F.A.I.T.H. Riders web site, www.faith-riders.com. While the event is free, McClamma urged riders to register on the web site to enable planners to accommodate all who participate.

He requested prayer for The Gathering, for the safety of the bikers riding to Nashville, for the safety of the toy ride, and that many will accept Christ as their Savior through the event. □

Age-old dilemma — taking responsibility for one's actions

families matter



By Paul Barkley

I want to jump off into some deep water today that has plagued psychologists and theologians for centuries.

In theology the subject has emerged as law vs. grace or legalism vs. license. In psychology it has shown up as responsibility vs. determinism. Long ago Aristotle and Plato introduced the debate of nature vs. nurture. What drives man to act and think as he does?

One side sees the innate, inborn drives that God created in us. The other side sees the environmental influences of living in a fallen world and impact-

ed by the fallen people and prince of darkness of this age. The theologians are divided between Calvinism that leans toward the sovereignty of God and the predestination of man and Arminianism, which leans toward free will and ultimately a form of humanism.

In dealing with my clients who are so immersed in our culture, I constantly fight the idea that we are all somehow victims of our genetic endowment or our environmental influence. They then hear some preacher talk about the total depravity of man and adopt the attitude of Adam. It's not my fault, God; it's that woman you gave me (as though it is ultimately God's fault for making us the way that He did). It appears that man has always sought an excuse to evade his own responsibility for his choices and actions. Psychology has played right into the hand of those who are looking for excus-

es. "I can't help it. I was raised in a dysfunctional family." "That's just my personality, I can't help it." "I am only a victim."

In dealing with parents in my churches who had children make bad choices and wind up in serious trouble, people would come to me to try to figure out where they went wrong and what they did to cause the child's bad behavior. I would usually tell them that I knew of only one perfect parent and He had two perfect children that He placed in a perfect environment. They still made bad choices and had to face the bad consequences of those choices. Did Adam and Eve sin because God made them imperfectly vulnerable to sin? Or did He place them in a flawed environment that led to their bad choices? Whether we are Calvinist or Arminian, believe in endowment or environment, we have to recognize the responsi-

bility that God held Adam and Eve accountable for their own choices.

While I recognize the strong influence that our genetic endowment exerts in our development, I cannot dismiss one's responsible choice. One would be a fool to deny the influence of environment on behavior. But I would still argue for responsibility. I do not care how poor you were raised. You are not excused for robbing the bank. I don't care how many blood family members were alcoholics. You are not condemned to alcoholism.

It is my considered opinion that when personal choice and responsibility are taken out of the equation, one will always come up with the wrong answer when one tries to determine whether behavior was caused by environment or endowment. This does not take either of them out of consideration. It only puts them in proper per-

spective in consideration of personal responsibility.

I would conclude by inviting my reader to consider empowering this concept. It is only as I acknowledge sin and ask God for forgiveness that I can receive His forgiveness and enter into the abundant life that He desires. His children. In my human relationships, when I play the victim, I give away my power to control my life to the people in my environment or the far origin. The more power I give away the less I have.

As I take responsibility and become accountable for my actions, I can take credit for my success as much as for my failure. I am no longer at the mercy of fate, friends, family, or circumstance. I am free to be my choice. God's help. □ — Barkley is associate professor of psychology and religion at Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis.

Encourage teenagers to 'remember who they are'

a parent speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

Whenever her teenage daughter leaves the house, my friend never fails to say: Remember who you are!

"Sending her off with a hug and this simple phrase, I hope she'll remember my advice if temptation comes her way," says this wise mother.

Today's teens live in a different world than even a genera-

tion ago. Drugs, alcohol, sexually transmitted diseases, terrorism, and numerous other evils confront today's youth. Advertisements show beautiful girls and handsome boys who made these choices as "living the good life." Numerous friends, all good-looking and dressed in the latest fashions, stand nearby. However they fail to show the despair, hopelessness, and lost opportunities of ruined lives.

Why should we, as parents, remind our children to "do what's right, to hold steadfast to Christian teachings, and to always listen to that inner voice? It's because...

(1) You are made in the image

of God. You are wonderfully and gloriously made. By remembering who you are, you validate yourself as a child of God. Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

(2) You have a family that loves you. Watching your children grow up, you prayed for them, asking God to guide them and keep them safe. Wise parents realize their children belong to God; they are only ours to nurture and love for a brief period.

(3) You have supportive friends. Children who attend church as a family benefit from

making friends from different age groups. Perhaps younger children see your offspring as role models. Their peers seek them out when problems arise in their lives and homes. And senior adults look forward to teens that take time for conversation. Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) advised people to make friends throughout life by saying, "If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself alone. A man should keep his friendships in constant repair." Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) said, "The only way to have a friend is to be one."

(4) You have a great future.

There is nothing you can do but what God has blessed you with a mind and a healthy body. Because you have been a responsible student, you are focusing on either a job-relevant career or post-secondary education. Regardless of what you choose, never allow yourself to cease learning.

Remembering who you are can make a difference in what you go, the friends you choose, and the path you take — only today, but all your tomorrow. □ — Tomlin writes for numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pasteurist at Ward's Grove Baptist Church in Jackson.

Major flaws

The reader (Letters to the Editor, April 6) who agrees with "our president that we should err on the side of life" brings up an interesting point.

Why doesn't this phrase apply when talking about the death penalty, where it has been shown time and again that it is possible for innocent people to be condemned? I hope those who decry this "outrageous, heartless, and brutal act" (as one reader described Terri Schiavo's death) would continue in their fight for the sanctity of life, and to recognize that all lives are worth saving, not just the ones who are easy to love.

To be a supporter of "right to life," but also support state killing is hypocritical, doesn't make sense, and has major flaws in logic.

And to the pastor who railed against our judiciary, please do not blame the judges. Attacking them personally breeds more baseless, uninformed hatred,

which as we have seen recently can lead to senseless violence against innocent civil servants and bystanders. Judges are just doing their jobs, interpreting and upholding the laws that were made by others, their personal feelings aside — the same as when they uphold the death penalty.

Suzanne Craig Robertson
Nashville 37221

Another viewpoint

I read with much interest about all the good that Pope John Paul II did during his reign as Pontiff over the Catholic church ("Remembering the pope — a Baptist perspective," B&R, April 13 issue).

However, in all of his television, radio, and personal appearances, he never one time presented the plan of salvation, whereby all humanity must repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the one and only way to God, our heavenly Father.

With all the love, respect, and reverence that the pope had earned from people of every walk of life, he could have won millions to Christ!

As a Baptist, this is the way I see it from my point of view.

H.C. Vaughn
Kingsport 37660

Supports effort

The easiest way to squelch a newspaper is also the simplest — starve it to death.

Critics of a free press often think of the paper as a danger to the critics' ideas and beliefs — political and/or religious. Almost all state Baptist newspapers have paltry support from grassroots, and often from leaders.

The same critics may fear a free state newspaper. Most of them are in an ongoing struggle for income. Baptist state conventions often have too many mouths to feed, too many programs, and ministries to support.

A few state Baptist conventions are blessed with newspa-

pers — who are strengthened financially with endowment funds. As a former editor for three conventions, the last being Tennessee, I strongly support the recent establishment of an endowment for our own *Baptist and Reflector*.

Wm. Fletcher Allen
Franklin 37064

It's in the heart

On April 13 I received my weekly copy of the B&R. As I scanned through it, I came across the letters to the editor and one in particular caught my eye. It concerned music during worship.

As a bivocational, part-time youth minister, I have seen firsthand how spiritual and worshipful contemporary Christian music, or praise music, or whatever you want to call it, has impacted our younger generation, my own three daughters included.

I am turning 41 this week and have been in church since I

was old enough to remember. My great grandfather, Rev. Hammons, preached through Tennessee and Arkansas into his 90s and my dad, Ward, has pastored churches 30 years, so I am well versed in both the traditional and progressive services of today.

I could not have put into words what I read on April 13 when I opened my devotional book. It summed up what I believe exactly. It is all within our hearts that matters what is printed on the page, the hymnal or shown on screen on the wall.

I know my God knows and do not for a moment believe it was coincidence that the original opinion appeared April 13 and a devotional that was probably printed sometime in December or January, since I received it in February, included this as their April 14 devotional.

Eric V.
Fruitland Baptist Church
Humboldt 37064

letters to the editor

When it comes to criticism just R-E-A-C-T

om both
des of
e pulpit



By Johnnie Godwin

Not long ago, I got a mild criticism from the pew side of the pulpit. After I had preached, a church member smiled as he asked, "Why don't you be around more when you preach?" I wasn't offended at all and simply replied, "Because it's my style."

The man went on to say he wanted preachers to move around in the pews when they preach. Some preachers pace like a roaring lion.

Others move more like a poodle helping the Shepherd herd the sheep. If a preacher is just a talking head without the gestures and eye contact of a TV announcer, then the criticism may be justified. Mostly I say what I've got to say without being a moving target. I use my energy speaking instead of pacing. Still, my critic could be right. Moving around might improve my preaching. Another way — on both sides of the pulpit — we would all profit from knowing how to react to criticism.

What criticism is

Criticism usually refers to a fault with someone's behavior, talk, or personhood. It is when we don't match up with someone else's expectations or standards. You see, most of us want others to match our mold of them. Though criticism can be very helpful, we should deal with it in light of Romans 12:2: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remake you..." (J. Phillips paraphrase).

R-E-A-C-T

Nevertheless, I found early in my life and ministry that it's best to adopt a positive pattern of dealing with criticism. When I was a young pastor, criticism

was used to discourage me. Then well-meaning church members or friends would try to encourage me with comments like these: "Not even Jesus pleased everyone." Or, "Consider the source" — meaning discount the criticism because of the person who gave it.

I chose to take the path less traveled in dealing with criticism. I chose to R-E-A-C-T to it (which I've taught as a seminar and may later put in book form). The acronym stands for this pattern in dealing with criticism: (1) Receive it — take it in. (2) Evaluate it — including counsel from others. (3) Accept your own evaluation — dismiss it or move to the next step. (4) Correct what needs changing. (5) Tell the critic what you decided — with appreciation whether you accept or reject the criticism.

The source and motive of criticism aren't as important as the validity or accuracy of criticism. Criticism challenges us to evaluate the status quo in our lives and take advantage of opportunities to improve. So whether the critic is a friend, foe, or one of the "Neurotics in the Church" (Revell, 1963), seize the opportunity to improve instead of attacking the critic or defending yourself.

What criticism may be

Instead of faultfinding, criticism may be coaching. In other words, critics may see our unfulfilled potential and want to coach us toward that fulfillment. Copper Daugherty was that kind of person in my life. When I was 16, he became my boss and took me under his wing as an employee and in every other area of life as well. But it wasn't easy for me.

Copper's mentorship was like a blend of Bear Bryant and Vince Lombardi coaching a young player. At first, my teenage sensitivity was hurt, and I was unhappy with my critic. Gradually, though, I learned Copper had a golden

heart and was unwilling to let me become anything less than my best. So I learned to listen to his heart instead of his words. For over 50 years he loved me with his life and actions. I buried Copper February 1, 2005 — as he had gotten me to promise to just last year.

Although I never heard anyone refer to "Saint Copper," I was confident God had made him one (Romans 1:7; Ephesians 2:19). So I thank God for Saint Copper, who was one of my best critics and best coaches.

Pastors as critics

Sometime back, I wrote a column about being an interim pastor. Afterward, I got an e-mail with a smile on it from a widow whose husband has done interims. She said she liked it better when he was an interim because he was always in a much better humor than when he was a pastor. I knew what the woman meant; so do wives of pastors and interim pastors. In a nutshell, it's a lot easier to be a grandparent than to be a parent.

Pastors are called to be loving shepherds of the flock, but they're also called to preach the Word. Besides pastors' formative discipling of teaching, their calling necessarily includes the corrective discipling of "rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16, NIV).

In other words, pastors have a prophetic calling to be critics at times. Ideally, they speak the truth in love and reveal their caring hearts. When they preach on hell, it's with sadness rather than gladness. When they preach on repentance, it's with good news rather than gleeful condemnation. Admittedly, some pastors — much as some parents — would do well to lighten up and back off carping criticism and habitual negativity.

Criticism from the pew side

Pastors get a lot of criticism, both deserved and undeserved. Since the makeup of most churches is pretty diverse, it's reasonably safe to assume that the pastor won't match the mold everybody in the church envisions for him. But members serve their pastors and their churches best when they take their pastoral criticism first to God in prayer and then in person to the pastor.

Mouthing and gossiping about the pastor to others is destructive, unkind, and not in keeping with biblical counsel on the matter. If criticism deals with more than the way the pastor parts his hair, holds his Bible, or pronounces words, it would be good to follow the Priscilla-and-Aquila method of lovingly and personally talking with that "Apollonius" in private (see Acts 18:24-28). Then

chances are best for a good outcome on both sides of the pulpit.

Pastors speak a lot, and they're liable both to mistakes on their part and mishearing on the part of the congregation. Gracious pastors learn to say they were wrong and apologize when they're wrong. When a well-recommended but erratic music group performed in one church, even some of the church pillars got up and left. The next Sunday, the pastor apologized and took responsibility for the fiasco. He said, "It was a mistake that won't happen again, but don't beat up on us for three years." Everyone laughed, and the crisis was over.

But some matters of hearing and differences of interpretation aren't disposed of so easily. Many church members are hearing-impaired and don't understand the message when it is preached. But perfect hearing doesn't mean perfect agreement. Further, I've found that some folks have excellent physical hearing but are hard of listening. Because of biases, preoccupations, or whatever, they don't really hear the message. Yet, they tend to criticize it. Some of these people are psychologically deaf. It's a job to break through to them.

The art of being charitable

In dealing with criticism on both sides of the pulpit, it's a magnanimous, great-souled thing to practice the art of being charitable. Both pastor and people can learn to give each other the benefit of a doubt. They can learn not to sweat the small stuff, avoid being easily bothered, and be kind to one another.

My experiences have caused me to empathize with critics on both sides of the pulpit. And I do try to practice what I've just written about dealing with criticism. When a new pastor with a new style came to one church I was a member of, one of his critics sidled up to ask me if I agreed with the new pastor or not. I replied, "Well, I agree with him about 97 percent of the time. And, looking back on my own old sermons, that's more than I agree with myself." 'Nuff said. The critic left in silence.

May we all avoid thinking too highly of ourselves (Romans 12:3). May we avoid the habit of criticizing others and the negative results (Matthew 7:1). "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all" is old counsel with good intent in it.

Perhaps the better statement is, "If you can't say something constructive, don't say anything at all." Then, even in coaching, let's speak the truth in love. □ — Copyright 2005 by Johnnie C. Godwin, who is open to coaching via johnniegodwin@comcast.net

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Wrong models

Sports fans have been reading a lot in the last few weeks about college athletes at the University of Tennessee who are running afoul of the law.

And while I might want to poke fun at my UT friends, I can't. The University of South Carolina has had more than its share of athletes featured on police blotters in the last few months. It is probably one of the few areas in the Southeastern Conference where we "lead the league."

But as students at other schools have made headlines, it is evident that the problem is not limited to just South Carolina or Tennessee.

Why are our college athletes getting into trouble?

One, we must remember they are still "kids" and they are going to make poor choices. Also remember that other non-athletes are probably getting into just as much trouble. The pre-med, pre-law, and other students just don't garner the publicity an athlete gets. Athletes are "put on a pedestal" and some cannot cope with the pressure that brings.

Second, I suspect our college athletes are following some poor role models at the professional level. While there are some outstanding professional athletes who are positive role models, it seems that the bad ones always make the headlines.

Just last week a well known NFL player told his team he wanted his contract to be reworked because he was underpaid compared to other players at his position.

He may be. But he seems to forget that just last year he signed a seven-year contract that gave him more than \$8 million "up front" in a signing bonus. Had he had a terrible year, that money was his regardless.

But because he had a great year and boosted his team, he is not happy. He now wants more. Never mind the fact he signed a contract. Greed overcomes integrity, at least for some people.

With role models like that, is it little wonder that college athletes are struggling? They are developing that same "it's all about me" attitude early.

I fear this greed and lack of integrity and self control is simply a microcosm of society. We live in a society where "enough" is not enough.

Christians and churches today have to continue to spread the message that money is not the important thing. Instead, the only thing that matters is a personal relationship with Jesus.

If we say it loud and often enough, maybe people will finally learn — even the athletes. □

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"It was just a nightmare Eli... and besides that, business meetings aren't THAT bad..."

Says Cookeville pastor

New program helps folks with addictions, also hang-ups

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — Alcoholics Anonymous has helped thousands of people. But now Christians have a better program for people with addictions, according to a Cookeville pastor. The program is Celebrate Recovery and was developed by John Baker of Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, Calif., who was an addict.

Celebrate Recovery also will help people with other problems such as co-dependency, financial addictions and problems, sexual problems, eating addictions, anger problems, and others — what the program calls habits, hang-ups, and hurts.

Roger Payne, pastor, Miracle Mountain Baptist Church here, is thrilled. He has been waiting for a program like Celebrate Recovery for years, he said recently.

Payne was addicted to drugs 22 years ago. He became addicted to pain killers after being burned during the Vietnam War. That led to his addiction to other drugs. But none of that excuses what he did, Payne is quick to add.

He said when AA was developed, it was developed by Christians and for years had a Christian emphasis. In recent years, that emphasis has lessened, especially when used in government programs, said Payne, who is familiar with AA although he never was a regular participant. He was released from his addictions after becoming a Christian.

Payne also has other problems with AA. It doesn't encourage accountability among participants, he noted. For instance,

AA teaches the addict he or she has a disease which is incurable. If members have what they term a relapse, they are forgiven and given sympathy.

"I'll forgive you but I'm not going to feel sorry for you," declared Payne. Actually, the addict who turns back to his addiction has sinned against God, not other people, added Payne.

He believes the bottom line about using drugs and alcohol is that people choose to use them. But "through Jesus," addicts can be "delivered; you're healed. You may struggle but there is an end."

AA tells addicts that they will never be able to conquer their addiction. This also keeps the members so dependent on the program that it can become their god, said Payne. AA certainly does not make it clear that Jesus is ready and willing to help them. The program refers people to God as they understand Him, said Payne.

In Celebrate Recovery participants attend groups for a limited period of time. They deal with the future, rather than the past, which is the focus of AA members, explained Payne.

Finally, the program is different because of the power of Jesus in the lives of people, said Payne. And people need that. He noted that Cookeville and Putnam County are known for the number of folks making methamphetamine and for being addicted to it. As he ministers, he meets many other people addicted to prescription drugs, such as oxycontin, and many addicts who have been diagnosed with bipolar disease and given prescriptions for that, which makes their prob-

lems worse, he said.

Celebrate Recovery can help them, said Payne.

Payne also is excited about Celebrate Recovery for folks whose "walk with Jesus could be a lot stronger," he said.

Hang ups, habits, or hurts can lead to denial and unforgiveness, said Payne. Celebrate Recovery provides biblical teaching and then small groups where people can share experiences with others who have similar problems.

The groups are "safe places," said Payne, in that members will pledge to keep the names of members anonymous and keep among the group what is shared in the group. This is also done in AA.

Another similarity with AA is that Celebrate Recovery has 12 steps. They are different from those of AA in that they are biblically based, explained Payne. Each step is based on a Bible verse, he added.

"You may have something holding you back and you may think, if anyone ever found out I'm doomed," he told a group on Thursday night, March 31. The group was gathered at Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville, for a Celebrate Recovery Introduction. Since then about 20 people have been trained to lead CR groups.

He referred to Hebrews 12:1, which calls people to give "it all to Jesus. Give Him what you understand and what you don't understand and He will understand," said Payne.

Also speaking that night were



KIM WILLIAMS, youth director, Miracle Mountain Baptist Church, Cookeville, and trainer/teacher of the youth program of Celebrate Recovery, introduces the program to a group at Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville.



ROGER PAYNE, right, pastor, Miracle Mountain Baptist Church, Cookeville, and trainer/teacher of the Celebrate Recovery program in Cookeville, visits with Duane Graves, pastor, The Rock Community Church, Sparta; and Betty Newnam, a member of The Church, during a meeting on the program at Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville.

Kathy Payne, wife of Roger and a CR trainer/teacher, and Kim Williams, youth director of Miracle Mountain Church and youth trainer/teacher (see below). □

12 steps of Celebrate Recovery

1. We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable. — Romans 7:18

2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. — Philippians 2:13

3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God. — Romans 12:1

4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. — Lamentations 3:40

5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the exact nature of our wrongs. — James 5:16a

6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. — James 4:10

7. Humbly asked Him to remove all our shortcomings. — I John 1:9

8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all. — Luke 6:31

9. Made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them. — Matthew 5:23-24

10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it. — I Corinthians 10:12

11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and power to carry that out. — Colossians 3:16a

12. Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and practice these principles in all our affairs. — Galatians 6:1

— from Celebrate Recovery Books, © 2001-2004

CR teacher tells how family addictions, failed marriage prepared her for ministry

For Baptist and Reflector

COOKEVILLE — Kim Williams grew up in a home where her father and mother were addicts, fought physically, and the family had to move often because of financial woes.

Her father, Roger Payne, now pastor, Miracle Mountain Baptist Church here, became addicted to pain killers after he was burned during the Vietnam War. Then he became addicted to other drugs. His wife, Kathy, became an alcoholic.

Williams also saw her father undergo a spiritual transformation while she was an adolescent. Payne immediately gave up drugs and soon her mother gave up alcohol, Williams told a group gathered for a Celebrate Recovery Introduction meeting. The group met on Thursday, March 31, at Stevens Street Baptist Church here.

But when she was a teenager, Williams met a man who liked her even though she was "a little fat girl." When they had dated only a couple of times,

"he hit me across the face," she recalled.

She "didn't drug or drink or hang out," said Williams, but soon she married the man.

Her husband began beating her regularly, often every day, and drinking alcohol "constantly," she added.

Her family tried to help her and tried to influence her to leave him, but "I always came right back to him. I loved him," said Williams.

At one point in their marriage, she was supporting herself, her husband, and many members of her husband's family who were living with them. Then one of her husband's beatings caused her to miscarry a baby. Williams finally decided to leave her husband.

"It was the hardest thing I ever had to do," she related.

Jesus helped her, she said, because during the two weeks following her decision she earned her high school General Equivalency Diploma and sold nearly all of her possessions except her car.

In Cookeville with Paynes, Williams began working at a company where she started earning a good salary which allowed her to pay my own divorce," she proudly.

At work she met Williams, whom she eventually married. The couple have been married for eight years and are raising two adult children who were their first children. Kim now is a licensed practical nurse.

Of Vince, Williams said emotion, "In eight years never hurt me and never called me a bad name."

She believes her experience have prepared her to help others. She is youth director at Miracle Mountain Church, Cookeville, and is helped often by Vince. She believes participation by teens in the 13-week youth program Celebrate Recovery will help them. The name of the program is *Life Hurts, God Heals*. more on program in story at

"I know what they feel," she said of today's teens. □



Green Light

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



Tennessee BAPTIST CAMPS

Join us in 2005 for the best summer of your child's life!

2005 Camp Dates

Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center

- June 13-15 Journey Mini Camp for Boys
For boys 3rd-6th grade
Cost \$100 per camper
- June 15-17 Journey Mini Camp for Girls
For girls 3rd-6th grade
Cost \$100 per person
- June 27-July 1 Journey for Kids
For boys and girls 3rd - 6th grade
Cost \$195 per student, \$150 per adult sponsor
- July 11-15 Youth IMPACT
For students 6th - 12th grade
Cost \$195 per student, \$150 per adult sponsor

Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center

- July 22-24 Journey Mini Camp for Kids
For boys and girls 3rd - 6th grade
Cost \$100 per person
- July 25-29 Mission IMPACT
For students 6th - 12th grade
Cost \$195 per student, \$150 per adult sponsor

Specialty Camps

- June 13-17 All Nations Camp, Linden Valley
For ethnic children and youth ages 7-17
Cost \$75 per camper
- June 27-July 1 Super Summer, Austin Peay State University
8th grade - college freshmen
Cost \$200 for Early-Bird Registration

*Grade levels are based on the student completing that grade level at the end of the 2004-05 school year.

→ DON'T FORGET! ←

30th Anniversary of Special Friends Weekend Retreats, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center - April 28-May 1; Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center - May 20-22. These retreats are for persons with disabilities, their families, and persons involved in a special education ministry. Cost: \$60.00 per person. For more details and registration information, contact Gene Nabi at 615.662.0327 or email: gnabi@tnbaptist.org.

May 2-3 New Church Staff Orientation, Baptist Center, Brentwood. New Pastors/ Staff will have the opportunity to meet with the "One Servant Family" State Missionary Staff and to learn about resources available to help enhance the health of Tennessee Baptist Churches. To register or obtain more information, contact Linda Estey at 800.558.2090, ext. 2088.

May 4-6 TBREA Spring Rolling Retreat, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Legacy Center, Louisville KY. \$55 for meals and bus ride, additional cost for lodging. For more information on this event or for more information on the Tennessee Baptist Religious Educators Association, contact Tammy Harris at 800.558.2090, ext. 2054.

May 5 An Evening of Worship Through Song with the Tennessee Ladies Chorus and the Tennessee Mens Chorale, Central Baptist Church, Fountain City in Knoxville. Event starts at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Charlotte Hanson at 800.558.2090, ext. 7908.

May 5 Northwest Region Youth Ministry Update. Host: David Hagan from Calvary Baptist Church, Union City, 731.885.2961. For more information and locations, go to www.tnyouthministry.com or call Brenda Harris at 800.558.2090, ext. 7906.

May 10 North Central Region Youth Ministry Update. Host: Bill Stone from First Baptist Church, Cookeville, 931.526.7108. For more information, go to www.tnyouthministry.com or call Brenda Harris at 800.558.2090, ext. 7906.

May 17 Northeast Region Youth Ministry Update. Host: Don Pratt from First Baptist Church, Elizabethton, 423.543.1931. For more information, go to www.tnyouthministry.com or call Brenda Harris at 800.558.2090, ext. 7906.

May 23-25 Transitional Interim Pastor Training, Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport TN. Preparing ministers to take advantage of the unique ministry opportunities inherent in the interim period between the departure of one pastor and the arrival of another. For more information, contact Joy Clay-Corby at 800.558.2090, ext. 2018 or e-mail jclaycorby@tnbaptist.org.

Father's Day Offering

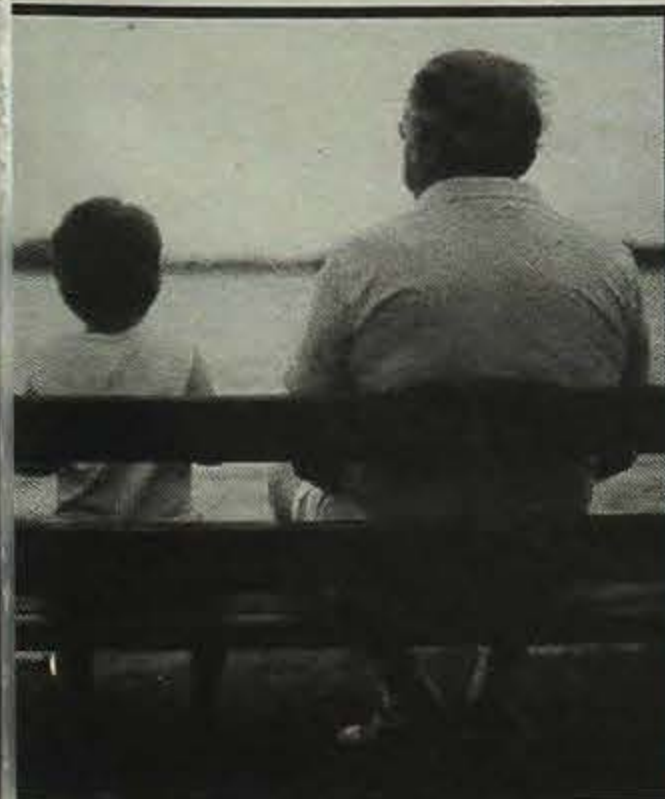
June 19 is Father's Day and the opportunity for churches to receive a Father's Day Offering for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

This year's theme is "Honor Your Father with a Timely Gift".

Statewide Goal: \$175,000

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Journey for Kids

Experience the truths of Christian living and have an awesome time making friends, playing cool games and starting each day with a quiet time! *'The Bible study was a wonderful encouragement to all of us to run the races as true believers and followers of Jesus Christ.'* Michelle, adult sponsor.



Mini Camp

Journey for Kids Mini-Camp

Just like Journey for Kids Camp but over a weekend for those busy kids. *'The crazy games and fellowships were awesome.'* Jason, age 9.



Mini Camp

Journey for Girls Mini Camp

Get away from those pesky boys and just enjoy hanging out with other Christian girls and leaders.

'The youth leaders were great role models for young girls, making being a Christian look like the joy it is.' Laura, Dickson.



Mini Camp

Journey for Boys Mini Camp

A weekend where the boys can just be boys. No food fights allowed, but there will be cool leaders that teach about being a Godly guy at soccer practice, on the ball field or even at home with mom and dad.

'Best camp of my whole life!' Zac, age 10.



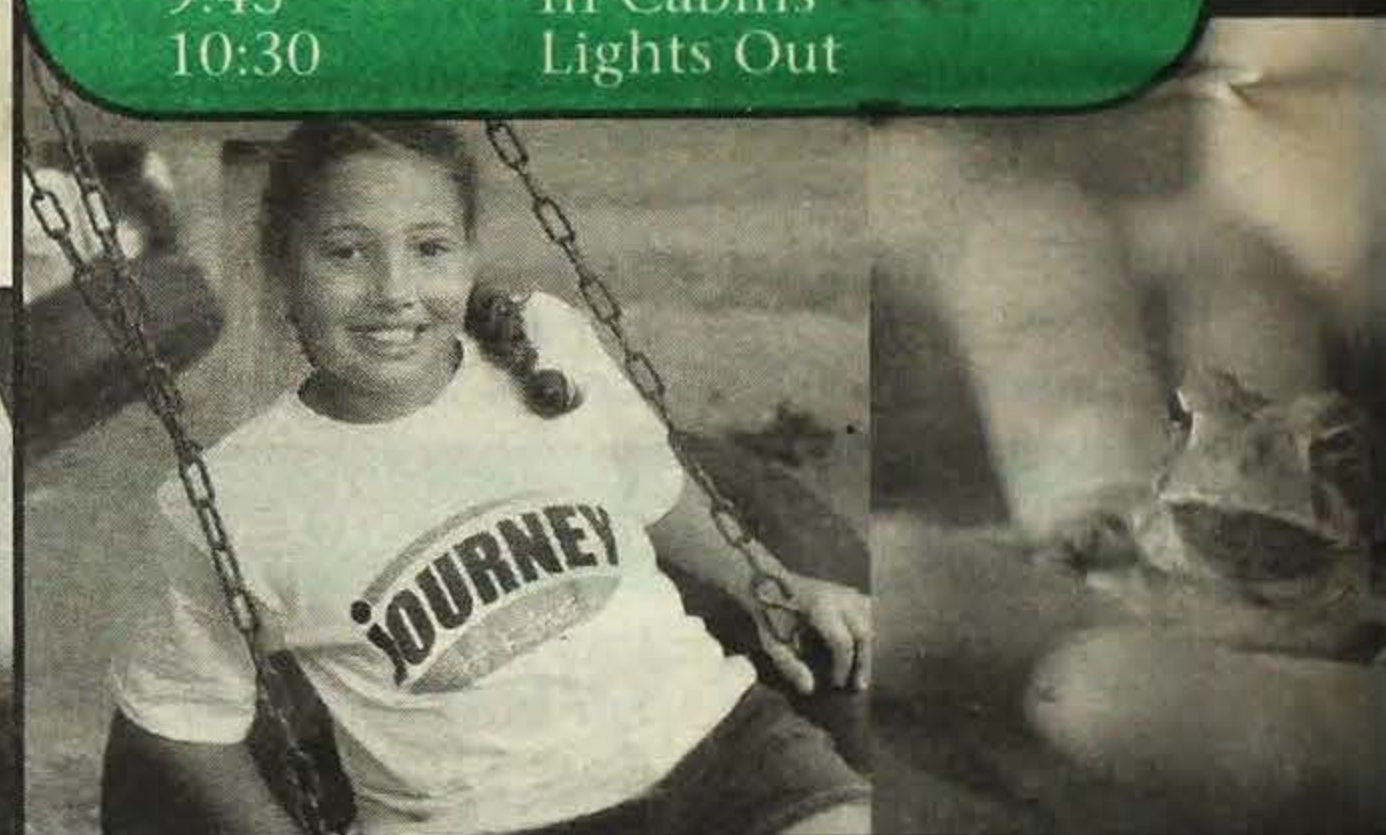
TRACK TIME OPTIONS

Water sports
Hiking
Crafts
Choir
Babysitting 101
Outdoor adventure experiences
Drama
Missions
Puppets
Cooking
Messy games
Fishing
Interpretative Sign
Team sports

*Some water sports may include an added cost. See website for details.

A DAY AT CAMP

8:15	Breakfast
9:00	The AM Show
9:15	Quiet Time
9:30	Bible Study
10:30	Break
10:45	Recreation
11:45	Lunch
1:00	Track Time
2:00	Track Time
3:00	Free Time
5:30	Dinner
6:30	Worship
7:30	Church Huddles
8:30	Fellowship
9:00	Free Time
9:45	In Cabins
10:30	Lights Out



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Austin Peay State University,
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Featured
Speaker:
Bryan Currie



Red School

Entering 8th grade - "The Basics of Life" - Quiet time, prayer, scripture memory, self image, choosing right.

Blue School

Entering 9th grade - "Baptist Doctrine" - The Bible, Trinity, Salvation, the church and ordinances, evangelism and missions.

Orange School

Entering 10th grade - "Religion 101" - How our Southern Baptist doctrine compares to: Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness, Islam, Catholicism, Church of Christ, etc.

Yellow School

Entering 11th grade - God's will, vision, leadership, discipleship.

Green School

Entering 12th grade - Leadership, servant hood, influence, obedience.

Purple (Ministry) School

Entering 11th, 12th, college freshman - This school is for students who have surrendered to ministry. Calling, ministering, hearing God, I & II Timothy, humility.

Cammo School

College freshman - "Things you need to know about college life" - Half-hearted Christianity, discipleship, world impact, evangelism.

MISSION IMPACT

**Carson Springs Baptist
Conference Center**
July 25-29
**Cost: \$195 per student,
\$150 per adult**

Mission IMPACT -for students 6th-12th grade.
A youth camp & mission trip all in one! Mission IMPACT will give students and adults opportunities to put their faith in action by serving in Newport, TN. Ministry options will include light construction, day camps, backyard Bible clubs, and working with ethnic groups.



Camp Pastor: Brandon Barnard

Founder of More to This Life Ministries, Brandon speaks God's truth with power and passion. He's traveled the globe speaking to thousands of students for 10 years and has a message for you! Check out his website, www.brandonbarnard.com for his thoughts on ministry and missions!



Worship Leader: Jeff Hindman

Jeff is a passionate worship leader committed to helping students experience God in profound ways. Check out his website, www.jeffhindman.com for a full description of all the ways God continues to use Jeff!

Have more questions about
IMPACT or Missions IMPACT camps?
Contact:

Nancy Hamilton,
Camping Ministry Specialist
at 800.558.2090, extension 2085 or
www.tnbaptistcamps.org

IMPACT

**Linden Valley Baptist
Conference Center**
July 11-15
**\$195 per student,
\$150 per adult**

IMPACT

Youth IMPACT -for students
6th-12th grade.

Are you booking the same camp year after year for your youth group? Tired of listening to the same old speakers? Choose us this summer for a fresh

experience! Your students and adults will experience challenging worship, small group bible study, team building recreation & awesome fellowships!

Camp Pastor: Jon Gillis



Jon has traveled the world communicating the message of Christ to thousands of students. His heart is to help students grasp the realities of Christ and share them with those who are in need of Christ. Check out Jon's website to find out more ways he ministers to churches as he travels the US and world, www.elifeministries.org.



Worship Leaders: Andrew Stacy & Lewis Lea

Andrew & Lewis have a heart for leading students to God's heart. Each week, they lead worship for students @ FBC Hendersonville, TN and have experience leading worship at Centrifuge youth camps. Their passion for Christ is contagious!



New! - College Bound Bible Study!
Led by: Amber Vaden

Students attending Youth IMPACT who have just graduated from high school will learn tips and tools on how to survive spiritually and physically on the college campus. This speciality track will be led by Amber Vaden, campus ministry specialist at Middle Tennessee State University. Amber has incredible experience and is gifted to equipping college students be on mission.



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- Crew Chief Training (for those volunteers that will be leading church and association crews)

For more information, contact Elizabeth Holmes at
800.558.2090, ext. 7926 or e-mail eholmes@tnbaptist.org

COMING UP...

July 15-16 **Tennessee Black Church Leadership Conference**, Baptist Center, Brentwood.

The purpose of this event is to offer quality training, refreshing fellowship, and Bible-based ministry to help enhance church leadership among Black congregations across Tennessee. Cost: \$30 per person. For more information, contact Joy Clay-Corby at 800.558.2090, ext. 2018 or e-mail jclaycorby@tnbaptist.org.

July 22-24 **Conversational English Workshop**, Baptist Center, Brentwood. A 16-hour workshop to train volunteers in a local church on how to begin and lead a

Conversational English ministry in their church. Cost: \$20 person. To register or for more information, contact Ilka Marks at 800.558.2090, ext. 7916 or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org.

Approximately 30 teams consisting of three volunteers are needed for the upcoming **2005 Evangelism Revival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, to be held Sept. 26-Oct. 4. Each team will consist of a preacher, a music leader, and a layperson. Cost: Approx. \$2000. For more information, contact Heather Wilson, at 800.558.2090 ext. 2061 or e-mail hwilson@tnbaptist.org.

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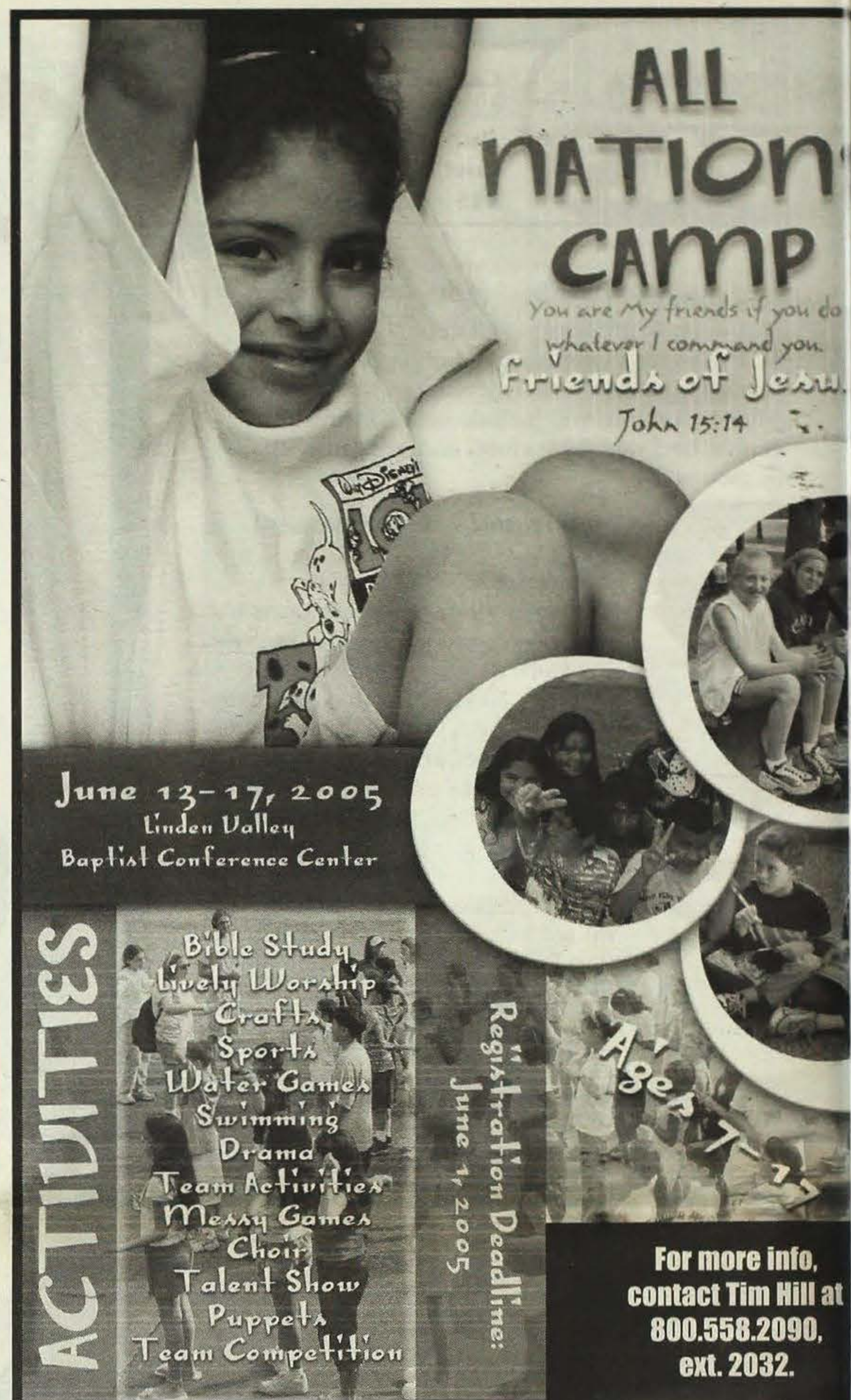
Crossover is designed to help us share the love of Christ with the thousands of lost persons of Nashville through seven different ministry venue teams. The North American Mission Board, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven Baptist associations sponsor Crossover Nashville.

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- Prayer Journeys
- Block Parties
- Ethnic Ministries
- Personal Evangelism
- Kindness Explosion
- Collegiate Evangelism

For more information, contact Jerry Essary at 800.558.2090, ext. 2059 or e-mail jessary@tnbaptist.org. To register online, visit

www.crossoversbc.org.



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Registration Deadline:
June 1, 2005

For more info, contact Tim Hill at 800.558.2090, ext. 2032.

College students are valuable assets, student leaders agree

Erin Curry
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Sometimes college students are lumped into one big category, but the truth is they vary vastly from school to school and region to region, Passion movement leader Louie Giglio told Baptist Press during the Gospel Music Association Week here April 9-13.

"I'm incredibly encouraged by what I've seen not only in the United States but around the world," Giglio said. "I came from England on Wednesday and I was with 1,000 college students from most all of the major universities in England and they had such a passion for God and such a passion for their campuses. We had a prayer time the last morning and they stayed for a half-hour out loud all of them at once. And they were seeking God so earnestly on their campuses and crying. When you see that happen, you can't help but be encouraged."

But like so much in life, the current status of college students has a flipside: millions of them are not seeking God.

"I think the kingdom of God is way bigger than we think and I think we're doing good but there's so much that still needs

to be done," Giglio, a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, said April 11.

"My heart breaks for the 80 percent of the 16 million college students in America that don't know Christ. But yet I rejoice that I can name 100 schools where there is a big band of believers who are really sold out to seeing something great happen on their campus for His fame. So I'm encouraged, but in no way is the challenge diminished. The task is still huge."

Giglio, who has spent more than two decades in collegiate ministry, and his wife, Shelley, organized a team of worship leaders with the goal of calling the collegiate generation to a purpose in life much greater than themselves beginning with the first Passion gathering of 2,000 students in Austin, Texas, in January 1997. Major Passion conferences in 2000, 2003 and 2005 followed, as did several Passion worship albums and other resources that have spread the vision of a generation living for God's renown.

Giglio voices unique insights from his Passion perspective into what college students are seeking and how they can be reached for Christ.

"Honestly, all churches could take a big huge swing at doing

better at campus ministry," he told BP. "I've been around college students and church-based ministries for a long time, and college students are notoriously cheap and a lot of people who are running churches think, 'These guys don't tithe and they're free-loaders and they move around — they're here one semester and two semesters later they're at another church already and they migrate around town — so let's don't focus on them. Let's focus on the young couples who have the jobs who can give the money, who can keep running the church, and who can work in the church.'"

"I get that, but I also think there's an untapped resource in college students that if I was a pastor of a local church and there were college students anywhere near me, this would motivate me more than anything: They are already going somewhere," Giglio said, noting that each college student, whether he or she finishes school in four years or six or more years, will enter fields like business, government, education, medicine, or entrepreneurship within a few years."

Bill Choate, leader of the Collegiate Ministries Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, agrees that college stu-

dents are valuable assets.

"Our TBC campus ministers, who are actually on these campuses doing ministry day-to-day, learned long ago many of the things Giglio is talking about today," Choate observed.

"Giglio is right, in that reaching college students for Jesus can never be about one big push, or one big event. It has to be steady, consistent ministry."

"People who want to reach college students have to live out an authentic, Christian life alongside students. They have to speak a winsome witness in language students understand. They have to be comfortable with the tough questions. They have to be patient, willing to invest for the long term," Choate said.

He noted that students are so ready to give themselves to service, witness, ministry, and missions.

More than 400 Tennessee college students served this past year through IMB, Choate said, adding that more than 700 Tennessee college students just gave up their spring breaks for

short-term missions. "Tennessee Baptist collegiate ministry students are doing evangelism on our campuses in creative, effective ways. These students are ready and willing. It is going on every day."

Choate observed that Tennessee Baptist churches who are reaching college students "are not doing so to boost the church budget."

"They have committed themselves to college students as a mission field. Those churches do take the risk of involving college students in church in meaningful ways. Students can give to their local church while still students, but commitment from them may be different from commitment given by a senior adult."

"College student attendance may be less frequent and they may lack some leadership experiences of older church members," he continued.

He noted, however, students often make up for that in creativity and energy. "Those churches who minister to college students know the kingdom will need strong, committed, well-disciplined adults in the decades to come. They know college students will be leaders in our communities and world in the years to come." □ — B&R Editor Lonnie Wilkey contributed to this story.



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Support for marriage amendment at all time high: Gallup poll

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Nearly one year after same-sex "marriage" was legalized in Massachusetts, support for a marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution appears to be at an all-time high, according to a new Gallup poll.

The poll found that by a margin of 57-37 percent, adults favor amending the Constitution to protect the traditional definition of marriage, thus banning "gay marriage." It is a significant increase from last July, when only 48 percent said they favored a marriage amendment.

It is the highest support for a

marriage amendment since Gallup began asking the question. The previous high was 53 percent in February 2004.

"Nationwide, there appears to be growing support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution defining marriage as only between a man and a woman," Frank Newport, editor in chief of the Gallup Poll, wrote in an online column.

Amendment support comes at a time when a slew of states are passing their own constitutional marriage amendments. Thirteen states passed amendments last year, and Kansas followed by passing one in early April. All total, 18 states now have marriage amendments.

They have proven popular, passing with an average of 70 percent of the vote. A marriage amendment has never failed at the ballot.

The Gallup poll of 909 adults, conducted March 18-20, asked Americans if they favored or opposed "a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman, thus barring marriages between gay or lesbian couples."

Gallup also asked adults their general views of "gay marriage." The organization divided the sample in half, asking a differently worded question to each group.

One group of adults (a sam-

ple of 443) was asked if they thought "marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages." Sixty-eight percent said they opposed same-sex "marriage," 28 percent said they favored it. It is the highest opposition to "gay marriage" in the Gallup poll since 1996.

The second group (a sample of 466) was asked, "Which of the following arrangements between gay or lesbian couples do you think should be recognized as legally valid — same-sex marriages, civil unions, but not same-sex marriages, or neither same-sex marriages nor

civil unions?" Twenty percent said they supported "gay marriage," 27 percent civil unions and 45 percent neither.

Homosexual groups objected to Gallup's use of term "homosexual," saying pejorative and should be replaced with "gay and lesbian." While all of Gallup's questions on the subject don't use term "homosexual," some of the marriage amendment questions used "gay" and "lesbian."

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Sale Street Baptist Church is searching for full-time student minister to focus on youth grades 6-12, and college students. Send resume to Youth Minister Search Committee, P.O. Box 5215, Lake Charles, LA 70606.

MINISTRY — OTHER

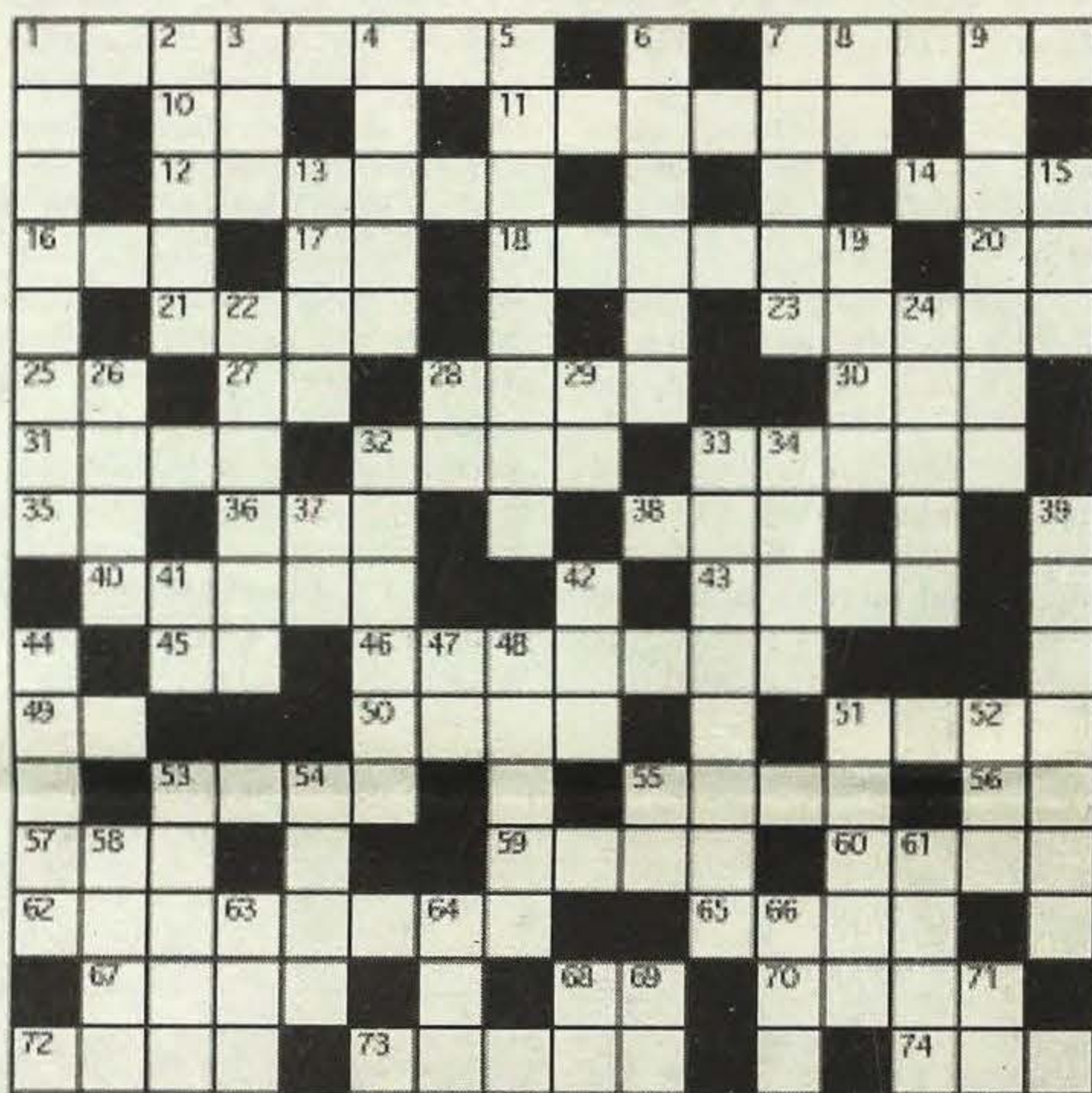
Miracle Baptist, LaVergne, opening for pianist. Please send resume to Miracle Baptist Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 14, LaVergne, TN 37086.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Growing Northern Virginia church is seeking applicants for the position of director of ministries (DM). This ministry will be a bridge to full church participation for guests, new believers and church members. The position should be well grounded in the Christian faith and general church organization and operation, possess leadership, communication, and organizational skills and be self starters who exercise personal initiative. Minimum qualifications include a four-year college degree, 10 years preferred, from an accredited college and at least five years of professional work experience. Resumes must be received by Grace Baptist Church, 14 Spriggs Rd., Woodbridge, VA 22193 or by e-mail: htp328@verizon.net on or before May 15, 2005.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

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



See answers on page 15

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. King of Judah (Isa. 38:1)
7. Son of Jacob
10. Four, Rom. num.
11. While in Antioch, this man predicted a famine (Acts 11:27-28)
12. "At Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, ..., Lucius of Cyrene, _____ and Saul" (Acts 13:1 NIV)
14. This king destroyed and burned an idol his mother had made (I Kings 15:13)
16. Don't fight like a man beating this (I Cor. 9:26)
17. For example, Lat. abbr.
18. Ancestor of Saul and the son of Benjamin (I Sam. 9:1)
20. God's name for Himself, I _____
21. "Will your _____ talk reduce men to silence?" (Job 11:3 NIV)
23. "A man of _____ spirit gains honor" (Prov. 29:23 NIV)
25. Cathode, abbr.
27. Southern state, abbr.
28. "The _____ shall eat straw like the ox" (Isa. 11:7)
30. Pertaining to urinary tract, prefix
31. "The body is a _____, though it is made up of many parts" (I Cor. 12:12 NIV)
32. The man who lost both his inheritance and his blessing to his brother (Gen. 27:30-40)
33. Succeeded Ahaziah as king (II Kings 1:17 niv)
35. Nautical measure of speed, abbr.
36. Harry's nickname
38. First month of autumn, abbr.
40. One of the border towns of the children of Naphtali (Josh. 19:32-33)
43. "Their feet _____ into sin" (Isa. 59:7 NIV)
45. Article
46. Belonging to a priest in Midian who had seven daughters (Ex. 2:11-3:1)
49. "The _____ is already at the root" (Matt. 3:10 NIV)
50. Alternate spelling for 15 down

51. Greek word for "my God" (Matt. 27:46 NIV)

53. Shipbuilder and zookeeper

55. A prophet and book of the Old Testament

56. Dorm helper, abbr.

57. Collection of sayings

59. New Testament prophetess (Luke 2:36)

60. "Cancel any _____ your brother owes" (Deut. 15:3 NIV)

62. Old Testament book that follows Ezra

65. "Better a _____ of vegetables where there is love" (Prov. 15:17 NIV)

67. "Let the dead _____ their dead" (Luke 9:60)

68. A book of the Pentateuch, abbr.

70. This man lived and died, but he was never born

72. "_____, follow me" (Matt. 4:19 NIV)

73. This man disagreed with a great fish

74. A son of Noah (Gen. 5:32)

DOWN

1. Prophet of Judah and book of the Old Testament
2. King who went into the citadel of the palace and set it on fire, dying there (I Kings 16:18)
3. Peron's first name
4. "Let us make man in our _____" (Gen. 1:26)
5. False prophet who took the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and broke it (Jere. 28:10)
6. Sent to David to rebuke him and expose his sin (II Sam. 12:1-10)
7. Father of all who play the harp or the flute (Gen. 4:21)
8. America, abbr.
9. Amnon was killed by him for raping Tamar (II Sam. 13:1-29)
13. Girl's name
15. Youngest of the Little Women
19. "Ye know neither the day nor the _____" (Matt. 25:13)
22. A Reubenite who was swallowed up by the earth (Num. 16:27-32)
24. A gentle answer turns this away (Prov. 15:1)
26. The daughter of Phanuel (Luke 2:36)
28. Library science, abbr.
29. Old uncial, abbr.
32. The man who went to heaven in a fiery chariot
33. Nebat's son (II Chron. 10:15)
34. Great work
37. Be, first person singular, present tense
39. Giant killed by David
41. Defendant's adversary, abbr.
42. Article
44. Esther and Mordecai's enemy
47. Printer's measure
48. Father of Abraham (Gen. 11:27)
51. An elder who prophesied with Medad (Num. 11:26)
52. Globe
53. Book of the Old Testament that follows Micah
54. "Give bread unto thine _____" (Judges 8:6)
55. One of the Gospels, abbr.
58. Mountain where Moses died
61. Son of Baasha (II Kings 16:8)
63. Before, poetic
64. Past
66. "Take him to the ... doorpost and pierce his _____ with an awl" (Ex. 21:6 NIV)
68. Father, dial Brit
69. Used to indicate ordinal numbers
71. Common graduate degree, abbr.

Third-grader challenges congregation Seymour to give to tsunami victims

Baptist and Reflector

SEYMOUR — Following devastating effects of the tsunami that hit South Asia on Sept. 26, 2004, Pastor Bruce Yates of First Baptist Church challenged his congregation to give to help victims of tragedy.

Third grader Hannah Williams took the challenge to heart. She is the daughter of church's minister of music, Matt Williams and his wife, Cheryl.

Hannah told her parents that she would like to bring books that she had read and them. The money would be given to the Asian Relief

fund. She wanted to ask other kids to bring their books as well.

Her parents liked the idea and soon afterwards "Reading for Relief" became a reality.

In January children throughout the church brought books to sell. People bought books or just placed a donation in the basket. When Reading for Relief was over, Hannah's idea had raised more than \$800 for tsunami victims.

The church ended up giving more than \$6,000. "I am grateful to God for our congregation's generous spirit," Yates said. □

Greeneville's Marshall steps down after 20 years

For Baptist and Reflector



DAVID GREEN, left, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greeneville, and Larry Wiley, minister of music, share some final moments with Hollis Marshall, who retired recently as associate pastor of the Holston Baptist Association church after ministering to the church and community for 20 years.

GREENEVILLE — Hollis Marshall, associate pastor for administration and education at First Baptist Church here for the past 20 years, has retired. "Dr. Marshall has been a loving minister to the folks and to the community," said Pastor David Green.

"Visiting and ministering to people has been so natural for Hollis that I have learned a lot just by tagging along. Folks far beyond these church walls will greatly miss that kind of minister," Green said.

Marshall and his wife, Kaye, are now living in Henderson, Ky.

"Folks at First Baptist know that it won't be long before Hollis will be ministering to the people around him and they will come to know and love him as his 'family' at First Baptist has loved him for 20 years," Green said. □



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WMU's 'Pure Water, Pure Love' reaches Tijuana

Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A steady stream of clean, safe drinking water is now available to some residents of the Tijuana, Mexico, community of Colonial Alamar, home to 7,000 people who had been drinking contaminated water.

Volunteers from Woman's Missionary Union, the San Diego Southern Baptist Association, California Baptist Disaster Relief, and Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Ga., joined a hydrogeologist from Houston and local volunteers in Tijuana to install a water purification system on March 11.

The system was installed inside Centro Shalom Alamar, the only church in the area. After impure water is delivered from a tanker truck to two 660-gallon tanks, the water is filtered, chlorinated, and stored in a 300-gallon pure water tank for distribution.

Fernando Martinez, a pastor, church planter, and local contact for the project, said the

clean water will help families who are already part of the church and will be used to reach out to unbelievers in the community.

"We plan to give people 20-liter jugs of water with a sticker on each that has a Bible verse and Pure Water, Pure Love," Martinez said. "This project will facilitate us to present the love of Christ via water, and the people will save money because of the free water provided by the church."

Local volunteer Salvador Suazo added, "The people have been praying for clean water; this will be a blessing." Clean water costs \$3.25 for a 20-liter jug, which Suazo said is quite expensive, given that many of the people there work five days a week, 12 hours a day to earn \$45 a week.

Chuck Erikson, associational director of California Baptist Disaster Relief, said, "The community will see that we care as we meet physical needs, then we can address spiritual needs." He continued, "Matthew 25:42-46

talks about meeting the physical needs of people by ministering to their present needs. Everyone may not speak the same language, but we can give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name to the people who are thirsty."

WMU began its "Pure Water, Pure Love" ministry in 1997 to help support missionaries with water filters and purification systems to provide pure, safe drinking water as they follow God's call to serve around the world.

In recent years, this ministry has received increased support and several donations from church groups that indicated they would like their donation to go toward a project. Because of this type of support, WMU is now able to expand the ministry to include other long-term solutions for providing clean water to missionaries as well as to the people to whom they minister.

Pure Water, Pure Love will provide ongoing support of the water purification system in Tijuana by helping with maintenance and the purchase and distribution of water for the next several years. □

University in Lynchburg, have written several books on Islam, including *Unveiling Islam*.

SWBTS trustees elect former Muslim as dean

Compiled from BP, ABP reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — A former Muslim is among three new deans elected by trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during their April 4-5 meeting here.

Emir Caner, 34, who was reared to be a devout Sunni Muslim, will lead the College at Southwestern, the seminary's new undergraduate school. He currently is a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He also serves as associate dean of that seminary's undergraduate college.

Caner was disowned by his father after he became a Christian. He, along with his brother, Ergun Caner, dean at Liberty

Other deans elected were Keith Eitel, Roy Fish, Stephen Johnson, and school church music. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, Tenn., is praying for a full-time minister of music. HBC is a church with a priority on bold, experiential preaching, strong evangelism, soul-winning, and celebrative singing and worship. We have a choir of 50-60 with an upbeat, blended, contemporary honoring style of music. A love for Jesus, the Bible, souls, the local church is required. If you feel the leadership of the Lord you can send your resume and audio or video to Pastor Glenn Denton at Hillcrest Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2009, Lebanon, TN 37088. Email: 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) 647-8100.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Responsibilities include leadership of one temporary and one traditional morning worship service, oversight of music ministry organizations and the television ministry. Interested persons should send resumes to the attention of senior pastor to bchandler@knox.org.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Sale Street Baptist Church seeking a full-time minister of music/worship. Send resume, cover letter, and demo/sample of worship leading to Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 5215, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Job requirements @ www.salestreet.org.

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Hillhurst Baptist Church, Nashville, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 1 Hody Dr., Nashville, TN 37203.

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65	\$103.46	\$194.78

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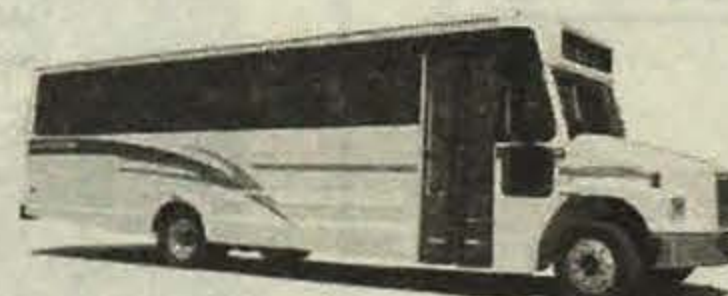
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Leaders

◆ **Quillian S. Mercer**, minister of education and youth, Highland Baptist Church, Tullahoma, has been called to the staff of First Baptist Church, Moultrie, Ga.

◆ **Chris Hughes** has been called as pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ **Dan Pratt** has resigned as youth minister, First Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ **Toby Retenour** has resigned as youth minister, Lynn Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ **Willie Lunsford** has been called as pastor, Telford Baptist Church, Telford.

◆ **Brian Hollaway** has been called as pastor, Mountain View Baptist Church, Johnson City.

◆ **Tom Mathis**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Collinwood, has been called to serve as pastor of a church in Murray, Ky.

◆ **Michael Beck**, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Collinwood, resigned, effective March 13.

Churches

◆ **Chapel Hill Baptist Church, Milan**, will hold a Deacon Ordination/Commissioning on Sunday, May 1, at 6 p.m. To be ordained are Mike Holland, Mike Sellers, Lee Dortch, and Rodney Jackson. To be commissioned is Bo Beard. For more information, contact the church at (731) 686-0414 or chapel1@click1.net.

◆ **West View Baptist Church, Kingsport**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary on May 19. Its pastor, **Mike Stout**, will celebrate his 24th anniversary as pastor June 1. And **Sue Davenport**, church

secretary, will celebrate 35 years of service in August. During 2004, the church gave \$74,141 to mission work, which was 30 percent of its receipts.

◆ **Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold Celebrating the Arts in East Nashville on Sunday, April 24, at 6 p.m. Arts to be represented are ballet, choral music by children, and artwork from students. A reception will follow. For more information, contact the church at ebsbc@bellsouth.net or (615) 255-0468.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Morristown**, will serve this year in Belize, Kenya, and Bulgaria. For more information, contact the church at (423) 586-0522.

◆ **Ridgeview Baptist Church, Cleveland**, will hold a Ladies Spring Praise Brunch on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kay DeKalb Smith, humorist, will speak and Sherry Trivett will present music. For more information, call Dot Eslinger at (423) 559-7991.

◆ Six Murfreesboro churches are joining together to hold Operation InAsMuch, a one-day volunteering blitz based on Matthew 25:40, on Saturday, April 30. The effort is being led by **First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**. They are being joined by churches of five other denominations. Last year about 300 First Church members completed 1,000 man hours in one day. The volunteers will assist 20 local agencies with more than 30 different projects. For more information about Operation InAsMuch, call the Lay Ministry office of First Church at (615) 893-2514.

◆ **Point Pleasant Baptist Church, Paris Landing**, dedicated its renovated sanctuary in its Christian Life



LEADERS OF FIRST BAPTIST Church, Huntingdon, participate in a groundbreaking ceremony Sunday, April 10, for a new 800-seat sanctuary. The leaders are, from left, John Cole; Mike Henry Simpson; Jan Kizer; Dale Kelly, mayor of Huntingdon; Chad Utley; Fred Ward, pastor; O'Brien; Jayne Simpson; Judy Belew; Clayton Furr; and Betsy Beauchamp. The project, which is estimated to cost \$2.6 million, is the largest building project of the church to date, reported Simpson, minister of music/education. The new sanctuary will be located adjacent to current facilities in the downtown area. The church has held two worship services for a number of years, averaging about 600. Its sanctuary seats 400. In 1995, a Family Life Center, office space, and educational space was built. Recently the church bought and renovated former retail facilities. The building is being used for student ministry.

Center on Sunday, April 3. James Twilbeck, director of missions, Western District Baptist Association, based in Paris, spoke. New carpet, new interlocking seats, and drapery items have been added to make the gym sanctuary ready. Larry Dukes, pastor, explained that numerous unsaved people live in the community and the church can grow, reported Jolene Howell of the church.

◆ **Brush Creek Baptist Church, Brush Creek**, will hold homecoming on Sunday, May 1. After the 10 a.m. worship service, a luncheon will be held. The Dillehays will present music. For more information, call the church at (615) 683-8249.

◆ On Sunday, May 15, **Taylor's Chapel Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary of service. The celebration will begin at 11 a.m. with a special service. Music and a luncheon will follow. For more information, call Pam Maynard at (615) 896-9087.

◆ **Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage**, will hold the conference, "Understanding the Love of Your Life" for married couples, on Friday - Saturday, May 13-14. Jim Heiskell will lead it. He is with Walk thru the Bible Ministries of Atlanta, Ga. For more information, contact Pat Hamilton at the church (615) 883-5034 or phamilton@hermitagehills-baptist.com.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Pleasant Hill**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, May 1-4. Speakers include Roy Miller, pastor of the church; Hank Jones, pastor, Cumberland Fellowship Baptist Church, Crossville; Tony Wil-

son, Pine Eden Baptist Church, Crossville; Mike Garrett, pastor, Meridian Baptist Church, Crossville; Bill Roberts, retired pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Crossville.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Atwood**, will hold revival Sunday - Friday, April 24-29. Stephen Atwood will speak and Eric Wollam will lead the music. For more information, call the church at (731) 662-7370.

◆ **Rome Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will begin offering Weight Watchers on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. beginning April 23. Also the church will hold a Bake Sale/Car Wash on Saturday, April 23, to support the church's Vacation Bible School. For more information, contact Jenise Fitzgerald at (615) 453-8868.

Associations

◆ The **Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Council of McMinn/Meigs Baptist Association**, based in Athens, held a women's conference and luncheon on Saturday, March 5, at First Baptist Church, Athens. The event drew about 180 women from 26 churches. Jane Bishop, director of volunteer mobilization, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., spoke. Ladies also attended two of six conferences offered and received gifts. The theme was "Women in step with Christ."

Schools

◆ **Belmont University**, Nashville, will hold a Latin Music Street Fair on Saturday, April 23, on its campus. Tradi-

tional folkloric dancers, mariachi bands, pinata play, dance lessons, and kids activities will be offered. Vendors will supply authentic Colombian, South American, Hispanic, and Caribbean food. Profits will go to the **Hispanic Achievers Program** and **Belmont University** under-represented/underleged student funds. For information, contact Herrera at herrera@mont.edu or visit www.streetfair.com.

◆ **Fifty Union University** students will benefit from a large scholarship gift from the **Hammons Foundation**, in honor of Union President S. Dockery. The foundation started by former trustee Ed Hammons awarded the university \$125,500 for scholarships for students attending Union in 2005-2006. The gift brings the total amount donated by the foundation to \$1,931,296 since 1996. The foundation is a longtime supporter of the university, Jackson, which was founded in 1998.

Statewide Events

◆ **Tennessee Conference on Mission** will hold a Rally beginning Friday, April 22, and a work week beginning Monday, April 25. The Cordova Baptist Conference Center in Chattanooga. Last week's issue reported the dates incorrectly. For more information, contact Sonny and Irene Galt, Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, at (615) 758-7213.



VIRGINIA SMITH, church treasurer of Zion Hill Baptist Church, Friendship, for 30 years receives a plaque from her pastor, Tommy Warner, on her retirement from the role. She also was given the corsage she wears. The church surprised her with the recognition on Sunday, March 6, which was Family Day at Zion Hill Church. All of her family was present.