

# Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No. 16; April 27, 2005

## this week's news

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Butler pastor extends his ministry as a hospice chaplain.— Page 9

## During Crossover

# Tennesseans to help perform acts of kindness

By Linda Lawson  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Acts of kindness such as free water on a hot day, coins for a load of laundry, and a free car wash will be carried out in Jesus' name on Saturday, June 18, by members of 13 Nashville-area churches in partnership with volunteers from other parts of the United States.

The project is called Kindness Explosion and it's part of Crossover 2005, the evangelism thrust taking place prior to this year's Southern Baptist Convention to be held June 21-22 in Nashville. Activities will happen across a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area.

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

Affirming Kindness Explosion, TBC Executive Director James Porch observed, "Jesus went about being kind and expressing kindness. The Scriptures bear witness to both His

attitude and actions in behalf of hurting and wounded people.

"As Baptists go about being kind during Crossover Nashville, we do so in the name of the living Christ. I pray that all acts of kindness will include a sense of wonder as to how God may bless our honest charity."



PORCH

Beverly Smothers, TBC strategic ministries specialist and one of three Kindness Explosion coordinators, said the purpose of the project is to "approach people in the marketplace and meet physical needs while sharing a spiritual witness as appropriate." Rusty Sumrall, Nashville Baptist Association, and Jeff Wagner, NAMB, are the other two coordinators.

Smothers noted that acts of kindness generate a "surprise effect. Invariably, people will ask, 'What is this about? Why are people washing my wind-

## Crossover volunteers near 11,000

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — As of April 20, the number of volunteers committed to involvement in Crossover Nashville was approaching 11,000.

The massive evangelism thrust will take place prior to the June 21-22 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention across a 40-mile radius of the greater Nashville area.

Seven venues make up Crossover: personal evangelism, sports evangelism, prayer journeys, block parties, ethnic ministries, kindness explosion, and collegiate evangelism.

The largest venue, person-

al evangelism, will involve 154 host churches and 6,699 volunteers from the host churches and other churches around the country. The other six venues will involve 4,060 volunteers and 99 host churches.

The total of 10,759 volunteers represents the largest Crossover in history. Participants may continue to register until early June.

Crossover is sponsored by the North American Mission Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and seven area associations. LifeWay Christian Resources is coordinating the personal evangelism venue. □

shield or washing my car for free?"

Those questions then allow the volunteers to identify the church and that the action is being carried out in the name of Jesus. Smothers noted that each participating church is choosing ministry actions

appropriate to their area.

Old New Hope Baptist Church in Fairview, for example, has obtained permission to hand out free bottles of water and homemade cookies at a local grocery store, according to Mary Donegan, WMU leader.

— See Tennesseans, page 3

## Purchase of hotel ensures future space for Jackson church

Donnie Davis Bushey  
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Leaders and members of Englewood Baptist Church here really studied the area before buying a hotel located adjacent to their facilities. They have considered it for many years.

They wanted to plan for the needs of the congregation for a new sanctuary. The church currently draws about 100 each Sunday morning to the services. Englewood decided it would stay in its current location.

In 2003 the church bought the Old English Inn Hotel, where Gov. Phil Bredemeyer, musician Ricky Skaggs, actress Jane Seymour visited recently. Bob Hope and Arleton Heston also have stayed at the hotel, which is in the English tudor style and is decorated with leaded glass windows, antique furniture from Europe, and woodwork made by artisans.

After some investigation, the

church learned a church in Arizona had bought a hotel and a church in North Carolina bought a conference center, said Brent Lay, associate pastor of Englewood. The churches, though, started using the facilities soon for church activities and renovating them. Englewood wasn't sure about its plans for the facility.

The church considered turning the hotel into a senior citizen's residence. But it would be expensive, they discovered.

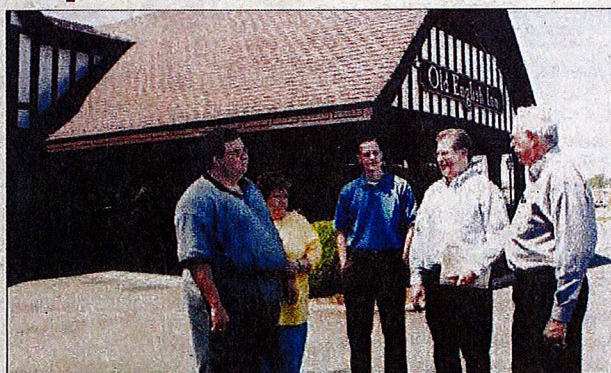
The congregation considered selling the contents and razing the property. But the church needed some classroom space soon, explained Lay.

Further study showed that maintaining an empty hotel was going to be expensive. Such property has to be heated and cooled, maintained, and protected, he pointed out. The church began considering developing a Christian conference center.

The church enlisted some lawyers and a Baptist with hotel management experience

to study the possibilities. Soon a non-profit corporation, Christian Conference Center of Jackson, was formed to operate the hotel. It is led by a board directed by church trustees. Then two members of the church, Chip and Sarah Coughlin, leased the hotel/conference center. Another couple, Darrell and Ann Hicks, also members of the church, lease space from the Coughlins to operate the World Champion Cajun Cookers Bar-B-Que restaurant in the hotel.

The church's non-profit status is protected by the fact that separate legal entities are involved and allowed by the Neighborhood Land Rule of the Internal Revenue Service. The rule allows a church to buy a property and lease it, if long-



HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTER managers Chip and Sarah Coughlin, left, visit with staff of Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson, from left, Ben Mandrell, assistant to the pastor; Brent Lay, associate pastor; and Phil Jett, pastor.

term plans are approved by the IRS within five years of the purchase, and if the church plans to use the property for exempt purposes within an additional 10 years.

The legal arrangement also protects the entities in terms of liability issues, added Lay.

Many positive outcomes

have developed from the venture, which was never a "business venture," said Lay, but "a faith venture."

The restaurant has been operated for 12 months. The facilities are an addition to the community, and the businesses are a help to people through

— See Englewood, page 3



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## College students interested in spiritual matters

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — As many as 80 percent of college students are interested in spirituality and 74 percent claim to have discussions about the meaning of life with friends, according to the latest study by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute.

"College students appear to put a premium on their spiritual development," said Alexander Astin, co-principal investigator for the project. "They are clearly very interested in these larger questions in life, and many of them hope that the college experience will support them in their spiritual quest."

"The challenge for higher education is to understand the priority young people place on these issues and explore how well they are supporting their students' quest."

The study, based on a survey of 112,232 freshmen at 236 colleges and universities conducted last fall, found that students are searching for deeper meaning in their lives, looking for ways to cultivate their inner selves, seeking to be compassionate and charitable, and deciding what they believe about social and global issues, according to an April 13 news release.

Of the students surveyed, 76 percent are searching for meaning and purpose in life, 81 percent attend religious services, 80 percent discuss religion or spirituality with friends, 79 percent believe in God, and 69 percent pray.

## Tennesseans to observe National Day of Prayer

Baptist Press

BRENTWOOD — Millions of people nationwide are being called to prayer on May 5, in observance of the 54th annual Day of Prayer.

People will be able to attend observances held in public venues to pray for the nation, governmental leaders, media, and schools.

This year's theme is "God Shed His Grace On Thee" and is based on Hebrews 4:16 NIV.

Noted author and pastor Max Lucado is the 2005 honorary chairman and will address the national event in Washington, D.C. on May 5.

The National Day of Prayer tradition pre-dates the founding of the United States when

the Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer in 1775, according to the National Day of Prayer web site. In 1952 Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

Several observances are planned across Tennessee. Among them are:

Three Baptist associations — Nolachucky, Grainger, and Holston Valley — are uniting on May 5 from 7-9 p.m. for the "Lakeway Area Prayer Conference. The theme is "Heart Cry for Revival." The event will be held at Barnards Grove Baptist Church in Bean Station. For more information, call Don

Pierson of the TBC staff (615) 371-7909.

The Collierville All Ministry is planned on May 5 beginning at 7 a.m. in the Walmart parking lot. For more information, call Sue Garne (901) 861-0499.

A "One Voice for Revival" will be held at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville May 5 at 7 p.m. For tickets and more information, call Sam Lowe at (615) 371-2325.

For more information these events and others to be held in the state, go [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org) and click on "Let's Sear." When a map of the state appears, click on the state Tennessee for a listing events. □

Researchers also found that today's college students are tolerant of the non-religious as well, with 83 percent agreeing that "non-religious people can be just as moral as religious believers" and 64 percent saying "most people can grow spiritually without being religious."

UCLA's institute also reported that students with high levels of religious engagement are far less likely to believe abortion should be legal, think casual sex is okay, support same-sex "marriage," and endorse legalization of marijuana than students with low levels of religious engagement.

Contrary to what many secular educators contend, 67 percent of the students surveyed said they consider it "essential" or "very important" that their

college play a role in developing their personal values and 48 percent say it is essential or very important that colleges encourage their personal expression of spirituality. □

## Conn. legalizes civil unions; 2nd state to do so

Baptist Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Demonstrating the progress homosexual activists have made in recent years, Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed a same-sex civil unions bill into law April 20, making the state the first to pass such a law without a court mandate.

Rell, a Republican, signed the bill into law shortly after Connecticut Senate passed bill 26-8. It previously passed the House. The new means that beginning October 1, homosexual couples will be able to join in state-sanctioned unions that grant them the legal benefits of marriage.

Connecticut joins Vermont — the only states to legalize unions. Massachusetts is the only state with same-sex "marriage." But the law in Massachusetts and Vermont were court-ordered. The Connecticut bill was passed voluntarily.

Another state, California domestic partnerships, although they are not as expansive as civil unions. California's law also was passed voluntarily.

## Says NAMB interfaith expert

# Baptists, Catholics differ on views of salvation

By Lee Weeks  
Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — As the world observes the election of the first pope of the Roman Catholic Church in more than 25 years, many Baptists may be thinking through how Catholic beliefs differ from their own.

"The Catholic understanding of God is the same as the Trinitarian view of God held by evangelicals," said Bill Gordon, an associate with the North American Mission Board's interfaith evangelism team and author of NAMB's overview of the faith, *Roman Catholicism Belief Bulletin*.

"The Jesus of Catholicism is the same Jesus we worship," continued Gordon, a Southern Baptist authority on Catholicism. "He is the second person of the Holy Trinity, fully God and fully man, who died on the cross and rose again from the dead."

Gordon said, however, that while Catholics and Southern Baptists alike are ardent defenders of the sanctity of human life and the institution of marriage between one man and one woman, the two groups hold starkly different beliefs about the key doctrine of eternal salvation.

"Catholics will agree that you have to be saved by the grace of God that comes through Jesus Christ," Gordon said. "Catholicism,

however, teaches that one receives God's grace through the church's sacraments. Southern Baptists believe, according to Scripture, that we receive God's grace solely through faith in Jesus Christ, by faith alone.

"Catholics also have a sacramental understanding of how God's grace is dispensed," Gordon explained. "To receive the grace of God and eternal salvation, the Catholic Church teaches that you have to receive the sacraments from their church. Southern Baptists believe that the sacraments are contrary to the teaching of the Bible and that grace is received directly from God. We don't have to go through an intermediary. The church doesn't control God's storehouse of grace. We receive all the grace we need directly from God when we believe in Jesus Christ."

Gordon said the Catholic Church also distinguishes between the seriousness of various sins. Murder, adultery, stealing, and lying are called mortal sins which must be confessed to a priest in order to receive forgiveness. Other less serious sins, known as venial sins, according to Catholicism, can be atoned for after death in a place called purgatory.

According to the Bible, all sins are serious, and any sin will condemn a person to hell apart from the grace of God which comes from faith in Jesus Christ, he said.

"Traditionally, Catholics have interpreted purgatory as a place of punishment where a person is purified," Gordon said. "According to Catholic theology, everyone purgatory will eventually be purified of taint of sin and make it into heaven."

Mike Eicon, director of NAMB's interfaith evangelism team, said the Apostle Paul's teaching in Philippians that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord," contradicts the Catholic concept of purgatory.

"Christ's atoning sacrifice covers all sins — past, present, and future," Eicon said.

Gordon said the differences in belief about eternal salvation between Southern Baptists and Catholics can be attributed in large part to each denomination's view of Scripture.

Catholicism holds that its traditions equal in authority with the teaching of Scripture. For Southern Baptists, the Bible is the sole spiritual authority.

"I do believe that it's possible for Catholics to be genuinely saved in spite of what their church teaches," Gordon said. "It's faith in Jesus Christ that saves, membership in a church or denomination. Salvation is not determined by church membership. Salvation is determined by personal faith in Jesus Christ." □



# Tennesseans to help perform acts of ...

Continued from page 1  
Donegan said Old New members learned about Crossover from a brochure received at a TBC training event and chose Kindness Explosion from the list of seven venues.  
"This was something we felt our church would be able to do," Donegan said. She noted that 10 volunteers from Georgia have been assigned to work alongside church members.  
In addition to helping individuals, Donegan hopes their involvement in Kindness Explosion "will communicate a positive image and growth for our church as well as salvation to God's kingdom."

Another participating church, First Baptist, Nashville, has been doing acts of kindness each April with Catch the Vision Day, targeting people who live and work in downtown Nashville, according to Rus Roach, minister of pastoral care. For 2005, they decided to move their annual project to June and be part of Crossover.

They have identified 10 projects to involve as many as 250 church members and 50 outside volunteers. Projects include oil changes and a car wash, water distribu-

tion, baking cookies, helping with church landscaping, remodeling the Downtown Ministry Center, participating in a sewing project, and hosting and driving volunteers involved in the door-to-door evangelism venue of

with the SBC, serve as SBC ushers, and help with lunch distribution at a Friday noon concert.

"These projects get us out in the community and also get our people active in ministry and service," Roach said.

## CROSSOVER 2005

In addition, volunteers will assist with the medical clinic the church is conducting June 13-18 at the Church of the Messiah and Edgefield Baptist Church. Other volunteers will conduct church tours in connection

In addition to Kindness Explosion, Roach said two youth mission trips and a medical mission trip normally conducted elsewhere in the U.S. or internationally will be taking place in connection with Crossover this year. A significant portion of the church's mission budget for the year also has been earmarked for Crossover.

Smothers cited three prayer requests for Kindness Explosion, beginning with the desire that host churches and visiting volunteers would work well together. Also, she asked Tennessee Baptists to pray for lasting results, especially professions of faith, and that "many volunteers would experience the joy of leading someone to the Lord."

She expressed the hope that participating churches and churches sending volunteers would repeat Kindness Explosion in their areas. □

## McLaurin joins convention staff

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Willie D. McLaurin was recently approved by the Church Programs Committee of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to serve as leadership specialist.

His principal function will be to work with the state missionary staff to build relationships and provide strategies for leadership development for churches and staff across the state with specific but not exclusive attention to Blacks and other ethnic minorities.



McLAURIN

McLaurin served most recently as executive pastor of Greater Missionary Baptist Church, Clarksville, and was pastor of Greater Hope Baptist Church, Union City, for five years. He has served as president of the African American Fellowship of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and been a member of the TBC Executive Board.

He and his wife, Antonia, have a daughter, Sierra, 2. □

## BC, Hartsville, collects coins for Crossover

Baptist and Reflector

HARTSVILLE — When Woman's Missionary Union leaders at First Baptist Church here decided their February mission project would be raising money to buy Bibles, they had not heard about Crossover Nashville, the massive evangelism thrust being conducted in the greater Nashville area prior to the June 21-22 Southern Baptist Convention.

WMU Director Grace Thomas said half a pint, and quart jars were made available to church members to take home and collect change during the month. When all the jars were returned, a total of \$391.25 had

been collected.

Thomas called the Tennessee Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union to inquire about a need for Bibles and learned that Crossover was taking place and that the church funds were needed. A check was then mailed to the TBC.

"Our prayer is for you to use the money to buy Bibles and literature to aid in your work with Crossover," Thomas said in a letter accompanying the check.

Asked in a phone interview where the idea had originated for the project, Thomas could not recall. "I guess it was the Lord who gave us the idea," she said. □ — Linda Lawson

## Purchase of hotel ensures future space for Jackson church ...

Continued from page 1

ministry of the managers, and Lay. Several families who needed a place to stay have been housed at the hotel, reported Chip Coughlin. And 86 Christ groups have used the hotel/center for meeting space and overnight stays.

Phil Jett, pastor, Englewood Church, explained the church is a "phenomenal church of vision" and that the experience "was a life-changing thing."

Jett said the church had been considering the purchase of the hotel in the 1980s. In 1997 the church would have had to assume a \$6.5 million loan to buy the inn and its 7.6 acres. In 2003 Englewood bought the Old English Inn for \$3 million.

He said after the congregation decided its location was a good one, they knew the hotel and its land would be required for the future. On the south side the church facility is a road. The hotel is on the north side.

"This took years of prayer and reflection," said Jett. He said because Englewood is a young congregation, it allowed committee and church staff to study the possibilities. Most churches would have had 14 committee meetings and 10 understandings in all," he said.

He said the fact that the hotel/conference center has any

occupancy is amazing considering the fact that many people in the community thought it was closed during the six months the church took to decide what to do with the property.

Lay said Englewood believes the purchase was good stewardship because the land would be required, possibly in about 10 years, for the new sanctuary, and the property would be much more expensive then. The land is within sight of Exit 82 from Interstate 40, and on Hwy. 45/Highland.

Thankfully, with the lease arrangement, Englewood is recouping about half of its debt-service on the loan on the property. It is using banquet rooms for Sunday School classrooms for about 85 college students. And it can begin using more space by giving the Coughlins notice. Staff anticipate using banquet rooms for SS classrooms for 400 in the next few years.

The Coughlins are thrilled to be managing the hotel/center. The opportunity came at a great time for Chip Coughlin, former plant manager of ADM Milling Company, a food processing plant in Jackson. He lost his job in a corporate reshuffle.

He had been without a job for several months and was selling cars when church leaders and eventually CCC of J asked the couple if they would be interested in leasing the hotel and oper-



CHIP AND SARAH Coughlin, managers of the Old English Inn Hotel & Conference Center, Jackson, stand in its foyer.

ating it.

Coughlin and his wife, Sarah, said the experience has been a God-send to them. They see the job as a great opportunity for their family, which includes daughter, Betsy, and as a ministry.

For Christian groups, a 25 percent discount is offered, including rooms beginning at \$59 a night for one or two people. For pastors who haven't stayed at the hotel/center, a try-out special is available.

Sarah has added Christian messages, decorative items, and a magazine and book rack.

They can treat guests like family, explained Sarah, since they don't have to answer to the corporate managers of a hotel or motel chain, added Chip. For

instance, Sarah provided a Christmas Eve meal in the lobby for their few guests.

Lay said Englewood and the CCC of J realizes some may view the inn/conference center as in competition with Linden Valley Conference Center and camp in nearby Linden. But the two facilities are so different he doesn't think it is.

"We are totally supportive of Camp Linden," Lay said. In fact, church members Jerry and Judy Peters are staff members of Linden Valley. "We use Linden Valley," he added.

Coughlin said during a town meeting considering the purchase and lease agreement, a member asked him why he thought he could run the hotel/center successfully when

two former managers who had hotel experience had failed.

Coughlin responded that he could because he had "2,000 partners in this," referring to the 2,000 members of Englewood.

He said that has proven true. Before the hotel/center was opened, it had to be cleaned and repaired. For example, about 300 burned out light bulbs had to be replaced. Volunteers from the church did most of the work, said the Coughlins.

The hotel/center recently received a high compliment, Chip said. A group of wives of the hotel owners gathered from several states at the hotel. The lady who organized the meeting lived in Nashville. Some of the hotels their husbands owned were high-end hotels, observed Coughlin. They could have met in any of the hotels owned by their husbands, but they chose the Old English Inn Hotel and Conference Center.

The hotel/conference center has 103 private rooms including suites with fireplaces, five meeting rooms, two of which have a capacity of 250, and a pool. It has wireless high speed internet access. Some decorating is provided for meetings.

For more information on the inn/conference center, contact the Coughlins at (731) 668-1571 or chip@oldenglishinn.com. □



# Help offered for churches between pastors

serving  
churches



By Ray Gilder

When the pastor of a church resigns, the church often develops a sense of insecurity and uncertainty. This is especially true of churches who have to deal with one of the following issues.

- (1) The previous pastor was encouraged to leave.
- (2) There was a moral failure by a previous pastor.
- (3) The church said good-bye to a pastor who had been

there for many years.

(4) The church is contemplating moving from full-time to bivocational status or vice versa.

(5) The church has just experienced a split.

(6) The church is grieving over the death of the previous pastor.

These churches may need help in dealing with certain issues before they will be ready to respond positively to the leadership of the next pastor. Too often they are in a hurry to call their next pastor or they call an interim pastor that does little more than preach during worship services.

The interim period is an excellent time to assist a

church in moving through certain processes that will produce a healthier environment in which to face the future. More and more ministers are doing interim work but few are trained to lead a church through these specific processes.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is offering a "Transitional Interim Pastor" (TIP) training event for interested ministers at Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport on May 23-25. Some topics to be covered are:

- (1) the duties, skills, and objectives of the transitional interim pastor.
- (2) conflict management skills.

(3) leading the church to plan for the future.

(4) working with the transitional team.

(5) suggested preaching during the transition.

(6) assisting the pastor search process.

(7) preparing the church for the new pastor.

Registration fee, meals, and lodging costs are \$100 per person single occupancy and \$50 per person double occupancy. For more information about the training, call 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2018, or e-mail jclaycorby@tnbaptist.org. □ — Gilder is bivocational ministries specialist for the Leadership Development Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, ed

## No more gambling? H

It's not time to write the "told you so" column yet, but probably will have to be written in the next two or three years.

A few years ago when legislators kept pushing for lottery, they said it would be only form of legalized gambling we would have in Tennessee.

Evidently some legislators have short memories. Just year there have been at least two attempts to bring additional gambling into Tennessee.

Sen. Joe Haynes of Gettysville introduced a bill to revive the Tennessee Racing Commission which would again open the door to betting on horse racing. Apparently could not garner enough support, so he has asked that bill be considered in 2006. Under what he will spend his winter months trying to

Another bill under consideration is HB 8 which has been introduced by Rep. Chris Nease of Cleveland. Entitled "Professional Contests in Advertisements," the bill appears harmless enough because on the surface deals with promoting contests.

But Bobbie Patray, a lobbyist with Tennessee Eagle Foundation and a long-time gambling opponent, tells me that she is concerned that the consequences of this bill would be the legalization of machines that are illegal gambling devices under present law and fall into an unconstitutional "lottery" (the only lottery is the state run activity).

Patray believes this is another effort to "push the gambling envelope" in Tennessee.

The proposal was voted on by the House's Consumer Affairs Subcommittee two weeks ago and is slated to be considered by the Consumer and Employment Affairs Committee this week. A companion bill in the Senate (SB 81) also is in committee.

As Tennesseans become more and more enamored with the apparent financial success of the state lottery, I fear we become increasingly tolerant of other forms of gambling.

Christians (including ministers) allowed the lottery to come into Tennessee and if we continue to remain silent or indifferent, gambling will spread. Inevitably, Christians "on the boat" the first time around will do it again?

Contact your state legislators and let them know "enough is enough" and that we are against any other forms of gambling in Tennessee. We must continue to be vigilant in our watch. □

## The Cooperative Program

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July 22-23, 2005

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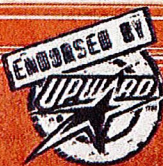
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## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — STUDENT

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.

♦ ♦ ♦

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

### MINISTRY — POSITIONS

Highland Park Baptist Church in Lenoir city, Tenn., is seeking a full-time or bivocational minister of music and a full-time or bivocational youth minister. Please e-mail resumes to elclick@bell-south.net or mail them to Highland Park Baptist Church, 4333 Highway 11 East, Lenoir City, TN 37771 Attn. Pastor.

### MINISTRY — PASTOR

Gath Baptist Church in McMinnville is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Gath Baptist Church, 6968 Smithville Highway, McMinnville, TN 37110.

♦ ♦ ♦

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



## UPDATE

Volunteer Missions Team, TBC; P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; Phone - (615) 371-2021; FAX - (615) 371-2014; Internet - [www.tnbaptist.org/page.asp?cat=news&subcat=mobilize](http://www.tnbaptist.org/page.asp?cat=news&subcat=mobilize)

## Teams set for Rio revivals

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Why are you going back to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on an evangelism crusade? Tennessee Baptist missions volunteers have gone several times for various reasons. Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison, has at least five members who will be going to Sept. 26-Oct. 4 for the 05 Evangelism Revival including Raymond and Billie Kendrick, both of Decatur. "I'm going back to Rio to the evangelism crusade, cause Henry Blackaby says 'where God's working,'" said Raymond Kendrick. "No doubt God is working in Brazil."

"Brazilian people are very easy to love, very trusting, and open to hear the gospel. In all the 18 mission trips that I've made, I have never been back more fulfilled than when I've gone to Brazil knowing that I've done what I wanted me to do."

In addition to Bayside Church, more churches send volunteers include Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton, with at least eight people and others. According to Calvary Church pastor Joe Sorah, he has been on three Rio Evangelism revivals and plans to return again in September.

"The first reason that I am going back to Rio is that the need is so great, and there are lost people everywhere in Rio," said Sorah. The second reason is that the people are very responsive in Rio, because on every mission trip we see a lot of people saved. The third reason is for what it does for me for my church members to go, because it encourages us to share our faith more diligently at home, and also encourages spiritual growth."

Over 30 teams of three volunteers are needed for the coming Evangelism Revival in Rio, according to Kim Grange, volunteer missions specialist.

Each team will consist of a pastor, a music leader, and a layperson. Contact Heather Mason, volunteer missions ministry assistant, at 1-800-420-90 ext. 2061 or [whil@tnbaptist.org](mailto:whil@tnbaptist.org), for more information. □

## Construction volunteers renovate Stokely Chapel

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

NEWPORT — Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center's Stokely Chapel, located here, is undergoing renovation through the use of volunteer construction teams, according to Mark LeMay, TBC facilities/support services manager.

"We specifically need men's groups who have someone in the group who has some building expertise," said LeMay. "This would be our priority group. But, we realize that there are a lot of churches, that are willing to work and who may not have expertise. We can also use these groups now and until the fall of this year."

According to LeMay, Tennessee Baptist camps and conference centers play a major role in reaching people for Christ.

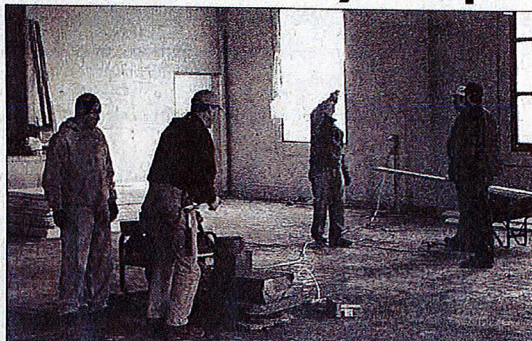
"Every year, hundreds of lives are changed as people get away from their everyday routines to attend a camp or conference at one of our facilities. Carson Springs and Linden Valley are places where people

from all walks of life meet to experience God. The facilities that we offer are a reflection of our desire to make Christ known as we serve His church and His people."

During the next months, Tennessee Baptists are asked to help with the renovation of Stokely Chapel. "The TBC Executive Board believes in and works hard to be good stewards of all God has given us," LeMay noted. "Working cooperatively, we will be able to accomplish this God sized task and enjoy seeing God receive the glory."

"This is good stewardship. There are lots of ways to give to the Cooperative Program including taking a construction team to Carson Springs. Donating volunteers' time and labor can be the equivalent of giving thousands of dollars to the Cooperative Program."

"Several of the teams that came to help us had never before visited Carson Springs. This is one way to show them an awareness of ownership. However, the initial costs were estimated at \$800,000 and some people prefer to give money in-



WORKING ON STOKELY Chapel are volunteers and Bill Brewer, project coordinator of Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, second from left.

stead of labor."

Camp Carson, the forerunner to Carson Springs, was opened in 1949 for Tennessee Baptists and 1,329 young people attended the facility within the following weeks. In order for the camp to continue to grow, a plan was drawn up to build a stone chapel with classroom space. Construction of the chapel was begun on faith that funding would follow.

Early in 1952, discussion

began on scaling back the chapel plans and building less than was needed. After much discussion with the builder, a second "first stage" plan was created.

Over the years, Stokely Chapel has served as the primary focal point for the TBC summer camps, housing the worship times, classroom times, and often indoor recreational activities. The chapel is also — See Construction, page 6

## Hermitage Hills Church team serves in Rio de Janeiro

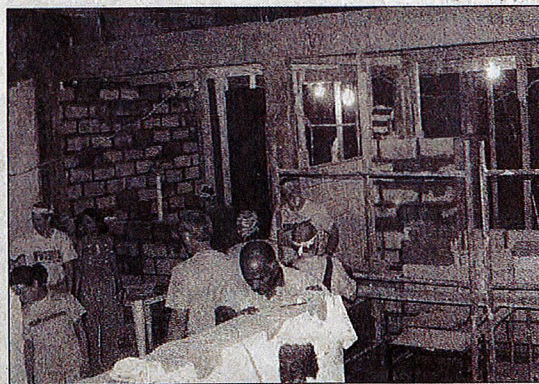
By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

RIO DE JANEIRO — A transformation both physically and spiritually has become evident in the downtown Lapa area here where Tennessee Baptist Volunteer/Partnership teams have been working since 2001.

"There is an evident change in the whole Lapa community from the new construction to the spiritual lives being touched," said James Rogers, a member of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, who worked as part of a volunteer construction team of eight people April 1-10 at the Light-house of Lapa Church in Rio where they completed a kitchen and readied an adjacent area for showers.

"My heart was lifted so much as I was able to talk to the shopkeepers around the Lapa Church. The church has fulfilled its name as a beacon of light in the community. Years ago there was a different atmosphere in the area. It is so dramatic to see the change, and the community has embraced the church."

Besides Rogers, serving on the team were: his wife Brenda Rogers, team leader; Bruce and



WORKING IN THE new construction area of the Lapa Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, are from left: Amy Elrod, IMB journeyman; Brenda Rogers; an interpreter; Henry Mason; Sharon Fairchild, IMB missionary; James Rogers; and Rodney Wilson.

Christine Karcher; Rodney Wilson, co-project manager; Don Thompson; Michael Sherwood, building contractor; and Henry Mason, all of Hermitage Hills Church.

"The best word to describe this church is transformation," Brenda Rogers said. "The building has been physically restored which has allowed the church to begin a variety of ministries including worship services, counseling, medical clinics, street evangelism, and clean clothing."

"The greatest transformation is seen in the lives of the people. Hit men, drug users, prostitutes have been changed by the power of God's Word. What was once a dilapidated building is now a lighthouse for the gospel."

"I could definitely see God doing great works at Lapa," said Sherwood. "I felt that the Lapa community has improved dramatically over the past few years, because of the influence of the church."

In addition to the volunteer

teams, IMB missionaries Ray and Sharon Fairchild, and journeyman Amy Elrod have been instrumental in the physical and spiritual transformation of the area.

"The kitchen will be used by the church for activities and an ongoing street ministry," said Wilson. "The project was actually initiated last year following an assessment visit by myself and Hermitage Hills Church member Matt Nicks, the local IMB missionaries, and the Lapa Church leadership."

"Several needed projects for the church's effective ministry were identified and prioritized by the team. The most critical project identified was the replacement of a dilapidated, undersized, poorly equipped space used as a kitchen."

The project actually began in March 2005 before the Hermitage Hills Church team arrived with the Lapa Church members, interpreters, and Brazilian workers, who joined closely with the missionaries to demolish the existing structure and construct the concrete frame for the 26' x 26' kitchen.

The Hermitage Hills Church team joined the group April 4 to complete the project and start the process of removing — See Hermitage Hills, page 6



## TBC staffers train SS leaders from eight states in Montana

For "TBVMN Update"

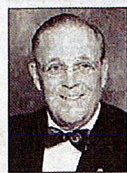
**BILLINGS, Mont.** — Since 2000 TeamWest consortium, a Baptist partnership of Western States, has met together throughout the region to train their trainers, and this year they met here at Montana State Baptist College where Tennessee Baptist Convention Sunday School trainers led them.

According to Tim Holcomb, TBC Church Growth Strategies Group leader, the Tennessee Sunday School team was invited March 11 to train trainers at TeamWest as they have done in past years.

The Baptist state conventions making up TeamWest are: Utah/Idaho,

Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada. This year California and Alaska were invited as observers.

The training event involved Tennessee conference leaders: Ken Marler, general leadership growth specialist; Mark Miller, general leadership specialist; Vicki Hulsey, childhood education specialist; Theresa Thomas, preschool ministry specialist; Bruce Edwards, youth ministry specialist; and Holcomb.



HOLCOMB

TBC Executive director, James Porch also attended the

sessions. TBC volunteer missions specialist, Kim Margrave traveled with the team to continue developing the 2006-2010 prospective partnership with Montana Baptists.

"Each of our leaders from Tennessee led conferences on Friday morning," said Holcomb. "The conference participants or state trainers at the event were selected by their individual states and will conduct Sunday School training and consultations within their respective states and/or churches. Each age group along with pastors was provided hands-on instruction in how to conduct a conference with the theme: 'Vital Signs for a Healthy Sunday School.'"

Marler led a specialized conference

for State Sunday School directors conference focused on the Gallup engagement material, which is a tool. This material provided a focused evaluation on how and why people decide to belong and stay involved in a church.

"In addition, Marler led the entire group in the Sunday School Growth and Evaluation plan," noted Holcomb. "This session provided consulting for all the participants."

"With the developing partnership between the TBC and the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, there will be more opportunities for Sunday School leaders to provide assistance to the Montana Convention as well as TeamWest consortium." □

## Construction volunteers renovate Stokely Chapel ...

— Continued from page 5  
used for church programming events and weddings.

Since the building of the new Conference Center, more groups are utilizing the camp and renovation is needed on Stokely Chapel, which is located on English Mountain. The chapel is a two-story building, constructed of concrete blocks and natural stones that were quarried in the area. The top story sanctuary is designed for multi-purposes and can seat up to 500 for worship.

The upstairs has two large classrooms at the rear of the facility. There are 10 small group classrooms and one large classroom downstairs. There is no air conditioning in the building, but there are space heaters.

Even though the building was well maintained, 50 years

of usage has taken its toll. Today Stokely Chapel is needed 52 weeks of the year instead of just the summer months. Heating and air conditioning are needed to protect carpets and other materials as well as keeping the campers and visitors cool.

To heat and cool efficiently, all windows in the facility have been replaced. In addition the facility must be brought up to codes, more bathroom facilities are required, and handicap access has to be expanded.

"The process began in November 2004 with the gutting of the facility," added LeMay. "The renovation began in January 2005. Our plans call to add new restroom facilities and a hallway to give wheelchair access to the backside classrooms, which are on a higher level than the sanctuary. We

are adding drywall and insulation. It is being transformed from a seasonal camp building to a year-round multi-use facility, complete with comfortable pew chairs.

"Bill Brewer, a retired phone company employee who builds houses, serves as the on-site project coordinator. The project has become a mission experience for him, because he felt God could use him. Brewer has spent countless hours away from his home to lead construction volunteer teams at Stokely Chapel.

"The current emphasis is on the main floor chapel area and the basement additions for the bathrooms," said Brewer, a member of Grace Baptist Church in Nashville. "Tennessee Baptist teams who have volunteered have ranged in size from 4-42 people and have

come to Carson Springs from as far away as Bolivar.

"We have had over 250 volunteers come work in 18 different teams."

Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville, Disaster Relief Rebuild team worked Feb. 5 with a 10-member team and April 2 with a 30-member team at Stokely Chapel, led by associational Disaster Relief director Carolyn Watson. Also two Disaster Relief Chain Saw teams from Sharon Baptist Church in Knoxville, led by Jim Clark in February, helped clear 27 trees around the building to make way for new construction.

"All skills and levels of skills are needed, and we need more availability than ability," noted LeMay.

"Currently we need drywall finishers and hangers as well as

carpenters, painters, electricians, carpet trimmers, floorers, concrete finishers, and others who are able to work for a weekend, a week, a month. Volunteers will receive room and board while they are on site."

The Stokely Chapel bears the name of the William H. Stokely family whose generations have been instrumental in building and renovating the chapel since 1890.

Construction groups, when available, are asked to call LeMay at 1-800-558-2090 or 2076 or direct at (615) 371-2076 to set a date for a construction team.

Individuals who wish to make donations to the Stokely Renovation Fund can send their gifts to TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37026. Designate gifts to Stokely Chapel. □

## Hermitage Hills Church team serves in Rio de Janeiro ...

— Continued from page 5  
around 103,290 lbs. of debris that was generated by the demolition of earth, rock, and bricks.

This included transporting the debris with buckets and wheelbarrows down one flight of stairs and around 200 feet for removal. The debris contained numerous large granite boulders that had to be broken up into manageable size pieces with sledge hammers.

Additionally, the project required laying around 600 concrete blocks totaling 2,000 lbs. for the walls, installing the underground plumbing, running the conduit for the electrical, pouring the concrete slabs for the floors, installing wall tile, and pouring concrete columns and beams for an opening in the existing brick walls for a future project.

All the materials required for the new construction were

carried on the same path as the debris but in reverse through the sanctuary and out the front door. Concrete and mortar required for the project was hand mixed at the work site from the raw materials carried from the sidewalk. There were 232 cubic feet of mortar mixed and placed for walls and slabs totaling 35,000 lbs., 1,000 square feet of wall tile installed, and 56 cubic feet of ditches that were hand excavated through the concrete floor. In addition, there were also hundreds of pounds of mesa dirt, which had to be sifted by the team to be made into a stucco like mixture for the walls.

Besides the Hermitage Hills Church team, working on the project were two missionaries and 21 Brazilians. Around 1,550 man-hours were used for the project.

"The only reason that we

were able to manage this project was because of the manpower of the missionaries, the Brazilian team, and the site preparation work," noted James Rogers. "Our job was to remove debris and lay block work while the integrated work continued with the Brazilian teams. It was truly an orchestrated effort, because we did the grunt work."

According to Brenda Rogers, two years ago while serving in Rio on a medical team, some members from Hermitage Hills Church visited the Lapa Church.

"Two years may seem like a long time to pull together a construction team, but God's time is the perfect plan to work under, because the Lapa Church is located in the historical area of downtown Rio where a special permit was needed to begin the project," she said.

Beginning as a shared vi-

sion by the late IMB missionary Elizabeth Oates and Henrique Cezar, who had previously served as the former pastor to the Lapa Church and at that time was the Carica Baptist Convention Social Ministries director, the Lapa Church was to be transformed from a former pool hall and place of prostitution. In 2001 a team from Brentwood Baptist church cleaned and remodeled the front of the 8,000 square foot building into a worship sanctuary and homeless ministry.

The Hermitage Hills Church team, a Brazilian contractor Eli and his construction crew, and Lapa Church men worked together for a week to build the kitchen that will feed the homeless.

The Lapa Church currently serves about 100 meals 5 days a week. Water lines and sewage lines were improved to meet the growing needs of

the congregation.

On Friday, Cezar thanked his brothers in Tennessee who answered the call and ministries available for work in Rio. "The Lapa Church does not have gold or silver, but will intercede for the Tennessee people, and we will lose the vision of the field," he said.

"Since the Hermitage Hills Church team has returned home, we have seen the vision of the past fulfilled," added Brenda Rogers. "We have dreams for the future Lapa in our hearts with dreams and plans for more transformation. The church needs a shower area for the homeless and an apartment inside for the pastor to live in the building. We will all dream and pray for the people of downtown Rio that their hearts will be forever transformed in an eternal transformation." □



## Tennesseans celebrate opening of housing centre in Canada

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new centre will be a  
ace for future volun-  
stay in Cochrane, be-  
will be less expensive  
motel during the tourist

season," said John Cole. "It has the facilities of a motel. Because of the volunteers' labor, it is a debt free building."

Both John and Virginia Cole worked on the centre during 2004 installing sheet rock and doing whatever was needed to complete the project.

"This past summer our building was filled with mission volunteers from all over North America who came to help us build a new CCSB Missions/Ministry Centre," said Taillon. "This centre will help us provide lodging for mission volunteers who will serve in our churches. It will also provide a facility for the National Leadership Board meetings, New Minister Orientation meetings, youth and student retreats, field staff meetings

and many training events.

"Under the excellent leadership of DK Hale, CCSB National Partnership/ Volunteer consultant, this building has been built entirely from donations. It stands as a tribute to the generosity of God's people."

According to Taillon, the Missions/Ministry Centre was built almost entirely by volunteers who framed, plumbed, wired, dry walled, painted, and even built the furniture and cabinets. The volunteers buried pipe in the mud, pounded nails, and climbed rafters to build a roof that they shingled.

"It was interesting to hear their stories," Taillon added. "I am so impressed with the level of their unselfishness. They paid their own travel ex-



**TENNESSEE BAPTIST** John Cole, a member of First Baptist Church of Huntingdon, stands behind Gerry Taillon, right, of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists staff, during the dedication of the Missions/Ministry Centre.

penses to come and help us. They took care of themselves placing no demands on the

CCSB or anyone else. They worked regular hours for no remuneration, and they were willing to do whatever was asked of them.

"They also contributed generously to buying materials that they needed to complete the job. Then when it was time to leave, they thanked us with tears in their eyes for the wonderful opportunity to serve."

"That's missions. Simply put, having a servant attitude enables you to lay down your life and miraculously enjoy doing it. Many attempts have been made to define who Southern Baptists really are, but in my opinion this self-giving mission spirit represents the best of our heritage and identity. If I covet anything for the CCSB, it is this." □

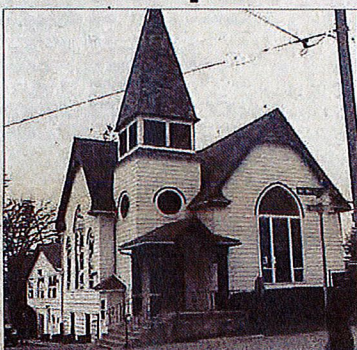
## Three Women on Mission plan to return to Iowa

ia Knox  
MNN Update"

ORAH, Iowa — God answers in Iowa, and three Tennessee on Mission volunteers who prayer-walked there for a new church start in 2004, are again to return this summer. The construction mission team set for June, led by Tennessee Woman's Union president, Shelby Lord, husband Carl, members of First Baptist Church of Lenoir City; Kathy Neely, husband Lonnie, members of New Baptist Mission Church of Green- d three other volunteers from the Baptist Association, plans to build, survey, do survey work, and prayer-walk Living Hope Baptist Church in Os-

construction work will also benefit a member McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association who will work out of the church. The team is scheduled in mid-July to do parties and VBS for Living Hope. The team will include volunteers from Baptist Church of Calhoun; Baptist Church, Athens; and Judy and her husband Ray Luck, McMinn-Meigs director of missions and members of First Baptist Church of

the women's team of Shelby Lord, Neely, and Judy Luck prayerwalked there, Living Hope Church, Decorah, Feb. 27, 2005, to the former building of a Lutheran Church, which was given for the price of the lot, according to Living Hope pastor Joe Needham. The construction of the new church start to a new building is seen as a result of the women's prayerwalking. The week of Nov. 12, 2004, the Lord opened the gates of Heaven and poured out His blessing on us," said Needham. "In Ossian town about 10 miles south of a Lutheran church relocated to its site. A friend of ours learned that they wanted to destroy their old facility, as over 100-years-old, but very large 50-year-old addition." Needham, he talked with the pastor in charge of the Lutheran church council, and the council agreed to sell their church for the price of the Lutheran church was appraised



**LIVING HOPE Baptist Church** has a new home which is the former Ossian Lutheran Church. It is about 10 miles from Decorah, Iowa.

at about \$190,000, and the lot was \$20,000. The church, which was built on two levels, includes 6,200 square feet. The sanctuary holds 150 people, and there are Sunday School rooms and a large fellowship hall.

"It's a traditional aluminum siding church with a balcony. God has been so wonderful to us," Needham noted. "The Baptist Convention of Iowa put together a package Dec. 10, 2004, with a \$10,000 interest free loan and a \$5,000 grant. Living Hope Church also had \$10,000 in savings. It's been a blessing in many ways, and we closed on the church Feb. 25, 2005."

"Thank you so much for praying for us. God is answering in ways that are so far beyond what we could ever imagine, and we have a few more new people coming to the church."

Needham added that the Lutheran congregation took their stain glass windows with them so the new church will replace the windows and has already done some clean up work and painting. The new church also did some survey work.

For now the new church is meeting in rooms in back of the sanctuary until it's ready. "A local newspaper recently ran an article on our new church," added Needham. "The community has also told us that they are happy that we are there."

A Tennessee transplant to Iowa, Needham taught for several years at Tennessee

Temple University, Chattanooga, where he served as director of the History Department. He and his family are former members of Brainerd Hills Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

When the three women prayerwalked in 2004 the new church start and a Lutheran college in Decorah for the Northeast Baptist Association, a part of the Baptist Convention of Iowa, they prayed for Living Hope Church, which at that time was located in a faculty member's home on campus.

Needham, who teaches at Luther College, then served a congregation of six adults and five children.

"The church's prayer request was to move out of college faculty member Carol Hester's living room into a more public setting," said Judy Luck. "We also climbed a hill and prayed for the community and the college."

Not long after their 2004 visit, Neely received an e-mail from Needham telling her that the ladies' prayers had been answered for a new church location. The new church moved in November 2004 to the downtown Decorah Farm Bureau building.

"The Tennessee team prayed in the summer for a school or a storefront building to open up for the new church," said Shelby Lord. "We never dreamed to pray for a church. We knew the Lord could do it, but we didn't ask for that. Our God hears our prayers, and we needed to pray big — like for a big building."

"The new church is in the Lutheran Church building. When God gives you something like this, He will provide the people for a Southern Baptist Church."

"Prayer is the biggest thing that we can do; prayerwalking is a mission trip. God gave us an answer in such a quick time for the church."

"I think our prayerwalking was needed, and we served as an encouragement to Hester and the pastor," noted Lord. "We prayed that God would send the people. We also prayed that other Christians would work with them."

"We prayed for the financial resources for Living Hope Church to purchase the lot. The pastor requested prayer for the church to raise the money without having to borrow it."

"Our only prayer now is for God to give us real wisdom as we seek to further His kingdom in Northeast, Iowa," added Needham. □

## Team leader training set for Oct. 14-15

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — The second of two Team Leader Training events for 2005 will be held Oct. 14-15 at First Baptist Church of Goodlettsville, sponsored by the Volunteer Missions Team.

Leading a volunteer team overseas offers the opportunity to see God at work through your team members as well as your project. A successful trip depends on being fully prepared.

This 10-hour seminar will provide how to: recruit prayer supporters, research your project site overseas, build your team, finance your trip, train team members, secure travel and proper ID, and plan a daily schedule.

Discover how to maintain basic health needs and security (if your team is traveling where the gospel is not openly shared).

Some of the most important work of all awaits your return. Learn how presenting your missions experience to your church can play a key role in recruiting new and repeat volunteers.

Included in the training are: Welcome and overview; Being an effective team leader; Your mission; Building your team; Meeting expenses; Training your team; Getting there; The Bible and security; Cooperating with field strategy; Preparing to return home; and Return and debrief.

Registration is \$20 per person. Register on line at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org), or contact Heather Wilson, volunteer missions ministry assistant, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061 or [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org). □



## Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions Network UPDATE

## Partnership Projects

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Rio-05-13	30 teams of 3 to lead revival services and door-to-door visits	9/26-10/4	90
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Rio-05-16	Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, helpers needed for medical clinics	10/21-30	open
Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal	72768-72771	Prayerwalking/construction team	1/18-12/30	10
Lisbon, Portugal	74568-74571	Prayerwalking and survey	7/3-24	10
Albia, Iowa	IA-05-31	Shingle roof of church	open	open
Ames, Iowa	IA-05-07	Summer Missionary	6/1-8/5	1
Ames, Iowa	IA-05-13	Summer Missionary	6/1-8/5	1
Ankeny, Iowa	IA-05-02	Youth Intern	6/1-7/31	1 male
Ankeny, Iowa	IA-05-06	Youth Intern	6/1-8/5	1 male
Carler Lake, Iowa	IA-05-41	Light construction and survey work	open	open
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	IA-05-21	VBS and evangelism	June	open
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	IA-05-20	Community outreach through block parties, census, music, etc.	July	open
Creston, Iowa	Bridge3	New church construction	10/1-12/1	open
Denison, Iowa	Bridge5	Conduct BYBC in city parks in the towns of Deloit, Vail, and Schleswig	6/15-8/15	open
Des Moines, Iowa	IA-05-04	Inner city mission intern	6/1-8/5	2 females
Des Moines, Iowa	IA-05-05	College students to travel Iowa doing VBS, BYBC, camps, etc.	6/1-8/5	2 females
Des Moines, Iowa	IA-5-24-30	Conduct BYBC at inner city Baptist Church	6/20-8/5	15-25 each week
Des Moines, Iowa	IA-05-33	Production of materials for state missions emphasis/offering	open	open
Fort Madison, Iowa	IA-05-42	Team to connect two buildings, build bathrooms, handicap ramps, move kitchen, and paint	July	5-8
Independence, Iowa	IA-05-48	Conduct VBS	June-August	6
Iowa City, Iowa	Bridge6	Conduct evening VBS, assist with promotion/outreach, and lead worship Sunday before VBS begins	6/10-18	open
Keokuk, Iowa	IA-05-06	Summer missionary	6/1-8/5	1
Lacona, Iowa	IA-05-39	Light construction and repair work	June-July	6-10
Lacona, Iowa	IA-05-40	Conduct two BYBC in surrounding communities	June-July	10-15
Orange City, Iowa	IA-05-35	Team to pay for and put new roof on church	open	open
Ottumwa, Iowa	IA-05-15	Youth ministry intern	5/1-9/1	1
Quimby, Iowa	IA-05-44	Conduct VBS	July	15
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-03	College students to travel Iowa doing VBS, BYBC, camps, etc.	6/1-8/5	2 females
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-19	Adopt an area to help start a church	ongoing	open
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-43	Light construction and VBS	Late June-July	open
Sioux Rapids, Iowa	IA-05-18	Light construction and repair work	open	open
Spencer, Iowa	IA-05-45	Team to reroof church	June-September	4-10
Wayland, Iowa	IA-05-46	Conduct VBS (day camp style)	6/6-10	open
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-19	Adopt an area to help start a church	ongoing	open
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-43	Light construction and VBS	Late June-July	open
Sioux Rapids, Iowa	IA-05-18	Light construction and repair work	open	open
Spencer, Iowa	IA-05-45	Team to reroof church	June-September	4-10
Wayland, Iowa	IA-05-46	Conduct VBS (day camp style)	6/6-10	open
Wayland, Iowa	IA-05-47	Youth outreach	8/10-13	open
Winterset, Iowa	IA-05-09	Youth Intern	6/1-8/5	2 females
Across Canada	Canada2	Church strengthener	open	1
Across Canada	Canada3	Barnabas minister	2 year term	1 or couple
Across Canada	Canada4	Jonathan partner	2 year term	1 or couple
Across Canada	Canada5	Strategic coordinator in church planting	2 year term	1 or couple
Across Canada	Canada6	University church planting	open	open
Cochrane, AB, Canada	05MID003	Minor maintenance and repair on church building	6/25-7/2	4-10
Cochrane, AB, Canada	05MID001	Community outreach through servant evangelism, sports camp, BYBC, concerts, etc.	July-August	5-50
Kinistino, SK, Canada	05NOR003	Conduct VBS in rural farming community	July or August	5-10
Kinistino, SK, Canada	05NOR004	Replace church roof with metal roof	July or August	5-15
Maple Ridge, BC, Canada	05CAP001	Community outreach through sports camp, music camps, day camps	6/27-7/4	5-10
Penikese, BC, Canada	05ALP001	Reform ministry	June-August	5-50
Prince Albert, SK, Canada	05NOR002	Youth concert on weekend followed by week of activities on beach reaching summer vacationers	6/30-7/10 and 7/29-8/6	2-30 each week
Prince Albert, SK, Canada	Canada1	Refugee and Immigrant Associate Pastor	open	1
Saskatoon, SK, Canada	05NOR001	Day camp ministry for children during associational meeting	9/2-4	4-8
St. Albert, AB, Canada	05MID002	Sports camp and VBS family retreat	7/25-29	5-15
Billings, Montana	MT-05-18	Team to do light construction work	open	Max of 10
Billings, Montana	MT-05-37	Team to conduct evangelistic sports camps/children's activities, prayerwalking	Summer	open
Billings, Montana	MT-05-41	Team to conduct VBS and then conduct Block Party on family night	8/1-5	12-14
Broadview, Montana	MT-05-22	Conduct evangelistic sports camps, survey work, BYBC, block parties, etc.	5/20-6/6	Max of 20
Clancy, Montana	MT-05-23	Conduct summer camp (volleyball, basketball, soccer, drama, crafts)	6/20-23	8-10
Columbia, Montana	MT-05-14	Build small addition onto existing structure and reshingle existing roof	6/12-18	10-12
Glendive, Montana	MT-05-15	Team to purchase paint and paint church interior. Other ministry possibilities during that time	open	Max of 10
Great Falls, Montana	MT-05-24	Conduct VBS	June-July	15
Hamilton, Montana	MT-05-28	Conduct VBS and sports camps	June-July	10-20
Harlem, Montana	MT-05-26	Build 20x20 storage shed (team to provide materials), create driveway and conduct VBS	open	open
Havre, Montana	MT-05-25	Conduct BYBC and sports camp	6/25-7/1 or 7/25-8/6	15
Kalispell, Montana	MT-05-16	Construction work on new sanctuary-need finishing work, painting, and landscaping	March-August	open
Laurel, Montana	MT-05-27	Conduct VBS	8/13-17	20-30
Missoula, Montana	MT-05-17	Replace roof on church building, interior painting, and general maintenance work	Late July-Early August	12-15

## Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary offers visiting teaching opportunities

Semesters are approximately 15 weeks long and run roughly Sept. 1 - December 15 (Fall) and January 15 - May 15 (Spring). Intensives/J Terms are usually one week long and occur in January and mid-May to mid-June.

## Fall, 2005

- Courses related to Principles of Teaching and Christian Education — graduate and undergraduate levels (one person needed)
- Courses related to Preaching and Pastoral Ministries — graduate level (one person needed)

## Spring, 2006

- Courses related to Systematic Theology and theology elective — graduate and undergraduate level (one level needed)
- Courses related to Missions, Education Philosophy, and Ministerial Development — graduate level (one or two persons needed)

## Fall, 2006

- Courses related to Pastoral Ministries — undergraduate level (one person)
- Courses related to Church Administration, Principles of Teaching, Youth

Ministry — graduate level (one person needed)

- Courses related to Church Growth and electives — graduate level (one person needed)

## January, 2007 Intensive (one week)

- Church Administration — graduate level (one person needed)

## General Requirements for Teaching:

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in discipline related to teaching assignment for graduate teaching
- Masters degree in discipline related to teaching assignment for undergraduate teaching
- Minimum of five years church/denominational experience
- Some academic teaching experience preferred

For further information, please contact Volunteer Missions Office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2021, (615) 371-2021, kmargrave@tnbaptist.org, www.tnbaptist.org. ☐

## Tennessee Projects

## East Tennessee Appalachian Regional Ministry

• **Alcoa** — Teams to construct handicap ramp, painting, siding, and other similar tax residential construction ministry. Dates: June 27-July 1, July 11-15. Contact: Barbara Camp Tipton, 865-982-0499 or barbara@ch...

• **Benton** — Two volunteers are needed to ministering and assisting mission teams in do... ministry. Housing and meals will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-528-2267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Benton** — Four volunteers are needed to River Chaplains while working at whitewater outfitters. Volunteers will be ministering to river community in southeast TN. Housing will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-528-2267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Benton** — Male volunteer needed to help with hospitality ministries and work with teams. Would be working kayakers, rafters, and other teams. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-528-2267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Benton** — Two volunteers needed to be supervisors at camp. Activities offered at camp: swimming, low ropes, climbing tower, caving, field games, nature trail, and more. Life insurance and initiatives course training desired. Meals will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-528-2267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Benton** — Male volunteer to coordinate and facilitate daily worship and Bible study experience groups and to help assist in daily opportunities. Housing and meals will be provided. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-528-2267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Benton** — Individual/couple to assist with and general maintenance duties at camp. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-528-2267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Benton** — Individual/couple to assist with and miscellaneous duties at camp. Dates: May 20-August 10. Contact: Chris Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-888-528-2267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Chattanooga** — Team to replace roof on building. Dates: Open. Contact: Byron McCann, 894-4517 or 624-8375

• **Knoxville** — Teams of 20 to conduct Village Village. Dates: June-July. Contact: Montgomery Village Baptist Center, (865) 525-1111 or cawm@houseknox.org

• **Roan Mountain** — Teams needed to install joints (I joist) for wood ceilings and install insulating, hang sheet rock in worship center. Dates: June 27-30. Contact: Dwight Hobbs, Roan Park Baptist Church, (423) 542-6879 or edwighthobbs@charteris...

• **Townsend** — Teams of 10-25 needed to camps in campgrounds and conduct family programs. Dates: June 5-July 30. Contact: K&L Appalachian Regional Ministries, (865) 988-1111 or k&l@apm.org

• **Walland** — Teams up to 25 to lead Back to Back in rural mobile home communities. Dates: 30-August 5. Contact: Krystal McCammon, Baptist Church, (865) 681-8997

## Middle Tennessee Cumberland Regional Ministry

• **Maury** — Teams need to minister in at Columbia. Teams would be doing block party, clothing distribution, BYBC/surveys/prayer four areas designated for future new church. Cost: \$15/day which covers administrative insurance. Dates: Open. Contact: David G. 286-1002 or servanthood@tnmo.us

• **Nashville** — Volunteers are needed for medical clinic in downtown Nashville. Team of 10-15. Project will include: street ministry team, medical, dental, counseling, etc. Revival services probable. A medical license is required. Dates: June 12-15. Contact: Michael Vaughan, Nashville, FBC, (615) 259-1111 or m.vaughan@comcast.net

• **Nashville** — Volunteers for construction building that will be used for worship, Bible fellowship. Dates: Beginning in March. Contact: Samuel Sims, True Faith Baptist Church, 8159

For further information, please contact Missions Office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, 1-800-558-2021, (615) 371-2021.



## Volunteers sought for ministry Bonnaroo music event in June

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

MANCHESTER — The outreach to Bonnaroo participants is expected to expand this year, according to Kerry Walker, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church here.

For the ministry to expand, however, Tennessee Baptists are needed as volunteers, he said.

Bonnaroo is a four-day music event which draws thousands of youth and young adults to a 700-acre site near Manchester.

Tennessee Baptists have ministered to Bonnaroo participants several



WALKER

years. The ministry is combined with the work of the Rock River Baptist Association, based in Tullahoma, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Walker noted there are several ways Tennessee Baptists can be involved in ministry at Bonnaroo.

On Saturday, June 4, a prayer walk will be held for the music event and the outreach connected to it. Prayerwalkers should gather

at Trinity Church at 10 a.m.

On Wednesday, June 8, a youth rally will be held at one of the main ministry sites on the route to the Bonnaroo site. The rally will begin at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, June 9, volunteers will begin ministry to the thousands of people lined up in cars to enter the Bonnaroo site. People are needed to distribute water, frisbees, and a publication which will include testimonies of several Christian artists slated to perform at Bonnaroo, maps of the area, help for stalled and broken down vehicles, and referrals to chaplains.

At one ministry site, volunteers will distribute hot dogs and groups will perform music. Walker said praise bands, youth musical groups, and smaller groups and individuals are needed to perform for people waiting due to long lines.

Walker is excited about the expanded ministries to visitors coming to Bonnaroo. Young people from all over the United States are expected to attend the concerts.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Walker at (931) 728-4588. □

## Butler pastor extends ministry via hospice

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

BUTLER — When it comes down to it, Doug Ranshaw's bivocational "job" is very similar to his role as pastor at Sugar Grove Baptist Church here. He simply ministers at both places.

Ranshaw is a chaplain for Adventa Hospice, based in Elizabethton. His territory, however, extends into four counties — Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, and Unicoi.

Hospice is a special concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatments, according to the Hospice Foundation of America web site.

According to the web site the first hospice in the United States was established in New Haven, Conn., in 1974. Today there are more than 3,200 hospice programs in the U.S. In 2002 hospice cared for nearly 885,000 people, according to the web site.

Ranshaw said one of his chief tasks is to bring spiritual comfort to patients and their families. He prays with patients and even reads to those who have trouble seeing. "Sometimes you just need to be there to listen," he continued.

The hospice patients are like

### What is hospice?

According to the Hospice Foundation of America web site, (www.hospicefoundation.org), hospice:

(1) is a special concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to care-oriented treatments. The goal of hospice care is to improve the quality of a patient's last days by offering comfort and dignity.

(2) care neither prolongs nor hastens death. Hospice staff and volunteers offer a specialized knowledge of medical care, including pain management.

(3) addresses all symptoms of a disease, with a special emphasis on controlling a patient's pain and discomfort.

(4) deals with the emotional, social, and spiritual impact of the disease on the patient and the patient's family and friends.

(5) offers a variety of bereavement and counseling services to families before and after a patient's death.

(6) care is provided by a team-oriented group of specially trained professionals, volunteers, and family members. □

members of his church family, said Ranshaw, who has served as pastor at Sugar Grove in Watauga Baptist Association for 15 years.

Ranshaw sees his role as chaplain an extension of his ministry.

Many of the patients and family members he relates to have no church home or affiliation.

"Some of the patients consider me their pastor and ask me to conduct their funeral," said Ranshaw, who has served as a hospice chaplain for about seven years.

The very fact that hospice is called in only when death is imminent means Ranshaw has ample opportunities to help grieving families. He noted patients typically have six months or less to live in order to enter hospice care.

"Sometimes I minister to the families more than I do the patients," he said.

Like any pastor, Ranshaw doesn't hesitate to share the gospel when opportunities become available.

He noted that some patients and family members have a religious background, but have been out of church for awhile.

Among the most frequent questions he is asked is, "Why does the Lord let me suffer?"

Ranshaw said he uses Scripture to remind them that God does not promise His children will not have pain and suffering. He is able to remind them that God is still with them even through the pain.

Ranshaw admitted that constantly dealing with people facing death "gets to you at times."

You build relationships and you feel their hurt," he observed.

The pastor, however, follows his advice to patients and relies on the Lord for his strength and ability to cope.

He is grateful to his congregation at Sugar Grove for sharing him with his hospice patients.

Ranshaw noted there have been very few conflicts, but the church has always worked with him when emergencies have arisen.

"They are very supportive," Ranshaw affirmed. □



RANSHAW

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### Reaching Deaf People in Your Community

There will be a Deaf Ministry conference May 13-14, 2005, at First Baptist Church Millington, 5010 West Union Road, Millington, Tenn. Contact person Gary Stafford, (901) 872-2264. The times for this conference will be Friday from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The conference will be led by the Michelle Swaney Center on Deafness, University of Tennessee. There is a \$15 registration fee. In order to register for this conference, contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 800-558-2090, ext. 7916 or go to [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org) news and events or e-mail [imarks@tnbaptist.org](mailto:imarks@tnbaptist.org). The deadline for registering is May 10, 2005.



## Tennessee DR efforts on track, says Tim Bearden

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — While the effects of devastation continue with smaller earthquakes in South Asia following the December 2004 tsunami, Tennessee Baptists are remaining on track by responding to this disaster, and disaster relief officials have renewed their call for eligible volunteers.

All volunteers must be in excellent health and physical condition to serve in this response and complete an application to be approved to take part in the response teams.

"We have committed to be in South Asia for the long-term," said Tim Bearden, Interim State Disaster Relief director. "While there is still a critical need for doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals, we are now getting requests for disaster relief feeding, clean-up, and rebuild volunteers in the remote areas."

Teams are currently being formed for two-week trips to do a variety of work including medical clinics, well reclamation, ditch digging, construction, and other tasks. Most teams need a mixture of personnel. It is anticipated that teams will be needed through July.

Due to the strenuous nature of this work, unsafe living conditions, and hot locale, only eligible volunteers are allowed to participate. To determine eligibility, all volunteers are asked to complete an application process. In addition, all eligible volunteers are required to successfully complete specialized training before being assigned to a team.

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention volunteer missions team for an application at (615) 371-2061 or e-mail [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org). Monetary contributions can be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Dis-

aster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Checks may be payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention. Please write "Asian Tsunami Relief Fund" on check. Donations can be made online at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).

All contributions made to the Asian Tsunami Relief Fund will be used to provide relief assistance. The TBC Cooperative Program and Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provide for staff support and administration of funds received. □

## AFA withdraws boycott of P&G

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A boycott of Procter & Gamble, maker of such products as Crest toothpaste, Tide detergent, and Pampers diapers, has been suspended after a pro-family group's review of the company's behavior.

The American Family Association, with the support of Focus

on the Family, has lifted the boycott it started last fall because Procter & Gamble has ceased advertising heavily on pro-homosexual television shows like "Will & Grace" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" as well as on web sites like gayworks.com.

"They have done enough to show us that they are no longer promoting the homosexual lifestyle," AFA President Tim Wildmon told Baptist Press April 19.

The boycott was based in part on Procter & Gamble's support of a ballot measure in its hometown of Cincinnati to repeal a 1993 city charter amendment prohibiting homosexual rights laws. A Procter & Gamble executive was granted leave to run the campaign and the company donated \$40,000 to the effort, according to the Associated Press.

But since AFA's boycott started, the executive who was granted a leave of absence is no longer with the company.

Wildmon said he did not expect the boycott to end so soon, but he is not surprised that Procter & Gamble is not admitting the boycott affected their advertising policies or their bottom line.

In a brief statement to Baptist Press, Procter & Gamble said they are "pleased to learn" AFA has lifted the boycott.

"P&G has always focused on serving our consumers and that's where our focus remains," the statement said. □

## Oklahomans focus on hope, healing

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ten years have passed since the single worst act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history shattered a beautiful spring morning, when Timothy McVeigh and accomplice Terry Nichols triggered a massive explosion that sheared the north side of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in

downtown Oklahoma City, killing 168 people.

The April 19, 1995, bombing ripped apart the structure built in 1977 of \$14.5 million it changed the lives of people across the country.

Organizers of the 10th anniversary are celebrating the event with a "Day of Remembrance" which includes a variety of events honoring "those who were killed, those who were changed, and those who changed the world."

"A Day of Remembrance" held April 19, with 168 names of those who were killed, those who were changed, and those who changed the world."

The ceremony also honored the survivors of the bombing and their journey over the past 10 years. Victims' families, survivors, and rescue workers then joined for a reunion lunch. □

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — MUSIC

First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Responsibilities include leadership of the temporary and one 11:00 a.m. morning worship service, oversight of music ministry activities and the television program. Interested persons should send resumes to the attention of senior pastor to [bchane@knox.org](mailto:bchane@knox.org).

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
Sale Street Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music/worship. Send resume, cover letter, and demonstration of worship leading to Search Committee, 5215 Lake Charles, Lenoir, TN. Job requirements @ [www.salestreet.org](http://www.salestreet.org).

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
Henderson Chapel Baptist Church is seeking to fill position of part-time music leader. Address your resume and questions to the church at Dave Tinker at (865) 371-4070. Henderson Chapel Baptist Church, 407 Henderson Pigeon Forge, TN 37756. Search Committee.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
MINISTRY — COMBAT  
Madison Baptist Church is accepting resumes to fill music/missions past position. Send resume to Robert McBride, 3000 Steam Mill Ferry Rd., TN 38301.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
Calvary Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music and youth. College preferred with seminary plus. If you are interested, send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, Personnel Office, 300 West First Ave., Knoxville, TN 37711 or e-mail [DRUCBC@wmconnect.com](mailto:DRUCBC@wmconnect.com). For more information call C. Jenkins at (865) 986-3747.

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### Conference Schedule

Monday, August 15

PM 7:00 Welcome & Celebration  
Louise, Carl, Cynthia  
Break & Stretch  
8:25 Coker Creek Gospel Grass  
9:15 Dismiss

Tuesday, August 16

AM 10:00 Creative Worship  
Carl & Cynthia  
11:00 Break & Stretch  
11:25 Mayberry Deputy  
12:10 Dismiss

PM 7:30 Louise Mandrell Show

8:30 Break & Stretch  
8:50 Louise Mandrell Show  
9:40 Dismiss

Wednesday, August 17

AM 10:00 Integrity Concert  
10:45 Break  
11:10 Integrity Concert  
12:00 Conference Conclusion  
Carl, Louise, Integrity  
12:15 Dismiss



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## minister's corner

Blyton Dunsmore

I have been thinking about the word "together." Did you know this word appears 484 times in 469 verses of the Bible? It must be an important word.

One of my favorite places this word appears is found in 1 Corinthians 12:25. *For we are laborers together with you.* Think about that statement for a minute. "We," I and you, and "we," the church, God's people, are laborers (workers) together. Together has the idea of team work. It is not just one person, but many, who work together for a common goal and common purpose.

Let's look at who "we work together" with. We work with God. Wow! So who do you think should determine our goal and purpose should be? Should it be me? No, it should be God who determines our goal and purpose. He is the one who gives the orders. We, you and I, are to work together to accomplish God's goals and purposes.

This brings me to another phrase, "one accord." This denotes one purpose, one mind, one goal. *And the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all one accord in one place* (Acts 2:1). The early church was in one accord and in one place on the day of Pentecost. Did this just happen? No, they had been gathered together for extended prayer (see Acts 1:14). It was during that extended prayer meeting they laid aside their personal agendas and began to seek God's agenda.

That had Jesus told His followers just before His ascension: Acts 1:8 says, *But ye shall receive power, and shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Do you see God's purpose in that verse? It is for His people to be witnesses of Him in all the earth. He has given the power of the Holy Spirit to be upon them for the purpose of witnessing for Him.

Acts 2 tells the story of what happened on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came and empowered the apostles to speak the wonderful works of God (vv. 1-11). He empowered Peter to proclaim the Gospel (vv. 14-36). The Holy Spirit convicted sinners and caused them to ask what to do (v. 37). Peter told them plainly to repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (vv. 38-40).

The Holy Spirit gave new birth to 3,000 souls (v. 41). He led them to continue in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (v. 42). They did the Lord and the Lord did great things (v. 43). They were together and shared what they had (v. 44). They worshiped together, praised God, and the church added to the church daily those who were saved. Under what would happen today if the church gathered together in one accord to carry out God's purpose? — Dunsmore is director of missions for Cumberland Baptist Association, based in Harrogate.

## just for today

by Fred Wood, Memphis

**Start with a Smile:** Teacher to Timmy (in fifth grade history class): "When was Rome built?" Timmy: "It was built at night." Teacher: "Where did you get a crazy idea as that?" Timmy: "I heard my home-teacher say, 'Rome wasn't built in a day.'"

**Take this Truth:** Remember that the mighty oak grows from a nut.

**Remember this Scripture:** *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.* — Timothy 4:7

**Say this Prayer:** Lord, help me to realize that I never get in a hurry and neither should I. □

## Seek God's purpose

By Robert Segrest

**Focal Passage:** Genesis 12:1-7, 10-18

Following God wherever He leads is always a challenging blessing. However, no pilgrim on The Way would ever deny that walking by faith is a thrilling adventure.

Abram discovered that spiritual fact of life as a senior adult in his mid 70s. One day God spoke to him in the city of Ur where he lived with his family. How Abram developed a relationship with the one true God is anyone's guess for he and his father Terah were pagan moon worshippers. Nevertheless, God called him to begin a journey for Him toward an unrevealed destination.

We are told that Terah left Ur and began moving his family to Canaan, but that he settled in Haran where he died. Following Terah's death, God issued a second call to Abram. This time he fully obeyed and taking with him his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot along with his servants and his possessions, Abram began the trek southward to the land of Canaan.

He traveled under God's orders with genuine faith. It must have been difficult for Abram to leave the contentment and security of everything he knew to enter a strange and unknown world. Had he refused to leave his comfort zone the Lord would not have used him. But because Abram in

essence had said, "Lord, I'll go where you want me to go, I'll do what you want me to do, and I'll be what you want me to be," God elected to bless the world through him by making him the father of the great nation from which Christ would eventually come.

The fulfillment of that promise, though, demanded additional faith since the aged Abram and Sarai had no heir to perpetuate a great nation. Nevertheless, he trusted God and traveled on. Abram was not too old for obedience or for an exciting faith-adventure.

Once in the land, Abram went to Shechem where he met some Canaanites. It is doubtful he was welcomed with open arms, and yet God had promised Abram that one day He would give the entire land to his offspring. In his lifetime, Abram would be a nomad in the land of promise. Nevertheless, he received Canaan by faith and in gratitude built an altar and offered upon it a sacrifice to God.

Today's believers should follow Abram's pattern of faith and willingly offer themselves to the Lord as living sacrifices even though they only have the promises of God to go on. Every Christian can be a hero of faith like Abram if he or she will only trust and obey.

A moving account of Abram's complete journey by faith is found in Hebrews 11:8-19. However, Genesis fills in the gaps with some of Abram's faith-failures.

A famine came upon the land of

**Sunday School Lesson**  
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Canaan, so without asking God for permission, Abram moved his family to Egypt for food and water. That decision set into motion a series of events with negative consequences.

Aware that Sarai was an attractive woman, Abram feared that some Egyptian might kill him and take his wife. So, to save himself, he instructed Sarai to pose as his sister. As it turned out the Egyptian attracted to Sarai was none other than the Pharaoh. He took her into his house and treated Abram royally in return.

Abram did not say a word about Sarai being his wife. He carried out the deception until God struck Pharaoh's household with a plague. Realizing the truth about Sarai, Pharaoh angrily ordered Abram out of his country.

Instead of depending upon God's resources, Abram, because he was afraid, had trusted in his own. However, Abram's faith-failure did not eliminate him from the plan and purpose God had for his life. The Lord did not abandon Abram when he fell into sin and neither will He abandon us. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

## Heed God's Word

By Michael Julian

**Focal Passage:** Jeremiah 36:1-4, 14-16, 22-25, 29-30a

Some facts are incontrovertible, one of those being the accuracy and veracity of God's Word. The Word of the Lord stands true whether I acknowledge that Word or disregard that Word. Every copy of the Scripture could be burned to ashes, yet the authority of God's Word would not be diminished. The world seeks to destroy the accuracy, authenticity, and authority of the Bible to placate their own seared consciences, but the Word of God is indestructible and demands complete obedience.

Jeremiah has been preaching faithfully every God-inspired word to anyone within earshot. His message has largely fallen upon deaf ears. In chapter 35 the Lord contrasted the obedience of His people to His message, with the stellar obedience of the Rechabites to the message of Jonadab. The Rechabites displayed obedience to the letter according to the word of a man, and the people of Judah exhibited disdain for the very words of Almighty Jehovah God. How sad when a nation exalts the words of fallible men over the words of an infallible, infinite God. His Word stands forever, but men fade and wither like the flowers of the field.

Despite the obstinacy of the

people, God extends His mercy yet again. This time He commands Jeremiah to write and record all the words God has spoken to him. The Lord specifically designates for Jeremiah to begin from the first day that He began speaking to him. Indeed, we live from every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. An interesting word appears in the text that follows. The word is perhaps, as in perhaps the people will hear this time in order that they would turn from their evil ways, and so receive God's forgiveness. May it never be that the Lord would have to use the word perhaps with His church today. The church of Jesus Christ is to cherish the whole counsel of God, to defend and contend for the faith, to be pillars of the truth, and to be repositories of God's eternal Word.

As a result of God's Word to Jeremiah, Baruch is enlisted to write at the dictation of Jeremiah. After Baruch read the scroll before the people, the officials requested a hearing of the scroll. When they heard the Word, the Scripture says they turned in fear to one another, and proceeded to ensure the king would gain a hearing of these words. Does the Word of God ever elicit a fearful response from you? Does the word shine with such brilliance in your heart that you have a desire to take it to those in need? We live in a time where

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hearing and heeding the Word of God is a desperate need.

Now, the king is confined in his winter abode in the month of December. The scroll entered the room, and Jehudi was assigned to read the scroll. The officials had responded with fear and trembling, but the king responded with utter contempt. He took his knife and cut the scroll to pieces and burned the contents in the fire. Perhaps he thought this would discredit the Word or destroy its authority. But, as we have already established, the Word of the Lord is indestructible.

As a sign to the king, Jeremiah is commanded to rewrite the words of God, and to add to them concerning the king. The king even attempted to destroy Baruch and Jeremiah, but God hid them from the king's sight. The Lord declares to Jehoiakim that no son of his will ever occupy the throne of David. God's Word is to be obeyed. If we refuse the Word of God, we will drink His just judgment. If we heed the Word of God, we will drink from the chalice of His grace. Will you heed His Word? □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist, Mt. Pleasant.