

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171 / No. 31; Aug. 24, 2005

Issue focuses on collegiate ministries in TN

Lonnie Wilkey, editor
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The majority of this issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* spotlights collegiate ministries in Tennessee.

In conjunction with the Collegiate Ministries Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, led by Choate, we have tried to show the impact our college students in Tennessee have made this summer not only in our state but around the world as well.

This issue also will contain some helpful and informative articles for Tennessee parents who will be sending their children to college this year.

Tennessee Baptists are blessed to have Baptist Collegiate Ministries programs on 30 campuses across the state. Our campus ministries play a major role in providing Christian presence on state and private campuses in Tennessee.

Prayer for our students as they begin college this fall. They will be tomorrow's leaders in our church and our denomination. □

For Christ

College students impact state, world

By Stacy Murphree
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — During the summer 50 Tennessee college and university students served in missions through the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) summer missions program of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. These students served in several locations beginning in Brentwood, throughout Tennessee and extending to other states and countries.

Through experiencing missions students are able to utilize skills and talents to share Christ with others. This summer students participated in sports, agricultural missions, friendship and servant evangelism, hospital outreach, teaching English, ministry to the deaf, youth and children's ministry, Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs, and social ministries.

Students are able to accomplish these tasks through assisting churches and associations, working as camp staff, and partnering with North American Mission Board and International Mission Board staff. These church leaders and missionaries are quick to note that college students are vital to their summer ministries.

"Summer missionaries make it possible for our ministry to have summer programs for children.

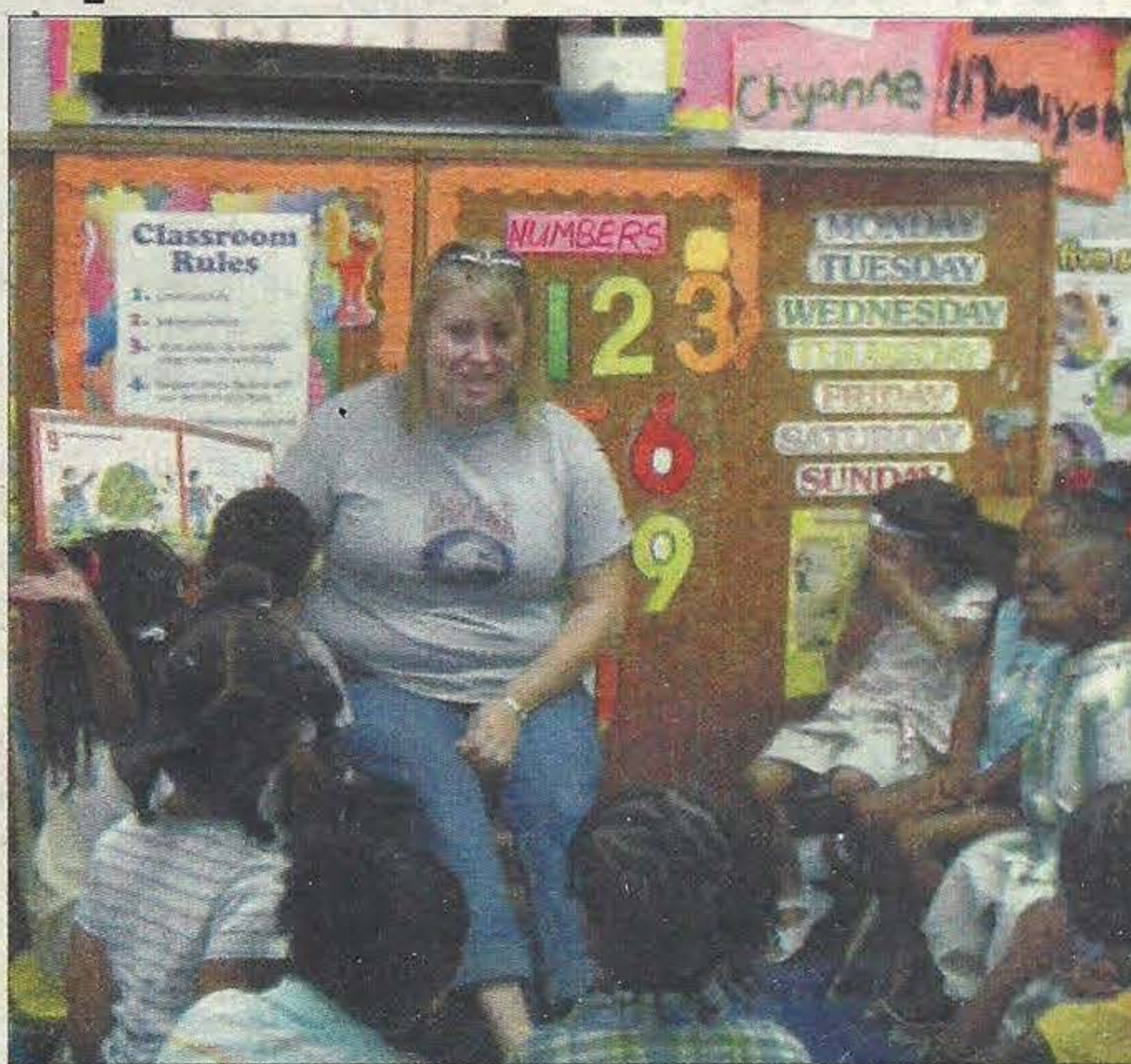
"When the students leave, our pro-

grams for children decrease," says Shannon Washam, director of Western Heights Baptist Center in Knoxville.

Corey Zachary, East Tennessee State University student, served at Western Heights this summer assisting with a daily kids club, market day food distribution, and other activities that reach out to the community.

Washam remembers a block party at the beginning of the summer with more than 400 adults and children attending. "Our summer missionaries led that effort, and the children who came were so excited," he says.

Having the opportunity to serve alongside of career missionaries, pastors, youth workers, or others serving in ministry often becomes a meaningful learning experience for students.



JESSICA McMILLAN, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and member of East Rogersville Baptist Church, Rogersville, ministered this summer at a children's day camp at Bronx Baptist Church, New York.

Jesse Moss, UT-Martin student and summer intern at the TBC Boys Ranch in Millington, formed friendships with boys at the ranch through playing sports and just spending time with them.

— See College, page 3

Tennessee Baptist musicians agree: music ministry matters

La Lawson
and Reflector.

BRENTWOOD — Music ministry matters.

That was not only the theme of the Aug. 12-13 Music Ministry Leadership Conference held at Brentwood Baptist Church but also the focus of testimonies of Tennessee Baptist musicians about how music ministry has impacted their lives.

More than 600 leaders from across the state participated in the conference, including the Tennessee Men's Chorale, Tennessee Ladies Chorus, and a choir of 150 youth. The drama duo, Peculiar People of Franklin, presented segments in the worship services, along with Bruce and Lisa Wethey who provided

flute and violin duets. Garrett Martin and Dawson Hall — students at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., respectively, and products of Tennessee church music ministries — played the organ and piano in the closing service. Conferences were offered for leaders with all age groups as well as keyboard leaders, organists, and those involved in praise bands, instrumental music groups, and handbell ministry.

Internationally known gospel singer Steve Green made a surprise appearance at the end of the opening worship service, singing and talking about the power of music in his life.

"The best part (of music ministry) is when we join our voices and they melt into one sound," Green said. "There is the attempt to communicate with excellence to the glory of God."

"It is a joy to come together as a family whose members are passionate about the same two things — music and God," Mary McDonald, a composer, arranger, pianist, and organist from

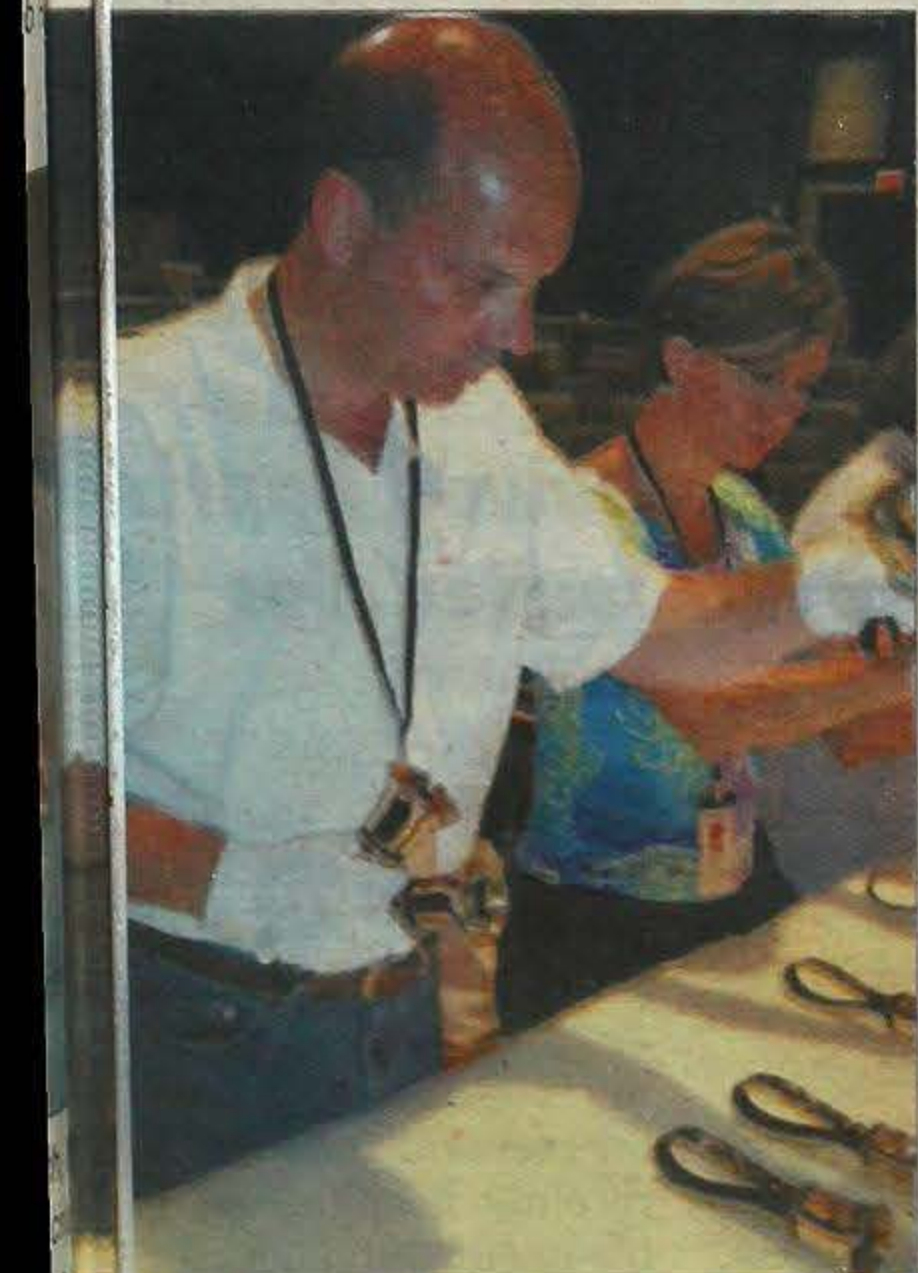
Knoxville, said during the Saturday morning worship service. She traced musicians from her childhood through college years who encouraged her to use her musical gifts.

"I'm so grateful for all those people," she said. "Beneath all of that is the support of God's hand. We must never forget that He is the reason for what we do."

Conference coordinator Paul Clark, Tennessee Baptist Convention worship and music specialist, said, "Music ministry makes a difference in people's lives. It makes a difference in the kingdom of God. We want to foster among Tennessee Baptist musicians a common bond in the ministry we share."

Dennis Worley, minister of music at Brentwood Church, said he considered the extra work of hosting the conference a privilege because "everyone here needs what this conference offers — inspiration, encouragement, the expertise of other people. We all have things we learn from one another."

— See Tennessee, page 13



STEVEN, handbell director at First Church, Lexington, sharpened his skills in a session at the recent Music Ministry Leadership Conference in Brentwood.

MARY JANE WOOMER, left, Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and Julie Estes, Green River Baptist Church, Waynesboro, shop for music resources at the Aug. 12-13 Music Ministry Leadership Conference at Brentwood Baptist Church.

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Appeals court upholds Pledge

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A federal appeals court Aug. 10 upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in Virginia's public schools, ruling that the phrase "under God" does not violate the U.S. Constitution's prohibition of government-established religion.

Virginia law requires the daily recitation of the Pledge, although students are allowed to opt out if their parents object on religious or other grounds. The case involves a Mennonite father of two children who sued the state, saying the phrase "under God" makes the Pledge unconstitutional and arguing that the Pledge itself violates his religion, which prohibits the intertwining of church and state.

A three-judge panel of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the Virginia law. A lower court had done the same. The Fourth Circuit covers Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia.

"[T]he Pledge, unlike prayer, is not a religious exercise or activity, but a patriotic one," Judge Karen J. Williams wrote for the court. "... The Pledge ... does not amount to an establishment of religion."

Thirty states filed friend-of-the-court briefs, siding with the Virginia law. It is not known if Edward R. Myers, the Mennonite father, will appeal.

The court's ruling comes more than a year after atheist Michael Newdow failed in his bid to prevent Pledge recitation in his daughter's California school district. In that case the Supreme Court ruled against Newdow on a technicality, saying he did not have legal standing to represent his daughter. Newdow has since re-filed the case in federal court with several co-plaintiffs, apparently giving him the legal standing he needs. Newdow and the others want the phrase "under God" stripped from the Pledge altogether. Congress added the phrase in 1954.

In her ruling Williams noted that no Supreme Court justice has "ever suggested that the Pledge is unconstitutional."

"Undoubtedly, the Pledge contains a religious phrase, and it is demeaning to persons of any faith to assert that the words 'under God' contain no religious significance," she wrote. "The inclusion of those two words, however, does not alter the nature of the Pledge as a patriotic activity." □

S.C. Baptists aid violence victims

Baptist Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster announced July 8 a two-year grant which

FBC, Pulaski, reaches college student

By Stacy Murphree
Baptist and Reflector

PULASKI — About three years ago, Dathan Hale began serving as the interim student minister at First Baptist Church here. He soon began to realize that church members had a desire to reach out to college students who were right in their own community at Martin Methodist College.

Hale, who now serves as the full-time minister to students, along with other church members, began to prayerfully consider and seek the most effective way to reach these students.

Today the church has a growing ministry to students on the campus. Hale comments that, not only do they want to form friendships with students, but they also strive to maintain a relationship with the administration of the college.

"The college has been very good about working with us, and campus leaders are eager for church participation. It's been a great experience," he says.

The church began its ministry after three Martin Methodist students began attending church services. Hale remembers meeting with these students along with the pastor, Doug Plumlee, to see what activities students might enjoy and what needs could be met by church members. "The students said that since Pulaski was so small, they had no place to get away from campus life," says Hale.

In January 2003, the church launched the Inner Court Coffee House ministry which is still held every Tuesday night. "We feed them, offer a

short devotional, and give them a chance to lowship through games or just hanging out the church," says Hale.

About five students were involved with coffee house ministry when it first began. However, Hale notes that now they are averaging to 40 students in attendance. "We even had more than 50 students attend on some occasions says.

This ministry to students not only involves students being invited to events at church but church members also interact with student campus. Hale says this ministry is somewhat the church as a whole has supported and involved with.

"The members at First Baptist have been great. They have been eager to help with and care packages and have even invited students to their homes," he says.

A great opportunity to meet and reach out to students occurs at the beginning of the semester. This week, August 21-26, as students are arriving and moving back to campus, First Baptist along with other churches in the community are assisting students by helping them move their dorm room, giving out water and snacks, providing transportation when needed, cooking a Wednesday night meal.

Hale looks forward to initiating new worship relationships with students on campus.

"We are planning to start a new college ship service on Wednesday nights this fall. The church also plans to continue the coffee house ministry as well as the Bible study held both on campus and at the church. □

partners the agency with domestic violence assistance agencies and the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

The \$900,000 grant over a two-year period will fund prosecution efforts in seven rural counties: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg.

The South Carolina Baptist Convention will receive no money but will act as a connecting agency between churches and agencies assisting domestic violence victims. The grant is the first of its kind in the U.S. and the only known domestic violence grant to add a faith-based component.

"There is an element of development to this," said Roger Acton, associate director of the adult ministry group of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. "We want to connect churches with these agencies that are already assisting these victims."

Acton, who works mainly in ministries to families, stressed the convention's main goal will be to ensure pastors are aware of the severity of domestic violence in their area. Some victims may be sitting in their pews.

It is what Acton calls an "awareness of what is already out there."

The partnership will function as a two-way street where domestic violence assistance agencies can refer victims to churches if they so desire and pastors can refer victims to agencies for support. Acton said that most pastors in the state are not trained as domestic violence counselors and need others

who are educated to competently aid victims.

Domestic violence ranks as top crime problem in South Carolina, with incident reports steadily growing each year. More than 36,000 cases of criminal domestic violence were reported in South Carolina last year. □

Medical team ministers despite seizure of supplies

Associated Baptist Press

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, Venezuela — It sounds like a logistical nightmare. A 33-person medical team touches down in Venezuela, ready to run a five-day clinic with 41 trunks of medicine, eyeglasses and other supplies — 41 trunks that never arrived on the field.

But when customs officers wouldn't release the trunks, brought there by a team from Liberty Park Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills, Ala., it turned out to be a perfect opportunity for God to show his power, said David Lucas, business administrator for the church. "I don't know how they've done what they've done but God has provided," he said. "The whole trip has been humbling and full of miracles."

When time came for the clinic to open and there was no hope of disentangling the trunks from the red tape in time to use them, team members pooled their personal funds and — combined with funds from the church — were able to purchase about

\$2,000-worth of medicine local pharmacy.

"They filled over 2,000 prescriptions with what they were able to buy," said Lucas.

And, even more significant, they saw 170 come to Christ, he said. "They are going back in awe of what happened."

After the clinic closed, the team headed into a town near Ciudad Bolivar, an evangelistic push though all their materials the 750 Spanish Bibles brought with them were with the unreleased trunks.

When they got to the town, Gideon who had heard they were coming met them. Spanish New Testament was given away 99 there and while on a cable car in shared with the driver the Bible. "They were forced to rely on God's strength," said Lucas. □

Hawaii Baptist leader dies

Baptist Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention executive director and time Hawaii pastor O. Efurd died in Wahiawa. Efurd, 68, had been undergoing chemotherapy for several months and was recently hospitalized with pneumonia.

Efurd led the Hawaii Baptist Convention from 1989 to 2000. His ministry there spanned 30 years. □

Tennessee BCM students meet financial goal for N.Y.

by Murphree
and Reflector

ENTWOOD — When the Northeast partnership in 2000, campus ministers to explore ways for students to serve in this area of the world where 25 percent of the population lives. The Northeast is also home to nearly six million students on 600 college and university campuses.

Over state conventions, including Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia are also supporting the partnership which is slated to begin in 2007.

Since the partnership began, more than 800 BCM students from Tennessee have participated in volunteer mission projects in the Northeast through fall and spring break mission trips and summer and semester missions.

The experiences include such as assisting church outreach programs, working on college campuses, involved with inner-city social ministries, leading Bible study for college students, working with construction, walking, and working in cross-cultural ministries.

These Roebuck, TBC college ministry specialist for New and State Community College and Lee University, has led teams to serve in the Northeast focusing on work with church plant through servant evangelism. Roebuck comments that many times mission trips to this area of the country allow students to build relationships

with individuals of other cultures.

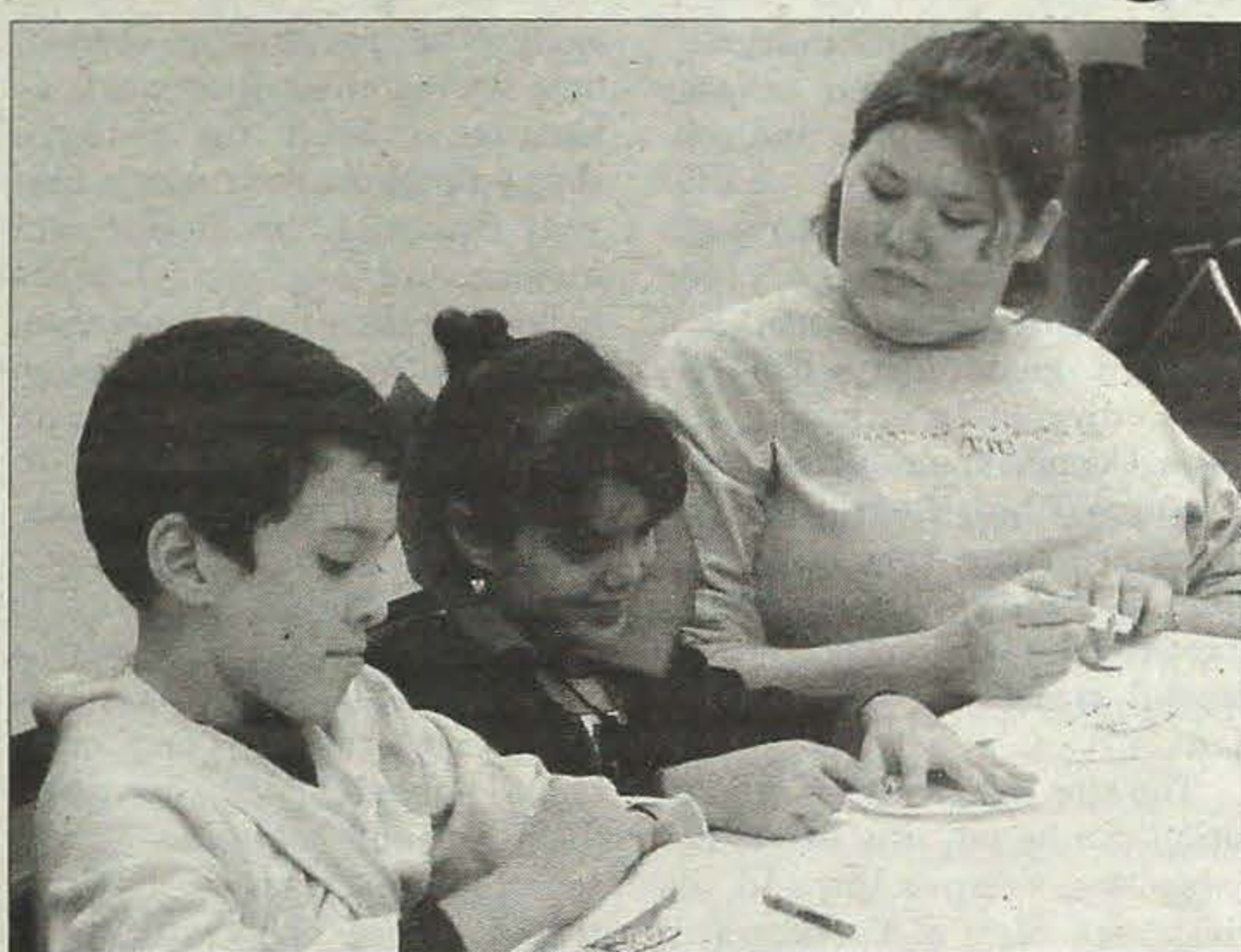
Some of Roebuck's students met a local store owner from Nepal and had the opportunity to spend time getting to know him throughout the week. Roebuck remembers the store owner being intrigued by these students picking up garbage or performing other service tasks.

"He seemed to be appreciative of what we were doing. By the end of the week we had made a new friend. I think these small opportunities to make friends with people from different countries and religious backgrounds are part of what missions is all about," she says.

Through Impact Northeast BCM has also had the opportunity to appoint students for long-term projects. Keith Bowman, UT-Knoxville graduate, served for a year assisting with the work of an emerging Baptist Collegiate Ministry on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Bowman's ministry involved activities to build relationships with students on campus. He interacted one-on-one with individuals he met on campus, spent time getting to know leaders of other campus organizations, and led an on-campus Wednesday night Bible study.

Motivated by the partnership, many more Tennessee BCM students have impacted this area of the country through a financial partnership with Graffiti Community Ministries, a ministry of East Seventh Street Baptist Church in New York City. The church and ministry are often



ASHLEY DYER, a student at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, assists children at Graffiti Community Ministries in New York City.

referred to simply as Graffiti.

In 2000, BCM students set a goal to raise \$50,000 over a five year period to aid with the remodeling of Graffiti's new church and ministry space. This year marks the end of the five year period, and the goal has been met.

Until recently Graffiti's church services and weekly activities were held in more than one rented space, including the basement of a Hispanic church in the neighborhood. The newly remodeled building, formerly a Jewish synagogue, greatly helps in providing space for their worship services and ministry projects in one central location.

Taylor Field, a missionary with the North American Mission Board, has served as pastor and director of the ministry

since 1986. His wife, Susan, works with students on the campuses of New York University and Columbia University.

Graffiti Community Ministries began in 1974 and still serves the purpose of meeting needs of people on the lower east side of Manhattan. Graffiti offers weekly Bible studies, a clothing closet, a weekly meal on Wednesday evenings, and Saturday lunches known as F.L.I.P. (free lunch in the park).

The ministry also offers a full program for children including an after school program with homework help, snacks, and Bible stories. During the summer months children attend Graffiti's day camp participating in VBS activities, taking field trips, and learning about God's love. There are also opportuni-

ties for the children to attend GA and RA summer camps.

In addition to contributing financially, for the past three years BCM students have served at Graffiti by providing a fall festival with games, music, and crafts for children in the neighborhood. In October, BCM students participating in the mission project were able to hold the festival, help with Sunday School classes, and attend worship services in the new building.

This partnership has been meaningful to many Tennessee students, to not only help financially, but to also see first hand how funds provided by BCM are supporting the ministry of Graffiti.

"It makes me excited to know that we, as college students, are helping them. Last year when I was able to see the finished product, it made me realize how important our giving has been and how many more people can be blessed now because of this new building. I'm excited that God has let me be a part of this ministry and has given me the opportunity to see it in person," says Ashley Dyer. Dyer, a student at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, has served on three mission teams to New York.

Even though the financial goal to assist Graffiti Ministries has been completed, Tennessee BCM plans to continue assisting in other ways with their ongoing ministry. In October, about 10 BCM students will provide the fall festival at Graffiti for the fourth year. □

College students impact state, world for Christ ...

Continued from page 1

notes that a highlight of the experience was having the opportunity to get to know the students at the ranch and the love and dedication for the work they do. "In them, I see the different I want to be in the future," she says.

To travel to another country and work with other cultures here in the U.S. is beneficial to them in shaping their worldview, allowing them to see how God is working on the globe.

She definitely gained a realistic global view of the world, says Jessica Bird. Bird, a U.S. student, who served in the Philippines. This was her first experience working internationally. She was able to see Christ through working in cross-cultural projects in the Philippines.

Because of this summer I have a deeper understanding of how God works in my life and the lives of others. Seeing Christ outside of western culture really broadened my perspective," says Hannah Choate, a U.S. student.

Choate served this summer in

Thailand along with Emily Bradley, UT-Knoxville, and Megan Montgomery, ETSU. Their primary responsibility was building relationships with Thai students at a university campus in Northeast Thailand through teaching English and other activities. They also led an English camp in which more than 100 students attended.

These students as well as others come to realize the importance of planting seeds in missions or just being a Christian presence in the place they are serving, especially in locations around the world where there are few Christians.

"It was amazing how we saw God use us in the little ways and the huge ways. Often times we did not even get to plant the seed of the gospel. We realized God was using us to till the ground or even just to be there and walk over the hard ground," says Jennifer Hand, a recent graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan College.

Hand served in South Asia this summer building relationships at a hospital through counseling patients and helping staff with painting and other construction projects.

Working with various ministry areas allows students to be placed out of their normal environment, discover new talents, and gain confidence in new ways God can use those talents.

"I was placed in positions to teach, and God has given me a love for that," says Laura Cates, Lee University student who served with Sequoia Baptist Association in California.

"I have more leadership skills now. I'm much more confident speaking in front of people, teaching a Bible study to any age, and other things which I never would have thought I could do," says Monica Ferguson, Belmont University student and member of the Tennessee travel teams.

Most BCM summer missionaries are appointed to a 10 week assignment. However, a short term option is available for students who are taking classes over the summer to still be able to participate in missions. This year a team worked with Bronx Baptist Church and Wake Eden Baptist Church in New York for a week.

Students helped with a summer day camp for children and youth by taking trips to a park

and the Bronx Zoo, playing games, teaching songs, and leading devotions. "Working with the kids was amazing. God, not only allowed me to love them, but to also receive love," says Jessica McMillan, Carson-Newman College student.

Other students also discover how much they enjoy working with children and youth by knowing they can be a positive influence and role model in their lives.

"God used my love for children this summer in a great way, in a way He knew they needed," says Stephanie Clark, Dyersburg State Community College student. Clark shared God's love this summer through planning activities and getting to know the children at the TBC Children's Home, Bartlett campus.

Through summer missions, students also have the unique opportunity to discover a new passion for a particular ministry or geographical location where they have served. They return home willing to share about their experiences and with a greater focus of how God can use them, not only while they are attending college, but also in the future.

"This summer God has given me more direction in following Him. He has focused me on His will and purposes for my life," says Tommy Leach, Cleveland State Community College student who also served in Sequoia Baptist Association.

BCM summer missionaries returned to the Baptist Center on Aug. 5 for a time of debriefing and celebration of their summer experience. Some stories shared generated laughter from a new food that was tasted or other comical cultural experience. Other stories moved some to tears as they shared about special people who impacted their life this summer and other meaningful ways God worked in their lives.

Many of the students summarized their summer missions experience much the same way as Brandon Thornberry. "It was the best 10 weeks of my life," he says. Thornberry, a Union University student, served on the Tennessee Travel Teams.

For more information about the BCM missions program, visit www.lightmessengers.org or contact Stacy Murphree at smurphree@tnbaptist.org. □

Campus minister offers tips for new college student

guest
columnist



By Damon Billings

Imagine a period in an adult's life when most of the very biggest decisions of life are being made. We're talking about the really big ones. Decisions like with whom will a person fall in love and marry? What kind of work will they do and what careers will they be prepared for? What sort of values will they develop and therefore live their life by? Will God and the church continue to be an important part of their life?

This period of life really exists; it's called college. The most important period of adjustment and change will occur during the first semester of college. College is an amazing place to make many of the decisions that truly shape a life, but college life can also be full of obstacles and land mines that can derail a student's successful transition into college.

The question then is how does a student transition successfully into college? The answer is complicated slightly by the fact that there is no longer any single dominant pattern of college life. Many students still pack up their car and head off to life on campus at a state university, but many students live at home, work full-time, and take as many classes as they can fit in at

their local community college.

Today's students choose between commuting and on-campus living, between secular or religious schools, between large or small schools, between urban or rural settings, and between community colleges, state universities, or private colleges. Despite their choice of college experience, the truth is that there are some very clear tips that if followed will greatly increase the likelihood of a successful transition for any student.

The tips to a successful transition can be put into two major categories, campus life and the classroom. Most of a college student's life on campus will not be spent in the classroom, but rather in the dorm, library, campus ministry building, or cafeteria. Because of this, it is important to remember the following few suggestions related to campus life in general.

(1) Really go to college. Many students physically go to college, but they never emotionally leave their hometown, family, or high school life. To get the most out of college, students should realize there is much more to the experience than taking classes.

(2) Get involved. Students should join a club or student organization related to their interests. They should take part in campus sponsored activities, student government, or better yet the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Studies show the most successful college students are the ones involved in campus life.

(3) Establish good habits

early. The patterns a student sets during their first week on campus is likely the patterns they will follow their whole first year. Students should start out making sure they keep a healthy balance in their lives, eat reasonably healthy, and get enough sleep. College life doesn't require an 'Animal House' mentality. In fact, binge drinking and substance abuse is a leading factor in academic failure. According to the Core Institute, nearly a quarter of all college students report performing poorly on a test as a result of drinking, and a full third of college students report missing class for the same reason. Since opportunity and temptation will exist on every college campus, a student should determine before they ever get to campus how they will respond.

(4) Choose friends wisely. Students can sometimes jump into friendships with the first people they meet. They should consider what values and priorities they are personally committed to and then seek out people of similar interests and character.

(5) Go go church. A campus ministry is a great place for a student to grow in their faith, but it is not a replacement for local church involvement. The first semester of college is when many students step away from active fellowship in the body of Christ. Students need to establish a pattern from week one of looking for a church at college.

The second major category of college tips is the classroom. Although campus life is a huge part of college, the reason stu-

dents go to college to begin with is to learn. Students can sometimes be overwhelmed with the challenges of college work coupled with the freedom that is afforded them compared to high school. Here are a few tips, that if followed, will put them ahead of their fellow students.

(1) Go to class. It seems like a simple concept, but the fact that no one makes them go has been the pitfall of many students. No one will make a student attend class in college, but if they miss regularly they miss covered material as well as irritate their professors.

(2) Talk to the professors. Many are willing to help if the student shows a genuine interest in the material. At the very least it can never hurt if the professor actually knows a student's name.

(3) Take basic classes. Students should be cautioned to start their college career taking classes that can be applied to any major. The average college student changes their major no less than three times. If they take classes specific to a major and then change majors, they could be unnecessarily adding extra semesters to their college career.

(4) Get organized. Students should get a calendar and then use it. It is incredibly helpful for a student to have all their reading assignments, tests, papers, and projects written down in one place so they know when things are due. It is also helpful for a student to have a weekly schedule to help them keep balance in their life. It would be very help-

ful for a student to block out a consistent time each day in their life for areas like study, sleep, and recreation.

(5) Know your limits. A student doesn't have to take a maximum number of classes allowed. A student should know the number of hours they can handle or less than a semester. Trying as hard as they can, students still often struggle in a class for various reasons. If a student does not know their limits and cannot pull up their grades, dropping a class is much better than getting a poor grade and then having to take it over.

A successful transition into college life will be based on small day to day choices both in and out of the classroom. Many times it is life at home and not the college work that sabotages a student. Students must be disciplined to make the small choices to be successful. It is the combination of many small choices that add up to make a big difference.

As a campus minister, one of my great joys in life is to hopefully encourage successful college students academically but more importantly personally and spiritually. It is my hope that in some small way I can encourage these student-athletes to develop the habits and to achieve success on the college campus. □ — Billings is a Baptist Collegiate Ministry specialist with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Lincoln Memorial University, and Walters State Community College, Morristown.

Parents, ministers encouraged to 'nudge' their kids to BCM

guest
columnist



By Morgan Owen

In the summer of 1985, I was preparing to make the big transition from attending community college to attending a university. My anxiety grew as that day approached, and I continued to deal with one defining question: "Am I ready for this change?"

Being an active member of my church, there were challenges I knew that would push me to the edge of my walk with the Lord. Yet, the university life would be a new experience for me. Then came the phone call. My pastor encouraged me to be at church that weekend, because a team of college students were leading our Sunday night worship. He also said there would be a fellowship at a church member's home following the service, and he wanted me to attend.

Due to my summer job at a restaurant, I was unsure if I would be at the service, but the Lord worked things out for me to be there. It was a powerful night

of worship and creative ministry. God's word was proclaimed by a young man my age. I was totally impressed by their genuine love for the Lord and the way God used their gifts to share about their summer missions experience.

At the fellowship, my pastor encouraged me: "Get involved in the Baptist Student Union when you get to the university. God used it to change my life. God used it to change the lives of these college students who led our service tonight. And, God can use it to change your life."

Change. I could definitely use that kind of change in my life. Needless to say, when I hit the campus I unpacked my stuff and immediately headed for the BSU. Those were amazing days in my life and the BSU was used by God to carve out His call on my life. In the weeks and months that followed, I thanked my pastor for his encouragement. Change was good.

While the name Baptist Student Union has transitioned to Baptist Collegiate Ministry, the impact of collegiate ministry in Tennessee has not changed. Students are being salt and light on our campuses. Young men and

women are sacrificing summer and spring breaks to serve in missions all across our world. College students are raising tens of thousands of dollars to support their peers doing missions. Small group Bible studies are meeting in dorm rooms, in lobbies, in Baptist Student Centers, and in restaurants.

The giftedness of these same college students are found during collegiate worship services or in the local churches. Passionate worship serves as an entry point where God's word can penetrate the heart of young people. God is actively involved in the life of the Tennessee Baptist Collegiate Ministries.

Perhaps you are a pastor or parent of a student hitting the campus this very week. Let me encourage you to challenge them to find the Baptist Collegiate Ministry on their campus and get involved. There is so much that God can do in and through them in a BCM. While sometimes you may question whether they are listening to you. I have an encouraging word. They are listening to you, and God will honor your "gentle nudge."

There is so much to benefit from being involved in a BCM. Here are just a few reasons to

give that "nudge."

(1) Friendships await students who get involved in BCM. These relationships last a lifetime and help students grow in their relationship with the Lord.

(2) The BCM is a student led organization. Equipping students for Kingdom work includes providing opportunities of leadership that can be found in the BCM.

(3) Many students are so gifted in music, drama, sign language, and other creative arts. BCMs have special student teams to minister in churches during a variety of weeks. Students can strengthen their God-given talents and in turn become strong church leaders in the arts.

(4) The campus can be a dark place. Through the BCM, students can ban together and "share the love of God to a dying campus" (words spurred by our BCM president, Jason Adkins). God has called us to "go." For the student, their campus is their mission field.

(5) The BCM center is often considered a "home away from home." Many of the centers are equipped with a place to relax, cook a meal, or just get away from campus.

(6) A Baptist Campus Minister is on staff that encourages the work of God in the life of students. Campus ministers have been mentors of the young men and women serving in missions and today.

To inform a Baptist Campus Minister of incoming freshmen, check out www.tnbaptist.org for contact information.

(7) Special missions projects are offered during Christmas break, spring break, and summer break. This gives students the opportunity to experience missions first-hand. These mission projects often lead a college student into missions full-time.

God desires to see you and women grow in their faith and through small group fellowship students experience the power of "iron sharpening iron."

If you know a student going for college, let me encourage you to challenge them to get involved in the Baptist Collegiate Ministry on their campus. Morgan Owen is a Baptist Collegiate Ministry specialist with the Tennessee Baptist Convention at the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Building kingdom leaders on college campuses

making
list
down



By Bill Choate

When Deron Henry ministers to students in Lebanon, he is living out a calling he first discovered while a student involved in Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Previously, Baptist Student Union at Cumberland University was associate pastor of students at Immanuel Baptist Church, he now influences many lives for Jesus Christ. When I got to Cumberland, I was 10 hours from home. BSU was a stability, my accountability. Henry recently reported, "I used to play baseball, but I most looked forward to the week was Wednesday's meeting. I really felt my calling to ministry while at Cumberland." Living with his other responsibilities, Henry now leads his congregation to assist with BCM ministry at Cumberland. Ken Bohn, who has continued to lead BCM there for 20 years, says Henry's campus minister. "Students come to campus with no idea God is going to lead them to ministry," Tramel says. "They leave campus as people." Far from Lebanon, Paul Bohn is student minister at

First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet. He is still appreciative of the experience he received in leadership and missions while a student at the University of Tennessee. "The model for missions I learned through BCM is what I use today with church ministry," he said. "I soaked the experiences in like a sponge...everything from mission planning, budgeting, travel and food planning. I still believe the mission model of working alongside native people in their ministries and sharing Christ as we go is the best way to do it."

Gunn believes he learned through BCM to lead ministry in the real world. "I remember student leadership meetings where varying opinions were discussed. Leadership consisted of not just males, not just white people, and not just Baptists from Tennessee. BCM provided me an opportunity to be a Christian leader on a secular campus. A friend wanted to assist me with tuition at a Christian school. That wasn't for me. I had already met BCM students at UT and couldn't wait to join them."

When Jolene Bohn prepares for class or goes to her work at the World Missions Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, she goes shaped by her experience in BCM. "I do not know that I would have ever thought about full-time ministry, had I not been involved in the BSU at Vandy. It allowed me

to see where I fit and I found that I had a heart for discipleship," says Bohn. As Vanderbilt University BCM president, Bohn states she had "an opportunity to get my hands dirty. The way our BSU was set-up, it empowered students to be involved in ministry, not just be the beneficiaries of the ministry. It was more than just attending Bible studies; it was leading Bible studies, going on mission trips, and ministering to the college community."

Many students get their first exposure to direct missions and ministry involvement through Baptist Collegiate Ministry. According to the International Mission Board's latest Student Mobilization statistical report, of the 1797 students who reported where they heard first about student missions, 984 of them heard from their Baptist Collegiate Ministry. Of the 3955 total students (including seminary, high school, and medical receptors) who were involved during the previous year, 1499 of them came directly through Baptist Collegiate Ministries.

Bob Hall, Baptist collegiate minister at the University of Tennessee, says it is no surprise young adults come out of BCM and head into a life of ministry. "College is where you really have to grapple with those decisions about vocation. We simply equip and direct them. Doing real ministry marks them for life. They can never be indiffer-

ent to the world again." Today there are UT BCM alumni serving as international missionaries in South Africa, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Botswana, Zambia, Philippines, and other countries. Still more UT alumni are serving in Baptist pastorates from North Carolina to California.

Jeff Roberts is one of those pastors. Roberts has been pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, a growing congregation in Raleigh, N.C., for the past five years. Roberts, like many others, is both a product of caring Tennessee Baptist churches and BCM. "My experience with the ministry at UT gave me a greater sense of calling. I learned, too, that we are all called to ministry, regardless of our vocation."

"It was the relationships that shaped me," said Roberts, "relationships with campus ministers and Christian friends." Henry, Gunn, and Roberts each mentioned that they were glad to have met their future wives at BCM, as well.

"I view BSU as the beginning of my ministry training; it's where I learned the importance of loving people more than myself and making God's glory the priority in my life. I will always be thankful for my involvement in BSU," says Jolene Bohn. □ — Choate leads the Collegiate Ministries Group of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

No Wal-Mart?

Two weeks ago I spent a week in Montana as part of a vision tour sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, and the North American Mission Board.

It was part of an effort to see how Tennessee Baptists can partner with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Montana as we begin a new partnership in January of 2006.

Throughout the week I heard how Tennessee Baptists would have to adapt to the cold weather should they come during the winter months. We also heard that Tennessee Baptists will also have to understand that the way we "do church" in the south will not work in Montana.

All those "warnings" should be well heeded. Montana winters can be treacherous and ministering there to an extent will be different from the way we do it.

What I think Tennessee volunteers may have more trouble getting used to is the idea that there is not a Wal-Mart or similar store every five to 10 miles. In fact I have heard there are less than 10 Wal-Marts in the entire state of Montana and most of them are in the four or five major population centers of the state. You can drive miles upon miles and never see a Wal-Mart (or any other store for that matter).

In the south, Wal-Mart has become almost like kudzu was years ago — it has taken us over and become a way of life.

I teased my wife once that I knew we were getting old when a "big" night out without kids meant going to Wal-Mart.

Whereas the church or school used to be the "center" of a community, Wal-Marts now have that distinction in many places.

Maybe that is what makes Montana so attractive. If we can help Montana Baptists begin vibrant, growing congregations, then maybe churches will once again be the center of the community, at least in "Big Sky" country.

Wal-Marts are nice and they are no doubt convenient, but NOTHING should ever replace the fellowship and sense of community a church provides.

One of the signs of a healthy church is its fellowship.

Is your church providing ample opportunities for Christian believers to gather for fellowship as well as worship and ministry opportunities? If not, explore ways to do more in this area.

Let's strive to make our churches the center of our communities. □

Church members can make a difference in a PK's life

Just
minist



Gene C. Fant Jr.

When I was 8 years old, I had chickenpox. I was bumpy, feverish and completely alone. I lamented to my granddad, "This is even worse than going to church!" Well, you, I had no option but going to church: Dad was pastor and the tiny mission house where he served met in the living room. Our living room was a study and the children's school classroom was the room I shared with my brother Steve. The teacher's kids (PKs), and I were under intense pressure. It seemed as though I knew each error we made precisely, because our pastor's family were PKs. PKs are under sharp pressure in their home churches. We have reputations as being disobedient or even out of control. Fair or not, you know who they are. As an adult, I have a place in my heart for each at Union University.

ty, and in our classes we have scores of Baptist PKs (I include the children of church staff members and missionary kids in this catch-all term). When I meet these students and they tell me that their fathers were pastors, I always sigh knowingly and remark, "I'm in that club as well. In fact, my father, my uncle and my grandfather were all pastors!"

As a grown-up PK, I'd like to offer some suggestions for my fellow church members as they relate to their pastor's kids:

(1) Treat PKs' parents with respect.

I know many PKs who no longer attend church, in part because of how their fathers were treated by church members. Conflicts are bound to occur and pastors make mistakes, but take care as to how you talk about the pastor and how you handle these situations. Too many times, pastors' families bear the painful brunt of church conflict.

(2) Invite PKs to be a part of your family.

Despite what some people may think, pastors work on more than Sundays and Wednesdays! Most pastors work 60-plus-hour weeks and are in meetings or out visiting several nights a week. PKs often are not able to attend sporting contests

or special events with their families, because of packed church schedules. Go out of your way to have your pastor's kids over for a special cookout or for play dates. By the time I got married, I had so many special church "mamas" that my poor wife had lost count of them. These were the women who made sure that I felt welcomed in their homes, as though I were an adopted son.

(3) Celebrate with joy your PK's life-milestones.

My dad's church flooded me with graduation gifts: I spent all summer writing thank-you notes! When I got married, the ladies of dad's church threw my wife a wonderful bridal shower. A huge crowd from the church traveled for an hour to my wife's home church for the ceremony; many of the ladies even volunteered to serve at the reception.

(4) Cut your PKs some slack!

Like all kids, PKs go through stages of rebellion or soul-searching, especially during their teen years. Certainly there are times when they need to be reported to their parents or even admonished on the spot, but treat them with fairness. Parenting experts say that discipline without

relationship leads to defiance; this principle applies to the other adults in the church community who provide discipline.

When I was an obnoxious teenager, I really did listen to church members who fussed at me, especially those with whom I had a personal relationship. I knew that they loved me and that they wanted the best for me. Even when I grumbled, I knew deep-down that their discipline was correct.

Look at your church's PKs with fresh eyes. How can you encourage them? How can you make a difference in their lives? Your kind words and actions can make a huge difference in the life of your PKs. □ — Fant chairs the English department at Union University in Jackson.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"While I'm preaching, you keep an eye on that kid with the sling-shot."

Memphis BCM leader has passion to reach collegians

By Stacy Murphree
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Jeff Jones feels his passion to reach out to college students comes naturally because of the excitement for life and passion for others he sees in students.

"They desire to make a difference in their world, and they are proactive in that desire. Many students have taken the challenge to give their lives up for the gospel in ways my generation dreamed of but very rarely participated," he says. The fall semester begins his second year as TBC collegiate ministry specialist at the University of Memphis.

Although Jones and his family moved to Tennessee from Topeka, Kansas, in 2004, he has strong ties in the state. He grew up in Memphis, attended Union University, and served as the minister of youth and children at First Baptist Church, Martin, for nine years.

Jones notes he and his wife, Jan, have always been eager to serve in ministry to students, both youth and collegians. While assisting with a church plant in Topeka, they met group of students interested in beginning a campus ministry at Washburn University.

Jones remembers how he saw God shaping and working in the lives of students through the ministry, and it was also at that time he began to consider full-time collegiate ministry.

"We kept saying we would love to work with college students and about that time we saw some opportunities for Baptist Collegiate Ministry in Tennessee. The University of Memphis was the opportunity that God opened for us, and we are excited about what He is doing," says Jones.

Ministry opportunities God has provided since Jones arrived in Memphis is through friendships being formed

between BCM students and international students on campus. The BCM hosts a free lunch known as "Noonday" every Friday. Churches in the area provide lunch and about 150 students attend each week. Jones notes that at least 15 different countries and cultures with Hindu and Muslim background were represented at each Noonday. This ministry has provided opportunities to share the gospel to these students.

"Our leadership students have consistently invited and introduced new people to Jesus through our ministry. Our goal each week is to connect in relationship with all the students as well as publicly share the gospel with them using a speaker from local church, a student, or a faculty member," says Jones.

One such relationship formed was with a Muslim student from Turkey. This student came to a Noonday lunch, began to connect and form friendships with BCM students, and eventually began to attend weekly worship and Bible study nights.

Jones shares that during one event this student heard the Christmas story for the first time in his life. After the meeting, this student gave his life to Christ. This new Christian has now returned to Turkey and is meeting with other Christians and attending church.

"He told us he has continued to read the Bible everyday and is learning many things about his faith. He is a missionary to his home country," says Jones.

One highlight for Jones is the unique opportunity he has as a campus minister to mentor students and provide encouragement to them during a time in their life when many important decisions are made concerning their worldview, deciding on a career, or even choosing a mate.

"When you think about choices being made, it shows the great responsibility



WHEN NOT ministering to students at the University of Memphis, Jeff Jones enjoys time with his wife, Jan, and children, from left, Caleb, Emily, Ensley, and Ellie.

the church has in having people to mentor students. It excites me to be a part of that navigation process," says Jones.

Throughout all of the decisions being made, Jones is able to stress the importance of maintaining a walk with Christ, not only while attending college, but also throughout their life.

"My purpose and hope is that they find their meaning and purpose in Jesus Christ, in His family, and in His kingdom work," he says.

Jones encourages students to see their campus as a mission field and to seek out ways to share Christ with their roommates, classmates, and other peers on campus. "I love the stories that students tell about how they met someone who needed encouragement, and they were

able to share the hope of Jesus with a new friend," he says.

Jones also challenges students to go in missions during spring or summer break. He comments that serving in different countries or cultures within the United States becomes rewarding experiences for students.

"The exposure to what God is doing around the world has the ability to form this generation and give them a sense of God's love for the world and a work in the world," says Jones.

In March Jones led a team of about 20 students who served with High Church in Breckenridge, Colorado during spring break. BCM students planned and participated in activities to help people in the community with the needs of the community. Jones also notes this summer that about 100 BCM students are serving in various locations in Tennessee, Alaska, Florida, South Asia, Poland, and the Philippines.

This ministry opportunity to students is something Jones shares with his family. "My family enjoys being around students," he says. Jones and his wife, Jan, will be leading a discipleship group for girls this semester. The children ages eight, six, three, and one are seen often at BCM noon days and events.

"We have found friendship with younger believers who regularly challenge and encourage us in our walk with Christ. We have a desire and responsibility for passing on our faith to the next generation. That's why we love this ministry," says Jones.

Jones looks forward to the next year and continuing to initiate and reach out to international students on campus. "We have already begun to discover Bible discussion with Hindu students and plan to be intentional in this area," he says.

UT student combines love of soccer with ministry in Peru

By Stacy Murphree
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Ray Bennett, a student at the University of Tennessee here, has been playing soccer since he was 5 years old.

This summer, while serving as a Baptist Collegiate Ministry missionary in Peru, he was able to share his love for the sport while also having opportunities to share an even greater love found in Christ.

Bennett, along with eight other collegiate summer missionaries from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, traveled across northern Peru initiating soccer games in different cities and villages.

Bennett, a member of First Baptist Church, Estill Springs, has played soccer for numerous years through a local youth team, the Franklin County High School team, and college intramural teams. Also, through the Yoke Youth Ministries program, he serves as the soccer coach at Gresham Middle School in Knoxville. To



RAY BENNETT, right, a University of Tennessee — Knoxville, student used his soccer skills as a ministry in Peru this summer. He was assisted by his translator, Angel.

be able to use his skill and experience in soccer to share Christ became a meaningful part of his summer.

"It's awesome to see how God can use your individual passions to spread His word. With soccer being a passion of mine, I was excited to not only get to play, but to use this ability to share about God's love," Bennett says.

The purpose of this mission

team was to use soccer games as a means to build relationships and encourage other believers in Peru. Bennett comments that many times it was not difficult to start a game since most Peruvians enjoy soccer, and it is such a natural way to connect with them.

"There is always a game going on somewhere and no matter where you are at, you will always find a soccer field," he says.

Bennett and his teammates played soccer matches with each city team they traveled through. Before and after the games, they had opportunities to share testimonies through a translator and spend time getting to know the other players.

Bennett notes that individuals were interested in why they had traveled so far to play soccer with them. "Many would hang around wanting to know why we had come, thus allowing us to share testimonies and the Gospel. We relied on the Lord to work in their hearts and had many returned to us wanting to know more," he says.

One of the things Bennett most enjoyed was new friendships he formed with Peruvians who traveled along with them the entire summer playing soccer with them and serving as coaches and translators for the team.

Bennett remembers seeing God working in the life of one of

their Peruvian teammates who was not a Christian. By the second week of summer, this new friend had accepted Christ.

"You could really see God pulling at his heart, and by far one of the most powerful things I saw the whole summer," says Bennett. □



RAY BENNETT, far right, and others share testimonies after a soccer game in Peru.

Student learns to never say never concerning missions

Shannon Dunahoo
Baptist and Reflector

Editor's Note: Shannon is a graduate of East Tennessee State University. This year she will be serving as the BCM intern at SU. She is a member of First Baptist Church, Pigeon Forge where her father serves as minister of music. Shannon wrote these thoughts about serving as a BCM summer missionary in Maine.

SCARBOROUGH, Maine — After telling me about her summer missionary experience in England, I said to my friend two years ago, "I will never do summer missions." Why do I bother even make such statements? More importantly, why did I make that statement? At the time, I believe my mentality was "doing summer missions was just a summer." Perhaps I also thought that missions was for extra special "led" people, or maybe that people did missions because of what they were supposed to do as a duty. Whatever the reason, I did not feel "called," I didn't want to do missions in the name of the Lord just to, well, bump my Christian status up a notch. Through my church and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry on

my campus at East Tennessee State University, God began to change the way I viewed missions and the "calling." The people who went on summer missions became my best friends. I knew my friends and knew that they were not super Christians.

Instead, they were ordinary college kids who were passionate about obeying God out of love, not out of duty, and sharing the message of Christ to those outside of their safe home in East Tennessee. My stereotype was blown out of the water, and God began to steer my heart toward the truth about missions and into a personal summer mission experience.

Last September I attended a meeting concerning collegiate mission opportunities for the upcoming summer. Upon reading a description for an opportunity in Maine, I immediately felt drawn. The description for the desired missionary read "Highly energetic, independent, self-starter who loves working with children" and a list of other qualities and desires of which I felt that I did not fit.

And yet, I was compelled to apply for the position anyway. I began to pray about whether this was God's leading or just a spontaneous burst of excitement



SHANNON DUNAHOO, right, worked this summer in Maine under the supervision of Marilyn McClendon, minister of family life at South Coast Community Church in Scarborough. She formerly served as minister of education at Highland Baptist Church in Tullahoma.

about traveling to the romantic northeast coast.

I struggled between that time and the deadline about the decision because I did not fit the desired description, and I had no experience working with children. While my mind and emotions told me that I needed to worry and be concerned with my lack of experience, my spirit was at peace. So I applied and interviewed, and was assigned the position.

My job this summer was to help in whatever way was need-

ed at South Coast Community Church in Scarborough, Maine. This consisted of office work, attending and assisting in church-wide and youth events, and supervising visiting teams that came to lead day camps. I expected that I would enjoy visiting with the teams from the South the most. But how pleasantly surprised I was to realize how much I enjoyed getting to know and love the believers in Maine.

Because of the small percentages of Christians in the area, I learned so much from them about how the body of Christ functions. They do not have large churches and a full staff to carry the load; the load is distributed among all the members. Every single detail concerning a ministry is important. When one member drops the ball, the rest of the members suffer. I learned that Christians need one another. Every part of the Body is important and needs to be fully functioning in order for the whole body to be healthy.

My lack of experience and lack in certain qualities played a big role in my summer experience. Through my weakness God showed me His strength. God was leading me, to not rely on experience or personality, but to rely solely on Him because His

power is made perfect in my weakness.

My job was simply to obey Him and to trust that He could be in me what I could not be in and of myself. That is all He ever wants, for that brings Him glory. If I only limit myself to who I am naturally, then where is the glory to God? Is this glory not directed to me?

If all we ever need to be is natural, then we do not need God; we can do it on our own. I learned when we admit that nothing we do on our own strength is worth anything, then God is free to exercise His almighty strength and power and reap the glory.

I learned so many good things this summer. Not only did God provide the ability to do the tasks, but He showed me that His "yoke is easy" and His "burden is light." I am amazed at the ease and the fun I had doing all of the things I was uncomfortable and afraid of doing at first.

God provides all that we have need of, and He even goes beyond what we think imaginable. I am so thankful that He compelled me to go to Maine this summer.

My experience was wonderful. I no longer see summer missions as "giving up" a summer. It is truly a gain. □

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Collegians share love of Jesus Christ



MAHAN CHOATE, left, of UT – Knoxville and a member of First Baptist Church, Nashville, and Meg Montgomery of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, taught English this summer at a university in northeast Thailand.



JOEY LEACH of Cleveland State Community College and member of Bellefonte Baptist Church in Cleveland, made friends with a child during VBS. He served in Sequoia Baptist Association in Calif.



NIKI PROPST, left, of Walters State Community College, Morristown, and Jill Burris of Cleveland State Community College, Cleveland, served on a Tennessee travel team this summer. They enjoy the company of a new friend they made while teaching VBS at Oak Street Baptist Church in Portland.

ANNA RICKERT, a student at Carson-Newman University, Jefferson City, and a member of First Baptist Church, Dandridge, served this summer at Brentwood Deaf Church in Brentwood where she works with a student. Rickert also is serving as a semester secretary through the North Tennessee Mission Board this



EMILY BRADLEY, a student at UT – Knoxville who attends Sevier Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, enjoyed playing with local children while teaching English in Thailand this summer.

ANGELA SCRUGGS, right, of Nashville State Tech and a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Smyrna, takes shelter from the elements while on a field trip with children from Bronx Baptist Church in New York.



LAURA FISHER, a student at Union University, Jackson, and a member of Evansville Baptist Church, Dyersburg, served this summer in Dyer Baptist Association. She, along with three other BCM summer missionaries, led Vacation Bible School in 10 churches, two kids youth camps, and one youth camp.



BRANDON THORNSBERRY of Union University and a member of First Baptist Church, Greenfield, helped with children's activities at Dixie Hills Baptist Church, Bolivar.

Leaders

◆ North Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, has called **Art Anderson** as music director.

◆ First Baptist Church of Bluff City will celebrate the 100th birthday of **Ida Sharp Jenkins** Sunday, Sept. 18, from 2-4 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

◆ First Baptist Church of Morristown has called **Joel Young** as church administrator.

Associations

◆ **Northern Baptist Association's** 167th annual meeting will be held Friday-Saturday, Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. The 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, Maynardville, at 10 a.m.

◆ **Jefferson County Baptist Association** will sponsor a Missions Leadership Conference for both men and women Saturday, Sept. 10, at Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Scheduled seminars include 10 age-level conferences, eight interest sessions, and Introduction to Disaster Relief. Brunch will be provided. For a schedule of conference events, call the association office at (865) 475-1453.

Schools

◆ **Belmont University, Nashville**, held its largest summer commencement Aug. 12 with the graduation of 234 undergraduate and graduate students at the Curb Event Center. Belmont University president Robert Fisher addressed the graduates. The summer 2005 graduating class included 106 students receiving graduate degrees and 129 students receiving bachelor degrees.

◆ More than 900 senior adults from 70 churches visited **Union University, Jackson**, Aug. 4 for a dinner and concert by Christian recording artist Steve Green as part of Union's third annual Senior Adult Extravaganza. The attendance was the largest for the gatherings. Church groups came from Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Arkansas. "It's an opportunity for Union to minister to local churches by providing fellowship, encouragement, and inspiration to their senior adults," said Charles Fowler, Union's senior vice president for university relations.



A.R. BAUMGARDNER, pastor, Cedar Ford Baptist Church, Luttrell, and his wife, Sue, pause on July 10 as they were honored by the church for 25 years of service. The congregation has grown, seen many people make professions of faith, built, and paid off the debt 10 years early during his tenure, reported Ginger DeVault of the church.

◆ **Union University, Jackson**, presented more than 250 students with degrees Aug. 8 as part of Union's summer graduation ceremony at West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson. These graduates bring the University's total number of graduates for the 2004-2005 academic year to 918, the highest total for the school. Most of the graduates

were from the School of Education and Human Studies which awarded master degrees in education or education specialist degrees. In addition, 22 students received doctor of education degrees. Carolyn Bishop, president and international director of the Consortium for Global Education in Marietta, Ga., gave the commencement address.



FRANCES BREAZEALE, pianist of Daysville Baptist Church, Rockwood, for 50 years, holds a plaque given to her by Pastor Hascue Carter, right. Breazeale received other gifts. Her recognition continued during an afternoon and evening service, reported Noble E. Brown, director of music.



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Tennessee Baptist camps benefit from summer missionaries

Nancy Murphree
and Reflector

LENTWOOD — While most Collegiate Ministry missionaries serve in one location, members of Tennessee "travel" have the opportunity to serve in a variety of settings. In addition to assisting with VBS, Backyard Clubs, youth events, and activities, the BCM summer missions travel teams had the opportunity to serve as staff at TBC. Journey for Kids and Youth Impact camps.

According to Nancy Hamilton, camping ministry specialist at Tennessee Baptist Conference Center, nearly 750 youth and young adults attended four camps this summer held at Linden Valley and Carson Springs conference centers. Travel team members had a

wide variety of responsibilities at the camps including leading worship, small-group Bible studies, missions experiences, games and recreation, and fellowship times.

Hamilton believes each of these activities allows the summer missionaries to build relationships throughout the week with the campers.

"Our theme for camp is that spiritual life changes best happen in the context of relationships. It's our hope that this is the focus of all we do at Tennessee Baptist camps," she says.

Hamilton notes that more than 70 professions of faith were made this summer at camp. One example of this is through a friendship Brandon Thornsberry, Union University student and member of the Travel Teams, formed with an 11-year old boy attending a Journey for Kids Camp.

Thornsberry spent time with the camper and his friends throughout the week and was able to share more about the Bible and God's love with him during an afternoon kayaking trip. "It was one of the most fruitful conversations I have ever had with an 11-year old," he says.

That evening during the camp worship service, this 11-year-old prayed to receive Christ. Thornsberry remembers being filled with joy hearing his new friend say, "I feel Jesus inside of me now."

"I just put my arms around him and gave him a hug. I broke down in tears of happiness for him, thanking God," says Thornsberry.

Other decisions made were influenced by similar circumstances. Summer missionaries and other camp staff take time to get to know the campers and



STEPHANIE HARRIS, a student at East Tennessee State University and a member of Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City, served on a Tennessee travel team this summer. Here she leads a small group Bible study time at a Journey for Kids Camp at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center.

in many ways serve as a role model in their lives.

"Many of the children and youth who come are looking for Christ-like role models, someone

to model their lives after. Staff members give these campers a clear glimpse of what it means to follow Christ with their whole lives," says Hamilton.

Seeing God work in the lives of children and youth attending camp often becomes a life-changing experience as well for the summer missionaries. As a result of his summer, Thornsberry feels God is leading him to work in youth ministry.

"God used me to speak to hundreds of children and youth this summer. To see the impact He made on their life was awesome. I feel God has pulled my true calling out this summer, to minister to youth," he says.

In the fall, Thornsberry hopes to help out with the youth ministry at his home church, First Baptist Church, Greenfield. Through sharing about his summer experience, he also wants to motivate other youth and college students to participate in missions.

"I want to mobilize others for missions. I have been given opportunities and experiences of overseas and in-country trips so now it's my turn to lead youth to serve Christ," he says.

Hamilton encourages Tennessee churches seeking challenging worship times and other meaningful activities to minister to their youth and children to take advantage of camp ministry. "They will find that no where else is their child or student cared for individually, as well as time spent with each church group. Our team is here to serve churches who serve so much throughout the entire year," she says.

Thornsberry agrees on the value of a camp experience. "There are no distractions such as TV or video games. Camp is a life-changing experience. Not every child or youth will have a defining moment at camp, but seeds are definitely planted in their lives," he says.

For more information about the TBC camping ministry or 2006 camp dates, visit www.tnbaptist.org or contact Hamilton at nhamilton@tnbaptist.org.



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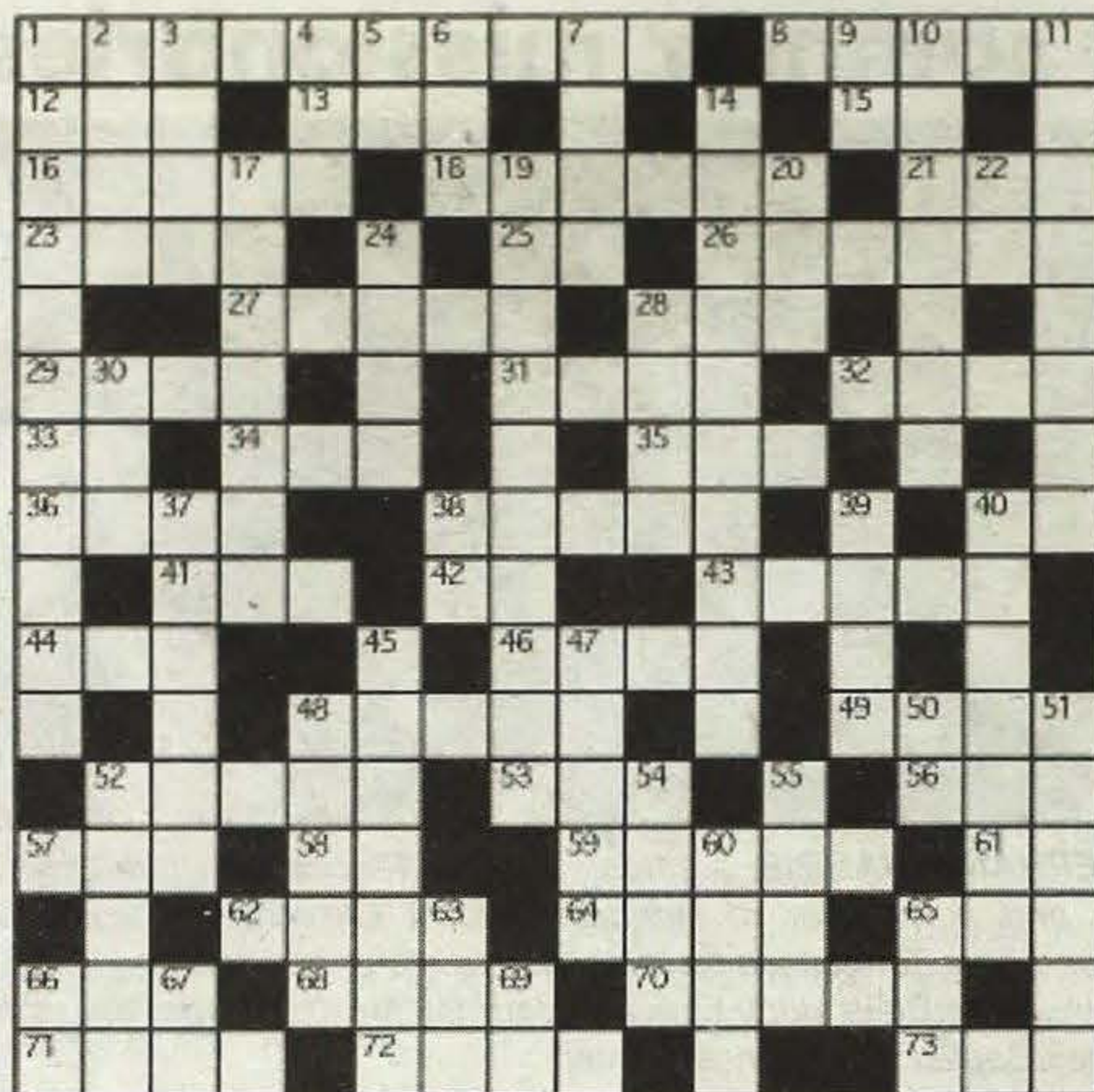
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See answers on page 15

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ACROSS

1. Detestable, disgusting (Prov. 3:32)
8. Dishonest person, a cheat (Isa. 32:5)
12. A unit of measure, just less than two quarts (2 Kings 6:25 kjv)
13. "Also the _____ and the bear will graze" (Isa. 11:7)
15. The Peach state, abbr.
16. Sharp instrument (Josh. 5:2-3)
18. Passover (Acts 12:4 kjv)
21. Allow (Ps. 119:10)
23. The Lord turned this river into blood using Moses' staff (Exod. 7:20-21)
25. The body of writing that describes the new covenant between God and man, abbr.
26. "Speaking out arrogant words of _____" (2 Pet. 2:18)
27. Book of the Apocrypha
28. Often a symbol of refreshment and blessing in the dry summers of Palestine (Deut. 32:2)
29. "As far as the east is from the _____" (Ps. 103:12)
31. An image of a false god (Exod. 20:4)
32. Hebrew word for house; also second letter of the Hebrew alphabet
33. Unit of weight, abbr.
34. "The Word of God enlightens the _____" (Ps. 19:8)
35. "And takes a cypress or an _____" (Isa. 44:14)
36. The oldest son of Elpaal, a Benjamite (1 Chron. 8:12)
38. Piece of clothing to wear on the upper body
40. David's book of poetry, abbr.
41. "Do not _____ meaningless repetition" (Matt. 6:7)
42. "Surely in a night, _____ of Moab is devastated and ruined" (Isa. 15:1)
43. Amos denounces Israel for its use of this (Amos 3:15 & 6:4)
44. A trap (Ps. 140:5 kjv)
46. Grandfather of the prophet Zechariah (Zech. 1:1, 7)
48. Grandson of Boaz, father of David (Ruth 4:22)
49. "Altars to _____ were built in Palestine, thanks to Jezebel and Athalia" (1 Kings 16:31-32)
52. An Israelite who took a garment, silver, and gold from the spoil at Jericho (Josh. 7:21)
53. "_____ them around your neck" (Prov. 6:21)
56. Health Management Organization, abbr.
57. "Reduced Sodom and Gomorrah to _____" (2 Pet. 2:6)
58. _____ Nebo, abbr.
59. Roman colony (Acts 16:8)
61. Preposition that indicates position
62. We are this through Christ (Gal. 4:1)
64. "Received the linen _____" (2 Chron. 1:16 kjv)
65. "God shall _____ to him the plagues" (Rev. 22:18)

DOWN

66. Imitate
68. "_____ to speak" (James 1:19)
70. Isaiah compared Israel's despoiling to robbing one of these (Isa. 10:14)
71. Second son of Noah (Gen. 5:32)
72. Deception took its first hold on humanity here
73. Do not let this go down on your anger (Eph. 4:26)
1. "See fit to _____ God" (Rom. 1:28)
2. A Levite who sealed the covenant (Neh. 10:13)
3. A camel driver, keeper of King David's camels (1 Chron. 27:30)
4. "He casts forth his _____ as fragments" (Ps. 147:17)
5. "The city of the God _____-Amon" (Nah. 3:8)
6. "Stand in _____ of him" (Ps. 33:8)
7. Longing, intense desire (Matt. 5:28)
9. "The cities of _____" (Josh. 13:21)
10. Area in Palestine (Isa. 9:1)
11. Paul restored his life after he fell out of a window (Acts 20:9)
14. Disclosure of something previously unknown (Gal. 1:12)
17. Shackles for the feet (Prov. 7:22)
19. One who usurps Christ's name (1 John 2:22)
20. "But whenever _____ flesh appears on him, he shall be unclean" (Lev. 13:14)
22. And, Lat.
24. "Shall be _____ to separate us from the love of God" (Rom. 8:39)
28. "God may open up to us a _____ for the Word" (Col. 4:3)
30. Grow less
37. Custodian of royal harems (Dan. 1:3-18)
38. Continent in the southern hemisphere, abbr.
39. A chamber for deceased bodies (Matt. 27:60)
40. The Great Sphinx stands guard over this
45. Person from a non-Jewish nation (Matt. 6:7)
47. Divine nature (Col. 2:9)
48. With Jesus at the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8)
50. Exclamation of satisfaction
51. The capital city of Great Britain
52. Led the singing and sounded the cymbol; credited to him (Ps. 50 & 78-83)
54. "Watchful" (Num. 26:36)
55. "One _____ disobedience" (Rom. 5:19)
60. A prince known as a raven of the Midianites; was beheaded (Judg. 7:24-25)
63. Jacob used this to change the color of Laban's goats (Gen. 30:37-41)
65. This animal saw an angel (Num. 22:23)
66. Preposition used in similes
67. Electrical engineer, abbr.
69. Ourselves

First person

'Da Vinci Code' comes to big screen

By Phil Boatwright
Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Dan Brown's staggering bestseller *The Da Vinci Code* comes to the screen in May 2006. The downside: Many nonbelievers will take the fictitious story to be truth. The upside: Some will ask Christians questions.

But, are we ready for those questions?

Directed by Ron Howard (Apollo 13, Cinderella Man), the movie version starring Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen began filming June 30 in Paris and is set to wrap on Oct. 19 in England. It concerns a covert religious organization that will stop at nothing to protect a secret that threatens to overturn 2,000 years of accepted dogma. The book and now the film claim that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, had a child in that union, and a clandestine society once headed by Leonardo Da Vinci has protected this information for centuries against a threatened Catholic hierarchy.

According to *Cracking Da Vinci's Code* by James L. Garlow and Peter Jones, many of the assertions about Jesus in the book come from a fictional character named Leigh Teabing.

"Leigh Teabing is an expert in the ancient trail leading to the Holy Grail," Garlow and Jones write. "A former British Royal Historian, Teabing moved to France to personally search through churches for clues leading to the Grail."

The Da Vinci Code narrative reads as if it were, well, gospel. At one point in the book, Teabing says, "[A]lmost everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false."

So, is this film a threat to the Christian community?

"The real threat of this heresy is not so much on the Christian community as it is on the lost world," Jim Melrose, pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Tonganoxie, Kan., said. "Those who reject the truth seek out a lie to cling to. ... Sadly, it will impact many carnal and immature Christians who are not grounded in their faith."

Patrick Moody, pastor of Northwood Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, Fla., concurred. "It will simply cloud the issue and confuse those who are ignorant of the facts," Moody said.

But are the disputable topics dangerous to the faith?

"In Romans 14, Paul talks about those who are 'weak in the faith,'" Melrose said. "[In Ephesians 4:14] Paul also mentions those who are 'tossed about by every wind of doctrine' and he mentions that this is caused by the craftiness of those whose intentions are to lead astray. There is no danger to him who has built his house upon the rock."

Said Moody: "Actually, Christianity's legacy is persecution. But this too shall pass. History is the great corrector of misinterpretations."

Well then, how can Christians prepare themselves for the

onslaught of theological

ries? In light of the *Da Vinci* Christian shepherds are

ing the flock to know G

and to study the histo

Christian faith.

Billy Graham repor

syndicated newspaper

"I know of no reputa

scholar or historian (

or non-Christian) wh

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(1) *Cracking Da Vin*

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low, Peter Jones.

(2) *Breaking The*

Code: Answers to the

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(3) *De-Coding Da*

Facts Behind the Fict

Da Vinci Code, Amy W

(4) *The Da Vin*

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Code, Carl E. Olson

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Tennessee Baptist musicians agree: music ministry ...

Continued from page 1
 Ricky Clark, minister of music at First Baptist Church, said the Tennessee Music Conference, said music ministry "is not just an occupation. It is one of the great avenues for me to minister to people and to receive ministry." Clark Smith, minister of music at First Baptist Church, said he was a member of the Tennessee Men's Chorale, said he learned as a youth that "God has given me ability in music. Therefore, music ministry is a partnership thing."

bell director at First Baptist Church, Lexington, said starting the church ministry one and one-half years ago represented an opportunity to "give my time back to God."

Eddie Hodges, director of media ministries and director of the church orchestra at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, worked with Clark to produce video testimonies of about two dozen musicians from small and large churches across the state for use in the conference.

Hodges noted that behind every testimony in the video

segments were larger stories.

For example, Mary Gordon of Fisherville drew laughter and affirmation from conference participants when she said via video, "If they had choir practice at the church every day of the week, I'd be there. I love to sing."

Hodges added in an interview that Gordon had had part of a lung removed and singing in the choir has strengthened her use of what remains.

"Singing literally saved her life," he noted.

"In talking to the people I saw how music ministry impacts the lives of others in ways they'll never know. It was a reminder of how big music ministry is, even in small places."

The conference was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □



VICKIE WRIGHT, composer and organist at First Baptist Church, Nashville, led conferences for organists at the Aug. 12-13 Music Ministry Leadership Conference at Brentwood Baptist Church.



REL SINGER Steve Green talked with participants in the Aug. 12-13 Music Ministry Leadership Conference after his surprise appearance at the Friday night session.

Music leaders emphasize ministry first

By Linda Lawson
 Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Describing himself as a "hymnal person," Elwood Doss nevertheless emphasized that the role of a minister of music is "to help the congregation worship the Lord," regardless of the musical style.

"We need to be flexible about the songs we sing. We must realize that people embrace styles of music with which they are familiar," he added.

Doss, bivocational minister of music at Pleasant Hills Baptist Church, Martin, led conferences for ministers of music in smaller

churches during the Aug. 12-13 Music Ministry Leadership Conference at Brentwood Baptist Church.

More than 600 Tennessee Baptist musicians attended the two-day conference where sessions were offered for leaders with all age groups as well as keyboard leaders, organists, and those involved in praise bands, instrumental music groups, and handbell ministry.

Doss acknowledged the tension that exists "between those who want to keep the old and those who want to embrace contemporary styles. We need to realize that old is good if it helps people to worship."

At the same time, Doss said, new styles "can be good also. After all, 'Amazing Grace' was new at one time. We need to foster the attitude in our churches that we can enjoy singing many kinds of songs, old and new.

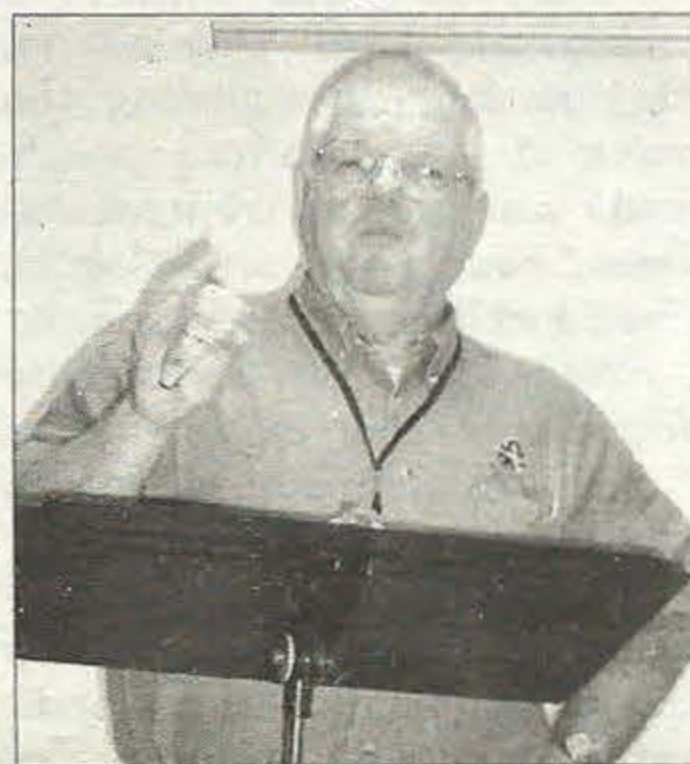
In a session, "Youth Choir Ministry from Scratch to Success," Gerald Ware, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas, said, "The secret to success of youth choir ministry is hard work. It is ministry based. It is support from the parent support group. If you are providing ministry and getting involved in the lives of the youth, music will happen."

Ware emphasizes a personal touch by personally calling every absentee every week. Also, he writes notes to youth each week. "It doesn't take much to give positive strokes. They will sing from their hearts if you do ministry," he said.

Ware said at the beginning of each church year he makes sure all youth know the rules guiding the choir or ensemble in which they participate. He challenges them to grow personally, spiritually, socially, and musically.

"Young people like to know they have an important role in the church," he said. "Give them jobs and train them."

Charlotte McElroy, clinician, writer, and children's music spe-



ELWOOD DOSS, minister of music at Pleasant Hills Baptist Church, Martin, led conferences for music ministers in smaller churches during a recent TBC conference in Brentwood.

cialist from Tupelo, Miss., told participants in a session on child management and discipline their focus with children should be on growing spiritual champions rather than having fun.

"I believe we are besieged by this whole deal of making sure everybody has a good time," McElroy said. "But we are going to lose a whole generation if we don't get off of it. You do not make spiritual champions if your focus is on entertaining them."

She emphasized having fun in children's choir is not inherently bad as long as it is not the top priority.

"I really believe we have as much fun in my choir as anywhere, but that's not where we're heading. If you will lead children to experience joy in the Lord, fun will be a by-product."

Tim Waugh, handbell clinician and fine arts director from Bluefield, W.Va., challenged ringers to move with the music.

"If you can think of the handbell groups you enjoy watching, they are fluid in their motions. God created us wonderfully. Our bodies are the musical instruments. The handbell, the flute, or the violin is just an extension.

The Music Ministry Leadership Conference was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □

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| | 6:00-7:30 p.m. | CONNECT Revival for Students |
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Leaders rally against activist court system

By Michael Foust
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Conservative leaders rallied against "activist" courts Aug. 14, calling for Americans to rein in a court system that has defied public opinion on a number of issues, including partial-birth abortion and Ten Commandments displays.

The 90-minute "Justice Sunday II" event at Two Rivers Baptist Church here took place just three weeks before the Senate is scheduled to begin confirmation hearings on Supreme Court nominee John Roberts. But Justice Sunday speakers rarely mentioned Roberts, choosing instead to focus on past rulings by the Supreme Court out of step with Americans' views.

"The court has imposed a radical social policy agenda on this nation, disregarding the voice of the American people and our elected representatives," Family Research Council President Tony Perkins said.

Said Focus on the Family founder James Dobson: "It's time to bring greater balance to the judiciary."

More than 2,000 people attended the event, which was broadcast to churches and individuals across the nation on Sky Angel satellite TV, as well as on several Christian radio networks and the Internet. Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) aired it on tape-delay.

Leaders criticized court rulings that have overturned a partial birth-abortion ban, removed Ten Commandments displays from public settings and banned prayer at some public events.

It was the second "Justice Sunday" event this year. The first one, held in April, called for an end to the filibustering of judicial nominees.

Two Washington insiders — House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) and former Sen. Zell Miller (D-Ga.) — spoke at the Nashville rally.

"[A]ll wisdom does not reside in nine persons in ... black robes," DeLay said. "... I have

the utmost respect for the judicial branch of our government ... but our respect and admiration does not grant judges the powers many have assumed in recent years."

DeLay asserted that the Constitution gives the legislature, and not the courts, the sole power to make laws. He highlighted the push to legalize "gay marriage," as well as the Supreme Court's 2000 decision overturning Nebraska's partial-birth abortion ban.

"Time and time again, proponents of these policies, which have little or no support in the elected branches of government ... bypass the democratic process by way of activist courts," he said. "Activist courts, in turn, impose new policies on our nation without passing a single bill through a single house of a single legislature."

Miller, speaking in his famous sarcastic Georgia drawl, said the Supreme Court has handed down decisions Christians "simply cannot accept."

"Each Christmas it kidnaps the baby Jesus ... from the city square," Miller said. "It has legalized the barbaric killing of unborn babies and is ready to discard — like an outdated hula hoop — the universal institution of marriage between a man and a woman."

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist, encouraged pastors to take the lead in the cultural battle.

"You are the leaders. You speak for God," Sutton said.

Several speakers alluded to criticism the event received from liberal organizations. A handful of protesters outside the church building held signs, with one reading, "Democracy not Theocracy." Other signs backed abortion rights.

"We do not claim the right to speak for every American, but

we do claim the right to speak," Perkins said. □

Report indicates high schoolers are pro-marriage

By David Winfrey
Associated Baptist Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — High-school seniors might be developing more pro-marriage attitudes for themselves, but they are increasingly more accepting of non-marriage arrangements for others, according to a recent report.

"The State of Our Unions 2005" is the seventh in a series of annual reports from the Marriage Project at Rutgers University.

The report cites a variety of other surveys and studies to describe American attitudes and trends concerning marriage, divorce, cohabitation, and other family issues.

Citing a survey from Michigan, researchers report an increase in the percentage of high-school seniors who said they expect to stay married to the same person for life. But the poll also found a greater acceptance of people having children out of wedlock.

The "Monitoring the Future" poll found 68 percent of girls and 65 percent of boys expecting to get married said they "very likely" will stay married to the same person for life. That was up from 63 percent among girls and 54 percent among boys in 1990.

"At the same time, there is widespread acceptance by teenagers of nonmarital lifestyles,"

the authors wrote.

The same survey found 56 percent of girls and 55 percent of boys agreed with the statement: "Having a child without being married is experimenting with a worthwhile lifestyle or not affecting anyone else."

That was up significantly from 1980, when 41 percent of girls and 33 percent of boys agreed with the statement. While in 1980 "girls tended to be more traditional than boys on this issue, now they are slightly less so," the authors noted.

Other findings of the "State of Our Unions" report included:

- Americans have become less likely to marry. In 1970, there were 76 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women, according to U.S. Census data. By 2004, that had dropped to 40 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women.

- Cohabitation has increased "dramatically" in the past 40 years. From 1960 to 2004, the number of unmarried couples living together has grown nearly 1,200 percent — from 439,000 couples to slightly more than five million, according to the U.S. Census.

- The presence of children in America has declined since 1960, as measured by fertility rates and the percentage of households with children. The number of births per 1,000 women age 15-44 has dropped from 118 births in 1960 to 66 in 2003, according to the National

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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.

Vital Statistics Report. The percentage of households with children has dropped from 41 percent in 1960 to 32 percent in 2000, according to the census.

"Other indicators suggest that this decline has reduced the child-centeredness of our culture and contributed to the weakening of the institution of marriage," the authors wrote.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

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

Lynn Garden Baptist Church, 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.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

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

Parkway Baptist Church is seeking an interim/part-time director to lead a blend of worship. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 2229, Smyrna, TN 37167.

Henderson Chapel Baptist Church is seeking to fill position of part-time music leader. Address your resume questions to the church, Dave Tinker at (865) 478-1111, Henderson Chapel Baptist Church, 407 Henderson Pigeon Forge, TN 37873. Search Committee.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Lynn Garden Baptist Church is currently seeking a full-time minister of youth and assistant pastor. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 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, Caney Fork, TN 38506, (931) 520-1111.

book review

By Ferguson

Do you want to be like Christ?

by Charles Swindoll, W. Publishing, 2005

Being like Christ doesn't just happen. It requires hard work. Self-sacrificing work.

In his latest book, *So you want to be like Christ?*, Swindoll focuses on eight essentials to get you on the path that require practice. They're not automatic and they don't come too easily or too quickly especially in a world focused on money, power and prestige.

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Discipline yourself for the glory of godliness." (I Timothy 4:7) The Greek word that has been translated as discipline is gymnasium, in which we get our word gymnasium. Just as an athlete prepares for competition, we must condition ourselves for godliness.

"Conditioning is between you and God," writes Swindoll. "It's repetitive training exercises that help our minds work reflexively and automatically like Christ. Conditioning combines endurance and skill. Conditioning is also something you have to do yourself. No one else can do it for you."

Swindoll makes disciplining yourself so hard...and so rewarding... is the fact that in doing so you become less self-centered and more God-centered. It's not about reading spiritual books or memorizing a few verses of Scripture. It's much more.

The eight essentials identified by Swindoll are:

1. Intimacy: Deepening our Lives
2. Simplicity: Uncluttering our Minds
3. Solitude: Slowing our Pace
4. Surrender: Releasing our Grip
5. Prayer: Calling Out
6. Humility: Bowing Low
7. Self-Control: Holding Back
8. Sacrifice: Giving Over

In most of Swindoll's works, this is a biblically-based, provoking read with tangible advice on how to live these disciplines. He readily admits that there are disciplines that could be considered. "I don't claim to have a definitive path to intimacy with the Almighty," Swindoll writes. "But I can say that after 40 years of ministering prescribed these to others and having applied them to my own life, these eight disciplines fall into the category of essentials. Cultivate these disciplines, and your relationship with the Lord will flourish."

Swindoll's most refreshing characteristics as an author is his blatant honesty. "Writing a book on spirituality is incredibly difficult," he writes in the chapter on self-control. "Not because the subject matter is boring or difficult to research, or hard to explain, but because it's so convincing. When you pick up a book, there is an implication that the author has mastered the subject. I can assure you that I have not!"

Swindoll relates a story about how one night when his wife was asleep he decided to polish off a nearly new Rocky Road ice cream. When he realized that she would notice it was gone, he drove to a nearby store and purchased another half gallon and placed it in the freezer. His cover up would have probably been successful if he forgot to take a few scoops out of the new container so that it would look like the old!

Swindoll makes it clear that pursuing these disciplines is not about earning God's favor or blessing, but to know Him better and to learn to be more like Christ. Ferguson is correspondent for the *Baptist and*

When heaven comes down

By Michael Adams

Focal Passage: Revelation 21:1-7, 22:1-5

A young clergyman had just taken charge of his first parish. Being most anxious to please his new parishioners, he resolved to be as tactful as possible in his relationships with the members of his flock. Among his new parishioners was an elderly man whose sometimes irrational behavior puzzled his friends and family. Shortly after the new pastor's arrival, the eccentric man died. The pastor, hoping to offer consolation to the widow, called on her at her house. After looking respectfully at the mortal remains, the pastor turned to the widow and said, "This is a difficult situation, and I sympathize with you deeply. Remember that this which we see in the coffin is merely the husk or outer shell. That which was inside the shell is all that really matters. It has gone to heaven."

Revelation 21 and 22 are a description of the abode of the Christian dead. This is the place Jesus spoke of in John 14 and the place we call heaven. Three key teachings about heaven are presented by John, the Revelator, in this lesson text.

In Revelation 21:1-7 John speaks of the newness of God's home. The word "new" here is not new in a chronological sense but new in a qualitative sense. This new heaven

and new earth will be something brand new, fresh, and never before seen. One of the qualities of this new heaven and earth is the absence of the sea. The absence of the sea suggests two possible results. The sea is used as a symbol of chaos. The new heaven and earth will lack the chaos of our present world. A second implication is based on the fact that our present environment is water-based. Believers in heaven will not require water in our glorified bodies. The new heaven and earth will be based on a completely different life principle. Another striking aspect of our new home is the absence of tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain. These are the results of the Fall of Man, and in our new home they are passed away. As one child asked her father as they gazed at the stars, "Daddy, if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side look like?"

Next, John considers the naturalness of God's hope in verses 22-27. The hope of heaven is found in the absence of a temple. Before this point there has been a temple in heaven. The Lord Almighty and the Lamb are now the temple. There will be no need to go anywhere to worship because worship happens everywhere. Life will be worship, and worship will be life. As the presence of God fills heaven, so the worship of God will fill heaven. There will also be the absence of sun or moon since the glory of God will illu-

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mine our new home. These factors all become contributors to the hope of the nations, both Jew and Gentile, as the kings of the earth bring their glory into the presence of the Lamb to gain hope there. Dr. Calvin Miller told a new disciple that we would spend eternity glorifying God. The convert's response was, "Couldn't we just stop and mess around awhile?" The natural response would be, "What else would there be to do in heaven to celebrate God's glory and hope?"

John concludes by reminding us of the nearness of God's help in heaven as chapter 22:1-5 relates. This section contains six descriptions of heaven. Central to the description is the river of the water of life and the tree of life. In the past mankind was forbidden to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. In the future the Tree of Life will be ours to enjoy. The help brought by partaking of the fruit of this tree will ensure an eternal future. Interestingly, the fruit will always be available since the Tree constantly bears. This serves to prove that God is always available to help those desirous of eternal life. □ — Adams is pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington.

Maintain Bible study and prayer

By Brad Shockley

Focal Passage: Daniel 9:1-3, 9:11, 16-23a

Of all the interesting things presented in the closing chapters of Daniel, none grab my attention more than the interaction between the prophet and angelic beings in chapter nine (vv. 10-14, 20-21). Angels are mysterious creatures mentioned 273 times in thirty-four books of the Bible, but I would dare to say that these few verses give us more insight into their nature than anywhere else in Scripture. Many more could be drawn, but here are four observations on angels gleaned from the text:

Angels are divided into two camps: faithful and fallen. These supernatural beings were created "in the beginning" (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 148:2, 5), along with everything else. Satan was once one of these glorious creatures, but he led a rebellion of the heavenly host against God. They were defeated, cast out of heaven, and thrown down to the earth (Luke 10:18, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:7-9). The remaining faithful are called the "chosen" angels (1 Timothy 5:21).

Angels are locked in a cosmic battle. The dialogue in Daniel 10:13 is fascinating. Speaking to Daniel an angel says, "the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia." Since we know Michael is an angel and he is named as a "chief prince," the other princes men-

tioned must be fallen angels as well. The word "withstanding" literally means "standing opposite," as in opposition. A colossal smack-down had taken place between the forces of Satan and the forces of God. Spiritual warfare goes on all around us today. We can't see it, but, oh, how real it is (2 Kings 6:15-17)!

Angels are organized. The "princes" of Daniel 10:13 were given oversight of geographical locations (the "prince of the kingdom of Persia," the "prince of Greece"). And well-known angels like Gabriel and Michael were given specific assignments (Daniel 9:21-23, 10:11, 21). The New Testament speaks of angelic hierarchies in Ephesians 6:12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Angels, both good and bad, do not roam the earth at random. They act under authority, according to concentrated structure and planning. The Bible Knowledge Commentary explains it this way:

God has arranged the angelic realm in differing ranks referred to as "rule, authority, power, and dominion" (Ephesians 1:21). Gabriel and Michael have been assigned authority over angels who administer God's affairs for the nation Israel (cf. Michael in Dan. 10:21; 12:1; Jude 9). In imitation Satan has also apparently assigned high-ranking demons to positions of authority over each kingdom. The prince of the Persian kingdom was a

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satanic representative assigned to Persia.*

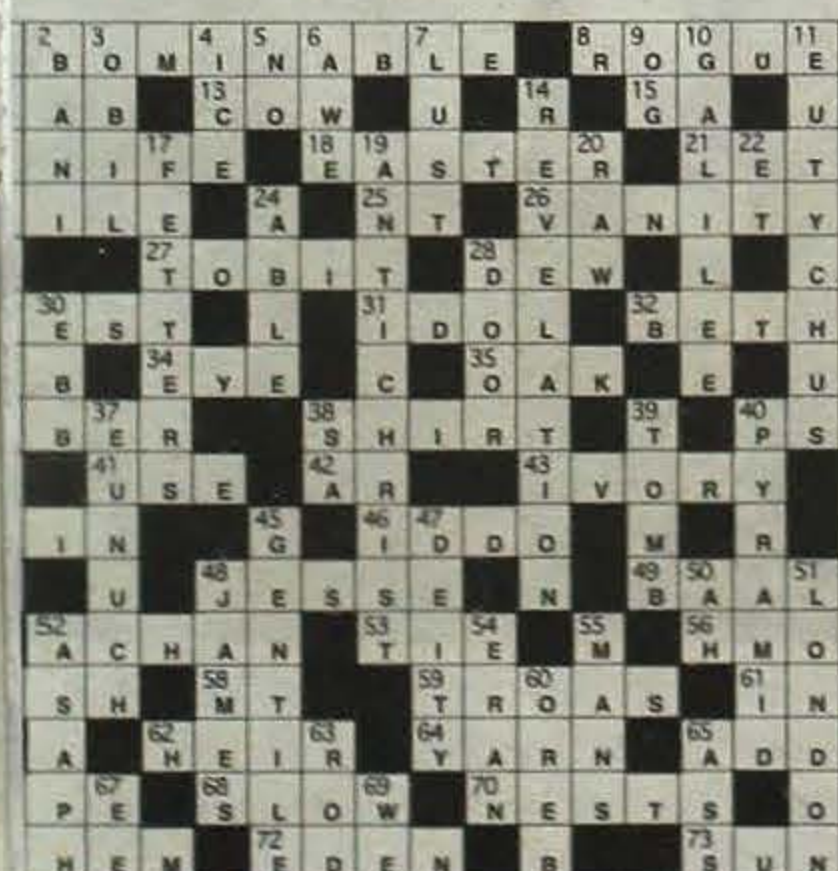
Angels are intimately involved in the affairs of men. The writer of Hebrews said, concerning chosen angels, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). Think about that — angels of God, in all their glory and power, are reserved for ministering to mere mortals! They observe us with some curiosity, evidently, for the Bible says, "It was revealed to [the prophets] that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look" (1 Peter 1:12). That reminds me of an old hymn, a fitting close for our study...

"Holy, holy, is what the angels sing. And I expect to help them make the courts of heaven ring; But when I sing redemption's story, they will fold their wings,

"For angels never felt the joy that our salvation brings."

AMEN!

*Walvoord, John F., Roy B. Zuck, and Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-85. □ — Shockley is pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill.



Leaders

◆ **Gary Miller**, pastor of West Side Baptist Church, Trenton, has resigned.

◆ New Home Baptist Church, Martin, has called **Scott Chadwick** as pastor.

◆ Forge Ridge Baptist Church, Harrogate, has called **Billy Joe Parker** as pastor.

◆ Tumbling Creek Baptist Church, Gleason, has called **Luke Hughes** as minister of youth.

◆ **Bill Caudle**, pastor, Berclair Baptist Church, Memphis, for five years, has been called as pastor, West Side Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Ala., effective Sept. 14.

◆ First Baptist Church of Spring City called **Brian Price** as pastor effective Aug. 7. Price and his wife have two daughters.

Churches

◆ **Eastland Community Church, Nashville**, will hold "An Evening to Remember" Sunday, Sept. 11, in the sanctuary of Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville, at 7 p.m. The service will commemorate 9-11 and other related tragedies and will feature choir and orchestra members of Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood. Also on Sunday, Sept. 18, the church will be launched during a 6:30 p.m. service at Eastland Baptist Church.

◆ **Litz Manor Baptist Church, Kingsport**, will celebrate its 60th anniversary Sunday, Sept. 4, with former pastor Johnny McKinney speaking at the 11 a.m. worship service. The service will be followed by a meal in the church's fellowship hall. For information, call the church

at (423) 246-2872.

◆ **Indian Hills Baptist Church, Gallatin**, will hold a revival Sept. 3-6 with Morris Anderson speaking.

◆ **First Baptist Church of Knoxville** will hold a river baptism Sunday, Aug. 28, at Island Home Park at 5 p.m.

◆ **New Hope Baptist Church, Hermitage**, had evangelist Ken Freeman as speaker Aug. 21 and Aug. 24.

◆ **New Vision Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, held a sneak preview Aug. 22 for "Left Behind: World at War," which is the third movie based upon the bestselling *Left Behind* novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins.

Associations

◆ **Hamilton County Baptist Association, Chattanooga**, will hold "A Safe Place" conference, Tuesday night, Sept. 13, at Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, at 6 p.m. The conference is for anyone working with or responsible for children. Karen Shaw from the Nashville Rape and Sexual Abuse Center will speak. For information and to make a reservation for a meal, contact Becky Witt of the association by Tuesday, Sept. 6, at (615) 267-3794 or hcba@baptistassociation.com.



MIKE GRIFFIN, left, chairman of deacons, First Baptist Church, Ethridge, and **Ramon Macias**, pastor, stand with a gift of 400 drinks donated by the church to the local volunteer fire departments. The gift was a part of the church's July 3 recognition of firemen, policemen, veterans, military personnel, and retirees of those professions.



ON JULY 24 Mount Olive Baptist Church, South, Knoxville, dedicated its newly renovated facility. Beginning in January 2004, the vestibule, sanctuary, hallways, kitchen, and student chapel were renovated and an elevator and canopy was added. **IN PHOTO ABOVE**, the congregation prepares to release balloons. **IN PHOTO BELOW**, church leaders cut the ribbon on the renovated facility. They are, from left, Ronnie Thompson; Jim McClain; Bill Harper; Deron Dobb, pastor; Jim Buchanan; and Janice Pierce.



PEOPLE WAIT to be baptized by Arnold J. King, pastor of Baptist Church, Shelbyville, in a river near the church. Sixteen people were baptized that day. The church holds a baptismal service each summer at the river.



MEMBERS OF HERMITAGE Hills Baptist Church, paused at the church they served in Montague, Prince Edward Island, Canada, July 22-29 for the second time. They were led by Mark Puckett, pastor of the church who formerly served at South Gate Baptist Church, Nashville. One group of students at the church and at another Baptist church group repaired and painted the King's Way Fellowship building. The team plans to return next year. Team members are, from left, Pam Dyer; Debbie Stewart; Frank Lee; Teresa Smyser; Whitney Smyser; Keith Smyser, associate pastor; Susan and Ray Bass.

Nashville area church, its mission combined

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Mt. View Baptist Church, Antioch, Nashville, had a building with plans to build another one but needed some younger members and a pastor. New Life Community Church, Antioch, a mission of Mt. View, had young members and a pastor but needed a building.

Interestingly, Daniel Carr, pastor of New Life Church, grew up at Mt. View. New Life was meeting in a public school building. Mt. View had the funds to build a Christian Life Center.

In January of 2005, the two congregations merged to form Mt. View Baptist Church. On July 31, the church broke ground for the Christian Life Center.

The event drew about 250 people, including John Kurtz, pastor emeritus, and Allen, former interim pastor. Also in attendance were members of a Korean congregation, the Han Mee congregation, which is located at the church.

"This begins a new era in the life of the heritage of Mt. View Baptist Church," Daniel Carr said. "We are just getting started." Gary Mullins, associate pastor,



BREAKING GROUND July 31 for a Christian Life Center for Mt. View Baptist Church in Nashville, are, from left, Greg Mayo, architect; Dow Smith, contractor; Bryan Carr, Allen, former interim pastor; John Pickard; John Kurtz, pastor emeritus; Daniel Carr,