

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.23; June 22, 2005

During Crossover 2005

Baptists blanket Middle Tennessee with God's love

Lonnie Wilkey & Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptists from around the country partnered with their Tennessee brothers and sisters in the last week and the kingdom of God is larger today, thanks to their efforts.

Preliminary reports indicate more than 1,100 people made professions of faith during Crossover 2005, a joint effort sponsored by the North American Mission Board, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Tennessee Baptist associations. Crossover 2005 attracted more than 13,000 volunteers, making it the largest preaching effort since its introduction in 1989.

Crossover consisted of seven areas: personal evangelism (led by LifeWay Christian Resources), sports evangelism, prayer journeys, block party, ethnic ministry, kindness mission, and collegiate evangelism. Each venue witnessed

positive experiences.

Volunteers worked with 262 host churches in a 40-mile radius of Nashville where 1.3 million people reside. It is estimated that 80 percent of these people do not attend church.

Jerry Essary, Crossover coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, commended the "hard work and cooperation of the thousands of volunteers across the Southern Baptist Convention. My hat goes off to them, to local ministry venue teams, and to the hundreds of local churches who gave countless hours of time and energy. Only eternity will tell what has been accomplished for the kingdom of God through Crossover 2005."

Popular Crossover events included block parties and the



RIDLEY BARRON, right, pastor, Ridgeview Community Church, Franklin, distributes bottled water to Crossover volunteers, from left, Corie Thigpen, Heath Gillham, and Heath Blackman of First Baptist Church, Hayden, Ala., at a park in Franklin. They were distributing the water to people in the park.

traditional door-to-door visits, which received a boost this year from SBC President Bobby Welch's "Everyone Can!" emphasis in which Southern Baptists are challenged to witness, win, and baptize one million converts between the 2005 and 2006 annual SBC meetings.

Preliminary results of the door-to-door evangelism effort

were shared at a Saturday night celebration rally at the Gaylord Entertainment Center. Final results won't be known for at least 10 days.

The report showed 455 had made professions of faith, 3,772 prospects were discovered, and



VOLUNTEERS bag sweet potatoes in the parking lot of First Baptist Church, Nashville, to distribute to hungry families in Middle Tennessee. The effort was part of Crossover 2005.

102 were enrolled in Sunday School. These totals came from 1,562 teams, 1,753 other church volunteers for a total of 6,420. They attempted 41,110 visits, completed 17,570, and shared — See Baptists, page 3

Welcome to the Volunteer State!

James Porch
Executive Director-Treasurer
Tennessee Baptist Convention

NASHVILLE — Welcome, new Baptists, to the Tennessee gathering of the '05 Southern Baptist Convention. Since the big Baptist gathering here in Tennessee

(Memphis) in 1925, the Volunteer State Baptists have continued to pursue their faithfulness to the Cooperative Program.

Today, 80 years later, Tennessee Baptists give sacrificially to missions — locally, statewide, nationwide, and

worldwide through the proven method of cooperative support for world evangelism.

Our state convention's growing legacy of commitment to total cooperative giving continues to expand and intensify as local churches, each a unique community of faith in God's kingdom, spread out literally to the uttermost parts of the world in volunteer ventures to bear witness to the living Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, and Baptists from other states, who join together in a big variety of witness ways to share the gospel through Crossover. Already early reports declare the effectiveness of our energies and time spent in declaring the gospel.

Now, ya'll come back again and keep in mind, we still live here; we will continue to bear witness. So, have a great time and bless us by your presence and your conduct. □



JAMES PORCH, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, cuts bags for volunteers from First Baptist Church, Highland Neck, N.C., to use to bag sweet potatoes during the "Potato Drop" at Crossover 2005.

Through 'divine appointments'

ICE teams see 645 decisions

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — In five days of walking the streets of Nashville to meet "divine appointments," about 15 members of Southern Baptists' inner-city evangelism team saw 645 people pray to receive Christ.

"We very seldom knock on a door. God brings them to us," said David Cobb, a Mission Service Corp volunteer and member of First Baptist Church, Sevierville. He made the comment as his partner, Mark Martin, shared with a man who was walking across the parking lot of Church of the Messiah as they exited the building.

"Our days have been full," agreed Martin, a full-time evangelist and member of FBC, Sevierville.

"We have a lot of unity on the team. These men are true evangelists."

When asked to describe a special experience of the week, Walt Dejager of Atlanta cited a young girl from Sudan who spoke English and prayed to

receive Christ. Dejager then gave her some tracts to translate for her family, and challenged the brand new Christian to become a missionary to them.

"We've seen more divine appointments than I've seen in a long time," said Marvin Dorsey of Atlanta. "It's been a challenging week, but God has been with us and helping us."

Tears filled the eyes of Mark Yoho, Sugar Valley, Ga., as he described a 46-year-old man he encountered who had accepted Christ at the age of six and later received a call from God to preach. However, the man instead had become involved in a lifestyle of drugs. He told Yoho of a vision he had had the night before of God asking him, "Where's your faith?"

At the end of the conversation with Yoho, the man rededicated his life to Christ.

Victor Benavides, intentional community evangelism strategist with the North American Mission Board, praised the efforts of his team. He urged prayer for the follow up that will be taking place with those who made decisions. □

about your newsjournal

Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 47 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$11; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.75 per subscription; other plans available

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

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

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

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

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

Marcia Knox, special features assistant
(615) 371-2089,
mknox@tnbaptist.org

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

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

Phone — (615) 371-2003

FAX — (615) 371-2080


Web Site — www.tnbaptist.org

Publisher — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

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

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

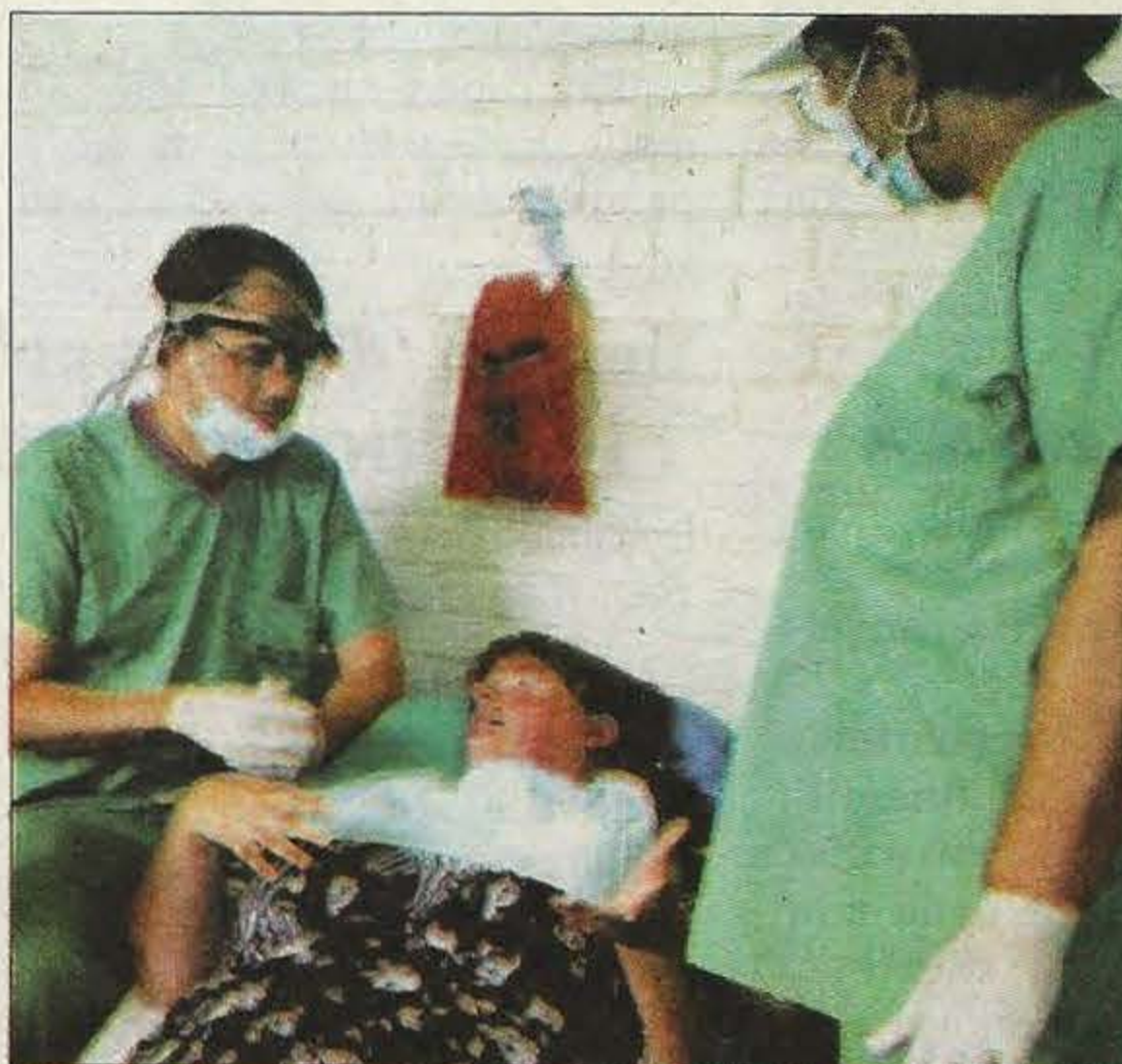
Frequency of issue —
Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

 Printed on recycled paper



RESPONDING to survey questions from a Belle vue Baptist Church, Cordova, mission team, were Leonard Cherry, left, and Lisa Clark. The Bellevue team, which was assisting Ivy Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville, was comprised of, from left, Robert Blackstone, Aaron Blackstone, Allyson Moore, and Kay Wharton. — Photos on this page by Connie Davis Bushey and Marcia Knox

PHILLIP FARMER, aka Skipper the Clown, a member of God's Happy Faces clown troupe from Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, talks with a new friend while rounding up people for Ivy Memorial Baptist Church's block party in Nashville.



MICHAEL VAUGHAN, dentist of Nashville, discusses treatment with Tammy Reynolds while Vanessa Childress listens. The treatment was being conducted at Church of the Messiah June 14. Childress is a member of the church. Vaughan is a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville. **BELOW**, serving food at Broadmoor Baptist Church's block party in Nashville were, from left, Shirley Omohundro, Bill Hitt, Brenda Shelton, and Sarah Hitt.



Middle Tennessee blanketed with God's love during Crossover



MARGARET ALLEN of Edmond, Okla., places bracelet on the arm of a young girl at the block party hosted by West Franklin Baptist Church, Franklin



ABOVE, Donna S. tests blood of a lady during health screening at International Festival held at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. **BELOW**, offering "power band challenge" to children at block party in Nashville are Sha Diener, left, and Heather Gould of Franklin County Baptist Association in Missouri.



TILLIC FROHOCK, a member of West Franklin Baptist Church, Franklin, uses a puppet to entertain a young girl attending the church's block party.



Baptists blanket Middle Tennessee with God's love ...

Continued from page 1
gospel with 4,565 times.
You have made a difference
the Lord Jesus today. This
is better off than it was this
morning," Welch told partici-
pants attending the celebration

Among the churches partici-
pating in door-to-door evangel-
ism was Indian Hills Baptist
Church of Gallatin. With an
average attendance of 120, the
congregation sent 40 teams to
homes each. Pastor Charles
Person said the church
had to reach 5,000 people.
It has been one of the biggest
missions we've ever undertaken,"
said *The Tennessean*.

Larry Tidwell, senior pastor
of Ellendale Baptist Church,
told rally participants,
"You sowed a seed in some-
body today, God's going to
do something with that seed.
He are people all around the
state that now know that God
plan for their lives for all
of eternity."

Collegiate Evangelism

More than 80 volunteers
participated in Collegiate
Crossover events in Murfrees-
boro, the home of Middle Ten-
nessee State University.

Prayer stations were set up
in apartment complexes
on the campus offering free
burgers and hot dogs. Vol-
unteers, including about 20 col-
lege students from Dyer Bap-
tist Association, invited MTSU
students to attend a block
party Saturday evening at the
East Campus Ministry.
The block party included
band, food, door prizes,
gospel presentation.

Their goal is to reach and
serve as many students as pos-
sible during the weekend for
the ultimate purpose of con-
necting them to our BCM min-
istry and a local church," said
Vaden, TBC collegiate
ministry specialist at MTSU.
The collegiate effort also was
sponsored by Belle Aire and
First Baptist churches of
Greensboro.

Stone Soup Festival

Approximately 800 people —



RUSTY SUMRALL, right, of Nashville Baptist Association assists Drue Powers and his mother, Christy, from Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, at the "Sweet Potato Drop" venue of Crossover 2005. Sumrall coordinated the effort which provided 44,000 pounds of sweet potatoes to needy families throughout Middle Tennessee. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

children with special needs and
their families — explored the
seven days in which God creat-
ed the world during the Stone
Soup Festival at the Nashville
Convention Center.

The festival was organized
by Stone Soup Ministry, a part-
nership of Judson Baptist
Church and Redeemer Fellow-
ship.

Ross McGary, pastor of
Redeemer Fellowship and festi-
val co-chair, said the event was
"the largest in Nashville history
for special-needs children
except for the statewide Special
Olympics."

Families who had pre-regis-
tered arrived at appointed
times to hear presentations
and see hands-on demonstra-
tions about God's creation of
light, animals, water, and other
dimensions of creation.

Volunteers of all ages from
around the country offered
their services as greeters, coun-
selors, and worked behind the
scenes in registration and
exhibits.

"I am so glad there are so
many volunteers for this
important project," author and
speaker Joni Eareckson Tada
told the volunteers in a video
greeting. "You will be practicing
a little of Christianity with
your sleeves rolled up."

Sports Clinic

Sports Crusaders, a
team from Missouri using
sports as a way to reach
young people for Christ,
conducted a four-hour bas-
ketball clinic at Westwood
Baptist Church in
Nashville. It was one of six
Crossover sports clinics.

Of the 35 children
attending the Westwood
clinic, about half had no
connection to the church.
"Our mission is to reach out
to kids who maybe wouldn't
come to a church-type set-
ting," said Chris Sisk, public
relations director from
Holts Summit, Mo.

John Collier, associate pas-
tor of Westwood, said, "These
kids (Sports Crusaders) have
been wonderful. We've even
had some parents come up to
us and tell us how much they're
loving it."

During the two clinic breaks,
members of the Sports Cru-
saders shared their testimonies
and presented the gospel. "God
is the ultimate coach," Sisk told
the children. "God wants the
best for your life and He has all
the answers."

The Gathering

In a first for Crossover, more
than 200 motorcyclists rode to
Nashville's Riverfront Park
Saturday afternoon for free
food, music, bike photos, and a
gospel presentation.

About 100 of the bikers par-
ticipated in a toy run from The
Coliseum with toys to be dis-
tributed to children's hospitals
in the Nashville area. The
event was coordinated by the
F.A.I.T.H. Riders of First Bap-
tist Church at the Mall, Lake-
land, Fla., a group that has
expanded to eight chapters in
three states.

"We wanted to be part of
Crossover today and be part of
leading people to Christ," said
Buddy Newsome, founder and
director of F.A.I.T.H. Riders.

David Burton, director of
evangelism for the Florida Bap-
tist Convention, has been a
F.A.I.T.H. Rider for two years.
Riding his motorcycle into the
Gaylord Entertainment Center
Saturday night during the cele-
bration rally, Burton said,
"We've seen people saved all
day long. We can't wait for peo-
ple to come to us. We've got to
go to them."

Sweet Potato Drop

Thanks to Crossover 2005
and the Society of St. Andrew
(SoSA), a national glean-
ing ministry based in Big Island,
Va., 44,000 pounds of sweet
potatoes were distributed to
hungry families in Middle Ten-
nessee.



GRACIE ROTHENBERGER of Nashville sings and signs with Ross McGary, pastor of Redeemer Fellowship, sponsor of the Stone Soup Festival block party for special needs children and their families during a June 17 training session for volunteers. — Photo by Linda Lawson

A Johnson City native, Joe
Royston, works with SoSA in
northern Illinois. His brother,
Jim, is a former Tennessee
Baptist pastor and is now the
executive director of the North
Carolina Baptist Convention.
Royston estimated the 44,000
pounds of sweet potatoes could
feed 132,000 people.

With the help of more than
20,000 volunteers each year
SoSA gleaned about 45 million
pounds of food to help feed the
approximately 33 million
Americans who regularly go
hungry, Royston said.

He said Crossover 2005 is
the first large-scale joint effort
SoSA has had with the South-
ern Baptist Convention.

Rusty Sumrall of the
Nashville Baptist Association
staff coordinated the "potato
drop" which was held on a
parking lot of First Baptist
Church, Nashville. He noted
about 175 volunteers from 24
churches were signed on to bag
the potatoes which were then
taken to churches holding block
parties, the International Festi-
val, and other ministries in the
area.

Hispanic Statewide Effort

While the statistical totals of
the statewide Hispanic church
planting effort won't be known
for several days, more than 200
people worked daily, June 13-
17, conducting revivals, Vac-
ation Bible Schools, and other
events.

"Every day we have had pro-
fessions of faith and rededica-
tions," Avila said. Also, 10 new
Hispanic churches were com-
missioned June 19. Avila said
volunteers came from many
states and 12 countries. Four
obtained visas to travel from
Cuba.

"We feel the Holy Spirit was
working and invited us to join
Him," Avila said. "Everywhere
we have gone the fields are
white unto harvest."

California church group

A group from Immanuel
Baptist Church, Highland,
Calif., worked with Harpeth
Heights Baptist Church in
door-to-door visitation, thanks
to the stamina and fund-rais-
ing efforts of a staff member.

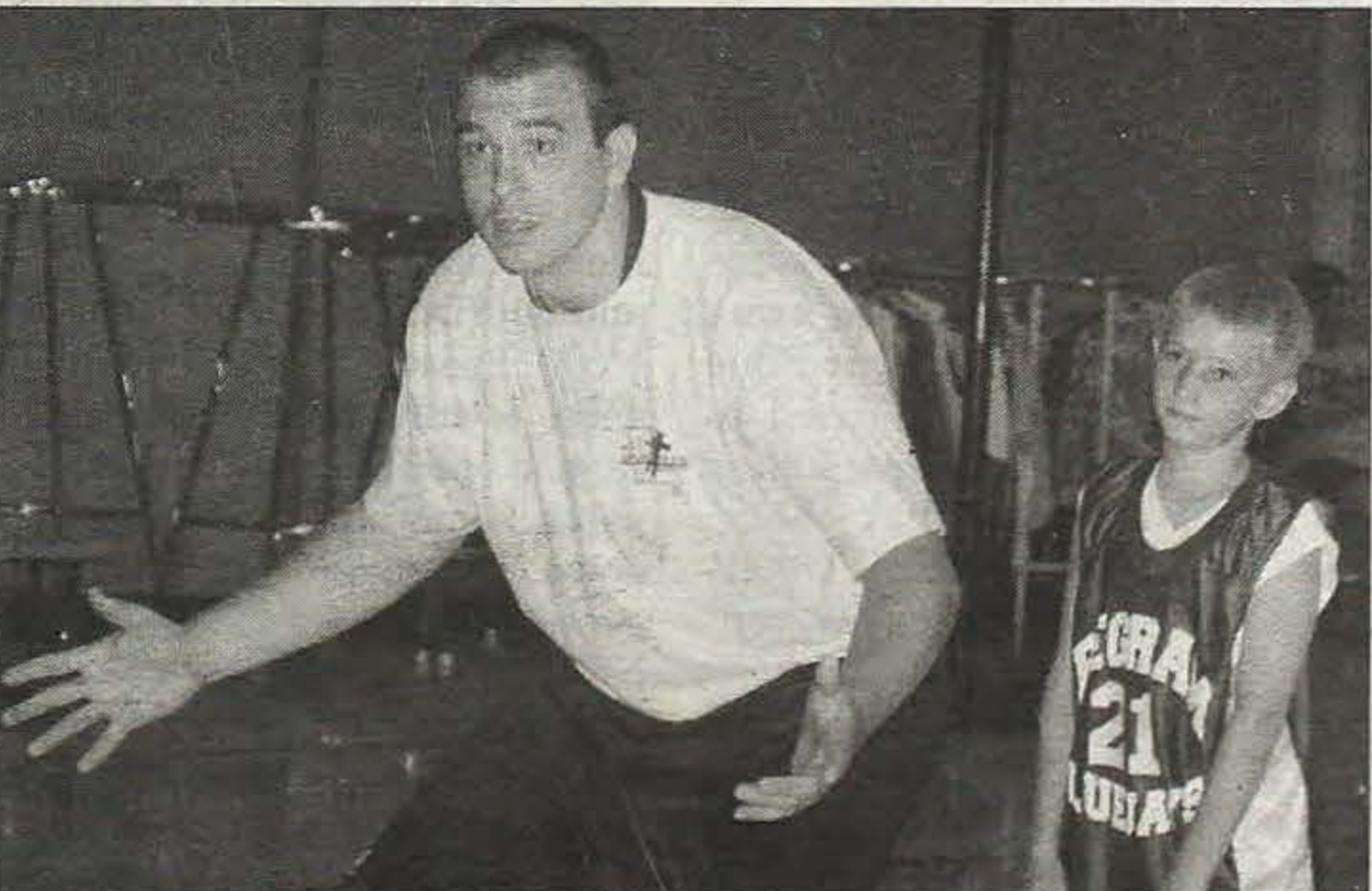
Ron Bingaman, 60, minister
of FAITH, completed the Big
Sur marathon in Carmel,
Calif., in April and raised
\$5,000 to offset travel expens-
es.

Bingaman knocked on
doors with Larry Summers
of Harpeth Heights and the
two shared the gospel five
times and discovered one
prospect.

For 2006, Bingaman hopes
to run the Boston Marathon to
raise money for twice as many
people from Immanuel to travel
to Greensboro, N.C., for
Crossover. □ — Also contribut-
ing to this story were Tim
Ellsworth, Stacy Murphree, and
Karen Willoughby



ARIEL ROGERS of Nashville celebrated her 13th birthday at the Stone Soup Festival and received a gift from soprano saxophonist, Paul. — Photo by Linda Lawson



CHRIS SISK of the Sports Crusaders, takes a lesson on rebounding at a basketball clinic June 18 at Westwood Baptist Church, Nashville, as a part of Crossover. — Photo by Tim Ellsworth

'Pizzazz' can help both preachers and the congregation

from both
sides of
the pulpit



By Johnnie Godwin

Years ago, I returned to my church after being gone a Sunday. I asked one of the church members how the supply preacher had done. This particular member always let his words go through his mind before he answered concisely. So, after a pause, he looked up with chagrin and said, "Well, all you can say about some preachers is, they're boring."

Pizzazz in the pulpit?

Preachers are called to preach the gospel and feed the sheep, not to be entertainers. But it's no secret that some preachers are just more interesting to listen to than others. Not every preacher is gifted with charisma, but each one can learn to preach with pizzazz — in a way that doesn't bore the congregation. No preacher should have to be labeled "boring."

Dictionary-makers aren't sure where "pizzazz" came from, but they do know its meaning. "Pizzazz" means to have energy, vigor, vitality, spirit, liveliness, excitement, and style. In preaching, I would say pizzazz is, content and delivery wrapped up in the Holy Spirit's power. Please don't confuse being pizzazzy with jazzy. Pizzazzy preaching is lively — not lifeless — and focuses on the message rather than the messenger. Jazzy preaching is unrestrained flashiness that puts the spotlight on the preacher.

Boredom in the pew?

Interestingly, those in the pew can be boring too. I've personally preached to enough different kinds of audiences to know some of them can wear you out. Others can lift and renew you. Since I've preached the same sermon in different churches and gotten different responses, I know it's not just the sermon content. When the audience looks alive and comes alive, it's like "sic'em" to any dog of a preacher — even me. I'm interim pastor at a church like that right now.

Although preachers aren't called to be entertainers, most of us do know that even the Grand Ole Opry is more exciting when the crowd is warmed up. People who go to church need to bring more with them than their Bible and their money. They need to bring a sense of preparedness and expectancy. That helps preachers have pizzazz. Otherwise, tiresome audiences contribute to tiresome preaching.

Factors that favor interest

(1) Prepare. God-called preachers who are well-prepared and feel a sense of urgency tend to preach interesting sermons. One time Billy Graham spoke in seminary chapel and said he hadn't had time to prepare; he

was just going to ask the Holy Spirit to fill him. We nodded; he paused. Then he said something like this: If you don't prepare, the Spirit will fill you all right, but it will be with hot air. He was prepared. A layman described one pastor's shallow preaching by saying, "He doesn't plow very deep." Lack of preparation shows in the pulpit.

(2) Provide variety. "Hobby preaching" is a rut to avoid. Preachers I know believe all the Bible, but many favor one Testament over the other and preach sparingly from Bible books that aren't their favorites.

(3) Season the sermon. Use "people talk" that everyday folks understand. I heard Herschel Hobbs several times over 40 years. His sermons became more interesting each time. Early on, he preached 40 minutes and talked about the second aorist of Greek verbs. The last time I heard him, he preached about 20 minutes and didn't mention a Greek word. He did say, "I'm not into my dotage; I'm into my anecdote." Word choices and enlightening illustrations help season a sermon. And, as they say in home economics, "Don't just salt and pepper it; season it."

(4) Make the sermon timely, and time it. Jesus had a way of matching the gospel to every person's life needs, which interested those who needed the good news. Further, when the sermon is timely, the length of it seems less important to the hearers. Life-Way president Jimmy Draper recalled that he spent hours in preparing his first sermon and then preached it in just 12 minutes. He and I have been friends since college days; and I've observed that the 12 minutes expanded to about 30 minutes or so — but never without pizzazz or interest.

On one occasion, I had a timely sermon prepared and finally appeared last on a marathon meeting that was already past my bedtime. I announced the timely topic and said I would save it for another time. Former New Orleans Baptist Seminary president Landrum Leavell thanked me for not preaching and said, "Johnnie, there ain't no such thing as a bad, short sermon." I've discovered 12 minutes is a long time to listen to some preachers while 45 minutes passes quickly with others. When the heart is hungry, time isn't the main thing if the meal is good and nourishing.

(5) Preach to make a difference. Ideally, a preacher's message is one from God that anticipates something big is coming down. The congregation ought to sense that holy expectancy too. Not all sermons are equal in interest, but there ought to be something lively and purposeful in each one.

Comparing/contrasting

My frequent stints as interim pastor put me in contact with quite a few pastor-search committees (often called pulpit com-

mittees). These committees tend to be overwhelmed with resumes and videos of prospective pastors. So it's natural to pray over and weigh comparative qualities of pastoral candidates.

In one church I served, they had viewed videos of two different candidates. The chairperson of the committee told me, "We named one of them 'The Professor' and the other one 'Jerry Clower.'" One was theologically straight as a gun barrel but empty of illustrations and interest. The other was a bit unkempt but a good ole boy who delivered a good ole message. I got the idea they wanted a hybrid of the two.

Churches need to consider the total pastoral package and not just the preaching in calling a pastor.

Nevertheless, churches don't want to call a man who is boring in the pulpit or one whose appearance distracts from the message. Is it unspiritual to want a preacher who brings interesting messages? I don't think so.

The model preacher

Jesus never preached a boring sermon. His content was God's Word — as it ought to be for all sermons. He clothed and applied eternal truths in memorable stories called parables. Depending

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Full-time minister of administration and education needed. Send resume to Dr. Mike Shelton, Bellevue Baptist Church, 7400 Highway 70 S, Nashville, TN 37221 or for further details call Don Magee at (615) 782-8699 or Paul Webb (615) 646-2711.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Minister of students/recreation responsible for approximately 100 students, 6th grade-college/coordinating recreation activities. Four year degree/seminary preferred. Must have a passion for soul-winning and discipleship of students. Send resume to FBC Mt. Olive, 3200 Mt. Olive Rd., Mt. Olive, AL 35117, Attn. D. Alford or huguley-family@bellsouth.net.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The First Baptist Church, Dandridge, has a position opening for a minister of education and outreach. We are seeking an experienced seminarian with a heart for growing and equipping a loving, mission minded community of believers. Please send resume to the attention of Eugene Dunn, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 246, Dandridge, TN 37725, fax (865) 397-2330.

on the occasion, He began sermons with the Word of God or started with the needs of the person He had good news for. He brought Word and needs together.

Jesus' messages perfectly blended our God-designed purpose for existence with God's love for us. Jesus was sensitive to his audiences. When He had preached or taught long and they were hungry, Jesus told the disciples to feed them. His sermons weren't monologues but dialogues of interaction. Without wanting to sound irreverent or flippant, Jesus' preaching had pizzazz. It was lively and led to life — eternal life.

Remember the model

In seminary, I never made an "A" in homiletics — the art of preaching. Still, I learned a few things from my professors and fellow students. When it was my time to preach, it was their time

to "Pharisee" any jot or tittle of my sermon that deviated the law. They helped me content and mechanics, but God's Spirit ever made engine of my preaching hum it ought to.

So who am I to talk about art of interesting preaching?

Well, I've been on both sides of the pulpit, and I know what interested me on each side. V both preacher and congregant get on the same wave length. God's Word, personal needs, the Divine design, the preacher tends to be interesting and a difference. I find that occasions usually match the tent and style of the M Preacher: One who preaches with spirit, vigor, vitality, interest — or with pizzazz. Copyright 2005 by Johnnie Godwin, who welcomes criticism or kudos via johnniegodwin@cast.net.



THE PRESIDENCY OF
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Samford University seeks a president to succeed Dr. Thomas E. Corts, who has announced his retirement at the end of the 2005-06 academic year. Samford provides an optimum context for leadership, having had only three presidents in the past 67 years. Samford values a close relationship with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

ABOUT THE NEXT PRESIDENT

As a serious academic institution equally serious about its Christian commitment, Samford's next president must be an individual who is committed to the Christian faith, and to the University's mission, vision and foundational statements. In keeping with its tradition of strong, visionary leadership, Samford University seeks a president of the highest quality—a leader more than a manager; someone who understands and demonstrates the balance between faith and academics that is important to an institution such as Samford; someone who has the capacity to speak about personal faith but mostly lives it; someone who understands and values the task of the teacher-scholar; and someone who prizes learning. Ideally, the president will be a strong communicator in both written and oral forms; a team player and team builder; a good listener; and a committed fund-raiser with financial knowledge, and eagerness to procure, plan and prioritize resources.

ABOUT SAMFORD

One of the 100 oldest colleges/universities in America, Samford is among the 200 best-endowed universities. It is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* among the five best universities in its classification in the South and has been among the top 10 for the past 15 years. Samford enjoys a full enrollment of 4,400 students on its beautiful campus in the pleasant Birmingham suburban community of Homewood. Samford University is organized in eight academic units offering 23 degrees in more than 100 major fields of study. Samford is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Nominations and letters of interest may be sent in writing to the address below. All nominations and expressions of interest will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Dr. Sarah Latham, Secretary
Presidential Search Committee
Samford University
P. O. Box 590145
Birmingham, AL 35229

For more information about Samford University and the presidential search, go to

www.samford.edu/presidentialsearch

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

Poll shows a yearning focus on prayer

heart
talk

By James Porch



On five successive mornings many years ago the Royal Ambassador Camp bugler blasted me awake blowing shrill notes of reveille.

Personally, few announcements have equaled such a jolt, that is, until the recent *Baptist and Reflector* headline delivered the clear and candid message from our people — "Prayer, Number One Issue Facing Churches!"

A yearning focus on prayer prevails and local churches need to take notice. Meanwhile, resistance to any rush to judgment as to the meaning of the poll would not be wise less we fail to grasp the full significance of this heart cry of our people and abort possibly the best learning occasion for the experience of prayer since the Great Awakening of the 18th century.

Caution! Any surge of urgency to practice intercession or offer petition will not be satisfied by a denominational program or any "40 Day How To..." A prayer priority with passion may arrive provided Christians and churches buy in for the long trip of learning to pray.

My article arises out of excitement from this surprise from our people coupled with the hope to foster the talking stage concerning prayer so essential to a new area of biblical spirituality. Such dialogue may create a kingdom conscious conversation birthing the potential to displace labeling and affixing judgments and bring us to recognize that all God's children have access to the Father.

Thus I offer the following observations and heart ideas.

Ideas from the heart

So why and why now did prayer top the poll, especially in an age of increasing secularism? While cautious of awarding a simple answer, maybe the fatigue of the human soul sent forth a beggar's plea for connection and communion with the living God through prayer with a simultaneous inquiry, what is this prayer thing? If this suggestion garners merit, obviously such a plea at least conveys desperation as hurting, broken, empty, or lost souls seek hope only through prayer.

To focus only on prayer for new hope requires recognition of the uniqueness of prayer. Prayer stands alone. Prayer fills up its own category. Prayer should not be included as an issue in any line with anything

else. The nine issues in the survey fit together without resistance. But each needs the blessing of praying people. Prayer never abides as an issue among issues. Personally prayer just stands alone. Actually connecting and communing with God defies definition and rightly so. The very magnitude of some realities cannot and should not be reduced to a definition. A person may quietly meditate and analyze a cone of ice cream and in the process witness the melt down of the sweet desert he seeks to understand. In their encounters of communion and connection with the living God, biblical personalities such as Moses, Abraham, David, and Paul offered no evidence of denigrating their link with the Heavenly Father to a matter of definition or polling. In addition Jesus responded to His disciples' request, "Lord teach us to pray" and He immediately insisted on boldness and expectation of grace. Jesus did not opt to place prayer inside a lesson to be learned. I think He said, "Do it." We as Baptists are often quite rebellious at any encouragement of monasticism while we concentrate on our quick prayer programs. Let's be careful. Often while the monastics are doing prayer we talk about prayer. Prayer, somewhat like a trip, requires steps taken and not mere study of the maps.

Where are you?

Now, hopeful that you are with me inside the intensity of this prayer matter, I boldly pose a potentially agonizing and even non-welcome question. Where are you in your prayer journey? My question requires first my own answer.

My Mother began my prayer road leading me to say, "Now I lay me down to sleep..."

This nightly rote practice planted a prayer seed and gave me awareness of a connection I should attempt before I fell asleep. Each day, three times a day, that holy connection extended to thankfulness for the food from our Heavenly provider. Soon though prayer became an act of dependence and pleas ranging from help on a test, advancing skills in athletics, and glorious expectation of successes in personal chosen ventures. "O God give me the answers to the test, help me score points in tonight's games, and please keep the bull market going. Amen."

As the years passed, new episodes of pains, disappointments, interruptions, brokenness, and loss inaugurated an era of prayer crisis management conditioned with promises. "O Father, I promise... just ease the suffering, direct the Pastor's Search Committee to this church, Lord Jesus rescue my child from the wrong deci-

sion. Amen." And along about that time the Father graced me with a little smarts. He taught me in a great threatening loss that sovereign change is really in His hands alone. He could act and would in His own way and time when I could not act. Such agony broke as dawn with a wake up call. "If you want to be in My hands, turn loose. Turn loose!" In the midst of such praying I found my blessing of freedom and unexpected and personal undersigned answers. This has become for me far different than the marketing ploy on the front of the April 2005 issue of *The Reader's Digest* — "New proof prayer works!" In an appeal to a vast audience the magazine featured prayer as hope for answers to one's likings that would not interfere with their lives. Such obsession for the answer betrays a prayer lesson I discovered over 35 years ago.

Prayer lesson

In his classic work, *The Meaning of Prayer*, Harry Emerson Fosdick included a chapter entitled "Prayer as a Battlefield." My initial encounter with that book happened during a season of personal, emotional, and vocational crises. I sought comfort, affirmation of my wants, and assurance of my desired intentions. Being mindful of the mere idea of prayer as struggle from reading Fosdick I read again Jacob's story, David's biography, and Paul's saga. There as plain as a sun lit day I found my word from God. I met again my heroes emerged in their personal battlefields of prayer. Now decades later, my prayer encounters as struggles continue and will continue. I have not received all the answers I wanted from God. I have not always known His affirmation for my choices and sometimes His answers have been silence. And even of more value His undeniable presence confronts me with myself in such a manner I have to declare my own authenticity. In such a faith experience I find that I am

me and only me and that is O.K. by Him.

As my years pass, I learn anew the Word of God bears undeniable truth that my prayers do not work out everything to my own satisfaction. After all, Moses did not walk on Canaan Land as he hoped. Job died with questions unanswered though he kept asking. And, Paul received grace for a chronic thorn even after three requests for relief.

To relegate prayer to focus on end results, redirects my searching soul from the joy of my faith relationship with God and can substitute a venture into spiritual living for the Bob the Builder attitude, "Can we fix it, yes we can!"

Biblical prayer

Biblical prayer involves faith in the living God and living in faith relationship with God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Such a blessing offers connection and communion with my Heavenly Father.

I now hear prayer first in the poll as the cries of fragile lives in a threatening environment seeking and grasping to connect and commune with the Rock of Ages and know with Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Paul, and the Son, "He is there, I am not alone, and that is enough."

USA Today began the week of Monday, May 16, with an expression of testimony of the life of Billy Graham. The article noted, "Graham's day revolves around prayer and Bible study..." His first and last words every day are prayers and in between prayers run like a generator in the back of his mind. In the words of A. Larry Ross, Graham's publicist, "Let's just say Billy likes to stay prayed up all the time." This life in prayer bears witness to the abiding choice to connect and connect, and commune and commune with God.

And now my prayer, "Father keep me close as your student and teach me to pray. Amen." □ — Porch is executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

'Surprising' quotes affirm God's Word

I received an interesting book in the mail last week entitled, *444 Surprising Quotes About the Bible*. This 190-page book, compiled by Isabella D. Bunn and published this year by Bethany House Publishers, is simply a collection of quotations people across the centuries have made about the Bible.

As one would expect, the book has numerous quotations from pastors and other "religious" types. But it also is filled with quotes from prominent historical figures that affirm God's Holy Word. The book is refreshing because we live in a world today which tries to downplay not only the impact and importance of the Bible, but Christianity as a whole.

Here's just a sampling of what people have said about the Bible over the years.

President Abraham Lincoln, in a reply to a committee presenting a Bible, called it "the best gift God has given to man. ... All things desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

Horace Greeley, founder and editor of the *New York Tribune*, wrote, "It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom."

Daniel Webster, an American statesman who lived from 1782-1852, once noted, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." Wise words from a wise man that are valid today.

Our nation's first president, George Washington, said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the world." We need more leaders like him today.

This little book provides a lot of food for thought and I recommend it as a resource. Let me conclude with a quote from a person I had never heard of. These words, which are applicable to all of us today, are attributed to W.I. Toms in the *Detroit Free Press*:

"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some person ever reads."

Do people see Jesus when they "read" us? If not, we may need to "edit" our lives so there is no doubt. □

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

LOOK DEAR, THE PARLIAMENTARIAN FOR THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION THIS YEAR WILL BE LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS...



Churches use creative ministries to show 'acts of kindness'

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

FRANKLIN — Ridley Barron, pastor, Ridgeview Community Church, Franklin, was thrilled to have the Crossover volunteers help his new congregation and couldn't believe some Nashville-area churches weren't involved.

"It just doesn't make sense not to use willing people," he said.

The church was one of several in Middle Tennessee that was involved in the "kindness explosion" venue of Crossover.

Ridgeview Community used the 54 Crossover volunteers he was assigned in several creative ministries. The volunteers were from Alabama and Georgia. They were assisted by about 30 volunteers from the church. Ridgeview draws about 150 to Sunday morning worship services.

The volunteers pumped gas and cleaned the windshields of cars at a gas station near the school where the church meets. They washed cars free of charge at the school. They visited people in their apartments at a complex near the school where the church meets. They distributed cold bottles of water to people in downtown Franklin



SHEILA GARRETT, left, receives a bottle of cold water and cookies from **Kainan King**, center, and **Pauline Ledford** of Zebulon Baptist Church, Blairsville, Ga., The Blairsville team ministered at a local grocery store with Old New Hope Baptist Church, Fairview.

and at a park. The bottles were labeled with information about the Christian faith and provided by the TBC.

Barron said to be even more creative, the church tried to help the gas station offer discounted gas while the Crossover volunteers worked, but they couldn't work it out.

He said the purpose of the activities was "to build the reputation of the church in the community." Volunteers were instructed not to worry so much about evangelism, but to focus on "caring about people, no strings attached."

The door-to-door effort was

probably not going to be that effective, he noted, although he was willing to try it. He said most residents who are young are probably going to be out in the community on such a day. Those involved had reported by early afternoon that most residents weren't home but they had experienced several neat things.

Barron said most people were surprised to be offered the water, asking if it was free. The volunteers also had been able to encourage a few Christians they met. He expects to see visitors to his church because of the Crossover activities.



JESSICA ROBINSON, left, and **Niki Hall** of First Baptist Church, Hayden, Ala., wash a customer's windshield and pump gas to help Ridgeview Community Church, Franklin.

Old New Hope, Fairview

Members of Old New Hope Baptist Church in Fairview also showed acts of kindness to people in their community.

Church members, along with volunteers from Zebulon Baptist Church in Blairsville, Ga., distributed bottles of cold water and cookies at three locations in the Williamson County community.

They also provided free laundry service to patrons of the Fairview Laundromat by providing quarters for the washers and dryers.

The church also provided a nurse to do free blood pressure checks at a local grocery store.

FBC, Nashville

Projects such as Kind Explosion are nothing new for First Baptist Church, Nashville. They have been doing them under the umbrella of Catch the Vision Day, April, but for 2005 they decided to reschedule to June to be part of Crossover.

More than 200 church members, along with outside volunteers, distributed free water, washed and changed oil on cars. They also provided lunch for 1,000 attendees Friday Crossover concert downtown. □ — Linda Law and Lonnie Wilkey contributed this story.

Crossover's International Festival attracts 2,000 people

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — About 2,000 people attended the International Festival of Crossover 2005 at the State Fairgrounds.

Participants represented about 10 people groups, including a Native American group from Shawnee, Okla. The group's pastor is Rendon Falls, former pastor of First Indian Baptist Church, Ripley. Also from out of state was a Sudanese group from Ohio which joined friends in Nashville.



MOLLIE PEMBERTON of Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark., gives a free haircut to **Paul Kim** during the International Festival. — Photo by Bob Carey

The afternoon festival included some unusual activities, including haircuts, health checks, and giveaways of computers, bicycles, music systems, and groceries including sweet potatoes. Drawings were held for the giveaways throughout the afternoon. Also people could sign up for a Bible in a certain language to be sent to them.

In addition, cultural groups performed, ate each other's foods, and learned from cultural displays. Children from all of the groups played games and activities.

The groceries were provided by the Convoy of Hope of Texas. They were organized into about 5,000 bags by the Crossover

team of about 50 from First Baptist Church, Woodland Mills. The sweet potatoes were provided by Crossover 2005 and the Society of St. Andrew, a national gleaning ministry based in Virginia.

Helping as volunteers during the festival were part of the Woodland Mills group; members of Lantana Road Baptist Church, Crossville; Crieveview Baptist Church, Nashville; Una Baptist Church, Nashville; and Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark. Also helping were staff members of the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., and Beth Duke, member of the TBC Executive Board and member of First Baptist Church, Smithville.

Tim Hill of the TBC staff and Andrew Hong of the Nashville Baptist Association staff both agreed the festival was very successful. Hong said it was the first Baptist-initiated event of its kind and the pastors of the language churches in Nashville already had decided to hold another one next year. The association has 50 language churches.

Margaret Jacob, 36, of the Arkansas team, said she was participating in her first mission trip. She has not accrued much vacation time at her job and only had to take off part of a day to participate.

Jacob said she enjoyed the

international aspect of Crossover event. She is African-American whose father is from Haiti, she said. She reminded that "we're not as different as we think we are."

She worked providing medical information rather than doing cosmetology like she planned. The building didn't have the needed water, explained. Yet she enjoyed what she did. And the work was hard, she agreed.

She especially enjoyed seeing a Native American woman and a Sudanese boy receiving haircuts at the same time and their photo. "I thought, 'This is phenomenal,'" Jacob said. □



BOB RECCORD, left, president of the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., visits with **Jason Kim**, center, and **Robbie Hall** of the NAMB staff at the International Festival.



NASHVILLE YOUTH distribute groceries and sweet potatoes to participants of the International Festival.

Block parties open doors to witness for local churches

Connie Davis Bushey
Brida Lawson
List and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Crossover 2005 included 31 block parties, door events reminiscent of fashioned town fairs with plenty of food, games for children and adults, and door prizes. One thing was different: Crossover block parties included intentional efforts to build relationships and share the gospel. Six of the parties were held at the soccer fields in Nolensville and at Ivy Memorial, Eastland, Donelson View, 24, West Franklin churches.

Nolensville soccer fields
Nolensville was the site of only block party jointly sponsored by two churches, Life Community and First, Nolensville. Church members joined by a 38-member team of Crossover volunteers from Franklin County Baptist Association in Missouri. They led many of the activities, brought a 40-by-100-foot table with 600 New Testaments, and a variety of gifts for giveaways. The Nolensville effort was coordinated by Jay Austin, general coordinator for Crossover 2005 block parties and pastor of Life Community, a new church meeting in a public school while its building is under construction. "We build and stop doing evangelism, then we're irrelevant. So we believe we needed to get out on faith," said Austin. The church spent about \$3,000 on the block party, but an effective event could be staged for as little as \$500, he added. Austin said the Nolensville party was intentionally held on com-

munity property to draw people not involved in church and to communicate that church is a community event.

Austin said he hopes to express his gratitude for the help of the Missouri team by taking a group from Life Community to Greensboro, N.C., to be involved in Crossover 2006.

Ivy Memorial Church
Phil Gruita, pastor of Ivy Memorial Church, had prayed for a miracle for his church which ministers to inner-city people with addictions. His prayer was answered in abundance with the arrival of 103 volunteers from Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova. They came with three buses, a marching band with a flag corps and color guard, a drama and clown troupe, a rental truck, a mission block party trailer, and a barbecue smoker that resembled a train.

Bellevue's June 17 arrival was preceded by a 50-member team from First Baptist Church of Woodland Mills. They did light construction, painting, remodeled the playground, built a new basketball court, and brought the building up to codes.

Tom Baugh, director of Impact Ministries for Bellevue, said, "We were thrilled to be able to participate in Crossover and did a site visit to Ivy Memorial in April where we envisioned our setup and then enlisted our volunteers."

In addition to the block party, 55 members of the 200-member Bellevue Church Victory Marching Band presented a drama of the life of Christ Friday night. Also, 45 survey teams visited in

For Crossover

Humboldt pastor, wife return 'home'

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — When First Baptist Church of Humboldt was paired with Broadmoor Baptist Church here for a Crossover block party and door-to-door visitation, it was a match with established connections.

B.L. Willis, father-in-law of FBC, Humboldt, pastor Greg McFadden, had been Broadmoor's first pastor in 1975. McFadden's wife, Sheila, considers Broadmoor her home church since she grew up there and graduated from nearby Maplewood High School. The couple also was married at Broadmoor.

"Broadmoor was a nice fit for us," said McFadden, "whose church brought 40 members to help with the block party and visitation. "We were also encouraged by their preparations and by what God is doing here."



PASTOR GREG MCFADDEN, left, pastor, and his wife, Sheila, of First Baptist Church, Humboldt, stand with Pastor Darrell Nimmo, right, of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Nashville, and his wife, Mary, during the block party at Broadmoor Church.

Mary Nimmo, wife of Broadmoor pastor Darrell Nimmo, said seven survey teams visited 41 homes, registered one profession of faith, and met several who are open to return visits by church members.

Darrell Nimmo said, "We

wanted to re-establish Broadmoor in the community, gain exposure in the community, and do evangelism. We had studied demographics that revealed that 90 percent of our community did not attend church anywhere." □

the neighborhood.

"Jesus came down to the neighborhood filled with drug dealers, alcoholics, and eastern mystics," said Phil Weatherwax, minister of community missions at Bellevue. "It was a beautiful day for 'taking it to the streets.'"

Eastland neighborhood

Hundreds responded to invitations to the Eastland Baptist Church block party that was planned to provide fun for the community and seek prospects for a new church that will meet in the Eastland facility.

They enjoyed free food, music, games, and conversation with volunteers from nearby Brentwood Baptist Church and other churches from around the country.

Eastland, which reached its attendance peak in the 1950s with 800 present each week and now draws about 75, has opened its facility for the start of Eastland Community Church. The new congregation will target younger adults and their families.

James Austin, pastor of proclamation at Eastland, said the idea for a new church within the existing facility came out of discussions with his son, Jay, pastor of Life Community Church.

Eastland member and co-minister of youth and outreach Bernie Baker is enthusiastic about the new church. "I think it will bring new life to the church and the neighborhood."

Brentwood Church partnered with Eastland on the block party and plans, pending a vote by the membership, to send 24-30 members to give one year to help start the new church.

Scott Harris, minister of missions at Brentwood, said the idea for involvement with Eastland "came out of our missions

team asking how we could be involved in starting new work. We felt transitional neighborhoods are underserved."

Tony Higgins, a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary who will serve as pastor of Eastland Community, said, "I believe the Lord wants to bring revival and start it in East Nashville. I believe Eastland could be the epicenter."

Donelson View

Benefits of participating in a block party go beyond the host church, according to George Lockhart, pastor of Sundridge Baptist Church, Sebring, Fla. He brought eight youth and their sponsors to assist with a block party at Donelson View Baptist Church, Donelson.

Because of the extensive witnessing training the youth went through preparing for their mission trip, Lockhart said, "I now have eight people who are trained to lead people to Christ. They will be able to continue throughout their life."

He cited one teen who shared her faith at the block party and led her first person to Christ.

Donelson View Pastor Gordon Donahoe said Crossover provided "one more way to get our name into the community. We're bone tired, but it's a good tired."

West Franklin Baptist

West Franklin Baptist Church, Franklin, held a door-to-door visitation and block party to make a connection with its new community, said Jim Harvey, pastor.

The new congregation has been in its facility on Highway 96 for six months, said Harvey. Church members were helped by about 40 Crossover volunteers from Missouri, Arkansas,

NAMB, and members of the Conference of Southern Baptists Evangelists from several states. Also, LifeWay Christian Resources donated Bibles.

Carmon Keith of NAMB said she was glad to come to the SBC annual meeting a day early to participate in Crossover. "It gives us the opportunity to do missions while you're in a meeting. You can give back."

Bo Childs, a member of West Franklin and president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, visited 19 homes prior to the block party. Three people came to the door. All were church-related and "very cordial," he reported. He left a bag of materials about the church at every house.

Harvey said one unexpected blessing was that Arkansas volunteers included several Hispanics. West Franklin has a Hispanic class, so several teams were able to visit Hispanic neighborhoods in Franklin to invite them to the church.

He noted that the church learned about the Crossover opportunity through the *Baptist & Reflector*.

24 Church

24 Church, a six-month-old congregation in Pleasant View, used Crossover to reach out to its community.

More than 600 visitors attended the block party along with 100 volunteers from 24 Church and other churches from across the nation.

"We could not have done this without the Southern Baptist volunteers," said pastor Chris Royalty. "It's been a great day," he said. □ — Also contributing to this story were Lonnie Wilkey and Marcia Knox.

CLOWNING AROUND
are members of First Baptist Church, Humboldt, from left, Barbara Bunch, Melanie Scates, and Winnie Fields. They were serving at a block party at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Nashville. — Photo by Marcia Knox



ANN VAN PELT of St. Louis, Mo., portrays a clown during the block party at the Nolensville soccer field. She gives a child a gift. Photo by Connie Davis Bushey



NINE-MONTH-OLD Sawyer Noland takes in the sights and sounds during a block party hosted by Eastland Baptist Church in Nashville on June 18.



CRAIG REED, left, of Nashville, who had become a Christian just a few days earlier, prayed with Steve Neger of the North American Mission Board at a block party held at Eastland Baptist Church in Nashville.



TERESA HILL, left, and Pamela Basham of First Baptist Church, Humboldt, give a balloon to a youngster during a block party held at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Nashville.



TBC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR James P. Porch visits with Galina Pinkevich, a native of Russia, during a Crossover event hosted by Old New Hope Baptist Church, Fairview.



MARY DONEGAN, WMU director at Old New Hope Baptist Church, Fairview, and Pastor Tommy Jenkins of Zebulon Baptist Church, Blairsville, Ga., share the gospel with a shopper at a local grocery store in Fairview.



MITCHELL MARTIN, 12, of the Sixth Street Skating Team from Nashville, demonstrates a classic skateboard move during a Crossover block party at 24 Church, Pleasant View.

Baptists share Christ, minister during Crossover



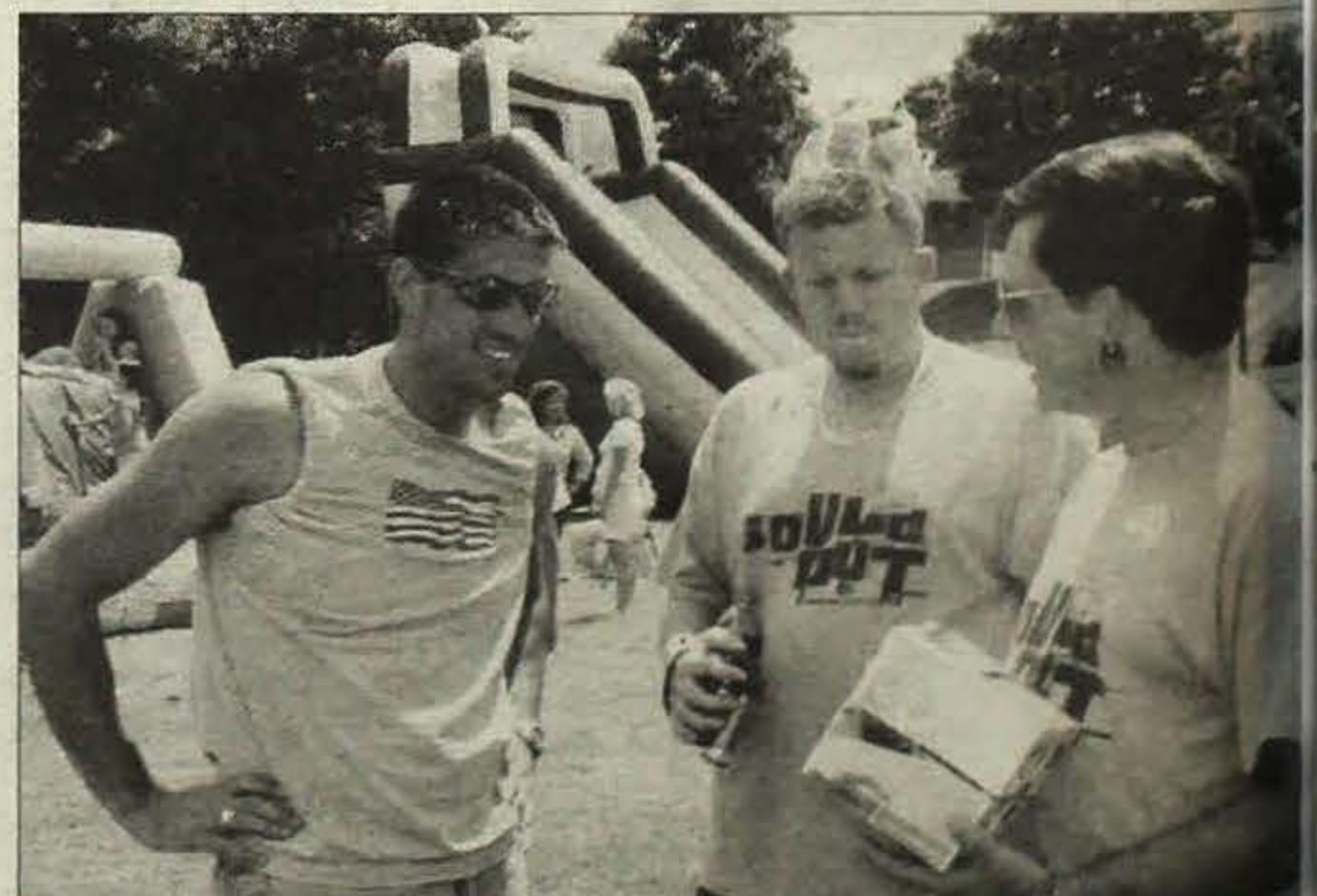
BRIAN COATES, student ministry intern at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, played ball with, from left, Jevell Rucker, Thompson, and Johnita Kelton at the block party hosted by Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville.



PREPARING for block party at Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville, Lee Gallagher, Tom Baugh of Bellevue Baptist Church, Impact Ministries, and Cordova. — Photos this page by Lawson, Lonniekey, Marcia Knox, Bob Carey



BRIAN HEROLD, left, and Greg White of First Baptist Church, Nashville, wash a car as an "act of kindness" during Crossover 2005 held June 18.



NEILL UNLAND, left, listens to a gospel presentation by George Lockhart, pastor of Sundridge Baptist Church, Seabring, as Nate Didway, youth pastor, looks on. Unland was at a block party held at Donelson View Baptist Church, Donelson, as part of Crossover on June 18.



ANSWERING THE church survey questions is Brenda Fountain, far right, while a Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, mission team encourages her and records her responses. They are, from left, Allyson Moore, Aaron Blackstone, Kelsea Fondren, and Kay Wharton. The team was working with Ivy Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville.

Carson-Newman students on a mission this summer

Mark Brown
Carson-Newman news service

JEFFERSON CITY — While Southern Baptists from around the world are gathering in Nashville to make decisions and seek God's leading concerning the work of missions and education, there are in turn 42 Carson-Newman College student missionaries who are spending their summers serving God's kingdom around the globe.

"We have an amazing group of students whose hearts are tuned toward the will of God and who understand the need to share their gospel through their words and deeds," said Nenette Measels, associate director of campus ministries at the Jefferson City institution.

While 14 of them are working here in Tennessee, the remaining 28 are scattered across 10 states and eight foreign countries. The foreign countries C-N students will serve in are the Bahamas, England, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Senegal, Taiwan, and Thailand.

One of the 42 students is rising senior Katie Vance, who grew up participating in missions trips at her home church, the Haven Baptist in Vinton,

Va. She has continued that tradition of service as a C-N student, working last summer with youth on military bases in Stuttgart, Germany. Two years ago, she spent her time at an orphanage in Mexico.

In July, Katie and C-N psychology major Langlee Garrett of First Baptist Church, Landrum, S.C., will travel to Senegal and serve as an IMB AIDS Education Team. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Senegal is regarded as an HIV prevention success story among developing nations. For most of the last decade, the nation's prevalence of the disease has continually stabilized. While many countries in southern Africa have more than a 30 percent HIV rate among adults, Senegal has a rate of one percent. The U.S. agency attributes the success to a culture that promotes moral sexual behavior, education initiatives, and the active interest commitment of the Senegalese government.



VANCE

Vance and Garrett will help bolster the role education plays by working with children in 17 villages out from the capital city of Dakar. They will help teach them about the disease and how to prevent it. Vance majored in education until this past spring semester when she felt led to become a religion major.

"It makes me feel so good to be able to use what I've already learned in my first two-and-a-half years," she said. "I'm really excited about this opportunity."

"I am still not completely sure where in international missions God is leading me," said Vance of her future. "But I do feel strongly that wherever my place may be, that my continued experience at Carson-Newman will help guide and prepare me."

The idea to go to Senegal was born one evening when the friends were watching a television program that focused on

the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the African continent. "I really want to go to Africa," Vance remembers Garrett saying. "So do I," she agreed.

They began to pray about possibilities and see what they could do. Although they will travel with an interpreter, for the last several weeks both young women have been studying conversational phrases in the Saafen language. They have also worked on educational materials provided by the IMB and raised their own support through letters to family and friends.

After she returns from Senegal, Vance will have a few weeks to rest before heading to Bulgaria as part of a First Baptist Church, Morristown, mission trip. "We'll work with a medical missions team," she said. "Part of the group will focus on health issues and I'll help lead Vacation Bible School for about 300 kids."

Measels says the two young women are representative of the 40 other C-N students with whom they were commissioned in a spring chapel service.

"We continually talk about the importance of serving Christ by serving others," said the Baptist Collegiate Ministries leader. "And we are continually impressed by students like Katie and Langlee who say, 'Yes, I'll go.'"

Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind RETREAT

July 22-24, 2005 at Carson Springs Conference Center, Newport, Tenn.

Cost: \$95 for 2 persons in a room;

\$80 for 3-4 persons in a room.

Transportation cost is extra.

Theme: "Wisdom to Live by in Our Daily Walk"

Ministry Project: Appalachian Outreach in Jefferson City

Contact Person: **Sharon Bragg** (consultant for Ministry to the Blind) — (615) 884-1317.

AVAILABLE: Magnify Quartet — men's 4-part harmony gospel music, live musicians — seeks to magnify the precious name of Jesus everywhere! Appeared at Fan Fair 2005, Nashville.
Call toll-free: 877-409-3764
www.magnifyquartet.com.

Tennessee

MM
Music Ministry

LC

Leadership
Conference



Mary McDonald



Bruce & Lisa



Peculiar People



Tennessee
Mens Chorale



Tennessee
Ladies Chorus

"Music Ministry Matters"

Join us for a time of learning, growing, and celebrating what God is doing in ministry through music in the lives of His people

For all music leaders — Ministers of Music, Worship Leaders, Adult Choir Members & Leaders, Youth Choir Leaders, Preschool & Children's Choir Leaders, Praise Band Leaders and Members, Instrumental Leaders, Handbell Ringers and Leaders, Pianists, Organists, Midi-Synth Keyboard players, Small Church Music Leaders

August 12-13, 2005
Brentwood Baptist Church
Brentwood, Tennessee

? Questions ?

please contact Paul Clark or Charlotte Hanson,
Tennessee Baptist Convention, 1.800.558.2090 or by
e-mail at chanson@tnbaptist.org.

www.tnworshipandmusic.org

Led SBC president to Christ

Tennessee pastor enjoys relationship with Bobby Welch

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Pardon Bob Mowrey for feeling just a little proud these days.

After all, he is the only one who can lay claim to the fact that he led Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch to Christ while he was serving as a pastor in Fort Payne, Ala.

But he is quick to give all the credit to God. "I told Bobby how he could be saved. The Holy Spirit did the rest."

Mowrey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Scottsboro, recalls that Welch was dating Maude Ellen Bell, who was a member at First Baptist Church, where he was then serving. The two would later marry.

"He saw Christ in her," Mowrey said. "That's where it all began."

Mowrey noted that he didn't even know Welch had been attending the church until he came by "my office one day, introduced himself, and said, 'I would like to get saved.'"

Mowrey said he took out a New Testament and presented Welch the "Roman Road" gospel presentation. Welch got down on his knees and asked Jesus to come into his heart and to save him," the long-time Tennessee Baptist pastor remembered.

Shortly after that experience in his office, Mowrey left Alabama for Park Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville where he

would serve for 35 years before retiring in 1995.

Mowrey and Welch were destined to cross paths once again.

Mowrey remembered that he had been at Park Avenue for about eight years when the church began to search for a minister of youth and associate pastor. "Someone told me of a young graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary who said I had led him to the Lord," Mowrey said. That young graduate turned out to be Bobby Welch.

"I barely remembered him," Mowrey recalled, but "I asked Bobby to come and talk to me and the church later called him to serve."

After Welch joined the staff at Park Avenue he and Mowrey "caught up" on what had transpired in Welch's life.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION President Bobby Welch, right, visited with longtime friend and mentor Bob Mowrey while in Tennessee last fall on his nationwide "Every-one Can" tour.

spired in Welch's life.

Mowrey said Welch still had the New Testament he had given him in Alabama and that

Welch had taken it with him to Vietnam. Welch was almost killed while serving in Vietnam and it was during that time he was called to preach, Mowrey said.

"Our people fell in love with Bobby. He was one of the hardest workers we ever had."

During Welch's two years on staff, the church's bus ministry "blossomed," Mowrey said.

First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., heard about Welch and extended him a call to serve as pastor.

Mowrey said with a smile, "I felt like he probably needed more experience, but God knew what He was doing."

Over the years the two men have maintained contact with each other and preached in each

other's church.

Mowrey preached at Daytona Beach, when the congregation observed Welch's anniversary several years ago.

Mowrey said he had no doubt that Welch would develop who he has become when he came to his office that day in Alabama.

But after serving on a church staff with him, Mowrey said he was not surprised when Welch developed the FAITH evangelism tool.

"His main passion is to see people get saved and to see them grow. That's what FAITH is all about," Mowrey said.

Mowrey said he is proud of Welch and what he has accomplished. "I am thankful that he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"His heart's desire is to see the gospel to the world," Mowrey concluded. □

"Belmont's goal is to do everything possible to equip young men and women to be prepared to serve God wherever they have been called."

Dr. Darrell Gwaltney
Dean, School of Religion



To the best of our knowledge all ads in the *Baptist and Reflector* represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always use caution in responding to ads.

Used School Buses

Diesel or gas -- All sizes
21 to 72 passenger
Priced \$2,500 to \$4,500
Call (270) 202-4000

Hymns to Sing By

CD with 21 favorite hymns played specifically for congregational singing. \$20 + \$3 S&H. Send check or money order to Hymns to Sing By, P.O. Box 1002, LaVergne, TN 37086.

New Lower Rates For Term Life Insurance!

Low, low non-smoker monthly cost (male)		
Age	\$150,000	\$300,000
25	\$11.08	\$13.39
35	\$11.35	\$13.91
45	\$19.76	\$30.45
55	\$42.45	\$73.24
65	\$103.46	\$194.78

Please call The Insurance Store
(Knoxville, Tenn.) Toll Free
1-800-583-0970, 9-9 Mon.-Sat.

Level premiums that do not increase for the first 15 years. Written by an A+ life insurance company. Preferred Male rates illustrated above. Please call for other ages and Female rates.



Medical mission team stays 'home' to minister during Crossover

Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — When Michael Vaughan began making plans for the medical team of First Baptist Church to return to Brazil for its annual mission trip in 2005, he learned the slots for medical trips were already filled. "We felt the Lord was leading us to stay here," said Vaughan, a dentist and member of the church team. Thirty-six volunteers from FBC and other churches spent June 13-17 conducting clinics at Church of the Messiah and Edgefield Baptist Church. Services were offered in optometry, dental, medical, chiropractic, a full-service dental clinic, and counseling. Also, screenings were conducted for diabetes, cholesterol, and high blood pressure, along with urinalysis. Abatha Adams, who has been attending Church of the Messiah for over a month, volunteered her time after

receiving dental care.

"I was able to get some dental work done I didn't know how I could afford," Adams said. "It was a blessing."

Xavier Sikora, a chiropractor and member of First Baptist Church, Smyrna, said, "If we go overseas we also need to help our neighbors. We need to share God's Word in love."

"I'm led to do this" was the concise explanation of why Bill Stone, a physician at VA Hospital, a professor at the Vanderbilt University Medical School, and a member of Christ Presbyterian Church, took time away from his regular duties to volunteer his services.

Curtis Freed, a licensed therapist, and member of First Baptist Church, and Jessica Stayer, a graduate student from Trevecca Nazarene University, counseled two persons in the first two days who were having thoughts of suicide and arranged for them to receive additional services. They also offered screenings for depression and anxiety and information

on other mental health issues.

"This is my way of ministering, of serving the Lord," Freed said.

Melonye Lowe, an educator and member of Edgefield Church, helped with registration and assisted in the dental clinic.

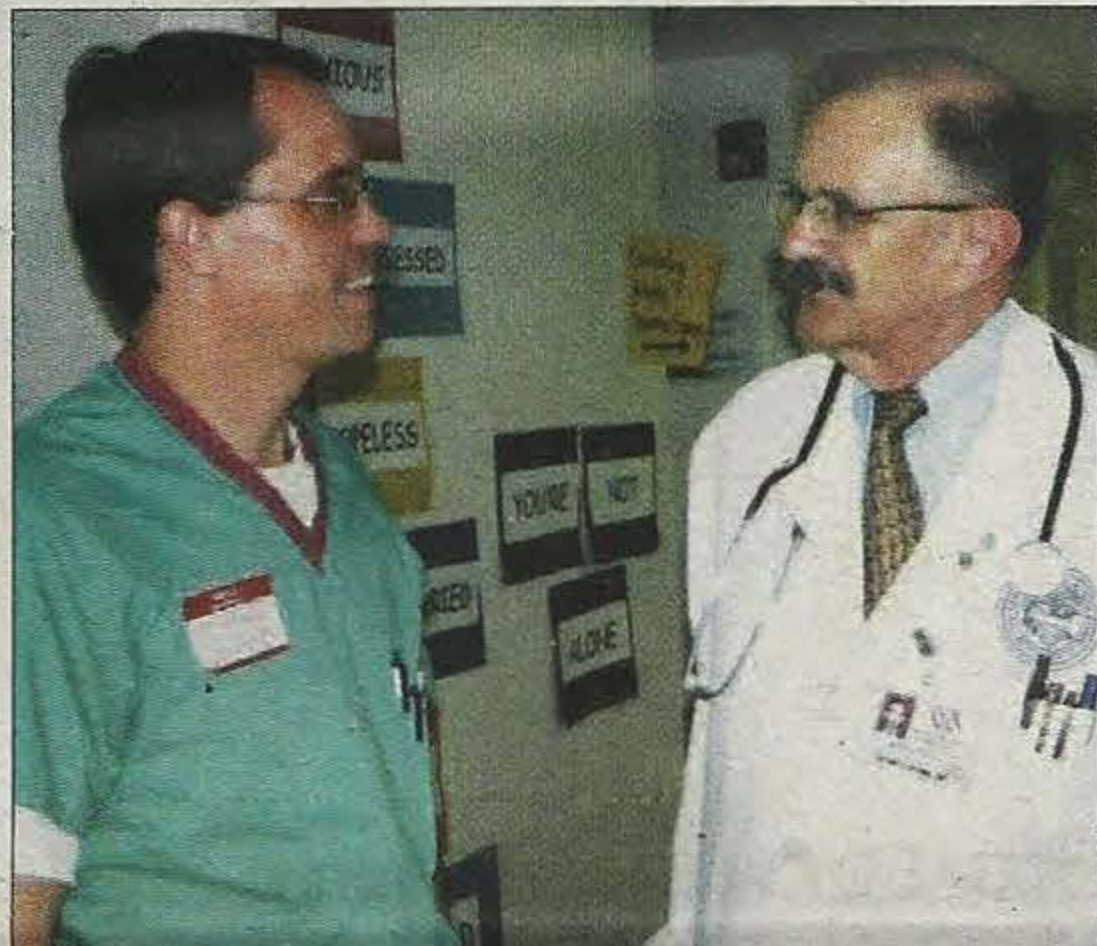
"I had never had a summer to go on a mission trip. This year God put the mission trip in my path. I've learned some new things. I've had an opportunity to share the gospel with numerous people. This is not my last mission trip." □



CHARLES F. CHAMBERS of Nashville tests some new glasses at Church of the Messiah with help from Charlene Carter of First Baptist Church, Nashville.



MYAHANNE MERIWETHER of First Baptist Church, Nashville, and the child of a person in a clinic make a craft outside the Church of the Messiah, Nashville.



MICHAEL VAUGHAN, left, dentist and member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, and organizer of the clinics, visits with Dewey Dunn, a gastroenterologist and member of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.



MYRNA DEERE left, retired medical technologist of First Baptist Church, Nashville, talks with Lisa Vaughn about her cholesterol and blood pressure readings at Church of the Messiah.

Set Free ministry targets homeless in Nashville

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — As a result of Crossover, approximately 20 of Nashville's homeless will be disciplined to form the nucleus of a new church. Their diet is "beans, rice, and Jesus Christ."

The effort is a partnership of the Nashville Baptist Association, the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Set Free, a national ministry. Set Free sent four graduates of their program to walk the streets and seek out the homeless and addicted who would commit their lives to Christ as the first step toward a better life.

By Tuesday, June 14, they already had seven recruits at their East Nashville ministry house learning the books of the Bible, memory verses, and the Roman Road plan of salvation. They had received food, clothing, help with medical issues, and transportation to a Georgia farm for a 30-40-day period of intense discipleship. By Friday, seven more had

been reached. Those who successfully complete the program will return to Nashville to work with Set Free Nashville.

Jerome Cunningham, a former addict and graduate of Set Free, will direct Set Free Nashville.

"The biggest weapon we use is our testimony," Cunningham said. "It's about restoration — not only for the guys but for the city."

Wayne Terry, TBC church starter strategist, said efforts are underway to identify several Nashville-area churches willing to provide resources and support for Set Free Nashville. □



JEROME CUNNINGHAM, left, and Lawrence Wright, were sent from the Gainesville, Ga., chapter of Set Free to help start Set Free Nashville. Cunningham serves as director of the Nashville group.

Preaching the Word Your Calling, *Our Passion*

Doctor of Ministry

With emphases such as Expository Preaching, Leadership, Church Growth, Evangelism, Missions, and many more, Southeastern's Doctor of Ministry program features advanced training in a number of fields. We offer the opportunity to study with some of the finest professors in the world while still maintaining your local church focus. Our graduates are making tremendous contributions to God's Kingdom as they apply the biblical principles learned here to dynamic, growing ministries worldwide.



SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
1-800-284-6317
www.sebts.edu

"I was challenged, stretched and blessed by the D. Min. Program."

Dr. Voddie Baucham
(D. Min. 2002)



GuideStone Financial Resources. Your Guide for Service. Commitment. Experience. Quality.

For more than 86 years, GuideStone has served Southern Baptists with quality retirement, life and health products, enhancing their financial security and providing support for every stage of life.

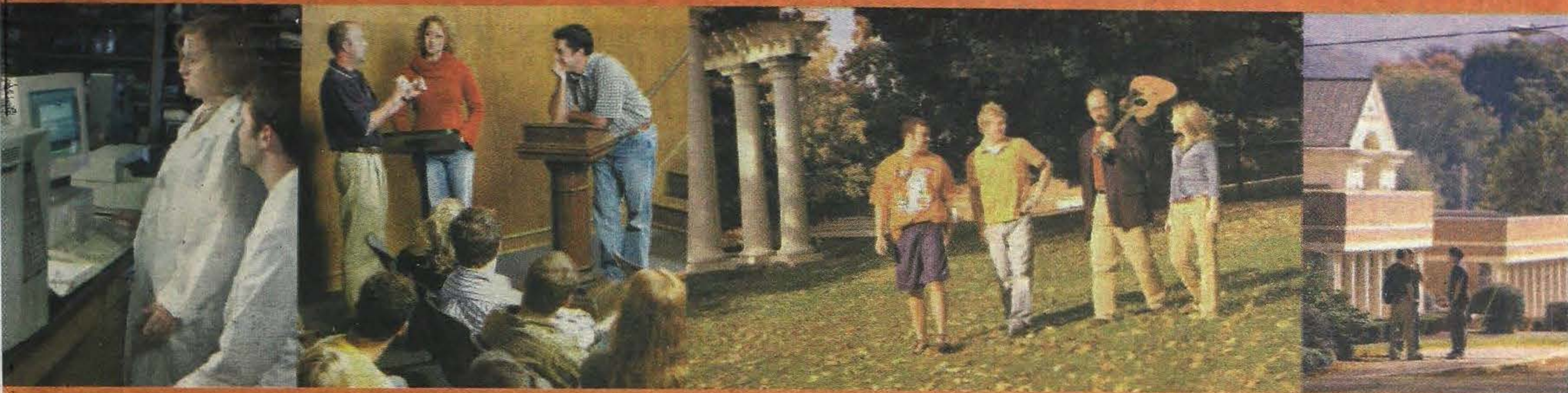
We are grateful for the decades of confidence placed in us and are committed to continuing our long tradition of high-touch service, shared values and competitive products. Our name may change, but our focus remains the same . . . *Serving those who serve the Lord.*

During the Convention, come and experience our service!

- Visit the GuideStone exhibit and see our "new look."
- Receive a complimentary copy of Dr. O.S. Hawkins' latest book.
- Talk to on-site GuideStone experts about retirement, life and health plan options.
- Receive a health assessment at the Wellness Center.
- Pick up materials for Adopt An Annuitant Sunday, June 26.

GuideStone Financial Resources — Your Guide for Life. www.GuideStone.org 1-800-262-0511


GuideStone
FINANCIAL RESOURCES
of the Southern Baptist Convention

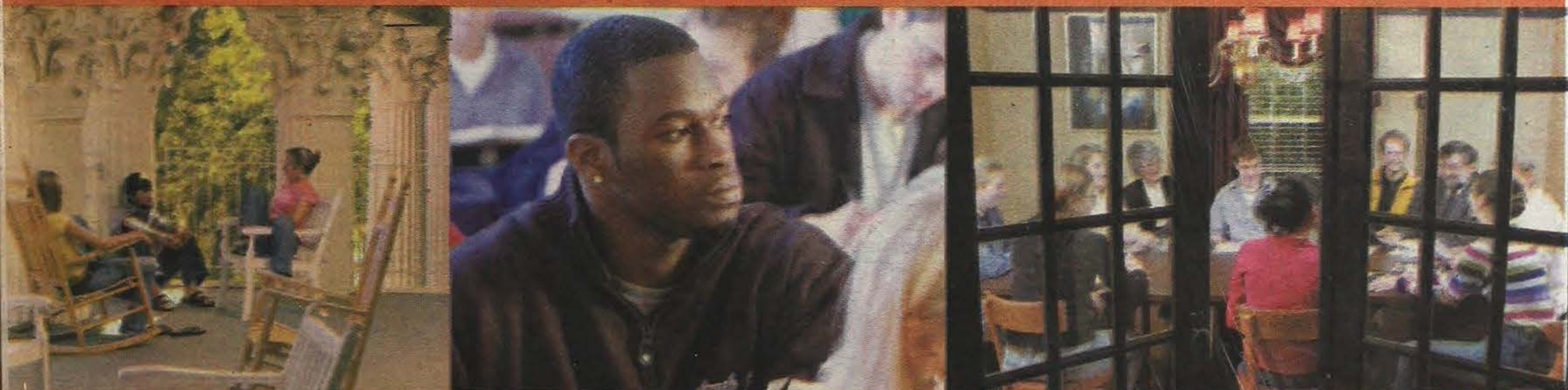


In 1919, Tennessee Baptists sent \$5,000 to Carson-Newman College, solidifying a partnership to educate students for a lifetime of service for Christ. In the intervening years this partnership has grown exponentially, encircling the globe through missions work and education alliances.

We could measure the results in pulpits filled, school teachers prepared, pre-med students trained and missionaries commissioned, or a hundred other ways. But, perhaps the best demonstration can be found in the realization that our partnership has meant an eternity to those who have heard and answered God's call.

If you are looking for a Christian liberal arts experience that will sharpen your mind while shaping your heart, we invite you to visit us on campus in East Tennessee.

Welcome to *Tennessee*



Belmont nursing students serve, study in Cambodia

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Six nursing students of Belmont University here and a nursing professor joined a former Belmont adjunct professor of nursing serving at a Cambodian hospital to study and serve Cambodians May 12 - June 2.

The experience "changes your perspective," said Sharon Dowdy, professor of nursing and member of Woodmont Baptist Church here. "The poverty is overwhelming," she added.

She told of a 16-year-old boy who was a patient of Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where the team served. He was recovering from surgery to repair his sternum, which is a breast bone, and infection in his upper body. The infection began in a tooth. The boy's family members have had to operate a bag to provide breathing assistance for the boy for two months following the surgery. Mechanical ventilators are not available. Thankfully, the boy is doing so well he can operate the bag now some of the time, said Dowdy.

Without the free care provided by the hospital, he would have died, said Dowdy. The hospital is a philanthropic effort assisted by several organizations in several countries including some Protestant churches.

The Belmont School of Nursing learned about Sihanouk Hospital through Susan Taplin, former adjunct nursing professor. She learned about it through a non-denominational church she attended

in Nashville. Taplin has served the hospital as director of nursing for xx years.

Dowdy said the trip combined work and study for the six nursing students. A Belmont student not studying nursing rounded out the group. Dowdy said the effort was so successful she hopes the School of Nursing will continue to send students to Sihanouk Hospital and help the ministry in other ways.

"There's so much that we have that we can share," she said.

The Tennesseans visited HIV-AIDS patients in their homes. Dowdy learned about one patient from several of the Belmont students — a 25-year-old mother who has four children she is trying to care for. She was having trouble paying rent on her home, which wasn't much more than a shack. The students gave her some rent money, which was only \$12 a month.

The group studied with other students at the hospital, which is a teaching institution. They visited an HIV-AIDS clinic located in another part of the city, visited a public school, and got involved with the Protestant church which meets at the hospital. The Tennesseans attended church services, visited a church start in another province of the country, and participated in a ministry to poor people who live by scrounging through a city dump.

Dowdy said she saw several students become more interested in spiritual things while in Cambodia. One student also plans to return to the hospital to serve. Three of the Belmont students had never traveled out of the United States



THE TENNESSEE TEAM stand with their driver, Mr. Lai, left, and Susan Taplin, kneeling on back row, director of nursing, Sihanouk Hospital Center of HOPE, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and former adjunct professor of nursing, Belmont University, Nashville. Team members are, from left, standing, Kelly Bateman, Abby Marvin, Sarah Jane Heard, Taplin, Sharon Dowdy, professor of nursing, Belmont; kneeling on front row, Sarah Beth S Kelly Hammond, Leslie Gomer, and Justice Estrada.

before. They were assisted with expenses by several departments at Belmont.

Dowdy, who has served as an R.N. on a mission trip to Brazil and led Belmont nursing student teams to Brazil, Spain, and North Dakota, said this missions experience left her feeling hopeful in that the work of the Tennesseans is being carried on by the health care workers in Cambodia.

Dowdy also taught leadership skills to hospital staff members who were "so hungry," she described, for the information, which was new to them.

She saw the ill-effects of the communist Khmer Rouge, which affected many residents negatively from 1975-79. Cam-



CAMBODIANS gather each morning, from miles away, for a drawing which will identify 10 people who become recipients of the health care provided by Sihanouk Hospital.

bodians have an unusual fear of related reporting, for example.

"We learned a great deal," she said.

Living@YourBest Wellness Walk/Run

Get discovered on the Nashville country walk of fame!

If you're planning to attend the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn., or if you live in the Nashville area, you are invited to join GuideStone Financial Resources for the 2005 Living@YourBest Wellness Walk/Run.

Within walking distance from most hotels in the downtown area, the walk will be held:

Tuesday, June 21, 2005, 6:15 a.m.

Hilton Park (across from the Country Music Hall of Fame)

Demonbreun St. between 4th Ave. and 5th Ave.

Nashville, TN

Join us at 6:15 a.m. for a warm-up stretch, then walk or run a one mile or 5K course. The first 750 registered walkers (age 10 and older) to stop by the Living@YourBest table at the convention will receive a free t-shirt.

GuideStone Financial Resources is teaming up with LifeWay Christian Resources and many of its vendors to sponsor this walk. Visit www.GuideStone.org to register online or call 1-800-262-0511.

GuideStone
FINANCIAL RESOURCES
of the Southern Baptist Convention



Living@YourBEST

Hendersonville man receives degree from Union — 50 years later

By Tom Ellsworth
Union University news office

HENDERSONVILLE — Bobby Morris would have the envy of most men his age. But 70 years, one regret in his life has lived at him nearly every day. It's true he and his wife Sylvia have been happily married for almost 50 years. Their two children, Eric and Patricia, have sung for dignitaries from all over the country.

At the Morris home here, photos of their children line the hallway. Here's a photo of them with Oliver North. Here's one with former Vice President George H.W. Bush. Over here is one with Bill Clinton. Landry, Willard Scott, Norman Macdonald. The list goes on. But all that regret lingered.

At 72, Bob Morris — better known to friends and business associates as "Man" — plays tennis three days a week. He has four grandchildren, one more on the way. Though retired from a successful career in sales and public relations, he still works part-time. He is also a cancer survivor, and doctors tell him he is now in remission.

Bob and his wife also lead music at the Hills Baptist Church in Gallop, although they remain members of the First Baptist Church, Hendersonville. For the last 50 years, despite all that regret with his life, Morris has

lived with the ever-present reality that he didn't finish what he started. After attending Union University for four years, he left the school in 1955 two hours short of graduating. A failed economics course was his undoing.

"I guess I got overextended with a beautiful redheaded lady," Morris offered as his reason for not passing the class. "I just wasn't as focused, maybe, as I should have been."

"Don't blame that on me," Sylvia replied. "He didn't study."

Morris also secured a job during his last semester and at the time that job was more important to him than the degree. "It was a plum of a job. I wasn't going back and fool with two hours of economics with that job sitting on my plate," Morris recalled.

Whatever the reasons, that two-hour course hovered between Morris and a college degree for five decades.

"Not a full week has passed in 50 years that I didn't think about it," he said. Every time he filled out a job application, it reminded him of his shortcoming. How much college have you had? Four years, he would answer.

Degree?

No.

"I didn't even want to fill out an application, because four years and you didn't graduate?" Morris said. "It didn't keep me from getting a job or getting whatever I wanted, but still, it affected me mentally."



BOB AND SYLVIA Morris stand outside their Hendersonville home. Morris left Union University in 1955 two hours short of a degree. He completed requirements this year and in May received his degree at Union's commencement service.

Despite not having a degree Morris went on to a successful career in sales.

But even with all his professional accomplishments, Morris still was unhappy that he hadn't completed his degree.

"I never started anything I didn't finish," he said. "I just really want to cross the finish line. It became an obsession."

Late last year, Keith Absher, dean of the McAfee School of Business at Union, learned of Morris' situation from university registrar Jane Betts. They arranged to get Morris re-enrolled as a student and into an independent study marketing class to complete his degree requirements.

"He immediately completed all those requirements and did a superb job," Absher said.

For the class, Morris had to write a thesis on the history of the McAfee School of Business and how his time at Union had affected him over the last 50 years.

"He got up every morning at 5 a.m., and watched the squirrels and the red-birds and the bluebirds," Sylvia said. "And he wrote for four weeks at 5 a.m. in the morning."

His degree requirements now complete, Morris donned a black cap and gown and took his place with the rest of Union's graduating class of 2005. He said the achievement ranks only behind the day he became a Christian and the day he married the love of his life.

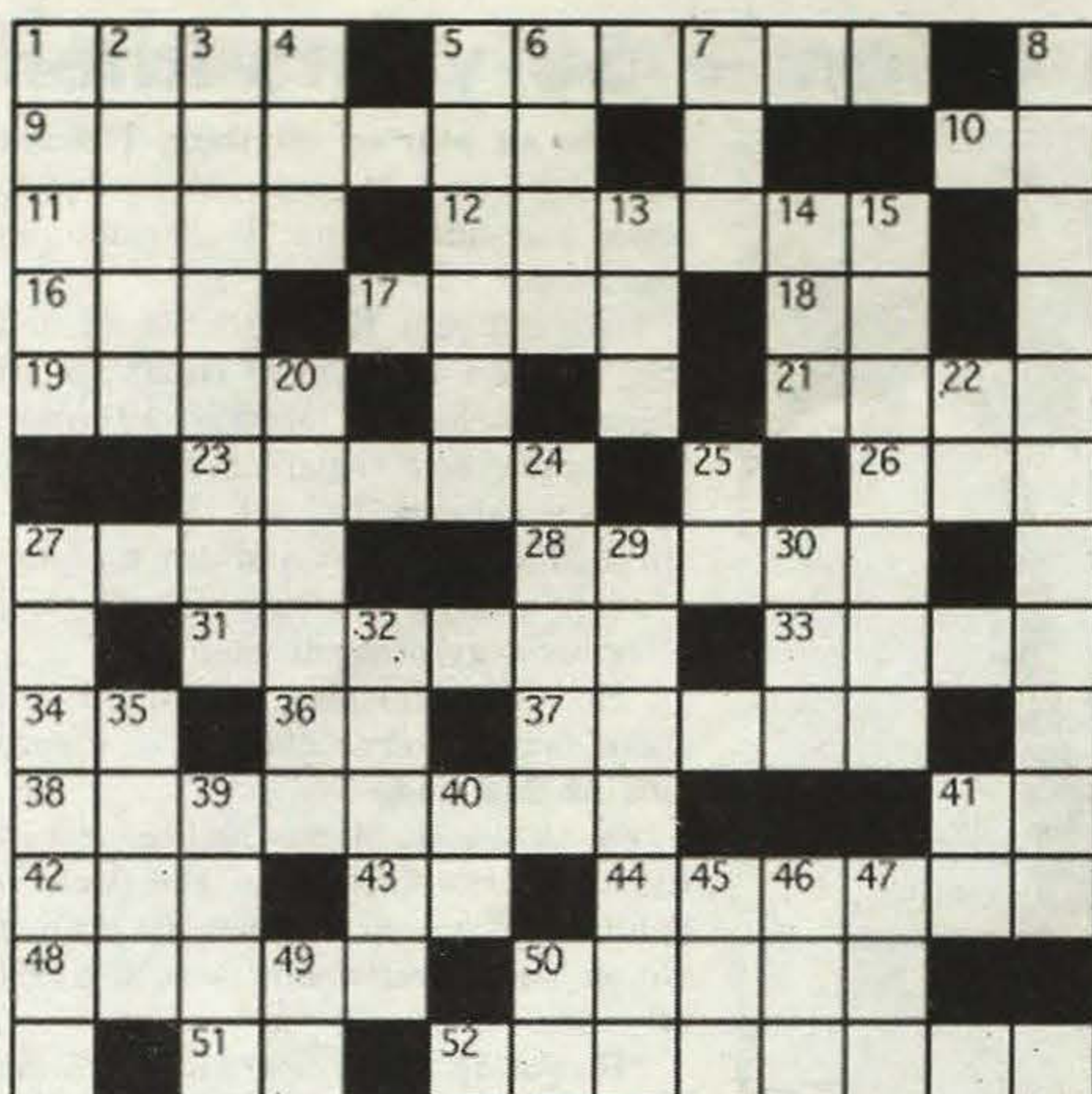
"Number three in life would be that," Morris said. "It would be difficult for anyone to be more thrilled than I am now." □

CROSSOVER 2005



And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."
— Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)

**Thank you, Southern Baptists, for
going and telling! You have
demonstrated to us
that "Everyone Can."
Nashville will never be the same!**



See answers on page 20

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. "Ye are the ____ of the earth" (Matt. 5:13)
5. Peter healed this man who had been bedridden with palsy for eight years (Acts 9:33-34)
9. "I am ____ your pillows" (Ezek. 13:20)
10. "____, I am with you alway" (Matt. 28:20)
11. Og's bed was made of this (Deut. 3:11)
12. Set apart for worship
16. Edward's nickname
17. A camel has one
18. Quality, suffix
19. "It shall return, and shall be eaten: as a ____ tree" (Isa. 6:13)
21. Presently
23. "Strain at a gnat, and swallow a ____" (Matt. 23:24)
26. "Go to the ____, thou slug-gard" (Prov. 6:6)
27. Noah's son
28. "Listen, O ____, unto me" (Isa. 49:1)
31. A magistrate of ancient Rome
33. A case for holding small articles
34. The second note of the musical scale
36. Nickel, chem. symbol
37. "That we may ____ our hearts, unto wisdom" (Ps. 90:12)
38. "I will ____ thee and teach thee" (Ps. 32:8)
41. Not off
42. Winged mammal
43. Kentucky's neighbor, abbr.
44. "The twenty-four ____ fall down before him" (Rev. 4:10 NIV)
48. "Rejoice not against me, O mine ____" (Mic. 7:8)
50. Step
51. I
52. "Lips of wise ____ knowledge" (Prov. 15:7)

DOWN

1. "Salute every ____ in Christ" (Phil. 4:21)

2. "____ with thine adversary" (Matt. 5:25)
3. John sent his Revelation to this church in Asia Minor (Rev. 1:11)
4. "____ ... that may abide the fire" (Num. 31:22-23)
5. "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall ____ our hearts before him" (1 John 3:19)
6. Where Samson lived after he slaughtered the Philistines (Judg. 15:8, 11)
7. "He that hath an ____, let him hear" (Rev. 2:7)
8. Paul wrote one of his epistles to these people
13. Compound, abbr.
14. Seventh letter of the Greek alphabet
15. Succession of rulers from the same descent
20. "Kings of the earth shall ____" (Rev. 18:9)
22. Activated
24. Spring-flowering bush with fragrant blossoms
25. Twelfth letter of the alphabet
27. "The Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the ____" (Matt. 20:18)
29. Groups of seven
30. Elongated fish
32. Soiled
35. The father of Ahira (Num. 1:15)
39. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the ____ of Jesse" (Isa. 11:1)
40. Not, prefix
41. Either
45. "One went out into the field to gather herbs ... and gathered thereof wild gourds his ____ full" (2 Kings 4:39)
46. What would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate the forbidden fruit
47. "The wayfaring men ... shall not ____" (Isa. 35:8)
49. "Come unto ____, all ye that labour" (Matt. 11:28)
50. Silicon, chem. symbol

Companies provide family-friendly R-rated movies

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — It's an embarrassing moment millions of parents have experienced — enjoying a movie at home with their family when a seemingly harmless film turns offensive.

A few seconds of profanity and sexual dialogue ruin the evening, with mom and dad bewildered and wondering, "Why was that in there?"

Thanks to DVD technology and a few innovative companies, mom and dad now can enjoy movie night in peace.

Three young companies — CleanFilms, CleanFlicks, and Family Flix — offer family-safe edited DVD versions of PG, PG-13, and R movies, deleting the objectionable content. Another budding company, ClearPlay, sells a DVD player with the capability of muting profanity and "skipping" offensive scenes.

In all instances, the profanity, sexual dialogue, nudity, and graphic violence are gone. PG movies become G-rated and R movies turn to PG-friendly.

"It's a wonderful option for families," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist

tist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "The argument that Hollywood makes (about movies) — that this is the way the world is and you can't sugarcoat it — is nonsense."

But while thousands of families have embraced the industry — CleanFilms alone claims nearly 10,000 customers — Hollywood's reaction hasn't been so kind. Movie directors have sued the companies, asserting they are infringing on artistic license.

Congress had provided some protection through the Family Entertainment and Copyright Act, but it does not cover the companies that physically alter the CD. It does cover ClearPlay which works with the original, unedited version of the movie. □

No Bible during recess?

Baptist Press

KNOXVILLE — A federal

lawsuit has been filed on behalf of a student here who alleged that he could not hold an informal Bible club during recess. The suit was filed July 15 by the Alliance Defense Fund on behalf of 10-year-old student Luke Whitson, a fourth-grader at Karns Elementary School.

"The Constitution says to Bible reading and discussion outside of class time," attorney Nate Kellum said in a news release.

"Recess is non-instructional time regardless of how the school system tries to characterize it after the fact," the release continued.

The Alliance Defense Fund said it was unable to resolve the issue with school officials, leading to the lawsuit. It was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. School officials have said recess is not "free time" and Bible study is allowed "outside the classroom environment" according to the Knoxville News-Sentinel. □

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers of Lights, Bibles, and Steeples
www.BUchurch.com
1-800-446-7400
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, Virginia 24541

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH WORKSHOP

There will be a 16-hour Conversational English Workshop July 22-24, 2005, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and Sunday 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be led by Anne Towns, Literacy Mission Consultant, Nashville. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register or request additional information, go to www.tnbaptist.org News & Events or contact Tim Hill at (615) 371-2032 or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org. The deadline is July 15, 2005.



**Tennessee Baptists,
America's #1 Church Bus Dealer,
has some deals for you!**

- 15 passenger buses (no CDL required)
- Over 80 new & used buses in stock
- Van replacement vehicles

- Rental buses
- Trade-ins welcome
- 15 to 46 passenger buses



15 Passengers



18-26 Passengers



30-34 Passengers



46 Passengers

Monthly Specials

Stock No.	Year	Make	Capacity	Price
24081	2004	Ford/Starcraft	15	\$38,500
25044	2006	IHC/ElDorado-Diesel	34 w/Removable Row	\$92,640 \$88,640
25023	2003	Chevrolet/ElDorado	30	\$69,740 \$64,900
25079	2005	Ford/Starcraft	26	\$47,960
246398	1998	Ford/Federal Coach	25 w/ Rear Luggage	\$21,900 \$26,900
252495	1995	Chevrolet/ElDorado	30	\$29,900 \$25,900

Buses are provided for LifeWay by

Carpenter
BUS SALES
Franklin, TN

1-800-370-6180
1-615-376-2287
www.carpenterbus.com

Since 1953

TBC staffer compiles book on preschool space at church

Connie Davis Bushey
Artist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "It has been said that 95 percent of a person's concepts are formed before he or she enters first grade. How important the first years of life are for laying foundations of all kinds!" writes Theresa Thomas in her new book, *Preschool — Birth - Kindergarten — Space at Church*. One of the foundations which needs to be laid carefully for preschoolers is the spiritual one, she continued. Thomas is a preschool specialist, Tennessee Baptist Convention staff. The learning environment of a preschooler in church is important, she explained. "The room itself teaches," she added. Preparing an appropriate learning environment "allows developmentally-appropri-

ate learning to occur" in a safe setting, explained Thomas.

Working with Tennessee Baptist churches to provide these learning environments in churches, Thomas discovered they needed one resource discussing these needs and that other resources on this subject were out of print. So she compiled *Preschool Space at Church*, which was published by the TBC recently.

Thomas, who has been on the staff of the TBC for two years, said the book presents help for churches who are preparing to build state-of-the-art preschool facilities to churches who don't have the money to prepare ideal spaces, but still want some ideas to help them improve what they have.

For example, Thomas includes ways to use household

items to furnish and equip preschool space. Thomas was a preschool consultant for the North Carolina Baptist Convention for 15 years before moving to Tennessee in 1999.

"We want the church preschool leader to understand why we do what we do for preschoolers," she said. "If they know the whys, they're more likely to do the best with what they have."

Preschool leaders need to be aware that "God created preschoolers to be active learners. It is therefore logical to plan a preschool room to respect this design," she writes in the introduction.

That design should include activity centers, she explained, which leads the young child to make good choices. These types of activities help diminish and often eliminate discipline problems, she added.

She's very pleased that materials written by retired TBC preschool specialist, Sue Raley, are included in the book. Raley, who also worked at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, developed a principle-based philosophy for preschool ministry. Thomas adapted the materials.

Thomas said every preschool worker needs to consider Raley's principles. For example, she suggests that churches not mix fantasy with reality, "because preschoolers need to know that everything at church is true," writes Raley.

Referring to cartoon or fantasy characters, Raley says, "Even though some may see these characters (i.e. Veggie-tales, Sesame Street) as teaching biblical truths or values, the child sees vegetables or animals with voices and/or faces.

This is not real," writes Raley.

"Reverence for the Bible dictates a more discriminating approach," writes Thomas.

Equipment suggestions and sources are included in the book. For example, recommended blocks can be bought from several companies including LifeWay Church Sales of LifeWay Christian Resources, (www.lifeway.org). Employees of LifeWay Church Sales represent several companies.

Books which Thomas suggests are available from Amazon.com and from community book stores, she added.

She recommends one Bible for the preschooler, the *Read to Me Bible for Kids*, which is available in three translations — New International Reader's Version, King James Version, and Holman Christian Standard Bible — from LifeWay.

It is a complete Bible which has verses, stories, phrases, and thoughts appropriate for "literal-minded" preschoolers highlighted, explained Thomas.

It has realistic illustrations rather than cartoon-like art. Preschoolers may think cartoon-like art illustrating a Bible story means that the story is fictional, she said. Also the pictures aren't "scary," she added.

Thomas is also proud of the section, "Sharing Classrooms and Resources," which can help the many churches which have Sunday School classes, weekday ministries, music, missions, and Discipleship Training groups meeting in



Theresa Thomas, preschool specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, holds the book, *Preschool — Birth - Kindergarten — Space at Church*, which she compiled and the TBC published recently.

many of the same rooms.

Adult leaders need to work together on sharing classrooms and resources so preschoolers can experience consistency in their learning activities, she detailed.

"Consistency is so important for the security of the preschooler," noted Thomas.

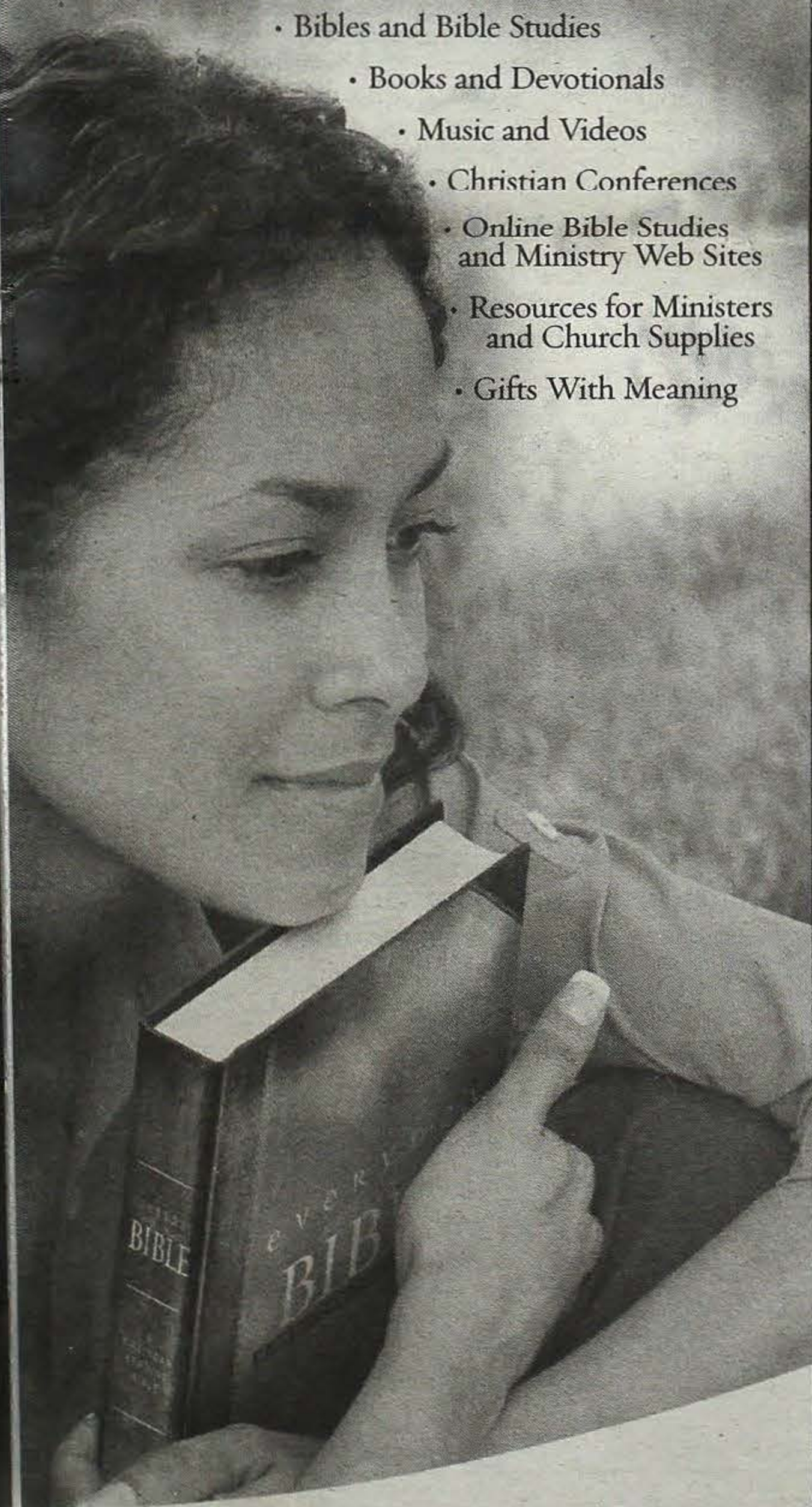
"I have a real passion for preschoolers and that churches do what is best for the child," she said.

Thomas said the TBC produced *Preschool Space at Church* in a soft-cover format to help churches and preschool leaders save money and posted it on the internet, where it can be accessed free of charge at www.tnbaptist.org, click on childhood, click on resources.

For more information, contact Thomas at tthomas@tnbaptist.org or (615) 371-2082. □

SO MUCH TO LIFE, SO MUCH TO LIFEWAY

- Bibles and Bible Studies
- Books and Devotionals
- Music and Videos
- Christian Conferences
- Online Bible Studies and Ministry Web Sites
- Resources for Ministers and Church Supplies
- Gifts With Meaning



LifeWay
Biblical Solutions for Life

www.lifeway.com

Rogers' new book reveals:

'What Every Christian Ought To Know'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Adrian Rogers never again will go bodysurfing without reading every nearby billboard and sign.

While on vacation in Hawaii, Rogers overlooked a "no bodysurfing" sign, and was slammed to the ocean floor while attempting to ride a wave. He escaped with only minor scrapes and bruises, but considers the experience a valuable lesson. He compares this experience to how many Christians go through life without a firm foundation in what they believe in — particularly when it comes to Scripture.

"There are some basic truths that every Christian ought to know," Rogers writes in his latest book. "Some may be body slammed, like I was, because they do not know."

In the Broadman & Holman book *What Every Christian Ought to Know: Essential Truths for Growing Your Faith*, Rogers focuses on 12 basic truths he believes every Christian should know.

Rogers is a well-known Christian speaker,



ROGERS

author, and retired senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova. He has written *Unveiling the End Times in Our Time*, *The Incredible Power of Kingdom Authority*, *The Wonder of It All*, and *The Nature of Hope*. His latest book targets both "new believers" and those who are "bogged down in their Christian walk."

Rogers' book opens with a chapter on Scripture, or what he refers to as the "starting place in Christian growth," and builds on the theme that those who are not "grounded" in Scripture are "sitting ducks for Satan's big guns."

"Some despise the Bible; others just deny it; still others distort it and have warped, misused, and abused it," Rogers writes. "But I believe the greatest enemy of the Bible is the so-called Christian who simply ignores the Bible or disregards it."

The book also covers topics such as how to have the assurance of salvation, handle temptation, pray with power, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and discern God's will for your life.

Rogers shares his hope that the book not only will inspire but also will transform lives and motivate people to act on their faith. He notes that God has a plan for everyone — not just missionaries, church leaders, and pastors. □



An Open Letter to Southern Baptists from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of you are aware that we, along with other Southern Baptist entities, have been striving for the past few years to strengthen our relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has no interest in moving away from Southern Baptist ownership or control, as has happened with some colleges and other entities which have severed their ties with their Baptist state conventions.

To achieve this end, the strategy of sole membership has been recommended to us by the Executive Committee. While this strategy may work for some of our sister entities, there are some peculiarities in Louisiana law which suggest that sole membership would not be the best means to achieve the results we are all seeking. The sole membership proposal is tailored to legislation called the Model Act that has been enacted in nine states. Ten of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention are in the nine states which passed the Model Act. Louisiana is not one of those states, and therefore New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is under a different legal code than the other SBC entities. Sole membership in Louisiana means something different than sole membership in the home states of other entities.

The Trustees and administration of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary have two major concerns about using the sole membership strategy as defined in Louisiana law:

The most important legal problem with sole membership in Louisiana is increased exposure to liability lawsuits for the Southern Baptist Convention. The overwhelming consensus of legal opinions we sought is that making the SBC the sole member of our Louisiana corporation could dramatically increase the risk of liability lawsuits for the SBC in the state of Louisiana. This strategy could potentially put the Cooperative Program at risk. Messengers must decide if the possibility of putting the Cooperative Program at financial risk is worth adopting this measure without considering any alternative way to accomplish the same goals.

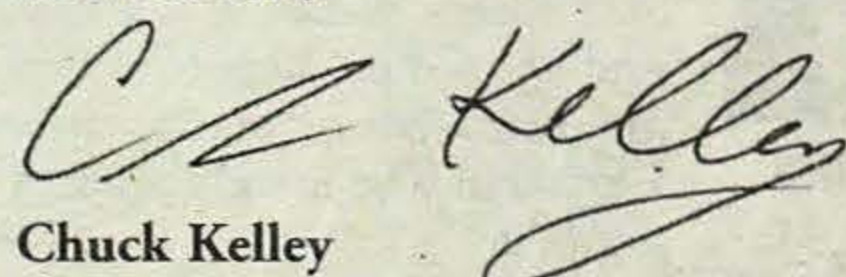
There are also grounds for significant concerns about the implications of sole membership for Baptist polity. Many Baptist historians and theologians, SBC leaders, and SBC church members have voiced a concern that sole membership could be a step toward the centralization of control and authority in Southern Baptist life. It is not the size of the step, but rather the direction of the step that causes concern. Historic Baptist polity emphasizes the decisive influence of the SBC over its entities through Trustees elected by SBC messengers, as opposed to direct control of the entities by the Convention itself. We believe it should stay that way.

Since the messengers of the 2004 Southern Baptist Convention requested that the NOBTS Trustees approve a sole membership option, we have done so. However, the Trustees did so with reservations born not out of a desire for greater independence or an attempt to change in any way the relationship we have always had with the Convention, but out of concern for the legal and fiscal health of the Convention and for the conservation of historic Baptist polity. Our passionate commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention and stewardship of Convention resources gives us an obligation to share these concerns.

There are alternatives to sole membership which could achieve the same end of strengthening the ties binding the seminary and the Convention without some of the risks sole membership brings. We believe it would be in the best interests of the Convention for messengers to encourage seminary Trustees to explore those alternatives. Messengers should also know that numerous Louisiana attorneys have told the seminary its current charter clearly protects the right of the Convention to elect all seminary Trustees and to require prior approval for any changes to the seminary charter. We stand ready to make any adjustments to our charter that messengers feel would strengthen those rights any further.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will remain a Southern Baptist entity until Jesus comes again! Our reservations concerning the sole membership proposal are strictly limited to a concern about the best way to accomplish that end. We ask messengers to the SBC to consider prayerfully these reservations and then vote their conscience at this year's convention. Thank you for your consideration.

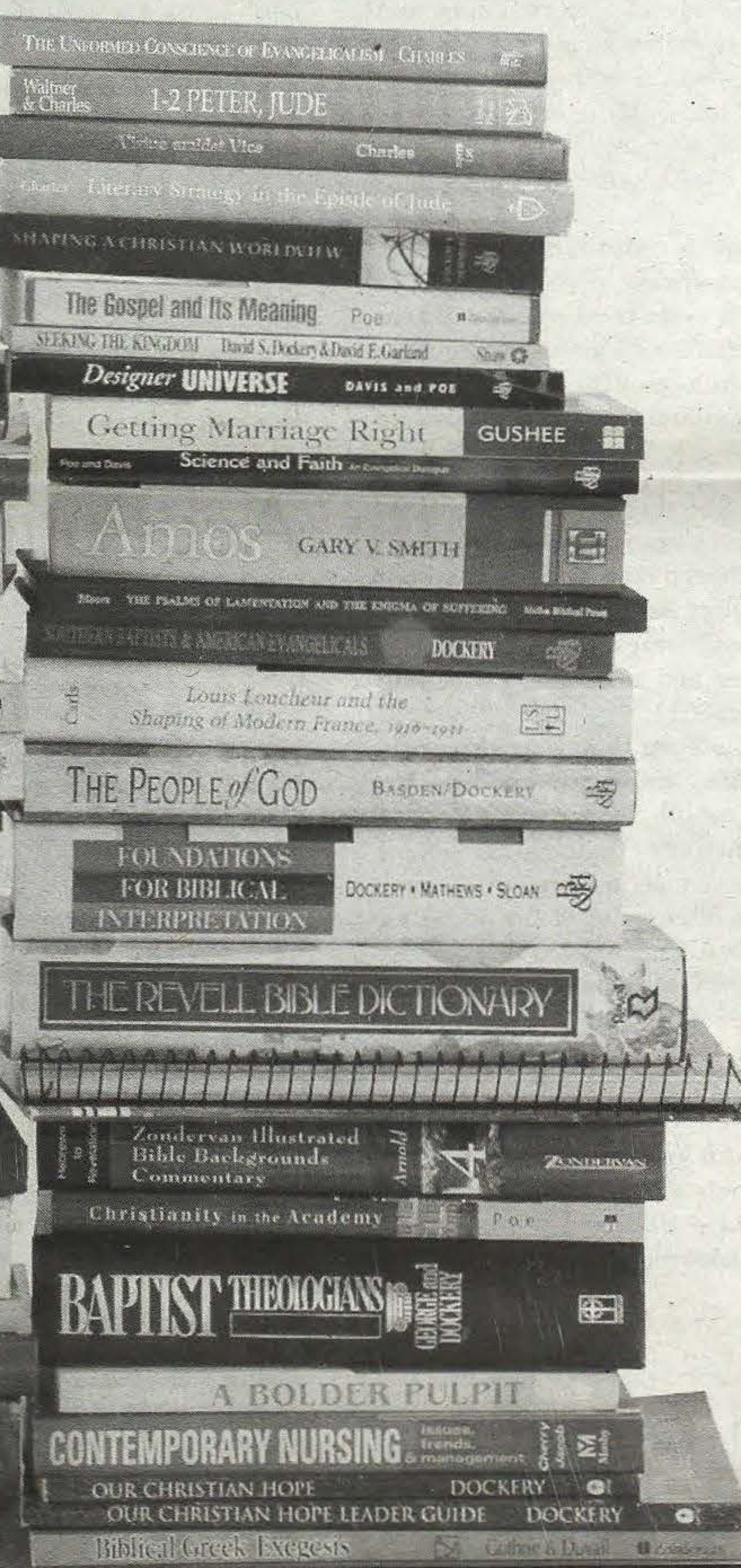
Yours & His,


Chuck Kelley



COME STUDY WITH THE AUTHORS!

These books were authored or edited by Union University faculty members—all leaders in their fields and experts in their professions. When you study at Union, you study with the best.



UNION
UNIVERSITY

1050 Union University Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

www.uu.edu
800.33.UNION

If you had been at Union
this academic year, you would have:



CHEERED

NAIA DIVISION I CHAMPIONS

LISTENED

FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

READ

CARDINAL & CREAM RANKS
AMONG TOP COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

STUDIED

INTEGRATED FAITH AND LEARNING

Join us for next year's excitement. See what's inside Union.

Call now at 1.800.33.UNION or visit at www.uu.edu



UNION
UNIVERSITY

Deaths

◆ **Carolyn Hinton**, secretary at Temple Baptist Church Paris, died June 12, after an extended illness. Her husband Otis Hinton has served for many years as a pastor in West Tennessee. The family requests memorials be made to the Tennessee Baptist Convention Barnabas Ministry. Checks may be made payable to the TBC and designated to Barnabas Ministry. Send memorials to TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

Leaders

◆ **Union Hill Baptist Church**, Goodlettsville, called **Mike Mayo** as pastor effective June 12. A native of Milan, Mayo formerly served as pastor of South Main Baptist Mission, Springfield, and Saturn Drive Baptist Church in Nashville.

◆ **Darrin Reynolds** of Lebanon has been called as youth/student pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church of Lebanon.

◆ **Jason Harlin** of Lebanon has been called as minister of music/worship at Hillcrest Baptist Church of Lebanon.

◆ **Tiffany Triplett** has resigned as minister of youth and young adults at Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, to accept the position of associate pastor of a church in New York City.

◆ **Leslie Adcock** will leave the position of interim youth director of Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville, to pursue a master's degree at Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville.

◆ **Brent Beasley**, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Memphis, received a doctor of ministry degree in May from Princeton Theological Seminary, based in Princeton, N.J.

◆ **Tim Borchert** was called as pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Ridge effective May 13. He previously served as minister of adult and family life at a church in Columbus, Ind.

◆ **Greg Moore** has been called as the minister of singles/college and evangelism at First Baptist Church of Clarksville. Moore and his wife, Denise, who met in the singles ministry of First Church, previously served at a church in Bartlesville, Okla.

◆ **Brad Smith** has been called as the minister of children at First Baptist Church of Clarksville. A native of Jackson, Smith is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He previously served as minister to children at a church in Owensboro, Ky.

◆ **Joel Young** has been called as business administrator for First Baptist Church of Morristown. Young and his family formerly lived in Alabama.

◆ **Wayne Bledsoe** has resigned as associate pastor at North Johnson City Baptist Church, Johnson City.

◆ **Sean Currier** is the new youth director for Grace Baptist Church, Johnson City.

Myrtle Beach Ocean Front

Corner condo, smoke-free, pool view and lazy river.

Cell phone: (843) 602-0466

Home phone: (843) 248-4561

◆ **David Crutchfield** has been called as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Erwin.

Churches

◆ **Broadmoor Baptist Church**, Nashville, held a revival June 5-8 with Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, and Carolyn Reed and Gary Buck, music evangelists. Many decisions were made through the week.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Scottsboro**, celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 5. The guest speaker was Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Music evangelist Gary Buck led the music.

◆ **Dowelltown Baptist Church**, Dowelltown, will hold revival services June 26-29 with guest evangelist Terry Wilkerson.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Atwood**, will celebrate homecoming on June 26 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be

Nathan Pillow. Lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. For more information, call (731) 662-7370.

◆ **Mansfield Baptist Church**, Mansfield, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Sunday, June 26. Service begins at 11 a.m. Noel Edwards, who was pastor 50 years ago, will speak. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Linda Faye Neal at (731) 644-9031.



RAY JONES, right, director of mission Big Hatchie Baptist Association, bas, Covington, recently presented a plaque the Tennessee Baptist Convention to Ki Patrick, pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Covington, commemorating church's 50th anniversary.

Affordable Beachside Vacation Condos

www.gulfshorescondos.com

All size units available, Summer Special 2 night weekend, \$225.00
4 weeknights, \$430.00 Efficiency Unit (2 Adults, 2 Kids) Good 5-26 thru 8-6
(205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Central Heights Baptist Church in Dandridge, Tenn., is seeking a pastor. Central Heights is located in one of the fastest growing communities in Johnson County. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 681, Dandridge, TN 37725.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Seeking full-time pastor for Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church. Located in Middlesboro near the entrance to the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. ECABC averages 125-150 morning worship. We are a mission-minded church ready to grow. Send resume and information to East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, Search Committee, P.O. Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40288.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Seeking full-time pastor for Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. Beautiful small town located near Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Diverse membership, average Sunday attendance of 140 and an active group. Must be able to work both SBC and CBF. Pastoral experience optional. Seeking someone with an M.Div. degree and pastoral experience. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 230 St., Williamsburg, KY 40707.

MINISTRY — DOM

The Big Emory/New River Baptist Association in Harrogate, Tenn., is seeking a full-time director of missions. Please mail resume to Pat Bennett, cast.net or mail to Emory/New River Association, P.O. Box 444, Harrogate, TN 37748. Resumes will be accepted through July 27, 2005.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Plant N Prayers

Are you looking for a new and unusual resource in your ministry to others? Plant N Prayers are beautiful silk ivy arrangements with 30 mini-scrolls of uplifting personalized scriptural prayers attached with colorful ribbon. These are prayers of encouragement, get well wishes, congratulations, and other sentiments. God's Word and your prayers combine to make this one of the most unique and thoughtful gifts available today.

Call Kay Quintero toll free at 1-888-708-9081 or order through our online store at www.plantnprayers.com.

Like a Mustard Seed:

Supporting and Celebrating Small Church Leadership
October 24-25, 2005

Topics include leadership, pastoral care, Christian education, bivocational pastoring, leadership in a rural context, leadership in an urban context and much more, all with a focus on small membership churches.

Speakers

Carl Dudley

Author of *Effective Small Churches in the 21st Century* and coauthor of *Congregations in Transition*

Nancy T. Foltz

Author of *Religious Education in the Small Membership Church* and *Caring for the Small Church: Insights from Women in Ministry*

Andy Lester

Author of *The Angry Christian: A Theology for Care and Counseling*, *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling* and *It Takes Two: The Joy of Intimate Marriage*

Calvin Miller

Author of *Sermon Maker*, *The Empowered Leader* and *Hunger for the Holy*

Robert Smith

Professor of Christian preaching at Beeson Divinity School

For more information or to register, go to www.samford.edu/groups/rcpe/lams.html or call (205) 726-4064.

reSourcing
pastors
Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence
AT SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

FOR THE TRUTH · FOR THE CHURCH · FOR THE WORLD

“GO
and make
disciples.”

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST



THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Doing all things for the glory of God means doing them well.
Let Southern Seminary help you fulfill your calling.

WWW.SBTS.EDU

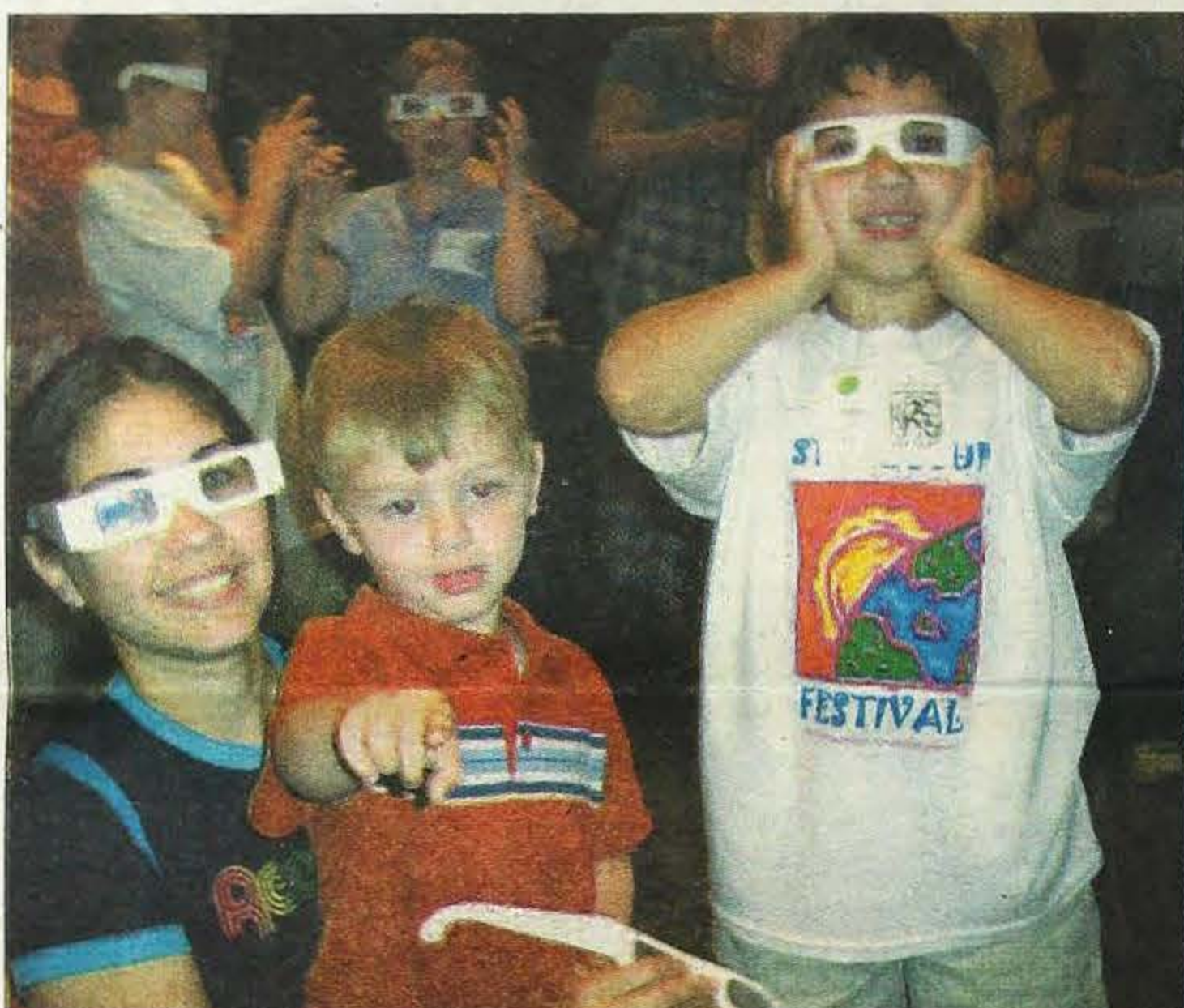
Crossover venues open doors to sharing Jesus Christ



A SUMMER MISSIONS travel team from the Tennessee Baptist Convention served as counselors at the Stone Soup Festival for special-needs children and their parents. Pictured, from left, are Rachelle Studer and Katie Mullins, Johnson City; Jill Burris, Cleveland; Monica Ferguson, Lewisburg; and Tyler Ingram, Memphis.

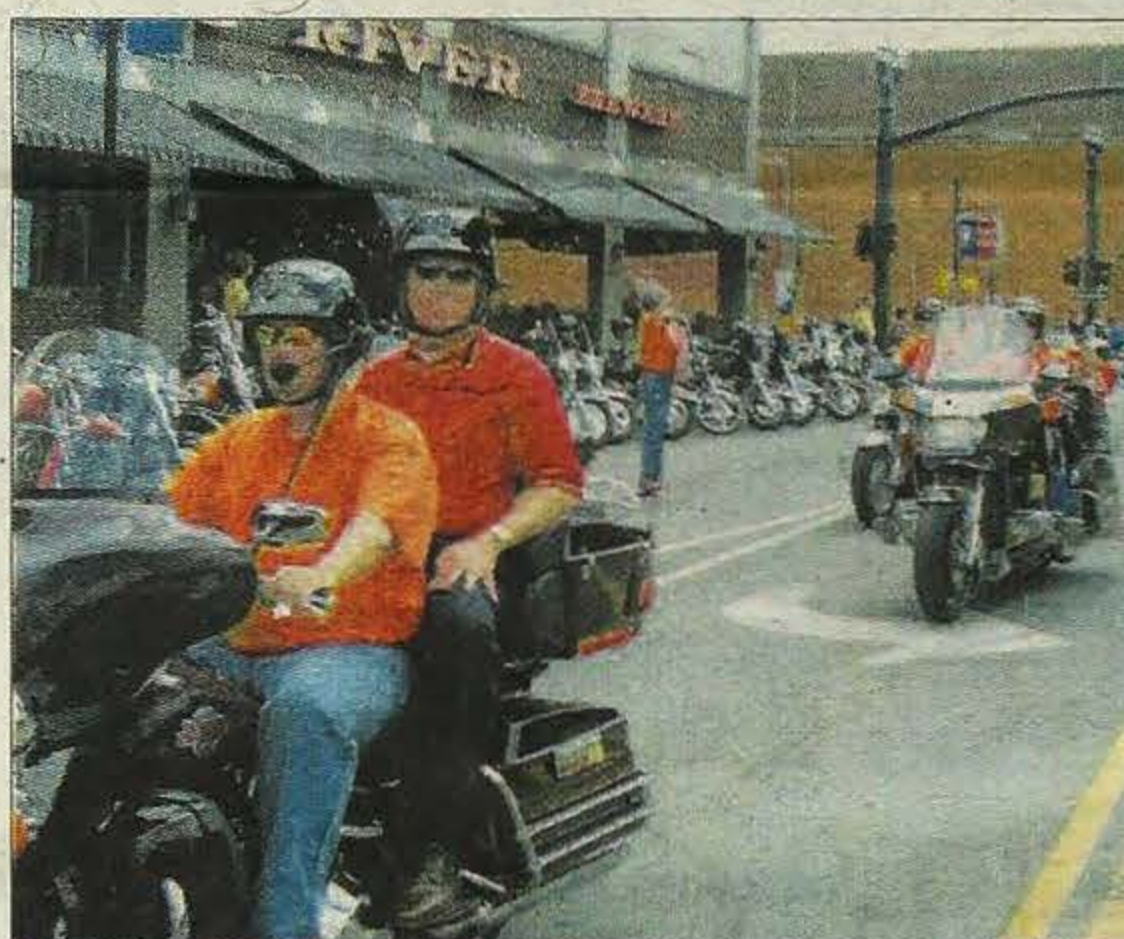


ANTOINETTE ST. ART, left, of Nashville shows off the apple she received from Barbara Oldham, a member at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, winning the cake walk at the Eastland Baptist Church block party in Nashville. — Photo this page by Linda Wilson and Lonnie Williams



MARIEL ROSARIO and sons, Manuel and Diego, check out the light show at the Stone Soup Festival. Their husband and father, Wilfrido Rosario, currently is deployed to Iraq with the Army.

SHARON BATTS, a nurse and member of Old New Hope Baptist Church, Fairview, takes the blood pressure of John Stark of Fairview during Crossover 2005. Old New Hope members displayed "acts of kindness" to members of the community.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION President Bobby Welch (red shirt) rides with a F.A.I.T.H. rider from First Baptist Church at the Mall, Lakeland, Fla., as part of The Gathering toy run and concert that was a first-time event for Crossover.



MIKE KEMPER, director of missions for the Southern Baptist Association and member of First Baptist Church, Humboldt, shares the gospel with the aid of an EvangeCube with John Young during a block party at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Nashville.



Baptist and Reflector "Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists"

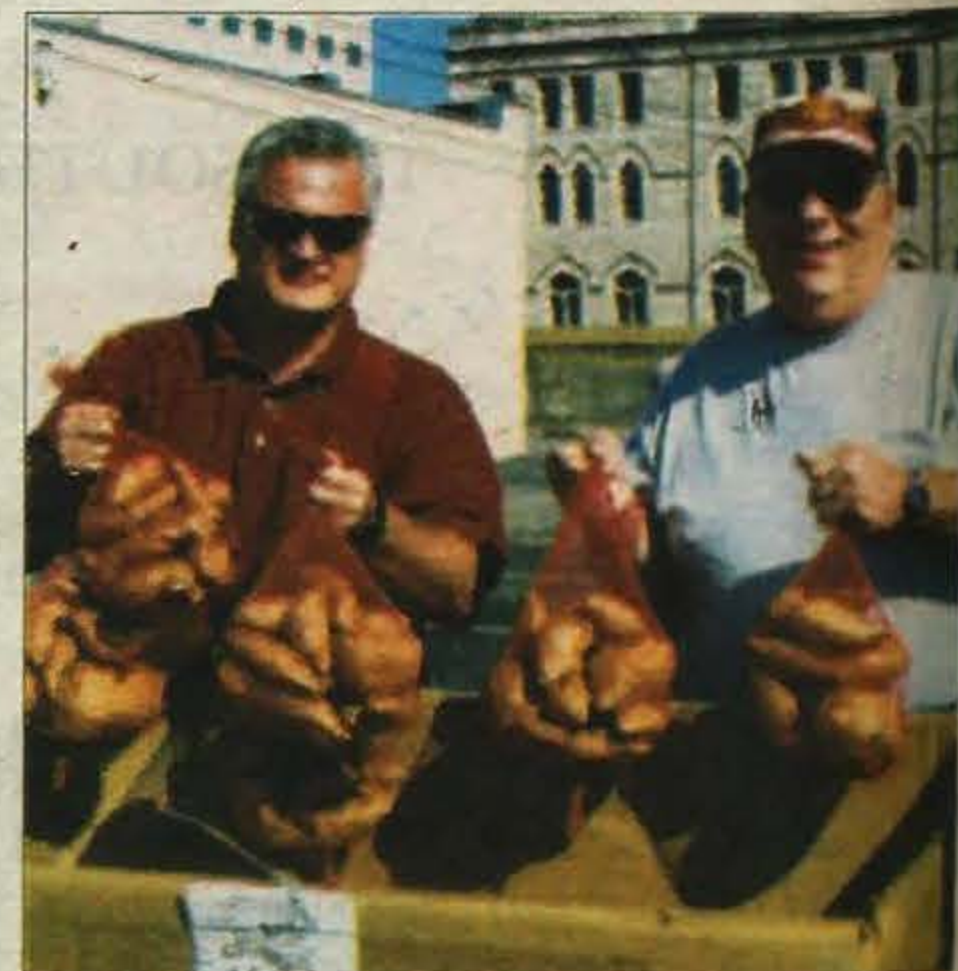
The *Baptist and Reflector* is the newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. It also provides news about Baptists across the Southern Baptist Convention and around the world. A one-year's subscription is only \$11. To subscribe, mail this form along with payment to: *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

Name _____

Address _____



MARK MARTIN, right, Inner City Evangelism (ICE) team member from First Baptist Church, Sevierville, shared Christ and later a bottle of Gatorade with a man crossing the parking lot of Church of the Messiah in Nashville.



PASTOR PHIL HOLMES, left, and Tommy Monds of First Baptist Church, Sweetwater, shared bags of potatoes into boxes. They participated in the "Potato Drop" which provided sweet potatoes to needy families.