

Baptist & Reflector

twice Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171 / No. 37; Oct. 12, 2005

this
week's
news

Southern Baptists provide record 6 million meals; Tennesseans prepared 312,000-plus

By Tim Yarbrough
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — As meals prepared by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers surpassed an historic 6 million Oct. 5, more than 1,400 Southern Baptist churches have committed to the Adopt a Church initiative to assist churches damaged in hurricane-ravaged Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Since Katrina's landfall in late August and Hurricane Rita's in September, 6,000 disaster relief volunteers from 40 states have prepared 6,087,549 meals for residents and relief workers.

Previously, the most meals prepared in a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief response was 2.5 million during Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Of that total, Tennessee Baptists have prepared more than 312,476, according to David Acres, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director.

Acres said it has been "unbelievable the way volunteers just keep coming" in response to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

He noted the state feeding unit is scheduled to continue providing meals in Sulphur, La., until Oct. 15.

As of Oct. 7, 50 volunteers were at the unit in Sulphur which is being hosted by First Baptist Church of Maplewood. In addition recovery teams were also serving in Sulphur, Slidell, and Bogalusa, La., and Gulfport, Miss.

Also, 17 volunteers from the Shiloh Baptist Association feeding team were working on the Texas state feeding unit in



KATE LAHTI, seated, leader of a Girl Scout troop in Brentwood, recently brought about 70 stuffed animals collected during a community service project to the Tennessee Baptist Convention office in Brentwood. Seventeen fourth grade girls participated in the effort for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Accepting the gift on behalf of Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief were David Acres, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director, and Elizabeth Holmes of the disaster relief office. — Photo by Marcia Knox

Beaumont, Texas, before the unit was shut down over the weekend.

The Madison-Chester, Crockett Baptist Association feeding unit also was continuing feeding operations in Franklin, serving evacuees from the two hurricanes.

Adopt a church

So far, more than 1,300 of 1,431 churches registering online for Adopt a Church have been referred to state conventions in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama,

which will in turn link the healthy churches with hundreds of churches needing assistance. Churches are still needed to commit to the initiative.

The Adopt a Church partnership was initiated by the North American Mission Board the week after Hurricane Katrina destroyed thousands of homes and business along the Gulf Coast, including hundreds of SBC churches.

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Nashville Chinese Baptists share gospel in native land

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The Nashville Chinese Baptist Church recently returned from a mission trip to China where they witnessed to people in Shanghai and a city in Northwest China, according to their church officials.

David Ho, pastor of the Nashville Chinese Baptist Church (NCBC) led nine members of the church for 10 days into two Chinese cities to spread the gospel.

The Nashville team consisted of professors, engineers, scientists, and college students from the local area.

"The main purpose of the mission trip was to go back to China and visit a privately owned factory and tell the employees about Jesus," said Ho.

"We witnessed to about 120 employees who came from rural areas in China to work in the factory.

"We were able to do the mission trip, because we knew the factory owner. Nine years ago in California the owner was baptized in the United States."

"We shared the vision of taking the gospel to the factory workers in China," said Jinlong Cheng, one of the members of the team.

"The owner and our church members also shared the vision."

The team preached in the factory for two days both in the morning and the afternoon, and they also sang hymns and shared their faith and testimonies with the workers.

Ho estimated around 90 percent of the workers wanted to become believers and 40 percent of the workers who got baptized were previously atheists and communist trained.

"The underground church in China had a relationship with the workers, because a lady who attended the sessions knew we

were coming there," noted Ho. "In addition, the new believers will be followed up in a later session with another NCBC member."

"The existence of the factory itself is a blessing from God," said Cheng. "The owner was our host for the mission trip. The owner had a burden to share his faith with the workers."

"Our church and the owner supported each other, and he invited us to come. Like many Chinese today, the owner came to the United States for career training and then went back to China to set up a factory."

"Everything was arranged by God. We were glad to be a part of it."

Besides witnessing in the factory, the team also traveled on a train for 25 hours to Northwest China to another city to reach relatives of NCBC church members.

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Bruceton couple are fea-
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tant video. — Page 6

Vacation Bible School
reaches children, families
with gospel, says consult-
ant. — Page 7

CP gifts
head of budget;
month to go
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — With just
month to go in the 2004-05
year of the Tennessee Bap-
Convention, Cooperative
ram gifts are edging close to
budget goal of \$35,554,851.
September, Tennessee
ist churches contributed
55,616 through the Cooper-
Program.

for the year-to-date, Ten-
ee Baptists have given
071,882. The amount is an
ase of \$1,290,913 or 4.06
ent over last year and is
,939 or 1.47 percent over
et needs after 11 months of
iscal year, which ends Oct.

order to meet the TBC
et for the first time since
, Tennessee churches would
to give \$2,484,969 during
er.

We are excited that Ten-
ee Baptists have given in
a marvelous way this year
der to meet missions and
stry needs in our state and
ad the world," said James
, TBC executive director-
urer.

We are optimistic that we
meet our budget goal as we
share the gospel of Jesus
t with lost people in Ten-
e and worldwide." □

about your newsjournal

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DR challenge gets \$4m boost

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — A \$2 million challenge for donations to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has been met and will result in an additional \$2 million grant to assist the North American Mission Board in its comprehensive Gulf Coast hurricane relief ministries.

Attainment of the milestone was announced Oct. 5 by Robert E. (Bob) Reccord, NAMB's president, to the entity's board of trustees.

The trustees also approved 50 new missionary candidates and 34 chaplains; passed a 2006 operating budget of \$124 million; and heard reports on Southern Baptists' extensive response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Christian philanthropists Lynn and Foster Friess issued the \$2 million challenge in September through NAMB, which coordinates Southern Baptists' national network of 30,000 trained disaster volunteers.

"When Katrina hit, Foster called me and said, 'I've been researching disaster relief agencies and have found that nobody does it like Southern Baptists,'" Reccord told the trustees. "His and Lynn's challenge has now resulted in over \$4 million to Southern Baptist relief efforts — by far the greatest gift ever given to this agency and its ministries. We are humbled and challenged by their generosity."

Trustees devoted much of the meeting to receiving reports on Southern Baptists' largest-ever disaster relief response, which has involved thousands of volunteers from hundreds of churches in nearly every state Baptist convention.

Reccord, who has made several trips to the affected areas to meet with pastors, church members, associational leaders, and state convention officials in order to understand the immediate and long-term needs, recounted several stories of sacrificial service by SBC volunteers.

Reccord also previewed a new four-minute disaster relief video that emphasizes the role the Cooperative Program plays in making Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministries possible.

"These services — touching tens of thousands of lives — would not be possible without the foundational support of the Cooperative Program," he said. "This video will show church members that the only way Southern Baptists are the first ones on the scene is because of faithful, consistent support of CP which makes it all possible."

The video will be available

for free download at www.NAMB.net during the week of Oct. 10.

In other business, trustees:

- received a report concerning NAMB's "See Who Cares" national media campaign to be launched in January. Announced at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting this past summer, the campaign — consisting of television and radio commercials, print and outdoor advertising — will address eight challenges people face, including financial pressures, unwanted pregnancies, and addictions. The campaign materials will be made available free of charge to churches, associations, and state conventions.

- welcomed two new leadership staff to the evangelism group: Terry Fields as executive director of church evangelism and Gary Hollingsworth as executive director of evangelism resources. □

Conn. civil union law takes effect

Baptist Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut began recognizing same-sex civil unions Oct. 1, making it the fourth state to grant homosexual couples the legal benefits of marriage.

Vermont also has civil unions, while California offers something similar but calls them domestic partnerships. Massachusetts remains the only state to recognize "gay marriage."

Homosexual activists in Connecticut applauded the move but said they would continue working toward the legalization of "gay marriage." Such a lawsuit is pending in state court.

Pro-family leaders said the law was nothing to celebrate.

"Oct. 1 is a tragic day, because it's the first day a law goes into effect that states a legislative belief that children don't need both a mom and a dad," said Peter Wolfgang, director of public policy for the Family Institute of Connecticut, according to AP. □

GuideStone offers resource

Baptist Press

DALLAS — GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention began offering free online retirement planning guidance to its retirement participants on Oct. 3.

GuideStone announced in June that it had teamed with Morningstar Associates, LLC, to offer the Morningstar Retirement Manager via GuideStone's web site, www.GuideStone.org, on the Online Services page. The Morningstar service offers personalized retirement strategies and resources to help GuideStone's 150,000-plus pre-retirement participants make the most of their retirement plan

investment options.

In addition to the personalized retirement strategy, GuideStone participants also will have access to Morningstar's educational articles and interactive tools designed for both the novice and experienced investor.

John R. Jones, chief operating officer of GuideStone Financial Resources, said GuideStone participants have been asking for direction on how to invest for retirement for several years. "With this new tool, we can provide an easy-to-use set of solutions to help our participants make more informed decisions about their retirement planning," Jones said.

Morningstar Associates is a registered investment adviser and wholly owned subsidiary of Morningstar, Inc., with operations in 16 countries providing data on more than 125,000 investment offerings, including stocks, mutual funds, and similar vehicles.

If questions arise, retirement participants can call GuideStone Financial Resources at 1-800-262-0511. Customer relations specialists are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central time. □

BGCT denies exhibit space to Southwestern

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — For the second time in as many years, the Baptist General Convention of Texas has denied exhibit space at its annual convention to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

BGCT President Albert Reyes wrote in a letter to the seminary Sept. 29 that the school did not meet the qualifications required to be a BGCT exhibitor. The seminary, he wrote, had not affirmed "support of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, its mission, and its leadership."

Seminary officials, though, cited a letter sent to the BGCT Aug. 1 that did just that. In the letter requesting exhibit space at the BGCT in Austin Nov. 14-15, Gary Redding, director of alumni relations at Southwestern, wrote that the seminary supports the mission statement of the Texas convention.

"By providing theological education for pastors, staff members, and members of churches affiliated with the BGCT, Southwestern Seminary not only affirms, but assists the BGCT and its leadership in its mission as it 'encourages, facilitates, and connects churches in their work to fulfill God's mission of reconciling the world to himself,'" Redding wrote, citing the BGCT's mission statement on its web site.

The letter requesting exhibit space also included a note of recommendation from Elwin Colom, a past member of the BGCT Executive Board and current

pastor of First Baptist Church Coahoma, a BGCT-affiliated church. Colom is president of the seminary's BGCT Alumni Association. □

Baptist workers hurry toward earthquake zone

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — As the firm death toll topped 20 in remote towns and villages flattened by the worst earthquake in Pakistan's history, Southern Baptist workers in South Asia moved quickly to find ways to help survivors.

With an initial \$50,000 Southern Baptist emergency relief funds, workers hurried into the region Oct. 9 to address critical needs and buy supplies. The aid likely will include food and medical supplies. Two workers already have entered the most heavily damaged areas with a truckload of supplies. 150 tents have been delivered to families left homeless by the 7.6-magnitude quake. Workers also are investigating the possibility of sending small teams of disaster-trained volunteers to help in the damaged areas in the days to come.

"They're traveling to areas that were hardest-hit by the earthquake," said a worker.

"Emergency relief is flowing in, but supplies are diminishing quickly and prices are also rising," said the Southern Baptist worker. "There has been a mob-like rush for the help that has started, which has been difficult for those trying to help. Please pray for patience and calmness for the aid workers. This is not something that will immediately be solved. We ask that we have the strength to carry out the task ahead of us. We want to have an everlasting hope that we be able to see the Holy Spirit is working a low Him. Ask that God break down barriers and provide the words and opportunities for sharing His love and grace."

The Oct. 8 earthquake was the hardest along Pakistan's west frontier and in the tenuous Kashmir region fought over for decades by India and Pakistan. The quake claimed most of its victims in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir but reportedly killed more than 1,000 people on the Indian side. It shook buildings from Afghanistan to western India.

The quake and resulting landslides buried thousands of Pakistani villagers in the ruins of their homes, schools, and businesses. Initial rescue efforts were hampered by the remoteness of the region, numerous aftershocks, and bad weather.

In addition to the deaths, Pakistani officials estimate that more than 43,000 people were injured. □

Morristown church unveils Ten Commandments monument

By Jane Barnes
Special to the Baptist & Reflector

MORRISTOWN — In the midst of decisions throughout America regarding the exhibition of biblical laws in public buildings, Hillcrest Baptist Church here recently became the first church inside the city to display a monument carved with the Ten Commandments in front of its sanctuary, making their beliefs known in the community. "We want to send a message that we want them (the Ten Commandments) back," said Earl Rutherford, church member more than 35 years. When the idea was brought before the congregation, the vote was unanimous to purchase the monument. "From start to finish, Earl Rutherford said the process took approximately eight weeks. Earl approached me in about the idea and I

mentioned it to the congregation," said Pastor David Williams.

"How much better would the lives of individuals and communities be if the people obeyed the Ten Commandments? They are 10 basic rules that can change society."

In Exodus 19, God tells the Israelites through Moses, "if ye will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people..."

"God gave these commandments to His people for their benefit," Williams said. "We obey them to keep a right relationship with Him."

The monument was purchased through a local funeral home.

Williams said the total expenditure of less than \$2,000 was an affordable price for most churches.

The five-foot tall display in front of the church on South

Liberty Hill Road faces Hillcrest Elementary School.

"I'm all for it," said John Clawson, principal at Hillcrest.

"It will be something good to look at and read while arriving and leaving work, and I don't anticipate any problems with it being here."

"We have a good relationship with the school," Williams said.

"We are not anti-government in any way. We are a very patriotic and civic-minded church. The most well-represented population in our congregation is veterans, and we regularly pray for the soldiers in Iraq."

Williams' wife, Melody, is a third grade teacher at Russellville Elementary School. "My wife and I are very active in school activities and community events."

"The idea for the monument came from a church member and the process worked out



EARL RUTHERFORD, left, longtime member of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Morristown, and Pastor David Williams stand with a monument of the Ten Commandments recently placed in front of the church. — Photo by Gary Smith of the Citizen Tribune

smoothly and became a reality in a short amount of time," the pastor said. □ — Barnes is a

staff writer for the *Citizen Tribune* in Morristown. The story is used with permission.

Southern Baptists provide record 6 million meals ...

Continued from page 1
Adopting churches from across the United States and Canada are being assigned to disaster-stricken states Baptist conventions, which will then match them with damaged and destroyed churches in their respective states. Adopting churches are asked to make a commitment of 12 to 24 hours or however long it takes for the affected church to get back on its feet. Churches desiring to offer assistance through Adopt a Church may register online at www.namb.net or call 800-557-5557. More information is

available by e-mailing adoptchurch@namb.net.

More than half of all mobile Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units have been involved in Katrina/Rita response, said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization at the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministries continues to exceed all previous expectations," he said.

"There is no way that we can fully know today the extent of ministry that has taken place. Beyond people being fed physically and spiri-

tually, I believe that God will bless the faithfulness of Southern Baptists in this response to further grow this ministry."

Burton said disaster relief response is serving as a "rallying point" for Southern Baptists residing inside and outside affected regions.

"Is it possible that God will use this disaster as an awakening among Southern Baptists to rediscover our cooperative ministry roots while being proactive to meet real needs in our churches' communities?" Burton asked. "I believe that God will use this to draw us together as a denomination

united to share Christ with every American."

Cleanup efforts

As meal preparation slows in upcoming weeks, long-term cleanup and recovery efforts will grow and more volunteers will be needed, Burton said.

"The number of damaged homes and churches is overwhelming. Volunteers will be needed for years to assist in the long-term recovery efforts."

Acres predicted cleanup efforts "will not slow down before the first of the year."

Cleanup needs to be completed before "you can even talk about rebuilding," he added.

A webcast briefing about Southern Baptist Disaster Relief efforts is available at www.namb.net. Disaster relief information is posted at www.namb.net/dr.

Donations are being accepted to help serve victims of both hurricanes. Send checks designated "Hurricane 2005 Relief Fund" to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. Donations may also be given online at the TBC web site at www.tnbaptist.org. □ — Lonnie Wilkey and Marcia Knox contributed to this report.

Nashville Chinese Baptists share gospel in native ...

Continued from page 1
Members of the NCBC have been sharing their faith for some time with relatives. When a family member was hospitalized in China and diagnosed with cancer, Ho prayed for the person over the phone many times. When the Chinese lady was cured of cancer, her family members saw the miracle and decided to follow the Lord. Four people came to the Lord from the miracle. The family wanted the church team to speak to a larger group of relatives so they rented a conference room at a local hotel. Out of 40 people attended, 16 were baptized including government officials. "We have two fold strategies," noted Ho. "First, we came to the United States, and God brought us over here to find out to have a burden for mis-



A MEMBER of Nashville Chinese Baptist Church teaches a session in a factory in China.

"Second, we go back to China to tell people what we know about Christ."

"Our small circle of Christians will enlarge in China. There are signs that China is opening up on religion. Some areas are allowing people to worship God freely. China is a country that is heterogeneous in that the local govern-

ments act differently toward religious activities."

"We praise the Lord for members of our church who are able to go back with business connections and carry spiritual materials to the new believers. We also asked the underground church members to contact them. We hope to

visit with the underground church on our next visit," Cheng said.

In the meantime, the NCBC will pray for the new believers. The factory workers continue to hear Christian music, Bible verses, and hymns broadcast on the public address systems while they are working. □

Katrina hits close to home for pastor's wife

guest
columnist



By Tracy Green

Editor's note: Tracy Green is the wife of David Green, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville. She was reared in the area devastated by Hurricane Katrina and her parents still live in Gulfport, Miss. The following is her reflection on the devastation wrought upon her hometown by the hurricane and how Tennessee Baptists from her church and others ministered to her friends and family in Mississippi.

Ten people from our church went to Gulfport two weeks after Katrina with truckloads of supplies.

I cannot fully describe the devastation we witnessed. Our team passed out water bottles, cut down trees, hauled furniture and appliances to the street, and "mudded out" houses. To say that it was the hardest week in my life would be such an understatement. It has been more than four weeks since the hurricane made landfall and the piles of debris are just starting to be removed. Imagine watching all of the things you've worked for all of your life being picked up by a "claw" on a truck and dropped in a dump truck, knowing it will be dumped in a landfill. The devastation is overwhelming. I'll never be the same after being there and seeing it first-hand. The pictures on TV don't do it justice. The flies are horrible due to the refrigerators and freezers sitting out on the road full of food which have been there since the hurricane!!

Our team from First Baptist Church was incredible. They held my parents and myself up (sometimes literally) and instilled a glimmer of hope that my parents didn't have upon our arrival to their home. When we

got there Monday afternoon we found my parents wandering aimlessly among the piles of debris searching for memorabilia that the storm had swept away. The first floor of their home was filled with mud, the upright piano lying on its back in mud, the refrigerator on its side full of food mixed with mud, front doors blown off the house, the dryer was sitting on top of the washing machine, their deck was blown off the house, their car was destroyed. I could go on and on.

The neighborhood was in shambles and no one had been there in any type of relief effort. Needless to say, we were a welcome sight. Our leader taught us how to do "mud out" on my parents house and then bleach down everything with pressure washers. We taught the neighbors what needed to be done. By the end of the week, you couldn't see the houses in the neighborhood due to the piles of couches, appliances, carpet, flooring, sheetrock, TVs, computers, etc.

The 95-degree temperatures made it a miserable condition but I never heard anyone in our group utter a complaint. Once we finished my parents house, we moved door-to-door helping the neighbors. Several of them had not evacuated so their stories were heart-wrenching. Their next door neighbors were taken by the 30-foot storm surge two blocks — ended up several streets over!!! They held onto their children for dear life! They are now sleeping on their trampoline in their backyard — because it's too hot and smelly to stay in the house. Another neighbor was swept up into the second floor of their home and they had to hold their children while they clung to the ceiling!

I took some of our ladies to the church where I was raised to work in the food distribution area. There was a line wrapped around the church to receive a hot meal. I walked through the line hugging and crying with all the people — most of them were

old school classmates who are now homeless. My breath was taken away when I turned and saw two of my nephews passing out water to people and the other two passing out bags of groceries. We all hugged, cried, and held onto each other in a way that we never have before. Our group took two loads of groceries to the church and another load of medical supplies.

I cannot tell you what a blessing it was to see teams of Southern Baptists at Pass Road Baptist Church in Gulfport passing out hot meals — all the while, they were singing hymns and offering smiles and hugs to a desperate community.

We took a tour of the coast, as much as we could. No one was allowed on the beach highway and most of the roads were impassable, due to down trees and power lines. There wasn't a house anywhere that escaped damage. My husband and I went to our former church (his first pastorate) and it was nearly totally demolished. We sat at the pile of rubble and cried our eyes out. We went to check on the elderly we knew and none of them were home. As a matter of fact, the place was like a ghost town — deserted and eerie. None of the usual hustle and bustle — no street lights, no open stores, nothing. The nights were so dark because there were no lights. There are lists of missing people everywhere; many of whom were my school classmates.

The pain is so deep. My parents had all of their memorabilia destroyed — their wedding album, baby albums, family pictures from generations back, needle-

work, handmade linens, important papers, all kitchen tools & appliances — everything near to their hearts gone!

I just had to fall on my face night after night and thank God that this time my family evacuated! They have survived Camille and many other hurricanes, but they pale in comparison to Katrina.

Our church has since sent another group of 10 men to Bayou View Baptist Church in Gulfport to do sheetrock and anything else the church members need. The interim pastor is Frank Gunn, former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Biloxi. Bro. Gunn lost his home, too.

My parents are living in their camper until their house gets sheet-rocked and repaired. They are some of the fortunate ones. There are many that won't be returning.

The rumor is that FEMA may not even let their subdivision rebuild because they are within two miles of the beach. If that is true, there will be many hundreds of more families without houses. None of us will ever be the same. I cannot begin to imagine their feelings of loss and desperation. A picture of the coastline in Gulfport was in the

Greenville Sun — it's gone, desolate — those beautiful beachfront antebellum homes no longer exist. They were replaced by Vegas-like hotels and casinos. The paper said the "old coast" will only exist in our memories.

I am writing this to let Tennessee Baptists know of the desperate situation of so many people on the Gulf Coast. I am thankful that so many are willing to go! The greatest need for people to work to help — people who can physically labor there and help with labor!

Our team worked from sun-up to sun-down for six straight days and made a huge difference, but we all cried when we left because there was so much left to do. The damage is widespread and the need is great.

My prayer is that Tennessee Baptists will not grow weary of doing good and helping our low citizens on the coast. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people in Greenville and throughout Tennessee. I want to thank the person for the prayers, and supplies donated to the citizens of the Gulf Coast.

God definitely works through His people. □



MEMBERS OF First Baptist Church, Greenville, came to the aid of Ray and Mary Powell, parents of Tracy Green of the church. The Powells live in Gulfport, Miss., which hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. From left to right, are, front row, Leah Moore, Craig Dianne Woody, Tracy Green; back row, Ray Powell, Fred and Helen Sorrells, Mark and Mary Patterson; Dennis Cates, and David Green, pastor of First Baptist Church.

Parents must communicate to children during natural disaster

a parent
speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

Hurricane Katrina and then, Rita left thousands of people homeless on and near the Gulf Coast. Communities, some dating back generations, were destroyed. And who can forget those desperate faces of parents searching for a child from whom they had become separated?

Life is often difficult. Hardships and disappointments exist. The Bible says that "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who

love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, NIV). God does not promise to keep our lives free of pain, but to be with us during the difficult part of living.

Our children have been affected not only for the present, but many will continue to experience trauma in the future. Realize older children as well as younger ones may experience insecurities. Use the following suggestions to help children cope as your family hears news and images from the media.

- Monitor television coverage of the event when children are present. Watch a limited amount and talk with your child about the events. Talk about the facts, not rumors that they may hear.

- Remind children that good people are helping others return to a normal life. Use news stories from our Baptist publications that show volunteers from the SBC and churches coordinating relief operations.

- Realize your child's feelings toward the disaster will depend on what he/she hears you say. Instead of placing blame on a certain person or organization, point out the many good things that are being done to help people.

- Show patience when children are upset. Let children know you understand their feeling of anxiety. Never dismiss these fears as foolish or childish. To a child, they are very real.

- Watch for unusual behav-

ior. Young children may return to thumb sucking, being afraid to go to bed at night, or loss of appetite. Older children may lose interest in school, exhibit negative behavior, and develop a personality change.

- Rely on family traditions, beliefs, and church organizations as a source of strength and comfort during this time.

- Participate, as a family in being part of the recovery. One of the best ways to cope with a disaster is to get involved. Check with local organizations and your church as how your family may assist volunteers. In addition to giving money, some organizations accept school supplies, gently used clothing, linens, and household items for

those families relocated area.

- Pray for the victims of these natural disasters. Those who minister to Christian volunteers have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with others.

No one can predict where the next catastrophe will happen in our country. Parents can reassure their children that they will do everything possible to keep their family safe. Remember, your child is watching you. Your involvement is teaching a lifetime lesson for your children. □ — Tomlin for numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Church, Jackson.

Questions asked in 1925 still have relevance today

Reflections



by Lonnie Wilkey, editor

In recognition of the *Baptist and Reflector's* 170th anniversary this year we are publishing a brief history that is scheduled to be completed in November. Wm. Fletcher Allen, former editor of the paper, has been at work on the history for several months. He has done countless hours of research, going over past issues of the paper, dating back to the 1800s. Ever so often, he will bring

me a copy of a "treasure" he has unearthed. As I look back over the editors and some of the material they have written, all I can say is "Wow!"

And it has amazed me how editors in the early years dealt with the same issues and problems faced today.

I couldn't help but take note of an editorial written by John D. Freeman in 1925 in his first issue as editor.

Keep in mind this was written only four years or so after the paper had been acquired by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He dealt with two questions: "What is the *Baptist and Reflector*?" and "How may we have a great paper?"

Good questions. He also had

some good answers.

He noted that on the front page of the paper in 1925 were the words "organ of the Tennessee Baptist Convention." Thankfully, we don't use that term today. We use the word "newsjournal." But here is what he wrote: "The dictionary says that an organ is an instrument or agency for the communication of views of a person or party. If that is true, then our denominational paper is an agency of the members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the presentation of their views concerning the matters for which the convention was organized."

Freeman went on to add that any matters which "influence the life and work of the Baptists

of Tennessee" is material for publication. That holds true today as well.

As to the second question, Freeman observed that the "*Baptist and Reflector* is more than a paper. It is an institution organized for the purpose of ministering to the spiritual needs of a great host of people."

Freeman pointed out the paper did not belong to him as editor, its board of managers, or even the TBC Executive Board.

The paper, according to Freeman, "belongs to the Baptists of Tennessee. Therefore, its success or failure will be due, in part at least, to them."

I have had people tell me they read "my paper." It's not my paper. It does belong to the Baptists of Tennessee.

Editor Freeman encouraged Tennessee Baptists in 1925 to read and support the paper. He wrote:

"With all the Baptists of Tennessee supporting the paper, it will become a mighty factor in the denominational life of the state and of the world. To that end, the editor pledges his heart, his hand, his brain, his very life."

As your editor today, I make that same promise. Working together, we can have a great paper, not for our glory, but for the glory of God, who, after all, is the "editor-in-chief!" □

Letters to the editor

Wounded

After 33 years of ministering in five different churches and after 18 years in my last ministry I have become one in the rising numbers of wounded terminations (see Aug. 31 issue of *Baptist and Reflector*). After reading the eight leading reasons a pastor might be asked to resign, I could identify with four of them.

Of the five churches God has allowed me to pastor, I have never been treated with less respect, dignity, and simple Christian compassion than in my last one.

The leadership (mainly deacons) took away from me my right to defend myself against their accusations and would not allow me to preach in my own pulpit. Though they (the leadership) were publicly vocal in their accusations against me, they never allowed the opportunity to share the other side of the story with my congregation, ultimately forced to resign as a result of this.

Though a mediator begged the deacons to allow them to meet and help us work through differences of opinions while allowing me to continue preaching as usual, they refused. After being forced to resign, the mediator again tried to get the leadership to give me severance pay for 18 years of faithful service to the church but they refused and even withheld my salary for the last month I was there.

I immediately lost over 60 percent of my household income without warning or time to make any kind of financial arrangements. My family and I have been hurt beyond belief. I am not sure that we will ever recover from this and be able to move on with our lives and ministries because of the way we have been treated by people we thought loved us. The attitude regarding the leadership is "that's their business and preachers are to big deal."

Those of you who have been in my shoes, however, know it is a big deal to those of us who have been forced to resign.

Hurt, wounded, and still bleeding.

Name withheld by editor

Accept covenant

The Tennessee Baptist family has been my family since 1934 and "change" has been an ongoing characteristic of the TBC journey through all those 71 years.

Belmont University has proposed a change in the way they partner with the TBC — one that would guarantee that a minimum of 60 percent of their trustees be members of Tennessee Baptist churches and up to 40 percent Baptists in other states (present practice) and committed Christians who are active in churches with other denominational connections. One of the reasons for this change is that Belmont's phenomenal growth calls for more financial resources than Tennessee Baptists can provide.

Here are some observations that influence my efforts at a response.

- Trustee friends, in conversation, have convinced me of their desire to continue partnership with the TBC.

- For at least eight years, Belmont has expressed a need for expanding their trustee base.

- There is less concentration of wealth among Middle Tennessee Baptists now than 54 years ago when Belmont was born. This in no way minimizes the generous contributions many have made.

- Many non-Baptists have made significant donations to Belmont, which is internationally recognized for its excellence in a variety of areas.

- Both the TBC and Belmont have benefited from our partnership.

- The Belmont community is

giving faithful and effective witness for our Lord Jesus Christ through mission teams in the United States and beyond, through church ministries by students, faculty, and administration personnel, and in other ways.

- Belmont's commitment to use all TBC contributions for Tennessee Baptist student scholarships is significant.

- Fear of having non-Baptist trustees is real. However, as a pastor I would gladly have traded some of my members for dedicated Methodists or Presbyterians.

Regrettably, Belmont has not communicated plans and rationale to the Baptist community very well. At the same time, it seems that many of us have given an automatic rather than considered response.

I am a life-long, love-committed Tennessee Baptist and I would prefer avoiding a situation like this. However, it seems to me that the interests of Tennessee Baptists and Belmont University will be best served by our approval of the proposed covenant. Baptist influence will be dominant and scholarship recipients will provide more TBC youth connections. We can fill the role of being blessed peacemakers and we'll avoid a painful separation. The only way we will ever know whether the proposed covenant is workable is to try it.

Vern Powers
Mt. Juliet 37122

Release college

To lead a Baptist institution of higher learning is a daunting task, i.e., buildings, budgets, programs, alumni, constituents, and staffing. Add to this the competitive nature of higher education in general, especially in attracting top notch students and developing financial resources, and it can make any college president hesitate.

It has now come to the attention of Tennessee Baptists

that Belmont University desires to diminish her ties with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Belmont University has proposed that the number of Baptist trustees be reduced from 100 percent to 60 percent, allowing for 40 percent of the trustees to be selected from non-Baptist, yet Christian denominations.

I take Belmont at its word. I take Belmont to mean (1) that an all-Baptist Trustee Board is insufficient to direct Belmont's affairs; (2) that all Baptist sources of revenue have dried up; (3) that this is the direction it will take no matter the action of the convention.

This being the case, I would suggest that we rejoice that Belmont has settled on a direction and that this direction will lead it to a more broad and "generic" version of Christian higher education.

Further, Belmont has informed us that there will be non-Baptists at the foot of the cross. While there is no doubt that we will find non-Baptists at the foot of the cross, most Tennessee Baptists did not see offering higher education as an act of arrogance or as making a value judgment on the Christian commitment of non-Baptist believers.

Tennessee Baptists simply viewed offering a "Baptist version" of higher education as a service to the community and the world. However, Belmont has cleared up that issue for us and made us aware that Tennessee Baptists had it wrong all along. How

wrong could we be?

Again, let us rejoice with Belmont in her new found freedom, releasing her from her Baptist ties that have evidently held her back. I'll buy the punch and cookies for the parting reception. The two remaining colleges sure could use the increased funding.

Kevin Shrum, pastor
Inglewood Baptist Church
Nashville 37216

Distressed

I graduated from Belmont many years ago. I was very distressed to hear that Belmont has chosen to go the way of other historically Baptist universities.

Belmont made no mention of the blood, sweat and tears that their predecessors poured out in making Belmont a thriving educational institution.

There have been people here who left money to Belmont thinking it would always be a Baptist school.

Thus the outcome when you trust individuals without the wherewithal to make them comply. It has happened before.

I will never advise a student to go there in the future.

David Freeman
Hartsville 37074

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Bruceton couple featured in Adopt an Annuitant video

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRUCETON — Noel Edwards never served as pastor of a "mega-church" or just a large one for that matter.

Most of his pastorates over a ministry that has spanned nearly 60 years have been in small, rural churches, with a few exceptions.

Yet, Edwards, who served several churches throughout West Tennessee, has no regrets because he knows he has always served where God wanted him to be.

"We have gone to churches because we knew the Lord was in it even when we didn't know what the salary would be," the 76-year-old Paris native said.

Edwards and his wife, Sue, were featured in a video this year produced by GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The video has been used in churches all across the country promoting GuideStone's Adopt an Annuitant program.

The Adopt an Annuitant program assists retired ministers or their widows whose regular income is insufficient to meet simple, everyday living expenses.

Currently, there are more than 2,500 ministers or widows, including 200 in Tennessee, who receive the supplement (\$200 per month for an individual or \$265 a month for a couple).

The couple readily admits that the GuideStone program has been a "lifesaver for us."

Edwards has had heart-related health problems during the past few years and has to take medicine — medicine that would be hard for the couple to purchase if it were not for their monthly supplement from GuideStone.

Throw in insurance costs, taxes, utilities, and groceries, and there was not much left over at the end of the month for the couple.

"It has literally made the difference for us," said Edwards, who retired in 1991 from Ramer Baptist Church, Ramer, a congregation he served three different times.

Following retirement, Edwards held several interim pastorates before health problems slowed him down. He still preaches revivals and does supply work.

The couple is active members at Faith Baptist Church in Hollow Rock.

Because the couple served primarily small churches throughout his ministry, Edwards was never able to pay much into Social Security or the annuity program at GuideStone (then known as the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention).

Edwards, however, is not bitter or regretful. Instead, he is just the opposite. He is grateful for all God has done for him and his wife.

"God is our source, but He works through people," the long-time minister maintained. "God has been so good to us."

The couple shared story after story how God used people during their ministry when times were difficult. In those



NOEL & SUE EDWARDS

early years of ministry, with three children, and a salary of less than \$200 a month, money was extremely scarce.

In the video they share about once when they were down to their last \$2 and almost out of food.

Edwards went to the local grocery store and was immediately summoned by the owner. "He asked me point blank if I was having a hard time," Edwards recalled. He acknowledged that he was and he will never forget what the man, who was not even a Baptist, told him.

"He said that I had meant a lot to the community and he made me promise to come and get whatever I needed when I needed it until times

got better," Edwards said.

"There have been so many wonderful people who have blessed our lives and his wife agreed.

They shared how some men had them get to the point later in their ministry where they could purchase a home. "The history of our lives is how God people to bless our lives," he said.

Now, the couple is convinced, God is blessing them through the Adopt an Annuitant program. "God has always provided and He is now doing it through the Adopt an Annuitant program," Sue Edwards.

"Without the Adopt an Annuitant future would be very bleak," her husband agreed. His goal is to "finish well."

"God has been so good to us. We want to finish in His will. That's the safest place on earth," he affirmed.

Richard Skidmore, church ministry support specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, has known the Edwardses for 25 years and at one time was director of missions when Edwards was pastor in Weakley County Baptist Association. "He spent his whole ministry helping churches get out of trouble and onto their feet," Skidmore said.

Skidmore encourages churches, Sunday School classes, and individuals to consider participating in the Adopt an Annuitant program. "One hundred percent of every gift is used for eligible participants," he said.

For more information, call Skidmore at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2009. □

Simple technology allows homebound members to feel connected

By Brooklyn Noel
LifeWay news office

NASHVILLE — Margaret Coffey is a faithful member of Unity Baptist Church and "attends" services at the Allardt church every week even though she is homebound and lives nearly 100 miles away in Knoxville.

Thanks to remote listening technology offered through LifeWay Christian Resources, Coffey can feel connected to Unity Baptist and a Christian family in spite of her inability to physically sit in the church sanctuary every week.

"She feels like she knows some people in the church," said Linda Smith, Coffey's daughter and a Unity Baptist member.

"She feels like they know her and know of her and know me as her daughter. Mom really felt like she was connected," Smith said.

Many individuals resort to television or radio broadcasts of worship services when they must attend church from their living rooms. While these methods offer sermons and worship, they lack the personal connection a local church family provides.

The U.S. Census Bureau in 2000 reported that people over age 65 make up more than 12 percent of the American population. That percentage will only increase as the first baby boomers begin to reach age 65 in about 2011.

Early this year, the direct marketing department of LifeWay Christian Resources' retail division began offering remote listening technology through Lightcast Networks.

Lightcast allows homebound individuals using a Lightcast Home Receiver to connect to their church's broadcasts through existing phone lines. The receivers feature simple technology and near-radio-quality sound.

Feeling welcome

In early September, Raymond Phillips became pastor of Unity Baptist Church, and one of his first objectives was to meet with each of the seven people currently using Unity's remote listening service.

"It's important that people who are disconnected from the church physically can stay connected spiritually," Phillips said.

One way he maintains that connection is by specifically addressing remote listeners during Sunday worship. Phillips said he sometimes uses his introduction time to recognize in-home listeners and let them know the church family thinks of them.

"[We want] to give them that connection with the congregation, the feeling they're right there with their friends and family," said Edward Baker, president and co-founder of Lightcast Networks.

Allowing homebound individuals to experience Sunday wor-

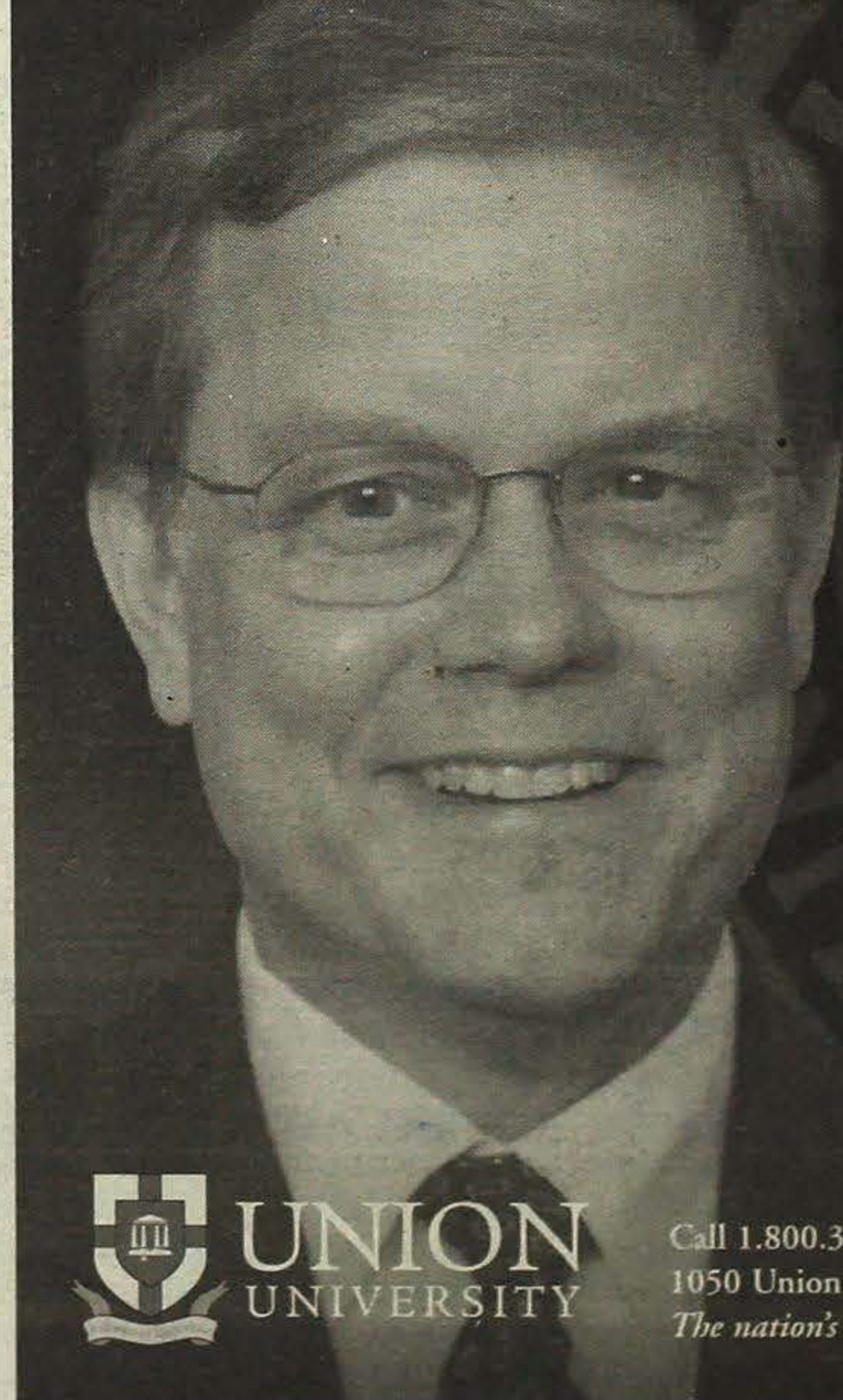
ship is a key aspect of remote listening technology, but Baker said the equipment has potential in other areas.

He said churches have used the technology to connect homebound people to activities such as weeknight revivals, Christ-

mas cantatas, and Easter

For more information, call remote listening services, 800-464-2799. □

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L. Joseph Ross

Senior Pastor
Creeview Baptist Church • Nashville



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TBC consultant

VBS continues to reach children, families with gospel

by Murphy
and Reflector

ENTWOOD — Vacation School continues as a ministry to children and families for Tennessee churches, says a consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

In 2004, more than 264,000 children were enrolled in VBS. Of these nearly 8,000 decisions were made by children, youth, and adults, and

than new members were added. These numbers are up from 1,802 churches in 2003.



TRUNDLE

Kathy Trundle, TBC VBS consultant, notes that current VBS reports for 2005 are being processed, but that churches still have time to send reports.

VBS is an opportunity for churches to know how VBS impacted their members and present opportunities to share

Christ," she says.

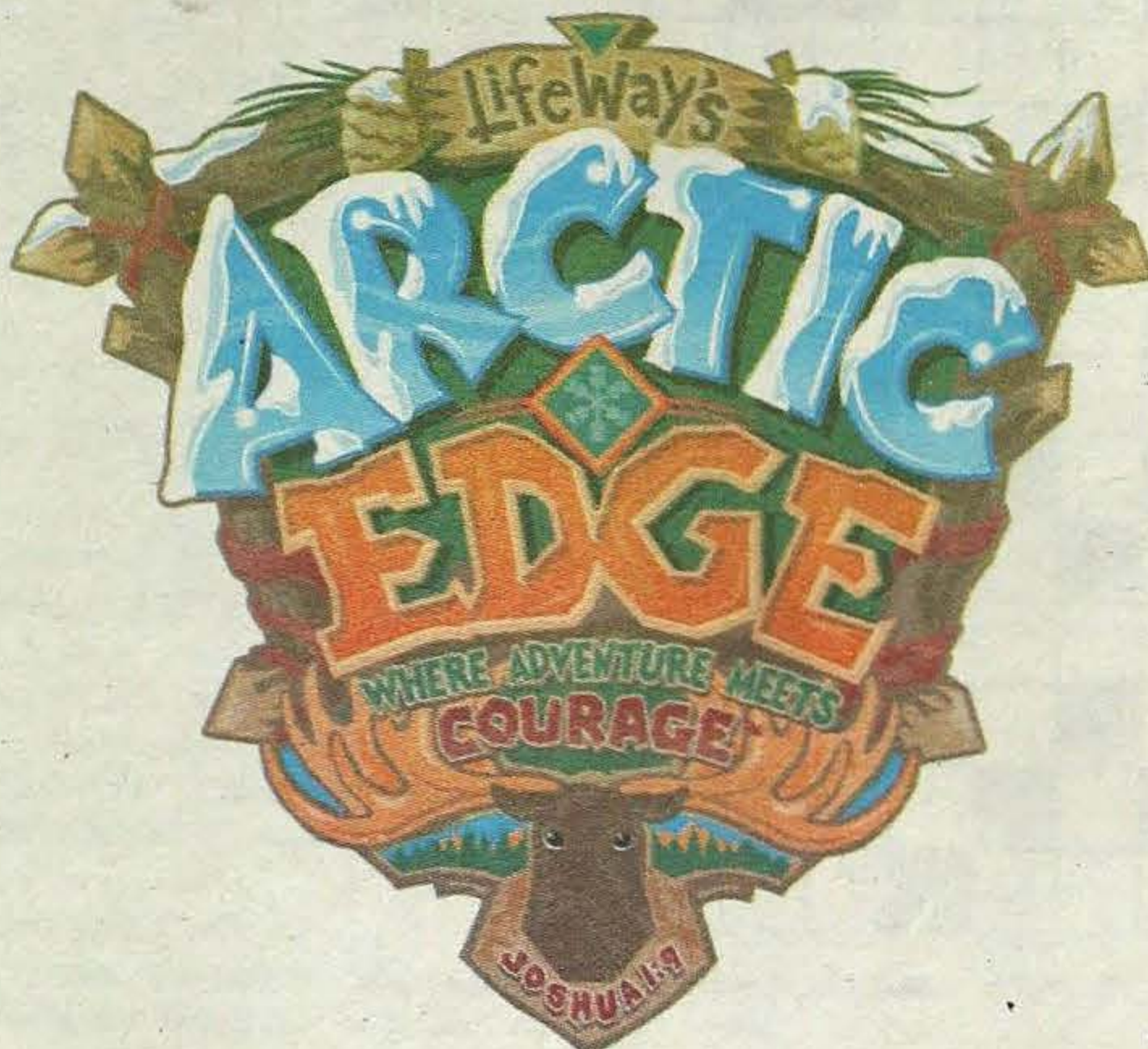
Since it takes a full year to receive and gather information from the reports, VBS results for 2005 will be available next year.

Trundle comments that VBS serves as an important outreach tool by being able to discover families and build relationships in the church community with those who are not already actively involved with Sunday School and other church activities.

"Because VBS is different from other church activities, people are attracted to the church for this opportunity when they might not attend any other time. Following up with children who attend allows church members to meet new families which opens the door for ministry and a total family contact," says Trundle.

Even though VBS is a one-week event for most churches, training and preparation takes place weeks and months ahead of time.

Throughout the fall and spring, the TBC Church Growth Strategies Group offered 86 VBS conferences and training events in 62 associa-



ARCTIC EDGE is the theme for the 2006 Vacation Bible School curriculum produced by LifeWay Christian resources. The motto, "Be Strong! Be Courageous! Follow Jesus!" is based on Joshua 1:9.

tions across the state. During these events more than 8,000 church leaders from about 1,000 churches received VBS training. These leaders gained insight into many areas including LifeWay VBS literature,

music, missions, crafts, and age-group teaching.

This year several associational VBS teams achieved the Associational Standard Level of Recognition. Those associations include Big Emory, Knox

County, Midland, New River, Robertson County, Sevier County, Sweetwater, and William Carey.

Trundle notes this achievement, awarded by LifeWay, recognizes associations who have completed at least 12 or more of 18 different VBS requirements. These include things such as attending a state VBS clinic, developing a plan for follow-up to churches, and encouraging Backyard Bible Clubs.

The 2006 LifeWay VBS theme is "Arctic Edge." The motto, "Be Strong! Be Courageous! Follow Jesus!" is based on Joshua 1:9, "Haven't I commanded you: Be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go," (Holman CSB).

In addition LifeWay is also offering Space Quest as the Club VBS theme. More information about these LifeWay VBS themes can be found at www.lifeway.com/yourvbs or www.lifeway.com/clubvbs.

For more information about VBS or upcoming training events, contact Kathy Trundle at ktrundle@tnbaptist.org. □

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10/05

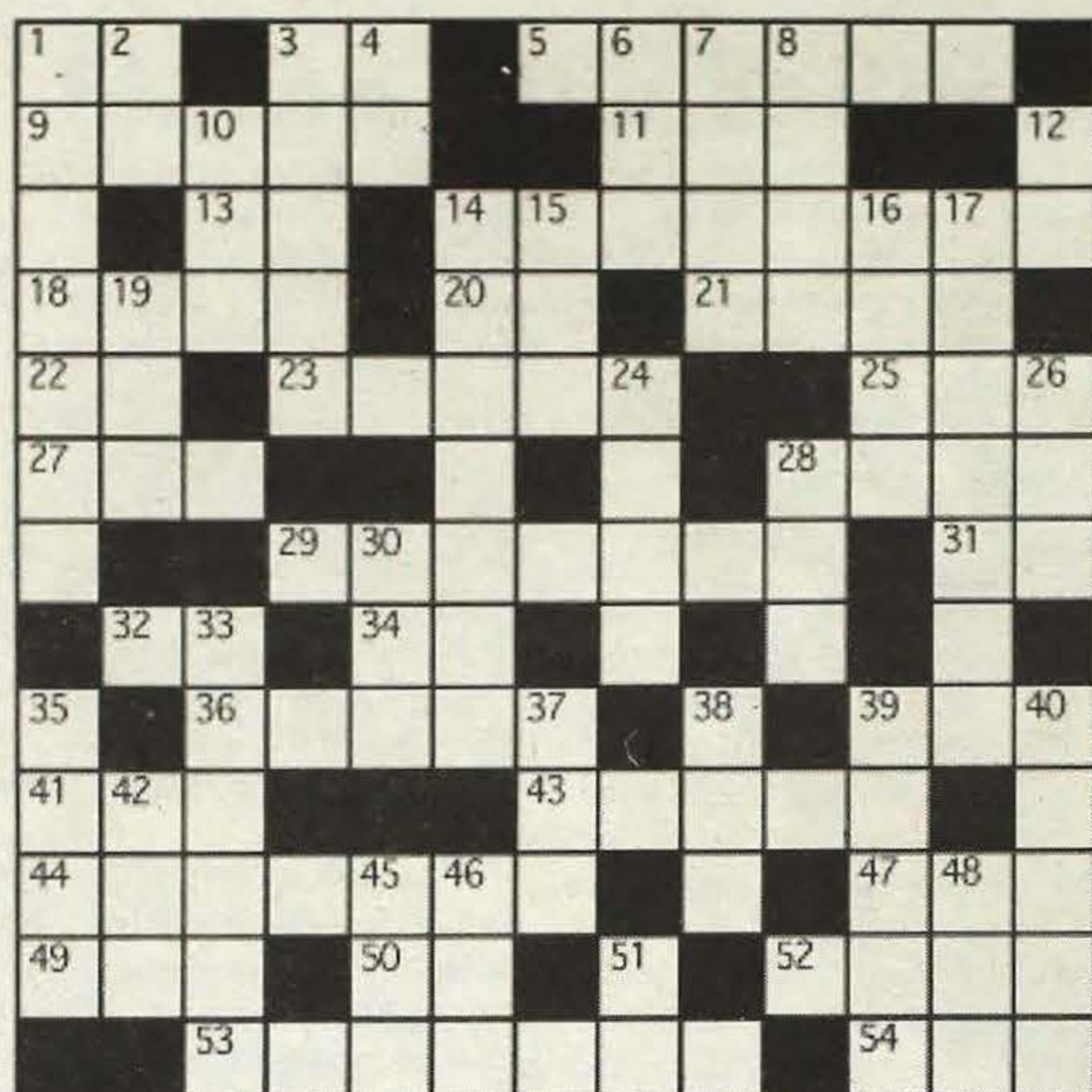


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See answers on page 11

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. Greek letter used for the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
3. Undergraduate degree, abbr.
5. David was king in ____ (2 Sam. 2:11)
9. Raises up
11. Organization for African Unity, abbr.
13. In regards to, abbr.
14. He made a vow with David (1 Sam. 18:3)
18. Girl's name
20. Stomach muscle, for short
21. A small building
22. Compass point
23. Jesse's youngest son (1 Sam. 16:11)
25. Regret
27. "If the Syrians be ____ strong for me" (2 Sam. 10:11)
28. Sense of who you are
29. Champion of the Philistines (1 Sam. 17:4)
31. Lieutenant, abbr.
32. The opposite of down
34. Six, Rom. num.
36. David used this to kill Goliath (1 Sam. 17:50)
39. Amount, abbr.
41. Woman's name
43. David's elder brother (1 Sam. 17:28)
44. A characteristic of David (1 Sam. 16:18)
47. "Drunk neither wine ____ strong drink" (1 Sam. 1:15)
49. A type of tree
50. Masculine article, Fr.
52. "Are not his sisters ____ with us?" (Mark 6:3)
53. His mother was Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:24)
54. Resident, abbr.

DOWN

1. Nob was their city (1 Sam. 22:11)
2. That is, Lat. abbr.
3. Priests gave David halLOWED ____ (1 Sam. 21:4)
4. Simile preposition
6. Period of time
7. Sheep's cries
8. A Moabite woman who was an ancestress of David and Jesus
10. "Thou ____ a virtuous woman" (Ruth 3:11)
12. The opposite of out
14. Saul threw it at David (1 Sam. 18:11)
15. Japanese sash
16. Not there
17. David escaped to this man's cave (1 Sam. 22:1)
19. "Herod ... slew all the children ... from ____ years old and under" (Matt. 2:16)
24. Wheeless vehicle
26. Electronic funds transfer, abbr.
28. That woman
30. Egg, prefix
33. David wrote many of these
35. David was in a ____ with Saul (1 Sam. 24:3)
37. "David made haste to ____ away" (1 Sam. 23:26)
38. "It was impossible for God to ____" (Heb. 6:18)
39. The captain of Saul's host (1 Sam. 14:50)
40. Sown among the wheat (Matt. 13:25)
42. Dekaliter, abbr.
45. "By him were ____ things created" (Col. 1:16)
46. New, recent, comb. form
48. Precious metal
51. "My word hath ____ place in you" (John 8:37)

Overage to assist Katrina victims

SBC CP gifts top budget by \$12.5

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Cooperative Program giving for national causes in 2004-05 finished above giving for the previous year, the 11th rise in 12 years. Receipts totaled \$195,948,422.55, an increase of \$6,083,167.70, or 3.20 percent over the 2003-04 amount of \$189,865,254.85.

Importantly, 2004-05 contributions exceeded the approved budget by \$12,496,728.55 and because of budget actions taken in September, the extra amount will be redirected to meet extraordinary hurricane recovery needs of Southern Baptists.

On Sept. 19, the Executive Committee, acting ad interim on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention, voted unanimously to use beyond-the-budget Cooperative Program contributions for SBC national causes, received for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, in three areas of great need among Southern Baptists.

One-half of the total is earmarked for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (to aid faculty and students recover from losses and to help rebuild the campus), one-fourth will go

to the three state conventions most affected by the hurricane (to keep ministers in the field and to assist churches in recovery) and one-fourth to the North American Mission Board (to support the extensive hurricane disaster relief operations).

The committee also voted that the same formula be followed with beyond-the-budget receipts for the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget during the first quarter (October, November, December) of the new fiscal year.

The Cooperative Program is separate from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Fund of which 100 percent of monies go to aid the needy in the general public.

For the month, CP receipts

of \$16,504,872.44 were percent, or \$3,109,31 above the \$13,395,5 received in September 20

Meanwhile, designated giving for fiscal year 20 totaled \$189,729,833.87, was 0.38 percent, \$719,566.28, above gift \$189,010,267.59 received 2003-04. The \$6,438,605 designated gifts received September was \$2,665, above the \$3,773,096.70 in September 2004, a 70.65 percent increase.

Combined, Cooperative program giving and designated gifts of \$385,678,256.42 year were up \$6,802,733 1.80 percent, above the combined \$378,875,522.44 in 2003-04. □



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MISCELLANEOUS

Several new churches across Tennessee are in need of 7 to 15 passenger vans. These churches are ministering to lower-income communities where transportation needs are great. If you or your church would be willing to donate a van to one of these new churches please contact Wayne Terry at (615) 355-7905 or wterry@tnbaptist.org.

MINISTRY — POSITIONS

Northside Baptist Church, McMinnville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of youth and a part-time minister of music. Please send resume to Tim Miles, Pastor, Northside Baptist Church, 1574 Yager Rd., McMinnville, TN 37110. Or, you can e-mail your resume to tim@northside-bc.org.



Pond Grove Baptist Church, Rockwood, Tenn., is seeking two positions: bivocational pastor and part-time music director. Interested candidates e-mail resume to pondgrove@bell-south.net.



River Rock Baptist Church is currently seeking to fill two positions: a part-time children's director and a part-time youth director. Please forward resume to 2248 Hwy. 99, Murfreesboro, TN 37128 to the attention of Pastor Randy Clayton.

Enrollments vary at Tennessee Baptist colleges

from news reports

WOOD — Fall enrollment at Tennessee Baptist colleges varies this fall.

Union University in the school set a new record this fall with a record number of graduates during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Enrollment is 2,970 students from last year's fall of 2,919. This year's includes a record number of 7 new students, compared to just more than 800 students last year.

They were thrilled with the fall enrollment," Union University President David S.

Dockery said. "It is the eighth straight year that Union has seen an increase in overall enrollment and we are thankful for God's continuing blessings to this university. Moreover, we are thankful for every student represented by these numbers and trust that their time at Union will prepare them well for the next step in their journeys."

The enrollment totals include more than 600 new undergraduates, both freshmen and transfers, and almost 300 new graduate students.

In Jefferson City, **Carson-Newman College's** second largest class of incoming freshmen in a decade tells President James Netherton

the best is yet to come.

"Our freshman class of 450 is the third largest incoming group in the history of the College," said Netherton. "It's an early demonstration that our admissions strategies are going to reap great dividends."

"Under the leadership of Dean of Admissions Tom Huebner, we began implementing new methods last year that — given our strong foundation — we project will elevate our student population to record levels with the next four-year generation of students," Netherton continued.

"We are utilizing the latest technological developments in interactive online recruiting and marketing to tell the Carson-Newman story."

Sixty percent of C-N's 1,991 students are Baptist, and more

than 40 percent of the overall population of students are members of Tennessee Baptist churches.

The college draws its student population from more than 40 states and 20 foreign countries.

Belmont University, Nashville, has set another school record for fall enrollment, achieving a milestone goal two years early as more than 4,300 students have enrolled for the fall semester.

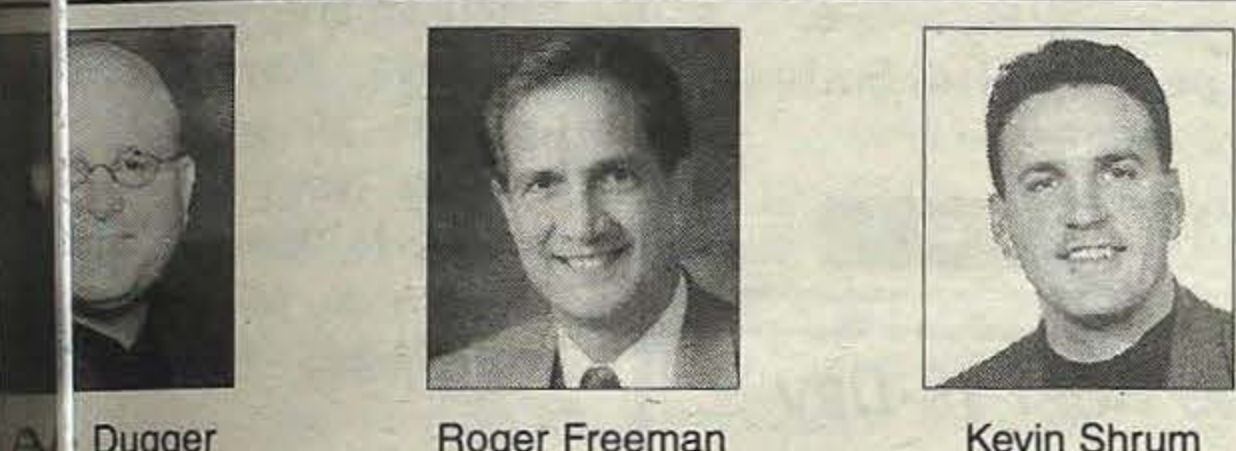
Five years ago, with enrollment less than 3,000 students, Belmont's administration and board of trustees set a goal of increasing enrollment to 4,000 by the fall of 2007. The final total for the fall 2005 semester shows that 4,319 students have enrolled at Belmont for the fall semester, 378 more than in the fall of 2004, an increase of 9.6 percent.

Belmont also enrolled its largest freshman class ever — 792 freshmen, 65 more than last year — and also has recorded the largest one-year increase in enrollment in school history, 378 students.

This year's freshman class is the most academically qualified freshman class ever at Belmont, with an average score of 25.3 on the ACT college entrance exam, up from last year's 25.1.

"Belmont University has the right vision for its future, and our rapid enrollment growth validates it," said Robert Fisher, president of the university.

"Achieving our goal of 4,000 students two years early is a great milestone but the most important data reflects the rising academic quality of students who are attracted to Belmont," he continued. □



Dugger

Roger Freeman

Kevin Shrum

Middle Tennessee Pastors Conference

Thursday, October 13 — 10 a.m.
Inglewood Baptist Church
3901 Gallatin Rd.
Nashville, TN 37216

Speakers:

Dugger, pastor Grace Baptist Church, Nashville
Freeman, pastor First Baptist Church, Clarksville and
President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention

Church and Pastor:

Shrum, pastor Inglewood Baptist Church and President
Middle Tennessee Pastors Conference
Middle Tennessee pastors, staff, and layleaders are wel-
A light lunch will be served following the meeting.

ons: Inglewood Baptist Church is located on Gallatin
approximately 2 miles south of Briley Parkway between
North and Opry Mills. Phone (615) 228-2546.

Memphis native chosen for LifeWay administrative position

LifeWay news office

NASHVILLE — Memphis native Larry Ware, a veteran educator, minister, and church consultant, began serving Oct. 1 as associate to the vice president of LifeWay Christian Resources' corporate affairs division.

He will coordinate LifeWay's involvement in Baptist state conventions, administer LifeWay's disaster relief ministry to pastors and churches, and maintain good relations with state executives, seminaries, and other Southern Baptist entities.

Ware succeeds John Gardner, who is retiring after 32

years of service at LifeWay.

Currently, Ware is network partnership specialist for Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas for LifeWay's church resources division. Previously, he managed the services section of LifeWay's Sunday School/FAITH ministry department.

Ware joined LifeWay in 1979 as an adult consultant and editor in what was then known as the Sunday School division.

Prior to joining LifeWay, Ware taught at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. □

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Smyrna church has role in 'Fuel' Bible study

Baptist Press

MURFREESBORO — Downtown streets here are normally quiet on Sunday afternoons, with most of the shops closed, but a fictitious dinosaur caused a bit of a ruckus there recently.

In late August filmmakers blocked off a section of Murfreesboro's streets to film a scene from the latest installment of a digital youth Bible study, "Fuel: Igniting a New Life with God's Story" produced by LifeWay Christian Resources.

"Run fast," production coordinator Danny Ayala told a crowd of about 60 extras through his bullhorn. "You're running from a dinosaur."

The cooperative extras, amid sweltering heat, obeyed by letting their imaginations run wild as they disrupted the quiet afternoon with realistic screams of terror, flailing arms, and even some feet that literal-

ly ran right out of their flip-flops.

The scene is part of a Fuel episode that follows an oblivious teenager through his day as he leaves home, goes to work, and walks through a crowd of fleeing people without ever noticing the giant creature destroying his town.

Most people probably wouldn't expect a reptilian monster to make an appearance in a Bible study video, but Fuel is all about reaching youth in unexpected ways.

David Buckley, youth director at Stonebrook Church in Smyrna, began leading his group of about 15-20 students through Fuel when the study premiered last summer. Since then, regular attendance has grown to 25-30 students.

"I really like the study," said

Buckley, who served as an extra in the filming — along with several of his students and all eight of his sons. "It's in settings that kids can see, so it has more of an appeal and impact."

Another extra, 17-year-old Mellie Riddle, said she came to the filming just to see what a professional video production looked like, but then became impressed with the idea of a Bible study like Fuel. She said she thinks students her age and a bit younger appreciate such a resource. "They can really learn something from it," she said.

Glenda Arbuckle's son, Ryan, who also served as an extra, has

been among the youth studying Fuel at Stonebrook.

She said she's glad to see him so interested in a Bible study.

"I think it appeals to all the youth and all their technology," Arbuckle said. "You've got to meet them on their level."

The Fuel curriculum is designed to teach 96 Bible stories through eight volumes and two years of study. Volume 2.2, scheduled for release in November, will include the dinosaur scene.

While the premise of the scene may seem bizarre, the location is one of the least exot-

ic that Fuel staff have visited to produce the Bible study. They have filmed in places as Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, D.C., and even Egypt.

"I absolutely believe in the study," Ayala said. "The youth culture in our society has just taken a dive, so anything we can do is worth it." □

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MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor through Nov. 1. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Attn. Michael Fair, Box 3056, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Traditional rural church vision to grow, seeking a pastor. Send resume to Grace Church, 410 Old Hwy, Bethpage, TN 37022.

First Baptist Church, Booneville, Ark., (www.villefbc.com) will accept resumes until Nov. 1, 2005. The position of pastor. Resumes may be mailed to FBC, 328, Booneville, AR 72915.

Senior pastor, Antioch Church, Requirements: SBC, 10 years experience as SBC Minister. Salary: \$29,578.00. Send resume to SBC, P.O. Box 597, Antioch, TN 37013.

Senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Forsyth, Miss. prayerfully seeking a pastor to lead our growing church located in the fast growing area, Missouri area. Our church is contemporary and traditional. Old facilities are debt free. 60+ acres to expand. Need a great leader/correspondent who can lead us into the future. Send a resume to FBC Search Team, P.O. Box 65653, Forsyth, MO 65653. barbara@fbcforsyth.org. site: www.fbc-forsyth.org

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Dynamic spirit-filled individual needed for the position of youth minister. Degree required. Will be growing number of youth and build a youth ministry. Apply to Personnel Committee, Baptist Church, 119 W. 11th St., Box 267, R. TN 37857.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

First Baptist Church in beautiful, historic Carter County is seeking a full-time worship leader. College or seminary required, contemporary/traditional, technology savvy, with good people skills and experience. Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 212 East F St., Elizabethton, TN 37643.

First Baptist Church of Andersonville is currently seeking a bivocational minister of music to lead a growing dynamic congregation in worship. Please call for more information, (865) 494-7675.

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

SBC church seeking full-time minister of music for choral and instrumental programs for all ages. Requirements: college degree in music plus 5 years experience. Send resume postmarked by Oct. 31 to Unity Baptist Church, Attn. Music Search Committee, 2320 29th St., Ashland, KY 41101.

New Market Baptist Church in New Market, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music. Please send resume to NMBC, P.O. Box 129, New Market, TN 37820, Attn. Personnel Committee.

Associate pastor/worship leader. Conservative SBC is seeking a man who uses a blended style of worship. Must exude a love for Jesus and have a servant's heart. Reply to FBC, 106 West Oak St., West Frankfort, IL 62896, (618) 932-2105, rkarroll@verizon.net.

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MINISTRY — STUDENT

Fast growing Southern Baptist Church in Loudon County is seeking a full-time minister of students and activities. Prefer seminary degree and ministry experience. Send resume to Dixie Lee Baptist Church, 14650 Old Stage Rd., Lenoir City, TN 37772, Attn. Doug Rhodus.

MINISTRY — EDUCATION

Seeking adult education minister. Florence Baptist Church is located in the fastest growing county in Kentucky. We are in the process of relocating to 67 acres. Run 800+ in worship. Looking for energetic person to build the adult ministries of our church. Please send resume to peggyromes@florencechurch.org.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Lexington Baptist Church is seeking a full-time, experienced minister of childhood education. Send resume to Search Team, 308 E. Main St., Lexington, SC 29072, Attn. Sandy Pitky.

Full-time minister of preschool/children. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

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Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Oct. 16

Do you remember being a foreigner to the covenant? How many of us have actually been a foreigner, or a minority even? Chances are, the majority of people reading this are white, Southern Baptist for more than 20 years, born and/or raised in the South, and have voted with or for the majority every time the chance came along? What do we know about feeling the pressures of being a stranger to the covenant?

The first spiritual conviction I registered happened when I was four or five, so long ago that the memory is encased in that hazy television quality used to convey time and distance. My pastor-father was part of a community worship service or a revival — I forget which — and my mother sang in the mass choir.


The service closed with, "Coming home, coming home/Forevermore to roam... Open wide Thine arms of love/Lord, I'm coming home," and the need to be at home with God squeezed in on me from all sides. I have felt conviction myriad times since then, but never in the same way or with a like sense of compression. I wonder if, as a Southern Baptist Sunbeam who couldn't yet read, it was more about my primal need for restoration and less about guilt over the sins of my own commission, which would grow in both severity and frequency as I grew older.

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world, notes Paul. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been

Try this little exercise: read verses 11-22, but do not read it in the mindset of one trying to get the Sunday School lesson read, or in the mindset of a new Christian in the church at Ephesus. Try reading it as most of us are: longtime members of an ancient faith and people who often find it easy to prescribe what our kind of faith looks like and feels like; people who know what music ought to be rendered in a Sunday morning service; people who know how long prayers ought to last and how many points the preacher ought to have. It's so easy for us to morph our kind of Christianity into being the only form of Christianity we accept.

Now read verses 11-22 like you're brand new to the faith, maybe not even yet in agreement with the idea that you need reconciliation to God. Read it like the

ink has hardly dried and the parchment still smells of the lamb it came from. Read it like the promise of a faith without barriers is a brand-new idea to you, and not as an old, gotten-used-to concept that most churches have trampled on and over for the 2,000 years since Christ established us. Read it like the promise of freedom that it is.



BROWN



BROWN

With this freedom, believers are no longer aliens to the faith, but are established fellow citizens. Paul says we are set on the foundation laid by the lives and work of the prophets and the apostles, and he says that Jesus is the cornerstone of this holy edifice of people. We really ought to act like what we have been called to be: believers conjoined together in this sacred endeavor and presented with the eternal blueprint of being a temple of the Lord. □ — Brown is director of news and publications at Carson-Newman College and a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.

What about God's grace?

If we are children of Adam — sinners by nature and choice — then the gift of God in Jesus Christ, the new Adam, is unlike the consequences of the first Adam. If sin and death came through Adam, God's grace overflowed to us in Jesus Christ. And, just as sin produced judgment and condemnation, God's gift of grace produced justification. While death reigned through Adam, life

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Oct. 16

ficial, substitutionary death produces in the repentant a righteousness that pleases God.

What, then, was the purpose of the law? If sin entered the world prior to the law, what is the purpose of the law? The "law came along to multiply the trespass." That is, the law simply magnifies our sin by exposing our sin. Further, the law acted as a schoolmaster that leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:24).

But, God's grace is greater than our sin because "where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amazing! God's grace overcomes our sin because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The result is eternal life! If the sin of Adam produces sin and, therefore, death, then all who sin die. However, because Jesus Christ submitted Himself to death, overcoming and conquering sin and death, then the outcome is life! As a result, the "graced person" has life rather than death. This is why grace is amazing. □ — Shrum is pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville.

Focal Passage: Romans 5:12-21

Focal Passage: Romans 5:12-21

God's grace is amazing. If mercy is God withholding from us what we deserve, then grace is God's giving us what we do not deserve – forgiveness and acceptance. In Jesus Christ God gives us both grace and mercy. But why do we need grace and mercy?

All are sinners, vv. 12-14

First and foremost, we need grace and mercy because all are sinners. Sin entered the world through one man (Adam) and, as a result, death through sin. We give evidence of being “children of Adam” when we sin. Sin and death were in the world prior to the giving of the law. The law simply affirmed God’s righteous standard and our inability to keep that standard. Failure to keep God’s law is sin. In addition, failure to respond to God’s revelation of Himself in creation is sin (Romans 1:18 ff.).

To be a sinner by nature means that the “image of God” in us has been corrupted so the point that we are utterly depraved and are unwilling, unable, and do not desire to grasp the person and will of God. Sin is not simply behavioral, it is systemic. To be a sinner by choice means that our true nature as a sinner is exposed in the choices we make in life.

Who needs a Savior, vv. 15-17

**SHRUM**

But in Christ we are free from sin as God forgives us and produces in us a righteousness that brings life.

*By God's abundant grace!, vv.
18-21*

Adam's nature visits every person because we all sin. This means that we are sinners by nature and by choice. To be a sinner by nature and by choice is to be under the condemnation of sin and death. But because of God's great grace we receive "life-giving justification" in Jesus Christ. Just as Adam's sin visits every person producing death, the obedience of Jesus Christ in His atoning, sacri-

Loving Soren

By Caroline Coleman O'Neill

Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005

one thing matters, Regina ... Is Soren
ard a Christian? ... God's Word is very clear.
may not marry unbelievers. There are always
aces for disobedience. One of those consequences
miserable. And I don't want to see you miserable."
dvice comes to Regina Olsen from her father
made aware of the great Danish philosopher's
marry his daughter.

Regina asks Søren if he is a Christian, he dodges the question and eventually answers "I like to think of myself as becoming a Christian." Regina loves Søren so much she decides to not tell her father the truth and accept his marriage proposal. Thus begins her misery. This is a well-written fictional story based on the historical events of both Regina Olsen and Søren Kierkegaard. The author, Caroline Coleman O'Neill, does an excellent job of penning the dialogue that weaves this heart-wrenching love story.

ry is set in Copenhagen during the 1840s. During this time, the church in Denmark was Lutheran. It was the church. All Danes were born Lutheran and practiced Christianity. Citizenship and enrollment in the church were the same thing. Kierkegaard believed that the requirements of Christianity were being unfulfilled during this time.

tricked into thinking that we are Christians because we are baptized, confirmed, taught, and in the Church. Those things have nothing to do with being a Christian. Nothing. They are external, objective. — Kierkegaard.

courtship of Olsen and Kierkegaard lasts for
 approximately one year. During that time, he has spells of
 melancholy in which Olsen witnesses and she convinces her
 that Kierkegaard needs her to balance these times in
 order to keep him happy. That, she believes, is her pur-
 pose. Kierkegaard decides during this period of his
 life to abandon his desire to become a minister and to
 devote himself to writing. He tells Olsen that the only time his
 melancholy truly leaves him is when he writes.

She determines to break the engagement with Soren, who is devastated and for a while is unable to function. When she hears of an early love's release from an insane asylum, she is able to finally get out of her bed and live. They marry and yet she is truly never happy because of her desire for Soren.

to lose yourself while reading *Loving Soren*.
of the book, you're sorry it's over. The dialogue
believable, and full of Christian philosophy.
Regina mid-way through the book that she is
anate Christian because she has never reached
"You can't have real faith until you recognize
that your life is a dark pit, a deep abyss, an
he says.

Book's conclusion, Regina reaches that deep
her final prayer is "Lord, help me seek Your
glory. Only You. And don't listen to me if I ask
g else."

an enticing work of biographical fiction. □ —
for a correspondent for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

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Deaths

◆ **George A. Fulghum Jr.**, 90, a Baptist layman of Memphis, died Oct. 2. A World War II Army Engineer Captain, he was a retired general contractor and proprietor of George Fulghum Company. He was also a long-time member and deacon of First Baptist Church of Memphis. He is survived by his wife, Maxine S. Fulghum. George and Maxine were instrumental in building churches across the United States and overseas. He also served as an engineer in Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), West Africa, as part of a Tennessee Baptist Convention project with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Leaders

◆ Hillhurst Baptist Church, Nashville, called **Garvin Jerry Jones** as pastor effective Nov. 6. He previously served a church in Ellsworth, N.Y.

◆ Clingan Ridge Baptist Church, Cleveland, has called **Kenneth Kesley Jr.**, of Dalton, Ga., as minister of music. A bivocational minister, he teaches school in Murray County, Ga. He and his wife Marie have two daughters.

Churches

◆ **Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Kingston**, will hold a revival Nov. 6-9 with Henry Linginfelter as speaker and Gary Buck as musician. Also the church is holding registration for Upward Basketball/cheerleading. For more information, call the church at (865) 376-9305.

◆ The youth of **Oaklawn Baptist Church, Jackson**, will host a "Building a Spiritual Cornerstone" concert Sunday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. at Union University Chapel, Jackson. A variety of music will be performed. Tickets will be available at the door or in advance. Group rates are available. For more information, call Dolly Elder at (731) 664-5423 or (731) 988-9187.

◆ **First Baptist Church,**



LEADERS OF Pomona Baptist Church, Dickson, burn a note on the Family Life Center to represent its debt-free status. The ceremony was Oct. 2. Participating are, from left, Donnie Weiss; Johnny Donegan; B. Carter Elmore, pastor; and Robert Alberd. The church also recently renovated the worship center and other parts of the facility.

Lakeland, will hold a revival Sunday - Wednesday, Oct. 23-26, with Phil Glisson of Memphis as speaker.

◆ Sonfest, a Christian rock band concert, will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, on the lawn of **First Baptist Church of Bruceton**. Music will begin at 1 p.m. Admission is free. For information contact Chris Fox at (731) 415-7315.

◆ **El Bethel Baptist Church, Shelbyville**, will observe its 150th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 16. The guest speaker will be Carlton Bell, a former pastor of the church. A pot-luck dinner will follow the service. A history service will begin at 2 p.m.

◆ **Second Baptist Church, Clinton**, will hold on Oct. 12-15

its eighth annual Reality House at the church. Reality House is for people of ages 12 and older. Groups are encouraged to make a reservation by calling Sue McFarland (865) 457-1458 or the church at (865) 457-2046.

◆ The Edge, the student ministry of **Edgefield Baptist Church, Nashville**, will present "The Rally at the Refinery" Oct. 12 at 6:15 p.m. It will feature music, videos, and giveaways at the church. For information call (615) 255-0468 or go to www.edgefieldbaptist.org.

◆ **Pine Grove Baptist Church, Wildersville**, will hold revival Sunday - Wednesday, Oct. 23-26, with evangelist Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld of McKenzie as speaker. For more information, call the church at



ELECTED TO LEAD Truett Baptist Association, based in Dover, at its 55th annual meeting on Sept. 29, were, from left, Clark Brown, vice moderator; Mark Warren, moderator; Donna Pearl, clerk; Carmen Westerman, treasurer; Andy Plank, music director; and William Gray, director of missions. The meeting was held at Pomona Baptist Church, Dickson. B. Carter Elmore, pastor of Pomona Church, brought the evening sermon.



SERVING AS PART OF the staff of the American Red Cross Spirit of America kitchen in Mandeville, La., Sept. 25-28 were Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, from left, front row, Carl Yoder, Chattanooga; Don Harvey, Chattanooga; Jane Hartman, Chattanooga; Carol Webb, Knoxville; Teresa St. Clair, Chattanooga; Charlotte Damewood, Knoxville; Royce Brooks, Knoxville; Jim Griffin, Chattanooga; and Lou Mulsand, Knoxville; back row, Bud Cameron, Chattanooga; David Johnson, Chattanooga; Al Miller, Chattanooga; George Hubbuch, Chattanooga; Don Pickrell, Dayton; Richard St. Clair, Chattanooga; Doyle Pittman, Chattanooga; and Noble Carper, Knoxville.



MEMBERS OF the Woman's Missionary Union of Hornbeam Baptist Church, Hornbeam, present more than 200 neck bars to the Tennessee National Guard 913th Engineer Co., representing Staff Sgt. Doxey, center, recently. The WMU made the neck bars with soil moist crystals. When soaked in water, the bars keep people cool. The WMU is represented by, from left, Patricia June Bennett, and Nancy Bullion. — Photo from the U.S. Daily Messenger.

(731) 968-7165.

◆ **New Bethel Baptist Church, Shelbyville**, held its 150th homecoming on Oct. 9.

◆ **Battle Creek Baptist Church, Coopertown**, celebrated its 160th homecoming on Oct. 2. Eddie Coakley, a descendant of one of the original member families, preached, and Jonathan Cooper presented special music. A dinner followed the service, and pastor O. Jewell Barrett was recognized for his 55th year in the ministry. Also at the homecoming a plaque from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, was placed on a black oak

tree on the church which was recognized on the Historic Landmark Tennessee for being old.

Event

◆ A Moms of Mom's luncheon, hosted by the Owens of First Baptist Church, Nashville; Ann Creighton, People's Church, Franklin; and the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, will be held Sunday, Oct. 22, at noon in the church. For information e-mail moms@bellsouth.net or call Owens at (615) 255-7676 or Cretin at (615) 277-8111.



DISASTER RELIEF volunteers from Copper Basin Baptist Association, Ducktown, used the association's new DR trailer as a team for the first time beginning Sept. 9. They did the work in Monticello and Tylertown, Miss., and Bogalusa, La. A second team of four replaced them and worked a week. The groups completed about 40 jobs, reported Claude Mathis. Above, team members stand with Mrs. Dillon, center, a victim. From left are Hershel Raper, Jan Brooks, Vickie Raper, Claude Mathis, Clyde Raper, and Glen Hughes.

