

# Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 171 / No. 44; Nov. 30, 2005

## this week's news

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World War II veteran shares experiences in new book. — Page 3

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Missions is focus of "Church Health Matters." — Pages 6-7

TMB trustees appoint Tennessee Baptists. — Page 9

## Says Bill George

# Churches need to reproduce themselves

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on church planting.

By Linda Lawson  
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — With only about 3 percent of Tennessee Baptist churches involved in planting new congregations, Bill George emphasizes the need for more to reproduce themselves and reach more people with the good news of the gospel.

While the annual number of new church plants has hovered around 50 in recent years, George, Tennessee Baptist Convention church planting strategist, cited the need for 100 new churches every year.

"We need churches to understand that God has called them as the body of Christ to reproduce themselves," said George. "God continues to build His kingdom with existing churches but also with the planting of new churches."

With approximately 3,000

Tennessee Baptist churches, George acknowledged some may question the need for more. Consider these facts.

(1) Tennessee includes 2,901,730 adherents to all religions, according to the Glenmary Research Center. Of that number, only 1,050,997 attend any church on Sunday morning.

(2) An estimated three million Tennesseans attend no church.

(3) The population of Tennessee grew 16.7 percent between 1990 and 2000, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The membership of Tennessee Baptist churches grew less than 1 percent in that same period.

(4) North America is the only continent in the world where Christianity is not growing. In Tennessee, Christianity is not growing in any county.

(5) Seventy-five percent of

Tennessee Baptist churches are plateaued or declining in membership.

"Obviously, existing churches are not making a large impact on reaching the lost," George said. He noted that the baptisms taking place in existing churches tend to be the children and other family members of Christians.

"We're not reaching those who are not like us," he said. For example, he noted that TBC churches generally are not reaching the poor or persons from burgeoning populations of language and culture groups."

George said that planting a church not only creates a new lighthouse for Christ but also re-energizes the existing church.

"Most of the time planting a new church will cause the existing church to grow," he said. "It also enables a church to reach people in its community or another community that they cannot reach."

He cited the need for Anglo and African American churches in areas where there are not

enough congregations to reach the population but also congregations for Hispanics, Asians, and other language and culture groups. In addition, some churches can be effective at reaching lifestyle groups such as a specific age range or generation.

In Tennessee, George said most new churches begin with the dream of a church planter. He and other members of the TBC church planting team, along with association leaders then pair the planter with one church or establish a network of churches to support the new congregation. It is a process that can take months.

George believes the preferred method is to start with a church committed to planting a new congregation and then involve a planter at the appropriate time.

"My dream is that we would have churches planting churches. They would be involved in birthing and maturing the baby. And when — See Churches, page 3



GEORGE

## Still in over their heads — FBC, Powell, continues work in India

Editor's Note: Names of all people involved, including those from First Baptist Church, Powell, have been changed due to security reasons.

news service

INDIA — With the title of "strategy-dinator church," First Baptist Church, Powell, was one of the first churches to join an effort called Project Thessalonica. It was developed to unite Southern Baptist congregations to establish a long-term game plan to plant churches in Indian cities, where — if any — have heard the gospel. "They're starting from ground zero," Project Thessalonica coordinator Marc Man said in 2004. "We are training people basically how to take the place of a time person living on the field — they're responsible for coming in, doing evangelism, discipleship, church planting and showing [new Christians] how to reproduce that." "We've come to a city somewhere in India with one to two million people. It's a city where idols loom around every corner. The temples skyrocket above the shacks and rundown buildings. The Hindus shade their children's eyes from off evil spirits. It's a city strung in Hinduism. And yet, opportunities to build



**That all peoples may know Him**

friendships and talk about spiritual matters abound in the city. Waiters in the hotel restaurant, college students and auto-rickshaw drivers want to practice their English with Westerners.

First Baptist Church, Powell, began sending mission teams to this Indian city in Spring 2004. The missions volunteers trained believers in efforts to spread the gospel by beginning house churches. Since then, Powell has sent multiple teams to the city and located a local Christian, Nihil Mattah, who could spearhead a church-planting movement.

A four-man team from Powell recent-

ly returned to the city to continue the task started by the group before them.

Jay Adler and Mattah interact like old college buddies as a morning worship service ends in this Indian city. They laugh and joke as if they've known each other for years. It's their first face-to-face meeting, but Adler already sees his new Christian friend as an answer to prayer.

Earlier in the week, a local pastor invited Adler to preach at his church. Adler was apprehensive, but accepted the offer.

"I'm not a preacher," Adler says.

## Week of Prayer for International Missions

Dec. 4-11, 2005

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

National Goal: \$150 million

"We're not here for me to preach. We're here to start house churches."

The service takes place in a private school near the team's hotel. A banner across the front of a room reads, "Jesus is Lord." Adler delivers a sermon based on John 3:16. Six people come forward to accept Christ as their Savior.

A church member tells Adler he is the first to preach Scripture during a Sunday morning service — they usually center on praise music and testimonies. And it was the first time Adler met his missions partner, Mattah.

Adler says he believes God is at work in the city.

When First Baptist volunteers first set foot in India more than a year ago, the city appeared overrun with idolatry and spiritual darkness. Recently, the team has found signs of hope.

"We didn't think we would find any Christians — especially any churches," says Adler, a leader of the Powell team. "But there are people (there) who truly want their city won to Christ."

The team has begun building relationships with a small but visible presence of Christians and churches scattered throughout the city. If all goes as planned, Powell will harness Mattah's passion for the gospel and train him to lead others to start house churches.

— See Still, page 8



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**Postmaster —**  
Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

**Frequency of issue —**  
Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.



Printed on  
recycled paper

## In final letter, Rogers asks for ministry to go on

Baptist Press

BRENTWOOD — A letter that Adrian Rogers wrote for use in the event of his death is being mailed to contributors to his Love Worth Finding radio and TV ministry, making it clear he wanted the ministry to continue after he was gone.

"If you are reading this letter it means that God has called me into His glorious presence," the letter begins. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith, and am now in the presence of our dear Lord Jesus praising and worshipping Him."

In the letter, Rogers — who died Nov. 15 after battling cancer and pneumonia — says that while his "earthly work is completed," he penned the letter so that friends of the ministry could know what "would be on my heart if I could still speak to you today."

"My dear friend, the simplest way I could state it would be, that while the messenger is gone, the message must continue," the letter reads. "Today there are still millions of people who do not know our dear Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and who are in desperate need of His redeeming grace."

Launched by Rogers in 1987, Love Worth Finding is broadcast in more than 150 countries and can be heard 24 hours a day on the Internet. Even though Rogers was known as a quintessential Southern Baptist, his radio and television ministry provided a vehicle whereby millions of non-Southern Baptists worldwide came to recognize his unique, deep preaching voice. Love Worth Finding is broadcast Monday through Friday on radio and once a week on television.

Bill Skelton, executive vice president of Memphis-based Love Worth Finding, told Baptist Press that the ministry has more than 3,000 of Rogers' messages in the archives — some of which have never aired.

"As far as radio is concerned, [the ministry] can conceivably go on until Jesus comes," Skelton said, adding that Rogers' sermons contained "timeless" biblical principles that will have the same meaning years from now as they do today.

"[But] television, because of technology and the dating of physical appearance, obviously is more dated. We have, in the planning stages now, television programs that have never been aired that will go through the end of 2008. At that time and at the pleasure of the [Love Worth Finding] board [of directors], we

could bring in another television personality. It could be someone here in Memphis. It could be somebody from the outside."

Love Worth Finding is entirely separate from Bellevue Baptist Church, where Rogers served as pastor from 1972 until his retirement in March 2005. He died just eight months after his retirement at the age of 74. □

## La. Baptists affirm CP role; keep paper's board

Baptist Press

WEST MONROE, La. — An awareness of the value of Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program was evident during the Louisiana Baptist Convention's Nov. 14-15 annual meeting at First Baptist Church here.

"Perhaps no other state convention can celebrate the Cooperative Program like Louisiana Baptists," a post-convention news release from the LBC communications office noted.

"Hit by the twin hurricane sisters, Katrina and Rita, the Louisiana Baptist Convention is attempting to directly assist and coordinate national assistance to over 200 churches decimated by the storms."

"The speakers and 1,545 registered messengers at the convention ... repeatedly acknowledged that the response to the hurricane-ravaged areas was made possible by the network of Southern Baptist churches faithfully giving to the Cooperative Program."

In other business, messengers turned down a proposed change in operations of the *Baptist Message*, which has had its own board of trustees since 1965. The proposal would have placed the paper within the convention structure as part of the new communications team led by Yeats, former editor of the *Oklahoma Baptist Messenger*. Yeats would have become editor of the paper as part of his communications duties.

The move required a two-thirds vote, but it drew only about half that number in a show-of-ballots vote.

The proposal was initiated by Hankins; *Baptist Message* trustees initially turned down the proposal but then approved it a few months later.

Lynn Clayton, the paper's editor for more than 27 years, has announced plans to retire at the end of the year. Messengers expressed their appreciation for Clayton, who is the longest-tenured editor at the same state paper in the SBC.

*Baptist Message* trustees apparently now will form a new search committee to seek an editor.

Earlier in the meeting, messengers had amended the budget to restore funds that had been cut from the paper's budget. □



ROGERS

## Baptists in Biloxi give 17,000 free turkeys

Baptist Press

BILOXI, Miss. — Southern Baptist volunteers gave away 17,000 Thanksgiving turkeys in a two-day event here, that culminated with a worship service featuring Christian music artists Newsong and Clay Crosse and country music singer Mark Wills and a message by pastor Johnny Hunt Nov. 21-22.

"Our community lost more than 20,000 jobs after Hurricane Katrina, so I knew that there was a good possibility that 20,000 families would appreciate having a turkey for Thanksgiving," Kevin Clifford, pastor of Bay Vista Baptist Church in Biloxi, told Baptist Press.

Over the course of a few months, the church was an operations center for the distribution of more than 4 million pounds of food to needy families, and as Thanksgiving approached, the members began to catch a vision for giving away free turkeys to those families, in a continued effort to show the love of Christ.

So Bay Vista spread the word, and in the end, about 200 Christian organizations had contributed money to the project. A man in Virginia gave the church a check for \$75,000 to get them started, and the church gave another \$25,000 from its disaster relief fund. □

## Arkansas Baptists oppose gambling

Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 7-9 passed seven resolutions, including ones opposing casino and lottery gambling, the sale of beer on college campuses, and homosexual activism.

The 939 messengers also called for their leaders to increase their support for the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget. Every Southern Baptist and Arkansas Baptist elected leader and official should promote the Cooperative Program "with vigor and intentionality on a consistent basis," the resolution said. A recent nationwide task force concluded financial support of the denomination is lagging.

Messengers also took the first step in granting agency status to the Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs, Ark. Once completed next year, the transition would create a board of trustees elected by the convention and permit the assembly to solicit donations from individuals and foundations.

In the peaceful, non-controversial meeting, the convention adopted a no-growth budget of \$19.7 million that includes \$8.3 million (42 percent) for South-

ern Baptist Convention cause. Messengers elected Har Black, associational missionary for the Washington-Madison Baptist Association, as convention president. □

## 2,500 students continue course work at NOBTS

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary received a bit of good news when the registrar's office conducted an initial enrollment tally and found that the overwhelming majority of students from the seminary's main campus are still taking courses at extension centers or via the Internet.

The preliminary enrollment of 2,500 is only about 250 below last year's record fall enrollment.

Approximately 250 students withdrew from NOBTS after the hurricane, but only 44 have transferred to other institutions. □

## GuideStone reports positive insurance trends for 2nd year

Baptist Press

DALLAS — A second year of positive trends in insurance rates was reported to trustees of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, along with reports on positive performance of the investment funds, during their Nov. 7-8 meeting here.

President O.S. Hawkins told trustees that for the second year in a row GuideStone has good news for its medical plan participants.

"Last year we were able to give 40 percent of our personal plan participants a rate decrease. For 2006, 57 percent of our personal plan participants will receive a rate decrease," Hawkins said.

"In an environment where national medical costs are trending upwards at 10-13 percent per year, we have effectively stabilized rates while improving benefits for our participants."

The transition to a single network provider, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, has resulted in deeper discounts for medical services, resulting in low claims.

Many participants have chosen higher deductible plans which have contributed to GuideStone's ability to stabilize rates. GuideStone's pharmaceutical coalition agreement with Medco Health Solutions also has contributed to containing costs.

While the national trend in pharmacy increases is running at approximately 12 percent, pharmacy costs for GuideStone plans have increased only by 1 percent. □



# USS Indianapolis survivor tells of God's providence

by Marcia Knox  
Baptist and Reflector

CLARKSVILLE — One of Clarksville's newest residents spends a lot of time on the road these days giving his testimony about God's providence during his four day survival at sea when the USS Indianapolis sank following a Japanese torpedo attack in the South Pacific theatre in World War II.

Edgar Harrell, 81, and his wife of 58 years, Ola Mae Hatley Harrell, are moving into a condominium in Clarksville to be near his son and wife and grandchildren in Joelton. His son David Harrell, 53, is the pastor of Calvary Bible Church in Joelton.

Both Edgar and David Harrell were at the 131st annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church here telling people about their jointly-authored book, *Out of the Depths: A Survivor's Story of the Sinking of the USS Indianapolis*, as told by Edgar Harrell, USMC, and

written by David Harrell. Edgar Harrell also led a closing prayer at one of the convention's sessions.

The elder Harrell, a Marine guard, was one of 1,197 men on board the USS Indianapolis, who had just completed a secret mission to deliver two atomic bombs to Tinian Island in the Philippine Sea in 1945. When two Japanese two-manned human torpedoes took down the ship, he was one of the 900 who ended up in the water July 30. Four and half days later, Harrell was one of the 317 men who survived in the shark infested waters and lived to tell about the providence of God.

"A total of 880 men died in the attack, which is now listed as the largest casualty at sea in US Navy combat history," Harrell related.

"My book tells the story of the attack and the four and half days in the water, and how God took care of me."

According to Harrell, he and his shipmates floating in their kapok life vests experi-

enced swimming with sharks, mass hallucinations, hypothermia, dehydration, skin boils from the oil and gas, and the deaths of friends.

"We lost 20 boys by the end of the first day. On the second day God sent the rain, and I was able to drink some fresh water. The third day five sailors on a raft with spare life jackets came to help. We decided to swim to the Philippines."

God also took care of Harrell by sending a crate of rotten potatoes his way during a swell.

"I had been praying for food. When I found the crate of potatoes floating, I was elated. Then there was the agony of defeat when I found out that the potatoes were rotten, but they had hard centers. I was able to squeeze the water out of the potatoes, and eat the cores. I filled my pockets with the potatoes and took them to my buddies."

Another group of men who were heading for the Philippines swam into the area. By the end of the day only Harrell and two others were left in the area. The others had either drowned or been eaten by sharks.

On the fourth day a land based plane flew over the survivors. It was a miracle when the pilot was able to see the oil slick, bodies, men, and debris by opening the hatch to fix an antenna.

The 56 men were eventually picked up by a pontoon plane in the area which ruptured its pontoon when it landed. Harrell was transferred to a destroyer, then to a hospital, and later shipped to Guam. He finally arrived home Feb. 16, 1946 to Murray, Ky.

"When I joined the Marines at 18, I was not a born again Christian, but I went to church," he noted. "Before I left for the Pacific, I went to

Memorial Baptist Church in Murray, Ky., and got saved, because the Lord impressed upon me this was my last chance.

"Later I knew when I was about to abandon ship that I had someone to pray to, and I knew that I would make it. I had the assurance from God that I would survive."

"When the rain cloud came on the second day, God sent me water. When that raft came with the sailors swimming to the Philippines, I knew what I had already decided to do. Also on the third, God sent me the potatoes that I saw as the bread of life. On the fourth day, God sent Lt. Chuck Gwen, our angel in the plane, to rescue me."

"I had four incidents that the Lord was assuring me all along that I was going to make

it so now I am telling the story, and I'm traveling all over the county telling people."

Harrell admits that for two years he couldn't talk about his war experiences to anyone, but after the third year he finally told his story after being urged by a friend of his who was a sales contractor.

Harrell decided to write his book along with help from his son after Sept. 11.

"I wanted to make it a Christian testimony. My son, the pastor and theologian, helped me in that area," Edgar noted. The book was published by Xulon Press in May 2004.

Harrell has now told his story numerous times in 14 states to college and high school students and to congregations in all types of churches.

The book can be purchased at [www.indysurvivor.com](http://www.indysurvivor.com). □

## Churches need to reproduce ...

— Continued from page 1

the mother church walks up to the nursery window and looks at the new baby, they would turn around and say, 'Let's do it again,'" George said.

"If we get churches planting churches the process will move from addition to multiplication."

For churches interested in the possibility of planting a church, George recommends that leaders take several actions.

(1) Contact a church that is planting churches and talk to their leaders.

(2) Talk with a church planter.

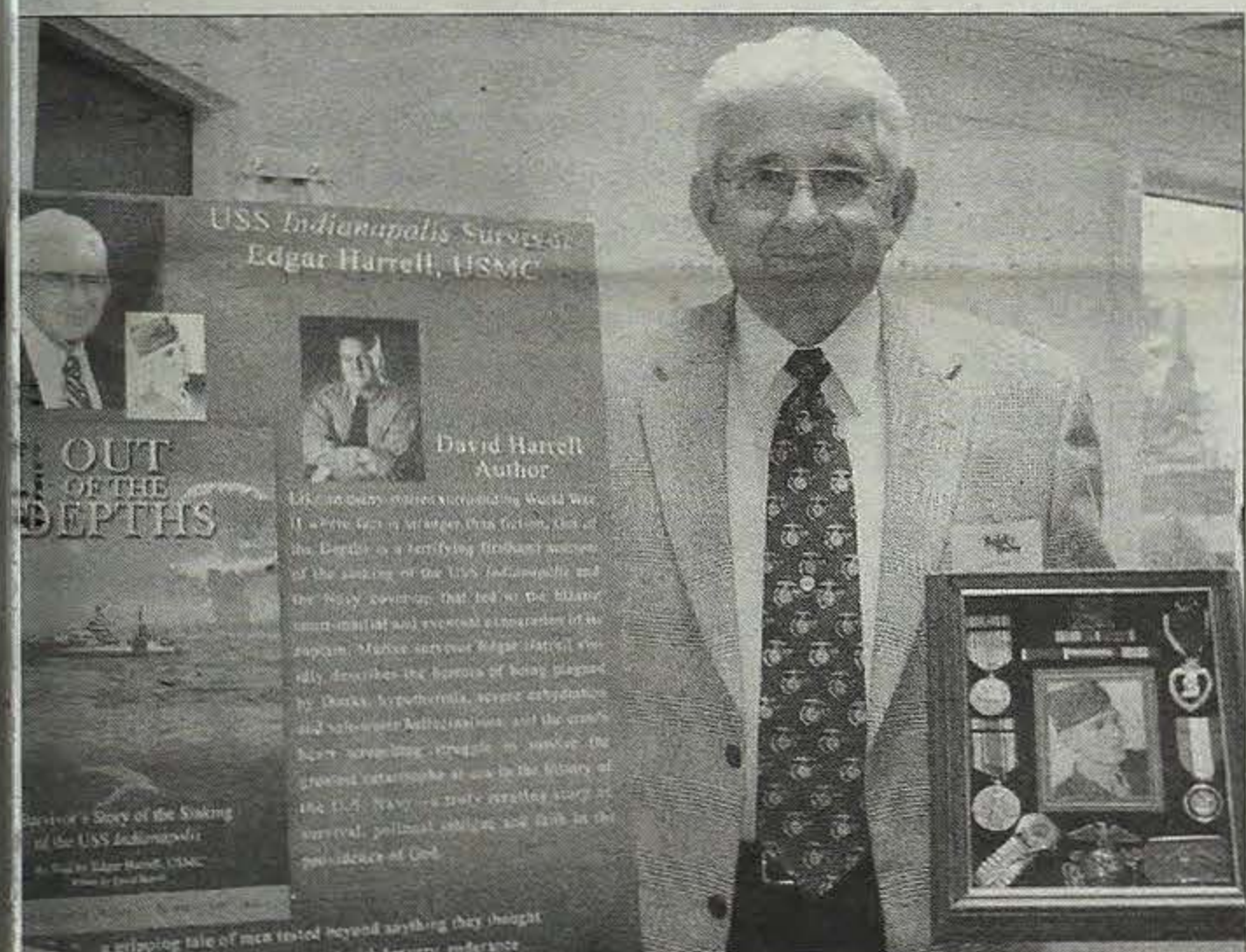
(3) Contact a member of the TBC church planting team. Members include George (West Tennessee) — 800-558-2090, ext. 2043 or

[bgeorge@tnbaptist.org](mailto:bgeorge@tnbaptist.org); Fred Davis (East Tennessee) — 865-998-7783, [fdavis@tnbaptist.org](mailto:fdavis@tnbaptist.org); Wayne Terry (Middle Tennessee) — 615-399-7905 or [wterry@tnbaptist.org](mailto:wterry@tnbaptist.org); Tim Hill (ethnic church planting) — 800-558-2090, ext. 2032, [thill@tnbaptist.org](mailto:thill@tnbaptist.org); and Chuy Avila (Hispanic church planting) — 800-558-2090, ext. 7993, or [javila@tnbaptist.org](mailto:javila@tnbaptist.org).

(4) Contact the local director of missions.

(5) Visit the TBC web site, [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). From the home page, click on evangelism in the left-hand column. Then click on church planting.

(6) Review books such as *The Purpose-Driven Church* by Rick Warren and *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age* by Ed Stetzer. □



EDGAR HARRELL displays a copy of the book he produced along with his son, David Harrell. The book details how God helped him survive in World War II when his ship, the USS Indianapolis, sank during a Japanese torpedo attack.

## Linginfelter, Taylor to write SS commentaries

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two Tennessee Baptist pastors will write the December-February Sunday school commentaries for the Baptist and Reflector.

Scott Linginfelter, pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Clarksville, will write the Family Bible series.



LINGINFELTER

Prior to joining the Mount Carmel congregation in May 2004 he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Tracy City.

Linginfelter is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jeffer-

son City, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned the master of divinity degree.

Linginfelter and his wife, Christa, have three children: Elijah, 6; Lydia, 5; and Caleb, 2.

Eric Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Middleton, will write the Explore the Bible series.

A native of Gary, Ind., Taylor came to Middleton in 2002 from the pastorate of Lakeshore Heights Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark.

He also has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Flintville, and associate pastor of Elliston Baptist Church, Memphis.

Taylor is a graduate of Union

University, Jackson, and has a master of divinity degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and



TAYLOR

a doctor of ministry in pastoral ministries degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown. Taylor currently serves on the Credentials Committee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and has held several positions in Hardeman County Baptist Association.

Taylor and his wife, Melissa, have three children, Seth, Andrew, and Luke. □



## Signing partnership

James Porch, left, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Jeff Clark, executive director of the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, sign papers forming a partnership between the two conventions which will begin in January of 2006. Porch and other TBC leaders traveled to Montana in October to sign similar documents at their annual meeting.



# Guy Milam is honored for 50 years of ministry

By Connie Davis Bushey  
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Guy Milam says he has been blessed to be a minister and leader of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Tennessee Baptist Convention for the past 50 years. Of his accomplishments, he is most proud of the churches he has led and the folks in them, he said.

In the six Tennessee churches he has served each has increased missions giving and membership, said Milam, pastor, North Knoxville Baptist Church. He was honored by the church and community on Sunday, Nov. 27.

## Lessons learned

Milam shared some of his views of ministry gained over the past 50 years.

It is important for a minister to be with church members when "their hearts are broken," he said, when they are in a "crisis." They need to be with someone "they feel has a word from God."

Milam also has learned to keep confidences. If folks "can't confide in you, your ministry is lessened," he said. If people "can't trust you, you don't have anything to say to them when they need you. Trust comes from building relationships," he said.

He believes honesty is crucial. He learned the importance of it from his father, Steven Milam, while growing up on a cotton farm in Madison County, he said.

He has learned that a minister is not a figurehead or a boss. "A pastor's authority is not running things without congregational agreement." Ministers who are bosses or dictators do not "build a strong, effective church," he stated.

Ministers who want to sit in an office behind a desk and counsel people most of the time will have problems, he added. He still does hospital visits, regular nursing home visits, and home visits despite pain in his legs and feet related to diabetes. Milam also does household chores to help his wife, Maxine, who has an illness

which limits her mobility.

A pastor is a shepherd who leads the sheep and feeds the sheep, Milam described.

Ministers should have ministerial ethics, he continued. He studied ministerial ethics while a student at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour. Many ministers "have forgotten the ethical part of ministry," Milam stated. He referred to actions like doing what a person says they will do and if not, telling the person involved. If a person tells someone something and then finds it is wrong or changes his or her mind, the person should tell the person involved, said Milam, who also studied at Union University, Jackson.

He said he has learned to listen to people. People aren't so worried about what ministers say but that they care, he noted. Ministers "don't always have the answers but we can point them in the right direction," he said.

A minister must "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," said Milam, following the Scripture. If ministers aren't careful, folks can determine, "I can't hear what you're saying for seeing how you walk."

"In the ministry I've always tried to be the same with everybody."

Finally he has learned that churches are no longer community churches, but must reach out. North Knoxville Church draws folks from four different counties.

Churches must "have something beneficial for them," Milam said, referring to people attending the church. Leadership should avoid doing things which will drive people away. Churches should emphasize fellowship, he concluded.

## Highlights of ministry

Milam said highlights of his ministry include reaching "somebody that you thought was unreachable" and seeing people "drastically changed" by their encounter with Christ.

He is glad for the many occasions to help "heal wounds" of people, he said. He has led hun-

dreds of funerals. He remembers one day he led five funerals.

One of the most difficult funerals he ever led was for friend Bob Sharp, who died suddenly during surgery for liver cancer. He and Sharp, who was pastor of Gillespie Baptist Church, Knoxville, played golf together regularly for five years.

Milam has enjoyed knowing "good things about good people." He has led revivals in four states and hundreds of weddings. He has enjoyed seeing young men surrender to the call to ministry.

He also recalled the time spent with the late W.A. Criswell when he came to speak at a church in Knoxville and with Adrian Rogers, the late retired pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

Of the denomination, Milam said, "I've been disappointed in some of the directions of the convention, but I'm proud of the convention. I'm a Tennessee Baptist and Southern Baptist and proud to be."

## Building facilities

Milam led two churches in building programs.

At Spring View Baptist Church, Maryville, the church relocated because of a highway project. Milam served the church from 1990-99 and saw it grow from 60 in morning wor-



MEMBERS OF NORTH KNOXVILLE Baptist Church, Knoxville, congratulate Guy and Maxine Milam, center, for their 50 consecutive years of ministry in Tennessee churches. The members are, from left, Tom Lee, Hicks, and Charlotte Lee. Guy is senior pastor of the church.

ship service. Seven hundred gathered in the new facility to hear evangelist David Ring of Franklin, who speaks of his struggle with cerebral palsy, recalled Milam.

He also led North Knoxville to replace its sanctuary after it was destroyed by fire on Thanksgiving Day in 1980. He served the church from 1967-89 and 2000 to present.

## Leadership

Milam has served on the board of the Home Mission Board/North American Mission Board. He was a member of the TBC Executive Board, serving two terms, and Rainbow Acres Home for Developmentally Dis-

abled Adults. He was first vice president of the TBC in 1991 and vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference in 1986-87. Milam served as moderator of two associations and in various other leadership positions.

He recalled his godly parents who raised 11 children on meager earnings from a cotton farm. Milam joked he never understood the phrase, as poor as a turkey, but heard the turkey ad to lean up against the barn to be able.

"I know a lot of fellows (ministers) haven't had the privilege to be where I've been. I've been blessed," said Milam. □

## TO LEARN, TO LIVE, TO LOVE ... ABUNDANTLY

Carson-Newman is special to me, not only because of the education I am receiving, but also for the opportunity to practice my gifts in ministry. All colleges say they will educate you, but Carson-Newman challenges you.

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# Don't fall into the holiday trap — it's still Christmas

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Bill O'Reilly of the Fox News Channel was recently quoted as saying, "There is an anti-Christian bias in this country, and it is more on display at Christmas season than any other time."

I agree that there is definitely an anti-Christian bias in the United States, a country founded on the principle of freedom of religion. But when I first read his statement I didn't know if I agreed with the part about it being more evident at Christmas.

I am beginning to have second thoughts. O'Reilly may have a valid point.

During the Thanksgiving holidays I watched a lot of football games and, as a result, saw many commercials. Two, in particular, caught my attention. One was a promo for one of the TV networks using Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer. Instead of saying "Merry Christmas," Rudolph wishes everyone a "happy holiday."

Then, on another commercial people are singing "We Wish You a Happy Holiday" to the tune of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Big deal or not? Combine it with some other happenings in our nation and it might be.

In the Nov. 23 issue we ran a story about the American Family Association calling for a boycott of Target because the company supposedly banned the use of "Merry Christmas" in their in-store promotions and retail

advertising. Target officials have denied this. Several other national retailers have supposedly done the same thing and they, too, deny the allegations.

Regarding the Target controversy, Snopes.com, a web site that deals with rumors and "urban myths," noted that, "A glance at Target's web site would tend to confirm the discount chain is among the retailers who are now downplaying or eschewing promotional use of the word 'Christmas' in favor of the less specific word, 'holiday.'"

Here's another example. Reuters news service reported Nov. 25 that the city of Boston "set off a furor this week when it officially renamed a giant tree erected in a city park a 'holiday tree' instead of a 'Christmas tree.'"

The story reported that the move drew an "angry response" from Christian conservatives,

including evangelist Jerry Falwell. Falwell, according to the news report, told Fox TV, "There's been an concerted effort to steal Christmas."

A story in the Nov. 27 issue of *The Tennessean* confirmed that Falwell is spearheading a group that will file suit against anyone who spreads what it sees as misinformation about how Christmas can be celebrated in schools and public places.

I know that many school districts no longer use the term "Christmas holidays." They just refer to the "holiday season."

It is sad to see so many who are choosing to avoid the use of the word "Christmas."

Christians, can either fall into that trap or they can smile broadly, and wish everyone they see "Merry Christmas."

Whether or not "Christmas" fades off the map should not be

left in the hands of advertisement companies or lawyers.

Christians must make sure Christmas is here to stay and send the message that you cannot have Christmas without "Christ." It is as simple as that.

Christians have a responsibility to make sure an unbelieving nation still sees Christ. And we cannot depend on the government or anyone else's help.

Make an effort to get God's message out. When buying Christmas cards, made sure you buy cards that say "Merry Christmas" and not "happy holidays." Better yet, use cards that depict the nativity.

Wish that clerk at Target, Wal-Mart, or wherever "Merry Christmas." More likely or not he or she will respond the same.

We don't have to be militant or arrogant. We just need to be Christian. □

## Bartlett pastor describes ministry in the shadow of a giant

guest columnist



By Danny Sinquefield

For the past 11 years, I have served as pastor of a Baptist church located less than three miles from Bellevue Baptist Church. Until his recent retirement, Dr. Adrian Rogers was my neighbor pastor, and so much more.

Dr. Rogers, as I always felt compelled to call him, was a mentor and a role model to an entire generation of Christian leaders. He was never too busy

to smile, speak, and ask about our ministry. His ability to make a younger pastor feel important was one of his trademarks. With his amazing combination of wit and wisdom, he always seemed to know exactly what to say and how to encourage others.

Serving in the shadow of a true legend is a bit intimidating, but it also has its advantages. First, you never have to worry about trying to be the best preacher in town. Dr. Rogers' profound command of the biblical text and his unique skill in outlining a sermon is unparalleled.

The word "polished" hardly describes his seamless and eloquent articulation. He never wasted a word. Every sentence

in his sermon was significant and each point was tied tightly to the text. His legacy of using words beginning with the same letters lives on in the lives of lesser leaders in the land. It really is contagious.

Secondly, the pressure is off when it comes to being the biggest church in town. Of course, Dr. Rogers always said that there was "no such thing as a small church or a small pastor." He reminded others that every church is a mission outpost of Almighty God and that every Bible-believing, Christ-exalting preacher is a champion in God's eyes. He always made me feel like a champion.

There are two unforgettable memories of Dr. Rogers that I

will always treasure. Several years ago, I was scheduled to speak on the program of an associational gathering hosted at Bellevue Baptist Church on a Sunday night. Since their evening service is live on radio, every detail is carefully timed and meticulously planned. Due to my spot on the program I was seated between Dr. Rogers and Dr. Stephen Olford. Dr. Rogers leaned over to me and whispered, "It is a great honor to have you at Bellevue this evening." That was the most intimidating moment of my entire life, but one that I will never forget.

More recently, I was invited to speak at Bellevue's staff revival. It is always a bit disconcerting to preach when one of

the greatest preachers ever is on the front row. After sweating my way through the sermon, Dr. Rogers was scheduled to make closing remarks. I will never forget the warmth and kindness of his words as he reflected on the message with his staff.

Certainly heaven's gain is our temporary loss. Dr. Rogers is a man whose ministry impact will continue to be felt until Jesus comes.

What a privilege to have shared the ministry field with one of God's great servants. His leadership among his peers, his loyalty to God's Word, and his deep love for Jesus are worthy of emulation. □ — Sinquefield is pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett.

## 'In God We Trust' on currency does not 'establish a religion'

guest columnist

By James Sanders

Editor's note: On Nov. 17, Michael Newdow, the atheist whose challenge of the Pledge of Allegiance reached the United States Supreme Court, filed a lawsuit stating that the national motto "In God We Trust" is unconstitutional and should be removed from the United States' paper money and coins. Following is one pastor's reaction. See page 10.

One might tend to wonder what goes on in the mind of an individual who files a lawsuit against Congress because it authorized placing the words "In God We Trust" on American currency.

Michael Newdow, doctor, lawyer, and avowed militant atheist, has finally made good a longstanding threat to sue the government over its national

motto. This is the same individual who filed suit to have the words "under God" removed from the pledge to the American flag. Newdow won his first round on the pledge of allegiance suit, but the judge blocked an injunction against the pledge pending appeal before the U.S. 9th Circuit Court. In the meantime, Newdow has pushed ahead with litigation against Congress contending that the words "In God We Trust" represent an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

Is Newdow at all justified in his suit against the use of the national motto on American currency?

I will continue to insist that we must re-think this proverbial idea of the "separation of church and state." I contend that there is nothing constitutional nor biblical about this idea. The first amendment guarantees that Congress will never pass a law with respect to establishing a religion, or prohibiting its free exercise, but the First Amend-

ment does not, in any way, promote a complete divorce between church and state, or between God and country.

Congress did not "establish a religion" by instructing that the national motto be printed on American currency. The endorsement of a national motto is not the same as establishing a religion. Even if the words "In God We Trust" were not our national motto, they still do absolutely nothing in the way of creating a state church and forcing anyone to worship in any way at any time.

There seems to be a strange movement in America today that says the majority is always wrong and the minority is always right, when it comes to moral or ethical issues. Newdow is not forced to worship God or join a church just because he sees the words "In God We Trust" on our currency, first placed on American coinage in 1864.

Just because there may be a small minority of atheists who become offended when they see

the national motto, that is no reason to move against one and one-half centuries worth of American heritage, instituted by Congress, approved by the vast majority of Americans, and woven into the fabric of American society. However, given the types of decisions that have often been rendered by the higher courts in America, it is entirely possible that the national motto as it currently stands may one day bite the dust.

What will it take for Americans to get real and see the light?

If we continue playing games and giving in to minority atheistic and immoral points of view in violation of our own conscience, the day will come when there will be a monumental slate of laws which will greatly offend the majority of Americans.

When this takes place, there will be a rebellion against authority far worse than the squeaky wheel of an atheist.

God is in America, woven into the fabric of our society, our

towns, our schools, our culture, and yes, even our governmental institutions. If we take God out of our government, we will destroy the essence of who we are, and cease to be America.

Let me hasten to conclude that God Himself will never be pleased with such defiance against His own sovereignty. In first introducing those words on U.S. coinage in 1864, Congress made the statement that there should be a "distinct and unequivocal national recognition of the divine sovereignty" on American currency.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us about God that "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is..." It is within the bounds of faith, constitution, and culture that American institutions acknowledge that God is, in other words, that God exists. I don't know about you, but I would rather have Michael Newdow upset with America, than have God upset with America. □ — Sanders is pastor of First Baptist Church, Decaturville.



Evangelism

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# Church Health Matters

"Building healthy churches empowered by the presence of God."

## MISSIONS Matters

Missions is a mandate of Jesus Christ, and every Christian is to be on mission for Him. As Southern Baptists, our heart for missions has always set us apart from other denominations. This issue highlights Healthy Missions.

Included below is the contact information for members of your state missionary staff that are available to help you and your church in any area related to missions.

Your state missionary staff is committed to the vision of "Making Christ Known By Serving Churches." Visit [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org) for information about how the Tennessee Baptist Convention can serve your church.

### Missions Education, WMU-Women's Missionary Union

Candy Phillips, Executive Director-Treasurer, WMU  
.....(615) 371-2039

Vickie Anderson, Missions Growth and Leader Development .....(615) 371-7918

Denise Bronaugh, Adult Missions and Ministry Communication .....(615) 371-7920

Andrea Knight, Preschool/Children/Youth/College Missions Education .....(615) 371-7919

*Training for church and associational leaders, churchwide missions, Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, Women on Mission, Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, etc.*

### Men's Missions

Gene Williams .....(615) 371-2064

### Boy's Missions

Frank Green .....(615) 371-2025

### Volunteer Missions

Kim Margrave .....(615) 371-2021  
*Partnership Missions, Planning & leading mission teams, Missions training, etc.*

### Volunteer Construction

David Acres .....(615) 371-7927

### Cooperative Program Missions

Gary Rickman .....(615) 371-2020



## The Missionary Mandate

By Gary Rickman

Avery Willis, in his book *Biblical Basis of Missions*, states that there resides in the church today two misconceptions that are damaging to missions. The first is that missions is perceived as an assignment for the extraordinary people called missionaries. The second is that missions can be done by proxy.

Both of these viewpoints could not be further from the truth. These two points exist because the missionary mandate has been usually restricted to the last words of Christ recorded in Matthew known as the Great Commission. The church needs to recognize the mandate is much broader than just the closing words of Christ to His disciples.

Christian missions originated in the heart of God. The Bible reveals the character of God. Two of the attributes of God's character in Scripture are linked to the concept of missions: God is light (I John 1:5), and God is love (I John 4:16).

Missions is about sharing this light and love proclaimed by Christ to a dark world and loveless people who do not understand that they are created to have fellowship with a loving God.

The command of Christ to "go" is stated in all four gospels and the first chapter of Acts; however, the church has made the mistake of building the whole mandate for missions on the word go. A closer look at the teachings of Christ reveal that before

there is the command to go, Christ used two other words to express His mission.

These words are "come" and "follow." The word "come" is having received invitation. The second word "follow" is being discipled.

Then comes the word "go." Now the disciple is ready, and he must be concerned for others to receive that which he has come to know. If as a believer you are on mission in some way for Christ, it must not just be because you quit following because you heard the command to "go."

The condition of mankind should open all our eyes to the mandate of mission. None of us would deny that the greatest need in our world today is spiritual.

Time and again Jesus asked, "Will you be made whole?" The word "whole" comes from a root word where we get our words for health and holiness. In order to be "whole" a person needs both health and holiness.

The missionary mandate is about healing the whole person. Each of us know people who need the healing touch of Jesus in their life. The ministry to them does not have to be done by someone else. It needs to be done by us.

Christ established the church as an agency to carry on His work in the world. This work is calling people to Christ, helping them become a follower of Christ, going into their community and world to take the gospel of Christ.

If your church needs assistance in strengthening its work in the area of missions, please call on the people listed in the column next to this article.





## Missions Education Develops Passion for Missions *By Candy Phillips*

What causes people to get up from the pew and get involved in changing their world? What causes people to give sacrificially? What causes believers to pray for lost people? What causes people to go to the uttermost parts of the earth to share the good news?

The answer to every question is PASSION. Passion motivates people to action. Passion for missions develops through awareness of God's activity in the world.

Effective missions education in the church develops a passion for missions among all ages of the congregation. The purpose of missions education is to help people understand the mission of God and how they can become personally involved.

Learning happens over a lifetime. The process of learning is complete when information is transformed

into action. Awareness affects involvement.

Is there evidence in your church that members of all ages are learning about missions? Do they see needs? Do they attempt to meet those needs? Do they share the gospel with the unreached people in your community? Do they try to fulfill the Great Commission?

Matthew 28:19-20 is Jesus' missions call for every believer. It is not an option. God has a plan, purpose, and place for every believer to serve.

The church is responsible for helping believers discover God's plan, realize their purpose, and prepare them to serve. The challenge for the church is to provide opportunities for missions awareness and involvement that is integral, intentional, and indispensable. Pass on the Passion.

## Significant Volunteer Opportunity Opens in Montana *By Marcia Knox*

The Montana Southern Baptist Convention executive director, a native of Winchester, is excited that Tennessee Baptist missions groups are coming to Montana. His excitement is based on his experience with Tennessee groups while serving in Michigan.

"I know what Tennessee groups can do," said Jeff Clark, Montana Southern Baptist Convention executive director. "I am looking forward to seeing what God is going to do and what Tennessee groups are going to do in Montana through this new partnership."

When Clark served as a church planter at Grace Southern Baptist Church in Rogers City, Michigan, he was assisted by several Tennessee missions teams from across the state during the Michigan partnership.

The Tennessee/Montana partnership officially began Nov. 16 during the 131st annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at First Baptist Church, Clarksville.

Clark and his wife Melva spent several hours during the 2005 TBC annual meeting inviting Tennessee Baptists to come to Montana to volunteer. Tennessee Baptists were encouraged to participate in April and August of 2006 with the Lostness tours, which will highlight the ministries in Montana. "It only takes 25 hours to drive to Montana," Clark told visitors to his exhibit.

"Montana is a laid back state with few churches and a great opportunity for missions," Clark noted. "What I want to do with the partnership is to connect Tennessee churches with Montana churches in order to help develop leadership in our state."

A former member of First Baptist Church, Winchester, Clark graduated from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, in 1983 and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, in 1987. Clark has served as pastor of churches in Florida, West Virginia, Michigan, and Hillcrest Baptist Church, Manchester. Prior to being elected Montana executive director in 2001, he worked for five years with the West Virginia Baptist Convention as a church planter team leader.

## 2005 Week of Prayer and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

SUGGESTED DATES: DECEMBER 4-11, 2005

THEME: THAT ALL PEOPLES MAY KNOW HIM

What began as a five-year theme for promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has come to define why Southern Baptists do missions and why the International Mission Board is working in new places and in new ways.

Free promotional materials (posters, prayer guides, and offering envelopes) are now available from the Tennessee WMU office. Call 800-558-2090, ext. 2038, to place your order. A wealth of information on the life and legacy of Lottie Moon, along with helps for promoting international missions in your church, is available on the web at [ime.imb.org](http://ime.imb.org).



That all peoples may know Him



Thank you, Tennessee Baptists for giving \$1,569,169 to the 2004 Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. This is the highest amount ever given to the annual state missions offering. The goal was \$1,625,000. Half of the offering helps start new churches in Tennessee, which is a primary evangelism strategy for reaching the 3 million people in Tennessee who are lost.

## Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

Feb. 10-11—West Tennessee Handbell Festival, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown

Feb. 10-11—Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training, Baptist Center, Brentwood

Feb. 16-18—Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat, Music Road Hotel and Inn, Pigeon Forge

Feb. 16-18—Southeast Youth Ministry Conclave, Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga

Feb. 17-18—Great Commission Prayer Conference, First Baptist Church, Powell

Feb. 24-25—Acteens Activator Training, Baptist Center, Brentwood

For information on upcoming events, see the TBC web site at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).



## Still in over their heads — FBC, Powell, continues work in India

— Continued from page 1

Adler shies away from focusing on one man or opportunity but describes Mattah as a God-send. The team discovered him through a string of Indian connections, stretching from India to an Indian expatriate living in Knoxville.

"We feel like God has given us (Mattah)," Adler says. "We could have gone over there a hundred times and not found someone like him on our own."

Powell's work centers around a long-term commitment, known as Project Thessalonica. The effort utilizes Southern Baptist churches desiring to spread the gospel in areas of India with no missionary presence.

Adler and Blake Stroud, a missions leader at Powell, team up on this particular trip with Project Thessalonica coordinators Marc and Ann Bowman.

The team meets new people, strengthens old friendships, prayerwalks, and maps a maze of crowded streets with few road signs.

Changing this city for Christ will involve a steady, long-term approach, Bowman



**A YOUNG BOY** in an Indian city prays to receive Christ as his Savior after Jay Adler of First Baptist Church, Powell, shared the gospel during a Sunday morning church service. The Powell team hopes to see more churches started in this city.

says. He and his wife have coached Powell team members since they began the project. Bowman contends short-term mission-volunteer endeavors often act as "band-aids" on the gaping wounds of spiritual lostness.

Project Thessalonica, on the other hand, gives Indians tools to spread the gospel in their own city.

The effort relies heavily on training locals to carry the brunt of the work. Starting a church-planting movement won't be an easy task. And finding an Indian believer who is willing to embrace the strategy takes concerted time and effort.

"It's like sales, sometimes you have to go through a lot of 'nos' to get to a 'yes,'"

Bowman says.

Adler admits the team has made mistakes, and he fights his own battles with jet lag and caffeine withdrawal. He also feels the pressure to produce.

"We have to hit a home run every time," Adler contends. "We only have a week at a time, and we can't waste this opportunity."



**JAY ADLER** of First Baptist Church, Powell, preaches during a worship service in India, to one of the few evangelical churches in this city of 1.9 million. The Powell team hopes to train local Christians how to spread the gospel and start more churches.

At a weekly Bible study, Mattah shares how God was to bring revival to the city.

"The Lord is raising up people," he says. "(God) might be us sleeping, but He wants to wake us up."

Adler and Mattah share their dreams of this city turning toward Christ. Adler remains confident that the things are about to happen.

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# MB trustees appoint Tennessee Baptists as missionaries

Michael Chute  
Baptist Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.— International Mission Board trustees voted to appoint 89 new missionaries during their Nov. 14-17 meeting here, and learned that Southern Baptists last year took the gospel to 137 previously unengaged people groups and planted the first evangelical Baptist churches among 14 of those groups that had no evangelical work.

However, IMB President Jerry Rankin told the board, "We have found that we're focusing on a moving target." He explained that at the end of 2004, researchers estimated around the world just over 500 unengaged people groups existed around the world with populations of more than 100,000. By February, that number was down to 486.

"But in our June [trustee] meeting, that figure was back up to 511, and our last report indicates 630 unengaged people groups," Rankin said. "It sounds like we're regressing, but the number is up because there are people groups whose populations keep increasing. Even as we reach many, there are others who are crossing that threshold and now entering that category of 100,000 people or more."

"We realize that even with the cooperative efforts of the major mission agencies in the evangelical world, we will not do it alone. Only as we facilitate, mobilize, and enable all of God's people called Southern Baptists to be engaged in our Great Commission task can we hope to reach a lost world."

"We have to train, equip, and facilitate more Southern Baptist churches to join the task and accelerate reaching the

unreached people groups."

In other business, trustees adopted a 2006 budget of \$282.5 million and passed two measures — related to baptism and private prayer language — for IMB personnel selection staff to follow in screening missionary candidates.

The new budget is \$600,000 less than the previous year's spending plan. The budget anticipates receiving \$100.2 million through the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget.

Finance committee chairman Ken Whitten pointed out the operating portion of the budget is up about \$9 million over 2005, while the capital portion decreased about \$10 million. However, he said the capital budget has some flexibility, particularly in capital funding related to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.



J. GRADY



S. GRADY



S. PARISH



S. PARISH

The budget also anticipates receipts of \$150 million through the 2005 Lottie Moon offering; \$137 million is included in the operating budget with \$13 million reserved for capital expenditures. Reaching the \$150 million goal will require a 12 percent increase over the 2004 offering of \$133.9 million. Reaching the operating budget will require a 2 percent increase.

A.C. Halsell, finance committee vice chairman, told trustees there is a possible impact to IMB funding — particularly Lottie Moon receipts

— related to hurricane relief. In addition, he noted all Cooperative Program receipts above the budget for fiscal year 2004-05 and the first three months of the 2005-06 year — October through December — have been diverted to Gulf Coast relief efforts.

The IMB has participated in almost \$9 million given to hurricane relief in 2005. The IMB in September contributed \$2.5 million in relief funds from contingency reserves, and the Southern Baptist Convention has redirected an estimated \$6.5 million in Cooperative Program funds from the IMB to Hurricane Katrina relief.

## Missionaries appointed

The highlight of the meeting was the Nov. 15 appointment service for new missionaries held in Huntsville's Von Braun Center in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. The 89 new missionaries marked the sixth-largest group ever appointed and followed up the 86 new workers (seventh-largest) appointed during the September meeting in Pensacola, Fla.

These newest missionaries are a diverse group in background and experience. They come from 30 states and six foreign countries.

Among the new missionaries are two couples with Tennessee ties.

Stephen L. Parish, ministry assistant for missions and evangelism at First Baptist Church, Clarksville, and his wife, Svetlana, were appointed as apprentice missionaries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Parish will serve as a strategy coordinator while his wife will be involved in community and home outreach.

Parish is a native of Jackson, Miss., and holds degrees from William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., and New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

John and Sonia Grady of Olive Branch, Miss., were appointed as apprentice missionaries to South America where he will be involved in evangelism/church planting and she will be involved in community and home outreach.

Parish has served as part-time youth minister at Hartland Baptist Church, Memphis.

A native of Smyrna, Ga., he is a graduate of State University of West Georgia in Carrollton, and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown. □

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## Newdow suit seeks removal of motto from money

Baptist Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Michael Newdow, the atheist whose challenge of the Pledge of Allegiance reached the United States Supreme Court, is now targeting "In God We Trust" on the country's currency.

In a lawsuit filed Nov. 17 in federal court in Sacramento, Calif., Newdow charged the national motto is unconstitutional and should be removed from the United States' paper money and coins. Newdow's suit claims "In God We Trust" violates both of the First Amendment's religion clauses, which ban government establishment of religion and infringement of the free exercise of religion. The suit also says the motto violates his free speech and equal protection rights.

"We are the nation that gave to the world the establishment that government should not endorse religion and everybody should be what they want," Newdow told *The Sacramento Bee* before filing the suit in Newdow v. Congress. "And of all the possible choices, we go with the motto of 'In God We Trust,' which totally contradicts that tradition."

The American Center for Law and Justice will defend members of Congress in the suit, ACLJ Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow said.

The national motto "is not

only permissible, but constitutional as well," Sekulow said in a Nov. 18 written statement. "Mere acknowledgment of God by the government cannot be said to be 'establishment of religion,' such that it would violate the [establishment clause]. The nation's history is replete with examples of acknowledgment of religious belief in the public sector. The Supreme Court has on several occasions referenced the national motto as a legitimate expression of our religious heritage."

"In God We Trust" was placed on a U.S. coin for the first time in 1864 and on a bill first in 1957, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

Congress approved "In God We Trust" as the national motto in 1956.

In 2004, Newdow argued before the Supreme Court that the phrase "under God" should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. The high court ruled Newdow did not have standing in the case, thereby leaving the

pledge intact. Other plaintiffs have joined the physician-turned-lawyer in refiling a suit against the pledge, and they are awaiting a decision from a federal judge in Sacramento, according to *The Bee*. □

## LifeWay to open 12th store in state

LifeWay news service

NASHVILLE — The new Hendersonville LifeWay Christian Store will celebrate its arrival with a grand opening Dec. 3-10. Special promotions will include appearances by Bob & Larry, the popular VeggieTales' characters (11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Dec. 3) and free CD giveaways to the first 100 people that day.

"We are excited about the opportunity to be a part of Hendersonville and the surrounding communities," said Mark Scott, vice president of LifeWay Christian Stores, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources.

"We look forward to serving people and churches by providing them with life-changing products and service."

The 6,000 square-foot LifeWay store features Christian music, gifts, Bibles, books, children's products, and church supplies. Stephanie Hodges, Life-

Way's 2005 Manager of the Year will serve as manager of the Hendersonville store.

The store officially opens Nov. 16. □

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — PASTOR

Bivocational pastor. If interest please send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Woodcreek Baptist Church, 108 East Commercial Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Mission-minded, Southern Baptist, country church seeking bivocational pastor; beautiful area, great opportunities to God's work; 50 miles west Nashville. Send resume to FE Pinewood, c/o Deborah Bowen, 6794 Piney River Rd., Bon Aqua, TN 37025 or e-mail boutwell\_d@bellsouth.net.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

West Shiloh Baptist Church is search of a full-time pastor. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 9881 Hwy. 142, Stationville, TN 38379.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Great growth possibility. Bivocational pastor needed for a small traditional, 12-year-old SBC church in a fast growing, suburban area 20 miles south of Salt Lake City, Utah. Please send resume to Pastor Search Committee Chairman Mr. Myr Adams, 2228 East 7110 South Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

### MINISTRY — MUSIC

A SBC church in south-central Tennessee is prayerfully searching for the man God has selected to be our minister of music and worship. Our church enjoys a blended style of music, meeting the needs of all generations. This position involves working with several choirs, choirs groups, bands, musical productions, and assisting the pastor in all areas of ministry. We are a growing church presently averaging 340 in morning worship. Send resume to LBCST05@aol.com.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Valley View Baptist Church, east Nashville is seeking a part-time minister of music. Valley View is a congregation with 600 in attendance with Sunday morning and evening worship services and Wednesday evening activities and choir practice. The minister of music will be responsible for directing the sanctuary choir and planning and leading worship service with the pastor. To inquire please call (615) 262-3950 or e-mail valleyviewbc@bellsouth.net.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Full-time associate pastor, music and A/V, dual worship (contemporary/traditional) in West Louis County, MO. Send resume to Music Search Committee, Ballwin Baptist Church, 151 Manchester Rd., Ballwin, MO 63011-4629.

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — STUDENT

Valley Grove Baptist Church is currently seeking a full-time student pastor. Applicants must be college graduates with at least 5 years of youth ministry leadership experience. Seminary preferred. Send resume to Kim Spangler, Valley Grove Baptist Church, 9000 Sevierville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920 or kim@valleygrove.org.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Clinch River Baptist Church of Lake City, Tenn., is seeking a dynamic, Christian leader of young people to fill the full-time position of minister of youth. Please mail resume to Kenny Clotfelter, 108 Redwood Rd., Clinton, TN 37716 or e-mail clotfelter@wmconnect.com.

### MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Full-time director weekday preschool ministries. Send or e-mail resume to Carla Kidd, ckidd@cbcsite.org, Central Baptist Church, 300 N Roan, Johnson City, TN 37601 by Jan. 8, 2006.

### MINISTRY — COMBINATION

First Baptist Church, Somerville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of music and education. Bachelor's degree required, seminary degree desirable. Experience in a Southern Baptist Church important. We are a growing church with 350-400 in worship. Job description available upon request. Interested applicants send resume to Personnel Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 12685 South Main St., Somerville, TN 38068.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Jefferson Street Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music and education. This candidate will primarily be responsible for music while assisting the staff in the promotion of Sunday School and developing an ongoing discipleship ministry. For more information please call (478) 272-7750 or send resume to Search Committee, 209 N. Jefferson St., Dublin, GA 31021.

### MINISTRY — OTHER

Secretary/bookkeeper. 25 hours per week. Job entails handling phone calls, mail, filing, bookkeeping for a retirement facility, preparation for and follow-up of board of directors meetings, and a two-week camping program. Send letter of introduction and resume to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728, Attn. C. Kenny Cooper.

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# book review

Dawn Ferguson

## Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives

by Charles Swindoll  
W Publishing Group, 2005

Charles Swindoll summarizes his latest book, *Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives*, by saying "No one is insignificant when God chooses to use it to teach the truth to others." And that's the thought he pursues as he writes about 13 characters from the Old Testament — several very familiar as well as some not familiar.

Some of the lives examined in Swindoll's book are those of people who are often overlooked — primarily "nobodies" — used by God as somebodies. Swindoll's descriptive phrases for them include: Hielah — the leader who became a loser; Gehazi — the servant who got greedy; Naaman — the officer whose leprosy was cleansed; and Rehoboam — the reckless phony.

All 13 characters — each featured in an approximate 20 page chapter — are people of significance according to Swindoll. And, in each of their stories he finds relevance for today. In some instances, as in Hielah's, when the person who began as a nobody came a somebody they "prospered as long as they sought the Lord." But when pride entered in and God is ignored, corruption soon followed.

According to Swindoll, "because of Christ's sacrifice, there are no nobodies living on planet earth. A person isn't significant because fame or stature or publicity makes him or her so. Each is significant because God said so."

People of significance share the following similar traits:

- A selfless devotion — they don't care who gets the credit
- A mission focus — they focus on the right objectives
- A harmonious manner — they get along with everyone to achieve the higher goal
- A contagious joy — they inspire humility and unity in others

And when these traits are forgotten — when they come celebrities in their own eyes — when obedience to God takes a back seat — and when they begin fighting their own torches" (Isaiah 50:11), the result is pain and torment.

This book is Swindoll's eighth — and weakest — in an enlightening biblical biographical series entitled *Great Lives from God's Word — Profiles in Courage*. Each of the first seven is written about an individual: David, Joseph, Esther, Moses, Elijah, Paul, and Job. Swindoll has a God-given talent for looking deep into God's Word and relating the character's lives and times in his books. He is also very adept at finding principles for every day living in their stories. However, readers who haven't read any of the others in the series should consider them first.

For those in any kind of valley — read *Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication*.

If you are having "control" issues — read *Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance*.

If it's humility you need — read *Elijah: A Man of Faith and Humility*.

If you need grace — read *Paul: A Man of Grace and Power*.

If you're wondering where God is during times of justice — read *Esther: A Woman of Strength and Integrity*.

If you're feeling sorry for yourself — read *Joseph: A Man of Absolute Integrity*.

And, if you're looking for a change of heart that puts you more in line with God — read *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny*. □ — Ferguson is a correspondent for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

## Why care?

By Scott Linginfelter

### Focal Passage: Jonah 4:1-11

Imagine with me a pastor getting up on Sunday morning and "raking his church over the coals" in his sermon. At the end of the sermon the altar is full, and dozens of people have gotten saved and given their hearts to Jesus. To most pastors that would be a dream come true. But imagine that same pastor now after the service. He goes home, and over Sunday dinner with his wife, he fumes about all the people that had the nerve to come and get saved that morning. What kind of a pastor would preach a sermon against sin, and then when people turn from sin, he gets mad? Well, that is exactly what happened here in our story. Jonah preaches to the wicked city of Nineveh that the judgment of God is coming for their sinfulness. As a result of his preaching (or better put, as a result of the conviction of God), the people of the city repent of their sin, and God stays His hand of judgment against them. That is the way God works. His judgment is conditional on people's repentance, or lack thereof. That is His character, His nature. And Jonah knew it.

Did you notice Jonah's comments about God? *I knew that*

*thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.* What insight into the nature of God! Jonah knew the character of God. Isn't it strange that a man who knew so much about God, shared so little of His character.

So what does God do to straighten Jonah out? He gives Jonah an object lesson, book-ended by two questions. God often used questions in Scripture to get people's attention. He called out to Adam, "Where art thou?" even though He knew exactly where Adam was. He asked Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" even though He was aware of Abel's death. He asked Jacob what his name was (deceiver) just before he changed it (prince). Now he asks Jonah if he was right to be angry at God for forgiving Nineveh.

I spent some time talking about salvation with a man who had visited my church. He seemed to understand the biblical teaching of being saved by grace through faith, except for one small hang-up. His brother, according to him, had been a despicable character all his life. This fellow didn't understand how his brother could be saved late in life after doing so much bad. He felt as though God

## Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series Dec. 4

would grant him mercy, but didn't think his brother deserved mercy.

This is the same attitude Jonah had. God gave him mercy in the form of shade. When God took the shade away Jonah was angry. After all, he deserved the shade (in his own mind)! The problem was if God gave Jonah mercy, then Jonah had no right to be angry if God showed mercy to Nineveh. Neither of them deserved mercy. That is the nature of mercy and grace; we do not and cannot deserve them.

Now to the astonishing fact: there are many people in Baptist churches all across this state this Christmas season who will celebrate the grace of God given through the gift of his Son, who will not share that gift with others; neither do they want to. In this way, they exhibit the same kind of prejudice that Jonah showed. They want mercy and grace, but are unwilling to offer mercy and grace to others. Just like Jonah, many Christians know the character of God. Now, let us seek to share in his character. God loves the lost. □ — Linginfelter is pastor, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Maryville.

## Need for mercy

By Eric Taylor

### Focal Passage: Romans 9:1-29

Mercy is an important word. Webster defines mercy as "Kindness toward the helpless." Merrill F. Unger defines mercy as, "A Christian grace." Yet, we live in a very merciless society. Therefore, if there has ever been a time when God's people must show mercy, especially to the lost, it is now — for those without Christ are helpless and hopelessly lost.

#### Reflect God's concern (vv. 1-5)

We would like to think that we show mercy to the lost, but when you read Paul's words you may become convicted. When Paul writes about his lost Jewish friends he is consumed with compassion for their lost estate. His heart is heavy and his spirit is weighed down with "continual anguish" (HCSB) for unbelieving Israel. I wonder if there are many tears in our churches for the lost in Tennessee? Are there many of us who lose sleep over the lost around us? How many altars are filled on Sunday morning with Christians praying, with sorrow, over the lost?

Paul's passion for the lost does not end with his constant "sorrow," for in verse three, he makes one of the most powerful statements in Scripture. While some have tried to explain away Paul's words here, they mean exactly what they say: *For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh* (KJV). Paul was telling the

Romans that he was willing to go to hell — to be cut off from Christ — if it meant Israel would be saved. What a passion for souls! If we could have one tenth that passion, think what God could do through us.

#### Remember God's mercy (vv. 6, 14-18)

If verses 4-5 illustrate the passion of Paul, this section teaches us the purposes of God. And God's purposes have everything to do with His sovereignty. When you read verses 14-18, you cannot help but see a God who is sovereign. Whether it is through his servant (Moses) or the hardened heart of an enemy (Pharaoh), God accomplishes His will for His own glory.

Paul was answering an obvious question from some in Israel who believed one was saved by God, because of their Jewish heritage and their keeping of the Law. Yet, Paul made it clear that God, through His mercy, saves. God's mercy and salvation could not, and can not, be earned. There are many who are trusting in their good works to save them. There are church members who believe they are saved because of their affiliation with the church. Some may even feel they are saved because their parents were Christians. Remember what Jesus said to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and "a ruler of the Jews?" Jesus said, *You must be born again* (John 3:7).

Many spend so much time debating whether these verses teach predestination, or even double predesti-

## Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible Dec. 4

nation (God choosing who will go to heaven and who will go to hell), that they miss the overall teaching. God who is sovereign acts according to His own will, and we receive mercy not judgment because God chooses to act with mercy.

#### Recognize God's patience (vv. 19-24)

Paul anticipated an objection to his previous statements about God's sovereignty by warning against arrogance. Some believed that they could demand that God not judge those who reject Christ because if God is so powerful, "Who could possibly reject Him." Yet, Romans teaches that while God is sovereign, man is free to choose (Romans 1:18-32). Therefore, it is arrogance for anyone to question the judgment of God.

It may not be politically correct but the Bible teaches *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). And if that is not radical enough, Paul's words in verses 22-24 tell us that we are "objects of wrath" deserving His punishment. But praise God who is merciful and who has "endured with much patience" our rebellion in order that we might come to forgiveness, grace, and the riches of His abundant mercy. Amen! □ — Taylor is pastor, First Baptist Church, Middleton.



## Leaders

◆ **Ted Phillips**, member, Ewtonville Baptist Church, Dunlap, completed 50 years of pastoral ministry on Nov. 1. He has served as interim pastor of churches in the South and Midwest for the last seven years. He just recently completed a year of ministry as interim pastor of a church in Traverse City, Mich.

◆ **R. Maurice Hollingsworth**, executive pastor, West Jackson Baptist Church, has been called as senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Las Cruces, N.M., effective in January 2006. He also has been a missionary seminary professor at the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary in Taipei.

## Churches

◆ **North Pointe Community Church, Old Hickory**, drew about 500 people to its first annual Fall Fun Fest on Sunday, Oct. 30. Adult gifts were distributed with the truck o' treats. The bags included a DVD about the church, food coupons for area restaurants, listing of community partners and sponsors, and welcome letter from David Thompson, pastor. Residents were invited by way of flyers distributed to homes.



**HONORED FOR 55 YEARS** of ministry recently was Morris Lee, pastor, Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Dover, and his wife, Marjorie. A luncheon was held at Paris Landing State park in their honor.

◆ **Donelson View Baptist Church, Donelson**, recently saw four people make professions of faith, two of whom joined the church in a revival. Many other people rededicated their lives. Speaking was Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld of McKenzie.

◆ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold the Hanging of the Green service on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at (615) 227-2961.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Lenoir City**, held a Tribulation Trail Oct. 28-31 which drew 2,574 people. Tribulation Trail was a 15-scene, outdoor, walk-through drama. It was

presented by a cast of about 150. About 300 volunteers made the event possible. Scenes presented were of the tribulation which occurs after the rapture described in Revelation. The event was for children and others older than 10 years of age. "Guests to the trail will see graphic images of what life may be like for those who have not accepted Christ during the most dangerous time in the earth's history — the tribulation period," wrote C.E. "Jack" Jackson, pastor, in a letter to churches. As a result, 59 people made professions of faith, 85 rededicated their lives, and 14 asked for prayer, reported Jeff Bowden, discipleship pastor.

◆ **Old Beverly Baptist Church, Knoxville**, celebrated its 50th anniversary Oct. 23.

◆ A team from **First Baptist Church, Knoxville**, served recently in Cakovec, Croatia. William D. Shiell, pastor; Jud Reasons, associate pastor; Greg Reed, and Matthew Evans represented the church at the dedication of the Pastoral Center there. Church members helped build it in July 2004 and plan to



**WOMEN ON MISSION** of the Woman's Missionary Union of Oak Hill Baptist Church, Crossville, stand in front of quilts prepared for female residents of a Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Oakdale. The Women on Mission are, from left, Charlotte Bertram, Ruth Douglas, Amy Burnett, and Louise Visage. The group has been making and delivering quilts to each new TBCH resident each year for about 10 years. The quilt-makers are different ages. Amy Burnett is 90 years old. Charlotte Bertram reported, "The girls really enjoy them. Most do not have moms or grandmothers to do this for them."



**LEADERS OF** Madison-Chester Association of Baptists, Jackson, pause at its recent annual meeting. They are, from left, Charlie Crouthers, pastor, Beech Bluff Baptist Church, outgoing moderator; Jerry Barker, pastor, Parkburg Baptist Church, new moderator; and Ron Rogers, member, West Jackson Baptist Church, and retired director of missions, vice moderator.

return April 20-29.

## Schools

◆ Community members are invited to a night of Christmas carols and Scripture reading at the fourth annual "A Union Christmas" Monday, Dec. 6, in **Union University's** G.M. Savage Chapel.

The program will feature the University Singers, Proclamation, the Symphonic Band, the Choral Union, and the Union University Children's chorus. Handel's "Messiah" will be performed. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Gloria Durcan at (731) 661-5345.



**THE BIG HATCHIE BAPTIST** Association, Covington, held its annual meeting recently. Elected as officers were, **IN PHOTO ABOVE**, from left, Ray Jones, director of missions; Thomas Bester, church planter/pastor, Forerunner Baptist Church, moderator; Charles Timberlake, pastor, Liberty Baptist Church, outgoing moderator; Frances Slover, member, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, clerk; and Ronnie Wylie, member, First Baptist Church, Covington, treasurer. **IN PHOTO BELOW**, seven people are prayed for after they were commissioned by the association for service in Uganda, Africa, Nov. 17-29. They received funding help from the Teddy Evans Missions Fund of the association.



**DEACONS AND PASTOR** of Temple Baptist Church, White House, stand with Charles Allen Dorris holding plaque, who was honored for 30 years of service as a deacon recently. Others are, from left front row, Joe Lamberth; Garnett Cothorn; Dorris; Lonnie Lane; Jim Dozier; Michael Duff, pastor; second row, H.D. Jones; Jerry Summers; Andy Nash; Michael Jackson; Darrell Leftwich; back row, Joe Tate; Jeff Hinkle; and Bryant Lamberth.