

#BXNHFRX \*\*\*\*\*CR LOT 0148A\*\*C044  
#01499102# REG 195/1  
UNION UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY  
1050 UNION UNIV DR  
JACKSON TN 38305-3697

Emma Waters Summer Library  
UNION UNIVERSITY  
Jackson, TN 38305

# Baptist & Reflector

statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 18; May 10, 2006

## Church reaches rodeo cowboys, equestrians, ranchers

Donnie Davis Bushey  
Artist and Reflector

**PURYEAR** — The warm Tuesday night at the ch here, just northeast of is, had a lazy feel.

The weather was completely n. Every once in a while a up truck drove up and peo- disembarked. They wan- ed up to others sitting on the k of a pick up truck visiting. Young people wearing cowboy s, jeans, and green John re T-shirts milled around. nds barked and howled and t circled people's feet.

at 7 p.m. people gradually ed into the roping arena, it wasn't for a rodeo event. ead a church service was ut to begin.

Soft dirt cushioned footsteps e like it cushioned the hooves horses during the day. ing light seeped in the s of the arena. As the praise ic died away and the pastor an to speak, birds flew in out, their wings fluttering. es banged the sides of the ls as they moved around. s could be heard in a distant

he event was the weekly ice of Stateline Cowboy ch, a new church started by

Joe Ed Smith, a Tennessee Baptist Convention church planter.

The 80 people who gathered were mostly students of Murray State University, Murray, Ky. The church draws members of the rodeo team, which numbers about 50, agricultural students, and equestrians. Farmers and ranchers from this North Tennessee and South Kentucky area attend. Other people also attend the church, possibly because it seems more real or because it is more relaxed. People can come from work without changing from their work clothes.

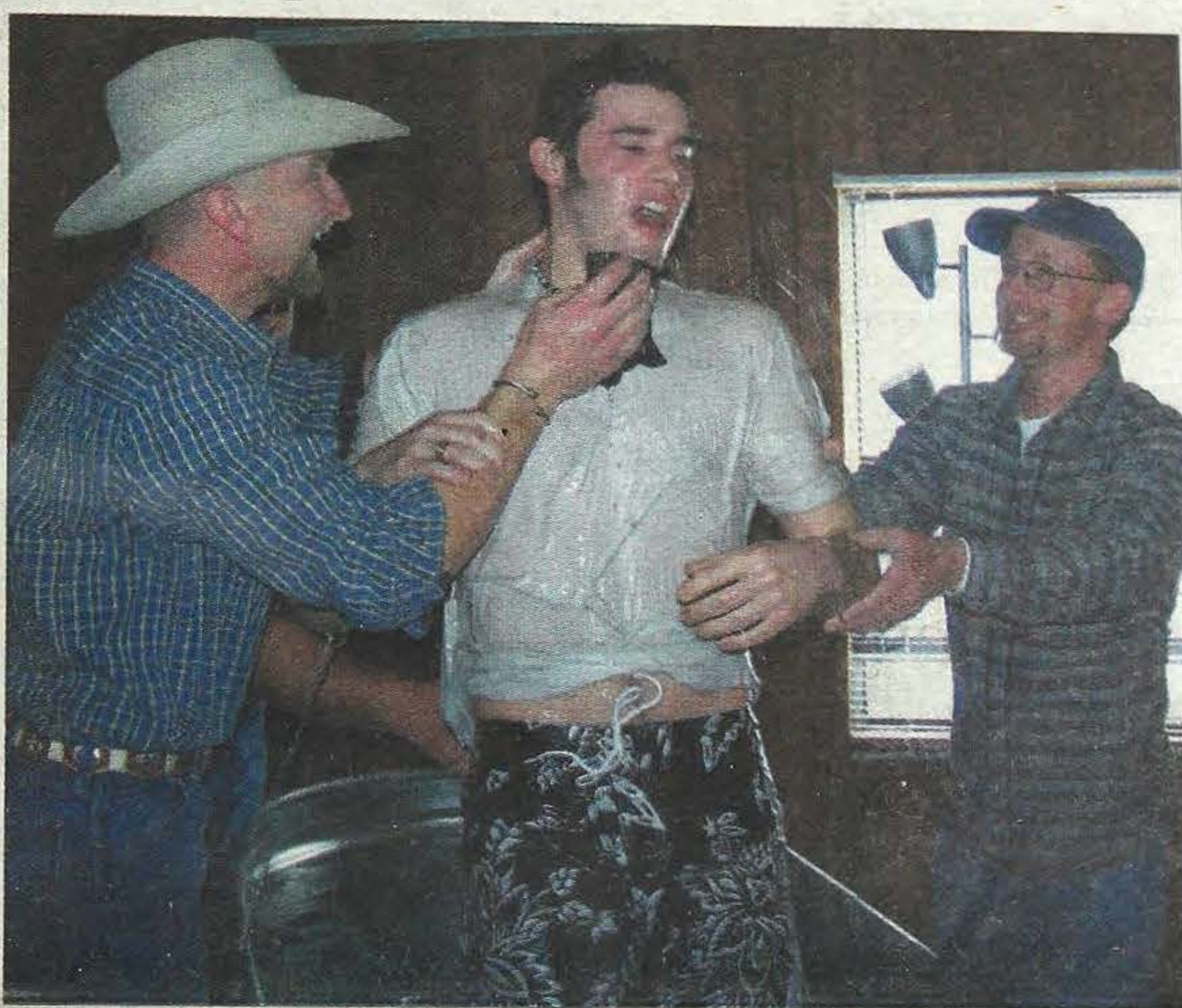
Most of the group can relate to Smith, who was a rodeo cowboy for 11 years, working professionally after he was a member of the rodeo team at Murray State. He earned a rodeo scholarship to the school. Smith, who is from nearby Buchanan, earned the rank of ninth best bull rider in national collegiate ranks.



**JOE ED SMITH** preaches during a recent Tuesday night service of the Stateline Cowboy Church, Puryear.

Smith said God led him to start the church. He was pastor of Buchanan Baptist Church for five years. He is glad he was "a suit and tie pastor," he said. That experience prepared him to be a church planter, he added.

Smith knows the "cowboy



**TREY WINDHORST**, center, a student at Murray State University, Murray, Ky., is baptized in a horse trough a few months ago by Joe Ed Smith, pastor, Stateline Cowboy Church, Puryear, with help from Ricky Craig of the church. Windhorst is a new Christian and new member of the church. — Photo by Jim Twilbeck

life," he explained. He was called as pastor of Buchanan Church after someone heard him preach at a horse camp at the Land Between the Lakes State Park.

He has done that for many years. He also breaks horses and has led tours on horseback on a hunting farm.

— See church, page 4

## SBC CP giving ps slightly

Artist and Reflector

**BRENTWOOD** — Cooperative Program giving through Tennessee Baptist Convention rches dipped slightly in il as churches gave \$25,701, the lowest amount he first six months of the rent fiscal year.

TBC Executive Director es Porch attributed the er amount to the fact that il ended on a Sunday, aning that offerings from t day will be counted in y receipts. "We are confi- t Tennessee Baptists will tinue to give generously to et missions and ministry ds in our state and around world," Porch said.

For the year-to-date, CP ights total \$18,171,651, a ease of \$302,622 or 1.64 cent from the same time od last year. Receipts also \$182,565 or 0.99 percent w current budget needs. □

## SBC focuses again on evangelism, 'Everyone Can'

By Michael Foust  
Baptist Press

**GREENSBORO, N.C.** — With the focus on evangelism and the goal of winning and baptizing 1 million people in a year, Southern Baptists will gather at the Greensboro Coliseum here June 13-14 for their annual meeting.

It will mark the fifth meeting in North Carolina for the denomination, but the first since 1916 (Asheville). Southern Baptists never have met in Greensboro.

"My quest is going to be to keep the collective head, heart, and eyes of the messengers on our main business of witnessing, winning, and baptizing," Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch told Baptist Press. "... I think that's especially critical in light of the ACP report."

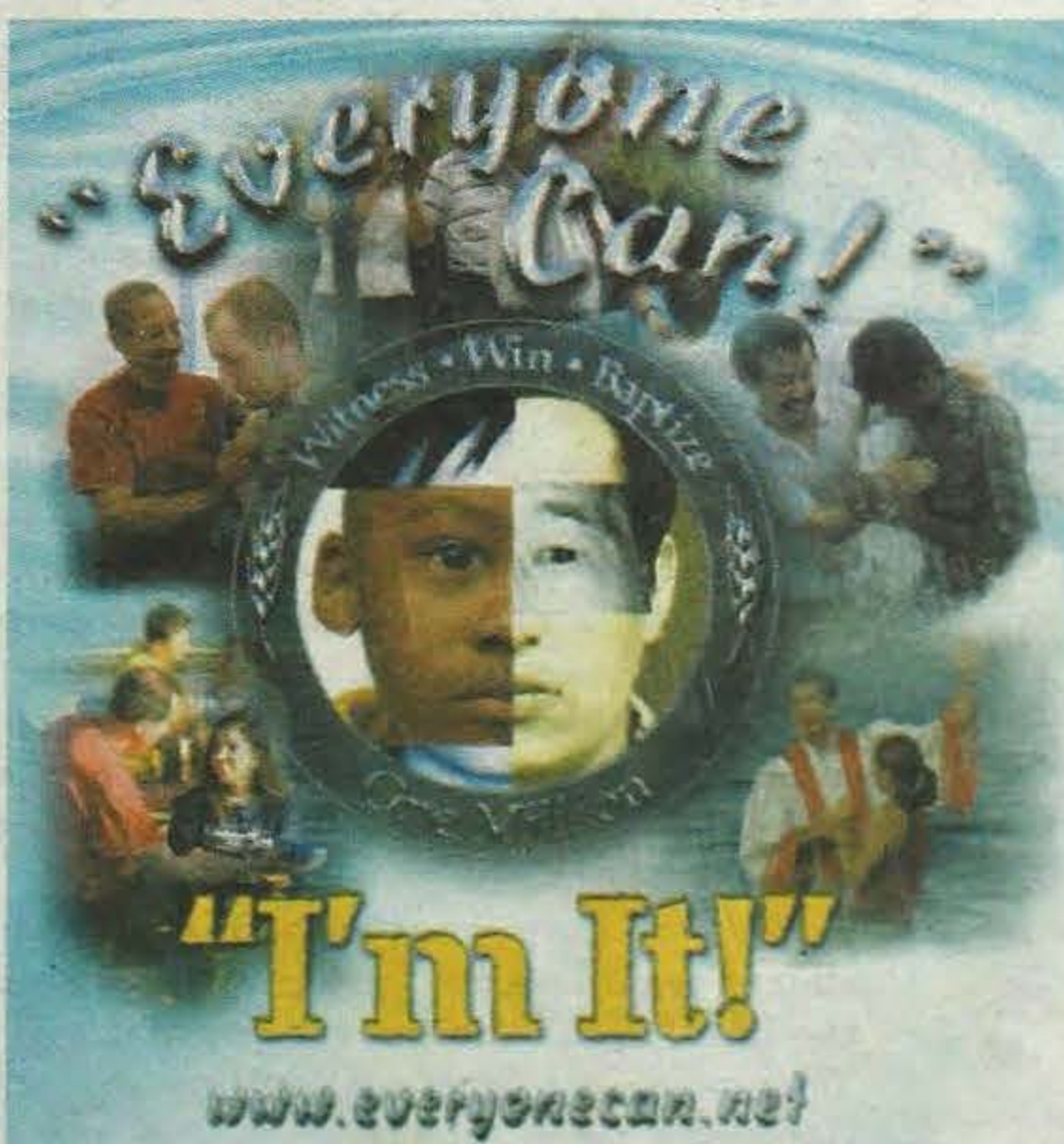
The most recent ACP, or Annual Church Profile report, showed Southern Baptists bap-

tizing 16,000 fewer people in 2005 compared to 2004.

It will be the second consecutive year Southern Baptists have gathered under the banner of "Everyone Can" — a reference to the fact that all Christians are called to share their faith. Also, for the second straight year, baptisms will be held throughout the sessions. They will be done with approval and support of a local church, with members of each church present.

"We are not moving toward this Everyone Can effort any too soon," Welch said.

Fittingly, this year's Scripture text is Matthew 28:19-10 — the Great Commission — and the theme is "Everyone Can ... I'm It!" The "Everyone



Can" challenge to win and baptize 1 million people officially began last October and ends the final week of September, which marks the end of the SBC's church year.

Breaking with tradition, Welch will deliver his president's

address Wednesday evening, the same night the International Mission Board gives its report and presentation. (In recent years, the president's address was scheduled during the day.) Recording artist Casting Crowns and the "Everyone Can" People's Mass Choir and Orchestra also will perform that night.

"Wednesday night of the convention will be like no other Wednesday night we've ever had," Welch said.

"It will be geared toward coming out of turn four and heading for victory lane. We want to leave that Wednesday night service excited and unified to do more than we've ever done before in going and giving."

— See SBC, page 6



## about your newsjournal

Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 47 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$11; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.75 per subscription; other plans available

**Lonnie Wilkey, editor**  
(615) 371-2046,  
lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

**Connie Davis Bushey, news editor**  
(615) 371-7928,  
cbushey@tnbaptist.org

**Susie Edwards, circulation/ executive assistant/advertising**  
(615) 371-2003,  
sedwards@tnbaptist.org

**Mary Nimmo, church pages/ administrative assistant**  
(615) 371-7929,  
mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

**Marcia Knox, special features assistant**  
(615) 371-2089,  
mknox@tnbaptist.org

**Office — Baptist and Reflector,**  
5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

**Mailing address — P.O. Box 728,**  
Brentwood, TN 37024

**Phone — (615) 371-2003**

**FAX — (615) 371-2080**

**Web Site — www.tnbaptist.org**

**Publisher — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board**

**Shared Ministries Committee —**

Wendell Boertje chairman;  
Tonda Strong, vice chairman;  
Donna Cardwell, Marty Comer, Orvind Dangeau, Mary Beth Duke, Tim Frank, David Green, Nancy Hammons, George Hollander, Doug Jennings, Tommy Lemmonds, Ed Porter, Kenneth Sparkman, Mildred Thompson, Larry Triplett, Wes Turner

**Postmaster —**

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

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



Printed on  
recycled paper

## Welch urges NAMB trustees to not 'mess up'

Baptist Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Trustees of the North American Mission Board met May 2, their first meeting since the resignation of NAMB President Bob Reccord. The board approved 74 new missionaries and 63 SBC-endorsed chaplains, elected new officers, and approved a resolution expressing appreciation for Reccord's term of service.

The mission board's trustees also heard encouraging reports on NAMB's ministries across the United States and Canada, and they were affirmed and challenged by SBC President Bobby Welch concerning their search for Reccord's successor.

"Your choice for the next leader of this ministry may be the greatest ministry contribution of your life," Welch told the trustees, about 40 in number at the meeting.

"Don't mess up. On behalf of 16 million Southern Baptists in 45,000 churches, don't mess up. You've got to get this right because the eternal destiny of untold millions depends on your choice. That's how important your search is."

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla.,

said NAMB, as the SBC's domestic mission arm, "sends the signal to the rest of the convention. This organization sets the cadence, the pace, the tone for evangelism throughout North America. NAMB is overwhelmingly important, so there is little wonder the enemy is after us."

Reccord, who served as NAMB's president since its formation in 1997, resigned April 17 following a 19-page trustee report that questioned some of his decisions, leadership style, and relationships with mission partners. A nine-member presidential search committee chaired by Terry G. Fox, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., was announced the following week.

Fox, on May 2, said the process will be prayerful and deliberate. "We plan to be very cautious and slow the process down so we will not be in a rush," he said, noting that the committee intends to conduct a variety of listening sessions with a broad spectrum of leadership, including state convention partners, pastors of large and small churches, and directors of missions.

Welch told the trustees they needed to come to a "clear, confident choice. Someone bold, trusted, a soul-winner — he must be a soul-winner. The best thing is that when the name comes out, you'll hear an affirming 'yes' across our convention."

NAMB trustees did not, however, select an interim president as many thought they might. Citing the need for additional

time to determine parameters of the position, trustees said they were undecided on how many days a week would be required of such an individual and whether to seek a candidate from inside or outside the entity. Board leadership expressed strong confidence in the current NAMB leadership in the interim. □

## Broadman & Holman announces name change

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Broadman & Holman Publishers, the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources, has announced plans to change its name to B&H Publishing Group, effective June 1.

B&H Publishing Group will serve as an umbrella for areas that include academic, children, educational, Spanish, and trade books; church supply products; and Bibles and Bible-related products.

John Thompson, senior vice president of marketing, said the name change is a result of the desire for greater flexibility in how the organization manages its various products and imprints. □

## June 4 prayers to target Egypt

Baptist Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Next time you think of Egypt, don't think

about King Tut and the mids.

Egyptians range from university students to a Bedouin herd from the Sinai to a Gypsy woman to a Copt. Egypt's age-old tradition of a Christian community.

Modern Egyptians are of their 5,000-year-old culture. But Egypt is much more the remains of its past.

It is a kaleidoscope of people loved by the Lord, and He wants them to know Him.

As Isaiah prophesies, "Lord Almighty will bless saying, 'Blessed be Egypt people'" (Isaiah 19:25a). He wants them to experience His love and salvation through Jesus Christ — who founded His church in Egypt from His wrath 2,000 years ago.

That's why the people of Egypt — all of them — are the focus of this year's Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization set for June 4. On that day, Southern Baptist and other Great Commission Christians will focus on loving the peoples of Egypt through uniting their hearts and before God's throne of grace.

Egyptian Muslims comprise the vast majority of the population, more than 76 million. But the Copts, Egypt's traditional Orthodox Christians, number at least eight million, more than 10 percent of the national population.

For more information on the Day of Prayer and Fasting, visit the resources available at the International Mission Center at 1-800-999-3113. □

## Union University professors debunk *The Da Vinci Code*

By Tim Ellsworth  
Union University news office

JACKSON — Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is full of half-truths, distortions, and historical inaccuracies, a group of Union University professors said May 2 in a panel discussion.

Christian studies professors George Guthrie and Hal Poe, English professor Gene Fant, and art professor Chris Nadaskay addressed Union students and community members about the problems with the book and the way Christians should respond to it.

"Dan Brown has given us a fun read, an interesting counter-history, and an exciting opportunity to clarify the real history of the first Christian centuries, but he should not be seen as providing a greater clarity on what really happened in the life of Jesus or the early church," Guthrie said. "For that we must still look, with study and thoughtful reflection, to our earliest texts, the books of the New Testament."

Guthrie gave an overview of Brown's claims regarding the historical facts about the life of Jesus and the validity of the New Testament. For starters, Guthrie disputes the book's claim that thousands of ancient documents exist that present a picture of the life of Christ.

In reality, Guthrie said, there are only four such sources — the books of the New Testament, the second century church fathers (such as Clement of Rome, Ignatius and Polycarp) who had personal relationships with Jesus' disciples, the New Testa-

ment Apocrypha, and the Nag Hammadi Library.

"Is it possible that there could be a trove of thousands of documents out there that were not mentioned anywhere in ancient literature, for which there is absolutely no evidence at all?" Guthrie asked. "Perhaps, but the point is, there is absolutely no evidence to support the idea. It is fiction in every sense of the word."

Guthrie argued that the early church didn't consider more than 80 gospels for inclusion in the New Testament, as Brown suggests, and he refuted Brown's claim that Christians didn't consider Jesus to be divine until the fourth century. Scripture references such as John 1:1, John 20:28, Philippians 2:6-8, and Titus 2:13 clearly attest to the fact that Jesus' divinity was an accepted fact from Christianity's outset, Guthrie said.

Poe called the book "pretty shaky historiography" and showed the fallacy of reaching a conclusion based on two isolated sets of facts that are unrelated to each other. For example, just because some prominent world leaders have spoken at Union University over the past several years, that doesn't make Poe the ruler of the world, he said. Yet that is the kind of logic that Brown employs.

Nadaskay examined some of the artwork found in *The Da Vinci Code*, such as "The Last Supper." He called Brown's view of art "misguided."

Art as a means of propaganda is hardly new, Nadaskay said, and it's not unusual "that Dan Brown looks for a set of art works to support his views."

Nadaskay pointed out that artists often

did with their paintings what they wanted (sometimes even in the patron in the painting), so "the painting as a historical record is a dubious thing."

Fant explained the success of the book by showing how Brown had succeeded in crossing over into multiple genres to the "king of genre fiction." The book is so popular that *The Da Vinci Code* is now its own genre.

The danger in reading such books, for that matter — is accepting truth-claims uncritically, Fant said.

"Readers who uncritically accept manipulations are not reading a book," Fant said.

He encouraged those in attendance to "read redemptively" by thinking about the truths the book contains, what half-truths and what fabrications. He also said rather than being worried about the book, Christians should embrace the opportunities it provides to talk to people about the truth of historic Christianity.

"We are surrounded by a culture that is getting read this movie," Fant said. "God always gives these opportunities. God is not afraid of these things."

DVDs of the panel discussion, "The Da Vinci Code," are available for request a copy, send your name and address along with the \$5 to College of Arts and Sciences, 1050 Union University Dr., TN 38305. Call (731) 661-5356 for information. □



## Issue 'Memphis Declaration'

# Baptists concerned with 'narrowing of cooperation' meet

Compiled from news reports

MEMPHIS — Expressing displeasure with what they call a "narrowing of cooperation through exclusionary theological and political agendas" in the Southern Baptist Convention, a group of Southern Baptist conservatives issued a document May 3 expressing their desire to seek renewal in convention, their churches, and their personal lives through repentance.

Called the "Memphis Declaration," the word document is the culmination of days of discussions involving about 31 Southern Baptists from a variety of perspectives. Much of the concern expressed by participants was motivated by recent developments at the SBC's International Mission Board and with other SBC entities and leaders.

Much of that dissatisfaction came to a head after Wade Burleson, pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church of Enid, Okla., an IMB trustee, used his weblog to criticize new policies adopted by his fellow trustees. Those trustees recommended in a majority that Burleson be dismissed from board but later rescinded that motion, leaving in its place a policy restricting the domain of IMB trustees to dissent publicly from board actions.

To the surprise of some participants, the group stopped short of proposing a candidate for SBC office or actions to be taken at the SBC convention next month. Burleson, in terms of repentance, the document says in part: "We publicly repent of triumphalism about Southern Baptist causes and narcissism about Southern Baptist ministries which have compromised our integrity. We publicly repent of an arrogant spirit that has infected our fellowship with fellow Christians."

The closed-door meeting was organized by a group of mostly young pastors who called for more openness in SBC life,

particularly among agency trustees.

"We gathered together in Memphis to share our concerns and articulate our hopes and dreams for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention," said Benjamin Cole, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, and facilitator of the meeting.

"Quite frankly, the era of Southern Baptist isolationism is over, and our dialogue helped to begin the process of repentance and reformation in the SBC."

The document, signed by attendees, contains a preamble stating that the group is united in confessing "Jesus Christ as the one Lord to whom we must reckon an account for our words and motivations in this gathering. We further acknowledge that the Word of God is the sole basis of our confession and cooperation, and we are confident that God has sufficiently revealed in it all that is needed to direct Southern Baptists in fruitful cooperation toward kingdom ends that bring glory to Jesus Christ."

The meeting was by invitation only, according to Cole.

Only one media representative — Don Hinkle, editor of the Missouri Baptist Convention's *Pathway* — was invited as a participant.

Cole said a media presence other than Hinkle would "limit our discussion."

Charlie Warren, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News*, sought admission to the meeting, but was excluded. The newspaper was granted an interview with several of the group's leaders following the meeting.

Among those in the meeting were participants in the SBC's loose-knit young leaders network, "emerging church" pastors, Baptist bloggers, leaders of Calvinist groups in the SBC, and others on the outside of convention leadership — including longtime SBC activist Wiley Drake, a California pastor, who is an announced candi-

date for second vice president of the convention.

In a blog post a few days before the meeting, Burleson called for SBC leaders to abandon their cause of "convention conformity" and become more inclusive. "Unless we stop shrinking the parameters of what it means to be a Southern Baptist, we will end up being a narrow, isolated sect within Christendom and lose our ability to reach the world for Christ," wrote Burleson, who attended the meeting.

The Memphis group's emphasis on openness echoes a similar urging from SBC chief executive Morris Chapman, who at the 2004 SBC meeting warned that "crusading" conservatives are in danger of driving the convention into "separatism and independence" by becoming too narrow.

Some in the Memphis group are urging Burleson to be nominated for SBC president during the Greensboro, N.C., convention as an alternative to the established leadership. So far he has declined interest publicly. But in a recent blog, he seemed more open to the possibility.

"If I believed a nomination to a position of service in the SBC would be detrimental to providing solutions to [the SBC's exclusivism], I would decline that nomination without hesitation," he wrote. "I will do what I believe is best for the convention — period."

Cole said the group crafted no motions or resolutions. He said potential candidates for SBC office were discussed but "we are not offering candidates, nor have we determined secretly to offer any candidates." Cole, however, would not rule out the possibility of such a candidate emerging.

Art Rogers, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Russellville, Ky., said those who met in Memphis do not wish to alter the convention or "move

politically" within it.

"We are simply humbly gathering together in an attitude of prayer, trying to cast a vision of humility and cooperation among Southern Baptists, working with not only other Southern Baptists but also other denominations and Great Commission organizations to advance the gospel," Rogers said.

**One Tennessee Baptist is listed as a signer — Phil Newton, pastor of South Woods Baptist Church, Memphis.**

Newton told the *Baptist and Reflector* the meeting was as non-political as much as possible.

He said the purpose was to look "at issues that are clouding our purpose as a denomination and then, as grassroots people ask what can we do to try and have an affect on our denomination."

Newton, who said he is a conservative and was a supporter of the "resurgence" within the SBC, said he is "concerned with some of the heavy-handedness that seems to be apparent in some denominational entities."

Newton said he hopes the Memphis Declaration "expresses the heart and soul of what we want to accomplish and that is repentance and humility as a denomination."

"We need to reconsider our motives and practices of what we do and how we treat one another as brothers and sisters in Christ," he said.

"I have a deep concern that we (the SBC) are looking too much like the world in the way we handle people instead of a people who has experienced the grace of God."

The "Memphis Declaration," along with a list of signees, can be found at [www.twelvewitnesses.blogspot.com](http://www.twelvewitnesses.blogspot.com). □

This article includes reporting by Editor Lonnie Wilkey; Don Hinkle for Baptist Press; and Greg Warner & Charlie Warren for Associated Baptist Press.

## IMB reverses decision to fire missionary couple

Compiled from news reports

RICHMOND — International Mission Board officials have stated Wyman and Michelle Dobbbs, the missionary couple, had faced termination for publishing a church that isn't explicitly Baptist in the African nation of Guinea.

The couple's pastor reported news May 1. The Dobbbses had received an ultimatum for resigning or being fired for starting a church in cooperation with non-missionaries. As Associated Baptist Press first reported May 13, IMB leaders issued the ultimatum because the church the Dobbbses started wasn't explicitly Baptist, and because they had cooperated with a missionary from the Christian and Missionary Alliance. However, the couple is a conservative evangelist denomination, and the couple had reportedly stated their agreement with SBC doctrinal standards.

The congregation was one of a handful in the heavily Muslim nation, and the only one associated with IMB missionaries. Don Helmbacher, the stateside pastor at Emanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla., told ABP he

couldn't have chosen a better outcome for the situation, which galvanized his church, bloggers, and missionary supporters nationwide.

Baptist Press, which did not report the initial story, reported May 2 that the Dobbbses told IMB leadership they are committed to following the IMB's five levels of partnership and planting indigenous Baptist churches.

The couple's assertion that they were starting a "baptistic" church in partnership with non-SBC missionaries among the Fulbe Fouta people of Guinea became public in mid-April. The Dobbbses had signed a church-planting partnership document called the "Tinka Agreement" in 2003, which had not been endorsed by the West Africa regional leadership and did not adequately communicate the five levels of partnership to which IMB trustees had committed.

West Africa mission leadership came to an impasse with the Dobbbses in determining their commitment to the appropriate level of partnership and a clear commitment to planting indigenous Baptist churches. They recommended the couple resign or be terminated after

the Dobbbses refused to follow the guidelines.

The Dobbbses appealed the decision in an April 29 meeting with Gordon Fort, IMB vice president for overseas operations. Fort agreed to let them return to the field after he conferred with Randy Arnett, West Africa regional leader. The couple is currently on stateside assignment in Oklahoma and is scheduled to return to Guinea in February 2007.

The Dobbbses told Fort they are committed to partnering appropriately within IMB guidelines for levels of mission partnership. In addition, they agreed to plant indigenous Baptist churches and said they would work under the authority of IMB leadership in West Africa and in harmony with leaders' policy decisions.

While IMB trustees were made aware of the Dobbbses' situation, they were not involved in the decision. Fort's involvement at the vice presidential level is the first step in the appeals process. Trustees make the final decision on a recommendation to terminate. □ — This article contains reporting by Hannah Elliot for Associated Baptist Press and Michael Chute for Baptist Press.

## NOBTS returns to New Orleans

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS — After almost eight months away, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary closed its temporary administrative offices in Atlanta and returned home to New Orleans. The return marked yet another milestone on the long road back from Hurricane Katrina.

Approximately one-fourth of the offices and staff members had returned to New Orleans in January to assist with spring commuter classes on the main campus. But Internet, telephone services, and electricity were still spotty at the time; mail deliveries had not resumed; and only a small number of apartments had been restored. Due to the lack of services and housing, the majority of the staff remained in Atlanta as the campus restoration continued.

On April 24, the relocated offices reopened on the main campus.

"It's great to see so many of you back," NOBTS President Chuck Kelley told the staff

members during a meeting at Martin Chapel April 27. "It really does take all of us. What you have done this year is the stuff of legends."

Kelley called attention to the work of Southern Baptists in making the return possible.

"We need to thank Southern Baptists for their help," Kelley reminded the staff. "It is the Cooperative Program that made this possible," he said, referencing funding provided through the Southern Baptist channel of missions and ministry support.

Nearly 1,000 Southern Baptist volunteers had restored the apartments that staff members call home, Kelley said. Volunteers continue to prepare the seminary campus for full-scale resumption of campus operations in August.

Seminary contractor Mike Moskau, whose workers were assisted by the influx of Southern Baptist volunteers, said their help cannot be overstated. The volunteers have saved the seminary up to \$3 million in labor costs. □



# Church reaches rodeo cowboys, equestrians ...

— Continued from page 1

He had heard of cowboy churches in Oklahoma and Texas, but not in Tennessee. He contacted the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and soon was starting Stateline church. He is funded by the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. The church is sponsored by New Harmony Baptist Church, Paris.

The church also has been helped by First Baptist Church, Paris, which gave the congregation chairs, and Western District Baptist Association, Paris. Smith also credited his wife, Janice, for her help. She admitted she was hesitant to enter "the cowboy life" again. He and Janice, who is a licensed practical nurse, have two children.

Cowboys are "self reliant" sorts, said Smith, who give 110 percent to whatever they do. Many are unchurched. They often don't feel comfortable in traditional churches, he explained, and their culture is distinct. Personally, he is more comfortable as a cowboy than in other roles. "It's harder being other things," said Smith.

Building a relationship with a cowboy is often required before witnessing, said Smith.

"If you hit them with a Bible, they're libel to hit you back."



DICK

They are wonderful people to pastor, he added.

Smith reported Michael Dick, a student at Murray State, is responsible for much of the growth of the church. It has seen 11 people make professions of faith since it began meeting in

October 2005.

Dick, a member of the rodeo team, met Smith through the team. Smith is a volunteer coach for the team. He and J.D. Van Hooser, coach, were rodeo team members together.

Dick said all last year he "really felt called" to lead a Bible study on campus. He began

last fall, getting the word out by hanging up announcements in barns on campus. The weekly study usually draws about eight students, said Dick. They meet at the rodeo barn or his house. Smith helped him choose Bible study material. Most who come to the study also come to the cowboy church.

Van Hooser, a member of Buchanan Church, said the church is reaching the young men he coaches for God. By the age of 16 some are professional rodeo cowboys, he said. They often feel "a bit intimidated" by church, he added.

During warm weather the church meets in the roping arena of Tony Turner of Puryear, long-time friend of Smith. Smith and Turner also were fellow members of the Murray State rodeo team. During winter the church met in a black church in South Hazel, Tenn.,

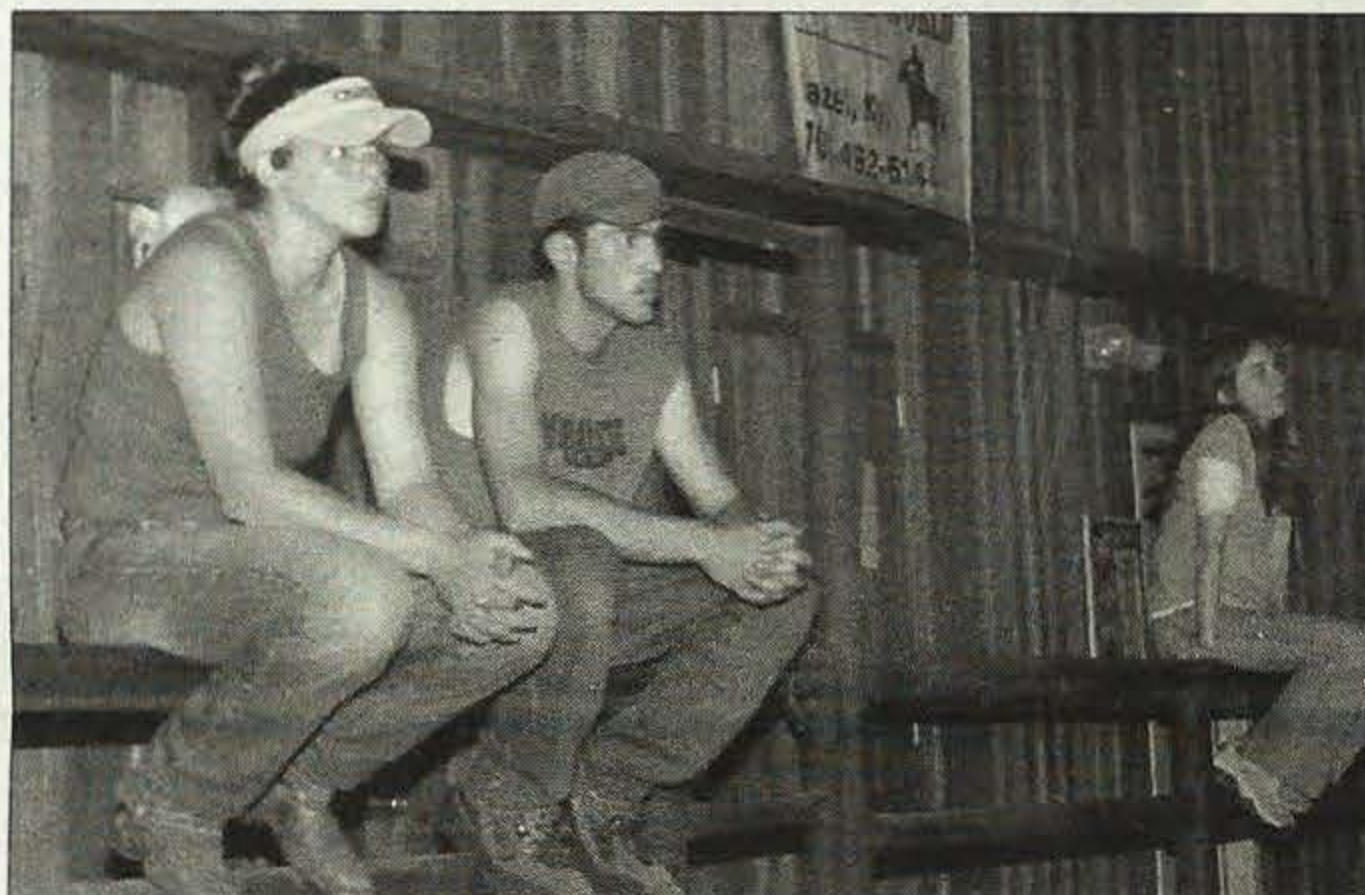
near Hazel, Ky.

Stateline church meets on Tuesday evenings because most rodeos and shows are held on the weekends.

Trey Windhorst, rodeo team member of Murray State from Louisville, Ky, baptized into the church as a new Christian several months ago. He said he never gone to church until attending cowboy church.

"I've built up a relationship with Christ and it's really helped me," Windhorst said. Being a part of the cowboy church is "kind of like home," he explained. His parents attended the special baptismal service, held on a Sunday morning. The black church didn't baptize so Windhorst was baptized in the horse trough.

It seemed the proper thing to do, Smith. □



**MOST PEOPLE** sit in chairs for the service but some sit on a railing in the arena.



**MEN GATHER BEFORE** the service of Stateline Cowboy Church to visit. They stand outside the roping arena where services are held.



**AFTER THE WEEKLY SERVICE** of Stateline Cowboy Church those who attended move their chairs to a storage area of the arena. It is used most days for the training of horses.



**THE STATELINE COWBOY CHURCH** meets at Turner's Roping Arena in Puryear each Tuesday evening.



**MEMBERS OF** the Stateline Cowboy Church enjoy praise and worship time.



**BEFORE A SERVICE** people gather outside the horse arena in Puryear where services are held.



## From remembering moms to 'don't mess up'

### Reflections



Lonnie Wilkey, editor

West Africa. They have had the courage, commitment, and calling from God to "go and tell." They deserve our support. Continue to pray for them and all of our Southern Baptist missionaries, as well as our IMB staff and trustees.

### Mother's Day

Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 14, across the United States. Two columns on this page pay tribute to mothers. They deserve much more. A good mother is a blessing and gift from God. I was blessed to have had a good mother and a godly grandmother who, in reality, was a mother to me. My wife Joyce is an excellent mother to our children. They have no idea how many prayers she has lifted up on their behalf over the years and the countless more that she will pray as long as the Lord allows her to live. One day to remember all our mothers do really is not

enough, but do a "little extra" this Sunday. If your mother is no longer around, take time to recall some special memories. Smile on her behalf. She would have wanted it that way.

### Recovery goes on

On page three of this issue we find that the offices of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary have reopened entirely on the campus. As most people are aware the seminary received extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina last year. It is a tribute to the seminary's staff and leadership and all the Southern Baptist volunteers, including many from Tennessee, who have gone there to help them through the recovery process. In the meantime, many other Tennessee Baptists are still going to Louisiana and Mississippi, and other places affected by Hurricane Katrina. Connie Davis Bushey of our staff was in Mississippi last week

covering the efforts of bivocational ministers and lay leaders assisting churches and people whose lives have been forever changed by Katrina. Her reports will be forthcoming.

### Don't mess up

Finally, SBC President Bobby Welch gave trustees of the North American Mission Board some sound advice when he encouraged them to "not mess up" in selecting a new president to succeed Bob Reccord who resigned recently. As Tennessee Baptists meet this week in Nashville to consider our relationship with Belmont University and in the weeks that will follow, we would do well to heed that same advice. We do not need to "mess up" in anything we do related to the work of our Lord. God has blessed our state, our state convention, and our churches. Let's seek to honor and glorify Him in all we do. If we do that, we won't "mess up." □

### a parent speaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

## Give gift from the heart to Mom

Celebrated this year on May 14, families across our nation pay tribute to their mothers on this special day. As the date approaches, magazines, newspapers, and television programs focus on "gifts for the mother in your life." Card companies promote this event with a greeting for that special mom.

For young children, the gift that means so much is one they make themselves. After talking with several mothers of preschool age children, they all agree: It's those simple gifts from the heart they treasure for years to come. Fathers, grandparents, and older siblings can help youngsters create a gift that surprises Mom on her day. Use some of the following to get you started.

- Guide children to write a prayer, thanking God for their Christian mother. Include the Scripture "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1) as a way to honor parents.

- Create a permanent handprint by placing a child's open hand in a plaster of Paris mold. Found at a craft store, these kits are inexpensive and simple to make. Using a nail, write the child's name and date on the mold. Allow to dry. Hang and admire in your home.

- Plant a miniature garden in a gallon glass jar. Begin with a layer of pea gravel, add potting soil, cover with moss, and two or three tiny ferns. Place a miniature figure inside. Punch some holes in the lid and keep covered. This garden will maintain a perfect environment for the plants without adding water.

- Collect favorite recipes from the extended family. Write each recipe on an index card and place in a decorative box. Cover with bits of lace, buttons, or shells.

- Make a list of "Why I Love My Mother." Write on poster board and laminate for durability.

- Work together as a family unit to make a scrapbook from a family vacation.

- Give Mom a big hug and tell her how much you love her! Hugs, like sunshine, are remembered long after the clouds roll in.

Remember, it's not the price of the gift, but the thought that counts. And these gifts from the heart may be those that are treasured for years to come. □ — Tomlin writes for numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt Tomlin, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

## 10 ways to 'find money' for those retirement years

### Financial matters



By Susan Wilhoit

Living for retirement is a life concept; just spend less than you earn. In reality, the monthly obligations are there often isn't much left over. Here are 10 ordinary ways to look for extra money:

- Save "found" money — any extra money such as refunds, cash gifts, bonuses, time, and raises. When your note is paid off, continue saving that monthly amount.

- Watch impulse purchases

- monitor your monthly spending. Reduce trips out to eat, expensive cups of coffee, magazines, and ATM fees.

- Become a negotiator — you can negotiate the fees and interest rates at your bank, your credit card company, or your mortgage company for starters.

- Learn to bargain shop — just about everything can be purchased for a lower price; from airline tickets, hotel and rental cars to appliances, furniture, and clothing.

- Make use of tax-advantaged savings — use your employer's retirement plan, especially if it matches some portion of your contribution. If a flexible spending account (FSA) is available for health care costs or dependent child care, use that as well. Utilize a 529 plan for

- your child's education, and a Traditional or Roth (if eligible) IRA for additional retirement savings.

- Evaluate your utility costs — shop around for lower cost providers, if available. Review your phone bill; use prepaid long distance cards and cut out the expensive extras. Average your utility bills, if possible, to help with budgeting.

- Review your insurance policies — raising your deductible could lower your premiums. Avoid over-insuring or carrying expensive coverage that you don't need.

- Keep an eye on interest costs — consider refinancing your mortgage to a lower rate. Consolidate your credit card debt to a lower cost loan. Pay your monthly credit card bill in full.

- Give yourself a raise — if you're getting big tax refunds, reduce your withholding. Invest the increase in your paycheck.

- Pay yourself first — set up a salary reduction from your paycheck into your retirement account. The money will be tax-deferred, so your dollars will go further.

The key is to start. Try to begin with at least 1 percent of your salary and make a commitment to increase it by 1 percent annually. When retirement arrives, you will be amazed and thrilled at the power of time, compound interest, and tax-deferred growth. □ — Wilhoit serves as manager of client education in the Strategic Marketing Department for GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Advice for moms — just breathe and feel His strength

### What's at the front



By Sara Horn

Once upon a time, I used to be very proud of my ability to do a task. But somewhere along the journey of marriage and motherhood, my talent for juggling multiple projects and in a single bound and my ability in balancing life, home, and career started to feel less super strength and more hopeless cause.

"Balance" became the word of the day. Every day. "If only I could balance better." "I just don't figure out how to balance it all." "I just can't seem to do everything. What's wrong with me?"

Only did I feel out of bal-

ance, with my many plates tumbling and threatening to fall from the air, I felt like I was the only one on the planet who had this problem.

I watched other moms from church seem to juggle life like pros — they looked like the most organized, on-top-of-it gals I'd ever met. But what really annoyed me were the smiles they usually had on their faces to go along with their ultra-organized selves. I sure didn't feel like smiling, especially when I was thinking about all of the million and one things on my to-do list that I already knew I wouldn't get to.

Whether you're a "working mom," a "stay-at-home mom" or a "work-at-home mom" like me, chances are this balance notion has come up more than once for you as well. Juggling family, kids, church activities, work, and everything else in between can become overwhelming.

But here is something I am slowly starting to figure out. Nowhere in the Bible does it say "Thou shalt have balance."

When God formed our world from nothing but darkness, He never said "let there be balance."

And when Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him, He never said "Go and make disciples of all nations but make sure you have balance in your own life before you do."

Just like the Christian life, our days of being moms and wives will never be perfect and some days will certainly be better than others! But God certainly has promised us something even better than balance — it's a Scripture verse I've taught my 5-year-old to sing:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

See, we're not meant to handle things all on our own. Nor

should we keep thinking that we can do it all, all the time.

Our sense of balance can only be found by turning to the one who makes order out of chaos. He's someone who isn't as concerned with what our to-do list looks like but more the condition of our heart.

So to all of you moms out there: enjoy your special day this month. Don't worry about doing it all. And when you find yourself in the balance juggle, remember that God's the one who holds the scales and He is ultimately in control.

Take a moment to just breathe. And feel His strength. □ — Horn is a writer, author, speaker, and publisher of AGreaterFreedom.com, a faith-based military news site. She and her family are members of First Baptist Church (The People's Church), Franklin. She can be reached at sara@agreaterfreedom.com.



## SBC focuses again on evangelism, 'Everyone ...

— Continued from page 1

This year's Crossover rally, held on Saturday and Sunday, June 10-11, will set the tone for the witnessing theme. During "Crossover Triad" hundreds of Southern Baptists will hit the streets of Greensboro and the surrounding cities of Winston-Salem and High Point to share the gospel. Welch has spoken in churches and rallies throughout North Carolina since early March.

"All the indicators are that momentum is really beginning to build [for Crossover and Everyone Can]," said Welch, who added he has received many reports of churches breaking baptismal records.

The SBC Pastors Conference will continue the Great Commission theme Sunday and Monday (June 11-12) with its own theme, "Reaching Today's World for Jesus Christ." See separate story in this issue. Among the other highlights of the convention:

- Southern Baptists will elect a new president. Associated Baptist Press reported May 8 that Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd would be nominated for the presidency by Johnny Hunt. Speculation had been that Hunt, a Georgia pastor, would be the nominee. See next week's issue for more indepth coverage on the presidency. Two candidates have been announced for the office of second vice president — California pastor Wiley Drake and North Carolina pastor J. D. Greear.



WELCH

- A larger-than-life statue of a young Billy Graham will be unveiled. The nine-foot-tall statue eventually will be moved to a location near LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

- Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, will preach. Franklin Avenue's building had eight feet of water inside it during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

- Messengers will be asked to consider a report from the Ad Hoc Cooperative Program Committee that encourages "all Southern Baptist churches to adopt a missional mindset as they contribute at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program to local and global missions." The report also encourages "the election of officers at the state and national level whose churches give at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program."

- Adrian Rogers, the longtime pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis who passed away last year, will be remembered during both the Pastors Conference and the annual meeting. His wife, Joyce Rogers, is scheduled to speak Monday night, June 12, during the Pastors Conference.

- Donald Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., will deliver the convention message.

- Directors of missions and associations will be spotlighted.

But, once again, the "Everyone Can" challenge will be the focal point. Four pastors will deliver evangelism-themed "Everyone Can" sermons: Luter; Gene Mims, pastor of Judson

### Tennesseans nominated for SBC positions

Baptist Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the four denominational boards — International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources and GuideStone Financial Resources, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the six seminaries, and the Committee on Order of Business have been selected by the 2006 SBC Committee on Nominations.

Nominees will serve if elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-14 in Greensboro, N.C.

Tennessee Baptists nominated for service include:

Executive Committee — Roger "Sing" Oldham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Martin, second term

GuideStone Financial Services — Robert L. Sorrell, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, second term

International Mission Board — Brenda Jicka, Orlinda Baptist Church, Orlinda

LifeWay Christian Resources — Dale Clinton, Manley Baptist Church, Morristown

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary — Kevin L. Shrum, pastor, Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary — Robert M. Fargason, Brownsville, second term

Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission — Ronnie J. Wilburn Sr., senior pastor, Meridian Baptist Church, Jackson

SBC President Bobby Welch of Daytona Beach, Fla., also announced appointments to the SBC Committee on Committees and Credentials Committee.

Selected to serve on the Committee on Committees were Darryl Craft, Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, and Mark Grupe, Friendsville Baptist Church, Friendsville.

Mark Thompson, pastor of LaGuarda Baptist Church, Lebanon, was selected to serve on the Credentials Committee. □

**Baptist Church in Nashville;** James I. Walker, pastor, Biltmore Baptist Church, Arden, N.C.; and David Cox, co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla.

For the fourth consecutive year, online registration is available to churches for their messengers. Churches can register their messengers online at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) to avoid waiting at the counter upon arrival at the convention. By registering online, the SBC web site gives a church a messenger reference number form to be printed out

and presented by each messenger at the SBC registration booth in exchange for a nametag and a set of ballots. The appropriate church-authorized representative must complete all online registration.

Messengers wishing to propose resolutions must submit them at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider them. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)

(by clicking on "resolution

The Greensboro Coliseum has ample parking available onsite with three- and four-day passes available for \$15 and \$20, respectively. A one-day pass is \$7. A hotel shuttle service from most area hotels to the coliseum and Sheraton is planned to facilitate easy travel between venues. Shuttle tickets may be purchased for \$10. Children 12 and under are free with parents. Shuttle tickets and parking passes are available at the information desk at the coliseum. □



**Buses for all Journeys... Great and Small**

**the BusCenter.com**

**1.800.930.7144**

- Providing a full range of both school and commercial buses
- Buses in stock ranging from 15 to 51 passengers
- Featuring safer body construction, higher passenger capacity and greater seating comfort
- Quality products, Competitive pricing

**www.thebuscenter.com**

**Serving Bus & Van Ministries Since 1972**

**TransportationSOUTH**


**205.663.2287**

**Mid-South BusCenter**

**615.890.6368**

**Get to Know GuideStone.**

Our experience speaks for itself.



For more than eight decades, GuideStone has served Southern Baptists with quality retirement, investment, life and health products designed to be competitive while remaining faithful to Christian values. **Join hands with an experienced leader on the road to financial security — GuideStone Financial Resources.**

**At the SBC, make your first stop the GuideStone exhibit!**


- Receive a complimentary copy of O.S.Hawkins' latest book.
- Talk to on-site GuideStone experts about retirement, life and health plan options.
- Receive a free health assessment (\$150 value) at the Wellness Center.
- Pick up materials for Adopt An Annuitant Sunday, June 25.

**GuideStone Financial Resources**

**Your Guide for Life.™**

**www.GuideStone.org**

**1.888.98.GUIDE**



**GuideStone**  
FINANCIAL RESOURCES  
of the Southern Baptist Convention





Home is where you hang your heart.

## The Mother's Day Offering

gives children in crisis  
a place to do just that.

At Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, we are your missionaries to Tennessee's most vulnerable children -- children who are all too often removed for their own safety from the homes of their parents or guardians.

Caring people like you provide safe, loving homes and services in 9 TBCH locations statewide where children can learn about God's love for them and attend a Christ-seeking church with their house parents.

Your financial gifts to the Mother's Day Offering *make an eternal difference!* This once-a-year offering supplies 25% of the funds needed annually to provide Christian homes for the more than 200 children cared for by TBCH across Tennessee.

P.O. Box 2206 • Brentwood, TN 37024-2206  
800.624.8591 • [www.tbch4kids.org](http://www.tbch4kids.org)

Brentwood • Memphis • Millington • Chattanooga • Johnson City  
Kingsport • Oakdale • Knoxville • Greeneville



**Tennessee Baptist  
Children's Homes**





# Church Health Matters

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

To schedule a retreat or camp contact us:

**Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center**  
1225 Baptist Camp Road  
Linden, TN 37096

Local (931) 589-2622

Toll Free (877) 354-6336

Fax (931) 589-2712

Email: [jbailey@tnbaptist.org](mailto:jbailey@tnbaptist.org)

[www.lindenvalley.org](http://www.lindenvalley.org)



**Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center**

1120 Carson Springs Road

Newport, TN 37821

Local (423) 623-2764

Toll Free (877) 706-6336

Email: [smason@tnbaptist.org](mailto:smason@tnbaptist.org)

[www.carsonsprings.org](http://www.carsonsprings.org)



## IT'S TIME TO *Get Away*

With a \$29 Minister Getaways Offer for an  
Opportunity for Rest and Renewal

Beside the Scenic Buffalo River  
at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden

Near the Smoky Mountains  
at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport

If you are a Tennessee Baptist minister or a paid church staff member, enjoy an incredible \$29 per night room rate for up to four persons per room at either Tennessee Baptist Conference Center.

Use this special discount for a time of private devotion and study or as a personal getaway with your family. Take advantage of area sightseeing and shopping, kayaking, fishing, or disc golf. (Opportunities vary depending on conference center location.)

This offer is based on room availability and does not apply to groups. Rate cannot be used to attend any scheduled conference or event, or to schedule a staff retreat and is subject to change. It does not include meals.

For information, contact Linden Valley reservations at (877) 354-6336 and for Carson Springs reservations at (877) 704-6336.

## How Camp Linden Changes Lives

by Ivan Raley

In those days, all of the youth from Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, loaded in a three quarter ton truck bed and made the eternal, long trip to the mystery land of Camp Linden.

We crossed the Buffalo River several times and finally after a death defying drive down a gravel hill with a dangerous curve, we entered the valley of Linden. This was the dedication day for the camp, and its two dormitories, which were old military barracks, a large dining hall, which was another old military building, and an open air chapel. They were ready for us to have a wonderful day.

We ate lunch, listened to a service, and swam in the Buffalo River. The boys went in one time and the girls went in another time with none of that mixed bathing.

We climbed the large hill that would later host the Eagle's Nest (now Whippoorwill), and thought for sure it was the largest "mountain" in Tennessee. It was a full day and only the opening day of many adventures to come. I would spend many summers in that once hard to get to camp ground with no phone. We arrived back in Jackson asleep and weary. None of us knew that many of our lives had been forever attached that day to Camp Linden.

It was beside a large tree next to the Buffalo River where I sat one afternoon as a 15-year-old waiting for supper call that I told a friend how to be saved. I read the Scripture to him, prayed with him, and then we hugged as we praised God for what had taken place in his life. For years I would visit that tree and remember that it was there, that I experienced the joy of leading my first person to Christ.

On a moon lit night on the pier by the swimming area, I sat with the camp director's daughter, and we talked of things to be. We spoke of dreams and plans. We looked into the dark sky of that beautiful place and promised God to be all we could be.

As we left that pier we gently kissed, not passionate, just two innocent teens experiencing a moment of childhood emotions. When I remember that time, I realize how much innocence has been robbed from our youth to this day. Knowing all the youth know now, they can never have such a moment of innocent emotion.

I remembered kneeling in the sawdust on the open chapel on a Friday morning saying to God that I would do all He wanted me to do. I would surrender my life to Him to serve Him in any way possible. I never dreamed that that commitment and that moment He would send me back to that place called Camp Linden.

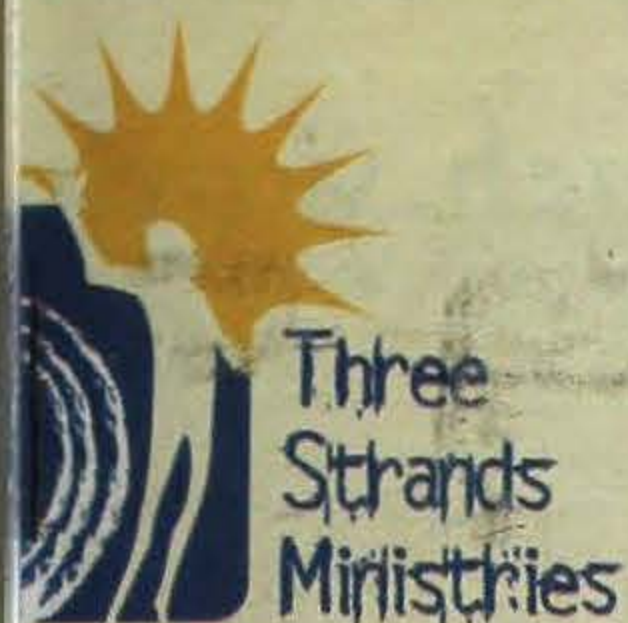
I would return to lead Royal Ambassador groups, to bring my own church family to summer camps; to teach, to watch, to see them grow from a rugged redo of a military camp to a wonderful modern center of refreshing moments and dedicated learning.

I remember other moments, moments of a frog "hunting", fishing at night, tricks played on Russell Tuck, former TBC summer missionary and retired president of Calvary Baptist University, Riverside, Calif., Jim Allen, former executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and watching buildings come and buildings go. Of waiting for a young girl to return and to know that she would not come back.

I remember many moments. But I remember that day long ago, when Tennessee Baptist gave birth to Camp Linden, and I was there to remember the prayer of dedication and commitment. I remember as that place marked my life, for then, and for now.

My father, Ivan Raley Sr., RA leader of Calvary Church, picked up a piece of wood that had fallen from a tree and made it a cross for the former Tennessee Brotherhood Church, Fred Young. My dad prayed during the gavel presentation, and I heard him. I really remember. (Ivan Raley is the regional president for Middle Tennessee at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home.)





## How I Conquered My Fear of Heights

by Tim Bearden

I'm not wild about heights.

I must admit that I am not a big risk taker when it comes to tall things. I never have been so when a friend said we were going to take a group of managers repelling off of a mountain, I was a little worried, not about them, but about me. That repelling trip took place a long time ago, but it taught me a few things about myself and about groups.

I learned that taking risks is a part of life, but the rewards are worth it. I was very glad to feel ground under my feet. But as I looked up at the wall I had just come down, I realized I had conquered my fears and the mountain, at least at that part of the mountain. I did not overcome my fear of heights that day, but I learned a lot about myself.

That is the purpose of challenge courses, to teach individuals and groups more about themselves. At Linden Valley and Carson Springs, you do not repel off of a mountain, but you will learn a lot about yourself on the challenge courses. Whether you jump off of a 40-foot tower on a zip line at Linden Valley or climb a 40-foot wall at Carson Springs, you are going to learn something about yourself and your group.

So, take the adventure, learn something new about yourself. To schedule your group, contact Linden Valley at (877) 354-6336 or Carson Springs at (877) 706-6336.



## What Are the Three Strands Ministries Challenge Courses?

by Tim Bearden

The Tennessee Baptist conference centers have a ministry using challenge courses called "Three Strands Ministries." The challenge courses consist of a Carolina Climbing Wall at Carson Springs and an Odyssey Course at Linden Valley. Both facilities also have low elements.

Trained facilitators lead groups through a series of challenges, both on the ground and high in the air, that help strengthen the individual and groups in several ways. Among the ways are:

### Risk Taking

Some types of risk taking can be healthy. Three Strands will cause individuals and groups to move out of their comfort zones and risk a new challenge.

### Team Work

Groups must work as a team to solve problems and provide for the safety of each individual.

### Cooperation

The challenges faced in Three Strands Ministries can best be overcome as a group works in cooperation, moving as a unit and not as individuals.

### Trust

Individuals learn trust both in equipment and in team mates.

### Communication

As teams talk about the challenges, they learn the solutions together.

### Respect

Participants must not only respect the facilitators, they also learn to respect the contribution of each team member.

### Compassion

Team members learn to encourage each other. They learn each others strengths and weaknesses.

### Fellowship

By taking the challenges of Three Strands Ministries groups find fellowship. When the challenges are over, the group is more of a group.

The purpose of Three Strands Ministries can be found in Ecclesiastes 4:12, "A cord of three strands is not easily broken." Groups that take the adventure are stronger at the end.

To schedule your group, contact Linden Valley at (877) 354-6336 or Carson Springs at (877) 706-6336.

## Participate in the following activities at or near your Tennessee Baptist Conference Centers:

**LINDEN VALLEY:**  
Basketball  
(indoor and outdoor)  
Soft Volleyball  
Horseshoes  
Fishing (with Waterfall)  
Hiking  
Swimming Pool  
Activity/Sports Field  
Playground

Campfire Sites  
Ping Pong  
High Ropes Course  
Low Ropes Course  
Picnic Pavilions  
Rustic Camping  
Disc Golf  
Shuffle Board  
Prayer Garden  
River Walk

**AREA ATTRACTIONS:**  
Golfing  
Horseback Riding  
Amish and Mennonite Communities  
Fishing  
Nature Watching

**CARSON SPRINGS:**  
Basketball  
(indoor and outdoor)  
Volleyball  
Horseshoes  
Mountain Hiking  
Swimming Pool  
Activity/Sports Field  
Playground  
Campfire Sites  
Ping Pong

Climbing Wall  
Low Ropes Course  
Picnic Pavilion  
Rustic Camping  
Various Sports Equipment  
Prayer Garden  
Creek Side Hiking

**AREA ATTRACTIONS:**  
Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge  
Shopping  
Golfing  
Horseback Riding  
Fishing  
Whitewater Rafting  
Smoky Mountain National Park

## Keep the leaders in your church informed.

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

## Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

May 18-20 Hispanic Basic Training, Baptist Center, Brentwood  
May 22-23 New Church Staff Orientation, Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport  
May 22-24 Transitional Interim Pastor (TIP) Training, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden  
June 3 Tennessee Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Baptist Center, Brentwood  
June 5-9 All Nations Camp, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden  
June 13-14 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Greensboro, N.C.  
June 15-17 Black Church Leadership Conference, Baptist Center, Brentwood  
June 22-23 Associational Secretaries Celebration, Baptist Center, Brentwood

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



## SBC pastors to explore different ways to reach world

Baptist Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Pastors' Conference president Bryant Wright has prayerfully and carefully designed a gathering that has something for the young and the old, something for those who embrace a contemporary style of music and something for those who have a more traditional bent.

With the theme of "Reaching Today's World for Jesus Christ," this year's June 11-12 conference is an offering of both the stained glass and Starbucks approach to celebrating the goodness and grace of God.

"We're trying to address the different ways — different styles of worship and different approaches to ministry — in reaching today's world for Christ," said Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Acts 4:10-12 ("... there is salvation in no one else ...") and I Corinthians 9:22b ("I have become all things to all men ...") serve as the conference's Scripture texts.

"Paul tried to be all things to all people so that he might reach some," Wright said. "I think those two passages really explain what my hope is for the conference."

The conference will feature blended music on Sunday evening, contemporary music Monday afternoon, and traditional music Monday night. For the first time, it also will feature breakout sessions, which will be held during Monday morning session from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. One breakout session sure to get some attention deals with "Reaching Today's World Through Differing Views of Election," with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson.

The Monday morning breakout session and Monday afternoon preaching session will be held at the Sheraton Greensboro (the convention hotel). All the other sessions will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum.

While this year's Pastors' Conference will include well-known pastors it also will include some who haven't spoken at previous Pastors' Conferences.

"My desire is to bridge the gap between the emerging young leaders and those who have served us so well for many years," Wright said. "Some of the younger leaders have felt disenfranchised and I am excited about the challenge of encouraging many of them in building up the kingdom of Christ."

Recording artist David Phelps will sing at the Sunday evening and Monday evening sessions. The Monday evening session also will feature a video tribute to Adrian Rogers and a testimony by Joyce Rogers. The Sunday evening session will feature a tribute to Billy Graham.

"We hope that everyone will come to all of the Pastors' Conference sessions to show support and encouragement for those who may prefer a different style of worship," Wright said.

"Surely, there are many ways we can worship the Lord with a Christ-centered, biblically based focus as long as the gospel is not compromised."

Following is a list of the sessions, time frames, and speakers during that time slot.

Sunday evening, June 11, 5:45-9:05 p.m. — Dick Lincoln, Shandon Baptist Church,

Columbia, S.C.; Johnny Hu First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.; and Rick Warr Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, Calif.

Monday afternoon, June 12, 2-4:45 p.m. — Nelson Sear The Journey, New York, N.Y.; Kerry Shook, Fellowship of Woodlands, The Woodlands, Texas; and Erwin McManis, Mosaic, Los Angeles, Calif.

Monday evening, June 12, 6:30-9:30 p.m. — David Jeremiah, Shadow Mountain Community Church, El Cajon, Calif.; Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Baptist Fellowship, Dallas, Texas; Ed Young, Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

The election of 2007 Pastors' Conference officers will take place during the Monday evening session.

Additional information regarding the 2006 Pastors' Conference is available online at [www.reachingtodayworld.org](http://www.reachingtodayworld.org). □

## WMU annual missions celebration to launch 'Live the Call'

Baptist Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Woman's Missionary Union will launch its new two-year emphasis, "Live the Call," as part of the worship, interactive breakout sessions, and fellowship planned for this year's annual Missions Celebration, June 11-12 at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons here.

"WMU will follow up on the 'Christ Followers' emphasis with a new focus on what it means to understand, embrace, and live the call that God has placed in each of our lives," said Wanda S. Lee, national WMU executive director-treasurer.

"It will be an exciting time as we celebrate all that God is doing through the missions efforts of so many in our churches as well as through our missions boards."

An overview of the new emphasis will be woven into four general sessions, each featuring testimonies from missionaries and missions leaders, worship and music, and more. Breakout sessions will offer

interactive learning experiences, opportunities for personal and leadership development, and ways to expand one's missions involvement.

Registration and hands-on missions opportunities begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Those who arrive Sunday afternoon may participate in a wide variety of choices, including various missions projects and opportunities to meet and visit with international and North American missionaries. Additional options available on Monday will include a "treasure hunt" for missions resources; a self-guided prayer demonstration using a prayer module based on WMU's new "Christ Followers: Prayer Path Kit"; and a WMU/LifeWay bookstore, showcasing new books and products and WorldCrafts and offering author autograph sessions.

Pepper Choplin, musician-songwriter and minister of music at Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., has coordinated worship music for this year's event. A sought-after composer, clinician, conductor, and entertainer, Choplin will be the worship leader for the celebration, as he is for many events throughout the country each year.

In addition to Lee and national WMU President Kaye

Miller, featured session leaders will include Marvinna Hooper, ESL instructor and former missionary to Honduras; Archie Jones, former IMB missionary to Chile, and his wife Caroline, missions innovator for national WMU; Rosalie Hunt, president of Alabama WMU and former IMB missionary; Donna Swarts, president of Mississippi WMU and coordinator of the Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force; and the 2006

national Acteens panelists.

Featured personnel from the North American Mission Board will include John Forrester, who serves with his wife Terri as a church planter in Alaska, and Norma Melton, who serves as director of church and community ministries in the Buncombe Baptist Association in Asheville, N.C. Also featured will be yet-to-be named field personnel from the International Mission Board.

The first general session will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 11. The last general session will be 7 p.m., Monday, June 12, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Everyone is welcome, no pre-registration is required, and the event is free of charge.

For additional information regarding the 2006 WMU Missions Celebration, call 1-888-40322 or visit the web site at [www.wmu.com/annualmeeting](http://www.wmu.com/annualmeeting). □



LEE

Guiding viewers to the local church!

# THE ENCOURAGING WORD

**WITH DR. DON WILTON**

Join the network of churches that are building relationships with viewers in their own cities who have made decisions while watching The Encouraging Word.

*I experienced this first hand last winter when Dr. Wilton challenged my church members to give on the day we were closed due to snow. As The Encouraging Word was broadcast, Dr. Wilton showed his true color... He insisted that the viewers stop what they were doing and give to their local church. We received a great financial blessing in the mail later that week. Over the two Sundays we were snowed out, our offerings more than tripled — and no one was in the church. Talk about encouragement!*

— Pastor, North Carolina

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

Salvations, rededications, marriage restorations — all decisions are met with the response "you need to be involved in a local Bible believing Church. Would you like for us to have someone in your area contact you this week?"

**We Evangelize... You Disciple**

**Sundays at Noon EST**  
on NRB Network  
Channel 378 on DIRECTV Satellite

**Sundays at 12:30 p.m. EST**  
on The Inspiration Network  
Cable Channel 72 in Memphis

**Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. EST**  
on Daystar Network  
Channel 369 on DIRECTV Satellite

Or go to [www.TheEncouragingWord.org](http://www.TheEncouragingWord.org) to find a time and station near you!

For more information call toll free 1-866-899-WORD

**BusGroup**  
Commercial Bus Sales

We offer buses from 8 - 57 passengers.  
Call about our FREE:

- CDL Training class March 18
- Fundraiser package
- Transportation Solutions package
- Quote

866-726-5142  
[www.busgroup.com](http://www.busgroup.com)





# CARSON-NEWMAN

## COLLEGE

*"Continuing the Legacy of Preaching"*



Rev. Lee Fox, Pastor - Foothills Church, Pigeon Forge

Rev. Lee Fox  
Winner,  
Inaugural  
G. Earl Guinn  
Preaching  
Award

*"A Transparent Life"*  
*Ephesians 4:1-6*

*"All good sermons come from the theme that is within the text. Lee makes a strenuous effort to ensure that the theme of his sermon is aligned with the theme within the text. He is becoming a fine theorist, as well as being a good practitioner of the craft."*

*-Dr. Harold Bryson  
Visiting Senior Professor of Religion*

C-N Admissions: 1-800-678-9061  
admitme@cn.edu  
www.cn.ed



# SBC-related entities to hold pre-convention meeting

Compiled from Baptist Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Several organizations or entities related to the Southern Baptist Convention will hold meetings in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting June 13-14 here. Among them:

## Pastors' wives session

"Contagious Joy" is the theme for the second annual Pastors' Wives Session of the Southern Baptist Convention's Pastors Conference in Greensboro, N.C., and the program features several noted pastors' wives sharing ways God has given them joy in their life experiences.

The session, which is Monday, June 12, from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m., is free of charge and no registration is necessary. Doors open at 8 a.m. at the War Memorial Auditorium, adjacent to the Greensboro Coliseum.

"Contagious Joy" is based on I Peter 1:8, which says in part, "... you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible full of glory."

**Donna Gaines, wife of Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova,** said the session is designed to address some of the needs indicated on a survey that last year's participants completed.

"Sometimes the circumstances of our lives and the trials we encounter can dampen our joy," Gaines, the meeting's organizer, said.

Speakers will include Anita Renfro, a regular humorist at "Women of Faith" conferences; Liz Traylor, Pensacola, Fla.; Jeana Floyd, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.; **Carol Ann Draper, Nashville;** Ginger Spradlin, Valley Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif.; Elizabeth Luter, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans; and Teresa Brown, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

In addition to Gaines, Traylor, Floyd, and Draper, other women serving on the ministry's board include Susie Hawkins of Dallas; Diane Nix of Tulsa, Okla.; Barbara O'Chester of Austin, Texas; **Joyce Rogers of Memphis;** and Janet Wicker of Naples, Fla. □

## Ministers' Wives Luncheon

The 2006 Ministers' Wives Luncheon will be held June 13 at noon in the Guilford Ballroom of the Sheraton Four-Seasons Hotel in Greensboro.

The guest speaker will be Georg Anderson of Conway, Ark., an interior designer whose work has been featured in *Architectural Digest* and *Interior Design* magazines. He will speak on the home and the value of a home as a tool for witness.

A limited number of seats are available, so early registration is encouraged. The cost of tickets is

\$10 per person. To register, call 1-877-467-9287. □

## Hispanic fellowship

"Facing the Challenges of the 21st Century" will be the theme of the National Fellowship of Hispanic Baptist Churches' 19th annual meeting, June 10-11.

Fellowship President Augusto Valverde, pastor of the Resurreccion Church in Miami, said a key event for this year's gathering will be an evangelistic concert and "encuentro" (literally "finding" or "coming together" in Spanish) at the conclusion of the all-day Crossover Greensboro outreach.

Personnel from the North Carolina Baptist Convention, the local Baptist associations, and pastors and lay leaders from Hispanic churches from across the country will join local pastors and church leaders to make an impact for Christ within the state's Hispanic community.

All of the sessions of the Hispanic fellowship will take place at Pleasant Garden Baptist Church of Greensboro, located at 1415 Neelley Road.

The fellowship's first session will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday June 10, with a fellowship dinner for all attendees, followed by a presentation from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

More information about the National Fellowship of Hispanic Baptist Churches can be obtained at [www.confraternidad.org](http://www.confraternidad.org) or by contacting Julio Fuentes at (305) 206-7575.

## African American fellowship

"Critical Issues" for African Americans in Southern Baptist life will be addressed during the 13th annual meeting of what now is known as the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention.

NAAF's two-day event will open with a worship service at 6 p.m. Sunday, June 11, at Immanuel Baptist Church, 2432 High Point Road.

Eddie Scott, pastor of Christian Bible Fellowship in New Orleans, is scheduled to bring the annual sermon.

Scott, one of many pastors displaced last September by Hurricane Katrina and breached levees and flood walls, is expected to talk about the region-wide devastation, Southern Baptists' response, and the continuing need for volunteers to help in New Orleans' rebuilding; and the resurrection of the 10-year-old church he pastors.

NAAF's Monday session will start at 4 p.m. with a business meeting in the Meadowbrook Room on Level 3 of the Sheraton Hotel, 3121 High Point Road at Interstate 40 in Greensboro.

## SBC chaplains

Brig. Gen. Douglas Carver, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of

Chaplains, will address the annual Southern Baptist chaplains' luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 12, at the Sheraton Hotel here.

Carver, the U.S. Army's 22nd deputy chief of chaplains, is the first Southern Baptist chaplain to be promoted to the Chief of Chaplains office for active duty in more than 50 years.

For more information, call NAMB's chaplaincy team at (770) 410-6304. □

## Younger Leaders Summit

What began in Nashville at the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention will continue in Greensboro when the Younger Leaders Summit II convenes at 10 p.m., Monday, June 12, following the annual Pastors Conference.

Marty Duren, pastor of New Bethany Baptist Church in Buford, Ga., and principle organizer for the gathering at the War Memorial Auditorium, said the intention is for the summit to conclude by 10:45 p.m.

Last year's Younger Leaders Summit was hosted by James T. Draper Jr., then-president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Draper, who retired from LifeWay in February, will be among the speakers at this year's summit. The main address will be delivered by Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Also scheduled are Doug and Kiki Cherry, Mission Service Corps campus directors at

Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa.; Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; and Tim Sweatman, pastor of Jackson Grove Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky.

Registration is not needed. □

## Directors of missions

"Partnering for Kingdom Purposes" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions June 11-12 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

The meeting will begin with a worship celebration at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 11, at the Greensboro Marriott Downtown, followed by lunch, music, a devotional, and a panel discussion on the theme of how Baptists can accomplish more by working together.

Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa, Fla., will deliver the morning's message.

A Sunday afternoon session will include a business meeting and the president's message from Eddie Miller, director of missions for the Sierra Baptist Association in Nevada. A banquet will follow Sunday evening.

Monday morning's session will begin at 8:30 a.m. with worship and a report on "Associational Summit 2006" by Sid Hopkins, director of missions for the Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association in Georgia. The SBCADOM will elect new officers and Ricky Creech, director of missions for the Birmingham Baptist Associa-

tion in Alabama, will speak.

"Volunteers in the Association" The afternoon session include a noon lunch for directors of missions and a presentation by Johnny Rumb, director of missions for the Winston Baptist Association in South Carolina.

DOMs may pre-register at [www.sbcadom.net](http://www.sbcadom.net). □

## Evangelists

The urgency of preaching gospel to all nations will rally cry for the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists June 9-11 as they focus on "Going Into All the World."

Jerry Rankin, president of International Mission Board, will be among the featured speakers at the evangelists' annual retreat, Friday and Saturday, June 9-10, at the Holiday Inn Express Guilford Center in Greensboro. Other speakers include evangelist **Ron Herrod of Tennessee**.

The annual Sunday morning worship service sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will be held in the Guilford Ballrooms B on level one of the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons from 8:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 12. Bailey Smith, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be the featured speaker at the worship service.

The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists' annual business meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 12, at the Holiday Inn Express.

## HIDDEN MOUNTAIN RESORT

### Groups

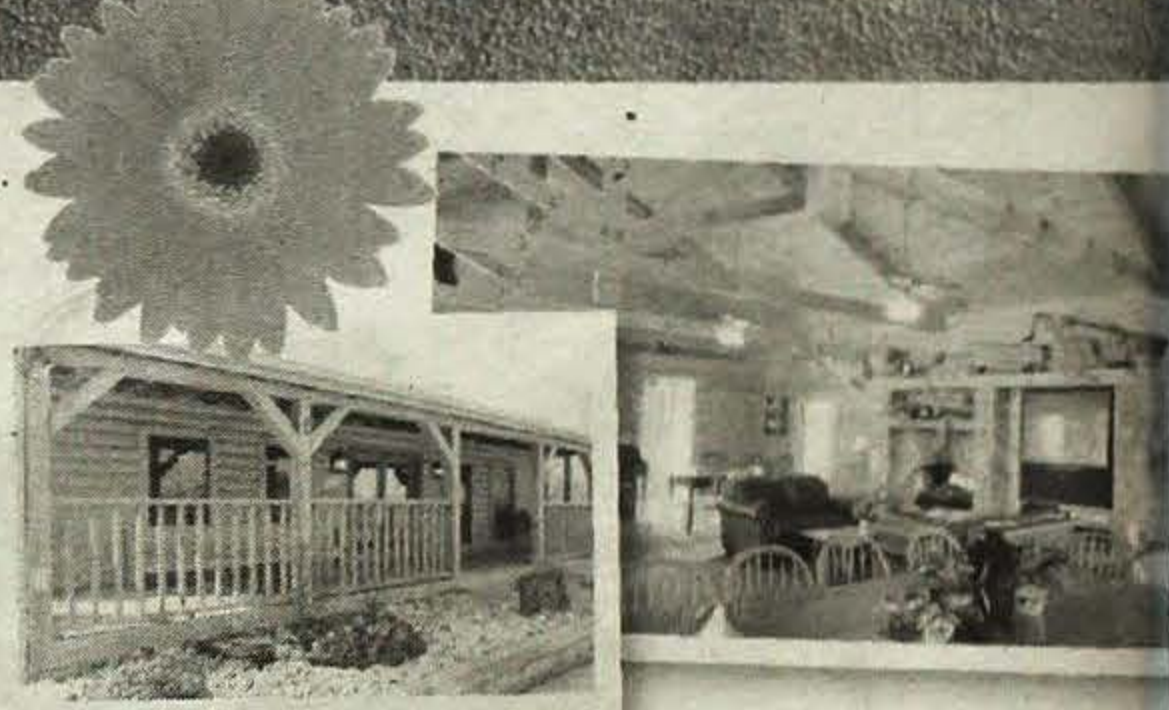
There are places in the world where just being there can change your priorities.

For how can one watch the sun setting over the mountaintop, sleep to the sounds of nature, and wake to the peaceful serenity of the Great Smoky Mountains and not change how you view the world?

Hidden Mountain Resorts is the ideal location for families, teams, companies, church groups and organizations in search of the perfect combination of relaxation and productivity. With 275 luxurious cabins, villas and cottages that sleep from two to 40 people, and a fully equipped conference center, Hidden Mountain is a secret that's meant to be shared.

Kay Green, group sales director, and her staff will help you efficiently plan a successful event.

Just call 866-227-5291 or 865-428-6863 or email [kgreen@hiddenmountain.com](mailto:kgreen@hiddenmountain.com).



Clubhouse at Hidden Mountain East



### THE RIVER LODGE

AT HIDDEN MOUNTAIN RESORT



Kay Green



475 Apple Valley Road, Sevierville, TN 37862  
[www.hiddenmountain.com](http://www.hiddenmountain.com)



## Union, seminaries hold SBC-related events

**Union University**  
The Union University Alumni and Friends Dessert Reception will be held Tuesday, June 13 at 8:30 p.m. in the Sheraton Four Seasons in Imperial Ballrooms E/F/G.

The reception is complimentary but guests are asked to pick up a ticket at the university display in the exhibit area. Call 1-800-338-6644 prior to SBC annual meeting.

**Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will host its annual alumni luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, in the Imperial Ballroom C on the 14th floor of the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, N.C.

Reservations are required by Friday, June 2, and can be made by contacting Midwestern's institutional advancement office at 1-877-414-3720. The first 100 reservations received from Midwestern alumni will receive their lunch tickets at no charge. Note: Free tickets maximum per family; additional luncheon

tickets are \$23 each. Please include complete names of all attendees and contact information with your reservation.

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's annual Alumni & Friends Luncheon will be a time of celebration for the renewal of the campus following Hurricane Katrina.

The June 14 luncheon will be in the Sheraton Four Seasons' Guilford F/G Ballrooms immediately following the Wednesday morning session.

Tickets — at \$10 each before June 1, \$12 after June 1 — are on sale by mail and online. Tickets also will be available at the NOBTS booth in the SBC exhibit hall.

To purchase a ticket before the SBC, mail a check payable to NOBTS to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Attention Alumni Relations, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

**Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary annual Alumni and Friends National Luncheon Wednesday, June 14, following the morning session.

The luncheon will be held in Guilford Ballrooms D/E on level one of the Sheraton.

Tickets cost \$12 each. For ticket information, contact Heather Lanxton at (919) 761-2349.

**Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary**  
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will host its

annual Alumni and Friends Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, N.C., in the hotel's Blue Ashe Room on level three.

Tickets are \$10 per person and will be available at the seminary's booth in the SBC exhibit hall or by calling 1-888-442-8709.

**Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's National Alumni Luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, in Guilford Ballrooms A and B of the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in Greensboro, N.C.

Alumni and friends of the seminary may purchase tickets for \$10 per person before June 1 by calling toll-free 1-877-467-9287. Tickets may be purchased in the Southwestern booth at the convention for \$15 per person.

**Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
The annual luncheon sponsored by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during the Southern Baptist Convention will be held at 12:30 p.m., June 14, in the Imperial Ballroom on level one of the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, N.C.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and will be available for \$24 at the SBTS convention booth. Alumni and seminary friends who plan on attending are urged to get their tickets in advance as space may be limited. For more information or to buy tickets, call 1-800-626-5525, ext. 4143. □

## More people read the Bible: Barna

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Forty-seven percent of American adults read the Bible during a typical week other than when they are at church, according to a study by The Barna Group released in April.

Researchers found a significant increase in religious activity related to five of seven core religious behaviors, and Bible reading led the pack. Barna said only 31 percent of Americans were reading the Bible in 1995, but numbers started increasing in 2004.

Church attendance increased from 37 percent in 1996 to 47 percent in 2006, Barna said, and involvement in small, church-related groups has reached a new high of 23 percent this year. A decade ago only 17 percent of adults participated in small groups.

Church volunteerism increased to 27 percent while adult Sunday School attendance has risen to 24 percent from the 17 percent recorded in 1995, Barna said.

Prayer and evangelism were the two categories that did not show a change over recent years. Eighty-four percent of Americans said they had prayed in the past week, and six out of 10 Christians claimed to have shared their faith during a given time span.

The study was based on random telephone interviews with 1,003 adults across the nation in January.

"It is typical for us to see one or maybe two measures surge forward in a given year, only to stabilize or perhaps retreat to prior levels in subsequent years," George Barna, president

of The Barna Group, said.

"The intriguing possibility is that with most of our key behavioral measures showing increases at the same time, there is the possibility that this may herald a holistic, lasting commitment to engagement with God and the Christian faith." □

## America is nation of prayer: Bush

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — America has been, and continues to be, a "nation of prayer," President George W. Bush said May 4 in a White House observance on the 55th National Day of Prayer.

"It's impossible to tell the story of our nation without telling the story of people who pray," the president said in a morning event. "[The first pilgrims] stepped boldly onto the shores of a new world, and many of them fell to their knees to give thanks."

"At decisive moments in our history and in quiet times around family tables, we are a people humbled and strengthened and blessed by prayer," he said.

The observance was the sixth consecutive year Bush has spoken in the White House on the National Day of Prayer. The president also issued a proclamation on the National Day of Prayer on May 3.

An observance was held in a House of Representatives office building the afternoon of May 4, and people gathered in communities across the country to pray.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force estimated more than 40,000 events would occur as part of the observance, which this year was marked with the theme "America, Honor God," based on I Samuel 2:30. □

Other speakers include: Mark Dever, Ronnie Floyd, Robert Lewis, Dick Lincoln, Al Mohler, Paige Patterson, Thom Rainer, Steve Stroepe, Ben Witherington III and many more!

Exciting new addition: Rick Warren

\*New This Year!

Breakout Sessions and  
Three Styles of Worship!

REACHING TODAY'S  
WORLD FOR  
JESUS CHRIST

Acts 4:10-12 • 1 Corinthians 9:22b

www.reachingtodayworld.com

Pastors' Conference • Greensboro, NC  
June 11-12, 2006

## Responding to The Da Vinci Code Seminar

Monday, May 15, 9:30 a.m. - noon

West Jackson Baptist Church

580 Oil Well Road, Jackson; Phone (731) 660-4535

Tuesday, May 16 — 7-9 p.m.

Clingan Ridge Baptist Church

2412 Georgetown Road, Cleveland; (423) 472-3511

The Da Vinci Code, authored by Dan Brown, is not only creating confusion among many who are easily swayed, but is providing unbelievable opportunities for Christ followers to give a reason for the hope that is in us. We do not have to be afraid of or afraid for TRUTH, so why be threatened by the Da Vinci Code. It is filled not only with theological error, but historical error. The Truth of Jesus Christ will long remain after Dan "Who?" is forgotten.

The evangelism team of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is pleased to be able to partner with several associations to help church leaders know how to respond to the movie that is to be released on May 19.

The seminar at both locations will be led by Mike Licona, director of apologetics and interfaith evangelism with the North American Mission Board.

No registration required and the seminar is FREE!



Mike Licona



## Linden Valley calls new manager

Baptist and Reflector

LINDEN — Knoxville Chris Morton has been named manager of Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center here, effective May 15.

Morton formerly operated his own construction company before joining the staff of Camp Ba Yo Ca, a Knox County Baptist Association facility in 1997. He served as assistant manager.

Morton is active in the Southern Baptist Camp Association and is past president of the Tennessee/Kentucky Christian Camp and Conference Association.

He and his wife, Kamela, have three sons, Sawyer, 12, and Denver and Wyatt, 9. □

## SBC CP gifts ahead of '05 pace

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are 1.66 percent above the same time

frame in 2005, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of April 30, 2006, the year-to-date total of \$117,595,665.30 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$1,919,758.41 above the \$115,675,906.89 received at the same point in 2005. For the month, receipts of \$17,151,474.25 were 0.48 percent, or \$81,683.67, above the \$17,069,790.58 received in April 2005.

Designated giving of \$131,872,672.53 for the same year-to-date period is 0.43 percent, or \$560,366.09, above gifts of \$131,312,306.44 received at this point last year. The \$16,971,319.93 in designated gifts received last month is \$2,216,174.39 above the \$14,755,145.54 received in April 2005, an increase of 15.02 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$117,595,665.30 is 106.18 percent of the \$110,754,732.06 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of

supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. □

## IMB missionary from Knoxville dies in Mexico

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Carolyn Jean Mills Hale, a Southern Baptist missionary with the International Mission Board, died of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) April 18 in Durango City, Mexico. She was 59.

Hale served as a regional prayer advocate for the IMB; her husband Gerald is the IMB's field coordinator for Mexico. More than a year ago, she was diagnosed with the neurodegenerative disorder that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Though the condition progressively disabled her body, Hale chose to remain in Mexico and continue her work. She was traveling back to her home in El Salto when she unexpectedly passed away.

A native of Knoxville, Hale was a graduate of Birming-

ham-Southern College in Birmingham, Ala., and Belmont University, Nashville.

"If there is one thing I remember about Carolyn, it was her faithfulness to get the job done," said Phil Templin, IMB regional leader for Middle America and the Caribbean.

"Even when she was limited by ALS, she faithfully completed her task as prayer coordinator. When she was limited by persistent pain and discomfort and could only write a letter at a time, she continued to put information on our prayer network. In many ways, Carolyn Hale was a real model of a faithful servant and committed disciple."

Before beginning her nearly 26-year career with the International Mission Board, Hale worked as an elementary school teacher in Birmingham, Ala. In 1980, she and her husband were appointed by the IMB as missionaries to Hong Kong. After transferring to the Pacific Rim in 1994, the Hales moved to their current post in 1999, answering God's call to Mexico. There Hale shared the role of regional prayer advocate with fellow IMB missionary and friend Charlotte Davis.

Her funeral was held May 25 at First Baptist Church, Camden. In addition to her husband, survivors include two grown children, Gerald and Catherine Martin, and a grandchild. □

## 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, 306 Chestnut St., Monterey, TN 38574. Post to the attention of Sonny Gilpatrick.

Bivocational pastor. If interested, please send resume to Search Committee, White Oak Baptist Church, 108 East Commercial Ave., Monterey, TN 38574.

### MINISTRY — ADMINISTRATOR

Full-time Administrator/Administrator. Pastor: Please send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 579, Campbell, AL 35581, or email moorescott@aol.com.

### MINISTRY — EDUCATION

Parkview Baptist Church, Alexandria, La., seeks a minister of education. Please send resume to Minister of Education Search Committee, c/o Parkview Baptist Church, 2101 Mayfield Dr., Alexandria, LA 71301.

### MINISTRY — MUSIC

Church pianist/key player needed at Fairfield Glade Baptist Church, Fairfield, Tenn. Proficiency in sight-reading, improvisation, and accompanying desired, with a focus on enhancing worship. Must be a Christian who is available every Sunday morning and evening, Wednesday and for occasional special events/rehearsals. Please contact Rev. Eric Hinson at 200-4171.

### MINISTRY — POSITIONS

First Baptist Church, Sevier, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister to students & church activities director. Experience in Southern Baptist church preferred. We are a growing church with 350-400 in worship. Description available upon request. Interested applicants send resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 12685 South Main St., Sevier, TN 38068.

### MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Church is seeking personnel for the full-time position of minister of childhood education. Minimum of two years experience in full-time children's ministry and bachelor's degree required. Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 701 South Main Street, Jonesboro, AL 36204.

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT**

TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679

www.fiberglasschurchprod.com

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.

3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

**BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES**

Manufacturers of Lights, Baptisries, Steeples

www.BUchurch.com

1-800-446-7400

P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, Virginia 24541

**Myrtle Beach Ocean Front**

Corner condo, smoke-free, pool view and lazy river.

Cell phone: (843) 602-0466

Home phone: (843) 248-4561

## CLASSIFIED

**MINISTRY — COMBINATION**

Seeking full-time minister of music and education for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Applicant must be an experienced and excellent musician, worship leader, and educator and must exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Send resumes to Fern Creek Baptist Church, Attn. Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, or e-mail to linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumes will be received through June 5. Questions? Call (502) 239-0316 (Linda Barnes Popham, Pastor).

**Affordable Beachside Vacation Condos**

www.gulfshorescondos.com

All size units available, Summer Special 2 night weekend, \$225.00; 4 week-nights, \$430.00 Efficiency Unit (2 Adults, 2 Kids) Good 5-26 thru 8-6

(205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524

**LifeWay CHURCH BUSES**

Buses provided for LifeWay by

**Carpenter Bus Sales**

Franklin, TN • Since 1953

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

**COMPEL OUTREACH IS MOVING!**

Global Vision Unites Evangelist and Pastor to Partner in World Missions

Pastor Jeff LaBorg & Evangelist Bill Britt

After being based in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex for nearly fifteen years, Compel Outreach International is moving its offices to Gallatin, Tennessee. Gallatin is a suburb on the north side of Nashville. Pastor Jeff LaBorg and the congregation of College Heights Baptist Church have extended this invitation to COI. The church will be providing an office suite for Compel at the church facility.

The location has changed, but the mission's still the same...  
...until the whole world hears!

Compel Outreach International  
2100 Nashville Pike  
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066  
615.452.0710

WWW.COMPELOUTREACH.ORG

UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD HEARS



minister's corner

# The dying American church

Thom S. Rainer

I am by nature an optimist. I have seen the hand of God too often in my life to live in a state of despair and defeatism.

But the state of evangelism in the American church is such that I do have my moments when I wonder if the church is headed down the path of many European congregations: decline and death. The facts of a 2004 research project I led are sobering. It takes 86 church members in America one year to reach a person for Christ. Now I realize that such statistical studies are imperfect, and I make no claims of omniscience, especially in matters such as the regenerate population. But the research is even close to accurate, the reality is at the Church is not reproducing herself. In just one or two generations, Christianity could be so marginalized that it will be deemed irrelevant by most observers.

Why has the American church become evangelistically anemic?

The research points to several possible factors. First, the Church and many of the Christians who serve in the pews have become doctrinally ineffective. Repentance is often avoided as a key truth of the gospel. It is rarely mentioned, despite its abundance of references in Scripture. And regenerate church membership and church discipline are sometimes perceived as relics of an old and irrelevant era. When these and other key issues are avoided or even watered down, the Church loses her power, and the gospel is no longer the gospel.

Second, church leaders are becoming less evangelistic. A survey of pastors I led in 2005 surprised the research team. Over one-half (53 percent) of pastors had made no evangelistic efforts at all in the past six months. They had not shared the gospel. They had not attempted to engage a lost and unchurched person at any level. They had become busy doing many things, but they had chosen through their lack of actions to be disobedient to Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19, and many other clear passages of evangelistic mandates.

Third, Christians in churches often get caught up in minor issues and fail to become passionate about the major issue of evangelism. I served as pastor of a church that spent two hours in a business meeting debating a 5 percent differential in the cost of two similar pieces of furniture. I wish I had seen such passion for the lost and the unchurched in our community.

The numerical evidence seems clear. The American church is dying. We are not reproducing Christians. American church growth is typically the transfer of members from one congregation to another, rather than conversion of the lost. I guess I could blame the churches, her leaders, and stubborn church members. I must confess that I too often fall short in my own evangelistic zeal. Sometimes I get so busy that I fail to do the main thing.

Perhaps the first step for all of us is the confession of our own sins of disobedience, our own failures to take the evangelistic mandate seriously. Perhaps if we determine that the problem begins with me, then we can be a part of the solution.

Will you join me in a personal evangelistic renewal? The results of our evangelistic efforts are in the hands of the Sovereign God. But we can be His instruments for renewal. Perhaps then the American church will have new life and new hope. Such is my prayer. I hope it is yours. □ — Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources, based in Nashville.

# Hannah: determined devotion

By Phil Taylor

## Focal Passage: 1 Samuel 1-2

Determined devotion is a fitting designation for a woman whose life is seen to have disappointments, who was crowned with grace, and who became a living emblem of the grace of motherhood.

Studying about this godly mother and her prayer life can teach us several lessons. It is for sure that if we had more parents like Elkanah and Hannah, we would have more godly men like Samuel.

While the people cry for a king, Hannah cries for a child. God builds a throne on a woman's cry. On her prayer God built a kingdom.

Patience was a result of her faithfulness to God. Her patience can be seen in the problems she faced (1:2). She was without a child. Barrenness in ancient times was the ultimate tragedy for a married woman, since her husband's hopes and dreams depended on her providing him with a son to perpetuate his name and inherit his estate. In spite of her gracious character, Hannah's home life was often troubled and sorrowful.

Her husband was a bigamist. Obviously, this situation caused severe tension in the family. Peninah — called Hannah's "rival" (v. 6 NKJV) — deliberately provoked her, antagonizing her about the fact that the Lord had withheld children from her.

In light of her patience, God's outside influence is seen (1:5). In

the Old Testament infertility was a sign of God's displeasure upon a woman. Maybe God wanted to teach her the truth that Eddie Carswell put in a song:

"God is too wise to be mistaken,  
God is too good to be unkind;  
So when you don't understand,  
When you can't see His plan,  
When you can't trace His hand,  
Trust His heart."

Patience can run out when there is no definite purpose. Hannah's life has a defining purpose. Honor and eminence for women in the Bible was nearly always associated with home and family. Hannah understood that, and she earnestly desired to enter into the noble role of a mother. The value of persistent and passionate prayer is one of the central lessons from Hannah's life. Notice how the passion of her praying is described in (1:10-11).

Hannah brings a vow to God: to give her child to the Lord. She intended to devote him to full-time service in the tabernacle. Hannah wanted her son to be a godly man, serving and glorifying the Lord all his life.

Her desire of the Lord was: a special request — "look on the affliction"; a specific request — "a male child"; and a sacrificial request — "I will give." She did not bargain with God, rather she proved her spirituality by willingly offering God her best.

Her faithfulness to God can be seen in the praise she declared. She put God first (2:1). All she does and

## Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series May 14

says is centered in the great act of God on her behalf. She believed that God was able. Hannah's prayer in 2:1-10 reveals how thoroughly familiar Hannah was with the deep things of God. She kept her vows (1:27, 28), and she gave God all the glory. (2:1-8).

Let's conclude with three lessons:

Never underestimate the power of sin in a home. Eli's sons needed discipline, but he pampered them instead. This cost him his life and eventually the priesthood.

Never underestimate the power of prayer in a home. Hannah and Elkanah were people of prayer and God answered their prayers. God gave us Samuel, the best of the Judges and the first of the prophets.

God speaks to children and young people, and adults should make it easy for them to hear God's voice and respond in faith. The training of children in spiritual things is the greatest responsibility in the world. □ — Taylor is director of missions for Bradley County Baptist Association, headquartered in Cleveland.



TAYLOR

# Accept God's free offer

By Marvin Nail

## Focal Passage: Isaiah 55:1-13

The Jews in Babylon had been there so long only a very few had any direct memory of Jerusalem and what had been the nation of Judah. They had settled in and become comfortable with their lives having made Babylon their home.

They had established synagogues in their new land and were worshipping their God as they had not done in the last years before the captivity. Now Cyrus and his army had conquered Babylon and God had moved him to set the Jews free to return to Judea.

Such a migration would have meant pulling up roots for this generation of Jews who no longer considered themselves captives. There was little to motivate them to return to the land of their fathers; but the prophet pleaded with them to separate themselves from their pagan culture and go back to a place holy to the Lord.

## Who satisfies? (vv. 1-5)

Water has always been precious in the Middle East because of its mostly dry climate that seldom sees rain. The people sometimes had to go great distances to obtain the water they needed for survival.

The land to which the captives were being invited to return had once been described to them as "a land flowing with milk and honey." But, because of their sin, the

ground refused to yield its produce to their fathers prior to the captivity.

Their God was now inviting them to partake of the bounty that He alone could provide. In the waning days of the nation, they were unable to buy enough to eat; but God was going to be with them again and they would know plenty.

The most important aspect of the plenty was the spiritual nurture that only God could provide. That spiritual plenty would make them the envy of all the nations.

## Who hears? (vv. 6-7)

All of this bounty would be available to the Jews if they would only return to the Lord, turning away from their sins. He was prepared to pour out His mercy and forgiveness.

God knew of their suffering and it pained His heart; but they could not receive His blessings, nor could He hear their pleas until they repented and sought Him. God was not hiding from them; but was, instead, near at hand and ready to help.

## Who understands? (vv. 8-11)

The exiles had no reason to expect mercy from their God if He had been like other gods of that time, or even like they were to each other. What God had in mind for



NAIL

## Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible May 14

them was something that never would have occurred to anyone other than Himself.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had made a promise long before and His word could not fail to come to pass. He was always willing to restore those who were willing to return to Him.

## Who brings joy? (vv. 12-13)

Though they had lived in a foreign land to which they had been brought as prisoners, their return would be a different story. The exile journey would be turned into a victory march. They had come to that place with heads hung in sorrow, but they would be going back to the land of promise with heads held high.

The joyful songs of Zion would once again be on their lips. This would not be a fearful journey with an uncertain future. Instead, this return would be accompanied by joy expressed in all creation. They would have the opportunity to make things right again by once again submitting themselves to their God. In that submission is the only joy that is lasting. □ — Nail is a former pastor and current member of First Baptist Church, Nashville. He is an employee of LifeWay Christian Resources.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world



## Leaders

◆ **First Baptist Church, Clinton**, has called **Stan Elliott** as pastor.

◆ **Jonathan Baine** has resigned as pastor of Spring Hill Baptist Church, Trenton.

◆ **Avondale Baptist Church, Humboldt**, has called **Ed Marbury** as interim pastor.

◆ **Hernards Chapel Baptist Church, Rogersville**, recently called **Bobby Joe Hancock** as pastor. He served the church as interim and previously as associate pastor and student minister.

◆ **Timothy Scott** has resigned as pastor of Blooming Grove Baptist Church, Five Points.

◆ **Immanuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg**, has called **Steve Seaton** as youth pastor and outreach leader.

◆ **Dale Holcomb** has resigned as pastor of East Side Baptist Church, Elizabethton, effective May 28, to enter Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

◆ **Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville**, has called **Wally Vinson** as the associate associational missionary. A native of Clarksville, Vinson has served churches in student ministry and discipleship.

◆ **Haynes Flat Baptist Church, Speedwell**, has called **Travis Dunn** as youth minister. He formerly served as youth minister at Shawnee Baptist Church, located in Shawanee.

◆ **Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Bradford**, has called

**Randall Kellough** as pastor.

◆ **Unaka Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, has called **Wayne Miller** as youth director.

◆ **Rick Powell** is the new youth director at North Johnson City Baptist Church, Johnson City.

◆ **Bud Pate** has been called as interim pastor of Cherry Grove Baptist Church, Jonesborough.

◆ **Andy Wood** is the new pastor of Bethel View Baptist Church, Bristol.

## Associations

◆ **Salem Baptist Association, Liberty**, will send a team to Montana June 24 - July 1 to support the Tennessee/Montana Baptist Partnership. The volunteers will serve in Havre and Rocky Boys Reservation where they will help churches with construction, preaching, visitation, and surveys. For information, call David Mahan at (615) 464-7262.

## Churches

◆ **Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage**, recently sponsored a 13-member recovery disaster relief team to the Slidell, La., area where they did chain saw work to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. The church also has chain saw teams scheduled for May 25-28, and June 18-23, in Slidell. For information on joining the teams, contact Paul Brady, church disaster relief coordinator, at (615) 883-5034.

◆ **Old New Hope Baptist Church, Fairview**, recently



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, New Tazewell**, recently entered into a partnership of prayer and ministry with Emmanuel Baptist Church of Nicholson in Picayune, Miss., through the Adopt-a-Church initiative of the North American Mission Board. Pastor Jim Gray, along with others from Emmanuel, recently visited FBC, New Tazewell, on April 23 to celebrate the new partnership. Pastor Randy Pressnell presented Gray with the keys to FBC's former church van which FBC donated to the Emmanuel congregation. Pictured, from left, are Liz Gray, Mark and Angela Moseley, Jim and Serena Gray (of Emmanuel) and Randy Pressnell, FBC.

held a spring revival with evangelist Delton Dees as the speaker. As a result 13 young people made professions of faith and one young adult rededicated her life.

◆ **Wolf Creek Baptist Church, Spring City**, held revival services May 7-10 with evangelist Morris Anderson of Maryville as speaker.

◆ **Poplar Bluff Baptist Church, Madisonville**, recently sponsored a 32-volunteer mission trip to repair Mt Zion Baptist Church in Gueydan, La., which was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

◆ **Third Baptist Church, Nashville**, will celebrate 130 years of ministry on May 21. Anthony George of Winter Park, Fla., will speak during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. A luncheon will follow. For more information, contact the church at (615) 876-3646.

◆ **Robertsville Baptist Church, Oak Ridge**, will cel-

brate its 60th anniversary on May 21. The guest speaker is Tim Bearden, director of retreat facilities, Tennessee Baptist Convention. Members of the youth choir from 1966-79 will perform. Worship begins at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and a 2 p.m. program. For more information, contact the church at (865) 483-1316 or jwhite@rbcor.org.

◆ **Delano Baptist Church,**

**Etowah**, will hold revival May 14-17. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

## Schools

◆ **Union University, Jackson**, will hold a Summer Adult Lunch & Learn May 18 at 11 a.m. For more information, call Valerie Tramm at (731) 661-5160 by May 15.

## Volunteers needed for Bonnaroo ministry

*Baptist and Reflector*

MANCHESTER — On June 15, 100,000 young people are expected to descend upon this Middle Tennessee town of 8,000 for the Bonnaroo Music Festival.



WALKER

Visitors will come from every state in the union and as many as six foreign countries to listen to contemporary bands and sleep in make-shift camp sites, according to Kerry Walker, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church here. Walker is chairman of the Bonnaroo Planning Team of New Duck River, William Carey, and Duck River Baptist associations.

Walker noted there will be alcohol and drugs present and

a worldview foreign to the gospel of Christ. He projected the vast majority of those attending will not be Christians, though most will be open to a discussion of spiritual matters.

For the past four years ministry at the Bonnaroo event has consisted of handing out water, information guides, tracts, and frisbee-like discs that had the plan of salvation.

"This year, a more aggressive, face-to-face evangelistic ministry is being attempted," Walker said.

The plan is to go into the park and witness directly with participants and to have a ministry booth staffed throughout the festival with Bibles, frisbees, and information guides used as witnessing tools, Walker noted.

The outreach is sponsored by the three associations along with the Cumberland Regional Ministries of the Tennessee

Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Program.

Walker said the Bonnaroo Planning Team is looking for volunteers from all over the state who would be willing to work in this outreach ministry. To work, volunteers must be 18 years or older, complete a training course on special event evangelism, and be willing to work some time period from 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, through 12 a.m. on Sunday, June 18.

Training is planned for Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Duck River Baptist Association office, located on Highway 41A between Tullahoma and Winchester. The training will be led by Bill Black, NAMB resort missionary in the Gatlinburg area.

For more information or to participate, contact Walker at (931) 728-4588 or (931) 273-0286. □



**VENUS WHALEN**, center, not only graduated May 6 from Christian Women's Jobs Corps in Nashville, but also received a GED degree and the Amanda Day Scholarship Fund for 1999, presented annually by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union. Pictured are, from left, Rebekah Sumrall, executive director of CWJC; Susan Maywald, Whalen's mentor; Whalen; Mary Turner, who represented Tennessee WMU and presented the scholarship; and Nancy Becker, chair of the CWJC executive board. Ten graduated in the Spring 2006 class. — Photo by L. Lawson



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Trenton**, hosted the Gibson Baptist Association's Men's Night Out "Men at Work" on April 1. Event organizers were Tony Moore, GBA Men's Ministry director, and Ronnie Coleman, pastor, FBC, Trenton. Performers were the band, "Letters From Paul," of FBC, Trenton.