

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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this
week's
news

Rainer tapped as president-elect of LifeWay

LifeWay news service

NASHVILLE — The presidential search committee of LifeWay Christian Resources' board of trustees recommended Aug. 5 that Thom S. Rainer become the entity's next president after James T. Draper Jr. retires Feb. 1.

Rainer is dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

LifeWay's full board of trustees will vote on the recommendation at its Sept. 12-13 meeting here. If approved, Rainer would become LifeWay's president-elect and begin Oct. 17 to work alongside Draper to ensure a smooth transition, according to search committee chairman Rick Evans.

"Dr. Rainer has proven himself to be a successful leader of the local church and at the seminary," said Evans. "He is a gifted man of authority in the areas of trends within the Christian church and in church growth. He is a prolific writer, and a respected educator, whose works are widely read among Christian leaders. Dr. Rainer will provide the kind of leadership Life-

Way needs for the years ahead."

Rainer, 50, is a 1977 graduate of the University of Alabama, and earned the Master of Divinity and Ph.D. at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, and Indiana prior to joining Southern in 1994 as founding dean of the Billy Graham School.

He has served as a church consultant and church growth conference speaker for several years and is in frequent demand as a speaker in Southern Baptist churches. Rainer is author of 16 books, including *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*, *The Unchurched Next Door*, and *Breakout Churches*. He is a member of both the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education and the American Society for Church Growth.

Rainer is founder, president, and CEO of the Rainer Group, one of the nation's leading church and denominational consultant organizations. He and his wife, Nellie Jo, have three

sons: Sam, Art, and Jess.

"We've had a great presidential search committee," said Draper, who has served as LifeWay president since 1991 and shepherded the entity through a period of phenomenal growth, with a focus on making LifeWay a "kingdom enterprise" that provides biblical solutions to Southern Baptists and the broader evangelical community.

"I have explicit confidence in the process the committee followed and the members' sensitivity to the Lord. I am incredibly excited to have a man of Thom Rainer's gifts and vision to work alongside in the months ahead. He is a proven leader, a brilliant statesman, and a gifted visionary. That's why I believe LifeWay's best days are still ahead."

Draper, who will be 70 in October, told trustees his decision to retire is borne out of his "love for LifeWay" and his "commitment to do what is best" for the organization and its kingdom ministry. He plans to work closely with the president-elect until Feb. 1, when he'll step down and the new president will assume full responsibility for the position.

"I am looking forward to this process and to a smooth transi-

tion of leadership," said Draper.

"I am honored and excited to be the nominee of the search committee," said Rainer.

"I look forward to the vote of the full board of trustees in September."

The recommendation of Rainer follows an intense six-month search that began with the committee members' pledge to pray every day, seeking God's guidance through the process, said Evans, adding that the committee received a "significant number" of nominations.

A 59-member board of trustees, representing 33 states and the District of Columbia, govern LifeWay, an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention. Last February, after Draper announced his intentions to retire in 2006, the trustees appointed a search committee whose members are: Chairman Rick Evans (Ala.), Vice Chairman Phil Neighbors (Calif.), Secretary Ken Jones (Tenn.), Mark Anderson (Miss.), Bill Henard (Ky.), Melvin Pugh (Penn.), Roger Willmore (Ala.), and Tom Woodson (Okla.). Ex-officio members are Wayne Hamrick, trustee chairman; Ed Ethridge, trustee vice chairman; and Bobby Welch, SBC president. □



RAINER

too late

not too late to order
of the Baptist and
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Monroe County removes Ten Commandments from courthouse

and Reflector

NASHVILLE — "The Commandments may no longer hang from these walls," Mayor J. Allan Watson, obviously disappointed, said. The ACLU cannot take them down from our hearts and our minds, he said. Mayor of Monroe County, Watson, spoke the words July 21 to a small group of judges and members of the county courthouse commission had voted to remove the framed Ten Commandments display from the courthouse. The action came after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June.

Watson, who also is a member of the First Baptist Church, said he explained that the decision was made in light of the Supreme Court ruling and consultation with the American Center for Law and Justice, who helped represent the county in the case



MONROE COUNTY MAYOR Allan Watson, right, and Bill Hatmaker of the county maintenance department remove the Ten Commandments display from the courthouse July 21. — Photo by Michael Thomason of the Advocate & Democrat

against the ACLU.

Watson said the ACLU had requested a federal judge rule the commandments come down.

The county had until July 22 to make a decision on its next move. Watson has signed an affidavit for the ACLU verifying the commandments have been taken down.

Watson thanked county commissioners, citizens, churches, and other organizations for their support during the fight to keep the Ten Commandments up. He encouraged people to continue displaying them in their yards and businesses. He referred to the response of the community to the struggle by

posting yard signs of the Ten Commandments.

The display, which was put on the courthouse wall in 1999, will go into storage. Watson said it was paid for with taxpayer money and placed on the wall after a commission vote in 1998.

Watson said he expects the Supreme Court to hear Ten Commandments cases again someday and there could well be a different outcome if George Bush's court nominee John Roberts is confirmed.

"The Ten Commandments display may be removed but the foundation of our courts and our government is based upon its message," Watson said in his statement. He also quoted from II Corinthians: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed ... persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed."

The county's case had been on hold since the end of 2004 when Judge Thomas A. Varlan put the case on hold awaiting the outcome of the

Supreme Court's ruling.

To continue the legal battle to keep the Ten Commandments posted could cost the county between \$20,000 to \$40,000, Watson said.

Because of the county's tight budget restraints, such a costly legal battle was not in the county's best interest.

On June 27, the nation's highest court ruled 5-4 that the granite Ten Commandments monument on the Texas Capitol grounds could remain standing because it is part of a larger display that is a tribute to the nation's religious and legal history.

However, the justices voted 5-4 that framed copies of the Ten Commandments in two Kentucky courthouses were unconstitutional because their stated purpose was to promote religion, even though they were also displayed with non-religious documents.

Since January 2004, the Monroe County government has — See Monroe, page 3

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GuideStone trustees adopt long-range plan

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — GuideStone 100, a long-range plan to guide GuideStone Financial Services of the Southern Baptist Convention to its centennial year in 2018, was adopted by trustees during their Aug. 1-2 meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Trustees also received a positive report on insurance rates for 2006 and investment earnings.

GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins told trustees, "The increasingly competitive financial services industry demands that we think strategically."

Hawkins said the GuideStone 100 long-range plan "will further enable us to fulfill the mandate of our vision statement," which states that the SBC entity exists "to honor the Lord by being a LifePartner with our participants in enhancing their financial security."

GuideStone 100 is organized in three phases that coincide with future dates — GuideStone 9062008, GuideStone 9562013 and GuideStone 10062018 — to set forth a 13-year vision for strategic objectives that emphasize advancing the kingdom of God while enhancing participants' financial and physical well-being.

In other business, Samuel E. Stohner, GuideStone executive officer for organizational development and strategic planning, and Douglas D. Day, executive officer for benefit services, reported on the progress of healthcare plans for 2006.

"While we were pleased to give good news to our medical plan participants for 2005," Stohner said, "the news for 2006 is even better. The majority of our participants will see rate decreases or no increase for 2006." More complete information regarding benefit rates and structures will be announced soon, Stohner and Day said.

Trustee investment committee chairman Oliver Allred of New Mexico provided an update on the performance of the investment funds available to GuideStone participants.

"We are pleased to announce that as of June 30, 2005, 10 of the 13 retirement investment funds turned in a positive performance for the year and all 13 funds have positive returns since their inception on Aug. 27, 2001," Allred said. □

'Living together' doesn't deter divorce: study

Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Much like test driving a car, an increasing number of couples today say they want to "test drive" their

Union ranks high in new study by CIC

Union University news service

JACKSON — A new study from the Council of Independent Colleges shows Union University outpacing other private schools in enrollment growth and test scores, Union President David S. Dockery told trustees July 21.

According to the study, of the 530 institutions that comprise the CIC, Union is one of only 28 percent nationally with enrollment higher than 2,250. In the Southeast, only 19 percent of the CIC schools have an enrollment that high.

Over a four-year period, from the 1999-2000 school year to 2003-2004, enrollment growth at CIC member schools was 12 percent nationally and 13 percent in the Southeast. Union's enrollment growth for the same period was 37 percent.

"We are excited to see these figures, as they provide evidence of all the positive developments on our campus in recent years," Dockery said. □

relationship by living together before marriage. What they don't know, a new study says, is that they may be dooming the relationship from the start and increasing their chances for divorce if they eventually do marry.

The "State of our Unions" report, released annually by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University, says that more people are cohabitating today than ever before. There were 5 million cohabitating couples in 2004, compared to 2.8 million in 1990, 1.5 million in 1980 and only 523,000 in 1970.

Although more than half of all first-time marriages today begin with a live-in relationship, the report says, such arrangements can be detrimental to a marriage. The report was released in mid-July.

"The belief that living together before marriage is a useful way 'to find out whether you really get along,' and thus avoid a bad marriage and an eventual divorce, is now widespread among young people. But the available data on the effects of cohabitation fail to confirm this belief," the study's authors, Barbara Dafoe Whitehead and David Popenoe, write. "In fact, a substantial body of evidence indicates that those who live together before marriage are more likely to break up after marriage."

Bill Maier, Focus on the Family's vice president and psychologist in residence, said the report should be no surprise to those in the pro-family movement.

"The average young person in America who enters into a cohabitating relationship isn't aware that they may be sabotaging their chances for eventual marital success," Maier told Baptist Press. "... Study after study after study shows us that cohabitating is a bad idea."

But why do cohabitating relationships often doom the marriage from the get-go? At least three theories exist:

(1) The relationship itself lacks commitment.

(2) Cohabitating couples enter into legal and financial ties — such as joint bank accounts and lease-sharing — that make it more difficult to break up and in the end may make marriage inevitable. Combined with a lack of commitment on the front end, the marriage is more likely to end in divorce.

(3) Couples who cohabitate have characteristics different from non-cohabitating couples. For example, couples living together are likely to be "less religious," to have less income, and to have parents who are divorced," the study said. All three characteristics increase the likelihood of divorce.

In addition to being more likely to cohabitate, Americans today also are less likely to marry, the report said. In 2004, 55.1 percent of those age 15 and older were married. In 1980, it was 63.2 percent; in 1960, 69.3 percent.

Americans, Maier said, have forgotten the meaning of marriage.

"I think there is a real selfishness in our culture; there is a real self-centeredness — 'it's all about me and my happiness and my fulfillment,' he said. "Unfortunately, when it comes to relationships, if we don't put the other [person] first, if we don't focus on our spouse's well-being, our relationship is probably going to be destined to fail."

The Christian church, Maier said, has a responsibility to speak the truth about cohabitation and to strengthen marriages.

"It needs to come from the top down — from denominational leaders, from pastors," he said. "Every church should do everything it can to provide lifelong stable marriages." □

Roberts' role in 'gay rights' case causes concern

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In a revelation sure to cause worry among

Union's tuition is also lower than the national average for CIC schools. For the 2003-2004 academic year, the average tuition nationally was \$17,590. Union's tuition was \$15,300.

Among Baptist colleges in the Council of Independent Colleges and Universities, Union's average test scores ranked second. The average SAT score for Union freshman in 2003-2004 was 1,125 — just 20 points behind Baylor University. The average SAT score for all Baptist colleges was 980.

The study also showed a marked increase in monetary gifts to the university. While the national average of long-term investment undergraduate student fell 10 percent from 1999-2003, that figure rose 51 percent at Union.

"We are blessed to have a number of friends and supporters who believe strongly in Union University is about and where our future is headed," Dockery said. "We're most grateful for their continued support." □

conservatives, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Aug. 9. Supreme Court nominee Roberts assisted homophobes in the mid-1990s in their preparation for one of the most important cases in the history of the "gay rights" movement.

Roberts did not write legal briefs or conduct oral arguments in the case, Roberts said, but he did do legal expertise to homophobes as part of his law firm's pro work, the *Times* said. "Pro" is a term that refers to work that is donated generally for the public good.

Roberts' assistant "reviewing filings" and preparing oral arguments "instrumental," a source involved in the *Romer* case told the *Times*.

Mat Staver, president of the conservative legal group Liberty Counsel, said involvement in the "something to certainly be concerned about."

Roberts' involvement in the case was not listed on the questionnaire he completed for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Roberts' questionnaire helped to ease concerns about his involvement. In it he said that his role was not part of the judicial process to make the law and should not intrude into policy making reserved for Congress and the Constitution to the branches.

"[J]udges must be conscious that their role is limited," Roberts said. "They do not have a constitutional duty to solve society's problems, but they do decide cases before them and apply the rule of law."

Said Staver: "Up until now, I haven't seen anything that would have caused concern. I have been pleased with what I have read and heard about Judge Roberts. 'The involvement with the case' is the first indication of any concern and it clearly needs to be addressed." □

help from friends, God

Chaplain Bill Hall completes prison ministry project

by Connie Davis Bushey
and Reflector

MINNIVILLE — Bill Hall has been disheartened probably many times in prison as a young man, but since he became a man, he has had the experience.

For about two months he was in a "low value" said.

He is a volunteer prison chaplain at Warren County Jail and at the Southeast Correctional Center in Pikeville. He and his wife, Sue, also have a business called Hall Closet Auctions in Sparta.

His business is going well and his plaincy is seeing many women turn to Christ.

He works with 10 other men and women from area churches who serve in the jail.

During 2005, Hall ministered about 12 men in institutions. He also sees lives changed among inmates and those released.

He has received many letters of recommendation for former inmates who have helped them obtain jobs.

He has many successes, but his ambitious plans, like his friend Swanson of First Baptist McMinnville, the men together as Gideons.

He was ordained. Only he can be Gideons.

He felt led by God to raise

the money to buy a book for each of the 980 prisoners at the correctional center in Pikeville. The book, *A Message From God: Daily Devotionals for Prisoners*, is written by Marcia Jawara, a prisoner, and Connie Blanchette, volunteer prison chaplain who also is a staff member of the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

Hall explained the prisoners might accept the devotional book when they wouldn't accept a Bible or attend a worship service.

He started the project in November 2004 by contacting the Duck River Baptist Association, based in Tullahoma. The associational staff agreed to manage the project fund. Then he contacted the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff who work with prison ministry and a couple of friends.

In just two weeks, about \$2,000 had been raised.

Then Blanchette offered to provide the devotional books at a reduced price.

Hall was motivated. He still needed \$5,840. Yet he had faith it would come.

"I know the person who owns the cattle on a thousand hills so I know it can happen," Hall told the *Baptist and Reflector* last November.

Through the *B&R* article, readers sent in funds for the project.

Hall felt God leading him to contact Bennett who agreed to help spread the word. Bennett,



BILL HALL, right, volunteer prison chaplain of Morrison visits with Swanson Bennett, left, of First Baptist Church, McMinnville; and Fred Bueto, pastor, First Church. Bennett and Bueto, who holds the book to be distributed to 980 inmates, helped Hall with the project.

a retired insurance executive who is a member of the TBC Executive Board, has joined Hall and other Baptists in prison ministry and seen its effectiveness.

"I think prison ministry is one place where we as a church could do a lot more," said Bennett. The need is great and prisoners are receptive, he noted. Churches should do more to help prisoners feel accepted in church when they are released and to help their families, Bennett added.

He quickly agreed to help Hall. Soon Bennett had announced the project at an associational meeting.

Hall contacted churches by letter and friends, asking for help. He and Bennett contacted another association.

But the money came in "really slow," said Hall.

It was "disheartening," said

Hall. And for about two months he had a "struggle" with God and with himself. One reason is he didn't want to take the responses negatively.

When Bennett suggested another article in the *B&R* might help, Hall decided not to ask for it, explaining the publication had done its job.

Hall considered using the funds to buy the books for the inmates of the women's prison in Nashville. The fund had enough to buy books for them. Hall explained every inmate in an institution must receive a gift so bad feelings or depressed feelings won't develop among inmates.

He went ahead and helped Duck River Association raise money to buy bottled water to distribute to Bonnaroo fans who came to the area in June for the music festival. After just a few phone calls, people

agreed to give. But that wasn't true for the prisoner project.

Hall told God that he knew He wanted the Pikeville prisoners to have the book, but "I don't think I'm your man to do this project."

"I felt I had failed. I felt like it would be quicker."

Two days later, Hall received a phone call from Blanchette explaining a family in Georgia wanted to provide the needed books. The gift would be in memory of a family member who had died as the result of a crime.

"He (God) showed me who He was and who I was and revealed a lot of things through this to me," stated Hall.

He wants to thank the many individuals and families from across the state who gave as well as the Sunday School classes and churches which contributed. He noted one individual who gave owns an area business. A family member of the owner is an inmate at Southeast Correctional Center.

He also thanks the Duck River Baptist Association who managed the fund and the TBC and *B&R* which helped.

Hall seemingly is back to his optimistic, ambitious self. He said he hopes this project is "a stepping stone to the next one."

For more information on the book, *A Message From God*, contact Blanchette at P.O. Box 220, Holly Springs, GA 30142-0004 or www.prisondevotional.com. □

Caroe County removes ...

Continued from page 1

acted in its own legal defense with the American Civil Liberties Union over the Ten Commandments display hanging in the first-floor courtroom.

The ACLU contended such a display amounted to the county endorsing a religion — a clear violation of the U.S. Constitution. The ACLU contended.

At the end of last year, a federal judge in Knoxville put Monday's case on hold after the Supreme Court ruled it would take up the Kentucky cases this

month's highest court. The court had refused to consider the Ten Commandment case its 1980 ruling, which allowed the posting of Commandments in school classrooms.

That decision, lower courts often rendered conflicting opinions on whether the Commandments can be in courthouses, city halls, schools, and other public places.

In the Texas case, former

lawyer Thomas Van Orden originally lost his lawsuit seeking to have a 6-foot tall granite Ten Commandments monument removed from the state capitol grounds where it has stood since the 1960s.

The Kentucky cases involved framed displays of the Ten Commandments hung in the courthouses in two counties.

Lower courts have ordered those displays removed twice even though supporters have added historical documents, such as the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence to the displays.

Last summer, the county and its attorneys proposed a compromise to allow the Ten Commandments to hang as part of a historical lawgivers display — a compromise lower courts have allowed in some other Ten Commandments cases but not in others — but the ACLU chapter suing the county rejected the offer. □ — Adapted from article in the *Advocate & Democrat* published in Sweetwater by Mia Rhodarmar, editor, and Tommy Millsaps, staff writer. Used with permission.

State COM members, chapter receive awards

Baptist and Reflector

WACO, Texas — At the National Campers on Mission Rally held this summer here, Tennessee Campers on Mission were honored.

For the second year in a row, a couple from Tennessee was named National Campers on Mission 2004. Mike and Pat Pender are members of First Baptist Church, Fairfield Glade.

Also the Tennessee Campers on Mission Chapter was named National Honor Chapter 2004 in the large group division. The honor is given to two chapters for the projects they conducted, hours served, and professions of faith resulting from their ministries.

The Tennessee chapter has 200 members. They had 138 involved in missions, did 47 projects involving 14,587 hours of service, and saw 309 people make professions of faith as a result of their efforts.

The Penders have been active in COM for five years. They also participate in the Christian Motorcycle Association and lead a highway rest stop ministry for their church. The ministry is conducted on I-40 east of Crossville on Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, explained Mike Pender.

The Penders both hold part-time jobs. Mike also is a volunteer fireman. They participate in about three week-long projects of Tennessee Campers on Mission a year. "The Lord's provided," said Mike Pender.



MIKE AND PAT PENDER of First Baptist Church, Fairfield Glade, and Tennessee Campers on Mission were recently named National Campers on Mission 2004.

Through COM they can use their gifts which are as simple as painting and using a hammer, and they can "keep busy," which they prefer, said Mike.

"We've enjoyed serving others," he said.

Of the award, he said, "Others deserve it. We don't feel like we do."

For more information on Tennessee COM, contact Beverly Smothers of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff at bsmothers@tnbaptist.org or 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2044 or (615) 371-2044, or Irene Guest of Tennessee COM at guestid218@msn.com. □

Name doesn't make church 'Southern Baptist'

guest
columnist



By Jimmy Inman

Editor's Note: TBC President Roger Freeman recently wrote a column about the importance of using "Baptist" in a church's name. The following is a perspective of a pastor whose church has chosen not to use the word "Baptist."

I am a lifelong Southern Baptist and a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. I serve as the teaching pastor of True Life Church in Jefferson City. We returned to Tennessee in August of 2002 to plant True Life after serving as pastor of an SBC church in Maryland for almost six years.

True Life is a church plant that was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Nolachucky Baptist Association. We are a cooperating member of those entities along with the SBC. The legal name of our church is True Life Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Tennessee, but we have always gone simply by True Life Church.

TBC President Roger Freeman, in a recent *B&R* column, and others in letters to the editor have addressed the issue of churches not displaying the name Baptist from the perspective that it is wrong or unwise so I want to give the perspective and reasoning of a church that does not display the name Baptist on its sign and advertising.

First, I believe this is a peripheral issue — not a biblical one. How can it be a biblical issue when the Bible never uses the word Baptist in the context of a denomination and when God never really intended for there to be denominations? The Scriptures used by President Freeman in no way requires any

church to have a certain name.

Baptist is a good name, but it is not a scripturally absolute name like Jesus or Christian. I am a Southern Baptist by conviction because I believe it is the closest thing to true, biblical Christianity, but the Body of Christ is not a particular denomination. In fact, our church believes that our commitment to a denomination must rank behind our commitment to Christ, the Bible, and our calling to love and reach people.

I understand why people disagree with our position. However, I believe we have the freedom to do this because it is not a biblical issue. In fact, NAMB published a position paper that was approved by its trustees entitled "Ecclesiological Guidelines To Inform SBC Church Planters" that lists 10 traits that define a Baptist church. It did not list using Baptist in the name of the church as one of those traits.

Let me share with you why True Life has chosen to not use Baptist on our sign, advertising, etc.

(1) The core group that planted the church believed that God led us to name the church in the way that we have. You may think that we were mistaken. However, I have taught our people the Baptist polity of an autonomous local church. They believe we are a self-governing Baptist church. Should I now tell them that someone outside of our church can tell us what to call ourselves?

(2) We believe it is proper to focus on reaching people for Christ first and then educating them about the Southern Baptist Convention. There have been two ladies (and one of these women's husband and daughter later got saved as well) who have gotten saved at True Life and told us later they would have never come if they had known it was a Baptist church. However, once they got saved and found out what we are like, it was not an issue at all.

(3) We do not want the name to be a barrier to considering the claims of Christ for people who have a negative perception of the SBC. President Freeman said that "surveys show that 'Baptist' is a neutral term to the lost man." I am not familiar with the surveys, but anecdotally based on my experience, I believe that it is not a neutral term to a lot of people. Some people, either based on what they have heard in the media, seen out of local Baptist churches, or experienced in SBC churches, will not give us a chance unless they know we are striving to be intentionally different.

(4) We believe the only reason to start a new church in this area is to be intentionally different, and this is a way we decided to be different. Some Baptists in East Tennessee seem to be threatened by church planting. One of the fears is that a church plant will take members from their church. Part of the way we have tried to avoid this happening is leaving Baptist out of our name.

I also think it is important for you to know that people must attend our Membership Class and sign our Membership Covenant in order to become a member of True Life. In one section of that class, we teach them why we affiliate with the SBC, TBC, and NBA; the structure of the SBC, how the money given to missions is allocated; some Baptist history; and what it means to our church to cooperate with the various Baptist entities.

Also, we share our Statement of Intention that says, "It is the intention of True Life Baptist Church to be a cooperating entity with the Nolachucky Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention. True Life will give 3 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Nolachucky Association and 7 percent to the Cooperative Program."

We also teach basic doctrine. When a person signs our Membership Covenant, part of what

is being affirmed is our different statements, including the Statement of Intention and Statement of Beliefs. How many churches with Baptist in the name do something like this?

Furthermore, is it the name that makes you a Southern Baptist or is it your beliefs and practice?

President Freeman states, "Being a Baptist means we believe in Verbal Inspiration, the Virgin Birth, the Vicarious Atonement, the Victorious Resurrection, and His Visible Return. Being a Baptist means we believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, salvation by grace, the local church, world missions, the Cooperative Program."

We believe in all of those things. We give to the Cooperative Program. We took a mission trip to Honduras this year. We are in the process of planting a second church. We embrace the core beliefs and practices of our convention. We are not ashamed of being Southern Baptist.

Our name is simply a strategic methodology to relate to the culture that we are attempting to minister to. What about churches that have Baptist on their sign but don't line up with the statement quoted above? Are they truly Southern Baptist churches?

If we are going down this road, is it enough for us just to put Baptist on the sign? There are several varieties of Baptists. Shouldn't all TBC churches be required to put Southern Baptist and Tennessee Baptist Convention on their signs? What about the colleges? Shouldn't they have Baptist in their names?

In closing, I see nothing biblically, and I see nothing in Baptist history, polity, or ecclesiology that convinces me that we are in any kind of error because our sign and advertising say True Life Church instead of True Life Baptist Church. □

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

God's timing

People, by nature, are impatient. When we want something we want it now. And, if we don't get it, we move on to something else.

What we may desire may not be what God wants to have at the present. But it doesn't mean it won't ever happen.

I witnessed that truth in a special way last week when we were invited to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony at Eastanallee Baptist Church in Riceville.

This rural church is doing very well under the leadership of pastor Mickey Basham. What I didn't realize until I got there was that this groundbreaking ceremony culminated a project that began 13 years ago when pastor emeritus Oran Creason

Many factors kept the church from moving on with plans to rebuild or add on to their existing building.

Clinton Davis, who served as chairman of the building committee for all of those 13 years, said during the ceremony, "The doors were opened and closed. But God knew what was best and when it was needed."

Profound words. I give credit to the pastors and committee and the entire church for giving up. Instead they persevered and followed God's plan for their congregation.

We all can learn a lesson in patience and perseverance at Eastanallee.

What we want really doesn't matter if it is not within God's timing. □

First Baptist Church
Sevierville presents

We're moving our Sunday evening
worship services to Monday
evenings just for August!

8th

JERRY VINES, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida. Music by 4GLORY.

15th

DON BOONE, renowned evangelist and gospel bluegrass band GREENBRIER.

22nd

Southern Gospel group, THE CRABB FAMILY, in concert.

29th

ADRIAN ROGERS, retired pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, and ALISON DURHAM-SPEER, Southern gospel artist.

Marvelous Mondays
in August



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.



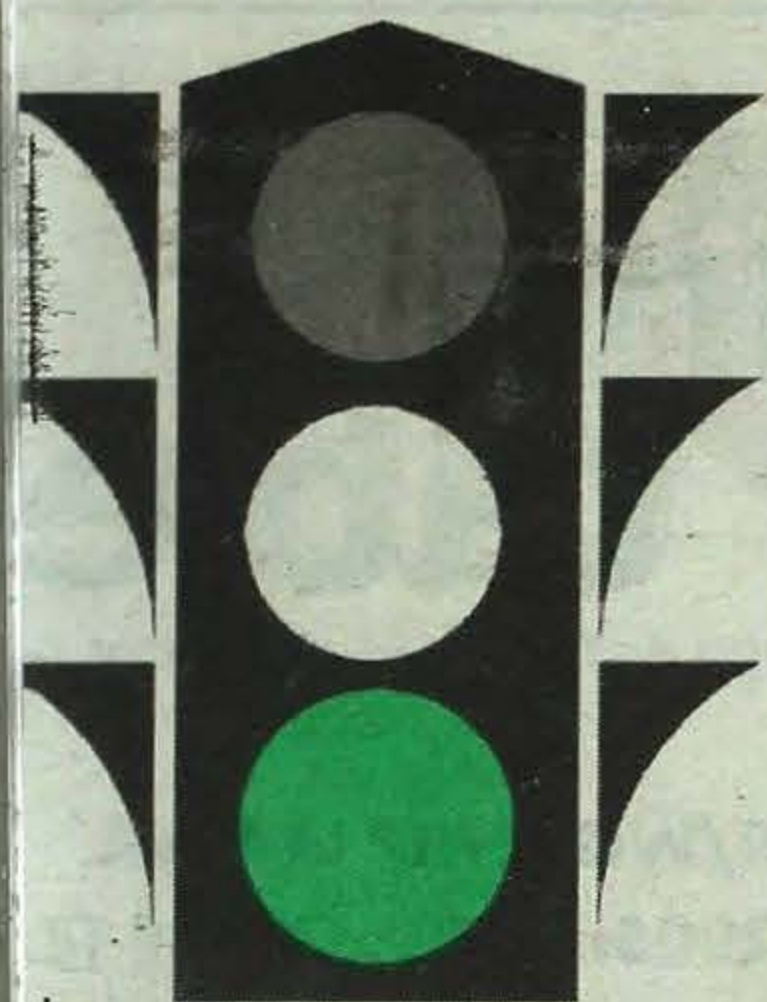
LifeWay
CHURCH BUSES

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Carpenter Bus Sales
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1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH WORKSHOP

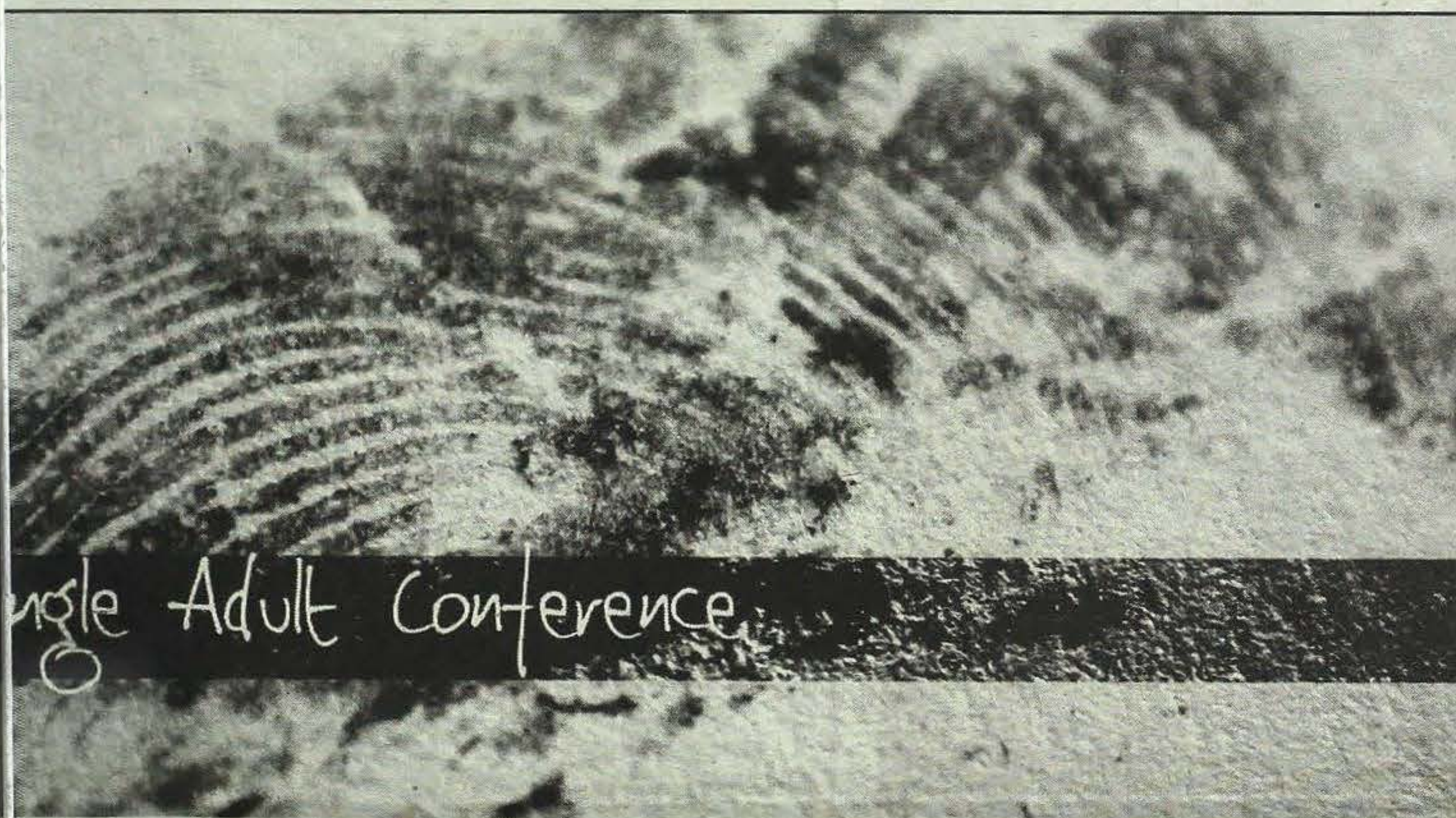
There will be a 16 hour Conversational English Workshop August 26 to 28, 2005 at the Smithville First Baptist Church 101 W Church St., Smithville, TN 37166; telephone (615) 597-4275. The times for this workshop will be Friday 6 - 9 p.m., Saturday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm, and Sunday 1 - 5:00 pm. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be led by Amy Literacy Mission Consultant, Nashville. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register contact Carol Alburg (931) 761-5200 (home); Sue Sifford (615) 597-6386. For additional information please contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention 800-558-2090 or go to www.tnbaptist.org News & Events e-mail thill@tnbaptist.org. The deadline is August 19, 2005.



Green Light



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



Single Adult Conference

East Tennessee - FBC Concord, Knoxville September 16 - 17th
Theme: "WHO R U? Living Life in the Identify God Gave You."

Speaker: Dave Park

Worship: FBC Concord Praise Team

Lodging: Baymont Inn, I-40 Exit 373 in Knoxville

Midle/West Tennessee - FBC Hendersonville October 14th - 15th

Theme: "Extreme Makeover - Singles Edition"

Speaker: Kenn Kington **Worship:** Two Rivers Baptist Church Praise Team

Lodging: Holiday Inn Express, next door to the church

Registration Fee = \$10 per person.

REGISTER on the web site at www.singleconference.com and mail check payable to Tennessee Baptist Convention, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Attention: Julie Heath

For more information, contact Max Holt, 931-648-8031 day, 931-358-2287 night, smholt@charter.net



The new "Sing and Be Not Silent" CD featuring the Tennessee Ladies Chorus and the Tennessee Mens Chorale will available August 1.

Price is \$15.00 (includes shipping and handling). Order online at: www.tnworshipandmusic.org or e-mail chanson@tnbaptist.org. For e-mail subject title, please type "CD order".

► DON'T FORGET! ◀

September 13-15 Senior Adult Conference: Nurture the Soul. Care for the Body. First Baptist Church, Sevierville. Cost \$30 per person. Participants are responsible for making their own lodging reservations. Featured Speaker: Dr. Charles Lowery. This year's conference features a Health Fair, Golf Tournament, and special guests the Goldenaires Choir of First Baptist Church, Richardson Texas. For more information, visit www.tnbaptist.org or contact Leanne Robbins at 800.558.2090, ext. 2083.

September 23-24, Tennessee Prayer Retreat for Women, Paris Landing State Park. Theme: "From Poverty to Plenty" based on Matthew 5:3; Bible study leaders: Ann Davenport & Carolyn Outland; Registration Fee: \$20 if postmarked by Sept. 9; \$25 after Sept. 9. For brochures contact Rebekah Wales at 800.558.2090, ext.2038 or rwales@tnbaptist.org.

September 23-23, Kid's Choral Connection, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville. This event encourages older children (grades 4 thru 6) to participate in their local church children's choir. Clinician: Wayne Causey, Minister of Music, Forest Hills Baptist Church. Worship Speaker: Shane Pass, Minister to Children, Clearview Baptist Church. Cost: \$25 per child. Registration information and other details are available online at www.tnworshipandmusic.org. For more information, call Paul Clark or Charlotte Hanson at 800.558.2090, ext. 7908 or e-mail chanson@tnbaptist.org

September 30-October 1, Tri-State Camp-O-Ree, Camp Cordova, Memphis. For registration form and more information, visit www.tristatecamporee.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, 800.558.2090, ext. 7918.

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 or H. Garrison (Gary) Coltharp at the Tennessee Baptist Foundation 800.552.4644.

Approximately 30 teams consisting of three volunteers are needed for the upcoming 2005 Evangelism Revival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to be held Sept. 26-Oct. 4. Each team will consist of a preacher, a music leader, and a layperson. Cost: Approx. \$2000. For more information, contact Heather Wilson, at 800.558.2090 ext. 2061 or e-mail hwilson@tnbaptist.org.

Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes would like to thank you for giving to the 2005 Father's Day Offering. TBAH is currently receiving the 2005 Father's Day Offering from churches and individuals through October. This relatively new offering, initiated in 2001, financially subsidizes the cost of care for more than 300 seniors and 55 mentally challenged adults at eight locations across our state. Go to www.tnbaptisthomes.org to learn more this ministry.

FOCUS

Fall Collegiate Conference

Matthew
28:18-20

October 7-9, 2005 (registration begins at 6:00 pm)

Lifeway Christian Resources

Conference includes worship, fellowship, teaching, and break-out groups

LODGING:

Comfort Inn

1501 Demonbreun Street, Nashville

Call 615.255.9977

Be sure to request the

TN Baptist Convention Group Rate of \$65.

Rate guaranteed until September 8.

SPEAKERS:

Gary Morgan, pastor of Mosaic

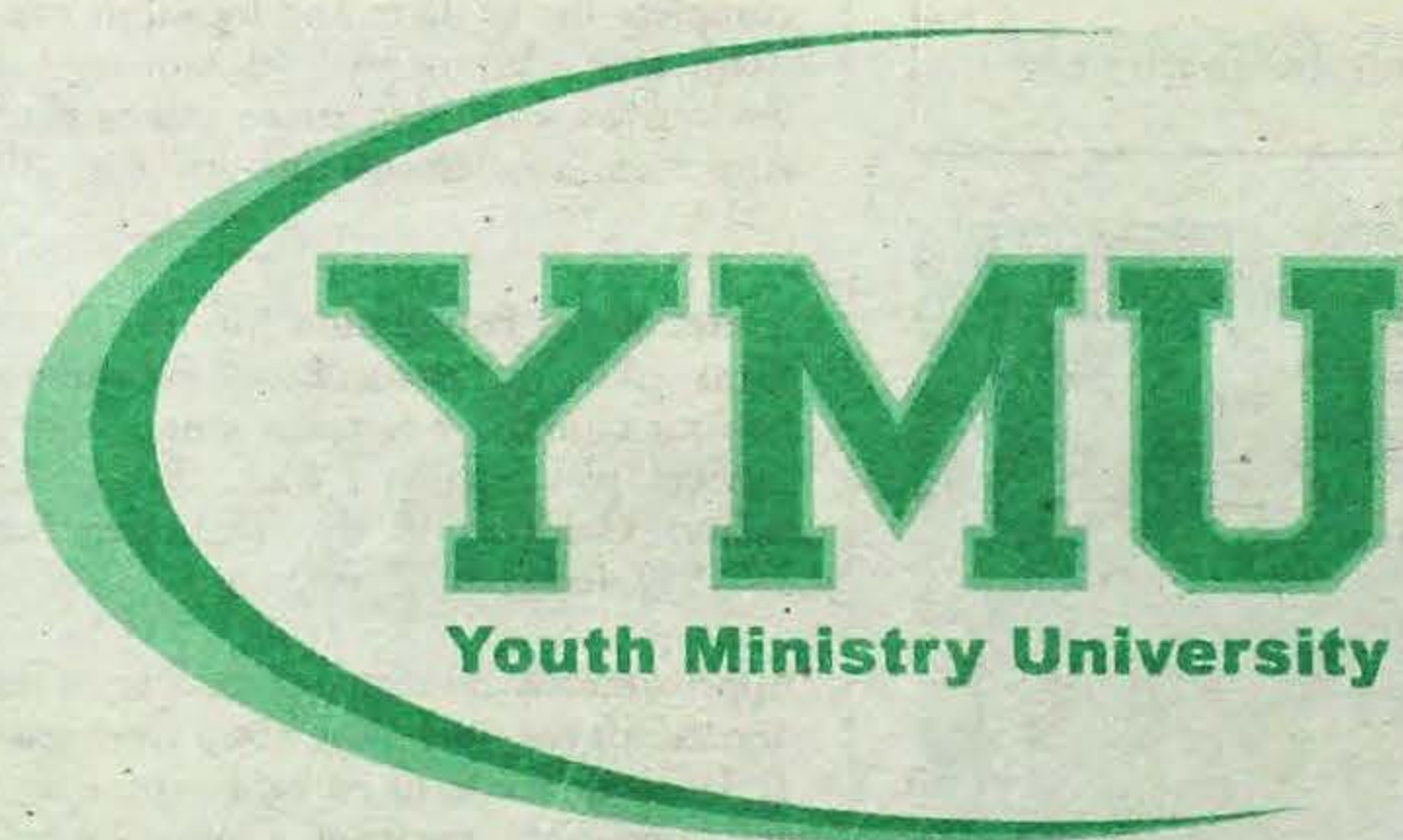
Michael Poore-Director of Humanitas Project



WORSHIP:

Jake McVay

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



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.

Roundtable

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 toolboxes for ministry through music and worship in 2005. Note that we have changed things up a bit in how we doing the roundtables. You will have options during breakout periods, and you will help determine the topics for 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 (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 Arte (host)

October 27— LOWER EAST

Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Collin Wood (host)

NEW THIS YEAR—Breakout sessions dealing with topics of expertise led by music and worship ministers 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 session.

Registration:

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

For more information, contact Paul Clark or Charles Hanson at 800.558.2090 or e-mail chanson@tnb

October 14-15, VOLUNTEER MISSIONS "LEADING FOR IMPACT" TEAM LEADER TRAINING, First Baptist Church Goodlettsville.

Before in history have more people been mobilized as volunteer missionaries. Leaders are answering the call to serve in a variety of ways all over the world. From veterans to tsunami relief efforts, there are more ways and places to serve than ever before. The Tennessee Baptist Volunteer Missions team and the International Mission Board have partnered together to provide training to assist team leaders as they prepare to go and lead others through this life changing experience.

Topics include:

- Leading with Purpose
- Leading Spiritually
- Leading a Volunteer Team
- Leading for Effectiveness (Training Your Team)
- Leading to Recognize God's Financial Provision
- Leading in Matters Related to Health and Safety
- Leading Your Team in Security Sensitive Areas
- Leading to Impact through Strategic Alliances
- Leading Your Team as Missions Mobilizers
- Leading- Using the Planning Overview Guide
- Mentoring Other Team Leaders

Adges, Director of Global Equipping, from the IMB and his team will be piloting this material. The training will begin Friday at 6:00 CST and will conclude on Saturday at 10:00 CST. Cost for the training is \$20.00 per participant. Please register with Heather Wilson at hwilson@tnbaptist.org or 1.800.558.2090 ext 2061 by September 30, 2005.

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 to 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
- How Churches Finance Building Programs
- Planning a Building Budget: A Look At Total Project Costs
- Selecting And Working With An Architect

Should Attend?


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

Conference Personalities:

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


\$20 per person, includes lunch.

For more information, visit www.tnbaptist.org to download the registration form. For questions, please contact Archer Thorpe at 800.558.2090 or e-mail at@tnbaptist.org



Tennessee

500



Racing for Missions

October 8 (Middle Tennessee)
First Baptist Church, Lebanon

October 15 (East Tennessee)
Central Baptist Church - Bearden, Knoxville

October 22 (West Tennessee)
Union University, Jackson

Girls and Boys in grades 1 through 6,
Girls in Action, Children in Action

Check www.tnwmu.org for more information or contact Andrea Knight at aknight@tnbaptist.org or 1.800.558.2090 ext. 7919.

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



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.

2005 CHAPLAINS RETREAT

Managing God's Monetary Blessings
October 6-7, 2005
Carson Springs Conference Center

Thursday, October 6, 2005

1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Welcome/Introductions
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Worship (Singing/Devotional) - Charles Covington
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Session I
	Preparing: So I've Got Money, Big Deal? - Irby Stanley
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Session II
	Planning: Where Does It All Go? - Irby Stanley
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Free Time
5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Focus Groups
	1. Women Mentoring Women 101 - Jill Stanley
	2. Chaplains (Healthcare/Military/Corrections/etc.)
8:00 p.m.	Worship (Snacks available)-general singing, attendance

Friday, October 7, 2005

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Worship (Singing/Devotional) - Charles Covington
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Session III
	Purposes: United We Stand! - The Stanley's
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Break
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	NAMB Report - Pete Sharber
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Business Meeting
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Ministry Celebration
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Worship - Bev Smothers
12:15 p.m.	Lunch and Adjourn
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Optional Session - "Women Mentoring Women 102" - Jill Stanley

Eight (8) training hours will be given to those who attend all four sessions.

Certificates will not be given to those who leave early or come late.

For more information, contact Beverly Smothers at 615.371.2044 or e-mail bsmothers@tnbaptist.org

COMING UP:

November 9-12, 2005 **Fall Get Away**, Sidney Mountain Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN. Two tracks available: Volunteer Preschool/Children's Directors Professional Preschool/Children's Ministers. For more information, contact Vicki Hulsey or Bob Owens at 800.558.2090, ext.6905.

November 14, **Missions Extravaganza**-3:30-7:30 at First Baptist Church, Clarksville. For more information contact Vickie Anderson at 800.558.2090, ext.

November 14, **"Watchmen on the Wall" Prayer Conference**, First Baptist Church, Clarksville. For more information, contact Glenn Denton at 615.444.5923.

November 15-16, **Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting: "Tennessee Baptists 100 Years Going"**, First Baptist Church, Clarksville. For more information, contact Linda Estey at 800.558.2088.

Rivers to host Justice Sunday II

Adapted from news reports

SEVIERVILLE — Two Rivers Church here will broadcast Justice Sunday II — God the United States and this noble Court" on Sunday, Aug. 14, from 6-7:30 p.m. CDT.

The telecast is a follow up to "Justice Sunday," a nationwide event in April which originated at Highview Baptist Church in Sevierville, Ky., according to a July 1 article in *The Tennessean*.

Two Rivers telecast will feature Tom DeLay, House Majority Leader from Texas; Perkins of the Family Research Council; James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family; Chuck Colson, founder of the Fellowship Ministries; Bill Miller, former Democrat; Phyllis Killebrew, founder of Eagle Forum; Bill Donohue of the Catholic League; and Bishop Gene Robinson, senior pastor of the Christian Church in Park, Md.

Two Rivers Pastor Jerry Sutton said in *The Tennessean* the telecast will not be a pep rally for the Supreme Court nominee John Roberts. Instead, Sutton said, it will be "an educational event" and to say this is how

important the courts are because the courts affect all of us."

According to *The Tennessean*, attendees must request tickets in advance to attend the live broadcast. Seating for the event is limited to 2,500 to 2,800 and those attending must arrive by 5:30 p.m.

Churches interested in attending may call Two Rivers at (615) 889-3950. □

Baptists celebrate unity, diversity

Associated Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, England — About 13,000 Baptist Christians from around the world celebrated a century of togetherness here July 27-31.

With vibrant music, vivid pageantry, and stirring stories of faith, the Baptist World Centenary Congress Baptists gathered believers from 100-plus countries, posing a stark contrast to the terror alerts that rattled the host country.

Returning to the land where it was formed in 1905, the BWA, now an international fellowship of 32 million believers from 200-plus unions, set about the hard work of building unity in a world where, leaders admitted, religion often divides.

The BWA also clarified its

theological identity, discussed ways to combat global ills, and recognized a shift of Christianity's center of gravity to Africa, Asia, and South America.

A century ago when BWA first met in London, 85 percent of the world's Baptists were in Europe and North America, said Denton Lotz, general secretary of BWA. Now 65 percent of Baptists are in the Third World, Lotz told the delegates.

"This is the new paradigm shift," Lotz said as he asked delegates from Africa, Asia, and South America to stand. The Southern Hemisphere may lack money, political freedom, or clout, he said, but "they are going to re-evangelize the world."

The Baptist World Centenary Congress, one of the largest Baptist meetings ever, was played out against the backdrop of terrorism and increased security in England. In the days leading up to the congress, London was struck by four suicide bombers and four attempted bombings in its transit system. Headlines about England's manhunt for the bombers screamed across the region's daily newspapers during the meeting, and law officers made arrests in Birmingham itself.

But delegates apparently swept aside any concern about terrorism. They endured height-

ened security measures and several days of England's famous rains to rejoice in their common bond in Jesus Christ.

"We prayed that you would come, despite the bombings and the terror alerts," said David Coffey, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the hosts for the meeting. The high attendance despite the terror alerts was a sign of "visible solidarity" among Baptists, said Coffey, who was elected BWA president during the congress.

The 13,000-plus delegates were aided by almost 1,000 volunteers from the United Kingdom, making for the second largest BWA gathering ever. An earlier congress in Toronto drew 15,000.

To mark their 100th anniversary, the Baptist World Alliance adopted a new identity statement that embraces traditional orthodox beliefs, and which BWA leaders hope will be used to clarify Baptist beliefs for other Christians and non-believers.

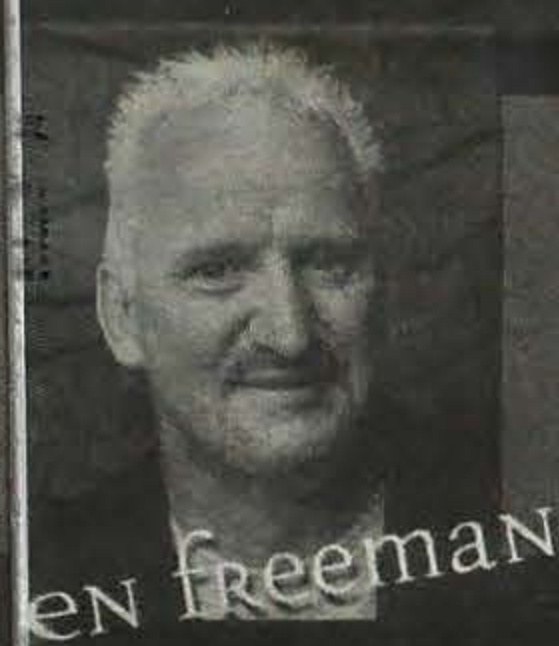
Titled "Message from the Centenary Congress," it is the first statement of faith created by world Baptist leaders since one adopted in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1923, according to Keith Jones, who chaired a committee of Baptist theologians and scholars which formulated the statement.

"We, recognizing that this is a partial and incomplete confession of faith, boldly declare that we believe the truth is found in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures," the statement says in part. The Scriptures "have supreme authority as the written Word of God and are fully trustworthy for faith and conduct."

The statement was adopted July 27 by the BWA's General Council, the world fellowship's decision-making body. It was "received" by the BWA's Congress on July 30, when a printed copy of the statement was distributed to delegates without debate.

Although the statement comes not long after the withdrawal of the Southern Baptist Convention, which charged the world organization with liberal theology, BWA leaders said it should not be regarded as a response to allegations. "This was on the stocks long before those recent events," said Coffey.

Also during the General Council meeting, representatives approved BWA membership for three new unions — one from Africa and two state conventions (the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist General Association of Virginia) from the United States. □



TOM DELAY



JAMES DOBSON



BILL MILLER



PHYLLIS KILLEBREW



BILL DONOHUE



GENE ROBINSON

HEARTS ON FIRE YOUTH CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2005
NATLINSBURG, TENNESSEE
NATLINSBURG CONVENTION CENTER

DEADLINE FOR
GUARANTEED
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION IS
NOVEMBER 4, 2005!

DEADLINE FOR
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"Hearts on Fire" is a Christ-centered conference designed to win the teen to faith in Christ to challenge the believing teen to a more dynamic spiritual walk and commitment. It is our goal to make Hearts on Fire a conference that everyone can attend.

AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE to have as our guest speakers DARREN WHITEHEAD and TOM FREEMAN. THE LORD undoubtedly has his hand in these men and their stories. Special music will be provided by TODD W & JONAH33. OUR prayer is that God will use Hearts on Fire to bless you like never before!

SBC CP gifts up 2.23 percent

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up 2.23 percent compared to the same time frame in 2004, according to a news release from Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

As of July 31, 2005, the year-to-date total of \$163,661,881.83 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$3,569,859.20 ahead of the \$160,092,022.63 received at the same point in 2004. For the month, receipts of \$18,644,757.93 were 7.94 percent, or \$1,371,873.96, above the

\$17,272,883.97 received in July 2004.

Designated giving of \$178,725,787.89 for the same year-to-date period is 0.71 percent, or \$1,276,719.19, below gifts of \$180,002,507.08 received at this point last year. The \$7,827,770.46 in designated gifts received last month is \$475,323.35 below the \$8,303,093.81 received in July 2004, a decrease of 5.72 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$163,661,881.83 is 107.20 percent of the \$152,668,078.40 budgeted, or \$10,993,803.43 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and

across North America.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. □

N.C. Baptist volunteer dies

Baptist Press

GERMANTON, N.C. — A Baptist volunteer from Germanton Baptist Church here, died July 26 in Wyoming of an apparent heart attack.

John Holland was alone, cleaning tables after breakfast

when he collapsed, according to David White, who is overseeing efforts to build a missions house in Casper, Wyo.

White's wife, Sharon, found Holland unconscious in a garage area of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention facility.

Sharon White tried to revive Holland. Other volunteers started CPR. Rescue workers arrived a short while later and administered shock treatments in an attempt to get Holland's heart to start beating again. He later died at the hospital. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

First Baptist Church, Monterey, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for a full-time pastor position. Please send resumes to Monterey First Baptist Church, 106 North Chestnut St., Monterey, TN 38574. Post to the attention of Sonny Gilpatrick.

Lynn Garden Baptist Church of Kingsport, Tenn., is currently seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to Pulpit Committee Chairman, Lynn Garden Baptist Church, 301 May Ave., Kingsport, TN 37665.

Short Creek Baptist Church in Christiana, Tenn., is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resume to 7111 Hoover Gap Rd., Christiana, TN 37037.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Accepting resumes for part-time, possibly full-time minister of music. Please send resume to Long Heights Baptist Church, 95 Doug Lane, McKenzie, TN 38201, Attn. Kim Kelly

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

Growing Southern Baptist church in Prairieville, La., seeks dynamic music minister. Duties to include leadership of all music worship services, along with adult and children's choirs. Church located right off I-10 south of Baton Rouge. Fax resumes to (225) 673-6624, or e-mail to dutchbc@eatel.net.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY

Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, in the Madison area, is seeking mature Christian secretary. Must be computer literate. Primary will work with education, youth children, and preschool area ministry. Approximately 30 hours a week. If interested call (615) 865-6262 or fax a resume (615) 860-8734. You may send your resume to Grace Baptist Church, 1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207.

Full-time church secretary, must be proficient in MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Publishes newsletter. Send resume to Poplar Heights Baptist Church, Hollywood Dr., Jackson 38305.

Christian Women's Job Corps, Nashville, seeks a full-time ministry director with a social service background. Send letter of interest, resume, salary history and three professional references to bsumrall@nashville.org.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Point Pleasant Baptist Church, Buchanan, Tenn., is accepting resumes for part-time director. Send resume to Church Highland, Search Committee, 248 Oak Haven Rd., Buchanan, TN 38222.

Lynn Garden Baptist Church currently seeking a full-time minister of youth and assistant pastor. Please send resume to Personnel Committee Chair, Lynn Garden Baptist Church, 301 May Ave., Kingsport, TN 37665.

Caney Fork Baptist Church seeking a part-time minister of youth. Please send resume to Caney Fork Baptist Church, 2396 Hwy. 70 East, Cookeville, TN 38506, (931) 520-1910

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington Ky., is seeking an experienced individual to be on the cutting edge of children's ministry with a strong leadership background, a passion for reaching children and their families. Needs creativity, strong organizational skills, and communication skills consistent with a large church and ministry team. Respond to IBC Personnel Committee, 10000 Bates Creek Rd., Lexington, KY 40502.

Church is seeking person for the full-time position of minister of childhood education. Minimum of two years experience in full-time children's ministry, bachelor's degree required. Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 100 South Main St., Jonesboro, GA 30213.

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nights, \$200.00 Efficiency Unit
(2 Adults, 2 Kids) Good 9-6 thru 10-31
(205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Full-time youth minister/education director needed. Bachelor's degree required; seminary training preferred. Send resume to Janet Scherer, 1621 South Lincoln, Kennett, MO 63857 or e-mail jscherer@we.rr.com.

First Baptist Church of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is seeking a full-time associate pastor for youth and children. Send resume to the church at 1605 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or call (505) 983-9141. Deadline is Oct. 31, 2005.

You can help children at TBCH!

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes is looking for **volunteers who are high school, college, or post-college graduates to serve as tutors during the school year** at the TBCH Brentwood Campus Children's Center at 1310 Franklin Road beginning the last week of August or the first two weeks of September.

The Children's Center tutors children from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Volunteer tutors will be able to work any hour(s) they choose during this time.

You don't need to be an education expert — you just need patience and a heart for kids. For the children's protection, a background check is required for volunteers. To learn more, e-mail Meredith Chambers at meredithc@wcs.edu or call (615) 394-5025.

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Space is limited. \$100 deposits are now due.

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book review

By Matt Crawford

Keys to Unlock the Christian Life

by Colin S. Smith, Moody Publishers, 2005

I will confess, when I see books with a title similar to the one which I am reviewing now, I am skeptical before opening the book and reading a page. This is because there have been numerous books published in the guise of Christian living which claim to provide a deeper, more spiritual Christian life. Most of these books contain little more than pop psychology and have been baptized with Christian jargon. Far from true Christian piety, such mysticism usually does more harm to true Christians than help.

Although the title of Colin Smith's book seems to place it in this category, *10 Keys to Unlock the Christian Life* is a refreshing departure from these other aforementioned

books. This book is essentially an exposition of the book of I Peter. For this reason, Smith's title is an appropriate one. He believes, rightly so, that what Christians need more than self-help or mystical books, is Scripture. If a believer of Christ desires a deeper walk with Christ, the end of this book is a deeper knowledge of Scripture, since this is how one comes to know Christ.

Smith writes in the introduction, the book of I Peter is an excellent manual of discipleship, especially for new believers. It is for this reason that he focuses on I Peter in this book. Furthermore, Smith tries in the book, not merely to expound the meaning of I Peter, but to teach believers how to learn from the Bible for themselves. For it is in the process of reading someone interpret the Bible rightly that we learn how to do so ourselves.

The 10 chapters of the book come from the way that Smith outlines I Peter. Some of the chapter titles are "New Birth," "New Purpose," "New Relationships," and "New Destiny." What makes the chapters worthwhile is that for the most part, Smith is faithful to the biblical text of this book. He sets out to take up I Peter a few verses at a time, discuss the meaning of the text, and then to show how the text should be applied in the life of the believer. He covers such topics as enduring suffering, proper conduct for wives of unbelieving husbands, and how to relate to those who are hostile to the gospel.

One of the consequences of doing exegetical teaching with Smith in this book, is that one is forced to grapple with difficult texts which can be easily ignored or glossed over if one does topical teaching. One of the marks of the quality of Smith's book is the way that he handles difficult texts in I Peter. An example of this is 3:18-20 which deals with Christ preaching to the spirits in prison. Smith examines options for interpreting the text, such as the idea that Jesus descended to hell after the crucifixion. He presents this interpretation and others because they are faithful to the broader witness of Scripture and he offers a different interpretation. In so doing he provides a model of how to interpret obscure passages.

I found myself at several points wishing that Smith had gone into greater depth in discussing a few texts, but in the length of the book he was not able to do so. I agree with Smith's interpretations at a few points, but overall, this is a soundly exegetical book, one that Christians would benefit from precisely because all Christians need to constantly be confronted with Scripture. — Crawford is a recent graduate of Union University, and will study this fall at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

I shall return

By Michael Adams

Focal Passage: Luke 21:5-9, 25-28, 34-36

Foretelling the future is a risky business. Just prior to the 1980 presidential election, the *Saturday Evening Post* interviewed five leading astrologers in the country and asked them to predict the outcome. You probably recall the election featuring Jimmy Carter running against Ronald Reagan. Of the five astrologers, only one predicted that Reagan would be the Republican nominee. None of them predicted Reagan as the eventual landslide winner.

However, the prophecies given by our Lord in the Olivet Discourse must be regarded as the most important in all history. The reason for this importance centers on there being truth rather than speculation. Jesus addressed three questions as He dealt with the issue of His return. First, when would the temple be destroyed? Second, what would be the sign of Jesus' coming? Third, what would be the sign of the end of the age?

While the disciples thought their questions were about the same event, Jesus corrected their thinking by dividing the events and at the same time providing some common themes for each event. The Bible student should cautiously examine this passage

while remembering that as civilization draws closer to the return of Jesus, the intensity of these signs will increase.

Jesus began in Luke 21:5-9 with some words about wickedness. The fact that Jesus is talking about the destruction of the temple is clear. In A.D. 70 this edifice, which could have been classed as one of the wonders of the ancient world, was destroyed by Roman soldiers.

The four features mentioned before this destruction were the presence of false messiahs, wars, natural disasters, and astronomical signs. These were not to be interpreted as the end of the world but the precursor to the destruction of Jerusalem.

One does well to remember that there has been a false messiah in every age since the resurrection of Jesus. Also, civilization has not existed without some form of war since that same time frame. Jesus was reminding us and the disciples that such events characterize every age and would happen before Jerusalem's downfall.

Jesus, in verses 25-26, continued with some words about world turmoil. The context for these events would be the return of the Son of Man and the consummation of history. Noticing that this time in history will be accompanied by signs in moons and stars, reminds

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us that every time God directly intervenes in history there is a disruption of natural order. The anguish, perplexity, and terror of mankind shows the despair of these final days. "They will see" is a phrase that reminds the believer of the appearance of God's glory as He breaks into the scope of time. The use of the cloud with the appearance of Jesus reminds the believer of the transfiguration event in Luke 9.

Closing this chapter Jesus provides two important words of warning in verses 34-36. First, humanity is told to "be careful." This warning comes because of the power of deceit which the antichrist possesses and the suffering Christians will experience before the rapture and tribulation. These experiences can lead some astray.

The second warning is "watch." This activity becomes important because by God's standards, very soon our redemption draws near. Regardless of theological position, every believer in Jesus should be watching and ready for our Lord's return. □ — Adams is pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington.

Stand firm in faith

By Brad Shockley

Focal Passage: Daniel 6:1-10, 16, 21-23

In last week's lesson we learned that Christians are citizens of a heavenly kingdom forced to live under the authority of earthly domains. And we learned that all of God's people are obligated to submit to the governing authorities because those authorities are ordained by God. The question naturally arises: What do we do when our desire to honor our heavenly citizenship collides with the laws of the land? In other words, is it ever right for the Christian to engage in civil disobedience?

Surprisingly, the Scripture offers numerous examples of civil disobedience. In the book of Exodus, the Hebrew midwives defied Pharaoh's orders to kill the Hebrew babies (Exodus 1:15-17). In the book of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not follow the king's decree and worship an idol (Daniel 3). The prophet Daniel himself refused to pray to anyone other than the God of Israel (Daniel 6).

Perhaps one of the best examples is found in the New Testament, where Peter and the apostles were commanded by the Jewish authorities "not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus" (Acts 4:18). Their reply was simple, "we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). They didn't stop and were arrested, jailed,

supernaturally freed, and found once again preaching the name of Christ (Acts 5:17-32)!

From these instances we learn that a believer's allegiance to governing authorities is not absolute. Civil disobedience is appropriate at times. In every instance cited above, obedience to the law of God or commands of Christ was at stake — "you shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13), "you shall have no other gods before me... you shall not worship them or serve them" (Exodus 20:3, 5), "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). When a believer feels tension between his duty to God and man, the response is clear, "we must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

The issue is not always black and white, though. Inevitably, some situations will fall into a murky gray area that requires us to step back and really seek God's face on what to do. This one article could never satisfy the matter, but here are some questions that help:

- Is this truly a matter of biblical principle, or just one of preference, taste, or style?
- Why exactly do I have problems with what I am being asked to do? Is it really an issue of conscience and morality, or is it something else — perhaps a personality conflict, or just feelings of discomfort?
- Have I made an effort to listen and understand exactly what the authority is asking me to do? Have I checked out my perceptions

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by telling the authority what I think I heard?

• Do I really understand how what I am being asked to do conflicts with godly values? Have I studied God's Word diligently, prayed for His insight, and thought things through?

• Is this really an either/or situation, or are there alternatives that might satisfy everyone involved? Daniel dealt with an issue of conscience by coming up with a creative alternative to his superior's command (Daniel 1:8-16). Can I think of a way to meet the authority's needs while preserving my own integrity?*

For many years Christians in our country have had little difficulty honoring their heavenly and earthly citizenships because America is a nation founded on biblical principles and Christian values. But the times they are a'changing! Expect within your lifetime to be faced with a Daniel-like decision. But like Daniel, be ready to do the right thing. Put God first!

*Thomas Nelson Publishers. *What Does the Bible Say About—: The Ultimate A to Z Resource Fully Illustrated.* Nelson's A to Z series, Page 66. Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2001. □ — Shockley is pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
Tennessee Baptist Convention

Funding missions in Tennessee
and around the world

Leaders

◆ **David E. Crutchley**, a religion professor at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, served as co-leader of the academic and theological education workgroup of the Baptist World Alliance's evangelism and education division during the recent Baptist World



CRUTCHLEY

Congress held in late July in Birmingham, England. As a workgroup co-chair, Crutchley was asked to serve on the BWA's core committee for the organization's five-year strategy called "Christ the Living Water." Crutchley also is serving as interim pastor of Smithwood Baptist Church in Knoxville.

◆ **James Glisson** of Dyer will celebrate 50 years in the ministry on Sunday, Aug. 21, at New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Dyer, where he is a member. He will preach at the 11 a.m. worship service. Glisson has served two churches in Texas and six churches in Tennessee. He can be preached at (731) 692-3468.

◆ **Robert Agee**, retired Wilson County Baptist Association director of missions, will celebrate 50 years in the min-



GLISSON

istry by preaching at his home church, Hickman Baptist Church, Hickman, on Sunday, Aug. 14. A graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, he served as pastor of seven churches and as chaplain of Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros. He and his wife, Marie, are members of First Baptist Church of Lebanon where they both teach senior adult Sunday School classes.

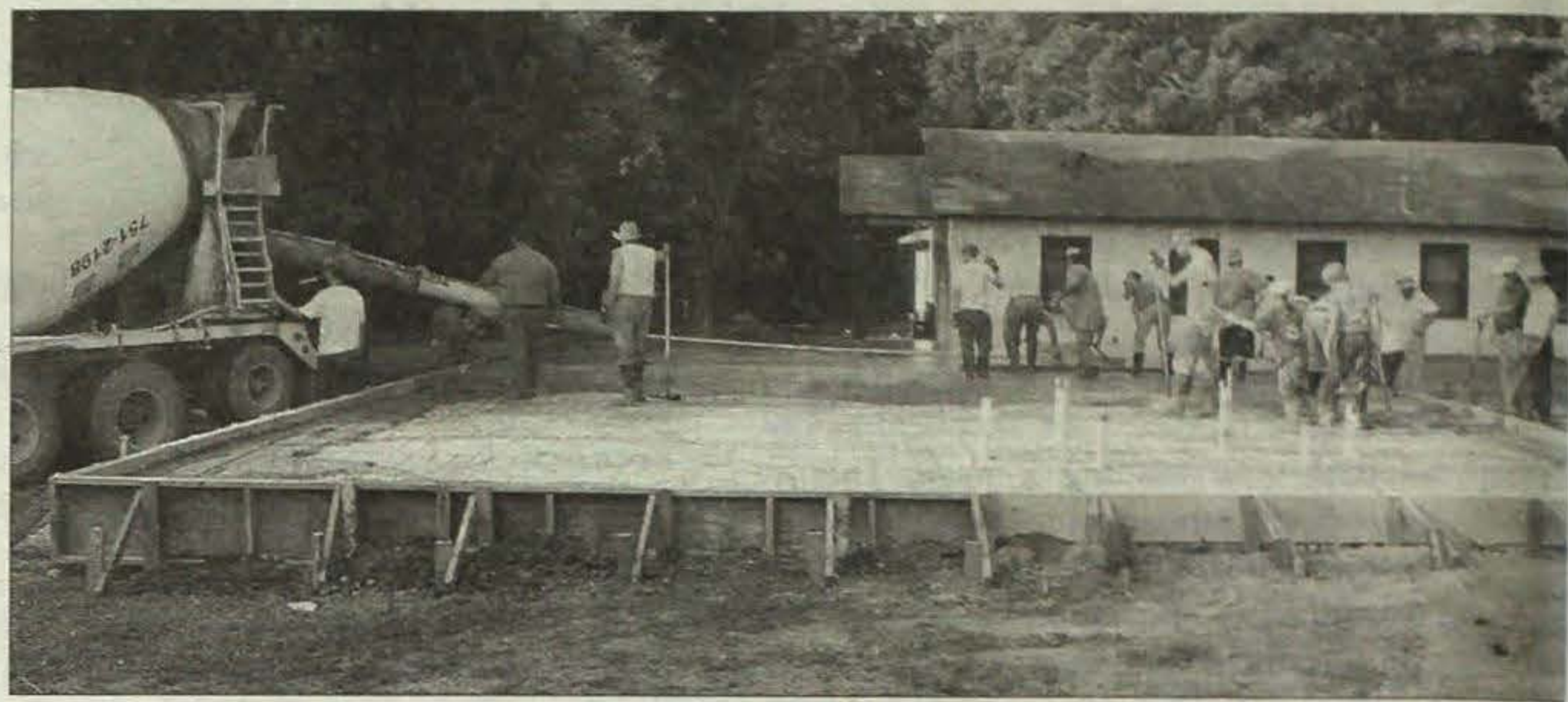
◆ **First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg** has called **Bill Betts** as pastor effective Aug. 7. A graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, he comes to the church from West



BETTS

End Baptist Church, Columbia, where he served as interim pastor. Betts has also served as Tennessee Baptist Children's Home vice president for development and as pastor of churches in Missouri, Texas, and Illinois.

◆ **Eagleville Baptist Church**, Eagleville, recently called **Louis Rideout** as pastor. Most recently serving Lincoln Heights Baptist Church, Tullahoma, as pastor, he also served churches in Ohio and Kentucky for 10 years in vocational evangelism. Rideout holds master and doctorate



WORKING ON THE FOUNDATION of a new church building on the Cherokee Nation reservation in Oklahoma are members of the Fayette and Haywood Baptist Association team. The team members. Below is a church for Creek Indians on which the team added a metal roof, which had to do at night because of the heat. The team added metal roofing to other parts of the facility, poured another church foundation, conducted seven revivals, seven Vacation Bible School (VBS) sessions, held a daytime ladies Bible study, and did door-to-door visitation. They worked with 150 children in VBSs and visited 125 homes. This is the third year the association has worked among the Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

degrees from Andersonville Theological Seminary, Camilla, Ga.

Churches

◆ **Royce Baptist Church, Oak Ridge**, will hold revival Aug. 14-17. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

◆ **Wilsonville Baptist Church, Newport**, will hold a Cocke County Missions Conference Sept. 4-7 at the church from 6-7 p.m. For information call pastor Adam Sanders at (423) 623-7039.

◆ **Scenic View Baptist Church, Nashville**, formerly Harsh Chapel Baptist Church, Nashville, will celebrate its 65th anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 21, with a special morn-



ing service followed by a meal. For information call (615) 883-8489.

◆ **Westwood Baptist Church, Manchester**, will celebrate its 48th anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 14. Worship service begins at 11 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will follow the service. The choir of Col-

lege Street Baptist Church, Tullahoma, will perform at 7 p.m. For information call (931) 393-3128.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Kenton**, will host a Burger, pianist, in Sunday, Aug. 14, at 7 p.m. For more information, call (731) 749-5780 or (731) 749-



EASTANALLEE BAPTIST CHURCH, Riceville, broke ground July 31 for a new 26,500-square-foot multi-purpose building across the road from its present location. In photo to left, Pastor Mickey Basham Sr., goes over the program with Oran Creasman, left, pastor emeritus, and Ray Luck, director of missions, McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association. Below, breaking ground are, from left, John Cockrell, builder; Gary Landers, building committee; Bill Vinson, architect; Clinton Davis, building committee chairman; Charlie Guthrie, architect volunteer; building committee members Joyce Pounders, JoAnn Combs, Glendon Miller, Wayne Parkinson, and Pastor Mickey Basham Sr.



THE DEACONS OF Good Hope Baptist Church, Anderson, stand with Stephen Miller, interim pastor, at its 150th anniversary celebration July 17. Deacons are, from left, Garry Surber, Carroll, James Surratt, Thomas McCormick, Billy Moore, Clark, and Danny Ashe. The church received a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Convention noting the occasion.



THESE YOUTH OF WEST HILLS Baptist Church, Lebanon, participated in M-Fuge Mission Camp in Mobile, Ala. The growing youth ministry is just part of the growing church led by Patrick Fraley, youth minister of the church. West Hills is seven years old and has about 500 members.