

Baptist & Reflector

side Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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this
week's
news

In Montana

Tennesseans catch vision for sharing Christ

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

HELENA, Mont. — Western Montana could be a cover photo for any magazine looking to illustrate the beauty of God's creation.

The state, which is covered with scenic mountains and valleys filled with deer, elk, and more, makes Montana a haven for those who love the outdoors.

Therein lies a major concern, says one Montana pastor.

"The biggest problem in Montana is people love the creation and not the creator," said Tom McCardle, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church in Bozeman.

McCardle was one of several Montana Baptist pastors and state leaders who greeted about 50 Tennessee Baptists during a "vision tour" last week.

Tennessee Baptists will begin a partnership with the Montana Southern Baptist Convention beginning in January 2006.

The tour was a joint effort of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Montana convention, and the North American Mission Board.

Bobby Dean, a church planting national missionary for NAMB, said the purpose of the tour was to allow Baptist leaders to "see, touch, and feel" an area that needs the gospel and to see that church planting is a

way to penetrate the lostness with the gospel.

Winchester native Jeff Clark, executive director of the Montana convention, said he was "excited about the vision tour."

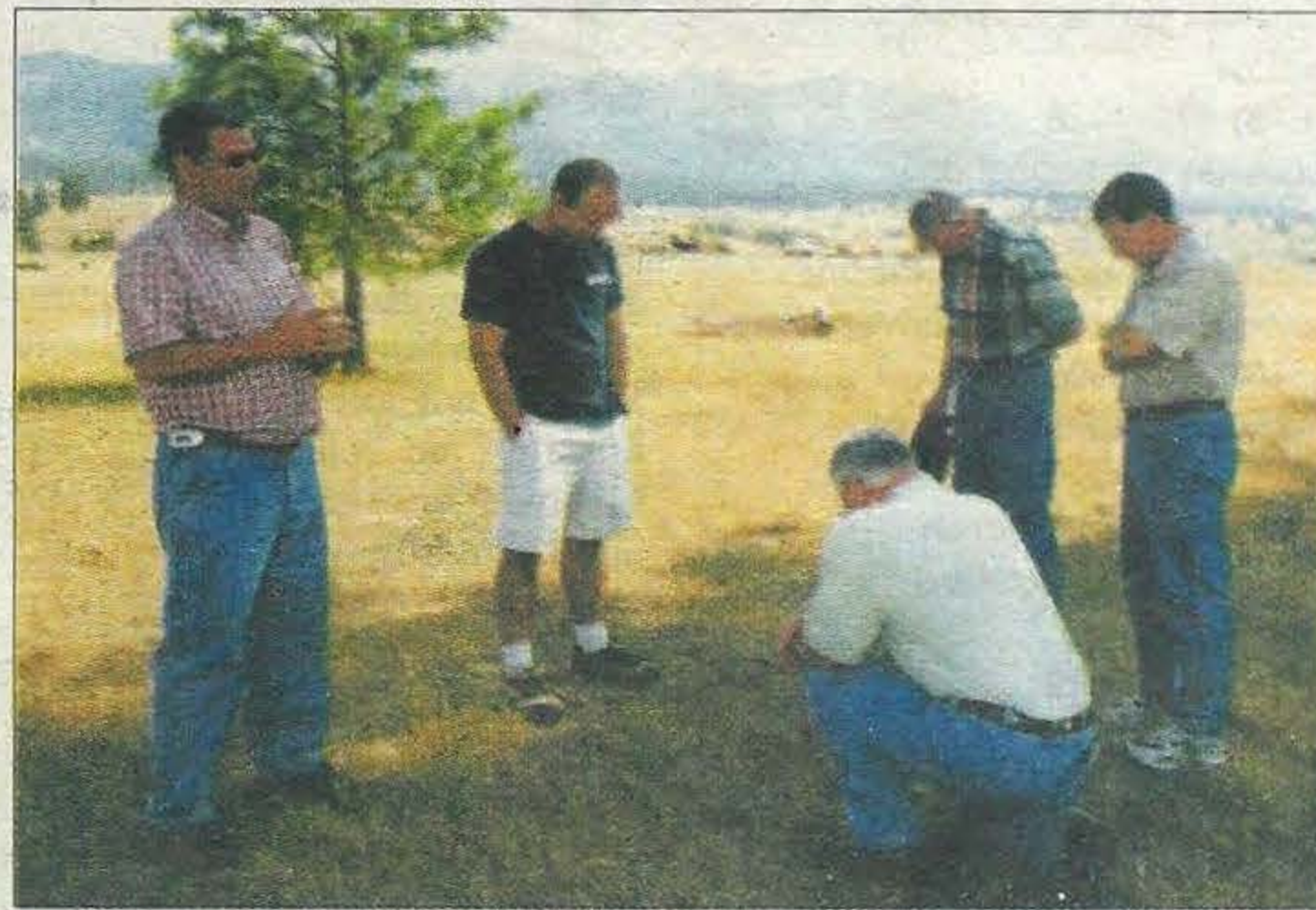
"I wanted to see Tennesseans come to Montana and fall in love with it like I did," he said.

Estimates are that about 85 percent of Montana's population do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Clark, as well as other Montana Baptist leaders, cautioned Tennesseans not to expect immediate results.

"It takes time to reach Montanans," Clark said. "They don't have the church background that even a non-Christian in a small Tennessee town would have," he observed. "Here you have people who have never heard the gospel."

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JEFF HARDY, left, pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church, Paris, prays over a parcel of land that church planter Mark Hasenyager (beside Hardy) would like to see become the home of Outdoorsmen Church near Missoula. With them are, from left, Bob Cathey (kneeling), New Harmony; Jim Twilbeck, director of missions, Western District Baptist Association, Paris; and Larry Simmons, associate pastor/administrator, First Baptist Church, Paris.



DAVE HOWETH, director of missions/new work strategist for Treasure State Baptist Association, based in Helena, goes over a map with Tennessee Baptist volunteers, from left, Gary Rickman, ministry coordinator, Tennessee Baptist Convention; Bobby Turner, First Baptist Church, Dandridge; Candy Phillips, executive director, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union; and Janice Scruggs, FBC, Dandridge.

Member of Temple Baptist, White House

Baptist layman adds gospel tracts to bat orders

By Tim Ellsworth
Baptist Press

his current job as president of Old Hickory Bat Co., Chad Lamberth didn't like baseball.

GOODLETTSVILLE — Before

No, that's not strong enough.



CHAD LAMBERTH, left, holds a bat just made for Cliff Floyd of the New York Mets. He and Jon Moyer, right, operate the Old Hickory Bat Company of Goodlettsville. — Photo by Connie Davis Bushey

"I hated baseball," said Lamberth, a member of Temple Baptist Church here.

He thought the game was boring, and he dreaded the idea of sitting through nine innings. Football and racing were more in line with his tastes.

But despite his initial aversion to the sport, over the past six years Lamberth has grown to tolerate the game.

With players like Derrek Lee of the Cubs, Carlos Beltran of the Mets, Andruw Jones of the Braves, and Manny Ramirez of the Red Sox using his bats — just to name a few — it'd be difficult not to be at least somewhat interested.

Lamberth's company in White House has grown considerably since he and his partner, Jon Moyer, began manufacturing baseball bats in a one-car

garage in 2000.

Now the operation has six full-time employees and is housed in a 1,500-square foot building that's already too small. Plans are in the works to move to a bigger facility.

"I felt from the beginning that God had brought us together," Lamberth said about his partnership with Moyer.

"I just want to honor [God] in everything we do in the business. Without Him and His guidance, we wouldn't be here."

Moyer had a background in the business, and had connections with Baltimore Orioles first baseman David Segui, who in August 2000 became the first Major League player to use an Old Hickory bat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phone — (615) 371-2003

FAX — (615) 371-2080

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Most Americans reject moral absolutes: Barna

By Michael Foust, Baptist Press

NASHVILLE. — Barely a third of all Americans believe in absolute standards of right and wrong, and far fewer hold to a biblical worldview, a new poll says.

The poll by The Barna Group, a Christian research organization, shows that only 35 percent of Americans believe in absolute standards of morality — that is, believe that right and wrong do not change with time or circumstances.

Thirty-two percent of Americans say that morality depends on the situation and the circumstance, while 33 percent say they do not know if morality is absolute or relative. The poll involved interviews with 1,002 adults in July.

Moral relativity is often reflected in such statements as "that might be true for you, but it's not true for me" and "who are you to judge?"

"The fact that only 35 percent of all Americans believe in moral absolutes provides some frightening insight into our culture and the future of this country," Craig Vincent Mitchell, instructor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, told Baptist Press.

"This statistic translated means that most people are willing to do whatever they can get away with. ... With so many rejecting the idea of moral absolutes, it is only a matter of time until our society collapses. A moral society is a happier society and a more successful one. An immoral society is one that destroys itself and its citizens."

But despite the outward rejection of moral absolutes, people still believe in absolutes "when it involves them or what belongs to them," Mitchell said.

"It is also interesting to note that most people who reject moral absolutes believe that Hitler was evil," he said. "No one believes that Kenneth Lay did the right thing for his employees or investors when he was the CEO of Enron. In other words, what people say or profess is often one thing, but what they really believe is another."

Polls consistently show that a

Baptist teen from Murfreesboro is first Union student with perfect SAT

By Tim Ellsworth
Union University news service

JACKSON — In many ways, Josh Hays is a typical teenager.

He likes to spend time with his family and friends. He loves water sports and music, and he leads worship for his church's youth group at Northside Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

But not every teenager gets a perfect score on the SAT. Hays did.

"I knew that I had done well," Hays said. "I had taken the ACT before and got a 35 on it, so I knew I was going to have a strong score. But no, a perfect score, that is not what I was thinking coming out of there."

Later this month, Hays will become the first Union University student with a perfect SAT score. He could have gone to college anywhere in the country — Harvard, Yale, Stanford — but he chose Union.

In fact, Union was the only place he sent his SAT scores.

"I've felt for a while now that I'm called to some type of Christian ministry," Hays said. "I don't know the specifics of that — pastor, youth pastor, Christian teaching. It could go a lot of different ways. But I definitely want to do something as a full-time Christian vocation."

"As I looked at all the schools, Union just really seemed to have the best program, the most to offer, as far as that field," he continued. "For

what I wanted to do, Union seemed the best."

Hays said he wanted a college that was serious about Christianity, but also serious about learning in general. Some schools like

Harvard and Yale are great institutions of learning, he said, but are lacking when it comes to a Christian atmosphere. Other Christian colleges have that going for them, but are lacking academically.

"Union seemed to have the great balance between the two," Hays said. "I considered

a lot of different options, but Union was the only place I applied to."

A recipient of a Presidential Scholarship at Union that covers all tuition and he costs for four years, Hays acknowledged God's hand in his achievements, including his SAT score.

"It truly is something from God," Hays said. "It's not something that I've done just a blessing and it's something God has put there for me to open doors."

Hays will major in Christian studies at Union, and he's busy making all the preparations for his move. His transition will be difficult for the family — parents Tor and Debbie, brother Lucas, 10, and sister Lynn, 12. □



HAYS

majority of Americans consider themselves to be Christians. But despite that, only five percent of Americans hold to a biblical worldview, the Barna poll showed.

Barna defines a biblical worldview as believing that: moral absolutes exist; the source of truth is the Bible; the Bible is "accurate in all of the principles it teaches"; salvation is by grace alone; Jesus lived a sinless life; believers have a duty to witness; Satan is real and not just a symbol; God is the "all-knowing, all-powerful maker of the universe who still rules that creation today." □

Site where Jesus healed blind man uncovered

By Erin Curry, Baptist Press

JERUSALEM — What is believed to be the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed a man blind from birth in John 9, has been

unearthed in Jerusalem, and a Southern Baptist archeologist is convinced the find is authentic.

"I've seen it. It's a phenomenal, monumental pool," Steven Ortiz, associate professor of biblical archaeology and director of the Center for Archaeological Research at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, told Baptist Press.

Ortiz made a trip to Israel in recent weeks and walked along the site with one of the field staff working on the excavation.

According to an article in the September/October 2005 issue of *Biblical Archeology Review* by editor Hershel Shanks, some workers were repairing a sewage line with heavy equipment last summer when they uncovered what appeared to be two steps. Eli Shukron, an archeologist, happened to be watching and immediately notified his colleague, Ronny Reich.

"These must be the steps going down to the Pool of Siloam during the Second Temple Period," Reich said as soon as he saw

the steps, according to *Archeology Review*.

As workers continued they discovered more steps which grew wider as they went along. Shanks described the pool as containing three segments of descending steps of five steps each. The first led down to a narrow landing, the second to another landing, the third down to what was believed to be the final step, though further excavation would reveal a deeper pool.

Artifacts discovered by the archeologists determined the pool was in use during the Second Temple period.

This particular pool, used in Jesus' day, is different from one that is normally visited today, Orizon, which was built during the Byzantine era and assumed to be at the original site.

"The traditional pool everyone currently goes to is much smaller, and this excavated pool is at least 10 times as large," Ortiz said.

Baptist layman adds gospel tracts to bat ...

— Continued from page 1

The business has grown primarily through word of mouth. Segui talked to other players about the bats, and before long orders started trickling in. Now Old Hickory is one of the top five bat companies being used by Major League Baseball players.

"He basically got us started," Lamberth said of Segui.

In every order he fills, Lamberth includes a gospel tract with Mickey Mantle on the cover. The message inside chronicles Man-

tle's last days, and tells the story of how his former teammate, Bobby Richardson, led him to Christ.

"I'm not an evangelist-type person," Lamberth said. "I'm more quiet and reserved."

But Lamberth still feels compelled to share the gospel with people. One day in a Christian bookstore he came across some Gospel tracts when the idea hit him.

"That's something we can do," he thought.

As Lamberth has become more of a baseball fan in recent years, he and all his

employees have the Major League Extra Innings cable TV package, so he flips through the channels, looking for players who use his bats. He also follows scores regularly so he can keep up with players' performances.

Still, if Lamberth comes across a channel with nobody using an Old Hickory bat, he quickly changes the channel.

"To sit down and watch a baseball game just to be watching it — can't do it. I just not do it," he said. "I hate saying that, but I can't sit here and lie about it." □

Tennesseans catch vision for sharing Christ in ...

Continued from page 1

Montana convention currently comprised of about 130 churches. Unlike Tennessee, there is not a church on every street and it is possible to drive 100 miles without seeing a church of any kind.

the work, though it may be beginning to grow. According to Steve Fowler, who coordinates church planters in Montana, there are 10 church works in progress in the state. "God is doing some exciting things," he observed.

Rickman, TBC ministry director, sees the partnership between Tennessee and Montana as a plus for both states.

The partnership is very much a part of the strategic plan for Tennessee Baptists. They have been focusing on the work of their churches and starting new churches across the state," he said.

Lucas noted the partnership "fits Tennessee Baptist Church health strategy in providing churches an opportunity to do mission outside of their own borders."

Noting that this vision tour is primarily on the population centers of Montana, Rickman said another tour next year will be at other areas of the state. "There is plenty of work to be done," he observed.

Local condition of state
Dave Howeth, director of missions and new work strategist for the Treasure State Baptist Association, said:



MARK, a native of Winston-Salem, N.C., who now serves as director of the Montana Baptist Convention, returned to Tennessee Baptist Convention last year for a "vision tour" last



TOM MCCORDLE, left, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church, Bozeman, shares about his community with, from left, Clayton Dunsmore, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Baptist Association; Eric Taylor, pastor, First Baptist Church, Middleton; and Walter Dunn, a layman from Carrs Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Speedwell.

association, headquartered in Helena, the state capital, told Tennessee volunteers they were "in a culture that has never experienced revival."

"The challenge is for you to join us as we pray every night for revival to come to Montana," he said.

He, too, stressed that Tennesseans should not expect quick results. "The work here is hard. The soil is hard."

"Nothing in Montana grows fast. We just want to see God work. Speed is not that important," Howeth said.

Several Montana Baptist leaders observed "you cannot do church in Montana the way it is done in the South."

Church planter Mark Hasenyager observed that some Montanans see church "as a ball and chain."

Hasenyager, who has begun Outdoorsmen Church near Missoula which is geared to hunters and fishermen, stressed that while they have church on a week night and no services on Sunday, they are not "watering down" the gospel.

"In a way, what we do is not outside the box. We preach the Word."

Michael Laird, worship leader at Capital Baptist Fellowship, a new church start in the state capital of Helena, is a native Montanan who was reared in church, left for college and seminary, and is now returning "home" to help reach his state for Christ.

"This state is very lost," Laird acknowledged. While the state is

beautiful it is also "a dark place" in the sense people do not know anything about the gospel," he observed.

In addition, he continued, people are "independent" and don't want to acknowledge that they need the gospel.

Bryan Lucas, a new Christian who was recently baptized at Kirkwood Baptist, noted that his generation, under 30, has no relationship with God. They feel "it's not cool to talk about God," Lucas observed.

He noted that in the last two months people have begun asking him spiritual questions. The key, he said, "is to live life and not be ashamed of what you believe."

Tennesseans see need

Tennessee Baptists came away from the vision tour with a greater feel for the needs in Montana.

Hank Jones, pastor of Cumberland Fellowship Baptist Church in Crossville, already had a vision for the lost in Montana. For the past two years he has brought a mission team from his church and Meridian Baptist Church in Crossville to Montana.

He has seen interest among Montanans increase. "They want to know you are genuine," Jones said.

Larry Simmons, associate pastor and business administrator at First Baptist Church, Paris, observed there are "a lot of ministry opportunities" available in Montana.

"I was impressed with the pastors. They have a passion for the work in Montana," Simmons said.

Simmons observed that Montana Baptists face challenges in building churches because land prices are extremely high as are construction costs.

He envisions his church having a role in Montana. "We are going to have to commit this to prayer and just let God take over," he said.

Glenn Metts, minister of outreach at First Baptist Church, Sevierville, said the week helped him see "how much we need to pray for our church planters and our missionaries."

"Prayer will be the key to all



A TEAM FROM Sweetwater Baptist Association gets last minute instructions from Sam Brown, second from right, pastor of Helena Valley Baptist Church, Helena. Team members, from left, are Joe Saffles, Fairview Tabernacle, Baptist Church, Sweetwater; Richard Parker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tellico Plains; Doug McKenzie, Notchey Creek Baptist Church, Madisonville; Brown; and Denny Moore, director of missions, Sweetwater Baptist Association.



RICH WALLACE, standing, a layman at First Baptist Church, Sevierville, gives a report during a "debriefing" session at Kirkwood Baptist Church in Bozeman.

of our work here," he said.

John Parrott, director of missions for Holston Valley Baptist Association, said his heart was burdened for the people who live in the smaller communities in Montana.

Acknowledging that the work there will be slow and difficult, Parrott said he would be "praying about how we can be a part in reaching the smaller communities."

Goal met

Kim Margrave, TBC volunteer missions specialist who helped plan the vision tour, felt its goal was met.

"Our prayer in coming here was to break the hearts of Tennessee Baptists for Montana."

"We have witnessed Tennessee Baptists encounter lostness, engage Montanans, and meet people where they are. May we not forget the faces of those we met," she said. □



DAVE HOWETH, left, director of missions and new work strategist for Treasure State Baptist Association, shares needs with Scott Harris, minister of missions at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood.



KATHIE PARROTT shares information during a "debriefing" session as her husband, John Parrott, foreground, director of missions, Holston Valley Baptist Association, and Mark Roberts, pastor of McPheeters Bend Baptist Church, Church Hill, listen.



GORDON, left, a layman at Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, meets with Parish Hartley, pastor of Capital Baptist Fellowship, new church plant in Helena, the state capital.

Being with the greatest people in the world

reflections



By Connie Davis Bushey

For the sixth year, my husband, Nick, and I joined a team from First Baptist Church, Nashville, working at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists in Cochrane, Alberta.

We return each summer to be with the greatest people in the world — Baptist missions volunteers and workers.

Each year I work with volunteers I think I know because I've served with them before. And I serve with new members and others from around the United States. As we share some of our life stories with each other, I am so blessed.

This year I painted and cleaned apartments with ladies from my team and from Clear Creek Baptist Association, based in Anna, Ill. As ladies do, we chatted as we worked. It makes the work go faster, guys.

It was helpful to share stories of our dysfunctional families. All of our families have problems.

I learned from women mar-

ried a long time. Nick and I have been married three years.

And I was inspired.

Sherry Parr of Illinois and her brothers and family cared for her ill parents and her sister, who had special needs, in their home for 10 years. Sherry teaches second grade and her husband, LaRue, is a bivocational pastor who has served on many missions trips, including in Kazakhstan, where Nick and I served. LaRue is also a lineman for an electric company.

I got to know Lora Blackwell, who has been married more than 50 years. Lora and her husband, another LaRue, served in China for eight years, beginning when he was 70. They taught English to university students. To serve in Canada, Lora left LaRue for the first time since he had a stroke several years ago. Lora still teaches English as a Second Language for the public

school system. She worked circles around the rest of us although she has suffered from shingles for a year.

Last year I served with a man and his wife leading a youth group from Florida. As we landscaped, I realized he was a reticent person. But by Wednesday I had learned he was a Vietnam vet who had earned two purple hearts. He had fallen into a booby trap in which his foot was impaled on a stake. And he was shot and nearly died. The rest of his story was almost as interesting. He had worked for the U.S. Post Office, as a meat cutter, and in several other jobs.

On my own team I was blessed by spending time with Naomi Edwards Dawson of Paducah, Ky., former member of First Church, Nashville, and Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, where Nick and I are

members. Dawson has served on 16 overseas missions trips to 12 countries. She enlisted Phil and Nigel Broyles of Calvert City, Ky., who were participating in their first missions trip. They kept us laughing and enjoying them. Phil Broyles worked for NASA for years.

Fred Turner and the Carters, Joe and Charlene, of First Church, Nashville, have served at the seminary and convention for 10 years. Glenda Turner, Fred's wife, has served six years. Fred, 74, leads the team and as Phil put it, takes care of us. He is a retired architect of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville. He cooks for the team.

Joe Carter, a self-employed electrician, and Charlene, who

manages the business, the most of any on the team. They give up a week's income.

We were directed by Bob Cobb, professor who also is volunteer director. Of course, he volunteered for the job from Arkansas but he has a Canada home. And we always get to see Richard Blackaby, president of the team, which has about 100 members. Nick is proud to see Blackaby has poured his heart of coffee. Blackaby and his wife have hosted us and other teams in their home.

No doubt, mission workers and volunteers are the greatest people in the world. Connie Davis Bushey is news editor of *Baptist and Reflector*.



THE CANADIAN SOUTHERN Baptist Seminary facilities in Cochrane, Alberta, include student apartments and a guest house, on the right.



MEMBERS OF THE team were, from left, first row, Nick and Connie Bushey, Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville; Nigel and Phil Broyles, First Baptist Church, Calvert City, Ky.; back row, Charlene and Joe Carter, First Church, Nashville; and Fred and Glenda Turner, First Church, Paducah, Ky. Not pictured is Naomi Edwards Dawson of First Church, Paducah, Ky.

letters to the editor

Valued publication

When I read in recent issues of the *Baptist and Reflector* that B&R Day is Sunday, August 21, I was reminded of old issues of this state newspaper that have been passed along to me. One in particular dated Oct. 30, 1919 (Vol. 84), I found to be fascinating, as well as somewhat entertaining. It included emphases on the Southern Baptist 75 Million Campaign, in progress at that time, as well as articles promoting the weekly *Baptist and Reflector*. It also contained several advertisements, including tonics to increase hen egg production!

A letter to the editor of the paper, Albert R. Bond, from P. E. Burroughs stated the value he placed upon the paper. It read as follows:

"Dear Brother Bond: I am handing you herewith my annual offering for the *Baptist and Reflector*. I must claim the privilege of this contribution. I make it as a simple recognition of the place which the paper fills in our denominational life. Nothing which has occurred thus far in our 75 Million Campaign has been to me more pleasing or more significant than the emphasis placed upon our papers and the efforts made to increase their circulation.

"I never knew a man or a family to be informed as

regards missions and the larger denominational life who did not read the religious paper. The paper is in its way vital and necessary as the Sunday School is vital and necessary. ...

"It is immensely significant that Dr. George W. Truett in his speeches for the Campaign takes pains always to lay emphasis on the religious paper. And why should he not do so? And why should not we all do so? Dr. Truett well knows, as does every thoughtful man, that the immediate and ultimate success of the great Campaign depends in large measure on the papers."

A note on the editorial page acknowledged the gift: "Dr. P. E. Burroughs, educational secretary of the Sunday School Board, has a custom that we appreciate and commend. Every year he makes an offering to the *Baptist and Reflector* which we apply on the fund to send the paper to some old preacher."

Elsewhere throughout this Oct. 30, 1919, issue are other references pointing to the importance of the *Baptist and Reflector* and encouraging churches to order for all members. (Incidentally, the special-offer price was \$1.50 per year for each subscriber in the church, or regular \$2.00 annual individual subscription cost.)

Well, we do many things differently nowadays, but gratefully the *Baptist and Reflector* is still going strong! Thank you for continuing what has always been an important resource in keeping Tennessee Baptists informed. I hope more new subscribers and churches in the state will be made aware of the ongoing value of this publication.

God bless Southern Baptists everywhere, and may we make an eternal difference — wherever we are!

Delores Pugh
Knoxville 37922

What a day!

As president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention this year, I want to thank the Broadman/Holman division of LifeWay for providing, at their cost, 168 beautifully leather bound, name embossed copies of the Word of God to Tennessee Baptists to give to the governor, lieutenant governor, and all state senators and representatives. LifeWay makes this blessing available to our state conventions to give Bibles to state government officials.

Dr. James Porch and I were welcomed into the governor's office where we spoke of the importance of people of faith to good government and the work of Baptist churches in the state

of Tennessee. We had prayer with the governor and felt we had bolstered Baptist work in the state of Tennessee. The governor said he looked forward to reading the Bible we gave to him.

Dozens of Tennessee Baptists went from office to office distributing name embossed Bibles to each senator and representative. These Baptists had prayer with many and left a strong witness for the Lord.

The presence of giving out Bibles in Capitol encouraged in government to be for the Lord Jesus. The officials who did not feel Jesus felt our love and The relationship between government officials and Tennessee Baptists was renewed.

Roger Freeman
First Baptist Church

— See more letters on page 5

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by The



Easy' shouldn't be condition for reaching people for Christ

lections



Johnnie Wilkey, editor

person accept Christ as Lord and Savior. He has not given up. He is still planting and sowing the gospel "seeds."

The fact of the matter is his "job" is not to "win" anybody. He is doing his job — being faithful to what God has called him to do.

God and the Holy Spirit will do the rest.

Montana is hard to reach for Christ. There is no doubt about it. But so is Tennessee and probably every other state in the union.

It is hard, because people's hearts are hard. No one likes to hear it, but God has blessed America so much that the majority of Americans feel they do not need God.

We were told that 85 percent of Montanans have no relationship at all with Jesus Christ. They are lost, without hope.

In Tennessee "only" 50 percent of our state claim no relationship to Christ. But add to the fact that 25 to 30 percent of

the remaining half doesn't go to church, and we aren't much better off than Montana.

But it appears to be so much easier to get a group to go overseas to share the gospel than it is to walk across the street or to get in vans or busses and drive hundreds of miles across country to Montana.

As we prepare for Montana I can already hear, "It's just too far to drive." Yes, it will be a long drive — perhaps as much as 25 hours or more, depending on where you live.

Hank Jones, pastor of Cumberland Baptist Fellowship in Crossville, knows it's a long drive. He has made it the past two years with a missions team from his church and Meridian Baptist Church, also in Crossville.

He admits the distance can seem overwhelming. But he has also found that "when you pull in there (Montana) and see the response of the people, you forget how tired you are, the distance it took to get there, and

the distance it will take to get you home."

As Christians, however, we sometimes get impatient. We think nothing is happening if we don't see immediate results. That is why it is more appealing to sometime go on an international missions trip to a land where people are eager to hear about Christ and are receptive.

We may think, "Why go to Montana where we work so hard all week and may not see one person accept Christ when we can go to Brazil or some other country and see hundreds accept Jesus?"

It's not "either/or." It is "both/and." Jesus commanded us to go to "all" the earth proclaiming His message. We must share Christ in our own neighborhoods, around Tennessee, in other states across our nation, and around the world.

We can't "not go" witness to our neighbors or "not go" to Montana, because it won't be easy. God never promised us it

would be easy to share His Word. In fact, Scripture gives numerous examples to show us it's not easy. Jesus' disciples encountered persecution and even death, because they dared to tell people about the love of Jesus Christ.

Was it easy for Jesus to carry that cross which He would be later nailed to and crucified?

Montana is an open field waiting to be plowed and cultivated with the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

It will take sacrifice and commitment on the part of Tennesseans to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in "Big Sky" country. We may never see the fruits of our labor, but one day the harvest will be plentiful.

Montana Baptists are committed to reaching the people in the land they love with Jesus.

Let's help. For more information about the partnership, call Kim Margrave at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2021 or locally at 371-2021. □

Getting to know a pastor takes more than one sermon

both
s of
pulpit



Johnnie Godwin

was 18 for, 13 against." I was crushed. Then he added, "However, the vote for you was the best of the last four we've voted on."

The church was willing to risk getting to know me, and I was willing to do the same with them. So I accepted the split call. Then the church and I began to get to know each other. We experienced a love and growing unity that led me to weep when I left there at the call of another church. And when I left, we were still getting to know each other.

The Baptist way of getting to know a pastor

Baptists congregations prayerfully select a search committee to go about the spiritual business of praying, searching, and nominating a God-called, Holy Spirit-appointed person to be pastor (see Acts 20:28). Then the church and eventually the prospective pastor pray to find the mind of God in this matter. Because the historical path is littered with many mismatches between churches and pastors, one could get jaded about this process. However, the historical past is also rich with examples of great under-shepherds and churches who have loved each other and served the Great Shepherd Jesus in a fine way. The potential for such a pastor-church relationship is worth the effort.

Ideally the result is a theocracy, where God's will reigns; and it is expressed in the democracy of church members voting. But whether the result of the process is ideal or less than that, pastors and churches tend to go through a honeymoon period and start getting to know each other.

Speaking of honeymoon reminds me of one marriage

whose honeymoon was over. The wife would say about her husband, "I can read him like a book." But she didn't read him like a book; rather, she tended to stop on the same bad pages each time — even though the book was still being written. Pastors and church members are both people with clay feet and need to learn to forgive each other and not judge the relationship until the book is finished. In other words, keep on getting to know each other and putting up with each other in love.

Pulpit or Pastor Search Committee?

When I was a boy, churches usually referred to their search committees as "pulpit committees." Though I wouldn't split hairs over terminology, churches already have a pulpit and don't need to search for one. Seriously, though, there is much more to search for than someone to fill a pulpit. A pastor's role is far greater than the time he spends behind the pulpit, so "pastor search committee" seems to be the better choice of terms.

Interestingly, the word "pastor" appears only one time in all the King James Version New Testament (Ephesians 4:11). The Geneva Bible was the first to translate the Greek word for shepherd with the Latin word pastor in this verse. Other versions followed suit. (Pastor appears only eight times in the Old Testament — all in Jeremiah — and translates the Hebrew word for shepherd). This translation item is not a tidbit; it provides critically important insight into the role of a pastor and the church that calls the pastor.

How should a PSC get to know a pastor?

Well, today, the pastor search committee's job is more complex than I have space to share. Com-

mittees face a flood of recommendations, resumes, and videos of preachers preaching their "sugar stick" sermons. Besides PSCs praying and identifying the kind of pastor their church needs, they're wise to look to the Bible for help. Detailed requirements for a pastor — also called bishop/overseer or elder — are given in I Timothy 3:1-6 and Titus 1:6-9. More than a score of qualifications are listed.

Figuratively speaking, pastor and shepherd are the same thing. So PSCs would do well to focus first on whether a pastor/shepherd loves the Lord and feeds the sheep. As the Model Pastor/Shepherd, Jesus described this priority in John 10. Then in John 21:15-17, Jesus in essence showed us that most of all a pastor is to love the Lord and feed the sheep — nourish, tend, shepherd, protect, cherish the sheep. Other criteria are important, but these two are critical in getting to know a pastor.

A pastor is also supposed to be able to teach and equip the Christians for ministry. The Greek word for "perfect" used in the King James Version may also mean equip, furnish, train, or develop (Ephesians 4:12). Equip for what? For ministry.

What the Pastor Needs to Know About the Church

With what I've written weighted toward getting to know a pastor, it's natural to consider the other side of the pulpit: What should a pastor know about the church? Basically, a pastor should find that the church loves the Chief Shepherd. He should find that the church wants to follow the under-shepherd as long as his life points to Jesus and he is faithful to God's Word.

The pastor should also find a church that doesn't "hire" him to

minister in their place but alongside him. After my first year in seminary, Pastor L. L. Morriss invited me to intern as "Minister of Visitation" in my home church (First Baptist, Midland, Texas). I was glad to accept the invitation. It was my joy to visit all the city's new move-ins each week as well as do other visiting and staff assignments.

When I visited one newcomer, a lady came to the door and accepted my card after I told her I was from First Baptist Church. She carefully read the card and then gleefully exclaimed, "Minister of Visitation! How nice! Back in Louisiana we couldn't afford one of them; we had to do our own visiting." She had missed Paul's teaching that we all have the ministry of reconciliation and are to be ministers (II Corinthians 5:18). No matter how rich a church is, church members can never afford to call a pastor to minister in their place. Rather, a pastor should find a church waiting to be further equipped and ready to serve alongside him for the glory of God.

Conclusion

God-given messages reflect the relationship of a pastor to His Lord. We get to know a pastor by his sermons plus his lifetime. The response of the church to God's message and messenger reflects the church's relationship both to the Lord and to the pastor. Further, the church's response indicates how well it listens to God and obeys Him — which is what church is about. Love the Lord; feed the sheep; follow the Shepherd/shepherd. □ — Copyright 2005 by Johnnie C. Godwin, who enjoys getting to know you via johnniegodwin@comcast.net.

About 300 weekday preschool workers from 36 centers meet

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Almost 300 weekday preschool workers gathered here Aug. 5-6 for the Annual Church Weekday Education Conference of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. It was held at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage. The workers represented 36 weekday preschool centers at Baptist churches. A group from Illinois also joined the Tennesseans.

Willia Ruth Garlow, child specialist and international speaker of Oklahoma City, Okla., spoke. Garlow has taught at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. She also was preschool and children's minister of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

Garlow used the metaphor of making a quilt to speak on producing a weekday preschool program and the theme, "Putting the Pieces Together."

Garlow encouraged the directors and teachers to develop as their main purpose, helping children learn about God.

Then they must plan, said Garlow, which involves "knowing what you want to accom-



WILLIA RUTH GARLOW, center, keynote speaker of Oklahoma City, Okla., visits with **Klista Storts**, left, of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff and director of preschool ministries, Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson, and **Sue Raley** of Brentwood, retired from the TBC staff.

plish and ... making it flow."

They should avoid the trap of trying to offer amusements and being silly with children, she said.

Garlow encouraged them to try to involve men in the program, possibly by asking a man to visit classrooms. Such visitors, even ministers, need some instruction before the visit, she suggested.

Weekday preschool workers should follow their instincts, said Garlow. Children have a "built-in radar" which picks up

on things teachers feel are wrong, she added.

Procedures and teaching should "fit the children that we are teaching," she said.

Teachers should be trained. They also should be reminded not to criticize each other.

"Get in your room and mind your own business," directed Garlow. "Let the director take care of everyone else."

"One naysayer can naysay an entire weekday program," stated Garlow.

Teachers should be welcom-

ing of booth children and parents. "Sometimes that's easier said than done," admitted Garlow. One time a preschool teacher greeted Garlow and her preschooler by saying, "Oh no, not another one."

Teachers and workers should be constant learners. "If you think you know it all, go in the room with the children. You'll learn you don't know it all."

Appropriate materials should be gathered for teaching, unneeded items should be removed from rooms, and teachers must be creative. Garlow noted one teacher used an unwanted piano in a room by using the back of the piano as a place to display items.

Weekday preschool workers should avoid problems associated with resource rooms by storing only those items which can be shared by other teachers who might accidentally use them. Teachers should avoid asking children to make "cute items" which don't support the teaching plan.

They also must remember that children are "literal-minded," directed Garlow. In other words, preschoolers will not understand direction that they be sheep of God.

Many teachers, Garlow reported, ask preschoolers to

"do things they aren't for." She asked why teachers and workers praise children calling them a big boy or girl. She cited the teacher two-year-olds who was told them to quote John 3:16.

"Let them be their age suggested."

Workers should be patient and truthful in their teaching. She referred to the teacher told a child, "Don't you God won't love you if you like that?"

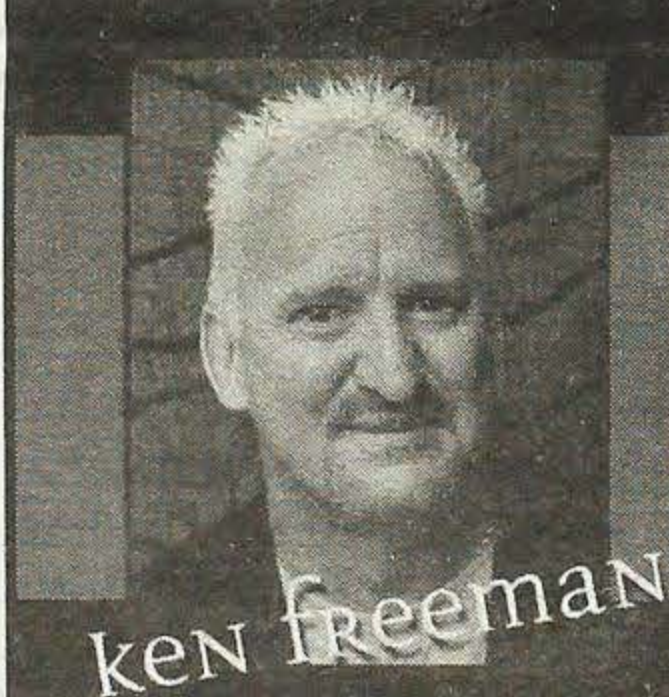
When the appetites of preschoolers to learn more low continued. Give children positive touches. "They may feel love and belonging where else, but they can find it from you."

"Good teaching doesn't happen by itself. It can't be put together at the last minute."

She praised the directors and teachers while admitting their jobs are difficult. "It takes one or two days to be effective. The dailyness gets in the way. It doesn't it?"

In fact, weekday preschool workers in churches are called Christian example ministers to families, said.

"The best teaching and quilts are done by hand," concluded Garlow. □



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Bait and Reflector

the 170th anniversary of the paper approached this year, Wi had an idea which help preserve some of the history as well as honor who retired in 1998. He is the paper's only living former

the Baptist and Reflector is the fifth in longevity among state papers, Wilkey Papers older than the one which was founded in 1823 as was the *Alabama Baptist*, the *Christian Index* (Georgia), 1822; the *Western Reflector* (Kentucky), 1826; the *Deltaus Herald* (Virginia),

"Our paper has a long and distinguished history and has several noteworthy editors who were key players in the early years of the Southern Baptist Convention," Wilkey said. Among those early editors were J. R. Graves, R. B. C. Howell, and E. E. Folk.

The book will include a brief history of the paper, compiled by Allen as well as reprints of editorials of former editors throughout the years.

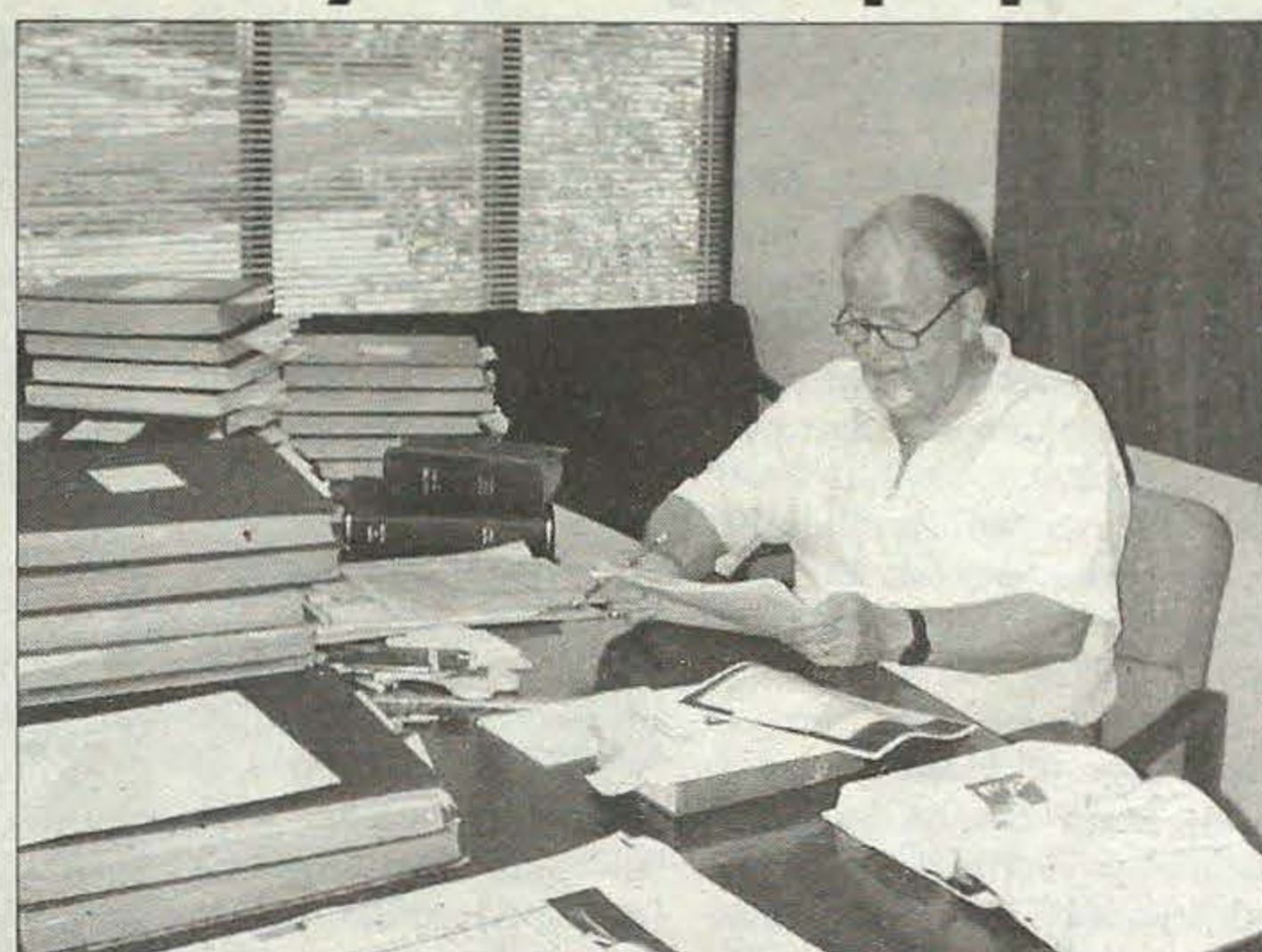
"While this will not be a complete history of the paper, it is an effort to begin to preserve our history," Wilkey said.

Allen, now 74, is excited about the opportunity to help with the project. He has spent numerous hours researching bound volumes and other historical records about the paper.

"I am the beneficiary of many days with ordinary Baptists who truly are Christian heroes to me," he continued.

Allen observed that history "is vital for accurate records and precise memories of our past, so I take seriously the preservation of the story of our own *Baptist and Reflector*," he said.

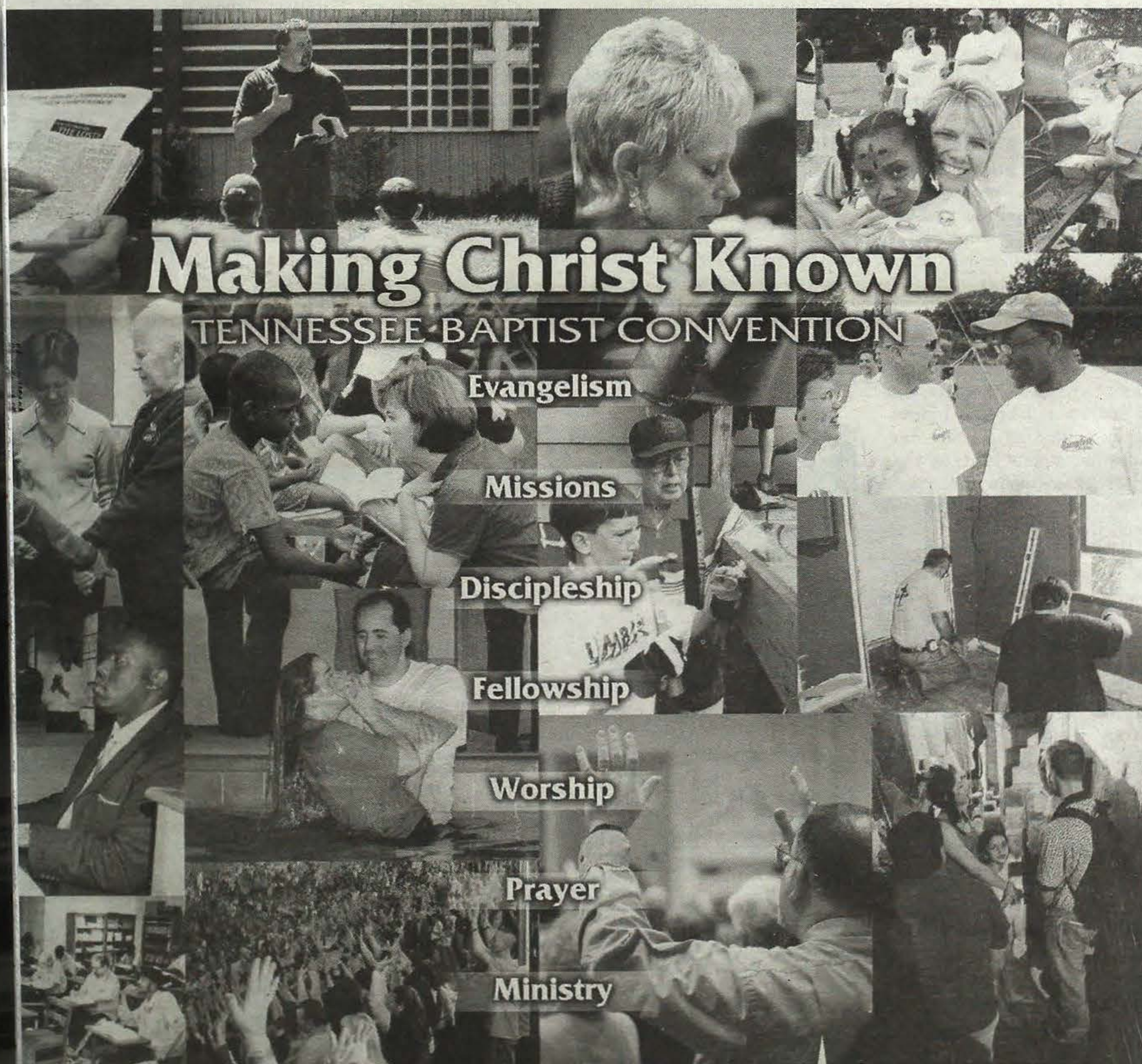
The book is being funded primarily by donations from many



FLETCHER ALLEN, retired editor of the Baptist and Reflector, sorts through bound volumes. He is helping to produce a book to commemorate the paper's 170th anniversary this year.

Donations are still being accepted for the book which is

Individuals who make donations will receive a complimentary copy of the book as soon as it is published. Individuals interested in assisting with the publication of this book may send a check to Lonnie Wilkey, *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Checks should be made payable to the *Baptist and Reflector* and should be marked for "Allen book." □



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Every family needs a church family, says Franklin counselor

By Polly House
LifeWay news service

GLORIETA, N.M. — Mom, dad, and kids. Three single roommates sharing a house. An unwed teenager with a baby. Three generations living under one roof. A widowed father raising a daughter.

Are these all families? It depends who you ask. Defining today's family is almost impossible.*

Regardless of what you call them, they all need a church family, said Cindy Sneed, a nationally certified counselor and licensed professional counselor-mental health services provider from Franklin, and a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville.

As part of Sunday School Week at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Sneed led a four-part workshop titled "Ministering to Families," and challenged participants to "think outside the box" on how to minister to the various family groups found in churches.

Children's ministers today are being asked more often to take on the role of providing spiritual direction not only for the needs of children, but also for the children's families. The title "minister to children and their families" is becoming more popular.

"We are pretty clear on what we think God means about a family — married parents with children," Sneed said. "But what about a widowed parent and children? What about a divorced parent with children? What about a couple who has no children? The lines begin to blur."

Participants at the meeting sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention were asked to define family based on what they observe in society. Among the answers were: a group that shares life experiences together; a group that has a common bond; people living together who are related by marriage, blood, or adoption; people who love and support each other; people who live together under one roof; moms, dads, kids, grandparents, and cousins; brothers and sis-

ters in Christ; people you don't pick, but have a relationship with anyway.

Church-related families

Sneed then asked the group to name the kinds of families represented in their churches. The number of responses surprised the participants.

They mentioned: traditional married couples with children they had together; couples with no children; single (widowed, divorced, or never married) parents with children; blended families; grandparents raising grandchildren; biracial couples with birth children; empty nesters whose grown children

have moved out; empty nesters whose grown children have moved back in; teen parents; multi-generational families; working families who see little of each other due to job situations; military families; children's homes families; foster families; families with one or both parents in prison; families with members with special needs. The list went on and on.

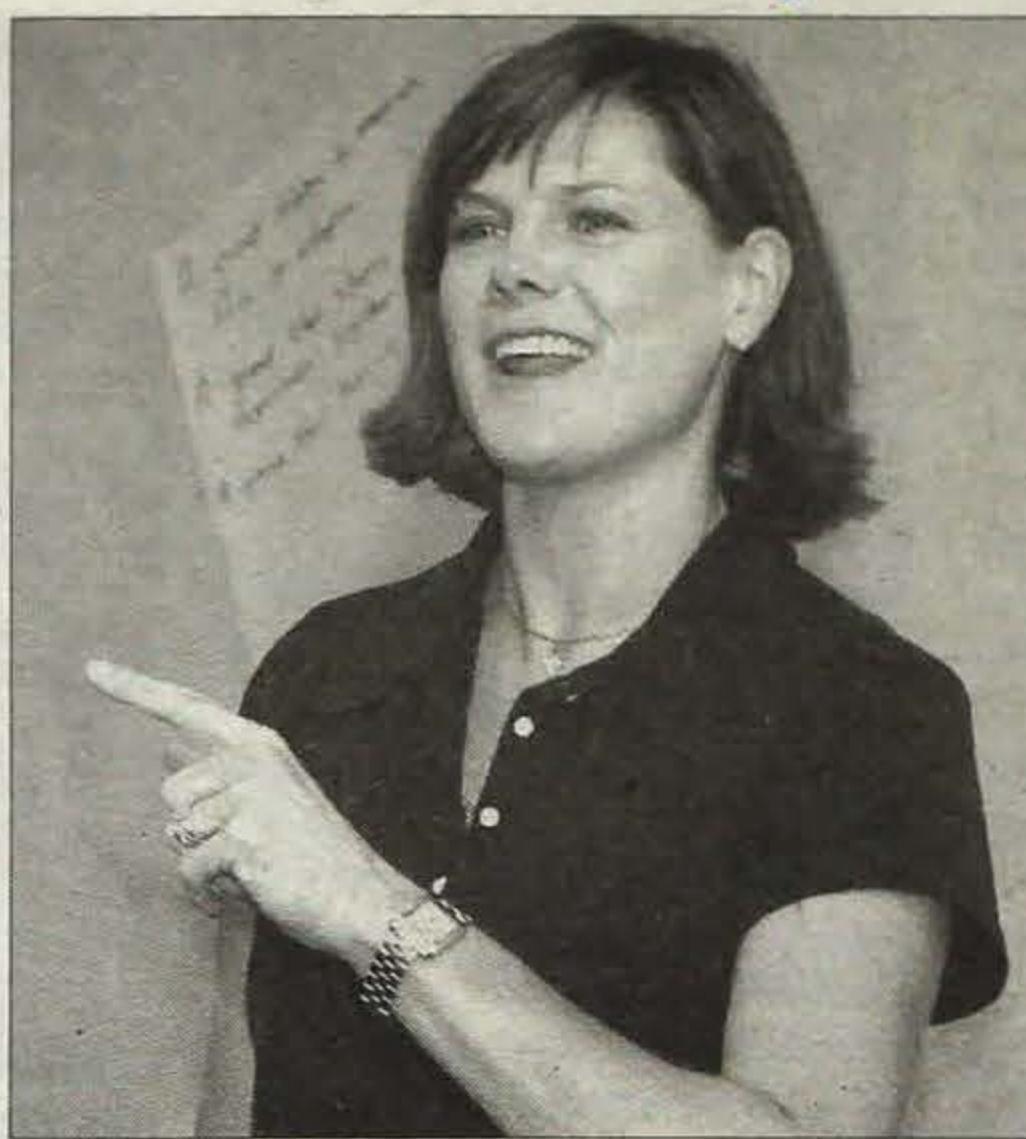
"See, we have all kinds of families in our churches," Sneed said. "How are we going to minister to them? The needs are overwhelming!"

Vulnerable families

One trait all of these families share, Sneed said, is vulnerability. Some may have more pressing needs than others, but every family has a point of crisis when a church can step in and make a difference to ensure the family's survival.

"As churches, we need to be in the business of welcoming these vulnerable families into our fellowship," Sneed said. "Where else will these families look when they need help?"

Why, though, is it so difficult for churches to reach out to hurting families? The answers hit hard. It takes a church being willing to step out of its comfort zone and reach out to families who may not be reaching out to the church.



CINDY SNEED, a counselor from Franklin and member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, makes a point during Sunday School Week at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

Confronting prejudice

"If you have a dream of reaching out to vulnerable families and bringing them into your church, you've got to confront the prejudice," Sneed said.

The Next Door is a ministry founded by First Church, Nashville, to women coming out of prison. "During our first year we have worked with 50 women who among them have 144 children. Statistics tell us that more than 70 percent of women who come out of prison will be back in within six months. These families need help."

When the women are released from prison, in many cases the only place they have to

go is back to the situation they left — drugs, prostitution, and abuse. The six-month program offered by The Next Door gives these women a safe place to live, counseling, and job skills training to help them get their lives back together and avoid being one of the 70 percent.

"I'm not going to stand here and tell you every one of these women makes it," Sneed said. "They don't. But a lot do and when they make it, their kids benefit too."

Ministry ideas

As an exercise, Sneed had the class separate into groups and imagine some ways they could minister to some of the vulnerable families in their churches.

- For traditional families: Realize that no matter how it looks on the outside, no family is perfect. Any two-parent family could be six months away from becoming a single parent family. Provide marriage seminars, parent-child classes, etc.

- For single parent families: Provide budgeting and financial information, free or reduced cost child care, assistance with car maintenance, a "hot-line" with other church members who can help when needs become overwhelming.

- For families with members with special needs: Make sure

the church is handicap accessible with ramps, rooms and elevators. Provide helpers to work one-on-one with children with special needs they can be involved in Sunday School. Offer respite care caregivers can have some time to themselves to shop, keep appointments, have some time to themselves.

- For military families: "Adopt" a base/post family whose own family lives far away. Offer to help new military families get to know their new community. If a parent is deployed, provide help for the remaining parent like you would any single parent.

Families need support

All families need love and support from a church family, Sneed said. "It's not a question of whether we think their family is good enough or fits our definition of what is appropriate. We have a responsibility to minister to all these families and them the love of Christ."

Comparing the church emergency rooms that are required under law to provide treatment regardless of an individual's ability to pay, Sneed asked, "Wouldn't it be some if our churches had the requirements for spiritual health and stabilization for people and families in crisis?"

"Our churches would be required to do their best to meet the needs of anyone who comes for help. If we couldn't help, it would be our responsibility to help them find someone else who could." □

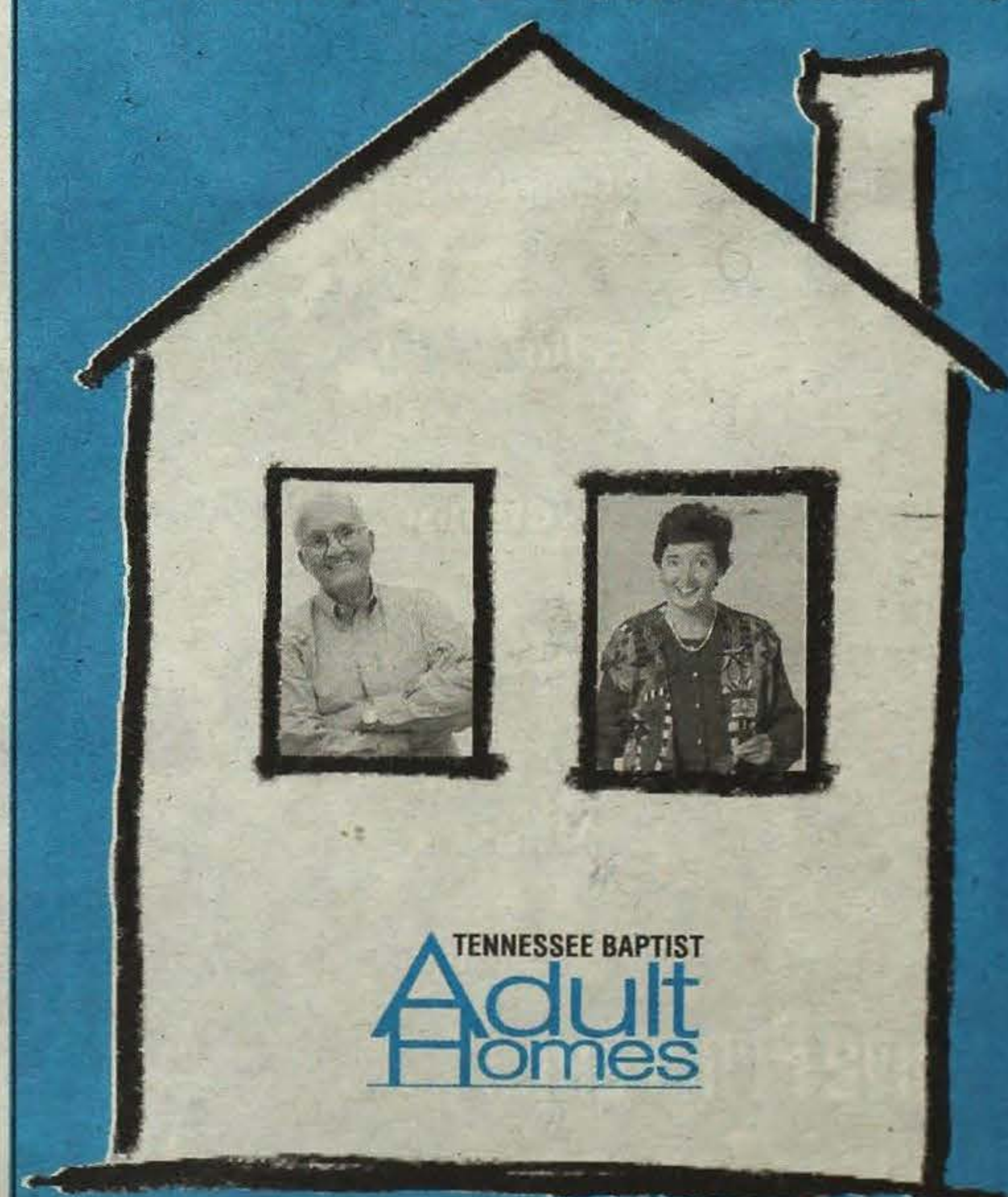
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Go to www.tnbaptisthomes.org to learn more about the ministry of your Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. Any seniors looking for new independent living housing in East Tennessee will find it on this web site.

Pastor returns to church on condition that CP giving increases

Lonnie Wilkey
Photist and Reflector

NEWPORT — The third time around certainly is proving to be no harm for Tom Mooty, pastor of West End Baptist Church here. Mooty, a native of Dayton, was reared in Cocke County and actually attended West End occasionally as a teenager though he primarily attended Methodist church. In 1968 Mooty was licensed and ordained to the ministry. Three years later he became interim pastor at West End before becoming the church's full-time pastor in 1973. Mooty resigned in 1975 to attend college and seminary at Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga. He had no idea that he would return to West End, but in 1977 the church asked him to return. His second tenure with the church lasted 10 years until he

was called to First Baptist Church, Wartburg, in 1987 where he remained for 17 years.

In early 2004, Mooty was contacted by West End to consider returning for the third time.

The Wartburg pastor turned them down two times before finally agreeing to come preach on a Sunday morning in June. Mooty said he told them he would come only if it was a "homecoming" service.

Afterwards he was asked again to consider becoming pastor. "I just did not feel led to come back to Newport," Mooty recalled.

He acknowledged he had "every reason to return" because it was "home." The main reason for not taking the position immediately was "God was not leading me to do so."

The pulpit committee at West End was persistent.

"One member told me he remembered me consistently



TOM MOOTY relaxes in his office at West End Baptist Church, Newport. He accepted the pastorate after the church agreed to begin giving its missions funds through the Cooperative Program.

telling the church to 'go as far as you could on the right road.'"

Mooty said the committee told him they did that and were convinced he was the man God wanted to serve as pastor at West End.

Mooty reconsidered and

prayed. In July of 2004 he told the committee he would return if the church would agree to some stipulations.

At the time the church was supporting independent missions and had ceased giving through the Cooperative Program.

"I told them I was a Southern Baptist and that they had to phase out the independent missions and begin giving through the Cooperative Program," Mooty said.

The church agreed to a process of phasing out the independent missions at a rate of one-half percent for 20 months, while at the same time giving that percentage to the Cooperative Program. At the end of 20 months the church would be giving 10 percent through the Cooperative Program, Mooty said. "I didn't want to cut all the independent missions at once," he explained. "That would not have been fair. We wanted to ease the blow."

The church is on target. Nearly one-year later the church's CP gifts have risen to 5 percent and are still climbing. The church also has begun regular monthly contributions to East Tennessee Baptist Association and this year met and surpassed goals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Mooty is a firm believer in the Cooperative Program. "Two can do more than one," he said. He noted that no one church can singularly support all the missionaries and missions that all the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention support together.

"Cooperative missions is the way to go," he stressed.

Because Mooty was "up front" in what he wanted and expected, the church has responded well to the challenge, the pastor said.

Mooty has other financial goals for the church. He wants to see the church begin giving to the Mother's Day Offering for Tennessee Baptist Children's Home and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

"My desire is to see the church continue to grow in its missions giving," Mooty said. "Ten percent is not the final goal. I would like to see it reach 15 percent and to also give 5 percent to the association."

The church also is seeing growth numerically.

When Mooty returned two years ago there were 64 people at the service to call him as pastor.

This past Easter Sunday there were 186 in attendance and Mooty estimated the church is averaging between 140-150 each week. He noted the church is seeing on average one to two additions every week and has had more than 24 baptisms since last year.

Mooty is glad that the West End pulpit committee did not give up after he turned them down three times. He also is grateful that God made it clear "to me that I should come back."

The pastor noted that God "has been good to West End."

"The church has a rich heritage and we are looking to the future under the Lord's leadership." □

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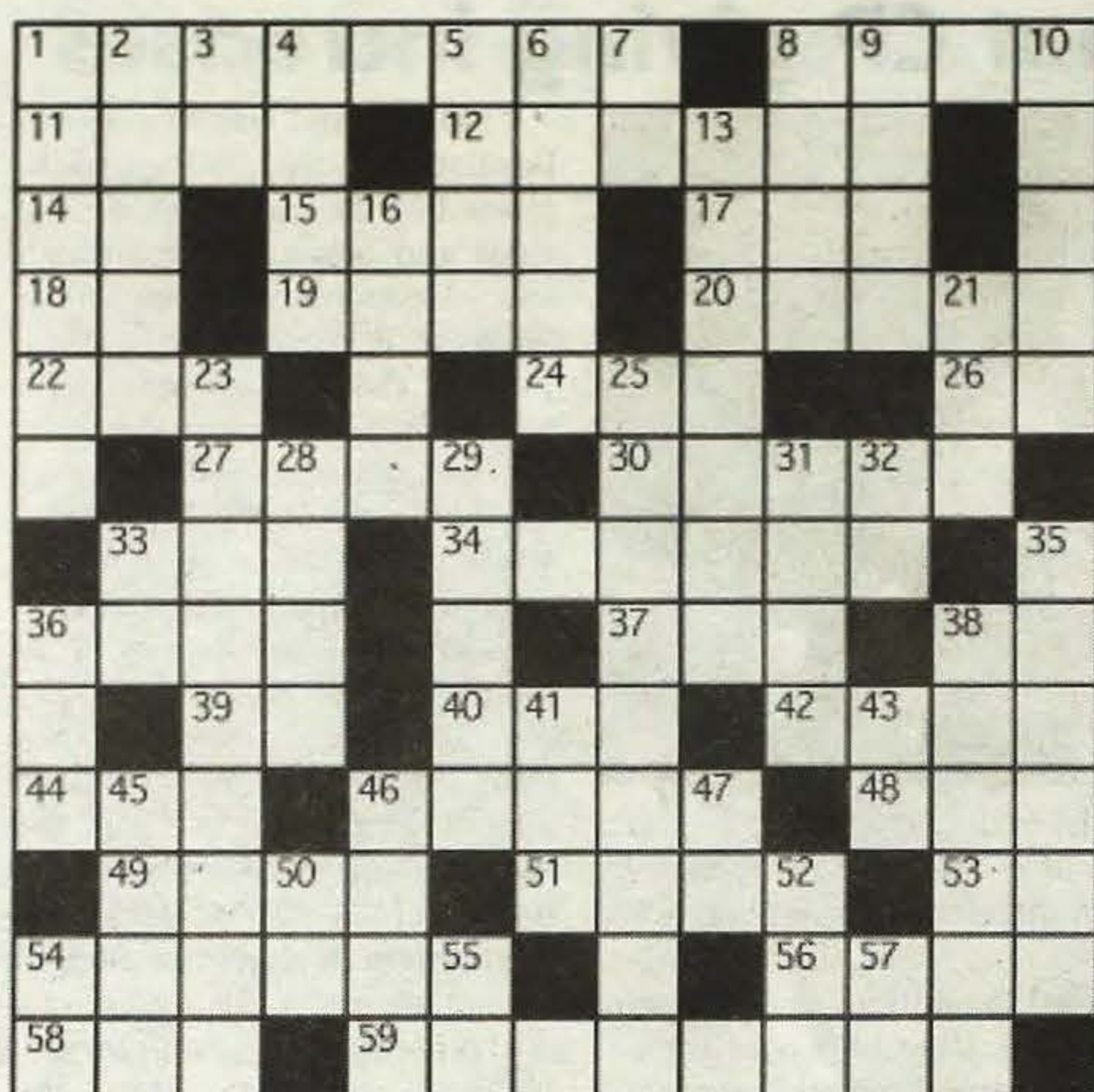


Goldenaires Choir of First Baptist Church, Richardson TX
"Have music...will travel" could be the motto of the 197-voice Goldenaires Choir of First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas. Since its founding in 1984, this senior adult choir has sung in a variety of places such as churches, nursing homes, retirement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

Tuesday, September 13
4:00pm Registration
6:00pm - 7:00pm Pre-Session
7:00pm - 9:00pm Opening Session

Wednesday, September 14
8:30am - 12:00pm Bible Study & Conferences
Afternoon...FREE TIME & Golf Tournament
6:00pm - 8:00pm Health Fair
8:15pm - 9:30pm Bible Study

Thursday, September 15
8:00am Pancake Breakfast
8:45am - 12:00pm Bible Study & Conferences



See answers on page 15

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. "Give ear, O ____ of Israel" (Ps. 80:1)
8. Animal fat
11. "And now abideth faith, ____, charity" (1 Cor. 13:13)
12. "Every ____ shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (Luke 3:5)
14. Gold, chem. symbol
15. Revise
17. Direction
18. Dental surgeon, abbr.
19. "Make the ____ for fire" (Ezek. 24:9)
20. Advantage, resource
22. Over (poetic)
24. Father
26. What the doctor wants you to say when you open your mouth
27. "To him ... who liveth for ____" (Rev. 4:9)
30. "They shall fall, and ____ rise" (Amos 8:14)
33. Abijam's son (1 Kings 15:8)
34. Foreign
36. A cereal grain
37. Three letters of Latin anagram for Christ
38. Chemical warfare, abbr.
39. Old Testament, abbr.
40. Longing
42. Land measurement
44. Larger, abbr.
46. "The four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their ____" (Rev. 11:16)
48. A snake-shaped fish
49. "The veil of the temple was ____ in the midst" (Luke 23:45)
51. Paul was a ____-maker
53. Building wing
54. "What then? are we ____ than they?" (Rom. 3:9)
56. "He shall suck the poison of ____" (Job 20:16)
58. Exclamation of disgust
59. "Cattle shall feed in large ____" (Isa. 30:23)

DOWN

1. "Put your trust in my ____" (Judg. 9:15)
2. "Peace be to thine ____" (1 Sam. 25:6)
3. Estimated position, abbr.
4. Chick's sound
5. "Turn ye from your ____ ways" (Ezek. 33:11)
6. Scored
7. 550, Rom. num.
8. Part of an eye or a camera
9. Affirmative votes
10. "Deliver our lives from ____" (Josh. 2:13)
13. "Narrow is the way, which ____ unto life" (Matt. 7:14)
16. "Pharisee besought him to ____" (Luke 11:37)
21. "He that hath an ____, let him hear" (Rev. 2:7)
23. "Elias verily cometh first, and ____ all things" (Mark 9:12)
25. "I am the God of Bethel, where thou ____ the pillar" (Gen. 31:13)
28. Very large
29. Color again
31. Passport
32. European Community, abbr.
33. Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
35. Inhabits
36. "Hurt not the wine and the ____" (Rev. 6:6)
38. Crawls
41. "Take, ____; this is my body" (Matt. 26:26)
43. Common Era, abbr.
45. Gregory, for short
46. "There is but a ____ between me and death" (1 Sam. 20:3)
47. Tin, chem. symbol
50. New Testament, abbr.
52. Black sticky material
54. Abbreviation for a dry measure
55. Royal Academy, abbr.
57. Direction

ABS signs license to use Holman Bible

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Broadman & Holman Publishers announced July 26 that it has signed a 15-year agreement with the American Bible Society for distribution of products containing the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) translation by the ABS and the United Bible Societies.

The agreement allows the ABS to produce, market, and sell Bibles containing the Holman CSB to individuals, churches, para-church organizations, members and affiliates of the United Bible Societies and ministries worldwide, and international bookstores and distributors.

"Teaming with the American Bible Society provides a vast array of opportunities for the Holman Christian Standard

translation," said Ken Stephens, president of Broadman & Holman Publishers, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The American Bible Society's relationships both domestically and internationally will allow us increased exposure and outlets in bringing the Holman CSB to developing countries in Africa and Asia Pacific as well as raise awareness and distribution of the Holman CSB anywhere a more literal English language translation is preferred," said Stephens, who signed the agreement in behalf of B&H.

The American Bible Society distributed more than 3.5 million Bibles in 2004. While principally focused on the United States, the ABS extends its outreach internationally through

the United Bible Societies. Begun in 1946 with 12 member societies, the UBS has grown now include 140 national societies that cooperate Christian churches and related organizations for outreach in more than 100 countries and territories.

"We are very excited featuring the Holman Christian Standard Bible in our efforts," said John Cruz, vice president of the American Bible Society, who signed the agreement on behalf of ABS.

"The Holman CSB translation has experienced astronomical growth in its first full year on the marketplace and readers a literal translation readable, contemporary language — both features make this translation a winning combination." □

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Christian Men's Job Corps, CWJC leaders are trained

Tracy Gholson, Marcia Knox
Editor and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Four Tennessee men were trained as Christian Men's Job Corps leaders during a National Certification Training for site coordinators of Christian Women's Job Corps/Christian Men's Job Corps July 27-30 here at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Center.

Sherman Tibbs, pastor of Mt. Juliet Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet; Don Monts, layman of Unity Church; John Dandridge, pastor of Saint Paul AME Church, Wartrace; and David McConnell, pastor of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Lewisburg, were among the 38 people representing seven states who completed the National Certification Training.

"As a result of the training we're hoping to have several new CWJC and CMJC sites in Tennessee," said Creely Wilson, Tennessee CWJC/CMJC coordinator. "This is the first time Tennessee has offered training to CMJC." Both ministries were developed by Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is the hope that this training will help some Tennesseans begin CMJC in the state since no CMJC currently exist in Tennessee. Several are in operation in Alabama and Texas.

Wilson also hopes the training helped the existing CWJC sites to strengthen their ministries and find new and better ways to provide CWJC through the sharing of ideas, resources, and stories.

Wilson explained that the

CWJC/CMJC are two separate programs so only the leaders are trained together.

Wilson was encouraged by the participation of several African American pastors and church leaders. Representing one of the newest TBC congregations, McConnell said he came to the training because "I'm interested in helping men to develop a personal relationship with Christ and helping them to become productive."

McConnell said he views Christian Men's Job Corps as a way to live out his personal mission statement: "To love, to lift, and to lead people into the presence of Jesus."

McConnell hopes to recruit and train volunteers and mentors in the next few weeks. He hopes to have a CMJC site in his church in the next six months.

McConnell, along with six other men including some from South Carolina and Alabama, attended the NCT at Brentwood, which was advertised on



MEN TRAINED FOR Christian Men's Job Corps were, from left, seated Tom Jones of Kerrville, Texas; Sherman Tibbs, pastor of Unity Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet; standing, John Dandridge, pastor of Saint Paul AME Church, Wartrace; David McConnell Sr., pastor of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Lewisburg; Don Monts, layman from Mt. Carmel Church; Ray Wieland, Catawba, S.C.; and Ryan Hankins, Birmingham, Ala.

the national WMU web site under CWJC and CMJC.

"We advertised for men to come," said Wilson. She also advertised in "The Link," a state WMU newsletter published in

the Baptist and Reflector and through the Tennessee WMU connections.

She also thanked Willie McLaurin of the TBC staff, who encouraged some of the men to come.

In addition to the seven men, 22 women attended Level 1 of NCT. The goal of Level 1 is to equip prospective site coordinators to begin and lead a CWJC or a CMJC ministry site. This training is the beginning point of a CWJC/CMJC leader's journey. The Level 1 trainers were Betty Gray from Ohio and Jeanne Todd from Missouri. The Level 1 class reached maximum enrollment.

Nine women attended Level 2. The goal of Level 2 is to better equip active CWJC site coordinators, through a more in-depth exploration of key leadership and organizational issues. The Level 2 trainer was Elizabeth Ford from South Carolina, assisted by Becky Sumrall, executive director of Nashville CWJC.

Eva Pierce, executive director of "A Hand Up For Women," Knox County CWJC, attended Level 2. Pierce said, "It was wonderful to be able to have the opportunity to sit in the same room with women in the same position with the same struggles, and to be able to share and support each other and give each other solutions to problems."

Pierce described the training as "a confirmation of my calling." She said it was an opportunity for her to be encouraged.

"A lot of times, I get discouraged that we're not graduating 25 women each session. I discovered I'd rather make a profound difference in the lives of a few women, than to just graduate a lot of numbers. If you only turn one life around, it's worth it," Pierce said.

CWJC and CMJC are ministries through which women and men are equipped, in a Christian context, for life and employment. There are currently 11 CWJC sites in Tennessee. □

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BRAINSTORMING IN LEVEL 2 training for the Christian Women's Job Corps were, from left, standing, Elaine Dickson, Huntsville, Ala.; Pauline Russom, Oakland; Laura Strickland, Whitwell; Cindy Ferrell, Elkmont, Ala.; Belita Howard, Cross Plains; Cartina Perkins, Millington; Elynor DeBerry, Hornsby; seated, Carolyn O'Hare, Bolivar; Denise Small, Millington; and Eva Pierce, Knoxville.

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Leaders

◆ **Billy Skinner**, church strategist, Mid-South Baptist Association, Memphis, recently resigned his position of seven years to become pastor of Gateway Baptist Church in Atoka. He will continue to serve the association as a part-time consultant through Sept. 16.

◆ **Mansfield Baptist Church**, Mansfield, will ordain **Virgil Bishop** Aug. 21, at 3 p.m. He has been called as pastor of Liberty Hill Baptist Church, McKenzie.

◆ **West Jackson Baptist Church**, Jackson, has called **J. Dominic Menard** as minister to college students and singles effective Aug. 8.

Churches

◆ **Swan Creek Baptist Church**, Hampshire, will conduct revival services Aug. 21-26 with James Shutt as evangelist.

◆ **Memorial Baptist Church**, Crossville, will hold revival Aug. 28-31. Royce Williams of Rocky Mount, N.C., will speak. The Crist Family of Maryville will provide music. For more information, contact the church at mbc@citlink.net.

◆ **Florence Littauer**, a women's ministry speaker, will speak Saturday, Sept. 17, at **Ridgedale Baptist Church**, Chattanooga. For information, call Lynn Smith at (423) 899-6860, Karen Richards at (423) 553-9415, or Sandy Calvin at (423) 899-1315.

◆ **Skyline Heights Baptist Church**, Johnson City, will celebrate its 75th homecoming Sunday, Sept. 11.

◆ **Calvary Baptist Church**, Erwin, will hold a homecoming Sunday, Sept. 10, with fun, fellowship, games, singing, and a dinner on the grounds.

◆ **West Frayser Baptist Church**, Memphis, will hold revival Aug. 28 - Sept. 2 with Chris Hodges speaking. For information call the church at (901) 357-5815.

◆ **Lyons Creek Baptist Church**, Strawberry Plains, will hold a revival Aug. 28 - Sept. 1. Billy Owensby, pastor of Union Baptist Church, Athens, Ga., will speak. Special musical guests, This Hope, from Woodstock, Ga., will end the revival with a 7 p.m. concert Thursday.

Associations

◆ **Northern Baptist Association's** 167th annual meeting will be held Friday - Saturday, Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. The



DOUGLAS COLEMAN, left, pastor, Manilla Chapel Baptist Church, Athens, receives a plaque from Ray Luck, director of missions, McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association, on the 75th anniversary of the church observed recently. The plaque was from the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Friday session will be held at Carr's Branch Baptist Church, New Tazewell, at 7 p.m. The Saturday session will be held at Alder Springs Baptist Church, LaFollette, at 10 a.m.

◆ **Midland Baptist Asso-**

ciation's annual meeting will be held Monday - Tuesday, Sept. 19-20 at Bells Campground Baptist Church, Powell. Monday's session begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday's sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.



THIS TEAM FROM First Baptist Church, Dover, served in Reynosa, Mexico, recently for a week. They worked with This Rock International. The volunteers built a Sunday School classroom, prayerwalked, witnessed to residents at their homes, led a women's Bible study, cut hair of residents, and led a mission Bible School. They saw 21 people make professions of faith.

◆ **A Children's Mission Celebration**, entitled "Missions Around Us," will be held Sept. 10 from 1-4 p.m. at the Children's Museum of Memphis. It is being provided by the

Woman's Missionary Union of the **Mid-South Baptist Association**, Memphis. Bring hygiene kits for the ministry project. Call the association, for information at (901) 373-6161.

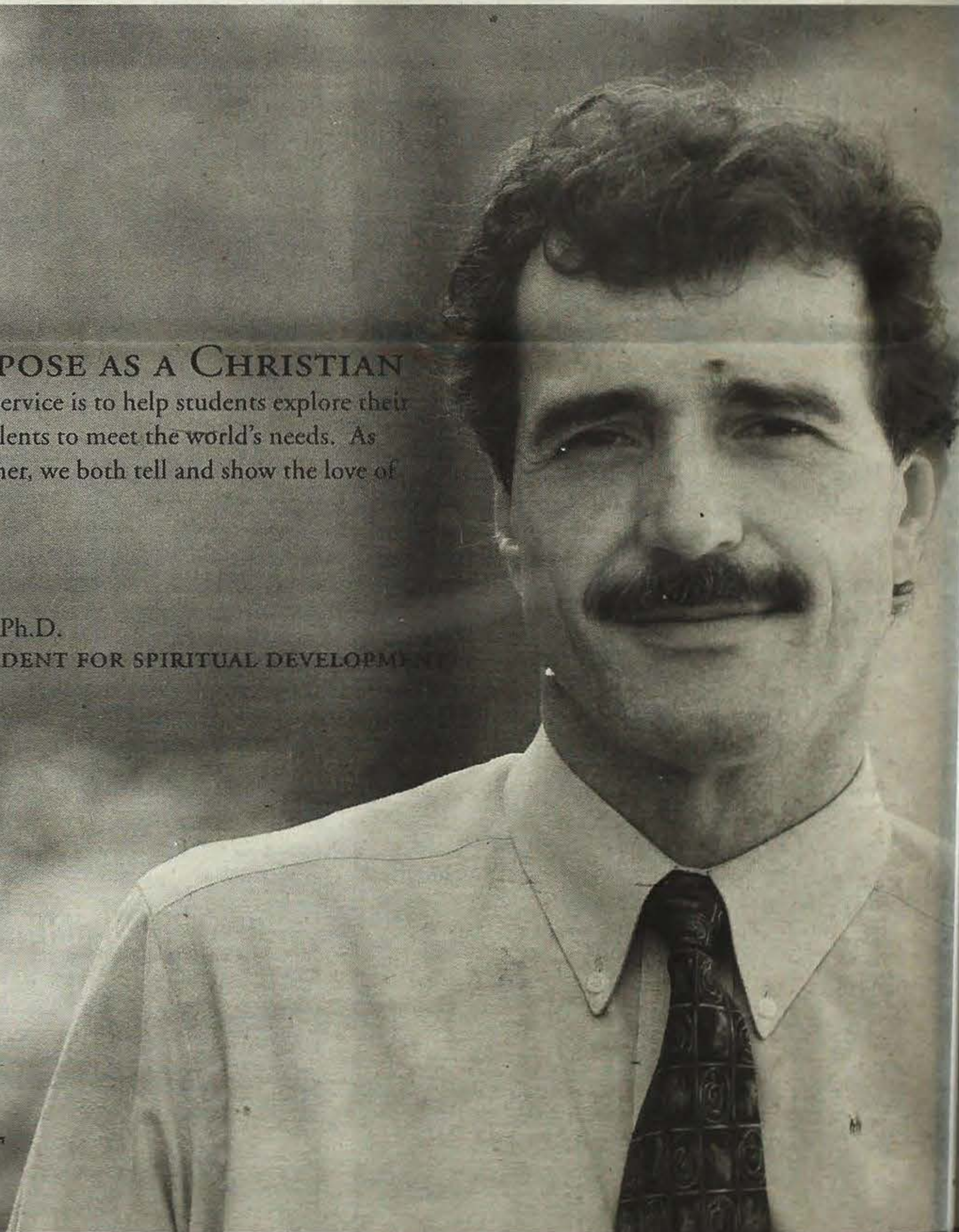
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Not the name

I am pastor of my fourth Baptist church and each has had the name in its title. I have never counseled them to change their name, nor do I see the use of "Baptist" as a hindrance. I am proud to be a Baptist, but I do have some concerns about the blanket statement made about churches that do not use

"Baptist" in their name.

I agree that "Christian" and "Baptist" are good names, both having begun as insults that eventually became the identity of the group. The comparison breaks down, however, because "Christian" is the name for all believers in Christ, but "Baptist" is a title for only some Christians, dating back to 1611. All Baptists should be Christians, but not all Chris-

tians are Baptists.

Thus, the goal of a church is to be faithful to Christ and fulfill His will — to be good Christians, not just good Baptists. One would hope these would be the same thing, but our history has shown this not to be true (see the issues of slavery, civil rights, etc.).

Historically, being a Baptist has been about the sufficiency and authority of Scripture (as

opposed to tradition), soul competency, believer's baptism by immersion, religious liberty, and local church autonomy.

The list provided by Roger Freeman in his recent column in the *Baptist and Reflector* fits the last 100 years, but not the early history of Baptists. Their theology assumed and taught those beliefs, but was not stated in those terms until the early 1900s.

Also, "world missions" was still 200 years away (1814) and the Cooperative Program is particular to Southern Baptists, not all Baptists.

The issue of local church autonomy, which is foundational to Baptists, seems to have been ignored in his article. Who better to decide the name of a church than a particular congregation of people in their own community.

One more concern. The name on the sign and the Spirit's anointing of the pulpit are not synonymous. Churches that are not Baptist reach the lost, as do Baptist churches that do not have Baptist in the title.

It is what's inside the church that counts — a sold-out love for Christ, reliance on the Spirit, the primacy of Scripture in preaching and teaching, a passion for the lost, and a desire to be the kingdom of God where we are. It's not the name. It's 'who's' name we do the work, that of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy C. Turley
Knoxville 37914

Anyone else?

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? (1 John 3:17).

I've been following the recent news articles detailing talks by the G-8, on debt cancellation for Third World countries, and increases in development assistance. The World Bank estimates that 1.1 billion people live in households unable to secure basic needs for survival and leadership by the U.S. in setting standards for aid has been disappointing. Sunday's editorial, "Help Africa — and the U.S." further outlined facts about our lack of generosity and integrity in helping impoverished countries.

The U.S. does give less of a percentage of our GNP than any other industrialized nation in the world. Furthermore, we have repeatedly signed global agreements, like the Monterrey Consensus (2002), promising to increase our annual output, specifically to 0.7 percent, and then not followed through. Political leaders get by with this because most citizens are unaware of these kinds of agreements, but devastated countries awaiting funds are grossly aware of our apathy.

As a person of faith, I cannot

read the Bible responsibly and not be conscious of my obligation to care for the poor. Indeed, I am aware that we often "water down" God's directives that the integrity of our faith will be measured by our response to those in greatest need. As a mother, I am thankful for my own children's good health but I know that thousands of other children, who are connected to me, will die today from hunger and preventable diseases. How is it that I can spend my summer relaxing and vacationing while half the world's population is in a daily struggle for survival?

I have stopped asking myself "why?", and have begun to ask, "if this is the way it is, then what am I to do?" I cannot claim to value all of creation and not picture these brothers and sisters of mine who have no resources, no voice, and no power.

I don't have many answers. Is anyone else asking these questions? Anyone else on this journey?

Becki Wilson
Nashville 37069

History lesson

In 2000, moderate Baptists criticized the Southern Baptist Convention for deleting from the Baptist Faith and Message a reference to Jesus Christ as the criterion for interpreting the Bible. In 2005, conservative Baptists are criticizing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for deleting the Christ's name from its revised purpose statement.

Perhaps a little history can help. The first English Baptist confession of faith, published in 1611, included 27 articles. Of those articles, one mentioned the "Word" (referring to Christ's role in the Trinity). Three mentioned "Jesus Christ." Eleven mentioned "Christ" or "Christ's." Thus, 55 percent of the articles referred to such theological convictions as Christ's role in Creation, salvation, justification, Incarnation, the church, the Bible, the Lord's Supper, worship, and judgment. Article 9 designated Christ as Mediator, King, Priest, Prophet, and Law-giver.

The earliest Baptists made certain that they and the world knew that Christ was their Lord.

They did not use the name Christ as some magic wand to wave about. Instead, they viewed Christ as the key to every phase of their existence and identity. Christ called the earliest Baptists to freedom, cooperation, and accountability, and they accepted the call. For them, Christ's name was important.

Charles W. Deweese
Baptist History &
Heritage Society
Brentwood 37024

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Friendsville church serves children of Marines at Camp Lejeune

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

FRIENDSVILLE — When a youth group from First Baptist Church here served children of Marines last summer based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., the war hadn't been going on too long so the impact on the children wasn't that clear. This year, the impact of the war on the children was dramatic, said Scott Kidd, student pastor, First Baptist Church here.



KIDD

The church recently sent a 35-member youth team to Camp Lejeune for the second year to lead a Vacation Bible School for the children. It was held in the base's Protestant Chapel. A total of 182 children participated.

This year the children were noticeably withdrawn, said Kidd. Many of them had a parent serving in Iraq who had



MEMBERS OF THE 35-member youth team of First Baptist Church, Friendsville, which served this summer for the second year at Camp Lejeune, N.C., a marine base. The team led a Vacation Bible School for children of soldiers, many of whom were serving in Iraq.

been absent for many months.

But as the children sang songs and participated in Bible study, "the smiles started coming back," said Kidd, who learned about the opportunity through Youth on Mission of the North American Mission Board.

"To see how the Lord moves

in their lives and changes them as the week goes on is a tremendous blessing to behold," said Kidd. The youth were able to communicate "the happiness and joy in Jesus," he added.

At the end of the week, 82 children made professions of faith. The parents were so

thankful for the activity, said Kidd. Parents told him, "You just do not know what this week meant to my child."

The chaplains on base will follow up on the decisions made.

"You can feel what you feel about the war," stated Kidd, but the needs of these families were apparent. The Tennesseans learned after they returned home that a mother they met committed suicide after they left.

They plan to return next year, and in part because of the woman's suicide, lead an adult VBS in addition to another children's VBS. They also hope to do renovation work on homes.

Kidd said he is proud of the youth. During the week they also ministered to residents of an area retirement home. They saw a 71-year-old resident make a profession of faith.

To participate, the youth held car washes and break to raise \$15,000. That money that each participant only to pay \$100 to be a part of team. As training, the youth a VBS for the community.

The youth benefitted the experience in many ways such as bonding together as a team, said Kidd. Part of the reason they became close may have been due to a ban on cell phones.

Many of the team reported they "grew more" actually in this one week than they have in the past year, Kidd. □

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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.

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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.

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MINISTRY — STUDENT

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

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

Caney Fork Baptist Church is 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 — 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

Parkway Baptist Church is seeking an interim/part-time music director to lead a blended style of worship. Send resume to Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 2229, Smyrna, TN 37167.

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.

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book review

Dawn Ferguson

Your Best Life Now

by Joel Osteen, Warner Faith, 2004

Joel Osteen's best-selling book, *Your Best Life Now*, is a self-help book with the primary emphasis on self. Osteen, pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, asks the reader seven steps to "a brighter future":

- 1) Enlarge your vision — "see yourself where you want to be...then God will bring those things to pass."
- 2) Develop a healthy self-image — "you've got to have good things are on their way...see your dreams come to pass."
- 3) Discover the power of your thoughts and words — "what you say in the midst of your difficulties will have a great impact on how long you stay in those situations."
- 4) Let go of the past — "When one door closes, God always opens up a bigger and better door."
- 5) Find strength through adversity — "God will bring dreams to pass at the right time."
- 6) Live to give — "If you will focus on meeting other people's needs, God will always make sure your needs are met."
- 7) Choose to be happy — "If you don't learn to be content where you are, you're never going to get to where you want to be."

After reading Osteen's 306-page novel on how God wants to pour out His blessings upon us, it's easy to see why his 30,000 plus congregation has been cited by several sources as the largest and fastest-growing church in America.

The entire focus of Osteen's book is the reader — you, yourself. Very little is written about God's will except in the context of unanswered prayers. While Romans 8:28 is frequently cited in the book — "all things work together for the good" — the remainder of the verse is omitted — "of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Osteen cites Scripture throughout the book — some verbatim, some paraphrased and not notated. And, he adds his own interpretations. "The Scripture says that we give tithe, God not only opens up the windows of heaven, but He will rebuke the devourer for your sake. (Leviticus 26:10; Deuteronomy 28:48) That means He'll keep the enemy off your money, off your crop, off your children, and away from your home. He'll make sure you get promoted. He'll allow you to get the best deals in life. Sometimes, He'll allow you from sickness, accidents, and harm that might cause other unnecessary expenses. All kinds of blessings will go your way when you honor God in the area of your finances."

There's no mention of humility in the book ... no denial ... no taking up our cross ... no dependence on God ... focus on getting our hearts right with God. For all that, Osteen states, there is a great deal of Jesus' teachings missing.

Osteen writes as a man who bases success on worldly standards — not God's.

The book of Proverbs, including the definition of wisdom, is a much better read. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." — Proverbs 1:7 Follow that with a study of Proverbs. "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me ...' — Matthew 16:24-27 □ — Ferguson is correspondent for the Baptist and Reflector.

It's in the books

By Michael Adams

Focal Passage: Romans 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:10-15; Revelation 20:11-15

Dr. Arthur Glasser quotes an anonymous rabbi who has said, "A time is coming for all men when they will be either born again, or wish they had never been born at all." Compare that statement to an episode in the life of W.C. Fields. Just before his death, a friend visited him in the hospital and found Fields thumbing through the Bible. When asked what he was doing, the famous actor and comedian responded, "I'm looking for loopholes." No one likes to consider the reality of death and the judgment to follow. However, everyone needs to consider that if the Lord delays His return, we will all die. Regardless of whether we die or are raptured, our sin is dealt with through judgment. For the Christian the sin problem is judged by the death of Christ. For the lost person who never trusted Christ before death, the sin problem is judged at the Great White Throne. Considering the passages in this lesson and the judgments mentioned in the Bible, some ABCs of death and judgment could be suggested.

Romans 14:10-12 reminds the believer of the reality of accountability during judgment. The context of this passage is Paul's teaching about strong Christians

judging weak Christians, and weak Christians judging strong. Paul provides the reminder that all Christians will be judged by Christ's "bema" seat which is a judgment for rewards. In Greek culture this was the place where judges stood during athletic games to determine whether participants obeyed the rules of the competition. This judgment reminds us that we are accountable for our conduct as Christians. The Bible refers to rewards given at Christ's "bema seat" as crowns. The implication is that these crowns enhance our ability to glorify Christ in eternity.

I Corinthians 3:10-15 reminds the believer of the need to build for future spiritual permanence. Quality building requires the right foundation and the right materials. The foundation is Jesus Christ. No human philosophy religious system or code of ethics will provide a successful foundation for life and eternity. The foundation of a building determines the size and strength of a structure. Without Christ as a foundation, there is no preparation for future realities like judgment and death. The proposed materials fall into two categories. John MacArthur writes: "From the beginning there have been gold Christians and wood Christians, silver churches and hay churches, precious stone endeavors and those that are straw." Gold, silver, and precious

**Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Aug. 21**

stones result in permanence, beauty, and value. Wood, hay, and straw are temporary, cheap, and ordinary. To build for future judgment one must choose materials wisely and build carefully.

Revelation 20:11-15 reminds the believer of the consummation of judgment for mankind. The event mentioned here is the "Great White Throne Judgment." The fact that the throne in this judgment is "white" indicates purity, holiness, and justice. The mention of this being a "great" judgment demonstrates the significance and authority of the event. This is a judgment of the dead who are great and small. Their deadness is both physical and spiritual which, given the timing of the judgment at the end of time, means their judgment results in eternal death. The only way to escape eternal separation from God is to miss this judgment. The only way to escape this judgment is to have one's name in the Lamb's Book of Life. As the "books are opened," everyone's name will appear in the Book of Life, but faith in Christ is the avenue to have one's name placed in the Lamb's Book of Life. □ — Adams is pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington.

Rejoice in the Lord's sovereignty

By Brad Shockley

Focal Passage: Daniel 7:2-3, 8-14

Pretty soon I'll be preaching a message series titled "The History of the World from Beginning to End." It will start with the creation account in Genesis and end in Revelation with the consummation of God's great redemption plan. I can deliver on the title's promise because God is sovereign over all things and He knows what's going to happen before it happens (omniscience). But God's power extends far beyond just knowledge of the future. He is able to make the future happen (omnipotence) — ... *I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'* (Isaiah 46:9-10). These two aspects of God's nature — omniscience and omnipotence — are evident in the visions of Daniel.

This is why the prophecies of Daniel have been the topic of much debate over the years. They are so accurate that, according to critics, they must have been written long after the events foretold took place. The discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls in 1948 put those notions to rest. A copy of Daniel was found among them dating back to such an early date that the

book was surely written in the time of which it speaks. The old saying is true: a liberal scholar dies every time an archeologist's spade breaks the ground Palestine.

Note the three main components of the vision in chapter seven. First, there is the rising of four beasts (Daniel 7:1-8). There is no question as to what they represent, for the interpretation is given in 7:15ff. Four successive kingdoms (see Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2:31-45) would be raised up by God. Most Bible scholars agree that they are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. (To help unravel some of the mystery surrounding these visions, pick up a copy of John F. Walvoord's book, *Every Prophecy of the Bible*.)

Second, we see the reign of the Ancient of Days (vv. 9-11). This peculiar title for God is found only in Daniel. It literally means "advanced in days." In ancient Hebrew culture, the elderly were highly honored for their wisdom and insight — *You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the Lord* (Leviticus 19:32). God is eternal so no chronological age can be ascribed to Him, but in human terms He lives as one who has the wisdom of countless years.

Third, one like a Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14) can be seen

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breaking the clouds of heaven. Jesus called Himself the "Son of Man" numerous times in the Gospels (Matthew 8:20, 11:19, 16:13; Mark 9:12; Luke 18:31), referring to His humanity. Correspondingly, here in Daniel we have a prophetic reference to the incarnation (God in the flesh) of Christ. This truth would have been veiled to the prophets and peoples of Old Testament times, but from this side of the cross we see it clearly.

The two visions given Daniel in chapters seven and eight were so troubling he became physically ill (see also Daniel 7:15, 28). *Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it* (Daniel 8:27).

Imagine how you would react to seeing the future unfold and observing events surrounding the end times. Thankfully, since God is all-knowing and all-powerful, we can rejoice in His sovereignty, knowing that everything will happen according to His perfect plan and timing. □ — Shockley is pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill.



Leaders

◆ **Jason Martin** has been called as pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Trenton.

◆ **Northside Baptist Church, Milan**, has called **Tim Sanderson** as interim pastor.

◆ **Joey Williams**, youth minister of First Baptist Church of Rutherford, has resigned.

◆ **Gary Beeler**, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Luttrell, recently retired after 29 years of service. He will now organize crusades. For information, contact Beeler at (865) 992-8639.

◆ **Beech Springs Baptist Church, Old Fort**, recently honored pastor **Jerry Campbell** for 40 years of service with a surprise dinner.

◆ **Faith Baptist Church, Loretto**, has called **Steven Headrick** of Helena, Ala., as pastor effective Aug. 7.

◆ **Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol**, has called **Keith McConnell** as youth pastor.

◆ **Michael Spain**, pastor of Avondale Baptist Church, Humboldt, has resigned to attend Southeastern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

◆ **Tusculum Baptist Church, Greeneville**, called **Jason Milich** as youth director. He is a recent graduate of Cedarville (Ohio) University.

◆ **Andrew Coffman** resigned as music director of First Baptist Church of Jonesborough to become the music director at Sullivan Baptist Church, Kingsport.

◆ **Cookson Creek Baptist Church, Ocoee**, recently called **Rick Woody** as pastor.

◆ **Joe Hensley** resigned as pastor of Lovelace Baptist Church, Fall Branch, to accept a position at Hunter Baptist Church in Elizabethton.

◆ **Rutledge Baptist Church, Rutledge**, has called **Betty Shirley** as associate pastor. The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church is appointing Shirley to Rutledge Church in an extended ministry capacity. She retains her UMC credentials while serving at Rutledge Church and continues her ministry training.

Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church of Benton** will hold a revival



AN 18-MEMBER TEAM of Holston Valley Baptist Association, based in Rogersville, served this summer in Jamaica, holding a Vacation Bible School. The association has served in Jamaica every year since 1999. **IN PHOTO ABOVE** are team members, from left, front row, Denny Sorah; Linda Davis; Heather Russell; Tabettha Lowe; Donna Setser; Lori Bradley; Tammy Thompson; Rebecca Heck; Andrea Bradley; and Michael Milam; back row, Adam Vale; Norman Cinnamon; Eddie Wilson; George Bradley Jr., pastor, Burem Church; Doug West; Ray Thompson; Jason Heck; and Roy Bradley. They are from Burem Baptist Church, Rogersville; First Baptist Church, Surgoinsville; and Maple Hill Baptist Church, Rogersville. The VBS drew 211 adults and students and resulted in 21 people making professions of faith. **IN PHOTO BELOW** George Bradley Jr., preaches at an evening VBS service which was standing room only.



DEDICATING ITS NEW BUILDING are members of First Baptist Church, Oakland, on July 10. About 300 people attended. The new 18,000-square-foot multipurpose building is part of phase one of the church's building program and is located on Highway 64. The building contains a sanctuary/gymnasium that seats 600, a kitchen, 13 classrooms, nursery, choir room, and other facilities. A pavilion was built outside the facility as well as a parking lot. The church's former building was bought by a Lutheran church.

Aug. 28-31 with Harold Curtis, pastor of Delano Baptist Church, Delano, as speaker. On Sunday a luncheon and afternoon services will be held.

◆ **Hope Fellowship Baptist Church, Memphis**, located at Bent Tree Apartments, is looking for homework assistance volunteers to serve Monday-Wednesday from 2:30-5 p.m. Homework assistance will begin Aug. 22. Call the church pastor James Williams at (901) 494-6331 to volunteer.

◆ **First Baptist Church of Hohenwald** will hold revival Aug. 21-24 with Phil Glisson of Memphis speaking.

◆ **West Hills Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will break ground for a worship center on Sunday, Sept. 11. For information, contact the church at (615) 444-2606.

◆ **East Hickman Baptist Church, Lyles**, will hold a homecoming on Sunday, Aug. 21, during morning worship to be followed with a potluck lunch and singing in the afternoon.

◆ A motorcycle prayer ride will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, departing at 9:30 a.m. from the Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol. For information call Jimmy Phipps of **Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol**, at (423) 764-7024.

◆ The Operation Christmas Child Shoe box Collection Center for Loudon County, Greenback, and Oak Ridge will be held Nov. 14-20 at **Calvary Baptist Church, Lenoir City**, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information on how to participate in the project and for materials, visit or call the church at (865) 986-3567 or (865) 986-1015.

Associations

◆ A Jefferson County Crusade to reach out to lakeway friends and neighbors will be held by **Jefferson County**

Baptist Association Aug. 28 - Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds in Jefferson City. Jeff Harvel will speak. Wednesday is youth night beginning at 4:30 p.m. A 24-hour prayer vigil is set for Aug. 27-28.

◆ **Bristol Raceway Ministries** volunteers of **Holston**

Baptist Association will work at the Bristol Motor Speedway on Wednesday, Aug. 24; Friday, Aug. 26; and Saturday, Aug. 27. Call Tom Hensley, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Bluff City, for director, Bristol Raceway Ministries, to volunteer at (615) 538-7922.



MEMBERS OF WEST END Baptist Church, Fayetteville, are working during work in Kalispell, Mont., to complete a Baptist church there. The team painted, landscaped, stained concrete, and organized the kitchen. Then they joined the congregation for its first meeting in the church July 10. Team members are, from left, first row, Ben Hall; Mike Johnson, pastor; Chris Pollard; second row, Dixie Upton; Sandi Howard; Diane Weaver; Lyndee Johnson; Paulette Thompson; Sara Baker; Janice Bolles; Ables; Angela Pollard; third row, Greg Weaver; Caleb Hensley; Mary Dell Sewell.



NELLE SUMMAR of Powell's Chapel Baptist Church, Jonesboro, listens as Tommy Taylor, pastor, reads the inscription on the vase presented to her. Summar has served either as organist of the church for 56 years. She began playing was 12 years old. She was honored July 24 during anniversary celebration of the church. Summar plans to retire at the end of the church year.