

Baptist & Reflector

ide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.25; July 13, 2005

CP giving ains strong

and Reflector

ENTWOOD — After months of the 2004-05 year, gifts through the Creative Program are 29 or 3.27 percent of last year.

June, Tennessee Baptists have provided \$3,328,306.

the year-to-date, Tennessee Baptists have provided \$104,857 to meet mission and ministry needs about the state and the world.

s to date are \$401,623 percent over current needs.

es Porch, executive treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention expressed appreciation commitment of Tennessee Baptists and their to work together.

are grateful that Tennessee Baptists are responding to the needs in not only the state but around the world. Together, we are making a difference through the Creative Program," the pastor said. □

Tennessee/Texas team serves at Deer Lake

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

BELLEVUE — For the 10th year, members of Scotts Hill Baptist Church, Scotts Hill, and First Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas, joined forces to do construction-related missions work for a week. This year they worked at Deer Lake Retirement Center here, located in a suburb west of Nashville.

The Tennessee/Texas missions team formed when the Texas team traveled to Scotts Hill, which is located near Lexington, to help the members build a church facility in 1996.

As Tommy Crocker, pastor, Scotts Hill Church, put it, "We made good friends with them." Members stayed in contact with various members of the Texas team, even going to visit them. The Texans visited the Tennesseans.

And the Tennesseans were impressed that the Henderson church members work on church buildings each summer for a week. They began in the mid-1980s. The Tennesseans wanted to return the sweat equity they received by helping another congregation build its

building. Soon the partnership had formed.

Since then the Tennessee/Texas team has served in Tennessee, Texas, and Missouri building churches. Often leaders learn of needs through Volunteer Christian Builders, based in Angleton, Texas. But this year they couldn't find a building project the week they had committed to work.

Then Crocker made a phone call. Besides serving as pastor of Scotts Hill, he is administrator of the Scotts Hill Retirement Home of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, based in Brentwood.

Crocker called Kenny Cooper, president of TBAH, and asked if any of the TBAH facilities needed repair or renovation. Cooper directed them to Deer Lake center and the team decided to help Deer Lake. The development is made up of 135 condominiums which is managed and maintained by TBAH.

The 45-member team rolled in on Sunday, July 10, and many set up their campers. Others got settled in guest rooms of the Deer Lake Activities Center and at a nearby hotel. At about 6 a.m. the next



KENNY COOPER, right, president, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Brentwood, visits with Tommy Crocker, middle, pastor, Scotts Hill Baptist Church, Scotts Hill, and Danny Gage, First Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas, as other volunteers from the two churches work on the roof of a house at Deer Lake Retirement Center, Bellevue. Deer Lake is managed by TBAH.

morning, the volunteers scattered out across the development, beginning to roof homes, paint handrails and the outside of the activities building, and landscape. They often rode bikes around the development to save time. They also took time to visit with residents.

The team saved TBAH about \$10,000, estimated Cooper. They even paid for their own lodging. Area churches provided meals and TBAH provided materials.

A member of Scotts Hill Church even returned home to — See Tennessee, page 3

Steve Gaines called as pastor of Bellevue

Is worth
ness

OVA — Steve Gaines, First Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., for the past will be the new pastor of the Baptist Church here after a overwhelming vote by the congregation on Sunday, July 10.

Gaines, 47, takes over for Rogers, the church's pastor for 20 years who retired earlier this year. He is a native of Mississippi and a graduate of the University of Mississippi, Jackson. Prior to coming to Alabama, he was pastor of the West Jackson Baptist Church.

Gaines said after the vote to call him. "I don't know if I know all the answers. But I know the Lord, and He has done all that He will do a work through all of us."

The pastor search committee began its work eight weeks ago, shortly after Rogers



DYERSBURG NATIVE Steve Gaines was called as the new pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church on Sunday, July 10. Gaines is shown here preaching the convention sermon at the 2004 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention held in Indianapolis.

announced his retirement. Chairman Chuck Taylor said the 10-member committee received more than 170 recommendations, with each being carefully considered and researched by committee members.

The committee voted unanimously on June 12 to recommend Gaines to the church as

Bellevue's next pastor. "We knew that [God] would lead us to His man, and He has done that today," Taylor told the church.

At the end of each of two morning worship services, the church went into a business session to act on the search committee's recommendation. Each committee member spoke briefly about why he or she believed Gaines is God's man for Bellevue.

Harry Smith, Bellevue's chairman of deacons and vice chairman of the search committee, then asked those in favor of the recommendation to stand, and the entire church rose.

Gaines and his family came back into the sanctuary, where Smith asked him, "Will you come and be our new pastor?" — See Steve Gaines, page 2

Governor appoints Porch to serve on ethics advisory panel

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, is one of 11 Tennesseans named to serve on a new citizens' panel to review and provide recommendations on the issue of ethics in state government.

The panel was appointed July 1 by Gov. Phil Bredesen.

"I want us to take a comprehensive look at our ethics laws and search for changes which could be made to help protect the public against what we experienced at the end of this legislative session," Bredesen said.

"I'm committed to doing

everything I can to restore Tennesseans' trust in state government, and I'm confident this advisory panel will work hard in the months ahead to provide some meaningful feedback and viable options on how we can work together to meet that goal."

Porch said he was surprised and honored by the appointment. "I applaud Gov. Bredesen for his action in forming the Commission to respond to a most prevalent issue afflicting the government process of our state," Porch said.

"I am honored by his confidence in asking me to serve with other Tennesseans. I trust and ask our Baptist family to pray for me, the governor, and the entire group as we work together to respond to the ethical matters that affect the integrity of state government and lives of Tennessee people."

— See Governor, page 4



PORCH

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SBC CP gifts up from last year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up 1.54 percent compared to the same time frame in 2004, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of June 30, 2005, the year-to-date total of \$145,017,123.90 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$2,197,985.24 ahead of the \$142,819,138.66 received at the same point in 2004. For the month, receipts of \$12,555,626.53 were 4.32 percent, or \$567,434.74, below the \$13,123,061.27 received in June 2004.

Designated giving of \$170,898,017.43 for the same year-to-date period is 0.47 percent, or \$801,395.84, below gifts of \$171,699,413.27 received at this point last year. The \$13,541,583.89 in designated gifts received last month is \$5,631,556.27 below the \$19,173,140.16 received in June 2004, a decrease of 29.37 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$145,017,123.90 is 105.54 percent of the \$137,401,270.56 budgeted, or \$7,615,853.34 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America.

The CP is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the SBC. □

Steve Gaines called as ...

— Continued from page 1

"Yes, I will," Gaines replied. Rogers, Bellevue's pastor emeritus, was on hand for the occasion and spoke to the church and to Gaines after the vote.

"I am so happy. I am so thrilled," Rogers said. "I've been sitting out there weeping and laughing, praising our great God."

Gaines will be Rogers' first pastor since he was 19 years old.

"We gladly receive you as our pastor and first lady. We will listen to you, we will love you, we will support you and pray for you," Rogers said. "We will do anything that we can do to make your ministry all that God wants to be."

Gaines told Bellevue he and his family never intended to leave the Birmingham-area Gardendale church, that his plan was to stay there for the rest of his life. In fact, he withdrew his name twice from consideration, Gaines said in a press conference.

But, the committee kept pursuing, and he ultimately discerned God's leadership in coming to Bellevue.

"There may not be, in that

regard, a human reason why we're here, but I believe there's a heavenly reason why we're here," Gaines said.

"Today's not about Steve Gaines and it's not even about Bellevue Baptist Church. Today is about the kingdom of God and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Since Gaines began his ministry at Gardendale in 1991, the church's average morning worship attendance has increased from 1,600 to 3,300. The church has baptized 3,251 people during that time, leading the Alabama Baptist State Convention in baptisms seven times over the past 10 years.

Gaines and his wife, Donna, each graduated from Union University. Gaines completed his master of divinity and his doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. They have four children.

A close friend of Rogers, Gaines said he doesn't foresee any problems with following Rogers at Bellevue.

"I won't in any way feel like I have to emulate or imitate him," Gaines said. □

Baby left on porch of Lake City church

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

LAKE CITY — Members of Clear Branch Baptist Church here had their emotions challenged June 24 when a newborn baby girl was abandoned on its front porch, according to pastor James Lane.

"Everybody at the church is now doing good, and we are glad that the mother chose to call us," said Lane, who lives 12 miles away from the church in Clinton. "I've never experienced anything like this with a baby being abandoned. This is a first for me."

"We have been emotional about it all weekend. We got a lot of phone calls from people wanting to adopt the baby even as far away as Middle Tennessee. It's been overwhelming that so many people would want to take a new baby home."

Lane received an anonymous phone call at his home in Clinton from a young woman June 24 telling him about the baby being left at the church. He notified the Anderson County Sheriff's Department and some nearby church members in Lake City, who met the pastor and his

wife, Gwen, at the church and found a baby on a pink blanket.

"We thank the Lord that the baby was found," Lane said. "At first we didn't know if the call was real. We all arrived at the church the same time just after the Sheriff's men."

"I'm glad the mother called us. I don't know why the mother abandoned her baby, but I am glad she did what she did."

The Sheriff's Department has traced the baby to a phone booth where two women were reported seen making a call in the area, according to Lane.

"It shook up the church pretty good about the baby being left, and they have many emotions," said Sharon Stair, Clinton Baptist Association administrative assistant.

Even though it has been over two weeks since the baby was left at the church, the mother has not been found, according to local authorities. The baby, who was estimated to be a few days old, was taken to Children's Hospital at Knoxville where she was treated for dehydration and placed in the State Department of Health Services' foster care. □

Seminary group, Christian worker unhurt in London

Baptist Press

LONDON — A group of more than 50 students and faculty members from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was in London for a summer study program at Oxford University when terrorists bombed the city July 7, but officials at the seminary said the group members "are safe and accounted for, and were not in the areas affected" by the attacks.

Malcolm Yarnell, assistant dean for theological studies at the Fort Worth, Texas, campus and the leader of the London group, said they held a prayer session in response to the bombings and focused on Psalm 146:5-10.

"A number of people here at Oxford and at Regent's Park College have relatives who live and work in London," Yarnell reported. "We have been counseling and encouraging them and praying for their loved ones."

He added that the program's plans would proceed as normal, except a planned visit to London on Saturday might be canceled.

"We would appreciate Southern Baptists and other American Christians lifting up the British people in prayer during their time of tragedy," Yarnell said.

Tabatha Rains (named changed for security reasons), a Southern Baptist worker in London, had finished her term and was looking forward to flying home to Denver when the underground train she was aboard suddenly stopped.

It was a good bit later before she learned that a deadly attack on the city's transportation system had caused what at first seemed like an unnerving delay to the airport. Rains missed her flight, but she and fellow workers in the city were unharmed. A morning series of explosions had hit a bus and three trains, leaving hundreds injured, and some lost their lives.

"I don't think anybody thought there would be a terrorist attack," she said. "But God kept me safe."

It may be several days before Rains is able to reschedule her trip home. If that is the case, she feels confident that God wants her there for a reason.

An Islamic group, the "Secret Organization Group of Al Qaeda of Jihad in Europe," has claimed responsibility for a series of

bomb blasts that rocked London's transportation system to the height of rush hour.

SBC leaders at new 'network'

Baptist Press

WARSAW, Poland — A contingent of Southern Baptist leaders met with Baptist representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania July 1-2 in Warsaw, Poland, to contemplate conservative, evangelical missions and partnership in evangelism, planting, and theological education.

According to a joint statement released by SBC representatives to Baptist participants advocating the "absolute lordship of Christ, the recovery of historical doctrine," and they "common causes and about the rapid expansion of evangelism and church planting."

Discussion included missions but also cooperation in theological education, and several Southern Baptists expressed their interest in involvement with cooperative efforts in theological training, the statement said.

Questions arose at the meeting, regarding a decision to withdraw membership from the Baptist Alliance last year. At the statement release, SBC representative explained some of the reasons for the move and their intention "not to criticize of the BWA but encourage common partnership among Baptists." □

White House pastor serves in Crossover with long-time friend

Annie Davis Bushey
and Reflector

WHITE HOUSE — Michael Duff, pastor, Temple Baptist Church here, has a very close relationship with Junior Hill, evangelist of Hartselle, Ala.

It began when Duff was a member of a church in bus, Miss. Hill led a there. Hill also visited bus residents to share spel and invite them to tival. He was joined on of the visits by Duff, who st surrendered to a call lstry.

experience made an sion on Duff. He saw 86 made professions of uring the revival.

Twenty-six years later, Duff l visited homes together this time in White House of Crossover on Satur- ne 18. Crossover is an



FRIENDS Michael Duff, left, pastor, Temple Baptist Church, White House, and Junior Hill, evangelist of Hartselle, Ala., pause during the recent Crossover activities in White House.

evangelistic event held each year prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. This year the annual meeting was held in Nashville.

Hill, who is now in his 50th year of ministry and 38th as a

full-time evangelist, began to regularly encourage Duff after they met at the revival meeting. The two men still visit with each other about every month, either by phone or by e-mail. They discuss the ministry. Like

Hill, Duff was a full-time evangelist for seven years based in Springfield. He also has served as pastor of churches in Kentucky and Mississippi.

But they never discussed their plans related to the SBC annual meeting. So when Hill showed up at Temple Church to serve as a Crossover volunteer, Duff was surprised.

Duff thanked his mentor for asking to serve at Temple Church with Duff. Hill responded that he hadn't asked to be assigned to Temple but thought Duff had requested him. Then they realized they were experiencing a "divine appointment. God just kind of put us back together," said Duff.

So the two men visited homes together, again. They were joined by about 25 other volunteers. They included Carlisle Driggers, executive director of the South Carolina

Baptist Convention; three members of Ellendale Baptist Church in Memphis; and Roger Crew, who works at LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, and his wife, Sherry.

The volunteers visited about 60 homes that Saturday afternoon and identified about five families who are prospects for the church and other families who have needs. Temple Church draws about 380 to Sunday morning worship services.

Duff said he appreciated the efforts of James Porch, Tennessee Baptist Convention executive director, and Bobby Welch, SBC president, to organize Crossover and the evangelistic emphasis of the annual meeting. And he appreciated the chance to spend some time with Hill.

"He's given me my desire for evangelism and seeing people saved," he said. □

Tennessee/Texas team ...

Continued from page 1

a piece of equipment to hingles to the roofs of per praised the team, the budget for Deer as been tight in past

phenomenal what done," he said, adding work "just makes the 5 further."

ay Gage, leader of the son, Texas, group, said served as a member of arch team since the mid- only missing a couple of He thinks others are d to this type of mis- work because it is for all members, no matter e, and for all skill sets. nessee/Texas team was by several volunteers wensville, Mo., where a worked several years

participants learn on "No one's a professional e said. Instead, the vol- are schoolteachers, rs, homemakers, and lks.

added that a first-hand ce of missions is better

"than just hearing about it."

Lon Shourd, a deacon and song leader of the Scotts Hill Church, has joined the Tennessee/Texas team each year it has served.

He and his wife, a nurse, chose to participate partly because he has a flexible work schedule — he does contract telephone work — and his wife thought she might be needed to help anyone injured.

They continued because "it's just a blessing," he said. And they have fun. The Tennessee team has been trying to outnumber the Texas team since they began working together. They almost did it this year, Shourd noted.

"It was just a big blessing for them to come and help us," he said referring to the Texas group.

"We became great friends with them," he said.

He had never done missions work before. Since he began serving, he has learned Tennessee Baptists have similar groups.

One of the greatest parts of the experience is "meeting new friends," said Shourd. □

Nashville church hosts 'Hardball'

By Sara Horn
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — No battles were won and no moral issues were solved but guests on MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews" all agreed on one point: very few countries in the world besides the United States allow public debate like the one broadcast June 28 from Two Rivers Baptist Church here.

Focusing on the role of religion in American politics, the show's panelists offered a wide spectrum of views on such topics as the role of evangelicals in today's pluralistic society, the recent Supreme Court decision to ban the Ten Commandments from all courtrooms and the right to life, both at birth and at death in regard to the Terri Schiavo case.

Welcoming the studio audience before the show began, host Matthews relayed his experience at the recent Billy Graham crusade in New York and shared how impressed he was that such a diverse group of people was brought together by the elderly evangelist. "I don't discount the importance of religion in politics," Matthews said. "We're used to saying 'never argue politics or religion'; tonight we're doing both."

Jerry Sutton, senior pastor of Two Rivers, was among the panelists in the hour-long session that preceded President Bush's address to the nation. Also on the panel were Albert Pennybacker of the Clergy and Laity Network; Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council; Reza Aslan,



BOBBIE PATRAY, center, president of the Eagle Forum of Tennessee, makes a point during a panel discussion June 28 on MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews" at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville. Flanking Patray are Two Rivers pastor Jerry Sutton, right, and Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council. — Photo by Bill Peoples

a Muslim religious scholar; Bobbie Patray, president of the conservative Eagle Forum of Tennessee; and Mikey Weinstein, an Air Force cadet parent upset about perceived religious intolerance at the academy.

When asked by Matthews whether he wanted God to have a bigger presence in public life "in terms of reference, in our documents, in our currency ..." Sutton responded by saying, "What I don't want is the whole reference of God to be removed. Four references in our Declaration of Independence refer strictly to our Creator, the one who is divine Providence. And why remove that? I mean, that's our foundation. That's our heritage."

Other participants during the show included Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; Michael Schiavo's attorney George Felos; author and speaker

Tony Campolo; and former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore.

Following an exchange between Felos and Perkins on the involvement of the public and the government specifically in the Schiavo case, Land was asked by Matthews what role religious groups should play in instances like the Schiavo controversy and in cases of abortion.

"[As citizens,] we have a right to decide, along with other citizens, public policy," Land said. "If our moral views on these issues are based upon our religious convictions, we have a right to bring those religious convictions to bear. [Separation of church and state] was never intended to mean the separation of religiously formed moral values from public policy. We don't have a right to expect that we win automatically but we shouldn't be censored and we shouldn't be excluded." □



PRIDE was apparent during the project although the Tennessee missions team has served together for 10 years. Flags were hung on the houses being roofed. Tennesseans; Tennessee flag.

Union presents Dodd award to Adrian Rogers

Union University news office

JACKSON — Adrian Rogers, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, received the M.E. Dodd Denominational Service Award from Union University June 19 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting here.

Rogers is the second recipient of the Dodd Award, named in honor of the man who served as president of the SBC and who was the father of today's Cooperative Program. The award honors those who display "excellence and leadership in Southern Baptist life, as well as friendship and commitment to Union University," Union President David S. Dockery said.

Last year's recipient was Jimmy Draper, president of

LifeWay Christian Resources.

As pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church for 32 years, Rogers built one of the "great churches in Southern Baptist life," Dockery said. Rogers served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and was one of the key leaders of the conservative resurgence in the convention during the 1980s.

Dockery recalled his visit with Rogers in 1996, just after Dockery had been elected as president of Union University. The two men spent an hour in prayer.

"That was one of the most meaningful hours of my life," Dockery said.

Bellevue Baptist Church has sent many students to Union, and Dockery said Rogers and his wife Joyce have been great friends to the university.



UNION UNIVERSITY President David Dockery, left, presents the M.E. Dodd Award to Adrian Rogers, retired pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, as his wife, Joyce Rogers, looks on.

Rogers expressed his gratitude to Dockery and to Union

for being a university that stands for biblical truth. □

**TBC DR team
put on star**
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD
Tennessee Baptist Relief is currently on by to respond to Hurricane Dennis, according to Acres, state disaster director.

The state disaster feeding unit as well units had been scheduled leave July 12 for Evt Ala., but the unit stood down July placed on standby.

Contributions for Disaster Relief, Hurricane nis," are being accepted can be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Convention Box 728, Brentwood 37024. □

Governor appoints Porch to serve on ethics ...

— Continued from page 1

Bredesen expects to have completed all appointments to the 12-member advisory committee in the coming days and will then formalize the group through Executive Order, outlining the group's responsibilities, timeline, and scope of work.

In addition to Porch, other committee members include Ben Atchley, retired state senator from Knoxville; W.J. Michael

Cody, a former state attorney general (1984-88 and now an attorney in Memphis; Colleen Conway-Welch, dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Nashville; Veronica Davis-Coleman, founder of the National Institute for Law and Equity;

Rosetta Miller-Perry, president and publisher of the *Ten-*

nessee Tribune and Contemporary Magazine; Paul Neely, former publisher of the *Chattanooga Times*; Lyle Reid, former state supreme court justice; Bishop Joseph Walker III of Nashville; Larry Wallace, vice president for external affairs at Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens; and Alan Yuspeh, HCA executive. □

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Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training

On August 12 & 13, 2005, there will be an Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training at Knox County Baptist Association, 7709 Westland Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee. The topic of this conference will be "In the Name of Jehovah." Dr. Tal Davis, NAMB Interfaith Evangelism Manager and Specialist on Sects, Cults, and New Religious Movements will be leading the conference. The focus of his discussions will be on what Jehovah's Witnesses believe and how we can better witness to them. The times of this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost of the workshop is \$15 and the deadline for registration is August 5. To register or request additional information please contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 800-558-2090 or go to www.tnbaptist.org news & events or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org or thill@tnbaptist.org.

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August 12-13, 2005
Brentwood Baptist Church
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News headlines provide items for prayer



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Christians should never complain they have "nothing to pray about." All you have to do is pick any daily newspaper in this country and you will find more things to pray for than you will have time.

Since our last issue, several matters have developed that could be high on the list of prayer concerns for all Tennessee Baptists. Among them are:

Ten Commandments
On June 27 the U.S. Supreme Court sent mixed signals to the nation about the Ten Commandments. In one ruling, they said it was "ok" for a Ten Commandments monument on grounds of

the Texas capitol because it was donated by a non-government source. On the other hand, the judges ruled displays in two Kentucky counties violated the "establishment of religion" clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. I never have understood why the judges stopped reading the First Amendment after that statement. If you read on, it also says "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." I have maintained over and over that having the Ten Commandments displayed on a courthouse wall or somewhere on the grounds is not establishing a religion.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that few people are reading the Ten Commandments that are displayed. If they were, our nation would not be in the moral mess it is today.

While I think the Ten Commandments should be displayed if people want it, my prayer is that we do not get so caught up

in the "fight" to win the "battle" that we lose the "war."

More important than having the Ten Commandments on a courthouse wall is to have the Ten Commandments inscribed on your heart.

People are more likely to read and be impressed by the Ten Commandments when they see someone who makes a committed effort to live out the Lord's commands on a daily basis. If enough people made the Ten Commandments a part of their daily routine, it wouldn't matter if they were displayed elsewhere. Pray that our country never loses sight of the fact that God's laws given to Moses long ago are valid and needed today regardless of religious or non-religious beliefs.

New justice
With the announcement of the retirement of Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor, President George W.

Bush will be appointing a replacement. This needs to be a matter of deep prayer. We need a judge on this high court who will rule based on law and what is right, not on personal agenda.

Hurricane Dennis
The hurricane season is upon us "sooner than later" this year. As this is written Tennessee Baptists are waiting to find out if they will be needed to respond to Hurricane Dennis. Be in prayer for those affected by the hurricane. Also pray for David Acrès, our new state disaster relief director. This is his first "disaster" in his new role. Pray for wisdom and guidance for him and other disaster relief leaders in our state.

Keep abreast of what is going on in the news and pray. News headlines should cause us to pray "without ceasing" rather than becoming apathetic. God does hear our prayers and He will make a difference. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Seeking full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. Beautiful small town setting located near Cumberland College. Diverse membership with an average Sunday attendance of 140 and an active youth group. Must be able to work with both SBC and CBF. Parsonage optional. Seeking someone with an M.Div. degree and pastoral experience. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 230 S. 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Poplar Heights Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for senior pastor. For further information see www.poplarheights.com. Please e-mail resume to phbc@lwol.com or mail to Pastor Search Committee, Poplar Heights Baptist Church, 1980 Hollywood Dr., Jackson, TN 38305.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Friendship Baptist Church, Friendship, Tenn., 30 minutes from Union University, is seeking a music/youth minister. Submit resume to Personnel Committee Chairman, 1807 King Rd., Friendship, TN 38034.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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.

MINISTRY

Ministry coordinator: mature minister experienced as pastor, consultant, and lay leader seeks bivocational position in a Middle Tennessee church. Prefer responsibility for organizing and guiding volunteer workers in church organization and mission ministries. E-mail murchmin@aol.com.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville, is searching for a part-time minister of youth. Please send resume to jeff@cumberlandbaptist.org or 5600 Western Ave., Knoxville, TN 37921.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

What I did on summer vacation — a journey for Jesus



By Linda Roebuck

I made my first trip out of the country in June. Like many Tennessee Baptists before me, I led a group headed for Rio de Janeiro on an evangelistic trip by missionaries Ray and Sharon Fairchild. The trip was part of the Tennessee/Rio Baptist Partnership.

Uniquely, this was a youth group made up of high school and college students from around the state. Having met already at a pre-trip training in April, I was amazed at the spiritual depth and maturity of these young people and moved to make a vow to myself: I will never ever play Trivial Pursuit with any of them. Thank you, O Lord, for the blessing.

It's a long way to the south coast of South America. I can't admit to some cabin fever and stiff legs during the overnight flight. About 3 a.m., as I moved back toward the rest of the group where I could stretch my

legs, I heard a high-pitched hooting sort of laugh followed by a round of Portuguese "Shhh-hh's" coming from the next section. My new friend, Cornbread, a strapping, bristly, country boy who was one of our adults on the trip, had no idea how loud he was under the headsets as he watched the movie, "Hitch." This went on for several minutes until someone finally elbowed and clued him in. Yeah, I could've done it, but this was the best entertainment I'd had all night. I think deep down, those sleepy, irritated Brazilian passengers knew it was a good joke.

Finally in Rio, we deplaned, went through customs, got our bags and instructions, and boarded buses bound for Copacabana Beach. We had not been in Brazil long when I realized there was virtually no one else named Linda. It's an adjective there, not a proper noun. Try walking down the streets of a foreign country and saying, "Hi, I'm beautiful." It got several responses, most of which I pray fervently every night will be expunged from my otherwise happy box of Brazilian memories.

Watching Sharon organize such a detailed mission with calmness and humor was a joy.



LINDA ROEBUCK enjoys the company of some new friends in Brazil.

Ray prepared the group daily with wisdom and warmth for their purpose of winning souls to Jesus. There as a journalist, I got to observe teenagers go into desperate slums each day and joyfully and urgently tell those wonderful people about the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ. The first afternoon 128 folks made eternal decisions. Wow. Everyone couldn't wait to get back out the next day and share their testimonies again.

What a priceless experience. Over and over I heard, "I can't wait to get home and tell my friends at school about Jesus. It's not as hard as I always thought." Somewhere in Rio, many are celebrating their new faith, and back in Tennessee the mission is just beginning. □ — Roebuck is a columnist for the *Baptist and Reflector* and is a member of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, where her husband, Jon, is pastor.

Teaching English as a Foreign Language — "TEFL"

TEFL is a training workshop for short-term overseas mission volunteers who want to learn to share the gospel through teaching English as a foreign language. There will be a TEFL Workshop on August 5 and 6, 2005 in McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association located at 350 N. Congress Parkway, Athens, Tennessee. The workshop will be led by Anne Towns, Literacy Mission Consultant, Nashville. Friday, 6:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. are the times. The cost is \$20 registration fee. Breaks and meals are provided. Make checks payable to McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association. To register, contact Kathy Fain by calling (423) 649-0394 or (423) 745-2248 or download a form by going to www.tnbaptist.org/news&events. The deadline to register is July 25.

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH WORKSHOP

There will be a 16-hour Conversational English Workshop on July 22-24, 2005, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The times for this workshop will be Friday, 6-9 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 Kathy Hill at (615) 371-2032 or e-mail imarks@tnbaptist.org. The deadline is July 15, 2005.

CBF assembly oks partner proposal

Associated Baptist Press

GRAPEVINE, Texas — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship July 1 affirmed a long-awaited proposal for how the moderate group relates to its "partner" institutions and organizations — one of several key actions taken during the Fellowship's annual general assembly here.

The moderate Baptist group also approved revisions to its constitution and bylaws, but only after some unexpected debate. Nineteen missionaries were appointed and CBF officers were elected. A total budget of \$21.6 million was adopted for the next 12 months. A new offering for religious liberty and human rights brought in about \$45,000. Participants received training and inspiration in 91 workshops. And CBF Coordina-

tor Daniel Vestal challenged the Atlanta-based Fellowship to respond to global poverty and suffering.

The assembly — which drew 2,823 registered participants and about 400 others — overwhelmingly affirmed the report from a committee studying CBF's "partner" relationships, despite concern the plan favors the strongest partners and harms the most vulnerable. "We've adopted what seems to be a survival-of-the-fittest mentality," said David Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., in an interview after the vote July 1.

Rather than owning its own agencies and institutions, CBF channels local-church and individual contributions to support the ministry of more than 100 organizations, including 14 theological schools.

During the two-day assembly north of Dallas, participants approved constitution and bylaws revisions after turning

aside a move to make a commitment to Jesus Christ and evangelism explicit in the CBF purpose statement.

The old statement said, in part, the Fellowship's purpose is "to bring together Baptists who desire to call out God's gifts in each person in order that the gospel of Jesus Christ will be spread throughout the world in glad obedience to the Great Commission."

The first sentence of the revised statement says the CBF's purpose is "to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission."

Bob DeFoor of Harrodsburg,

Ky., alluded to the Southern Baptist Convention's "Baptist Faith and Message," which was criticized by moderate Baptists in 2000 for deleting a reference to Jesus Christ as the criterion for biblical interpretation. DeFoor said the CBF was in danger of a similar omission. "I don't think we should ever leave out Jesus Christ."

Dick Allison of Hattiesburg, Miss., chairman of the CBF

legal committee, said it was to bring the language of the Fellowship's governing documents in line with its mission statement. □

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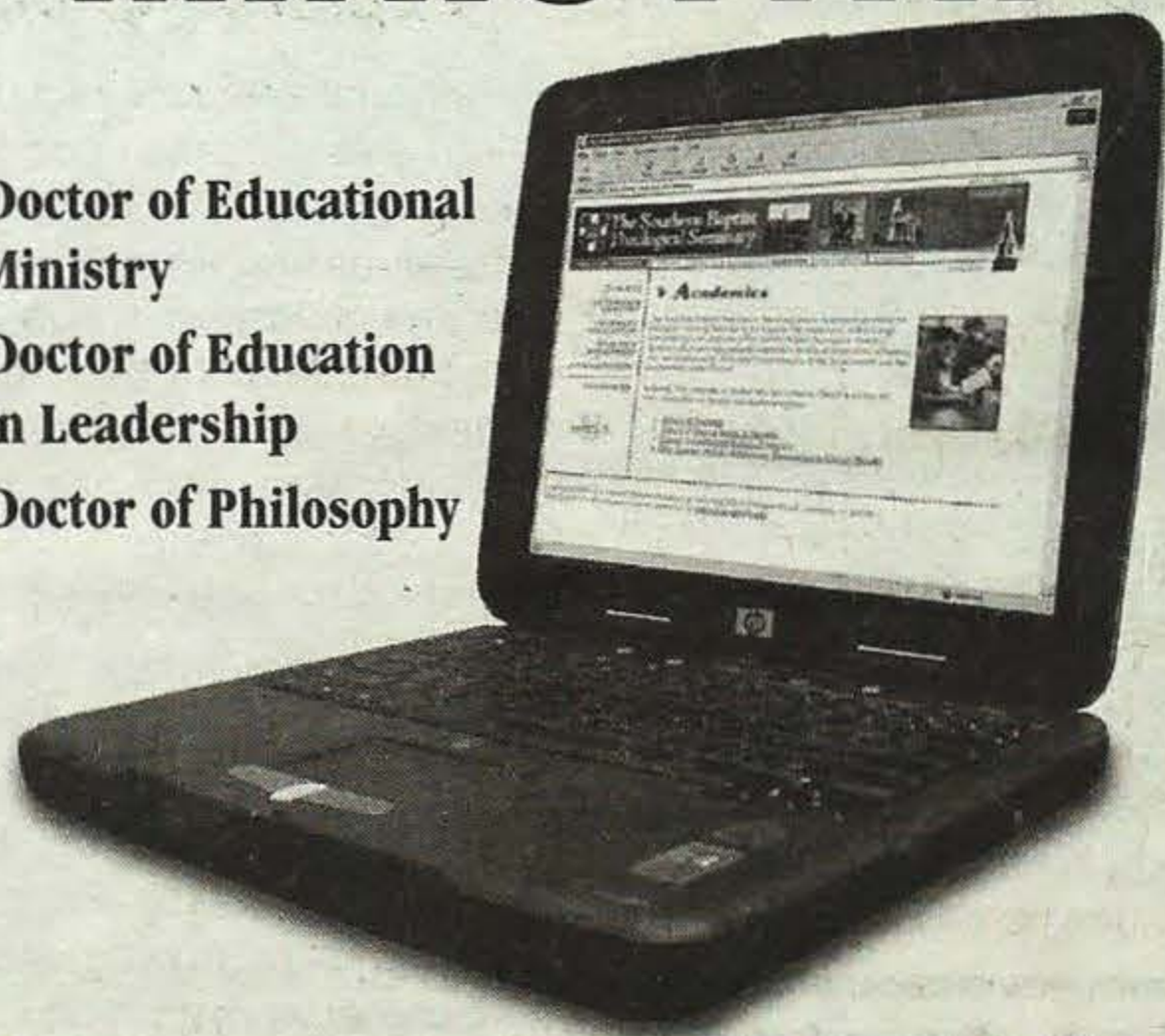
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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Position Available at TBCH

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., a ministry of the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, seeks a Vice President of Development and Communications who will serve Jesus Christ by raising funds for His ministry of caring for children in crisis.

This person must love Jesus Christ, have unexcelled personal integrity, be an active member of a Baptist church, understand Baptist polity, and be able to work successfully with Baptist people.

This person will plan and lead the development and communications programs of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes by:

- Personal cultivation and solicitation of donors
- Raising money through annual giving plans
- Long range planned giving
- Developing relationships with foundations
- Researching and applying for grants
- Special events and volunteer fund raising
- Designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating fund raising projects
- Understanding and implementing all forms of communications media
- Being a compassionate, empathetic listener
- Train, organize, motivate, lead, and evaluate staff

A successful experience in any combination of these segments is a plus. A baccalaureate degree in a related field is preferred, practical experience is essential.

The position reports to the President/Treasurer. It will involve overnight travel. It will be located in Metro Nashville. Excellent benefits provided. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Submit resume to Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., Attn: VP Development and Communications Search, P. O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024 or Office@tbch4kids.org.

MINISTRY — MU

Oak Street Baptist Church, Saddy-Daisy, Tenn., is seeking an additional staff person. Primary duty will be music. Additional duties based on the gifts and grace of the person called. Duties include children's outreach ministry, etc. While we are accepting applications to fill a full-time position, we would also consider bivocational minister with other duties only. Please send resumes to Oak Street Baptist Church, 11340 N. Oak Street, Saddy-Daisy, TN 37377. The attention of Senior Pastor Joe Miller.

Falling Water Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister to lead Sunday and Monday day worship services and choir. If interested, please contact us or send resume to Falling Water Baptist Church, Roberts Mill Rd., Hickory, TN 37343, (423) 888-8888, office@fallingwaterbaptist.org.

MINISTRY — POS

Trinity Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., is searching for a music director. If you are leading you to us, contact pastor Charles (731) 658-2593. Or send your resume to Trinity Baptist Church c/o Search Committee, P.O. Box 41, Box 38008.

MINISTRY — CHIL

Valley Grove Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor for children. Send to VGBC, Attn: Kim, 9000 Old Sevierville, Knoxville, TN 37920.

Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., is accepting for preschool/children's ministry. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul Br, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

Minister of children's ministry through 5th grade in a day care program. Duties include a degree, strong organizational ministry experience in school and children's ministry. Send resume to FBC, 3200 Mt. Olive Rd., Mt. 35117, Attn: Children's Search Committee.

book review

awn Ferguson

Through the Valleys

by Ernest Easley, Broadman & Holman, 2005

"an who is born of woman is of few days and full of
5le. — Job 14:1

honestly never asked God why," admits Ernest
ey after being told at the age of 40 that he had a
growing cancer somewhere in his body. Instead,
ey says he asked God why not? Why not Ernest
ey?

According to Easley, who is now the pastor of
Well Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia,
er blindsided him. "I had life by the tail. I was in
fifth year as the pastor of a growing, soul-winning,
non-minded church. My beautiful wife and I had
e healthy children. Our oldest child had just
ed off to begin his college career. Our other two
ren were involved in church and school activities.
were making a difference for God! And out of
ere came a detour."

his book is Easley's analysis of the many valleys
ent through prior to winning his cancer battle.
alleys include the valley of uncertainty, of fear, of
rs, of suffering, of storms, of discouragement, of
sion, of correction, and of sickness. Easley's pri-
message is that out of the valleys come victory
hat God uses storms for perfecting, for correcting,
For instructing — all of which he backs up with
cultural examples.

very valley has value. God teaches you things in
alleys that you would never learn on the moun-
ops."

ter 44 rounds of radiation, which damaged his
h and esophagus to the point where he needed a
g tube for six months to survive, Easley claimed
bry and began seeing the good that could come
his storm. "I admit that when the doctor's report
back that I had cancer, I knew that October 12,
was the worst day in my life. How could any-
be worse? But now that the storm has passed, I
e that what I thought was the worst thing really
d out to be the best thing that could have hap-
l. Thousands of lives have received ministry
gh my storm."

sley believes that God wants to know you trust
when you're in a valley. "...frankly, you really do
now if you trust God until you have to — that is,
ntil He's all you have left. It is easy to say — of
e, I trust God. It is another thing to be in the val-
d trust God."

ances are you know someone fighting the cancer
. This is a story of one man's victory, of one man's
on to take something bad and turn it into some-
good, of one man's growth in the valley. It's a
of encouragement and hope, a story that should
ired.

u can rejoice knowing that through the valleys
arn the truth of God's Word and to trust God's
Is it easy? Absolutely not. Nobody every said it
a fact, it may be the hardest thing you ever expe-
and endure. Is it worth it? Absolutely." □ — Fer-
is a correspondent for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Being joyful

By Michael Adams

Focal Passage: Philippians 4:4-19

William Borden was born into a wealthy American family and educated at Yale and Princeton. He gave his life and fortune to Christ. At age 25 he died from cerebral meningitis while serving as a missionary in Cairo. All of his life Borden embraced the motto: "No reserve, no retreat, and no regrets." For William Borden this was the essence of rejoicing in the Lord. Dr. William Barclay says that joy is the distinguishing atmosphere of the Christian life. Paul's letter to the Philippian church is written to his beloved congregation, and the theme is joy. In the verses for the focal passage of this lesson, Paul presents a dissertation on the subject of joy. Charles Swindoll in his book, *Laugh Again*, reminds the reader that there are two kinds of people in the world; people who choose joy, and people who do not. Paul's encouragement to every Christian is to rejoice in several directions.

A major contribution of the apostle to the understanding of joy is that it hinges around our thought life. For the Philippian church, to rejoice is to keep their minds on that which is true. To engage in this activity the believer must read, meditate on, and analyze the Word of God. To rejoice, our minds must be on the "honorable" things of life. There are the

subjects worthy of reverence and worship. Our minds must also dwell on "whatever is right." The adjective "kikaiois" is used here and is best translated "righteous." We are also to think on those things which are "pure" which is best defined by "holy," "morally clean," and "undefiled." To rejoice, our minds are to be fixed on that which is "lovely." Here the concept of "sweet," "gracious," "generous," and "patient" is present. To round out our joyful thinking, we should remember that which is of "good repute." Paul's intention is that we keep our mind on the "highly regarded" and "well thought of."

A second consideration of Paul about rejoicing is that we know how to handle things. In life there are those who use friends and horde things. There are also those who use things and horde friends. True joy comes to the person who knows that people are more important than the world's stuff. They, therefore, know the art of Christian contentment. Abraham Lincoln was walking down the street with his two sons who were crying and fighting. "What's the matter with the boys?" a friend asked. "The same thing that is wrong with the whole world," Lincoln replied. "I have three walnuts, and each of the boys wants two." Most people today think that joy comes from the things that they own. In reality, things can rob us of the only kind of joy that really lasts. Paul's statement of contentment

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series July 17

at this point does not suggest that the Christian should dispense of ambition. However, Paul does recommend that for real joy to be present, we must place our ambition under God's control.

Finally, Paul suggests that to rejoice we have to be thankful. Brian Harbour writes, "Anxiety says, 'I am not able to deal with this situation.' Thanksgiving says, 'Praise God; He is able to deal with this situation, for all things are possible with Him.'" Of course, the key difference between the two expressions is thanksgiving. If praise is the recognition of who God is, then thanksgiving is the recognition of what God has done. Some years ago, a well-dressed young man came to a priest in Paris for counseling. He complained of being depressed. The old priest said, "There is a clown in our town by the name of Grimaldi. You should go to see him. He is always joyous because of the life he leads." To that the young man responded to the old priest, "But sir, I am Grimaldi, and I have nothing for which to be joyous or thankful." Far too many in life have happiness on the outside but no joy on the inside. □ — Adams is pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington.

How to live as redeemed people

By Brad Shockley

Focal Passage: Ezekiel 34:2b-5, 10a, 16-24

You won't get far in Scripture before encountering it. Abel, Rachel, Moses, and David were all prominent figures in the Old Testament sharing it (Genesis 4:2, 29:9; Exodus 3:1; I Samuel 16:11). The most popular Psalm of all time is about it (Psalm 23). Have you guessed it? It's *shepherding*. For some reason, God has great affinity for this ancient profession. Maybe it's because human beings, the pinacles of His creation, are so much like sheep in need of a shepherd. Various Old Testament texts support this: *All of us like sheep have gone astray* (Isaiah 53:6); God is called "the Shepherd of Israel" by the psalmist (Psalm 80:1); and *He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand* (Psalm 95:7a).

There is a parallel shepherd/sheep motif in the New Testament. Shepherds were the first to hear of Christ's birth (Luke 2:8). Jesus is the "good shepherd" (John 10:11) and the "Chief Shepherd" (I Peter 5:4). Followers of Christ are affectionately called a "flock" (Luke 12:32, Acts 20:28-29, I Peter 5:2-3). And pastors are Christ's undershepherds given oversight of the flocks, since the word "pastor" (Ephesians 4:11) comes from the Greek word for — you guessed it — "shepherd."

Two sobering admonitions are given to pastors in the Bible, one by Paul and the other Peter. Paul called together the Ephesian elders (a term synonymous with pastor) warning, *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock* (Acts 20:28-29). Peter cautioned the elders of his first epistle with *shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock* (I Peter 5:2-3).

Spend some time studying the apostles' words above, then carefully reread Ezekiel 34. Notice the congruent thoughts. The priests and elders of Ezekiel's day (referred to as "shepherds") were neglecting the flock. They engrossed themselves in selfish gain at the expense of the sheep: *You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock* (Ezekiel 34:3). This lack of concern left the people vulnerable to attack from "beasts of the field" (Ezekiel 34:5,8), insinuating that

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible July 17

God held the leaders responsible for the nation's turn away from God and consequent exile to a foreign land. And bringing more condemnation upon themselves, these pitiful shepherds lorded it over Israel "with force and with severity... dominat[ing] them" (Ezekiel 34:4).

God, the Great Shepherd, sees His people as sheep, appointing shepherds to watch over them. Thus, God's ire is raised when these select few shirk their duties. This truth is particularly convicting for me, a pastor, and should be for every church leader — even Sunday School teachers. Be reminded that our adversary, the devil, *prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour* (I Peter 5:8). Consider what Jesus said, *Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves* (Matthew 10:16). And know that every leader is accountable before God for how he cares for, protects, leads, and feeds His precious sheep. *Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment* (James 3:1). □ — Shockley is pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill.



Funding missions in Tennessee
and around the world

Deaths

◆ **Virgel Crockett Hazlewood**, 84, of Gadsden, died recently. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Gadsden; South Fork Baptist Church, Friendship; and Enon Baptist Church, Halls. He also served several other churches.

◆ **Charles McMinn**, 77, of Nashville, died June 29 after a long illness. He was retired director of church development, Nashville Baptist Association, from 1986-93. He also was minister of education, Union Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis; Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville; First Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.; University Baptist Church, Baltimore; First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va.; First Baptist Church, Ware Shoals, S.C.; and Arlington Heights Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. McMinn was involved in the denomination as president of the Tennessee Religious Education Association, an organizer of the Virginia Baptist Religious Education Association, of which he served as president, and a member of the Executive Board of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. He was a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, and Mercer University, Macon, Ga. He is survived by his wife, Louise, and three adult children.

Leaders

◆ **Eric Hinson** of Crossville was recently called as associate pastor and music director of First Baptist Church, Fairfield Glade. He is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary. Hinson has served for 32 years in



HINSON

music, education, and youth ministry in churches in Tennessee, Louisiana, and Georgia and as a church starter/interim pastor for one year. He also has worked in insurance for 14 years.

◆ **Charles "Sonny" Works** was called as pastor to Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Harriman, effective June 26. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sunbright for the past seven years.

◆ First Baptist Church of Oliver Springs has called **Barry Ariaz** of McMinnville as pastor.

◆ **Michael Gunter**, minister of education and outreach at North Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland, is the author of *A Life Not Wasted*,

published by Gazelle Press in 2005.

◆ Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Baxter, recently called **Tracy Gross** as pastor. A graduate of the University of Indiana with a bachelor degree, he also has a master degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary, Camilla, Ga. Gross has served as a chaplain and bereavement coordinator for a hospice.

◆ **Ken Eudy** has been called as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church of Humboldt.

◆ Gibson Baptist Church, Gibson, called **Gilbert Tucker** as pastor.

◆ Kenton Baptist Church, Kenton, called **Phillip Wetzel** as minister of youth.

◆ **Todd Delaney** has resigned as pastor of Northside Baptist Church, Milan.

◆ **Jeff Fletcher**, a member of Point Pleasant Baptist Church, Buchanan, recently led a 19-member dental team from Englewood Baptist Church, Memphis, to Macedonia, north of Greece, where it served for two weeks. Fletcher is a dental student at University of Tennessee at Memphis and also is a member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries.

Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church of Hohenwald** will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 17-18. The church was organized



THESE 25 MEMBERS of Spring Creek Baptist Church, Clarksville, joined about 300 others in Vero Beach, Fla., for the World Changers project. They painted, roofed, and repaired homes and participated in World Changers activities. Youth participating were Adam Blackmon, Nick Blackmon, Jeremy Blackmon, Josh Burger, Stephen Burger, Jarib Burnett, and Chris Burnett. Adults participating were Donna Berry, Phillip Berry, Judy Blackmon, Gail Branham, Brett Burchwell, Rita Burnett, Debra Kennedy, Tim Kennedy, Tim Morgan, Audra Morris, Hele, Ray Morris, Rena Siske, Julie Simoni, Will Tucker, Nancy Kerri Burchwell, youth leader, and Paul Burger, pastor.

by James Harvey Hull. For information, contact Joanne Hyatt at (931) 796-3643 or the church office at (931) 796-3062.

◆ **Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville**, held its second annual Confidence in Christ Women's Conference recently. Becky Howard spoke on developing a spirit of purity and stillness. About 40 women from several churches and the community attended the one-day conference.

◆ **Temple Baptist Church of Old Hickory** will observe its 60th anniversary July 24 with a homecoming celebration and groundbreaking for its new worship facility in Lakewood. A potluck dinner also will be held.

◆ **Friendship Church, Delano**, held its 179th anniversary homecoming July 3 with a worship service featuring Earl T. Maryville as guest speaker. A covered dish meal and afternoon singing service followed the service. Friendship Church is the oldest church in Delano County.

◆ **Central Baptist Church, Johnson City**, held groundbreaking events for its new ground and celebrated 136 years of service.

◆ **Promise Land Baptist Church, Old Hickory**, is offering to rent, lease, or buy a new church building in Madison or Inglewood. For information, call Ferrell at (615) 262-393.



Baptist and Reflector Day Sunday, Aug. 21

Your church is invited to join hundreds of other churches across the Tennessee Baptist Convention in observing Sunday, Aug. 21, as *Baptist and Reflector* Day.

Inform friends and family about the *Baptist and Reflector* as the staff "tells the story of Tennessee Baptists." The *B&R* brings you news, features, inspirational columns, editorials, Sunday School commentaries, and more each week.

To help more people become aware of their Baptist paper, we offer your church free copies to distribute on *B&R* Day to every member in your church.

Complete this form and mail to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. You can also fax it to (615) 371-2080 or call Susie Edwards at (615) 371-2003 to request free copies. Send form by Thursday, Aug. 11.

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Carl Scarlett retires as pastor of LaVergne church after 32 years

For Baptist and Reflector

LA VERGNE — Carl Scarlett, pastor, Miracle Baptist Church here, is already golfing and fishing and preaching a revival or two, he reported. Scarlett recently retired after serving 32 years at the church and a



SCARLETT

total of 41 years as pastor of four Tennessee churches.

He is looking forward to spending some time with friends and family including nine grandchildren, he said, and finding "God's redirection for the rest of our life."

He has learned that the role of a pastor is to "love the people unconditionally." You should be present when a church member has a major crisis in their family, he added.

A pastor shouldn't "run when the going gets tough and it will because we're all human and we have different opinions," observed Scarlett. He and the

Miracle congregation have through several crises.

"I have pastored a church. I'm the only full-time pastor they've had," he said. Eighty percent of the church members have joined who were not when he was pastor. He regretted spending more time with his wife and children.

Scarlett is proud of the church has baptized an average of 30 people a year, from 235 to 1,253 members. He has directed two major building programs and two remodeling programs, added a youth ministry staff, and developed the Days Out program which has 104 enrolled. The church reaches people through the program, he noted.

Scarlett has served as president of the 1993 Tennessee Baptist Convention Pastors Conference, vice president of the in 1996, and vice president of the TBC Executive Board. He served for six years on the board's budget committee and presently serves on the Committee on Committees. He and his wife, Pauline, have retired in Smyrna. □