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Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 2; Jan. 18, 2006

TBC CP gifts below '05 pace; ahead of budget

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — During December Tennessee Baptist Convention churches gave \$3,185,437 through the Cooperative Program.

After the first two months of the 2005-06 fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$6,123,114.

The amount is \$219,405 or 3.46 percent below the total given for two months last year.

The total, however, is \$5,042 or 0.08 percent over budget needs after the first two months of the fiscal year.

TBC Executive Director James Porch expressed appreciation for the CP gifts and encouraged Tennessee Baptists to continue to give generously to meet the missions and ministry needs in Tennessee and around the world. □

this week's news

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- Gilmore urges support for Tennessee evangelists. — Page 8
- Lawrence County churches gather for 'Winter of Worship.' — Page 8
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As part of hurricane response

Church calls pastor displaced by Katrina

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

HERMITAGE — After Hurricane Katrina hit Aug. 29, members of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church here really "connected with hurricane victims," said Poly Rouse, pastor.

Chain saw teams from the church were deployed to help victims almost weekly. The church had developed a disaster relief ministry in conjunction with the Tennessee Baptist Convention a few months earlier.

A few weeks following the storm members gave an offering on a Sunday morning and kept giving after the service. In a couple of weeks, the church sent the offering, about \$40,000, to TBC disaster relief.

Then the ministers of the church discussed trying to help a displaced Southern Baptist minister.

Dwight Moody, associate pastor of singles, leadership development, and missions, contacted the Baptist convention offices in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. They didn't know of a displaced minister at the time. He talked to Chris Emery, a member of Hermitage Hills who works for the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., who



PASTOR POLY ROUSE, left, Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, sits in the church office with new staff member, **Paul Brady**, center, disaster relief coordinator who is the former pastor Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.; and **Dwight Moody**, associate pastor of singles, leadership development, and missions.

assured Moody that ministers were in need.

Then Moody talked to Joe McKeever, director of missions, Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. He learned that at the time only two churches had offered to help displaced ministers, one in Alaska and one in Maine.

McKeever referred Moody to Paul Brady, pastor, Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans, who needed help. Soon Moody was in Bogalusa, La., with a church team and he met Brady.

Oak Park Church is located

in the Algiers section of New Orleans. It wasn't flooded but it did suffer wind damage which broke out windows and damaged the roof. The church's facilities were usable except that the area didn't have electricity for 17 days.

Brady's parsonage where he lived with his wife Teresa wasn't damaged. But the congregation, averaging 270 people in worship, lost many of its members who evacuated and then relocated. No one knew if their relocation would be temporary or not.

Brady knew the church couldn't afford its three full-time ministers and three full-time office workers. Brady decided he had to resign.

Hermitage Hills hadn't budgeted for another minister's salary, noted Rouse. However, as the idea of helping Brady was presented in various forums to church members, they "were very receptive," he described.

Moody met with the missions committee which unanimously endorsed calling Brady — See Hermitage, page 3

Board deals with Belmont in executive session

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The relationship with Belmont University continues to be an ongoing agenda item for members of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The board held its winter meeting Jan. 11 at the Baptist Center here.

Board members heard a number of reports from leaders of TBC entities as well as TBC President Phil Jett of Jackson.

In a matter of business, board members approved a motion that the reduction in the Executive Board budget of \$281,613 made by the Budget and Program Committee last August be reversed as a result of the board receiving an additional \$300,000 in the budget approved by TBC messengers at their annual meeting in November.

The additional funds were available after Belmont University announced they would no longer receive Cooperative Program funds.

The recommendation noted that the difference (\$18,387) be used towards the mandate from the convention to set aside \$30,000 for expenses of investigating and resolving the contract matter with Belmont.

Gary Rickman, ministry coordinator for the convention, presented a report concerning the church planting fund.

He noted funds, which come from the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, were allocated to 27 new church starts last year. In addition, 22 other churches received assistance.

In response to concerns raised about churches which do not include "Baptist" in their name receiving funds, Rickman

said numerous steps are taken to make certain that new starts are Southern Baptist missions and churches.

"We are doing our best to make sure we are starting strong Tennessee and Southern Baptist churches," Rickman assured board members.

When it came time to discuss Belmont and a matter regarding Baptist Health System of East Tennessee, the board went into executive session, meaning non-board members, except for selected TBC Executive Board staff, were asked to leave.

A request made by the *Baptist and Reflector* to remain in the meeting was turned down by the board's Administrative Committee.

The following statement was released by TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"In fulfilling the charge concerning Belmont University

given to the Executive Board by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, during annual session in November 2005, the Executive Board chose to convene in executive session in the best interest of both the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Belmont University.

"The session provided an occasion for the Executive Board members to review processes involving past relations with Belmont University and receive information as to the current status of the committee's work with Belmont.

"Emphasis was placed upon the fact that this is an ongoing process. The session was conducted in the gracious spirit of care for kingdom concerns."

Porch said the matter about Baptist Health System regarded financial concerns and that a statement would be released soon by the hospital. □

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Samford trustees elect Westmoreland as president

Associated Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Samford University's board of trustees unanimously elected Andrew Westmoreland Samford's 18th president Jan. 10.

Currently president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., which he has led since 1998, Westmoreland will replace Thomas Corts, who retires May 31. Corts has served as president of the school since 1983.

Westmoreland, 48, was recommended to the board by an 18-member presidential search committee after an eight-month national search involving more than 140 applicants.

William J. Stevens, chairman of the board of trustees, introduced Westmoreland at a news conference following his election at a special meeting of the board.

"The board is very confident that Dr. Westmoreland is just the person to lead Samford at this point in the university's 164-year history," said Stevens. "He comes to us highly recommended not just by the search committee and the constituent reference panels (who met with Westmoreland in December), but by everyone who was contacted about his ability to lead a great university like Samford."

Stevens noted that Westmoreland "brings an outstanding record of academic leadership" and that he is a highly effective administrator and "a proven fundraiser." The board chairman, who also was a member of the presidential search committee, said that as the committee worked to narrow its focus in the fall, "it became very clear that Dr. Westmoreland was someone deserving of our attention."

Westmoreland said he accepted the board's invitation to become Samford's president "with appreciation for their trust in me ... and with a strong sense of excitement for Samford's future." He will continue as president of Ouachita for the next four months, but will be involved in some transition plans with Samford before June 1, said Stevens.

"The board has asked President Corts to be available through the summer months to consult with Dr. Westmoreland on transition plans, and he has graciously agreed to help in whatever is needed to make this a smooth transition for everyone and, most importantly, for the university," said Stevens.

Westmoreland added, "I pledge that the transition between these administrations will be seamless, harmonious, and respectful of the fabric of institutional life."

Prior to being named Ouachita president, Westmoreland

served 19 years in various administrative capacities at the Arkansas Baptist institution, including executive vice president and vice president for development.

He directed two campaigns that raised \$68.7 million for Ouachita while serving in the development post. During his presidency, Ouachita completed another campaign that raised \$62.5 million during 2002-05. □

Israel halts Christian center talks with Pat Robertson

Baptist Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's tourism minister announced Jan. 11 that discussions with Pat Robertson will cease regarding the establishment of a Christian Heritage Center in Galilee after the televangelist suggested Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's stroke was punishment from God.

The Israeli official's announcement was made without reference to a letter of apology from Robertson, which his TV ministry said was being hand-delivered to Sharon's son, Omri, the same day. There was no word whether the tourism minister, Avraham Hirschson, had received a copy of the letter.

"The minister has very strong views on [Robertson's Jan. 5 comments about Sharon's stroke] and cannot accept what was said," Ido Hartuv, a spokesman for the tourism ministry, said, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. "We reconsidered the deal and realized that we cannot sign with Robertson or anyone else who supports his views."

The Christian Heritage Center, proposed to be built in the region where Jesus lived and preached, is the leading element in Israel's recent efforts to attract more Christian visitors. Robertson had been heading up a group of American evangelicals in plans to raise as much as \$50 million for the project, which would depend on Israel donating at least 35 acres of land and infrastructure, according to *The New York Times* Jan. 12.

Hirschson had said the center could draw up to 1 million tourists per year, generate \$1.5 billion in spending and create about 40,000 jobs, according to the Associated Press.

But Robertson's comments, aired on his television show "The 700 Club" the day after Sharon's stroke, immediately drew the ire of Israelis involved in the tourism proposal.

"God considers this land to be His," Robertson said of Gaza. "For any prime minister of Israel who decides he will carve it up and give it away, God said, 'No, this is mine.'"

"I would say woe unto any

prime minister of Israel who takes a similar course," he added.

Despite the rift with Robertson, Israeli officials insist the plans for the heritage center will not be dropped altogether. □

Alito receives high marks from conservatives

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito received highly favorable reviews from pro-life and conservative observers after his four-day appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The committee listened to the final witnesses on Alito's nomination Jan. 13, a day after the panel members completed their questioning of the judge from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The committee vote is scheduled Jan. 17, with a confirmation vote on the Senate floor planned Jan. 20. It is uncertain if Senate Democrats, however, will delay committee action or attempt to filibuster the nomination in an effort to block an up-or-down confirmation decision.

By the time Alito fielded the last question from the committee, it appeared unlikely opponents would be able to prevent his confirmation. His performance under constant pressure from the eight Democrats on the panel seemed only to help his cause.

"Judge Alito has shown that he has all of the qualifications anyone could possibly want in a Supreme Court justice," said Southern Baptist public policy specialist Barrett Duke, who attended parts of the hearings held in the Hart Senate Office Building. "He will be an impartial judge, making his decisions based on his understanding of the intent of our founding documents."

"Will he always decide the way I would want him to? Probably not, but I am confident that he will make his decisions based on what he understands the law to dictate, not on what he thinks ought to be done," said Duke, vice president for public policy and research of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "I can live with that. I'm not so sure some of our Democrat senators can, however."

Duke also commended Alito's poise in response to his critics' questioning of his record and character.

"Alito answered practically all of the questions put to him, even if the same questions had been asked time and time again," Duke said. "In spite of repeated attempts to undermine him, he maintained his composure and answered the same questions politely and respectfully."

Constitutional lawyer Jordan

Nashville station drops show about priest

Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — A Nashville network affiliate of NBC-TV has joined six other affiliates in dropping "The Book of Daniel."

"Based on a review of the first three episodes and the clearly voiced concerns from our viewers, we have determined that the program, 'The Book of Daniel,' is not appropriate for broadcast television in this community," said Nashville's WSMV-TV general manager Elden Hale Jr.

The complaints were received after the show premiered Jan. 6.

The Book of Daniel focuses on a drug-addicted Episcopal priest who has a wife who downs mid-day martinis, a 23-year-old son who is a homosexual Republican, a 16-year-old daughter who sells marijuana, and a 16-year-old adopted son who is having sexual relations with the bishop's daughter.

The American Family Association, Tupelo, Miss., reported other network affiliates in Amarillo, Texas; Terre Haute, Ind.; Tupelo and Meridian, Miss.; Little Rock, Ark.; and Beaumont, Texas, have dropped the show. □

Lorence told Baptist Press that Alito's responses to the Democrats' frequent questions about his view of *Roe v. Wade* "were very appropriate in the context that he's being evaluated."

Alito told his questioners that *Roe*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, is a precedent deserving respect, but he also refused to say unequivocally the ruling is the "settled law of the land." He agreed with the legal doctrine of *stare decisis*, which says a court should not overturn its own decision unless there is a compelling reason to do so, but he said it is not an "inexorable command." Alito acknowledged he advocated a pro-life position in 1985 as a Department of Justice lawyer but said he would have an "open mind" regarding *Roe* if he were confirmed.

"It is inappropriate for him to say, 'Yeah, I'm going to rule this way or that way,'" said Lorence, senior vice president of the Alliance Defense Fund.

The abortion-rights advocates' "obsessive veneration of *Roe v. Wade* is totally inappropriate," said Lorence, who was in Washington for the hearings. "That's not the way the Supreme Court treats precedent."

After reviewing Alito's opinions, he was "very, very impressed with his religious liberty and free speech cases," Lorence told BP, adding the nominee has a "very high view of individual freedom, and that's what we need." □

Winfield accepts role at TBCH

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. (TBCH) has named Jerry L. Winfield as vice president of development and communications. Winfield is pastor of Forest Hills Baptist Church in Nashville, where he has served for 12 years. He will oversee development in the TBCH state office beginning Feb. 1.



WINFIELD

"We are excited to have Dr. Jerry Winfield join our ministry team at TBCH," said Bryant Millsaps, TBCH president/treasurer. "Having him lead our development and communications work will greatly improve our efforts in this critical area."

Winfield, 55, said he is honored and excited about the opportunity of serving at TBCH.

"All that we do together as Tennessee Baptists is significant in the kingdom, but nothing that we do cooperatively is

more important than this ministry to children and their families," said Winfield.

Winfield is a 1978 graduate of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss., completing a bachelor of arts degree. Additionally, Winfield holds a master of divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, and a doctor of ministry from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Prior to serving Forest Hills Baptist Church, Winfield served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Bolivar, for seven years and four years at First Baptist Church, Ashdown, Ark.

Ordained to the ministry in 1972 at Berclair Baptist Church in Memphis, he is a certified pastor and leader for F.A.I.T.H. and Seminary Extension and a certified conference leader for "Planned Growth in Giving" in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Winfield is currently serving on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He and his wife, Jane, have two children. □

Biography of Adrian Rogers penned by his wife Joyce is released

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — There is no better expert on the late Adrian Rogers than his wife and lifelong sweetheart, Joyce, who through grade school, high school, college, and 54 years of marriage experienced the highs and lows of life alongside him and was the sounding board for his deepest thoughts.

She has recorded her unique perspective in *Love Worth Finding: The Life of Adrian Rogers and His Philosophy of Preaching*, a biography released by Broadman & Holman Publishers prior to Rogers' death Nov. 15 after a battle with cancer and pneumonia.

Joyce Rogers lovingly recounts her husband's beginning in the ranks of the ordinary, where in junior high school he was known as "unruly and belligerent."

"He had an overdose of courage and the ability to fight with his fists," she wrote. "He would challenge others to a fight just for an expression of what must have been an inner turmoil."

The third child of working-class parents, Rogers yielded his life to Jesus at age 14 after some neighbors invited his family to a crusade at a local Baptist church in his hometown of Palm Beach, Fla. Rogers followed his father down the aisle and made a profession of faith, and his life was immediately changed.

"Adrian often has said that if it were not for Jesus and His transforming grace that he would not be a nice person to live with and may have even ended up in prison," Joyce wrote.

Rogers was captain of his high school's championship football team and received several honors including a scholarship to play at Stetson Univer-

sity in Florida. Yet during those years, he sensed God was calling him to preach.

"When I was younger attending Sunday School, I was asked by the teacher to lead in prayer," he said in the book. "I felt so inadequate that I declined to do so. ... I did not think of myself as having any verbal gifts at all."

Perhaps one of Rogers' most important moments came in 1979, at the outset of what now is called the conservative resurgence, when key conservative leaders urged him to be a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention to help take back the reins of the SBC from their liberal counterparts. Rogers was uninterested, believing his obligations at Bellevue needed his utmost attention.

As Joyce recounted it, Paige Patterson and Jerry Vines met Rogers at his hotel door in Houston the night before the election and asked to join him in his room for prayer. Previously in the book, she had mentioned a decision-making method she and her husband had developed in which each would ask the other, "Where are you on a scale of one to ten?"

"By now it was approaching midnight on Monday night and the election was to be on Tuesday afternoon," Joyce wrote. "I joined in as the three men knelt on the floor and fervently prayed. After an extended time of prayer, Dr. Patterson began to weep. Adrian looked up at me propped up in bed, and there was a defining moment. I held up ten fingers. With that Adrian said, 'I will do it.'"

The next day, Rogers remarkably was elected on the first ballot and became president of the largest evangelical body in the world. □

Church calls pastor displaced by Katrina ...

— Continued from page 1

and allocated a portion of its budget for his salary. They planned for the position to be part-time and developed a job

description.

The deacons considered the matter next. They "were not content with it being part-time," explained Moody, and increased

the position to full-time. Then the church's personnel and stewardship committee added benefits to the offer.

Finally, the staff considered

where to house Paul and Teresa. They contacted First Baptist Church, Donelson, located nearby, and learned that although it is rare, one of its four missionary houses "just happened, no it didn't just happen, to be empty," said Moody. God provided throughout the process, he explained.

As of Dec. 1, Brady has been serving as disaster relief coordinator for Hermitage Hills or, as he is affectionately called, "the disaster pastor." He will serve through July 31.

The job is a natural fit, said Brady. He knows personally the needs in New Orleans and loves the people of the city, where he served for four years, he added.

Opportunity

Calling Brady was an opportunity, said Rouse. "Our heart's desire was to give Paul and his wife a place to heal."

However, he added, "the church had to step up."

Rouse, who has served as a volunteer on a disaster relief team, said the devastation can't be "put into words. People don't have anything. It's not over down there. It's a long way from being over." People here "forget and go on with their lives, but people down there are still in dire need."

Other hurricane response

Hermitage Hills also made a commitment to help First Baptist Church, Slidell, La., for a year. It has sent eight teams of 63 people to serve hurricane victims. Its goal is to send a team

every week or so, said Rouse. In addition members served on teams from the TBC and Nashville Baptist Association.

The church's response is a credit to planning for a disaster relief ministry during 2005, noted Rouse and Moody. The church led members to be trained by the TBC in chain saw ministry. The church also developed a trailer to be used on site.

Church members are also responsive to missions needs because of an emphasis begun three years ago. Each year the church designates November as a Month of Missions. Rouse experienced a similar emphasis while growing up at First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla. It was led by Jim Henry, pastor. Rouse also was a staff member of the church.

Hermitage Hills gave \$44,000 the first year of the emphasis and \$115,000 in 2005 to the missions offering taken that month. The offering is distributed to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions, Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions, Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, missions trips, and local missions.

Last year the church sent missions teams to Europe, Canada, Brazil, Japan, Kenya, Argentina, and Indonesia two times to help tsunami victims.

"This is an extremely missions-focused church," said Rouse. □

Brady suffers losses, yet sees God's provision

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — "It's a nightmare," said Paul Brady, former pastor, Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans, La., of his experiences since Hurricane Katrina.

Most fellow residents of the city had the perception that they would evacuate and return in several days to resume their lives like they did following other recent hurricanes, he said. That didn't turn out to be true following Katrina.

"The fallout continues," he said. Even though he and his wife, Teresa, have relocated to the Nashville area, he hears from members of Oak Park. Brady is serving as disaster relief coordinator, Hermitage Hills Baptist Church here as part of the church's effort to help hurricane victims.

Many members of Oak Park, especially younger members, lost their jobs, said Brady. They relocated to find work. But many he hasn't heard from and that is one of his sorrows. Brady served Oak Park for four years, seeing it grow. He helped add a second service which featured contemporary music and drew young people.

Brady left the pastorate of Oak Park when the church's membership declined in the months following the storm from 270 in its two worship services to about 80 although the church only suffered wind damage.

He knew the members couldn't afford him, he said. And unusual tensions had developed between him and several church leaders as the crisis continued.

There were many struggles following the storm, said Brady, about when to return and then with the illness of his father in Broken Arrow,

Okla. He died Oct. 21. Then Teresa was laid off from her job with a private school.

One of the couple's current struggles is trying to provide health insurance for Teresa. Obtaining health records from offices in New Orleans is very difficult. Some records were destroyed. Thankfully Teresa's weren't, but the office staffs are smaller since the storm. Also working long distance is difficult, added Brady.

The Bradys have suffered losses, but they also have experienced many reminders of God's provision, he said. "All along the way God did so much. It was like walking on the water with the Lord, only you didn't sink."

Certainly one of the biggest provisions they have experienced is the ministry position at Hermitage Hills. He will serve the church until July 31. Brady is currently looking for another ministry position.

The congregation has done so much for him and Teresa, he said, in cooperation with God.

For instance, Brady and the worship minister of the church, who also resigned, decided to work together to move themselves so they could divide moving costs. The truck company decided at the last minute to give the two families a bigger truck for \$500 less. They really needed the bigger truck but couldn't afford it, explained Brady.

The truck was used to deliver items to Florida, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. Then Hermitage Hills reimbursed Brady for his part of the moving expense.

"God has provided for our needs and it's not like I can say I did the work."

He and Teresa may write a devotional book about their experiences. The theme will be, "Not home yet," said Brady. □

What makes a sermon memorable?

from both
sides of
the pulpit



By Johnnie Godwin

It was my first Sunday back on the pew side of the pulpit after an interim pastorate of nine months. I listened to our guest preacher preach. He was deep into his sermon with sound and fury and commanded, "Take out a pen and paper, and write down these four points — even if you don't usually take notes!"

I'm not a sermon note-taker, so I didn't reach for anything but just listened. I do remember the guy's sermon was good; but for the life of me, I don't remember what his sermon was about. No notes. It's no reflection on him because I don't even remember most of my own sermons I've preached more than 50 years.

What makes a sermon memorable?

Well, as the saying goes, different things for different folks. A few years ago, I went back to a church for a second stint as interim pastor. The late Allen Duncan was about 90 years old then when he asked, "Brother Johnnie, do you still have that log sermon?" I replied, "I sure do, Allen; in fact, I've still got the log." He said, "I sure wish you would preach that sermon again sometime. Before long, I did preach it again — and brought my log too."

People remember sermons that relate to their lives in some special way. They remember turning-point sermons that God used to lead them to make a decision or a commitment. People remember sermons they disagree with, sermons that turn

on light bulbs in their minds and hearts, sermons that are terribly good or terribly bad, sermons that are funny or grievous, and sermons that taste good or sound good to itching ears. But like most meals we eat and need, most of us forget what the menu was. We just get nourished or not.

However, sermons are important when the undershepherd truly is feeding the sheep of God. So it's worth considering what makes them memorable and trying to do more of that for both sides of the pulpit.

What about taking notes?

Note-taking can help folks remember sermons. Many pastors provide the text, a central truth, and an outline of their message for people to follow and fill in with notes. Many people take notes religiously on their own. Some folks who don't have a doctrine against writing on Bibles often record notes on their Bible.

I've often wondered what people do with all those notes. If it were me, I would promptly lose the notes unless they were written on the Bible. Or I might file them, which would also be like losing them.

When I said I'm not a note-taker, that didn't mean I'm not a note-maker. When our pastor or another preacher preaches, I always have pen and paper with me in my pocket. God's Spirit almost always uses the preacher's message as a catalyst to jar me into note-making of my own direction. So I seldom go to church without bringing home my own message — and sometimes the message the preacher preached.

Note-taking can be valuable for most everyone. It causes the pew side of the pulpit to focus on what the preacher is saying instead of letting their minds

wander idly in preoccupation. The very act of writing what the preacher is saying reinforces the content and truth. This practice is a sound educational principle that also involves repetition, which helps the memory. Sermons are sound-bytes that appear for a few moments and are gone except for recordings of some type — not that God's Word ever returns empty. But notes of the sermon become an enduring record for review and reference.

There are many other good reasons for taking sermon notes. They provide enduring records for the person who took them and maybe provide a source to share with others. So I don't mean to make light of taking notes.

But what about the log?

Jesus gave expositions like the Sermon on the Mount and others that all of us on the pulpit side are entrusted to use in feeding the sheep. But Jesus favored parables as earthly stories with heavenly meanings that He knew people would remember. "Parable" means to lay alongside of: A parable is a memorable parallel that we tend to take in and take with us and, ideally, use for the rest of our lives.

That's what my log sermon was about. For 25 years, God has loaned Phyllis and me 56 acres of land that we call Godwin's Mountain. It's our idiosyncrasy that we love to cut, split, and manage firewood. For many years, Phyllis has done most of the wood-stacking. I've done the cutting and most of the splitting. About a decade ago, Phyllis said about log splitting, "I would like to try that." Fair Phyllis splitting wood? Naw! When I pooh-poohed the idea, Phyllis was indignant and said, "Well, I would like to see if I could." She was serious. The nutshell is that

I got her a short piece of unknotted maple wood, a light maul, and lined her up in a way that the log would have to split if the maul came down on the log. Phyllis did what I told her; the wood split; and she became a wood splitting mountain woman. Pleases me to no end.

But Phyllis soon came upon one short, clean-looking piece of wood that she nearly beat to death; and it still wouldn't split. With full husbandly macho, I said, "Let the master do it." With my stronger muscles and larger maul, I came down on the log with a mighty blow. The maul bounced off, and the log didn't split.

Upon my closer examination, I found within the log that a small tree got wounded in a way that nearly killed it; however, the tree grew around that hurt. From the outside, the scar wasn't obvious; and the wood was clean and clear. Inside, the log had become strongest where it had been hurt the most. The tree had grown over and around its hurts. I hold that log up in the pulpit and show it as a parallel of what God can do with the hurts in our lives when we look to Him and keep on seizing the opportune times of life (Ephesians 5:14-17).

Now, I'm not a great preacher — perhaps not even a very good one. But folks almost never forget my log sermon that God gave me on the mountain He loaned us.

From both sides of the pulpit, I'm here to testify that God uses memorable sermons to make a difference in our lives for His glory. May you and your pastor share a year of memorable sermons in 2006. □ — Copyright 2006 by Johnnie C. Godwin, who appreciates memorable sermons from both sides of the pulpit — johnniegodwin@comcast.net.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Childhood role models

There are a lot of problems associated with aging. As I near my 48th birthday I find my bones ache more after exercising. I have to write things down so I won't forget (then hope I don't forget or lose my notes). I need more arm to be able to read, and the list goes on.

Perhaps, the saddest part of growing older, however, is losing people who were a major part of your life when you were younger — people such as Sunday School teachers, missions leaders, and even role models outside of church such as public school teachers, etc.

Over the Christmas holidays, one such person in my life was called home to be with the Lord — Ophelia Owen, or Opi, for short.

Opi was a friend of my family ever since I was born. She went to school with my aunt and was one of my mother's best friends. If my memory serves correctly, she sang at both my grandmother's and mother's funeral.

She also was my choir leader when I was a kid.

For those who know me, the thought of me ever singing in a choir is probably amusing because I simply can't sing. In fact, I make Barney Fife sound good, for those of you familiar with the "Andy Griffith Show."

But keep in mind I grew up in a small country church and it really didn't matter whether you could sing or not.

In a history of Lima Baptist Church (Travelers Rest, S.C.), published a few years ago, members were able to share special memories. Here is one thing Opi wrote: "Lonnie Wilkey always wanted to sing. But bless his heart, as a youngster, he couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. I finally found Lonnie a special part in one of the choruses the youth choir sang: 'I have the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart' and I would point to Lonnie and he would say, 'where.' It made his day and mine as well because it made him happy."

That's the kind of person she was.

All of us have people like Opi who were important to us — people who helped shape who we are today. Show them your love and appreciation while you can.

I am extremely grateful for all the people God has placed in my life over the years. I just hope that I can be the same type of role model for others. □

Help children establish goals for the new year

a parent
speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

Do you wonder why people set goals for the New Year?

Tradition for this time of the year goes back to 153 B.C. to Janus, a mythical king of early Rome who was placed at the head of the calendar. Showing two faces, Janus looked back on past events and forward to the future. Janus, becoming the symbol for resolutions, caused many Romans to ask forgiveness from their enemies. The date also became a time to exchange gifts prior to the start of the new year.

We continue this tradition today by setting goals that

hopefully, will make us healthier, wealthier, and wiser. According to several surveys, the number one goal or resolution is to lose weight during the coming year.

One study reveals that more than one-third of Americans are overweight. And for many children, obesity is a leading cause of childhood diabetes. But there's more: Parents resolve to make a budget and not overspend, bring home a larger paycheck and save more money, become better organized, exercise more, develop more patience with those in the workplace and at home, eat nutritious food, and become a better person.

However, it's not that we can't set goals — it's that we can't keep them. How do some people improve their lives while others forget those resolutions within a couple of weeks? Then, basically the same goals pop up

the following year.

Parents who help their children set goals provide for the present, as well as the future. As children grow into teens and young adults, opportunities exist to move forward — or to stay behind.

Success in education, careers, marriage, and family matters require skills learned in the home.

Teach your child the importance of making and keeping goals by implementing the following suggestions:

- Glorify God in everything you do. Make God your partner in life.
- Set an example as a Christian parent.
- Stay committed to a local church.
- Invest time in helping others, such as involvement in local charities.
- Keep your mind active by taking classes and reading books.

- Think positive and look for the best in others.

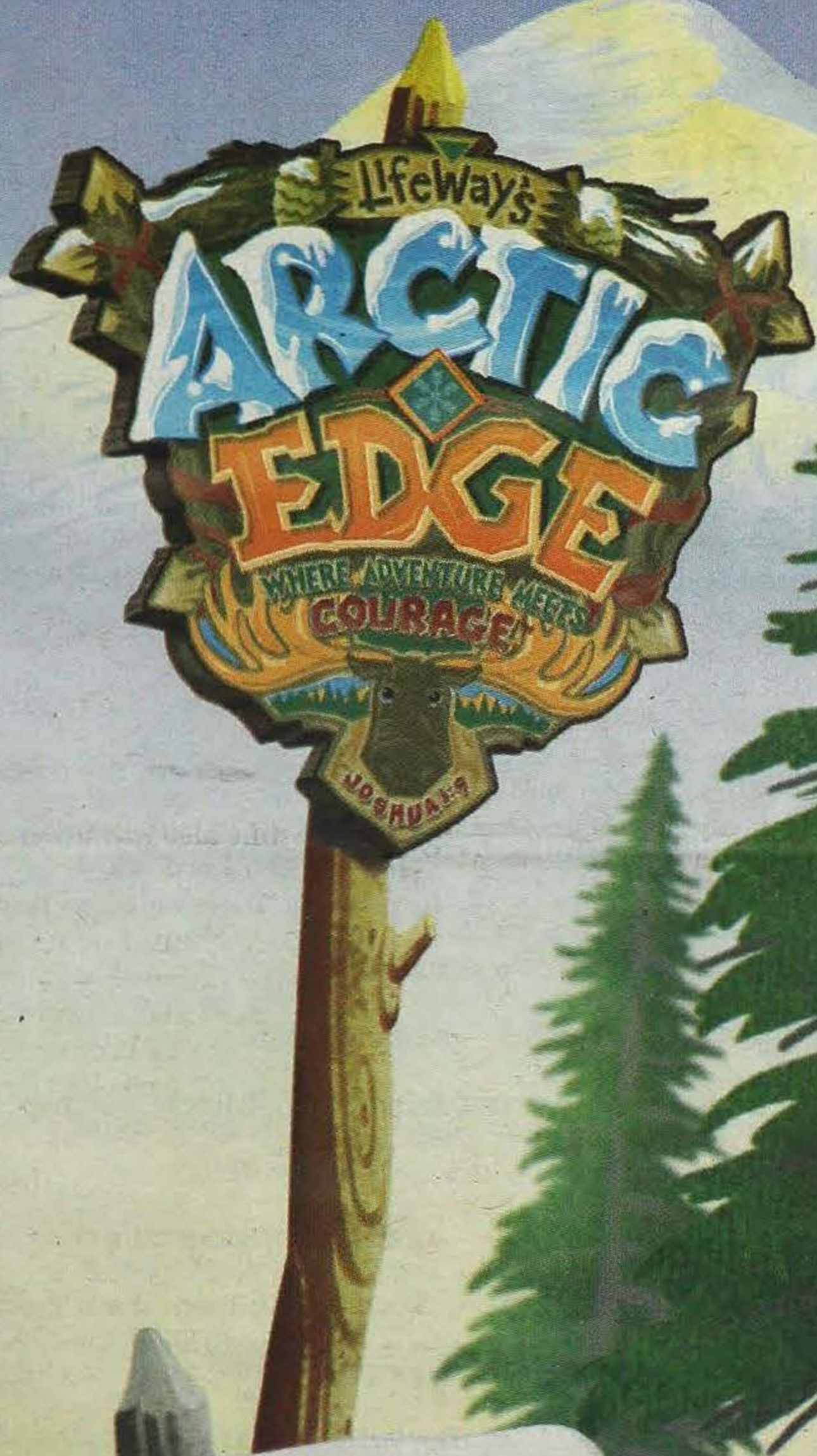
As your family begins a new year of setting goals (and it is still not too late to set goals for 2006), keep these thoughts in mind:

- Focus on one goal at a time. Develop a plan and expect success.
- Ask another person to serve as a mentor. This person should offer support and hold you accountable in reaching your goal.

- Realize that persistence and hard work are necessary.
- Make personal integrity an essential part of your daily action and daily review.

Families can work together to make positive changes in their lives. Ask God to guide you as you make resolutions for the new year. □ — Tomlin is a writer from Jackson where her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church.

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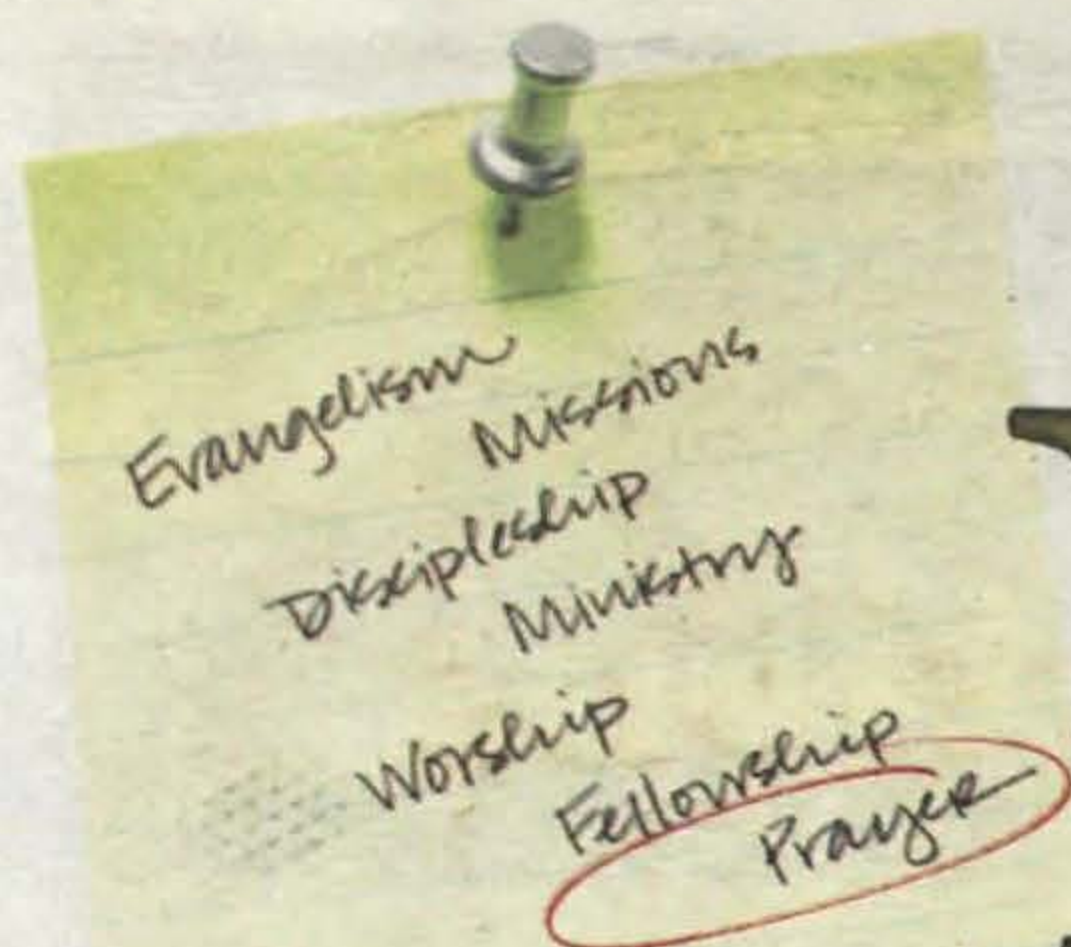
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Your state missionary staff is committed to helping your church have a vital prayer ministry in order to empower the church to greater church health. Included below is the contact information for your state missionary staff that are available to help you and your church in any area related to prayer.

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Church Missions Praying

Candy Phillips(615) 371-2039

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Men's Prayer Ministry

Gene Williams(615) 371-2064

Deacon's Prayer Ministry

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Keep the leaders in your church informed.

Subscribing to the *Baptist and Reflector* for your church leadership will ensure they receive not only state and national news each week, but pertinent information provided in the Church Health pages. The *Baptist and Reflector* provides a Church Leadership Plan at a reduced rate for two or more members. Contact Susie Edwards for circulation information at (615) 371-2003 or e-mail her at sedwards@tnbaptist.org.



What is a Healthy Praying Church?

By Don Pierson

Tennessee Baptists are a diverse people. We are diverse in our approaches to ministry, in our music, in our preaching styles, in our worship, and in our praying. If you were to take a journey visiting Tennessee Baptists watching them pray you would discover a great diversity of prayer.

In some churches you would find everyone praying out loud at the same time and in others you would find a more subdued style of prayer with heads bowed low as one utters a soft spoken prayer.

The language of prayer would also be diverse ranging from high church right out of the days of Charles Spurgeon to the good ol' country boy style (this fits me the best). The positions and place of prayer vary from congregation to congregation. For some the altar is the focal point of all praying with a mixture of prayer positions before it: standing, kneeling, and laying down, with hands held up or out, while others bury their faces in their hands.

Some of our churches are characterized by seated prayers and others by silent prayers. Prayer ministries are equally diverse across our state: some prayer ministries are built around Wednesday night, others the prayer room, others the prayer chain, while others are in a constant state of flux from one prayer ministry to the next.

Are these the essential elements of a

house of prayer? Is the key to a healthy praying church found in its choice of prayer positions, language, style, or its prayer ministry? Does the key lie in the amount of prayer or the emotion that a prayer is uttered?

The Pharisees were a praying people and the temple in their day was a place filled with prayer, but would you want to follow their example? You see the truth of prayer is not found in the mind, the mouth, or the knees, but in the heart. When the heart fails to pray, we have failed to pray. Prayer seeks God.

Intercession seeks God on behalf of someone else. Merely voicing a request does not equal intercession.

A healthy praying church is one where God's people are moved with compassion for the needs of one another and the needs of the world and as a result find themselves in His presence. They hurt where God hurts and join Him in intercession.

A healthy praying church doesn't just pray, they seek His face believing that He answers them, and they go forward from having heard from Him, which is as important as He hearing from us.

What does prayer in a healthy church look like? It takes many forms. It reflects the culture of that local church, but most importantly it reflects the heart of God. It is made up of people of prayer and not just people who pray. The best thing about Tennessee Baptists is that we are blest with many churches that fit this description.

HOW DO I PRAY FOR THE LOST?



Pray believing...

First, that God desires for them to be saved.
(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Second, that God can save them. (Isaiah 59:1)

Third, that God answers you.
(James 5:16)

Pray Specifically For Their Spiritual Needs

Ask the Lord...

To draw them to Himself.
(John 6:44)

To open their eyes so that they may see their need for Him.
(2 Corinthians 4:4)

To give them ears to hear, faith to believe, and the will to respond.
(Matthew 13:15)

To break Satan's hold on them.
(2 Timothy 2:25-26)

To send laborers to them.
(Matthew 9:38)

To give the laborers boldness and a clear message as they enter the doors of opportunities that He provides. (Colossians 4:3)

To cause the lost to wonder at the mighty things He does.
(Habakkuk 1:5)

To send you to them. (Isaiah 6:8)

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Sept. 27-28 Tennessee Baptist Convention Building, Brentwood

Keynote speaker: Donna Dee Floyd, who has been establishing Church Prayer Ministries in the United States and Canada since 1977.

First day sessions with lunch included: **What is prayer ministry?**, **Biblical basis for prayer ministry**, and others. This workshop has been designed with all churches in mind.

Cost: \$10 per person. Registration deadline is Sept. 15.

For information or to register online visit www.tnbaptist.org, or contact TBC Prayer Ministry specialist Don Pierson or Bernie Baker at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7925.

This workshop is jointly funded by the Cooperative Program and Wallace Memorial Baptist Church.

Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

- Feb. 16-18 - Southeast Youth Ministry Conclave, Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga
- Feb. 16 - Regional Architecture Conference, Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville
- Feb. 17-18 - Great Commission Prayer Conference, First Baptist Church, Powell
- March 3 - Handbell Festival - East Region, Carson Newman College, Jefferson City
- March 3-4 - Youth Evangelism Conference, Municipal Auditorium, Nashville
- March 3-4 - Regional Disaster Relief Training, Stevens Street Baptist Church, Cookeville

For information on upcoming events, see the TBC web site at www.tnbaptist.org.

Lawrence County churches come together for 'Winter of Worship'

By Charlie Kinkaid
For Baptist and Reflector

LAWRENCEBURG — Mickey Brackin, pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church, called it a vision from God. His fellow pastors feel the same way.

Brackin called together five other pastors from area Baptist churches for lunch a few weeks ago, and through that meeting, a major idea was born.

The event, called "Winter of Worship 2006," is being held Jan. 1 - Feb. 5. It brings

together six Lawrence County Baptist churches, with each church taking turns hosting a Sunday night worship service.

"One of the goals of the event is to bring more Christians together from different churches, to expand our worship," said Chad Moore, pastor of OK Baptist Church.

Each pastor will preach at a different church, rather than his own, Moore added. He is one of the pastors who helped Brackin put the Winter of Worship together.

"This has been a wondrous

event. God has once again amazed us all," Brackin said at the first service, which drew more than 500 participants.

"This is much bigger than any of us expected."

Trinity Baptist Church was the host church for the first night, but due to space restrictions, the service was held at Mars Hill.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is a proud moment for all of God's people. Look at this packed house!" Chris Littrell, pastor of Trinity, proclaimed.

Jeff Putman, of Liberty Grove Baptist Church,

preached the opening sermon to kick off the six-night event.

"This is unbelievable. It's incredible!" he said.

The second event was held at First Baptist Church, Loretto, with pastor Mark LaRue as host. Brad Lowery of New Prospect Baptist Church was the guest pastor.

The second night drew over 760 attendants.

Bill Adams, associate pastor of New Prospect Baptist, noted the joint effort of the churches was "simply amazing."

"It's the most exciting thing going on in Lawrence County right now," he observed.

One of the event's crowning moments was during the second week when one of the children in attendance, a five-year-old girl, accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

"That was beautiful," Adams said.

The pastors said they were truly stunned at the massive turnout.

"God showed all of us up again. The work He has performed has been amazing. We never realized how big this would be," Moore said.

Due to the overwhelming number of people in attendance, the third joint meeting, which was held Sunday, Jan. 15, was moved to Mars Hill Baptist, with OK Baptist as the host church.

New Prospect Baptist Church will host the fourth week on Jan. 22 at the Old Crockett Theatre in Lawrenceburg.

Sites for the remaining two nights are still to be determined. □ — Kinkaid is a freelance writer in Lawrence County.

Gilmore urges support for Tennessee evangelists

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Inglewood Baptist Church here, in conjunction with the Middle Tennessee Pastors Conference and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will host the 2006 Evangelists Conference on Monday, Jan. 23.

The conference will begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon with lunch to follow at the church. There is no cost for the meal.

Led by the Fellowship of Vocational Evangelists, the conference will feature preaching an "old time revival" atmosphere.

Speakers include Ronnie Owens, Tazewell; Terry Wilkerson, Lebanon; and Benny Jackson, Memphis. Gary Buck, music coordinator of the Fellowship, will lead the music.

Floyd "Lammie" Lammersfeld serves as the president of the Fellowship.

Many of the evangelists will be preaching in one day revivals in area churches on Sunday, Jan. 22, according to Larry Gilmore, state evangelism director. "Your prayers for them and these meetings will be most appreciated," he said.

Gilmore observed that the office of the evangelist is listed in Scripture as a gift to the church.

"Like pastors, evangelists who exercise their gift and serve the church well bring much glory to God. May pastors and lay people encourage them as they evangelize and encourage us," Gilmore said.

He noted the "challenge of reaching the three million lost people in Tennessee is great."

"Drawing attention to this need and mobilizing the saints in sharing the gospel is imperative. Southern Baptists are reaching for a humanly impossible goal of winning and baptizing one million precious souls this year (a goal of SBC president Bobby Welch).

"Whether or not this goal will be reached is yet to be seen. But we can agree that as we work together and focus on intentionally sharing the claims of Jesus Christ with those around us, we can, through His power, reach more than ever before," Gilmore said.

For more information or assistance in helping to develop evangelism strategies, contact Gilmore at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2058. □



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- Pastor, North Carolina

P.S. Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

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Pastor extends ministry through laser engraving

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

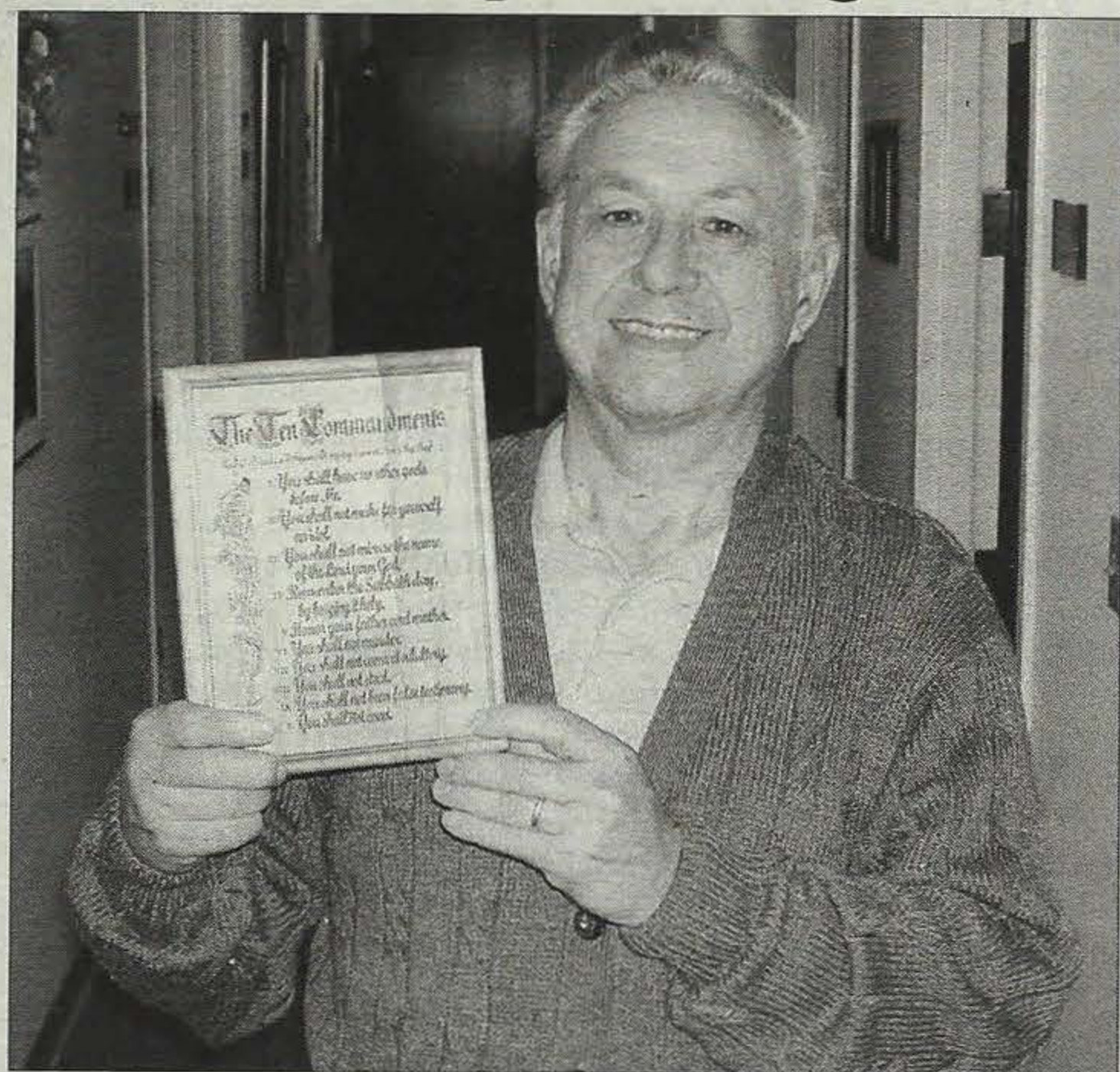
BRENTWOOD — Jerry Smith, interim pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, McMinnville, has a new ministry thanks to a laser engraving machine, which can duplicate images that can be printed from a computer onto many materials.

Smith, 66, of Mt. Juliet, has been laser engraving for two years following his retirement from Fellowship Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, in Wilson County and Wilson County Baptist Association, where he served as pastor for 12 years. Formerly he served as pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, in Rutherford County and Concord Baptist Association, for 11 years.

"Laser engraving is a new technique where light burns into wood, granite, marble, glass, mirrors, brass, and other materials to make a place where the ink would go if it was printed," said Smith.

Smith got the idea to try his hand at laser engraving when he saw a song engraved on a plaque in a Mennonite store while visiting a friend in Ohio.

His friend took him to the Mennonite manufacturing plant where he saw a laser engraving machine burn the image into the materials. Smith returned home from Ohio and borrowed the money



JERRY SMITH holds up a plaque of *The Ten Commandments* that he burned into wood through the technique of laser printing. He is currently interim pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, McMinnville.

from the bank for the machine. He and his wife Diana started their small business called Christian Laser Creations.

Jerry Smith scans music, Scripture, photos, pictures, and anything else that can be printed from a computer. The computer then tells the laser engraver to reproduce the images on the materials. He can make all sizes of plaques up to 12 by 24 inches and engrave special gifts.

He has reproduced all types of graduation diplomas, mar-

riage certificates, anniversary commemoratives, appreciation and retirement plaques, special songs, favorite Scriptures, door plates, name plates, and other types of gifts such as key rings and Mother's and Father's day mementos.

"The plaques are great for church fundraisers, mission trips, or a gift for someone special," he added. "Some churches and pastors have ordered plaques for a dedication of a new building, old songs for friends, and the Ten Com-

mandments for church members."

His most unusual request was for a photo of an old home place to be placed on a plaque for a woman. The most popular Scriptures he reproduces are: Isaiah 41; Psalm 23; and John 3:16. Popular pictures include The Lord's Supper; The Great Commission, eagles, lambs, and angels.

Songs that can be reproduced are at least 50 years old and in the public domain such as "Amazing Grace" and "The Old Rugged Cross" among others.

Smith sees his laser engraving business as a part of his ministry to help him distribute Christian thoughts as well as supplement his Annuity Board retirement. He was pulled into the ministry at the age of 21 following God's call after the tragic death of his younger sister in a school bus accident in Donelson.

"The accident was the motivation for me to enter the ministry and make sense out of the accident through the help of the Lord. My mom and dad never got over it, but God used the accident for good in my life." Smith's father also served as a pastor for 50 years.

Smith's call into the ministry has been confirmed several times over the past 45 years in his career, because the Lord took care of his family including four children. His wife worked for years as the financial secretary for Grace Baptist Church, Nashville. He has served both full-time and part-time as pastor and has worked other jobs. He began his current career as a woodworker "piddler," he said.

For information on Christian Laser Creations, contact Smith at (615) 449-6317 or e-mail him at jds@bellsouth.net or visit www.clcplaques.com. □

Church unveils plans for school

For Baptist and Reflector

LAWRENCEBURG — The staff of New Prospect Baptist Church here is unveiling plans to bring a higher form of education to Lawrence County.

"I'm excited to be able to talk about this. This is a project God has laid on our hearts, and we can't wait to get started," Bill Adams, associate pastor of the church explained.

The church plans to work with the community to bring a new Christian-based elementary school to the area.

"We're not calling it a Christian education, we're calling it kingdom education. The term Christian education has become watered down in recent years," Adams said.

"What we're proposing to do is bring kingdom education to our children. We're going to teach them math, science, social studies, reading, etc., while blending it with the Bible to teach them about God, Christ and His Word. It will be a new experience for these kids," Adams said.

The church's goal for the new school is to open in the fall of 2007, with grades K-3.

"We hope to add a grade each year. That's our dream. Ultimately, our long-range plan is to reach the level of K-12," Adams explained.

Adams said New Prospect Baptist will rely on community and church involvement to make the dream a reality.

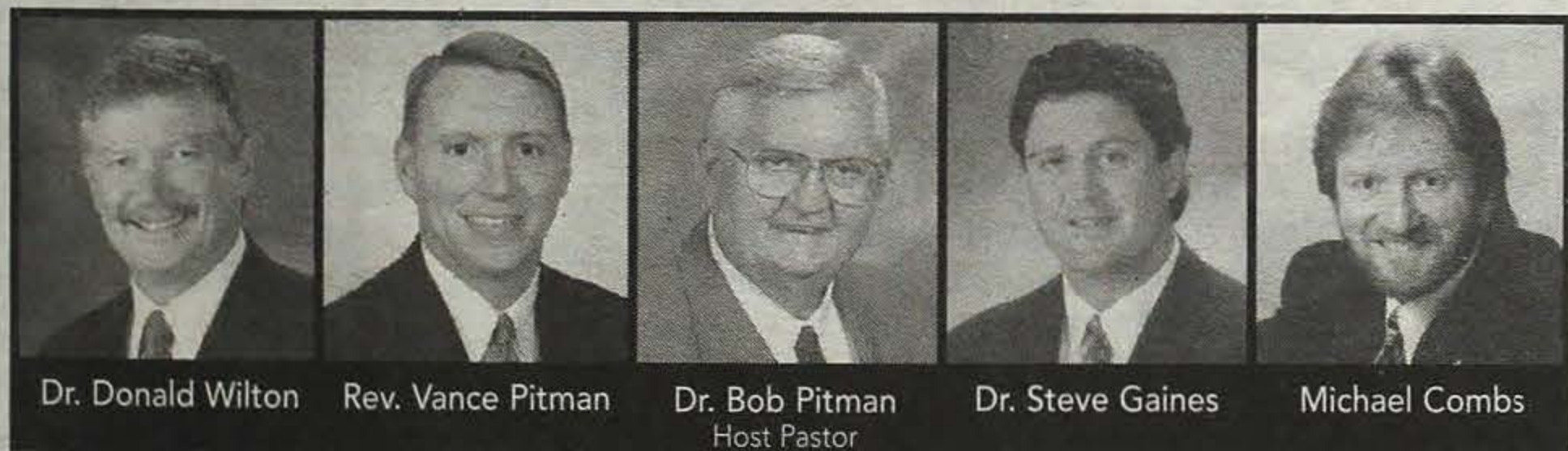
"We can't do it alone. We'll need a lot of support. God will have to tug at the heartstrings of some people in Lawrence County who are concerned with kingdom education," Adams explained.

It will take roughly \$500,000 startup cost, but Adams said he has no doubt the money will be available.

"God will provide as He sees necessary. If He allows us to start with 100 kids, I'll be thrilled. I don't know what He has in mind, but He'll let me know when the time comes," Adams said.

The plan for starting the school entails five teachers, plus a principal or headmaster. Expansion is planned as is necessary and as funds and resources allow. □ — Charlie Kinkaid

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MINISTRY — DOM

Cumberland Baptist Association is seeking a person to serve as associate associational missionary on a part-time basis. Send resume to Cumberland Baptist Association, P.O. Box 3837, Clarksville, TN 37043 or call (931) 358-9036 for more information.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Dynamic spirit-filled individual is needed for the position of family/youth minister. Seminary degree required. Will work with growing number of young families and build a youth ministry. Apply to Personnel Chair, First Baptist Church, 119 West Washington St., Box 267, Rogersville, TN 37857.

Alcohol ads contribute to teen drinking

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Despite what the alcohol industry says, a new study has found that alcohol advertising contributes to increased drinking among youth.

The study, released in the January edition of the journal *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, was meant to test whether alcohol advertising expenditures and the degree of exposure to alcohol advertisements affect alcohol consumption by youth.

Researchers randomly surveyed people ages 15 to 26 between 1999 and 2001 and found that youth who saw more alcohol advertisements on average drank more — with each additional advertisement viewed, the number of drinks consumed increased by 1 percent.

They also discovered that

youth in markets with greater alcohol advertising expenditures drank more — each additional dollar spent per capita raised the number of drinks consumed by 3 percent.

Youth in markets with more alcohol advertisements showed increases in drinking levels into their late 20s, but drinking plateaued in the early 20s for youth in markets with fewer advertisements, the study said.

"This study is the strongest piece of evidence yet that ... if kids see a lot of alcohol advertisements, they are more likely to drink more," David H. Jernigan, research director of Georgetown University's Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth, told *The Washington Times*.

He added that the findings "call into question the industry's argument that its roughly \$1.8 billion in measured media expenditures per year have no impact on underaged drinking." □

Internet gambling addictions on rise among collegians

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — When Greg Hogan, son of a pastor and president of the sophomore class at the Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, was arrested Dec. 9 for allegedly robbing a bank in Allentown, Pa., his lawyer said he was desperate to pay off a \$5,000 debt he had accrued through an Internet gambling addiction, and experts say his story is evidence of an alarming trend that is reaching the crisis level.

"Gambling on college campuses is [an] epidemic, and Internet gambling is probably the fastest-growing type of campus gambling," Edward Looney, director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, told *The Morning Call* newspaper in Lehigh Valley, Pa.

"You give me one hour on any

campus and I'll find an active game or a kid who can't stay off his computer. It's verging on crisis, and really, we're just getting started," he said.

Just as millions more people became addicted to pornography when Internet access increased, a large number of people who would not likely set foot in a casino are indulging in Internet gambling, and much of it is occurring on college campuses.

More than 1.8 million people play online poker each month, wagering an average of \$200 million a day, *The Morning Call* said Dec. 18, referring to a study by PokerPulse.com. About 90 percent of college gamblers are men, and of those, the typical compulsive gambler is a competitive, high-energy student with good grades who is popular

with his peers, has a talent for math, and works a part-time job, according to the Council for Compulsive Gambling.

The council receives more than 20,000 calls a year, including more than 4,000 from addicted gamblers, *The Morning Call* noted.

The National Council on Problem Gambling estimates that one out of every five college students who plays poker regularly will develop an addiction. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., a congregation with 800-900 in attendance, is seeking a minister to children and preschool. Church desires someone with a passion for God and children and with the ability to build a dynamic ministry in a growing community. Please send resume to FBC, Attn. Search Committee, P.O. Box 226, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121 or carver@fbcmj.org.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Full-time children's minister, First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ala., accepting resumes for full-time minister to first through sixth graders. Mail or e-mail resume to P.O. Box 1667, Decatur, AL 35602 Attn. Children's Minister or fbcdecatur@fbcdccatur.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale — 1989 Bluebird School bus, 72 passenger, excellent condition, \$6,500.00. Contact Gath Baptist Church, (931) 934-2655 or e-mail gathbaptist@blomand.net.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Part-time music/visitation secretary needed. Qualifications: office experience; excellent people, communications, and organizational skills; must read music well; working knowledge of Microsoft Publisher, Word, Excel, and ACS (Automated Church Systems); working knowledge of multi-line phone system. Send resume Attn. Jack Lewis, Tulip Grove Baptist Church, 563 Shute Lane, Old Hickory, TN 37138.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Nashville Baptist Association, 420 Main St., Nashville, TN 37206, (615) 259-3034, is seeking a ministry assistant, 40 hour week, with benefits. Skills required are Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Publisher proficiency, multi-tasking, team player with desire to serve, familiar with ACS. Resume deadline: Jan. 20, 2006.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

First Baptist Church of Dover, Ark., is seeking a full-time minister to students, grades 7-12. Masters of religious education or masters of divinity degree required. Deadline, Feb. 1, 2006. Please submit resume to Search Committee, P.O. Box 397, Dover, AR 72837.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Youth minister opening. Calvary Baptist Church, 11121 Paul Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Full-time minister to senior high and junior high youth. Manage intern staff, volunteer staff, budget and overall youth ministry including youth worship and Sunday School, special events, mission activities, etc. Preference consideration given to married males with master's degree and 3-5 years church staff experience. Send resumes to the church address in attention to Ken Horst.

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book review

by Joseph Gould

Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Knowby Wayne Grudem
Zondervan: 2005

How does the average church member respond to the topic of theology?

Some members are scared, feeling as though they are not intelligent enough for the task. Others find studying theology to be as appealing as watching grass grow. These individuals ask themselves, "What's the point? I'm not a pastor or a seminary professor." In conflict with these responses is the Word of God, which tells us that theology is important and, as a result, is not just for the pastor or professor.

According to the Scriptures, all Christians are to be doctrinally sound, so that *we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit* (Ephesians 4:14).

The question is not whether one will be a theologian; the question is whether we will be good and informed theologians. For those of us who have come to recognize the great importance and value in knowing and studying the doctrines contained in the Bible, this low view of theology in our churches is a great hurdle and challenge that must be overcome. Thankfully, we have resources to help us such as Wayne Grudem's *Christian Beliefs*.

Grudem is a Southern Baptist theologian at Phoenix Seminary in Phoenix, Ariz. Grudem's new release is actually an abridgement of his *Systematic Theology*, a popular and excellent introductory theology textbook in Baptist seminaries today. Grudem is known for his easy-to-understand writing on theology, and *Christian Beliefs* narrows down the broad scope of doctrines to 20 basic doctrines that all believers should be able to understand and discuss.

In the book, each chapter covers one doctrine in about five to 10 pages. There is even a natural progression of the doctrines, as Grudem begins with the authority of the Bible and then moves to aspects of God, creation, sin, salvation, the church, eschatology, and heaven. Grudem also includes two appendices, one giving excerpts from historical confessions of faith and one giving systematic theology books for further study.

The greatest strength of *Christian Beliefs* is that anyone can pick up this book and easily understand the material on these 20 doctrines. Other strengths are that Grudem is careful to use Scripture in light of proper context and all terminology is carefully and clearly defined for the reader. As stated before, all the doctrines covered are also wisely chosen and follow a logical progression.

Grudem's book is a valuable resource for Southern Baptist churches. Many have long criticized the church's lack of teaching of foundational doctrines to its members. While the central place for this teaching should be through the exposition of Scripture in the pulpit, we should celebrate authors who write theologically minded books designed with the average church member in mind.

Whether you are a new Christian desiring to have a firm hold on some of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith or whether you are a pastor wanting to have basic theology taught in your church's Sunday School class, Grudem's *Christian Beliefs* is a valuable resource you should consider. □ — Gould is a student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. A native of Murfreesboro, he formerly served as youth minister at Harvest Baptist Church, Dyersburg.

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Character matters

By Scott Linginfelter

Focal Passage: Matthew 15:16-20; Proverbs 6:16-19; 4:23-27

In the verses previous to our focal passage, the Pharisees had come to Jesus questioning why His disciples ate with unwashed hands. This questioning evoked a sharp response from Jesus. Now, in our focal passage, Jesus also has a harsh response to His disciples. The disciples had no answer for the Pharisees' criticism because they had no understanding of Scripture and its teaching on character. In short, Jesus explained to them that food doesn't defile you, but the heart does. Jesus then lists seven sins: evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. Jesus is contrasting the seriousness of sin with the silliness of hand washing. Sin defiles a man, yet the Pharisees were more worried about dirty hands than they were dirty hearts. Apparently, not only did the Pharisees make sure they washed their own hands before meals, they also stood around and took note to make sure that everyone else washed their hands as well. They didn't worry much about murder, adultery, theft, etc. But unwashed hands really stirred them up.

Our next set of verses show us the opposite of character. Indeed, the Bible refers to them as things the Lord hates. Proverbs uses a

poetic device to illustrate the seriousness of the matter. *These six things doth the Lord hate: yea seven are an abomination unto him:* Believe me when I say that Solomon could count. This is a poetic device, designed to draw attention to the matter, and heighten the seriousness of what is about to be said. Proverbs goes on to list seven things which the Lord hates. The author pictures these seven things coming from seven different parts of the body. This is the opposite of the discussion between the Pharisees and Jesus. It is not what goes into the body, but what comes out of the body that defiles. Surely the Pharisees should have known this, since they would have been familiar with this passage of Scripture. Jesus lists seven sins. So does Solomon. These are not meant to be exhaustive lists of sins which dishonor the Lord. They are merely examples of sins which we need to expel from our lives.

In our third Bible passage, the author takes the opposite approach. Instead of listing things which God hates, we are told to *keep thy heart with all diligence*. We are supposed to guard our hearts because *out of it are the issues of life*. Instead of telling us the things God hates, the author uses synonymous parallelism to tell us things that we are to seek in our lives. We are to seek honesty by

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Family Bible Series
Jan. 22**

putting away a forward mouth and perverse lips. We are to keep our eyes focused on Jesus, and not be distracted by sin. We are to consider what consequences our actions will lead to, whether it be life or death.

When you combine these two passages from Proverbs, they sound eerily similar to the teachings Jesus laid down to the Pharisees and His disciples. You can also see why His frustration is so great on this matter. It should have been clear to them. The Bible spells out clearly what defiles a man, and what does not. Funny that in the list of things which God hates, the Bible never mentions eating with unwashed hands. Yet, of all the things the Pharisees stressed (who by the way were supposed to be the most religious people of Jesus' day) they stressed washing hands. Not Jesus. He stressed a godly character which seeks to be devoid to sin, and strives to replace sin with things which are pleasing to the Lord. Let us seek to replace sin in our lives with a godly character, one which pleases the Lord. □ — Linginfelter is pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Maryville.

Live as a godly neighbor

By Eric Taylor

Focal Passage: Romans 13:1-10, 12b-14

After reading our text for this week, I wondered if anyone knew that Romans 13 even existed. In case you haven't noticed, being a good citizen and good neighbor is not exactly the "in thing" these days. Yet, in our passage for this week, Paul challenges the Christians in Rome to honor Christ as a godly neighbor in every sense of the word. Matter of fact, Paul describes three duties a godly neighbor should keep. As a Christian, the godly neighbor has a . . .

Duty to the law (vv. 1-7)

By duty to the law, I do not mean that keeping the law confers salvation to anyone (see Romans 8:3). Yet, when you read Paul's words there is no denying that as citizens of the kingdom — saved by grace — we are to be good citizens of our country. Did you notice the language Paul used to describe how the Christian is to act concerning our governmental leaders and the laws of the land? In verses 1 and 5, the Bible says we must "subject" ourselves "to the governing authorities" because it is the right thing to do ("for conscience's sake").

Paul tells us that we are not to "resist" our authorities, for if we do, we are resisting the very "ordinance of God." If we show disrespect to our governing authorities we are disrespecting our Lord who

put every ruler in his or her position (v. 1).

Now a person may read these verses and say, "But Paul has no idea of how corrupt, immoral, or bad some of our leaders are. Why should I respect them?" You do realize that Paul was writing at a time in which Nero was the Roman Emperor. A period not that far removed from Jesus' crucifixion at the hand of the same Roman government. Were it not for Paul's wisdom to appeal to his own Roman citizenship he too may have never lived long enough to write many of his letters. Even Paul would be imprisoned and later executed for his faith by this same government. Yet, Paul says that the godly neighbor honors the Lord by being a good citizen.

Some Christian may say, "We are not of this world," therefore we should not recognize "man's law" and only obey God's Word. Well, God's Word tells us in verse 2 that to obey God's Word ("ordinance") we must obey the authorities He has placed before us. While there may be exceptions to this rule they are only exceptions (Peter in Acts 4:19-20 and 5:29), and exceptions should never be the rule.

Duty to love (vv. 8-10)

Many people overemphasize the first phrase in verse 8 concerning debt, and miss the overall teaching in this section. While it is good that we are faithful to pay our debts — of all kinds — Paul is emphasizing the Christian's duty to the law of love that "can never

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be paid" since it "has no limits" (J. Samuel Simmons). Paul's words remind us that all Christians have one thing in common: we owe a debt that we can never repay. And that is to love others as Christ has loved us. John Phillips wrote, "While other debts may be discharged, the debt of love is always owing. Any payment on this debt does not release us from continued indebtedness. . . . Love's debt is large."

Did you notice that Paul's partial list of the Ten Commandments all have to do with interpersonal relationships? As a Christian, one of the greatest and highest duties you have is to love not only the believer but the unbeliever.

Duty to live (vv. 12b-14)

By this, I mean that there is a certain way the godly neighbor is to live his or her life. As Paul reminds us of the urgency of the time in which we live (vv. 11-12a), we are to clothe ourselves in "the armor of light" . . . "walk properly," and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

The only way we fight off the "darkness" and "make no provision for the flesh" is to walk in the light and life of Christ, and that means that we must live a life in Christ. □ — Taylor is pastor of First Baptist Church, Middleton.

Statewide Events

◆ Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief training classes are planned. On Jan. 28 classes will be held at **First Baptist Church, Hendersonville**. From Jan. 10 - Feb. 21 classes will be held at **First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville**. And on Feb. 10-11 classes will be held at **Russellville Baptist Church, Russellville**. For more information, visit www.tnbaptist.org and go to Upcoming Disaster Relief Training Opportunity or call Elizabeth Holmes of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff at (615) 371-7926 or 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7926.

Associations

◆ **Weakley County Baptist Association**, Dresden, sponsored a mission team of 21 men who served Jan. 6-14 to Choluteca, Honduras. They held worship services and built a church.

Churches

◆ **Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill**, began construction the week of Jan. 16 on its new family life center. The church held its Men's Day Jan. 15.

◆ **Excell Baptist Church, Clarksville**, recently adopted Emanuel Baptist Church in D'Iberville, Miss., where the Excell construction team will help restore the church's buildings damaged by last fall's hurricanes.

Leaders

◆ Pastor **Adam Sanders** of Wilsonville Baptist Church, Newport, will lead a team to the Amazon May 5-14. He is looking for 10 volunteers, over age 18 and in good health, to do evangelistic work along the

Provides ministry for 14 years

Church leads effort to deliver 750 meals on Christmas

For Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — On Christmas day members of Northport Baptist Church here prepared, and with help from other Christians, delivered about 750 meals to needy people in the community. This was the 14th year the church has done this, reported Wade Holbrook, pastor.

Preparation included days for workers which began long before sun up. Fifty-five turkeys were cooked and carved. Eight hundred individual portions of desert were provided by members of First United Methodist Church, Newport. Members of that church, First Christian Church, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church contributed to the effort.

Area businesses including Wal-Mart, CVS pharmacy, White's Discount, Best Western, Food City, Newport Bargain Barn, and Pepsi contributed. The *Newport Plain Talk* newspaper and WNP and WLIK radio stations also helped by promoting the effort.

On Christmas morning at Northport Church some members worked in the kitchen while others worshiped. After worship many members filed into the Fellowship Hall to pick up meals to deliver along with a bag of candy for families with children.

They were joined by people from other churches. A couple who vacation in the area from Ohio have served two years, reported Holbrook.

The volunteers delivering the meals try to spend a few minutes with the recipients of the meals.

"Many of these are elderly individuals living alone and they need to see a caring face as much as they need a meal," said Holbrook. The volunteers also discover other needs that are often referred to the Brotherhood of Northport, he added.

Leftovers were taken to Feed My Sheep Ministry to help provide a meal the day after Christmas.

The effort was begun by Tony Rutherford while he was pastor of Northport Church. □



MEMBER Harold Kilgore, center, of Northport Baptist Church, Newport, prepares food with volunteers from other churches to deliver Christmas Day.

Amazon River. For more information, contact Sanders at (423) 623-7039, (423) 237-9719, or pradam@charter.net.

◆ **Greg Young**, minister of education, Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, was ordained to the ministry by the church Jan. 8.

◆ **Boones Creek Baptist Church, Gray**, has called **Ken Kyker** as pastor.

◆ **Wayland Fillers**, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Greeneville, has announced his retirement.

◆ **Antioch Baptist Church, Johnson City**, has called **Kenny Adkins** as minister of youth. He is a graduate of Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Ind., and formerly served at the Fountain of Life Bible Church, Johnson City.

◆ **Steve Wilson** has resigned as pastor of Cherokee Mountain Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

◆ **First Baptist Church of Jonesborough** has called **Bill Murray** as youth director.

◆ **Ninth Street Baptist Church, Erwin**, has called **Rob Moor** as pastor.

◆ **First Baptist Church, St. Bethlehem, Clarksville**, recently called **Mark Ellison** as minister of students.

◆ **Cane Creek Baptist Church, Cookeville**, has called **Tony Fleenor** as pastor.

◆ **Matt Brown** recently resigned as pastor of Central Baptist Church, Martin, to relocate to First Baptist Church of Zachery, La.

◆ **Doe River Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, recently called **Jim Hawk** as pastor.

◆ **Mountain City Baptist Church, Mountain City**, called **Ricky Campbell** as pastor Jan. 1.

◆ **Willow Springs Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, recently

voted to sponsor the mission congregation at Lynnwood/Lynnridge where **Jack Greer** will serve as pastor.

◆ **Temple Baptist Church, Paris**, called **Mike Burney**

of Union City as pastor effective Jan. 1.

◆ **Walnut Hill Baptist Church, Ewing**, has called **Kenny Gillum** of Jacksboro as pastor.



MEMBERS OF A disaster relief team from First Baptist Church, Sevierville, pause at LeMoyné Boulevard Baptist Church, Biloxi, Miss., where they served recently. The team included, from left, Scott and Debbie McCarter, leaders from First Church, Sevierville; Ryan Roberts, First Church, Sevierville; Mike Breen, Mountain View Baptist Church, Sevierville; and Steve DesMond, First Baptist Church, Pigeon Forge. The team tore down walls, built stud walls, replaced insulation, and hung sheetrock. They mudded, taped, and sanded sheetrock. They also distributed care bags in the community and visited with residents. The church was flooded with about six feet of water. "It was a blessing to work with these very nice, loving members and the pastor," reported Debbie McCarter.



LEADERS OF TRINITY Baptist Church, McMinnville, broke ground recently. The church organized Sept. 25. Members Bill and Regina Womack gave the church the land to build on. Leaders are, from left, Jerry Smith, interim pastor; Bill Womack; Clarence Foster; Ken Bond; Winfred Preston; and Kerry Mayes.

Training set for people helping needy people

For Baptist and Reflector

TRENTON — "Bridges Out of Poverty" is a workshop being offered to those who seek training in ministering among poverty groups with the aim of breaking the cycle of poverty. It is sponsored by Mississippi River Ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The conference will be held Wednesday, March 15, at Brunswick Baptist Church just outside of Memphis.

The schedule follows: 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., seminar; 4:30 - 5:30, question/answer; 5:30 - 6:30, affinity groups: pastors, Christian Women's Job Corps, Christian Men's Job Corps, chaplains, food ministry, educators, and literacy/other.

This seminar gives both the social service provider and the community member key lessons in dealing with individuals from poverty.

Topics include increasing awareness of the differences in economic cultures, how those differences affect opportunities for success, and developing an action plan to improve services to clients and improving retention rates for new hires from poverty.

The conference trainer will be Jodi Pfarr of Minneapolis, Minn. Pfarr has created programs for those coming out of a shelter or off the street, including those with low-income housing to stabilize their lives. Pfarr also managed a special needs shelter and a women's shelter for the Salvation Army.

Registration: \$25 until Feb. 1, \$30 after Feb. 1. No refunds after March 1. Lunch and box supper are included.

For more information, contact Randy Pool, Gibson County Baptist Association, Trenton, at (731) 855-2470 or randypool@bellsouth.net. □