

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 21; June 7, 2006

this week's news

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TBC CP giving rebounds after sluggish April

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Convention churches gave \$3,306,372 through the Cooperative Program in May.

Gifts bounced back strongly after a sluggish April which saw receipts of \$2,525,701.

After seven months of the current fiscal year, Tennessee Baptists have given \$21,478,022, an increase of \$701,471 over the same time frame last year.

Year-to-date gifts are \$64,771, or 0.30 percent over current budget needs.

"We are thankful that our Cooperative Program gifts from our churches rebounded in May," said TBC Executive Director James Porch.

"This further indicates the commitment of Tennessee Baptists to meet the mission and ministry needs not only in our state, but around the world," he added. □

Belmont committee expanded to 14 members

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BLOUNTVILLE — As authorized by messengers to the special called meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention on May 9, the Belmont Study Committee has been expanded to 14 members, according to Clay Austin, chairman of the committee and president of the TBC Executive Board.

Messengers approved a recommendation May 9 authorizing and directing the committee "to carry out all the rights, powers, actions, and remedies of the convention with respect to Belmont University through any and all means deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, private negotiations/settlement, mediation, arbitration, and/or litigation, in order to protect and enforce all rights of the convention relating to Belmont University, including, without limitation, all of the convention's rights and interests under applicable governing documents, under the 1951 agreement, and under the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act."

New members appointed by Austin are: Roger "Sing" Oldham, pastor, First Baptist

Church, Martin; Ron Stewart, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville; Chuck Groover, pastor, Victory Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet; Bob Moon, layman, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville; David Landrith, pastor, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville; and Tad Harris, layman, First Baptist Church, Nashville.

Austin said the new members are a diverse group with differing opinions.

"Just about every view mentioned on the floor of the special called meeting of the convention is represented on this committee," Austin said.

"Each new member brings something to the table," he added.

The chairman noted no timetable has been determined, but he hopes the committee will meet within the next few weeks.

The first meeting will be used for the committee to get to know each other and to bring the new members "up to speed," Austin said.

"There will be a learning

curve for the new members," Austin acknowledged.

Austin also expressed a desire that one of the first things the committee would do would be "to sit down and talk again with representatives of Belmont University."



AUSTIN



PORCH

He said he is "open to all ideas and all options."

While he could not give a firm commitment as to if a report would be given to mes-

sengers in November, Austin said the committee would have to make a decision on Belmont's charter change before the convention meets in November.

"That is a deadline we all are aware of," he said.

Last November, Belmont University changed its charter taking away the right of the convention to elect the school's trustees prior to the annual meeting of the convention without convention approval. If the charter change is not contested within a year it can no longer be contested.

Acknowledging the varied opinions of committee members

and the complexity of the issues involved, Austin expressed a desire that the committee "will come out together united on an approach."

Original members of the committee who will continue to serve are: Austin, Raymond Boston, pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington; Bill Seale, layman, First Baptist Church, Morristown; Rich Wallace, layman, First Baptist Church, Sevierville; Lynn King, pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Dyersburg; Roger Freeman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Clarksville; Jerry Massey, pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris; and Phil Jett, pastor, Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson.

TBC Executive Director James Porch noted each person serving on the committee "is a disciplined Tennessee Baptist whose life and ministry witness to Christian character, understanding of established Baptist principles, and a desire for kingdom advancement with integrity."

"These members practice servanthood and know the need to be receptive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit," Porch observed.

"I join with Tennessee Baptists in bearing them up in fervent prayer," he added. □

As a police chaplain

Chuy Avila bridges communication gap for Hispanics

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — The about 100,000 Spanish-speaking residents of metropolitan Nashville need help, especially when they are involved in a crime or accident and don't speak English, according to Chuy Avila.



AVILA

So Avila, a church planter for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, spends some of his free time serving as a chaplain of Nashville's Metro Police Department.

He hasn't donned his bullet proof vest yet, but he has carried his badge and department-issued cell phone.

He has served for several months, mostly helping the

police and Hispanics via cell phone. He is often called because a Hispanic person has had a car accident and even may have insurance, but doesn't understand enough English to know the processes to follow, explained Avila. He is able to tell them that they should contact their insurance company to report the accident and to reference the police report.

Avila also has gone to a Nashville hospital as chaplain to translate for a Spanish-speaking family who didn't speak English. That response ended up in an all-nighter as Avila helped the family obtain information about their injured family member and tried to minister to them.

But Avila is prepared for more demanding service such as notifying family members of the death of a member or explaining to a Hispanic fami-

ly why a body must remain at a crime scene.

Avila explained that many Hispanics living here who don't speak enough English and don't understand the laws and processes of the United States well enough to operate without help. He has served on the TBC staff for seven years.

Avila said he thought "there was a big need in the Spanish-speaking community" in this area and there is. He has many opportunities to serve community and governmental entities, but he is so busy in his state church planting job that he is very selective when assuming community positions. He is glad he chose to accept the police chaplain role, he added.

Avila was one of 12 Hispanic religious leaders in Nashville chosen. Avila is the only Baptist serving as one of

the 10 Spanish-speaking chaplains eventually trained by the Metro Police Department. The department has about 50 on-call ministers who serve as chaplains.

Avila said he tries to allocate a weekend a month to being in Nashville and serving as a Metro Police Department chaplain. Avila has started 50 churches in Tennessee in the past seven years with the TBC.

He said he benefitted from the chaplaincy training, which was very thorough and helpful even though he studied pastoral care when obtaining his bachelor's degree from the Frontier Baptist Seminary in Juarez, Mexico. Avila also studied at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas.

To be named a Metro Police Department chaplain, Avila completed metro's police chaplain training. — See Chuy Avila, page 3

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Belvidere church burns June 1

Baptist and Reflector

BELVIDERE — Maxwell Baptist Church here, one of the oldest churches in the Duck River Baptist Association, Tullahoma, sustained extensive damage the afternoon of June 1 from an electrical fire, according to its pastor, Mike Robertson.

"It was an electrical fire," he said. "That's all we know at this time. One of our neighbors, who is a church member, saw it smoking. Luckily, the fire contained itself, because of the tightness of the brick building."

According to Robertson, flames damaged the choir, pulpit, and baptistry areas and melted fabric into the wooden pews and melted the sound system in the sanctuary. There was also smoke damage throughout the sanctuary, education space, and fellowship hall, all located in one building, located west of Belvidere on Highway 64.

Three neighboring churches have offered the Maxwell congregation their facilities for shared services including First Baptist Church, Huntland; Donaldson Grove Baptist Church, Elora; and a Methodist church in Belvidere.

Maxwell Church averages around 120 in worship services, Robertson said. "We are expecting God to do something great for us, because it's just the building that's gone and not the church itself."

The church was planning to hold Vacation Bible School in two weeks, Robertson said, noting that decorations had already been made, but were destroyed in the fire. "We are making contingency plans."

Robertson planned to meet with the church's insurance agent this week. □

Lottie Moon gifts set new record

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists gave \$137,939,677.59 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions in 2005, making it the single most successful year in the offering's history.

The \$137.9 million marks a 3.03 percent increase over 2004's \$133.9 million Lottie Moon offering, not to mention a 1.28 percent gain over the old record set in 2003 — \$136.2 million. More than 5,100 International Mission Board missionaries depend on the annual offering, of which every penny is used to support their work sharing the gospel around the world.

"This historic level of giving will enable us to send an increasing number of God-called missionary candidates moving toward appointment," IMB President Jerry Rankin said.

"It will enable us to push forward in fulfilling the vision of

Annuitant program features Tennesseans

For Baptist and Reflector

DALLAS — Noel and Sue Edwards are featured in the 2006 Adopt An Annuitant information distributed by GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Edwards will celebrate his 60th anniversary of preaching this year. He will be honored at a special service on June 17 at 2 p.m. at Faith Baptist Church in Hollow Rock.

Richard Skidmore, state representative for GuideStone in Tennessee, has known the Edwards more than 20 years.

"Noel pastored churches in Weakley County Baptist Association while I served there as director of missions," Skidmore said.

"He is a wonderful preacher who committed his ministry to smaller churches. His gifts would have allowed service in churches that would have provided much greater financial reward."

"His calling was to those who were able only to provide necessities and often required Noel or Sue or both to have outside sources of income," he observed.

"Those churches benefited

greatly from his ministry and now we have the opportunity to minister to this couple and others like them who have given themselves to our Lord's work in such a sacrificial way."

"Sacrifice was at the center of our ministry," Noel Edwards said. Edwards and his wife, Sue, dedicated their lives to the gospel ministry. He started preaching when he was only 16 years old and spent 55 years in Southern Baptist ministry before retiring.

Today, the GuideStone Adopt An Annuitant program is helping to provide monthly support and the gift of dignity to the Edwards and almost 2,500 other retired ministers and widows like them. Two hundred of these live in Tennessee, according to Skidmore.

Southern Baptist churches across the nation will celebrate Adopt An Annuitant Sunday on June 25. This day is set aside each June by the Southern Baptist Convention to remember the thousands of aged ministers and their widows who unselfishly devoted their lives to the gospel ministry, but are now facing their retirement years without the financial resources to meet their basic daily needs.

"These pastors often served smaller, rural churches and missions that provided only a modest salary and little, if any, contributions toward a retirement account," said John Ambra, director of development for GuideStone's Adopt An Annuitant ministry. "Now in retirement, many struggle to afford the basic necessities of life such as food, housing, prescription drugs, and medical care."

Like the Edwards, many Adopt An Annuitant recipients were never able to save much towards their retirement — a small salary meant little was left for retirement planning.

"We have gone to churches because we knew the Lord was in it even when we didn't know what the salary would be," Edwards recalled.

Southern Baptists across the country join together to help provide the gift of dignity to these precious retired servants of Christ. Free bulletin inserts and A Gift of Dignity video can be ordered to use on June 25 in worship services, Sunday School departments, or mission-oriented organizations online at www.GuideStone.org or by calling 1-888-984-8433. □

SBC CP gifts above last year's pace

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are 1.23 percent above the same time frame in 2005, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of May 31, 2006, the year-to-date total of \$134,091,968.39 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$1,630,045.02 above the \$132,461,923.37 received at the same point in 2005. For the month, receipts of \$16,496,303.09 were 1.73 percent, or \$289,713.39, below the \$16,786,016.48 received in May 2005.

Designated giving of \$147,781,595.66 for the same year-to-date period is 6.09 percent, or \$9,577,034.88, below gifts of \$157,358,630.54 received at this point last year. □

Tennesseans aid flood victims in Massachusetts

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Three Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief recovery teams served in late May and early June near Billerica, Mass., where they helped victims of recent severe flooding by doing mud-out, tearing out sheetrock, and performing other recovery operations for homeowners.

The teams included volunteers from Duck River Baptist Association, Sullivan Baptist Association, and a combined team from First Baptist Church, Sevierville, and Valley Grove Baptist Church, Knoxville.

More recovery teams are needed according to Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief director David Acres, who said that the North American Mission Board's initial request was for up to 200 crews beginning May 24 for a period of five weeks. □

Pearson to join TBC staff

Baptist Press

BRENTWOOD — Manchester native Steve Pearson will join the staff of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in the area of evangelism, effective June 19.

Pearson, who was reared in Hixson, will return to Tennessee from Seneca, S.C., where he was serving as senior pastor of Bounty Land Baptist Church.

Pearson formerly served as pastor of two Tennessee Baptist churches — Mountain Creek Baptist, Chattanooga, and First Baptist Church, Spring City. He is a graduate of University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. □



PEARSON

Former TBC president**Steelman retires after 32 years of ministry at Red Bank**

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

CHATTANOOGA — After more than 32 years as pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church here Fred Steelman has been able to see the "fruits" of his ministry.

And, for that, he is extremely grateful, and blessed.

Steelman was honored June 4 (his last Sunday as pastor) with a special reception by members of the congregation and community he has served since 1974.

"Over decades you can see the results of your ministry," the Mississippi native observed.

"You can see the depth of your ministry that you can't see if you move every three to five years," he added.

Steelman noted that during this tenure at Red Bank he often stressed that the young people in the congregation were the future of the church and community.

**STEELMAN**

"I have had the opportunity of seeing the future," Steelman said.

He noted that kids "who grew up in the church" are now leaders in the political and educational life of Red Bank, a community of about 18,000 people in the northeast corner of Hamilton County.

"Every day I pick up a newspaper I am likely to see the name of someone from this church who makes decisions that affect people's lives."

"It is one of the neatest things to see that," Steelman said.

Steelman also has seen many young men and women

from Red Bank enter the ministry. He noted there have been at least 20 men and women from Red Bank who have gone into a church-related vocation. In addition, the church currently has three students who are preparing for ministry at Southern Baptist seminaries.

Steelman noted he has had the opportunity to "interface and influence" young people who are "now all over the world in different dimensions of ministry," ranging from teaching and preaching to serving on the mission field.

"It's incredible," he said.

He always has been a firm believer in the idea that "God can make a difference. I have watched that for three decades. That is satisfying."

Stability

Steelman acknowledged that he had no idea he would be in one pastorate so long when he accepted the call to the Chattanooga area in 1974.

He was serving at the time as pastor of First Baptist Church, Niceville, Fla., on the Gulf Coast. He had always envisioned returning to his native state of Mississippi after graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., but Red Bank proved to be his last stop.

Part of the reason for that long tenure, Steelman suggested, was the stability of the congregation.

He followed a pastor (Ralph Norton who became the executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention) who served the church for 26 years.

Those kind of tenures say a lot about a church, Steelman said. "We are a very stable congregation with a lot of strong leadership."



FRED STEELMAN, left, who retired June 4, after 32 and one-half years as pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, reminisces with Bert Jones, associate pastor, who has served alongside Steelman for 19 of those years.

Cooperative

Steelman is proud of the fact that Red Bank has always been a giving Cooperative Program church and credited Norton for leading the church in that direction years ago.

He estimated Red Bank has given "millions of dollars" through the Cooperative Program. Last year the church was fifth among Tennessee Baptist churches in CP giving with \$282,540.

Steelman said the church's strong level of giving has "enlarged our missions conscience."

In addition to supporting the traditional Southern Baptist offerings like Lottie Moon, the church has been involved in missions efforts in the United States and around the

world with both resources and manpower.

"Missions has been an important part of our ministry at Red Bank," Steelman affirmed.

During his tenure at Red Bank, Steelman has been very involved in the denomination. He is a past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (1983) and has served on the TBC Executive Board and as a trustee of Carson-Newman College. He also has served at the Southern Baptist Convention level in various roles over the years.

No regrets

Steelman, who will turn 70 next year, said he believes he is "passing the baton" on to a new pastor at a good time. "We have never seen a better day

than right now," the pastor affirmed.

Still in good health, Steelman said he would like to do some interim pastorates and supply preaching during his retirement years. "I would like to help smaller churches," he said.

He noted that he and his wife, Becky, are looking forward to more time with their three children (Barry, Kerry, and Allyson DeYoung) and their grandchildren.

Steelman said he has no regrets about his ministry as a whole and at Red Bank.

As he takes a panoramic view of his ministry, he noted it "has been an exciting journey of watching God work through the lives of people."

"I'm content," he said. □

Chuy Avila bridges communication gap ...

— Continued from page 1

laincy training and its police academy for citizens. Both are requirements for volunteers with the metro Nashville police department.

He's "not anxious," said Avila, to serve a family in crisis, but he foresees great opportunities from his chaplaincy work.

The Hispanic culture operates from the family, which means the extended family and even "adopted" family members, explained Avila.

As he deals with a Hispanic family in crisis, he will meet with these extended families. They may not "know the Lord,"

he said. A lot of Hispanic families here aren't Christian, he added.

"I will not be there as a Baptist. I'm going to be there as a Christian," he added.

He may be with them for five or six hours, he acknowledged. And he will follow up with them, referring them to a Christian church and sharing the gospel with them.

This is the benefit of the ministry, he said. Up to this point he's not been able to follow up with the Hispanics he translated for and visited with by phone for the police.

Avila predicted he also could start another church out of just one family crisis situa-

tion, said Avila.

That is why he chose to focus his chaplaincy work on helping families in crisis — notifying families of accidents and death.

Everything he does must "accomplish my vision," said Avila — to start churches. His goal is to have started 150 Tennessee Baptist congregations by 2010.

The chaplaincy work "opens doors" which aren't usually available to him, he explained.

Because of that, Avila hopes to involve other Hispanic Baptist pastors in the area in police chaplaincy.

"I've been enjoying it," he said of the service. □

New SS lesson writers chosen

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Two Tennessee Baptist pastors will write the Sunday School commentaries for June-August.

Randall L. Adkisson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville, will write the Explore the Bible series.

Adkisson is a graduate of the University of Georgia and holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a doctor of philosophy degree in biblical studies from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

He serves as chairman of the Committee on Boards for

the Tennessee Baptist Convention and is a trustee of the International Commission, a worldwide missions organization.

Matt Cannon, bivocational pastor of Cardiff Baptist Church, Rockwood, will write the Family Bible Series.

Cannon also serves as a manager in the corporate offices of Clayton Homes in Maryville.

He is a native of Knoxville and was formerly pastor of East Sunnyview Baptist Church there.

Cannon is working on his master of divinity degree through Liberty University's distance learning program. □

IMB trustees appoint Tennesseans, deal with trustee issue

Baptist Press

ALBUQUERQUE — Trustees of the International Mission Board, meeting May 22-24 here, tabled a motion calling for a special task force to study doctrinal qualifications for missionary candidates, appointed 95 new missionaries, and elected officers for 2006-07.

In other action, the board learned that chairman Tom Hatley expanded restrictions on trustee Wade Burleson's participation in board functions, and trustees heard a report that the missionary attrition rate has stayed constant at approximately 5 percent over the past seven years.

John Floyd, administrative vice president at the Memphis-area Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary and member of Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, was elected board chairman, replacing Hatley, whose two-year terms as chairman ended with the conclusion of the meeting.

Of the 95 Southern Baptists appointed May 23 at Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque, nearly two-thirds, or 62, could not be named for security reasons because they are going to regions closed or hostile to a gospel witness. The appointees represent the fourth-largest group of missionaries appointed in IMB history.

Missionaries appointed with state ties included Johnathan and Glenna Bartley of Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport, Middle America and the Caribbean; Adam Hammond, Cleveland native and Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, graduate, and his wife, Jennifer, Middle America and the Caribbean; Mike (director of missions for Gibson Baptist Association, Trenton) and Kathy Kemper, First Baptist Church, Humboldt, Middle America and the Caribbean; and Clovis (church planter for Duck River Baptist Association) and Simone Pause of Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester, Western Europe.

In his charge to new personnel during the missionary appointment service, IMB President Jerry Rankin reminded them their task is to "open the eyes of peoples who are blind to the truth of God's love and salvation. It's to turn them from darkness to the light of the Savior — from those who are in bondage to the power of Satan, to release them to the power of God. That's what it means to do missions."

Lottie Moon report

David Steverson, IMB vice president for finance, reported the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering had topped the \$135 million mark with about a week to go in the reporting period. He had projected a record offering



G. BARTLEY



J. BARTLEY



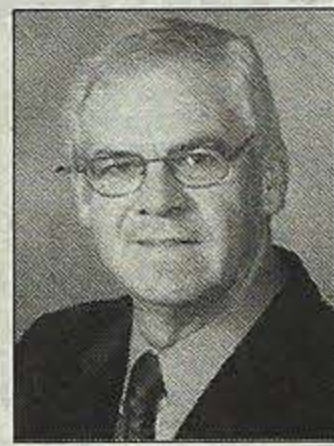
A. HAMMOND



J. HAMMOND



K. KEMPER



M. KEMPER



C. PAUSE



S. PAUSE

during the March meeting in Tampa, Fla.

"We continue to believe that by May 31 enough will come in so that the 2005 Lottie Moon offering will be the largest offering in our history," Steverson said. "That is something we can really celebrate."

Motion tabled

After lengthy discussion, trustees voted to table a motion from the board's executive committee that sought to ask Hatley to appoint a special task force to study doctrinal qualifications for missionary candidates.

Lonnie Wascom of Hammond, La., brought the motion that he said would answer the question: "What do Southern Baptists expect the doctrinal qualification should be of their new candidates for missionary appointment?"

Wascom said the nine- to 11-member panel should represent a broad cross-section of the Southern Baptist constituency, including pastors, laypeople, and seminary leaders, as well as associational and state convention leadership.

"We would ask this group to take into account our Baptist life today, Baptist theological history as well as general church history in order to answer this question," Wascom said. "Because it would be a broad-stroke task force, it would in no way be seen as working in conflict or over against the current work being done by our trustee personnel committee on the existing policy [on private prayer language] and [baptism] guideline."

However, trustee Paulette Blankinship of Williamsburg, Va., raised a concern that the action would set a precedent of asking for advice and consent from Southern Baptists whenever a major decision needed to be made.

"I serve under the impression I was elected to make those decisions," Blankinship said. "I am sensitive to Southern Baptists in my church and everyone who has an opinion about it, but ultimately I've been given the responsibility to make that decision."

The motion to table passed on a voice vote.

Restrictions broadened

Trustee chairman Tom Hatley told trustees the board's executive committee agreed to continue the restriction placed on Burleson during the March board meeting, barring him from serving on committees. However, after Burleson report-

edly posted confidential information from the May 22 trustee forum on his personal blog site, Hatley said he was extending the restrictions to bar Burleson's attendance at upcoming forums and in specially called executive sessions during board meetings.

Hatley said the confidential information Burleson posted from the forum dealt with a motion the executive committee planned to bring to trustees asking that a task force be named to study the doctrinal qualifications of missionary candidates.

Trustees agreed to restrict Burleson's trustee involvement because they said his blog posts questioned their character and challenged their motives. Hatley called Burleson's opinions toward the board "offensive and combative." He said the majority of board members are insulted by such postings and, to his knowledge, Burleson has not apologized.

"We have no desire to restrict his opinions. Nor do we insist he agree with the majority of this board on any issue," Hatley said. "[But] we are insistent that when character is impugned and motives are judged that a spirit of mistrust emerges that can damage the ability of this board to work together."

The statement Hatley read from the executive committee said they would recommend lifting the restrictions as soon as Burleson:

- Publicly acknowledges his actions have seriously eroded fellow trustees' confidence and agrees he will work with them to instill mutual trust.

- Apologizes to fellow trustees for repeatedly questioning their motives.

Hatley pointed out Burleson recently had made a conciliatory statement on his blog site.

"While the focus of this report is on actions by Brother Wade that were harmful to the board as a whole, I would also encourage him to work to reconcile with board members individually where individual offenses have occurred ... Neither I nor any of the other members of your executive committee view this matter in personal terms, nor do we seek any new initiatives to censure Bro. Burleson.

"We stand ready to move beyond this and do all we can to ensure that no other meetings of our board are burdened with this matter."

In addressing the board, Burleson said he appreciated the spirit in which the report was given. However, he said he didn't know what Hatley meant by a breach of confidentiality.

"No one has come to me personally," Burleson said. "I would just request that specifics be shared since the charge has been shared within a public forum. If you could, please state what it is and I will, on the spot, repent if there is a breach of [information sharing from the] forum."



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IN CONCERT

Thursday, June 15, at 7:00 p.m.

The concert is free. A love offering will be received.

For more information call (865)922-3490.

Salem Baptist Church - 8201 Hill Road - Knoxville, TN 37938

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

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

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

FBC in Portageville, Missouri, will be accepting resumes for an associate pastor through June 10, 2006. Some of the duties that this position will require are, assist the pastor and work with children and youth. Please send resume to jkelley@portageville.k12.mo.us or you can mail them to Dale Chamberlain, C/O First Baptist Church, 608 DeLisle Ave., Portageville, MO 63873.

Hills Crossing Baptist Church is seeking God's will in finding a full-time pastor, who has a heart for people, is evangelistic, and who is mission-minded. We are a traditional, conservative Southern Baptist church, situated in a growing area of Northeast Georgia. Please send resumes to Hal Chestnutt, P.O. Box 1149, Clarksville, GA, 30523, by June 14, 2006.

SBC meeting could determine future of CP

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

One of the most significant annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention could take place next week in Greensboro, N.C.

In electing a new president to succeed Bobby Welch, SBC messengers will send a strong message about the Cooperative Program, the channel Southern Baptists use to fund ministries in state conventions and the national denomination.

Two candidates have been announced for the office of president. One (Ronnie Floyd of Arkansas) is supported by the "old guard" which helped reshape the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention beginning in 1979.

The other candidate (Frank Page of South Carolina) is supported by a group of conservatives who feel the SBC "establishment" is excluding too many people and does not support the denomination as well as it could financially.

Keep in mind this is not a conservative vs. moderate issue. That battle was fought long ago to steer the convention along a more conservative path. Theology is not the issue here.

The upcoming presidential election is conservative vs. conservative. Both candidates are strong conservative pastors who believe in the inerrancy of

Scripture. Both are evangelistic.

The real issue in Greensboro is not about who is elected. It is about the Cooperative Program.

The battle now is not for the direction of the SBC, but its future. Without voluntary gifts from churches through the Cooperative Program, the ministries and missions needs of the SBC and state conventions will be greatly hindered.

The Cooperative Program is the lifeblood of missions. Ministries in our state conventions, nationally, and globally made possible by sacrificially missions giving through the Cooperative Program. The CP is all about missions.

Some argue that the CP should not become a litmus test for service. Neither should being part of the "old guard." The battle to move the SBC in a conservative direction is over. It is now time to support a denomination that is losing ground in financial giving.

For years Southern Baptists have had leaders who gave token support for the Cooperative Program. That may be one reason Cooperative Program giving has been in steady decline.

According to Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, the average percentage of undesignated receipts Southern Baptist churches gave through the Cooperative Program in 1984 was 10.6 percent. In 2005, the last year of record, the average percentage was 6.6 percent, according to Chapman in a May 26 Baptist Press news story.

Here is how the two candidates compare based on Cooperative Program giving from their churches last year.

First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark., where Floyd is pastor, gave \$32,000 or 0.27 percent of its undesignated receipts through the CP. The church also gave \$189,000 or 1.58 percent to SBC causes distributed through the SBC allocation budget (national causes only), according to Baptist Press.

First Baptist Church, Taylors, S.C., where Page is pastor, gave \$534,683 or 12.4 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program.

In February the SBC Executive Committee approved nine recommendations to strengthen the Cooperative Program. One of those recommendations encourage the election of leaders whose churches "are committed to increasing systematically and enthusiastically the percentage of undesignated receipts given through the Cooperative Program." SBC messengers will be asked to adopt and support these recommendations in June.

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, served on that committee. In a recent BP column, he wrote, "We need leaders who understand the importance of Cooperative Program to the success of our entities' ministries."

"We need leaders who will model sacrificial percentage giving from the churches, especially when so many churches are choosing to decrease their

level of support." Amen!

If Southern Baptists approve the Executive Committee's recommendations on the Cooperative Program but do not elect a leader who supports CP, what message are we sending to Southern Baptist churches who faithfully and, often times, sacrificially send in their CP gifts each month?

Can any effort to increase CP giving really work if the top elected official in the denomination gives only token support?

I am not advocating that Southern Baptists elect Frank Page. I don't know him. He's just a name — a name, however, that is associated with a strong level of financial support for the denomination he wishes to lead and serve.

Instead, I am advocating that Southern Baptists send a message that the Cooperative Program is vital to the missions and ministry endeavors of Southern Baptists both on the state and national levels.

As one who has served in a denominational role for more than 25 years I have seen Cooperative Program dollars at work locally, on the state convention level, nationally, and internationally. Countless lives have been changed as a result of churches giving collectively through CP.

Electing a leader "who practices what he preaches" will go a long way in reminding Southern Baptists that the Cooperative Program is important and that it is needed to spread the love of God and the truth of the gospel throughout our state, our nation, and our world. □

guest columnist



By Todd Brady

Going to church

If you have ever considered our country's collective ecclesiology to be overly egocentric, then the nature of David Hall's recently published study in the *Journal of the American Board of Family* comes as no surprise. Funded in part by the John Templeton Foundation, this general surgery resident at the University of Pittsburgh who is also an Episcopal priest found that people who attend weekly religious services have a longer life expectancy than those who sleep in on Sundays.

Other previous studies have shown that physical exercise often adds three to five years of longevity and that taking cholesterol-lowering prescription drugs can add an average of 2.5 to 3.5 years to one's life, but Hall suggests that church attendance might be a more appealing route toward older age. Rather than sweating so profusely or spending large amounts of money on medicines during however many years one has, going to church certainly seems less strenuous and more cost efficient.

The headline "Study: Go to church, live 3.1 years longer" joined a tired list of other studies concerning church attendance in America.

Studies analyzing church attendance are many, but this latest analysis speaks to a perceived benefit of going to church regularly — namely, a longer life. Hall suggests that church attendance is comparable to other commonly recommended therapies that might contribute to the lengthening of life.

Granted, many things may help you live longer. Wearing seat belts, sleeping a certain number of hours each night, eating the right foods, brushing your teeth, and the list goes on.

However, thinking about church attendance in light of life expectancy seems to be incongruous. It simply has a self-centered and overly pragmatic feel to it.

Scripture nowhere promises longer life for those who go to church. In fact, Psalm 139:16 indicates that the number of days formed for us are already written in God's book.

Believers need to think of church not in terms of what earthly benefits it may provide, but in terms of its nature and God-ordained purpose. When we Christians bear these things in mind, we will be reminded regularly that we are not a people who go to church. We are the church.

This Sunday, as we pile into our vehicles and head off to our churches' gatherings, let us do so not with a desire to live longer, but with the desire to live obediently. □ — Brady is minister to the university at Union University, Jackson.

Plans change willingly when you're a 'Pawpaw'

heart talk



By James Porch

My last week's light schedule offered the opportunity for a few days of vacation. In preparation for the respite, I compiled a list of necessary around-the-house doings that would totally consume my time and energy. The essential work plan included cutting some dead trees and cleaning up the debris, poisoning brush and weeds on the fence rows, cleaning up the basement and garage following the winter's lack of maintenance, trimming low-hanging branches, plus the usual unexpected projects that come from home ownership.

The first day resulted in a

very effective and satisfying labor.

The second day resulted in very minimal attention to the labor plan. Instead, I abandoned the attention to the home needs and gave the day to playing with my grandson who commanded all of my waking hours.

While he was sitting in my lap, I received a crash course in toy Transformers accompanied by tales born only from a six-year old's creative imagination. For two hours we rode the ATV, stopping frequently for Aaron to pick dandelions for his Mimi (Kelly). Intentionally, I endured the cartoon channel and monitored his viewing. High hopes for a nap disappeared through his immediate desperate need to construct a major Lego project followed by reading 11 Scooby-Doo stories. By the way, sometime during the day I attempted to explain to him the

purpose of changing out a sparkplug in a weed-eater, and how a come-along can easily pinch a finger. These lessons apparently did not command focused attention.

Around lunch time, I lost count of the times I heard the endearing word "Pawpaw." The number dropped all meaning to the growing joy of my identity to a busy, happy, glad-to-be-with-you precious six-year old.

Now, I offer my purpose in these lines that exceeds another window into my soul and life.

Reflecting back on my day with Aaron, I cherished the hope of "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6).

Some may question the extent or nature of the training. For me my nurture focused on my grace gift of time and presence to him. There is much that can tran-

spire in the hours of a presence together. What good may happen may all be in the distant future.

After all, Scripture does not set a timetable for the effects of the training up or even describe the curriculum of training up.

Shortly following Aaron's birth, I committed the following quote to memory as my Pawpaw mission statement:

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

A day, a whole day, many days, many whole days invested in the life of my Aaron gladdens my heart and nurtures my faithfulness to my Heavenly Father. □ — Porch is executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

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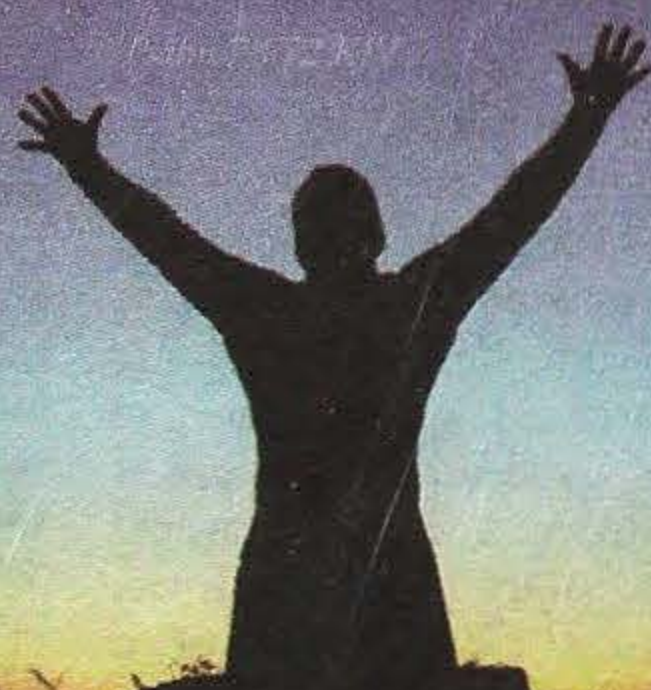
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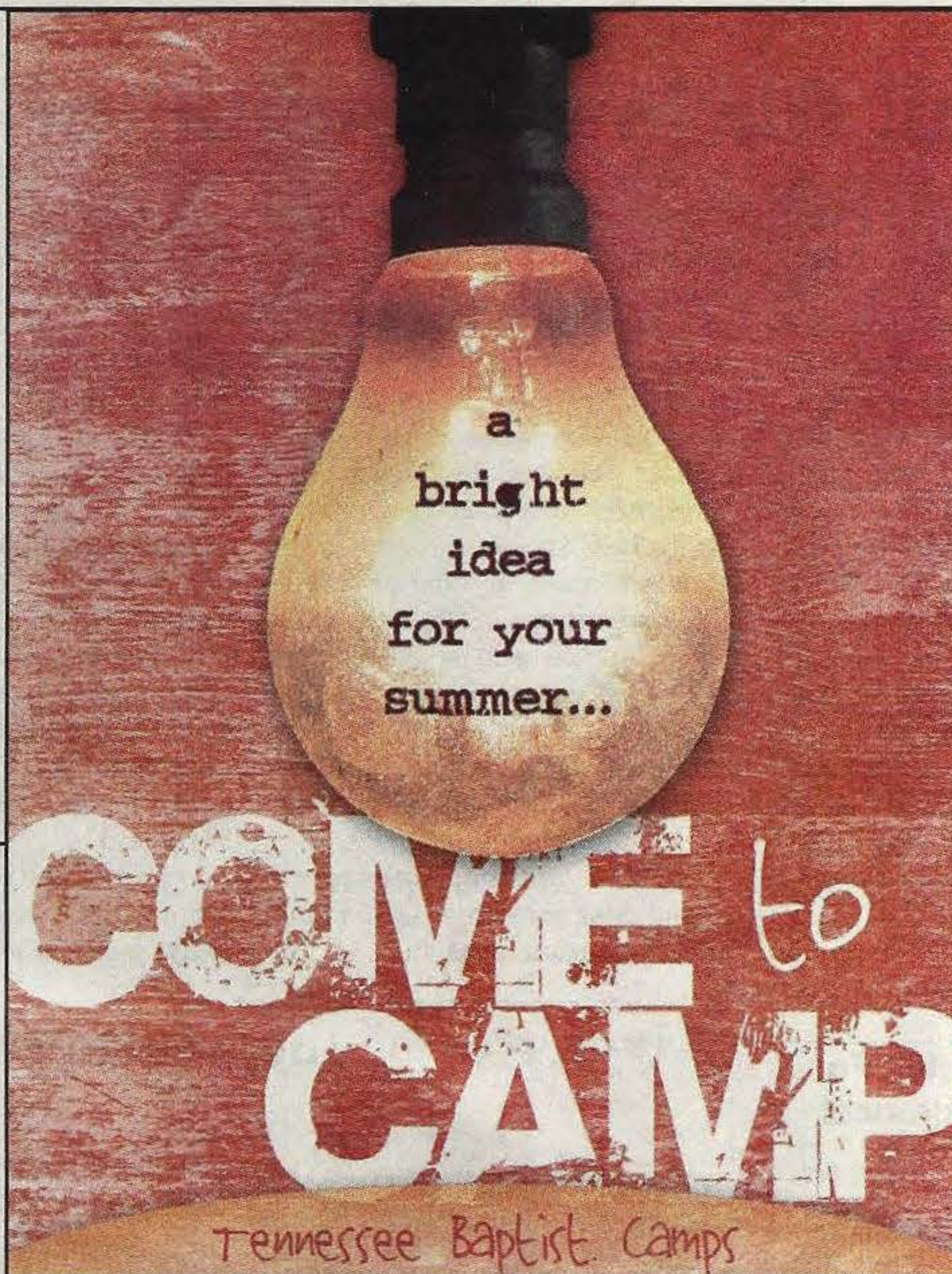
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June 22-23

Associational Secretaries Celebration,
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June 23-24

Regional Disaster Relief Training, Trinity
Baptist Church, Jonesborough

June 26-30

Journey Camp for Kids,
Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center,
Linden

June 26-30

Super Summer,
Austin Peay State University, Clarksville

July 3-7

Journey Camp for Kids, Carson Springs
Baptist Conference Center, Newport

July 10-14

Impact Camp, Linden Valley Baptist
Conference Center, Linden

For information on upcoming events,
visit the TBC website at
www.tnbaptist.org.

Church Health Matters

SBC motion will call for investigation of 'coercion' at IMB

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ENID, Okla. — Wade Burleson is calling for the Southern Baptist Convention to investigate "manipulation" and "coercion" by his fellow trustees of the International Mission Board.

But the Oklahoma pastor backed down from his threat to publish details of those alleged abuses on his blog, saying a formal SBC-level investigation is "a better road" that will allow "for all to defend their actions before things are made public."

"I know that not everyone will be pleased with my decision not to go public with details that serve as the basis for this recommendation," he wrote in his blog June 1, "but I have an absolutely clear conscience that I am doing exactly what the Lord would have me do."

Burleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid,

is a first-year trustee of the International Mission Board, the SBC's flagship agency, which selects and directs Southern Baptists' 5,000 global missionaries — the largest missionary force of its kind in the world.

Earlier this year, Burleson was accused by some IMB trustees of using his blog to violate trustee confidentiality, prompting trustees to try to have him removed from the board. He complained he was never given the chance to hear the specific allegations or respond to them. After an outcry from the SBC's rank and file, the trustees let Burleson stay on the board, but they passed a policy forbidding dissent.

In a June 1 posting on his blog — wadeburleson.com —

Burleson said a motion will be introduced at the June 13-14 annual Southern Baptist Convention calling for appointment of a seven-member ad hoc committee to investigate "five concerns":

- "Manipulation of the nominating process" by which the Southern Baptist Convention elects IMB trustees;

- Attempts "by one or more" chief executives of SBC agencies "to influence and/or coerce the IMB trustees, staff, and administration" — an apparent reference to Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary;

- The appropriateness of closed-door meetings — "forums and executive sessions" — by

IMB trustees, "as compared to conducting business in full view of the Southern Baptist Convention," and the exclusion of "any individual trustee" from meetings of the full board without SBC approval;

- Imposing "new doctrinal requisites" on IMB employees and missionaries that go "beyond the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message," the SBC's conservative doctrinal statement required of all missionaries — a reference to the IMB's much-criticized policies against private prayer languages and defining an appropriate baptism; and

- "Suppression of dissent" among trustees, such as the IMB's new policy that prohibits

any trustee or employee from publicly criticizing board decisions.

Dozens of motions are introduced each year at the SBC annual meeting. Most are rejected, ruled out of order, or referred to the affected agency. Burleson's motion, however, invokes SBC Bylaw 26B, which will require messengers to vote on the motion during their two-day meeting rather than refer it to another body.

Invoking Bylaw 26B reportedly would require approval by two thirds of the messengers voting, however.

Burleson said an SBC investigation would be the fairest way to address his allegations against his colleagues. □

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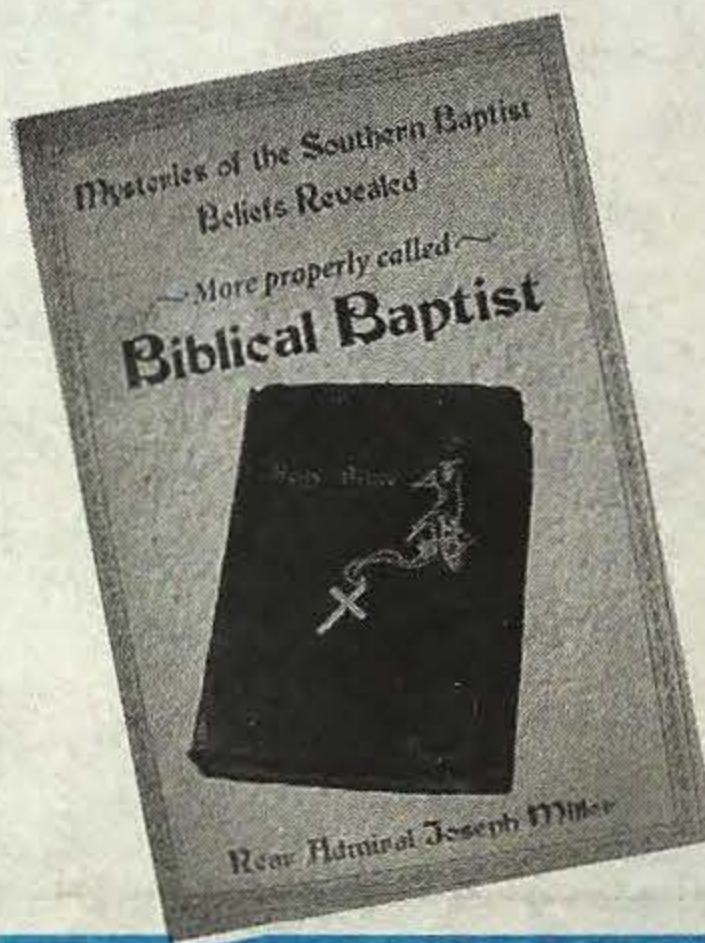
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Mysteries of the Southern Baptist Beliefs Revealed

By Rear Admiral Joseph Miller



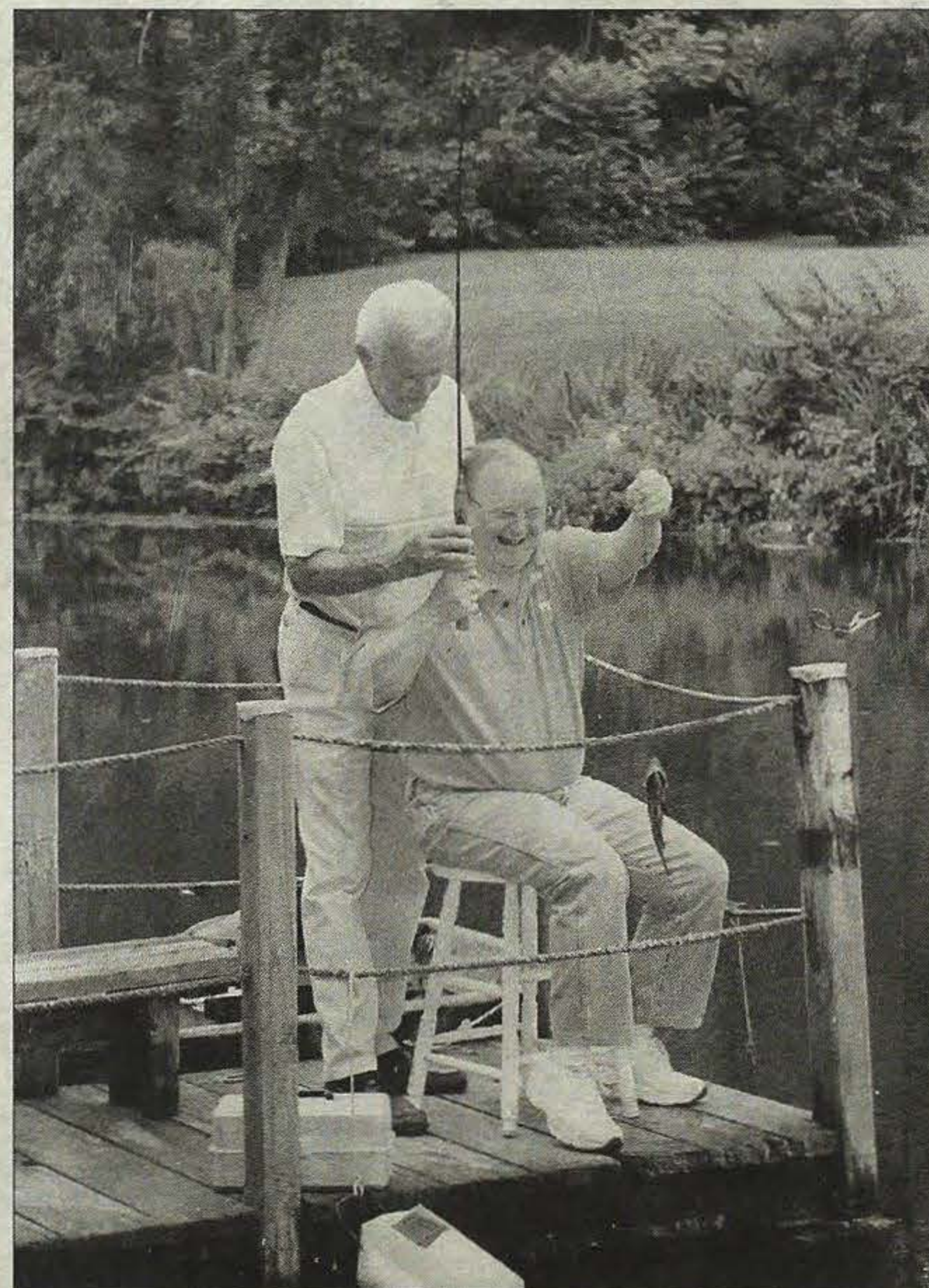
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- Additional study at Oxford University and Beeson Divinity School
- Union University faculty member since 1999
- Director of Union's Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership since 2000
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SBC president to retire from Florida pastorate

Baptist Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach and the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, told church leaders he will retire Aug. 27 after 32 years as the church's senior pastor.

A letter from Welch to members of the church was sent May 25 explaining that he will "officially" announce his retirement plans in the May 28 morning worship services. A copy of the letter was made available May 26 to the *Florida Baptist Witness*.

"The reason I have written you now is because I want you to hear from me before the press and newspapers begin to speculate on the matter. With the Southern Baptist Convention upon us, undoubtedly that would happen," Welch wrote,

noting that he would have preferred a "more personal" communication.

Welch told his congregation that he met with the church's staff and leadership May 22 to inform them of his retirement plans. □

Relief efforts begin in Indonesia

Baptist Press

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia — Southern Baptist disaster relief specialists arrived May 29 in Indonesia's central island of Java and immediately began assessing ways to aid survivors of the May 27 earthquake that killed more than 5,600 people.

The relief specialists are

To the best of our knowledge all ads in the *Baptist and Reflector* represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always use caution in responding to ads.

using an initial \$50,000 in Southern Baptist aid to provide food to outlying areas neglected by larger aid groups. Additional funds likely will be requested in the coming days.

"We'll be determining in the next few days what we're going to be doing," a Southern Baptist worker said. "The United Nations, the U.S. government, the European Union, and other

groups are short-termers, but we're trying to determine what Southern Baptists need to be doing for the long term in this."

The 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck early May 27 along Java's southern coast, crushing thousands of Indonesians as they slept in their homes and injuring at least 15,000 more. □

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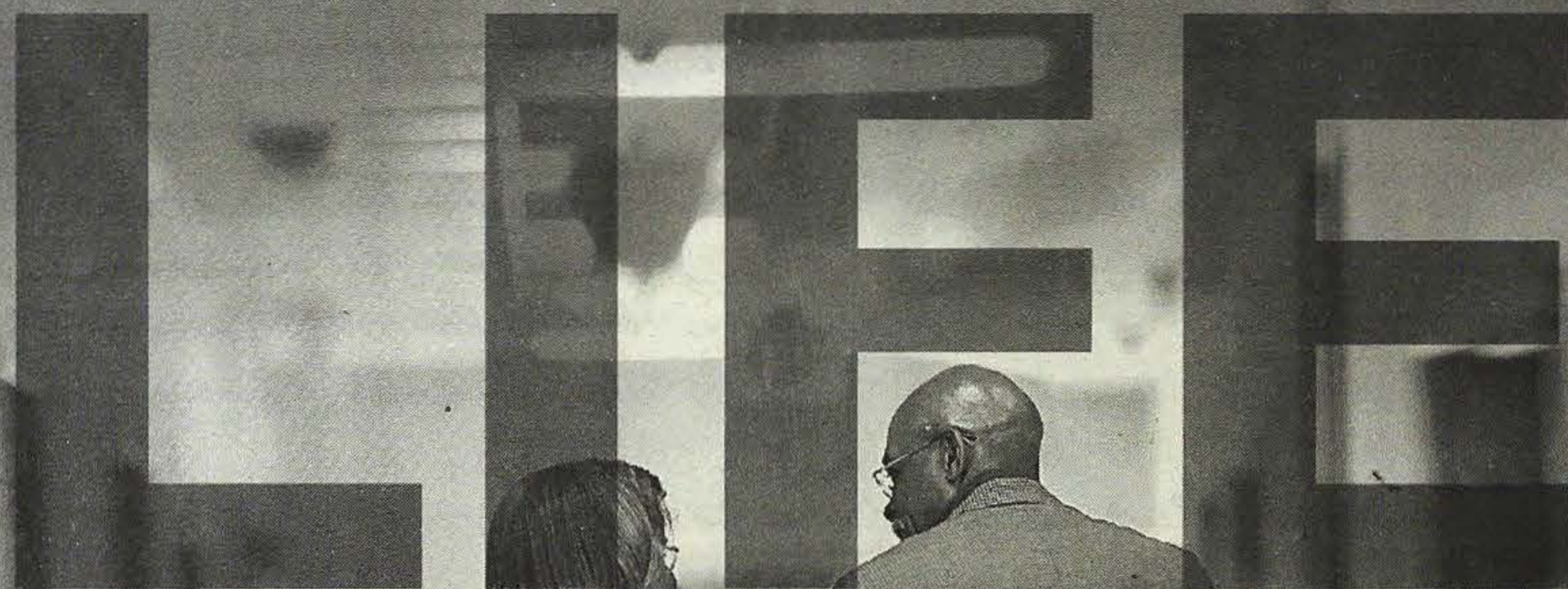
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MINISTRY — MUSIC

Part-time minister of music position opening at Grassland Heights Baptist Church, Franklin, Tenn. Please send resume to Minister of Music Search Committee, 2315 Hillsboro Rd., Franklin, TN 37069 or e-mail to ghbc1@bellsouth.net.

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Church pianist-keyboardist needed at Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church, Fairfield Glade, Tenn. Proficiency in sight-reading, improvisation, and accompanying desired, with a primary focus on enhancing worship. Must be a Christian who is available every Sunday morning and evening, Wednesday evening, and for occasional special events/rehearsals. Please contact Rev. Eric Hinson @ (931) 200-4171.

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

minister's corner

By Gene Wilder

I recently saw "The Da Vinci Code" and I'm happy to report my faith is still intact. At no time during the movie did I sense my faith faltering. Of course I went to the theater with the intent of seeing a fictional story. I had no illusion that "The Da Vinci Code" would authentically depict the life and work of Jesus Christ. If I'm looking for an authentic depiction of Jesus Christ, I don't go to the theater. I go to the Bible.

The first movie I ever saw was a religious movie, Cecil B. DeMille's "Ten Commandments." It's still one of my favorites. Since then I've seen a dozen or more movies based on biblical stories. I've seen "The Robe," "Ben-Hur," "Jesus of Nazareth," and, more recently, "The Passion of Christ." Each of these movies contained factual errors or, at the very least, each presented material that was extra-biblical. The scenes, dialogue, and events were not pictorial transcriptions of Scripture; they were artistic renderings colored by the creativity of human interpreters.

So did Hollywood's distortion of fact bother me when I watched "The Ten Commandments" or "Ben-Hur"? Of course not, and it didn't bother me when I saw "The Da Vinci Code." For goodness sakes, movies are produced in Hollywood and who ever expected biblical accuracy to emanate from Hollywood? What I expect from Hollywood is a good story, not inerrant truth. If I want truth, I go to the Bible.

As I watched this movie, I kept wondering why it created such a stir in the religious community. Believe it or not, I think people were more upset about the truth they saw in the movie than about its fiction.

The movie exposes the ugly side of the church, a side we religious leaders prefer to ignore. (When I refer to the church, I'm not simply referring to the Roman Catholic church. I'm talking about ours, too).

In the movie, murder and deceit are fueled by the church's greed for hunger and power. Has the church ever been guilty of this? You bet it has. Just read church history. Since the resurrection of Jesus countless acts of horrific evil have been done in the name of Christ and it hasn't stopped with our generation. While Brown's depiction of the church is fictional and skewed, the problem he exposes is far from fiction.

Unfortunately, church leaders have, once again, fallen for Hollywood's ruse. Much to Hollywood's satisfaction, they've given a mediocre movie the publicity it needed to become a box office hit. Perhaps we church leaders would have better spent our time removing the beam from our own eye instead of picking the speck out of Da Vinci's. □ — Wilder is pastor of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City.



Funding missions in Tennessee
and around the world

Daniel: faith refuses to compromise

By Matt Cannon

Focal Passage: Daniel 6:3-5, 10-13, 16, 19-23, 25-27

To get along in life with less stress and more friends, we sometimes have to compromise. When a married couple have difficulty agreeing on what to do on a Saturday night, a compromise is in order. This technique is designed to make the most people happy. However, when it comes to our faith, God is the only one we should strive to make happy. Our commitment to Christ should eliminate any desire to compromise in matters of faith.

Daniel 6:3-5. Daniel was in captivity with many of his countrymen in Babylon. Because of his exemplary character, he was placed in the administration of King Darius. Darius had plans to raise Daniel up to an even loftier status as the lead administrator just below himself.

This turn of events caused jealousy to take root in the minds of the others in charge. They tried to find something to accuse Daniel of, but they soon realized that there was no true accusation that would hold water. A decision was made to trap him by using his evident faithfulness to God.

A few months ago I met a woman who is a member of a large church whose pastor I admire as a great expositional preacher. She spoke glowingly of him, but voiced one criticism. She said "He preaches from the Bible too much." I've praised God ever since for such an

outstanding criticism. I pray to God that one day someone could degrade me so wonderfully.

If people cannot find fault in someone else, they will often take a positive and turn it into a negative. We must keep ourselves from being concerned with what others think about our character and keep on serving the Lord with gladness.

Daniel 6:10-13, 16. The envious enemies of Daniel talked the king into declaring that no one could petition any deity or any man except for the king. It is a glowing testimony to Daniel's faithfulness that these men knew that he would not be able to comply with the misguided decree.

Daniel knew the law that the king had passed, but that did not deter him from being obedient to a more important law. Darius may have been the king of the land, however, God was the King of his life.

The question that I have heard asked many times applies in thinking about Daniel's situation. If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you.

Daniel's prayer life was so consistent that the men knew exactly when and where they could catch him making petitions to God. We often let things like a packed schedule or a favorite television show stymie our prayer time with God. Daniel did not even allow the threat of death stop him from exercising his faith.

Daniel 6:19-23. When the morning came after Daniel had spent the night in the lion's den, Darius went

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quickly to check on him. What he found was that the God the Daniel had served continually had saved him from slaughter.

Daniel did not know before breaking the king's decree that God would keep him from being eaten by the lions. Similarly, we face the trials of life without knowing for certain whether God will keep us from harm. One thing that we do know, however, is that God's way is the best way and that no matter what happens to us, our salvation is secure.

Daniel 6:25-27. Because of Daniel's faithfulness, Darius made a new decree much different than the previous one. The new one spoke of the greatness of God and His ability to rescue His people from trouble.

We are exhorted in God's Word to do good works so that others may see them and glorify God. Daniel's life is an example of this in action. While our faithfulness to God and His faithfulness to us may have little impact on some, others may realize what an amazing God we serve and how amazing His grace is. □ — Cannon is bivocational pastor of Cardiff Baptist Church, Rockwood.



CANNON

Carefully evaluate explanations

By Randall Adkisson

Focal Passage: Job 3:1 - 14:22
If life were a sitcom

If Job's plight were a television show his whole life might be a 30-minute episode. Scene one: Job lives the high life. Scene two: Job's fall. By scene three the whole plot would be resolved.

Job's life was not a sitcom and neither is ours. Problems do not arise before the commercial break only to be resolved in the next 10-minute segment. Life is often difficult and answers often elusive.

We rob ourselves of wisdom and comfort when we rush through God's Word as if each story was a TV show. As we read the Scriptures we must be careful to read the dramas of real life. Feel the heartache and despair of the individuals described. Though stories may be told in a chapter or short book, the time periods of the episodes may span days, months, or even years.

The Gospels present a woman with an "issue of blood" who was ill for 12 years (Mark 5:25). The "man born blind" was born blind, and was at the time of his healing already an adult (John 9). When Mary and Joseph could not find 12-year-old Jesus in the caravan, they agonized in fear for three days, as would any parent of any lost little boy (Luke 2:48).

Too often we read the stories of Scripture as if the characters already know the outcome of their

plight. Doing so robs us of the reality of God's Word and robs God's Word of its intended impact. Because we know the end of their story, we do not empathize with their journey.

A real man with real pain

Job lost his children, his honor, and his home. His wife lost everything as well. How did they feel? What did they need? They did not need the simple answers of well meaning but uninformed friends.

The best thing Job's friends did was to sit in silence. "Ministry and comfort are 90 percent presence," a seminary professor told his class.

The presence of a Christian friend makes the presence of God seem more real. The ministry of presence brings the touch and comfort of God.

When others are experiencing grief or sickness of family crises, when we sense the deep anguish of a friend, we too often withhold the greatest gift of ministry — our presence — because we do not know what to say. Yet the ministry of "presence" is essential. We fail one another when we fail to sit in silence at the side of our hurting friends.

The worst thing Job's friends did was to "explain" God. Simple answers to complex questions, or

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worse yet, judgmental words, show a lack of wisdom and add more pain and sorrow. "If you just exercised more faith," I have heard well meaning Christians say, "your problems would be settled." Hogwash! Job was the perfect example of genuine faith and fidelity, but his problems remained.

Words of comfort are welcome, but beware of words that bring pain and superficial judgment.

When all is said and done

The key verse of this section comes at 12:15. Job says, *Though He slay me, I will trust in Him.*

Genuine faith does not give excuses for God nor does it pretend to understand all of the ways of God.

For now we see through a glass darkly (I Corinthians 13:12). Life in a fallen world brings trouble and is full of pain. Jesus clearly states, *In this world you will have tribulation* (John 16:33).

Job did not have all the answers to his dilemma or to his pain, but he was determined to cling to His God even if he did not understand Him. In the end, knowing God would be all he could know, but knowing God would be enough to know. □ — Adkisson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville.



ADKISSON

Deaths

◆ **Henry G. West Jr.**, 82, of Henning, a retired pastor and a former Tennessee Baptist Convention vice president, died May 9 at Baptist Memorial Hospital – Lauderdale following a short illness. He was vice president of the TBC in 1969-70 and was a member of the Executive Board of the TBC. Serving churches in Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana, Georgia, and Arkansas, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, for 15 years. A member of several trustee boards, he served Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis; Baptist Hospital – Tipton; Baptist Hospital – Lauderdale; Union University, Jackson; and Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation, Memphis. West was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



WEST

◆ **Danny Roberts**, 59, pastor, Lick Creek Baptist Church, Linden, for 15 years, died suddenly April 29. He was a bivocational pastor who also was a master sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard, based in Jackson. He served in Iraq with his engineering unit for a



ROBERTS

year in 2005 during which he worked in maintenance. Roberts also served in Vietnam, Germany, Bulgaria, and recently in El Salvador with the Army. He was to work in El Salvador for three weeks but came back home early due to an injury. He served in the Army from 1966-70, 1971-74 and 1979-present. His home church was Calvary Baptist Church, Parsons. The family requests memorials be sent to the building fund of Lick Creek Baptist Church, Rt. 2 Box 337, Linden, TN 37096.

◆ **Johnnie Elmer Lee**, 84, of Algood, retired director of missions for Union Baptist Association, Sparta, and former director of missions for Stone Baptist Association, Cookeville, died May 18 at his residence following an illness. A minister for 59 years, he served as pastor of Tennessee, Ohio, and Texas churches including Rocky Point Baptist Church, Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Brotherton Baptist Church, Eastwood Baptist Church, Trinity Baptist Church, all in Cookeville; Sand Springs Baptist Church, Monterey; Macedonia Baptist Church, Jacksboro; First Baptist Church, Baxter; Woodcliff Baptist Church, Monterey; Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and Southside Baptist Church, both in Lebanon; and Powell's Chapel Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. He recently served as interim pastor of Woodcliff Church.

◆ **Faith Baptist Church**, Hollow Rock, will honor **Noel A. Edwards**, and his wife, Sue, on his 60th anniversary

Leaders

of preaching. The recognition will be held at the church on June 17 at 2 p.m. Edwards has served as pastor of numerous churches in Tennessee. For more information, call Steve Davis, pastor, at (731) 586-7353.

◆ **Walnut Grove Baptist Church**, Decatur, recently called **Mike Rymer** as pastor.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Whitesburg, has called **Charles Brewer** as pastor.

◆ **Bill Treadway** has resigned as pastor of Coal Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Harriman.

◆ **Poplar Corner Baptist Church**, Brownsville, recently called **Steve Carr** as pastor.

◆ **Grace Baptist Church**, Johnson City, recently licensed **Bryan C. Sexton** to the ministry. He currently serves the church as youth minister and works for Counseling and Consultation Services in Limestone.

◆ **Sharon Baptist Church**, Knoxville, has called **Chad Williams** as minister to students.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Harrogate, has called **Gerald Simmons** as associate pastor. A student at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky., he was recently ordained by the church.

◆ **Clingan Ridge Baptist Church**, Cleveland, has called **Kenneth Kesley Jr.**, as pastor of music, education, and administration effective June

4. He previously served as part-time music minister at the church.

◆ **Gap Creek Baptist Church**, Arthur, has called **Anthony Mountain** as interim pastor.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Clarksville, has called **Joel Reynolds** as minister to high school students.

◆ **Leawood Baptist Church**, Memphis, will host a reunion for former members of the church's youth choir July 15. The choir was known as The Lord's Witness choir and led many break out sessions for the Tennessee Baptist Convention Youth Evangelism Conference. For more information, contact Glynda Morgan at gmorgan@leawoodbaptist.org or (901) 324-7169.

◆ **Southeast Baptist Church**, Murfreesboro, will hold a founder's day celebration June 18 to recognize charter members and those who have been members for over 25 years. Also a noteburning ceremony for the church will take place during the morning worship service, and lunch will follow. A video will be shown on the 47-year history of the church, and a room of artifacts and historical information will be exhibited.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Ashland City, will hold its 100th anniversary celebration June 11.

◆ **Five Tennessee Baptist churches** did hurricane relief

out of Robinson Road Baptist Church, Gulfport, Miss., June 2-9. **Haywood Hills Baptist Church**, Nashville, sent a 51-member team which held a revival and Vacation Bible School and did evangelism survey and hurricane repair work. Doing rebuild work were a nine-member team from **Niles Ferry Baptist Church**, Greenback; a 14-member team from **Trinity Baptist Church**, Knoxville; and a 10-member team from **Union Missionary Baptist Church**, Cleveland. A five-member feeding team from **Lucy Baptist Church**, Millington, also served.

◆ **Mt. Hermon Baptist Church**, Murfreesboro, will host a churchwide yard sale June 10 to raise funds for the youth summer MissionFuge trip in July to St. Louis, Mo. For information, call Lance Thigpen, youth minister, at (615) 849-8255.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Dickson, will hold its 2006 women's conference, entitled "What Every Girl Wants" June 23-24. Keynote speaker is Lisa Harper, and worship leader is Kim Hill. For information and tickets call the church at (615) 446-4606 or visit www.FBC-Dickson.org.

Churches

◆ **Associations**

◆ A seminary extension class on I, II, and III John will be held by **Cumberland Baptist Association**, Clarksville, beginning Aug. 14 on Monday evenings at the association's Shoulders Building. Dennis Pulley, director of missions, will teach. Contact the association office for information at (931) 358-9036.

Associations

◆ **ABOUT 70 STUDENTS AND THEIR SUPERVISORS** attended the Tennessee Summer Missions Orientation May 24-26 at the Baptist Center of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Brentwood. The student summer missionaries are from various states and are going to serve in Tennessee. They were assigned through the North American Mission Board, appointed by the Baptist Collegiate Missions pro-



gram, or locally recruited. They will serve in a variety of ministries across the state including Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, inner city ministries, resort ministries, youth and children's camps, deaf ministry, and other types of service. The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provides the funding for this orientation and training time.