

Baptist & Reflector

ide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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Union launches \$110 million capital campaign

By Tim Ellsworth
Union University news office

JACKSON — Union University has launched a \$110 million capital campaign that will enhance campus facilities, endowment growth, and operations support.

Entitled "Union 2010: A Vision for Excellence," the campaign builds on the achievements of the past decade and positions the university for a dramatic increase in its ability to serve students and the community for years to come.

"It is impossible for future generations of Union students to receive the same excellence-driven, Christ-centered education now in place without the generosity of our friends," said David S. Dockery, Union University president. "This campaign articulates a bold statement for our continued growth."

The Vision for Excellence campaign

builds on those previous efforts. At its launch during the university's annual Scholarship Banquet, Dockery told the audience approximately \$70 million of the \$110 million goal already has been raised.

The Sept. 27 event, held at Jackson's Carl Perkins Civic Center, raised nearly \$500,000 for student scholarships. The event featured former United States senator and presidential candidate Bob Dole.

Goals for the Vision for Excellence campaign include:

- \$30 million for strategic needs on the campus, including the new White Hall science building, Fesmire Field House for athletics, a soccer complex, residence life improvements, and expanded banquet facilities.

- \$25 million for expanded endowment, which will allow the university to earn more income for student scholarships, academic chairs, academic programs, and lecture-ships.

- \$55 million for ongoing support of day-to-day operations. The average student who pays full tuition actually contributes only

about half of the actual cost for his or her education. The new money would help move Union forward in hiring top faculty, providing financial aid, and maintaining an effective educational environment.

"This campaign has been carefully planned to take Union University to another level of excellence and to build on the momentum established in the past 10 years," said Harry Smith, a Union trustee and member of the campaign leadership team.

"For this institution to continue to be recognized as one of the nation's top Christian universities, we must accomplish the goals set for this campaign and give generously," Smith added.

Prior to 1996, Union had never attempted a financial campaign in excess of \$10 million, but in 1998 the University set a \$35 million goal that was reached two years ahead of schedule. In 2000, Union launched the Building a Future campaign, seeking \$60 million by 2005. That campaign raised \$63 million and concluded one year ahead of schedule.

— See Union, page 2



DOCKERY

Nine months later, tsunami victims still need help, hope

Baptist Press

Editor's Note: Nine months after the massive Asian tsunami killed up to 250,000 people, Southern Baptists continue relief and rebuilding efforts. Names of volunteers quoted are changed for security reasons.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — The tsunami that roared ashore last Dec. 26 invaded the lives of millions of south Asians — stealing loved ones, scarring hearts, destroying homes and communities.

Nine months later, the television cameras are gone, but the hurt isn't. Empty arms and miles of rubble linger to keep the pain fresh.

"Every morning they wake up to that reminder," said Ned Thaxton, a volunteer working in tsunami relief through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

The tsunami, set off by a massive earthquake on the ocean floor near the Indonesian island of Sumatra, affected many nations — including the south Asian countries of India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Governments, relief agencies, and local residents have been working steadily ever since to help the survivors, but the

cleanup task alone remains daunting.

"I thought things were further along than they are," one volunteer said during a recent trip to Sri Lanka. "For as long as it has been, it's still in worse shape than I thought it was."

But some Sri Lankan tsunami survivors have captured a glimmer of renewed hope as they get back to work and move into new houses. Southern Baptists have something to do with that: To date, they've contributed more than \$16.6 million in tsunami aid through the International Mission Board's disaster relief fund. Numerous missionaries temporarily relocated to affected areas and hundreds of short-term volunteers have joined them to help rebuild and minister to the hurting.

"I'm seeing a change in demeanor as the people move in their houses," said Riley Delk, who has overseen the construction of several houses provided for tsunami survivors by Southern Baptist aid. "It makes a significant difference. They're smiling a little bit — and they're decorating."

Still, only a small percentage of the south Asians who lost homes in the tsunami have new ones.

— See Nine months, page 3

Small church makes big impact on seminary, victims

By Gary D. Myers
Baptist Press

ATLANTA — Tumbling Creek Baptist Church may not be the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, but its members are making an impact on those affected by Hurricane Katrina. So far, the rural Tennessee church, which averages 200 in worship, has given more than \$20,000 to recovery efforts.

"My wife and I are both graduates of Southwestern Seminary — it was a special experience for us. That's where we met," Pastor Gene Price said. "I've always had a special place in my heart for young pastors, so I asked our church to do something for [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.]"

The church responded by sending a \$10,000 check to NOBTS. But they did not stop at that. The members gave another \$10,000 check to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. The church also is helping a displaced family and even donated two chain saws to their association's disaster relief team.

Price has pastored Tumbling Creek for 21 years. It

was his first pastorate after seminary. The church, located between Gleason and McKenzie, had the blessing of moving into new facilities in 1994, paying off their debt a short time later. Through the years, the church continued to save money in hopes of adding one additional building on their property.

"In the last 21 years, God has blessed our ministry here and we were considering adding additional space to our fellowship hall," Price said. "This summer we were unable to determine exactly what the Lord wanted us to do as far as adding additional space."

"Looking back, I believe the Lord knew that New Orleans Seminary would [need] additional funds more than our church," he continued.

Price said that the church wanted to give to the seminary and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief because they knew the funds would be used in "ministering to the hurts" of those in New Orleans.

In his letter to Chuck Kelley, NOBTS president, Price made only one request of the seminary — use the money for God's glory. □

**Belmont
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and Reflector**

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September members
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**Tennessee DR
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Reflector**

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Relief director David

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about your newsjournal

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Challenge for one million baptisms begins

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The time has come. For more than a year, Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch has been traveling the country, spreading the word about a convention-wide emphasis on witnessing to, winning, and baptizing one million people in one year.

The "Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge!" for evangelism was officially launched at the SBC annual meeting held here in June. In July, Welch issued a call for all 1,183 Baptist associations across the nation to hold two "associational baptism rallies" between Oct. 1 of this year and Sept. 30, 2006.

Baptism rallies, Welch said, should be a joint effort among all the churches of an association. They should choose a neutral outdoor site at which to hold the rally, he said, and ideally, each participating pastor should bring at least one person to be baptized into his church fellowship at the rally. Times of testimonies, singing, and preaching could accompany the baptisms, according to the desires of each association.

Last fall, Southern Baptists were introduced to Welch's passion for reviving a baptism emphasis when he embarked on a campaign that included a 48-state bus tour as well as visits to Canada, Hawaii, and Alaska, all in 25 travel days. He stopped at Baptist churches along the way to encourage them to be part of winning a lost world to Christ. Everywhere he set foot, Welch made a point to share the gospel with at least one person in order to lead by example.

Along with the associational baptism rallies, Welch has sug-

gested three dates on which churches nationwide might want to emphasize baptism as a show of unity in the cause. The first date is Nov. 27, the second is Easter Sunday next year, and the third is the following Sept. 30, which will mark the end of the year of one million baptisms.

Welch is urging churches to report their baptism numbers on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis by calling 1-877-289-3590. Each caller will be required to present the church's SBC identification number. □

Senate confirms Roberts 78-22; Miers nominated

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly confirmed John Roberts as chief justice of the United States Sept. 29, setting the stage for an expected battle over the next nominee to the Supreme Court.

Senators voted 78-22 to confirm Roberts and he later was sworn in, making him the 17th chief justice in U.S. history. More than half of the Senate's 45 Democrats joined all 55 Republicans in confirming the federal appeals court judge to the country's top judicial position. Justice John Paul Stevens, the oldest member of the court, delivered the oath to Roberts in a White House ceremony.

The high court held its first oral arguments in the new term Oct. 3. President Bush nominated Roberts, 50, as chief justice Sept. 5.

Roberts replaces William Rehnquist, who died Sept. 3 after a lengthy battle with thyroid cancer. Rehnquist had been chief justice since 1986.

According to news reports Oct. 3, President George W. Bush has tapped White House

Counsel Harriet Miers to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Miers, according to Associated Press, has never been a judge. She was the first woman to serve as president of the Texas State Bar and the Dallas Bar Association. □

East Tennessee volunteers serve for Red Cross

By Marcia Knox
Baptist & Reflector

MANDEVILLE, La. — Prior to the onslaught of Hurricane Rita, the North American Mission Board let all state convention disaster relief operations know that with the second hurricane all feeding volunteers would be needed to staff not only SBC units, but also the American Red Cross kitchens.

When 60 Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief mass feeding volunteers mobilized Sept. 24 from several East Tennessee churches to report to Sulphur, La., 17 volunteers were split off by NAMB and rerouted to Mandeville, to serve on the American Red Cross "Spirit of America," a state of the art kitchen.

The new team worked Sept. 25-28 cooking several thousands of meals for lunch, according to Lou Musland, associate disaster relief director for First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville.

Other churches represented on the team were: Sevier Heights Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, both in Knoxville; Glenwood Baptist Church, Powell; Meadowview Baptist Church, Georgetown; Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison; Ridgeview Baptist Church, Chattanooga; and New Union Baptist Church, Dayton.

The team cooked 7,600 meals on Sept. 26 and more than 8,800

meals on Sept. 27 before reported Musland.

This was amazing, because more than half Tennessee volunteers trained before they left response. If it hadn't been God and everybody together on the kitchen would not have been possible. For 11 of the volunteers was the 'hands on' experience.

Even more remarkable that during the cooking day, the entire kitchen shut down, because of a problem.

"At Mandeville, 17 state came together and did something impossible. This could have happened without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Even the rest of us never served as leaders before."

The Mandeville volunteers rejoined the rest of the Tennessee team members in Sulphur where they scheduled to work on the Tennessee state feeding through Oct. 1. □

Tennessee

—Continued from page 1

In the meantime, the Chester Baptist Association unit continues feeding missions in Franklin, with a person team made up of volunteers from several churches.

Also the First Church, Sevierville, unit remains at Dunnary School in Memphis.

Other recovery Louisiana are: Grace Baptist Church where three Baptist and one association missioned; and First Church of Bogalusa, three churches and television teams are serving.

Recovery teams in Mississippi include four associations at Grace Memorial Church in Gulfport.

Since feeding operations began Aug. 31, Tennessee Baptists feeding sites in Mississippi, and Tennessee reported more than 56,875 meals served for Hurricane Katrina and 56,875 served for Hurricane Rita.

Tennessee Baptist Relief is only sending volunteers. See the Baptist Convention website at www.tnbaptist.org.

Tennessee Baptist Relief is accepting donations to the Hurricane 2005 Fund. Donations may be made to Tennessee Baptist Relief, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728; designate your check for Katrina Relief. Donations may be made online at www.tnbaptist.org. □ — Marcia

Union launches \$110 million capital ...

—Continued from page 1

Dockery said the Vision for Excellence plan also identifies future expansion opportunities that will be needed by the year 2022 in order to achieve Union's

vision. These items are not included in the goals of Vision for Excellence, but might be moved forward if funding becomes available.

Those projects include a new



UNION UNIVERSITY President David S. Dockery, right, visits with former Sen. Bob Dole prior to Dole's appearance as the keynote speaker at Union's Ninth Annual Scholarship Banquet.

Learning Center, an Art Village, an Athletic and Convocation Center, along with additions to existing Jennings Hall and a second phase for White Hall.

During the banquet, Dole peppered his comments with self-deprecating humor as he told the audience that patience and endurance are two keys to overcoming life's obstacles.

Dole talked about his experience during World War II, when he suffered near-fatal injuries while leading his platoon up an Italian hill. His rehabilitation was lengthy and arduous, but Dole said through it he became a better person.

"In a sense, my whole life before April 14, 1945, was a prologue to the story, just as my life ever since has been shaped by what happened that April morning on an Italian hillside," Dole said.

"I finally realized it was time for me to grow up, forget about what I'd lost, and realize what I still had." □

Baptist volunteers offer free medical care in Chattanooga

Knox
and Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — Medical volunteers who are on the continuous roster called Tenn-ning with other unin- the area may want to faith-based free clinic, volunteers in medicine established by Ridgedale Church here.

Volunteers in Medicine clinic, which opened in the Eastgate Town Brainerd Road, treats Chattanooga residents who a financial range with

the clinic, which is under the of Ridgedale Baptist is currently located at 5900 Building, Suite d plans to eventually a portion of the Ten- baptist Convention Chil- Home's Chattanooga

ed for a clinic in Chat- began in April of 2003 Ridgedale Church pastor as established a Vision ittee within the church church initiatives for the

ing to Owens, the 1 Committee evolved ne completed study of rren's Purpose Driven e of the ideas that sur- uring a committee

a June 2003 was a free Clinic to help the unin- ased on a 1993 VIM Clinic in Hilton Head outh Carolina.

dea was presented at eat to the Vision 21 ee by Nancy Franks, a of Ridgedale church, just returned from a e model clinic.

The first VIM clinic in Hilton Head was established by physician Jack McConnell, a native of Chattanooga whose family members are members at Christ United Methodist Church, Chattanooga. There are currently 43 VIM operating clinics in 18 states with 30 more in the development stages.

Owens asked Franks to research the possibility of a VIM clinic and make a report. Owens established a VIM exploratory committee within the church in June 2003. Franks then began to meet with key Chattanooga community leaders in the health fields, political arenas, business venues, and faith based organizations to establish a need and a financial base for the clinic.

In July 2003, McConnell visited Ridgedale Church and spoke at the evening worship service which included a community-wide gathering of retired doctors and nurses in Chattanooga. McConnell stressed making the VIM clinic an ecumenical community-wide venture.

In September 2003, Ridgedale Church established seed money for the clinic. In October 2003, Ridgedale Church launch group went back to the church proposing to establish the community-wide clinic while developing a VIM nominating committee and a sounding committee.

"This was done to assure the VIM Clinic was not our ministry," said Owens. "We wanted the VIM clinic not to be identified as solely our ministry so it could reach the community and have medical volunteers from all churches."

After a nearly two-year process to complete the needed paperwork, secure property, and



BILL OWENS, right, pastor of Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, discusses the VIM clinic with **David Al Myers**, director of missions for Hamilton County Baptist Association.

other related matters, the clinic's grand opening was held in April.

After three months in operation, the clinic had 676 patients screened and qualified for the clinic, delivered \$72,232 in medical care, x-rays, labs, and drugs at clinic rates, treated many patients with multiple needs, referred 21 patients to Chattanooga's Memorial Hospital Breast Center and 36 to Project Access for advanced care, and had medical and community volunteers who donated 1,932 hours to the clinic. There are four paid staff members.

The clinic is currently open on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday for four hours a day. Patients may be treated by volunteer physicians, medical assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, and other medical professionals. There are also chaplains, greeters, and volunteers for a children's reading room.

The clinic is an ecumenical endeavor with more than 900

volunteers from more than 10 denominations and more than 190 volunteers from 20 Baptist churches. Besides Ridgedale Church, other Baptist churches whose members volunteer their time, money, and talents for the clinic include: Apison, Birchwood, Bayside, Brainerd, Meadowview, Fairview, Northside, Oakwood, Morris Hill, Brainerd Hills, First Church of Hixson, Fellowship, Philadelphia, Silverdale, Ridgedale, White Oak, and Woodland Park.

The clinic provides primary and preventative care services, specialty referrals, health education and nutrition management programs, and prescription drug assistance for patients. The clinic has increased the health and wellness of the area's working uninsured, relieved crowded emergency rooms, and freed public dollars for other services.

Summing up the VIM clinic's progress over the last year, "It has to be of God, because of the

timing with the health care issues," said Owens. "We needed it at this point in Chattanooga and in Tennessee. Ridgedale Church is willing to help establish similar clinics anywhere in the state."

"The clinic passes all denominations. Clinic ministry is great. The atmosphere at the clinic is unlike anything I've seen. It is ministry at its purest, and the Christian spirit is there."

At least 100 volunteers from Ridgedale Church work at the VIM clinic in many positions, and Owens himself serves as a chaplain.

"The VIM clinic is at the top of the list of ministries in which Ridgedale Church is connected," added Owens.

"It's pure ministry. It doesn't bring anybody into the church, and there are no financial returns. It is a sacrificial ministry, because it costs us by giving money and giving volunteers."

Every day 15 minutes before the clinic opens the volunteers have devotionals, led by the minister for the day or on call," said Franks. "We treat the whole person with their physical and spiritual needs and their bodies, souls, and minds. We have a culture of caring in our faith-based clinic."

The clinic currently serves patients who are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level with no medical insurance. People who qualify for Medicare, Medicaid, and TennCare are not eligible.

"In Hamilton County, there are almost 40,000 uninsured people in the area," added Franks.

For information on the VIM clinic, call (423) 855-8220 or go to www.vim-chatt.org. □

Months later, tsunami victims still need help ...

Continued from page 1

survivors remain in tents and camps for displaced persons, between buildings in business or sleep amid the rubble of what their homes. Others live in housing, which usually consists of small wooden frame covered by tin roof. The houses often are too hot to endure in the day-

ry first family we talked to was that we were the first people to e to even ask them anything," e Caldwell, a Southern Baptist from South Carolina. "They've hgh so much, and they have two - 10 people — living in one of row houses."

ll, an International Mission stee, joined other South Caroli- eers as they surveyed needs atered in other ways in Sri eare it to when [Hurricane] Charleston, multiplied about 10 said. "It is just overwhelming. imagine the force of the water — and the fear."

ar that still plagues tsunami

survivors more than lack of jobs or inadequate housing.

"Yesterday, two helicopters [were] going [over], and I feel disaster," said Priyani, a Sri Lankan woman. "I am always very scared when I hear the sound."

It reminds her of the choppers that flew over in the terror-filled days after the big wave hit, searching for the living and the dead.

Priyani and her sisters live near the beach. They want to move inland where they will feel safer, but their brother is a tourist guide — and tourists like the beach. He doesn't want to move. Instead, he bought them a television so they can watch for tsunami warnings.

Many south Asians share her fear. Occasional tsunami warnings send people scampering for higher ground.

While on temporary assignment in a tsunami-affected area, IMB missionary physician Doris Austen developed a brochure for local people called "Fear and the Future." It explains what causes tsunamis and how specialists predict them.

"Scientists try to estimate the risk of an earthquake," the brochure states. "But no one can say exactly when and where

an earthquake will occur. So, if someone on the street tells you that an earthquake and a tsunami are coming ... next week or next month, they don't know what they are talking about! It is wrong to cause panic by telling others something that is not true."

Fear is difficult to snuff out of hearts and minds that have yet to heal, however. And healing will take much longer than cleaning up debris and rebuilding houses — especially for those who remain reluctant to talk about the deep pain their loss has brought.

Babynona, 58, lost her husband and two children when the tsunami hit Sri Lanka's western coast. When Tennessee Baptist volunteers approached her temporary wooden house, Babynona answered all their practical questions about housing and income. When the questions moved to a more personal level, however, only tears came.

"She says she cannot talk about it," a translator explained to the volunteers.

Ramesh, another Sri Lankan, lost his entire family. They perished with about 1,500 others on a train traveling from Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital, to coastal Galle. His family members had come to Colombo for a party Dec. 25 and were

returning home when the tsunami ripped the train from its tracks. Ramesh, 23, works in Colombo and had stayed behind.

"My uncles, aunts, my family are dead," he said. "At the moment, I feel I am a little confused. Sometimes when I am alone, I think about them. I am a Christian, and I'm believing in my God, and that [this] is God's will. No, I can't talk. I don't want...." His voice breaks and falls silent.

It may take many more months and even years, but new houses eventually will replace the destroyed ones. Businesses will be rebuilt and new ones started. As for south Asian hearts, the pain may one day subside, but the scars will always be there.

The only hope south Asians truly have is to meet the merciful God who heals and restores.

"I don't think it is coincidence that for the last year or more the International Mission Board has put a special emphasis on south Asia," Caldwell said. "I don't think it's a coincidence that South Carolina Baptists entered into a three-year partnership with south Asia. And then what happens? A tsunami comes. God threw the hinges off the door for us." □

Where is God in the midst of tragedies?

guest
columnist



By Henry Blackaby

In the midst of tragedies, every promise of God is still true. Tragedy does not remove God or change God. He remains (Hebrews 13:8).

When God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5), He means this and He never changes. Such promises of God are for such times as tragedy.

Some feel that if God is really a God of love, He would not permit any tragedies. Not so! Sin causes tragedy. Sin is real and brings death (Romans 6:23). In the midst of all sin does to disrupt and destroy life as God intended, He has provided a way for dealing with sin and its consequences. His own presence through the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son has provided totally. His Grace is sufficient, always (II Corinthians 12:9).

The Apostle Paul, out of the depth of his life experiences, could boldly proclaim: "[W]here sin abounded, grace abounded much more" (Romans 5:20b). Paul also knew the incredible

effect of sin on all creation, so that through nature death and destruction could prevail: "[F]or we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now" (Romans 8:22). We are experiencing the awesome reality of this all over the world in our day.

To leave the reality of sin, and its effects, out of our reasoning in the midst of tragedies would be foolish. It also would distort the truth of God, creating confusion and unnecessary pain and suffering. God remains perfect love in the midst of tragedy, and His presence can and will transform everything — if we let Him.

As a pastor, I've seen God's presence and truths set people free and transform entire situations. We have been experiencing many tragedies in recent months. We need to choose to believe God and let Him affect us — in His perfect love! We must not let the world bring their claims against God, or put us into their mold of thinking about God in the midst of tragedies. We are not intimidated by the world's lack of knowledge about God. We have been given the truth by God, in His Word, and we must share His truth with our world boldly and confidently. □ — Blackaby, co-author of *Experiencing God*, is president of Blackaby Ministries International.

letters to the editor

What's important

As a place to begin let me tell you that I command a small unit of the Air National Guard that calls Nashville home. My unit's job is to go into any environment and create a temporary Air Force Base. We left Nashville the first Friday after the storm. Bay St. Louis was our destination. The local government agency basically gave us Stennis Airport as our base of operations. We hit the ground running.

I thought after doing this job for several years and getting activated for Enduring Freedom, we had seen it all. I was wrong! When the relief agencies turned on the flow of food and water, it was like trying to catch water from a fire hydrant with a paper cup. In the first three days we unloaded 240 tons of supplies from 49 large aircraft including a 747 on a piece of blacktop the size of a small parking lot.

I have never seen people work so well together and so hard for a common goal. We were not the ones actually handing out the food to the victims, but we were a big part of the process.

We have watched the news when we could and have seen all the misery and problems, but here in Mississippi we have seen a spirit one cannot help but notice. We have met many many people here who have lost all their worldly possessions. Not one seems concerned. They are all just so happy that their families are safe and healthy. At home we talk all the time about what is really important. These people are true believers. They know first hand what "stuff" really means and it's not much.

My people and I consider it a blessing to have been part of such a successful effort to help people. Further, it has been a blessing to learn or relearn from these unfortunate people what is truly important.

Mel Overton
Brentwood 37027

Student's opinion

As a Belmont University junior double major in religion and political science called to missions, this letter is written in response to the article entitled, "Board rejects covenant with Belmont" from the September 21 issue.

Southern Baptist from birth, I have been affiliated with the TBC for the last eight years upon my family's relocation to the great state of Tennessee. Understanding that the TBC rejected Belmont's covenant that allowed designated TBC monies to be placed as Endowed Scholarships for TBC students greatly disheartened me.

I believe that a student's prospective on the situation should be heard.

In today's culture, Christian witnesses in every possible profession from lawyer to the mission field are needed. TBC's rejection of Belmont's covenant will hamper TBC students attending Belmont — a great loss to all since Belmont was ranked 15th among the Southern Colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*. Belmont's School of Religion is an amazing program staffed by some of the most scholarly and personable faculty that I have ever met. The program combines sound theology with the actual practice of ministry. It would be unfortunate to TBC students, such as myself, to exclude such an academically challenging University.

I have never offended someone by telling them that I am Southern Baptist until this past year. I was told that we are not open-minded. I was truly insulted by this statement. However, reading that the TBC rejected Belmont's covenant which would benefit TBC students because of the 60-40 ratio of TBC trustees made me question open-mindedness. I believe that we need to bridge the gap with other denominations working for the kingdom of God as broth-

ers and sisters in Christ.

I ask that the TBC Executive Board consider the Southern Baptist student who believes in Southern Baptist traditions and faith.

Does the TBC's rejection of this covenant alienate the next generation knowing that the TBC rejected a covenant that would allocate scholarship monies to them?

Jennifer Reed
Nashville 37212

Supports Belmont

Several have asked me about Belmont University's proposal to have 40 percent of its trustee board be non-Baptist Christians.

The university administration and trustees are committed to maintaining the distinct Baptist identity and Christian commitments of the institution. They are also committed to maintaining at least 60 percent Tennessee Baptist representation on their board.

Why non-Baptist trustees?

All three of our TBC related schools of higher education have Christians who are not Baptists on their faculty and staff. All three recruit non-Baptist students. And all three gladly accept contributions from non-Baptists.

Belmont, however, is the only school to attract a majority enrollment of non-Baptists. The university has a unique relationship with the business and professional community in Nashville. Expanding the scope of trustee selection allows Belmont to more fully utilize the diverse leadership and development base available to the institution.

I rejoice that Belmont continues to be salt and light in the larger metropolitan Nashville community and beyond. I applaud Belmont's desire to maintain and practice distinctive Baptist commitments. I am not threatened by other Christians serving and strengthening

the hand of Belmont University.

I regret that many on our TBC Executive Board do not know and value Belmont as does Crieveewood Baptist Church. Among our church members are current or former trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Belmont. We know the caliber and commitment of people associated with Belmont.

We can and will continue to proudly support Belmont University.

L. Joseph Rosas III, pastor
Crieveewood Baptist Church
Nashville 37220

Time to wake up

I've been waiting for somebody to say something. We've had 9/11 and the killer wave in Asia, and now Katrina. What's next? Is God trying to say something? I believe He is.

I am not hearing any politicians or preachers or Baptist leaders saying America needs to repent and turn to God. I am not hearing the church growth gurus say, "We need to repent and call America back to God." I am hearing more biblical truth out of President Bush than I am all the Baptist preachers together.

It is time we wake up! God is judging our nation and our world. The civic leaders and powerbrokers met in Baton Rouge and planned a modified Mardi Gras and the rebuilding of the French Quarter. They said nothing about getting right with God.

Many Southern Baptists have departed from the historical faith once delivered to the saints. Just read the book of Jude. There is no basis for God to work from. He is left with the need to judge America and He is and He will.

If you know of any of our Baptist leaders saying we need to repent, please let me know.

Vaughn Denton, pastor
Magnolia Baptist Church
Olive Branch, MS 38654

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PA

First Baptist Church, F Ala., is seeking a full-time. If you feel God lead send your resume, pl to Pastor Search C 222 College St., Rog 35652 or e-mail to son@netzero.net.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church, Tenn., is now acceptin for a full-time pasto Please send resume d terery First Baptist C North Chestnut St., TN 38574. Post to th of Sonny Gilpatrick.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Tusculum Hills Baptis Nashville, Tenn., is accept resumes for a full-t through Nov. 1. Pl resume to Pastor Se mittee, Attn. Michael Box 3056, Brentwood 37027.

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Traditional rural ch vision to grow, seekin Send resume to Gr Church, 410 Old I Bethpage, TN 37022

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First Baptist Church in Ark, (www.booneville receive resumes un 2005, for the positio Resumes may be ma P.O. Box 328, Boo 72927.

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Full-time pastor. The Church of La Plata, M ing an energetic ma God to the ministry, v our congregation a we spiritual growth and God for our church. provide inspiration a as we spread the G Jesus Christ in our First Baptist Church is located in a rapid and growing suburba ty south of Wash Applicants should (1 Christian character a I Timothy 3:1-7; (2 doctrine set forth by Faith and Messag adopted by the Sou Convention; (3) ha pastoral experien evangelistic growth growing affluent located near a big advanced education the ministry. Qualif should send their Neal Wilsey, Pulpi Chairman, 4636 Du Plains, MD 20695- fbcsearch@cor Resumes postmar 31, 2005 will receive eration.

MINISTRY — C

Lexington Baptist seeking a full-time, minister of childho Send resume to 308 E. Main St., L 29072, Attn. Sandy

Men's Ministries director

Disaster relief trailer used to teach missions

Marcia Knox
Ministries Newsletter

ROGERSVILLE — A Disaster Relief trailer for Holston Baptist Association is used as visual aide to Royal Ambassadors, Ministries groups, and mission groups about missions and special offerings, according to their associational Ministries/Disaster director.

"I want young people to help others in times of crisis," James Shackelford, associational Men's Ministries/Disaster Relief director and also a member of Church Hill First Baptist Church, Church Hill, recently explained his mission teaching theory. "By using the Disaster Relief trailer to demonstrate, people can see missions visually and not just hear about the abstract idea."

The unit was recently used at Missions Fair April 30 at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mt.

Carmel, for all mission groups to see. "It also works as a training tool for RAs and Girls in Action to encourage them to become involved in mission work," Shackelford added.

"This summer it went to three VBSs as a training tool to introduce children to missions and to encourage churches to give to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions (GOTM)," he noted. "I explained to them that \$1,500 was used from GOTM to purchase the trailer in addition to \$12,000 that the 54 associational churches contributed. Now there are around 150 trained Disaster Relief volunteers in the association."

"The Disaster Relief trailer was also used to show RAs Aug. 20 during the associational RA Camp-O-Ree what Disaster Relief was about and to show off the equipment that the children would get to use when they grow up and become adults."

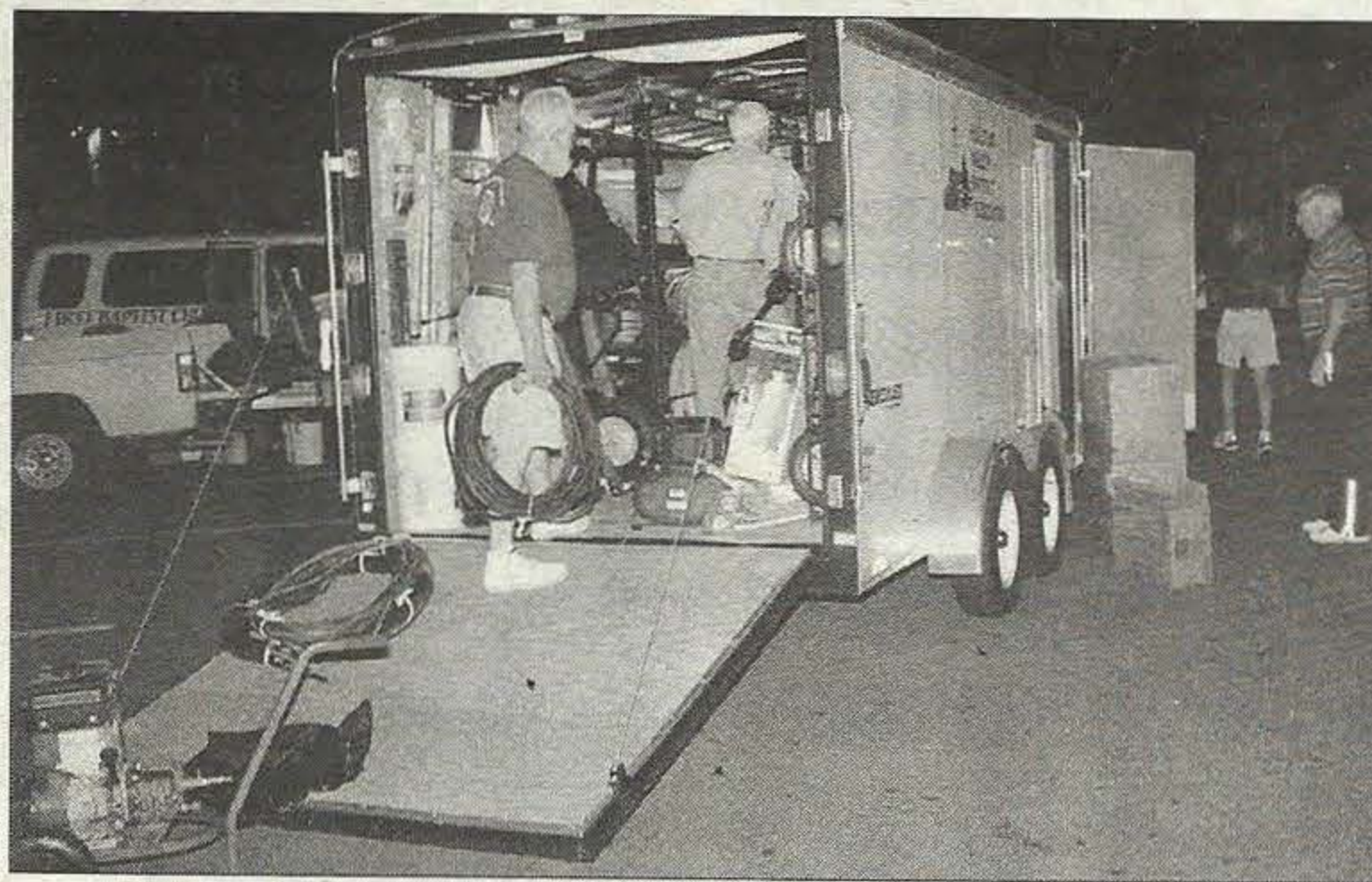
The trailer made its maiden Disaster Relief voyage Sept. 9-18 when a 13-member recovery

team from Holston Valley Association worked out of Grace Memorial Baptist Church in Slidell, Louisiana. The team did chain saw and mud out responses for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The trailer contains equipment for a complete chain saw unit, mud out unit with pressure washer, generator, gloves, and buckets, and recovery tools of all kinds to rebuild houses.

"I think a lot of people are now becoming more involved and are aware of the need to be involved in Disaster Relief," said Shackelford. "I believe the trailer itself has had an impact on need, because people actually see the trailer. It's giving them a desire to go on a mission trip. All the volunteers have seen a need, and they are telling people in the churches."

"We told people in Louisiana that God still loves them, and we witnessed that there is still



HOLSTON VALLEY Baptist Association's Disaster Relief Recovery teams with chain saw and mud out workers responded Sept. 9-18 to Hurricane Katrina. Packing up for the trip from Rogersville were, from left, Roy Bradley, Maple Hill Baptist Church, Rogersville; James Shackelford, Church Hill First Baptist Church, Church Hill; and David Holcomb, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel.

a need for the human touch. While the people stood in the huge food lines, we hugged them and put our arms around them. It was overwhelming when they shared their emo-

tions and the details about what they went through with Hurricane Katrina.

"When we went on the job site, we explained to the people — See Disaster, page 7

Tri-State Camp-O-Ree draws 550

Marcia Knox
Ministries Newsletter

CORDOVA — Over 550 attended the 31st annual 2005 Tri-State Camp-O-Ree held Sept. 1-2 at Camp Cordova even though lodgerangements were shifted to accommodate Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are currently residents, according to Mike Freeman, Tri-State Camp-O-Ree (TSC) director.

"This year's TSC was another success," Freeman said, who also serves as the Mid-South Association RA director. "However, due to evacuee families from New Orleans living at Camp Cordova (now known as Cordova) and Conference Center) minor adjustments were made to the TSC with lodging participants."

"The minute decisions made it possible to have SC activities. Participants understood the purpose of Royal Ambassadors, GAs, and Acteens. The primary purpose is missions and ministry, no matter what the difficulty the evacuees from New Orleans needed our help. We must be faithful to the Lord's work."

The leadership of the TSC invited the evacuees to participate in all activities at the Tri-State Camp-O-Ree for free. "The Tri-State Camp-O-Ree is a two day, Friday-Saturday camp where boys and girls in grades 1 through 12 enjoy competition in camp sports and share in Christian interest activities. This event is sponsored by the Mid-South Association Royal Ambassador program in cooperation with Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee Baptist conventions' mission education programs, all children and youth are invited. Participants found a large number of activities to test their skills and interests. A detailed list of these activities and their winners can be found on the web site under scheduled



A BOY CROSSES the Bridge of Virtue at the Tri-State Camp-O-Ree at Camp Cordova, Cordova.

events at www.tristatecamporee.org.

Participation was elective from either tent camping to renting cabins if available, cooking meals or eating in the camp cafeteria, or entering the competitive events or hanging out and enjoying each other.

The guest speaker for the Friday night campfire worship service was Jeff Shipley, pastor of Whitten Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis. The campfire worship service love offering was designated to the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

The online missionary for the September *Lad* magazine was Les Neely, IMB missionary to Zambia, Africa.

— See Tri-State, page 6

Association camp draws 80 boys

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

HENDERSON — Almost 80 Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, and their leaders attended the recent Gibson Baptist Association Boys Camp at Camp Lajoie in Chickasaw State Park near here, according to associational RA director Tony Moore.

This year in attendance at the weekend camp were 21 Challengers, 34 RAs, and 24 adults. "Last year the attendance was around 50 with only five Challengers," said Moore. "This year we had several churches attend the camp that did not have RA programs so we incorporated the 'Sons of Virtue' materials into the missions studies to give them an introduction to RAs. The archery mission studies were taught by the Challengers."

"As a direct result of the camp, one young man was saved when he got home on Sunday night at his church," added Moore. "He was baptized on Wednesday night."

Besides swimming, there was a fishing tournament, talent show, other activities, and lots of good food. □



BOYS IN GRADES 1-12 made up the almost 80 Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, and their leaders who attended the recent Gibson Baptist Association Boys Camp at Camp Lajoie at Chickasaw State Park.

A Word from Gene

The men in your church are looking for an opportunity to do meaningful work. Men, by nature, will work hard to meet a challenge. They like the feeling that comes from achieving a worthy goal. They will always treasure the trophies that signal success.

Real leaders will help men find significant service that incorporates their God-given strengths. Leaders can help men make a connection between who they are and what God wants them to be. It is a watershed moment when a Christian man experiences the wonderful transforming power of knowing that God gave him his present skills to be used on practical mission fields.

Our responsibility as leaders is to help him take those first steps that lead to those transforming moments. An exceptionally good option is the new opportunity from the North American Mission Board (NAMB) called Men@Work.

Simply put, it is a plan for three men to meet in each others homes on a rotating basis each week to tackle the work of home improvement, literally and figuratively.

After a short period of devotion and discussion, the plan is to attack one of the

projects that has long been neglected around the house. Examples might be: painting the bedroom, fixing a leak, changing the oil, or performing some desperately needed yard work. As the leader, other men are helping these men build meaningful relationships and teaching them how to draw on each others' strengths.

After an appropriate time, the next step might be to challenge them to reserve one week to do the same projects for a needy family in the neighborhood. Unknown to them, they are becoming an "On Mission Team."

A natural, but challenging, progression would be to ask the team to incorporate an evangelistic tone by inviting an un-churched man to join the group. The unchurched men in your community are looking for a place to fit. They want to be asked to be on the team. This approach can have wide appeal to the unchurched.

No longer are men confined to a monthly meeting, prescribed agenda, or unnecessary organization. The challenge and incentive of forming a team and achieving worthy goals will become reward enough in the heart of a transformed man.



WILLIAMS

Gene

Gene Williams
Men's Ministry specialist

Tri-State Camp-O-Ree draws ...

— Continued from page 5

Changes for this year included: two Bible drills for Lads and Crusaders that ran simultaneously; a new activity was the prayerwalk; canoes and paddle boats were only used for fun and not competition; and reserved dinner meals were cookouts.

Other activities included fishing, canoeing, rafting, pinewood car races, missionaries, LifeWay Christian Book Store, computer missions learning center, night hikes, drug displays, lakeside campfire service highlighted with special guest.

In addition, there were awards for winners of the "Speak-Off Contest."

All chapters were asked to bring as many cans of food as possible for Brinkley Heights Ministries, Memphis. The chapter that brought the most can goods will be awarded a five year perpetual trophy.

"Even the evacuee families helped ready the camp and were instrumental in making TSC happen," said Freeman.

The overnight event is planned specifically for children and youth with activities directed toward developing strong Christian relationships and a sense of personal worth. □



According to Man in the Mirror founder

Reformation of Christian manhood need

By Joe Conway
Baptist Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A reformation of Christian manhood is necessary for North America to experience true spiritual revival, Patrick Morley, chairman and CEO of Man in the Mirror ministries, told a recent gathering of mission education leaders from across the U.S. and Canada.

"Can you imagine any way of getting society right without getting the church right? Can you imagine any way of getting the church right without getting the family right? Can you imagine getting the family right without getting marriage right? Can marriages be right without men being right? It really is about the men," Morley said.

"Unless we address the issues of Christian manhood, the other systemic problems in the church will not go away."

Morley, who chairs the steering committee for the National Coalition of Men's Ministries, spoke during the North American Mission Board's annual 2004 State Mission Education Leadership Update Jan. 29-30 in Orlando.

Morley's Man in the Mirror ministries focuses on serving pastors and church leaders who reach men. A former business executive, Morley founded his men's ministry in 1991 after writing a best-seller with the same name, *Man in the Mirror*, which has more than 3.5 million copies in distribution.

Morley, who sold his commercial real estate business in 1991, worked with NAMB's mission education team to help produce a men's ministry resource that debuted at the 2004 Southern Baptist Convention's June 15-16 annual meeting in Indianapolis.

"Jesus did not say, 'Go and make workers of all nations.' Of course, he said, 'Go and make disciples,'" Morley told the NAMB gathering. "You can't stop a disciple from wanting to serve the Lord. They can't wait to get to work."

The major spiritual hurdle with men, however, is that they don't have the abundance and power of God in their lives, because they are not rooted in their relationships with Christ, Morley said.

"They don't have enough Jesus for themselves, much less some left over to give to someone else," he noted. As a result, men in



MORLEY

the average church in the United States beginning to look too much like the average men in the world.

"What happens when a man's relation with Jesus is not right?" asked Morley. "I every 10 men in U.S. churches, nine will children leave the church, eight will not their jobs satisfying, seven will look at pornography, six will pay only the monthly minimum balance on their credit cards, four will get divorced, and all 10 will struggle to balance work and family. Only one of the 10 will have a biblical worldview," he said.

Morley recounted his life and the influence of his own father who left the church after burning out as a layman. He said he and brothers paid a high price for that decision including a brother who died of a drug overdose.

"How is it that a man could know what kind of ramifications a decision like that would bring? The church has the responsibility to communicate that to men. The church needs not only to help involve men in the work of the kingdom, but to help men be godly men, godly husbands, and godly fathers.

"You have men in your churches today are just like my dad was. They are wondering if it is worth the effort. God, in His grace brought the gospel to our family. God is redeemer. He is not going to allow someone get away from Him, because some humans doesn't do their job. But we need a moral spiritual reformation of our society and culture. We need a discipleship reformation of Christian manhood," Morley said.

The church's role is crucial in helping disciple other men, Morley said. "A man worship a God he doesn't know. How can a man share his faith unless he understands the gospel personally? How can a man know that his vocation is holy unless he's been taught?"

"It's the same with loving one another: raising a godly family and serving in ministry. I believe a disciple is someone who is called to walk with Jesus, equipped to live like Jesus and sent to work for Jesus. God is a sending God. How are men ever going to understand that unless we reach out to them and challenge them to follow?"

For more information about Man in the Mirror, visit www.maninthemirror.org. To learn more about NAMB mission education visit www.namb.net. □

Prison Aftercare Conference set for Oct. 28-31

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

BRENTWOOD — The fourth annual National Prison Aftercare Conference will be held Oct. 28-30 at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, sponsored by Transition of Prisoners, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan, and Christian Home Ministries of Nashville.

Anyone who has an interest in Restorative Justice needs to attend this national conference, according to Gene Williams, Men's Ministry specialist.

"The Refreshing the Fire Conference will offer informative workshops, inspiring

speakers, testimonies by ex-prisoners, and program models from across the country on prisoner re-entry," said Williams.

Workshop topics include: Understanding Corrections, Engaging the Church, Parenting After Prison, Aftercare, and many more.

Transition of Prisoners, Inc. (TOPS) has been operational for over 25 years and led by Joe Williams of Detroit, executive director. Christian Home Ministries is led by Bobby Sessoms, a CPA from Nashville.

Other organizations for re-entry that may attend are FOCUS Prison Ministries, Knoxville; Tennessee Depart-

ment of Corrections; BC Kairos; Prison Fellowship and Tennessee Baptist Ministries, Brentwood.

"I attended this conference in St. Louis, Missouri, 10 years ago," said Steve Humpl, FOCUS Prison Ministries executive director. "It was a first class event, and there will be excellent speakers representing prison ministries from around the nation."

"This conference is appropriate for experienced veterans, and those who want to investigate the ministry," noted Williams.

To register, go to www.topic.net or call (313) 875-3883 ext. 27. □

A Word from Frank

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GREEN

Steve inserted a new event in the camp program a couple of years ago. It wasn't a new water slide, a rifle range, or a paint ball area. It was "The Crosswalk." On the last night of camp during the last worship time, all the campers assemble at a point that is at the bottom of a steep hill. Divided into their respective cabins, the campers then carry a heavy, rugged, wooden cross up the hill. Each cabin takes their turn "bearing" the cross up the steep hill for at least a quarter of a mile where it is placed in a hole just like the cross that Jesus was nailed to during His crucifixion.

As I followed the procession with Steve, we asked each other if we thought we would have followed when Jesus was bearing His cross up the hill. I thought of the old hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross." I recalled Scripture after Scripture in the Bible that tells of the ordeal Jesus endured. I cried all the way up that hill. I saw many other adults crying also as they climbed.

When the cross was placed in the hole in the upright position, the camp pastor gave a short invitation. The boys were asked to share any decisions they made with their dad. I saw most of the dads and their sons finding a place to read the Bible and pray.

The Crosswalk was the most powerful invitation that I have ever seen at camp or anywhere else during a service. I know that I will never forget the experience. It underlined a belief that I already hold, which is the importance and opportunity that camps have in the lives of our children.

My prayer is that God will continue to inspire ways that we can continue to grow our children into On-Mission Christians.

Frank

Frank Green
RA/Challengers field worker

Smoky Mountain RA Challenge set

Men's Ministries Newsletter

MARYVILLE — The annual Smoky Mountain Regional RA Challenge will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, at East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville, beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing all day.

Sponsored by the Chilhowee Baptist Association in Alcoa, this annual event provides competition and awards for RAs and Challengers.

A team from Stock Creek Baptist Church, Knoxville, will provide breakfast with donations given to support missions. "The Band" from Stock Creek Church will perform.

Events planned are: compass, fire craft, knot tying, log saw, mission bowl, project hall, punt-pass-kick, RA racers, speak out, and other activities to come.



Fees for the event, include pre-registration fee per person is \$10 by Oct. 7 or \$12 at the door. Embroidered patches are \$3. Send fees to: Chilhowee Baptist Association/RA Challenge, 341 E. Lincoln Rd., Alcoa, TN 37701.

To volunteer for the RA Challenge, call the "The RA Info Guy," Dwayne Ledbetter at (865) 982-1543. □

17 TBC association workers

Men's Ministry fall retreat draws leaders

By Marcia Knox
Men's Ministries Newsletter

PIKEVILLE — This year's Men's Ministry fall retreat had a total of 17 directors of missions and associational Men's Ministry leaders attend the Sept. 23-24 training sessions at Fall Creek Falls Conference Center, according to Gene Williams, TBC Men's Ministry specialist.

"The main purpose of the Men's Ministry fall retreat was to build relationships, share information and experiences, and challenge each other to greater works in Men's Ministry," said Williams.

Devotions were led by Frank Green, Royal Ambassador and Challengers field worker, on Friday night and Saturday morning. Using Proverbs 5:21, Green spoke about God pondering the ways of man that ultimately resulted in the need for Christ's atoning blood.

Rod Garrett, a member of New Midway Baptist Church, Kingston, led the Friday night session drawing from his experiences through Anglers For Christ Ministries, a series of fishing tournaments for adults and children. He told about the hundreds of children and parents who receive Christ each year during events such as "Kid's Hooked on Fishing."

Steve Wilson, a teacher at Christ Presbyterian Academy, Brentwood, and a member of St. Paul's Southern Methodist Church, Franklin, who is active in ministry at the Ten-

nessee Prison for Women, Nashville, provided music and was featured speaker at the final session on Saturday. Wilson stressed prioritizing the many important issues that demand a man's time.

In order of importance on Wilson's list was: a relationship with God in Christ; spouse; children; extended family and friends; and careers. He observed that many good men err by putting career ahead of everything else.

"As a result of having this retreat, we will have many more training and mission opportunities at the associational level, because of increased commitment for men to serve God," added Williams. "The strength that comes through networking and sharing experiences increases over a lifetime to serve Christ." □



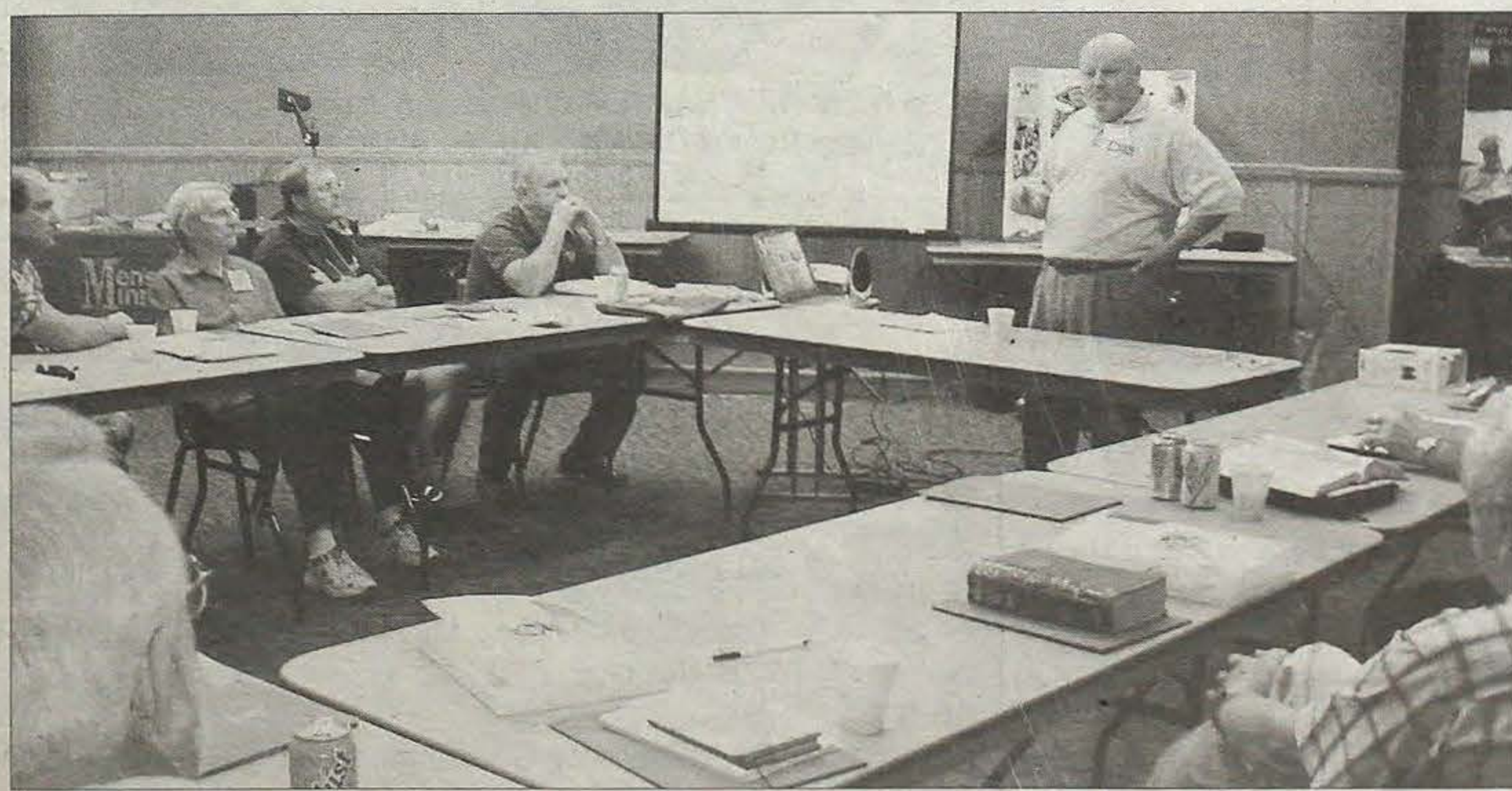
WILSON



GENE WILLIAMS of the TBC staff leads a small group at the fall retreat.



GARRETT



LEADING THE DEVOTIONS for the Men's Ministry fall retreat was Frank Green, Royal Ambassador and Challengers field worker.

aster relief trailer ...

Continued from page 5
were going to do with
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prayer with them. We
ged them to take it day
hang on with God's
would get a great feel-
complishment while

being used by God in a tangible way."

On Sept. 25 the trailer was exhibited at McPheeters Bend Baptist Church, Church Hill, where the GOTM mission emphasis was featured.

Associational RA director David Holcomb, a member of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel, joined Shackelford in the training sessions. □

Pastor in Goodlettsville

Associate pastor's letter praises Men's Fraternity

For Men's Ministries Newsletter

This letter was recently written to Robert Lewis, directional leader and teaching pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Ark., by Jerry Heflin, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Goodlettsville.

Lewis is author and founder of Men's Fraternity, a LifeWay program ministry, dedicated to helping men discover the biblical principles of authentic manhood.

For more information about Men's Fraternity visit www.lifeway.com.

Brother Robert,

On Feb. 9, my senior pastor and I came to Men's Fraternity to experience this program and talk with you about it. Like most ministers we thought perhaps this would be something that would benefit our men of the church. I wasn't prepared for how the Lord was going to use this in my own life.

On returning home, I began going through the material the following week.

On Feb. 17 my wife and other ladies left for a two week project in Temuco, Chile. On Feb. 18, I was by myself

and working through the lesson "Remembering Dad."

I heard you talk about the five things that every son wants and needs from his father. I filled in my notes, looked at this material and suddenly came "unglued." I wept for 15 minutes.

My dad worked hard, but he was always gone on weekends in Gospel singing conventions. It was there that he met another woman. The day after I entered military service, Jan. 4, 1954, he left mom and my sister. I never knew that they were having serious problems.

They were divorced for 33 years before each died about a year apart. It was so bitter that they were buried in cemeteries miles apart. Dad was born in Ruston, La., but he lived in Jonesboro, La., where I grew up. After the divorce he moved to Minden, La., until he died.

My dad was that emotionally and spiritually absent father. He provided for us. I never really did have any other idea than that he loved us, but I never remembered his telling me. As I previewed this material, I realized that he had never given me any of those five things.

For the first time I understood, why I always would weep bitter tears at his grave and cry out in my soul. Oh dad, why?

Your use of the "umbilical cord" analogy was used of the Holy Spirit to impact me. I went to my senior pastor and said, "I have to make a quick trip to Louisiana and ceremonially cut the umbilical cord beside the graves of mom and dad. I must have this closure, but I don't think the church folk would understand." He told me to go that he understood completely, because he was also working through the material.

On that next Tuesday, I left Nashville and drove to Brinkley, Ark., spent the night, went through Ruston and into Jonesboro, where it was raining cats and dogs. I went to my mom's grave and asked the Holy Spirit to bear witness as I confessed complete, unqualified forgiveness, and love for mom. I then spiritually enacted out the cutting of that emotional cord. The experience was so real that I think I heard it snap free.

I went 15 miles to dad's

grave which was located about 75 yards out in a muddy, wet country cemetery. I hesitated and then told the Lord that I had come 550

miles for this closure, and I wanted it done right. Mud, water, and all, I stood beside his grave where he had been 19 years and went through

the same ceremony as with mom.

I was in my hometown for only one hour and then I headed back to Tennessee. But what a freedom was given to me at those moments and what a freedom has insured since the trip. Indeed "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

I recently lead revival services in Morristown where I shared that story. God used it mightily. I thank God that I am having some free time in the morning hours to further work through the manual.

We are eagerly looking forward for the men of our church to go through Men's Fraternity. Hopefully this story will encourage other men to go for closure.

In His Service,
Jerry Heflin



How is your quiet time?

By Randy Pool
Men's Ministries Newsletter

How is your quiet time? Sore subject? I understand struggle with it as well. I read something some years ago that I have to keep reminding myself. It was from a small booklet by Robert Boyd Munger called *My Heart, Christ's Home* (1954).



POOLE

It talked about quiet time taking place in the living room or heart. That place of comfort where we meet the Lord each day. As our busy schedule crowds out that time, we find the Lord waiting there at the end of the day. Noticing his presence we go in to find that has been waiting there for us. Then Munger adds insights from the perspective of the Lord:

"He (Jesus) said, 'The trouble is that you have been thinking of the quiet time, of Bible study and prayer, as a means for your own spiritual growth. True, but you have forgotten that this time means something to Me also. Remember I love you. At a great cost I have redeemed you. I want your fellowship. Just as you look up into my face, I warm my heart. Don't neglect this hour if only for my sake. Whether or not you want to be with me, remember I want to be with you. I really love you!'"

David reminds us in Psalm 139:17: "How precious are your thoughts unto me. In other words, it says amazing that you think about me and wish to spend time with me."

It should humble us to think Jesus wants to spend time with us. For no other reason, we should not neglect a time of personal prayer and Bible reading time with Him. He has saved us to know us. His knowledge comes from spending time together. Make a point of stopping the living room tomorrow and spending some quiet time with your Savior will change the rest of the day. □ — Used by permission from Poolside Reflections Vision — Gibson Baptist Association newsletter, volume 34, May 1, 2005. the associational miss coordinator.

Men's Ministry Newsletter changes format

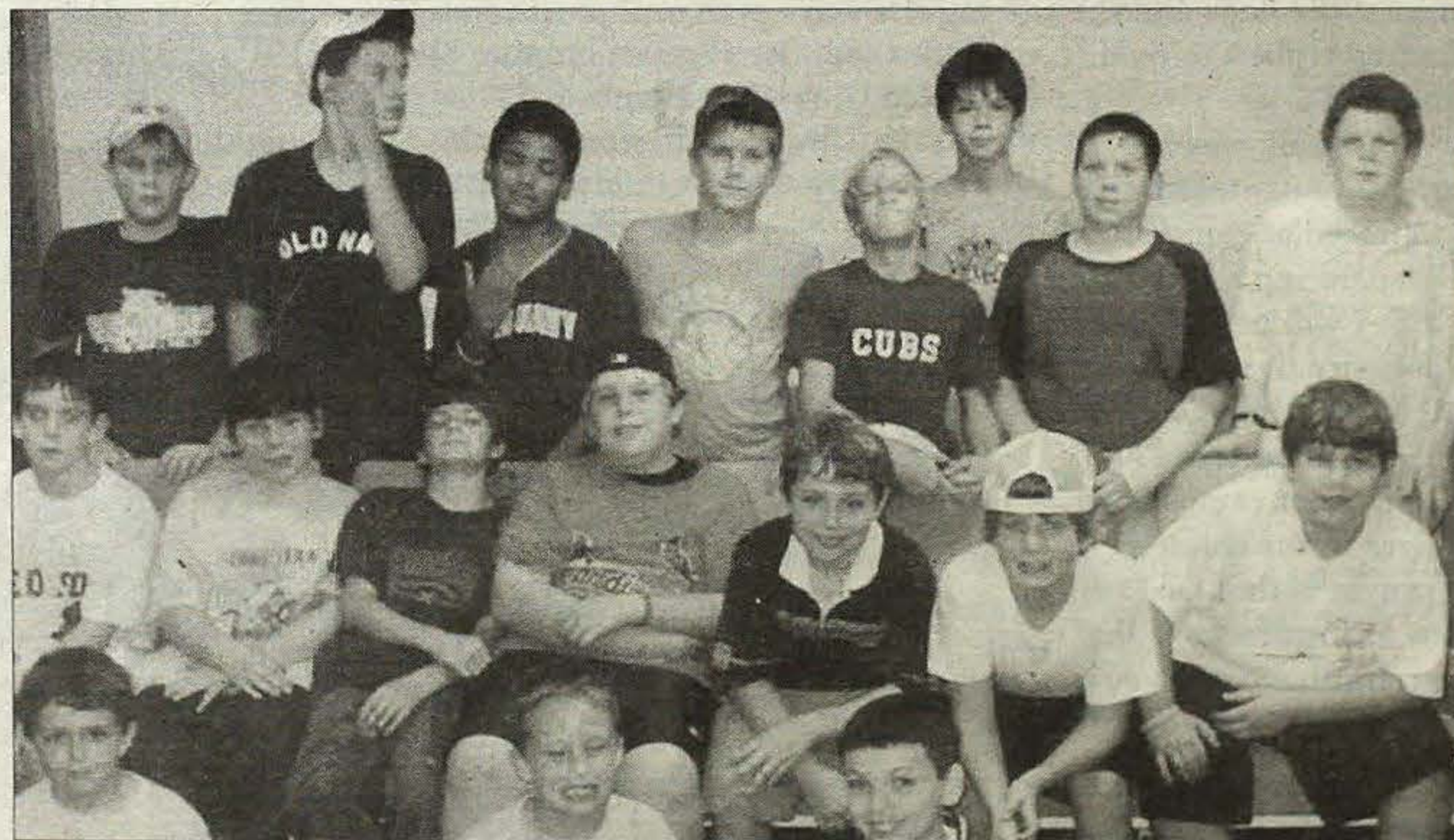
For Men's Ministries Newsletter

BRENTWOOD — This is the last issue of the "Men's Ministries Newsletter" in this format which people have been used to, according to Gene Williams, Tennessee Baptist Convention Men's Ministry specialist.

"Over seven years it has been run in various forms," said Williams.

"Information about Men's Ministry will now be disseminated through news stories and emphases in Church Health features as part of the ongoing coverage of Tennessee Baptists in the *Baptist and Reflector*."

"We look forward to this new relationship with the *Baptist and Reflector* and the Church Health Group." □



A NEW RA CHAPTER has recently formed that averages around 70 boys in attendance at Calvary Baptist Church, Parsons. Kelly Allen is the leader.

Baptist Men's Ministry Dates 2005

October 22 Smoky Mountain Regional RA Challenge, East Maryville Baptist Church, Maryville

28-30 National Prisoner Re-entry Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Nashville

2006

February 24-25 Associational Men's Ministry Leadership Training, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood

April 7-8 RA Wilderness Challenge, Camp Boxwell, Gallatin

October 6-7 Tri-State Camp-O-Ree, Camp Cordova, Cordova

Katrina was reminder of 'final storm coming,' says TBC president

Stal Kinser
University news office

KNOXVILLE — Even throughout the storms of life, figuratively and literally, Christians must trust in God's providence, Roger Freeman said.

Freeman focused on the issue of what God said through Hurricane Katrina when he addressed students in a Union University chapel service.

"After the hurricanes, I began to search the Scriptures, and I asked myself if God speaks through natural disasters," he said. "God is the creator of thunder, storms, and hurricanes. Certainly these are beyond our understanding of all the reasons He does these things. But He says, 'I am sovereign. Trust my power and my providence.'"

Reminding students that the death rate has not risen because of Hurricane Katrina, Freeman pointed out that every person dies eventually.



FREEMAN

be just, and will always be for your good if you will just trust me."

Freeman focused on the issue of what God said through Hurricane Katrina when he addressed students in a Union University chapel service.

"After the hurricanes, I began to search the Scriptures, and I asked myself if God speaks through natural disasters," he said. "God is the creator of thunder, storms, and hurricanes. Certainly these are beyond our understanding of all the reasons He does these things. But He says, 'I am sovereign. Trust my power and my providence.'"

Reminding students that the death rate has not risen because of Hurricane Katrina, Freeman pointed out that every person dies eventually.

"Natural disasters are God's loving reminder that there is a final storm coming," he said. "As Christians, we need to go into the world and proclaim that there is a storm coming called judgment. And the only way to survive the final storm is to know Jesus."

Freeman used the example of Job, whose entire life fell apart in one day. In Job 42, Job is given back as much as he had lost and more. Job humbled himself and submitted to God's sovereignty, instead of trying to explain his actions.

"Providence is the loving application of God's sovereignty," Freeman said.

Freeman told Union students and faculty that God

already knows what's going to happen in their lives. Their job is to get in on what God is doing and trust His power and His providence. Though they may not want them, storms will come into everyone's lives.

"God has a bigger plan in mind for the hurricane," Freeman said. "A hurricane can be an event which sparks something great, if we will trust God. It may take everything away but God can give back twice as much."

Freeman also pointed out that Christians are not only to trust in God's power and providence in hard times. They are also called to be like Him and show sympathy to those affected by the hurricane.

He challenged college stu-

dents to sacrifice their conveniences for those disadvantaged by the hurricane. And, in addition to donating supplies and money, he asked people to pray for those in need.

Union University President David S. Dockery presented Freeman with a plaque in appreciation of his faithful service and leadership as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and as friend of Union University.

Funding from the Tennessee Baptist Convention offsets student tuition costs by about \$1,000 each year. This contribution, Dockery said, makes it possible for many students to consider Union as an option for Christian higher education. □

Knoxville pastor dies of injuries from accident

Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Dana Mathewson, 47, pastor of Buffat Heights Baptist Church here for 12 years, died Sept. 27 following a two-car accident on Monday afternoon.

The accident is under investigation by the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

David Hancock, a church member and Mathewson's doctor, told the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* that his pastor's death "leaves a hole" in Buffat Heights Church and the community.

"He was a man who loved life and people. His influence is wide-reaching in this town," Hancock told the *Sentinel*.

Mathewson is survived by his wife of 20 years, Jennifer, and sons, Daniel, 15, and Micah, 10.

He founded Ministry4Life, a ministry to ministers with no formal training and wrote the book, *Ministry4Life*.

Mathewson was former minister to students, First Baptist Church, Pasadena, Texas. He was a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. He was from the Shreveport/Bossier City, La., area.

Funeral services were Sept. 30 at Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville, with Bruce Martin, pastor, Mount Harmony Baptist Church, Knoxville; and Phil Wilson officiating.

Memorial gifts may be made to Buffat Heights Baptist Church Vision Fund, 2101 Ault Road, Knoxville, TN 37914 or Ministry4Life, P.O. Box 1215, Seymour, TN 37865. □

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Mike Bundon

C-N Class of 1975

Minister of Music, Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Knoxville



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Seminary trustees vote to remain in New Orleans

NOBTS news service

ATLANTA — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary will remain in the city of New Orleans.

The seminary board of trustees voted unanimously to keep the school in New Orleans Sept. 27 during a meeting at the seminary's temporary administrative offices in the NOBTS North Georgia Campus.

Trustees also approved the administrations plans to restore the main campus to normal operation by August 2006.

"I am very excited about the passionate commitment of trustees to the city of New Orleans," said NOBTS President Chuck Kelley. "After talking through the [issue] there was absolutely no reservation, no hesitation, that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is and always will be New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."



KELLEY

The trustee board met Sept. 26 and 27 in a special called meeting to discuss the damage to the seminary campus and explore options for the future. From the beginning, the meeting took on a hopeful tone.

Trustees carefully weighed the question of returning to New Orleans before their vote. In the end, with awareness of the monumental task facing the seminary, the board expressed a firm commitment to return to New Orleans. "We are compelled to rebuild the seminary in New Orleans," said L. Ray Moncrief, trustee chairman. "The seminary was founded there and it's a great opportunity for this sem-

inary to have an impact on the reconstruction of the city and for the cause of Christ."

Moncrief said that he hopes the seminary will play a prominent role in helping the people of New Orleans heal and recover from this tragedy. The seminary will also be needed, he said, to help re-launch and re-establish the many churches in the region.

Other trustees agreed, including Tennessee trustee Steve



LINGINFELTER

To the best of our knowledge all ads in the *Baptist and Reflector* represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always use caution in responding to ads.

Linginfelter, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Townsend.

Linginfelter told the *Baptist and Reflector* he is "comfortable" with the decision to rebuild.

"I think it's a good idea for a lot of reasons," he said.

Linginfelter observed that from a financial standpoint it

would be better to rebuild than "to walk off and leave what we have." He noted there has been a lot of new construction on the New Orleans campus in recent years.

Also, he continued, "we don't really know what New Orleans will look like when it's rebuilt,

but we feel we can have a tremendous impact during rebuilding process.

"And, hopefully, we can have an impact for God in the rebuilding of the city," added. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

First Baptist Church in L. Tenn., is now accepting applications for a bivocational minister of music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 54, Linden, TN 37096. For more information you may contact the church at (931) 589-2227.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church of Sonville is currently seeking a bivocational minister of music to lead a growing dynamic congregation in worship. Please send more information, (865) 767-5.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church of M is now accepting resume for a full-time minister of music. Please submit resume to FBCMO, Attn. Search Committee, 3200 Mt. Olive F. Olive, AL 35117. Any questions please contact the church at (205) 631-4401.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

SBC church seeking a full-time minister of music for instrumental programs. Requirements: a degree in music plus 5 years experience. Send resume marked by Oct. 31 to United Church, Attn. Music Committee, 2320 29th S. land, KY 41101.

MINISTRY — STUDY

Immanuel Baptist Church full-time youth/outreach — degree, 2 years experience, married. Family-oriented church. Please send resume to 709 E. Gaines, Lawler, TN 38464, Attn. Youth Committee.

MINISTRY — RECREATION

First Baptist Church, M. Tenn., a northern suburban Memphis, is accepting applications for minister of recreation. Candidates must have a degree and at least 3 years experience in a church setting at least 1,500 in School. E-mail resume to rray@fbc-millington.org or to Rob Ray, First Baptist Church, 5010 West Union Rd., M. TN 38053.

MISCELLANEOUS

Several new churches in Tennessee are in need of passenger vans. These churches are ministering to income communities and transportation needs are you or your church would like to donate a van to these new churches please contact Wayne Terry at (615) 7905 or wterry@tnbaptist.org

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book review

By Ferguson

From Faking It To Finding Grace

By Connie Cavanaugh

Harvest House Publishers, 2005

Most authors write about what they know, and when it comes to personal experiences, they write well. Cavanaugh is no exception. In her latest book, *Faking It to Finding Grace*, Cavanaugh writes about a wilderness experience — a journey that was very painful for her because of who she was — a minister's wife who was experiencing a crisis of doubt and lackluster faith.

When she was prepared for a public speaking opportunity one day, she felt called by God to admit her doubt. Since many women in the audience knew her, she realized her admission would be a huge risk — a risk that could potentially jeopardize her husband's job and his ministry. But she found great relief in her admission of doubt and was comforted, as she comforted others by her admission. She found out that she was not the only one struggling with doubts. This begins her journey out of the wilderness. A journey inspired by God and His Word.

Cavanaugh admits that she's not sure when her journey of lackluster faith began. She was "doing" all the things a good pastor's wife should do and trying to be the person she needed to be, but felt as if she were just going through the motions. "If things were calm at home and we were doing well at school and my husband was successful in his work and the bills were getting paid on time, and God was rewarding me for faithful service. If everything went awry, I immediately wondered, Who has He or someone in my family?"

She believes at times like these God gives us wake-up calls. "Anytime you see yourself for who you really are and you have drifted off course, this is a wake-up call," she says. "The wake-up call does not change you; you respond to it, and God changes you."

Things change doesn't happen overnight. It may take weeks, or even years. "Patterns of thought and feelings; habits need breaking and reforming."

Cavanaugh believes part of the reason we sometimes get stuck on the road of doubt is because we preach and live the gospel of grace, but we still work hard to earn it. "As Christians, we so deeply yearn to hear the words of love to us. We work and serve and sacrifice ourselves out in order to earn His favor, all the while preaching the gospel of grace. But in our deepest hearts, the hidden parts of our soul, we hunger for His presence. We thirst for His whispers of love. We long for His healing touch."

When we don't hear Him or feel Him or sense Him, we become disillusioned and doubtful. When this happens, Cavanaugh says the best thing we can do is to stop trying to earn God's love. We should pray, read God's Word, stay in the company of other believers, worship, and serve. And, above all, be grateful. "When I was busy earning my salvation, I was never grateful. I was joyless, I was bitter; I was not content with a sense of entitlement."

Cavanaugh's faith has matured during this wilderness journey even though it's been a painful process for her. In the end, we "forge a faith that will work in the real world. Mature faith will not crumble in the face of betrayal, suffering, illness, grief, or loss. Mature faith is built out of the ashes of brokenness."

If you are lost in the wilderness of lackluster faith or if you need to benefit from reading this book. □ — Ferguson is a correspondent for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Experience God's life-changing power

By Mark Brown

Focal Passage: Ephesians 1:18-2:10

Paul writes, *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do* (vv. 8-10).

If I am going to be holy, I must first be wholly. Thankfully, I do not have to be whole, but I will need to be wholly committed to that which is holy.

I know holy; I have felt it. I have seen it — more than once — but never more clearly than when I saw Jesus in Atlanta. He was wearing a pink sweat-suit.

Atlanta was hot in the middle of 1988. The Democratic National Convention had come to town in July and the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue (OR) followed in early fall. One Wednesday, I stumbled across a massive crowd gathering in the middle of Fourteenth Street. Figuring out that OR was mounting a clinic shutdown, I quickly decided to use my off-day from a suburban newspaper to cover the rally.

Seventeen years later, I need

only close my eyes to relive it.

There was a cacophony of disparate noises. In the two blocks I walked from Northside Drive to the building, I passed OR teams practicing baby cries and how to crawl on asphalt. Just 50 feet beyond them, an Atlanta Police Department captain was barking procedure instructions while his squad passed out plastic handcuff bands. Near the clinic, the street had been blocked off, leaving the intersection open as the stage for confrontation.

OR supporters leaned over the barricades and shouted slogans. Clinic workers shouted back from the building's porch and open windows. Ideologies collided and the roar was deafening.

I moved through the crowd, my stomach churning from the conflict. The Pro-Choice contingent had arranged for young women to make occasional walks toward the building. Shielded by workers with umbrellas bearing the center's logo, the entourage was encountered by OR crawlers sent to impede their progress. They wailed as they crawled, and their cries were met epithets by clinic supporters.

Camera in hand, I moved toward the best place to take a picture. I stopped still when I saw Jesus.

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Oct. 9

In the midst of hate stood a woman in pink sweats. Her eyes were closed tightly, but tears ran down her cheeks. She mouthed a silent prayer as her body moved in sync with the grotesque dance that was half-a-block away.



BROWN

She could not have seen them, yet some sort of spiritual gyroscope kept her in

alignment with the ugly ensemble as it staggered east to west across the street. Her right hand was lifted toward heaven.

I never heard her prayer, but I knew she embodied Christ.

Everyone there made a choice that day. The right chose enmity. The left chose antagonism. I chose to be a voyeur. And a soccer mom from the suburbs chose to be holy.

I want to be like that when I grow up. □ — Brown is director of news and publications at Carson-Newman College and a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

Do you have peace with God?

By Kevin Shrum

Focal Passage: Romans 5:1-11

The question "Do you have peace with God?" is significant, but often misunderstood. Too often, what most mean by "peace with God" is a cessation of the troubles and trials of life due to the loving and gracious presence of God. God's presence brings peace. Yet, while God's presence does bring peace, to limit the definition of peace to the mere cessation of troubles and trials is to miscalculate the precious gift of peace with God.

Peace with God is important because God is at war with sin and sinners. Remember, Romans 1:18 states, *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.* God will not, does not, abdicate His holiness to accommodate our sin. God will judge sin and sinners. In this sense, God is at war with the sinner and the sinner is at war with God. To define God at war with the sinner may shock some, but it is nevertheless true.

The dilemma of reconciliation is resolved in Jesus Christ. In Christ, God maintains His holiness because the punishment of sin is visited upon Jesus Christ rather than the sinner; conversely, the sinner is justified

before God by receiving righteousness from God through Christ. Jesus Christ is the peace treaty between a holy and loving God and the repentant sinner. Such a marvelous truth is informed by critical words in Romans 5:1-11.

In Jesus Christ we have "access" into God's grace. This standing we have before God produces in us joy *in the hope of the glory of God*, (v. 2). The joy that we now have in Jesus Christ causes us to rejoice even in our afflictions because our life perspective is now transformed in Jesus Christ. Because our world-view is biblical we have endurance, character, and hope. And the hope we have does not disappoint because it



SHRUM

is a hope that is rooted in the very character of God that has expressed itself in love.

God's peace treaty in Jesus Christ was revealed "at the appointed time" as Christ died for sinners (v. 6). In fact, not only did Jesus die for us at the right time, but He did so even though He had committed no sin (v. 8). He was the perfect, sacrificial, atoning lamb of God. The good news is that we are "declared righteous by His blood." He is our Passover.

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Oct. 9

It is through the blood of Christ that the sin debt is paid and our sins are forgiven.

For those who say that the language of war is too strong to describe our relationship with God outside of Christ verse nine and 10 must be shocking. Verse nine notes that in Christ we are "saved through Him from wrath." Outside of Christ we deserve God's wrath. And then in verse 10, we are called "enemies of God." This reminds us of the devastating character of our sin. Sin offends God.

Yet, because of God's great love we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. The relationship that has been broken and fractured by sin is now healed, mended, brought together in Jesus Christ. In other words, our peace with God is not so much the cessation of troubles of trials.

Instead, peace with God is (1) having our sins forgiven, (2) possessing a righteousness that pleases God, (3) obtaining a right standing before God, and (4) having true joy that cannot be taken away by life. □ — Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.



Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions
State Goal: \$1,630,000

Deaths

◆ **William J. Fallis**, 91, of Nashville, retired editor for Broadman Press and director of European Baptist Press in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, died Sept. 20. A graduate of the University of Richmond, he also earned master and doctoral degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. After working as director of student work for the Kentucky Baptist General Convention, he moved to Nashville in 1944 to work with the Baptist Sunday School Board. He worked as a manager and senior editor for Broadman from 1949-1979. Besides working for the European Baptist Press, for years he wrote the annual "Points for Emphasis," a guide for Sunday School teachers. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, for 60 years. He was survived by his wife, Betty Mathews Fallis.

◆ **Bob Kinslow**, 60, founding pastor of West Cheatham Baptist Church, Ashland City, died Aug. 30 following a short illness. He served the church for 12 years. His son **Earl Kinslow** of Cunningham, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Cumberland City and former associate pastor of West Cheatham Church, will serve as interim pastor.

◆ **G. F. Beeler**, pastor of Little Barren Baptist Church, New Tazewell, died Aug. 28.

Leaders

◆ **Alanthus Hill Baptist Church**, Tazewell, called **Bruce Ramsey** as pastor. Ramsey comes to the church from Little Valley Baptist Church, Tazewell.

◆ **Huston Northcutt**, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church, Tiptonville, retired Aug. 28.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Strawberry Plains, called **Daniel Ziegenmeyer** as student minister. As the first full-time youth minister in the church, he and his wife Meredith began serving Sept. 4.

◆ **Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church**, Bluff City, has called **Rhonda Graybeal** as children's ministry assistant. She and her husband, Desheids, have served as volunteers in children's ministry for several years. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, from which she holds a graduate degree.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Bruceton, called **Jerry Woods** as pastor effective Oct. 2. He

formerly was pastor of West Shiloh Baptist Church in Stantonville.

◆ **Larry Martin**, minister of music at Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, has resigned to accept a ministry position in Tallahassee, Fla.

Churches

◆ **Bordeaux Baptist Church**, Nashville, will hold homecoming and old fashioned Sunday, Oct. 23, at 11 a.m. John Kurtz, retired pastor of Nashville, will speak. Dinner will follow. Music will be presented by the Salem Ridge

Quartet. For information, call (615) 255-3395 or (615) 242-6179.

◆ **West Paris Baptist Church**, Paris, will hold a revival Sunday - Wednesday, Oct. 16-19 with Mark Howard of Jackson as speaker. Becky Howard will present special music.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Philadelphia**, will hold homecoming Sunday, Oct. 16, beginning at the 11 a.m. worship service. A covered dish luncheon and dedication will follow the service. For information call pastor Charles Fritts



MARTHA GOODWIN of Northside Baptist Church, Milan, was honored Sept. 25 for serving as pianist or organist for 50 years. David Blackwell, music minister, prepares to present her a plaque to honor her. It was the church's homecoming celebration and Randy Wheeler, minister of Sevierville who grew up in the church, spoke. She also has taught Sunday School, helped lead Girls in Action, and served on various church committees for Northside Church.



HONORED for serving as pianist of Green Hill Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, for 54 years was Magdalene Free. She was recognized on Sept. 25, the 57th anniversary of the church. She began serving at age 12 after receiving free piano lessons from Mrs. A. M. Nicholson, wife of the associational missionary at the time, and walking to the church to practice.



AS PART OF ITS CENTENNIAL anniversary Buffalo Grove Baptist Church, Jefferson City, held the Jefferson County Crusade Aug. 28 - Sept. 2. It drew 700-1,500 and resulted in 37 people making professions of faith, 20 rededicating their lives, and three committing their lives to ministry. The church was assisted by 49 other churches in holding the crusade. The crowd gave \$6,389 for disaster relief.

at (865) 458-3151.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Fairview**, will hold a heritage revival Sunday-Wednesday, Oct. 9-12. The church was begun 50 years ago and constituted 40 years ago. Former pastor Milton Knox will preach and John Bledsoe will lead the music at the homecoming worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Dinner will follow. Other speakers include former pastor Jim Patton. For information call pastor Bill

Sherman at the church (615) 799-9478 or go to web site at www.FBFairview.org.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Caryville**, will hold services Oct. 9-12 with Anderson as speaker.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Summitville**, will hold revival services Oct. 9-12 with Donald Owens as speaker. The church will celebrate 50 years of ministry.



TENNESSEE BAPTIST Disaster Relief volunteers from the Tennessee Baptist Association, Adamsville, pack the Tennessee Baptist Convention childcare trailer before it left Oct. 1 for Alexandria, La. just returned from Houston, Texas. Volunteers from Shiloh Association and from across the state are serving. Directing the military is Connie Stricklin, disaster relief volunteer of Savannah.



THIS GROUP from Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, Meigs, served in the Ukraine Sept. 5-15. The group formed teams and served in four cities doing some medical work by evangelism. Team members went door-to-door distributing Testaments. In one village where the gospel was preached for the first time, about 50 people gathered. When they were asked if they would like to have more religious services, they answered a resounding yes, reported Clayton Dunsmore, director of the effort. In all, 173 Ukrainians made professions of faith and a church was planted in a city of 40,000 who had never had a church. Team members were, from left, first row: Dunn, Robert Zavattieri, Kenny Clark, Marlene Sowder, Hilliker, Andrew Dearing; back row: Dunsmore, Joan Cosby Ziegler, Arnold King, Randall Farris, and Chester Owens.



Jeff Harvel of Morristown spoke and a praise band, Christian groups, and combined choir performed. The crusade was held at Jefferson County Fairgrounds. In photo to left, is event director J. W. Taylor, New Market Baptist Church, New Market. In photo above, the crowd overflows the tent.