

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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About 600 hear Blackaby, Porch concerning prayer

by Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

POWELL — The fifth annual Great Commission Prayer Conference of the Tennessee Baptist Convention drew 602 people to First Baptist Church here last weekend. Most stayed despite rain and snow which hit the area. Participants prayed, worshiped through music and video, and heard James Porch, TBC executive director, and Henry Blackaby. He was introduced by Don Pierson, TBC prayer coordinator, as one of the most influential figures in today's Christian church, according to George Barna, researcher.

Porch's first session

On Friday, James Porch spoke twice using biblical characters as examples of how to learn to be alone with God. He noted many people know they ought to spend more time alone with God, but they don't know how. Porch encouraged the crowd to live as a student of prayer, continually wondering what prayer is to them, and living expectantly. He referred to David, Moses, and Jacob for examples of how

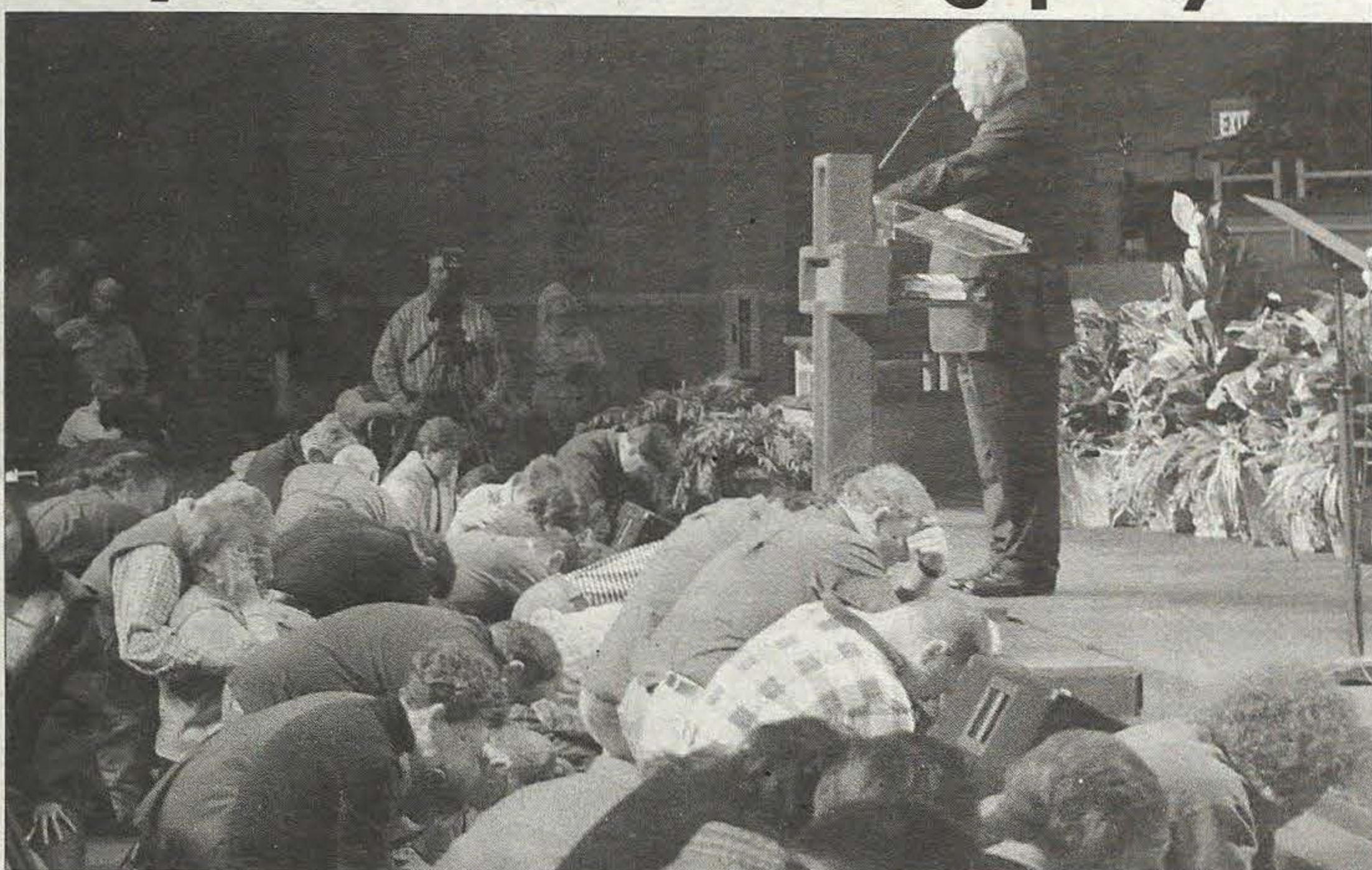
to learn to be alone with God. David, said Porch, was a disciplined, patient, good boy when he was chosen by God to become King. He also was a composer of music and author of psalms.

David knew about being alone with God when his troubles began with King Saul which led him to be a fugitive. He had struggles as King but his main struggle came from family troubles he started himself, said Porch.

Instead of joining his soldiers in war as was the custom, David stayed behind. One result was he committed adultery with Bathsheba. Then David responded by continuing to sin and suffer from his sin.

David also struggled when he decided to move the ark of the covenant without asking God and without following God's direction concerning the ark. Finally, David struggled at the end of his life when he ordered a census which was motivated by pride.

Life includes times of struggle for the Christian, said Porch. These are times when a person is "more vulnerable" and "the devil can creep in and rob us of being alone with God.



PEOPLE GATHER AT THE altar to pray while Henry Blackaby speaks during the Great Commission Prayer Conference held last weekend at First Baptist Church, Powell.

"We must be alone with God even amid the struggles of life," said Porch. Actually, in "our struggles we have much more likelihood to be alone with God."

Moses dealt with distractions before he could be alone with God, Porch continued.

The early life of Moses caused him to feel like a misfit. Moses had trouble fitting in with the Egyptians and the Hebrews.

Then he was distracted from God while he was a fugitive, said Porch. He went to Jethro's

family and was distracted by "a mundane, routine life," he continued.

But God was allowing Moses to develop some shepherding skills that he would use to lead the Hebrews from Egypt to the — See About 600, page 4

this week's news

New Jersey quilters aid Katrina-uprooted students at Union. — Page 2

Baptists from West Tennessee witness 10,065 professions of faith in the Philippines. — Page 2

Georgia paper reports that NAMB has failed to meet missions expectations. — Page 3

"Church Health Matters" deals with discipleship and leadership. — Pages 6-7

BHS of East Tennessee seeks to strengthen facilities

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — In a move to "streamline the organization," Baptist Health System of East Tennessee announced recently it is reducing its workforce by 23 people.

All eliminated positions are in management and support areas and will not affect direct patient care areas, according to a press release given to the *Baptist and Reflector* on Feb. 13.

"Reducing staff is never easy, however, we find it necessary to make these adjustments as we look to strengthen Baptist for the future," said Warren Payne, president and CEO.

"Our goal is to improve our organization's financial performance, while never compromising patient care."

Several employees affected have been offered positions within the organization. Others will be provided outplacement assistance.

The *Knoxville News-Sentinel* reported Jan. 30 that Baptist "has struggled financially in

recent years, reporting an operating loss of \$9.4 million on revenues of \$272.4 million in fiscal 2005. At the end of fiscal 2005, Baptist had about \$190 million in long-term debt.

Trustee chairman Richard Cramer of First Baptist Church, Concord, in Knoxville, told the *Baptist and Reflector* that the hospital has a positive cash flow and is current on its bond covenants and debt payments.

"We are not making enough money to keep up with the most modern health care equipment and technology," Cramer acknowledged.

"We need to do more than make debt payments. We need to generate enough capital to stay abreast of the technological marketplace," he said.

Payne took over as the head of BHS in December after longtime CEO Dale Collins stepped down in November, according to the *News-Sentinel*.

"Not unlike many other hospitals, we are in the process of 'right-sizing' our organization as we look to the future and determine how best to serve our

patients," Payne said in the BHS press release.

"With any business you need to ensure you have the right size organization to support its activities.

"We have focused these efforts in the management and non-patient care areas to avoid impacting the number of individuals attending to the patient at the bedside."

In January the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board heard a report on the financial condition of the hospital in executive session.

The hospital released the following statement after that meeting.

"Baptist Health System of East Tennessee continues to look at opportunities to strengthen the organization's financial and market position. The management team is conducting a thorough strategic planning process which includes initiatives to grow patient admissions and the evaluation of any opportunities for expanding services."

The statement noted the board of trustees appointed a

Strategic Positioning Task Force last September to evaluate potential opportunities to strengthen Baptist Health System for the changes that are occurring in a dynamic health-care industry.

"The over-riding goal of this process is to maintain Baptist's faith-based mission and heritage to ensure that the organization will continue to serve the community for years to come," the statement said.

"The Board has not approved the sale of any of Baptist's Hospital facilities and is under no financial pressure to do so. Baptist continues to enjoy positive cash flow from operations and has more than adequate cash reserves," the statement continued.

Baptist Health System is comprised of four hospitals, one nursing home, six senior health centers, HomeCare, and Hospice care.

Trustees of Baptist Health System of East Tennessee are elected by messengers at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □

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Quilters' kindness touches Katrina- uprooted students

Baptist Press

JACKSON — Students who transferred to Union University last semester as a result of Hurricane Katrina have been warmed by the kindness of New Jersey women they don't even know.

Kindred Spirits Quilters, from Hyewood Park Baptist Church in North Plainfield, N.J., made and sent 13 quilts to Union, one for each of the students displaced by Hurricane Katrina and two for the students' children.

Kimberly Brown of New Orleans, who will graduate in May, sent the group an e-mail thank you once she received the quilt, "and I told them that the group is really a spiritual group to think of other people."

"It's really good to know that there are other people in your corner when you are at your worst," Brown said.

Kimberly Thornbury, dean of students, at the Tennessee Baptist-affiliated university, said her mother, Carolyn Carmichael, who lives in New Jersey, told one of the Kindred Spirits Quilters, Mary Lou Kirtland, about the students who had transferred to Union because of the hurricane.

Kirtland said the group had been looking for a way to help the hurricane victims and, when she heard from Carmichael, she knew the quilters had found their project.

"I asked the other members of Kindred Spirits Quilters to produce either throw-size or bed-size quilts," Kirtland said. "We'd get them quilted, bound, and sent to Tennessee as soon as possible. We added a label to the back of each quilt with a Scripture verse of promise — and to let the recipients know that there are strangers who care for and are praying for each of them."

The verse attached to each quilt was Psalm 91:4, "He shall cover thee with his feathers and under his wings shalt thou trust."

Thornbury's campus office in Jackson recently received the labors of the Kindred Spirits Quilters and has begun distributing the gifts to students who were uprooted by Katrina. □

Wal-Mart required to sell 'morning after' pills in Mass.

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Wal-Mart will sell Plan B, an emergency contraceptive with abortion-causing properties, in its Massachusetts pharmacies after a state board voted to require the retail giant to stock the controversial drug.

In the Philippines

Tennesseans see 10,065 new Christians

For Baptist and Reflector

KENTON — A team of 13 mission volunteers serving through Cross Partners Ministry of Kenton have just returned from serving two weeks on Luzon Island in the Philippines. They saw 10,065 Filipinos make professions of faith in Christ and 460 others make other Christian decisions.

The Tennesseans worked with 33 Filipino Baptist churches. The team was led by Charles Pratt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Kenton, and president of Cross Partners Ministry.

Pratt has been leading teams to the Philippines over the past 17 years. Two of the three Baptist associations helped are located in the most populated province in the central part of Luzon Island. It is inhabited mostly by peasant farmers and fishermen.

Jerry Foster, layman of Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville, on his 16th trip said, "I was so blessed by being able to be a part of the CPM team and seeing the Lord perform the miracles of saving souls that I could hardly sleep each night while I was there. Our Lord is an awesome God."

Barry Enoch is a retired Navy Seal of First Baptist Church, Lafayette, on his first



2006 TEAM MEMBERS were, from left, front row, Lanny Abernathy, First Baptist Church, Newbern; Charles Pratt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Kenton, and team leader; Tony Michael, pastor, Bethpage Baptist Church, Kenton; second row, Randy Crews, pastor in Ashland, Miss.; Barry Enoch, First Baptist Church, Lafayette; Jonathan Pope, First Baptist Church, Newbern; Donald Williams, Beech Grove; Johnny Michael, pastor, RoEllen Baptist Church, Dyersburg; Eddie Wilbanks, Finley Baptist Church, Finley; third row, Jerry Foster, Zion Baptist Church, Brownsville; Mike Hopper, Zion Church; Tommy Griggs, Bethpage Church; and Bunny Bailey, Finley Church.

mission trip. He said the Holy Spirit "used me as a tool in His hand in the Philippines."

The Republic of the Philippines is a third world country which consists of 7,100 islands filled with about 80 million people, reported Pratt. CPM was developed to continue the Tennessee/Philippines Baptist Partnership which ended 17 years ago.

Team members gave away over 10,000 New Testaments, hundreds of complete Bibles, and over 26,000 gospel tracts. A

baptismal service was conducted in the South China Sea where over 150 candidates were baptized. They previously had attended discipleship training.

A highlight for Pratt was a visit to the American POW camp near Cabanatuan.

CPM also gave \$8,000 for a new church building for a seven-year-old church which had been meeting under a grass shelter.

Over 300 Filipino Baptists will follow up with the new Christians to connect them with churches, said Pratt. □

Wal-Mart is reconsidering its nationwide policy not to dispense Plan B, also known as a "morning-after" pill. Until now, the world's largest retailer has stocked the drug only at its pharmacies in Illinois, where Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich ordered its sale in all pharmacies last year.

Plan B, as well as another "morning-after" pill known as Preven, is basically a heavier dose of birth control pills. Under the regimen, a woman takes two pills within 72 hours of sexual intercourse and another dose 12 hours later. The "morning-after" pill not only works to restrict ovulation in a woman, but it can act after conception, thereby causing an abortion, pro-lifers point out. The method can block implantation of a tiny embryo in the uterine wall.

Wal-Mart spokesman Dan Fogleman confirmed the chain would stock Plan B in its Massachusetts stores and indicated its policy in other states was under review.

"Clearly women's health is a priority for Wal-Mart. So there are broader considerations, and we are giving the issue a lot of thought," Fogleman told Baptist Press.

If Wal-Mart were to change its policy on the "morning-after"

pill, it could dramatically reduce options for some pro-life Americans who refuse to shop at pharmacies where Plan B or Preven are sold. With more than 3,000 pharmacies in the United States, Wal-Mart is one of the country's largest retail providers of pharmaceutical drugs. In some communities, it operates pharmacies where there are few alternatives.

Karen Brauer, president of Pharmacists for Life International, said Wal-Mart and its customers need to take a stand.

"This is one of those things where it would be really good for the consumers that frequent Wal-Mart to give their opinion on this," Brauer told BP. "I think that people are going to have to stand up and say they don't want this. I really think Wal-Mart is big enough" to fight this, she said. "These companies that are giving in to the government, it's not going to enhance their business base."

Wal-Mart announced its policy change in Massachusetts, where it has 44 stores and four Sam's Clubs, after the state's Board of Registration in Pharmacy voted unanimously Feb. 14 to require the chain to stock Plan B, according to the Boston Globe. The board issued its ruling after three women sued Wal-

Mart Feb. 1 for not stocking the "morning-after" pill. □

Moral concerns advocate dies

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — Phil Strickland who served 38 years, including nearly a quarter century as director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission, died Feb. 11 at age 64 after a long battle with cancer.

According to his colleagues Strickland believed his mission was to provide a voice for the powerless in the halls of government and speak prophetically to Texas Baptists on moral and ethical issues. □

MPA debate set

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee said Feb. 10 that he would bring the Marriage Protection Amendment to the floor for debate the week of June 5.

The amendment would protect the traditional definition of marriage by preventing state and federal courts from legalizing "gay marriage." □

NAMB leaders dispute story on agency written in Georgia paper

Editor's Note: This story broke late last week. Because of its magnitude and the fact it is out across the SBC, the *Baptist and Reflector* staff reworked pages to report on this breaking story. The paper tried to be balanced in its approach. The length of the story and NAMB's response made it impossible to print both in their entirety. The *Christian Index* story is available online at www.christianindex.org. NAMB's response is available at www.namb.net.

Compiled from BP and ABP reports

ATLANTA — The number of career missionaries funded by the North American Mission Board has dropped 10 percent since 1997, according to a newspaper report, despite promises the restructured Southern Baptist agency would expand the mission work in America.

The decrease is among a number of efforts by NAMB that have failed to meet expectations since the Southern Baptist agency was formed in 1997, according to a news analysis by the *Christian Index* newspaper. Both NAMB and the *Index* are based in the Atlanta area.

Bob Reccord directed the massive Southern Baptist Convention restructuring effort in the mid-1990s and later was tapped to lead NAMB, the centerpiece of the new denominational structure. But NAMB has not lived up to its promises, the *Index* reported, and Reccord's leadership has raised concerns among Georgia pastors and former employees.

Other NAMB shortcomings cited by the Georgia Baptist paper are:

- A lack of a consistent evangelism strategy, illustrated by the failure of two national evangelistic campaigns.
- A loss of momentum in church-planting efforts.
- The outsourcing of jobs to a secular company started by a friend of Reccord's, while NAMB employees were laid off (see editor's note above).
- Potential conflicts of interest between Reccord's role as head of NAMB and his moonlighting ministry as a speaker and author (see editor's note above).
- A drop in NAMB cash reserves from \$55 million to \$23 million.

In a five-page, 2,500-word response, NAMB criticizes the story for a lack of balance and for not including NAMB's responses to key charges. Officials at the agency have known "for several weeks" that the *Index* was working on the story, the statement says.

"The North American Mission Board is extremely disappointed," the statement says, "that the (Georgia) *Christian Index* would by-pass accepted journalistic standards by running a story about NAMB that (a) hides behind anonymous critics' conveniently labeled as 'observers' or 'onlookers' or 'some who assert'; (b) fails to include NAMB responses to these criticisms as provided by NAMB Executives during a recent two-hour interview; (c) contains inaccuracies and innuendoes even after being told the facts by NAMB representatives; and (d) times the release of the article for maximum damage to North American missions."

"Labeling the story as 'an analysis' does not exempt its author from the standards of fairness and disclosure Baptists expect from their reporters."

The North American Mission Board was formed in 1997, essentially as a

replacement for the old Home Mission Board and two other entities. Expectations were high in '97 about the future, the *Christian Index* story states, but "Georgia Baptist pastors are wondering if those expectations have been met."

Counting missionaries

NAMB announced in January 2000 that it had reached the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 missionaries in North America. But the actual number of missionaries on the field depends on how you count them.

The number of long-term, NAMB-funded missionaries has actually dropped since 1997, the paper says, while self-funded volunteers now make up more than half of the missionary total.

NAMB regularly claims that more than 5,300 North American missionaries are funded through the SBC's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. A closer look shows only 2,942 are long-term missionaries funded by the offering. The remaining 2,422 — or 45 percent — are self-funded volunteers who serve through NAMB's Mission Service Corps.

When the Mission Service Corps was founded in 1977, its workers were categorized as volunteers. To avoid any confusion, the Home Mission Board (NAMB's predecessor) included them in the total missionary count but kept the volunteer designation. Volunteers had to serve a minimum of two years before they were listed in the missionary personnel count.

NAMB, on the other hand, removed the volunteer status, lowered the service requirement to only four months, and commissioned them as full-fledged missionaries — which blurred the line of who's who in the head count.

Meanwhile, the number of NAMB-funded career missionaries has actually declined by 329 since NAMB's first year — a drop of 10 percent — while the MSC volunteers have jumped by 827, or 34 percent.

NAMB acknowledged the number of non-volunteer mission workers — what NAMB calls "career" and "limited-term" missionaries — has declined since 1997. In a statement released to Associated Baptist Press Feb. 16, NAMB said the drop is explained by the rising cost of health benefits, a rash of recent early retirements, and the inability of state conventions to fund many jointly appointed missionaries.

But NAMB said the agency's classification of missionaries has been handled consistently and openly. "There is absolutely no deception in the way these missionaries are categorized or reported," the statement said. As for Mission Service Corps volunteers, "we are proud of the fact that we recognize these dedicated servants' commitment and calling by referring to them as 'missionaries,'" NAMB said.

NAMB says Mission Service Corps missionaries deserve to be included in the total count.

"MSC missionaries serve in many of the same mission roles that career and limited term missionaries do, but often in areas where salaries and benefits are not available," NAMB says in its statement. "We thank God that Mission Service Corps missionaries stand in the gap when funding is not available."

"What Now" campaign

In January 2003 NAMB announced the launch of the most extensive evangelistic campaign in SBC history. It was billed as the denomination's response to the widespread soul searching which the

nation was experiencing following the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

The "What Now?" campaign, tailored for both the United States and Canada, was built on a three-year strategy for personal revival and spiritual awakening. Tens of thousands of dollars were spent on the publication of leadership materials by NAMB and state conventions that were gearing up to prepare their laity for the campaign.

But the campaign failed to coalesce. Halfway into the effort, funding was pulled. But that important decision was not uniformly communicated to state conventions. And some state papers, like the *Index*, continued to publicize the national campaign for nearly a year after its demise.

In response, NAMB officials said the agency's representatives apologized for any confusing communications and explained NAMB discontinued the campaign, at the behest of state conventions, in order to avoid confusion for the local church caused by a number of SBC national initiatives.

The biggest holdover from the campaign — a one-year goal of a million baptisms — was resurrected last summer when SBC President Bobby Welch, who sensed a lack of emphasis on evangelism, launched his "Everyone Can" Kingdom Challenge.

But in June 2005 — during the same SBC annual meeting when Welch was launching his million-baptism theme — NAMB unveiled a new, improved evangelism initiative. Reccord announced the new "Who Cares?" campaign would begin in the fall of 2005 with a variety of television commercials dealing with life issues.

But as of mid-February, eight months after it was announced, there is still no sign of a campaign. No billboards. No newspaper ads. No radio or television spots.

NAMB said Feb. 16 "Who Cares?" was not another campaign but simply media support for the SBC-wide effort. Chuck Allen, NAMB chief operating officer, said the rollout had been delayed due to the Gulf Coast hurricanes, which overloaded NAMB staff with other responsibilities.

Financial problems

At the June 2002 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Reccord gave a progress report on the first five years of the agency's existence. The committee leading the SBC restructure anticipated \$34 million in savings during those early years.

"I'm here to tell you we didn't make it; we surpassed it, ... redirecting to front-line ministries a total of \$40,387,000," he said.

The redirected funds, he said, made possible Strategic Focus Cities church-planting and evangelism efforts (\$14.1 million), the Nehemiah Project (\$7.3 million) to train church planters, and other ministries. But the efficiencies in those early years have not carried over to future years, the *Index* said.

Meanwhile, NAMB has drawn down the cash reserves it inherited from the former Home Mission Board in 1997, despite lower overhead than the HMB. At its founding, NAMB had a \$55 million cash cushion for emergency operating costs. The balance is now \$23 million, a decrease of \$32 million in seven years.

NAMB has apparently swung between periods of erratic belt tightening and loosening. For example, in August 2003 it announced it was trimming its 2004 budget by 6 percent, eliminating 31

positions and reducing program support due to a softening economy.

But the following year, when staff was being asked to do more with less, NAMB launched the first of five college leadership conferences called Elevate.

NAMB confirmed to the *Index* that the 2004 conferences lost more than \$600,000. But rather than canceling the two conferences scheduled for 2005, the first conference was held at a loss and the second was cancelled. A fifth conference in the series, set for next month in Atlanta, has already been cancelled.

The programs, NAMB says, "frankly ... didn't do as well as we had planned."

"We admit we're not perfect," the NAMB statement said.

Church Planting

A look at church planting numbers shows a period of less than stellar growth for NAMB, given the efficiencies that were expected, the *Index* reported.

SBC church planting increased slowly yet consistently for the eight years prior to NAMB's launch. Under NAMB, congregational starts have been on a roller coaster ride. Its most recent year shows an increase of 132 church plants from the Home Mission Board's final year of 1996.

The most significant increase was for the years of 1999 and 2000 following Reccord's announcement of providing an additional \$2 million for church planting and evangelism. When those one-time funds were put on the field, results were almost immediate — church plants jumped 258 to a record 1,747 in the first year and baptisms jumped 12,078.

But when the funds were depleted, the momentum ceased and growth came to a standstill, the *Index* reported.

The agency disputed that assessment. NAMB officials said the last eight years included five of the highest years of church planting in SBC history. In its eight years of existence, NAMB has averaged 277 more church plants per year than in the last eight years of the HMB, the statement said.

NAMB officials said they were "extremely disappointed" with the *Index*'s article, which they said was timed to cause "maximum damage to North American missions," coming just before the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

"The article clearly was not intended to be an objective review of NAMB and its accomplishments and disappointments, but a highlighting of a few programs where we failed," officials said.

Paper endorses Easter offering, NAMB

The *Christian Index* article concludes by saying "NAMB remains the primary agency to lead the denomination forward in implementing a national strategy in evangelism and church planting."

"And while the missionary force continues to grow through volunteer labor — the future of its funded career force may continue to slide without increased giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering," the article says.

In fact, the *Index* story accompanies a sidebar from newspaper editor J. Gerald Harris encouraging its readers to give to the Annie Armstrong offering this year.

"This special report, written at the request of many pastors over a several month period, seeks to address some concerns of how the agency is working to reach the lost for Christ," Harris writes. "We want to affirm our commitment to NAMB and especially to our missionaries." □

About 600 hear Blackaby, Porch concerning ...

— Continued from page 1
Promised Land.

Moses was so distracted, said Porch, that God used a burning bush to get his attention. He ordered Moses to take off his shoes, possibly to keep him there, and turned his staff into a snake and then back into a staff.

The excuses Moses used also were distractions, noted Porch.

He added that on the way to Egypt, Moses referred to that shepherd's staff as "the staff of God." It was used many more times by God, added Porch.

Just like Moses, Christians might need to consider how "God is moving you from distracted to giving Him full attention."

Porch's last session

In the next session, Porch shared his personal praying perspectives.

The first is that praying "requires me to be authentic in the presence of the living God." At least by the time he finishes, he is "more Jim," he said, than at any other time. This is a good exercise, he added, because "genuineness is so needed in the world today."

The second is that praying requires him to be willing to be alone with God. Thirdly, praying demands that he allow the Holy Spirit to open his clenched fists into receiving hands.

Things in his job make him angry, he said. And so many churches have angry members. "You don't accomplish much when you're angry," he explained. He asks God "to make me a receiver."

He spends time with God in the evening and journals, though he doesn't have something to write every day.

Then Porch referred to Jacob's experience of being lonely to bring him to a point where Jacob

chose to be alone with God.

Jacob was a passive person, partly because he was manipulated by his mother and uncle.

Finally Jacob stands up to his uncle Laman when God tells him to go home to his family.

At times "you cannot have the freedom to have a real relationship with people but you can have a relationship with God," said Porch.

But then Jacob had to face his brother, Esau, whom he had tricked out of his inheritance.

Jacob was so fearful he divided his family and belongings. He also sent them ahead and stayed the night by himself.

Jacob probably had a migraine and muscle cramps, described Porch. During the night his hip came out of joint. But because he spent time alone with God, he got up and passed all of his family to meet Esau. He learned Esau had already forgiven him.

Porch asked if anyone had enmity or ill will against anyone.

He said he doesn't have "a 100 percent record" when trying to work things out with people, but "being alone with God can make it better."

Blackaby's ministries

Henry Blackaby also was introduced as the honorary chairman of the 2006 National Day of Prayer, May 4. A Canadian, he is the co-author of *Experiencing God*, author of many other books, and speaker.

In reference to the day of prayer, Blackaby asked the crowd to pray for the safety of our country. In his role, he has learned of the concern of officials at the Pentagon that another terrorist attack is imminent, he said.

He told how his organization, Blackaby Ministries, has given devotional books written by him to about 100,000 U.S. soldiers. He said he did it despite the fact he doesn't ask for contributions.

Another rare opportunity he has had recently was to speak to the United Nations five times, said Blackaby, which has led to a relationship with African leaders.

"I'd rather have God's purpose for my life than the biggest purposes that I could imagine."

Blackaby's first session

On prayer, Blackaby said, the "greatest single sin of a Christian is prayerlessness. To know the heart of God ... and not to pray is unthinkable."

Blackaby pointed to Hebrews 10:19, noting that Christians can enter the holiest by "a new and living way

which He consecrated for us.

"You'll know when you've drawn near to God ... especially when you pray," said Blackaby. "The incredible compassion of God has begun to immerse you. The holiness has come over you."

People can say to themselves, "I have looked on the face of Jesus." But they shouldn't unless everyone around them can see the transformation in their life, declared Blackaby.

Another sign of our relationship with God is our urgency, said Blackaby. He believes God is urgent about some things.

He doesn't believe prayer requires discipline. "Your love relationship with God ought to be the discipline," he stated.

Blackaby called on Christian parents to repent of giving "our children to the world" and "reclaim" them.

He is so thankful his five children and wife are in the ministry. He has written publications with each of them.

"Does anybody notice that you are being transformed because of your prayer life?" asked Blackaby.

He warned that people can be praising and "miss the heart of Jesus." He referred to Luke 19:41 which tells of one of the few times when Jesus cried over the Jews. Eventually, the Hebrews were so "destroyed" they couldn't remember where the temple was, noted Blackaby.

Do we recognize when God comes to us? asked Blackaby. God visits us, our children, our home, but we fail to recognize it.

He told of a revival which came to Canada after he and others prayed for it for two years. People involved returned items to stores because they had taken them unethically. People reported their misdeeds on income taxes to government officials.

Blackaby's church of 10 people grew and began starting other congregations, eventually 38. They did it through prayer, not by contacting the seminary for church planters, he explained. The church also started a theological college which had two students the first semester but eventually taught 450.

"I believe God is calling us to a new level of relationship, and transforming us in the relationship which comes pre-eminently when we pray."

Are we caught up in the "cultural way of praying?" asked Blackaby. Have you given God your lips but not "access to your heart?"

Blackaby's final sessions

Should we not tremble in God's presence, he asked. "When we are together He is among us," he said, referring to Christians.

He also noted we should tremble at His Word, the Bible. The Bible "lays bear all the thoughts and intentions of my



JAMES PORCH, left, TBC executive director, visits with Jordan Sim, Linda Sim, and Austin Reynolds of Meridzo Center Ministries, Lynch, Ky.



HENRY BLACKABY, center, author and speaker, visits after a session with, from left, Jordan Sim, Linda Sim, and Austin Reynolds of Meridzo Center Ministries, Lynch, Ky.

heart," said Blackaby.

The Bible is "not just a piece of literature." It is "inbreathed by the spirit of God," he said, "divinely inspired."

He pointed to a prayer of Jesus recorded in John 17:9. Jesus states He didn't pray for the world. In another Scripture Jesus says He came for "His own." Blackaby cited other Scriptures with the same message, which is that Christians should "protect the believers." They should be careful not to lose Christians from the church or fellowship of the faith.

Pastors who stop trying to retrieve members who leave have "lost the shepherd's heart," said Blackaby.

Christians also should try to help other Christians protect their families by keeping them from divorcing, said Blackaby.

How can Christians have the heart of God and "see a problem and not become involved?" God has designed the family and the spiritual family, the church, to help the members.

He said as a member of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., he approached a lady one Sunday during worship who was sobbing. He learned it was the anniversary of her husband's death. He prayed for her and she felt better. He said that was something anybody could do.

Blackaby also learns becomes acquainted with 15-year-olds at church and visits with them. He does this because he learned that most teens leave the church at age 15.

When church members don't

become involved, they choose not to become involved. They should remember they are covenant people with Him and with other Christians, said Blackaby.

He said the church should operate as a body in another way. When making a congregational decision, the body should pray together so the body's parts can hear the different perspectives of those parts. Then the decision can be made with full knowledge as a body, said Blackaby.

Praying is not getting God to do what we want Him to, he continued. "Prayer is designed to change you, not to change God."

Blackaby admitted he can't think straight and that he sins. So why should he think he should tell God what to do? asked Blackaby.

Christians don't even know what they ought to pray for, he noted. The Holy Spirit will guide you when you pray "into all truth," says John 16. He will also tell you what is to come, he added, to prepare you.

Blackaby encouraged the crowd to write notes, as they pray to record their thoughts and God's. They also should rise early to meet God because of the many references to doing that in the Scripture. Jesus did it even after particularly busy days.

Blackaby questioned the belief of Christians in the Great Commission if they haven't identified the commands of Jesus that they are supposed to be teaching to others. He added that Christians need to be taught, even how to pray. □



HENRY BLACKABY, author and speaker, speaks at the prayer conference.



JAMES PORCH, TBC executive director, makes a point while speaking at the conference on Friday.

Church fires reminder we live in an evil world



Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Most people have read about church fires that have been in Alabama. At least 10 churches have been burned and one is suspected.

I can remember a time when the White House was considered a sacred place, even by non-Christians.

People were reverent when they attended church and certainly didn't do anything to the building or property. That has changed as there have been numerous church arson cases in recent years.

In this most recent rash of fires, there appears to be no racial motivation. Half of the congregations whose buildings have been destroyed have been white and the other half black.

There seems to be no rhyme or reason as to why these churches were targeted. The

only common denominator is they are "Baptist" in one form or another. Four were Southern Baptist churches.

And, at this point investigators cannot really say if the 10 fires have been set by the same person or persons.

We are living in an age where people do not respect another person's property. We live in an evil, sin-filled world.

Remember, however, that God didn't cause or "let" these fires happen. They happened because people chose to sin — a choice mankind has had since

the beginning of time.

While we are saddened about the tragic loss of these buildings, we can take solace in the fact that the churches are made up of God's people who will bounce back from tragedy and continue to spread His Word in their community. You can destroy a building, but as long as the people are there the church exists.

Pray for the churches affected and pray that these senseless acts will cease and that those who committed the acts will be caught and punished. □

guest columnist



By Henry Blackaby

Compassion

I am often amazed at how lightly, even carelessly, too many people experience life. They know about the tsunamis and hurricanes with their devastation. They have seen the reports of the Pakistani earthquake. And, of course, they are aware of the many other natural disasters that have taken countless lives.

But the people remain unmoved. Their minds know about life, but their hearts are not moved at all. Very little emotional response is seen in them. They show no deeper understanding of life as God sees all of life!

The Apostle Paul was constantly urging the believers in his day to live out their lives with all seriousness. In Ephesians 5:15-17 he pleads: *See that you walk carefully, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore be not unwise, but understand what the will of God is ...* A fool walks (lives) carelessly. A wise person walks with great seriousness and a constant awareness of the times he lives in. He is also fully aware of the will of God in the midst of his world. He will experience or be fully aware of the tragedies in his day and discuss them with the wise counselors God has placed around him. He does not want to *love in word and tongue, but in deed and truth* (I John 3:18).

How do you as a Christian respond to life's great tragedies around those in your workplace? Do others see that you take all of life around you seriously as God directs you? Do you seek somehow to become involved personally? Do you respond with great personal passion and understanding? Do others, therefore, know with certainty that you care and that you will respond compassionately to what is happening in their lives?

Let it always be said of you that you live life fully aware of life around you just as Jesus did when he said: *Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the hairs of your head are all numbered* (Matthew 10:29-30).

God is fully aware of all that goes on, and He cares! Should we not take what is going on around you? Reflect the care of your heavenly Father before a watching world. Let the world be convinced that you notice and are touched by all of life around you and them. This will glorify God! □ — Blackaby leads Blackaby Ministries International, based in Atlanta.

Pre-planning beneficial when faced with loss of a spouse



By Sherree Stephens

Losing your spouse gives rise to many emotions. You may be reluctant to deal with financial matters, but the tax laws impose certain deadlines that if missed, lead to unintended results. Pre-death planning is ideal for it eases the emotional burden, allows a family member, trusted friend, or financial advisor to carry out necessary transactions in a timely and deliberate manner. Here are six tips that may help your planning.

1) Identify your "go to" person. Financial matters may call for a more experienced individual than a family member or

trusted friend. Even if your circumstances don't include detailed financial holdings, our tax laws are complex. Consider an experienced financial advisor.

(2) Know the location of important documents. You'll need certain documents almost immediately, such as insurance and burial policies, will and trust documents, deeds, security statements, brokerage statements, certificates of deposit, etc. An up-to-date list of necessary documents and their location allows family or advisors to take care of immediate needs.

(3) List your cash flow needs. You will need money for daily needs and ongoing expenses. Ideally, pre-planning would have addressed this need and you would have a three to six month "emergency fund." Untimely liquidation of assets can result in unplanned losses.

Verify the amount in checking and savings accounts as these generally are your most liquid assets. It will take longer to receive insurance proceeds and retirement plan assets due to requirements like submitting a certified death certificate and completing related forms.

(4) Contact the Social Security Administration. You may be eligible for Social Security benefits, including benefits for minor children, if applicable. Log onto www.ssa.gov to learn about Social Security or call 1-800-772-1213 to talk with a representative about your specific benefits.

(5) Check your credit. This is especially important if you are not the one who has paid the bills. You'll need to know the status of credit card liabilities, loans, mortgages, etc. Notify these entities of your spouse's death and cancel cards now. Be

sure to ask if there are any death benefits before you close out the account. Watch your mail for the first 90 days to insure that memberships and accounts are closed and you don't incur late fees.

(6) Set your own budget and goals. This may be the most difficult task to complete. You have choices to make. Perhaps you'll return to work or go back to school. Maybe moving closer to family members makes sense. If finances permit, you may want to retire or travel.

Whatever lies ahead, you'll need a budget. Have a systematic approach, one that you can manage or rely on those around you who are knowledgeable and trustworthy. □ — Stephens is a certified employee benefits specialist and director of executive and institutional benefit design for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Church Building and Finance Conference

March 16, 2006; 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville

Is your church planning to build or remodel? Does your church need to make better use of its facilities? Do you need financial assistance for these goals?

This conference is designed to provide information, training, and resources for churches that will enable them to better plan to minister in their community, utilizing their facilities as a tool for ministry. Featured

topics include: Leading Your Church Through the Planning and Building Process, Master Planning for Long-Range Growth, Planning a Building Project: A Look at Total Project Costs, How Churches Finance Church Buildings, Rules of Thumb, and Multi-Use Church space.

Conference Speakers — Richard Barr and Stephen Lee, architects; Dennis Moses, vice president, church loans division, Bank of the West; Archer Thorpe, leadership development specialist, Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Meet and interface with our sponsors — Virginia Church Furniture; Mediaministry SOLUTIONS (video production); Hallmark Insurance; Richard Barr and Company (architects); Bank of the West; Master Financial Resources (capital campaigns), AVCO (audio/video technologies), and North American Mission Board Church Loans Division.

Registration fee is \$20 and includes lunch. Register and pay online at www.tnbaptist.org, or mail payment and form by March 10 to Archer Thorpe, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. For more information, call Thorpe at (615) 371-2017 or e-mail him at athorpe@tnbaptist.org.

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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.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Salem Baptist Church, Trenton, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for a full-time pastor position. Please send resume to Salem Baptist Church, P.O. Box 346, Trenton, TN 38382. Post to the attention of Josh Johnson.

MISCELLANEOUS

Want to purchase: 2 or 3 octave set of handbells for donation to Baptist mission in Brazil. Contact Tony Martin, Central Baptist Church, 300 N. Roan St., Johnson City, TN 37601, (423) 926-7121.

MINISTRY — DOM

Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association (27 churches) in southeast Tennessee seeking God's man to replace retiring DOM. Send resume to fbcspn@aol.com or Rev. Charlie Cambell, 306 Fifth St., South Pittsburg, TN 37380.



Church Health Matters

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

DISCIPLESHIP Matters

One of the common denominators of church health is healthy leaders. This week's issue speaks to leader health.

Your state missionary staff is here to equip church leaders. Included below is the contact information for members of your state missionary staff who focus their ministry on leadership.

Career Assessment

Bill Northcott(615) 371-2099

Spiritual Formation of a Leader

Tim Holcomb(615) 371-2055

Leadership Skills Development

Jerry Essary(615) 371-2059

Ray Gilder(615) 371-7907

Steve Holt(615) 371-2019

Willie McLaurin(615) 371-2011

Mark Miller(615) 371-2048

Archer Thorpe(615) 371-2017

Lay Leadership

Ken Marler(615) 371-7934

Mark Miller(615) 371-2048

Gene Williams(615) 371-2064

Church Administration

William Maxwell(615) 371-2024

Richard Skidmore(615) 371-2009

Lana Rose(615) 371-2008



A Personal Lesson in Healthy Leadership

By James Porch

I don't buy in to the exclusively "born-leader" stuff. Assuredly, leadership qualifies as a gift from God. Absolutely, God expects His bestowed talents to be nurtured. So, I really come down strong on the side of Leadership Development.

More specifically, I subscribe to the belief that most of a leader's ability reflects a personal learning process combining knowledge of biblical leaders and leadership principles complimented by experience.

Possibly a personal experience can clarify my conviction. Years ago our family took a rambling vacation through the great American West including travel through miles of desolate semi-arid territory. One afternoon while driving on a two-lane, very straight hill and vale road, I caught sight in the distance to my right a large flock of sheep. Gradually, they moved toward the road. Coming closer, I recognized the flock moved in the care of a lone shepherd.

The area, designated as open-range country, entitled the sheep to move across the road necessitating traffic to stop and wait. Everyone except me snoozed in the van, and judging from the size of the flock, I anticipated being the sole witness to a long and boring sheep migration.

The flock moved in a milling and circular movement around the lone shepherd. The shepherd continually and methodically walked intentionally in his chosen direction. The shepherd moved the sheep from one side of the road to the other constantly maintaining the unity of the flock as he led them in his chosen direction.

Once the flock crossed the road, I recovered from their mesmerizing effect and slowly drove on down the road. Reflecting on the incident in my analytical manner, I realized I had witnessed my best-yet lesson on pastoral leadership throughout my ministry. It was:

Lead from the Middle.

The shepherd did not call the sheep to follow or urge them to stay ahead of him. He

chose, intentionally, to limit his contact solely to the middle of the flock. Gradually as sheep moved forward, different ones would come close to him and then wander away. Apparently, a strong sense of accessibility the leader prevailed.

Maintain the Sense of Direction.

Throughout the minutes of my vigil, I saw a shepherd honoring his own chosen path. Possibly he had in his mind a picture of destination. A leader of persons needs to know where he is going. But, unlike a shepherd, a leader has the responsibility to inform his people where they can go together.

Eliminate Distraction.

This lesson, while connected to the previous one, bears distinction. Our current society lends little, if anything to encourage a leader to strike his trail and keep to it. Instead, it leads in opposition to threatening and opposing voices, personal agendas marketed by power brokers, and the naysayers who complain, "we can't do it." Blessed, though, is the leader who keeps leading to his own beat his own drum.

Recognize Your Caretaker Responsibility.

The sheep demanded total care from the shepherd. The church leader's responsibility stops short of creating crippling dependence. A wise leader cares with the intent of enabling his followers to rise to the point of becoming a caregiver.

Nurture Patience.

The shepherd respected the pace of his sheep. He knew how fast and how slow they could travel. I understand shepherds mark the cadence of the moving flock by the ability of the slowest sheep. While such an approach comes over quite contrary to "models of quick-fix ministry," the value of carefully pacing the flow of the flock toward a destination intensely assures all God's people will arrive together.

This leadership lesson blesses me. So I would say I don't always use it. Well, I am human also. And quite possibly, there are insights to the sheep and shepherd even that I've yet to discover. Remembering the insightful words of Frank Staggs, professor of New Testament at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana, "No take this, and see if you can do something with it."

How to Facilitate Coaching Leaders and Congregations

by Jerry Essary



No, not that kind of a coach.

Not long ago I introduced myself to someone as "coach." Their immediate response was "What am I?" This is not an unusual response, because most consider a "coach" as being a person who coaches athletes in some sport.

It may surprise you, but many people are trained and certified as coaches who help people in a wide variety of ways. Some of these coaches may present themselves as executive, management, or team coaches, and others as life, leader, or congregational coaches.

"Coaching" has become of growing interest to many leaders, secular and faith based, in recent years. Gary R. Collins in his book *Christian Coaching: Helping Others Turn Potential Into Reality* says, "At its core, coaching is the art and practice of guiding a person or group from where they are toward the greater competence and fulfillment that they desire."

Edward H. Hammett in his book *Spiritual Leadership in a Secular Age* says, "Coaching offers hope, focus, accountability, and a pathway of leadership development and discipleship that produces quality for a postmodern culture, and guidance for churches struggling to be relevant in a rapidly changing and challenging world."

Coaching should not be confused with counseling,

mentoring, or consulting. Coaching does not involve making a diagnosis or even giving advice. Coaching is about action and moving forward. Coaching can be reduced to three parts: getting a handle on where the person is at the present, focusing on what he or she wants in the future, and finding ways to get there.

As a coach you do not need to be an expert in the areas that would concern the person you are coaching. You do need to be able to listen, understand, and guide a person as he or she looks at their own situation, reaches conclusions about what to do, and then takes action as you guide as an encourager and cheerleader.

The coach never works off his or her own agenda. Coaching is always about what the person being coached wants to be coached around at that particular time. Coaching is about asking powerful questions that help the person being coached begin to move forward one step at a time. The coaching process is a great tool to unlock maximum potential for greater performance. Coaching raises awareness and stimulates responsibility.

Why would someone use a coach? Collins lists the following simple reasons: a guide in your spiritual journey, to grow through some of life's transitions,

build skills, build team, stimulate vision, speak the truth in love, and facilitate improvement.

What benefits would a Christian leader or congregation receive from a coaching relationship? Hammett suggests the following: coaching helps the Christian leader to achieve more in less time with greater life and ministry satisfaction; go where they have not gone before; grow forward in faith and function; reach their full kingdom potential in life and ministry. It moves the leader and congregation from dialogue to action by accelerating the pace and depth of learning, transitioning in areas of ministry, and clarifying spiritual and strategic journeys.

The coaching leader is really a servant leader. It takes a lot of time, and is hard work. Out of the leadership and discipleship models, I have tried over the years nothing has given me more satisfaction than "coaching."

If you or your congregation would like to know more about coaching, contact any one of the Church Health Group ministry strategists on your state missionary staff. All four are certified coaches. They are: Archer Thorpe, Mark Miller, Steve Holt, and myself. Contact us at 1-800-558-2090.

What is ReFocusing?

Somewhere between the list of unfinished tasks and the tyranny of the urgent is God's vision and call in your life and your church. It's time to reFocus.

But leaders need a place, a process, and a plan to hear a fresh call from God. They need to surrender to His voice and receive the necessary resources to lead their churches forward.

It's time to reFocus. Whether you and your church are at a crossroads, have plateaued in your development, or need to chart the next chapter, ReFocusing can make a difference. ReFocusing empowers church leaders to rediscover God's purposes and reposition their ministries for greater mission effectiveness.



What are reFocusing networks?

ReFocusing networks are safe-place learning communities where a spiritual discovery process integrates the leader's calling, character, and competency. The result is personal renewal and local church transformation.

In a reFocusing network, leaders gain strategic focus, skills training, personal coaching, peer mentoring, and accountability. The network empowers harvest-focused leaders to lead harvest-focused churches.

Phase one of the reFocusing network is personal renewal precedes corporate renewal.

In phase one, pastors and congregational leaders experience personal renewal as they surrender afresh to God's rule in their lives and clarify their personal calling.

Phase one of the reFocusing network consists of a launch retreat and five monthly network meetings

for pastor, plus a Focused Living retreat for congregational leaders.

The benefits of phase one are:

- Clarity and confidence regarding God's unique personal call to pastors and congregational leaders;
- Discovery and insight into the process God uses to develop leaders;
- Peer coaching and mentoring;
- Empowerment of a leadership community of leaders within the church;
- Restoration of hope and courage.

Phase two of the reFocusing network is corporate renewal leads to a greater harvest.

Phase two is about strategic leadership. Pastors and church leaders are equipped with leadership skills and a spiritual process for leading their church through change and back into the harvest.

Phase two consists of a launch retreat followed by six monthly network meetings with individual

coaching for pastors. In phase two, congregations hold three leadership summits as they bring strategic focus to their ministry.

The benefits of phase two are churches are empowered to answer eight strategic questions. They are:

- Why do we exist as a church? (Biblical Purpose)
- How has God worked in our past? (Ministry Milestones)
- Whom has God called us to reach? (Ministry Focus)
- Who has God shaped us to be? (Core Values)
- Where is God leading us in the future? (Vision)
- Which model most facilitates our vision? (Ministry Model)
- How will we accomplish our vision? (Goals)
- What is our ministry plan for the next five years? (Ministry Plan)

For information on reFocusing, contact TBC Ministry Strategist/Leadership, Archer Thorpe, at (800) 558-2090 ext. 2017.

IMB officers seek to withdraw SBC request to remove trustee

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The executive committee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's trustees has decided to ask the full board of trustees to consider a motion that would reverse the motion passed at its January meeting to recommend the removal from office of trustee Wade Burleson of Oklahoma.

The trustee executive committee — which consists of the board's chairman, first and second vice chairmen, recording secretary, and chairmen of the board's five primary standing committees — met in Atlanta Feb. 10 to review the Burleson action.

IMB trustee chairman Tom Hatley will ask the trustees to consider reversing the motion passed in executive session during their Jan. 9-11 meeting in Richmond.

After the January meeting, Hatley stated the action was taken because of issues involving "broken trust and resistance to accountability, not Burleson's opposition to policies recently enacted by the board." Southern Baptist Convention messengers elect trustees to convention boards and entities

at the convention's annual meetings. Without a motion to reverse the vote of the January meeting, the IMB trustee recommendation related to Burleson would be acted upon at the SBC's June 13-14 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

Hatley will make the recommendation for a motion to reverse the approved removal motion at the trustees' next full board meeting, scheduled for March 20-22 in Tampa, Fla. He issued the following public statement Feb. 16:

"As chairman of the International Mission Board, it is my intention to ask our board of trustees to reverse our action in January recommending to the Southern Baptist Convention in June that Wade Burleson be removed from office as an IMB trustee.

"We have determined that we have the ability to seek management of these issues through internal processes that were not known during our January meeting. We have never reached this stage of conflict before and did not know of all our options until recently.

"I have consulted with our board officers and our standing committee chairmen, and they agree with me that we should

move forward with a motion to withdraw our request for SBC action.

"As a board, we continue to affirm our missionaries, our president and our staff, and we stand with them in leading Southern Baptists to reach the harvest fields of our world.

"We also want to praise the Lord for the generosity of His churches in supporting missions. More than ever we are seeing the peoples of the earth responding to the gospel. Our focus will not be diverted; we will continue to exponentially increase our impact around the world until every person has heard the story of our wonderful Savior.

"Please note that in the near future I also intend to clarify the recently adopted guideline on baptism and the policy concerning tongues and private prayer language for missionary candidates by addressing the historical and theological framework in which those decisions were made."

The last sentence of the statement refers to two measures adopted by IMB trustees at their Nov. 14-17 meeting last year in Huntsville, Ala. The trustees approved a policy stating that a missionary candidate

eliminates himself or herself from IMB service if he or she has the practice of tongues or a "private prayer language" as an ongoing part of his or her conviction or practice. They also adopted a baptism guideline stating that future missionary candidates must have been baptized in a church that practices believer's baptism by immersion alone; does not view

baptism as sacramental or regenerative; and that embraces the doctrine of the security of the believer. Except clauses were included in the guideline and the policy in special situations.

Neither the guideline or the policy is retroactive and neither will be applied to one already in the appointment process. □



Freeman leads C-N chapel

Former TBC President Roger Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, led chapel recently at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. After the session he talked with C-N students Nicholas Cook, center, and Bryan Hair, left, about his recent trip to Israel. The two C-N students happened to be in Israel at the same time and just missed Freeman's group at several locations. — Photo by Mark Brown

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truck a nerve

There are times when something strikes a nerve that cannot be quieted.

In the Feb. 1 issue of the *B&R* there appeared an article about how LifeWay could assist churches in negotiating to sell people space to telecom companies. The article did not say, but understand that many of the antennas used today are hidden from sight. Regardless of whether the antennas are obvious or obscure, I am upset.

I believe that God's house is God's house. I believe that we, the church, are His bride. I believe that we are called to holiness, purity, and perfection. I believe our worship of God is to be mingled with love, fear, reverence, and actions. I believe that we trust God and seek Him so that He will meet our needs. I believe that God is capable of meeting His needs. I believe that God's house should be a house of prayer. I believe that there is something special about God's house that makes it more than a piece of real estate. I believe that we should honor Him in every way that we can imagine.

While we are the church and the building, we treat our building with respect to glorify God and to not desecrate His name.

There are countless ways we could use God's house to start businesses of various types. I believe that God is not interested in our creative financial genius, but rather I believe He is interested in the full commitment of our heart to Him. If the church feels led of the Holy Spirit

it to find business opportunities to support the kingdom work, perhaps we should look beyond His house to do it in.

I believe that most will recall something Jesus had to say about commercializing His Father's house (John 2:16).

Paul Forster
Dyersburg 38024

Not charismatic

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that the dean of Criswell College will not have his contract renewed, in part because he practices, not as a Southern Baptist, but as a charismatic.

The report notes, in part, "Southern Baptist churches are not charismatic churches," according to college president Jerry Johnson. Johnson added that while Criswell enrolls students from charismatic backgrounds, faculty and top staff are expected to toe the line on Baptist beliefs.

That may not be the best choice of words since every Christian is "charismatic" in the sense of having received "charisma" or "gifts" from the Spirit by which to do ministry. Rather, "Southern Baptists are not 'charismatic'" may have been more accurate.

It looks to me, though, that the Convention will have to discuss the "charismatic resurgence" in the SBC. The danger of that "resurgence" is its theologically unfounded basis. The claim of the charismatic that the grace of salvation is insufficient and requires the second grace of "baptism in the Holy Spirit" (as

though that were an operation of God separate from salvation) is nonscriptural. Indeed, it is anti-scriptural.

As I've mentioned before, I have no problem with Pentecostals. If a person wishes to be a Pentecostal or a charismatic, they are more than free to do so. But persons who occupy Southern Baptist pulpits and lecterns and positions of authority on boards and committees should not be "Pentabaptists."

Jim West
Petros 37845

Timely article

Thank you for including Jerry Foust's "Consider Scripture Before Terminating Ministers" in a recent edition of the *B&R*. His is a timely word because there is either much misunderstanding or just plain disregard for what the Scripture has to say about the termination of pastors.

While I agree with much of what Rev. Foust said, I found his article to be lacking in one major area. Throughout his column, he never made the first reference to I Timothy 5:17-20 — the clearest New Testament reference on how to deal with a pastor when possible termination is in view. At the onset of the passage, Paul says that "elders (pastors) who rule well" are to be counted "worthy of double honor" (v. 17). One of the facets of such honor is the compensation of the pastor, as demonstrated by verse 18 of the text. Double honor also stipulates that no church should "receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses" (v. 19).

The aforementioned verse provides at least a couple of principles that should govern the pastoral termination process. First, a pastor is not to be terminated for just any reason — the context clearly indicates that any accusation brought against an elder should address some issue of immorality. Therefore, personality conflicts, differences of opinion, etc. are not sufficient reasons to terminate a pastor.

Further, all such accusations of immorality must be supported by the testimony of at least two or three witnesses. Thus, gossip, rumors, innuendo, and the like are not satisfactory means of bringing an accusation against a pastor. A church should never receive an accusation against a pastor that has its roots in fiction — everything must be supported by the facts. If an allegation brought against a pastor is found to be true, the church has a command it must follow and a decision it must make. The church is to rebuke the erring pastor "in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear" (v. 20). Then, the church must decide if the pastor's sin requires that he be fired. The only way a church can make such a decision is to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit whom Christ promised would "guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

This issue of pastoral termination strikes close to home for me because I currently know of two ministers who are facing impending termination in the churches they serve. From what I have witnessed, neither of them have been found guilty of any type of egregious sin — rather, they have simply rubbed a few of the "decision-makers" the wrong way.

Perhaps if more churches would acquaint themselves with what God's Word has to say about the calling/termination of ministers, there would be much less division in the churches and many more souls added to the kingdom of God.

Todd Stinnett, pastor
Grace Baptist Church
Morristown 37815

Accountable

The Feb. 8, edition of the *B&R* contained an article by editor Lonnie Wilkey that reflected upon recent events involving an IMB trustee. The article contained a statement that I think applies to trustees within our state convention also. Wilkey stated, "Trustees and convention leadership sometimes forget who 'pays the bills.' Southern Baptists who give sacrificially through the Cooperative Program with their tithes

and offerings have a right to know what goes on in their entities." It seems the same thing is happening in the TBC.

The trustees of some institutions have forgotten about the many Tennessee Baptists who sacrificially give to support their endeavors. These sacrificial givers believe in quality, Christian higher learning, and demand that their CP dollars support such.

It is time for our trustees of the various entities within the TBC to recognize that Tennessee Baptists are demanding accountability; and it will happen. They "pay the bills" and they are going to find out the truth about how their money is being used. Accountability to the convention is a must in all of our institutions and the messengers have been calling for a standard to be set. They will begin crying even louder!

The BF&M 2000 is the standard for SBC entities and should be for TBC entities. It is time to "affirm" and not merely "recognize" this important document which identifies the values we hold in common as Southern and Tennessee Baptists. It is time to demand that our trustees hold to these values. It is time to demand that the professors at our colleges hold to these values. As Wilkey stated, Tennessee Baptists "have a right to know what goes on in their entities."

Jason Guthrie, pastor
First Baptist Church
Flintville 37335

Keep traditional

Today we are seeing among our evangelical pastors the pulling of our Baptist churches into the contemporary movement.

I do not believe that a born again preacher can join this movement. Compromising God's Word just to attract the heathen is blasphemy. Two pastor friends from Arkansas shared with me about recent events at their state convention's annual meeting. They were asked to stand and sing and sway to the beat of contemporary music. Then a pastor preached a message titled, "This Ain't Your Granny's Convention Anymore."

Upon request I received a copy of the message on tape and it was a pep rally for Rick Warren's purpose-driven church. Baptist churches all over the convention have jumped onto Warren's train.

I would not trade one "Granny" for all the contemporary preachers in the SBC, including Rick Warren.

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

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N.C. paper to elect four directors to fill '06 openings

Baptist Press

CARY, N.C. — The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's *Biblical Recorder* intends to fill the four openings on the newsjournal's board of directors this year with their own selections.

The move utilizes a provision added to the convention's bylaws in 1992 which, as described in a Feb. 1 news story in the *Recorder*, permits "each affiliated college, institution, or agency to nominate up to 50 percent of its trustees or directors. In return, the entity gives up a similar percentage of its funding from the BSC during the time those directors serve."

A loss of \$400,000 in state convention funding could result from the move over a four-year period, the *Recorder* acknowledged.

Tony Cartledge, the *Recorder's* editor-president, said in the article that the move was prompted by circumstances last year in which the convention's Committee on Nominations presented to the convention messengers only two of eight individuals who had been recommended by the *Recorder* for four positions on its 16-member board.

"As for why these good people were excluded, all we have to go on is the chairman's statement to Conservative Carolina Baptists that the committee wanted

to put more conservatives on the *Biblical Recorder* board," Cartledge said in the article.

"In most other state conventions where agenda-bearing conservatives have gained control of the state paper's board, they have either muzzled the editor through censorship, or replaced him with someone who could be counted on to promote the party line," Cartledge said. "A free Baptist press was lost in those conventions."

The *Recorder* article noted that typically each year, presidents of each BSC entity "present the committee with a list of potential trustees that they believe will best serve the interests of their organization. The list generally includes twice the number of trustees or directors to be elected, in priority order."

The *Recorder* was the only convention entity, the article stated, for which directors were nominated apart from its recommendations, although several entities' higher-priority recommendations were passed over for individuals further down on their list. □

WMU leaders share 'More Than Gold' message

Baptist Press

TURIN, Italy — A team of 11 women from Woman's Missionary Union are here this week sharing their faith as they interact with people from all over the world at the 2006 Olympics in Turin. They plan to return Feb. 26.

The volunteers are partnering with More Than Gold, the organization that coordinates evangelical efforts during the games, with most of their work involving street evangelism.

"There are all kinds of activities that go on around the Olympics, so we'll get in lines and go into the activities and talk to people," Andrea Mullins, publisher for WMU's New Hope book division and team leader for the trip, told Baptist Press.

The WMU women from various states will offer to give away More Than Gold pins, which have been used at previous Olympics and are specially

designed to foster a presentation of the gospel.

"We'll say, 'I have a pin that represents my organization. I'd like to give it to you.' Our pins are just beautiful, and no one ever turns them down," Mullins said.

"When we give it to them, we'll say, 'Can I tell you what it means and what it stands for?' And they always say, 'Sure.'"

Along with the More Than Gold pins, volunteers will distribute gospel tracts produced specifically for the Olympics, complete with a list of the venues and a place to keep track of the scores and results. Information about some Christian athletes also is included, Mullins said.

WMU uses only Olympic-themed witnessing materials when they travel to the Games, Mullins said, and they're very

high quality and attractive that people will be interested in reading them.

The WMU team also has Testaments and tracts printed in both Italian and English which will be distributed. Opportunities arise, according to Mullins. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Director of music, part-time, full-time. Salary to be negotiated. Applications now being accepted. Send resume to Eastman Baptist Church, Attn. Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 3, Riceville, TN 37370 or call (423) 462-2620. For more information see our web site: www.eastmanalee.com.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

SBC church seeking a full-minister of music for choral instrumental programs for ages. Requirements include college degree in music plus years experience. Additional years of experience may be substituted for college degree. Send resume postmarked by March 10 to Unity Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, 229th St., Ashland, KY 41101.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church of Thomas, Ga., is seeking a full-time minister of music. For job description see www.firstbaptistthomas.org/mmminister.html. Send resume to Personnel Committee, c/o Dr. Jim Ramsey, Pastor, Box 1205, Thomas, GA 30084.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music. Masters degree desired. Video/DVD would be greatly appreciated. Please submit resume to FBCMO, Attn. Search Committee, 3200 Mt. Olive Rd., Olive, AL 35117, church phone (205) 631-4401.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Central Baptist Church, Springfield, Tenn., is looking for a time youth minister. If interested please send resume to P.O. 192, Springfield, TN 37384 or call (423) 365-6385.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Bethel Baptist, Yorkville, Tenn., searching for a part-time youth director. Contact person is Tom Funderburk, 5727 Locust Grove Rd., Trimble, TN 38259, (615) 297-2704.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

MINISTRY — OTHER

Middle Tennessee church seeks part-time receptionist (25 hours per week). Send resume to Rev. Jack Lewis, Tulip Grove Baptist Church, 563 Shute Lane, Old Hickory, TN 37138.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

John Sevier Baptist is looking for an experienced pianist to play for their adult choir in both of their Sunday services. Call the church office at (865) 546-1068 if interested.

Growing church in Northeast Tennessee seeking a full-time minister of youth. Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years time experience as a minister youth on a church staff. A bachelor degree is also preferred. \$30,000-\$40,000 dependant on years of experience. Please mail resumes to jconneboonetrailbaptist.org or mail to Boone Trail Baptist Church, West Carroll Creek Rd., (TN 37615).

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staying fit

Making the stress out of stress

Tamara Quintana

You don't need to take a "stress test" to see if you have it. We all have it. Stress is a normal part of life. It's what motivates us to take action.

How you manage stress, however, can set you apart from others. We all experience stress differently. What causes stress for me may not bother you at all.

Stressor or motivator?

Seventy-two-mile round trip to Dallas every day — for many, this would be a serious stress trigger. You know that somewhere along that 72-mile stretch, you'll inevitably encounter a fender bender, a stalled car, road construction and of course drivers who shouldn't have a license at all! I call this scenario commuting to work, and I've been doing it for over 20 years. Instead of letting myself feel stress, I use the time to listen to music, catch up on the news, and chat with my carpool partner.

Thirty-eight children ages 3-11 in one room for an hour — Many of you would call this torture, but for over 25 years I've called it children's choir — and I love it. That's probably because I'm still a kid myself. Children can be stress triggers, but they can also be the best stress relievers. They say laughter is the best medicine for whatever ails you, and I am fully medicated after a children's musical.

Possible signs of stress include:

- (1) Short-term forgetfulness of routine things (like leaving church and realizing you are missing one of your children).
- (2) Loss or increase of appetite (and you are not pregnant).
- (3) Desire to sleep all the time (and you are not a napper) or the inability to sleep.
- (4) Uncontrollable crying (and you are not watching a movie) or anger (like yelling at the postman for no reason).

What can you do?

Since we can't eliminate stress, we must learn to manage it. When I worked at a local hospital, it was uncommon for women to be admitted to the hospital complaining of abdominal pain. In reality, they convinced their doctors they were ill just so they wouldn't have to cook for the holidays! There are healthier ways to handle stress:

- 1) Talk to a friend or your doctor.
- 2) Exercise. It helps release natural chemicals that boost your spirits.
- 3) Journal your thoughts.
- 4) Read a faith-based book on dealing with stress.
- 5) Stay in God's Word.
- 6) Ask someone to pray for you. Sometimes we are so far down that we can't even pray for ourselves.
- 7) Help others. Often the best way to relieve our stress is to be a blessing to someone else. □ —

Tamara Quintana is a graduate of All Saints Episcopal Hospital School of Vocational Nursing and the director of the employee wellness program for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world

Doing my part

By Scott Linginfelter

Focal Passage: Jeremiah 32:6-9, 27-30, 37-41

Jeremiah had been faithfully proclaiming the Word of the Lord, largely a message of doom and destruction. Now a different word comes to Jeremiah from the Lord, "Your cousin is going to sell you a family field." Not quite as dramatic as predicting the destruction of Jerusalem, but then again, at least this word wouldn't get him thrown in jail. Oh, yeah, he is already there.

This seems like a strange thing for the Lord to tell Jeremiah, to buy his cousin's field. Of course, Jeremiah had done several strange things at the behest of God. He had worn an oxen's yoke, he had shattered a clay jug, he had hidden a sash in a rock, and other unique object lessons. Each time he had done one of these things, it was used by God as a visual reminder of His Word, followed by an actual pronouncement of prophecy by Jeremiah. This act of buying the field is no different. Most of Jeremiah's prophecy had been judgment, but he had also prophesied redemption. God promised that Judah would be depopulated from the land, but that they would also return to the land.

It seems that Jeremiah's cousin had begun to believe the first part of the prophecy, that they would

lose their land. That is why he sold the field. Jeremiah demonstrated the reliability of the second part of the prophecy by buying the field. Jeremiah knew he would lose the land, just like his cousin did. But God knew that Jeremiah would get it back, and so instructed Jeremiah to buy the field.

This short story is also a microcosm of the larger prophecies contained in Jeremiah. Jeremiah had prophesied an event which took years to come to fruition, the destruction of Jerusalem. He also prophesied another event that would be a long time coming, the return of the Jewish exiles. In the mean time, God gives Jeremiah a word which is fulfilled almost immediately, namely that his cousin would sell him the field. It is easy to believe the voice of God when the outcome is almost immediate. Jeremiah's cousin found it easy to believe Jeremiah's prophecy of judgment after he saw the army of Babylon assembled outside the city walls. It is much harder to be obedient and faithful when God makes you wait on Him. Yet, if we can believe a prophecy which is immediately fulfilled, like the selling of the field, then why can we not believe the other prophecies as well?

Often times in my personal life, I have found that God makes me wait, instead of answering my prayers immediately. God wants me to walk by faith rather than by

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series Feb. 26

sight. Faith is simply taking God at His Word, believing that what God says, God will do. It is easy to believe an immediate answer, but when we have to trust God it becomes much harder for fallen beings.

Verses 27-30 remind us that nothing is too hard for God. Jeremiah was faithful; Judah as a whole was not. They had burned incense to Baal on their rooftops. God was now going to burn their rooftops by the hand of Babylon. We see here faithfulness and unfaithfulness, and the results of each.

But whether people are faithful or not, God is always faithful. In verses 37-41 God promises to bring His people back to the land, and even promises a day when *they shall not depart from me*. The latter part will only happen when Jesus returns, but we know just as Jeremiah's cousin sold him a field according to the Word of God, just as Babylon destroyed Jerusalem by the Word of God, just as the exiles returned to the land by the Word of God, so we KNOW Jesus is coming again according to the Word of God. □ — Linginfelter is pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Maryville.

Relate appropriately

By Eric Taylor

Focal Passage: Romans 16:1-7, 17-20, 25-27

Paul's final chapter in Romans reminds us that spreading the gospel involves believers that will work together in order that people will be led to faith in Jesus Christ. One thought continued to cross my mind as I read this passage for this week: TEAMWORK. And this teamwork that leads to the spreading of the gospel happens as we remember some very important things.

Ministry is accomplished through dedicated people (vv. 1-16). Whether it was sister Phoebe or the many saints of the church in Rome, Paul's words in this section make one thing abundantly clear: much of what Paul accomplished for the sake of Jesus and His gospel came about by the wonderful support of the believers in Rome. The same is true today. No one serves Christ in a vacuum, and no church can accomplish great things for Christ if its members are not dedicated to the cause of Christ. Your church is able to accomplish its mission because of the many members that are dedicated to supporting its staff and its ministries.

A careful study of this list of names that Paul gives us reveals how awesome the work of the Roman Church really was. You see, the people in these verses represented a diverse group of people.

There were male and female, rich and poor, politically connected and the not so politically connected. There were people of different backgrounds, ethnically, culturally, socially, and economically, yet they all were recognized by Paul as being meaningful to the cause of Christ.

Here is a practical question for us. What list would we be found on? If your pastor had a list of dedicated church members — not that he would ever do that — would people find your name on it? I am sure that none of these people were perfect, but their dedication to the advancement of the gospel was a blessing in Paul's eye, and he praised them in such a way that they are recorded for posterity.

Ministry is accomplished through doctrinal purity (vv. 17-20). One of Paul's chief concerns for all of the churches was doctrinal purity. Paul desired the churches to have a message and teaching that was in concert with the gospel that was now made "manifest" through the "prophetic Scriptures" (v. 26).

The same applies for the church today. Genuine, effective, life-changing ministry is rendered ineffective when "dissensions and pitfalls" are created by false doctrine and phony believers. Paul knew that unity was a priority, and nothing is more destructive to the unity of a church than false doctrine either taught or lived.

So what are we to do with peo-

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible Feb. 26

ple like this? Paul says we "avoid" or have nothing to do with people like this. We also pray for wisdom (v. 19) in order that we can know what is "good" and "watch out" (v. 17) and discern that which is "evil" (v. 19).

Ministry is accomplished through devoted friends (vv. 21-24). The love and support was not just between Paul and the Romans. It also included Paul's friends that were also friends of the Roman Church. We are not sure how intimate these individuals were with the Roman Church, but nonetheless, they wanted to send their greetings and support. It may have been because they had heard of the great faith of the Roman Church (Romans 1:8 and 16:19), or they had heard Paul brag about his friends in Rome.

Ministry is accomplished through declaring truth (vv. 25-27). Paul began (Romans 1:15) and ends his letter to the Romans with the importance of the message of the gospel that has now been made known to all the nations. As God strengthens us through the good news that we have received let us preach Jesus Christ to the whole world until He comes. □ — Taylor is pastor of First Baptist Church, Middleton.

Deaths

◆ **Jim Cunningham**, bivocational minister of music, Trinity Baptist Church, Knoxville, died Feb. 15. He was 61 years old. He had served the church for five years and had served as minister of music of other area churches. His wife, Janice, works on the staff of Knox County Baptist Association, Knoxville.

Leaders

◆ Persia Baptist Church, Rogersville, has called **Justin Mowell** as associate youth pastor. He was recently ordained to the ministry at North Fork Missionary Baptist Church, Rogersville.

◆ Springville Baptist Church, Paris, recently called Bobby Sanders as pastor. Sanders followed interim pastors **Roy Stinson** and **Jessie Hawkins** at the church.

◆ Bethlehem Baptist Church, Henry, has called **Douglas Nash** as interim pastor.

◆ First Baptist Church, Clinton, has called **Stan Elliot** as pastor. He comes from a church in Virginia and previously served on the church staff at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. Both he and his wife, Lydia, are graduates of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

◆ First Baptist Church, Maryville, has called **David Sharp** as pastor of congregational care. He will serve as a volunteer.

◆ **Jim Rennell** recently retired as co-pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Cookeville.

◆ Signal Mountain Baptist Church, Signal Mountain, recently ordained **Cory**

Goode to the ministry. He is currently minister of youth and children at the church.

◆ **Jeremy Hazel** has resigned as youth minister of Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ Union Baptist Church, Chesterfield, has called **Mark Brewer** as youth pastor.

◆ Brown Springs Baptist Church, Mosheim, recently ordained as deacons **Steve Campbell**, **Uriah Fletcher**, **Jeff Cox**, **Mark Suttle**, and **Andrew Williams**. Helping lead the ordination service were James Williams, director of missions, Nolachucky Baptist Association, Morristown; Donnie Bible, pastor, Bibles Chapel Baptist Church, Midway; James Sauceman, minister of administration, Brown Springs Church; and Richard Long, pastor, Brown Springs.

◆ **Gordon Kyte** has resigned as minister of music, Grace Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland, has called **Chad McPhatter** as minister to students and **Collin Cooke** as assistant minister to students.

◆ West Main Baptist Church, Alexandria, called **Jeffrey Hicks** as pastor, effective Dec. 1. He formerly was pastor of First Baptist Church, Big Sandy. He is only the fourth pastor of the church in its 30-year history.

◆ Ridgeview Baptist Church, Church Hill, has called **Jonathan Rogers** as pastor, effective March 5. The former pastor of a church in North Carolina, he is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.



SENIOR MEMBERS OF Woodland Baptist Church, Brownsville, were honored on Jan. 29 by the church. Their service to the church spans 80 years. Leading the recognition was Mike Moore, pastor and Terry Patterson. The honorees are, from left, Naomi Marcom, 93; Lumie Stokely, 91; Louise Coburn, 90; Ernestine Massey, 90; and Lucille Glass, 92.

◆ Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, will honor retiring associate pastor/minister of administration **Bob Gray** and his wife Kay on "Bob and Kay Gray Day," Sunday, Feb. 26, at the church. They will be honored during the 10:45 a.m. worship service and at a reception to be held at 6 p.m. following the 5 p.m. evening service.

Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church, Michie**, will hold a revival, Sunday - Wednesday, March 5-8, with Kenny Digby speaking and Brent Colley leading the music.

◆ A men's group from **Lobelville Baptist Church, Lobelville**, worked Feb. 19-22 in Gulf Port, Miss., helping hurricane victims.

◆ **Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, is planning a June 10-17 mission trip to Costa Rica.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Tullahoma**, is holding a year of jubilation. A recent speaker was Mark LeMay, Tennessee Baptist Convention facilities

manager, who formerly served the church as minister of education and administration. Throughout the year, video features on families in the church will be presented. The celebration will end Saturday - Sunday, Sept. 16-17, with TBC executive director James Porch, who formerly served as pastor, as speaker.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Gallatin**, will send a mission team March 24 - April 1 to Ecuador.

◆ **Union McMinn Baptist Church, Niota**, will host an On Mission Celebration, Saturday, March 18, at 5 p.m. with 44 missionaries participating.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Paris**, will send a disaster relief mission team to Bogulusa, La., March 4-11 to assist victims of the hurricanes.

Associations

◆ **Grainger Baptist Association, Rutledge**, will hold an Evangelism Conference, Thursday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at Sunrise Baptist Church, Rutledge. Speaker for the conference is Ronnie Jones, pastor of Kingston Pike Baptist Church, Lenoir City.

◆ The disaster relief team of **Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville**, will serve March 25 - April 1 in Algiers, La., where they will work on damaged trees for homeowners who were victims of Hurricane Katrina.

◆ A mock disaster relief training event will be held Friday - Saturday, March 3-4, at Camp Ba Yo Ca of **Knox County Baptist Association**, in Knoxville. It is being held by the association's Men's Ministry. Participants should come prepared for chain saw and rebuild activities. For reservations contact Janice Cunningham at (865) 693-

9097 or jcunningham@kcb.org.

◆ **Holston Valley Baptist Association, Rogersville**, will present its first of three summits on "The Acts of the Holy Spirit in Today's Church," Monday, March 20, at East Rogersville Baptist Church, Rogersville, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

◆ **Sevier County Baptist Association, Sevierville**, will hold its annual Men's Ministry Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, March 11, at 8 a.m. at the Baptist Center in Sevierville. Call the associational office for reservations at (865) 458-0124.

Statewide Events

◆ A Tennessee Baptist Convention **Conversational English Workshop** will be held Friday - Sunday, March 10-12, at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. This is a 16-hour workshop which will allow participants to be certified by the North American Mission Board. The instructor is Lynn Marie Kramp, a literary mission consultant from Nashville. For more information, contact Tim Hill of the TBC staff at (800) 558-2099 ext. 2032 or thill@tnbaptist.org.

Corrections

In last week's issue two news items on this page were incorrect.

◆ **Calvary Baptist Church, Smithville**, instead of Humboldt, has called pastor **B. J. Thomason** from a bivocational status to a full-time status.

◆ **Salem Baptist Church, Liberty**, instead of Trenton, has called **Thomas Bains** as pastor.

The Baptist and Reflector staff regrets the errors. □



GUESTS FROM GULF COAST Baptist Association, Mississippi, which was struck by Hurricane Katrina last fall and leaders of a Ministers/Staff/Spouse Retreat held by Holston, Sullivan, Watauga, and Holston Valley Baptist associations pause during the retreat. The four associations have formed an associational cluster. The retreat was held Feb. 2-4 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C. Those pictured are, from left, front row, Margie and Gladys Miskell, Nette Everett, Patricia Owens, Rachel and Larry Crabb; back row, Gary and Carol Lane, Rocky Everett, and Ron Owens. One of the guests from Mississippi was identified in great need, reported Ben Proffitt of Holston Association. Teams from the associations are preparing to rebuild a house for a pastor and his wife, he reported.