

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 3; Jan. 25, 2006

In Dyer Baptist Association

427 youth minister, worship in Jerusalem Project

For Baptist and Reflector

DYERSBURG — Dyer Baptist Association's annual Jerusalem Project has grown dramatically in number of participants, number of churches involved, and number of service projects completed during its five-year history. The event is held over the Martin Luther King Day weekend.

With a jump of 150 registered participants, the total number participating in Jerusalem Project Jan. 15-16 was 427; with 23 of the 43 churches in the association participating. The group completed 51 service projects on Monday.

"This was beyond our wildest dreams," was the response from Dyer Baptist Director of Missions Joe Wright. "We expected an increase ... but we were overwhelmed by the response of the youth. They came in with great attitudes and a spirit of cooperation that would make any Baptist proud."

Teams completed the following service projects on Monday:

- 10 light construction projects
- 2 inside painting jobs

- 11 inside house cleaning jobs
- 22 outside yard clean-up tasks
- 6 nursing home projects

The sites were located in Bogota, Trimble, Newbern, RoEllen, and Dyersburg ... and at various rural sites in between those communities, reported Stan Cavness, coordinator of the Jerusalem Project. Cavness is Baptist Collegiate Ministry director at Dyersburg State Community College and youth ministry consultant for Dyer Baptist Association.

"We are seeing a number of young people develop a heart for missions ... largely because we are giving them a platform to use their talents for Jesus," Wright noted. "Dyer Baptist Association wants to provide world changing opportunities to our youth."

Cavness said, "We started the Jerusalem Project to help our youth discover the talents that God has given them, to teach them how to use those talents to serve a God who loves all people, and to help them develop a heart for missions."

"We utilize college students



ONE TEAM OF GIRLS repaired a Dyer County resident's porch by replacing deteriorated lumber and repainting the porch during the Jerusalem Project.

as team leaders to interact with the youth as mentors and role models, and adult volunteers as project leaders who can teach skills to the youth and work with them on these projects.

Cavness noted leaders are already seeing teens who have been involved for five years who already "have a heart for missions and service. Our ultimate goal is to raise a group of new leadership for our churches who

have kingdom growth principles instilled in their lifestyle."

The Jerusalem Project weekend also has two key worship experiences. First Baptist, Trimble, hosted the Sunday evening worship experience with William Oakley, pastor, speaking to a packed house. Teens were literally sitting in the aisles, said Cavness.

To close out the event, a Monday afternoon Praise Celebra-

tion gave students an opportunity to share what they saw God do throughout the weekend.

"Many of our pastors who assisted with Jerusalem Project this year were deeply moved by the worship of these youth," Wright said. "Their sincerity and praise to God was inspiring on Sunday night, and the testimonies spawned through their hands-on mission action was — See 427 youth, page 4

this week's news

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Linden pastor serves in Iraq for one year

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

LINDEN — Master Sgt. Danny Roberts is glad to be home.

He returned Dec. 17 after serving a year with his U.S. Army National Guard unit in Iraq. Roberts also is pastor of Lick Creek Baptist Church here.

He was able to be gone so long from his church duties because Ken Sparkman of Lexington served as interim pastor of the church for the whole year. Sparkman is retired director of missions, Gibson County Baptist Association, Trenton.

Interestingly, two other members of the small church have served recently in Iraq. Scott Kidd and Joe Watson are also members of the Army National Guard.

When Roberts returned, one of the first things he did was to drive to the church to see its new addition, which he had begun planning but was developed and built while he was gone. He has served as bivoca-



MASTER SGT. DANNY ROBERTS, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

tional pastor of Lick Creek for 14 years.

Roberts also was able to be gone so long from work because he works for his National Guard unit, based in Jackson. He works in maintenance.

Finally, he was able to be gone so long because he has an understanding family. They include his wife, Mary Will, who pitched in by caring for their horses, and his stepfather, Burnard Agee, who lives with them. Agee is a WW II veteran. The couple has three

grown daughters who live in the Parsons area, to whom Roberts is very close. One daughter had a son while Roberts was gone.

It was very hard not to be here for the birth of his grandson, Roberts said, but he was able to experience the birth by phone. He heard his new grandson sneeze twice soon after birth, he recalled.

Not one of the 118 members of Roberts' unit was seriously harmed during their year in Iraq.

Of course, they were aware of the dangers, especially when they were in convoy or traveling. All it takes is one person with an IED (improvised explosive device), said Roberts.

"I didn't worry about it. I was conscious of it," he added. He knew to dwell on the danger wasn't constructive. "I just said, God, here it is. I can't handle it. You take it."

"I'm thankful that I got to go," said Roberts, explaining that "we're at war and I had a job to do."

"We were able to make a foot

print in Iraq, not only our brigade, but the units under us," he explained.

"Our people here just need to understand our freedom we enjoy here, it takes some dedicated people to ensure it. It takes sacrifice."

"It's never been cheap," said Roberts. "Freedom costs."

"It was tough being over there," he admitted. Besides the separation from family, friends, and duties and the danger, the weather was a continual trial, making life uncomfortable and making transportation difficult. For instance, when it rained, the sand turned into a muck that hindered travel.

During the year he did enjoy a visit with Mary Will. They met in Germany during his time off, where he had previously lived while in the Army. He served in the Army from 1966-70 and in the Army National Guard from 1971-74 and 1979-present. In addition to Germany and Iraq, he has been deployed to Bulgaria and Honduras.

In Iraq he enjoyed seeing the — See Linden, page 4

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Giving to churches drops to 2.6% of income

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — If American Christians tithed, churches could gain \$156 billion a year, a recent study found.

And if denominations allocated a greater percentage of their receipts to international human needs, they could make strides in eliminating poverty-related child deaths, researchers concluded.

A recently released study by John and Sylvia Ronsvalle — the latest in an annual series published by "empty tomb," a Christian service and research organization based in Illinois — examines giving trends and church priorities.

In 2003, members of Christian churches in the United States gave an average of less than 2.6 percent of their income to churches, the researchers discovered.

The long-term trend points to a downturn in individual giving. Overall, church members gave a smaller portion of their income in 2003 — 2.59 percent — than in 1968, when members gave an average 3.11 percent.

During that same period, churches chose to keep more of the money they received rather than forwarding it to their denominations to support national and international causes, and the 2003 level marked the lowest point in that 35 years.

"If the portion of income donated to the church had not declined between 1968 and 2003, congregations and denominations would have had, in

aggregate dollars, 72 percent or \$2.2 billion more for benevolences, funding the larger mission of the church, than the amount actually donated in 2003," the Ronsvalles observed.

As a part of their study, the Ronsvalles surveyed 28 Protestant denominations. They found — on average — less than two cents of every dollar donated to affiliated congregations in 2003 funded the denomination's international missions programs.

They noted in 14 denominations that grew in membership between 1969 and 2003, about 3 cents of every dollar went to denominational global missions. In 14 denominations that declined during that period, less than 1 cent of every dollar went to international missions.

The full report is available at www.emptytomb.org. □

Abortions pass 47 million mark since Roe v. Wade

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In what can only be described as tragic, the United States likely experienced its 47 millionth legal abortion at some point in 2005, more than three decades after the Supreme Court issued its infamous 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing the killing of the unborn.

The statistic is based on data since 1973 gathered by the pro-choice Guttmacher Institute and on estimates by the National Right to Life Committee. In the first full year of abortion legalization nationwide (1974), Guttmacher counted 898,600

Nashville church offers new experience for young adults

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

HENDERSONVILLE — Echo, a new worship experience for metro area young adults, began Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. hosted by Long Hollow Baptist Church here.

This young adult gathering is different from other under age 35 mid-week renewal services in the area, because of its "unique style and personality," said Jason Hayes, a pastor at Long Hollow Church. "We are reaching for a massive influx of young people who are unchurched and are seeking God and direction."

Echo will offer an environment where both music and message are tailored to this generation.

"Echo is not exclusive to any particular college, singles group, or young adult ministry," added Hayes. "Our name comes from Psalm 145 and that is our foundation. One generation will proclaim God's greatness to another."

Hayes stressed that Echo is an approachable entry point for those who may be unchurched and will strengthen and unify those at various churches in Nashville.

Series themes and imagery will provide an out-of-the-box approach to production and ministry at Echo. "Echo teaches through Scripture texts or issues the message with packaged music, videos, graphics, and lighting into themes," Hayes noted. "It is a unique and energizing approach to a service with the arts and the senses."

Six volunteer teams make up the backbone of Echo: prayer, production, resource, greeters, ministry, and promotion. Those interested in attending, volunteering, or partnering with Echo can visit www.echonashville.com for more information. □

abortion. That number reached a peak of 1,608,600 in 1990, before falling to 1,293,000 in 2002.

Since 1975, the United States has witnessed more than 1 million abortions each year. Unless the nation's laws are changed, the number of abortions post-Roe will pass 50 million in 2008.

"It's an unspeakable tragedy," Randall K. O'Bannon, director of education and research at National Right to Life, told Baptist Press. He

noted the 47 million is higher than the population of some countries.

Guttmacher compiles data on abortions by contacting abortion clinics, and its latest data is from 2002 (1,293,000). The 47 million figure is based on Guttmacher data from 1973 through 2002, and on the 2002 count remaining relatively steady through 2005. By including a 3 percent under-report that Guttmacher estimates it misses, the figure of 47 million is derived. □

Reclaim Christian intellectual tradition, Dockery challenges

Baptist Press

ATLANTA — A call for Christian higher education to be academically rigorous and unapologetically Christian was sounded by David Dockery during the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities' recent annual meeting here.

Dockery, president of Union University, a Baptist college in Jackson, delivered a paper on "Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition" during the second year of a panel discussion in conjunction with SACS on a topic related to Christian higher education.

Dockery encouraged Christian higher education leaders to become "resources for serious Christian thinking and scholarship in all disciplines."

"There is no sphere of humanity to which Jesus Christ is irrelevant," including the academic world, he said. In a fallen world, secular worldliness produces disorder across the academic spectrum as well as day-to-day life, he said, observing that, "We see it in broken families, in confused understandings of God's pattern of sexuality, in conflicts between nations, and in the ugly face of racism."

Since the Christian faith impacts how people live, Dockery called on faculty and their students and Christian higher education's administrators and staff "to engage the culture to prepare a generation of leaders that can step up to the plate" in the academy, government, healthcare, in the

community, and throughout society — as well as the church.

"The breadth and depth of the Christian intellectual tradition must be reclaimed, revitalized, and renewed, and revived for us to carry forth this vision," Dockery stated.

Questions raised at the close of the session sought insight on the nuts and bolts of leading institutions toward integration of faith and learning.

Dockery turned to the second century's Clement of Alexandria as an example for reclaiming the Christian tradition, noting that Clement found Christ's influence appropriate in every discipline of academia.

"Clement serves as an instructive guide for us in our context because of his wide range of learning, his love of philosophy and literature, his concern for the cultivation of an intellectually serious Christianity, his interaction with the issues and trends in the changing world of his day, and perhaps most importantly of all because he was a layperson," Dockery said, noting that 90 percent of the Union University faculty, staff, and students share that identification.

Dockery warned, "We can build new buildings, raise significant gifts, recruit great students, create wonderful programs, and design creative delivery systems, but if it is not

undergirded by serious Christian thinking, then our vision will be misguided." Dockery noted Clement had a thorough knowledge of the whole range of Christian literature, both orthodox and heretical works.

Clement also provides a model for a type of academic freedom, without the more authoritarian approach of his contemporary Tertullian, Dockery said.

Dockery appealed to Clement's example of sanctifying the secular by developing connectedness across the curriculum, allowing faith and values to shape intellectual inquiry and recognizing that the best of Christian intellectual tradition takes advantage of an inter-disciplinary approach to such matters.

Dockery noted, for example:

- There is a place for music and the arts because God is the God of creation and beauty.
- Sociology can make observations to strengthen the family as well as religious structures by recognizing the image of God in His creation of humans.
- Economics can help address problems facing communities and society at large.
- Political science can strategize about ways to work toward justice and peace.

"There is no corner of the universe to which the Christian faith is indifferent," Dockery said, "and thus a call to sanctify the secular is a recognition of the fullness of the incarnation ... [of] Jesus Christ." □



DOCKERY

Located east of Memphis

Oakland is 'modern-day boom town:' church planters

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

OAKLAND — Oakland is booming. "It's a modern-day boom town," according to Ken Russom, church planter there.

Located just east of metropolitan Memphis in Fayette County, the town has gained about 13,000 new residents in the past five years who are living in 18 new subdivisions.

It is the choice place for young families who work in Memphis to live. Oakland is just a 20 minute drive to WolfChase Galleria, the mall on interstate 40 near Germantown. It is just a 30-minute drive to Germantown, Collierville, Cordova, and Bellevue, suburbs of Memphis.

Fayette County also is attractive because crime rates are lower than in Shelby County, cost of living and taxes are less, and schools are better, said Roger Briggs, director of missions, Fayette Baptist Association, based in nearby Somerville. He also is DOM of Haywood Baptist Association, Brownsville.

Briggs and his wife, Jeannette, accepted the missions job in 2000 because of the opportunities developing in Fayette County. For 16 years, Roger Briggs was a trainer for missionaries, supervisor, and a missionary with Jeannette in Europe for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Jeannette now serves as administrative assistant of Fayette Association.

Team comes together miraculously

Briggs and the DOM before him, Bob Campbell, prepared to start churches here. For several years the association has budgeted \$7,200 for new churches. Two churches have been started and the money not used has been saved each year, said Briggs.

Briggs has worked with Bill George who works for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in church planting. They began three years ago plans to start another church by conducting surveys. Then they recruited five churches to be a network of support. Then more surveys were conducted.

"Churches are small here," said Briggs, "but working together they are able to have the

resources to do a church plant."

George also regularly met with Russom, who had worked with the TBC in planting Crossroads Baptist Church, Lexington, and Rolling Hills Baptist Church, Lyles. Russom was just about to wrap up his work in Lyles when George told him about Oakland.

As George described the growth in Fayette County, Russom said the information "touched my heart." Russom told George God might be calling him to serve there. But Russom decided to ask George not to tell anybody. They agreed to pray about it and ask God to place it in somebody else's mind.

The next day, Briggs and George were meeting. Briggs felt impressed to ask if Russom could serve as church planter for the new congregation in Oakland. Briggs didn't know that the Russoms were about to complete their commitment in Lyles and were seeking another assignment.

After all of the plans were made, it worked out that the Russoms didn't miss a Sunday of ministry as church planters when they arrived here in March of 2005. Everyone involved gives God the credit.

"It just worked out. It seemed perfect," said Briggs.

Church planting in Oakland

Ken Russom tries to follow the example of Jesus as he meets and relates to people in a new place.

Jesus went to a wedding feast and other places "to meet people," explained Russom. Then Jesus "just began a conversation with them."

Russom met Tim Johnson at a local gas station. Johnson had just moved to the area to start a new business. Russom responded by telling Johnson he also had just moved to the area to start a new venture.

The men met for a meal and swapped stories. Johnson was starting an investment company. Russom told him he was starting a church. Johnson told Russom he had been raised in a Baptist church but didn't attend any church regularly. They parted.

Then Johnson and Russom kept seeing each other in the community. One day Russom asked Johnson if he thought their meetings might be occurring for a reason. Soon Johnson



DISCUSSING PLANS for Fayette Oaks Baptist Church, Oakland, are, from left, Jeannette Briggs, administrative assistant, Fayette Baptist Association, Somerville; Roger Briggs, director of missions, Fayette Association; Ken Russom, church planter and pastor, Fayette Oaks Church; and Pauline Russom, church planter.

and Russom were friends. Johnson and his wife, Martha, became the first core group members of Fayette Oaks Baptist Church.

Fayette Oaks Baptist Church

The church has been meeting since October and draws up to 20 people each Sunday morning to the conference center of Fayette Baptist Association office in nearby Somerville.

Most of those who attend are new to the Christian faith or considering it. They aren't members of other Baptist churches.

To reach them, the Russoms and Briggs have come to understand that the families moving here are "skeptical of institutions."

"Many of these people feel relationships are more important than belonging to a Baptist church," noted Briggs.

Russom, by watching customers of a post office and making other observations, has learned that most residents don't read newspapers and don't watch local TV.

So he produced a DVD entitled, "Finding Your Purpose in Life," which also informs the

viewer of the church. By working with the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, the DVDs are distributed to new residents.

Another effective outreach for the church was the Life Saver Appreciation Day held in October which drew about 1,500 people to an empty lot on the main highway through Oakland. It featured emergency personnel and was sponsored by the

church. As a result, 350 prospective families were identified and two men made professions of faith in Jesus.

Ken and Pauline assure that God is leading them. "There's not anybody that wants a new church and wants people to know the Lord more than the Lord Himself," said Ken "Our job is just to listen intently to His instructions." □



BOB OSBURN, left, member, First Baptist Church, Somerville, and Shirley Barlow of Kentucky who is visiting family in the church, paint a design on a child's face at Life Saver Appreciation Day held by Fayette Oaks Baptist Church in Oakland last fall. Osburn is a former member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Couple chooses 'mobile' church planting life

For Baptist and Reflector

SOMERVILLE — Ken and Pauline Russom might be called "roadies," referring to their life in a motor home. But in Baptist circles they are best described as mobile church planters.

The couple felt called to church planting while operating a computer sales and service and internet service business in Union City. They also have served as pastor and wife of churches in Tennessee and Kentucky for 25 years.

In 2002 they sold their home, which had just been renovated, and responded to a call from God to church planting.

Ken Russom said he came to the realization of the call after their sons left the business. At about that time he learned that long-time friend Bill George was involved in church planting for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. George, of the TBC staff, had served as a pastor and director of missions in West Tennessee where he had served with Russom.

Russom contacted George, attended some training, and soon realized God was calling him to be a church planter.

Pauline was working in the computer business and attending classes at Mid-Continent

University, Mayfield, Ky. Before she knew of Ken's call, she felt led to prepare a report on church planting for a class.

She admitted it still took some time before she was willing to sell their home, but she became satisfied it was the right thing to do. She has been reassured as the years have passed.

Working through the TBC, the couple has started Crossroads Baptist Church, Lexington, and Rolling Hills Baptist Church, Lyles. Both are thriving, reported Ken.

In each instance, and now in Oakland, the Lord has helped prepare them as the challenges have come, said Pauline.

Their motor home sits, as it has for the past nine months, behind the Fayette Baptist Association office in Somerville. That is just about eight miles from Oakland.

The new Fayette Oaks Baptist Church is meeting in the association office.

From their motor home, they watch new homes being built less than a mile from them behind the office. To lead services or meet with associational workers, the Russoms take a few steps from their home into the building.

"This has been quite a journey. But we know we are right where God wants us to be," said Ken. □



SOME OF THE EMERGENCY personnel of Fayette County hold plaques presented to them by Fayette Oaks Baptist Church, Oakland, during a community event held last fall which drew 1,500 people.

Former Tennessee pastor to be featured on 'Unshackled'

For Baptist and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — The life story of Evangelist Walter St. Clair, who served as a pastor in East Tennessee for several years before entering full-time evangelism, will be featured on the radio program "Unshackled" during the week of Feb. 5-11.

The dramatization is based on his life story, *A Journey of Victory*, co-authored by Dianne Barker of Johnson City. Foreword for the book was written by Jerry Vines, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., where St. Clair is a member.

Produced in Chicago, Ill., by Pacific Garden Mission, "Unshackled" is broadcast on 1,600 stations in 147 countries on six continents in eight languages. St. Clair was involved in ministry at Pacific Garden Mission while a student at Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, preparing to enter the preaching ministry.

His first pastorate was Mars Hill Baptist Church, Knoxville, while a student at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. Pursuing further study at

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, he served as pastor of Overhill Baptist Church in Dallas. After ministering there for almost seven years, he was



ST. CLAIR



BARKER

called to pastor Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton, where he served for four years until entering full-time evangelism in 1963.

At that time, he organized Victory Through Christ Evangelistic Association based out of Johnson City and then Kingsport. In 1978 he and his wife, Connie Oakes St. Clair, moved to Florida where they continued their ministry.

Known as "Brother Walter," he has preached throughout the United States. He also has preached in Canada and on 14

islands of the West Indies. This year he plans another trip to the islands (his 35th) to preach the gospel.

Connie St. Clair grew up in Johnson City, graduated from East Tennessee State University, and taught for many years in the Washington County and Sullivan County school systems. Later she joined her husband in his evangelism travels and used puppet ministry to reach children. Their romance and marriage, the death of their infant son, her courageous battle with breast cancer, and her final days are included in the "Unshackled" program.

"Brother Walter" recently traveled to Chicago to attend the taping, which begins with his experience as an 18-year-old serving aboard the U.S.S. Block Island in the North Atlantic when a German U-boat torpedoed the ship on May 29, 1944. Six crew members perished, and the rest were commanded to abandoned the sinking ship.

One of the last sailors to go over the side, St. Clair found himself alone in enemy waters with a deflated life jacket and the closest life raft half a mile

away. Swimming through the turbulent waters, he experienced supernatural strength and assurance that underneath were the everlasting arms of God. He reached a life raft already overflowing with men and clung to the side of the raft until a Navy destroyer escort rescued them from the choppy waters.

When the sailors arrived in Casablanca, St. Clair found in his shirt pocket the only possession he had salvaged from the ship — his New Testament, now saturated with oil. On the journey back to America aboard the U.S.S. Tulagi, he attended a Bible study with several sailors.

He had been in church all of his life and at age eight had joined the Baptist church in his hometown, Vinton, Va. (near Roanoke). After surviving the traumatic brush with death in the Atlantic, he became troubled about where he would spend eternity.

After arriving in Bremerton, Wash., with the Block Island crew to await completion of a new carrier, St. Clair settled his salvation. Shortly afterwards, the Lord called him to preach.

After more than 60 years of ministry, St. Clair (who recently celebrated his 80th birthday) is still actively involved in his evangelism ministry. He declares, "As long as God gives me strength and opportunity, I will proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

Co-author of the book, Dianne Barker, is a lifelong resident of Johnson City and a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Gray, for 40 years. A former writer for the Johnson City *Press-Chronicle*, she is co-author of several best-selling books, including *Twice Pardoned* with Harold Morris and *Living Proof* with Vietnam hero Clebe McClary.

She and her husband, James, served for several years as marriage enrichment leaders for Holston Baptist Association.

For more information about *A Journey of Victory* write Evangelist Walter St. Clair, P.O. Box 245, Orange Park, FL 32067 or diannebarker@earthlink.net.

Linden pastor serves in Iraq for one year...

— Continued from page 1

area where Abraham was from — the Ur of the Chaldees which is located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. A temple stands in this area referred to as the Temple of Ur, which Roberts also visited.

His brigade was based much of the time in Southern Iraq, where the Shiites live. They "are more settled" than some Iraqi

groups so the experience was basically a good one, described Roberts.

What's going on in Iraq is like the feud of the Hatfields and McCoys, said Roberts. Basically two main groups in the country are feuding, he said.

His brigade built roads and bridges and worked at a school, renovating it. Some of the Tennessee soldiers made desks,

hundreds of them, said Roberts.

His fellow soldiers also distributed backpacks to Iraqi students, said Roberts. The students were "very appreciative," he reported.

"It may take a couple of generations for everything to settle out, but at least those people will have the opportunity to enjoy the freedom we enjoy in this country."

He was assured by God that

he was supposed to go to Iraq after he faced an obstacle to going. He had heart by-pass surgery before he left. But he was given a clean bill of health. He realized he really wanted to accompany his fellow soldiers, who have become family to him.

Roberts said he received the call to ministry in mid-life and wasn't sure about it because of his commitment to the military.

He talked to Hoyt Wilson, retired pastor, First Baptist Church, Lexington, and chaplain for the Army National Guard. Wilson pointed out that David in the Bible was a warrior for God so Roberts could be a soldier for God.

"I may preach about different things than some ministers," said Roberts, "but I know I'm doing what God wants me to do."

427 youth minister, worship in Jerusalem ...

— Continued from page 1

amazing at the conclusion of the event on Monday afternoon."

Dyer Baptist Association has been asked to share information on the model for Jerusalem Project with other associations. Also this year a seminary student and staff member from a New Orleans, La., church came to Jerusalem Project as a participant and hopes to carry the model back home.

In December a team of students from the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Dyersburg State Community College went to the New Orleans area on a disaster relief missions trip. While there the students were sharing their excitement about the upcoming Jerusalem Project with church leaders, who expressed interest in developing a similar project in that city.

Planning for the project begins in late summer, said Cavness. "It takes a team effort with a lot of people from many of our churches involved."

The sites were located and recommended by pastors, youth ministers, and



BILL OAKLEY, pastor of First Baptist, Trimble, preaches an evangelistic message to 427 youth and leaders at this year's Jerusalem Project.

lay leaders from the churches in those areas. The cost of materials was largely provided through the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Mississippi River Ministry, he explained. The association's men's ministry also contributes funds to the project each year.

This year the Jerusalem Project was mobilized in the northern portion of the association. First Baptist Church, Newbern, and First Baptist Church, Trimble,

were hosts and furnished the Sunday evening and Monday morning meals, with RoEllen Baptist Church, Dyersburg, preparing the Monday lunches and delivering them to the various work sites. Bogota Baptist Church, Bogota, and First Baptist Church, Halls, assisted with snack time refreshments over the weekend. □



STAN PRUITT, left, pastor of New Mitchell Grove Baptist Church, Halls, leads a team of students from Dyer Baptist Association as they build a wheelchair ramp. He is being helped by his son, Scott Pruitt, also a member of the church.

Mission trips bring Great Commission to life

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

We have all read the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 (HCSB):

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe every thing I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Sounds simple enough, but how many Christians really and truly take those words to heart?

Some Christians automatically assume Jesus is talking about "foreign" missions and that doesn't apply to them.

I think foreign or international missions as we like to call it today is an important part of the Great Commission, but it doesn't stop there. It includes our neighborhoods, our city, county, state, nation, and everything in between.

You don't have to leave the country to obey the Great Commission, but those trips are invaluable because they teach you to totally rely on God at all times.

Last week God gave me the privilege and opportunity to go to Cuba for the second time in two years.

After my first trip last year I really didn't plan to go back so soon, but when our church (Tulip Grove Baptist in Old Hickory) decided to send a team this year I couldn't say no.

In my column after I returned last year I referred to Cuba as the "land time forgot."

Simple things matter

It hasn't changed much in a year. Cuba is a land where simple things still matter.

After living in a nation of abundance and greed it is refreshing to be in a land where people value "little" things like a simple piece of hard candy.

It was enjoyable to see Cuban children flying homemade kites. When is the last time your kids or grandkids flew a kite? Most are too busy playing video games or on the go participating in team sports.

Cuban Christians are hungry for Bibles and study materials. How many of us toss away our Sunday School quarterlies without a second thought when we are through with them?

We complain about sitting in a church when it may be "too hot" or "too cold" because the heating/air units of the church may not be working properly. Many Cuban Christians attend churches without walls, or for those structures that are enclosed, facilities without heating and air conditioning. Funny, in two years, I have never heard a Cuban Christian complain about what their building is like. They are just simply grateful for a place where they can gather and worship the Lord they love so much.

We complain about the cost of gas and not having a place to park once we get to church. Think about what it is like to go to a church where most people will walk to get there. In Cuba it is not uncommon for people to walk at least a mile or more to go to church.

As Baptists, we especially are used to conferences on every topic imaginable. Most of us take study opportunities like this for granted and don't bother to attend. On our most



THREE NEW CUBAN converts to Christianity proudly display their new "Hay Vida en Jesus" (There is Life in Jesus) New Testaments presented to them by a mission team from Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory.

recent trip to Cuba, people traveled as much as 12 hours to take basic discipling courses such as "The Mind of Christ."

TGBC team members led classes for more than 160 Cubans from about 35 churches. They are hungry for anything that will help them spread the gospel to their fellow countrymen.

Cuban Christians have a passion for Christ that all of us in the United States would do well to emulate.

In addition to leading conferences team members went door to door sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Using an EvangeCube, we saw 502 Cubans come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We saw the Holy Spirit do miracle after miracle as people who practiced witchcraft and idolatry became convicted upon hearing God's love and professed faith in Christ.

Willing to be used

All 13 of the team members will agree without hesitation the only thing we did to make this happen was to go and be willing to be used as a tool by

God. He did it. He just allowed us to be participants.

That's what missions and mission trips all boil down to — being available to be used by God in any situation.

Our pastor Ken Clayton and many other pastors across the state love to say "God is good all the time and all the time God is good." Bro. Ken added a word when he was telling our congregation about our experiences on Sunday, Jan. 22: "God is good all the time everywhere and everywhere, all the time, God is good." Truer words have never been spoken.

Being willing to go and be used by God is not easy for some people. It means getting out of your "comfort zones." It may be getting on an airplane when you are afraid of flying. It may mean trusting God to take care of you when you have had some health problems in the past. It may mean standing in front of a group of people sharing about Christ when you prefer to be listening. It may mean eating food you normally would never dream of eating. Whatever "it" is, God will help you overcome.

Pray about your role

I would encourage every Tennessee Baptist to pray about what your role will be in carrying out the Great Commission. I realize that some people simply can't go because of health or family problems.

But just because you can't go to another country doesn't mean you can't tell your neighbor next door or across the street about Jesus. It won't keep you from picking up the friend to take them to church and placing a call to a non-believer.

We need to make sure our reasons for not sharing Christ are valid. God knows the truth and He knows the difference between a valid reason and an excuse.

The Great Commission is for everyone. Do your part. Pray, give, and go if possible. You miss out on untold blessings if you don't. □

making
Christ
known



By Candy Phillips

Good news, bad news for Golden Offering

How is the 2005 Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions doing?

The question comes often from people who are aware of "donor fatigue." They want to know if the generous outpouring of donations in 2005 has had a negative effect on the state missions offering.

Today the news is good and bad.

The bad news first: "donor fatigue" has crept in and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is down by 5.46 percent in the first four months of giving (September 1-December 31).

The year 2005 began with the tsunami and ended with a record number of hurricanes. One example of how some churches responded to the hurricanes that devastated the Gulf Coast in the fall is that they chose to designate all their state missions offering to disaster relief.

Most churches, however, realized that one allocation of the state missions offering supports disaster relief and promoted giving to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

Now for the good news. \$1,156,914 has been received by the Tennessee Baptist Convention for GOTM as of December 31, 2005. The 2005 offering goal is \$1,630,000.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for faithfully supporting the state missions offering.

If your church has collected the state missions offering but has not sent it to the state convention yet, please do so.

Remember that half the offering is allocated to start new churches in Tennessee.

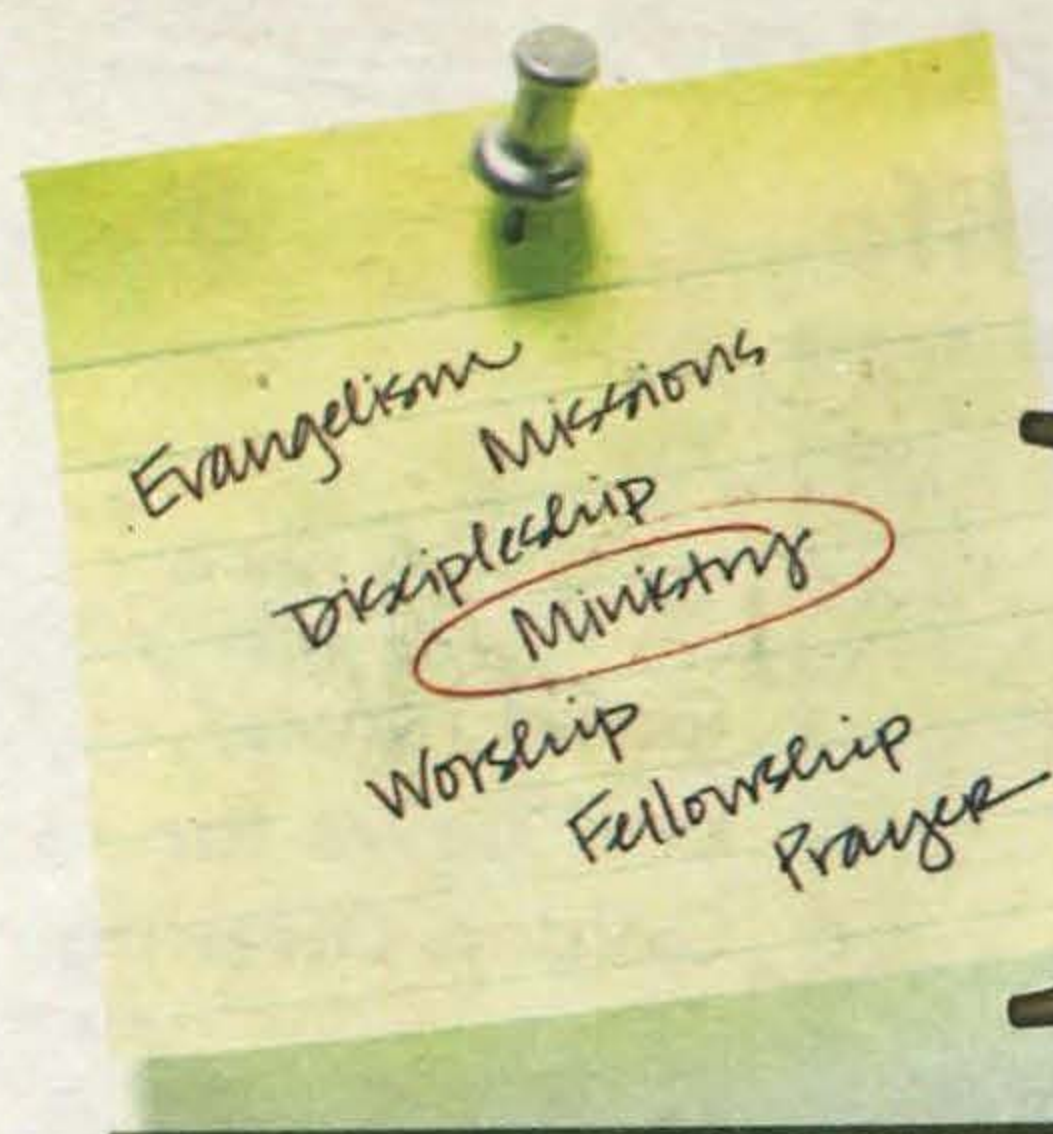
Other allocations include Mississippi River Ministry, Appalachian Regional Ministry, language missions, Special Friends Camp, college and seminary scholarships, prison ministry, Christian Women's Job Corps, summer missionaries, and more.

The 2005 theme for the week of prayer, "Many Ministries, One Mission," reminds us that the state mission offering brings Jesus to people in our state.

Pray first, then give. □ — Phillips is executive director of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.



TRAVELING TO CUBA last week from Tulip Grove Baptist Church were, from left, front row, Kenny Clayton; Ernie McAninch; Phil Lundy, minister of music; Randy McIntosh; Lonnie Wilkey, B&R editor; second row, Stacy Bell; Lee Ann McAninch; Mike Bailey; Kay Eitneier; Stella Poole; J.P. Kirkham; third row, Ken Clayton, pastor; Dan McLendon; and Rebeca, who coordinated efforts for Cuban Baptists.



Church Health Matters

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

MINISTRY Matters

Jesus said that He did not come to be served but to serve. As Christians, we are called to follow His example. Therefore, a healthy church is finding ways to serve others through ministry within and outside of the church.

Your state missionary staff is here to help your church discover ministries. 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 ministry.

Community Ministry

Beverly Smothers.....(615) 371-2044

Disaster Relief Ministry

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

Men's Ministry

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

Women's Ministry

Denise Bronaugh.....(615) 371-7920

Sunday School Ministry

Ken Marler.....(615) 371-7934

Restorative Justice (Prison/Jail) Ministry

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

Family Crisis Ministry

Tony Rankin.....(615) 371-8136

Barnabus Ministry (Ministry to Ministers)

Bill Northcott.....(615) 371-2099



What is a Healthy Ministering Church?

by Ray Gilder

A healthy church is a ministering church. One sign of a healthy church is that it reaches beyond itself to meet the needs of the community around it.

A sure sign of an unhealthy church is that all of its attention is focused inward. A church that focuses on maintenance instead of ministry is destined to decline.

Our Lord set the standard for ministry for all of His followers. He said: *The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister* (Matthew 20:28). He also said: *Whoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant* (Matthew 20: 26-27).

The word "minister" means "one who runs errands, waits on tables, or attends to other menial duties." The word "servant" is a good synonym.

All serious followers of Jesus will be sensitive to the hurts and needs of those around them. John posed a telling question in I John 3:17, *But who hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

A frequent response of Jesus to those around Him with special needs was to have compassion on them. He often told His disciples, "Don't send them away. Meet their needs."

As our Lord described a special judg-

ment when men will be divided as sheep and goats, He indicated the judgment would be based on the presence or absence of ministry. He talked about ministering to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the prisoner (Matthew 25:31-40).

Some churches have ignored physical needs as they stress evangelism. Others have handed out bread and water, but they are weak on gospel presentation. To be truly biblical, it is not an either/or situation but it is a both/and situation. As has often been said, people do not care what you know until they know that you care. In many cases we earn the privilege to share spiritual food, because we have provided physical food.

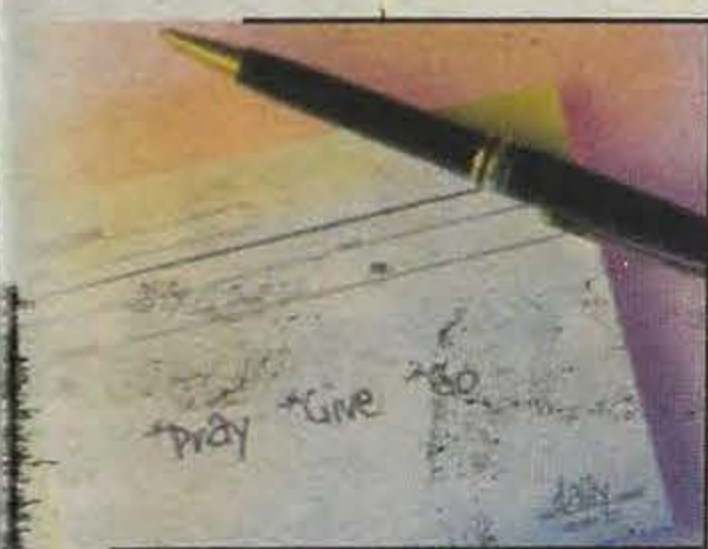
James tells us that one of the signs of pure religion is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction (James 1:27). These are people in need, but who cannot do things for you in return.

The Christian life is a giving life. Our Lord taught us to give, and it would be given back to us. The Lord is the one who repays those who help the helpless.

Paul quoted our Lord in teaching us to give. *I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, it is more blessed to give than receive* (Acts 20:35).

One of the best things we can do as Christians is to give our faith away in word and deed.

A Prescription for Your Church's Ministry By Beverly Smothers



A prescription to strengthen the ministry heart of your church is pray, give, and go.

Pray for the 3 million lost people in the state of Tennessee. Pray for your TBC state missionary staff and church staffs. Pray for Randy Pool, Beverly Smothers, and Kelly Campbell, all coordinators for the three TBC Regional Ministries. Pray for the Cooperative Program and the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

Give to the Cooperative Program and the Golden Offering. These offerings are the source of funding for the TBC Regional Ministries.

Go and serve in the TBC Regional Ministries. Get involved in these three ministries.

Consider ministry in one of the three grand divisions of our state. Minister at home or take a trip elsewhere within Tennessee where God has provided ample opportunity for Christian service through three regional ministries.



SUNDAY SERVICES — are held in the afternoon at "The Church Without Doors" in Memphis.

In West Tennessee, the Mississippi River Ministry (MRM) involves 15 Baptist associations dealing with poverty-related ministry needs. One out of every five residents of West Tennessee live in poverty and half of these are children. Half of the adults in this division have less than nine years of education. These counties have the highest rates of bankruptcy, teen pregnancy, infant mortality, sexually transmitted diseases, and public assistance participants.

Form a short-term or long-term partnership with a church, association, or ministry site that needs your commitment and person-power. Address needs such as literacy, home repair, inner city issues, community

clean-up, day camps, and general evangelism.

While you are praying about this church health condition, read Deuteronomy 15:11 for MRM's biblical basis. For information, contact Pool at mrmofn@bellsouth.net or call (731) 855-2470.

In Middle Tennessee, the Cumberland Regional Ministry (CRM) has 26 associations teeming with various ministry opportunities. Out of a total population of 2.1 million people in the division, over 1.7 million individuals are unchurched. In this area, nearly a quarter of the residents make less than \$18,000 per year.

Our capitol city awaits your visit to help meet inner city needs. Or take your mission team to a beautiful resort area to lead day camps and other campground ministry. Help establish a new church for persons in the grip of poverty.

While you are praying about this church health condition, read Deuteronomy 8:6-7 for CRM's biblical basis. For information, contact Smothers at bsmothers@tnbaptist.org or call (800) 558-2090 or (615) 371-2044.

In East Tennessee, the Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM) contains 26 associations beckoning your involvement in a wide array of ministry opportunities.

Hancock County, the poorest county in the state with a poverty rate of 29.4 percent, is located in this division. Out of the 33 counties in this area, 23 counties have poverty rates higher than the state average.

Need the therapy of being in the great outdoors? Try resort missions in the towns and cities of scenic east Tennessee. Need a unique mission endeavor energy boost? Try a ministry to persons with life-controlling issues. The inner city cries out with multiple needs. Are you strong enough to wipe those tears?

While you are praying about this church health condition, read Deuteronomy 11:11-12 for ARM's biblical basis. For information, contact Campbell at Kelly@chilhoweeba.org or call (865) 982-0499.

All of these conditions in the three regions may be treated with the recommended dosage of prayers daily and mission team exercise. The side effects are a healthier ministry heart and increased missions' vision.



Lessons from the Leftovers

By Randy Pool

And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes (Mark 6:43 KJV).

"We can't think about ministering to others till we have taken care of our own needs right here in our own church; we have bills to pay!" Imagine if the disciples took that approach that late afternoon when Jesus commanded them to feed a hungry multitude.

It's not hard to imagine that is exactly what they wanted to do (Mark 6:36). Then Jesus taught them an incredible lesson in both grace and ministry.

Jesus took their excuses of inability and demonstrated His grace by giving them both the desire and the ability to feed the 5,000. He took what was available (which wasn't even theirs to begin with), and then He gave it back to them to give to others. Through simple obedience, the disciples found themselves to be channels of God's resource to those in need around them.

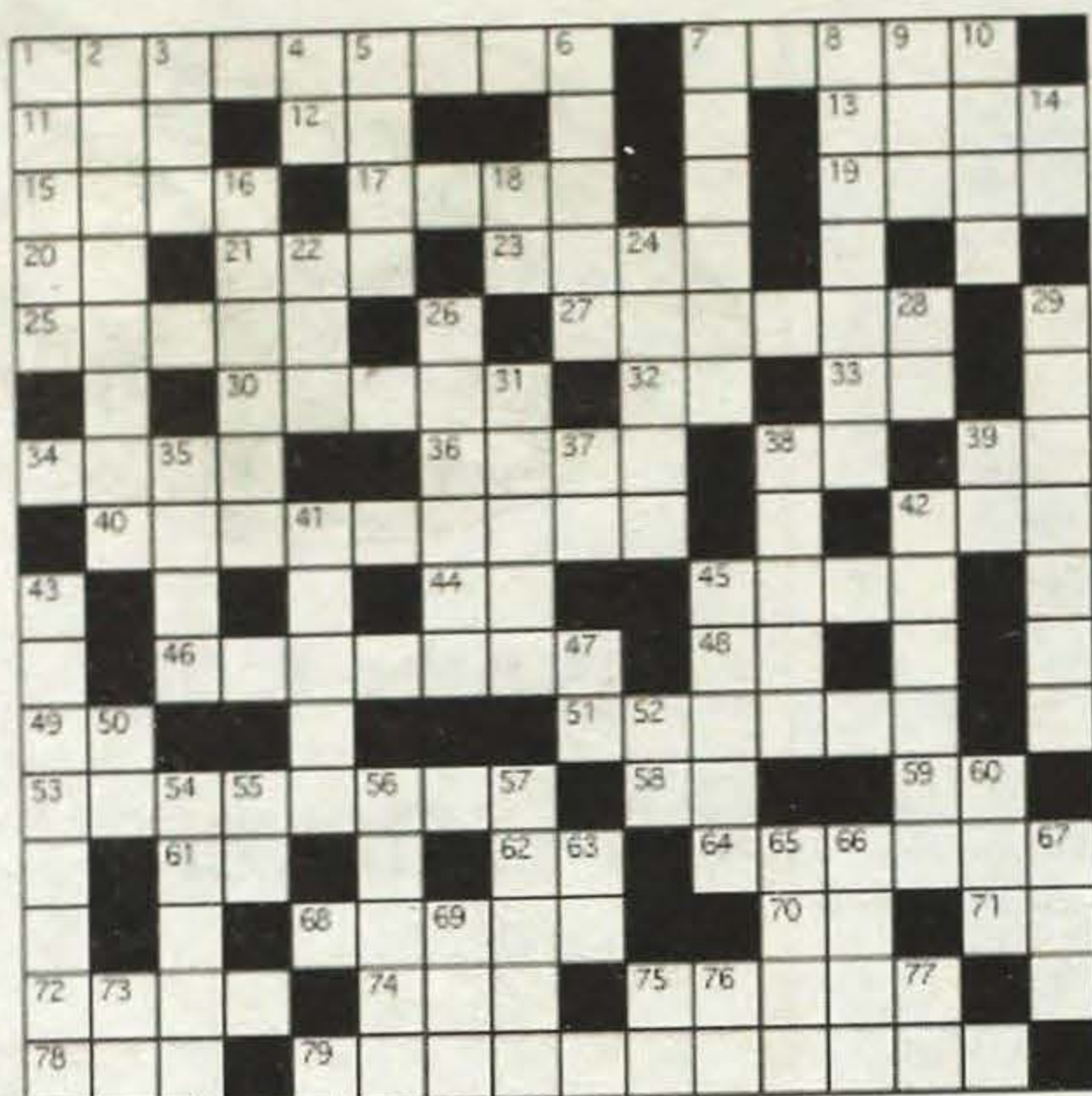
When the disciples had completed the task of feeding others, then Jesus instructed them to make a final trip to collect the leftovers. The testimony of 12 baskets is no coincidence. It was the Lord's way of showing His selfish disciples that if they would make themselves a channel of God's provision, then God would provide for the need of the channel.

I have never known a church to engage in the outflow of ministry and missions that did not have her needs met as well. God is faithful. Learn the lessons of the leftovers. Engage your community in ministry through Mississippi River Ministry, Cumberland Regional Ministry, or Appalachian Regional Ministry.

Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

- 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
- March 10-12 - English As A Second Language, Baptist Center, Brentwood
- March 17-18 - In Spirit and Truth Worship Conference, Bellaire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro

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



See answers on page 11

Barbour Publishing

ACROSS

1. A Roman centurion (Acts 10:1)
7. The disciple that walked on water
11. We worship ____ God
12. Dutch, abbr.
13. Modern day Persia
15. "So that Christ's power may ____ on me" (2 Cor. 12:9)
17. "Mock him and spit on him, flog him and ____ him" (Mark 10:34)
19. Store
20. Maritime province, abbr.
21. Tint
23. Possessing height
25. Peter's original name
27. "Keep on praying for all the ____" (Eph. 6:18)
30. "I will send fire on ____" (Ezek. 39:6)
32. Neptunium, chem. symbol
33. Laughter sound
34. Large green moth
36. Forward a letter
38. Preposition
39. Imaginary land where the Emerald City is
40. A synagogue ruler who was beaten (Acts 18:17)
42. A king of Judah (1 Kings 15:16)
44. Greek letter used for the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
45. The disciple standing with Jesus' mother at the crucifixion (John 19:26)
46. He was called a Levi (Mark 2:14)
48. United Kingdom, abbr.
49. Indianapolis's state, abbr.
51. Worried expression (2 words)
53. Roman emperor who issued a decree for a census to be taken (Luke 2:1)
58. Each, abbr.
59. Letter that precedes em
61. Article that precedes a vowel
62. Northwestern state, abbr.
64. "God ____ His love among us" (1 John 4:9)
68. The brother of Jesus (Gal. 1:19)
70. Indefinite article
71. The peach state, abbr.
72. New Testament prophethood
74. "Asahel was as light of foot as a wild ____" (2 Sam. 2:18 kjv)
75. Relative by marriage
78. Distress signal
79. One of the twelve disciples (Matt. 10:3)

DOWN

1. Sore bumps on the toes
2. Runaway slave (Philem. 10)

3. Dweller, abbr.
4. Nickname for Edward
5. Paul's companion in Rome (2 Tim. 4:11)
6. Paul's companion during his second missionary journey (Acts 15:22, 40)
7. Jesus asked him, "Where shall we buy bread for these people?" (John 6:5)
8. Disciple from Lystra who traveled with Paul (Acts 16:1)
9. Period of time
10. "Lips that speak knowledge are a ____ jewel" (Prov. 20:15)
14. New covenant writings, abbr.
16. Doubted the resurrection (John 20:24-26)
18. Lieutenant, abbr.
22. Woman's name
24. Alights
26. Rich man from Arimathea (Matt. 27:57)
28. Salvation Army, abbr.
29. This man was raised from the dead
31. Magical inhabitant of a bottle
35. Norman's nickname
37. Northeastern area of the US, abbr.
38. Ruptured
39. Old style, abbr.
41. Coworker with Paul (2 Cor. 2:13)
42. One of the first disciples (John 1:35-42)
43. High priest during the time of Jesus (Matt. 26:3)
45. Christ's betrayer
47. Warrant officer, abbr.
50. Name unknown, abbr.
52. Male pronoun
54. If a man does this of the world, he forfeits his own soul (Matt. 16:26)
55. International peace-keeping organization, abbr.
56. Son of Nachor, father of Abraham (Luke 3:34 kjv)
57. "A longing fulfilled is ____ to the soul" (Prov. 13:19)
60. Lower limb
63. Preposition
65. Bright circle indicating saintliness
66. His sons were Shammai and Jada and his mother was Atarah (1 Chron. 2:26-28)
67. God created ____ and night
69. Morocco, abbr.
73. Negative
75. Input/output
76. National League, abbr.
77. Ourselves

First Tennessee team serves in Montana after partnership signed

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

SEVIERVILLE — A team of 17 volunteers from First Baptist Church here served in Butte, Mont., Dec. 26 – Jan. 1. The team was the first to support the Tennessee/Montana Baptist Partnership after documents were signed at the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 15-16. The partnership officially began Jan. 1.

The team hosted a children's Christmas Club and a youth New Year's Eve Rally, and did some renovation at Park Street Baptist Church in Butte. The team also "prayer drove" the city. The prayer drive was an adaptation of the planned prayerwalk because of the weather.

"It was very icy there on a couple of days so we drove around the city and prayed over Butte," said Glenn Metts, associate pastor of college and outreach, First Baptist, and leader of the team.

The Sevierville team included six adults and 11 students from three different colleges.

The three-day Christmas Club featured Vacation Bible School curriculum and drew 23 children. Eight of the children had never attended church.

Even though there were no decisions from the club, Metts believes the team made an impact on the children's lives.

The New Year's Eve youth rally included a worship service, inflatable games, and lots of food. It resulted in two young ladies receiving Christ.

The team also renovated the Park Street's youth room by doing cleanup and painting.

"God revealed Himself in so many ways in Montana," said Valarie Ogle, a student at University of Tennessee – Knoxville, who is planning to teach high school English.

"I realized how blessed I am to live in a place like Sevierville that embraces the love of Christ."

According to Ogle, one of the teenagers that she met in Butte had moved from Kentucky to Montana. The young lady told about the struggles that a teenager faces as she tries to live her life in a place that does not incorporate Christ into its lifestyle.

"I am so blessed to be surrounded by friends and family that love the Lord," added Ogle. "I pray that our efforts weren't void on the mission trip and that we were able to share our Lord's amazing love."

Ogle noted that not only was the club a chance to share the love of Christ with children who have never heard His name, it was also a chance to reach out to their parents. The team held a program for the children's parents on the last day of the club, and several parents became aware of the church programs and services of Park Street.

"Perhaps the most exciting and special part of the mission trip was at the New Year's Eve bash," said Ogle. Before the services, several of the Tennessee college students prayerwalked the sanctuary where the gospel was to be presented later that night.

"We bathed the whole night in prayer. I got to see those prayers answered," she said, when she helped lead two young ladies to the Lord.

"It was such a blessing to see their excitement as we rejoiced in their decision and celebrated the New Year as new sisters in Christ!" □



WORKING WITH CHILDREN at Park Street Baptist Church, Butte, Mont. are volunteers from First Baptist Church, Sevierville. From left are Donna Rimel, Valarie Ogle, and Glenn Metts (inside the circle), associate pastor of the church.



MEMBERS OF Tennessee Baptist Convention staff were recognized for their tenure during the Executive Board meeting Jan. 11. They are, from left, Linda Rader, Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union, five years; Barbara Oldham, receptionist, five years; Mike Salva, web assistant, five years; Joyce Harvey, financial support assistant, five years; Bruce Edwards, youth Sunday School/Discipleship, 10 years; Sharon Winfield, support services assistant, five years; Mark LeMay, support services manager, five years; and Beverly Smothers, strategic ministries, 10 years.

IMB board focuses on theological education, stats

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. — International Mission Board leaders reaffirmed their commitment to theological education overseas during the Jan. 9-11 board of trustees meeting here saying that discipleship and leadership training are essential to fulfilling the international missions task.

During the meeting, trustees approved an additional 12 missionaries who were appointed Jan. 10 at Staples Mill Road Baptist Church in Glen Allen, Va. Those new missionaries join 383 long-term personnel appointed last year, including 175 appointed in the September and November appointment services in Pensacola, Fla., and Huntsville, Ala., respectively.

CLASSIFIED

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 or multi-line phone system. Send resume Attn: Jack Lewis, Tulip Grove Baptist Church, 563 Shute Lane, Old Hickory, TN 37138.

Trustees also received the Annual Statistical Report showing substantial growth in international missions causes in 2004.

During the meeting, board chairman Tom Hatley read into the minutes that trustees had voted in executive session to recommend to the Southern Baptist Convention that Wade Burleson be removed as an IMB trustee. Burleson, senior pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., has been critical of the IMB's missionary personnel policies (see following story).

"This difficult measure was not taken without due deliberation and exploration of other ways to handle an impasse between Wade Burleson and the board," Hatley said. "In taking this action, trustees addressed issues involving broken trust and resistance to accountability, not Burleson's opposition to policies recently enacted by the board."

"The trustees consider this a rare and grievous action but one that was absolutely necessary for the board to move forward in its

duties as prescribed by the SBC."

The trustees' move to ask the SBC to act follows the IMB charter's process for removing a trustee. □

Okla. exec affirms Burleson; Burleson speaks

Baptist Press, Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Anthony Jordan, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, released a statement Jan. 12 affirming the service within Oklahoma of a pastor now at the center of a controversy with trustees of the International Mission Board.

IMB trustees, during a Jan. 11 executive session, initiated an action to ask the Southern Baptist Convention to remove Burleson as a trustee over "issues involving broken trust and resistance to accountability, not Burleson's opposition to policies recently enacted by the board," according to a three-

paragraph statement issued by trustee chairman Tom Hatley, an Arkansas pastor.

"The trustees consider this a rare and grievous action," Hatley's statement continued, "but one that was absolutely necessary for the board to move forward in its duties as prescribed by the SBC."

Jordan, in his statement, noted:

"While the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma is not privileged to firsthand knowledge regarding the actions taken by the IMB board of trustees concerning Wade Burleson, we can speak to the outstanding service Wade Burleson has and continues to provide to our state convention. As a current member of the BGCO board of directors and as a past state convention president, Wade has demonstrated excellent leadership and integrity while exemplifying a passion for reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Burleson served as BGCO president from 2003-05.

Burleson, who was elected to a four-year trustee term by SBC messengers last year, was reporting on his encounters with trustees during the board's Jan. 9-11 meeting in Richmond, Va., via his online weblog, or "blog," kerussocharis.blogspot.com. A blog is a type of internet journal that is frequently updated with personal views intended for public consumption. Burleson posted entries on his blog after the trustee action Jan. 11, and, earlier, on Monday and Tuesday of the board meeting.

The impetus for the meeting reports by Burleson was his opposition to missionary personnel policies, which the trustees adopted during their

Nov. 14-17 meeting in Huntsville, Ala. The policies involved believer's baptism by immersion and the use of a "private prayer language," which also was described as "glossolalia (speaking in tongues)." Burleson, on his blog, has contended that the policies are overly restrictive, even among some Baptists who hold to the inerrancy of Scripture.

The afternoon of Jan. 11, Burleson released a six-paragraph statement to Baptist Press stating in part, "I have yet to be presented with specific allegations but I am willing to respond to the particulars of these allegations should they materialize."

"In recent days I have expressed deep concern with a precedent set by certain IMB board members who voted to establish IMB missionary policies that reach beyond the guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

"Secondly, I have also questioned and brought to the attention of the full board the inappropriateness of certain IMB board members, who in violation of IMB board guidelines, have held private caucuses to develop and craft IMB motions and policy."

Burleson said he was shocked to learn Jan. 11 that he was being removed from the board.

"Most trustees are 50 or older. Some are in their 70s," he added. "I am not sure how many have ever read my blog, but some think a blog is like 'computer pornography' (an actual quote)."

Burleson said the underlying issue in his dispute with trustees is the growing division among conservative Southern Baptists over freedom of conscience.

"Are we going to continue to narrow the parameters of cooperation in our convention by tightly controlling trustee boards and agencies to the point that those who disagree on minor doctrinal issues are excluded from service? Are we going to allow principled dissent?" □

CLASSIFIED

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.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — SENIOR ADULT

Associate pastor of senior adults/pastoral care: First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ala., accepting resumes for full-time minister to senior adults and oversee the pastoral care ministry. Mail or e-mail resume to P.O. Box 1667, Decatur, AL 35602, Attn: Pastor or fbcdecatur@fbcdecatur.org.

EAST COAST MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE



Hosted and Sponsored by
Englewood Baptist Church,
Rocky Mount, NC
Contact us at 252.937.8254



MARCH 17-18, 2006
REGISTER NOW!

Cost is \$30 per person.

CLASSIFIED

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.

Apologetic Evangelism Workshop, Mormonism

There will be an Apologetic Evangelism Workshop held at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Building on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006 from 8:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m. The topic of this workshop is "Are Mormons Christian?" The workshop will focus on what Mormons believe and how we can better witness to them. This workshop will be led by Dr. Tal Davis, Apologetics Manager, North American Mission Board, SBC. There is a \$15 registration fee for this conference. Materials will be provided during the workshop as well as breaks and lunch on Saturday. Those who attend all the sessions and complete the assignments will be certified by the North American Mission Board to lead awareness conferences in local churches. To register please contact Tim Hill at (615) 371-2032 or e-mail thill@tnbaptist.org. Information on this workshop can also be found on the TBC web site at www.tnbaptist.org/events.

End of life decisions: 'The key is communication'

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Americans' interest in living wills has soared since they observed the circumstances of Terri Schiavo's tragic demise, but any hope such documents are a panacea for the thorny questions of care for the incapacitated or those near the end of life apparently is misplaced.

Basic living wills, pro-life bioethicists say, are: 1) marked by a presumption for death rather than life, 2) may fail to provide specific direction in some instances, and 3) may, along with other advance directives, be challenged by health-care providers.

Under the laws of all but 10 states, doctors and hospitals may be able to ignore requests in advance directives for treatment, food, and water, according to a recent study by the National Right to Life Committee.

"Increasingly, health-care providers who consider a patient's 'quality of life' too low are denying life-preserving measures against the will of patients and families — and the laws of most states provide no

effective protection against this involuntary denial," the report concluded.

So what should a person who holds to a sanctity-of-life ethic do in what appears to be an increasingly challenging effort to assure his wishes are followed?

1) Select a person you trust to make medical decisions for you and communicate your desires to him.

"The key is communication," bioethicist C. Ben Mitchell says. "Documentation is just added insurance. Presumably, you would choose a person who shares your biblical values about the sanctity of human life and with whom you have had a discussion about end-of-life decisions. Talk about what you would and would not want at the end of your life."

2) Designate that person as your agent, preferably through a durable power of attorney for healthcare.

"In my view, the durable power of attorney is a better advance directive than the standard living will," says Mitchell, senior fellow at the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity

and a consultant for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The durable power of attorney, which requires notarization but not a lawyer, has some advantages over a living will. "The durable power of attorney becomes effective whenever a patient is unable to make decisions, not just when the patient is terminal," Mitchell says.

That means a person who is mentally incapacitated or in a coma, but not necessarily near death, would have an advocate as decisions are made. "He or she will want to act in your best interest and in a way that is consistent with how you would act if you were able to make your own decisions."

3) If you desire a further document to indicate your desires, complete a "Will to Live."

The NRLC offers the "Will to Live" as a pro-life alternative to the standard living will. "Be sure that your proxy decision-maker understands the provi-

sions in your 'Will to Live' and agrees with your decisions," Mitchell advises. "Advance directives are not the end of the story; they are the beginning. That is, they should be used to encourage you to talk about what you would want and would not want done medically at the end of life. The most important thing is that you talk to your loved ones, pastor, and doctor about your wishes."

The NRLC web site, www.nrlc.org, provides a version of this pro-life advance directive for each state. A new report on how closely advance directives are followed in the states also is available.

Also at the NRLC web site is the article, "Why Are You at Risk If You Don't Sign a Will to

Live?" by Burke J. Balch of the Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics.

"The Hippocratic Oath has not been taken at medical school graduations for well over two decades now," Balch notes. "The American Medical Association, regarded by most as the voice of organized medicine, has been in the forefront of those insisting that withholding of lifesaving medical treatment, as well as 'artificially' provided food and fluids, is appropriate medical practice." □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

First Baptist Church, Scottsboro, Ala., is seeking a full-time minister of music and worship leader (Sunday AM — live TV and radio). For more information, call (256) 574-3308 or e-mail musicsearch@fbcscottsboro.org. Send resume to First Baptist Church, c/o Minister of Music Search Committee, 215 South Andrews St., Scottsboro, AL 35768.

Lake Ridge Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music to lead both contemporary and traditional worship services for their 600 member church. Must have a college degree (master of church music desired) or equivalent experience. Please send resume, professional references, and salary requirements by Feb. 14 to Chairman, Personnel Committee, Lake Ridge Baptist Church, 12450 Clipper Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192 or e-mail to ministerofmusic@lakeridgebaptist.com.

Sharon Baptist Church of Knoxville is seeking qualified part-time minister of music. E-mail resume to sbcofknnox@frontiernet.net or mail to Music Search Committee, 7916 Pedigo Rd., Knoxville, TN 37938.

Worship pastor: evangelical, doctrinally-conservative Southern Baptist congregation in Murfreesboro, Tenn., a suburb of Nashville and located in one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, seeks a full-time worship pastor to direct a contemporary/blended worship ministry that includes praise teams and bands, choirs and ensembles, drama teams, and multimedia teams. Other pastoral duties would be shared with a staff of 7 other full-time pastors for a church experiencing dramatic growth with weekend attendance now averaging 1,200. Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years full-time experience directing worship ministry in a church setting. The ideal candidate will also have formal musical and/or theological education. Resume with references may be e-mailed to worship_pastor@comcast.net.

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.

An established vibrant church located in the fastest growing community in Middle Tennessee is prayerfully seeking the man God is calling to be our senior pastor. Send resume to Miracle Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 68, La Vergne, TN 37086.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Central Baptist Church, Spring City, Tenn., is looking for a part-time youth minister. If interested please send resume to P.O. Box 192, Spring City, TN 37381 or call (423) 365-6385.

Youth minister opening. Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 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.

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@fbcnj.org.



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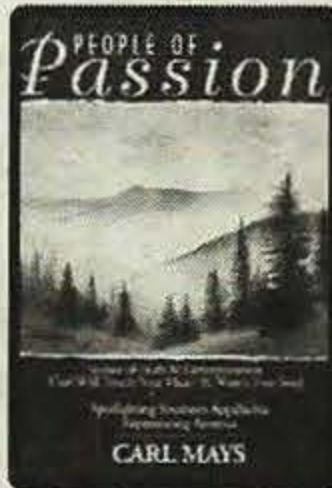
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Monday, September 25
PM 7:00 Welcome & Celebration
Carl, Sarah & Beverly
8:05 Break / Stretch
8:30 Citico Creek
9:30 Dismiss

Tuesday, September 26
AM 10:00 Celebration
Carl, Sarah & Beverly
11:05 Break / Stretch
11:30 Dennis Swanberg
12:30 Dismiss

PM 7:30 Triumphant Quartet
8:20 Break / Stretch
8:45 Triumphant Quartet
9:30 Dismiss


Wednesday, September 27
AM 10:00 Celebration
Carl, Sarah & Beverly
11:05 Break / Stretch
11:30 Dennis Swanberg
12:30 Conclusion - Dismiss

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Broadway Sound, Spiritual Depth

book review

By Dawn Ferguson

*The Preacher's Daughter*by Beverly Lewis
Bethany House, 2005

Louisa Stratford feels as if she's at the point of no return as she's watching her mother pick out \$200 bracelets as gifts for her bridesmaids and servers for her upcoming wedding. Louisa wanted a small, private affair, but because of the prestige of her family and her fiancée's family — that just wouldn't have been right. At least not in the eyes of her family. So her mother has taken over the exorbitant affair and has easily spent over \$100,000.

Following a brief confrontation with her fiancée about how she's not pleased with the way things are going — and then realizing that this really isn't bothering him, Louisa decides to call off the wedding and to escape the trappings of materialism by heading to Lancaster, Penn., where her long-time pen pal — Annie Zook lives. Louisa spends several months with Annie, who is Amish, learning and living the lifestyle of the Plain people and enjoying its simpleness.

But Amish life has its drawbacks. Getting used to bathing only once a week and sharing bath water — having no electricity and no automobiles — are just a couple of them. Louisa also has to try to understand the role of women in the Amish community — the value of family and relationships — and a God who absolutely demands nothing comes before Him.

Annie's father is the appointed preacher of the community. Annie, who is 20, should have already made a commitment to the church and become eligible for marriage. But something holds her back. It's her love for painting and art which is frowned upon by her people's bishop. Louisa is a skilled artist and together they share their love and spend time secretly creating art. For Annie, art is a sin — even though her paintings reflect the beauty of God's creation — because her people believe it puts the focus on her and not God.

Beverly Lewis creates a poignant portrait of life in an Amish community. Her heritage is Old Order Mennonite — which can be reflected in a couple of the characters in *The Preacher's Daughter*. But close Amish friends have evidently influenced her writing.

This is the first in a series of books planned by Lewis entitled "Annie's People" and is currently number three on the Christian bestseller fiction list, according to Christian Booksellers Association. Since it is part of a series, the ending is less than satisfactory — too many questions are left unanswered. But it's a delightful read — with just enough suspense, tension, and mystery to keep the reader interested. And it will cause the reader to reflect on the value our society places on things compared to the Amish — and their "simpler" way of living.

Above all, it may make readers stop and think about the many ways the first commandment has been broken and how many gods we have that we put before the one true God. □ — Ferguson is a correspondent for the *Baptist and Reflector*

Sexual purity matters

By Scott Linginfelter

Focal Passage: *Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Proverbs 5:15-20; Romans 13:11-14*

God saw that it was "not good" for man to be alone. Here is the first instance in all creation which was not good. Everything else was "good" because it was complete just the way God wanted it. Man was alone, and that was not the way God wanted it. God designed marriage at creation. After God created woman to be a "helpmate," thus completing man, His proclamation went from "not good" to "very good," a superior pronouncement to any other during creation. God designed marriage by creating one man and one woman for each other only, and for life.

Then God defined marriage by command. Verse 24 makes no mistake that it was God who defined marriage; not man, not the state, not even the church. In Matthew 19 Jesus Christ quotes these verses as the authoritative definition of marriage, including verse 24. Marriage is designed and defined by God and sex is to be reserved for the sanctity of marriage. All other forms of sex are excluded as illegitimate, including homosexual marriage, living together before marriage, adultery, and the like.

As a side note, and a personal conviction, Scripture points out to us that woman was created from a

rib from Adam's side. As Matthew Henry put it, "not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him." It seems to me that while sex outside of the bonds of marriage are equally sinful to both sexes, women are often the more demeaned by the act.

A man is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church. When a man fails to fulfill this obligation, and seeks sex outside of marriage, he takes woman from being his equal, and places her as a mere object to be used for his pleasure.

There are few things as sad or distressing to me as a young woman who moves in with a man before marriage. It wrecks her self-esteem, and dashes any respect she may ever have had for the man she is with.

Conversely, Proverbs makes clear the fulfilling nature of a marriage based on fidelity. The author likens faithful marriage to flowing water from a well. In an arid part of the world where springs and streams were rare, they were indeed prized possessions and a refreshing delight. In today's age, how much rarer than springs in a desert are marriages that last until death and are fulfilling and faithful from start to finish. Just as you wouldn't give up a fresh spring for something

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Jan. 29

less, so verse 20 reminds us of the folly of leaving your beloved spouse for another.

Romans guides us in how to go about remaining faithful and satisfied in marriage. Put on Jesus Christ, and don't make provision to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Clothe yourself in Jesus Christ daily. At the same time, don't even give yourself an opportunity to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Never, ever, ever be alone with a person of the opposite sex other than your spouse (dating singles, as well as married persons). Place your computer in an open area of the house where everyone can see what is on the screen. Don't frequent stores that sell adult materials. Whatever it takes, in whatever way you are tempted to stray, don't provide yourself with an opportunity to do so. Paul indicates that we will be tempted by the lusts of the flesh. When you are tempted, don't give in. Don't even allow for the possibility to give in. Remain faithful in marriage. Remain fulfilled in marriage. This is only possible by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. □ — Linginfelter is pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Maryville.

Consider others

By Eric Taylor

Focal Passage: *Romans 14:1-12*

David wrote, *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity* (Psalm 133:1). Yet today, some churches are more known for their disunity than unity, more famous for their fights than fellowships, and proudly major on the minors and minor on the majors. All this while the world is dying and going to hell.

One area of disunity is addressed by Paul in our text for this week. Based on Paul's admonition to the Roman church some believers were not treating their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ with the proper love and respect they deserved.

The church in Rome was a very diverse church made up of believers from all sorts of backgrounds. While that should have been a reason to celebrate it had become a problem for some. Things really don't change do they? Thus, Paul deals with the question, "What do mature believers do to help bring unity among diversity?" Mature believers ...

Receive the weaker Christian
(vv. 1-2)

Paul commands us to "receive one who is weak in the faith." You see, there were some Christians in the church at Rome who came from backgrounds that made them uncomfortable doing certain things that a more mature believer would have no problem. For the weaker

Christian, the issue of eating meat stemmed from their pagan background where meat was sacrificed to pagan idols and deities. For the weaker brother, they simply felt uncomfortable doing that so they opted for a lifestyle that prohibited meat.

Paul was telling the more mature believers to leave these people alone. This was a nonessential matter ("doubtful issues") that should not become an essential issue. You see, legalism makes doubtful issues essential issues. The legalist rejects the weaker brother while the loving and mature Christian receives the weaker Christian.

Respect the weaker Christian
(vv. 3-4)

There are two words in these verses that must not be missed. Paul tells the mature believer not to "despise" or "judge" the weaker Christian. Now "despise" means to show "contempt," "disdain," and even "hatred" for someone or something. The word "judge" at the beginning of verse 4 is also harsh. It means to "condemn" or "criticize."

These attitudes should not be present in the mature believer's life. Additionally, Paul gives a brief warning to the weaker Christian that they too not judge their fellow Christian.

Resolves to honor Christ
(vv. 5-9)

The key to understanding this section is verse 8: *If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to*

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Jan. 29

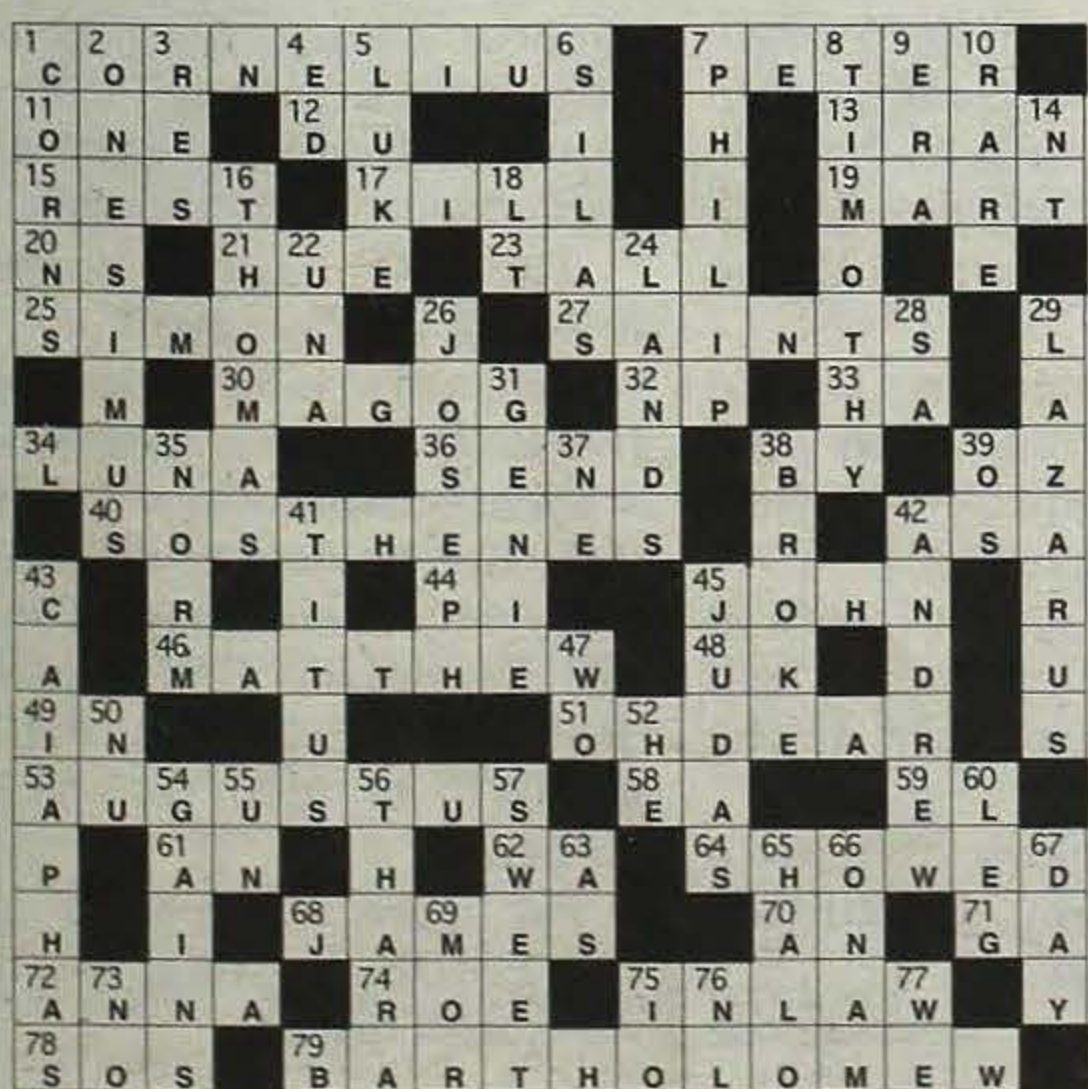
the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. When the believer understands that he or she is not an island unto himself or herself (v. 7) the natural outflow of that life will be a life lived "unto the Lord."

This is the whole reason Jesus died and rose again: that He might be our Lord and Savior in life and in death. Some believers act as if they can live unto themselves in this life and still be praised by others when they pass into the next life to stand before their Lord. We must resolve to honor Christ in this life if we expect the honor Him in the next.

Remembers the judgment of Christ, (vv. 10-12)

Paul's words are simple yet sobering. Since Jesus is Lord and we are not, we have no business to unjustly criticize or judge fellow believers. While it is true that we will not face the great "White Throne Judgment" (Revelations 20:11) we will stand before the "judgment seat (Bema Seat) of Christ" (I Corinthians 5:10) to give an account for our deeds.

It would do every believer well to remember the importance of God's call to accountability. □ — Taylor is pastor of First Baptist Church, Middleton.



Leaders

◆ **Flatwoods Baptist Church**, Holladay, recently called **Dewey Jones** as pastor. Jones has served as interim pastor since May 2005.

◆ **Poplar Springs Baptist Church**, Lexington, recently called **Brent McMinn** as pastor. McMinn and his wife Varsha have two sons.

◆ **Triune Baptist Church**, Arrington, honored **Carl Duck**, retired Nashville Baptist Association director of missions, Jan. 25 for his 60 years in the ministry. Duck has served as an interim pastor of several churches in Middle Tennessee and held several positions with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. He and his wife Bonnie have been married for 56 years and are members of Triune Church.

◆ **Eastwood Baptist Church**, Cookeville, has called **Bob Pharris** as its pastor. He previously served the church as its interim pastor for six months.

◆ **W. D. Thomason** of Murfreesboro recently retired after 47 years in the pastorate serving mostly Middle Tennessee churches. His most

recent pastorate was at Calvary Baptist Church, Lebanon. He is available to do supply preaching, interims, and revivals and may be reached at (615) 849-1063.

◆ **Central Baptist Church**, Fountain City, Knoxville, honored church member **Cleo Miller** with a "retirement" celebration Jan. 8. Miller has gathered aluminum cans, newspapers, and other recyclable items for 19 years and donated the proceeds to churches and Christian causes. She has given over \$84,000 to four churches and the Fountain City Ministry Center. She has been assisted in her projects by her Sunday School class and others.

◆ A team of 14 volunteers is serving Jan. 25 - Feb. 7 in the Republic of the Philippines for two weeks through the Cross Partners Ministry of Kenton. **Charles Pratt**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kenton, is president of the missions organization. The team is holding crusades and visiting schools, churches, and three Baptist associations on Luzon Island.

Churches

◆ **West Hills Baptist Church**, Knoxville, recently donated over \$1,493 to its Children's Christmas Mission Offering for the Heifer International Project. The gifts will give sheep to needy families around the world. Each sheep cost \$120.

◆ **Tennessee Baptist Regional Disaster Relief Training** will be held Friday-Saturday, March 3-4, at **Stevens Street Baptist Church**, Cookeville. Bring a sleeping bag or cot to spend Friday night. For information, contact the church at (931) 526-6398.

◆ **Sharon Baptist Church**, Knoxville, will hold its second annual women's

Serves church for 46 years

Robert McCray honored on retirement

For Baptist and Reflector

DANDRIDGE — First Baptist Church here held "Dr. Robert D. McCray Day" Jan. 8 to honor their minister of 46 years who retired effective Jan. 1.

McCray received recognitions from the City of Dandridge, Tennessee House of Representatives and Senate, Gov. Phil Bredesen, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Baptist Convention, International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

The church named him pastor emeritus.

Over 350 people filled the sanctuary and over 150 watched the recognition on closed circuit television in the Fellowship Hall. Former church ministers and staff members were present.

Donations were made in honor of McCray and his wife to TBCH. Rebekah Anne McCray also received a lifetime recognition award from the church and from Woman's Missionary Union.

A graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southern Baptist Theolog-

ical Seminary, Louisville, Ky., McCray received an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1982 from Carson-Newman.

He formerly was pastor, Pond Grove Baptist Church, Rockwood; staff member, First Baptist Church, Crossville; music director and interim pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Mission, Jefferson City; music director, Calvary Baptist Church, Bristol; and pastor of a church in Louisville, Ky.

McCray has served on several trustee boards, alumni and philanthropic groups, and taught off-campus classes at Carson-Newman.

He is a member of the TBCH trustee board and was a member of the TBC Executive Board, TBC Committee on Committees, and TBC Credentials Committee, and Baptist Health System of East Tennessee trustee board.

He also has helped lead the East Tennessee Pastors Conference and Jefferson County Baptist Association. McCray has served in other roles in the SBC while being involved in community service.

The McCrays have one daughter, Angela Bowlin; and two grandchildren. □



PHARRIS

conference, Friday - Saturday, Feb. 24-25 at the church. Entitled "My Heart ... God's Home," the event will feature Jennifer Mathewson and Natalie Beeler Elkins as leaders. For information contact Lori Marsh at (865) 925-2105 or Marcy Cox (865) 947-3254.

◆ **Kirby Woods Baptist Church**, Memphis, will host its annual Mid-South Men's Bible Conference Friday - Saturday, Feb. 24-25, at the church. Registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 13. For information on the conference, contact the church at (901) 682-2220.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Jackson**, plans to go the week of Jan. 30 to repair the New Orleans, La., home of the Richards family, their "adopted" Katrina evacuees. The church construction mission team will hang sheetrock, paint, and install electrical

outlets and breakers.

◆ **Hermitage Hills Baptist Church**, Nashville, will hold its kick-off for the second semester of Men's Fraternity with a Men's Wild Game Dinner, Saturday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. at the church. Special guest will be comedian Brad Stine. For more information, contact the church at (615) 883-5034.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Cookeville**, will hold a Prayer Conference Tuesday, April 4, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the church. Don Pierson of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff will speak.

Associations

◆ **Tennessee Valley Baptist Association**, Dayton, will

hold an evangelism conference Thursday, Feb. 9, at Smyrna Baptist Church, Evansville, at 7 p.m. Evangelist Phil Glisson of Memphis will speak.

Events

◆ **The Mid-South Royal Ambassadors**, Memphis area, will hold the Rags to Eternal Riches RA Racer Competition and Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 4-7 p.m. at Hope Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Miss. For more information and to register before the deadline of Feb. 16, go to the group's new web site, www.midsouthras.org, or contact Jeff Jenkins at (662) 895-9257 or the church office at (662) 890-4673.

DOM Strickland sets retirement

Baptist and Reflector

WHITWELL — Buddy Strickland, director of missions, Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association based here, will retire April 30. He has been DOM of the association for 12 years.

Strickland also has been pastor of churches in Tennessee for 10 years and Alabama for 14 years. In Tennessee he was pastor of South Whitwell Baptist Church, Whitwell; Ewtonville Baptist Church, Dunlap; and Deerfield Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

He and his wife, Laura, will retire in Arab, Ala., where he will do missions work, lead churches on a part-time basis, fish, and enjoy nine grandchildren. □



STRICKLAND



MEMBER OF FIRST Baptist Church, Sweetwater, Ann Taylor, center, gives a Bible to a recipient of the Christmas in Jefferson County Program. The program, developed by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, provides food to needy families. This year the church added 780 Bibles and 20 Bibles in Spanish. Taylor also is a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Memphis to host national meetings for medical workers, nurses

For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — All nurses, student nurses, and other health care professionals are invited to the national Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) meeting to be held on Thursday - Saturday, March 9-12, at the Memphis Hilton Hotel.

The BNF meeting is held in conjunction with the national Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship (BMDF) for physicians, dentists, and medical personnel which will meet simultaneously at the same site.

Linda Coakley, Tennessee BNF president, encouraged folks to attend.

"BNF offers nurses the

opportunity for Christian fellowship, prayer support, spiritual growth, professional continuing education, medical missions, and service opportunities," she said. Coakley is a member of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville.

The BNF meeting begins at 1 p.m. on Thursday.

For more information on the BNF meeting, go to the Woman's Missionary Union web site at www.wmu.com/getinvolved/ministry/bnf or call Tennessee BNF president, Linda Coakley at (615) 212-0370 or (270) 745-6350 for details.

For more information on the BMDF meeting, go to www.bmdf.org. □