

# Baptist & Reflector

twice Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.20; May 25, 2005

## this week's news

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East Tennessee associations join for prayer effort. — Page 3

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Have a safe holiday; next issue is June 8

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Due to production schedule of Baptist and Reflector, there will not be a June 1 issue of the paper.

The next issue will be dated June 8. Any late break-news and Sunday School commentaries for June 5 will be posted on the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). "The k," WMU's monthly newsletter also will appear in June 8 issue.

June will be a busy month in Tennessee as Nashville hosts the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention on June 21-22. The Baptist and Reflector will provide complete coverage of the annual meeting plus the activities which involve the evangelistic mission to be held in Middle Tennessee prior to the convention.

The staff of the Baptist and Reflector wishes our readers a happy and safe Memorial Day holiday. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

## On Mission Celebrations net unexpected results

By Marcia Knox  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist associations that are holding On Mission Celebrations (OMC) are netting some unexpected results including some salvation and rededication experiences.

"The salvations were added benefits at the OMCs," said William Gray, Stewart County/Truett and Judson Baptist Associations director of missions. The associational office is in Dover.

"The emphasis on evangelism was secondary to the mission work for the week. It also helps get people more involved in partnership/volunteer missions. People come to OMCs to see the missionaries.

"We have seen an increase over the years in the number of OMCs scheduled in Tennessee," said Don Pierson, TBC prayer strategies specialist, who serves as the OMC state coordinator.

"Since I've been with the TBC, I haven't seen this many requests for OMCs. I can't explain why we are having an increase in requests. But I can say that the

praise reports that we receive following one may be the reason why the interest continues to grow. The word is spreading from association to association of the value of hosting an OMC.

"The last couple of years the number of OMCs held in Tennessee have continued to climb and we are receiving requests from associations that haven't had one for a while.

"We continue to recommend that OMCs be held every five years. People need to receive the personal touch of missions which an OMC offers," Pierson said.

Stewart County and Judson Associations recently held OMCs in the form of a Saturday Mission Fair at two churches and then one-day mission conferences in every church in the associations.

Twenty churches in Stewart County reported a combined Sunday attendance of 1,618 people featuring 15 missionaries. Each church averaged one to four missionaries in regular planned activities and special sessions.

Eight people made professions of faith and three rededicated



NAMB MISSIONARY KELLY CAMPBELL, left, missions ministry coordinator for Chilhowee Baptist Association, based in Maryville, visits with Tony Michaels, pastor of Bethpage Baptist Church, Kenton, during an On Mission Celebration in Gibson Baptist Association.

their lives, according to Gray.

Eleven Judson churches featured missionaries in the Sunday services with an attendance of approximately 1,620 people.

Truett, the other association directed by Gray, will hold an OMC June 25-26 with 14 churches scheduled to hold a one-day missions conference on Sunday, June 26. The Missions Fair, to be held the day before, will be at the Humphreys County Fairground in Waverly.

Gray said one of the benefits of

an OMC is that it reminds people about the Cooperative Program. He noted that some churches who participate in an OMC later increase their giving through the Cooperative Program.

By utilizing missionaries, the OMC helps people "to put a face on missions and actually see the missionaries," Gray noted.

Ray Sorrells, director of missions for Watauga Baptist Association, based in Elizabethton, agreed.

— See On Mission, page 3

## At Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center

## Volunteers vital to renovation of Stokely Chapel

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Renovation of Stokely Chapel at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center here is progressing well thanks to the efforts of Tennessee Baptist volunteers.

"We have had some good groups," said Keith McKinney, camp manager.

McKinney noted the work of volunteers has been vital to the renovation efforts of Stokely Chapel, which was constructed in the early 1950s. The renovation

includes adding heating and air conditioning units to the facility as well as new restrooms.

McKinney cited three reasons for the use of volunteers.

First, the free labor helps keep the project within budget, he said.

Second, the quality of labor is as good or better than what you could hire, he noted.

And, finally, volunteers become involved in what Tennessee Baptists are doing at their camps and conference centers, which also includes Linden Valley Baptist Conference Cen-

ter in Linden.

"Most volunteer groups who come here and work and see what is taking place make plans to schedule a return trip when they leave," McKinney said.

The renovation, which began in earnest earlier this year, has attracted more than 350 volunteers which has resulted in a substantial savings for the cost of the renovation which is expected to cost approximately \$800,000. Part of the renovation is being funded by a grant from the Stokely Foundation. The Stokelys funded the initial con-

struction of the chapel more than 50 years ago.

Overseeing the volunteer labor is Bill Brewer, a layman at Grace Baptist Church in Nashville. Brewer, a retired telephone company employee who now owns his own construction company, agreed to take on the task of coordinating the renovation at Carson Springs.

"I felt this was something I do and was a way I could be involved in missions and invest in the work of Tennessee Baptists here at the camp."

— See Volunteers, page 2



RENOVATION of Stokely Chapel at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center is progressing thanks to the efforts of Tennessee Baptist volunteers.



BILL BREWER, right, construction coordinator, and Keith McKinney, camp manager, look over plans for renovation of Stokely Chapel.



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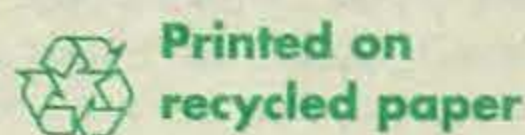
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## Volunteers needed for tsunami relief in Thailand

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Eligible volunteers are needed in Thailand to continue the response to the December 2004 tsunami and March 2005 earthquake in South Asia.

The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has requested 90 mission project teams for relief efforts to Thailand," said Tim Bearden, interim state disaster relief director.

He noted that IMB officials have requested 75 construction teams and 15 relief teams. Teams will be comprised of 10 people each.

The teams are scheduled to build wood homes on stilts as well as a school and to distribute relief supplies beginning in July. Tennessee is sponsoring five teams. They are: Relief, Nov. 6-20; Construction, Nov. 6-20, Feb. 19-March 5, 2006, March 19-April 2, 2006, and April 16-30, 2006.

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.

All medical clinics, well reclamation, ditch digging, construction, and other task teams with a mixture of personnel are currently filled. These teams are 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 volun-

## Millsaps reports 'breakthrough' with DCS

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Children's Home President Bryant Millsaps termed a recent meeting with Tennessee Department of Children's Services officials a "real breakthrough" for a continuing partnership in helping children.

Millsaps told members of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention about the "breakthrough" during their May 10 meeting.

He praised DCS Commissioner Viola P. Miller for initiating the meeting where "the commissioner and her staff identified some areas where they think they can work with us."

"The commissioner was very complimentary of TBCH and its work. We are now discussing with our staff how we feel we can best meet the needs they identified."

Problems between TBCH and DCS surfaced in March 2004 when Millsaps testified before the Tennessee House of Representatives Committee



MILLSAPS

on Family and Children's Affairs. He reported that a federal court settlement with DCS resulted in the agency no longer placing children with TBCH. DCS classifies TBCH as institutional care and cited a change of philosophy giving preference to foster care.

Millsaps disputed the classification, noting that children in TBCH care reside in groups of six or eight with two house parents in single family homes.

Millsaps also told committee members that DCS objected to the TBCH stipulation that children in their care be required to attend church.

Five months later, in August 2004, Millsaps told the *Baptist & Reflector* that the relationship with DCS was improving after Miller visited the Brentwood campus of TBCH. "We still have quite a ways to go, but for the first time in a long time we sense we're making some progress."

After the recent meeting, Millsaps expressed continuing optimism that the two entities could work together for the benefit of at-risk children in Tennessee.

Established in 1891, TBCH is the oldest denominational childcare ministry in Tennessee that accepts no government funds. □ — Lin Lawson

teers are required to successfully complete specialized training before being assigned to a team.

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact the TBC Volunteer Missions team for an application (phone 615-371-2061 or e-mail Heather Wilson at hwilson@tnbaptist.org).

Monetary contributions can be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Disaster 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 sup-

port and administration of funds received. □

## NAMB commissions 55 missionaries

Baptist Press

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — In a fanfare from choir and orchestra, the congregation of First Baptist Church rose to their feet to welcome 55 missionaries being commissioned by the North American Mission Board in the Sunday morning service here May 15.

Missionaries entered the worship center in parade fashion, each couple and individual led by a high school student bearing the Christian flag. The 55 missionaries were commissioned as church planters, mission strategists, and campus ministers to reach people of various nationalities and cultures in the U.S. and Canada.

Two missionaries — Se Lee, a church planter in Louisville, Ky., and Peter Pail, a church planter trying to reach the deaf in the San Francisco (Calif.) bay area — shared passionate testimonies at God's call.

Richard Harris, NAMB vice president of church planting, brought a charge to missionaries, challenging them to "preach the power of God without water baptism. How carefully will you handle a donated organ? \$10,000, or a written message from George W. Bush?" He asked, adding that the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ should be handled carefully.

"People are waiting, looking for the truth for you who will share it. I am sending you to them. Handle the message carefully." □

## Volunteers vital to renovation of Stokely ...

— Continued from page 1

Brewer admitted he has had to use patience in working with volunteers of varying skill levels.

As a builder, he has expectations of his subcontractors or he finds someone else.

"You can't do that with volunteers. You take what you get."

He has enjoyed the challenges and noted that every volunteer "has contributed."

McKinney agreed. "Everyone has contributed according to his or her ability." He praised Brewer for being "tactful" in his dealings with volunteers.

Brewer noted volunteers have ranged in age from teenagers to senior adults ages 70 and above. "You just have to work with them. We haven't had any problems," he stressed.

The majority of the volunteers have come from Tennessee Baptist churches although there have been a few from out

of state. In addition, some TBC Executive Board staff and spouses recently volunteered their time and worked a weekend shift at the camp.

Brewer has "juggled" his work at Carson Springs with his construction company in Nashville. "I've been fortunate. I work with good subcontractors." Plus, he noted his son and brother, who also are builders, help him when they can. Brewer normally returns home on weekends and returns to the camp when a volunteer team is scheduled.

McKinney is especially appreciative of the work Brewer has done. "We needed a good contractor who knew about construction but also had the personality to deal with volunteers. That's what we got with Bill. He's a people person."



BREWER

Though there have been some "glitches," McKinney is convinced that "God's intention that this chapel be renovated."

"Too many pieces have fallen into place for this to be happenstance," he said.

Tim Bearden, senior manager for Tennessee Baptist conference centers, concurred.

"The renovation is going well. Volunteers have done a wonderful job in helping to see this project through," Bearden noted.

He praised the team effort led by McKinney, Brewer, and Mark LeMay of the TBC Administrative Services staff who schedules the volunteers.

Volunteers are still needed for the renovation efforts. If interested, contact LeMay at the Baptist Center in Brentwood at 1-800-558-2090 or e-mail him at [mlemay@tnbaptist.org](mailto:mlemay@tnbaptist.org). □



## On Mission Celebrations net unexpected results ...

Continued from page 1

"An OMC helps remind people where CP and special missions offerings go and it revitalizes them to missions," Sorrells observed.

Watauga Association held an OMC April 10-13, which was the fourth OMC held in the association since 1992. Out of 56 churches in the association, 43 participated including 26 churches that met in cluster groups of two to five churches and 7 churches that held individual meetings.

There were 21 missionaries who worked for four days meeting in churches and an additional 10 state missionaries on Sunday.

Results from the Watauga Association OMC included church groups wanting to take mission trips to New York City, Peru, the Philippines, and Zambia. Participating in the Mission Fair and luncheons were Elizabethton natives Joe and Linda Bedford, now North American Mission Board church planters in Ontario, Canada, and Randy Bringer of the NAMB staff.

"It was a lot of work, but it is well worth it," said Sorrells. One person told me the OMC was just like a revival. Glowing reports on the OMC were received from pastors and their church members. In addition to

the reports, love offerings are continuing to come in to the association office.

"There were several decisions by people including dedications to missions, rededications, and commitments to volunteer missions. One pastor who has not been on a mission trip will now go on one."

Mike Kemper, Gibson Baptist Association director of missions, reported on a four-day OMC April 1-4, which featured an orientation meal for missionaries and a Missions Fair celebrating the conclusion of a four-year relationship with Romania.

"It had been six years since we held an OMC in the association," said Kemper. "It was past time to hold one. It turned out great for us, and we don't plan to wait another six more years. We want to do OMCs on a regular basis."

"OMCs make missions more personal. It personalizes missions to all the people who come to the OMC. It gives people a closer perspective to missions than in what they read about in books."

"Everybody can't go on a mission trip, and OMCs make missions more real to them. It benefits the churches, and it helps the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings. The stories that



**MISSIONARIES FROM TENNESSEE** and around the world recently participated in an On Missions Celebration in Watauga Baptist Association. Here, participants gather for a noonday luncheon hosted by Little Doe Baptist Church, Butler.

the people hear from the missionaries make it (missions) more real."

During the four-day OMC, Gibson Association reported a combined attendance of 9,067 people for the church services featuring 19 international, eight NAMB, 12 state, and two associational volunteer missionaries. Recorded results included two decisions for career missions, three for short-term missions, three recommitments, and a

large love offering. Out of 53 churches in the association, 41 churches participated.

"Serving as a guest state missionary in On Mission Celebrations is a joy," said Beverly Smothers, TBC strategic ministries specialist, who served at the Watauga Association OMC.

"The directors of missions and their associations welcome their guest speakers with open arms providing speaking venues, mission

fairs, and way too much food.

"OMCs present great opportunities for missions education and awareness for churches of all sizes; but the small town and rural churches often have the better attendance."

"Throughout my 28 years in the missionary system, I have served in over 100 OMCs with each having its unique personality. To God be the glory for all the lives touched and changed forever by OMCs." □

## Tennessean to help restart SBC Conference of the Blind

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Southern Baptist Conference of the Blind will hold a reorganization meeting here June 18-19 prior to this year's June 21-22 SBC annual meeting.

Two sessions are planned: at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. The meeting will be held at the downtown Nashville Hilton Hotel in Room 10-Kissack One.

Charles Couey, who was elected as president of the conference during their inaugural meeting at the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, is serving as the planning director of this year's meeting. Couey served as the consultant on ministries with the blind for the Tennessee Baptist Convention from 1983-2004. He also served as director of ministries with the blind at Park Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville, February 1986-98.

Couey, a member of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, said the organization has not met for several years.

"With the convention coming to Nashville I thought it would be a good year to revitalize the group," Couey said.

During the Saturday evening session, Couey will discuss the history of the SBC's relationship with the blind. He also will present the SBCB's original purpose statement adopted at its origi-

nal meeting as a possible basis for developing a set of goals for the future.

On Sunday morning, Paul Ferrara, a doctoral student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will speak on the biblical basis for ministry with the blind, followed by the election of officers and the appointment of a constitution committee.

"I believe the Lord has great plans for the future and wants to involve blind Southern Baptist church members in accomplishing it," Couey said.

He urged Baptists who are blind to attend the meeting. "When He said that we should pray for laborers for the harvest — He didn't rule out those who are without physical sight for the task of praying or laboring," Couey added.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Couey in Braille, print, or by cassette at 246 Thuss Ave., Nashville, TN 37211; telephone, (615) 331-6098 or (615) 400-5207; or e-mail, BroCharles@bellsouth.net.

Housing assistance can be arranged by contacting the SBC Housing Bureau at 1-877-1259-4716 or visiting www.sbc.net.

Interested individuals can send their e-mail addresses to Couey to be placed on an e-mail list to stay up to date with developments within the organization. □

## Associations come together to pray

Baptist and Reflector

BEAN STATION — A "Heart Cry for Revival" prayer conference held at Barnards Grove Baptist Church here May 5 drew 275 people from three Baptist associations in the area.

The conference was the result of the planning of an associational cluster group made up of Grainger, Holston Valley, and Nolachucky associations.

When the three directors of missions (John Parrott, Holston Valley, Fred Chandler, Grainger, and James Williams, Nolachucky) gathered with Steve Holt, East Tennessee clus-

ter group strategy leader for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, there was a general agreement that the best way to launch the new cluster relationship would be to come together to pray for one another and for revival, Parrott noted.

It was the first time the three associations had joined together with one specific purpose in mind, Parrott said.

The conference was led by Don Pierson, TBC prayer strategist, and Larry Brooks, worship leader and minister of music at Henards Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville.

Pierson used the model prayer of Jesus as the structure

for leading in times of specific, concentrated prayer, in crying out for revival.

An atmosphere of brokenness and humility permeated the meeting, Parrott said. At the end of the conference members from churches in each of the associations gathered around their director of missions, laid hands on him, and prayed.

Responses about the joint effort were positive.

Chandler said a lady from one of his churches noted Pierson "can teach us something about prayer. When can we have him back?"

Parrott said he overheard several people saying, "We need to do this again."

"It gave a sense of unity and encouragement to all who were present," he said.

"I heard nothing but positive comments from the pastors present," Williams said.

"Don (Pierson) certainly provided food for thought as he not only encouraged but challenged those present to spend more time on their knees before a holy God crying out for revival, personally and corporately," he added.

"I don't think there would have been a better way for three associations to begin a working relationship together than on their knees together in prayer," Parrott concluded. □



**DON PIERSON**, prayer strategist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, leads a prayer conference for three East Tennessee Baptist Associations — Holston Valley, Grainger, and Nolachucky. It was the first joint effort the churches in the three associations.



# Florida church deserves kudos for refusing to bow to pressure

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

When I arrived at my office on Monday morning this week, I had an entirely different editorial column in mind. But after opening numerous e-mails that had come in over the weekend, I changed my mind.

A story printed in the May 19 issue of Associated Baptist Press captured my attention.

According to ABP, a church in Melbourne, Fla. — Calvary Chapel — had agreed to rent their sanctuary to four high schools in the county so they could hold graduation services.

It appears that Calvary Chapel, which can seat 3,500 people, including 700 in overflow rooms, is the largest indoor facility in the county.

According to the article, even that much space will not accommodate all the parents and friends who want to come to graduation. The only alternative is to hold ceremonies in outside stadiums, but the Florida's heat and potential for thunderstorms make them uncomfortable and unpredictable.

So what we have is a church that is trying to help the community in which it serves. Guess what? One high school student, her father who is a Buddhist, and another parent who is an atheist, sued the school district to either move the

commencement or cover the 25-foot cross that is in the center of the auditorium. They claim it violates the Constitution and is a violation of church and state.

Sadly, a judge agrees with them, but he did deny their request "for a temporary restraining order that would require the church to cover or remove religious symbols from the sanctuary, including the 25-foot cross, or force the school district to move the ceremonies."

The judge, Gregory Presnell, said, "It's clear to me a secular facility without those icons should have been chosen in order to protect the interests of everyone, and to maintain the separation of church and state that has allowed religion in this country to flourish." He ruled in favor of the school district, however, because the hearing was filed too close to the ceremonies in order to find an alternative site.

Evidently there was no suitable alternative site other than hold the ceremonies outside and swelter in the heat or get struck by lightning. Imagine the lawsuits that would occur if that ever happened.

We have a situation where basically three people tried to put their beliefs over the beliefs of the vast majority. I have a hard time understanding how having a secular ceremony in a religious building is a violation of separation of

church and state. To my knowledge no one from the church was going to hand out religious tracts or even information about the church. If the church was "giving" them the space, I might understand the "separation" rationale although that would still be a stretch. But the schools were "renting" the facilities.

In Nashville several area high schools use the Gaylord Entertainment Center for their commencement services. The GEC is home to the Nashville Predators hockey team and the Nashville Kats arena football team. Does that mean everyone who goes to a graduation service has to be a Predators or Kats fan? Would a Detroit Red Wings fan refuse to attend the graduation of his niece or nephew because it's held on another team's floor. Of course not. That's how silly this lawsuit is.

According to the news story, three high schools held services there last year "without incident, although there was some grumbling from a few families about the use of a church." Evidently no one was "scarred" for life because they attended a high school graduation ceremony in a church. In fact, another high school asked to use the facilities this year.

What pleases me most about this story is the response of the church. They gave no thought to taking the cross down for the ceremonies.

"We don't mind having them use the facility, but we won't hide who we are or who we are by hiding the cross," according to Melody Glover, spokesperson for Calvary Chapel.

Amen!!!

Glover told ABP that the school district asked them to cover the cross even though "they knew what our answer was going to be." She noted that while the church was glad to make other accommodations, such as turning off the background light, the cross is central to the church identity.

Calvary Chapel is to be commended for refusing to bow to pressure. If church leaders had "caved in" and taken the cross down for the commencement ceremonies, they would have sent the wrong message to the community. Now, the community knows without a doubt where this church stands.

Hopefully, every Christian church would have done the same thing, but I'm afraid some would have taken the cross down "to keep peace in the community." While churches do need to be sensitive to their communities, their first responsibility is to uphold the Word of God.

My prayer and desire is that every Baptist church in Tennessee would have the same courage to stand up for Christ if a similar instance ever occurs in our state. □

## letters to the editor

### Disagrees

Our Immanuel Jesus came to Nazareth where He was conceived and lived most of His time here. It is the one spot on this earth He chose.

Southern Baptists founded a church and school there. The school has over 1,200 students, K-12, operated by the church. The Nazareth Baptist pastor, Fuad Sakhini, is a native and has been pastor for 45 years. The church has founded Cana of Galilee, Jaffa, Turin, Rama, Acco, and Ailaboun Baptist churches, as also two other churches in Nazareth.

SBC missionary Ray Register began Rama church and school and I led a group in its first worship service there after it opened. Leo Eddleman was a part of the early years of Nazareth Baptist. For many years Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts went to help the noble work there in Galilee, but the IMB quit in the 1990s and have pulled out their missionaries and is selling a beautiful building near Nazareth church and school, a building which could be used as a conference center for the Christians of Galilee. Jews and Arabs call Christians "Nazarets."

Anyone who has read the Bible should know that our Lord was conceived there and spent most of His ministry in Galilee. These struggling Christians in Galilee, who are small minority, should lack nothing. A web site [www.comeandsee.com](http://www.comeandsee.com) tells how the Christians in Galilee are

disappointed in the IMB. Should we have to be reminded that Christianity began in Nazareth, Bethlehem, Galilee, and Jerusalem and not in Rome, Richmond, Va., or Nashville, Tenn.

O. Jewell Barrett, pastor  
Battle Creek Baptist Church  
Springfield 37172

### Not ashamed

I am writing in response to Roger Freeman's recent article "Let's use the good name Baptist!" (B&R, May 11, 2005).

I agree wholeheartedly with Dr. Freeman that it is essential that we neither deny nor hide who we are as [Southern] Baptists. Both members of and visitors to our churches need to know and consider seriously who we are!

Secondly, though the Cooperative Program is the only [Southern] Baptist distinctive of the positions that Dr. Freeman listed, I agree completely that our doctrine must be: (1) thoroughly biblical, (2) clearly delineated, and (3) boldly proclaimed.

Both members of and visitors to our churches need to know and consider seriously whose we are and what we are about!

However, I have two major points of disagreement. I think I know what Dr. Freeman is saying, when he writes, "Pastors and churches must be unashamed Baptists. The [TBC] needs to be proud we are Baptists. Our institutions must be proud we are Baptists. New mission churches we help establish must be proud we are Baptists

... Baptist is a good name." He is saying that we ought not to be ashamed of being [Southern] Baptists.

And he is right! The problem is that the Scripture does not equate a lack of shame with pride. Nor does the Scripture equate a lack of pride with shame. Worse yet, the Scripture uniformly denounces and warns us against pride in all its forms. In other words, the Scripture never encourages anyone to be proud of anything. In fact, exactly the opposite is true: "God opposes [or mocks] the proud but gives grace to the humble" (Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6). So, to speak of "being proud" or to encourage others to "be proud" is itself unbiblical communication.

Secondly, Dr. Freeman only lists three possible and negative reasons for choosing not to use 'Baptist' in the name, on the sign, or in the literature of a [Southern] Baptist church: shame, doubt, and fear. Put simply and clearly: This is untrue and an unfair negative judgment of fellow pastors, brothers and sisters in Christ, and their motives and motivations.

Many positive, prayerful, and appropriate considerations rightly go into any name adopted by a local expression of the body of Christ — Baptist or otherwise. Some of these might be: the denomination to which a church belongs; the community in which the church exists; the history (be it negative or positive) of one's denomination in and around the community; the

history of a particular congregation and its members and attendees; what God has done and continues to do within a group of redeemed people to form them into a local church and what might best communicate such ongoing activity; and yes, a passionate desire to be more thoroughly biblical and Christian than thoroughly Baptist (or whatever denominational affiliation), which ought to describe all of us, I would think.

While I appreciate and share Dr. Freeman's passion for reaching lost people for and in the Name of the one and only Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, I strongly disagree with and reject his underlying premise, which seems to be that ministering under any church's name that does not include "Baptist" equates to being "ashamed of the gospel of Christ."

Mark L. Wilcoxson, pastor  
New Life Church of  
Knoxville, Iowa  
Knoxville, Iowa 50138

### Proud of names

Roger Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, had a wonderful article in the May 11 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

The article gave different Bible references for keeping the words "Christian" and "Baptist" in our church names.

I wish to shout a thousand "amens" to Dr. Freeman's article on the importance of using the

names "Christian" and "Baptist."

Leva Bundra  
Smyrna 371

### Concerns

I want to express my concerns about the change that have seen in small churches the last 12 years or so. Its seems that the main concern is about money. I realize that a church has to be financially supported and I do not understand why men that call themselves preachers expect a small church to support them and their families. They are not willing to work. I understand that the Apostle Paul made four missionary journeys and only once did the mother church at Jerusalem send money to support him in his ministry. Paul worked to support himself. Paul was a tanner and he did not want people to think he was there for financial support.

I am deeply concerned that the church is being used to be concerts, to sell tickets in order to make money. I do not believe God is pleased with this.

In John 2:13-16, Jesus went into the temple and found being used to sell sacrificial animals and doves. Also, there were money changers in the church and He, Jesus, drove them out.

I do not understand why pastors want to close small community churches in order to build bigger ones. I believe all rural communities need a place of worship.

Edward Bohan  
Sevierville 378



# 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 to serve Rio in fall

"TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Why go back to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on an evangelism crusade? Tennessee Baptist missions volunteers who have gone several times have their reasons.

Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, has two members, and Ann Davis, both of Juliet, who plan to go to Sept. 26 - Oct. 4 for the 5 Evangelism Revival. The wives also participated in 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 crusades.

Our plan is to participate in the 2005 Rio evangelism crusade," said the Davises. Over the years we have built cherished friendships with missionaries Ray and Sharon Fairchild, many other missionaries, and many pastors and interpreters.

What a joy it is to witness Christ's transformation of hundreds of lives and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the hearts of missionaries, volunteers, pastors, and interpreters in the great celebration at the end of the crusade.

Over 30 teams of three volunteers are needed for the upcoming Evangelism Revival in Rio, according to Kim Margrave, Volunteer Missions specialist.

Each team will consist of a pastor, a music leader, and a layperson. Contact Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions Ministry assistant, at 1-800-525-2090 ext. 2061 or [hwilson@tnbaptist.org](mailto:hwilson@tnbaptist.org), for more information. □

## Almost 70 youth serve in Rio

"TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Almost 70 youth including teenagers, college students, and youth pastors will work June 1-10 in the "Youth Reaching Project," according to Kent Singleton, TBC Youth Evangelism specialist and team leader. Since this is the third annual Evangelism trip in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, prayers for the youth are requested. During the week the students will participate in outreach, door-to-door evangelism, and Bible discussion while partnering with Brazilian Baptist congregations in Rio. The project was organized by IMB missionaries and Sharon Fairchild. □

## State ministers wives serve peers in Maine

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Ministers Wives held a retreat for Maine Baptist Association ministers wives May 6-7 at a historic 150-year-old inn in York Beach, Maine.

The Maine Association is part of the New England Baptist Convention, which is participating through 2007 as a part of the Impact Northeast Initiative. The Tennessee Baptist Convention is supporting this Initiative along with other SBC State Conventions.

"We provided a time of Bible study, encouragement, and pampering for Maine ministers wives," said Lana Rose, TBC Ministers Wives specialist. "The Tennessee volunteers were recruited from previous retreats that were held for ministers wives in Tennessee."

"The Maine Association director of mission's wife, Ann Lawrence had originally requested three retreats for ministers wives in the New England area. However, only two retreats could be scheduled for

May and October. The October Retreat will be hosted by TBC Chilhowee Baptist Association, Alcoa, in Northborough, Massachusetts."

Leading the May retreat from Tennessee besides Rose were: Judy Basham, wife of the pastor of Russwood Baptist Church, Springville; Kimberly Singleton, wife of the pastor of Unity Baptist Church, Allardt; and Brenda Morris, a widow of a pastor and a member of Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville.

In addition to the Tennesseans, those attending the retreat were four Maine Association ministers wives, a worship leader from Boston, Mass., the wife of the New England Convention's executive director, and Lawrence.

Rose opened the retreat with a "Get Acquainted" session, which was followed by worship and Bible Study led by Morris. The emphasis for the retreat was "Knowing Who We Are," which was based on Psalms 139:13-14. Morris outlined the many hats that ministers wives wear.



**PARTICIPATING IN THE** Maine Baptist Association Ministers Wives Retreat were ministers wives from Maine and leaders from Tennessee. Tennesseans were, from left, front row, Brenda Morris of Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville; Kimberly Singleton of Unity Baptist Church, Allardt; and second row, third from right, Judy Basham of Russwood Baptist Church, Springville.

Basham, who is a Mary Kay consultant, led pampering sessions, which included foot spa treatments, and spoke on "Keeping Joy in Ministry." Singleton, who owns a manicure and pedicure business in Jamestown, pampered the ladies with hand treatments,

led prayer sessions, and taught "We Are Servants of Christ."

"Many of the Maine women who attended the retreat were young mothers in their thirties," added Rose. "The most significant time occurred when the Maine women were able to — See State, page 6

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

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — A new Team Leader Training event will be held Oct. 14-15 at First Baptist Church of Goodlettsville, sponsored by the Volunteer Missions Team. This will be the first opportunity to use the revised materials for training, according to Kim Margrave, Volunteer Missions specialist.

Al Hodges, IMB Marketing and Product Development Global Equipping director, will present the new Team Leader Training (TLT) materials, and participant feedback will be welcomed.

"We have reformatted and streamlined the information for easier learning," said Hodges. "There will be a section which distinctly outlines a step-by-step guide to leading a team."

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

"The new TLT is designed to be more closely correlated with

cross cultural training, with teaching appropriate field strategies, and with providing a better link to missionaries on the field," Hodges added. "More information will be given on how to directly link with missionaries, and models of strategic relationships will be explored."

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



HODGES

"One section of the TLT will be 'how to' use the cross cultural training resources to train the team," noted Hodges. "This is a new and exciting feature, in that it empowers the team leaders and gives them a resource to train their own team."

"Another brand new section in the TLT will be on 'mentoring and coaching other team

leaders.' As increasing numbers are leading teams, those who have experience offer great value to others just starting out as a team leader. This section will be based on the II Timothy 2:2 multiplication principle, and will show team leaders how to use the material to train other team leaders, and how to mentor them on the effective leadership of volunteer teams."

The team leader will discover how to maintain basic health needs and security (particularly if the team is traveling where the gospel is not openly shared).

Some of the most important work of all awaits the team's return. Learning how to present team's missions experience to the church can play a key role in recruiting new and repeat volunteers.

"Flexibility in training will be a major new advantage. Currently, IMB, State Conventions, or other staffs in a seminar setting offer Team Leader and Cross Cultural Trainings. It is anticipated that such training events will continue to be offered as a service to churches.

— See Team, page 6

## 25th anniversary to be observed Nov. 15

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — A Celebration of 25 Years of Partnership/Volunteer Missions will be held Tuesday night, Nov. 15, during the 131st annual session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at the First Baptist Church of Clarksville, according to Volunteer Missions specialist Kim Margrave.

During the Tuesday night session, which begins at 6:45 p.m., volunteer and missionaries' testimonies, videos, and a Parade of Flags will be highlighted. All of the TBC Partnerships including Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Portugal, Philippines, Chile, Canada, Poland, Michigan, Venezuela, Rio de Janeiro, Iowa, Montana, Tennessee, and the Canadian Baptist Seminary will be noted.

In addition to the Celebration, the Volunteer Missions Team will offer several mission projects in 2006 to return to the Partnership areas. Projects are expected to be available in July 2006. □



# Clarksville's First Baptist Church holds vet clinic in Rio

For "TBVMN Update"

CLARKSVILLE — A 16-member team from First Baptist Church of Clarksville held a veterinary clinic April 22-30 for the Memorial Baptist Church of Costa Barros in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they treated 833 animals and dispensed 1,964 prescriptions.

Over 258 professions of faith were recorded, according to Bill Graham, First Church associate pastor for Missions and Ministry.

"The Rio church will continue the outreach to their new converts and have assigned one church member to every three new believers," said Graham. "Memorial Church has four satellite churches. This was our second vet trip to Rio, and it was a great success."

Veterinarians Scott Loxley and Steve Hampton, both members of First Church, Clarksville, along with veterinarian Randy Hammon, a member of Central Baptist Church, Hixson, led eight other team members to conduct a vet clinic in the Costa Barros area. In addition, five more team members from Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison, joined the

team to do evangelism.

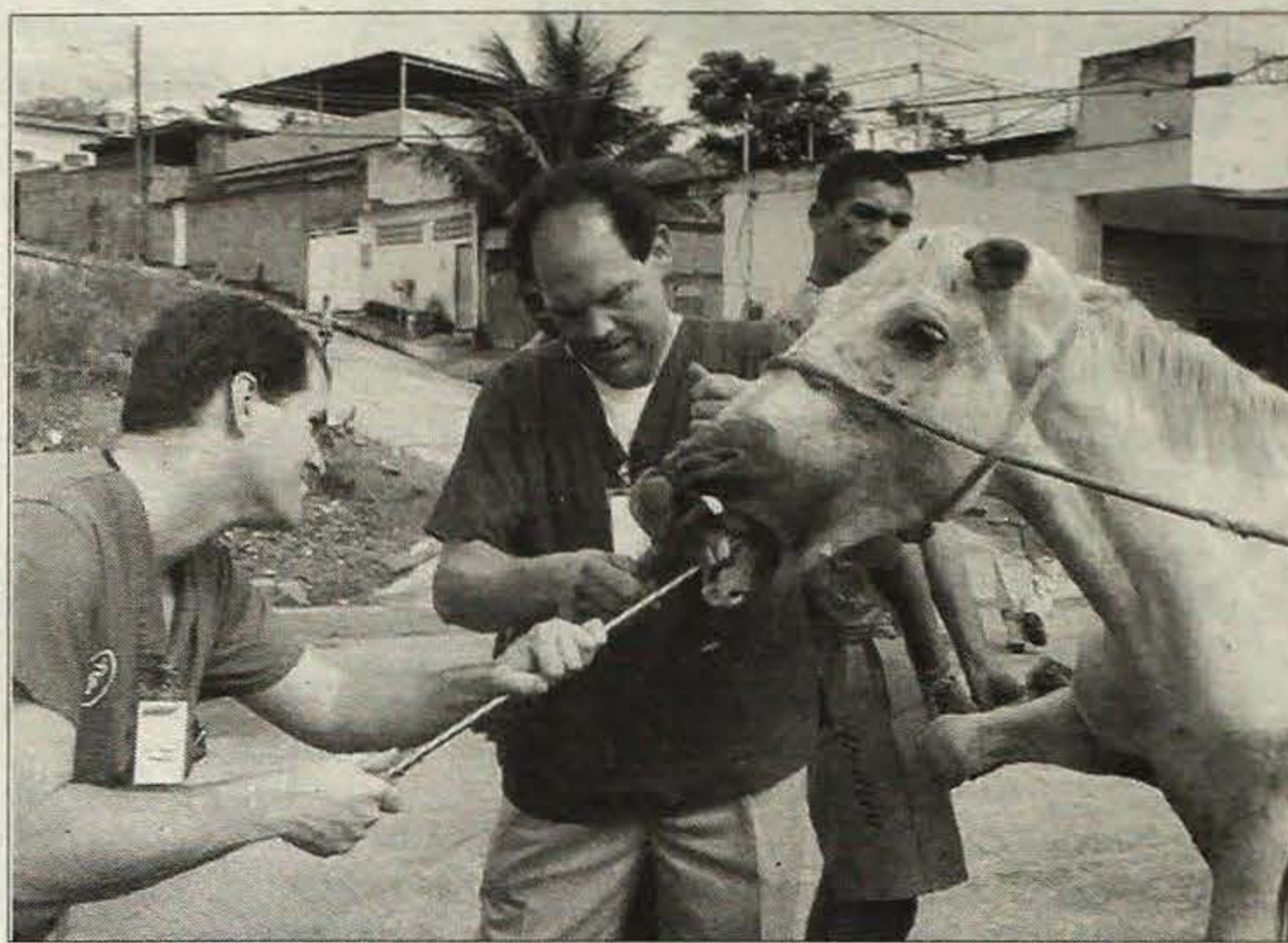
During the clinic, large and small animals were seen at the facility that Memorial Church uses each week for their gymnastic outreach program.

"Unlike the 2004 clinic, this year's clinic was conducted in a separate facility other than a church building," noted Graham. "Located within walking distance from the church building, the rental facility is used each week for a variety of recreational activities. This was an ideal facility to have a vet clinic. It was spacious enough to have four exam tables, a room for the pharmacy, and a waiting area for the evangelism team to visit with the animal owners. Each animal owner received a gospel presentation."

IMB missionaries Ray and Sharon Fairchild and IMB journeyman Amy Elrod hosted the TBC team. There were also nine local interpreters.

"This was the first time for the Memorial Church to use a vet clinic to reach people for Jesus," added Graham. "The pastor's follow up plans will involve the members visiting the new believers each week for the next four months."

According to vet team mem-



**WORKING IN THE** veterinarian clinic is veterinarian Steve Hampton, who is treating a horse's teeth while Robert Phipps assists. The horse owner is in the background.

bers, it was a successful week to care for the animals and lead people to Jesus. Plans are already being made for a third trip in 2006.

Working with Graham, the vets used their experience from last year's trip to increase the evangelism outreach. In addition to working at the clinic, the evangelism team members were invited to speak at several local schools and on a radio station.

Going into the classrooms

and presenting the gospel was a rewarding experience for the team members. Each day a team member would also go to the radio station with an interpreter. The program host would interview the team member and people would call in and ask questions.

"Out of the 16 members, eight went on a mission trip for the first time. Now the first timers want to return because of their positive experi-

ence," Graham noted.

Prior to the trip a training session was conducted at Iley's Veterinarian Hospital Clarksville. This session taught the team members how to handle the vets in handling dogs and cats. The training session highlighted how not to get bit by animals. The team members wanted to help the dogs and as well as visit with the owners.

Each team member carried a separate suitcase with medicines for animals. Vaccine and other medicines that could be taken on the airplane were chanced in Rio.

"The purpose of the trip was not only to care for the animals but also to share the gospel of Jesus Christ," Graham said. "Home visits were done to follow up on the presentations at the clinic."

"This year's evangelism results more than doubled last year's vet clinic. Having the evangelism team join the team members was the right decision."

Other churches interested in doing a vet clinic may contact the Missions and Ministry office at First Church, Clarksville, for additional information. □

## Brentwood church women continue relationship with Canadian church

By Marcia Knox  
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Five ladies from Brentwood Baptist Church recently led in a Women's One Day Retreat at Sequoia Community Church in Barrhaven, Ottawa, Canada.

The team, which worked in the fall, included: Peggy Overbey, Diane Cathey, team leader; Mickey Faulkner, Bonnie Fleischman, and Jenny Barnes.

Since 2001 over 100 volunteers have gone from Brentwood Church to Sequoia Church as part of a three-year partnership to do music, soccer camps, VBS, and other church projects, according to Brentwood Church minister of

missions Scott Harris.

"The visit with the 30 Sequoia Church women was encouraging and uplifting to them," Overbey said. "We had a time of sharing with their leadership on Friday night. Saturday was also inspiring, because the ladies had gone to great means to organize the retreat."

"The ladies ages ranged from 20s-70s. The interest and participation was excellent. There were many conversations during our break time."

"I challenged the women to begin to memorize Scripture. On Sunday morning a relatively new believer told me that she and her husband had memorized their first verse on Saturday night, and they decided to memorize one verse

a week. The trip was spiritually refreshing for me."

Fleischman, who did worship music at the "Believing God" seminar said, "The entire trip was a blessing to me, and I could tell that the ladies received what we came to share with them from God's love and His Word."

"The bond in Christ we built was incredible. The speakers taught me a great deal, and I felt that they drove the Word home. I also enjoyed doing the worship with Jenny Barnes. Let's make it an annual trip."

According to Barnes, the seminar emphasis centered on "Now that you believe in God, do you really believe Him by seeking His promises."

Barnes, who served as the music leader, noted that Missy Baker, a member of her Sunday School class had her if she wanted to go to Canada.

"Bonnie and I prepared music knowing that if we were ready a ministry opportunity would come to us," Barnes said.

"I enjoyed getting to know our Brentwood Church members as well as making new friends across the border in Canada. The spiritual thirst of our northern neighbors was evident in the lingering conversations and the desire from them for us to stay a little longer. It was also boosted in my own spirit to savor the every day newness of life with Christ." □

### Team leader ...

— Continued from page 5

"However, the additional flexibility offered in the new training is designed either in a 10-12 hour seminar, or over a span of time in weekly meetings. Other options may include individual and on-line learning."

Included in the training are: 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). □

## State ministers wives serve peers in Maine ...

— Continued from page 5

share and pray with each other late at night after the Tennessee ladies had gone to bed.

"This sharing was important for the Maine women who are serving with their husbands in an association made up of 17 churches that are around 40 miles apart and in communities that have a strong Catholic influence. Even though some of the ladies talk on the phone and their husbands stay in contact with each other, Lawrence is hoping that this group will serve as the springboard for the Maine Ministers Wives."

"The Ministers Wives in

Tennessee are continuing to gain momentum over the past two years with the encouraging of associations to have support groups for ministers wives."

Rose continues to encourage other TBC Departments to plan events and provide tracts for ministers wives including a similar retreat to be offered Aug. 8-11 at Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport during the 2005 Pastors Retreat.

This was the second time for Rose to hold a conference for the New England Convention, which included church secretaries certification in March 2004. Rose and the Tennessee

Woman's Missionary Union are in the process of planning a September Ministers Wives Retreat to Cochrane, Alberta, Canada.

"The Ministers Wives Retreat gives ministers wives in our state the avenue to use their gifts outside the realm of their normal church setting," Rose noted. "Singleton went back to school to learn manicure and pedicure skills to bring income into the family as her husband went from bivocational into full-time ministry. As a result of this trip, she was able to use her skills on the mission field to minister to other ministers wives."

The Tennesseans had such

good experiences on the trip that they are planning to continue their ministry. "If you need me on the Canada trip, then I will go," said Singleton. "I've never experienced such a time in Maine with you, and I love it more."

"Both Morris and Singleton decided in Maine to go to Canada," added Rose. "Morris went on the plane that she couldn't get Canada out of her mind and to send her the invitation."

"Other ministers wives tracts will be held in September at the Bivocational Pastors and Wives Retreat in Jackson and in cluster events." □



## Brentwood deaf church team serves deaf in Portugal

BVMN Update

SBON, Portugal — A third on team from Brentwood St Deaf Church worked 15-25 here where they used their partnership to a Deaf ministry here with an Evangelical Church. This project is being led by deaf laity in the Brentwood Church, said Beryl Deaf Church special director. "It is a first church."

Brentwood Deaf Church members, James Marshall, who served as the trip coordinator, Ruth Bruffey, who is the mother and is also a deaf friend, and Cheri Childers, who is an individual called to ministry, joined the team project.

Marshall and Bruffey project was their third mission trip to Portugal. However, as Childers' first experience in deaf missions. Since the Deaf Church's assignments on the previous trips included a feasibility study, contacts with key deaf leaders, and establishment of a committee consisting of church members, I felt it was time to draw a small group into the Cacém church," Marshall.

Previously, I felt the need to a deaf couple, Angelica and Luis, whom we met on the trip," said Bruffey.

The team arrived April 16 and the Portuguese deaf and some deaf friends were meeting for a time of fellowship at the Amador Deaf Association. Then the Americans and the deaf couple to lunch the day following the wor-

ship service. The deaf couple also invited another deaf couple, and there were four deaf in worship on Sunday morning.

"There are no deaf ministries within Evangelical Churches in Portugal," said Corey. "The four deaf people, who attended the Cacém church, became a historical moment for the church."

When the pastor offered Bibles, the deaf nationals graciously accepted them.

The Portuguese deaf also took the Brentwood Church team to the homes of other deaf in the area. That same Sunday evening the Portuguese deaf took the team to another deaf association meeting in Lisbon.

"The team goals had already been met since Angelica and Luis met with the team almost every night after work," noted Marshall. "There was still the challenge of communication between the couple and our team, because Portuguese Sign Language is very different from American Sign Language."

However, on the first mission trip, the team was given a Portuguese Sign Book from the country's deaf association. Marshall and Bruffey were well trained with the vocabulary in sign and prepared to communicate in Portuguese Sign.

"Developing the language was more complicated, but we were successful," noted Bruffey. "We were amazed at how many deaf that we encountered each day."

The mission team also exchanged money where an employee's son was deaf. They also went to a coffee shop where an employee had deaf family, and they were able to share with him. It seemed daily that they

were giving the church address to someone and explaining that they were starting a deaf ministry.

"It was awesome to see God working right in front of us," said Childers. "When we ran into people that were deaf, it was God's timing. What a thrill it was to see God in action."

On Friday, April 22, they returned to the Amador Association and met more deaf people.

"The goal of the 2004 team was to educate the Cacém Church on how to use an interpreter, how the deaf could be part of the service, and to create a deaf committee to continue planning a deaf ministry," added Corey. "The church was comfortable with the deaf being part of the service."

On their last day, Sunday, April 24, the team led the worship service. Bruffey worked all week with Angelica on a song, "Praise Him All Ye Little Children." Bruffey had a PowerPoint presentation that ran during the song. Angelica and Bruffey signed in Portuguese Sign.

Childers also signed "I Can Only Imagine" to an Iworship DVD. Maddie Pereira, the chairperson for the Deaf Ministry Committee and member of Cacém church, practiced the song and signed with Childers before the congregation.

Marshall challenged the church in a sermon on John 3:16. The team created a witnessing tool for the church to use with the deaf in a small booklet consisting of drawings that fit with John 3:16 and Romans 10:9, 10.

Brentwood Deaf Church pastor, Brian Sims, had earlier



**VISITING THE SEAPORT** in Lisbon, Portugal, are, from left, back row, a deaf couple from Portugal, Angelica, Ruth Bruffey, a deaf friend; front row, James Marshall, another deaf friend, and Luis.

er created this witnessing tool for deaf using English. Sims took drawings and put Portuguese words under them. The team left this tool for the church.

"We decided this would be a great time to model how to use the tool with deaf," noted Marshall. "We put to drama John 3:16 so that the hearing church would 'see' Scripture. Then we would then be able to witness to others with minimal sign ability."

The Cacém Church pastor and his wife invited the American team and the deaf to their home for lunch after the service.

Cacém Church pastor José Ferreira stressed the burden of the language. He expressed a deep desire to have this team return in the fall. He saw a need to continue learning the language and continue connecting with Angelica and Luis. The

church does not have an interpreter; however, Angelica would consider teaching them.

"I had several opportunities to share with Angelica about Jesus Christ," noted Bruffey. "Angelica said she was a Christian, and she believed Jesus was her savior. However, she knew the persecution that came with it, and she would not profess it to anyone else. The Deaf would mock her for her faith, and she was alone."

"Luis also turned to me after the sermon and let me know that the sermon had touched his heart," said Marshall.

"Since the team and the church found it most difficult to leave each other, it was very emotional. The team found it hard to leave the Deaf in the Lisbon area knowing they were not saved. We fear going back and being informed that Deaf had died without Jesus in their hearts." □

## Emory/New River Association helps build church in Rio de Janeiro

Cia Knox  
BVMN Update

CRIMAN — A 16-member construction team from Big Emory/New River Baptist Associations worked May 8 in Rio de Janeiro, where they built a one-story church for Central Baptist Church of Rio de Albuquerque.

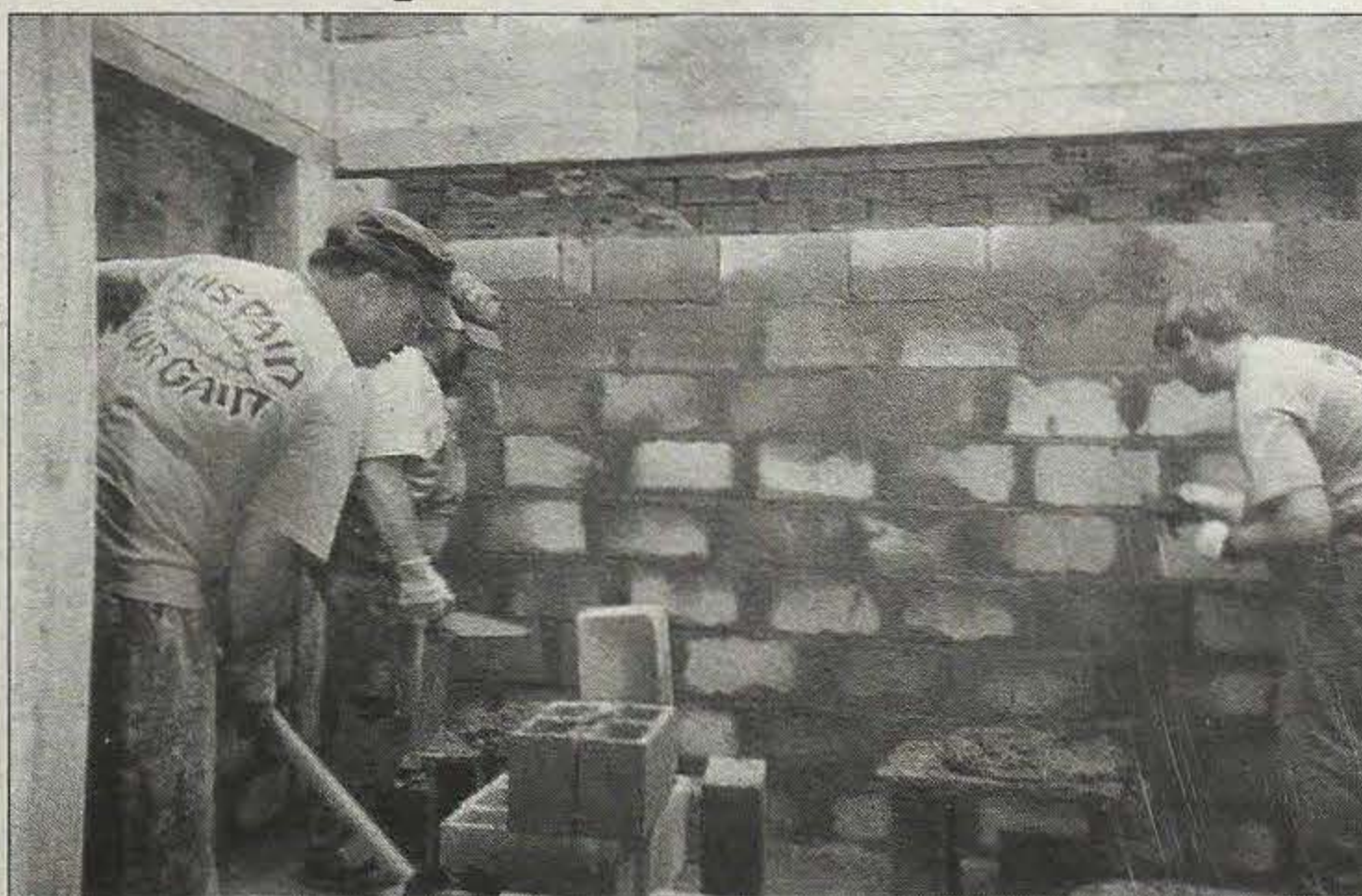
Central Church is a church that the association has partnered with for the past years," said Richard Lewelling, Big Emory Association association director. "During our Rio partnership, we sponsored medical and youth/mission teams and revivals for the past eight years. For eight of our volunteers, it was their first trip to the site."

Joining up the Big Emory Association were volunteers from four churches including Potter's House Baptist Church and Lee Village Baptist Church, both of Harriman; Lee Village Baptist Church, Oliver Springs; and Central Baptist Church, Knoxville. Lewelling served as the team leader

and Ronnie Hackworth, a member of Lee Village Church, served as the American construction coordinator.

"Our main job was to build the first floor of the church, but we also did some evangelism," added Lewelling. "The team laid the blocks to build the walls on a previously poured concrete slab and helped pour a concrete roof. We formed a basket brigade to haul mortar and concrete, used a wheel barrel, and had help from the Rio church members. There wasn't a concrete pouring truck. Plans call for a second team to come this summer and complete another story."

"The evangelism team went out everyday into the community, the streets of the slums, and even rode a train downtown to witness.



**LAYING BLOCK FOR** a new church for Central Baptist Church of Ricardo de Albuquerque in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, are volunteers of the association, from left, Charles Butturini, Potter's House Baptist Fellowship Church, Harriman; Ronnie Hackworth, Lee Village Baptist Church, Harriman; and Allen Banken, Potter's House Church.

There were 50 professions of faith recorded."

According to Lewelling, Charles Butturini, a member of the Potter's House

Church, and his interpreter led a Brazilian construction worker to the Lord.

The worker, who was a big man, was at first suspicious of Americans, but he began to ask questions of the volunteers. The man eventually asked Hackworth, who is a large man, why somebody that big needed God. Hackworth replied that he needed God all the time. However, it was Butturini who talked to the man, and the man prayed to receive Christ.

"It is always impressive to me when 16 people come together with different skill levels to accomplish a goal," noted Lewelling. "Hackworth was there with his two sons, ages 16 and 18.

There were others who were handy, and then there was me, who couldn't do anything. We completed our mission of getting the walls and the roof up in five days." □



## 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
Albia, Iowa	IA-05-31	Shingle roof of church	open	open
Carter Lake, Iowa	IA-05-41	Light construction and survey work	open	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-05-33	Production of materials for state missions emphasis/offering	open	open
Fairfield, Iowa	IA-05-49	Team to conduct VBS and install subfloor and tile panel on back wall	7/11-15	12
Fort Madison, Iowa	IA-05-42	Team to connect two buildings, build bathrooms, handicap ramps, move kitchen, and paint	July	5-6
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-50	Conduct women's retreat	10/20-23	1-2
Independence, Iowa	IA-05-48	Conduct VBS	June-Aug.	6
Independence, Iowa	IA-05-60	Conduct sports clinic	open	open
Lacona, Iowa	IA-05-40	Conduct two BYBC in surrounding communities	June-July	10-15
Orange City, Iowa	IA-05-35	Team to put new roof on church	open	open
Quimby, Iowa	IA-05-44	Conduct VBS	July	15
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-Sept.	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
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-51	Church is in need of a donated van or to purchase a van in order to start a van ministry	open	open
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		
Cochrane, AB, Canada	05MID001	Community outreach through servant evangelism, sports camp, BYBC, concerts, etc.	July-Aug.	5-50
Kinistino, SK, Canada	05NOR003	Conduct VBS in rural farming community	July or Aug.	5-10
Kinistino, SK, Canada	05NOR004	Replace church roof with metal roof	July or Aug.	5-15
Penticton, BC, Canada	05ALP001	Resort ministry	June-Aug.	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. Alberta, 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
Billings, Montana	MT-05-21	Team to conduct VBS	June-July	10
Clancy, Montana	MT-05-23	Conduct summer camp (volleyball, basketball, soccer, drama, crafts)	6/20-23	8-10
Columbus, 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	May-Aug.	open
Laurel, Montana	MT-05-27	Conduct VBS	6/13-17	20-30
Missoula, Montana	MT-05-17	Replace roof on church building, interior painting and general maintenance work	Late July-Early Aug.	12-15

## Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary visiting faculty teaching opportunities

Semesters are approximately 15 weeks long and run roughly Sept. 1 – Dec. 15 (Fall) and Jan. 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, and some academic teaching experience preferred □

Tennessee  
Project  
East Tennessee  
- Appalachian  
Regional  
Ministry

• **Alcoa** — Teams to construct handicap ramps, roof repairs, painting, siding and other tasks related to residential construction ministry. Dates: 20-24, June 27-July 1, July 11-15. Contact: Barbara Boyd, C Tipton, 865-982-0499 or barbara@chillhoweeba.org

• **Benton** — Individual/couples assist with lawn care and maintenance duties at camp. Dates: Open. Contact: Ch Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-800-226-7267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Benton** — Individual/couples assist with housekeeping miscellaneous duties at camp. Dates: Open. Contact: Ch Stewart, Camp Agape, 1-800-226-7267 or praiseGod@campagape.net

• **Chattanooga** — Team place roof on church building. Dates: Open. Contact: By Clure, Jr. (423) 894-4517 or 8375

• **Knoxville** — Teams of 3-4 conduct VBS in Montgomery. Dates: June-July. Contact: Carroll Webb, Montgomery Baptist Center, (865) 577-1111 or cswmultihouseknox@junc.org

• **Roan Mountain** — Teams needed to install ceiling joist for wood ceilings and stalling wood ceilings, hanging rock in worship center. Dates: Open. Contact: Dwight H Roan Park Baptist Church, 542-6879 or edwighthobbs@chartertn.net

• **Townsend** — Teams needed to lead day camps, campgrounds and conduct evening programs. Dates: July 30. Contact: Kelly C Appalachian Regional Ministry, (865) 982-0499

• **Walland** — Teams up to lead Backyard Bible Club at mobile home community. Dates: May 30-August 5. Krystal McCammon, Prospect Baptist Church, (865) 681-1111

Middle  
Tennessee  
Cumberland  
Regional  
Ministry

• **Maury** — Teams needed minister in and around Columbia. Teams would be doing blessings, food and clothing distribution, BYBC/surveys/prayering in four areas designated for future new church starts. \$15/day which covers administrative, T-shirt, and insurance. Dates: Open. Contact: David Graves, (931) 286-1002 or servantsheart@cno.us □



# Nashville CWJC helping 51-year-old reach goal of earning GED

Dawn Ferguson  
Artist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Holding all worldly possessions in a half-garbage bag, Dorothy Ray got the bus here from Nebraska with her 14-year-old daughter. She had lost everything — her home, her car, her pride. Her oldest son, who was living in Nashville at the time, invited mother and siblings to come with him and his wife and three children — eight people in a one-bedroom apartment. For 10 months I slept on the couch at my son's and tried to figure out what I was going to do," said. "I was in the deepest depression. I had hit rock bottom to cope I was drinking."

Ray, now 51, had been a single parent since she was 15. The high-grade drop out got her first placement in the projects at age

16. For all those years, everybody had been looking to her for support and help. "I did everything for everybody for so long, I lost sight of Dorothy," she admits.

Ray slowly started developing a relationship with the Lord while she was at her son's home alone and reading the Bible. "I had always believed in Jesus," she said. "One of my earliest memories is my grandmother taking me to church. But I didn't really have a relationship with Him."

Because of this time in God's Word and the relationship Ray started developing she stopped drinking. She began praying that God would give her direction and an opportunity to go back to school. Doors started opening.

"I think I had to go down, to come up," said Ray. "I stopped asking God why — why was I taken away from my parents at age 9, why did my mother die when I

was young, why had I lost everything. I realized it didn't matter. He was there for me all along."

She had been sending applications in for housing during the time she was living with her son. She got accepted in one and soon met a social worker who pointed her to the Christian Women's Job Corps in Nashville as a resource for getting her GED.

Almost two years ago, Ray set as her top goal at CWJC the receipt of her GED. She took the test on April 23, and passed most of the requirements, but came up just short.

"It's a privilege for me to take it. I look at all the younger women around me taking it who haven't been out of school as long as I have and they're flunking and getting discouraged and quitting. But not me. I'm going to continue. If I want my GED, I've got to go out and get it!"

And though she didn't get it on the first attempt, she is working toward her next attempt. She readily admits math has been her toughest subject. "I'm going to keep studying and keep taking it until I pass it," she says with determination.

She continues to work on the computer given to her by CWJC. "I was one of about five or six who got computers from Christian Women's Job Corps last year," she said. "My daughter-in-law got it hooked up for me and showed me the basics. She got me online and I was able to learn to use e-mail."



CWJC MENTOR Barbara Oldham, left, has been an encourager and friend to Dorothy Ray.

As a result, Ray was able to communicate with her son Anthony while he was serving in the armed forces in Iraq. "That was a real blessing," she added. Anthony has returned to the states, but is presently receiving more training in Louisiana and will return to Iraq.

When women become a part of the CWJC program, they are paired with a mentor.

"Our mentors are vital to the success of our women," said Rebekah Sumrall, CWJC-Nashville's executive director. "They meet at least one hour a week with the women they are mentoring and provide encouragement, guidance, hope, and friendship. They help our women stay on track in working toward and meeting their goals."

"It's a joy to be Dorothy's mentor," said Barbara Oldham, receptionist and switchboard operator at the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "We've been together a little

less than two years and it's been inspirational to see the woman Dorothy is and is becoming. There's no holding her back. Whatever she wants to do, she plans on getting there — even when she's confronted with hard situations.

"Dorothy is a survivor," Oldham added. "She has taught me a lot. In fact, I feel like I'm the one who's received a blessing in our relationship. She totally relies on her faith. She's in God's Word daily, and her dependency on the Lord is very inspiring to me."

After she achieves her GED goal, she plans to work toward "getting my computer certification by getting into the computer lab program at CWJC. Afterwards, I want to help someone else — women like me, young or old, who think their life is over. I want to show them it's not."

"I failed so much in so many different ways in my life," she added. "If you don't fail, you won't learn. You've got to get out of the box. I believe God is taking me even further. I would like to go to college and get my degree in counseling so I really could help others."

Ray recently shared her story with attendees of the Tennessee WMU Get Together in Gatlinburg. "I'm not a speaker. I don't even know all the right words."

"But I have God with me and greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!" — Ferguson is a freelance writer from Gallatin. She also writes book reviews for the B&R.



## Disaster Relief Training

June 24-25

First Baptist Church of Shelbyville

304 East Depot Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160

Friday — 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday — 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Training Classes:

- Introduction to Disaster Relief
- Chain Saw Training
- Chaplain Training
- Communications Training
- Crew Chief Training (for those volunteers that will be leading church and association crews)
- Mass Feeding Training
- Mudout Training
- Rebuild Training
- Service and Delivery Training

**Registration Fee:** \$25 (cover materials and meals). Make check payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. **Contact Elizabeth Holmes** for further information and registration at (615) 371-7926 or [eholmes@tnbaptist.org](mailto:eholmes@tnbaptist.org) or [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).

To simulate an actual disaster response as part of the training, participants are encouraged to stay on site. The host church will provide lodging, and a Disaster Relief shower trailer will be available. Please bring a sleeping bag or cot.

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## UNION

UNIVERSITY



## LifeWay cancels 'Fast 50' seminars

LifeWay news service

NASHVILLE — LifeWay Christian Resources has canceled the "Fast 50" seminars scheduled for June 23-24, immediately following the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting here.

LifeWay first planned the event in response to Southern Baptists who requested opportunities for ministry training in conjunction with SBC annual meetings, but lower-than-expected registration led to its cancellation.

"We appreciate the interest of those who registered and are sorry that the overall registration fell significantly short of filling the seminars," said John Garner, LifeWay's associate to the vice president of corporate affairs.

LifeWay personnel will contact event registrants with information regarding a refund of registration fees. □

## Court upholds national motto

Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND — A federal appeals court has said an inscription of the national motto, "In God We Trust," on a North Carolina government building is constitutional.

In a unanimous ruling May 14, a three-judge panel of the Virginia-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the phrase does not run afoul of the First Amendment's ban on government support for religion.

"In this situation, the reason-

able observer must be deemed aware of the patriotic uses, both historical and present, of the phrase 'In God We Trust,'" said Judge Robert King, authoring the court's opinion.

He noted that the phrase has appeared on American coinage since the mid-1800s, and was made the official national motto by Congress in 1856.

The phrase was inscribed on the wall of the Davidson County Government Center in Lexington, N.C., in 2002. Private donations paid for it.

Two lawyers who have regular business at the building sued shortly thereafter, saying the inscription violates the Constitution. But a lower federal court ruled against them last year. The appeals panel upheld that decision. □

## Federal judge overturns state's amendment

Baptist Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — In the first ruling of its kind, a federal judge May 12 struck down Nebraska's constitutional marriage amendment, issuing a decision that is certain to intensify calls for an amendment to

the U.S. Constitution.

The amendment, which Nebraska voters passed by a margin of 70-30 percent in 2000, protects the traditional definition of marriage by banning "gay marriage," civil unions, and domestic partnerships. The ruling does not legalize "gay marriage" but does make Nebraska significantly more vulnerable to such a lawsuit. For example, Massachusetts — which legalized "gay marriage" last year following a court-order — has no marriage amendment.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon ruled that the Nebraska amendment — Section 29 in the state Constitution — violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment right to petition the government and the Fourteenth Amendment's due process and equal protection clauses.

It is the first time a federal court has overturned a marriage amendment, which an additional 17 states have. The long-awaited ruling — which pro-family leaders had feared would be a negative one — is being appealed and could ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court.

"The court finds that Section 29 is directed at gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual peo-

ple and is intended to prohibit their political ability to effectuate changes opposed by the majority," Bataillon, who was nominated by President Clinton, wrote.

The lawsuit was filed by homosexual and liberal activist groups, including Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska.

Pro-family groups said the ruling overturns the will of Nebraska's citizens.

Of the 17 other states with marriage amendments, 10 have language similar to Nebraska's, banning not only "gay marriage" but also civil unions and other marriage-like unions. Arkansas' amendment bans recognition of unions which are "identical or substantially similar to marital status." Ohio's amendment prohibits unions which "approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effect of marriage."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the ruling destroys the

"myth" that "gay marriage" be a states rights issue.

"The only remedy for a kind of imperial judiciary is federal Marriage Protection Amendment," Land told BP.

He encouraged South Baptists and "other persons of faith" to contact their senators and ask them to vote for the federal marriage amendment. □

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — PASTOR

Jones Chapel Baptist, Paris, Tenn., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to 2000 India Rd., Paris, TN 38242. For more information, e-mail david@compu.net.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Polkville Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor in a church averaging 200 in attendance. We are located in the western Piedmont region of North Carolina. College degree preferred. Some seminary training. Send resume to Search Committee, c/o Polkville Baptist Church, Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.

### MINISTRY — STUDENT

First Baptist Church, Strawberry Plains is searching for a full-time student minister focusing on youth, grades 6-12. Send resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church of Strawberry Plains, P.O. Box 310, Strawberry Plains, TN 37871.

### MINISTRY — CHILDREN

This is a growing church with a new need for a full-time minister of children to provide leadership for birth through 5th grade including an existing day program. Requirements include a four-year degree; strong ties in organization and ministry experience in both preschool and children's ministry. Send resume to FBC Mt. Olive, 35117, Attn. Search Committee, Mt. Olive Rd., Mt. Olive, TN 37117.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Needed: multi-audio cassette duplicating machine for ministry to blind and low vision persons. Contact Bev Smokey at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, (615) 371-2044.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Heritage Baptist Church is selling 50 choir chairs. They are very sturdy, made of wood, locking and have receptacles on the side for folders. They are nicely padded, and would be a nice addition to any platform. The price is \$20 per chair. Contact Marcos Gatz at (423) 926-1111 for more information.

### MINISTRY — EDUCATION

Salem Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of education and spiritual development. Please forward resumes to Chuck Brantley, Salem Baptist Church, 8201 Hill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37938.

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Sportsman Camps will take place this June and July with separate weeks for boys and girls, ages 9-14.

Activities include: Hunter/Bowhunter education, deer, duck, turkey, and predator hunting skills and tactics, wild game calling school, 3-D archery shoot, map and compass skills, marksmanship, camping/survival skills, wildlife management, scouting/treestand placement, skeet shoot, blood trail challenge, fishing, campfire stories, fun at the lake, and much more.

For information on dates, pricing, and registration, contact Brodie Swisher at the Covenant Ranch at (731) 642-2099 or (731) 642-7999 or e-mail [covenantranch@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantranch@bellsouth.net). You can also visit us online at [sonriseadventures.com](http://sonriseadventures.com)

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## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Covenant Baptist Church in Collierville, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of students/recreation. Degree required. Send resume to P. O. Box 1165, Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

### MINISTRY — MUSIC

Henderson Chapel Baptist Church is seeking to fill the position of part-time music worship leader. Address your resume or questions to the church or phone Dave Tinker at (865) 428-0276. Henderson Chapel Baptist Church, 407 Henderson Rd., Pigeon Forge, TN 37863, Attn. Search Committee. Job description available upon request.

### MINISTRY — POSITIONS

Church leadership positions. Seeking 2 qualified, enthusiastic leaders for the following positions: full-time or part-time minister of music as well as a full-time or part-time minister of youth. Send resume to Chris Jenkins, Unaka Avenue Baptist Church, 1213 East Unaka Ave., Johnson City, TN 37601.



## remember in prayer

**Editor's Note:** The following prayer requests are from Don Carson, prayer strategist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

### Bonnaroo 2005

Pray for those who will be sharing Christ during Bonnaroo (June 10-12). Pray for opportunities to share, boldness for the witness, and the clarity of the gospel. Pray for a great harvest.

### Crossover 2005

June 17-19, 2005 is a pivotal date for Southern Baptists and Tennessee Baptists. Crossover 2005 over Easter Nashville will see nearly 13,000 volunteers involved in sharing Jesus.

Pray for wisdom and the health of all the leaders.

Pray for the general safety of the volunteers.  
Pray that Jesus will be lifted up and glorified.  
Pray for the host churches and for all the follow-up people who make decisions for Christ.  
Pray for the media to present an image of us that would be Christ honoring.

**Please pray for the following partnership states:**

#### Alaska, Brazil

May 20-29 — Woman's Missionary Union  
June 3-12 — Youth from across Tennessee  
June 10-18 — Big Emory Baptist Association  
June 17-26 — First Baptist Church, Clarksville  
Portugal

June 6-14 — First Baptist Church, Clarksville

#### Idaho - June 2005

Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville  
Birds Creek Baptist Church, Paris  
Knox County Baptist Association

#### Montana - June 2005

Amberland Fellowship, Crossville

## minister's corner

By Mark Stinnett

I'm excited about the future ministry at New Salem Baptist Association.

I want to share an interesting story. Mama and her family had moved into a farm community in North Alabama. A family down the road had two girls my age. I had met at school. One day as my mama was walking down the road she could hear, on the other side of a brown up fence row, the man of the house shouting unpleasant words and even threatening to kill Anna and Pearl. This frightened my mother because she knew the two girls' names were Anna Mai and Pearl. Then she realized he was working his mules when he had named after his daughters.

I have a picture of those mules and the man working them. Very mules in my home. He eventually became grandfather and Ann and Pearl my aunts.

Someone once said: "You never know how a team of mules will pull together until you hook them to a load." We have a lot of needs and ministry possibilities. If we pull together, we can accomplish much for Christ. □ Mark Stinnett is the new director of missions for New Salem Baptist Association, based in Carthage.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world

# Leave a godly legacy

By Robert Segrest

**Focal Passage:** Genesis 24:1-4, 12-16, 50-51, 61-67

A survey of senior adults asked what they would do differently if they could relive their lives. Most said they would seek to do more things that lived on after them. However, each of those senior adults had already left a lasting legacy for future generations just as everyone does. Some are leaving godly legacies of faith and love while others are leaving behind ungodly ones. This week's lesson challenges us to intentionally leave a godly legacy for those who come after us, especially our family members.

Abraham is an excellent model of one who planted a godly legacy for his family. His legacy still dynamically impacts our world.

When he was 140 years old, Abraham sought to continue his line through Isaac by finding him a proper wife. His wife Sarah had died and the old man realized he had little time to accomplish this all important task. So he spoke to Eliezer, the senior servant of his household, about locating a wife for his son.

In those days, marriages were arranged, but in this case it was not without the consent of both parties. Eliezer was asked to find Isaac a wife, but not from the Canaanites who worshiped idols and engaged in sexual immorality. That point was so important to Abraham he said it twice and then made his servant

swear to do as he said by placing his hand under his thigh, as was the custom of that day.

Eliezer was told to travel to Haran and find Isaac's bride among Abraham's family living there. Abraham fully realized the vital importance of selecting Isaac's wife from among those who believed in God, as did he.

The first major step in building a godly legacy within the Christian family is to marry someone who faithfully follows Jesus Christ. That implies dating only true believers. Those who follow their hearts and assume this principle to be unimportant will in most cases live to regret their decision to marry outside of the faith. The chances of a believer changing an unbeliever are not good. In reality, any Christian who compromises godliness in choosing a mate will most likely be the one who changes.

Eliezer had his orders, but he realized he could not carry out this all-important assignment without divine help. So when he got to Haran he prayed asking God to guide him to the right woman.

How very important it is for parents and grandparents to begin praying early that their offspring will one day discover the wife or husband of God's choice. It is of equal importance for them to support those prayers with righteous living that sets a godly example for their children and grandchildren to follow.

Apparently the Lord had told

## Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series May 29

Eliezer how to locate Isaac's future wife for he arrived in Haran looking for a young woman who, when asked, would give him a drink of water and also offer to water his camels. As he waited at the public well in the late afternoon, women from the city came to fill their jars. Eliezer looked up and saw a beautiful young woman coming toward him with a water jar on her shoulder. As though she was following a script, the woman responded graciously to Eliezer's request for a drink and then, without being asked, offered to give water to his camels. When the camels had finished drinking, Eliezer gave her a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets for her kindness. He then asked whose daughter she was. Eliezer found out that her name was Rebekah, and that she was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother Nahor. Overjoyed, Eliezer bowed down and worshiped the Lord for giving him success in his quest.

Rebekah was God's choice for Isaac and when finally they met, each knew it would be a marriage made in heaven. The godly legacy Abraham and Sarah started would continue unbroken. □ — Segrest is the eastern regional vice president of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He lives in Chattanooga.

# Rely on the Lord's faithfulness

By Michael Julian

**Focal Passage:** Lamentations 3:19-33, 37-39

Have you ever, even for a second, doubted the Lord's faithfulness? Perhaps God's faithfulness has remained unquestioned, but maybe you have questioned His permissiveness? Yet, if you have questioned His permissiveness, then indirectly you have presented a challenge to the Lord's faithfulness. After all, if the Lord were completely exercising His faithfulness, then you would not be experiencing this particular tragedy or trial in your life. Thus, the inevitable question of why is raised in the context of tragedy.

Christian suffering continues to be a subject of intense study and reflection. At one time, the basic understanding existed that one suffers exclusively because of his sin. The life of Job quickly quieted that notion. Sin can be the source of suffering, but that reasoning does not fit every circumstance. Suffering is utilized to build character, perseverance, and trust in a person's life. God remains faithful to His Word and Himself, even when we are unfaithful and faithless. That fact should be one that instills tremendous confidence, hope, and joy in the Lord's faithfulness.

Lamentations is a short and powerful book tucked between two major prophetic works in the Old Testament. Jeremiah is traditionally credited as the author of this

book. The majority of the tone of this book serves as a lament or a dirge for the Jewish exiles. They have been ripped from their homeland and transported to various foreign nations. In this case, the exile resulted from the people's sin. Yet, in the midst of the mourning and lamenting stands a blessed picture of the Lord's faithfulness, and the hope His faithfulness brings to God's people.

Our lesson passage stands in remarkable contrast to the previous verses in chapter three. In the preceding verse Jeremiah lamented, *So I say, my strength has perished, and so has my hope from the Lord.* But as we progress in our passage, Jeremiah exclaims that hope builds as he calls to mind that the Lord's lovingkindness never cease, and His compassions never fail. In spite of the tragic suffering and the atrocities he has witnessed, Jeremiah refuses to relinquish his grasp on this all-important fact. The reality is so heavy upon him that he proclaims that he can taste the newness of God's mercy every day. The rousing chorus climaxes with the incredible assertion, "Great is Thy faithfulness." Do you awaken each morning to discover the freshness of God's mercy and lovingkindness? Meditate on these words and allow the Savior to lavish you with mercy and lovingkindness from His inexhaustible storehouses.

Jeremiah continues in praise of the Lord announcing that he has hope in Him. God has cultivated the

## Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible May 29

fruit of patience in Jeremiah's life. He begins to demonstrate a series of qualities that carry goodness or that the Lord responds to with goodness. All those who wait on the Lord and seek Him are subject to His goodness. Goodness is ascribed to the young man who accepts the discipline of the Lord. The theme of hope flourishes as Jeremiah illustrates how the Lord's compassion is roused to action, so that the Lord will not reject forever His people or grieve them willingly from His heart. Indeed, here we can behold both the kindness and severity of the Lord.

The closing portion of our lesson reminds us of God's sovereignty. Who can withstand the decrees of God? The Lord speaks and makes good on His Word.

At times, the Lord allows suffering and tragedies to convict us of sin, that we might repent and be refreshed. However, not all suffering is related to sin. We have nothing to complain about, for God's lovingkindness gives us what we do not deserve and keeps us from what we do deserve. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised, for his mercy endures forever. □ — Julian is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist, Mt. Pleasant.



## Deaths

◆ **Don Hensley**, pastor of Riverview Baptist Church, Clinton, died April 25 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and other family.

## Leaders

◆ **Jim Freedman**, executive director, Nashville Baptist Association, based in Nashville, will retire Dec. 31. He has served the association for 14 years. Formerly Freedman was church services director, Union Baptist Association, based in Houston, Texas, for 11 years. He also has been minister of education or youth and administration in churches in Texas, Missouri, and Louisiana. He will complete 47 years in min-



FREEDMAN

istry. He and his wife, Sandra, will retire in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

◆ **Rob Cassell** of First Baptist Church, Kingsport, earned a master of divinity with biblical languages degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, on May 6.

◆ **Crystal Schwartz** of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, May 6.

◆ **James "Don" Walker** of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, earned a master of arts in Christian education degree and a master of arts in marriage and family counseling degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, May 6.

◆ **Lemuel F. Wade**, pastor, Glenwood Baptist Church, Nashville, for 13 years has resigned to take a position as a chaplain of St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville. Wade was a

hospital chaplain before coming to the pastorate in 1984 when he served as a bivocational pastor of Hickory Hollow Baptist Chapel, Nashville. His resignation is effective June 5.

◆ **Wanda Godwin**, ministry assistant, Shiloh Baptist Association, based in Adamsville, for 15 years, retired effective May 27.

◆ **CrossWay Baptist Church**, Murfreesboro, has called **Sherman Boyd** as minister of students. He will graduate soon from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro.

◆ **Jerry Spencer** has been called as interim pastor, Sharon Baptist Church, Savannah.

◆ **Mt. Hermon** ordained **Michael Avants**, minister to families with students/education, to the ministry on April 17.

◆ **Glen Beeler** of Luttrell has been called as pastor, Washburn Baptist Church, Washburn.

◆ **Richard Kelly** has been called as pastor, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Kingsport. He has been associate pastor/administrator, River of Life Church in Piney Flats.

◆ **Marty Dodge** has been called as interim pastor, Riddleton Baptist Church, Riddleton. Dodge has pastored churches in Tennessee and more recently was associate pastor/youth and missions coordinator, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, for six years. He also works at a furniture store in Carthage.

◆ **Fellowship Baptist Church**, Sharon, has called **Stan Brooks** as pastor.

◆ **Ronnie McClure** has been called as pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church, McKenzie.

## Churches

◆ **Westwood Baptist**



**THE FIRST MARRIAGE** ceremony in Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center's 50-year history took place recently at the of a senior adult retreat. Yvonne Patterson and Don Br exchanged vows on the steps of the conference center as members of the First Baptist Church, Columbia, retreat g and family and friends observed. Billy Kimbrough, pastor of or adults, officiated. Vickie Albritton, the bride's daughter, Lenny Brewer, the groom's son, who stood with the co applaud during a portion of the ceremony.

**Church, Manchester**, held revival Sunday - Wednesday, May 15-18. Jack Hice, pastor, Marble Plains Baptist Church, Winchester, spoke and Ken Cunningham, music leader of Marble Plains Church, led the music.

◆ **Cornerstone Baptist church, Knoxville**, celebrated its 50th anniversary May 15. Walter Taylor, director of missions, Knox County Baptist Association, spoke.

◆ **Bordeaux Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold revival Wednesday - Friday, June 8-10. Dicky Reynolds, Donnie Bryant, and David Price will speak. A cookout and music will be held Saturday, June 11, at 6 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 255-3395.

◆ **CrossWay Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**,

recently broke ground in Christiana community for first facility. The first p will cost \$1.2 million. includes worship ce offices, and education s. The congregation curre meets at Riverdale l School in Murfreesboro.

## Association

◆ **Nashville Bay Association**, based Nashville, is seeking res for executive director or retirement of Jim Freed executive director, Dec Fred Johnson, leader of association's oversight and pastor, Calvary Ba Church, Nashville, said association will re resumes until Aug. 1. The be sent to the associa Attn: Fred Johnson, 420 Street, Nashville, TN 372



**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS** - Nashville held its annual graduation May 7 at First Baptist Church, Nashville. **ABOVE**, Tywana Staten, the first recipient of the Amanda Day Christian Women's Job Corps Scholarship of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, Brentwood, stands with Denise Bronaugh, left, of Tennessee WMU staff, and Creely Wilson, state CWJC coordinator of Brentwood. Day was a member of the state WMU staff. Staten earned her high school General Equivalence Diploma while in CWJC - Nashville and began studying at Tennessee State University, Nashville. **BELOW**, graduates stand with their mentors. Graduates wearing hats and gowns earned their high school GED. Seventeen women earned diplomas.



**JESUS, PLAYED** by Steve Conner of Point Pleasant B Church, Paris Landing, talks to a paralyzed man portray Gary Fletcher of the church during the church's "Living Pic of Jesus" held on May 5-7. The event is a drive-through d In previous years the church offered it near Easter. It is said Carole Custer, director, "to reach the unsaved in our munity." Larry Dukes, pastor, said all of the congrega some members of sister churches were needed for the pr tion.

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