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Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 24; June 28, 2006



Have a safe holiday; next issue is July 12

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Americans will celebrate our nation's freedom on Independence Day next week.

Events worldwide serve as a constant reminder that we should never take for granted the freedoms our ancestors fought and gave their lives for in order that the United States would become what it has today.

God has blessed us with a country where we are free to worship. Amid the picnics, cookouts, and fireworks displays on July 4, take time to thank God for our country and for the sacrifices of our forefathers.

Due to our production schedule, there will be no issue dated July 5. The next issue will be dated July 12 and will contain Tennessee WMU's "The Link."

Any late-breaking news, along with Sunday School commentaries for July 9, will be posted on the web at www.tnbaptist.org.

The staff of the Baptist and Reflector wishes each of our readers a happy and safe 4th of July. — Lonnie Wilkey

Executive Board meeting moved to Aug. 1

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The special called meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board, scheduled for June 27, has been moved to Aug. 1.

The board will consider a proposal from Baptist Health System of East Tennessee to form a partnership with Triad Hospitals Inc. of Plano, Texas (see June 21 issue for more information).

Baptists reach out to 80,000 at Bonnaroo

By Connie Davis Bushey Baptist and Reflector

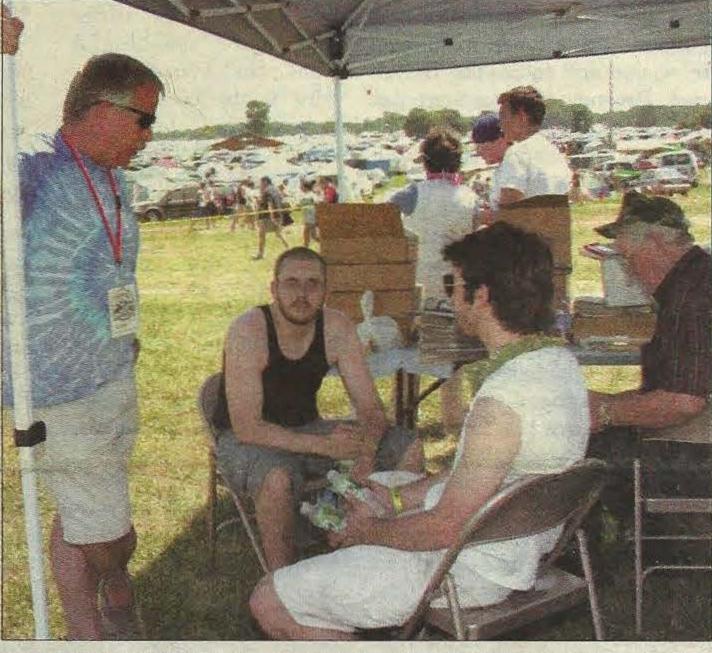
MANCHESTER — The sea of young people from around the United States and the continent who gathered here June 15-19 formed the sixth largest city in Tennessee. They were drawn to Bonnaroo, a music festival held on a 700-acre farm and surrounding areas outside Manchester for the fifth year.

To reach out to them, about 30 Baptists joined the 80,000 concert-goers.

The Baptists tried to minis-

ter, encourage, witness, and help the concert-goers in any way, said Kerry Walker, coordinator of the event. Walker is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester. He has led the Bonnaroo ministry for four years.

Ann German, volunteer from Riva Lake Baptist Church, Winchester, and a Mission Service Corps volunteer of the North American Mission Board, said she visited with two young men. She learned they were struggling with what to do with their lives. She hesitated but then told them how insecure she — See Baptists, page 6



KERRY WALKER, left, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester, and leader of the Baptist volunteers at Bonnaroo, visits with two concert-goers needing rest out of the sun. They sit under the Baptist tent near the concert area. Charles Richardson, right, director of missions, William Carey Baptist Association, Fayetteville, prepares some materials to distribute.



DICK GERMAN, left, of Riva Lake Baptist Church, Winchester, and a Mission Service Corps volunteer of the North American Mission Board, gives a Bonnaroo participant a newsletter produced by Baptists. They stand on the outskirts of the concert venue. — Photos by Connie Davis Bushey

Churches provide ESL at neighborhood thrift store

By Marcia Knox Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — People who shop for furniture at Thrift-Smart on Nolensville Road may end up learning English as a Second Language (ESL) if they show up this summer.

Between 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays several different nationalities of people convene at ThriftSmart to learn English in the furniture department between the tables, lamps, sofas, and beds. The number of internationals who want to learn English and attend the ESL classes keeps growing every week.

Four Nashville area Baptist churches and the Nashville Baptist Association (NBA) have partnered with ThriftSmart, a thrift store company created to support Christian ministries, to staff summer English classes at its location on Nolensville Road.

The classes began June 6 with a kick-off party where 25 potential students met their 15 teaching volunteers, registered, and took skill level assessments.

Churches participating in the classes are: Crievewood Baptist Church, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, all in the Nashville area, and Rolling Hills Community Church, Franklin. Volunteers are also coming from other Christian churches in the area. With the increased number of participants more volunteers are needed.

Beginner, intermediate, and advanced English conversation classes are being offered as well as literacy classes. Participants are encouraged to bring their friends and children. The children are supervised in childcare in another part of the store. Classes are scheduled to end Aug. 8.

It's a beehive of activity as Baptist ESL teachers and volunteers lead three English classes, rotate with program activities, supervise learning readers, give assessment tests to place the ongoing new students, and teach Vacation Bible School to the students' children while shoppers look for bargains.

- See Churches, page 11



JEANETTE MASSEY, minister of childhood education at Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, gives an assessment test for the English as a Second Language program at ThriftSmart in Nashville to a prospective student. — Photo by Marcia Knox

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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

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Blackaby resigns as president of Canadian seminary

Baptist Press

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COCHRANE, Alberta — Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary President Richard Blackaby announced his resignation from the seminary presidency in early June to pursue God's call as president of Blackaby Ministries International.

In a somber meeting with his staff and faculty, Blackaby said though he always felt that he would retire before leaving the seminary, God had been directing him more towards the international ministry begun by his father, Henry Blackaby.

"This has been a very heart-

wrenching decision for me because I love the seminary and it has been my incredible privilege to invest my life in its students," he said. "Al-



BLACKABY

though I will not be the seminary president, I intend to remain in Cochrane and to continue to be involved in the seminary. I will continue to teach classes and to speak at events like chapel ... I also intend to use my opportunities to speak before various audiences to wholeheartedly promote the seminary. I intend to be one of its most dedicated ambassadors.

"God has given me the incredible privilege to work

alongside my father. I will cherish these days as I work with the greatest man of God I know."

In response to Blackaby's 13 years of dedication and continuing support of the seminary, the trustees and leaders at the seminary have named Blackaby its chancellor, recognizing him in promoting the Canadian school.

Fines rise for indecent radio, TV broadcasts

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Broadcasters who transgress the federal government's indecency standards now will have to pay as much as \$325,000 per violation.

President George W. Bush signed into law June 15 legislation increasing by tenfold the maximum fine for indecency on television and radio. The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act increases the maximum fine that can be levied by the Federal Communications Commission from \$32,500 to \$325,000.

During the signing ceremony at the White House, Bush commended Congress for sending legislation to him that will "help American parents by making broadcast television and radio more family friendly.

"Parents are the first line of defense [in supervising what children watch and listen to], but broadcasters and the electronics industry must play a valuable role in protecting our children from obscene and indecent programming," the president told an audience that included profamily advocates and members of Congress. "Unfortunately, in recent years, broadcast programming has too often pushed the bounds of decency."

Indecency complaints to the FCC have grown "from just hundreds per year to hundreds of thousands" since 2000, Bush said. "In other words, people are saying, 'We're tired of it, and we expect the government to do something about it."

A maximum fine of \$32,500 "is meaningless" for some broadcasters, Bush said. "It's relatively painless for them when they violate decency standards. By allowing the FCC to levy stiffer and more meaningful fines on broadcasters who violate decency standards, this law will ensure that broadcasters take seriously their duty to keep the public airwaves free of obscene, profane, and indecent material."

Supporters of the legislation hailed the law's enactment as an important victory in the effort to reduce broadcast indecency.

"Hopefully, the media giants will hear the message loud and clear — the American people own the public airwaves and have a right to reclaim a greater sense of decency and control over the airwaves," Tony



Tennessee page

Alex Reynolds, a member of First Baptist Church, Greeneville, served as a page during the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Greensboro, N.C. Reynolds, a recent high school graduate, has served as a page at the convention for the past three years through the North American Mission Board.

Perkins, president of Family Research Council, said in a written statement. "No longer will indecency fines be viewed as an irrelevant cost of doing business."

The legislation does not directly affect cable or satellite programming. The FCC is able to regulate only broadcast radio and television. On TV, that includes such networks as ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox. \square

Union students launch ministry for small town students

By Katie Beth Kelley For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — When three college students recognized the absence of organized mission opportunities in small towns, they didn't gripe about it. Instead, they decided to host their own missions conference.

In July 2005, after lots of prayer and many nights spent talking on the phone, the three decided to begin Sculpture Ministries and created a slogan, "being shaped to shape your world."

The ministry's aim is to bring missions conferences to small towns every year.

"So many times you have to go to a big city and travel outside of your hometown to do mission work and to go to a conference like that," said Josh Clarke, one of the ministry's founders. "What we want to do is change the mindset and tell teenagers that they can do mission work and they be comfortable just right where they are. You don't have to go anywhere to do God's work."

Clarke is a senior Christian studies major at Union University. Stephen Lynch, a junior business management major at Union, and Caroline Hamilton, a senior foreign language and biology major at Lambuth University, co-founded the organization with Clarke.

Their first conference will be held Aug. 4-5 at the Hardin County High School auditorium in Savannah. Mission projects such as putting teddy bears in ambulances, doing construction projects, and serving in the

community will be offered.

The founders said they felt led to help others find mission opportunities and had been to various missions conferences in the past. God convicted them to positively influence younger students, they said.

"We were looking around at the people from our high school in our small town and noticed that our teens were being plagued by a world that was telling them that it was okay to live a life for themselves," Clarke said.

Their original goal was to host 50 middle and high schoolers at their first missions conference. Now they think the turnout could be much higher. But they said that the success of their organization does not depend on numbers.

Support from family and other Christians encircled them, and the founders learned many lessons throughout the past year.

"Opportunity does not end at the point where you can't see anymore," Lynch said.

They chose Savannah for the location because it's Clarke's and Hamilton's hometown. Next summer, they may host the conference in Marion, Ark., where Lynch is from.

Ten churches have agreed to act as sponsor churches. They will sponsor a mission project, provide a meal for the team, and financially support Sculpture Ministries.

Lynch said the most exciting part of working with the new organization was "seeing how this vision has really become a reality that we still don't understand, that we still can't really hold onto yet, and that's okay. Just seeing how as we pray that God had a plan from the start and that He's revealing it a little bit at a time."

The founders said that they plan to do something perhaps after college with this organization, too. They also said that they were willing to follow God's call and consider Sculpture Ministries one of their biggest passions.

Even so, the team members found that their leadership styles were different. God blended their various talents together to create a stronger partnership among the three, they said. Clarke said that he looks at the big picture, that Lynch is detailed, and that Hamilton is creative.

"I'm really excited about it because it's something new for me," Hamilton said. "I've been to hundreds of youth events but have never been in on the planning side. It's neat to learn the inner workings of it. It's going to be something new and different for Savannah."

The theme of this year's conference is "CPR: Check Your Vitals," with a focus on changing, praying, and reaching. Reid Ward from Legacy Leadership Ministries of Alabama will be speaking, and the John Sherrill Band will lead worship. In addition, Freshman 15 will play the opening night concert.

A registration form and more information are available at Sculpture Ministries' web site, www.sculptureministries.com.

Baptists provide church in projects of Elizabethton

By Connie Davis Bushey Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — "This is not the way I thought I would spend my retirement," said Jack Greer. After a pause, he said, "I can't think of any better way to spend it."

Greer, 66, retired a few years ago from a 22-year career as a truck driver. A member of Willow Springs Baptist Church here and former pastor, he responded to an invitation to lead a Wednesday afternoon Bible study at Lynnwood/Lynnridge Apartments. The complex is governmentsubsidized and home to about 300 people.

That small Bible study group led to the current Lynnwood/Lynnridge Community Church. The church meets three times a week in an apartment provided by complex managers to the church and Hale Community Ministries of Watauga Baptist Association, Elizabethton. Hale Community Ministries was holding the Bible study. The church has

Greer explained the people attending the Bible study asked for their own church and have asked for the addition of weekly services.

The church draws about 8-12 "faithfuls," described Greer. He's hoping for about 30, but he doesn't know where he would put everyone. The apartment living room where it meets is very small.

Greer and others in Watauga Association are hoping to buy a house as a meeting place for the congregation. It is in a great location because it sits at the entrance of the apartment complex. That is important because some residents don't have cars and must walk to church, said Greer.

Lynnwood/Lynnridge Community Church is helped by Willow Springs Church, its sponsoring church, and three partnering churches - Oak Street Baptist Church, Grace Baptist Church, and Immanuel Baptist Church, all of Elizabethton. Also the association and Tennessee Baptist Convention is helping the church start.

A fund is being collected by been meeting for a year and a the association to buy the house. The association is asking for a \$70 gift for a square foot of the house. The house is about 1,000 square feet.



JACK GREER is pastor of Lynnwood/Lynnridge Community Church, Elizabethton. He is helped by his wife, Toni.

Unusual ministry

The Greers not only lead the church through services and activities. They try to minister to the people of the complex at other times.

Jack Greer often takes people to doctor's appointments and helps them with chores, whether it is cleaning, construction, or moving. Mrs. Greer, Toni, joins him some. She has some health problems.

The church helps residents pay their rent and provides groceries though it receives small offerings because of the limited incomes of residents. It provides laundry detergent and quarters to residents who need them to operate the laundry facility of the complex.

Lynnwood/Lynnridge Church also contributes to the association, added Greer, and to its building fund.

Greer has helped a family move out of the complex and several residents find jobs. He visits residents in hospitals and jails and even responds to domestic violence calls in the middle of the night, arriving before the police. Greer has held two weddings and one funeral.

His sermons address the issues of his congregation,

Elizabethton, gives contact information to Kyle Campbell, a resident of Lynnwood/Lynnridge Apartments in Elizabethton. They stand in front of the apartment in the complex which managers provide to the church and Hale Community Ministries of Watauga Baptist Association, Elizabethton, as meeting sites. explained Greer. He has

JACK GREER, pastor, Lynnwood/Lynnridge Community Church,

preached recently on Catholic beliefs and biblical teachings on adultery and fornication.

The Greers have learned to appreciate what they know, like hymns, said Mrs. Greer. Most of the church members don't know any hymns. A charter member can't read so that is why she has difficulty singing hymns.

Greer said before he began serving the congregation he thought he was "street-wise" and used to dealing with panhandlers who would approach him in large cities as he unloaded trucks.

He has learned much more about helping needy people, said Greer. The church doesn't help couples who are living together but not married. He has confronted women who are having many babies though they are very needy. When he learns that people are requesting the same help from Hale Community Ministries and the church in the same time period, he confronts them.

But he and Toni love the people at Lynnwood/Lynnridge and they love them, they reported.

"There's just so much that they've never had and they've never done," said Mrs. Greer.

"God has to be in it," said Greer with a smile, "because they tell me things I don't want to know and don't need to know.

"I pray everyday for wisdom. "These people have a soul and you can't put a price on a soul," said Greer.

He credits God working through the late Gertrude Hale of the staff of Watauga Association for his current ministry. She arranged for him to receive a scholarship and encouraged him to attend Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, which he did. He has served as pastor of Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethton, and interim pastor of Unaka Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

Isn't it interesting, said Greer, that now he is working with a congregation resulting from an outreach of Hale Community Ministries, which is named for Hale.

"We talk about missionaries across the water. We've got a mission field right here," he said.



hopes to buy as a meeting place for Lynnwood/Lynnridge Community Church, Elizabethton. It is located at the entrance of Lynnwood/Lynnridge Apartments.

THE GREERS stand by a home the Watauga Baptist Association

Association of colleges, schools elects Jim Netherton as chair

By Tim Fields For Baptist and Reflector

CHARLESTON, S.C. Members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools (ASBCS) voted June 5 to change the name of the 51-member organization to the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities (IABCU). The change expresses the vision and desire of the group to expand the mission and ministry of the association to a more global focus.

According to Bob Agee, executive director of IABCU, the presidents and chief academic officers who are the voting members of the association voted to change the name in an effort to expand its outreach to all colleges and universities which lay claim to their Baptist history and heritage. Agee, former president of Union University, Jackson, lives in Jack-

"The name change positions the association to serve a larger number of Baptist-related schools both in the United States and abroad," Agee said. "In 1996 the Southern Baptist Convention voted to do away with the Education Commission, and at that time, the association made the decision to assume the essential functions of the Education Commission as an independent member-owned and governed voluntary association.

"We believe the time has come for the member schools of

the association to expand our outreach to a more global family. In addition, schools across the United States with roots in Baptist history and heritage who want to value that heritage could benefit greatly by participating with us in cooperative endeavors.

"Just as LifeWay, formerly the Baptist Sunday School Board, and GuideStone Financial Services, formerly the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, changed their names to serve the larger Christian family and expand the outreach of their missions, so the name International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities will reflect the Association's desire to offer our services, support, and influence to a global

family of Baptist-related Christian higher education institutions," Agee said.

Association members also approved a new mission statement, core values, and objectives.

The association's new mission statement reads: "The International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities enriches member institutions by stimulating supporting a quest for highquality Christian higher education. The association is a voluntary organization of colleges, universities, and schools that lay claim to their Baptist history, heritage, and relationships. It fosters intentional Christian education, while cooperating in the advancement and mutual

well-being of each member."

In other action, members of IABCU approved a budget for 2006-07, elected four new board members, and announced board officers for 2006-07.

Officers for 2006-07 are chair - Jim Netherton, president, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; vice-chair and chair-elect - Evans Whitaker, president, Anderson University, Anderson, S.C.; and recording secretary - Carla Sanderson, provost, Union University, Jackson.

Chief administrators from member schools - 238 attended the meeting. - Tim Fields of Nashville is director of communications for the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities.

Tips offered for dealing with emergency situations

guest columnist



By Tamara Quintana

Early one morning I got a call from one of my co-workers who had witnessed an accident on the highway. She could see the man on the ground but didn't know what to do. She was afraid to render aid.

I told my co-worker if she was afraid, she should stay in her car. She called out to the man and told him she would call 911 and stay there with him until help arrived. She was able to get immediate help and give the accident victim some comfort while keeping a safe distance.

The first rule in any emergency is to ensure your own safety. Emergency situations are dangerous for those who are trained in emergencies and even more so for those who are not.

• Be prepared

Being prepared for an emergency can make the difference between a positive outcome and a disastrous one. With a little advance planning, most of us can handle almost any situation

calmly, quickly, and effectively.

Advance planning for an emergency means taking a CPR and first aid course and following up with periodic refresher courses. In a basic course, you should learn the proper techniques for treating burns, wrapping sprains, applying splints, and performing the Heimlich maneuver.

You should also keep a wellstocked first-aid kit at home, at work, and in your car. With the right knowledge and basic materials, you can be much more effective in an emergency.

• Get help

Calling 911 is often the most important thing you can do in

an emergency. If you're alone with a victim, first do what you can to quickly stabilize the situation, then call 911. If there are others around, tell someone else to call. Be specific. "Joe, call 911!" A blanket statement directed to a crowd may not spur anyone to action.

One situation that always requires immediate medical attention is difficulty breathing. You can't perform CPR on someone whose airways are blocked, and the brain cannot survive more than a few minutes without oxygen. Always err on the side of safety where breathing is concerned.

In any situation, if you're

letters to the editor

unsure, always call 911. We've all heard stories of people whose lives could have been saved but they didn't get help because people didn't want to make a scene.

An important part of handling an emergency is being able to evaluate the situation and take the appropriate action under stress. If we take preventive measures and prepare for the worst, we have a much better chance of making good decisions that will greatly increase the likelihood of a positive outcome. ——

Quintana is director of the employee wellness program for Guide-Stone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

GOTM update

As of May 31, \$1,422,797 has been given to the 2005 Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for generously supporting the state missions offering. The 2005 offering goal is \$1,630,000. The 2005 offering will be collected until Aug. 31.

The 2006 Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions goal of \$1,630,000 was approved by the Executive Boards of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union in March and the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board in May. The 2006 theme for the week of prayer for state missions will be "Who? Me? Beyond My Door...." based on Colossians 4:2-6.

Promotion materials for the 2006 week of prayer for state missions will be mailed the first week of July. The suggested date for the week of prayer is Sept. 10-17.

Candy Phillips, executive director, Tennessee WMU Brentwood 37024

Elder rule

If our city is any indication of a national trend, Southern Baptists have a new divisive force. Elder rule was proposed by a pastor of a local mega church but voted down convincingly by the congregation prompting his exile.

The local press interviewed one member who said that the controversy was really a vote between the "blue hairs" and the "flip-flops and T-shirt" crowd.

If that is true we could become a more harmonious denomination by establishing two tiers of churches. Let the blue hairs have their churches designated "Southern Baptist Old" and the flip-flops/T-shirts be "Southern Baptists New."

The Old would retain the organ, hymn books, and choir robes since they could better afford formality and the New having little or no appreciation of fine music could expand the nursery given their greater prolific tendencies. Tensions would reduce and the media would leave our doorstep.

Should elder rule be desired in the style of our Presbyterian friends it would be tough going for us since in our system of congregational authority we have no regional overseers to call down any local tyrants the elder system may create. Remember the Boston Tea Party?

John H. Townsend Memphis 38120

Disheartened

I have been greatly disheartened by the events taking place at Belmont University where I graduated in 1986. The school then stood for honor, integrity, and courage. Now, that has all passed.

The school has a contractual agreement with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and they are calling it just an historical document. I call the Constitution of the the United States of America a historic document, but that does not mean it no longer stands true or that it is not enforceable. I am angry anyone would attempt this. They have replaced the corporate charter removing the TBC. How many of you would let your mortgage company call informing you they deemed your mortgage a historical document, they have removed your name from it, and give you \$100 and say the house now belongs to them? I dare say everyone would fly to their attorney, file suit against the institution, and possibly file criminal charges also.

I know what many will say. The Bible says not to be involved in lawsuits. Or, Jesus said to turn the other cheek. But you have forgotten that we are to hold our brothers accountable and we are our brother's keepers.

We are charged to be good stewards of the money given to our Lord. Would we be serving our Lord by letting a hand full of people take what has been dedicated to our Lord? I think not.

Those people involved in the effort to take Belmont say they are doing no wrong. If this is true, why did they act as if they didn't know about the contract with the TBC until they were

questioned about it? If we let those people take our school we are no better than they are. To remain silent is to conspire and agree by our silence. Christians must not be afraid to stand up and speak out.

Jesus went into the Temple where the money changers and merchants were cheating His people. What did Jesus do? He became filled with righteous indignation, overturning their tables and driving them out. Should we not feel and do the same? The leadership at Belmont is trying to take our school from us and our children. We cannot let this happen. We must secure our school.

Timothy S. Sneed Nashville 37211

Control

I shall never forget. It was 10 days before I was to receive the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in May of 1957 that my world was suddenly turned upside down. The news spread like wildfire. Thirteen of our teachers had been terminated, without even so much as a hearing.

My joy of graduating suddenly turned to disbelief, then to bewilderment, and finally to anger. Why? What had those professors done? I have been asking myself that for a long time. Now, after almost 50 years of watching the power brokers for the conservative core of the SBC at work, I believe I finally have the answer. Those professors said something in the classroom which ruffled the feathers of the SBC core.

Distrust and suspicion now run rampant and grow in scope from year to year. No longer is there any room for an opinion on any subject which differs from that expressed by the ultra conservative of the SBC. Even the language used in our prayer life is now under the gun. Is it any wonder some new churches are refusing to use the word "Baptist" in the name of their church?

Of course, all this pressure is

designed for maximum control. Control means everything to the SBC core. Herein lies their problem with the Baptist World Alliance, Belmont University, and Woman's Missionary Union, just to mention three areas. They bring pressure upon a group to control it, and if this fails, then they try to discredit and destroy it in any and all ways possible. That is a fair description of the SBC hard core today.

Leonard W. Riley Memphis 38115

Appalled

I was appalled to see the article in the June 21 issue that told about the unveiling of the statue of Billy Graham. Has the Baptist community lost its collective mind? Remember the Commandment that says, "Thou shalt not make for yourself a graven (carved) image, or anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath"

I can see no reason to lift Billy Graham up on a pedestal. If he is indeed as great as some people seem to think he is, it is only because of the grace of God, not because of anything that Mr. Graham has done.

This is a disgrace and centers on blaspheme! I live in Nashville, but I can assure you that I will not be rushing down to LifeWay to see this travesty. I am also considering not using LifeWay resources any longer as my own feeble protest of this gross act on the part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is bad enough that we have to deal with our reputation when it comes to squabbling over the inerrancy of the Bible, conservative vs. liberal, and convention power struggles. Must we now add idol worship to our list of sins?

Shame on the SBC and those people that funded this travesty.

Rocky Leonhardt LaVergne 37086

Dedicated ladies

I just wanted to express my appreciation to a couple of dedicated ladies at Stevens Street Baptist Church in Cookeville.

A few weeks ago, I was asked to help Stephanie Slagle and Judy Rodriguez with a Royal Ambassador Racer event at their church one Wednesday evening. I agreed and took my racetrack to set up. I believe that there were 10 to 12 children there. They drew numbers out of my RA cap and we set up the brackets and raced and raced and raced and raced and raced.

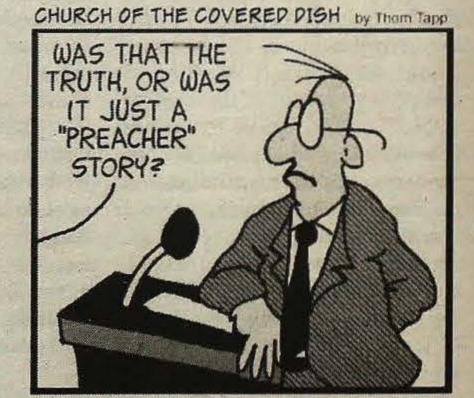
They seemed to never grow tired of the racing, even though it was informal and there was not even any big prizes. There was just fun and fellowship.

The children whooped it up and had a great time but were all very well behaved and respectful of the adults and each other. We finally had to stop the racing because we were well over our allotted time.

A few days later, I received a thank you card from the ladies and a hand written note from each one of the children that participated in the race.

That was a great testimony to the quality leadership of Ms. Slagle and Ms. Rodriguez. I know that God will richly reward these committed ladies for their work with His children.

Frank Green, RA/Challenger field worker Brentwood 37024



"Abundant use of illustrations in sermons can lead to unforeseen consequences..."

Where there are no words, there can be no faith

guest columnist

By Todd Brady

More than just a white-collar coffee shop, Starbucks has emerged from simply a producer of coffee to an increasingly prominent shaper of culture.

Our grandparents would roll their eyes if they knew we were unhesitatingly shelling out \$4.23 for a Venti low-fat, decaffeinated Caramel Macchiato. Moreover, they would probably be perplexed as to why "Tall" means small, "Grande" means medium, and "Venti" means large. It is now a common part of our culture to hear "I'll meet you at Starbucks," and any casual observer quickly sees that Starbucks is selling much -more than coffee. They are selling experience.

Starbucks is capitalizing on the fact that America is a generally self-centered and experience-oriented society.

These personal tendencies often cause the home-brewed cups of \$6.00 per can Maxwell's House brand to not hit the spot like a Tall Columbo Nariño Supremo purchased in the shop's flavor-filled atmosphere where hip jazz music wafts among the thirty-somethings waiting to drive their SUVs over to the private

school to pick up their 2.4 kids.

In addition to brewing up expensive coffee products, Starbucks desires to percolate "conversations" through their "The Way I See It" emphasis where "thoughts, opinions, and expressions provided by notable figures" are promoted on their popular beverage cups. From country-western singer Wynonna Judd to editor-at-large of National Review Online Jonah Goldberg to chairman of the Earth Day Network and longtime environmental advocate Denis Hayes to pastor of Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated Saddleback Church Rick Warren, various thoughts are being promulgated via each opinionated cup of coffee.

The Bereans were commended in Acts 17:11 because they "received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." Understanding Paul's engagement with the Bereans, one might wonder whether he would frequent Starbucks today. Probably. But also, he certainly would encourage Christians to drink and think discriminately.

"The Way I See It #68" is artist and photographer Vik Muniz's quote, "In an age when pictures have become more eloquent than words, schools are still programmed to reduce the child's immersive interaction with the visual world to the practical poverty of the alphabet. Visual literacy should become a peda-

gogical priority in order to prepare our children to function within the increasingly visual complexity of our environment."

If "The Way I See It" serves to spark conversations, then Starbucks is succeeding with their initiatives, for #68 provides much fodder for dialogue. Many topics are included within such a quote — communication, education, linguistics, childhood, culture, and the like. And engaging in serious thinking and conversation about these subjects can be productive exercises.

The surface of a "Venti" cup is not sufficient space to communicate the entirety of Muniz's thoughts behind his opinion. However, it is ironically interesting that Muniz chooses to communicate his message not by a picture, which in his estimation is "more eloquent than words," but by the utilization of the "practical poverty of the alphabet" - using 55 words made up of 300 letters, together with 54 spaces, two periods, one comma, and one apostrophe.

The "visual world" of our culture is hardly reason enough to prioritize "visual literacy. Being optically oriented is what led the Israelites to sin by fashioning a golden calf while waiting on Moses to return from the mountaintop (Exodus 32). However, Moses did not bring tablets of images down from God, but tablets of words — 10 to be exact.

Moses later instructed the people to prioritize God's words when he spoke for God saying "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

In II Chronicles 34, God did a work in the lives of His people when they found the Book of the Law and changed their lives to live in accordance with the words located therein.

Most poignantly, the Apostle Paul asserted that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

Many prefer images because they believe a picture to be worth a thousand words. Some, even in churches, are jettisoning the idea of traditional literacy and calling for services and programs that fully embrace visual literacy. However, within God's economy, we must remember that God has designed us to be "word" people.

In short, where there are no words, there can be no faith. □

— Brady is minister to the university at Union University in Jackson.



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Sometimes, simple is better

Last week my cell phone died so I went shopping for a new one. I discovered, much to my dismay, that it is hard to find a cell phone that will do only what it originally was intended to do—let someone dial or receive phone calls.

I remember my first cell phone. It was in a large pack that plugged into your car's cigarette lighter. I think you could buy a battery pack if you wanted to use it outside the car.

It was bulky and cumbersome, but it did what it was supposed to do. Also, I never lost that one or misplaced it. I never dropped it because it stayed in the car. Simple was good.

Now you can get cell phones that take pictures, keep schedules, double as a calculator, and the list goes on and on.

All I wanted was a simple cell phone to make and receive calls. I ended up with the simplest of the complex. I can take notes, keep up my calendar, etc — if I want to. I don't.

My cell phone will be used as a phone, although I do admit it is handy being able to keep a "contact" list in the phone so you can have the numbers of people you call regularly.

Technology is supposed to make life simpler, but does it really? If I tried to learn everything my cell phone can do it would take me forever.

Many people use electronic calendars to keep up with their schedules. I tried that once. It didn't take me long to go back to the old reliable calendar "at a glance." I can write with an old-fashioned pen or pencil where I need to be, when I need to be there, and any other notes I might need to make to myself about the event. Assuming I don't lose it, my information is there and I don't have to worry about batteries or electricity.

Churches can take a lesson from cell phones. While it is nice to have churches with huge facilities that offer a myriad of programs and activities, let's make sure we don't make church so complicated that people have a hard time finding a congregation that offers the basics — preaching, evangelism, discipleship, missions, and fellowship.

Frills are nice, but when all is said and done, the only thing that really matters is telling people about Jesus, winning the lost to Christ, and then discipling them so they can go out and tell and win others to the Lord. In fact, re-read Matthew 28:19-20. That's a simple reminder of what we're to be about. \Box

Our gift of freedom did not come without a cost

faith at the front



By Sara Horn

As a kickoff to the start of summer, my husband and I decided to fix up our backyard with some new deck furniture. We found a beautiful outdoor bench at the local home improvement store, and though we really wanted two, we went ahead and bought the only one in stock. In order to get it home, we had to take the bench out of the box right there at the store, and we were thrilled to see that the one bench we thought we had bought was actually a set - two benches for the price of one!

Don't we love getting things for free? And yet, nothing is ever really free. In fact, we're often suspicious when someone offers us something at no cost — we ask, what's the catch? We think, somehow, some way, this is going to cost me. Once we do realize that something is free, we often take it and forget about it. Its value is a lot lower because it hasn't cost us anything to get it. And yet, somewhere, it has cost someone something.

This month our nation will once again celebrate our independence. We'll take time to visit with our friends and family, throw some hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill and shoot some fireworks. We'll go to church, hear some patriotic songs, and thank God for the freedoms we have. But do we really mean it? Or do we treat our freedom like we treat anything else we get for free?

My brother graduated from West Point at the end of May. His class of young commissioned Army officers holds the unique distinction of being the first class to attend the academy after 9/11.

As President George W.

Bush addressed the graduates and spoke of the "watch" these young officers will now take up to defend the country, it was obvious to me that the families filling the stadium that day saw the price of freedom rise substantially, with the face of their son or daughter prominently displayed in their minds. They understood, along with the other 2.2 million service members and their families who serve our country, that freedom doesn't come free.

It also isn't always available. I remember talking with an Iraqi Christian pastor during my trip to Baghdad in 2003 and seeing his face light up as he talked about the freedom he and his church were now experiencing for the first time in decades to worship God without fear of being reported to the Iraqi government. And as I stood in my church half a world away the following weekend, taking in the big lights, big video

screens, and the big band, I thought back to that small congregation, sitting in white plastic chairs and singing along to one solo keyboard, so happy just to be gathered together to worship God.

Freedom doesn't come free. Even the freedom we experience when we know Christ came with a price — a Savior willing to lay His life down for us all. So as we celebrate our country's independence, let us also remember those who work so hard to make that independence possible.

The gift of freedom is truly just that — a precious, valuable gift.

— Horn is a writer, speaker, and publisher of AGreaterFreedom.com, a faithbased military news site that offers stories designed to encourage, inspire, and inform. Her husband is a Seabee in the Navy Reserves and they live in Spring Hill with their son who is 5. She can be contacted at sara@agreaterfreedom.com.

Baptists reach out to 80,000 at ...

Continued from page 1

was at their age and that she had struggles. She told them many people think the big decisions in life have to do with what kind of car or house they need. But the biggest decision they face is what they're going to do with Jesus Christ, she told them.

One of the young men told her he had attended a Catholic school.

German went on to tell the young men how she had learned that Jesus died for her sins so she could be saved spiritually.

The young men were receptive and thanked her for talk-

ing with them before they part-

CHARLES RICHARDSON, director of missions, William Carey Baptist Association, Fayetteville, distributes a newsletter from Baptists to people attending Bonnaroo.

ed, said German.

Bonnaroo gave her the opportunity to witness to those young men, she said, and is an opportunity for all Baptists.

She and her husband, Dick, served several days on 10-hour shifts despite the heat.

Brian Freeland, an insurance executive in Murfreesboro and member of Belle Aire Baptist Church there, participated after learning of the opportunity on the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site tnbaptist.org.

Serving was an "eye-opener," said Freeland. But he served several days because of the good experiences he had. Freeland said next year he

> hopes to involve some of the singles he teaches in Sunday School.

JoAnn Manning also learned about the opportunity on the TBC web site. She is a member of Parkway Baptist Church, Smyr-

She said, "Everybody has been real nice and kind."

She had several opportunities to witness, she said. She visited for about 10 minutes with a man who was a vendor. He was a recovering alcoholic. Manning said she was able to tell the man

how proud she was of him and that God could help him with this struggle.

Scott Capshaw of Gatlinburg was one of about 20 volunteers who had tickets and could enter the concert venue. He is a North American Mission Board missionary who works with Bill Black of Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries. Black led the training for volunteers.

Capshaw camped alongside concert-goers during the entire Bonnaroo event. His approach relational ministry through conversation, he explained.

"God is actively involved in every one of their lives. We just have to help them see it," said Capshaw. He hopes he will have more volunteers camp with him next year.

He noted the variety of methods developed by Baptists to witness and help the concert-goers. He noted all methods of outreach, ranging from traditional to non-traditional, are valid.

Volunteers wore badges with musical notes in symbolic colors on them which could be used to share the plan of salvation. On the other was a guide.

Volunteers had newsletters to distribute. The publication welcomed the visitors and listed Manchester health care, check cashing, locksmith, and automotive contacts. The newsletter also had an article citing the lyrics of rock musicians which refer to the need for the Christian faith. The newsletter was developed by Kerry Walker and Kenny and Teresa Lockhart. Kenny is youth minister of Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester.

Volunteers also could distribute frisbees which bore the plan of salvation, the tract "Everyone is Pierced," the Gospel of John, and New Testaments. Several pieces directed people to 1-888-JESUS2000 or Walker, chaplain/counselor. The Bonnaroo ministry was funded by Duck River Baptist Association, Manchester; William Carey Baptist Association, Fayetteville; and the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Dick German who volunteered along with his wife, Ann, said he was asked many times why he was there. His response was a witness, he added. He was rewarded as he walked through an area and someone yelled, "Dick." The man, whom German had talked to earlier, thanked German for what he was doing.

"You never know what kind of effect you're going to have," said German.

Walker had to miss a mis-

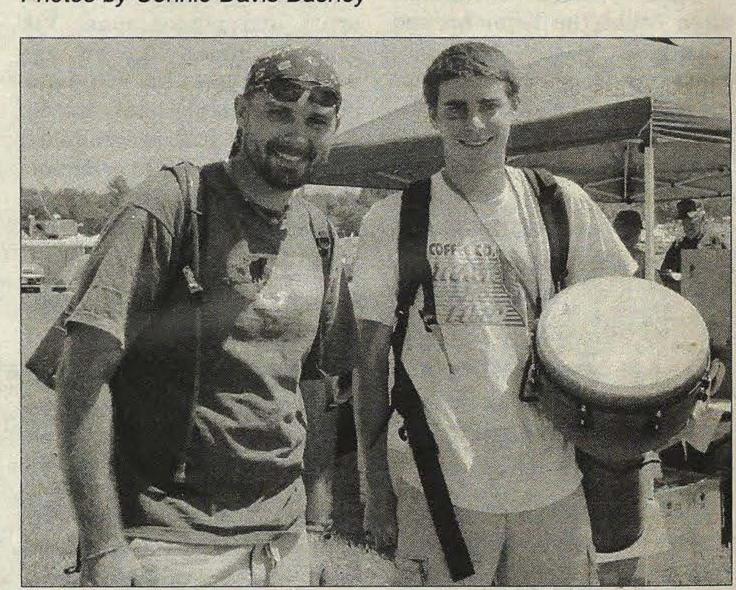
sion trip of his church to participate in the Bonnaroo event. But he is committed to the ministry, he said, because of the great opportunities presented as "the world" comes here.

He noted two young women served as volunteers despite their reservations. After serving, they reported the Bonnaroonies were "just people."

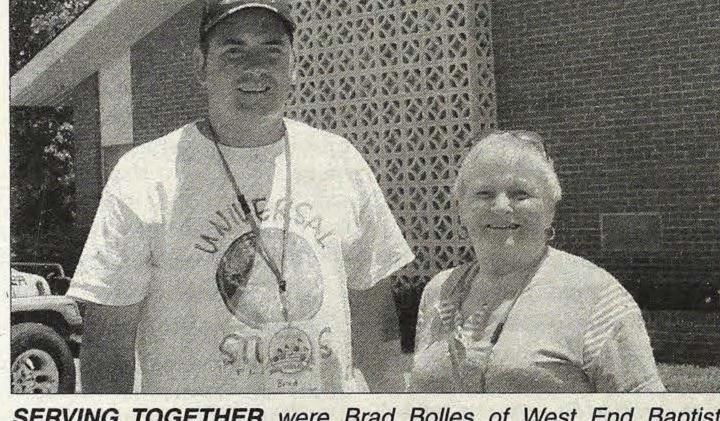
Walker hopes the ministry will grow. What is being done is great, "but we're not even touching a microscopic portion" of the crowd, he said.



BRIAN FREELAND, a member of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, gives away frisbees bearing the plan of salvation. -Photos by Connie Davis Bushey



SCOTT CAPSHAW, left, a North American Mission Board missionary based at Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries, Gatlinburg, camped with concert-goers and stayed in the concert venue to minister. He stands with Brent Walker of Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester, who holds a drum he is taking into the concert area to play. The young men hope it helps them make some new friends.



SERVING TOGETHER were Brad Bolles of West End Baptist Church, Fayetteville, and JoAnn Manning of Parkway Baptist Church, Smyrna.



BRIAN FREELAND found that the frisbees provided by Baptists were well-received when passed through the air to passersby with a word about it being free. Freeland is a member of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.



ANN GERMAN of Riva Lake Baptist Church, Winchester, and a North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer, meets some concert-goers from Canada.

Tennessee BCM students take part in SBC registration

By Stacy Murphree Baptist and Reflector

GREENSBORO, N.C. -Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) students registered the more than 11,600 messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Greensboro.

About 60 students from five states served, registering messengers. Sixteen of these students attend various colleges and universities in Tennessee. Other students were part of the BCM programs of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and

CAVNESS

CHOATE

South Carolina colleges.

This is the first year a team of college students this size has been used in the registration process.

Last year at the SBC meeting in Nashville a team of high school college and students led by Stan Cavcolleness, giate ministry specialist at

Dyersburg State Community College, served in registration. Because of the success of that team, it was decided to form a larger team comprised of BCM students from various states to serve in Greensboro. Cavness

led this team again. This project not only allows the unique opportunity for college students to see their denominational work in action, but it also allows messengers and visitors of the convention to see how BCM ministry continues to be important to Southern Baptists, Tennessee BCM leaders agree.

"It is essential that we give young Baptist leaders a chance to see Baptist polity in action," said Bill Choate, TBC collegiate ministries coordinator.

"Also, I hope registering messengers were able to see that Baptist Collegiate Ministry continues to be at the center of Southern Baptist life," Choate added.

Cavness agrees with the importance of placing students at the SBC.

"Our intent was to give students an opportunity to learn more about how the Southern Baptist Convention operates, and to demonstrate to Southern Baptists that college students love Jesus and are prepared to take an active leadership role in their churches," he says.

Cavness notes how an important part of the project was seeing students from across Tennessee as well as other states come together and work. "It was really representative of the Baptist way and a cooperative effort to serve God by serving the messengers," he says.

Students agree on how they enjoyed working side-by-side with BCM students from other states that normally they would not have had the opportunity to meet and spend time with. "I thought it was really awesome



AMY LEIGH RICH, seated, a member of First Baptist Church, Gordonsville, and a student at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, answers a question for Joyce Herring, of Denver, N.C., a messenger attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-14 in Greensboro, N.C. Rich was among 16 Tennessee Baptist collegiate ministries students who served at the annual meeting. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

how so many BCMs across our state and other states came together to serve God and His people," says Ellen Marie Womac, Tennessee Tech University student.

"I had the opportunity to form relationships with other college students across a five state region involved in different BCMs. It was encouraging to see so many students working together for the cause of Christ," says Sam Stephens, Dyersburg State Community College student.

BCM students also enjoyed the opportunity to interact with people from across the United States as they registered those attending the convention. "I am proud of the students who not only worked well together but were kind and did their best to serve the needs of the messengers and visitors to the SBC," says Cavness.

Cavness notes now students gave close attention and met the needs of those who could not easily access the registration

area. One student was able to assist a deaf woman and her family by interpreting for her, familiarizing her with the convention center, and then escorting her to her seat.

"There were over 35 occasions over the four days when students carried packets of information and went to messengers on crutches or in wheelchairs who could not get to the registration area through the crowd and registered them to make their visit easier for them," says Cavness.

In addition to serving with the registration process, BCM students participated CrossOver Greensboro. Students worked with various projects involving prayerwalking and door-to-door evangelism.

BCM students from Tennessee promoted a Saturday night concert at a local church in downtown Greensboro by passing out information and talking with people on the street. Students were then able to interact and share with those attending the concert that night.

"CrossOver helped me to realize the urgency of sharing Christ with the world. It is wonderful to see so many people committed to reaching the ends of the earth with the gospel of Jesus Christ," says Christopher Enix, Tennessee Tech University student.

"This trip gave me the chance to get outside my comfort zone with the goal of impacting someone's life for Jesus. It reminded me that we always need to be encouraging, joyful, and loving to others," says Stephens.

Deaf ministry involves more than interpreting church services

By Rheta Murry For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Ministering to the deaf is more than providing interpretation at church services. It's understanding and providing opportunities for them to meet with one another in a place where they can speak their own language to one another, and share one another's burdens.

Betty Stirsman learned these lessons and more in the many years she's worked with deaf people in both Tennessee and Louisiana churches. Stirsman, a member of Brentwood Baptist Church, helped start the deaf ministry at the large Tennessee Baptist church.

From humble beginnings, Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church (BBDC), a ministry of Brentwood Baptist, features a state-of-the-art chapel built especially for the deaf. Brian Sims pastors the church where about 120 deaf worship each week. In addition, 10 satellite churches also "hear" the service.

"The chapel is the first of its kind exclusively for the deaf culture," Sims said. "Some of the features include a vibrating floor, loop system, and chairs spaced so everyone has a direct sight line to the stage. America did not have this technology, so I brought it over from England."

Theater chairs are spaced further apart so people can sign without accidentally hitting one another. Two small alcoves give seekers an opportunity to communicate in privacy. Sims explains the privacy they offer is important for those responding to the Holy Spirit, so they can talk without someone interpreting the conversation. A large stage enables Sims to use many visual aids to help illustrate his sermons.

"One of the key elements of a deaf church or deaf ministry is meeting not only the spiritual but the emotional, intellectual, and physical needs of the people," Sims said. "You have to reach out to the whole being."

He said working with one deaf individual is like working with 100 hearing individuals, because of the time involved in signing. At an average of 120 regular attendees, Sims said BBDC is considered a "mega-church" in the deaf world.

deaf church offers deaf-lead Bible studies and Sunday School classes, deaf choirs for several age groups, and other "typical things that take place in a hearing church," Sims said. All services are done in American Sign Language (ASL) and verbally, and are geared for the deaf and their families.

Sims said choir members take up to

23 to 48 hours to learn a song because they have to learn the beat, words, and signs. A mirrored room helps ensure choir members all sign at the same time.

Though Brentwood Baptist's deaf ministry started in 1984, its history, in a way, dates 13 years before when Betty Stirsman's daughters signed up for a sign language class. One daughter begged her to get involved in the classes in order to help her. Reluctantly, the mother learned alongside her daughters. Stirsman planned to go no further with sign language. God had other plans. She attended one more time - the day the class learned to sign Amazing Grace. From then on, sign language started to make sense to her.

Stirsman attended a two-week intensive training class where she continued to learn the language and gained an understanding of deaf culture - a key to developing a successful deaf ministry. God confirmed He wanted her to work Just like in a hearing church, the with the deaf. A few years later, officials at Brentwood Baptist contacted her about starting their deaf ministry. Stirsman saw the church had a heart for missions and agreed to help. She already had some experience in a Louisiana church.

It wasn't until the deaf group broke off from the hearing church, meeting in its own room, that the ministry really

took off. Brentwood Baptist partnered with the Deaf Church of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, and the Deaf Church of First Baptist Church, Memphis. Those deaf churches alternately provided speakers, every other week. A missionary, Frank Moran, served at the church one summer. Because his wife was deaf, the deaf in the community accepted him, which helped Brentwood Baptist gain ground. During the week, Moran made house calls, and on weekends, he preached.

"It was getting them out of the hearing service that we started seeing more growth," she said. "We grew when we got the language into their language."

This arrangement continued for about 18 months. Stirsman says she did what she had to do to keep the ministry going. She estimates the deaf ministry had about 27 members when the church called Brian Sims as pastor.

"It was so wonderful to move out of the hearing church into a church in their own language," Stirsman said. "Someone was signing to them in their own language. That was my ultimate goal." □ - This article originally appeared in Rick Warren's Ministry Tool-Box, a free weekly e-newsletter available at www.pastors.com/rwmt. Copyright 2006. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



PRAYER Matters

In the first chapter of Acts, we read that the church is birthed out of a united, concerted time of prayer. Prayer, along with the Holy Spirit, is the power behind a healthy church.

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

Church Prayer Resources

Don Pierson(615) 371-7909.

Church Missions Praying

Candy Phillips(615) 371-2039

Prayer Conference Leadership

Men's Prayer Ministry

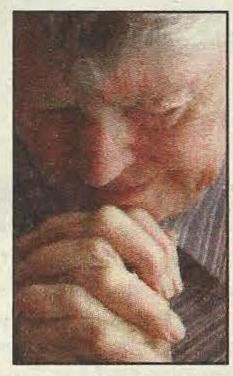
Gene Williams.....(615) 371-2064

Deacon's Prayer Ministry

Steve Holt.....(615) 371-2019

Keep the leaders in your church informed.

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



How to Say
"I'm
Praying
for You"
By Don Pierson

I know that it is a no-brainer, but "I'm praying for you" is very different than "I will pray for you." One conveys the idea of prayer that has already been offered while the other expresses a promise of prayer that may or may not happen.

Personally I prefer "I'm praying for you."
We all stand in need of prayer, but those who serve and have been placed in authority over us even more so need it. The pastor's task of delivering the timely Word of God is more than a reason for them to be prayed for.

As a pastor I was blest to have two widows that prayed for me constantly. I always cherished their prayers and when they died I missed their prayers greatly.

When I was a missionary, weekly volunteer teams would lay their hands on me and pray over me. When I became a director of missions, I quickly discovered that what I enjoyed as a pastor and as a missionary was not what many pastors enjoy. Many pastors have not had any one lay their hands on them and pray over them since their ordination. Many pastors hunger for the prayers of the people of God.

My pastor is bi-vocational; he has served as a police officer and as our pastor for over 20 years. He is a godly man and a great pastor. But the people of First Baptist Church, Taft, pray for their pastor. Not just because he needs it, and not just because we need it, but because the city of Taft needs the prayers.

When we are praying for our pastor, we are not just praying for him and for ourselves but for the community. Your pastor needs your prayers, because you need to be ministered to through him. But even more so your pastor needs your prayers, because your community needs to be ministered to by him. If you haven't laid your hands on your pastor recently, then tell him to have a seat and pray over him.

Prayer Ministry Workshop: Beginning and Organizing a Prayer Ministry in the Church

A Tennessee Baptist Convention prayer ministry workshop will be held at two locations on Sept. 25-26 at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville and on Sept. 27-28 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood with keynote speaker Donna Dee Floyd.

Worship will be led by TBC Worship and Music specialist, Paul Clark.

The purpose of this workshop is to help a church of any size begin and organize a prayer ministry. If you are part of a church where there are no church facilities available, you can learn how to have a mobile prayer ministry. Topics covered include what a prayer ministry is, what it is designed to do, how it works in the overall church structure, and how to involve people in the prayer ministry.

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



How to Pray for Your Pastor and Staff?

By Phil Jones

I am a blessed pastor. I have the privilege of being the pastor of a congregation that prays regularly for me. In our prayer room, members initial a card when they pray for me. I save these cards that are filled with the initials of intercessors.

We have scores of participants in our Watchman Prayer Ministry, which includes prayer from the homes with many senior adults participating, who pray regularly for me. I give them monthly requests. I regularly have members who approach me on Sundays telling me that they pray for me or asking me for specific needs for the coming week.

Are you beginning to understand what I mean when I say that I am a blessed pastor?

The Apostle Paul gave many pleas to the churches to pray for him. Here are just a few:

Version), "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the 15:30 (NKJV), "Now I beg you, brethren, through word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you.

In Romans 15:30 (NKJV), "Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me."

In Ephesians 6:19 (Holman Christian Standard Bible), "Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel."

In Colossians 4:3-4 (HCSB), "At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah for which I am in prison — so that I may reveal it as I am required to speak."

The work of the pastor requires supernatural wisdom, supernatural strength, and supernatural

grace. The devil draws a "bull's-eye" on the chest of every pastor and aims his big guns at the center. All around us we hear of pastors falling morally, burning out, and leaving the ministry. For every one that leaves the ministry, there are probably a thousand who are deeply hurting from wounds received in the battle.

Every pastor needs God's protection, God's enabling power, God's supernatural wisdom, and God's anointing to accomplish the task he has been given to do. If the Apostle Paul with his brilliant intellect, his deep maturity, and his vast experience needed the prayers of God's people, then how much more we need it.

What can a pastor do if he feels he is not adequately being prayed for? There are at least two things he should do.

1. Ask - No, plead with your people to pray In 2 Thessalonians 3:1 (New King James for you and your family. Paul says in Romans the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me. "This is no passive request. He pleads for their prayers. Any pastor that does not ask his people to pray for him needs to examine his heart for pride.

> 2. Teach the people how to pray for their pastor. Don't take for granted that they know how to pray. Our intercessory prayer director made hundreds of cards to give to the members that gave scriptures and requests to pray for each day of the week for all the pastors and staff.

> Pray for your pastor and staff. I don't mean little generic powerless prayers. I urge every member to "strive together ... in your prayers" in Romans 15:30 for those God has sent to labor in your church field.

(Jones is pastor of First Baptist Church, Powell.)

PRAYING FOR YOUR PASTOR



For His Family Pray That...

- · His prayers will never be hindered because of the way that he lives with his wife. (I Peter 3:7)
- · His marriage and family will be strong and an example to all of you. (Deuteronomy 6:1-12; Joshua 24:15)
- · He will not provoke his children to wrath and his children will honor him and their mother. (I Timothy 3:4-5; Ephesians 6:1-4)
- · He and his family have a good name in the community so that the name of Christ and the Bride of Christ are not blemished by his or their behavior. (I Timothy 3:7; Ephesians 5:27; Psalm 69:6)

For Him Personally Pray That...

- · His faith and love would grow with each passing day. (II Thessalonians 1:3)
- · He may stand firm in the faith and do everything in love. (I Corinthians 16:13-14)
- · Out of God's glorious riches he would be strengthened with power through God's Spirit in his inner being. (Ephesians 3:16)
- · The cries of Psalm 25 would be his cries.
- · He ministers from abiding in the vine. May everyone see that he has been with Jesus. (John 15:4; Acts 4:13)

For Him as a Shepherd to God's Sheep Pray That...

- · He would fan the flames of the gift of God that is in him. (II Timothy 1:6)
- · He would be a man devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word. (Acts 6:4; Luke 18:1)
- He would not be deceived and that he may not deceive. (Matthew 10:16)
- · He would be a servant, a shepherd, and a lover of God's flock. (John 13:14-17; John 21:15-17)
- · God would open doors of opportunity for him to share the gospel with boldness and clarity. (Colossians 4:3-4)
- · God would give him wisdom and knowledge, that he may lead God's people in the path of righteousness, able to discern good and evil: (II Chronicles 1:10; I Kings 3:9)
- · He will be fully clothed for battle against the enemy each day. (Ephesians 6:10-18; I Corinthians 10:4-5)
- · He will be a man of faith. Pray that he intentionally strives not to quench or grieve the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 20:7; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18)
- · He would be counted worthy of his calling, and that God would fulfill every good purpose that He has for him. (II Thessalonians 1:11)

Coming Up!

Coming Up!

July 10-14	Impact Camp, Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden
July 14-16	Conversational English Workshop, Baptist Center, Brentwood
July 14-16	Tennessee Baptist Fellowship of the Blind Retreat,
	Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport
July 21-22	Hispanic Youth Evangelism Conference, Manley Baptist Church, Morristown
July 24-28	Impact Camp, Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport
August 4-5	Church Weekday Education Conference, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville
August 4-5	Hispanic Family Camp, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer

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

Calvinism shouldn't divide Southern Baptists, presidents agree

By Michael Foust **Baptist Press**

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Saying they hope to serve as a model for the rest of the Southern Baptist Convention, seminary presidents R. Albert Mohler Jr. and Paige Patterson June 12 discussed their differences over the doctrine of election, stressing that believers can disagree on the topic while remaining friends and unified in the goal of evangelism and missions.

"I do hope ... we will provide at least an example on that point, if on no other," Patterson said.

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Patterson, president of Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, discussed Calvinism during two one-hourlong breakout sessions of the SBC Pastors Conference at a convention hotel ballroom. Mohler affirms Calvinism, while Patterson does not. The sessions, titled, "Reaching Today's World Through Differing Views of Election," drew standing room only crowds.

"We were expecting eight or 10 of you," Patterson quipped.

Each man spoke for 20 minutes before fielding questions submitted prior to the session. Saying that Patterson is a "friend in the gospel," Mohler pointed to former great men of faith - such as John Wesley and George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon and D.L. Moody who had disagreements over election but nonetheless considered one another Christian and "cooperated brothers together in evangelism."

"This is a conversation among close friends," Mohler said.

Both Mohler and Patterson disagreed in classifying the session as a "debate." But both men made clear that they had honest disagreements.

"Reading the Scripture we have to face squarely that God is a choosing God in the exercise of His sovereignty," Mohler said. "He chose Israel. He chose Jacob. And as the Apostle Paul makes clear, He chooses sinners."

But Patterson said, "The calling of God is made to all men, and then men must decide whether they will respond to the calling or not."

Patterson: People are totally free

Patterson began his segment by saying, to laughter, "The real question we are here to discuss today is whether or not you are here on your own free will."

appreciation. Calvinists, Patterson said: "usually lead very pious lives"; believe theology is important; generally are "very clear about the dangers involved in the charismatic movement; "understand the purpose of everything is to glorify God"; "never question the inerrancy of Scripture or the substitutionary atonement of Christ"; and "are crystal clear about the fact that salvation is by grace alone." But Patterson also said there has with "some Calvinists":

He listed six areas in which

he and Calvinists agree — areas

for which he said he has great

are several areas of concern he

- the notion that if "you are not a Calvinist then you must be an Arminian." He said he is neither.
- the argument that "if you are not a Calvinist then you do not accept the doctrines of grace." Patterson said, "I believe that salvation is by grace alone, and I'm not a Calvinist."
- the assertion that those who are not Calvinists don't believe in the sovereignty of God. "I just happen to believe that God is sovereign enough that He can make a man totally free if He wishes to do so," Patterson said.
- · "antinomian tendencies" present "in some Calvinists," particularly on the subject of drinking alcohol. Antinomianism tends to overemphasize grace in relation to law.
- · a failure of Reformed pastors to be "completely forthright" with pulpit committees during interviews. "This is a concern not only about Calvinists," Patterson said. "It is a concern about people who happen to be dispensationalists, like me. It's a concern about any position which you hold." There should be "full disclosure of what you believe and what you plan to do once you become the pastor of that church."
- the "compassionlessness" for a lost world seen in "some Calvinists." Patterson said what he "appreciate[s] so much about Dr. Mohler and many of my other Calvinist friends is that that emphatically is not true of them."

Patterson said he views the doctrine of election through the "foreknowledge of God." He also said he sees no biblical evidence for "irresistible grace" - one of the tenets of Calvinism.

"If, in fact, men cannot resist the will of the Holy Spirit ... then in fact salvation is coercive and a person does not have a choice about what he is going to do," he said. "... I believe it is God's will that every human being be saved. I don't believe all of them will be saved - nar-

row is the way, and straight is the gate."

Mohler: Southern Baptists affirm God's sovereignty

During his segment Mohler, who affirms the five points of Calvinism, said it was "good and healthy" for Southern Baptists to discuss theology.

"It's a sign of a mature denomination," said Mohler, who was speaking one day after undergoing eye cornea surgery, and obviously was bothered by the bright lights. "... We may be the last people alive who can have an honest disagreement.

"Were it not for the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention," he added, the discussion over election might instead be over the ordination of homosexuals.

"By God's grace we are not there," he said to applause.

Southern Baptists, Mohler said, affirm God's sovereignty in salvation even if they don't call themselves Calvinists.

"In your local church, when you send out an evangelism team, you don't say, 'Good luck,' " he said. "You pray that God will open hearts and open minds. When we listen to ourselves pray, we really do hear a strong confidence in the sovereignty of God.

... The doctrine of election explains why we go with confidence to share the gospel because God does call sinners to Himself, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

"As the parable of the sower of the soil makes clear, we cannot read the human heart. We do not know who is the fertile heart and who is the resistant heart. ... We just know there are sinners who need to hear the gospel, and thus we preach the gospel to all persons, knowing that God does save."

All Christians, Mohler said, are called to spread the gospel.

"Why do we go?" he asked. "We go because we honestly believe that whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ... God always blesses the preaching of the gospel. And He does so because He is not a spectator, but He is the God who saves through the means of the gospel."

Answering a point posed by Patterson — that if Calvinism is true then a person could be drawn against his will, Mohler said, "I do not believe that such a person exists.

"Rather, I believe the doctrine of effectual calling, that Scripture says once that work is begun, and that person is drawn unto Christ, then that person will come to faith in Christ and will be authentically saved," he said.

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Mohler further said that all found in the Bible. Southern Baptists believe in a form of limited atonement otherwise, he said, they would be universalists.

"The question is, how is the atonement limited and by whom?" he said. "... I would prefer to speak of particular redemption. I do believe before the creation of the world God determined to save sinners and not just in a general sense, but in an actual sense, persons who would come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Mohler listed five areas in which all Southern Baptists are "one form of Calvinists or anoth-

- a belief in the inerrancy of Scripture. "It is not by accident that there are no great Arminian testimonies to the inerrancy of Scripture," Mohler said. " ... We really do believe that God can work in such a way that the human will wills to do what God wills that will to do. And that is exactly why we believe in the inerrancy of Scripture. We do not believe that the Apostle Paul was irresistibly against his will drawn to write the Book of Romans.
- a belief in the substitutionary atonement. The logic of this doctrine fits only within "the umbrella of a Calvinist scheme." "The entire worldview in which substitution makes sense is a worldview in which the sovereignty of God and the righteousness of God and the saving purpose of God are vindicated in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ."
- affirming the "omniscience of God." "At the very least ... God created this world knowing exactly who would come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," Mohler said. "Some of us believe more than that, but certainly none of us here believes less than that If that be so then ... the precise identity of all the persons who would come to faith
- in Christ was known by the Father before the world was created." · a belief in the eternal security of the believer. "Once this work of salvation is accom-

plished in the life of a sinner, and that sinner is transformed by the grace and mercy of God, He can never fall away," he said. Mohler said he preaches

hesitation "without 'whosoevers' and the 'alls'

"Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved - I believe that emphatically," he said.

But Mohler said some preachers intentionally ignore certain passages of the Bible.

"I do believe there is irresistible preaching, because a lot of preachers manage to resist Romans chapter 9," he said to laughter.

Mohler said he wants "to be known" for his commitment "to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ" and not for his belief on the doctrine of election.

- "I feel no accountability to John Calvin. I feel an indebtedness to him, but I'm not accountable to him nor would I wish to wear his name, nor, I believe, would he wish anyone to wear his name," Mohler said. "[Calvinism] is a categorization which I don't deny if you're talking about a strain of theology. But I am accountable to the Word of God and the gospel of Christ.
- "... I'm not here in the name of John Calvin. I'm here in the name of - same initials, different name - Jesus Christ.

Two streams — one river Both Mohler and Patterson

said too many people, when debating Calvinism, have a judgmental attitude toward one another. Mohler quipped that some people frame it thusly, "Are you or have you ever been a Calvinist?"

"I would caution my non-Calvinist brethren against the conclusion that the doctrine of Calvin automatically means that a person will not and cannot be evangelistic," Patterson said. "... One of the commands that the Lord gives is to take the gospel to the ends of earth. No Calvinist worthy of his stripe would thereby disobey a command of God."

Mohler agreed that there are "hyper-Calvinists" — those who reject the need to spread the gospel — within the SBC. But he said it is by nature a small group.

"If you ever find a vital hyper-Calvinist movement, you will have a living oxymoron," he said.

Both seminary presidents concluded by exhorting Southern Baptists to not let the issue of Calvinism be divisive.

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH WORKSHOP

There will be a 16 hour Conversational English Workshop on August 26 to 28, 2005 at the Smithville First Baptist Church, 101 W Church St., Smithville, TN 37166; telephone (615) 597-4275. The times for this workshop will be Friday 6 - 9 pm, Saturday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm, and Sunday 1 - 5:00 pm. In order to receive certification for the workshop attendees must attend all sessions. The workshop will be led by Anne, Literacy Mission Consultant, Nashville. There is a \$20 registration fee. To register contact Carol Alburg (931) 761-5285 (home); Sue Sifford (615) 597-6386. For additional information please contact the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 800-558-2090 or go to www.tnbaptist.org News & Events Or e-mail thill@tnbaptist.org. The deadline is August 19, 2005.





Bells youth learn biblical concept of church planting

By Geoff Baggett For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE - On Saturday, June 11, approximately 165 Southern Baptist youth and adult sponsors quietly converged upon the greater Nashville area.

Their visit was not hailed with any fanfare, news releas-· es, newspaper articles, or television stories. Instead, they arrived, served, and departed in silence the following Friday. The only evidence of their visit was a small group of overworked but encouraged church planters.

What brought these people to Nashville? Church planting.

These students served through a PowerPlant student mission camp, an initiative of the North American Mission Board designed to introduce Southern Baptist youth to the

biblical practice of church planting.

Nine church groups from Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee participated in the Nashville project, the first PowerPlant of the 2006 summer season. The groups worked with nine church planters in the greater Nashville area.

The design of Powerplant is simple. Students are registered and brought into a city or area that is the focus of Southern Baptist church planting efforts.

The students receive basic church planting and evangelism training during five sessions on the mornings of the project. In the afternoons and evenings they are placed on the ministry field to serve alongside local church planters. Then, each evening, they gather for worship and to debrief the events of the day.

The PowerPlant strategy is a win-win for everyone involved. Local church planters receive the help of a free labor force for one week. But the real focus of the project week is the Power-Plant participant. The incoming students receive a concentrated, high-impact exposure to church planting.

It is the hope of PowerPlant staff and strategists that this middle school and high school exposure will result in a greater number of young people being called to church planting over the next 10 to 15 years. PowerPlant is, in many ways, a long-term church planting strategy.

The youth group from First Baptist Church in Bells, led by Michael Steffey, youth pastor, is living proof that this strategy works. As the lone Tennessee group at the Nashville project, Steffey and his group had the

unique opportunity to make a church planting connection close to home. His group worked with Tony Higgins and Eastland Community Church. The Nashville project was not their first PowerPlant experience. Steffey led his group to the Seattle, Washington, project last summer. This year he brought an all middle-school group to Nashville.

Reflecting on the Nashville project, Steffey observed that "PowerPlant was an incredible experience for our group. It truly opened their eyes to the reality of what church planting is all about, and what it will take to reach the unreached people groups of North Ameri-

Steffey has led his student ministry to take its church planting experience to the next level.

His youth ministry uses the

strategies and methods learned through PowerPlant to lead a ministry in their own hometown called "County Invasion."

The church has led in the planting of a successful Hispanic church in Bells.

Later this summer, their senior high youth will be traveling to New York City to serve with church planters Dave Westin and Paul Gomez of Christ Community Church.

First Baptist Bells is proofpositive that all Southern Baptist churches, even those in small towns, can include church planting in their overall missions strategy.

— Baggett served as the church planting trainer for the Nashville project. He has been involved with PowerPlant since its inception in 2003. He is also the co-founder of a new ministry that focuses upon student church planting called Mission M Possible.

Churches provide English as a Second Language at ...

- Continued from page 1

On any Tuesday night the people who are Egyptians, Sudanese, El Salvadorans, Mexicans, Iraqis, Koreans, and Hondurans. The teacher, Sam House of the LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, staff and a member of Crievewood Church, draws pictures and writes in English on a dry erase board to explain pronouns, verbs, numbers, months of the year, and even people's feelings.

"When people get to a point where they can recognize an English word on a sign or a billboard, they have the empowerment of learning it," House said. "Speaking or reading English empowers them to live and love in this society.

"I always start my classes with prayer. Teaching English gives us the opportunity to act on our faith. We are not then deliberately proselytizing them, but we are giving them the opportunity to get help even if they rejected faith along the way. Sometimes the students ask why are you doing this. Of course, we tell them."

House, along with Kathy Carabajal, ESL director at Crievewood Church, helped

mobilize the classes outside of Crievewood Church for the sumbeginner class may start with 15 mer. House enlisted volunteers from LifeWay while Carabajal talked with fellow Thomas Nelson Publishers employees about ESL volunteering.

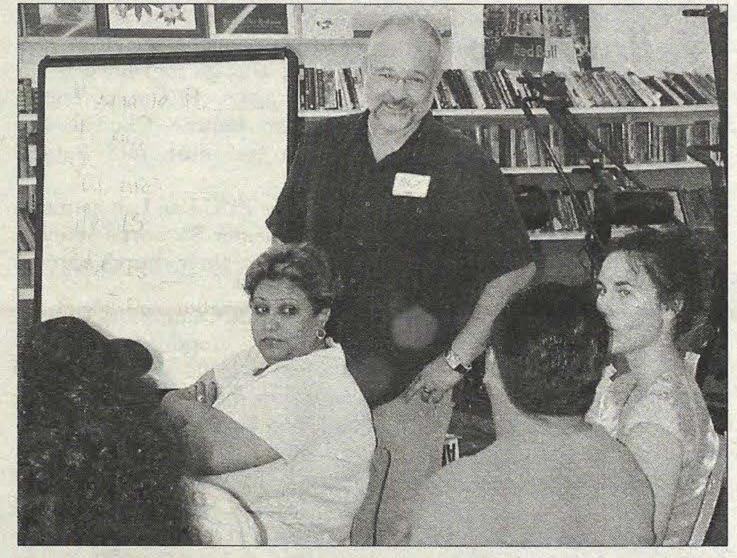
> Others involved in the ESL discussions were: Larry Downs, who is also a Thomas Nelson employee and a Tennessee Baptist Convention trained ESL teacher for Hermitage Hills Church; and Heather Manning, a LifeWay graphic designer and a member of Rolling Hills Church.

> One rationale for moving the classes from Crievewood Church to ThriftSmart was to reach more internationals, House said.

> As a result of the Crievewood ministry, leaders discovered a need among several women from Africa located in the area, who do not read or write English and were unable to secure employment, House noted.

> "It became more than just dreams," said House. "We didn't know where to start to help the African women, but we decided to start out with ESL instructors and provide childcare, which ended up at ThriftSmart."

> Through Manning, Rolling Hills Church volunteered to con-



SAM HOUSE teaches an introductory English as a Second Language class at the ThriftSmart store on Nolensville Road in Nashville. Abbie Sumrall, right, of Rolling Hills Community Church, Franklin, participated in teaching the class.

duct VBS and other evangelistic activities during the childcare sessions. Classes were set for eight nights on Tuesdays except for the Fourth of July.

"Speaking from an evangelical background, when ESL classes are reported within 24 hours back home in a country as a prayer request, something is working here," noted House.

"The 'God thing' is that we are having more students here at the store than what we had at Crievewood Church," said Carabajal. She noted the students are excited, and the ESL teachers and volunteers are excited about being in a store. "We are stepping out of our comfort zone and doing the Great Commission. The phones are ringing off the hook about the classes, and we need more volunteers."

Church volunteers, Thrift-Smart employees, and NBA volunteers promoted the summer school classes by distributing posters in other stores in the area, handing out flyers, and

spreading the info by word of mouth. The NBA monthly newsletter, The Beacon, also requested volunteers to teach the classes.

The ESL classes were also promoted by the Davidson County Metro Health Department and most recently at its Hispanic Community Health Fair at Antioch United Methodist Church, Antioch, in Nashville.

Others involved in the ESL ministry are: Brent Hutchinson, minister of missions at Rolling Hills Church; and Rusty Sumrall, NBA director of missions, who helped with the strategy to put the churches working together with the language groups located in South Nashville along with Andrew Hong, NBA language missions director.

ThriftSmart, which also has a store in Franklin, supports four ministries that are headquartered in Williamson County. House happened upon the Thrift Alliance founder and

ThriftSmart chief executive officer, Tres Scheibe, when House made a "success to significance" video for LifeWay. The video highlighted Scheibe's technical consulting company which was sold to help launch the Thrift Alliance, a non-profit organization. It operates the two thrift stores to support ministries and give employment opportunities to people who are not finding jobs.

According to House, the day before the video interview Scheibe and his board were talking about how they could better serve the community and teaching English was discussed.

"People were coming into the stores who couldn't speak English," said House.

"In addition, people were hard to employ because of the language barrier."

During the interview, House mentioned he taught ESL, and Scheibe offered the store on Nolensville Road as a teaching location. The management team at ThriftSmart on Nolensville Road has told House that they see the English classes as an answer to prayer, he said.

Janice Byars, the closing supervisor, and Cheryl Watkins, the production manager, who both attend St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, said that they had been really blessed by the classes especially when the Crievewood Church bus pulls into the parking lot with some of the students.

"We had several employees who needed to learn to speak English here at the store," said Byars. "This included 14 Hispanic employees, and now they are learning English in the summer classes along with their family and friends."

To volunteer to teach, contact House at (615) 268-7272 or Carabajal at (615) 294-9014.



JOEL DUNAWAY, and Brenda Rogers, left, both ESL instructors at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage, teach an intermediate group of internationals.

Messengers reject involvement in association-church dispute

Baptist Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention June 14 declined to get involved in a complex and messy legal battle between a small California church and an association.

Michael Stewart, director of missions for the Central Coast Baptist Association (CCBA) in Gilroy, Calif., made a motion the day before concerning the denominational affiliation of New Life Community Church of Prunedale, Calif. Specifically, Stewart's motion asked messengers to instruct the SBC president to write a letter "retracting" a 2005 letter from an Executive Committee employee that had welcomed

New Life into the SBC.

New Life reportedly voted to become an SBC church in 2005 and has given directly to the SBC allocation budget two years in a row. But the church is at the center of a lawsuit in California over whether it took control of another SBC church's property. Each side in the issue has given conflicting facts and testimonies.

After a short debate June 14, messengers affirmed the recommendation from the SBC Committee on Order of Business in ruling Stewart's motion out of order. Roughly two-thirds of messengers voted in a show of ballots not to overturn the recommendation.

The controversy over New Life began in 2004, when Stewart and the CCBA brought a

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during SBC

annual

meeting

lawsuit against two churches — New Life Community Church and First Baptist Church of Las Lomas, Calif. - seeking to acquire the property of FBC Las Lomas. Stewart and the CCBA argue that New Life was trying to take over the property of FBC Las Lomas, which had approximately 10 members, mostly elderly. They also say FBC Las Lomas had ceased to be an SBC church - a claim, which, if true, would have triggered a clause in the church's constitution reverting the property back to the association.

But several FBC Las Lomas members say they never ceased to be an SBC church, and that instead of it being a "takeover," New Life was welcomed with open arms. The goal, these members say, was to keep their tiny church from dying, to bring more people into the building and to keep its founder's wishes alive — that is, that the church never close. The two churches meet together on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, under one roof at the same time, with the same pastor, Hank Holley - although they have different budgets, FBC Las Lomas member Bonnie Caudill, the church treasurer, told Baptist Press.

These FBC Las Lomas members consider Stewart's action a violation of their church autonomy.

New Life Community Church was a nondenominational church in 2004 with about 40 members, but had no building and had been meeting in a senior center. The FBC Las Lomas church building seats around 100 people, one member told Baptist Press. FBC Las Lomas was founded in the 1960s.

The May 2005 letter welcoming New Life Community Church into the SBC was from John Revell, editor of SBC Life and a director in the office of convention relations with the SBC Executive Committee — without knowledge that there was an ongoing lawsuit and that the letter could be used in a court battle, he said.

Revell said the letter was a fraternal greeting he sent after the EC business and finance office informed him that a con-

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tribution had been received. He said the letter indicated the church had complied with the constitutional requirements.

Revell told Baptist Press that he "explained to Holley that the EC did not issue 'official letters'" after Holley had requested one, but that the letter was sent as confirmation of receipt of the church's contribution.

Both Stewart and Allan Blume, chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, spoke to messengers June 14.

"Affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention is determined under Article III of the SBC Constitution — not by a letter from the Executive Committee," Blume said. "Article III requires only a contribution to the convention's work and that the church be in friendly cooperation with the convention and sympathetic with its purposes and word. The convention has historically presumed that churches which vote to be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and contribute to its work are in friendly cooperation."

"In absence of any opportunity or means for this convention to determine the facts regarding the church," Blume said, the motion should be ruled out of order.

Stewart urged messengers to overturn the ruling of the chair and allow the motion to be debated on the floor.

"My association of 105 churches in California agreed together that the issues we were dealing with were very serious with a non-SBC church taking over an SBC property," he said. "... We were engaged in that for two years. My association voted for me to come here after we had dealt for six weeks with the employees of the SBC Executive Committee, who determined that the letter that they sent could only be undone by the messengers of this convention. ... I simply want to state the case and for the Southern Baptist Convention — these churches - to make the determination as to how we're going to operate

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GENE BOND, pastor of New Haven Baptist Church, Oneida, and his wife, Harriet, spent time browsing through the SBC exhibit area.



PASTOR Phil Newton of South Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, enjoyed time with his son, Stephen, in the SBC exhibit area.



PASTOR Pete Mullins of East Athens Baptist Church, Athens, and his wife, Debbie, enjoyed the various exhibits at the SBC annual meeting.



KIMBERLY THORNBURY, left, dean of students at Union University, visits with, from left center, Allison, Joel, and Meredith Young of First Baptist Church, Morristown, in the SBC exhibit area.



and cooperate as associations, state conventions, and the national entities."

Stewart and the CCBA won the lawsuit last October, when a California state judge ruled that FBC Las Lomas had "ceased to function as a Southern Baptist Church" and that the property belongs to the association. But FBC Las Lomas is planning on appealing.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY - DOM

Gibson County Baptist Association is accepting resumes for the position of associational missionary. Please send resume to Search Committee, c/o Bob Dennison, 95 Latham Chapel Road, Milan, TN 38358.

MINISTRY - PASTOR

Hickory Hill Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Tenn., is receiving resumes for a pastor. Please mail them to Hickory Hill Baptist Church, c/o 354 Golden Rd., Lynchburg, TN 37352.

Wilsonville Baptist Church in Newport, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for pastor. Send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, Wilsonville Baptist Church, 120 New Cave Church Road, Newport, TN 37821.

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.

First Baptist Church, Atwood, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 40, Atwood, TN 38220, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

Coronado Baptist Church, a new fellowship, is seeking a pastor for our traditional, kingdom-focused church. Resumes should be sent to Pastor Search Committee, PMB 316, 4501 N. Hwy. 7, Suite #8, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

MINISTRY - MUSIC

Vonore Baptist Church needs a part-time music minister. Job description is available at www.vonorebaptistchurch.org. Please submit resumes by July 31 to Music Minister Search Committee, Vonore Baptist Church, P.O. Box 308, Vonore, TN 37885.

First Baptist Church Michie seeks a bivocational minister of music. Please send resume to Bro. Brian Rainey, First Baptist Church Michie, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357.

Christian film rated 'PG' to warn of 'thematic elements'

By Terry Mattingly Baptist Press

.WASHINGTON — The Motion Picture Association of America is crystal clear when it describes why its "PG" rating exists — it's a warning flag.

"The theme of a PG-rated film may itself call for parental guidance," the online explanation of the rating system states. "There may be some profanity in these films. There may be some violence or brief nudity. ... The PG rating, suggesting parental guidance, is thus an alert for examination of a film by parents before deciding on its viewing by their children. Obviously such a line is difficult to draw."

Disagreements are a given. The Christian moviemakers behind a low-budget film called "Facing the Giants" were stunned when the MPAA pinned a PG rating on their gentle movie about a burned-out, depressed football coach whose life — on and off the field — takes a miraculous turn for the better.

"What the MPAA said is that the movie contained strong 'thematic elements' that might disturb some parents," said Kris Fuhr, vice president for marketing at Provident Films, which is owned by Sony Pictures. Provident plans to open the film next fall in 380 theaters nationwide with the help of Samuel Goldwyn Films, which has worked with indie movies like "The

Squid and the Whale."

Which "thematic elements" earned this squeaky-clean movie its PG?

"Facing the Giants" is too evangelistic.

The MPAA, Fuhr noted, tends to offer cryptic explanations for its ratings. In this case, she was told that it

"decided that the movie was heavily laden with messages from one religion and that this might offend people from other religions. It's important that they used the word 'proselytizing' when they talked about giving this movie a PG. ...

"It is kind of interesting that faith has joined that list of deadly sins that the

MPAA board wants to warn parents to worry about."

Overt Christian messages are woven throughout "Facing the Giants," which isn't surprising since the film was co-written and co-produced by brothers Alex and Stephen Kendrick, who are the "associate pastors of media" at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga. In addition to working with the mega-church's cable television channel, they created its Sherwood Pictures ministry — collecting private donations to fund a \$25,000 movie called "Flywheel" about a wayward Christian used-car salesman.

"Facing the Giants" cost \$100,000

and resembles a fusion of the Book of Job and a homemade "Hoosiers," or perhaps a small-school "Friday Night Lights" blended with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association movies that used to appear in some mainstream theaters. Sherwood Pictures used local volunteers as actors and extras, backed

It is kind of interesting that faith has joined the list of deadly sins that the MPAA boards wants to warn parents about. — Kris Fuhr, vice president for marketing, Provident Films

by a small crew of tech professionals.

The movie includes waves of answered prayers, a medical miracle, a mysterious silver-haired mystic who delivers a message from God and a bench-warmer who kicks a 51-yard field goal to win the big game when his handicapped father pulls himself out of a wheelchair and stands under the goalpost to inspire his son's faith. There's a prayer-driven gust of wind in there, too.

But the scene that caught the MPAA's attention may have been the chat between football coach Grant Taylor — played by Alex Kendrick — and a rich brat named Matt Prader. The

September 11

September 28

and resembles a fusion of the Book of coach says that he needs to stop bad-Job and a homemade "Hoosiers," or mouthing his bossy father and get perhaps a small-school "Friday Night" right with God.

The boy replies: "You really believe in all that honoring God and following Jesus stuff? ... Well, I ain't trying to be disrespectful, but not everybody believes in that."

The coach replies: "Matt, nobody's forcing anything on you. Following Jesus Christ is the decision that you're going to have to make for yourself. You may not want to accept it, because it'll change your life. You'll never be the same."

That kind of talk may be too blunt for some

moviegoers, Kendrick said, but that's the way real people actually talk in Christian high schools in Georgia. Sherwood Baptist isn't going to apologize for making the kinds of movies that it wants to make.

"Look, I have those kinds of conversations about faith all the time and I've seen young people make decisions that change their lives," he said. "The reason we're making movies in the first place is that we hope they inspire people to think twice about their relationships with God.

"So we're going to tell the stories that we believe God wants us to tell. We have nothing to hide."

Waynesboro

McMinnville

Sunday School
INVITE I DISCOVER I CONNECT

Mark your calendar for these **free** training events in your area and check the website www.equippingu.com for more details as they become available. For more information, call the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 800-558-2090, ext. 2054.



FAITPING CONTINUE STATES OF CONT

Location City Date July 24 Dagwood Heights Baptist Church Tazwell First Baptist Church Selmer August 5 Selmer* First Baptist Church Portland Portland August 7 Caney Creek Missionary Baptist Church Rogersville August 8 First Baptist Church Athens August 8 Athens Beech Park Baptist Church August 10 Oliver Springs Dickson Pornona Baptist Church August 14 Bayside Baptist Church Chattanooga August 15 Long Heights Baptist Church McKenzie August 15 First Baptist Church Shelbyville Shelbyville August 21 Calvary Baptist Church Union City August 24 Nashville Hermitage Hills Baptist Church August 24 Cookeville August 31 Stevens Street Baptist Church August 31 University Parkway Baptist Church Johnson City September 7 First Southern Baptist Church Pikeville

Sunday School Training for all Preschool, Children, Youth, Adult

Sunday School Leaders, Pastors, and Sunday School Directors

All events are from 6:45pm - 8:45pm unless noted * 9:00am-12:00pm

Calvary Baptist Church

Northside Baptist Church

No registration is necessary for these events, and they are provided at no cost to you.

The Equipping U Sunday School Convention is designed to "equip for excellence" every age group Sunday School leader in your church. Special conferences for Pastors, Sunday School Directors, Ministers of Education, Preschool Leaders, Children's Leaders, Youth Leaders, Adult Leaders. Over 25 different conferences to choose from in each session.

Two Locations: Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett TN- August (Saturday), 8:15am - 12:45pm • Central Baptist Church, Knoxville TN - August 28-29 (Monday-Tuesday), 6:45pm - 8:45pm Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tom McCoy, Pastar Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station, TN

No registration is necessary for these events, and they are provided at no cost to you.

Free health screenings help SBC messengers see health risks

By Wendy Ashley **Baptist Press**

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Nearly 1,500 messengers attending the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention here took advantage of a free health screening provided GuideStone Financial Resources and LifeWay's LeaderCare Ministry.

GuideStone partners with LifeWay to provide the free health screenings because of their concern for the health issues facing Southern Baptist ministers.

The screening, a \$150 value, is provided each year, free of charge, to messengers attending the convention. The screening includes a blood pressure check, cholesterol check and blood sugar check, body mass index measurement, as well as a bone density screening. New for 2006, a DXA bone density scan was provided to participants who exhibited certain risk factors for osteoporosis.

Individuals received a heart health report summarizing the results of their screenings. Docthe results and make recom-

mendations improvement.

"We believe in a three-pronged approach to wellness," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins. "GuideStone is doing our part by offering a variety of quality health plans; ministers must take responsibility for their own health by living a healthy lifestyle that includes good nutrition, exercise, and regular health checkups; and finally, churches must do their part by

providing their ministers and staff a benefits package that includes life and health coverage."

Tamara Quintana, Guide-Stone employee wellness coordinator, said the health screenings are making a difference in the lives of Southern Baptists.

"For years, it has been about awareness," she said. "People were coming through the Wellness Center totally unaware of their health risk factors. Now tors were available to interpret they're coming in with knowledge. They're telling us that



IT'S OFFICIAL: THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION IS THE LARGEST PROTESTANT GROUP IN AMERICA.

> they're making changes, and they're testing to see if those lifestyle changes are paying off."

> Bob Stewart, one of the volunteer physicians in the Wellness Center, agreed.

"People are coming back with

positive stories," he said. "That's really good to hear."

Stewart said he believes 80 percent of health issues could be eliminated or reduced, and medical costs could be greatly reduced with proper weight management and exercise.

An executive summary report on the health screenings conducted at last year's SBC backed up the doctors' conclusions. The summary showed that more than 70 percent of the 1,472 participants who completed the screening in Nashville, were at moderate to high risk for coronary heart disease (CHD). These results were consistent with previous years' findings.

Coronary heart disease is a major cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States. Below are the five most prevalent risk factors among Wellness Center participants in 2005, in order of prevalence, followed by the number affected and the percentage:

- · High body weight, 1,113, 75.6 percent.
- · High LDL cholesterol, 672,
- 47.1 percent. · Low level of physical activity, 551, 39.2 percent.
- · High total cholesterol, 570, 39.1 percent.
- · Family history of heart disease, 492, 35.5 percent. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Oak Street Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of worship and discipleship. Applicants must meet biblical qualifications for leadership and have necessary skills to lead corporate worship through contemporary and traditional music with choir, vocal, and instrumental ensembles and to lead the discipleship of church members by traditional and creative approaches. Resumes inquiries to Search Committee, 804 Oak Street, Elizabethton, TN 37643, or e-mail at oakstreet@chartertn.net by July 16.

Director of music ministries and Christian education, full-time. Salary to be negotiated. Applications now being accepted. Send resume to Eastanallee Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 3148, Riceville, TN 37370 or call (423) 462-2620. For more information, see our web site www.eastanallee.com.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Conservative, growing church in booming community near Cookeville, Tenn., is accepting applications for a bivocational youth director. Send application and resume to Hamptons Crossroads Baptist Church, 109 Stallion Road, Cookeville, TN 38506 or call (931) 738-5937 for info.

*** Seeking full-time youth minister at First Baptist Mayfield. Send

resume to Bob Swift, Pastor, 118 West South Street, Mayfield, KY 42066.

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss., is taking resumes for the position of Minister to Students. Please send your resumes/recommendations to John Bryson, Chairman, Harrisburg Baptist Church, 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38801.

*** Full-time minister of students position available at Auburn Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss. Please send resumes to Auburn Baptist Church, 1138 Road 931, Tupelo,

MS 38804. ***

First Baptist Church Michie seeks a bivocational minister of youth. Please send resume to Bro. Brian Rainey, First Baptist Church Michie, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357.

2007 VBS themes announced

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Messengers to this year's Southern Baptist Convention in Greensboro, N.C., enjoyed a first glimpse of Life-Way's 2007 Vacation Bible School themes.

"Game Day Central: Where Heroes Are Made" is the main 2007 VBS theme published by LifeWay Christian Resources, an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention. The curriculum will allow students to "get into the game" with an all-access

pass to the Worship Rally Arena and Crafts Fan Zone.

As participants prepare for the big game, they will learn the importance of following God's plan for their lives and

focusing on Jesus in order to become heroes both on and off the field. The Scripture focus for the

"Game Day Central" line is Hebrews 12:1-2, "Run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith" (HCSB).

"Game Day Central: Where Heroes Are Made" is designed for all ages, from babies to adults, and follows a traditional VBS schedule with three-hour sessions throughout a weeklong summer program.

"For some this is a good way to close this year's VBS - an

invitation to next year's," said LifeWay childhood ministry director Mary Katharine Hunt.

For churches that need a little more flexibility with their VBS curriculum, LifeWay's second line, "Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt" is an option.

This program will take kids on a trek through the depths of the Amazon jungle as they discover the one true God with VBS teachers as their river guides. The curriculum focuses on Psalm 145:1-2 as its theme: "I

> exalt you my God the King, and praise your name forever and ever. I will praise you every day; I will honor your name forever and ever" (HCSB).

Club VBS is designed to adapt to multiple schedules so it can be used during a traditional summer week, school breaks, mission trips, or day camps among other times. Churches purchase a pack of Club VBS materials that includes everything necessary to plan, promote, and host the event.

On Aug. 1, LifeWay will launch a web site, www.lifeway.com/vbs, that will offer additional information and resources related to both VBS lines.

The complete curricula will go on sale Dec. 1. Selected "Game Day Central" promotional materials will be available Oct. 1. 🗆



Conference Fee is \$20. Includes materials and box lunch.

book review

By Dawn Ferguson

The Gospel According to the World's Greatest Superhero

by Steven Skelton Harvest House Publishers, 2006

"Superman is not Jesus Christ. But he is a Christ figure, a figure resembling Christ — as we all should be," says Franklin, Tennessee author Steven Skelton in his recently released book, *The Gospel According to the World's Greatest Superhero*. "Think of this book, then, as a concise collection of the facts that show the essential parallels between superman and the Son of Man."

For instance,

- The last name of Superman and his father are El
 the Hebrew word for God.
- Superman's father sends his son down to earth to save it just as God the Father did His Son.
- Mary and Joseph were the original names of superman's earthly parents.
- Superman's enemy is Lex Luthor, a name closely resembling Lucifer.
- Krypton superman's home planet is a word used in the Greek New Testament to describe the kingdom of heaven as "hidden."
 - The Kents find Clark on a Sunday in a field.
- Clark begins his mission at age 30 the same age as Jesus.
- Clark means a clergyman or pastor. Kent is a form of the Hebrew Kana meaning "I have found a son." In addition, the Hebrew word Kana is the Greek word Krista or Christ.
- Clark's coworkers do not recognize him as superman just as the people of Nazareth did not recognize Jesus as Christ.

And while these "coincidences" seem to easily lead to the conclusion that superman is patterned after Christ, Skelton admits that his research wasn't always so clear cut. For example, the creators of superman were two teenage Jewish boys who during the Great Depression were seeking a savior. But, Skelton points out, superman's story — as we know him today — is "derived from a collection of works that is usually referred to as the superman canon (a word loaded with religious symbolism)."

Skelton explores the early comic series, the movies, books, the television shows "Adventures of Superman" and "Smallville" and the soon to be released movie "Superman Returns." Even in the teaser trailer for "Superman Returns," Skelton continues to find relationships between Christ and superman. Superman is floating above earth and he hears the voice of his father say, "They can be a great people, Kal-El – they wish to be. They only lack the light to show the way. For this reason above all, their capacity for good, I have sent them you — my only son."

Skelton states that each of us has a dual identity and quotes C.S. Lewis as follows: "Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

So maybe — as the world looks toward "The DaVinci Code" for answers — there is another arsenal in the world of Hollywood for Christians. One that is not as obvious, but holds more truth than some of us may realize. The world longs for a hero. So if the world is drawn to superman, wouldn't it be great if Christians could use this opportunity to evangelize and tell them the one and true hero — Jesus Christ. — Ferguson, of Gallatin, is a correspondent for the Baptist and Reflector.

I will turn to God for help

By Matt Cannon

Focal Passage: Exodus 1:5-14; 2:23-25

Our society celebrates rugged individualism. Admiration is often given to those who rise from humble beginnings and achieve greatness through sheer determination. There is a general feeling on the part of many in our culture that only the weak need help from any outside source.

This independent attitude quickly vanishes, however, when tragedy strikes. Following the horrible events of 9/11/2001, people realized just how vulnerable our country is. For a short time, there was a resurgence of prayer and relying upon God. It is a shame that it takes a tragedy to get people to turn to God. It is a greater shame that this reliance lasts for such a short time.

Christians hurt the cause of Christ when they do not turn to Him for help. Regardless of the circumstances, the unbelieving world needs to see the witness of God's people fully relying on Him.

Exodus 1:5-7: From the book of Genesis, we know how the Israelites entered into Egypt. Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers, but, through God's awesome providence, had become the most influential advisor to Pharaoh. It was Joseph who had been in charge of the plan to save the people from the ravages of famine. Later on, Joseph's family joined him in the land of Egypt.

Originally, there were 70 of Jacob's descendants in Egypt. After some time had elapsed, Joseph and everyone else in his generation passed away. God's chosen people had experienced some major changes. They had relocated to a new land, time had passed, and important people had died. The one thing that had not changed was that God was still in control and His promise to bless them was still valid. Because of their covenant relationship with God, the Israelites continued to grow and be blessed in spite of the circumstance that had been altered.

Our lives are in a constant state of flux. Many things in our lives change quickly and dramatically. Others change almost imperceptibly over a longer period of time. Either way, we can rest peacefully by relinquishing total control of everything in our lives to God. Faith in God has a way of reducing worry, increasing joy, and establishing peace in our hearts.

Exodus 1:8-14: In this section, we become aware of bitter changes that the Israelites experience. A new king comes to power that did not acknowledge the good things that Joseph and his family had accomplished. He effectively turned the Egyptians against them. God's people began being oppressed and were turned into harshly treated slave laborers.

When our lives do not turn out the way we thought they would, discouragement tends to sneak in. Rough times can turn us from people who trust God into people who blame God. However, God proved to the Israelites that He was still faithful to them as seen by the way they prospered even while they were

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series July 2

being horribly mistreated.

During trying times, we can know with all surety that out Lord is there. No matter how awful the circumstance become, we can know that the promises of God are still effective. He has promised that He will never leave or forsake us. Let us all continue to hold fast to this promise as we face the trials of life. We can inspire others as we face the harsh realities of living in this sin-cursed world by continuing to rely on God.

Exodus 2:23-25: In this section, we learn that the king who had begun the oppressive tactics died and the Israelites cried out in despair. We do not know how long they had been oppressed, but we can guess that it had been longer than they had expected. God heard their cry, acknowledged their pain, and acted.

One of the hardest things in dealing with difficult circumstances is feeling that God does not care.

This passage gives us hope that our Lord never forgets us. When we do not know why He has not alleviated our pain, we must continue to trust that He knows best. For believers in Jesus, all pain is temporary because regardless of how long it lasts, it will end as we step from this life into the realm of our heavenly home.

— Cannon is bivocational pastor, Cardiff Baptist Church, Rockwood.

A righteous man

By Randall Adkisson

Focal Passage: Job 29:1-31:40

Honest evaluation. God Himself affirmed Job's righteousness (1:1,8). Therefore, we read Job's proclamations of goodness as honest evaluation and not the boasting of a self-deceived man. Few of us could live up to the standards of Job's life.

Job had made a "covenant with his eyes" (31:1). He was determined to be sexually pure in both action and thought. He calls God to evaluate His righteousness and to execute judgment upon him, if ever he sought to entice another or allowed himself to be enticed by sexual sin (31:9-12).

Though he had not heard the Sermon on the Mount, he was living by the Lord's standard for sexual purity. Jesus said, You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart (Matthew 5:25-26).

Integrity marked Job's business dealings (31:5-8). Though he had amassed great wealth, he had done so through honest means. Feeling misjudged, He asked God to judge him with scales of judgment as accurate as those Job himself used to weigh his business accounts.

Neither business nor public service had monopolized Job's attention; he was actively involved in helping the poor (31:16-23). Apparently, Job' was so generous in his benevolence that orphans and widows thought of

him as family. His generosity extended to the traveler as well. Hospitality to strangers was a hall-mark of the righteous man and community. Job secured strangers with his own finances and shelter (31:32).

Pride is a great temptation to the successful, but Job put confidence in neither wealth nor his ability to gain wealth (31:24-25). He understood that his position was a gift from God. Though he gained wealth by hard work and business savvy, even these admirable traits were gifts of the Lord's blessing. Likewise, Job gave honor to God alone in worship and praise (31:26-28). He worshiped neither the false god's of wealth nor nature.

Again echoing the principle of the Lord's sermon, Job respected even his enemies (31:29-30). Jesus said, But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44). The Apostle Paul quoted the Proverbs, But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head (Romans 12:20; Proverbs 25:21)

Job gave voice and help to the lowliest and helpless. He was respected for his wealth and his integrity. He could honestly evaluate his actions and attitude and find no place for condemnation. Christians must constantly evaluate their lives, measuring them against the standards of Scripture. Honest evaluation is required for a godly life.

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible July 2

Reversal of fortunes. Job's honest evaluation left him bewildered. "Does He not see my ways?" was his agonizing question. How could life turn out as it had for one who had set his heart upon right-eousness?

The question seems fair, but the answer was not forthcoming. Christians do well to remember when confronted by troubled lives—their own or another's—that in this world there will be tribulation (John 16:33). Even salvation does not hedge one against worldly ills or hardships. Though honest evaluation should be spurred by circumstances, we must not condemn others or chastise ourselves based solely upon our physical or financial plight.

Job had known the best of life and now he knew the worst. In which circumstance was righteousness more difficult? In both cases he was tested and proven.

In whom will I trust?
Reversals of fortune call for unwavering faith and fortitude.
Christians have known pulpits and prisons, fair treatment and fire. The greater witness has often come in the worse circumstance. Job reminds us that it is possible to trust God even in the worst of times.

— Adkisson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville.

Deaths

♦ Donald Lee Zuberer, 73, minister to senior adults, First Baptist Church, Clarksville, died May 9 at Vanderbilt Uni-Medical Center. versity Nashville. Zuberer served as a minister for over 50 years in churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. In addition to ministry, he was a pilot, trumpet player, and retired flight instructor. A graduate of Georgetown College, he was also a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and received his doctorate from Lexington Theological Seminary, all in Kentucky. Memorial contributions may be made to First Church, Clarksville, Building Fund, 435 Madison St., Clarksville, TN 37040.

Leaders

◆ First Baptist Church, Fairfield Glade, has called Leonard Markham as pastor effective July 2. Most recently Markham was senior pastor of Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hen-



MARKHAM

churches in
Kentucky and
Tennessee. A
native of
Knoxville, he
graduated
from Cumber-

dersonville, for

17 years. He

has served on

the staff of

land College, Williamsburg, Ky., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., from which he earned a doctorate. Markham is a past president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and a former member of the TBC Executive Board.

♦ Bethlehem Baptist Church, Crossville, has called Jeff Reed as minister of music. He comes to Bethlehem Church from Clymersville Baptist Church, Rockwood, where he also served as minister of music.

♦ Woodcliff Baptist Church,

Monterey, has called Michael R. Womack as pastor effective June 19.

♦ Adam Dooley of Richmond, Ky., has been called as pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Red Bank, Chattanooga. He follows Fred Steelman, who retired recently after serving as pastor of the church 32 years. Dooley will be installed July 9 and preach his first sermon on July 16. Dooley comes to the church from Red House Baptist Church, Richmond, where he was pastor for four years. A May 2006 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Dooley



DOOLEY

tor of philosophy degree
and earlier a
master of
divinity
degree. Dooley
also graduated
from Clear
Creek Baptist

earned a doc-

Bible College, Pineville, Ky. He is a past first vice president and mission board member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and has served as an adjunct professor of Boyce College of Southern seminary.

◆ Calvary Baptist Church, Lenoir City, has called Jeremy Carroll as minister of youth and education. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. He also graduated from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. Carroll has served churches in Murfreesboro and Texas. Most recently he was assistant director of media, Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth.

♦ Jonathan Giles, student at Union University, Jackson, from Wartburg, has been called as minister of youth, First Baptist Church, Parsons.

Churches

◆ Four Tennessee Baptist



FOUR GENERATIONS of a family are members of Enville Baptist Church, Enville. They are, in front, Kyle Goodwin, and back row, from left, Lynn Goodwin, Warren Goodwin, and Stacy Goodwin, pastor. Stacy Goodwin has served the church for just two years but last year he was recognized as Promising Young Bivocational Minister by Madison-Chester Baptist Association, Jackson. Under his leadership, Enville Church has baptized eight people, begun a youth group, and begun an interest in overseas missions.



ELECTED 2007 OFFICERS of the Baptist Church Music Conference recently were five Tennesseans—Paul Clark Jr., Tennessee Baptist Convention staff, Brentwood, president; Wendell Boertje, minister of music, Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, vice president, local church division; Tommy Keown, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, secretary-treasurer; Jere Adams, retired from LifeWay, living in Murfreesboro, executive council, publications; and Mike Wilkins, LifeWay, executive council, special assistance. Officers pictured are, from left, first row, Paul Clark, Roger Magee, Judy Barking, Ray Burdeshaw; second row, Tom Bolton, Steve Blanchard, Wendell Boertje, Eric Benoy; third row, Tommy Keown, Guy Anderson, Tim Logan; and fourth row, Tom Willoughby, Tim Studstill, Ron Bowles, Glen Eernisse, Jere Adams, and Billy Orton.

churches will participate in hurricane relief while staying at Robinson Road Baptist Church in Gulfport, Miss., during the week of July 8-15. Teams coordinated by the Tennessee Baptist Convention will serve including Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Maryville, with a 20-member team; The Bridge, Spring Hill, a mission of Clearview Baptist Church, Franklin, with a 20-member team; First Baptist Church, Cleveland, with a 12-member team; and Waterville Baptist Church, Cleveland, with a 20member team.

♦ Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, will sponsor a July 8-14 evangelism and construction trip to Memorial Baptist Church in Metairie, La., which was damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Woodmont Church has 12 adults and 39 students who will teach Vacation Bible School, conduct a block party, lead youth and family nights, and do repair work at the church.

♦ Edgefield Baptist
Church, Nashville, will hold a
Star Spangled Sunday Night
Celebration July 2. The service
will feature patriotic and praise
and worship music.

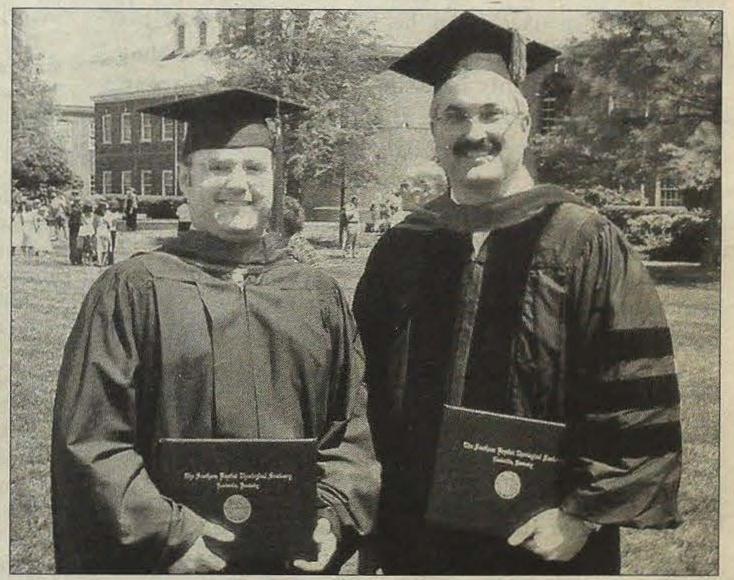
◆ Twenty members of First

Baptist Church, Parsons,
will minister to residents of an
Indian reservation in Lame
Deer, Montana, June 24 - July
2, to support the
Tennessee/Montana Baptist
Partnership.

◆ Friendship Baptist Church, Delano, will observe its 180th anniversary with homecoming activities July 2. Don Wilson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Plains, Ga., and former pastor, will speak. A luncheon and afternoon music program will be held. For more information, contact Lee Paul, pastor, at (423) 745-8530 or (423) 506-6424.



MEMBERS OF THE youth group of First Baptist Church, Halls, participate in the Halls Summerfest June 17. The group gave free water and popsicles to participants — about 200 bottles of water and 300 popsicles. The purpose of the effort was to have the opportunity to tell people that the love of God is also free. Participating are, from left, Josh Escue, Patrick Walden, Alex Walden, Emilee Hartman, Bree Burns, Anna Claire Hartman, and Jason Smith, youth minister.



MINISTERS OF FIRST Baptist Church, Halls, pause after graduation from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. They are Jason Smith, left, minister to students, who earned his master of divinity degree in church ministry, and Trent Bullock, pastor, who earned his doctor of ministry in evangelism and church growth.