

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171/No.26; July 20, 2005

this
week's
news

Via Internet

Former porn site developer now ministers

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — It took a broken heart for Michele Washam to finally realize that she was breaking the hearts and lives of countless women.

In 1995 while living in Delaware, Washam designed what may have been the first "ladies only" adult pornographic web site, Just4Ladies.com.

That site still exists 10 years later, but with a new focus — Jesus Christ.

Washam, who now serves as the secretary for West End Baptist Church here, is not proud of the fact she designed several adult web sites. She readily admits she was not "addicted" to pornography. For her, it was all about money.

"It was a huge industry at the time," she recalled. "My income was incredible — an average of about \$24,000 a week."

Washam said that though she felt some guilt (being raised by devout Catholic parents, she knew better), the money kept



A FORMER adult web site developer and operator, Michele Washam now serves as a church secretary at West End Baptist Church, Newport, and uses the web as a ministry tool to reach men and women for Christ.

her from pulling the plug on her lucrative web site.

She realized that what she was doing was destroying the family values she cherished. Still, the money was hard for her to give up.

It finally took a major, life-changing event "for me to realize I needed to change," Washam said.

Washam, who had three children from a prior marriage, had been engaged for three years to a man she loved very much. Out of the blue he called her one day and told Washam he did not love her and was leaving.

"I had the rug pulled out from under me," said Washam, who readily admits she con-

sidered suicide.

One day, while walking alone on a Florida beach and looking out over the ocean, Washam "called out to God and He answered."

"I said, God if you're really there, please help. Instantly I felt Him plant seeds of faith in my heart. I knew instantly He was going to help me," Washam said.

Washam also knew that if she was going to ask God for something she needed to do something in return. "I immediately took down my porn site and refunded thousands of dollars," she said.

Washam is convinced now more than ever of the evil of pornography and the need to protect one's home from it.

She's remorseful that she helped contribute to people's addiction to pornography, but she has turned it all over to God. "I have forgiven myself because I know the Lord has forgiven me and I am doing my best to make up for it," Washam said.

— See Former, page 6

Tennesseans aid hurricane victims

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Feeding Unit and its 41 volunteers returned home Friday, July 15, after preparing 6,500 meals at Evergreen Baptist Church in Evergreen, Ala., for victims of Hurricane Dennis, according to David Acres, state disaster relief director.

"I was told this is one of the best operations that we have had in disaster relief," said Acres, who was responding to his first disaster in his new role.

"It was the smoothest run feeding operation personnel and equipment wise."

Prior to leaving the state, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief used a new Federal Emergency Management Agency ordering system through the SBC North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., to have supplies and equipment delivered for their operation in Alabama.

"At least 1,000 meals were sent out on each Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV)," said Larry Triplett, a member of First Baptist Church

of Concord in Knoxville. "Two Tennessee volunteers also rode on the ERVs. Some of the meals were also delivered to nursing homes, prisons, and jails."

Triplett agreed with Acres about the efficiency of the operation in Evergreen.

"Everything that we asked for like ice, water, and other supplies including a fork lift was here waiting on us when we arrived at the church. Even the American Red Cross had brought extra cambros to pack the meals in to send out on the ERVs. We told them what we wanted, and we got it."

"Volunteers from across Tennessee traveled July 13 to Alabama with the Tennessee feeding unit, the wash support unit, the new generator unit, the refrigeration tractor trailer, and a shower trailer from First Church of Concord in Knoxville," noted Acres. "The team was asked to prepare 10,000 meals per day."

A fund for the Disaster Relief Response to Hurricane Dennis has been established. Donations may be sent to the "Hurricane Dennis Disaster Relief" fund at Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

All hurricane response gifts will be administered by the TBC, based on the Disaster Relief Gift policy that has been adopted by the Executive Board, according to William Maxwell, TBC administrative director. The policy provides that all gifts designated towards Hurricane Dennis will be used in response to this disaster. Funds will be utilized to transport equipment, vehicles, volunteers, and other materials to the relief site, purchase food supplies, and other materials used in the response, and to provide direct support to victims of the hurricane. Funds not used by the TBC in response to Hurricane Dennis will be forwarded to state conventions impacted directly by the hurricane designated for disaster relief work. Staff salaries and general operating expenses for disaster relief are provided by the gifts of Tennessee Baptists through the Cooperative Program and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

Donations may also be given to disaster relief with no specific disaster indicated. These gifts will be used to purchase new or replacement disaster relief equipment. □

Urgent appeal

Dear Tennessee Baptists:

Thirty-two new church starts depend upon Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions monies we will receive in the next month.

The 2004 state missions offering is greatly needed to enable these new church starts to begin their ministries.

While the emphasis on the 2005 Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions begins in September, currently we must meet our goal of \$1,625,000 to initiate these starts.

May I prayerfully encourage you to promptly send your 2004 offerings. Fifty cents of each dollar of the state missions offering goes directly to new church starts.

James Porch
Executive Director, TBC

Dewey and Bobbie
Dunn report on bless-
ings, barriers of their
latest missions trip to
another country. —
Page 3

Editor of Biblical
Recorder, others dis-
cuss grief. — Page 4

Check out state events
the "Green Light." —
Pages 7-10

Horis June Large dis-
cusses her commit-
ment to funding mis-
sions. — Page 11

R&R Day set
for Aug. 21

ist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Sunday,
Aug. 21, is recognized on the
calendar of the Tennessee
Baptist Convention as Bap-
tist and Reflector Day.

The annual event is
designed to introduce Ten-
nessee Baptists to their state
paper.

"Many of our churches
do not have members who
have moved in from out of
state or have joined from
another denomination," said
Lonnie Wilkey.

These Tennessee Bap-
tists may not even know they
have a resource like the Bap-
tist and Reflector available to
them," he said.

R&R Day also is a good
opportunity to re-introduce
the paper to people who may
not have seen it for some
time," he added.

Churches can order free
copies of the Aug. 17 issue for
members.

To order copies, call the
office at 1-800-558-
ext. 2003, or fax or
e-mail the form found on page
11 of this issue.

The deadline for ordering
copies is Aug. 11. □

about your newsjournal

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Shorter College motion denied

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — The Supreme Court of Georgia has denied Shorter College's motion for reconsideration of the court's decision in *Shorter v. Georgia Baptist Convention*, convention attorney Tom Duvall reported July 1.

The court, in a 4-3 decision May 23, upheld a Georgia Court of Appeals ruling that Shorter College's actions to sever ties with the Georgia Baptist Convention be set aside as outside the bounds of state corporate law.

A DeKalb County Superior Court judge, in April 2003, had allowed Shorter to dissolve and transfer its assets to the newly formed Shorter College Foundation Inc., thus discontinuing the Georgia Baptist Convention's selection of the college's trustees.

In March 2004, a three-judge panel of the Georgia Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the convention's appeal. Shorter then took the case to the Georgia Supreme Court.

Now that the state's high court has denied Shorter College's motion to reconsider, the case will be remanded back to the Superior Court of DeKalb County. In the meantime, attorneys from both sides will begin the process of returning the school to the authority of the convention.

J. Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, said he was pleased that the court rejected the motion for reconsideration of the case.

"This has been a long and difficult process for our convention and we are grateful that it is finally coming to a successful conclusion," White said. "We now look forward to the return of Shorter College to our Georgia Baptist Convention family. Every effort will be made to create a smooth transition. It is our sincere desire that Shorter College be a fully accredited Baptist college."

"Obviously, we have never agreed with our challengers that being an accredited college and being a Baptist college are mutually exclusive conditions," White added. "Clearly, Baptist convention relationships with their accredited colleges decry such a notion."

Shorter College was founded in 1873 and has been affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention since 1959. □

Most U.S. doctors believe in God

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A survey in the latest issue of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* found that three-fourths of doctors in the United States believe in God, and more than half are

SBC DR serves 30,000 meals following Dennis

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have prepared nearly 30,000 meals for victims of Hurricane Dennis.

While many disaster relief services are winding down in Alabama and Georgia following Dennis, the American Red Cross has requested that Southern Baptist Disaster Relief officials prepare to deploy mobile kitchen-units for Hurricane Emily, which is expected to strike southern Texas this week.

"We've been asked to bring 10 to 12 feeding units to serve in the Brownsville and Corpus Christi area," said Terry Henderson, Southern Baptist national disaster relief director from the North American Mission Board's disaster relief operations center near Atlanta.

"We're in the process of gearing up for this operation now," he said. "They're expecting landfall by Wednesday or Thursday [July 20-21] and are predicting it will be a Category 4 hurricane once it reaches Mexico. The big concern in Texas is flooding and citizens from Mexico who will

come across the border for food."

While some feeding kitchens and cleanup crews will remain in Florida and Alabama now, operations where most of the damage Dennis occurred are being reduced, Henderson said.

"We're starting to scale back in Florida. The projection is that one Georgia feeding kitchen will need to remain in through next week," Henderson said. "Also, Florida and Georgia have cleanup crews working through next week in the Florida Panhandle near Milton."

Typically, when power is restored and restaurants in an affected area reopen, the American Red Cross starts curtailing services, Henderson said. "There's obviously lots of damage, but it's not as massive as what was wrought by Hurricane Ivan, unless of course your house was hit."

In addition to feeding and cleanup efforts in Florida and Alabama, volunteers from Georgia are expected to start working in southern Georgia doing mud-out operations from flooding caused by Dennis. □

influenced in their medical practices by their religion.

The survey of 1,044 doctors found that 76 percent said they believe in God, 59 percent said they believe in some sort of afterlife, and 55 percent said their religious beliefs influence how they practice medicine.

"We were surprised to find that physicians were as religious as they apparently are," Farr Curlin, a researcher at the University of Chicago's MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, told the AP. "There's certainly a deep-seated cultural idea that science and religion are at odds."

Curlin said while medicine is science-based, doctors differ from scientists who work primarily in a laboratory setting, and their direct contact with patients in life-and-death situations may explain the differing views. A previous survey reported that fewer than half of scientists believe in God. □

Barna examines SS changes

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The Barna Research Group has found that Sunday School is still one of the great mainstays of ministry, holding steady in a culture of theological transformation. And while the general concept of Sunday School remains in place in most churches, certain details surrounding its practice are evolving with the times.

Barna found that 19 out of every 20 Protestant churches offer "a Sunday School in which people receive some form of planned or systematic Bible instruction in a class setting," and across denominations Sunday School remains one of the most widely embraced ministry programs.

One change Barna noticed was that churches are increasingly less likely to offer classes for children under the age of 5 and for junior high and high

school students, which researchers calculated as 20,000 fewer churches providing Sunday School for each age group. The most common Sunday School programming is offered for elementary age children and for adults, Barna found.

Another emerging change in Sunday School is that congregations are moving toward "customized" curriculum, meaning they create their own. Southern Baptist churches are among those least likely to customize their material, with just 4 percent reporting such a practice.

Barna also found that since 1997, there has been a 15 percent decline in the percentage of churches offering Vacation Bible School. Southern Baptists were among those most likely to continue the tradition, but other denominations are moving away from the program, citing a lack of teachers as the most common reason.

While further examining educational programs beyond Sunday School in churches, Barna discovered a 10 percent drop in the proportion of churches that have midweek programming for children, representing 20,000 fewer churches providing such opportunities. Again, midweek programming for children was most common among Southern Baptists. □

G8 Summit's focus on Africa needed: missionaries

Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Politicians, celebrities, and activists turned the world's eyes toward Africa during the international Group of Eight (G8) meeting in Scotland July 6-8.

The G8's shared goals: to save lives and eradicate poverty on the continent.

For more than 150 years, Southern Baptists have been working toward the same goals in Africa. Some of the first

Southern Baptist missionaries landed in Liberia and Nigeria in the mid-19th century. They confronted the same problems as Africa now — including disease and poverty.

Today, hundreds of international Mission Board missionaries work throughout the continent. While they struggle to alleviate physical suffering and death on a daily basis, a main concern is Africa's spiritual lostness. According to some estimates, just one of all Africans claim Christianity. Christian workers, however, know this statistic is likely understated. In many cultures, you are not Muslim or you are not Christian — you are "born again" or "born again" is widespread. Evangelical believers numbered 116 million in the year 2000, according to Operation World statistics. Africa's total population tops 900 million.

Through the years, the international Mission Board has made some hard choices about how to spread the gospel in a culturally appropriate way. Hatfield, an IMB missionary for central, eastern and southern Africa, said the decision not to do missions the way — by sending missionaries to replicate Western churches — was a good shift.

"The Western idea of a church with four walls, a roof, concrete floor, and a salary-trained pastor is reproduced by local churches in quantities sufficient to reach all of Africa," the veteran missionary said. "It is so easy for missionaries and mission volunteers to focus on how good it feels to fund and see physical results of their aid. But we need the same good feelings from African churches and their leaders depend on the resources they are providing."

"Africa has the resources, both human and physical, to be independent of outside help," Hatfield insisted. □

medical missions

Dunns see blessings despite barriers in Santos, Brazil

Donnie Davis Bushey
Artist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Dewey and Bobbie Dunn know the adage is flexible when involved in missions. Dewey, a Nashville gastroenterologist, and Bobbie, who participated in 70 short-term missions projects, lead many of them, in 10 countries over the past 25 years.

When the medical clinics and about 50 health care workers were leading June 3-4 in Santos, Brazil, weren't permitted to continue work by government officials, they were sad but not surprised. They also weren't surprised that God worked through the situation to bring many blessings, the couple reported. They are members of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

The Dunns have had similar experiences in several other American countries. They have always been disappointed despite the fact that health care work was cancelled. In fact, one time they returned to Venezuela to do

missions without health to a mission and how could use them.

They have also relocated so local medical workers don't view the clinics by North Americans as common. But this time they did not do that, said Bobbie Dunn.

The 50 volunteers were a part of the third annual mission team of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship. Dunn led all of them in Brazil. The BMDF also has served in Poland. Dewey is a former president of the BMDF. The team members came from eight different



DEWEY AND BOBBIE DUNN of Nashville, leaders of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship team, accept T-shirts from team members reading "No Stress Santos." The gifts referred to the stress of working with local government officials.

Questions

The Dunns and Brazilian Baptists and others they worked with aren't sure why the team didn't receive government permission to hold the clinics in Santos, which is located near the city of São Paulo. Many clinics have been held by Baptists in the Rio de Janeiro area and other areas of the huge country with government

days and then suspended services when official permission still had not been received. Team leaders acted so as not to "embarrass Brazilian Baptists," said Dewey Dunn, who also is a faculty member of Vanderbilt University Medical School.

The two clinics treated 977 people in the two days. Of those, 183 people made profes-

sions of faith and seven rededicated their lives to Christ. All of the medicines

and eyeglasses were left behind with the churches to assist the government clinic.

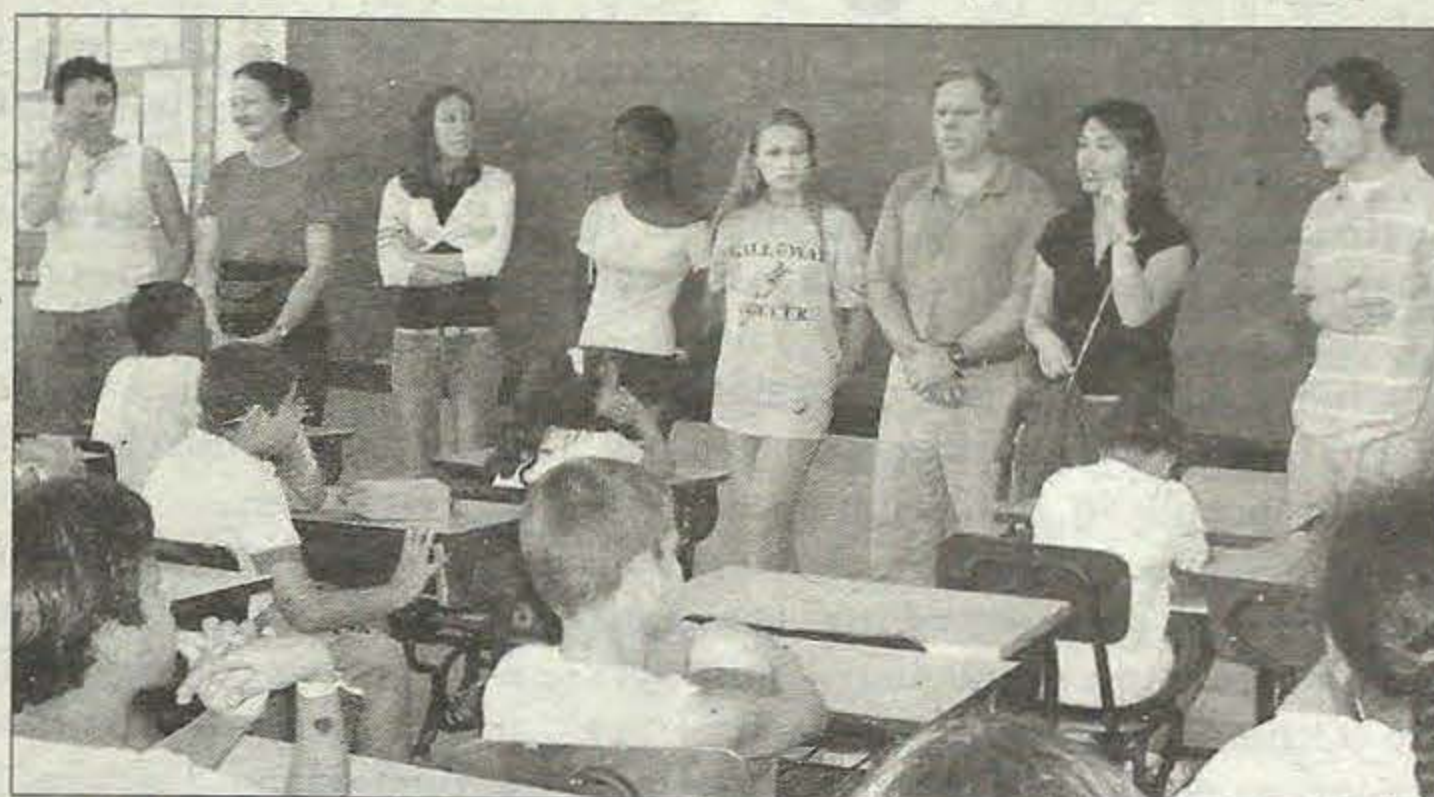
Other blessings

One of the main blessings of the experience was that medical workers were recruited by local Baptists to continue the clinics, said Dewey Dunn. They did and as a result, the medical workers learned about the need of the many poor Brazilians for health care and even worked in Baptist churches. The team heard that about 3,000 people were waiting for one of the clinics on the third day. People in the community were learning about the opportunity to receive health care.

Another blessing was that Brazilian medical workers who inspected the clinics learned about the need. An optometrist and physician who inspected the clinic being directed by Bobbie Dunn returned the next day to serve.

Bobbie Dunn explained the country does have government clinics for the poor, but people in Brazil often don't have money to travel by bus to the clinics and don't have money to buy eyeglasses or medicine prescribed by the government clinics.

The team was able to speak to students at a public school.



TEAM MEMBERS with help from translators speak to students of a public school in their classroom. The team members include Teresa Clark Fowler, second from left, president of BMDF and physician of Atlanta, Ga.; and Emily Buckner, third from left, 14, of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

They also spoke in seven Baptist churches.

They still saw the wonders that draw many back to overseas medical missions work. Jolly Johnson, a dentist of Houston, Texas, broke his policy while in Santos. He repaired the many decayed teeth of a young girl although his policy for missions work is to repair one tooth per person.

One woman

Clara Williams of Jackson was a wonder, said Dewey Dunn. Despite undergoing surgery and chemotherapy recently for cancer, she participated. Williams is a retired missionary to Brazil who served there 35 years. She was a translator and led the evangelism effort at the eye clinic.

Williams stayed to visit friends in Brazil, where she arrived by boat in 1965, and conducted several projects. She assisted a team from First Baptist Church, Jackson, who served in

Menas Gerais. They saw 250 people make professions during their project, which included building a church facility, Williams reported.

Another highlight for the team was the children and grandchildren accompanying health care workers. Without their presence, "we would have had a lot more disappointments," said Dewey. Team members also enjoyed their family time by visiting the beach, churches, and museums.

Personal views

Philosophic, Dewey Dunn noted "the enigma" of the experience is that he returned to Nashville to do what he had planned to do in Brazil. For three weeks following the trip Dunn helped conduct medical clinics held by a Baptist



PROMOTING THE Baptist and Reflector on her hat is Bobbie Dunn, left, on a tour of the harbor with her daughter, Debbie Gregory, a nurse from First Baptist Church, Franklin, The People's Church.

church for folks in a government-subsidized housing project and by Vanderbilt University medical and nursing students for Hispanic folks and the Somali Bantu people living in an apartment complex in Nashville. Bobbie helped Vanderbilt students conduct an eye clinic in May at a Cinco de Mayo festival in Franklin.

"It was wonderful to see the same thing happen here that happened in Brazil," said Dunn. He reported that at the Baptist church, Church of the Messiah, he saw people pray to receive Christ before, during, and after treatment. Of course, he didn't see 50 patients a day as he would in Brazil, he added, because of the many more poor people in Brazil.

"The fact of the matter is, we serve Christ in many different ways," said Dewey Dunn. Just this week, he saw a patient at Veterans Hospital, a man who is 55 years old, who had prayed to receive Christ but needed some encouragement.

In 2006 it is hoped that a BMDF mission team will serve in Asunción, Paraguay, with the Baptist hospital there. And the Dunns are almost always planning another overseas project. For more information, contact the Dunns at dbdunn@juno.com. □

The fact of the matter is, we serve Christ in many different ways. — Dewey Dunn

and medical society approval.

The BMDF was invited by the São Paulo State Baptist Convention and local Baptist association. The Dunns asked Eddie and Brenda Hallock, former missionaries to Brazil, to help. The Hallocks, are now living in Texas. The Hallocks have assisted the BMDF team the last three years. Prior years the BMDF team worked in prisons in Recife, Brazil. The Hallocks and local Baptists advised the team to come, believing permission would be granted.

The volunteers held two clinics at two churches for two



CLARA WILLIAMS, second from left in background, of Jackson, missionary to Brazil, tells team members, many of them children, of her work in Brazil beginning in 1965 during a wait at an airport. Williams served on the BMDF team and with a team from First Baptist Church, Jackson, who served a week later.

Advice from a self-professed procrastinator — don't

Reflections



Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Several years ago I had a friend who was a self-professed procrastinator. He said it was a problem and he bought a book about the subject. He had high hopes it would help him overcome what he was a stumbling block in life. A few months the book lay on his desk — unused. He now lives in another state and more than likely, if he still has the book, it remains unused. The book had taught me a very valuable lesson about procrastination — just last week as I was sitting in my truck while a man was checking my license plate. I was contemplating ways I could "hurt" my 16-year-old son.

Notice I didn't say "murder." That would have broken one of the Commandments.

But God quickly reminded me, as only He can, that I could not lay the blame on Daniel for why I was stopped. I was driving with an expired tag.

The fact Daniel had "cleaned" out the glove compartment, including registration and insurance papers, when he began using the truck more often simply made my procrastination more apparent (and as it turned out, more costly).

The additional fact that Daniel had his first wreck about three days before the month ended also is not relevant.

The sad truth is this — I had the paperwork to get everything in order more than a month before the tags were to expire. I procrastinated and put off having the truck inspected and getting the tags renewed until the last moment. If I had gone ahead early in the month and had the truck inspected, I would not have been sitting

there trying to explain to a police officer why I didn't have the new tag.

Now, from the length of the lines I sometimes must wait in on these occasions, I know I am not alone — at least in Davidson County. I even discovered there is a "Procrastinators Anonymous" web site on the Internet.

I found another web site — www.procrastinationhelp.com. The opening article on this site notes that "procrastinating is a serious problem affecting 25-70 percent of the population. According to the research done by McCown & Roberts, 40 percent of people have experienced loss due to procrastination and around 25 percent of people claim their problem to be chronic."

As I was looking up procrastination on the Internet, I noted that in general procrastinators are not lazy. They normally are doing something, just not necessarily what they should be doing at the appropriate time.

If truth be known, Christians are probably among the

world's best procrastinators.

Summer is the time of the year many church nominating committees are at work, trying to fill positions for the coming year.

They hear every excuse imaginable. I know. I have served on these committees. Many of those excuses come from world class procrastinators. I have dealt with some of them myself. These are the ones who tell you they will think about serving, will pray about it, and will call you back. Now, some of those I dealt with may have thought and prayed hard about the position I asked them about, but still haven't made that return call — and it's been about 10 years since I last served on a nominating committee.

In fact, now that I think about it, there are probably no nominating committee members waiting on a phone call from me.

Being a procrastinator myself, I know we find or invent things to do to keep from doing what God really wants us to do.

God has put us on this earth for His purpose and He has given us a short time to accomplish it.

Psalm 90:4 reminds us, "A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

William Penn once said, "Time is what we want most, but what, alas, we use worst, and for which God will surely most strictly reckon with us when time shall be no more."

Our time on earth is too precious to waste. We need to use the time God has given us wisely and we need to start this day, this very minute.

How many times have we put off witnessing to a friend or neighbor, but find that tomorrow never comes?

How many times have we wanted to say, "I am sorry" or "I love you" to a friend or relative, but never get the opportunity because death intervenes?

If procrastination is a problem for you as it is for me, vow to do something about it — TODAY! □

When life appears most bleak, you have to 'simply believe'

Best Columnist

Michele Washam

Editor's Note: Michele Washam featured in a story on page 5 shared this story she wrote years ago and I wanted to share it along to our readers. It is a true and true story of faith and how God is always at work.

The summer of 2002 was a sweet time for my three children and I. For the first time since my divorce 5 years prior we were able to purchase our first home. The apartment we had moved from was all for a family of four and the time came to start looking for a place to live I knew that somehow God would let me find a house I could buy.

I realized that with my limited income and the fact that I was employed web designer my chances were slim. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks were causing havoc on my business. Finally I would be doing well at this time of the year but business owners were reluctant to spend money on web design.

My chances that I would be able to find a home big enough for us in a good neighborhood at a price I could afford were slim. I rallied my faith and that God would pick the house for us. Knowing

that the Lord can do the impossible, I figured I would throw in my request to live on the water for good measure. Hey, faith knows no boundaries.

Exactly two days later I called a number in the classifieds advertising a home available for lease-option. The man at the other end of the phone gave me directions and when I arrived I almost fainted when I saw the home was on a huge lake. It was also in the best school district.

I knew instantly that this is where we belonged. The man who owned the house drew up the contract and I was leasing the home with an option to buy it in one year. He gave me free reign to make any changes I wished.

The Lord answered my prayers in a mighty way. The lake the house sat on was a source of peace and at night the moon would reflect on the water making it look like millions of glittering lights. We were in Heaven. This was the place I needed to be in order to gain my strength, draw closer to God, and where I always found peace.

In the middle of August 2002, money was non-existent. One of the women from my ladies only group helped me obtain school supplies in order for my kids to start school and even though things looked bad I believed the Lord had led me to this home that was really more than I could afford and I believed with all my heart He would make a way for me to pay for it.

One afternoon after picking

up my two youngest kids up from school I noticed my car was on empty. Actually, it gave a new meaning to the words "on fumes." I handed my daughter my purse and told her to dig some change out of the bottom so we could get gas. I had searched my purse that morning and gave the kids my last \$3 for lunch and I knew I had no currency.

My daughter pulled three, one dollar bills out of my purse and said "Mommy, why don't we just use this paper money?"

I asked her where she found the dollar bills and she told me they were "Right here in the

up to God with all of the faith a child has. For a split second, I envied his childlike faith and wondered at what point in my life I lost the ability to just believe.

During the course of his prayer, my son remembered we were out of toilet paper, "God, could you please send a little extra money for some toilet paper because my mom gets mad when the napkins plug the toilet."

I was slightly embarrassed that he would ask our Creator, the Lord of Heaven and earth for such a thing.

The rest of the afternoon was uneventful. The kids went in

He told me someone called the order in and paid for it with a credit card and asked them to deliver it to them at 5 p.m.

I must have been quite a sight standing there with my mouth hanging open in total disbelief with my two daughters standing next to me doing the same and my son standing behind all of us saying, "See, I told you God sends angels to deliver pizza!"

The managers and employees of our three local Pizza Huts had no idea what I was talking about when I called them to find out who had been so kind. I spent the rest of the evening absorbing the importance of what had happened to us that day. I realized that the unshakable faith of a child is what I needed to find and hang on to.

While I was pondering these things my son yelled from the garage: "Mom! I was looking through this box and look what I found! Four rolls of Charmin toilet paper!"

I had packed the toilet paper in that box some 3-years ago when we moved from Delaware to Florida. I broke down and cried thanking God for the miracles He had showered over us that day.

Two weeks later, I was approached by a woman I had known for sometime, she offered to invest \$20,000 in my business to keep it afloat.

The summer of 2002 turned out to be one of the best of my life. I learned to "simply believe" no matter what life looks like.

God is good and He does send angels to deliver pizza. □

I realized that the unshakable faith of a child is what I needed to find and hang on to. — Michele Washam

pocket." This was impossible as I had given them the last \$3 in that pocket for lunch.

I felt peace move through me and knew God was responding to my unshakable faith that He would provide.

On our way home from the gas station, my 7-year-old son asked if we could have pizza for supper. My heart broke a little when I replied that we couldn't afford pizza that night but I would see what I could do for the weekend.

My 9-year-old daughter spoke up and told my son that if he really wanted pizza he should just pray for it because God could afford it. My son proceeded to lift his little request

their rooms and watched television, my 12-year-old daughter came home around 4:00 and as most pre-teens went to her room.

At about 4:45 the doorbell rang and I was not in any way prepared for what came next.

"MOM!! The pizza dude is here!!!"

As I made my way to the front door in a state of confusion, my son ran up and yelled: "It's an angel...God sent an angel to bring us pizza!!"

I was worried about the disappointment he would feel when this delivery boy realized he was at the wrong house but I greeted him and explained that we hadn't ordered pizza.

Former porn site developer now ministers via Internet

— Continued from page 1

Washam's former porn site now offers hope and encouragement to both women and men who have been hurt through broken relationships.

She noted the site is "dedicated to helping men and women cope with, overcome, survive, and restore their broken hearts by combining faith in God and knowledge of His word."

Washam has designed a workshop which includes her book, *Course in Heartbreak*, and recently launched HeartbreakUniversity.org where she shares the course with men and women around the world.

"Women's (and men's) hearts break the same, no matter where they live," Washam observed.

In addition to teaching online classes, Washam also writes an "advice" column on the web. She is careful to point out she is not a counselor.

The book and online/live course are the elements of her web site that are fee based, but she does waive the cost of the book when there is a real need.

"It's God's book, not mine," she said.

At the height of her pornography career, Washam had about 7,000-7,500 paid mem-

bers. About 1,200 of those have since signed onto the Christian site, which has grown from 12 members to about 57,000. There is no charge for membership to the Christian site.

Washam estimates she has about three million "hits" (people who actually go to the site) each month. The hits have doubled in the last six months, she estimated.

The underlying theme of the site is to "reach people by getting them to look up," Washam said.

"I can't solve their problems and I don't want them to think I can. Little by little I introduce them to God and gently guide them through the gospel."

The site includes information on how to be saved and helps lead a person through the salvation prayer. Washam also follows up on those decisions and tries to help the individuals find a church home.

Washam is driven by the desire to use the pain of her broken relationship to help others. "If I had not had my heart broken, I could not help others the way I do now," she said.

"I like knowing that my pain was not in vain — that I

am helping someone else."

Washam's story has a happy ending.

She eventually met her husband, Michael Washam, who she lovingly describes as her "angel from heaven."

"He is very supportive and helps me with my ministry," she said.

Looking back she realizes now that God does not choose the wrong mate for people. "We do. We have to ask God into our situation and when we are in communion with Him, I believe He will send the right mate."

Last year the Washams decided to move to Newport.

A lifelong Catholic, Washam never dreamed of attending a Baptist church. Her husband, who was raised as a Baptist, convinced her to at least attend West End in Newport

just once.

She recalled that when they drove up to the church she had made up her mind "to hate it."

"I walked through the door and knew I had found my church home. I never looked back," she said.

"God definitely has a sense of humor," she smiled. She jokes that she still "slips" and calls her pastor Tom Mooty "Father Tom" at times instead of "Bro. Tom."

Washam was baptized by Mooty. In the days that followed all three of her children professed faith in Christ and were baptized as well. Both Washam and her husband began to get involved with the church and he is now serving as youth director and Michele became the church secretary less than a month ago.

"The church needed a tary and I needed some to do," she laughed.

"It's not a job. I have more from here than I describe," she said.

For more information Washam's ministry go to web site, Just4Ladies.org call 423-623-9056. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Pastor position. Harrison A Baptist Church, 1125 He Ave., Harrison, OH 45030, 367-6020. Please send resumes through Sept. 30, 2005 the number above for information.

Poplar Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for senior pastor. For further information visit www.poplarheights.com. E-mail resume phbc@lwol.com or mail to Search Committee, Poplar Heights Baptist Church, Hollywood Dr., Jackson 38305.

First Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for a full-time pastor position. Please send resumes to the First Baptist Church, North Chestnut St., Morristown, TN 37874. Post to the attention of Sonny Gilpatrick.

Senior pastor, Antioch, Tenn., Req. SBC ordained, M.Div., SBC seminary, and 1 year experience as SBC senior pastor. Minimum salary \$23,420. Send resume to SBC Department, P.O. Box 597, Antioch, TN 37013.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Oak Street Baptist Church, Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., is seeking an additional staff person. Primary duty will be music. Additional duties based on the gifts and experience of the person called. Duties could include choir ministry, outreach ministry, other duties. While we are accepting applicants to fill a full position, we would also consider a bivocational minister. Resumes to Oak Street Church, 11340 N. Oak Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379. Please direct the attention of Senior Joe Miller.

Associate pastor of worship. Must be willing to lead contemporary and traditional worship styles, plus have computer skills. A major plus would be having a desire to work with youth. Send resume to Springs Baptist Church Search Committee, 5270 Rd., Cunningham, TN 371

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.

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.



Southern Hospitality

Whether you're planning a retreat for 10 or a conference for 1,000, The Legacy Center offers beautifully decorated rooms and suites, modern meeting space, friendly service, plus something no other conference center can provide: Southern Seminary.

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Green Light

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



Nurture the soul.
Care for the body.

2005 Senior Adult Conference

A meeting of senior adults to NURTURE the soul, TRAIN the mind, and STRENGTHEN the body



Keep up the Glad Spirit...nurturing the mind, body, and soul." Philippians 4:4a Williams

September 13-15, 2005 • First Baptist Church, Sevierville

Cost: \$30 person • Registration Deadline: September 1, 2005

For more information: Visit us online at www.tnbaptist.org or call 800.558.2090, ext. 2083.



Bible Study Leader, Dr. Charles Lowery
Dr. Lowery is a powerful communicator, author, preacher, and teacher. He is president and CEO of the Lowery Institute for Excellence, Life, Inc.



Music Leader, Mark Caroth
Mark is the Music and Student Activities Minister at Tullahoma Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.



Goldenaires Choir of First Baptist Church, Richardson TX

"Have music...will travel" could be the motto of the 197-voice Goldenaires Choir of First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas. Since its founding in 1984, the senior adult choir has sung in a variety of places such as churches, nursing homes, retirement centers, civic functions and humbler venues within the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Directed by Gerald Wace.

September 13	Wednesday, September 14	Thursday, September 15
8:00am - 9:00am Registration 9:00am - 7:00pm Opening Session	8:30am - 10:00am Bible Study & Conference 10:00am - 11:00am Adoration 11:00am - 12:00pm FREE TIME & COFFEE 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch 1:00pm - 2:00pm Bible Study	8:00am - 12:00pm Bible Study & Conference 12:00pm - 1:00pm Adoration 1:00pm - 2:00pm FREE TIME & COFFEE 2:00pm - 3:00pm Lunch 3:00pm - 4:00pm Bible Study

→DON'T FORGET!←

August 12-13, Tennessee Music Ministry Leadership Conference "Music Ministry Matters", Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood TN. For all music leaders-ministers of music, worship leaders, adult choir members & leaders, youth choir leaders, preschool & children's choir leaders, praise band leaders & members, instrumental leaders, handbell ringers & leaders, pianists, organists, midi-synth keyboard players, and small church music leaders. Conference fee is \$60 person if registered by July 12. For more information, visit www.tnworshipandmusic.org, call Charlotte Hanson at 800.558.2090, ext. 7908, or e-mail chanson@tnbaptist.org.

August 12-13 Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training: "In the Name of Jehovah", Knox County Baptist Association Office, Knoxville. The purpose of this event is to provide sufficient content and information about Jehovah's Witness and to equip participants to lead churches or associational Interfaith Evangelism Awareness Conferences. Cost \$15 person. For more information, contact Ilka Marks at imarks@tnbaptist.org or call 800.558.2090, ext. 7916.

Equipping U Sunday School Convention "Equip for Excellence"

First Baptist Church, Greeneville, August 19-20 with featured speaker Dr. Ken Hemphill, National Strategist for Kingdom Empowered Growth, LifeWay Christian Resources and SBC Executive Committee.

Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, August 26-27 with featured speaker Dr. Thom Rainer, Dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, & Church Growth, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Cost is \$10 person. Special age group sessions will meet on Friday night. On Saturday, there will be three break-out session times with over 25 different conferences to choose from each session. For more information, visit www.equippingu.com or call 800.558.2090, ext. 2054.

Equipping U Regional Sunday School Leadership Training "Vital Signs for a Healthy Sunday School."

For all preschool, children, youth, and adult Sunday School Leaders, pastors and Sunday School Directors. 6:45pm - 8:45pm. For more information, visit www.equippingu.com or call 800.558.2090, ext. 2054.

- August 11First Baptist Church, Paris
- August 15Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland
- August 16Grace Baptist Church, Tullahoma
- August 22First Baptist Church, Millington
- August 23First Baptist Church, Jackson
- August 29First Baptist Church, Powell
- August 30Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville
- September 1.....First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg

From Poverty to Plenty...

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
MATTHEW 5:3

Tennessee Prayer Retreat for Women
September 23-24, 2005
Paris Landing State Park

Bible Study Leaders: Carolyn Outland and Ann Davenport
Worship Leader: Melissa Austin

Conference Options: Designed to help women – of all ages and stages – strengthen and broaden their spiritual development. *From Worthless to Worthy* led by Leighann McCoy, *Your Spiritual Legacy* led by Janice Holcomb, *In Search of Peace* led by Trish Pierson, *Is God Still in the Business of Doing Miracles?* led by IMB missionary, Grace Morris, and an interactive prayer experience.

Ministry Project: Please bring pre-paid long distance phone cards, new or gently used Christian books and / or CDs that will be given to military wives at Ft. Campbell. Mary Callahan who serves as a Mission Service Corps missionary through NAMB will be there to receive the gifts.

Reservations & Lodging: \$20.00 before September 9. If postmarked after September 9, the registration fee is \$25.00.

Your reservation fee does not include lodging. Lodging at Paris Landing State Park Inn is \$78, plus tax for rooms (up to 4 per room). Cabins (sleep 10) are \$146, plus tax. Lodging reservations must be made with Paris Landing State Park by calling 800-250-8614. Ask for the TN WMU block of rooms. Rooms are being held until August 12. After August 12, all rooms not reserved will be released back to the Inn.

For more information, contact Rebekah Wales at 615.371.2038 or rwales@tnbaptist.org.

CHURCH WMU LEADER TRAINING

will be in a location near you during the months of August and September. The complete list of dates and locations can be found on the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union website: www.tnwmu.org. For more information, contact Vickie Anderson, vanderson@tnbaptist.org or call 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7918.

Single Adult Conference

East TN

FBC Concord, Sept. 16-17
Sept. 16, 6:30pm Registration – Sept. 17, 9:00am - 3:00pm
Keynote Speaker - Dave Park
Theme - "Identity in Christ (Who Are You?)"

Middle TN

FBC Hendersonville, Oct. 14-15
Oct. 14, 6:30pm Registration – Oct. 15, 9:00am - 3:00pm
Keynote Speaker - Ken Kington

More information is coming soon in the mail and on www.singleconference.org
For questions, please call Julie Heath at 800.558.2090, ext. 1993.

Round tables

Tennessee Worship Leaders & Ministers of Music

MUSIC MINISTER/WORSHIP LEADER ROUNDTABLES 2005: TOOLS OF THE TRADE

What tools do you need for music and worship ministry in 2005?

What tools are you using that are effective that you would like to share with other music ministry leaders?

What tasks do you have for which you need help finding the right tool?

Come and join the discussion of what tools we need in our toolboxes for ministry through music and worship in 2005. Note that we have changed things up a bit in how we are doing the roundtables. You will have options during two breakout periods, and you will help determine the topics the final hour of discussion.

LOCATIONS

September 26—LOWER WEST

Ellendale Baptist Church, Bartlett, Tommy Webster (host)

September 29—EAST

Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, Terry McN (host)

Oct. 3—WEST

Woodland Baptist Church, Jackson, Len Kennedy (host)

Oct. 6—UPPER EAST FBC

First Baptist Church, Kingsport Susan Hoover (host)

Oct. 13—MIDDLE

Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Dan Arterburn (host)

October 27— LOWER EAST

Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Collin Wood (host)

NEW THIS YEAR—Breakout sessions dealing with special topics of expertise led by music and worship ministers that will focus on certain tools of the trade. You will be able to choose two in which to participate. **ALSO NEW THIS YEAR**—You choose the topics for the last discussion period.

Registration:

Cost is \$10 payable at conference, or pre-register at www.tnworshipandmusic.org.

For more information, contact Paul Clark or Charlotte Hanson at 800.558.2090 or e-mail chanson@tnbaptist.org

September is Foundation Month

To schedule a Christian Estate Planning seminar at no cost to your church or to learn more about the Foundation's services, please contact W. L. (Bo) Childs - H. Garrison (Gary) Coltharp at the Tennessee Baptist Foundation 800.552.4644.



**Tennessee Baptist
FOUNDATION**

CHURCH BUILDING/FINANCE CONFERENCE

September 29, 2005

**Kirby Woods Baptist Church
Memphis, TN**

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Is Your Church Planning To Build Or Remodel?
Does Your Church Need To Make Better Use Of Its Facilities?
Do You Need Financial Assistance For These Goals?*

Conference designed to provide information, training, and resources for churches that will enable them to better plan to minister in their community, utilizing their facilities as a tool for ministry.

Featured Topics:

Master Planning For Long Range Growth
Steps in a Building Program
Designing Space: Worship, Educational, Recreational, and Multi-functional
Low Churches Finance Building Programs
Planning a Building Budget: A Look At Total Project Costs
Selecting And Working With An Architect

Who Should Attend?

pastors and Church Staff
Building Committees
Finance committees
Trustees
Others facing the need for space, involved in the building process, or responsible for facilities planning and funding development.

Conference Personalities:

Richard Barr and Stephen Lee, AIA
Architects, Richard Barr and Company. 615.477.9980
Bo Childs
Certified Financial Planner and President, Tennessee Baptist Foundation, 800.558.2090
Archer Thorpe
Church Administration and Stewardship Specialist, Tennessee Baptist Convention, 800.558.2090.

\$20 per person, includes lunch.
Register, visit www.tnbaptist.org to download the registration form.
For questions, please contact Archer Thorpe at 800.558.2090 or e-mail arthurpe@tnbaptist.org



*September 23 - 24
Judson Baptist Church
Nashville, Tennessee*

*Clinician - Wayne Causey, Minister of Music Forest Hills Baptist Church
Worship Speaker - Shane Pass, Minister to Children, Clearview Baptist Church*

The objective of KID'S Choral Connection:

- Encourage older children* (Grades 4 thru 6) to participate in their local church children's choir
- Provide a unique opportunity for music-making that will make an important memory in the lives of the children present
- Help young singers understand music as a God-given gift
- Provide children an opportunity to experience interaction with children from many Tennessee Baptist churches in a healthy fun environment
- Strengthen and support the work of the local church choir leaders

Cost: \$25 per child, which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, t-shirt, and compact disc.

Registration information and other details are available online at www.tnworshipandmusic.org.

Carla Nichols, Preschool/Children Music Consultant
Tennessee Baptist Worship & Music Ministry

QUESTIONS? CALL US AT 1.800.558.2090, EXT. 7908 or
e-mail chanson@tnbaptist.org.
Paul Clark, Worship & Music Specialist
Charlotte Hanson, Worship & Music Ministry Assistant

2005 Fall Church Library Team TRAINING

September 10	First Baptist Cleveland
September 24	West Jackson Baptist Church
October 1	First Baptist Donelson
October 15	First Baptist Sevierville

Conference Fees: Includes Lunch and Break Snacks

First time attendees (10 days prior to event)	\$10
Early Registration (10 days prior to event)	\$25
Late Registrations and Walk-ins	\$35

Registration Information:

For registration information and costs, visit www.tnbaptist.org or call Julie Heath at 615.312.1993 or 800.558.2090

Tri-State Camp-O-Ree for RA's

**September 30-October 1
Camp Cordova, Memphis**

For registration form, costs, and more information, visit www.tristatecamporee.org.



Connect is a FREE evangelistic event empowering teenagers to bring a friend to hear the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

August 13-14	Knoxville	Market Square
August 28-29	Cookeville	FBC Cookeville
September 17	Parsons	Decatur Co. Fairgrounds
September 18	Jackson	TBA
September 19	Dandridge	Jefferson County High School
September 23	Cleveland	Bradley Central High School
September 24	Cleveland	Lee University Conn Center
October 1-2	Union City	Obion Co. Fairgrounds
October 2-5	Hendersonville	Long Hollow Baptist Church
October 9-10	Harriman	South Harriman Baptist Church
November 13	Clarksville	Hilldale Baptist Church

For more information, contact Rachel Watson at 800.558.2090, ext. 7933 or rwatson@tnbaptist.org.

Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

October 7-9, FOCUS: Fall Collegiate Conference GO! Matthew 28:18-20, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville. Conference includes worship fellowship, teaching, and break-out groups. Speakers: Gary Morgan, pastor of Mosaic and Michael Poore-Director of Humanitas Project.

Worship: Jake McVay

For more information, contact your local BCM director or call 1.800.558.2090, ext 1993.

JAM missions event for girls and boys in grades 1 through 6.

JAM = Journey into Adventures in Missions

October 8 - Middle Tennessee

October 15 - East Tennessee

October 22 - West Tennessee

For more information, contact Andrea Knight of Tennessee WMU at 1.800.558.2090 ext. 7919 or aknight@tnbaptist.org.

October 14-15, Volunteer Missions Team Leader Training, First Baptist Church Goodlettsville. This 10-hour training will provide plenty of how-to's, including how to recruit prayer supporters, research your project site overseas, build your team, finance your trip, train team members, secure travel and proper ID, and plan a daily schedule. There is a \$20 participant fee that covers materials and meals. Please register at least two weeks prior to the event by contacting Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions Ministry Assistant, at 800.558.2090 ext. 2061, or email hwilson@tnbaptist.org.

October 20-21, Youth Ministry University, Baptist Center, Brentwood. Featuring Dr. Richard Ross, Youth Ministry Professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary OR November 18-19, Holiday Inn, Johnson City featuring Dr. Allen Jackson, Youth Ministry Professor, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Youth Ministry University is an awesome time of training, networking, and being with other youth leaders from across our state that have the same passion as you in reaching, teaching, and ministering to students. For more information, visit www.tnyouthministry.com or call Bruce Edwards or Brenda Harris at 800.558.2090, ext. 7906.

Knoxvillian honored for commitment to funding missions

Annie Wilkey
Staff and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Missions have been a major part of Doris Large's life for nearly 60 years, and she wants to do her part to continue that legacy after she has gone home to be with the Lord.

The 75-year-old missions worker first became involved in the Young Woman's Auxiliary at Arlington Baptist Church in Knoxville when she was 16.

She remained active in WMU there for 42 years before transferring her membership to Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, in 1987.

"WMU has provided me an opportunity to serve," Large said.

She also noted WMU has been the springboard for her missions journeys which have taken her to places such as the Philippines, Chile, and Germany.

"The Lord led me in that direction," she said.

In 1988 national WMU, headquartered in Birmingham, began the Second Century Fund to endow missions for the future.

Large noted that Carol Pharr, president of Tennessee WMU, called her and asked if she could lead the endowment campaign in Tennessee.

"It was a God-thing," Large said, noting that she had felt led to leave a part of her life for missions. She



DORIS JUNE LARGE of Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, in Knoxville, was honored by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union during the national WMU meeting held in June at First Baptist Church in Nashville.

accepted the offer, noting that "the Lord led me in that direction."

Large diligently labored to raise endowment funds among Tennessee WMU members as a state consultant before asking for helping 2000. The Tennessee Endowment Promotion Team, to which she still belongs, was formed.

In the years that have followed the endowment effort has grown. The national WMU effort called "Touch Tomorrow Today," managed by the WMU Foundation, provides income for both national and state causes.



FRIENDS from Central Baptist Church, Fountain City, in Knoxville, surprised their fellow missions companion Doris June Large during a luncheon in her honor held in June at First Baptist Church, Nashville. From left, seated, are Bobbie Parker, Martha Henderson, Katy Davis, Jenny Raines; standing, Judy Trivette, Jennie Kate Purcell, Nancy DeCosta, Nancy Everett, Large, Faye Cox, Jo Rosenbaum, and Margaret Ballenger.

The "Tennessee 'N Touch" campaign, which is managed by the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, raises endowment strictly for Tennessee WMU projects and needs.

"Funds from these endowments allow us to do ministries that we could not do otherwise," Large stressed.

"It's been awesome to see how ministry grants (from the endowment funds) have been used all over the world. It has been blessed by the Lord," she said with conviction.

During the recent national WMU meeting held at First

Baptist Church, Nashville, in June prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Tennessee endowment team held a luncheon in her honor.

Large heard about the plans to honor her and thought she had squelched the effort, only to find out she had not.

"I must not have been a good leader because they did exactly what I told them not to do," she joked.

Among those who gathered to honor Large were Katharine Bryan, retired Tennessee WMU director; Joy Fenner, former

interim Tennessee WMU director and her husband, Charlie; Kaye Miller, new national WMU president; Dellanna O'Brien, retired national WMU executive director; David George of the WMU Foundation; Bo Childs of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation; and four past or present WMU presidents (Judy Trivette, Pharris, Carol Richardson, and Candy Phillips, current Tennessee WMU executive director).

Contributions collected for the Touch Tomorrow Today campaign in her honor totaled \$1,470. □

Adjunct Instructors in English, History, and Mathematics

UNION UNIVERSITY seeks qualified instructors to teach freshman-level English, history, and mathematics courses at various sites across West Tennessee during academic year 2005-06. Immediate needs

include courses to be taught in Dyersburg and at the Turkey Creek Center located in Only, Tennessee. Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in the discipline or a master's degree plus 18 hours in the teaching discipline. Preference will be given to candidates with significant teaching experience.

Successful candidates must be professing Christians who are active members of an evangelical Christian church; should articulate a Christian worldview in their academic teaching and discipline; and be able to fully support Union University's vision, mission, and core values (www.uu.edu). Union University is consistently ranked among the nation's premier Christian colleges and is currently ranked by U.S. News & World Report in the top tier of master's granting Southern universities.

Candidates may access an application on-line at www.uu.edu or send a resume along with a letter of pressing interest to: Beverly Absher, Director of Human Resources, Union University, 1050 Union University Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 or via e-mail to absher@uu.edu.

Discover the Joy of MissionsSM

At LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, NC

WMU[®] Conference
September 28-30, 2005

Missions Weekender
September 30-October 2, 2005

Discover your personal potential to make an eternal difference in the lives of others at this dynamic national event for men and women.

\$79 Conference fee for either event is only \$79; or register for BOTH events for just \$129! Lodging and meal package rates at Ridgecrest vary depending on room occupancy and quality of housing. Contact Ridgecrest for details... 1-800-588-7222.

Rates increase after August 1!

Register online at www.wmu.com/ridgecrest2005 or call 1-800-588-7222.

For more information, call WMU toll-free at 1-888-968-0322 or visit www.wmu.com/ridgecrest2005.



Esther Burroughs



Kate Campbell



Travis Collins



Edna Ellison



Karen Anderson Holcomb



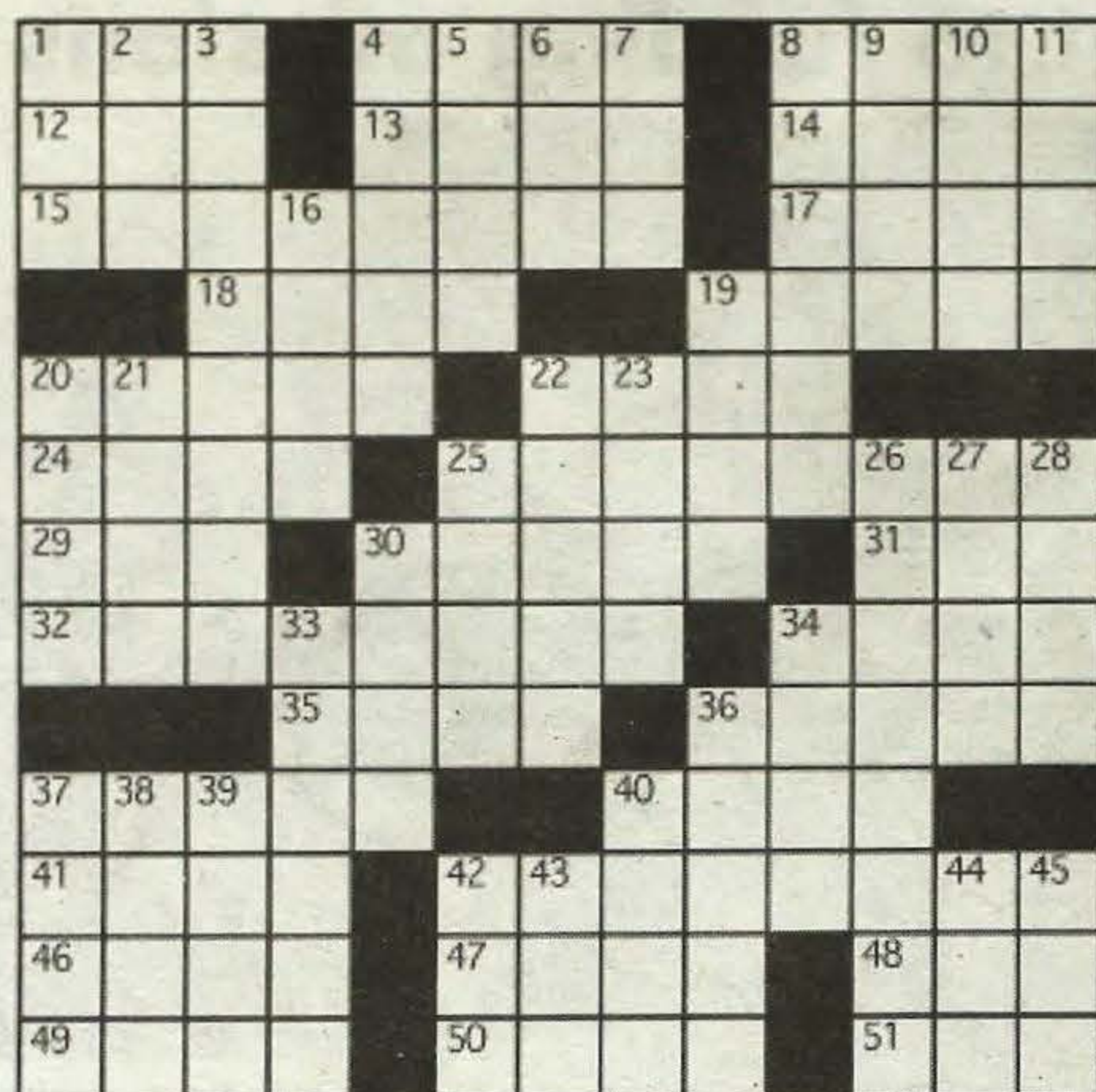
Wanda Lee



George McCalep



Karla Worley



See answers on page 15

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. To damage
4. "And Saul _____ unto David" (1 Sam. 17:37)
8. Cushions
12. "Blessed _____ the meek" (Matt. 5:5)
13. Son of Helem (1 Chron. 7:35)
14. Operatic solo
15. _____ Goliath (2 words)
17. Genuine _____
18. Genesis garden
19. _____ of Two Cities (2 words)
20. "The wine _____" (Ps. 75:8) (2 words)
22. Man of brave deeds
24. Female rabbits
25. Sealing wax
29. Epoch
30. Member of the nobility
31. Anger
32. "Making a noise with psalteries _____" (1 Chron. 15:28) (2 words)
34. "They _____ not the bones till the morrow" (Zeph. 3:3)
35. "The _____ are a people not strong" (Prov. 30:25)
36. "Yet offend in one _____" (James 2:10)
37. "The _____ of his fire shall not shine" (Job 18:5)
40. "_____! for that day is great" (Jer. 30:7)
41. "The _____ of the Lord was with him" (Luke 1:66)
42. David's friend
46. Father of Shammah (2 Sam. 23:11)
47. Son of Jerahmeel (1 Chron. 2:25)
48. Female sheep
49. "Thou shalt not build it of _____ stone" (Exod. 20:25)
50. Wagers
51. Fourth letter of the alphabet

DOWN

11. "Lo, ye see the man is

- _____ " (1 Sam. 21:14)
2. Son of Jether (1 Chron. 7:38)
3. Pastor's title
4. Having walls
5. "There was _____ sent from God" (John 1:6) (2 words)
6. "There was no room for them in the _____" (Luke 2:7)
7. Father
8. "And he was in the hinder _____ the ship" (Mark 4:38) (2 words)
9. Length x width
10. Knob
11. Garage _____
16. The _____ of March
19. Son of Dishan (1 Chron. 1:42)
20. Thought
21. "As _____ as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter" (Rev. 10:10)
22. "We hanged our _____ upon the willows" (Ps. 137:2)
23. Greek god of love
25. "For we know in _____" (1 Cor. 13:9)
26. "He said, It is _____" (John 19:30)
27. Teheran's country
28. Salamander
30. "Behold, I stood upon the _____ of the river" (Gen. 41:17)
33. "_____ not your hearts" (Heb. 3:8)
34. "He shall bring a she _____ of the first year for a sin offering" (Num. 15:27)
36. Schemes
37. Middle eastern ruler
38. Book leaf
39. "_____ heart also will I give you" (Ezek. 36:26) (2 words)
40. "Casting _____ into the sea" (Mark 1:16) (2 words)
42. Old Testament book
43. Metal-bearing rock
44. "Stand in _____, and sin not" (Ps. 4:4)
45. Born, Fr.

In North America

Graham not sure if N.Y. is last crusade

By Berta Delgado-Young
Baptist Press

NEW YORK — Was it or wasn't it Billy Graham's final crusade?

For months, the Greater New York Billy Graham Crusade in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park was billed as likely his last, or likely his last in North America, or his final "planned" crusade because of talk of an invitation from London. But, as always, the 86-year-old evangelist wasn't ready or willing to provide a definite answer.

On Sunday (June 26), he said he'd been asked if this was his final crusade.

"I said, 'It probably is — in New York,' he said in his southern drawl. 'But I also said, 'I never say never.'"

Graham, now in fragile health with Parkinson's, prostate cancer, water buildup on the brain, and the effects of a hip replacement and broken pelvis, has always said that evangelists don't retire. But others hinted that this could be it.

If so, there were plenty of high-profile attendees over the three days to witness the event that many called historic. Former President Bill Clinton and his wife, New York Sen. Hilary Clinton, joined Graham on stage one night. Country singer Vince Gill and his wife, Christian artist Amy Grant attended.

Mystery writer Patricia Cornwell was there. Evangelist and California pastor Greg Laurie and fellow California pastor and best-selling author Rick Warren attended all three days. And Anne Graham Lotz, the daughter Graham has called "the best preacher in the family," attended with more than a dozen family members and close friends.

The crusade drew 230,000 people, including 90,000 on the final night.

Cliff Barrows, who, along with 96-year-old soloist George Beverly Shea, has been an associate of Graham's for 60 years, called this crusade an emotional one for the trio.

"We're all a little overwhelmed," the 82-year-old music director and master of ceremonies said. "It's hard to believe that this phase in our lives is coming to a close."

"But the mantle has fallen on those who are younger."

And several of those on whom the mantle has fallen just happened to be in attendance, including the son, Franklin Graham, daughter, Anne Graham Lotz.

Franklin Graham, the prodigal son who took over the reins of the Billy Graham Evangelis-

tic Association a few years ago, leads crusades called "crusade of the 21st century" all over the world. In 1989, he has preached to more than 4 million people. He accompanies the father stage at every crusade, often helping him to and from the pulpit, a short walk for the elder Graham requires the use of a walker.

Lotz, president of the Billy Graham Ministries, is a popular preacher and author whose books, such as "Just Give Me Jesus," have drawn tens of thousands of people over the last few years.

Lotz considered it crucial to be in New York for the crusade.

"I just wanted to be here for this special moment," she said after her father delivered a message to youth and adults Saturday night (June 25). "I haven't been able to see Daddy since I've been here, but he knows I'm here."

Lotz said her father is still strong, adding that "he communicates the gospel well." □



GRAHAM

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Deaths

◆ **Edwin Reece Alexander Sr.**, 83, of Savannah, died July 14. In the early 1950s he was DOM of William Carey Baptist Association, based in Metairieville. Then he was pastor of Walker Memorial Baptist Church, Franklin; DOM of Carroll Benton Baptist Association, based in Huntingdon; DOM of Gibson Baptist Association, based in Trenton; DOM of Marshall and Lafayette Baptist Association in Mississippi. Alexander then was pastor of Mallory Heights Baptist Church, Memphis; pastor of First Baptist Church, Ruthersville; pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Springfield; DOM of South Baptist Association, based in Adamsville; and pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Bel Springs. Alexander was a graduate of Union University in Jackson. He is survived by

his wife, Juanita, and son, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Hospitals

◆ **Susan West** was recently named associate vice president for presidential affairs at **Belmont University**, Nashville. West recently earned a doctorate in higher education administration from Peabody College, Vanderbilt University's college of education and human development in Nashville.



WEST

◆ **Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee** in Knoxville named **Brue Chandler** as senior vice



CHANDLER

president and administrator July 1. Having more than 30 years of healthcare experience, he formerly served as chief executive officer at Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, Ga.

Churches

◆ **West View Baptist Church, Kingsport**, celebrated its 75th anniversary May 19. Tommy Holtzclaw, Sullivan Baptist Association director of missions, presented pastor Mike Stout with a certificate from the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Leaders

◆ **Barbara Lavender**, a member of Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport, was recently presented an Excellence in Missions Award by Sullivan Baptist Association director of missions Tommy Holtzclaw. She received the award for giving sacrificially and doing missions work both at home and around the world.

◆ **Fred Phanco**, pastor, Charlotte Road Baptist Church, Nashville, will retire on Sunday, July 31. He has served the church for 11 years. He will be honored on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 2-4 p.m., at the church. Phanco has helped lead the church to renovate its facility, add property, and a house for youth ministry, and set record attendance in both Sunday School and morning worship services. He and his wife, Inge, will move to the Atlanta area.

◆ **Billy Joe Stewart**, who recently retired as pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church,



THESE ARE THE participants of a Vacation Bible School in Centerville, Iowa, led by Gum Springs Baptist Church, Cunningham. The Tennesseans also led a VBS in Albia, Iowa. The missions work was a part of the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership. The Tennesseans served June 27 - July 1. Twenty-three children made professions of faith as a result.

Adamsville, has relocated. He can be reached for part-time ministry service at 153 Puron Rd., Adamsville, TN. 38310, (731)-632-4777.

◆ **Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City**, has called **Tori Young** as part-time preschool ministry director. Young is a student at Milligan College, Milligan College, Tenn..

◆ **Woodlawn Baptist Church, Bristol**, has called **Steven Holland** as youth minister. Holland is a recent graduate of King College, Bristol, with a degree in youth ministry.

◆ **Joe Presnell** has resigned as pastor of West Hills Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

◆ **Pleasant View Baptist Church, South Fulton**, has called **Bobby Robertson** as pastor.

◆ **Dan Milliken** resigned effective July 10 as pastor of Hickory Hills Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, after 10 years of ministry. He is available for pulpit or music supply. Call him at (615) 316-9913 or (615) 943-7151.

◆ **Gateway Baptist Church,**

Atoka, has called **Bill Skinner** as pastor. He previously served as interim.

◆ **Oak Grove Baptist Church, Covington**, has called **Steve Fehrman** as pastor. He previously served as pastor of a church in Virginia.

◆ **Hunter Memorial Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, has called **Joe Hensley** as pastor effective in July.

◆ **Jim Archer** resigned in June as pastor of Powder Branch Baptist Church, Johnson City.

◆ **Bentleys Chapel Baptist Church, Mooresburg**, has called **Aaron Price** as its pastor. Price and his wife Grace come from Belmont Baptist Church, Mount Carmel.

◆ **Tommy Haynes** of Church Hill was recently called as pastor of Fall Creek Baptist Church, Kingsport. A native of Virginia, Tommy and his wife Wanda have two grown children. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and the Graham Bible College, Bristol, Va. He previously served churches in Virginia and Rittertown Baptist Church in Hampton.

DEPART JUNE 26 or JULY 24, 2005

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The cost of the trip is \$1,975 per person and includes roundtrip airfare, all ground transportation, all hotels, and all meals.

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Roland Smith, Senior Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Crossville, TN

Tennessee native steps down as N.C. exec. director

Associated Baptist Press

CARY, N.C. — Tennessee native Jim Royston will step down as executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, based here.

Royston, 57, plans to retire from denominational service and become senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Mooresville, N.C., near Charlotte. He was to be presented to the congregation for election July 17.

The North Carolina convention is deeply divided between conservatives and moderates. Recent annual meetings have featured bitter battles over the convention's officers and budget, which currently offers options favored by conservatives and moderates.

But Royston said his decision is spurred by his desire to return to the pastorate. "There's never been a doubt in my mind that in Baptist life the rubber hits the road where congregations impact their communities with the gospel," he wrote in a column announcing his resignation. "I've missed it."

The seven-and-a-half years



ROYSTON

he served as executive "have been the most demanding years of my life, both professionally and personally," Royston wrote. "I can't say I've 'enjoyed' these years, in the sense of having a rollicking good time. But I've felt tremendously fulfilled to occupy this seat during some very important years in one of the top three Baptist state conventions in the nation."

Royston was pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Kingsport prior to accepting the position with the North Carolina convention. While at Colonial Heights he served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He also is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. □

First building project in 25 years begun at Glorieta

Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. — Volunteers and staff of LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center broke ground June 29 for the first major building project at Glorieta in nearly 25 years.

The Hall of States lodge, built more than 40 years ago, will be razed and replaced with a new 60-room hotel, which will be completed in time for the 2006

summer conference schedule.

Extensive renovation projects over the last three years have updated many of Glorieta's buildings, including all of the youth dorms. But as one of the oldest buildings, "the deficiencies of the Hall of States make it impractical to simply renovate," said Mike Arrington, LifeWay Christian Resources vice president for corporate affairs.

In addition to gaining modern amenities, the rooms of the new hotel will be 40 percent larger in size. □

BWC still planned despite bombings

Associated Baptist Press

DIDCOT, England — World-wide Baptists will continue with plans to meet July 27-31 in England, despite the "horror" caused by deadly bombings that struck London July 7.

British Baptists, who will play host to the Baptist World Congress in Birmingham in less than three weeks, voiced their desire "to stand alongside all those who are the victims of such brutality," but confirmed plans for the meeting of Baptists worldwide will go on.

"When we gather in Birmingham as a family of world Baptists, it will give us an opportunity to pray together for our

broken world and to show solidarity with all who suffer," David Coffey, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said in a statement issued hours after the apparent terrorist attack.

Between 10,000 to 15,000 Baptists from around the world are expected in Birmingham — 105 miles northwest of London — for the centenary meeting of the Baptist World Congress, marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Baptist World Alliance, a fellowship of 210 Baptist unions. The BWA was formed in Birmingham in 1905. □

Meth now labeled as worst drug

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Law enforcement agencies have now declared methamphetamine the No. 1 illegal drug problem in the nation, ranking it above cocaine, marijuana, and heroin.

A survey of law enforcement officials in 500 counties in 45 states released July 5 by the National Association of Counties said less than 20 percent of law enforcement officers consider marijuana their top obstacle.

Meth, they said, was behind an increase in other crimes and

was seen as the largest problem in every area nation except the North America Today reported.

Methamphetamine, can be made from basic ingredients like cold medicines and pseudoephedrine, is a form of speed usually smoked or injected.

"On the national level federal government still sees marijuana as the No. 1 problem in America, but law enforcement officials have a different perspective on ranking," the association

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MINISTRY — STUDENT

Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville, is searching for time minister of youth. send resume to jeff@landbaptist.org or 5600 V Ave., Knoxville, TN 37921.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

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Minister of children des birth through 5th grade, ing a day care program. F ments include a se degree, strong organizational ministry experience in school and children's ministry. Send resume to FBC M 3200 Mt. Olive Rd., Mt. C 35117, Attn. Children's Search Committee.

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MINISTRY — DOM

The Big Emory/New River Baptist Association in Harriman, Tenn., is seeking a full-time director of missions. Please e-mail resume to Patbenr@comcast.net or mail them to Big Emory/New River Baptist Association, P.O. Box 444, Harriman, TN 37748. Resumes will be taken through July 27, 2005.

MINISTRY — EDUCATION

First Baptist Church of Madison, Miss., is seeking a dynamic and passionate teacher of God's Word to immediately fill the full-time position of minister of education. Please mail letters of interest with credentials to FBC Madison, P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130-0400, or e-mail Shari Hurt, Pastoral Secretary at shurt@fbcmadison.org.



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a parent speaks

Carolyn Tomlin

Ecnomical family vacations

Each year thousands of families seek a time of rest and relaxation as they plan a vacation. Each year the numbers increase — and so do the expenses.

However, alternatives exist. Whether your family goes for the seashore, mountains, a trail-ride, a tour of historical sites, or a RV campground — here's how to save money without forgoing a great trip.

Lodging

What price are you willing to pay for a bed and breakfast for a few hours? If you are on the road and looking for a particular destination, small, locally owned motels may be your best choice.

Do children stay free with paying adults? Are kitchens provided? If so, make sandwiches or bowls of cereals and fruit for breakfast. Would weekend rates be less expensive?

Food

Family meals make up a large portion of vacation expense. Eating all meals in a restaurant means big bills. Instead:

Prepare food before leaving home. Pack an ice chest for cold items. Bake nutritious breakfast bars. Buy fresh fruit.

Stop at campgrounds or parks. Plug in a coffee maker and electric skillet for quick meals.

When you do eat in restaurants, select those where children eat free and remember that lunches are usually cheaper than dinner meals.

Travel

Whether traveling in your own vehicle or using another form of transportation, getting from point A to point B on a long trip is expensive. However, there are ways to save dollars. Make cost cutting a challenge as you travel.

Service your car before a trip. A well-tuned car is the most effective. Plus, there's less risk of a major breakdown that can leave you stranded on the open road. Drive a moderate rate of speed. Not only is it safer, but your car will receive better gas mileage.

Entertainment

We live in a diverse and beautiful country. From the mountains to the seashore, from the dense forests to the flat plains — America is awesome. Wherever you travel, talk about how God was the creator of all things. Genesis 1:1 reads, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Look for bargains in entertainment. Select a matinee instead of a night performance.

Vacation at home

Instead of traveling, block off calendar days for your family to relax at home. Consider the advantages: no travel, no lodging, sleep in your own bed, avoid unpacking/unpacking. Schedule places to visit and entertainment within 100 miles.

Exchange travel saving ideas with church and community friends. One thing for certain: Expect your vacation to exceed the cost. □ — Tomlin contributes to various Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

Discerning truth

By Michael Adams

Focal Passage: Colossians 2:6-19

We live in a world where 67 percent of the adults do not believe in absolute truth, and 52 percent of the Christian adults do not believe in absolute truth. Man has spent centuries in a search for truth and developed numerous philosophies around his quest and discoveries. It was the early 1970s when singer/songwriter Johnny Cash expressed the tension over this search with these words: "And the lonely voice of youth cries, 'What is truth?'" As Jesus stood on trial before Pilate, the Roman Procurator asked the same question. When Paul wrote to the Christians at Colossae, he was dealing with the issue of false teaching and false teachers. This group of errant leaders was known as Gnostics. The erroneous concepts of Gnostic thinking centered on a supposed superior knowledge which led to a supposed superior spiritual depth. In the middle of this debate Paul's suggestion is that a true Christian needs to learn discernment over truth. He gives some key concepts for the journey to discover truth.

Paul begins with the basic tenet of truth in Colossians 2:6-7. Jesus proclaimed that He is the truth while He lived on earth. Paul reminds us that as we journey through life with truth incarnate as our companion, we will more easily

know truth. The picture in this Scripture section is that of a pilgrim on his way. As we pass through life, the truths to which we are exposed should be "Father filtered" and "Savior sifted." Every truth is measured by the ultimate embodiment of truth. The Gnostics were trying to suggest that Christ could not have been totally man and maintain a purity of truth. Paul countered by showing that Jesus is not only able to maintain a purity of truth but also is the founding stone of truth and the total embodiment of truth in human flesh. In short Paul says, "To know Jesus is to know truth."

Paul then turns his attention to testing truth in verses 8-15. The false teachers of Colossae were not capturing converts. Instead, they were kidnapping Christians. Their method was one used by modern cults. They selected those who claimed Christ but did not study the basic teachings of God's Word. Then using confusion and combatants to bring callousness to immature believers, they led the careless believer astray. These Gnostic instructors used philosophy laced with empty deception. "Philosophy," as referenced here, is a singular occurrence and means "love is wisdom." The ill-advised instructor also used "traditions of men rather than the teachings of God." The best understanding of this phrase is that they taught man's thoughts as opposed to God's truth. The juxtaposition of this circumstance is

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
July 24

the real test of truth which is "according to Christ." Christ becomes our standard for truth because of who He is, or "the fullness of deity"; what He has done or "made us complete"; and, what He deserves or the "head over all rule and authority."

Paul's last concept centers on the timelessness of truth in verses 16-19. The apostle here reviews some traditional challenges that are leveled toward the truthfulness of actions. Food and drink, festivals and sabbaths, and aesthetic practices and worship of angels can all become dead-end studies when one is seeking truth. Paul closes the section with timeless truth. Paul suggests the body of Christ is timeless. With a passionate faith in Jesus Christ that results in persistent commitment, the believer becomes eternal. He does not need to wait to die and go to heaven to be eternal. We are eternal, now. That is always true. Paul also suggests our continuing journey gains strength from God. This, too, is timeless truth. In short Paul reminds us that abundant life and eternal life through Jesus Christ is true. □ — Adams is pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington.

How to live in a threatening world

By Brad Shockley

Focal Passage: Ezekiel 38:14-23; 39:27-29

Prophecy buffs will enjoy trying to decipher which contemporary world power is represented by "Gog of the land of Magog" in this week's lesson. It's all right to ponder these things, just don't become obsessed with them. If you do you'll miss the message. That's why I preach on the end-times with a view to the grand scheme of God's redemption plan that began in Genesis. Who the antichrist will be and whether or not the locusts are Apache helicopters is irrelevant — besides, I don't plan on being around to find out. Ezekiel 39:25-39 is the real message, brothers and sisters. Note the three things God is promising His chosen people: restoration, reunion, and regeneration.

Restoration — A nation set apart to be a light to the Gentile nations became instead a stumbling block (Isaiah 42:6, Romans 2:24). That's the sad history of Israel represented in 17 words. They had lost their place in God's covenant plan and were in desperate need of restoration. God promises to restore the house of Israel to its former glory, forget their checkered past, and surround them with a hedge of safety and protection (Ezekiel 39:25-26). It did not come in the lifetime of Ezekiel or any other prophet. Its fulfillment is reserved for the end of the age when God

recommences His dealings with Israel, satisfying every promise made in every prophecy given down to the nth degree. Much of God's work in the Millennium relates to this (Revelation 20:1-8), but you eschatology addicts already know that.

Reunion — Israel became a nation once again in 1948, yet there are still millions of Jews scattered all over the world (an after-effect of the exile still lingering after thousands of years). One day, all of Israel will be gathered together within the borders of Palestine. When this day comes every inch of Israeli soil will be under their control, and no unwanted presence will tread on it. There will be no fighting, no suicide bombings, and no hint of a star and crescent. Remember, God promised it exclusively to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so anyone else dwelling there is trespassing. Imagine how encouraging it must have been for a put-out-of-place, defeated nation to learn of God's future plans for one big happy reunion (Ezekiel 39:27-28).

Regeneration — The old Mosaic covenant, by which the Jewish people were condemned, was never intended to save (Galatians 3:21). Instead, it was purposed to expose the sinfulness of sin and lead people to Christ, the prophesied Messiah (Galatians 3:24). Israel's rebellion continued to the point of rejecting their Messiah and thus any hope of being reconciled to

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
July 24

God. Paul says they were the natural branches of the olive tree (a symbol for Israel), but God cut them away to make room for the grafting in of wild branches (Romans 11:17). Gentile believers are these wild branches! Ezekiel reveals that one day there will be a great revival among the Israelites. As they turn to Christ as a nation, God will pour out His Spirit upon them. They will be regenerated, grafted back in to the olive tree of God's kingdom (Ezekiel 39:29, Romans 11:23).

This week's lesson is a message of encouragement for the rebellious people of Israel that extends into and intertwines with the last days. It's also a word of encouragement to us. In it we catch a glimpse of the loving, kind, merciful, gracious, and faithful nature of God. He loves us and He's on our side.

We can trust Him to keep His promises. Promises like this one: *In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also* (John 14:1-3). □ — Shockley is pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill.

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Deaths

◆ **Davy J. Henderson**, senior pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Collierville, died June 10. A graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, in 1968, and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tx., in 1970, he served several churches in Texas and Southland Baptist Church, Ridgeway Baptist Church, and Covenant Baptist Church, all in Memphis. The family requests memorials be sent to Covenant Baptist Church, 3170 South Houston Levee Rd., Collierville, TN 38027-1165.

Leaders

◆ East Athens Baptist Church, Athens, recognized July 3 their pastor and minister of music and youth, who have both served the church for 25 years, with surprise recognitions during July 4th festivities. **Pete Mullins**, pastor, and **Mike Daniel**, minister of music and youth, were also presented plaques July 10.

◆ **Justin Moreland**, formerly of Dexter, Mo., was ordained to the ministry June 26 at Maple Springs Baptist Church, Medon. A 2005 graduate of Union University, Jackson, Moreland has served the church since the fall of 2002 as its minister of youth. He is married to the former Jillian Cook of Princeton, Ky.

◆ **Jamie English Sr.**, resigned July 3 as pastor of Only Baptist Church, Only.

◆ **Ken Kyker** has been called as interim pastor at



JAMES PORCH, left, executive director, Tennessee Baptist Convention, based in Brentwood, confers with **Kevin Peacock**, professor, Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, Cochrane, Alberta, Canada, during the May commencement. Porch was the keynote speaker. Peacock is professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at CSBS. — Photo by Brenda Peacock

Boones Creek Baptist Church, Gray.

◆ **Roy Miller**, retired Tennessee Baptist Convention staff member, began serving July 10 as senior adult ministry coordinator for Manley Baptist Church, Morristown. Miller was pastor of First Baptist Church of Pleasant Hill.

◆ **DeWayne Howard** resigned effective July 17 as pastor of New Vision Church in Athens. Howard, who planted the church four years ago, has returned to full-time evangelism. He may be reached at (423) 744-7109 or dwayne@transforminglives.info. **Dillard Sneed** of Etowah has been called as interim pastor.

Churches

◆ **Harmony Baptist Church, Jonesborough**, recently broke ground for a \$1.1 million building to be constructed across from its pres-

ent facility. The new building, scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving, will house worship center/recreation space, classrooms, and have parking for 150 cars. Steve Pate serves as pastor.

◆ The senior adult group of **Una Baptist Church, Nashville**, will visit Branson, Mo., and Eureka Springs, Ark., Sept. 20-22. Anyone wishing to join the group should call the church office at (615) 361-5775.

◆ **Barfield Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will dedicate its new auditorium Sunday, Aug. 7. For information contact pastor Ron Byers at (615) 896-2490.

◆ **First Baptist Church of Bon Aqua** will hold homecoming activities Sunday, Aug. 7.

◆ The Skinner Sisters will present a concert at **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, Sunday, July 31, at 10:45 a.m. Lunch will be served. For information, contact the church office at (615) 227-2961 or visit the web site at www.shelbyavenuebaptist.com.

◆ **Eastanallee Baptist Church, Riceville**, will hold a groundbreaking for their multi-purpose facility, Sunday, July 31. The ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. on its new property across from its current building. For information contact the church at (423) 462-2620.

◆ **First Baptist Church of Middleton** will celebrate its 125th anniversary during its annual homecoming service Sunday, July 24. Robert Tyson Sr., pastor from 1993-2000, will speak during the 10:55 a.m. morning service. Lunch will be served and an afternoon music service will be held.

◆ **Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Kingston**, began on July 17 a new video series



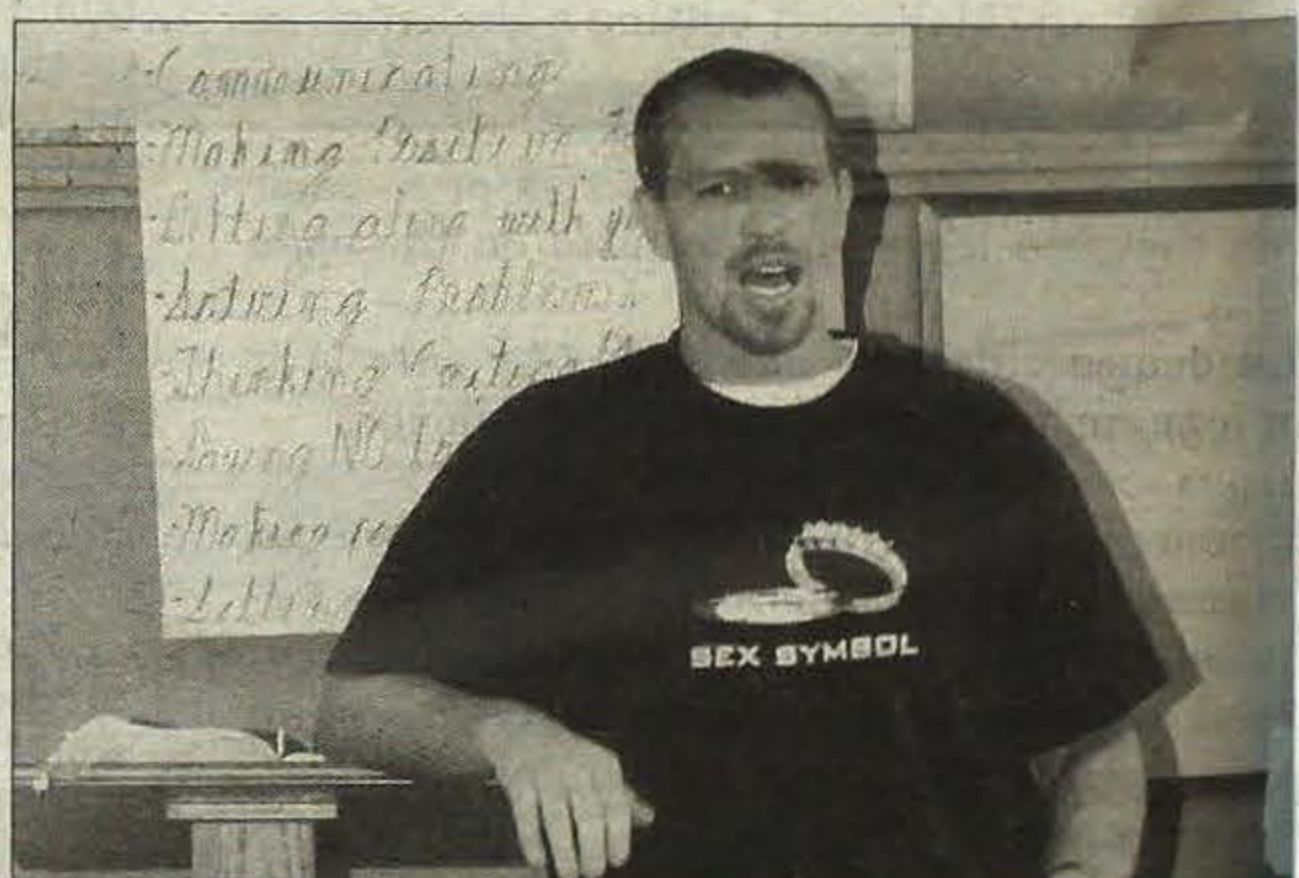
THE 64-MEMBER STUDENT Choir of First Baptist Cleveland, performs in a church in New Orleans, La. They participated in MissionLab of New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary June 26 - July 1. The youth also sang in missions and did other missions work. A total of 114 students and adults participated from the church. Tom Wickes is minister of music and Stan Gibson is minister to students.

entitled "Bringing Up Kids Without Tearing Them Down" by Kevin Leman. It will be held on Sunday from 5-5:45 p.m. and again on Thursday from 11 a.m. - noon. For information call the church office at (865) 376-9305.

Associations

◆ Two classes on tutoring children and youth for school volunteers, homeschool parents, grandparents, and any-

one else will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, at the **Hart County Baptist Association** office in Chattanooga. The singing track will be held 9 a.m. - noon and a matinee will be held from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. North American Mission Board facilitator I. Swingle will serve as workshop facilitator. To sign up for the classes call the association office at (423) 266-0000 or email hcba@baptistassociation.com.



LUCAS HURD of the Just Wait program of Hope Resource Center of Knoxville speaks to the middle school age youth at First Baptist Church, Strawberry Plains, during its recent Vacation Bible School on True Love Waits, the Southern Baptist Convention program. Leading the VBS program for the youth was Taylor, a retired teacher and member of the church. About 100 youth attended.



KATIE BARRON, 7, of Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, shows the money she collected as a Girls in Action project at church. She and 21 other members of the church will serve the New York congregation July 23-30. She collected \$450. The Tennessee team will help the church with its Vacation Bible School.



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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Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171 / No. 27; July 27, 2005

this week's news

skins, Pitman head-
e program for 2005
stors Retreat. —
ge 2

ernational Mission
ard trustees update
bal goals. — Page 2

ummer missionaries
rk with Hispanics in
Minnville and
mithville. — Page 3

nd out what Ten-
essee Baptists are
ng in disaster relief
construction. See
"Tennessee Baptist
unteer Missions
etwork Update." —
ges 5-8

Crossover impacted local churches, pastors agree

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Crossover block parties enabled churches to impact their communities and provided a significant opportunity for members to work together on a big project, according to five pastors.

A total of 31 block parties were held in the greater Nashville area on Saturday, June 18, as part of the Crossover evangelistic thrust that preceded the Southern Baptist Convention. A total of 549 persons made professions of faith at the block parties while the total for all seven Crossover venues was 2,546, according to figures compiled by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Phil Gruita, pastor of Ivy Memorial Baptist Church in Nashville that is located in a neighborhood including many drug addicts and prostitutes, said more than 500 people attended their block party.

Eighty-six people prayed to receive Christ through door-to-door visitation and the party. A Sunday morning service of recommitment to reaching their neighborhood resulted in a spirit of revival in the congregation.

Crossover by the numbers

Following are Crossover statistics as of July 12.

- Churches and associations participating — 243
- Volunteers — 11,101
- Professions of faith — 2,546
- Professions by venues
- Sports evangelism — 15
- Prayer journeys — 5

- Block parties — 549
- Ethnic ministries — 415
- Door-to-door visitation — 570
- Kindness explosion — 13
- Inner-city evangelism — 976
- Evangelism Response Center — 3

As he got up to preach on June 19, Gruita said God changed his sermon. Instead of the topic he had planned, "I preached about the lost sheep and the lost coin. I gave an invitation to people to express support for ministry to their neighborhood, loving the prostitutes and drug addicts."

Approximately 140 of the 150 present walked the aisle to express a renewed commitment to reaching their community for Christ.

Also, several who had made decisions the previous day attended the Sunday service and three were baptized the following Monday. A July 23 dinner for new members was slated and Gruita said, "a majority of those are from Crossover."

Ivy Memorial had massive

support from Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, who brought 103 volunteers including a 55-member marching band to assist with the block party. Earlier in the week, members of First Baptist Church of Woodland Mills sent 50 volunteers who brought the Ivy Memorial church building up to codes, painted, remodeled the playground, and built a new basketball court.

Of the volunteers, Gruita, a native of Romania, said, "On one hand I stood in awe, but, on the other hand, I have seen God do great miracles in my life. For the big dream we had for reaching people I knew we needed the help of a big church."

Since June 18, he said, "We have had several people in the area who have expressed sup-

port for what we're doing and have sent checks. That's amazing because people in this neighborhood don't have a lot of money."

Ivy Memorial also hosted a neighborhood picnic on July 3, with financial support from Bellevue.

Big day in Pleasant View

Begun in January 2005, 24 Church — located at exit 24 off I-24 in Pleasant View — advertised their block party as "Jive '05" and drew more than 800 people.

"We've been told it's the biggest thing that's happened in Pleasant View," said Pastor Chris Royalty. "A lot of people wanted to know if we're going to do it every year."

Since Crossover, "we've had new families every week. We haven't seen any decisions, but I think we will."

Royalty said, "we have at least tried to call everyone" who attended. He is contacting those who expressed interest in the gospel or wanted more information about the church.

For church members, Royalty said Jive '05 helped them "to see we are capable of doing big things."

— See Crossover, page 3

B&R Day issue to highlight Montana partnership, family

Baptist and Reflector

ENTWOOD — Sunday, Aug. 21, is recognized on the calendar of the Tennessee Baptist Convention as *Baptist and Reflector* Day.

Planned articles for the B&R Day emphasis will focus on new partnership Tennessee Baptists will begin in January with the Montana Baptist Convention and family and church

annual event is designed to introduce Tennessee Baptists to their state newspaper. "In many of our churches today we have members who have moved in from out of state or have come from another denomination," said Editor Lonnie Wilkey. "These Tennessee Baptists may not even know they have a newspaper like the *Baptist and Reflector* available to them" he

B&R Day also is a good opportunity to re-introduce the paper to people who may not have seen it for some time, he

churches can order free copies of the Aug. 17 issue for their members.

Editor also hope churches will actively promote the paper and encourage people to subscribe, either through a church plan or individually," the editor said.

Editor welcome this opportunity to introduce more people to the state paper as we tell the story of Tennessee Baptists," he added.

Order copies, call the B&R office at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 209 or fax or mail the form found on page 9 of this issue. The deadline for ordering free copies is Aug. 11. □

Giles County layman 'jams' for missions

By Frank Webb
For Baptist and Reflector

GOODSPRING — One local Giles County resident has combined two passions to benefit others.

Foster Norwood, a member of Thompson Chapel Baptist Church, Pulaski, has a long-time love for making jelly and jam.

For years he has picked the local wild berries to make his prize-winning jellies. He took the blue ribbon for first place in the 2004 Giles County Fair for his wild plum jelly.

Last year Foster made and sold about 500 pints of jelly and jam to friends and neighbors. He donated the proceeds to the building fund at Thompson Chapel.

This year his sights are set even higher.

In February Foster joined nine other Baptist men from Giles and Lawrence counties on a mission trip to Los Mochis, Mexico.

They began construction on a mission church in an impoverished area of the city named

Siglo XXI. The mission has since been named "Centro de Esperanza" or "Center of Hope."

While on the trip Foster helped to minister to a number of families around the mission. The team provided medical attention, glasses, Bibles, candy,

and toys for some of the local families. These efforts opened a door to witness and several people accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Foster and others plan to return to Mexico next February — See Giles County, page 9



FOSTER NORWOOD, a member of Thompson Chapel Baptist Church, Pulaski, displays jars of homemade jelly and jam that he makes each year. Proceeds from jars he sells this year will go toward a mission project next year in Mexico.

about your newsjournal

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IMB updates global goals

Baptist Press

ROCKVILLE, Va. — Interna-
tional Mission Board trustees
updated the board's strategic
goals and objectives during their
July 18-20 meeting here at the
Missionary Learning Center.

The new strategy plan
reflects major commitments the
board has made to fulfill the pri-
mary ministry assignments
entrusted to it by the Southern
Baptist Convention.

"God's at work in the world,
and this is what it will take to
keep up with what He is doing,"
IMB President Jerry Rankin
said. "These are God-sized goals,
and we're challenging Southern
Baptists to be on mission with
Him."

Key goals discussed and
adopted by trustees include:

- Engage all unreached peo-
ple groups (i.e., begin reaching
them with the gospel directly or
through mission partners) with
a population of more than
100,000 by the end of 2008.
- Provide access to the gospel
among all people groups by the
end of 2010.
- Increase the number of
overseas baptisms — and the
number of new believers and
church members being discipled
— by 20 percent annually.
- Increase by 20 percent
annually the number of new
churches started, nurturing
church-planting movements.
- Send and support at least
1,000 new missionaries annual-
ly in anticipation of adequate
giving by Southern Baptists.
- Facilitate a growing involve-
ment of 10,000 Southern Baptist
churches in the global missions
task by the end of 2008.
- Challenge Southern Bap-
tists to increase financial sup-
port to the IMB through the
Cooperative Program by 5 per-
cent annually and meet the goal
of the Lottie Moon Christmas
Offering each year.

The revised goals and objec-
tives, which were jointly devel-
oped by IMB staff leadership,
trustee officers, and committee
chairmen, will guide the board
and its missionaries for the next
five years.

"I'm very excited that we've
been given ownership of this
document," said board chairman
Tom Hatley, pastor of Immanuel
Baptist Church in Rogers, Ark.
"Every goal begins with a verb.
These are not just words or nice
prayer requests. This is going to
take work." □

Bush nominates Roberts for post on Supreme Court

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — In a
choice praised by social conser-
vatives, President George W.
Bush July 19 nominated John G.

TBC Pastors Retreat set for Aug. 8-11

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 2005
Pastors Retreat will be held
Aug. 8-11 at Carson Springs
Baptist Conference Center in
Newport.

The theme for the meeting
is "Heart Cry for Revival —
Seeking God's Face."

Speakers include Robert
Pitman, senior pastor, Kirby
Woods Baptist Church, Mem-
phis; Phil Hoskins, senior pas-
tor, Higher Ground Baptist
Church, Kingsport; Glenn
Denton, senior pastor, Hill-
crest Baptist Church,
Lebanon, and president of the
Tennessee Baptist Pastors
Conference;

Don Whitt, evangelist; Rock
Collins, senior pastor, First Bap-

tist Church,
Gate City,
Va.; Don
Pierson, TBC
prayer
strategies
specialist;
and Floyd
"Lammie"
Lammersfeld,
evangelist.

Other program personnel
includes Gary Buck, music
evangelist; Carolyn Powell,
Judy Basham, and Johnnie
Human.

To register, send \$5 regis-
tration fee by July 30 to
Diana Cox, Evangelism
Strategies, Tennessee Baptist
Convention, P.O. Box 728,
Brentwood, TN 37024.

To make reservations for



DENTON



HOSKINS



LAMMERSFELD



PITMAN



WHITT

lodging at Carson Springs, c
Susan Mason toll-free at
877-704-6336. □

Roberts to be the nation's next
Supreme Court justice, saying
the 50-year-old is "one of the
best legal minds of his genera-
tion" and someone who would
"not legislate from the bench."

"One of the most consequen-
tial decisions a president makes
is his appointment of a justice to
the Supreme Court," Bush said.
"... [A] nominee to that court must
be a person of superb credentials
and the highest integrity, a per-
son who will faithfully apply the
Constitution and keep our found-
ing promise of equal justice under
law. I have found such a person in
Judge John Roberts."

Bush asked for a "dignified
confirmation process" in the
Senate and said he hoped to see
Roberts on the court when it
reconvenes in October. He also
said he had consulted with more
than 70 senators — a topic that
received much attention during
the debate over judicial fili-
busters earlier this year.

Roberts, who is Catholic,
called his nomination "very
humbling."

If confirmed by the Senate,
Roberts — who currently serves
on the U.S. Court of Appeals for
the District of Columbia — would
replace Sandra Day O'Connor,
the first female Supreme Court
justice. Conservatives hope
Roberts will tilt the court to the
right and issue favorable rulings
on a host of cultural issues,
including abortion and the public
display of the Ten Command-
ments. The court eventually could
weigh in on "gay marriage."

O'Connor was a swing vote
on several hot-button issues but
disappointed conservatives mul-
tiple times, including her vote in
a 5-4 decision to overturn
Nebraska's partial-birth abor-
tion ban. □

Second attack won't stop BWC

Baptist Press

DIDCOT, England — "The
congress proceeds as planned
and our watchword is: 'In God

we trust.'"

With those words, David Coffey, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and incoming president of the Baptist World Alliance, tried to reassure 12,000-plus Baptists world-
wide expected to attend the Baptist World Congress this week in Birmingham, 105 miles northwest of London.

Four "attempted bombings" struck London July 21, two weeks to the day after four explosions killed at least 56 people and injured hundreds in the city's transit system, authorities said. While the latest attacks were not nearly as deadly, they were eerily similar to the July 7 bombings. Both targeted three underground subway locations and one bus.

"We express our continuing sympathy to those who have lost loved ones and to those who were injured on 7/7 and to those who may have been involved in the latest events in London today," Coffey said in a statement July 22.

Coffey and Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, reiterated their earlier assessment that the global Baptist meeting, even in the wake of terror attacks, sends the right message.

"I encourage all those planning to attend the congress to come to Birmingham as a witness to our solidarity with a suffering world and a persecuted church," Coffey said of the July 27-31 meeting.

"Many believers face threats to life on a regular basis. The current climate in the UK provides a context for God to speak to us in a deep way as a gathering of global Baptists."

The Baptist World Congress, which meets once every five years, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of BWA, which was organized in London in 1905.

Cancellations for the Birmingham meeting were minimal after the July 7 attacks, BWA officials reported. □

DR efforts wind down, officials monitor Franklin

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Southern Baptist disaster response to two hurricanes in many weeks is winding down the season's third named storm that could impact the United States churns across the Atlantic.

"As a disaster relief network we actually dodged two bullets with Hurricanes Dennis and Emily," said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for the North American Mission Board. "Of course, for those people who had storm and wind damage, it was very significant and that's why Southern Baptists do disaster relief ministry. But, we were ready for a worst case scenario that didn't materialize. For that, we're very thankful."

Burton said he was pleased with the pre-planning by American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the Southern Baptist disaster relief network.

More than 1,600 Southern Baptist volunteers from Alabama, Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and Tennessee served over 60,000 meals and completed 250 cleanup jobs in Alabama and Florida in the wake of Hurricane Dennis. Although some recovery work is still being completed, most of the units have been deactivated and returned home. No out-of-state units were sent into south Texas or into Mexico following Hurricane Emily, although several state units were placed on alert to possibly assist the Salvation Army in the event of a disaster.

Now, disaster relief officials are watching the next storm, Franklin, move across the Bahamas. As of July 22 it was a tropical storm. Burton and NAMB monitors the weather daily to be prepared to mobilize when the storms strike. □

McMinnville

Summer missionary team experiences Hispanic culture

Donnie Davis Bushey
Artist and Reflector

MCMINNVILLE — The Tennessee Baptist Convention summer missionary team, eXalt, experienced the Hispanic culture recently — in Tennessee.

One of its week-long assignments was to work with a Hispanic congregation in McMinnville and one in nearby Smithville.

The team is made up of Jonathan Elder, team leader who is a recent graduate of University of Tennessee — Chattanooga; Katie Mullins and Stephanie Harris, students at Tennessee State University in Nashville; and Matt Meridieth, student at Volunteer State Community College, Gallatin.

The students led a Vacation Bible School in the mornings at a beginning Hispanic Baptist congregation in Smithville and in the evenings at the First Hispanic Baptist Church, McMinnville.

It was a cultural experience for the team and the Hispanics, said the team and Roger Stacy, director of missions of the association.

The team said one of the cultural experiences was a language barrier. Harris, who is serving as a state summer missionary for the first time, said she speaks a few words of Spanish learned from two years of study in high school. Elder said he speaks some he has picked up from working with Spanish speakers at a restaurant.

At Herwin Antonio, pastor of First Hispanic Church, was so patient and “very encouraging,” Harris said. Antonio, his wife, and his son served as translators during a flyer distribution to promote the VBS in Smithville.

Antonio also is pastor of the



MEMBERS OF the summer missionary team eXalt which served in McMinnville and Smithville July 3-8 are, from left, Katie Mullins, Matt Meridieth, Jonathan Elder, and Stephanie Harris. — Photos by Roger Stacy

new congregation the church is starting in Smithville with help from Central Association and Salem Baptist Association, based in Liberty. The new congregation is meeting at First Baptist Church, Smithville.

During VBS, which was conducted in English, Harris was shocked to learn that some of the Hispanic students had not heard about Christ. They also experienced the cultural gap as the students asked them a lot of questions about their lives.

One of the highlights for Harris was a commitment time following a VBS session. She and Mullins met with the about 12 girls while Elder and Meridieth met with the about 15 boys. Four girls and one boy made professions of faith, said Harris.

The Hispanic youth who were Christians knew praise songs such as “Lord I lift your name on high,” added Harris. They sang them in Spanish and then everyone sang them in English.

She also enjoyed worshiping in the Hispanic worship services on Sunday before they left. She noted First Hispanic is growing and almost without enough room. Several of the team spoke

and sang in the worship services.

“They are kind, very loving people,” said Harris. She added that they also were extremely receptive to them. She was struck by the fact “that they experience God the way we do. I loved them,” said Harris. She hopes to be a summer missionary again.

Elder was a state summer missionary last year who worked with another Hispanic church. He also has served on a missions team in Mexico. So he didn’t experience culture shock, he described.

“The kids were a blast to be with. We were ministered to so much by that church family. There’s a fire (passion) there that’s contagious.”

He explained that Antonio and the members of the two congregations have passion to tell the thousands of Hispanics living in the two cities about Christ.

Like Harris, he noticed the receptiveness of the Hispanic people.

Elder also observed the “oneness of the families” as they enjoyed one another in gather-



JONATHAN ELDER, team leader of the summer missionary team, eXalt, leads a song during the VBS held in the backyard of a home in Smithville.



HERVIN ANTONIO, left, pastor, First Hispanic Baptist Church, McMinnville, and pastor of the new Hispanic Baptist congregation in Smithville, talks with summer missionary Stephanie Harris in a Smithville neighborhood where they distributed flyers to promote the VBS held there.

ings. The people enjoyed “being together. We were welcomed into that,” he added.

Elder also appreciated the dinner held in their honor featuring authentic foods.

Stacy noted the last time Central Association used a summer missionary team was to help begin First Hispanic in McMinnville. Both times they really helped the work, he said.

Today First Hispanic Church

draws about 80 to Sunday morning worship in a building bought by the association. In just five years, the association has nearly paid the \$145,000 debt for the building, said Stacy.

“The Hispanic churches just loved them to death,” said Stacy, referring to the summer missionaries. Both groups learned from each other.

“It was a good exchange both ways.” □

Crossover impacted local churches, pastors agree...

Continued from page 1

meeting at Pleasant View Elementary School, 24 Church has seen attendance gradually since January to about 40 attending each week.

The ’05 “was a really big day for us. We went to make a lot of contacts,” Royall said.

Help with growth

Donelson View Baptist Church — 117 East Old and located just three miles from downtown Nashville — drew 187 people to their block party and three professions of faith.

The church conducted Vacation Bible School during the five days leading up to the party and “we used that as a springboard to invite children and their families” to the block party, Pastor Gordon Donahoe said.

A young man who prayed to receive Christ at the block party made his decision public the next day at the church and was then baptized by Donahoe at the annual Baptist Convention. He has since married and attended Donelson

View with his new wife.

“I think his decision and the unique way he was baptized has helped him in his spiritual life,” Donahoe said.

He added that several who attended the block party, including a Romanian family, have since visited the church. He believes the block party increased awareness of the church and its ministry.

“We count it an opportunity to get more hooks in the water,” Donahoe said.

He said he chose a block party from the Crossover venues because his church had conducted them before in the form of harvest celebrations.

“I felt this was something our people would be familiar with and would know how to do. They understood the dynamics of what was involved.”

Heightened awareness

While 175 persons attended the block party at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Nashville, the attendance might have been larger except for a postal service glitch that delayed delivery of their promotional flyer until a

week after the event.

However, Pastor Darrell Nimmo was philosophical about the problem, noting that the delayed mailing had become a humorous point of conversation as members conducted follow-up visits.

One person made a profession of faith and three rededicated their lives as a result of the block party. Also, “we had several (from the block party) attend church the following Sunday,” Nimmo said.

Church members have been personally visiting those who attended the party. Sunday evening services were canceled July 10 to allow members to visit in the neighborhood.

“Crossover created a heightened sense of awareness that we need to go out and reach people.

“Many who have never gone out visiting are participating in the follow-up. It’s been a very positive thing for our church,” Nimmo said.

He noted that the block party also “helped us re-establish identity within

the community. People are a lot more aware we’re here, active, and doing things.”

Wholesome event

West Franklin Baptist Church, a new congregation in Franklin that recently purchased a vacant church facility on Highway 96, conducted a block party targeted to children and did door-to-door visitation.

Of 167 visits, Pastor Jim Harvey said 58 conversations were held, the gospel was presented 14 times, and 10 prospect homes were discovered. Since Crossover, members of two prospect families have visited the church.

“We had good visits and good teams. We reached some prospects,” Harvey said.

He praised two church groups who helped West Franklin. One, from Arkansas, came before the block party and completed some improvements on the building. A group from Alabama brought volunteers, a planned program of children’s activities, and a platform. □

Lessons from a seven-mile Tennessee traffic jam

guest
columnist



By J. D. Payne

Recently, my family and I were traveling north on Interstate 75 to our home in Louisville, Ky. Just north of Knoxville, we encountered one of the largest traffic jams that I've ever seen. For almost one hour, we inched along, riding our brakes, and covering a distance of not more than five miles.

You know the frustration of being behind scores of cars that wrap around the curve in the road or extend up the hillside all the while hoping that when you make that turn or cross that summit you will see the problem and realize that you will soon be past the point of conflict, only to have your hopes dashed to pieces when you arrive at that desired point and see more cars extending to the horizon. It was not a pleasant situation.

Our 1-year-old daughter woke up crying since the vibration of our vehicle's chassis had ceased. We were now going to

be late for a family birthday party in Corbin, Ky. And on top of all of this, it was a hot day even with the air conditioner on full blast, and I had just downed an iced caramel latte and no rest area was in sight.

By the time we arrived at the location of the log jam, I expected to see massive construction work, but rather I witnessed only a couple of men picking up construction barrels off a bridge. On the north side of the workers, the road was clear. By this time, I was well past irritated.

For some strange reason, I looked across the median and noticed that some type of construction work was taking place on the south-bound lanes of the adjacent bridge. Of course, traffic was stalled as far as the eye could see. Knowing that our side of the road was backed-up at least five miles, I decided to measure the distance of the south-bound traffic jam. (I guess I did this because of some sick desire to know that others were suffering through the same situation. Or, maybe I wanted evidence to include in a letter to the governor.) I set my trip odometer to 0 and started driving.

Believe it or not, seven miles later I came to the end of the string of vehicles. What took

me only a few minutes to drive northward was going to take hundreds of other people over an hour to drive southward. I cringed at the reality of what those people were facing. I had been there and could sympathize.

My initial thought was, "It would be great if I could have driven past all of these people letting them know the great distance they have to travel at five miles per hour. If only I could tell them to get off the interstate and take U.S. 25 South to by-pass the problem." Maybe I could have rolled down my window and motioned for the people to turn around. Or, if I had the time, I could have written a message on a large piece of poster board and held it up as I passed.

The truth of the matter was that there was nothing that I could do to communicate the truth to those weary travelers.

In fact, if I had done something, the chances were slim that anyone would have believed me anyway. Well, what would you do if you saw some man waving a big sign saying turn around and take the highway? Yeah, that's what I thought. Me too.

Reflecting on my interstate irritation, I am reminded of the fact that as a follower of Jesus

I must never forget that I have the responsibility and privilege to tell others to avoid wasting their time on the road of frustration and emptiness and follow Jesus.

By now, those south-bound drivers have made it past the construction zone and have arrived at their destinations, but in life's journey there is a way that seems right to people, "but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12 NASB). The way of Jesus is a way of abundant life (John 10:10) and we must remember this truth as we communicate the love of God to others.

Had I decided to drive past seven miles of traffic telling people to take a different route, some may have considered me crazy, but regardless of their thoughts toward me, I indeed had the knowledge of the truth of their present situation.

Remember that Nathanael first thought Philip was out of his mind when he shared his knowledge of the truth of the present reality, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:45 NASB). And Nathanael's response? "Sweet! Dude you found Him! Way Cool!" Hardly! Rather,

Nathanael's response "Can any good thing come of Nazareth?" (John NASB).

Fast forward a few years. Paul is preaching famous Mars Hill sermon spoke of the truth of the present reality but "When heard of the resurrection, dead, some began to believe" (Acts 17:32 NASB). However, few did come to faith. Fast forward once again, Paul is in the present reality with Agrippa and asks, "King Agrippa, do you believe in the prophets? I know you believe" (Acts 26:27 HCSB). Agrippa replied, "Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?" (Acts 26:28 HCSB).

As we share with people the way of Jesus, there will be some who will travel on their way continuing on in their rebellion from God, but some will change direction. May God grant us the grace, compassion and love to become fools for His glory (I Corinthians 3:18). As we challenge people to change their way and follow the Way (John 14:6). □ — Paul the Nehemiah Project director and assistant professor of biblical planting and evangelism, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

letters to the editor

Well represented

Tennessee Baptists are well represented this summer in the Philippines! You have sent some of your best students to share the gospel with the unreached and hard to reach of this beautiful island nation. The following students are serving on Nehemiah Teams in the Philippines this summer: Jessica Birdwell (Greenbrier), Christy Montgomery (Ramer), Kyle Kurlick (Lakeland), & Sarah Sherrouse (Manchester).

Nehemiah Teams is serious about their mandate of "Leading students to obey the Great Commission in this generation." Three evangelism teams are obeying Christ's mandate by sharing the gospel in unreached and hard to reach areas of the Philippines.

These teams are abundantly sowing the gospel through tract distribution, one-on-one evangelism, evangelistic dramas, and small group Bible study. Teams are reporting that people are accepting Christ, being baptized, and opening their homes for Bible study.

We praise God for their boldness in sharing the good news! The fourth team, a construction/agriculture team, is working on the construction of a campground in the Agusan River Valley area. Each week, this team also gives dental

hygiene presentations in rural elementary schools. While teaching the basics of good dental care, they are also sharing the gospel through the use of wordless books.

Each child comes away with a new toothbrush, a bright smile, and the knowledge that there is a God who loves them and sent His son to die for them.

Jess & Wendy Jennings
Butuan City, Philippines

What a day!

What a day June 18 turned out to be. Hillcrest Baptist Church in Clarksville has never experienced such an outpouring of people sharing Christ within our own community.

Our church prepared and delivered 600 information packets to our neighbors. The packets contained a letter from the pastor, information about the church, a salvation tract and commitment card, and some contained New Testaments.

Our church made over 300 contacts and reported seven professions of faith. The next day we had three families visit our church because of the efforts of our people to invite others.

A special thanks to those from LifeWay (Christian Resources) who assisted us and to our Lord and Savior for making June 18 a reality.

This is one pastor who is

proud to be the pastor of His church.

Jerry Harwell, pastor
Hillcrest Baptist Church
Clarksville 37024

Integrity?

In reference to the article regarding Ken Whitten's convention sermon (6-29 issue), he was quoted as saying the "conservative resurgence" movement was never about power, politics, or position, but always about "integrity."

I sincerely have to question the conservative interpretation of the word "integrity." He stated that "Southern Baptist seminaries had stopped teaching that the Bible was authoritative by the late 1950s, using 'double-speak' and 'holy jargon' to disguise what they were really teaching."

All these years since the "conservative takeover," though I have never written a letter or tried to argue the point, I have had my fill of these false accusations, and it really pains me that they are still being used to justify what took place in the SBC.

So, his use of the word "integrity" must have a new meaning of which I am not aware. My dictionary defines it as (1) an unimpaired condition: soundness, (2) as adherence to a code of moral, artistic, or other values, and (3) the quality or

state of being complete or undivided."

The synonym mentioned is "honesty." As my husband and I were students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., during the late 1950s and early 1960s, I can unequivocally state that I never heard one person or professor teach that the Bible was anything but the authoritative, inspired Word of God.

I found all with whom I was acquainted during those years to be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led men and women of God. Their teaching was never "double-speak" or "holy jargon." The conservative accusations were never proven nor was a single "heretic" produced, so I am really incensed by his use of the word "integrity." To continue to spread such accusations has nothing to do with integrity.

Joanne Trotter
Brentwood 37027

Wrong impression

At the risk of being branded as "hard-hearted" I must share my concerns about the coverage given to the effort to give Tennessee lawmakers copies of the Bible (May 18 issue).

I had no problem at all with Gov. Phil Bredesen or any of our other legislators getting a copy of Scripture. Isaiah 55:11 tells us that God's Word "shall not

return unto me void, but it will accomplish that which I purpose."

I know that principle as to Bredesen and his ilk. My concern is that by Bredesen this kind of coverage with a front page picture and glowing comments from Tennessee Baptist leaders we may give rank-and-file Southern Baptists the impression of our government.

This favorable coverage mainly fails to highlight the differences that all Southern Baptists should have with Bredesen. No doubt, it will be next year as he tries to cast the impression that he is a conservative.

A little research will show his stands on the lottery, abortion rights, and the gay community differ greatly with conservatives.

While we should pray for Bredesen, we don't have to support him. His philosophy is those held by most Southern Baptists are diametrically opposed to one another.

Leo Clarksville

The effort to give Bible to the governor and to state legislators was initiated by TBC President Roger Freeman. The story reported that news event was not an endorsement of a person or any political party. — Don Wilkey

Note:
This edition is on
Disaster Relief,
Construction

UPDATE

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

From the Tennessee Disaster Relief director

Volunteer construction ministry provides an opportunity for you to share Christ by using your skills to help build homes or repair homes for those in need.

Suppose the key word in the above paragraph is volunteer. There are many projects

across our state and in other states as well that could use some good volunteer help.



Would you or your church group be willing to undertake one of these projects? These projects include church construction, man ministry, disaster relief, home repair, new construction, church renovation, and legacy ministry.

If you have interest in any of these projects, please call the TBC office in Brentwood. We can help you find a project that meets your needs. We can also help you find a volunteer construction ministry in your church. If you know of volunteer construction projects that need workers, please give us a call here at the Tennessee Disaster Relief/Construction team at 1-800-558-0927.

David Acres



41 Tennessee DR volunteers serve Hurricane Dennis victims

Working in the parking lot of Evergreen Baptist Church, Evergreen, Ala., July 14 are 41 volunteers with the Tennessee Baptist State Disaster Relief feeding unit. The volunteers prepared 6,500 meals for victims of Hurricane Dennis and transported them on Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles. Besides the feeding unit, the state wash support unit, the generator unit, the refrigeration tractor trailer, and the shower trailer were on site. The shower trailer was from Concord First Baptist Church, Knoxville. — Photo by Larry Triplett

DR cooks for national WMU meeting participants

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

NASHVILLE — Around 15 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Feeding Unit volunteers cooked and served lunch Monday, June 20, to 505 people in the covered drive thru of First Baptist Church of Nashville

to demonstrate the Joy of Missions during the WMU SBC National Meeting.

Watching the Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Feeding Unit in action was a hands-on demonstration of missions at work, and participants ate the same food that is served to disaster victims, according to Tennessee WMU executive director Candy Phillips.

The meals were available from 11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. for a cost of \$5 each. Participants ate at picnic tables or inside the church in the fellowship hall.

Feeding crews from

First Baptist Church, Crieveview Baptist Church, and Forest Hills Baptist Church, all of Nashville; Hillcrest Baptist Church and West Hills Baptist Church, both of Lebanon; First Baptist Church of Hendersonville; Clearview Baptist Church, Franklin; and other churches staffed the Feeding Unit, led by Mike Overcash, DR Middle Tennessee Training coordinator and TBC retiree.

In addition to the Feeding demonstration, Doug and Tawana Flatt, Service and Delivery Unit Support coordinators, led three breakout sessions on the "Nuts and Bolts of Disaster Relief." In the sessions, the Flatts discussed the different types of ministries and how volunteers are trained and mobilized to meet needs when disasters strike.

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief was also highlighted in one of the main sessions of the WMU SBC Meeting when Tawana Flatt spoke. □



SERVING LUNCH during the WMU SBC Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Nashville, are, from left, Tim Heston, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon; Nancy Campbell, First Church, Nashville, and Bill and Anita Jacobs, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville.

Free DR Regional Training events draw 380 new volunteers

Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Three Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Regional Training events were held in 2005, according to State Disaster Relief director David

The events were: March 11-12, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Covington; April 22-23, Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison; and June 24-25, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

The events were held on Friday nights and all day on Saturday to simulate an actual disaster response as part of the training. Participants were encouraged to stay on site. The church provided lodging, and a Disaster Relief shower

trailer was available.

Including around 20 staff members at each training, over 85 people attended the March session at Oak Grove Church; 152 people registered for the April session at Bayside Church; and 143 registered for the June session at First Church.

Training classes included: Introduction to Disaster Relief; Chain saw Training; Chaplain Training; Communication; Crew Chief Training (for church and association crews); Mass Feeding; Mud-Out Training; Rebuild Training; and Service and Delivery.

Instructors at Oak Grove Church were: Elizabeth Holmes — Administration; Mike Stricklin — Intro to DR; Dan Cle-

venger — Chaplains; Wayne Tenpenny — Chain saw; Eddie Martin — Communications; Larry Triplett — Crew Chief; Mike Overcash — Mass Feeding; Les Collier, blue cap — Feeding Unit; Larry Triplett — Mudout; Jim Clark — Rebuild; and Doug Flatt — Service and Delivery.

Additional instructors at Bayside Church were: Triplett — Intro; Bill Irving and Tommy Kinser — Chain saw; Bill Curington — Mass Feeding; Bob Rann, blue cap — Feeding Unit; Randy Turley — Mudout.

Other additional instructors at First Church were: Overcash — Intro; Stricklin — Mass Feeding; Curington — blue cap, Feeding Unit; and Triplett — Rebuild. □



PREPARING EGGS as part of their training are, from left, Gail Buchanan, Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville; Kelly Walker, First Baptist Church, Morristown; and Bill Leach, First Baptist Church, Nashville. — Photo by Mike Overcash

DR team serves Montana Baptist family campers

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

HUNGRY HORSE, Mont. — Several Tennessee Baptists, some who are also State Disaster Relief volunteers, worked June 13-18 at Glacier Bible Camp here providing meals for 325 Montana Baptists during their annual Family Camp, sponsored by the Montana Baptist Convention.

B. J. Hallmark, a Montana Convention director of missions, made a request through the TBC Volunteer Missions partnership with Montana for a cooking team for their annual Baptist Camp.

Volunteer Missions specialist Kim Margrave called

Shiloh Baptist Association's Disaster Relief director, Mike Stricklin, to coordinate the team.

Stricklin partnered his Shiloh Association feeding team with Cherry Road Baptist Church in Memphis to fill the request.

A team of 19 people from six churches in the Shiloh Association along with 17 people from Cherry Road Church left June 10 on the church bus to travel to Montana.

While at the camp, the team prepared meals and Stricklin taught three Disaster Relief training classes. Around 40 people were trained in Stricklin's two Introduction to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

classes and in one Mass Feeding class.

"This was hands-on training for the Montana Baptists who recently purchased their own Disaster Relief Feeding Unit and new equipment with funds, provided by the Tennessee Baptist Convention," said Stricklin.

"It was really humbling to recognize the sacrifice that the pastors are making in Montana since 40% are living under the poverty line to spread the word of the Lord.

"The entire state of Montana seems to be excited about Disaster Relief. The reason Disaster Relief got started in Montana was that the State Emergency Management



TEACHING A COURSE on Disaster Relief to Montanan Baptist family camp in Hungry Horse, Mont., is Mike Stricklin, Disaster Relief director of Shiloh Baptist Association, based in Adamsville.

Agency heard that Baptists were good at food service so they asked the Montana Baptist Convention to participate."

Stricklin has already invited back to Montana Disaster Relief Blue Camping in August. □

Association DR workers minister away, at home

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

CLARKSVILLE — Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville, has responded several times in 2005 with its Disaster Relief volunteers including in its own back yard.

An eight-member association Disaster Relief Rebuild Team worked April 13-16 rebuilding a home in Waynesboro, which was devastated by last year's severe flooding.

"Mrs. White was a priority," said Carolyn Watson, Cumberland Association Disaster Relief director. "She had no place to live and had to get back in her house.

"Her house had a mobile home wash against it in the floods. When we helped her out last October, we completely gutted her house up to four feet



DR VOLUNTEERS from Cumberland Baptist Association, work at a home damaged by straight-line winds May 9 in the St. Bethlehem area near Clarksville.

on the walls including removing some of the flooring and floor joints.

"Of all the places that we have gone these people have

loved us and made us feel like family. Returning to their house was like going home."

Others serving on the team were: Tim Jones, Neil Gwinn,

Bill and Ethel Tierney, Dan Kennedy, Tim Baggett, Tom Schlauch, and Jean Holloway.

The Disaster Relief team also responded after straight-line winds from severe thunderstorms destroyed homes and trees in Clarksville May 9.

Around 20 volunteers worked on homes in the St. Bethlehem area, according to Watson.

In addition, six volunteers built a wheelchair ramp June 29 for a couple in the Hilldale area.

Also on the same day, six volunteers prepared lunch for the Red Cross to serve to 80 people who searched for a missing 4-year-old boy in the Woodlawn area. The child's body was recovered in a nearby pond. □



Girl Scouts give
to Tennessee
For "TBVMN Update"

MT. JULIET — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief recently received a generous donation from #1868 of the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland, Nashville.

The girls donated 5 percent of their Girl Scout Cookie Sales proceeds to Tsunami Relief as a project, according to the leader Rose Skaggs. □

DR to serve at TBC annual meeting

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist State Disaster Relief Feeding Unit will serve lunches Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 15-16 in the parking lot of First Baptist Church of Clarksville during the 131st Annual Session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The serving of the Disaster Relief meals are a hands-on demonstration of missions at work. The meals are available during the lunch breaks for the convention meetings at \$5 each.

For more information, contact David Acres, Disaster Relief/Construction specialist at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-7927. □



MAKING PLANS for the upcoming year's Disaster Relief Feeding Unit table at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville April 26-27 from left, V. Maxwell, TBC Administrative Services director, Barbara Wenger, Dan Wenger, New Durham Baptist Association director of missions and David Acres, Disaster Relief Construction specialist

Shelbyville nurse helps tsunami victims in South Asia

Knox
IN Update

TWOOD — A registered nurse from Shelbyville returned with a South Carolina Baptist Convention Disaster Relief team in South Asia. She worked as part of a construction team helping tsunami victims.

Tennessee Disaster Relief worked with other South Carolina team members providing medical, well water and even vocational assistance and rehabilitation.

According to the volunteer in charge of the team, where the team served, there was a tremendous need to get back to work in their industries of making and making boats.

She has a special interest in the Machine Ladies who had previously prospered in the area, she said.

The nurse, I kept trying to be like the sewing machines. We assisted the people by helping buy 75 sewing machines and many needles and the SML are now keeping track of how many pieces of fabric they are making available. By helping their business, we support their annual income and more. By getting them back to work, they will come out of the disaster, and recover.

During the time assessing the damage and seeing their needs, however, the people gave us food and they took re-



INSISTING ON having the children's photo taken was the orange-robed monk who became a friend of the Shelbyville nurse.

sponsibility for their future. This created self worth and pride for them."

According to the nurse, everyone on the team was from South Carolina except for herself and one doctor from Washington, D.C. It was a challenge for the nurse, since she didn't know anyone before the trip. The team traveled on an industrial van, which held portable tubs of medical equipment and supplies. The nurse kept a journal and carried a backpack everyday into a different campsite full of tents. The team worked in camp cities and villages in makeshift little hospitals operating like a M.A.S.H. unit. They primarily worked along the coastal area in several communities.

"It was not unusual for us to spend six hours in one campsite location, and the heat was unseasonably hot," she noted. "We would travel everyday from a collective area out to local villages. By the time our team arrived after the tsunami, things

had settled back down in the areas.

"We practiced basic primary medicine and gave out vitamins and oral antibiotics. We treated a lot of falling accidents, fly and sand flea bites, and the usual diseases such as scabies.

"We helped a man who had been bitten by a krait, a poisonous snake. One man was treated for a chronic wound that was caused by an earlier gunshot and sent to the local hospital."

According to the nurse, the nationals tended to label people in their culture with their illnesses. Some people were known by their ailments. The nationals also have a 90 percent literacy rate and many speak English.

"We worked in a direct hit area, which was considered a tourist area," she added. "Most people would come up, read your name tag, say thank you, and then invite you into their homes. The people were very gracious and always smiling. We visited a couple of camps twice."

The team found out that the family unit is very strong in the country as evidenced by a grandmother stepping up to raise a child for a working mother. This family lost all their male relatives including father, siblings, and grandfather.

"Since the schools were in session, we treated school children," she said. "Around 80 percent of children are back in school in the area, and we bought shoes for the kids."

It was an eye opening experience for the team, because everything revolved around the Buddhist faith, which predicted the business calendar. If the moon was not right, then the business work was not done. It became a learning process on both sides especially for the team, because it might not be the right time in the Buddhist culture to work. The nationals searched the stars and read their charts.

"The people were very curious about us including the devoted Buddhists," she added. "We answered their questions honestly, and they prayed with us. Our witness was through our works, and they saw Jesus through our actions. We established relationships, and I came back with over 10 people to e-mail."

One day some of the team was walking along the beach including the nurse, two child psychologists, and a doctor. There were flip-flops of all sizes and shells on the beach. The nurse soon realized that the shells were bleached human bones

washing up in the seawater. The psychologists wandered off while the doctor took a photo of the bones.

"My heart began to ache, and I had to remind myself of what my mission was and to keep my focus on it," she noted. "It was then that I had realized I was in the Valley of Death, and all the trees and plants in the area had turned black and yellow."

"When I was back in camp, I lost it. I told the Lord that I didn't have the emotional strength to finish the day until I read the 23rd Psalm. The Bible restored the notion why I was there. Jesus was all and one for me, and I felt more replenished."

According to the nurse, later that day God answered her prayers by sending her a Buddhist monk, who was in charge of the next campsite. The annoying monk followed her around the camp and kept asking her questions. She finally realized that he had been following her with a tape recorder and had been taping what she was saying to learn to speak better English.

"I told him that he was going to have a funny English accent. Then we became friends, and I believe that God sent the little orange-robed monk to me."

"The monk wanted me to take the children's photo. Every time I took a photo, he kept getting in the picture, which is considered taboo. He also helped me translate."

"I went home with a refreshed spirit, and I knew I had been where I needed to be." □

10-member state DR team experiences March tsunami alert

Knox
IN Update

MEMPHIS — A 10-member Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief medical and construction team recently experienced the South Asian tsunami alert following the 8.2 earthquake in the region.

At the time of the tsunami alert, the team was staying in a guesthouse where they had been staying with some nationals on top of a local mountain.

In the middle of the night March 28, the tsunami alert woke everyone up, and the people were very frightened. The team was in a tourist town where the team was working, which was in a tourist area. The owner of the home called to tell the American guests about the second earthquake and the alert.

People were running in the streets," she said. "People were panic-stricken. People were asking if the tsunami was coming. That was a question that we didn't have an answer to."

According to the nurse from Columbia, at the time of the tsunami alert the team was in a guesthouse and went up a nearby mountain taking the house ladies to safety. "Then we all sat down on the

mountain and prayed.

"Before we left the house, one house lady wanted to know why we were all calm. While standing out in the driveway waiting on a car to pick us up to take us up the mountain, I told the lady peace comes from Jesus. She said, 'Your God saved us.'"

It was 1 a.m. in the morning when the alert began, which became a four-hour alert. All the Tennesseans including one doctor, four nurses, one lab technician, two professional counselors, and two lay people were reported safe to Disaster Relief officials.

Later in the week, the nurses worked in a medical clinic while other team members did well reclamation. There were also survey teams to find out what needs the people had for stoves, sewing machines, bicycles, mattresses, and cooking utensils.

The nurse who participated in four medical clinics working with children especially enjoyed the coconuts, sweet meats, and rice that the nationals gave them to eat.

"We traveled in vans everyday out to the campsites. The vans were loaded with supplies for medical clinics to be held in tent camps, temples, houses in a village, and other villages. We saw wounds, cuts, mosquito bites, head lice,

scabies, stress, stomach problems, and high blood pressure. There were some that we really couldn't find anything wrong with them, but they needed the attention."

According to the nurse, some of the special patients were: a boy who refused to drink water, because of being on a boat during the tsunami; a man and his son who lost their wife/mother and three daughters/sisters; a mother who lost one child while saving another child; and one of the guesthouse ladies who lost her brother.

"I know that the seeds that we planted will be harvested," she said. "When the tsunami struck Dec. 26, I knew that Southern Baptists would go in to meet the needs."

"Since we had listened to the people tell their stories in the tent camps, we



TENNESSEE BAPTIST Disaster Relief volunteers work on well reclamation in South Asia.

made relationships with them. The people were very grateful to us. I soon realized that it was a God thing with the tsunami alert.

"The children I treated knew that I was a Christian who came to help them. I truly believe that there will be a harvest of South Asians in heaven, because of the relationships we made."

The volunteers also gave money to purchase a machine to make blocks. "I would go back in a heartbeat," she added. "It was a great experience." □

Hurricane leads to Tenn./Fla. friendships

For "TBVMN Update"

CAPE CORAL, Fla. — Brian and Susan Emmons, residents here, had their lives changed Aug. 13, 2004 when they became victims of Hurricane Charley.

A disabled U.S. veteran and a retired member of the Lee County Sheriff's Office, Brian Emmons worked in public service most of his career. Due to complications from his service-connected injuries, he was forced to retire early.

"Most of our friends are police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, and they were helping others instead of friends and family when the disaster struck," Emmons said.

The hurricane caused around \$25,000 in damages to the Emmons' home. Two large trees were downed, and one was against the rear of their home. The smaller of the two trees was partially removed by their friends from the Sheriff's Office.

The other part of the first tree and the second larger tree were impossible for the family to handle due to the lack of proper equipment. Emmons was referred to McGregor Baptist Church in Fort Myers by the Sheriff's Office for assistance. A few days later he was con-

tacted by Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief and told that the volunteers were on their way to his home.

After arriving and checking the job area, the volunteers removed the remainder of the one tree and the still standing larger tree. "Our home was no longer in peril from the weakened large tree falling into our house, Emmons noted. "Your volunteers even carried the debris across the street for pickup and refused to allow me to help."

It amazed Emmons that the volunteers asked for nothing in return for helping them and even refused refreshment that they had on hand, because they had brought their own.

"Your wonderful volunteers only asked that I join them in a word of prayer and thanks to the Almighty and Lord Jesus after the job had been completed," he added. "Our damages have for the most part been repaired and for the time being our lives are as back to normal as they can be."

"Tennessee Disaster Relief and its volunteers are well deserving of our support. God speed and protect your volunteers so that they may continue their unselfish work to help others as they have helped us." □



ASSEMBLING AN antenna during the Communications Class of the Disaster Relief Regional Training event April 22-23 are from left, Ray Hurst of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville; Ed Elkins of Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland; and Don E. Pickrell of New Union Baptist Church, Dayton. The event was held at Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison. — Photo by Larry Triplett



TEACHING THE "Nuts and Bolts of Disaster Relief" to women attending the WMU SBC annual meeting June 20 at First Baptist Church of Nashville are: from left, Tawana and Doug Flatt.



IN PHOTO AT LEFT, folks attending the 2005 SBC DR Roundtable held at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville April 26-28 are, from left, Curtis Fowler, a DR state white hat; Elizabeth Holmes, TBC DR administrative assistant; and Larry Triplett, East Tennessee training coordinator. **IN PHOTO AT RIGHT**, are, from left, Eddie Martin, a DR Communications instructor; Mike Stricklin; Larry Rogers, a member from First Church, Hendersonville; and Connie Stricklin. Mike Stricklin is the West Tennessee training coordinator.

State teams continue relief response to tsunami victims

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists sent nine teams to South Asia beginning in March and ending in July for the tsunami response, according to William Maxwell, TBC tsunami coordinator.

Some of the teams were in partnership with the South Carolina Baptist Convention while Tennessee Baptist personnel in the response areas coordinated other teams.

Due to security issues, promotion of the teams was kept to a minimum for fear of unrest in some of the areas. Team 1 had 10 medical volun-

teers; Team 2 had 10 and construction volunteers; Team 3 had four feeders; Team 4 had medical and construction volunteers; Team 5 had 10 construction volunteers; Team 6 had three volunteers that whatever was needed had eight medical and construction volunteers; Team 7 had 10 medical and construction volunteers; and Team 8 had 10 medical and construction volunteers.

In addition to these there are 10 other tsunami response teams, which left for Thailand beginning November and continuing in 2006. □

Tennessee Baptists increase tsunami DR efforts in Thailand

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists continue to respond to the December 2004 tsunami and March 2005 earthquake in South Asia. Tennessee Disaster Relief officials have accepted the challenge to provide five additional teams to the national effort. This will bring the total number of teams responding to South Asia to 10. More than 50 individuals have volunteered to assist in this effort.

The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has requested 90 mission project teams for relief to Thailand. IMB officials have requested 75 construction and 15 relief teams. Teams will be comprised of 10 people.

The teams are scheduled to build wood homes on stilts as a school and to distribute relief supplies beginning this month. Tennessee is now sponsoring 10 teams of the 90 projects.

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

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

Monetary contributions can be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Check payable to: Tennessee Baptist Convention. Please write "Tsunami Relief Fund" on check. Donations can be made at www.tnbaptist.org.

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



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Graham declines London invitation

Baptist Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Billy Graham has declined an invitation to hold an evangelistic crusade in London, a decision he deferred until after his just-concluded Greater New York Crusade, according to a July 13 news release from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Church leaders in the United Kingdom had invited Graham to hold meetings in London later this year. Age and health concerns of the 86-year-old evangelist and his wife, Ruth, made the distance from home and logistical considerations a greater challenge than recent domestic crusades, the BGEA news release stated.

"After much prayerful consideration I determined I should not be that far from home," Graham wrote in a letter notifying those who had invited him to London. "This was a difficult decision because London has played such a significant part in the life of my ministry."

Since making the decision in early July, Graham has been

closely following events in London, including the city's selection as the site to host the 2012 Olympic Games followed by the terrorist attack in London.

The evangelist assured British church leaders of his continued prayers for the people of London, especially the victims and their families, and called on people of faith around the world to do likewise.

Graham will continue his ministry of evangelism and resume work writing several books and contributing to other special projects he has begun in recent years, the BGEA news release stated. He also is planning to attend the dedication of the Billy Graham Library at his ministry's headquarters in Charlotte, for which the initial groundbreaking will take place on Aug. 26. □

Bullard named as N.C. interim executive

Baptist Press

CARAWAY, N.C. — George Bullard was named acting executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention by the

convention's executive committee July 12, the BSC newsjournal, *Biblical Recorder* reported the same day.

Bullard has served as BSC associate executive director since July 2003.

The BSC executive committee also approved outgoing Executive Director Jim Royston's request for an eight-week study leave until Sept. 15, when he will retire from denominational service. Royston was elected senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Mooresville, N.C., on July 17.

The *Recorder* noted that convention policy calls for the BSC board of directors to nominate a successor for the executive director during a convention meeting.

The board's president, John Butler, said he will seek executive committee members' input in appointing a search committee to be approved at the Aug. 16 executive committee meeting,

the *Recorder* reported.

Acknowledging the diversity of North Carolina Baptists, Butler pledged to seek a broadly representative committee, the *Recorder* reported.

The *Recorder* noted that Bullard will serve as acting executive director until the BSC annual meeting in November. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

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

Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., is accepting resumes for preschool/children's minister. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

Minister of children desired for birth through 5th grade, including a day care program. Requirements include a seminary degree, strong organization and ministry experience in both preschool and children's ministry. Send resume to FBC Mt. Olive, 3200 Mt. Olive Rd., Mt. Olive, AL 35117, Attn. Children's Minister Search Committee.

Concord Baptist Church in Anderson, SC, a growing congregation of 2,000 members, is seeking a minister of preschool and children with responsibilities for children (birth-5th grade) and their families. Candidates must be called to the ministry, have a degree from an accredited seminary, and experience in working in children's ministry and be creative in developing a Sunday School strategy for small group evangelism and dynamic children's worship. Please send resume to Preschool-Children Minister Search Team, Concord Baptist Church, 1012 Concord Rd., Anderson, SC 29621.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., is now accepting for a full-time pastor. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, North Chestnut St., Nashville, TN 38574. Post to the office of Sonny Gilpatrick.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Oak Street Baptist Church, Saddy-Daisy, Tenn., is seeking an additional staff person. Primary duty will be minister of music. Additional duties based on the gifts and experience of the person called. Duties could include conducting, outreach, and other duties. While we are accepting applicants to fill a position, we would also accept a bivocational minister with other duties. Please send resume to Oak Street Baptist Church, 11340 N. Oak Street, Saddy-Daisy, TN 37379 and to the office of Senior Pastor Joe

Associate pastor of worship. Must be willing to contemporary and traditional worship styles, plus computer skills. A major plus is having a desire to work with youth. Send resume to Springs Baptist Church, Search Committee, 5270 N. Rd., Cunningham, TN 37024.

MINISTRY

Ministry coordinator: minister experienced as consultant, and lay leader in bivocational position in a Tennessee church. Responsibility for organizing, guiding, and supervising church organization and ministries. E-mail murphy@aol.com.

Associate pastor for men at First Baptist Church of Boro, NC, with a membership of 1,000, is seeking a full-time associate pastor of men. Experience preferred. Will be responsible for planning, organizing, and implementing a vision concept among the congregation, and working with a multihousing ministry in Boro. For further information, including detailed description, please contact web site: www.fbcasheboro.com. Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, North Church St., Asheville, NC 27203.

CLASSIFIED

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

Hammond organs for sale: C-2 and A-100, one owner. Ideal for small churches. Both in good condition with all parts in working order (A-100 has C pedal with missing tones). Dark wood cabinet and bench. C-2 cabinet top and bench are worn and stained. Both have dual manuals and 2-octave bass pedals. Pick-up required. Call Carolyn at (615) 727-6780 (Nashville).

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Seeking organized, self-starter for full-time education/youth minister. Ideal candidate has a God-filled spirit, passion for education and desires to lead a growing youth group. Two years college preferred, three years experience required. Send resume, including references, by Aug. 8, 2005, to Search Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, 5199 Lakeland Dr., Flowood, MS 39232.

MINISTRY — EDUCATION

First Baptist Church of Madison, Miss., is seeking a dynamic and passionate teacher of God's Word to immediately fill the full-time position of minister of education. Please mail letters of interest with credentials to FBC Madison, P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130-0400, or e-mail Shari Hurt, Pastoral Secretary at shurt@fbcmadison.org.

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The service begins at 7:00 p.m. each Monday night at First Baptist Church, 317 Parkway, Sevierville, TN. For more information, contact the church office at (865) 453-9001

book review

by Ferguson

God Is Closer Than You Think

by John Ortberg, Zondervan, 2005

"I will be with you" is God's most frequent promise in the Bible. But we've got to train ourselves to see Him amid all the clutter of the world, according to author John Ortberg in his book *God Is Closer Than You Think*.

Ortberg says "spiritual growth, in a sense, is simply increasing our capacity to experience the presence of God. He believes that if we conscientiously focus on increasing God our ability to do so will get stronger. As we as individuals experience God's presence is what Ortberg terms "a spiritual pathway." Since all of us are different — we all experience God in different ways — each of us has a spiritual pathway that is most accessible to us. The danger, according to Ortberg, is in going our way on someone else. He further explains that we need to stretch in the pathways that are natural to us.

Ortberg identifies seven pathways:

1. Intellectual — You experience God more as you learn more about Him.

2. Relational — God speaks to you through people; you are closer to God through significant relationships.

3. Serving — You experience God most when you're serving someone.

4. Worship — You experience God in worship as your heart opens up and you come alive.

5. Activist — You have a high level of energy and need to do something — you're action oriented.

6. Contemplative — For you, God speaks in solitude; you feel more like an observer in life than a participant.

7. Creation — You connect with God most when you're experiencing the world He made.

Ortberg, who is a pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, Calif., states that it's important to have some involvement in each of the pathways. "No pathway is superior to any other," he says. "Beware the temptation to judge somebody else's pathway.... Ironize when you honor your pathway that you are only to embrace what God made you to be."

These pathways are all available to us for use. To access God, we must not forget that God has access to us. "He can plant a thought directly in your mind. Anytime. Anywhere... it is possible that any thought that runs through our minds might have been planted there by God — and we may not even know it."

How do we discern His thoughts? Those thoughts that come from God are those "in line with the fruit of the Spirit."

It is to believe that God is with us and that He wants to experience Him and that we need to do all that we can to be in tune with Him.

God's job to send the flow of the Spirit into our lives, writes Ortberg. "When we have thoughts that point toward the fruit of the Spirit — promptings to love to someone, celebrations of inner joy, the realization that we are at peace — these are all surges of the Spirit's current.... Our task, in order to stay in tune with God's presence, is to pay attention. To refuse to let busyness that comes with self-preoccupation."

Ortberg never thought of himself as an intellectual, but he says he most experience God when he's learning something new.

As a reader, I have learned more about God from three of Ortberg's books. Three, including this one, I recommend. The others are *If you want to grow, you've got to get out of the boat* and *The Good News Always Wanted*. □ — Ferguson is a contributor for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Working for God

By Michael Adams

Focal Passage: II Thessalonians 3:3-15

Charles Kingsley wrote, "Thank God, every morning when you get up, that you have something to do which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you a hundred virtues which the idle never know." Throughout history several cultures have sought to denigrate the value of work. The Greeks and Romans viewed manual labor as being for the lower classes. Aristotle said that to work as a craftsman or trader was without nobility and hostile to the perfection of character. Cicero wrote, "The toil of a hired worker who is paid only for his toil and not for artistic skill, is unworthy of a free man and is sordid in character."

However, the biblical perspective is extremely different. God exalts work by commanding it. In creation God told man he was to tend the garden and have dominion over Eden. Paul shares three precepts about work that help to transform our labor into a calling from God. We can assume these teachings apply to work in the church, although Paul's primary focus here is on the labor God ordains for our life's avocation.

First, Paul shares the source of strength a worker in Christ enjoys. He begins by reminding us that the

Lord is faithful. This faithfulness promises that whatever the Lord starts in us, He will finish in us. While even some Christian workers are not always faithful to their jobs, Jesus is always faithful to give us two things necessary to complete the task. Jesus gives us strength; this is an inward quality as Paul uses the term here. Jesus also gives us protection, and here Paul is making reference to any attack the evil might level against us on the outside. The question begging to be answered is: "Why would Satan attack us at work?" The obvious response is that a poor Christian worker is a poor witness for Christ. Jack Gullledge visited the home of a woman who had beautiful gardens. Gullledge commented, "You must have a green thumb." "No!" she responded, "I have a dirty thumb and a purple knee!"

Paul now turns to the structured stewardship a worker in Christ should have. There are four ideas Paul shares at this point. He tells us our failure to work should not produce a burden to others. Paul uses his own life as the example to prove this point. He did not eat bread at Thessalonica for free. Second, Paul says that if we will not work, we deserve to die. That would be the logical end of a person who did not work and should not eat. Third, Paul tells us that we should not hinder others from their work. There are hundreds of appli-

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
July 31

cations to this principle. One that would be most noteworthy is the Christian who distracts others from their work in order to carry on idle conversation. Finally, Paul tells us that we should not grow weary in our own well doing. Eric Sloan, the artist, described his life as being in three parts. He began by painting for God. The best solution to avoid weariness of well doing is to understand that we labor for the Lord.

Finally, Paul commands a strict separation for those who refuse to work. There is a strong double compound verb used when Paul says, "Do not associate with them." The idea means to "mix up together with." Paul is talking about the withdrawing of fellowship. The person who would not work was avoided, denied the privilege of fellowship, and probably not allowed to take communion. The purpose here is that the person would be put to shame. They would reflect on their shame and return to their labors as an honorable witness of Christ. In all the histories of modern church discipline we rarely have withdrawn fellowship from the idle. One can only speculate as to "why." □ — Adams is pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington.

How to live with hope

By Brad Shockley

Focal Passage: Ezekiel 43:1-12

From the mysterious wheels of the opening chapters to the eschatological (end-times) visions of the closing, our study in Ezekiel has been interesting, frightening, and enlightening. A look back over what we've learned the last eight weeks reveals three major emphases: It's about the LORD (chapters 1-3). It's about obedience to the LORD's commands (chapters 4-32). And it's about the coming day when the LORD restores all things (chapters 33-48).

It's about the LORD — Though the book began with the call and commissioning of Ezekiel, the central figure of chapters 1-3 was not the prophet but the "LORD" (Ezekiel 1:3, 28; 3:12, 14, 16, & 22-23). This specific name for God is from the Hebrew word "Yahweh" meaning "I am" and is signified in most translations by the use of all caps ("LORD" instead of "Lord"). It is also sometimes transliterated as "Jehovah." Since in the Hebrew text it is written with the four letters "YHWH," theologians call it the Tetragrammaton — amaze your class with that factoid! Whenever you come across "Yahweh" in the Old Testament, take note because it is the personal name of God associated exclusively with His covenant people, the Israelites (Exodus 3:7-15).

In the Gospels, Jesus stunned

his Jewish audience with the revelation, *Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am* (John 8:58-59). The phrase "I am" here is the equivalent of "Yahweh." Jesus was equating Himself with the God of Israel!

The same God who covenanted with Israel in the Old Testament is the same God who made a new covenant by the blood of Christ in the New Testament. That means those who have received and believed in Christ (John 1:12) have Abraham as their spiritual father (Galatians 3:6-9) and are God's covenant people too.

It's about obedience to the LORD's commands — If the Jews kept God's law there would be blessing. If they rejected it there would be cursing (remember Deuteronomy 28). They failed to obey God's law and retribution followed in the form of exile and desperate times. A major part of Ezekiel's ministry was dedicated to warning his brethren of God's displeasure and coming judgment. Jesus said, *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments* (John 14:15). We don't have to fear any curses under the new covenant in Christ, but we are compelled by grace to keep his commands.

It's about the coming day when the LORD will restore all things — To spite their abominable deeds and unrestrained idolatry, the LORD assured them of a time when they would live in safety,

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
July 31

harmony, and holiness. In chapters 40-48, the details of this bright millennial future were given down to the measurements and structure of a temple and fortified city, the name of which will be "The LORD is there" (Ezekiel 48:35). This implies that God would not forsake His covenant people and that He would return to dwell with them in all His glory once again (see Ezekiel 10 and the vision of God's glory departing from the temple).

One day in eternity all of God's children, both Jew and Gentile, will live together in a city called "New Jerusalem" (Revelation 21:22).

Two things, however, will be conspicuously absent. There will be no sun, such as was worshiped by the idolatrous Israelites (Ezekiel 8:16), and no temple — they won't be needed anymore. Speaking of the New Jerusalem, John said, *I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb* (Revelation 21:22-23). □ — Shockley is pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill.

Deaths

◆ **George David DeLozier**, 82, pastor emeritus of Clinch River Baptist Church, Lake City, died July 16. He was pastor of Cave Creek Baptist Church, Loudon County Baptist Association; Clinch River Baptist Church, Lake City; Longfield Baptist Church, Lake City; Frost Bottom Baptist Church, Oliver Springs; Clinch River Church again; a church in Maiden, N.C.; First Baptist Church, Coolidge, LaFollette; Shawanee Baptist Church, Shawanee; and Basswood Baptist Church, Knoxville. After retirement he served as interim pastor of several churches including Poplar Creek Baptist Church, Clinton; Clear Branch Baptist Church, Lake City; West LaFollette Baptist Church, LaFollette; and East Jacksboro Baptist Church, Jacksboro. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Leaders

◆ **Caroll Webb** retired recently as director of Montgomery Village Baptist Center, Knoxville. The center is directed by the Knox County Baptist Association. Both Caroll and her husband, **Murl (Bud) Webb**, served as North American Mission Board missionaries, and he served along side his wife as a volunteer at the Baptist center. Prior to serving as the director, Caroll served as the part-time Knox County Association multi-housing director. She also worked for 38 years as a registered nurse at the University of Tennessee Hospital, Knoxville. **Joe Chandler**, retired association staff member, is serving as the interim director of the center.

◆ The U.S. Olympics Committee recently sent **Jennifer Lorenzen**, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, to an international junior shooting competition in the Czech Republic. She brought home the gold medal with her first place win in the women's 3 position smallbore category.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Columbia**, recently called **Rick Garner** as senior pastor. Serving most recently at First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Texas, he also served churches in Tennessee and Alabama. A native of Dickson, Garner is a graduate of Criswell College in Dallas, Texas, where he also served as director of church relations and alumni and as an assistant professor of expository preaching and pastoral ministry. He holds a master and a doctorate degree



GARNER

from Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Garner and his wife, Amy, have three children.

Churches

◆ **Friendship Baptist Church, Beech Bluff**, will hold a revival Aug. 7-10. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **Central Baptist Church of Alcoa** will celebrate 62 years of ministry and service Sunday, Aug. 7, during its morning worship service. A meal will follow the service.

◆ **Victory Baptist Church, Manchester**, will hold its 27th annual homecoming Sunday, July 31, beginning with its morning worship service at 11 a.m. After lunch at noon, a music program will follow at 1 p.m. For information, contact pastor Keith Nunley at (931) 808-7233 or youth director Kevin Raney (931) 409-1504.

◆ **Olive Branch Baptist**



PARTICIPANTS OF THE Vacation Bible School of Spring Baptist Church, Clarksville, had a competition between boys to collect food for the church's community food pantry. The food pantry, on average, helps 10 families a month, reported Derick A. Pindroh, associate pastor.

Church, Ripley, will hold homecoming Sunday, Aug. 14 at 11 a.m. For information, call (706) 463-2911.

◆ A women's conference entitled "Finding Inspiration and Strength Together" will be held Saturday, July 30, at Antioch Baptist Church in Johnson City, 9:30 a.m. to noon. To pre-register call 929-3931.

Tennessee Acteens panelists selected for 2005-2006

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union has selected the 2005-2006 Tennessee Acteens Advisory Panel. The four young women chosen to serve are

• Sarah Ginn, from First Baptist Church, Bolivar

• Brigitte Peery, from First Baptist Church, Huntingdon

• Juliana Robbins, from Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro

• Morgan Smalley, from First Baptist Church, Bolivar

These women will help plan Connection 2006, a missions event for girls in grades 7 through 12 held by Tennessee



GINN



PEERY



ROBBINS



SMALLEY

WMU. In addition, they will help lead other statewide events sponsored by Tennessee WMU such as JAM (a children's missions event), Missions Get-Together (a missions event for women), Acteens Activator/Youth on Mission POINT Team Training, and more.

In addition, panelists are available to speak about

their involvement in missions and Acteens to churches, associations, and student groups.

Ginn and Peery are returning to the panel for a second year of service. These two young women with Smalley and former panelist Jenni Claggett (of Parkers Creek Baptist Church, Burns) also

served as pages at the Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville June 22.

To be selected to serve the panel, girls in grades 7 through 12 complete an application and obtain recommendation from their pastor, student minister, WMU director, and Acteens leader. A selection committee reviews all applications and invites girls to serve for one year.

For more information, contact the panel or to invite a speaker to your group, Andrea Knight of Tennessee WMU at aknight@tnbaptist.org or 800-558-2090 ext. 7919.

Selmer church members witness to mayor, staff while in Chile

For Baptist and Reflector

SELMER — Lakeview Baptist Church here has participated annually in a missions trip for six years. Members have served in Ecuador, Belize, Thailand, Vermont, Iowa, Memphis, Alabama, and New York City.

This year the church sent eight members to Santiago, Chile, to help Steve and Mary Jo Cooke, missionaries there. The Cookes are graduates of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

One of the highlights of the trip was meeting with the mayor of Maipu, a district of Santiago, said Ray Burks, pastor of Lakeview Church. Burks and the mayor, Alberto Undurraga, visited since Undurraga, a

graduate of the University of Michigan, is bilingual. Burks also had the opportunity to witness to him and many of his advisors. He also attended a businessmen's luncheon during which he spoke and presented Undurraga a let-

ter from the Selmer mayor.

"We never know where this opportunity will lead in matters of eternity," said Burks.

The team helped Chilean Christians survey a community to help begin house churches. Also they distributed Good

News Bracelets at a public school which had 1,000 students.

The children were very excited to receive the gifts and meet the North Americans, said Burks. "It was a humbling experience."

In addition, the team visited English language schools led by missionaries. The Chileans understood English, the team members could share their testimony in English with no help from a translator. □



MISSIONARY JIM Spikes, right, and Ray Burks, center, pastor, Lakeview Baptist Church, Selmer, present a letter from the mayor of Selmer to Alberto Undurraga, mayor of Maipu, Chile.



TEAM MEMBERS in Chile are, from left, Bobby Ray Hawkins; J.T. Hawkins; D.C. Melton; Glenda Melton; Ray Burks; and Doris Hawkins.