

Baptist & Reflector

de Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171 / No. 32; Aug. 31, 2005

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Disaster Relief volunteers prepare for response in Katrina. — Page 2

Day preschool directors consider roles. —

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Aylor of ClearView believes in

on's Bible studies. —

Issue next; have a holiday

STWOOD — In place with the pro-schedule of the and Reflector, there be an issue next observance of the holiday.

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Lonnie Wilkey

State's number of forced terminations increase

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The number of forced terminations among Tennessee Baptist ministers increased 19 percent in 2004 over the previous year, according to a recent survey of Baptist state conventions.

The number of forced resignations rose from 67 in 2003 to 83 in 2004, said Bill Northcott, church-minister relations specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

In the survey mailed to state directors of missions, forced termination was defined as "the severance of a formal relationship between a church and a minister either by coercion or vote," according to Northcott.

Northcott said the 2004 report included data from every Tennessee association.

Bivocational pastors were hardest hit in 2004, according to

the statistics. There were 30 bivocational pastors forced to resign in 2004, compared to only 12 the year before.

By comparison, the number of full-time pastors forced to resign actually decreased from 40 in 2003 to 36 in 2004.

There were also 17 forced terminations among staff ministers in 2004, compared to 15 the year before, Northcott added.

He noted that the number one reason cited for forced terminations was "power" or "who is in control."

Other reasons cited, in order, were:

- (1) Pastor's leadership style too weak
- (2) Pastor's leadership

style too strong

(3) Poor people skills of the pastor

(4) Church's resistance to change

(5) Church already in conflict

(6) Decline in attendance

(7) Conflict with other staff

(8) Decline in contributions

While the number of forced terminations were up in Tennessee, they declined across the Southern Baptist Convention in 2004.

In 2003 there were 1,233 reported forced terminations compared to 784 in 2004, Northcott said.

He noted, however, the numbers are skewed by the fact that six fewer states reported statistics for 2004 (19 in 2004 compared to 25 in 2003).

"Forced termination continues to be a multi-layered problem in Southern Baptist churches," Northcott observed. He cautioned that the numbers are

probably misleading because many terminations go unreported because of the stigma faced by both churches and pastors.

No church wants to admit they forced ministers to leave and likewise, ministers don't want to admit they have been fired, he said.

Northcott admitted there are no "pat answers or easy solutions" to the problem of forced terminations in Tennessee and across the SBC.

"However, in nearly every situation leading to a divorce between the pastor and congregation, more could be done on the part of the minister and members that would at least bear witness to our Christian spirit of love and redemption," he said.

Northcott is open to talking to churches and pastors regarding resolution conflict. He can be reached at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2099, or (615) 371-2099. □



NORTHCOTT

Gives away 225 backpacks

Church of seven members draws 800 to event

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — Carson Springs Baptist Church here held its second annual Grand Adventure Back-to-School Fair.

This year, the event drew about 800 people.

Amazingly, Carson Springs only has seven official members.

Yet, about 225 students received backpacks filled with school supplies, a Bible, and other gifts. Students, families, and other people from the area visited exhibits, enjoyed carnival games, had health screenings conducted, received more gifts, had their cars checked, shopped from vendors, rode ponies, and heard the gospel presented.

One result of the event was that 15 people made professions of faith during the very hot day.

Carson Springs Church, which is almost two years old, actually draws about 25 to regular activities, but it also has lots of supporters who made the day possible, explained Jennifer Butler. She along with her husband, John, are missionaries of the North

American Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. They started Carson Springs and John serves as pastor.

About 100 volunteers served the day of the fair, Saturday, Aug. 13, and others gave financially toward the fair. In addition, Newport businesses helped. Papa John's pizza company sold pizza and drinks but gave all of the proceeds — \$370 — to First Priority, the Bible club which meets at Edgemont Elementary School. The fair was held at the school, where the church meets.

The event began as a way to meet the needs of students in this economically depressed area and to say thank you to the school for serving as the site of the church.

Jennifer Butler said it is quite clear when some students and parents received the backpacks that they really needed them. She saw smiles and tears in eyes, she described. "It was so wonderful," she said. "It really makes the day."

The backpacks not only included school supplies and a Bible, but a gospel tract, let- — See Church of, page 3



PARTICIPANTS of the back-to-school fair line up to register for the free backpacks filled with school supplies and gifts, and for other gifts given away that day.



PASTOR JOHN BUTLER of Carson Springs Baptist Church, Newport, presents the gospel during the fair.

about your newsjournal

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Tennessee colleges cited in national news publication

Compiled by B&R staff

BRENTWOOD — All three Tennessee Baptist colleges have been listed in the annual ranking of America's best colleges and universities by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Union University in Jackson was listed as one of the South's top tier universities for the ninth straight year. Union is ranked 38th in the "Southern Universities — Master's: Top Schools" category, which includes those institutions that provide a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's level programs.

"The 2006 rankings once again point to the wonderful quality of the Union faculty, staff, and student body, and I salute them for their achievement," said Union President David S. Dockery.

Belmont University in Nashville moved up four spots in the latest ranking and is now ranked as one of the 15 best universities in the South in the "Best Universities — Master's" category. Belmont is the highest ranked Tennessee school in the Master's category, which includes 130 schools across the South, including 14 in Tennessee.



"While we are pleased to be ranked in the top 15, what excites us most is what's driving it —

increases in our academic reputation, our strong student retention and graduation rates, and increases in our academic preparedness for our entering freshmen," said Belmont President Robert Fisher.

Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, was ranked 32nd in the Universities — Master's tier and also was in the top 10 (ninth) of "Great Schools/Great Prices" in the South.

"Our first objective is to offer our students an outstanding Christian, liberal arts education," said Carson-Newman President Robert Fisher.

BRENTWOOD — A pastor and a denominational staff member will write the September-November Sunday School commentaries for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Mark Brown, director of news and publications at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and a member of First Baptist Church there, will write the Family Bible Series.

A native of Alabama, Brown has been on the C-N staff since 1994.

He is a graduate of Samford

TBC Disaster Relief units set to respond

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief was activated Aug. 28 by the North American Mission Board to respond to victims of Hurricane Katrina, according to Tennessee Baptist State Disaster Relief director David Acres.

An initial team of more than 100 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers were scheduled to stage Monday evening, Aug. 29, at Cherry Road Baptist Church in Memphis to await the storm's passage, said Acres.

"We are anticipating deployment to either Mississippi or Louisiana to assist in feeding, communications, recovery, and chaplaincy ministries," Acres said.

At least seven people were killed, more than a million residents were without electricity and streets and homes were flooded after Hurricane Katrina struck south Florida as a Category 1 storm Aug. 25.

Katrina hit the southeast Florida coast between Broward, and Miami-Dade counties the day after the 13th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew, the most expensive natural disaster in United States history.

After weakening to a tropical storm once it hit land, Katrina picked up steam after reaching the Gulf of Mexico and reached Category 4 status by early Monday when it hit land near New

Orleans, causing extensive damage in Louisiana, Mississippi, and other southern states.

A spokesman for the North American Mission Board said "we are looking at catastrophic conditions."

The initial state disaster relief responding include: feeding, showing, communications/command, water pump and refrigeration tractor trailer unit include: Hardeman Baptist Association unit; Shiloh Baptist Association show; Chilhowee Baptist Association show and recovery units; First Baptist Concord at Knoxville shower trailer; Baptist Church of Greeneville recovery and Cumberland Baptist Association unit. There are also several chaplains being serving.

Teams left throughout the day on Monday. The state feeding unit will provide food for 20,000 meals. Southern Baptist Convention feeding units have been asked to prepare 300,000 meals by the American

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief is accepting donations to help serve victims of Hurricane Katrina Response. Donations may be sent to: Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728. Please designate your donation as Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. □ — Includes information supplied by Baptist

tion, but our next objective is to be accessible to our students," said C-N President James Netherton.

The 2006 edition of "America's Best Colleges" went on sale at newstands last week. □

Belmont students SERVE community

Belmont University news service

NASHVILLE — Approximately 650 incoming Belmont University freshmen volunteered to help in service to the Nashville community recently as part of "Welcome Week" for the new school year.

Students worked on a variety of community service projects ranging from working in the warehouse at the Nashville Rescue Mission, packing food at Feed the Children, doing building repair work at Preston Taylor Ministries, and landscaping at the Martha O'Bryan Center.

Each year, Belmont invites incoming freshmen to participate in community service as part of a

week-long slate of activities introducing them to life as a Belmont student.

"We realize the importance of encouraging young men and women to commit themselves to service," said Belmont University President Robert Fisher.

"At Belmont University we are dedicated to engaging our students in service through both classroom and community experiences, and we are sending hundreds of our newest students out into the community because of Belmont's commitment to teaching our students the value of serving in their community."

Belmont calls the service program SERVE, which stands for Students Engaging and Restoring through Volunteer Experiences. □

SBC president emphasizes prayer

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Pat Robertson,

Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Nominations in 2001-02.



SHRUM

Shrum holds degrees from Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis and the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Janet, have three children, Sarah, Caleb, and Isaac. □

son's call for the assassination of Venezuela's president prompted the president of the Southern Baptist Convention to distance the denomination from his Aug. 22 "700 Club" broadcast.

Bobby Welch, SBC pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, said, "The Southern Baptist Convention does not endorse public statements concerning assassinations, even if they are made by despots of foreign nations, and neither do I."

"Everyone is aware that the United States has a long and government deal with our foreign policy in a forceful manner," Welch said in a statement. "The responsibility," he said, "is to pray for our leaders and the extremists of the world. Jesus Christ loves these people and lives."

Robertson, on a telecast, said the United States has the ability to "out" Venezuelan Hugo Chavez, who was accused of communism and extremism. Kill him would be a "whole lot better than starting a war," he said.

Robertson's comments at a time of Venezuelan tensions has accused the administration of plotting and has threatened oil exports. U.S. officials dismissed Chavez's remarks as ridiculous. □

Brown, Shrum to write SS commentaries

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A pastor and a denominational staff member will write the September-November Sunday School commentaries for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Mark Brown, director of news and publications at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and a member of First Baptist Church there, will write the Family Bible Series.

A native of Alabama, Brown has been on the C-N staff since 1994.

He is a graduate of Samford

University, Birmingham, Ala., and the University of Montevallo (Ala.). He also has a master's degree from Samford's Beeson Divinity School.

Brown and his wife, Cathy, have two sons, John Mark and Dylan.

Kevin Shrum, pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville, since 1995, will write the Explore the Bible series.

A native of White Hall, Ill., Shrum currently serves as a trustee of Union University in Jackson. He is a past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (2001-02) and served on the

Weekday preschool directors consider multiple roles

Donnie Davis Bushey
List and Reflector

HERMITAGE — Directors of weekday preschool programs have many different roles, noted Paula Webb, childhood specialist of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Their challenge is to remain focused on responsibilities and multiply themselves, said Hulsey.

"If we're not careful, things can take our attention from our responsibilities," Hulsey told directors gathered for training.

The training was a part of the Annual Church Weekday Education Conference held Aug. 5-6 by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The training, which attracted about 100 weekday preschool workers, was held at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church here.

Even though many directors do not receive a clear job description, they should develop a clear understanding of what their responsibilities are, continued Hulsey.

They should identify their strengths by noting what gives them satisfaction. When asked a question, participants shared various things — seeing children come together, seeing children arrive, helping a child who is having a hard time, and hearing parents thank you.

Directors enjoyed learning of other people in the program who are

ministering to their families, spoiling teachers, watching teachers interact with children, ministering to families, and being able to work while being near their children.

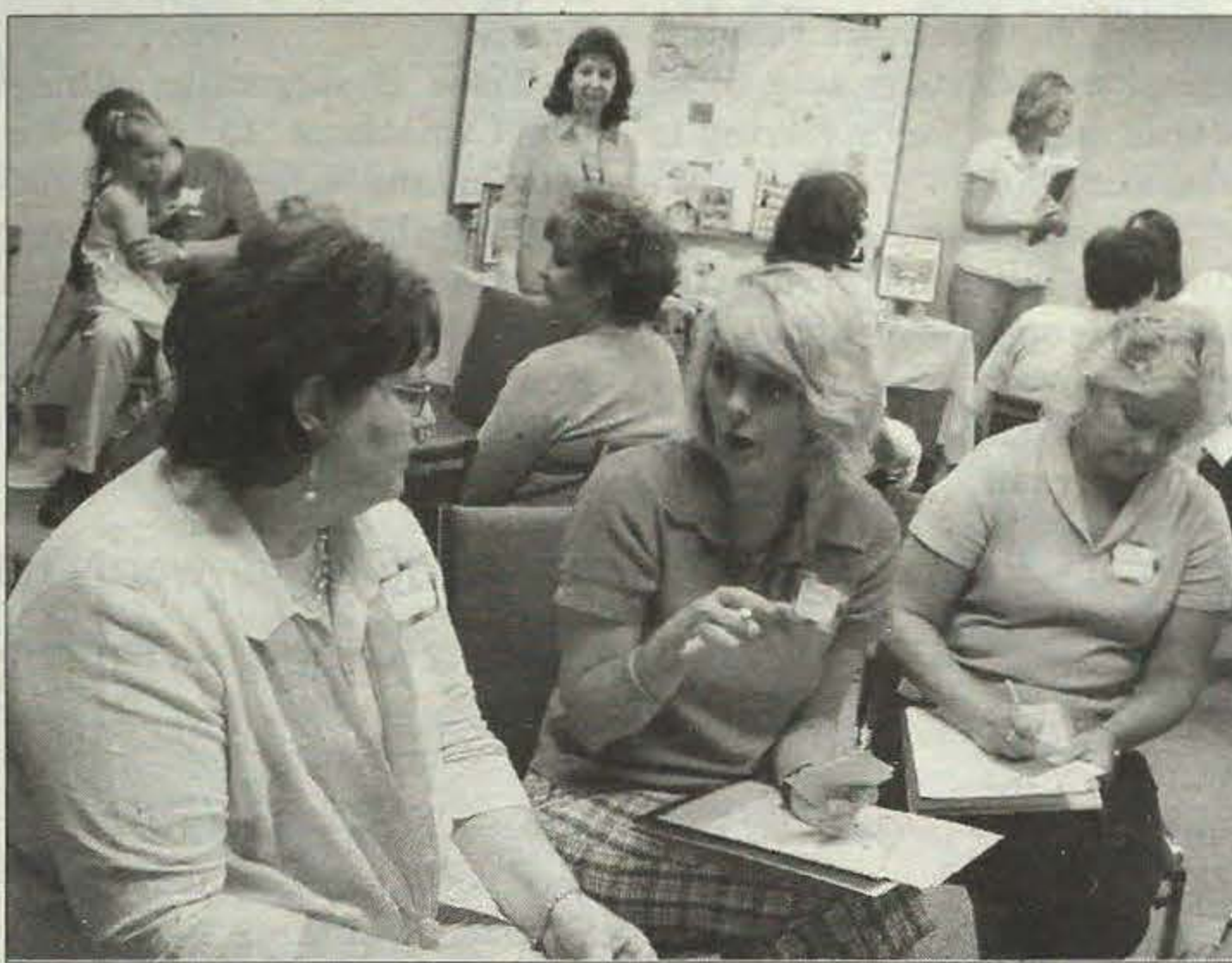
Then Hulsey asked directors to share their least favorite responsibility. Directors said that included dealing with a parent who has a complaint, resolving teacher conflicts, finding good substitute teachers, dealing with money issues, and making choices between money and ministry.

Hulsey noted the directors should identify ways to multiply themselves by involving others in doing things they don't do well so they can do those things they do well.

Hulsey then outlined 10 essentials for effective ministry through weekday early education.

- **Enlist properly.** If their program is licensed by the state, they must follow state guidelines for pupil/teacher ratios. If their program isn't licensed, they should follow their program's or church's policies. They should begin enlisting teachers early and present a job description "that expresses honest expectations," directed Hulsey. Other teachers are a good source for recommendations for teachers. They should "pray, pray, pray," concluded Hulsey.

- **Equip by providing training.** Regular training should be provided for the staff, either weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Directors should look for "teachable moments" and give teachers assignments. Hulsey recommended they attend the



TAMMY HILL, center, weekday preschool director of Gladeville Baptist Church, Gladeville, shares with Paula Webb, left, weekday preschool director of Crieveview Baptist Church, Nashville. The women were participating in a small group session of the Annual Church Weekday Education Conference held Aug. 5-6 in Hermitage.

National Preschool and Children's Convention of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Oct. 10-13 in Orlando, Fla., and the TBC's Preschool/Children's Ministry Fall Getaway Nov. 9-12 in Gatlinburg.

- **Enable by providing resources.** Hulsey recommended the "WEE Learn" curriculum of LifeWay. Directors also should develop a supply request system.

- **Establish procedures for safety and security.** She referred the directors to state guidelines. Facilities need to have readable signage which makes clear "who is and isn't allowed there." Hallways "need to be monitored at all times," said Hulsey. Background checks must be run on all staff, who

should wear name tags with a photo ID. Sign-in sheets should be used. Allergy alert posters are helpful. Finally, medical release forms are the norm, but staff should remember to take them on trips so they will have the information.

- **Evaluate space being used.** Rooms should have close access to restrooms and water fountains. Spaces too large can invite children to engage in reckless and unsafe behavior. Access to rooms should be limited to one entrance/exit. If using shared space, consider drawing a diagram or taking photos to enable space to be returned to its former state. Realize that Sunday School and Wednesday night workers aren't paid, she added. Ask the question, "How

child-friendly are our classrooms?" If walls can't be used to post items on, consider using the floor for visuals and for games. Use a plastic tablecloth to cover wall hangings easily.

- **Explore ideas for outreach and inreach.** Hulsey referred to a Confidential Information Form for parents as a way to discover "what needs are in the child's life." Parents have "primary responsibility to teach [children] about God," but preschool workers can partner with parents in this area. She referred to magazines and internet services provided by LifeWay which can be provided to parents. "Weekday Early Education is a ministry. It is not a task," she stated, "and teachers need to see their ministry goes beyond the classroom. You can play a significant role in helping a child to find God's plan for his life."

- **Express encouragement and appreciation.** Directors should encourage their staff.

- **Exhibit an attitude of flexibility.** This is essential in this kind of ministry, said Hulsey.

- **Embrace teamwork.** "The more ownership your team has [in the ministry] the more likely they will serve longer," said Hulsey.

- **Expect great things.** She referred the directors to Ephesians 3:20 — "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

Hulsey concluded, "Dream, and dream big, but realize that God may have better plans." □

Church of seven members draws 800 to event ...

Continued from page 1

from the church, gift certificates for free meals at three restaurants, a free movie rental, and coupons for an automotive repair shop.

A letter asked for a response from the family if they would allow the church to contact them about another community event with the church.

For registration, the church collected the names and addresses of the students wishing to backpack, but also the people in their home.

Other gifts given during a raffle were two bikes, savings bonds, gift certificates, and toys.

Interactive activities also enjoyed by fair-goers, the church reported. And 300 bottles of water were distributed to children. Soon bubbles were being blown everywhere.

Baptist volunteers were busy on developing relationships with fair participants, including Jennifer. The Butlers decided that the church must have a relationship with each person before that person could develop a relationship with



EDDIE WILSON, associate pastor of Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, tied the shoe of a child after he played in an inflatable.

Jesus Christ, she explained.

Volunteers tried to develop relationships in many ways, she described, often by presenting the gospel. Medical screeners used questionnaires which were spiritually tuned and led to the question, "If you died tonight, would you go to heaven or hell?"

Volunteers intermingled with the crowd and conducted surveys which led to the gospel. The

Wild West Adventures, a ministry based in Sutherlin, Va., presented the plan of salvation to children with drama.

Before the final give-away John Butler thanked the crowd for coming and presented the gospel. Finally, as volunteers cleaned up, they made an effort to speak with the adults and children who were lingering.

God miraculously provided



CRAIG CHRISTMAN, center, member of Swannsylvania Baptist Church, Dandridge, helps a man check his car as Jennifer Butler, missionary, visits with them. Christman owns Westgate Tire, Newport.

the fair again this year, said John Butler, who is from Newport.

"Our back-to-school ministry is an appealing opportunity to be on mission for a team of seniors as well as families with young children," said John Butler.

Volunteers came from Swannsylvania Baptist Church, Dandridge, the sponsoring church of Carson Springs

Church; Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and Oak Grove Baptist Church, Danville, Va. Other support came from Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church and Cave Hill Baptist Church, Newport; and Central Baptist Church, Henderson, N.C.

To help with next year's fair, contact the Butlers at (865) 322-0739 or jenilyns@bellsouth.net. □

Enacting mouth before brain leads to trouble

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Art Linkletter once wrote a book entitled *Kids Say The Darndest Things*.

He could easily have written a sequel about Christians. We not only say the "darndest" things, we say things we shouldn't because we speak first, think later.

All of us, including myself, no doubt have said things and, as soon as the words were out of our mouths, thought, "Why did I say that?"

With that said, Christians of all people need to be careful about what we say, regardless of whether we will ever be quoted in the media or not. If what we say has the potential to be on a newscast or in print, we must be extra careful. We need to let our brains work before we open our mouths.

The case in point is Pat Robertson's comments last week about the president of Venezuela. On his Aug. 22 "700 Club" telecast, Robertson said the United States has the ability to "take out" Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, whom Robertson accused of supporting communism and Muslim extremism, according to a Baptist Press news story. Killing Chavez would be a "whole lot cheaper" than starting a war, Robertson said, the BP story continued.

Now, it doesn't take a brain surgeon to understand what he was talking about. The media was originally blamed

for taking the words out of context, but the fact remains that Pat Robertson said those words and he was referring to assassination.

Assassination, simply defined, is someone taking the law into one's own hands and killing someone else. Whether we think that person "deserves" to die is not the issue. Assassination is another word for murder and the Bible is clear on that issue.

To give him credit, Robertson later apologized.

I just hope the "damage control" was not too late. Non-Christians can interpret those words as being full of hate and an endorsement for "taking the law into one's own hands."

Words are powerful. Pearl Strachan once said, "Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs."

Mother Teresa once observed, "Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness."

I commend Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, for distancing himself and the SBC from the words spoken by Pat Robertson. Other Christian leaders have done the same.

Welch observed that "everyone is aware that the United States has a military and government agencies to deal with our foreign threats in a forceful, combative way. The Christian's responsibility is to pray for our leaders as well as the extremists around the world. Jesus Christ can save these

people and change their lives." Amen!

Welch is correct in calling for Christians to pray for Chavez and others of his ilk. Think about the amazing transformation that would take place if those men and women would channel their

to set sentence." We have laws of the land that must prevail.

And while we may not think justice is served "swift enough" here on earth, we can find solace in the fact that God is the ultimate judge. He will be the One who makes the final determination on the eternal fate of men like Hugo Chavez.

Our job is to pray. He will do the rest.

And, at the same time, we need to watch our words. We might be wise to remember this advice from Proverbs 15:23 (KJV), "A word spoken in due season, how good it is."

Or, for some of us, this verse from Ecclesiastes 5:2 (KJV) might be even better, "Let thy words be few." □

Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs. — Pearl Strachan

energies and abilities into good, not evil. Can it happen? Of course, nothing is impossible with God. Will it happen? Only He knows.

As Christians we can be appalled at people who support communism and Muslim extremism, but it is not our role to be "judge and jury and

Prepare for Week of Prayer

Tennessee Baptists will observe a Week of Prayer for State Missions Sept. 11-18 which is held in conjunction with our annual Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

This year's theme is "Many Ministries, One Mission" and is built around II Corinthians 4:5-6 (KJV): "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

The goal for our Tennessee missions offering

this year is \$1,630,000.

Tennessee Baptists indeed have many ministries which we support, but our mission is the one — to share the love of Jesus Christ and to make Him known.

The Golden Offering helps fund many vital ministries in our state. I encourage Tennessee Baptists to learn more about the needs in our state and how your gifts through the GOTM do make a difference.

For information and materials on the Week of Prayer and the Golden Offering, call Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union at 1-800-558-2090 or visit www.tnwmu.org. □ — Lonnie Wilkey

Grandparents need to walk fine line in giving gifts

a parent speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

Five-year-old "Stephen" couldn't wait until his next birthday. And who could blame him? On his fifth special day, his grandparents gave him a pony. On the fourth birthday, it was an above the ground swimming pool.

"This has to stop," said his mom. "But we don't want to hurt their feelings. And of course, we're so glad they love our son that much."

How can parents handle the extravagant gifts showered on their children by grandparents? "It's too much, too soon," remarked a young father. "And imagine how our youngsters feel when we have to take away

the expensive item?"

What is the best solution to allowing grandparents to be involved in their grandchildren's lives without going overboard?

Can this be done and still maintain your parental authority? Look at some ideas being used by Christian families today.

Following are some gifts grandparents can give that can make a difference in their grandchildren's lives.

- Give music lessons. Between the house payment, the family car, insurance (health, auto, house), food, utilities, clothing, and extra expense that seems to always appear, many children do not have the opportunity for music lessons. Research shows that children who learn to play a musical instrument score higher on math and science tests. Long after the paper and ribbons are gone, lessons and a musical

instrument could add a lifetime of enjoyment.

- Schedule a train ride. Seated in a passenger car, watching the beautiful world God created with a grandchild is one of the pleasures of being a grandparent. Here you have opportunity to talk without the interruption of TV or video games. Prior to the trip, map your area of travel and talk about the historical sites along the way.

- Cruise the inland waterways. Purchase tickets for a steamboat river ride on one of the majestic paddle wheelers that make their way up and down the Mississippi, the Ohio, or the Tennessee River. Often you can find two-for-one specials.

- Invest in camping equipment. Purchase basic camping supplies, including a tent (one that's easy to assemble), portable grill, cooking supplies, and sleeping bags. Tell the story in I Samuel 16:11 of how the

shepherd boy David must have watched the stars in the night sky as he cared for his father Jesse's sheep.

- Sign up for a library-card. Research shows that children who have books read develop an appreciation of literature and reading becomes a priority in life. Reading is the foundation of being a success in school. Or enroll the child in a book-a-month club where they help make a selection.

- Invest in the child's future with a savings bond. By the time the child is ready to start college, this investment could make a difference in his or her future.

Parents, talk with the child's grandparents. Help them realize that you appreciate their love for the child and want the best for everyone. □ — Tomlin writes for numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson

making Christ known

By Bill Northco

Plan now to honor pastor church staff

As one who served a number of four churches over a period of some 20 years, and as an associate pastor for six years, I know personally how it should be appreciated (and appreciated).

Fortunately, my experience over those years was with churches that loved and found ways to express appreciation for my ministry.

The "ministry" has been characterized by ups and downs. How many times has a minister thought of resigning! In that context, it means so much to a minister to know that church members really do care.

Good and faithful servants deserve to be recognized and appreciated, and I can help that happen.

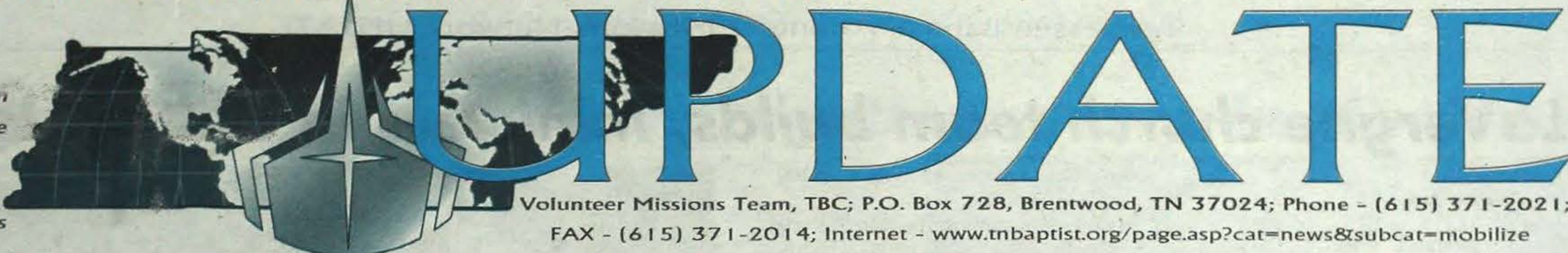
A brochure is being prepared by the deacon chairmen and the Missionary Union director of our Tennessee Baptist churches across the state. The brochure will contain information about how to prepare a Pastor/Staff Appreciation Day in your church.

Information is also being sent to all directors of missions. Check with your chairman and/or WMU director. If they have not received the brochure by the end of September, please contact the director of missions. I will be happy to secure one for you.

As we work together, let us assure that more and more Tennessee Baptists will plan a special recognition and appreciation for the ministers who serve them faithfully.

Pastor and Staff Appreciation Day is usually held on the second Sunday in October. However, there is no better time to show your appreciation to the pastors and staff who serve you.

If we can assist you in planning this special day, please call us at 2090, ext. 2010 or (615) 371-2010. □ — Tomlin is church-ministries specialist for the Baptist Convention.



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

Wallace Memorial Returns to Iowa

Marcia Knox
"BVMN Update"

JOXVILLE — A 51-member missions team from Wallace Memorial Baptist Church worked June 12-17 at two Baptist churches, and Friendship Baptist Center in Moines.

The team took 30 students and adults to be 'On Mission,' and Andy Bolton, Wallace Memorial Church volunteer missions coordinator. "This was the seventh construction project for our men, who worked on the new addition of Living Hope Community Church, Des Moines. We also taught at Living Hope Church, Crosspointe Baptist Church, West Des Moines, and Friendship Baptist Center in Des Moines.

The team has worked with Living Hope Church and their pastor, Ernie Brooks for years. The involvement with this church has been a blessing for three years. During the last year, the church had 10 families join the fellowship and for a church of 20 members that is big. We praise God for the blessing!

This was our third summer at Backyard Bible Clubs. Realizing that un-reached people are not going to a Vacation Bible School when they have no interest in worship, we decided to use the parks with the children.

The Knoxville team helped Living Hope and Crosspointe churches do BYBCs in the parks during the week.

Brooks, Bob Stines, and Jerry Wilkinson, co-pastors of Crosspointe Church, served community service at the park venues.

Because every evening children living in apartments could see all the activity going on and come to the

Living Hope Church's BYBC was an outstanding success. Bolton added. "Most apartment complexes will not let children leave information in their areas. But one manager said if the church could do an activity to give the children a Christian example, they would let them. We reached over 120 children in the week."

All parents would stay at Living Hope Church's BYBC. See Wallace, page 6

FBC, Hendersonville, sees 650 saved in Rio

For "TBVMN Update"

HENDERSONVILLE — "At least 650 lives have been changed forever and eternity has been altered," according to almost 50 mission volunteers from First Baptist Church of Hendersonville who did medical, sports, and evangelism missions July 29 - Aug. 5 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The team worked at Central Baptist Church of Bonsucesso, which is located in a poor urban community of 250,000 in Rio.

The volunteers worked along side local Brazilian church leaders to conduct a medical clinic, a sports evangelism emphasis, and personal visitation teams. All participants focused on sharing the gospel wherever opportunities surfaced.

"Evangelism efforts yielded 650 recorded individuals who prayed to receive Christ," said Richard Gaia, First Church minister of education. "Bonsucesso church leaders have also prepared teams of people to begin follow-up with those making spiritual decisions. Bonsucesso Church pastor Dejalmer Waldheim indicated that numerous new Bible studies will begin to disciple new converts."

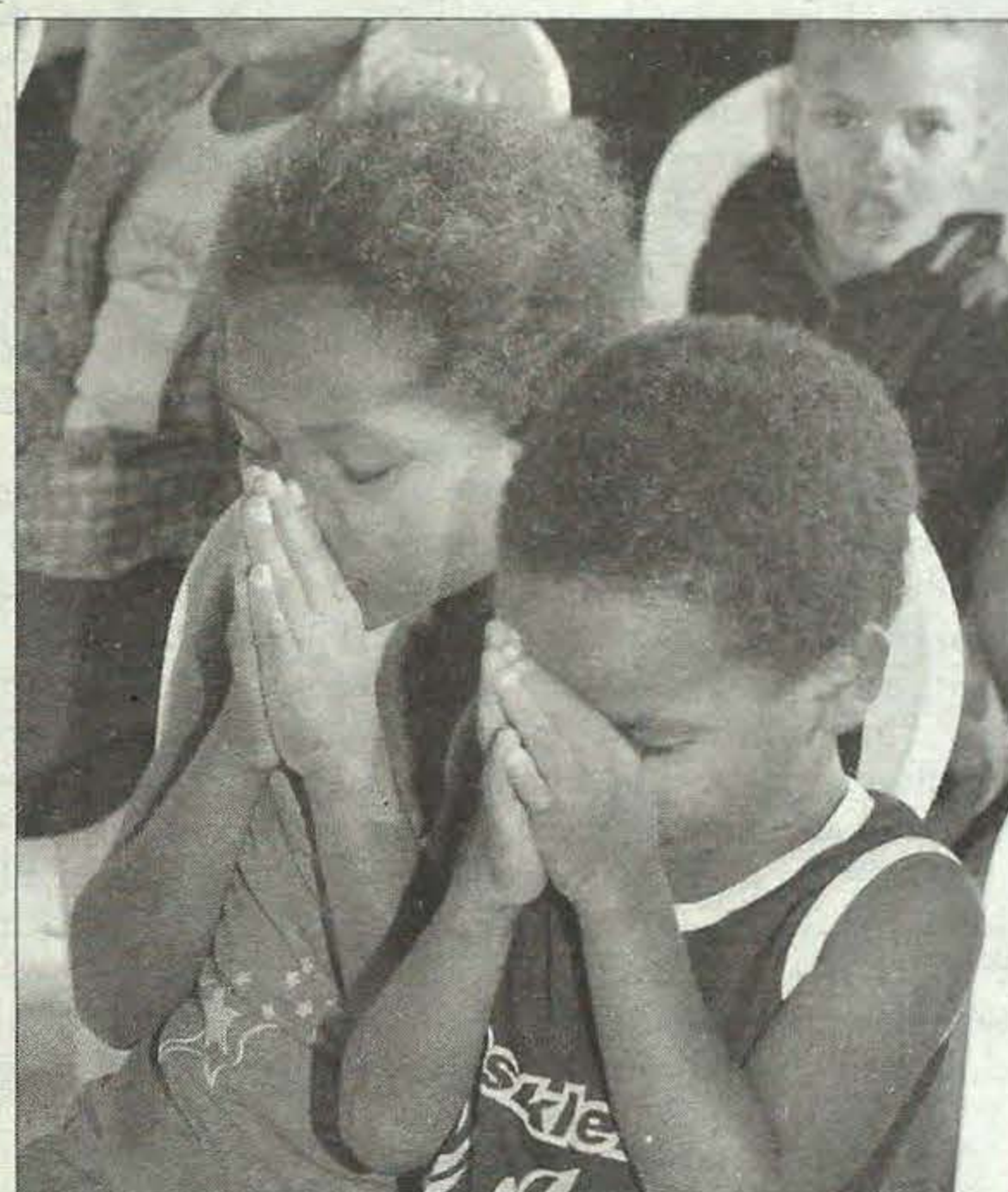
The medical clinic of 23 volunteers was the cornerstone for the week's activity. Two medical doctors, Tony Dallas, a member of First Church of Hendersonville, and Jeff Blackerby, a member of First Baptist

Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky, worked with a Brazilian doctor to provide medical direction. A group of physician assistants, registered nurses, licensed professional nurses, and other medical technicians also provided medical care.

In addition, a group of 10 volunteers from the School of Nursing at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, heard about the project and volunteered to assist with the clinic. These nurses were recruited for the trip from promotion by the Baptist Medical and Dental Fellowship and Dewey and Bobbie Dunn's via their e-mail newsletter. The Duns are members of the fellowship and of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

Results from the clinic were: the eye clinic provided help for 745 people; the pediatric group saw 350 children; the adult clinic saw 603 (total 953 for both clinics); the pharmacy gave 3,183 free prescriptions; and the dental group provided 944 fluoride treatments.

The sports evangelism ministry for First Church of Hendersonville was the first international sports experience for the 18 on this team. Morning sessions were held at



TWO BRAZILIAN CHILDREN pray during a worship service at Central Baptist Church of Bonsucesso in Rio de Janeiro.

the Olympic Park near Central church. A large number of children and adults heard the gospel, presented by team members during expanded basketball camps, — See FBC, page 6

Crossville churches serve in Montana

For "TBVMN Update"

CROSSVILLE — Montana missions has not only been a life changing experience for people in Montana, but two Tennessee Baptist churches in Crossville are also reporting the same experience, according to their pastors.

"Montana missions have been life changing for Hillside Village, a mobile home community in Billings, but also for Meridian Baptist Church and Cumberland Fellowship Baptist Church, both in Crossville," said pastors Mike Gar-

rett and Hank Jones respectively, who worked June 13-16 with a team of 18 mission volunteers from Tennessee doing Backyard Bible Clubs, a block party, survey work, and prayerwalking in Montana.

In fact, these two Tennessee churches along with possible other churches, are planning to start another church in the Billings area in 2006. Both Tennessee pastors agree that their churches are making a long term commitment and connection with people they have truly "come to love" in Montana.



SINGING DURING a preschool performance at the block party at Hillside Village mobile home community in Billings, Montana, are Crossville leaders, from left, Tina Bible, a member of Meridian Baptist Church, Jenell Krumpols, Allie Brewer, and Jackie Brewer, all members of Cumberland Fellowship Baptist Church.

The June 2005 mission team from Crossville was the second mission team that returned to Hillside Village to do BYBCs. This year the team offered a bicycle repair shop and about 20 bikes were repaired during the week.

"It was another great week," said Jones. "Around 75 percent of those that made decisions were back for the 2005 VBS at Highland Village Baptist Church, a mission of Rimrock Baptist Church, both in Billings. In addition, seven new decisions were made for Christ. Over 200 people attended VBS this year and the attendance averaged around 135 a day."

At the end of the week during the block party, each age group did a small program of what they had learned during the week.

"One of the most important things that happened this year was the local involvement of the parents of the children," Jones added. "One of the parents told us that they knew we liked them when we were there last year. But they knew we loved them when we were willing to return this year!" — See Crossville, page 6

25th anniversary to be observed on Nov. 15

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — A Celebration of 25 Years of Partnership/Volunteer Missions is scheduled for Tuesday night, Nov. 15, during the 131st Annual Session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at the First Baptist Church of Clarksville, according to Volunteer Missions specialist Kim Margrave.

The Tuesday night session begins at 6:45 p.m. It will be followed from 7-9 p.m. with volunteers' and missionaries' testimonies, and videos. A Parade of Flags will highlight all of the TBC Partnerships including Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Portugal, Philippines, Chile, Canada, Poland, Michigan, Venezuela, Rio de Janeiro, Iowa, Montana, Tennessee, and the Canadian Baptist Seminary.

In addition to the Celebration, the Volunteer Missions Team will offer several mission projects in 2006 to return to the Partnership Countries. □

LaVergne church team builds, ministers in Wilton, Iowa

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

LAVERGNE — A 19-member mission team from Miracle Baptist Church here worked June 18-23 at Wilton Baptist Church in Wilton, Iowa, where they did Backyard Bible Clubs, construction, and a revival, according to Norma Bird, a member of Miracle Church.

Prior to the trip, the church held a series of fundraisers to raise money for everyone to go to Iowa. "The team was able to raise over \$7,000 which represents just a small portion of what God can do when Christians join together for His work," said Bird.

Some of the fundraisers were: a community-wide benefit concert featuring local bands with a spaghetti supper and a Nashville Kats player to sign autographs, held at LaVergne Middle School; a city-wide yard sale held on the mayor's lawn; and working as greeters and cleanup team for the Middle School's basketball tournament.

While the Miracle Church team was in Iowa, the team held nightly revival services at Wilton Church with different team members preaching. The Iowa church averages around 20 people each

week, but on Thursday night over 100 people attended.

According to Bird, the church's original home was a mobile home, which was to be burned after the new building was completed. The new church building was begun in 2004 by a Tennessee church, and Miracle Church finished it up. Due to weather conditions, the Wilton Fire Department was unable to follow up on the controlled burn while the mission team was there.

The BYBC was held daily Monday-Thursday using the theme of LifeWay's Construction Zone at the Iowa church with 38 students enrolled. The students were able to watch the construction team fell trees. The students also planted grass. During the commencement services, the Fire Department visited and brought their fire engine for the children to see.

In addition to the construction team cutting down 80 ft. trees and removing grass around the church, they also laid straw and graded the church lawn, poured 120 tons of gravel, and leveled it to make a parking lot, and placed a steeple on the top of the church roof. They also stained a deck, painted and repaired a garage wall, and replaced and



RAISING THE STEEPLE on Wilton Baptist Church in Wilton, Iowa, are Matt Biggs, Jimmy Carney, and Rich Bird, all members of Miracle Baptist LaVergne, while mission team members watch from the ground.

repaired a bathroom floor at the pastor's house.

"Everyone said on the way home to LaVergne that everything fit like a puzzle on this mission trip," said Bird.

"Things went very smooth, and blessings were on what we were doing in Iowa." □

Wallace Memorial ...

— Continued from page 5
scheduled them for pre-marital counseling.

"Also at the BYBC, one of the little girls was deaf. She was given special attention during the week, and we watched her bloom!"

One morning at the Friendship Center, the Knoxville students attracted attention from local "gang members," who came to see what was going on at the BYBCs. Even though the boys were dressed in their "gang" image and acted non-interested, by Friday the gang members were asking if the Knoxville students would be back next summer. Around 120 kids attended the BYBC at the Friendship Center, and many were from a homeless shelter.

"Being from a Knoxville church that puts children's needs out front, it was an eye opener for our students to see how the other side lives," Bolton noted. "Our students were touched and committed to wanting to make a difference."

"Also at Living Hope Church's BYBC a group of six ladies and two students went door to door with Faith surveys. The team had many opportunities to share the gospel, and one young adult accepted the Lord."

"God gave us the assignment of being partners with Iowa, and we feel like family to Living Hope Church. We answered 'The Call,' and God has blessed. Living Hope Church hopes to have their construction completed by this fall, and we want to be present for the dedication." □

FBC, Hendersonville, sees 650 saved in ...

— Continued from page 5
and several gave their hearts to Jesus.

Afternoon sports sessions were held both at the Brazilian Federal military base across from Central Church and at the Olympic Park. The military base Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Jerson was helpful in providing space and security for the sports evangelism team. Jerson welcomed Gaia and Waldheim. Jerson, a Presbyterian evangelical, told the ministers that he hoped to finish his theological studies upon retirement from the military and enter the ministry full time.

According to Gaia, Waldheim had spoken to Jerson about the Tennessee mission team coming to the area and using their facilities. Jerson also attended the mission trip's closing worship service.

The eight-member ministry team that served in the area of personal evangelism made sure that everyone entering the clinic heard a gospel presentation. The church also arranged evangelistic appointments in the community. Evangelism teams used the EvangeCube to assist in their presentations, whether in the clinic, in homes, or at community locations.

First Church of Hendersonville has a history with Central Church that began five years ago. This was the fourth joint venture between the two churches. This year's team leaders Gaia and Angelea Floyd, First Church of Hendersonville media assistant, participated in all four trips.

"This mission trip encounter was particularly meaningful also due to a joint effort by the two congregations to help the Brazilian congregation obtain a

new church facility earlier this year," Gaia added.

The Brazilian church had been jammed into a facility that would hold no more than 200. They became aware of an opportunity earlier in the year to purchase a commercial building that could easily be adapted into a facility to accommodate 1,000 worshippers. Not having the financial resources, the Brazilian leaders asked First Church of Hendersonville for a loan. The Tennessee church determined an outright gift of \$50,000 was God's will in this situation. The gift allowed the believers to acquire the facility which gave the Central Church a five times larger building than the previous facility.

Sunday, July 31, the new facility was dedicated to the Lord in a worship service involving both congregations. Gaia

preached the dedication sermon through an interpreter. Gaia challenged the congregation not to trust in the building to reach people. "People reach people," she stated. "Our churches' expectation of you is that you be faithful to fulfill the Commission."

The service ended with a baptismal service in which believers were added to the church. Some had been baptized during previous Hendersonville mission trips.

In addition, mission participants voiced their shared observations of the unique bond between the two congregations regardless of language or cultural barriers the Lord has provided. "We are people who have a new eternal life," Gaia said. "Arise, people have a new eternal life." □

Crossville churches serve in Montana ...

— Continued from page 5

As early as June 2004 a combined mission team of 42 from the Crossville churches traveled 34 hours to Billings. When they arrived, they set up for Backyard Bible Clubs and prayerwalked the community. They also did door-to-door survey inquiring about a new church for Hillside Village. The team expected 20 to 30 people to attend during the week, but God had other plans, according to Jones.

"On the first day about 22 attended," Jones noted. "The second day had 50 people, and

the third day had over a 100 in attendance. On Friday evening there was a block party and over a 150 were present."

During that week, 52 people made personal decisions for Christ, which ranged from children to senior adults. Over the next several months, the Crossville pastors stayed in contact with the people in Hillside Village, who eventually formed home Bible studies, and with Rimrock Baptist Church. The Montana Southern Baptist Convention next found a bivocational pastor church planter, Tom Mulford. He became the

pastor of Hillside Village Church.

The vision for the new Montana church plant had started as early as 2003, when the Crossville pastors, who are good friends, began to pray about doing a joint missions project together. As they prayed, it became evident to them that God was leading them to Billings. They not only wanted to hold a Backyard Bible Clubs missions trip, but they also wanted to lay the ground work for a new church start in a needed area.

After a call to the Montana Baptist Convention in Billings,

State Convention executive director Jeff Clark, a Tennessean, put the Crossville pastors in contact with Thomas Chandler of Church. Rimrock Church has been praying about new work in the Billings area.

Then the Crossville pastors flew to Billings in January 2004 to meet with Chandler and do a survey trip. While surveying the area, the pastors determined Hillside Village, which had a population of 1,000 residents, needed a church. It became the new church plant.

Cookeville, Carthage congregations serve in Montana

BVMN Update"

COOKEVILLE — A 36-member mission team from Stevens Street Baptist Church, here and First Baptist Church of Carthage worked July 1-9 with the First Baptist Church of Poplar, Montana, according to a Tennessee Baptist associate pastor.

The team had 18 members from Stevens Street Church and 18 members from First Baptist Church of Carthage noted by Tim Frank.

This was our eighth trip to the Montana church, and this was the second joint mission trip that we have made with the First Baptist Church of Carthage," said Tim Frank.

Besides the excitement that comes with a church doing a mission trip, there is added excitement when a second church joins the team and a partnership is formed. When churches partner together, they have a greater time of service, and they benefit each other. The First Baptist Church of Carthage is a great team member. Churches need to work and partner together to partner on mission trips."

According to Frank, there have been at least three times as many people at Stevens Street when they have visited First Baptist Church of Poplar when there are pastors at the church. The Montana Indian Reservation is a

sovereign nation, and the city is in the middle of the reservation. The tribes have been very open to us, because we have built relationships over the years.

"The overwhelming comment I heard this year was 'I wish we could have stayed longer.' The mission field is white unto harvest in Poplar, but the laborers are few."

Poplar, located in the north east corner of Montana, 60 miles south of the Canadian border and 70 miles west on North Dakota, is the tribal headquarters for the Fort Peck Indian Reservation which is home to two separate Indian nations, the Assiniboine and the Sioux.

The team worked with First Baptist Church of Poplar pastor Vance Thomas and his wife Cathy, who have been in Poplar for nine months.

The combined team conducted Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church of Poplar with over 100 in attendance. The afternoon VBS was very evangelistic with the ABC's of salvation and an emphasis on trusting in Jesus. The last session featured a demonstration of baptism with Vance "baptizing" one of the mission team members. This was the first time Vance has ever even practiced baptism, and he was excited, according to Frank.

"There were four graded classes rotating in VBS, and Vance actually baptized Joe Paul Tackett twice for each

class. The weekend of July 24 Vance had his first "real" baptism, and he baptized three people. At least 16 other children in the Montana church have expressed the desire to become Christians and to follow the Lord in baptism. Vance will follow-up with these children."

In addition to the VBS, the team conducted two community events. The first was a Community Feast on July 4. The Poplar community was invited for a hamburger/hot dog cookout. Along with the feast, the team had a carnival with games and prizes for the children, and there were almost 200 who participated.

The second event was a community pool party. The team rented the local pool and invited everyone to swim. With over 100 swimming and many more watching, many parents came with their children and gave Vance a chance to meet them.

The team also helped paint the pastor's house and assisted in other projects in the morning before the VBS classes. They also did light construction including building shelves and some renovation of the church. One new project was for some of the team to go throughout the community and clean-up fireworks in the peoples' driveways and in front of their houses.

"Native Americans really enjoy fireworks, and on the Fourth of July it is quite a show," added Frank. "Families shoot hun-



LEADING CRAFTS during VBS at First Baptist Church of Poplar on the Montana Indian Reservation are, from left, Jill Frank and Martha Lanier of Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville, and Morgan Benton of First Baptist Church of Carthage, standing.

dreds of dollars worth of fireworks and then there is a pile of trash to pick up left over from the fireworks. As our team picked up the trash, they shared with the people about the church, the community events, and the Lord.

"In addition to Vance and his wife, First Baptist Church, Poplar, has one family that has been active leaders for more than 10 years. Bill and Kathy Hess have been the consistent family throughout all of our trips to Poplar. They teach in the local school system and have invested their lives in the people and ministry of the church. The Hesses have been a continuous Christian witness, and they consider themselves called by God to be on the reservation.

"I came away from Poplar this year with a sense of excitement about what the Lord is doing and is going to do through the ministry of pastor Vance."

Another significant event that occurred on the mission trip was when a lay pastor from Cookeville, Ray Bruce, experienced chest pains on the trip, according to Frank. Bruce's son and daughter-in-law lived only two and half hours away in Great Falls. The Cookeville resident was taken to "the best heart hospital in Montana" where his family worked. After six-bypasses and a recuperation period with his wife and grandchildren, Bruce has returned home and is reported to be doing well. □ — Compiled by Marcia Knox from a report.

Chapel Hill church serves in Iowa for fourth year

Marcia Knox
BVMN Update"

CHAPEL HILL — For the fourth year, members of the First Baptist Church here partnered with the Great Rivers Baptist Association in Iowa, to staff a long camp for children in Iowa, according to a TBC representative.

On the very first trip to Iowa, in 2002, God sent 12 adults and eight children, said Barbara Powers, the church's general ledger and Smyrna Baptist Church's missions chairperson.

"I had no idea what we were getting ourselves into on that first trip."

Now, Iowa's Great Rivers Baptist Association partnered with Tennessee's New Duck River Association in Shelbyville, Smyrna Church answered the call. The church has responded each year to Iowa.

Since that first trip to Iowa, the church has grown to as many as 12 church members along with 12 of our youth members each year," added Powers. "Our friendships have developed and each year we look for-

ward to 'catching up.'"

"What began as a partnership has evolved into a real 'give and take' relationship. This year when Crossover came to Nashville prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, Iowa's Great Rivers Association director of missions, James Robinson, brought a team to Chapel Hill to assist us with a community-wide block party the day before our team left for Iowa. God has truly blessed our church."

This year 19 volunteers from Smyrna Church, 12 youth and seven adults, worked June 20-25 at Spring Valley Bible Camp in Muscatine, Iowa, with 56 children from six Iowa churches and with some children with no church affiliation. At least 14 decisions for Christ were made, and this was the most decisions recorded in one year for the team.

"This year's theme was Setting Sail with the story of Jonah," noted Powers. "If our



RECEIVING THE PADDLE for the most flexible camp counselors from Tennessee are from left, camp nurse Rhonda Roberson, Tanner Roberson, Pat Roberson, and Scarlett Roberson, from Iowa camp co-director Sherry Bates.

adults had not gone to camp, the Smyrna Church youth, who have gone over the years, could have done the camp by themselves.

"Even though some of the Iowa key camp players were absent, God took care of everything by providing all personnel necessary for the camp. Our Smyrna Church provided the recreation, worship and music,

games and crafts, puppet ministry, camp nurse, and camp counselors."

According to Powers, one child came to camp with his Book of Mormon, but by the end of the week he had accepted Christ.

"Missions in general have become a lifestyle for our church volunteers who are always ready." □

Team leader training set

For "BVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — A new Team Leader Training event is set for Oct. 14-15 at First Baptist Church of Goodlettsville, sponsored by the Volunteer Missions Team. This will be the first opportunity to use the revised materials for training, according to Kim Margrave, Volunteer Missions specialist.

Al Hodges, IMB Marketing and Product Development Global Equipping director, will present the new Team Leader Training (TLT) materials, and participant feedback will be welcomed.

Included in the training are being an effective team leader, building your team, meeting expenses, training your team, getting there, the Bible and security, cooperating with field strategy, and return and debrief.

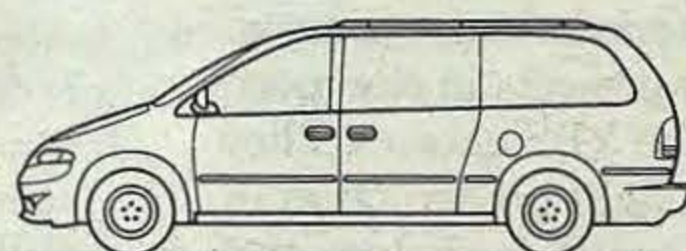
Registration is \$20 per person. Register on line at www.tnbaptist.org, or contact Heather Wilson, Volunteer Missions Ministry assistant, at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2061 or hwilson@tnbaptist.org. □

Partnership Projects

Place	Project ID	Work	Dates	Volunteers Needed
Rio de Janeiro	Rio-05-16	Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, helpers needed for medical clinics	10/21-30	open
Carter Lake, Iowa	IA-05-41	Light construction and survey work	open	open
Fairbank, Iowa	IA-05-60	Conduct sports clinic	open	5
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-50	Conduct women's retreat	10/20-23	1-2
Independence, Iowa	IA-05-60	Conduct sports clinic	open	open
Orange City, Iowa	IA-05-35	Team to put new roof on church	open	open
Sioux City, Iowa	IA-05-19	Adopt an area to help start a church	ongoing	open
Sioux Rapids, Iowa	IA-05-18	Light construction and repair work	open	open

Equipment Need in Iowa

Church in Sioux City, Iowa, is in need of a donated van or to purchase a van in order to start a van ministry.



Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary visiting faculty teaching opportunities

Semesters are approximately 15 weeks long and run roughly Sept. 1 – Dec. 15 (Fall) and Jan. 15 – May 15 (Spring). Intensives/J Terms are usually one week long and occur in January and mid-May to mid-June.

Fall, 2005

- Courses related to Principles of Teaching and Christian Education — graduate and undergraduate levels (one person needed)
- Courses related to Preaching and Pastoral Ministries — graduate level (one person needed)

Spring, 2006

- Courses related to Systematic Theology and theology electives — graduate and undergraduate level (one person needed)
- Courses related to Missions, Education Philosophy, and Material Development — graduate level (one or two persons needed)

Fall, 2006

- Courses related to Pastoral Ministries — undergraduate level (one person)
- Courses related to Church Administration, Principles of Teaching, Youth Ministry — graduate level (one person needed)
- Courses related to Church Growth and electives — graduate level (one person needed)

January, 2007 Intensive (one week)

- Church Administration — graduate level (one person needed)

General Requirements for Teaching:

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in discipline related to teaching assignment for graduate teaching
- Masters degree in discipline related to teaching assignment for undergraduate teaching
- Minimum of five years church/denominational experience; some academic teaching experience preferred □

First Church, Adamsville, serves in Northwood, Iowa

By Marcia Knox
For "TBVMN Update"

ADAMSVILLE — A group of 42 volunteers representing First Baptist Church of Adamsville worked July 15-22 doing construction and Vacation Bible School for Northwood Baptist Church in Northwood, Iowa.

At Northwood Church the team refinished the sanctuary floor, painted and decorated classrooms, painted an 80-foot handicap ramp, put siding on the garage at the pastor's home, and remodeled the pastor's office.

Before the team left for Iowa, Robert Hughes, a member of First Church of Adamsville, made a communion table for the Northwood Church and bookcases for their pastor's office.

The group also assisted in VBS, which had a high attendance of 35 and 10 children accepted Christ.

The pastor at First Church, Phil Mitchell, contacted the pastor at Northwood Church, Bob Luebbert, to get a list of the church's needs. First Church had been told by Shiloh Baptist Association director of missions Ron Davidson that Northwood Church needed painting following a trip to Iowa.

According to First Church secretary, Sue Meek, during a rest stop while on the road in Wood Hull, Ill., the team noticed their van was smoking from underneath and transmission fluid was leaking out of the van.

After an extended break, some of the men tried to find a rental place in order to obtain another van, but everything was closed as were all mechanic shops.

"First Church member Sam Word, suggested that we all pray," said Meek. "Our group spent several minutes praying and crying out to God. It was then that God answered us in a big way.

"As soon as we said amen, a man asked to see the group that was stranded. It turned out he was a trucker who was just completing a 900 mile journey and had heard of our trouble over his CB radio. He came 15 miles out of his way to offer his help. In the end, he allowed us to borrow his church's van to get to Mason City, Iowa, which was another six hours away. This was one of the many, many blessings we received during the week." □

Big Emory sends 60 to serve in Rio

For "TBVMN Update"

BRENTWOOD — The first 2005 medical/evangelism mission team to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 10-18, sponsored by the Big Emory Baptist Association, Harri-man, had 60 volunteers from seven Baptist associations, according to team leader David Acres, TBC Disaster Relief/Construction specialist.

"This was my ninth mission trip to Brazil, and it seems each one just keeps getting better," said Acres. "God put us together in such an amazing way. We were not all from the same church, the same town, the same association, or even the same state, but we worked together as a unit for the glory and honor of Jesus Christ. We all received a great blessing for the work that was done."

Acres helped organize the team along with his wife Paulette while he served as the Big Emory Association director of missions and before he accepted the TBC position.

"Lives were changed during this week," said Paulette Acres. "Many Brazilians came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Many Americans drew closer to the Lord and also to a greater understanding of missions."

Besides Big Emory Association, other associations represented by the volunteers were Knox County Baptist Association, Midland/Northern Baptist Association, Sevier County Baptist Association, Mid-South Baptist Association, and others from out of state.

Work began Saturday as soon

as the team arrived in Rio with its 15 professional medical team members, 20 medical assistants, and 25 evangelism team members, who organized medical supplies and medications brought from home for the clinic.

Sunday morning the team experienced a Brazilian worship service with the First Baptist Church of Manginghus. A musical group from Callahan Road Baptist Church, Knoxville, presented special music. Pastor Paul Frick of Liberty Baptist Church, Wartburg, preached.

Monday through Thursday, the team boarded buses to travel to First Church to hold the first medical clinic in Manginghus slum. Each day church members and a long line of patients greeted the team along with their Brazilian translators. Many of the patients had waited all night in line to be seen by the medical team.

Some patients also reported standing in line for two nights to enter the clinics. The medical team leaders were: physicians Rodney McMillin, member of First Baptist Church of Kingston, and Tim Morris, member of Callahan Road Church. Others serving on the medical team were: two optometrists; three dental students from University of Tennessee Medical Units at Memphis; one LPN; five nurses; one pharmacist, and one pharmacy assistant.

Statistics for the medical team revealed: 815 people were seen in the medical and pediatric clinics;



LEADING A prayer for the treatment group before a clinic in the Manginghus slum of Rio de Janeiro is Yvette Re Liberty Baptist Church, Wartburg.

89 in the dental clinic; and the eye clinic. Also noted 2,607 prescriptions filled, 1,189 children had fluoridations. There were 606 professions of faith that were received by the evangelism team.

Leading the evangelism were: Mike Viles, Midland Association director of missions, and Jerry Vittatoe, of Clear Springs Baptist Church, Knoxville.

Paulette Acres added that Pedra Rodrigues of First Church and his church have organized 12 home studies for new converts.

Women see changed lives via small group Bible studies

by Brooklyn Noel
Press

MEMPHIS — Joyce Aylor grew up with a strong foundation in her home, but she did church functions and reading publications. *Biblical Illustrator*, however, wanted more than the information by a typical Sunday lesson or *Biblical Illustration* article from the long-standing Southern Baptist publication. She wanted to know what God had to say, so she became involved in her small group Bible

study. She now serves as director of women's Bible studies at the Nashville-area ClearView Baptist Church in Franklin.

"I'm just as hungry as [other women] are for the Word," Aylor said, explaining why her involvement continues after more than 20 years. "I think I learn more when I'm teaching it."

The first goal of Bible studies is to ignite a passion for God's Word in participants, but most women initially show up for the social aspects of gathering with other women, she observed.

"I think they know they can find a little bit of the Word and a lot of fellowship," Aylor said. "I want to reverse that."

Over the years, Aylor has conducted countless Bible studies organized into various formats. The inductive study technique, like that championed by best-selling author Kay Arthur, enticed Aylor into deeper study, and it remains



AYLOR

her favorite format.

This approach requires students to rely on the Bible as their main source of interpretation and application rather than extended analysis and commentary from the study's author. Many published studies using this technique include workbooks that further promote active participation.

"You have to be intentional with [Bible study] if you're going to get a changed life out of it," Aylor said.

Workbook-based studies began gaining popularity about a decade ago. While weight loss and fitness studies such as "First Place" are still popular, women have begun to embrace studies more geared toward spiritual health.

"Women are looking for something a little deeper in their spiritual walk," said Donnie Baldwin, buyer of product and church supplies with LifeWay Christian Stores. "They want something more for their spiritual lives."

Gabbie Maxner manager of

a LifeWay Christian Store in Birmingham, Ala., said she has helped many women find the right study for their groups during the seven years she has worked in LifeWay stores.

Maxner said Beth Moore's materials are the most popular women's studies because the best-selling author and teacher finds a way to make biblical material relevant to women's everyday lives.

"Beth Moore has probably tapped into an aspect of biblical teachings that really speaks to women," said Max-

ner, adding that women began calling the store about Moore's new study, *The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, about five months before its June 1 debut.

Moore's new study focuses primarily on chapters 12-50 of Genesis as it guides women through the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. She highlights God's blessings, covenant and promise, and how those transformed the

lives of Abraham and his descendants. Baldwin said he expects as many as 10,000 small groups to participate in Moore's new study this fall.

"[Moore's] No. 1 gift is she's a great speaker," Baldwin said. "Women are looking for studies that hit them where they are and are relevant to what they're doing today."

The weekly schedules of many women consist of everything from board meetings and client dinners to soccer games and school and church functions. Still, women are making time for the fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities a Bible study offers.

Lynn Truitt has been teaching women's Bible studies for more than 15 years. As the director of women's ministry at Hunter Street Baptist Church in Hoover, Ala., she has the chance to see firsthand the benefits of women gathering around God's Word.

"I just love seeing women get in God's Word," Truitt said. "It really is the only thing that can change a life."

Aylor acknowledged that each woman must determine the type of study that best fits her needs and preferences. For that reason, some churches offer a variety of studies throughout the year.

At ClearView Baptist, for instance, Aylor said she likely would teach Beth Moore's *The Patriarchs* in the fall while another teacher probably will teach an inductive study. Currently, Aylor is leading a First Place class on Sunday evenings.

"If a person's life has been affected so that person is no longer under the stronghold of a particular sin, that's a successful study," Aylor said. "Changed lives make a successful study." □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

First Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., a vibrant and growing congregation in suburban Memphis, is searching for a worship pastor. Please e-mail resume to debbie@firstbaptist.org.

♦♦♦♦

First Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 500, Memphis, TN 37815, Attn. Music Minister. For more information, visit our web site at www.morningsidebaptist.com.

♦♦♦♦

First Baptist Church seeks a part-time leadership leader (paid) for morning contemporary and related special events. Must have experience in leading and coordinating worship team/band, and elements of a service; worship planning team. Attn. Robin Rosser, First Baptist Church, 5363 Parkway, Knoxville, TN 37912; (865) 688-2423.

♦♦♦♦

First Baptist Church, Alamo, Tenn., is seeking a minister of music. E-mail resume to gauldin@rocketnet.net. Music Committee, 147 St. Alamo, TN 37017.

♦♦♦♦

First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, 95 E. McKenzie, TN 37017. Kim Kelly

♦♦♦♦

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

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

McMinnville First Baptist Church is seeking a visionary, purpose-driven individual with a heart for church growth, evangelism, missions, and outreach to serve as our pastor. FBC is a well established SBC church with an average Sunday morning attendance of 350. Qualified candidates must have a seminary degree with a minimum of 5 years experience. Send resumes to fbcresumes@yahoo.com by Oct. 1.

♦♦♦♦

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

♦♦♦♦

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

♦♦♦♦

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

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Union Baptist Church, Lexington, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a part-time youth pastor. Please send to Aaron Armstrong, 330 Union Church Rd., Lexington, TN 38351 or e-mail to ubcchesterfield@netscape.com.

♦♦♦♦

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

♦♦♦♦

Seeking a full-time minister of students and outreach for a purpose driven church located in suburban Saint Louis County. Must have a passion for youth ministry and reaching students for Christ. College degree preferred. Please send resume and/or recommendations to Minister of Students Search Committee, c/o Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 Saint Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, MO 63044.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

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

♦♦♦♦

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

MINISTRY — OTHER

Organist needed: FBC, McMinnville, is currently seeking an organist for two Sunday morning services. If interested, please contact Sean Gossett, Minister of Music, at (931) 473-4416.



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TBC to provide information on medical insurance

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Area meetings in September will provide news from GuideStone Financial Resources about upgrades in medical plans coverage, premiums that will be level to declining for the second consecutive year, introduction of a plan that will allow participants to open a Health Savings Account, and information for retirees about medical supplement plans and how prescription coverage will work beginning in 2006.

According to Richard Skidmore, GuideStone state representative for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, "These area meetings should give our participants and Baptist employers adequate time to consider their insurance options for 2006. Morning meetings will provide details on a new HSA insurance plan and upgrades in the coverage on GuideStone's medical plans. Afternoon sessions will provide the information needed by our participants in medicare supplement plans about upgrades in their plans, decreases in their premiums, and information on how their prescription coverage will work going forward. I would urge any participant in GuideStone's plans or any church or staff member considering a change in insurance to attend these meetings." Area conferences will be held September 26-29 in Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, John-

son City, and Chattanooga. □

Union soccer team raises funds for family in need

Union University news service

JACKSON — By doing yard work and other odd jobs around the Jackson community Aug. 19, Union University's men's soccer team raised nearly \$2,000 for the family of a recent Union graduate whose mother was killed in a car wreck.

"We actually did more work than I thought we could in one day," said Coach Darin White.

The soccer team called off practices to work around the community in return for donations for the family of Titus Bartos, a native of Romania who graduated from Union in May. Bartos was to be married Aug. 13, but his mother, Maria, died Aug. 10 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Bartos' five siblings weren't planning to make the trip for his wedding, but they decided to come to the United States for their mother's funeral, held Aug. 20 in Atlanta. Bartos and his fiancée, Laura, were married the following day.

All the money raised by the soccer team will go to help with travel costs for the family. White said the team completed 33 projects and some donations were still coming in through the mail. He said the total amount could reach \$2,000.

"That's pretty exciting, because we didn't expect to raise anywhere near that," said soph-

omore soccer player Michael Pugh.

Pugh said the soccer team's efforts were a benefit for the school and the community, as well as within the soccer team itself. Many found the experience important in their own spiritual journeys.

"Not only did we use it as an outreach to help (Titus), but we used it as an outreach to help our own team," Pugh said. □

Court OKs Ten commandments monument

Baptist Press

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. — In the first major Ten Commandments decision since the U.S. Supreme Court had its say, a federal appeals court Aug. 19 upheld the constitutionality of a large granite Decalogue monument that has stood in this city for 40 years.

The 11-2 decision by the full Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals comes nearly two months after the Supreme Court issued a split decision in two separate cases, allowing a Texas Ten Commandments monument to stand but ordering the removal of a Kentucky Ten Commandments courtroom plaque. The ruling by the Eighth Circuit reversed an earlier 2-1 decision by one of the court's three-judge panels.

The full Eighth Circuit relied heavily on the Texas decision, *Van Orden v. Perry*. Like the Texas monument, the Platts-mouth monument was donated

by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. It resides on the corner of a city park, roughly 10 blocks from Platts-mouth city hall. Approximately five feet tall and three feet wide, the monument was donated to the city in 1965.

"Like the monument at issue in *Van Orden*, the Ten Commandments monument installed in Memorial Park by the City of Platts-mouth is a passive acknowledgment of the roles of God and religion in our nation's history," Judge Pasco M. Bowman, an appointee of President Reagan, wrote for the majority. "Moreover, as was the case in *Van Orden*, decades passed during which the Ten Commandments monument stood in Platts-mouth's Memorial Park without objection."

The lawsuit was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska on behalf of John Doe, an anonymous local citizen who is an atheist. In addition to the three-judge panel, a lower court also had

ruled against the monument. But the full circuit said similar references to and repetitions of "the Ten Commandments on government property are replete throughout the country."

Judge Kermit E. Bye dissented and was joined by Judge Morris Sheppard A. Bye is an appointee of President Clinton, Arnold of the first Bush.

Bye asserted that, unlike the Texas example, the Platts-mouth monument rests alone and is not surrounded by other monuments.

"Without the context of the presence of other monuments or some indicia of historical significance, there is nothing free the display from its secular purpose of advancing a religious message. Because such broader application is apparent — or for that matter, offered — the monument violates the Establishment Clause." □

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation


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On July 18, 2006 join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister P. Roy Meyers on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available to those in the group who wish to participate. Pastor Meyers served 15 years as pastor of several churches in Mississippi. Currently semi retired and serves as interim pastor at Double Springs Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. Pastor Meyers and his wife took this same trip in June of 2005 serving as Your Man Tours' B Hosts. They look forward to returning next year as hosts for a Baptist group visiting the land of the midnight sun during summer's longer daylight hours. Your group will fly into Seattle the night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Volendam. **Next, travel through a world of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.** After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington's Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; Yellowstone National Park; Faithful and Grand Teton National Parks; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1998 (per person, double occupancy), including, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, and baggage handling. \$500 airfare from Nashville, Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga, Huntsville, AL.


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SHATTERED SILENCE



LIPTOCOAL

minister's corner

By Dall Adkisson

Sometimes as I read Scripture I come across a passage with remarkable implications for everyday living. I found two: one is in Proverbs and the other in Ephesians. You may have read them but missed their depth. They have missed them altogether. Here they are. I hope you will agree that they are important. They may be the key to your future happiness.

Proverbs 31:10 — "An excellent wife, who can find

Ephesians 19:17 — "My breath is offensive to my wife..."

God calls believers to many tasks, none greater than the work of marriage. God's gift of marriage has the potential to curse or to bless. It may be your greatest difficulty or your greatest joy. As the ancient sage might say, marriage is like a potluck supper; you get out of it what you put into it.

Marriage is important to God and to the kingdom. God intended that it mirror the divine relationship between Jesus and the church. When Christian marriage falters and fails, the world sees a distorted picture of God's love.

Marriage is important to God because both you and your spouse are important to God. He has given us instructions on which you can build a solid home. Instructions like those found in Ephesians 5 and I Corinthians 7. He desires that you experience love and that you express love boldly and wonderfully. What descriptive of your marriage relationship? "Praise God!" If not, what will you do to make it different? — to make you different?

Marriage is not easy! You can never be perfect nor can you have a perfect spouse. Still sometimes radical, glorious change in your marriage can be made with just a little personal effort. This week, remind yourself to do some loving things — like brush your teeth before you go to bed that kiss!

For God's sake — keep working on your marriage! Don't date to spend some time together for no other reason than simply being together. Say really sweet things to your spouse (we have one of the best heart centers in the country right here in town, if he or she has a heart back). Be passionate. Listen, really listen. Do something that says to your spouse, "you are more important to me than anything." □ — Adkisson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville.

A helps reach unchurched

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is an offering that supports missions and ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. In Tennessee, one out of every two people is unchurched. When you give to the Golden Offering, you help support ministries that reach the unchurched in Tennessee for Christ.

You may give to this offering anytime, most often you receive the GOTM offering during the month of September in conjunction with the Week of Prayer for the Missions. This offering has been a vital part of the Tennessee missions support for over 100 years. It is named for Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Golden who challenged the Tennessee Baptists to give to the special offering for state missions in 1902.

Ministries that you might impact as you give your offering to GOTM include Christian Job Corps, church planting, collegiate ministries with special groups, family counseling centers, relief, ethnic missions and ministries, innovative education, missions, and ministry scholarships. Funding Tennessee missionaries and families, justice ministry, Special Friends Camp, an Regional Ministry, Cumberland Regional Ministry, Mississippi River Ministry, Tennessee student missions, Tennessee Drug Awareness Council, conference center/camps capital needs.

Sept. 11-18 as the Week of Prayer for Tennessee Missions and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions which has a goal of \$1,630,000. □ — Information from the Tennessee WMU web site.



Dead end ahead

By Mark Brown

Focal Passage: Ecclesiastes 1:13, 16-2:8, 18-22

We humans are an interesting lot. One by one we come onto this planet and we think that we must learn most every lesson for ourselves, including the hard ones. At some point, we learn all too well that a stove's element gets hot, really hot. Our mothers and fathers may have told us that time and time again, but we don't truly know it until we bear its mark or miss the wounds by just a little.

Solomon himself, our archetype for all things wise, admits that he too had lessons to learn, and he too had to learn them more than once. He writes Ecclesiastes out of those lessons by admitting to his readers that he was hardheaded. It's Solomon the wise man who writes these passages, but it was a younger, foolhardy man who learned them. Think in terms of software; it's an early version, say Solomon 1.0 who stupidly — by his own admission — chased the novelties of life. And it's a later edition of the man, something like Solomon 6.5, complete with upgrades, who can look back to see his folly and have the courage to own up to his silliness. It's interesting to note that wisdom eradicated his pride; the

young man who kept ramming headlong into the wall of nothingness became the sage who forsook pride for confession.

Ecclesiastes opens like the second act of a three-act play. It's the crisis, the place, or moment where things come apart, break down, and all but lose their functionality. Solomon takes a few verses to explore the places he searched for meaning. "It's all for naught," he is saying.

How many times have you been on the cusp of despair? "Nothing matters," you say as you drive home from work. "All is useless, and every day is a shot in the dark that changes not one thing." That's Solomon in 1:13. He is us. And then he decided to wiseen himself up by experiencing all he could encounter. He built, planted, invested, saved, and spent. He acquired property and people and indulged himself in all that he could imagine. In short he gave himself busywork to occupy his days and tire himself out enough to make it through the nights. How much does that sound like us? Oh, it's not palaces, concubines, and harems these days, but it may well be vacation homes, bass boats, and plasma televisions.

Finally, this pre-wise Solomon gets to the heart of the matter. He realizes that he has accom-

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series Sept. 4

plished this huge, great work of amassing wealth, overseeing the construction of vineyards, building palaces, and even — in Solomon's case — building the temple of God, and he realizes that he would depart from this life with nothing of it.

All that we humans do here is left here.

That's the lesson we should have to learn but once, but, being the humans we are, we force ourselves to learn it and relearn it. What we do is temporal; locked four-square in that which will pass away. That which is transcendent — those things which do not come from us and do not reside here — those things, those rich and everlasting blessings are not from under the sun, but are gifts from the One who set the sun in the heavens and set us under it.

The search for the meaning of life is futile, unless the search begins and ends in God who begat our being and wants us to be reconciled to him. □ — Brown is director of news and publications at Carson-Newman College and a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

What do you think of the gospel?

By Kevin Shrum

Focal Passage: Romans 1:1-17

The Book of Romans is considered by many scholars to be the "magnum opus" of Christian theology. In spite of this worthy estimation, it must never be forgotten that it is a letter, albeit a weighty one, from a servant of God to a group of believers in the city of Rome. How would the Apostle Paul introduce himself to a fellowship of believers he did not personally know, but longed to visit? Instead of beginning with a "Dear Fellow Believers," Paul begins with a magnificent statement concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ! And what a beginning it is!

A slave to the gospel, vv. 1-7

The Apostle Paul begins by noting that he is a "slave of Jesus Christ ... singled out for God's good news." The gospel of Jesus Christ was not a new fad, but a fulfillment of what the prophets had promised prior to the advent of Jesus Christ (v. 2). Further, the gospel is concerned with the person and work of Jesus Christ, who was proven to be fully man (v. 3) according to Davidic heritage and fully God by His resurrection from the dead (v. 4). It was through this gospel that Paul "received grace and apostleship" so that those who would hear and heed the gospel would respond in the "obedience of faith." In summary, the Apostle Paul was not a master, but a slave

to the God who had saved him through the person of Jesus Christ. This is true for all believers — we are slaves, servants of the Most High God!

Longing and the gospel, vv. 8-13

The gospel would put a longing in Paul's heart, especially for the believers in Rome. He had heard about their strong faith "being reported in all the world." Because of the nature and scope of their faith, Paul was "always asking in my prayers that if it is somehow in God's will, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you."

In other words, Paul had a longing to visit Rome (v. 13) so that he might have a "fruitful ministry" among the Roman believers (v. 14). This was why Paul was "eager to preach the good news to you also who are in Rome." Paul demonstrates for us that the gospel is not just about personal salvation, but also about sharing the good news with the nations.

Obligation and the gospel, vv. 14-15

Paul's desire to share the gospel was more than an emotional longing, it was an obligation placed upon him by the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul would write, "I am obligated to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish." A longing will keep a person going when emotions run high; obligation keeps us focused when

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible Sept. 4

emotions and passions run low. The Greek word for "obligated" is "opheiletes," meaning duty and dedication. Paul was duty-bound to preach the good news! In essence, Paul was not driven by pure emotion that ebbed and flowed with the tide of daily events; Paul was motivated by a burning desire to complete his ministry no matter the cost.

Unashamed of the gospel, vv. 16-17

Link together his slavish commitment to Jesus Christ, his personal longing to minister to the Roman believers and his visceral obligation to preach the good news and it adds up for Paul a posture unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This confidence in the gospel was rooted in the fact that the gospel is "God's power for salvation to everyone who believes." Further, the gospel is the revelation of God's standard and method of imputing righteousness to the lost. Finally, the gospel is the mode of living because it produces in the believer the truth: "The righteous will live by faith." Wow! What an intro from a longing, obligated, unashamed slave! □ — Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

Leaders

◆ **James R. Moore**, senior pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, for 28 years has retired. Prior to serving Parkway Church, Moore was associate pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Nashville. He holds a bachelor of arts and master of arts degree from the former Scarritt College, Nashville. His wife, Beverly Bain Moore is an English teacher at Davidson Academy, Nashville. They have three children and five grandchildren. The church has called **Ken Castleberry** as pastor. He formerly was minister of family life and singles, which he served from May of 2003 until present. He also was senior pastor, Dalewood Baptist Church, Nashville, from 1983-93; senior pastor, Falling Water Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and minister of activities, First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

◆ Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown, has called **Charles Barnett**, former director of missions in Americus, Ga., as senior pastor. **Brandon Smith** of Macon, Mo., has been called as minister of students of the church.

◆ Allen Baptist Church, Brownsville, has called **Shey Lovelace** as director of children and youth.

◆ On Aug. 21 Dalewood Baptist Church, Nashville, called **Paul Wampler** as pastor. He has served as associate pastor of the church since 2001. He also has held various positions at churches in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area. Wampler is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Churches

◆ **Grace Baptist Church, Bethpage**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 11. Activities will include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., a luncheon, and an afternoon program. The church was a mission of First Baptist Church, Westmoreland. For more information, contact John Norman at (615) 390-6229 or jmjhnorm@aol.com.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Concord**, in Knoxville will hold a remembrance celebration for former Crichton Memorial Baptist Church, Concord, during worship services Sunday, Sept. 4, at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The Crichton Church congregation moved to First Church's current location and changed its name to First Church. Dinner on the grounds will follow the late service. For more information,

visit www.fbconcord.org or call the church at (865) 966-9791.

◆ **Rocky Valley Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will hold a tent revival, "Fill the Void

..." Sept. 11-14. Jason Lohorn, pastor of the church, will speak. For more information, call the church at (615) 449-6647.



THIS YOUTH TEAM of Calvary Baptist Church, Union City, served July 2-9 in Cookson, Okla. The 29-member team held five day camps at Ten Killer Lake which drew 83 children. They also provided family evening programs which drew 75 people. They were directed by David Hagan, youth and missions minister of the church.



THIS LOUDON COUNTY Baptist Association team based in Lenoir City served in Salvador, Brazil, July 10-17. The 17-member team worked in schools and did door-to-door visitation, sharing the gospel with about 3,000 people. They saw about 300 people make professions of faith. The team was led by Bob Atwell, right, director of missions, and former International Mission Board missionary to Salvador.



MEMBERS OF Howard's Quarter Baptist Church, Tazewell, celebrated its 150th anniversary on Aug. 7. **IN PHOTO ABOVE**, the congregation pauses for a group photo after the morning service. Clayton Dunsmore, director of missions, Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, spoke. **IN PHOTO BELOW**, Dunsmore presents a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society to Joe Rowe, pastor of the church for 30 years. A part of the celebration was a Power Point presentation of 600 photos of the church's history.



MEMBERS OF churches in Weakley County Baptist Association based in Dresden, form this 63-person missions team served for the sixth year in southern West Virginia. They worked July 9-15. Members did construction on a church and six Vacation Bible Schools. As a result, 17 people made professions of faith. They worked with Mike York, a director of missions who also is a North American Mission Board missionary.



DONNIE DALTON, pastor, Mt. Verd Baptist Church, receives several pies in the face from Pam Dalton, his wife. The event was the result of a competition between boys and girls of the church's Vacation Bible School to raise the heaviest amount of money for missions. The children gave \$1,500 for home and missions. Another result of the VBS was that 11 people made professions of faith.



MEMBERS OF First Baptist Church, McEwen, pause at First Baptist Church, Eastpoint, Fla., where they did relief work to victims of Hurricane Dennis which struck in July. They conducted Vacation Bible Schools and evangelism, but instead of food, clothing, and gifts they brought. They also held a block party which included puppet shows for the Tennesseans.



MEMBERS OF Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, July 22-29 in Vancouver, Wash., where they helped build a 10,000 sq. ft. church. The team was made up of 24 people and Highsmith, a minister of the church.