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Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 26; July 19, 2006

Summer camps for students

Long Hollow Church baptizes 130 people on one night

By David Bushey
and Reflector

HENDERSONVILLE — On Tuesday evening, June 28, Long Hollow Baptist Church baptized 130 people, most of them high school students. That included 20 people who responded to the service by making professions of faith. They also were baptized.

The following Sunday, 10 people were baptized.

Lovingood, minister of the church, said he and many feel that the service is part of "not just a church service but a part of a movement where God's doing some-

thing we can't explain.

"I'm not the smartest bird in the world but the deal is it has to be a God-thing," said Lovingood.

He can only equate this experience with the Billy Graham Crusade he helped with in 1998 in Tampa, Fla., or the early church described in the book of Acts. Former missionary to Africa Marty Akin who is a member of Long Hollow told Lovingood she felt she was back in Africa, where she would see hundreds make commitments to God in one setting.

Most of the people baptized on June 28 were middle and

high school students who made professions of faith at the church's week of camp held for each group and led by Lovingood.

This year the camps drew a total of 806 students and sponsors. Each year the number of campers have grown, said Lovingood, which is a goal of his and the church's. He plans to draw 1,000 next year.

Long Hollow has grown in the nine years David Landrith has been pastor from 300 in Sunday morning worship to about 4,000. During Lovingood's tenure of five years he has seen the number of middle

and high school students attending activities each week grow from 200 to 700. When the students outgrew church facilities, Lovingood arranged to use Beech High School, which is located about a mile away.

The church can continue to grow, explained Lovingood, if considering the growth in the area. In the next five years, 15,000 new homes will be built within 10 minutes of the church.

Lovingood can't identify a particular reason for the increased response of students to God this year. The camps, which were similar to those

held in years past, always result in a number of students making professions of faith, said Lovingood. They are held at a private camp near Ocoee.

Now that he looks back, he can see God beginning to work through the church and especially the students for several months, said Lovingood, who grew up at First Baptist Church, Cleveland, with Landrith. He also has led student ministries at First Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; First Church, Cleveland; Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.; and First Baptist — See Long Hollow, page 4



MORE THAN 400 HIGH SCHOOL students and their counselors attended one of the two summer camps of Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville, at a private camp near Ocoee. About 110 youth attending the camps were baptized on one night at a church service.

church celebrate
anniversary of
partnership missions
and Reflector

HARRISON — Bayside Baptist Church here will host a Tennessee Baptist Convention 25th anniversary celebration of partnership missions on Saturday, Aug. 5, from 6:30-

Featured speakers include James H. Hester, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Rankin, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The celebration will include a dedication of partnership volunteers, a parade of flags, a missions neighborhood, and other activities. Following the celebration, participants are invited to a reception in the church's multi-purpose building.

See TBC, page 2

New series — Facing Life's Challenges

Weekley sees God's goodness through health struggles

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

HENDERSONVILLE — As Glenn Weekley recounts his 27-year battle with kidney disease, he repeatedly cites examples of God's goodness.

Weekley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, was diagnosed in 1979 with glomerulonephritis, inflammation of the internal kidney structures that impairs the filtering process. He was told he would need a transplant within five years.

"The Lord was good. I tried to do the diet and I actually was able to go to 1993 before I needed a transplant," he said. During that time, organ transplantation became more common and major advances were made in the surgery and medications.

Also during the 14 years before his first transplant, Weekley was called as pastor of FBC, Hendersonville, but only after he told them "about my physical background and what I was facing."

At first, Weekley was reluctant to accept a donor kidney and put someone else at risk. So he put himself on the list for a cadaver kidney and resigned himself to a wait doctors said might last two or three years. In the meantime, he was facing the likelihood of dialysis.

"My brother, Marvin, stepped forward and said he would give me a kidney. He was a good match," Weekley said.

"My biggest concern was for my brother. Thank the Lord, he made it fine and he's doing fine to this day," he said.

Weekley's last Sunday in the pulpit before his first transplant was Feb. 14, 1993. Marvin was present and stood with him before the congregation. "It was a day of prayer, a real inspirational time for the whole church," he recalled.

Seeking God's will

Weekley approached the surgery seeking only God's will. "My prayer was, 'Lord, use this. I not only want to be well, I want to learn from it. I want it to be an experience that benefits the church as well as me.'"

Through the surgery and six-month recovery period, he experienced what he termed God's "sustaining grace."

"I think there's a grace that Christians get. You don't get it until you need it. Then you know the presence of God like you've never known it before," Weekley said.

After the surgery at UT Bowld Hospital in Memphis, Weekley and his wife, Cathy, lived in the city for three months as he adjusted to medications and was monitored for signs of rejection. He experienced the love of family members who made regular trips to visit and church members who showered him with prayer, cards, calls, and visits.

Weekley saw God answer his prayer that his experiences might benefit the church. "I think, first of all, it let them know that even preachers have troubles," he said. "I think the other thing that happened was that it brought me closer to the congregation. It let them pray for me and minister to me."

— See Weekley, page 4

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Book captures 'Adrianisms'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The late Adrian Rogers loved a turn of phrase and had a special gift of "sound-bite wisdom," his wife, Joyce Rogers said. Now a collection of his sayings is available in the new book *Adrianisms: The Wit and Wisdom of Adrian Rogers*, published by Love Worth Finding Ministries, which he founded.

"Some are original. Some he gleaned from reading or hearing others say — he may have even forgotten who said them originally," Joyce wrote in the book's foreword. "He was just programmed for that type of thing. They stuck to him, and he just remembered them."

Joyce also noted her husband's gift of application and illustration, how he knew exactly when to use a certain quip or story to make a sermon come alive. In her opinion, his most memorable phrase was "Come to Jesus," which she made the theme of his "graduation to glory" last November.

"His preaching ministry centered on this climax to every sermon — his plea to 'Come to Jesus,'" Joyce wrote. "I think it was the way he said it, the passion behind the plea."

The leather-bound book, compiled by the Love Worth Finding staff, includes his spiritual wisdom on a number of topics:

- On the character of God, "God only wants for us what we would want for ourselves if we were smart enough to want it."
- On the lordship of Christ, "If I put things between me and Christ, it is idolatry. If I put Christ between me and things, it is victory!"
- On the Word of God, "If you have a Bible that's falling apart, you'll have a life that's not."
- On prayer, "Pray and doubt; you'll do without. Pray and believe; you will receive."

Rogers also used the gift of humor to engage his audiences and impart biblical truths. He loved to tell stories that brought laughs but also cut straight to the heart of Scripture, and the book captures his funny wit:

- On attending a large church, "Just sit somewhere in the first 10 rows and don't look back."
- On grumpy folks, "Some people brighten up a room just by leaving it."

For more information, visit www.adrianisms.org. □

Ark. court lifts ban on gay foster parents

Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Arkansas Supreme Court ruled unanimously June 29 that the state's child-welfare agency cannot ban gays from being foster parents.

The ban had been the only one of its kind in the nation.

The justices agreed with a lower court's 2004 ruling that the policy, enacted by the Arkansas Child Welfare Agency Review Board, violates the Arkansas Constitution because the agency only has authority to protect the welfare of children, not to regulate "public morality."

The ban, enacted in 1999, said foster children could not be placed in any home where a gay adult was present. A group of gay would-be foster parents, along with a heterosexual foster parent who has a gay son who sometimes lives with him, sued the agency with the help of civil-liberties groups.

The courts rejected as baseless the state's argument that being raised in a home with gay parents harms children. □

Rally in N. Korea worth risk, says Rick Warren

Baptist Press

LAKE FOREST, Calif. — Despite risks of personal safety and the possibility of being used for propaganda purposes by dictator Kim Jong Il, Rick Warren told a national television audience July 13 he will proceed with plans to hold a rally in North Korea next year.

"Of course, people can use you," said Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church here and author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, during an appearance on ABC News' "Nightline."

"The issue is: Is it worth it? Is it worth it to go ahead and help people find meaning and hope in Jesus Christ and purpose for their life and eternal salvation? Is that worth it in order to be criticized, misunderstood, and even used? In my hands, I said, 'Absolutely.'"

Warren plans to travel this week to North Korea to meet with the organizers of a rally scheduled for March 2007. ABC's Dan Harris questioned Warren about the wisdom of traveling to a country where he has mistreated millions and

Tennesseans will decide on gay marriage in November

Compiled from news reports

NASHVILLE — Residents of Tennessee will be able to voice their opinion on gay marriage in the state at the ballot box in November.

Tennesseans will be asked to vote on whether or not to amend the state constitution to include a ban on gay marriage. *The Tennessean* newspaper reported July 15 that the State Supreme Court rejected an appeal July 14 from the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee to keep it off the ballot.

In issuing the unanimous 5-0 decision, the high court focused on a technical legal point raised in the ACLU lawsuit, not morality, according to *The Tennessean*.

The ACLU argued that the state legislature approved the proposed amendment too late for opponents to have time to fight it, but the court ruled the ACLU was long aware of the issue, according to *The Ten-*

nessean's report.

If the amendment passes, state law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman will be written in the Tennessee Constitution.

"Now, the real battle hand," said Bobbie Pat Tennessee Eagle Forum.

"The opponents of the marriage amendment are a going door to door and their headquarters," said Patray, a lobbyist member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

"We understand that they are planning to spend \$1 million or more to try to win this proposal."

As with state lottery a few years ago, the amendment must receive 50 percent of the votes cast in the election.

"We could get the amendment and still lose, so it is vital people understand the Patray said.

For more information, visit www.RealMarriage.org.

House bill would restrict gambling

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives passed a bill July 11 to restrict Internet gambling.

The House voted 368-19 to pass the Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act, H.R. 4411, which seeks to prohibit Internet gambling. The bill would update a 1991 law that prohibits betting over wires, to cover online gambling. It also would require institutions to block access to gambling businesses, primarily located overseas.

It is uncertain if the bill will act on the legislation Congress. □

TBC, church celebrate 25th anniversary ...

— Continued from page 11

"The purpose of the partnership 25th anniversary celebration is to recognize the efforts of Tennessee Baptists' involvement in volunteer missions and also provide opportunity to renew old acquaintances," said Kim Margrave, TBC staff.

"We will recognize the partnership efforts of Tennessee Baptists over the last 25 years in the area of missions and at the same time challenge ourselves for the future."

This partnership celebration was the brainchild of Raymond Kendrick of Decatur, Bayside Church member and partnership volunteer who participated on one of the first partnership mission trips to Burkina Faso (which was formerly known as Upper Volta until 1984). Kendrick shared his idea with Bayside Church pastor Eric Stitts about holding the 25th anniversary partnership celebration.

"We are celebrating what God has done over the past 25 years in partnership with the TBC," said Stitts. "We are also bringing brothers and sisters together who have participated in the partnerships. We are looking forward to what is going

to be happening in the next 25 years in partnerships. We are also encouraged that what has happened in the partnerships in the past 25 years, but we must stay on task about the gospel."

"It's a great idea to celebrate the joy of the gospel," he added.

Stitts cited the figures and the effects in Burkina Faso from the beginning of the partnership with the six original points, established in Sanwabo, Burkina Faso, from 1980-85 in the area, to today when there are 71 established churches and preaching the country.

"Bayside Church took many volunteers to Burkina Faso in the beginning and is taking teams to Montana, which is a new mission. We need to celebrate what God has done and take the time out of our busy schedule," Stitts said.

For more information on the celebration, contact Margrave at (800) 558-2090 or kmargrave@tnbaptist.org. □ — Marcia

Who are hurricane victims

Holston Association builds home for retired pastor, wife

Janie Davis Bushey
Pastor and Reflector

JOHNSON CITY — Holston Baptist Association based here on a massive task — building a new home for a retired pastor and his wife of 40 years, whose home was damaged beyond repair by last fall's hurricanes. Despite expense, long distance, and complications of working in the disaster recovery area, it is now finished, reported Ben Proffitt, associate director of missions.

Ben and Margie Miskell are about to move into the house in Johnson City, Proffitt reported. They lived in their severely damaged home from August 2005 until they were able to move into a temporary vehicle of the association since then.

The Miskells are retired and in their 70s. Both have health problems. M.C. has cancer and Margie has diabetes and the results of a car accident she suffered years ago.

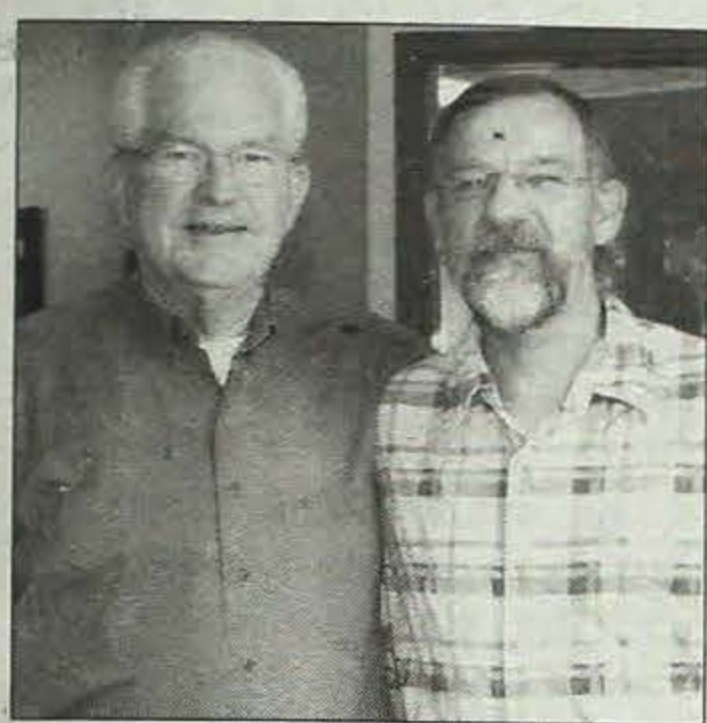
Several people had tried to help them, said Proffitt, but they were frustrated when they learned of the challenges. Members of the association and several other associations met the couple at an annual retreat held each year for ministers, wives, and families of churches in January. This year ministers and families who were hurricane victims were invited.

Those in attendance got to know Mrs. Miskell, who attended with her daughter-in-law, and Margie Miskell. It was clear Margie didn't come seeking help, said Proffitt. In fact, Tennesseeans didn't learn anything about her and her husband's circumstances until toward the end of the retreat when Mrs. Miskell shared her experience of the hurricane.

At that point she also said she was thankful for the tarp they had received to protect the house. But she did answer questions which some began to ask. Ben Tal Thompson, director of missions, Holston Association, encouraged the group to consider helping the Miskells.

About a month later, several Holston Baptists saw for themselves the dire situation of the Miskells. The roof had been blown off by the storm. It was propped up by braces. The house also had suffered much damage. Plumbing wasn't working.

The Miskells had received \$10,000 from their insurance company and could obtain a \$10,000 government loan. They received \$3,000 from the Gulf Coast Baptist Association in Mississippi. The total was \$13,000. But a house couldn't be built for that, said Proffitt. He learned costs in the hurricane-damaged area had increased 25 percent.



TAL THOMPSON, left, director of missions, Holston Baptist Association, stands with Ben Proffitt in the association office in Johnson City. Proffitt, who led the house-building project in Mississippi for the association, is associate director of missions.

He and others came upon the idea of buying the Miskells a manufactured home. But the Tennesseans learned new manufactured homes were no longer allowed in Gulfport.

They soon learned of other obstacles to helping the Miskells. All contractors were busy for months, said Proffitt, so all work had to be done by Tennesseans. Materials were not only expensive, but difficult to obtain. And the city had stopped demolishing structures.

But the Tennesseans kept trying to help the couple. Members of First Baptist Church, Blountville, drove a recreational vehicle of the association down and set it up for the Miskells. The church was going to do disaster relief in the area. Members then built an entry for the RV which would be safe for them.

The first good sign, said Proffitt, who pointed out he isn't skilled in construction work, was that people were located to tear down the house.

As contacts were made, Proffitt got to know members of Crosspoint Baptist Church, Gulfport, which is located near the Miskells' house. Church members there had already decided the Miskells were deserving of help and agreed to help the Tennesseans.

One member in particular agreed to help Proffitt. Proffitt had realized he needed someone in the area to help him obtain permits and do other things he couldn't do 600 miles away.

Back at home, Proffitt called Boone Trail Baptist Church, Gray. The church has a lot of members who are skilled in building. Soon Proffitt was having lunch with Jeff Connell, minister of family and administration; and Carl Little and Ron Gooze, members.

Proffitt presented the situation to the men. An architect's drawing was available, given to the couple by a volunteer from Oklahoma. But it was for a 2,000-square-foot house. Proffitt also described the situation. He



MEMBERS OF a youth team of First Baptist Church, Jonesborough, stand with Mr. and Mrs. Miskell in front of their new home. The Jonesborough team was there helping build it.

added that Holston Association would help with funding if necessary.

Little and Gooze have built many homes in the Johnson City area over many years, said Proffitt. He knew he was waiting for a do-or-die response.

The two men didn't say anything for what seemed like an eternity, said Proffitt. Then Gooze said, "We can do this," and Little agreed.

The men also agreed the church would lead the building project.

A few days later Connell called Proffitt to tell him of an amazing turn of events. Boone Trail had a mission trip slated for the first of June with 38 people committed to go. The project involved building. The need had changed and the trip had to be cancelled. The group could go to Gulfport that week and work on the house for the Miskells.

Proffitt got busy to prepare for the Boone Trail team. He enlisted Bill Broyles, the "best concrete man around," described Proffitt, of Cherry Grove Baptist Church, Johnson City. Broyles agreed to help and could fit it in his schedule. He enlisted members of his church to help him.

Then another issue came up. Broyles usually didn't prepare for the plumbing and electric lines before he poured the foundation. To work around that, Proffitt was referred to Bill Murray, a contractor and youth minister, First Baptist Church, Jonesborough, who told Proffitt he could teach one of the team members how to do it before the team left, which Murray did.

"Soon the house was 'in the dry.'" In fact, the Boone Trail team completed its work two days early and worked on the roofs of two other damaged houses in the Gulfport area.

The next team to work was a youth team from First Church, Jonesborough, led by Murray. The youth installed systems for electricity and plumbing, and some insulation.

Then another challenge faced Proffitt. The air conditioning had to be completed by a local contractor, but they were very

expensive and scheduling weeks in advance. Through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Proffitt was put in touch with several air conditioner contractors who agreed to help. One was a Baptist volunteer from Arkansas.

Next a Pennsylvania team working with Crosspoint Baptist Church, Gulfport, worked on the house, completing the insulation and hanging dry wall and even paying for it, reported Proffitt.

The next step was mudding, taping, and sanding the drywall. Proffitt didn't know of anyone to do this. One day he was shopping and ran into Johnny Saayman, youth minister, Central Baptist Church, Irwin. Saayman asked about the Mississippi project. Proffitt learned what Saayman does for a living — finishing sheetrock. Soon Saayman had agreed to finish the sheetrock on the house. He would be helped by Proffitt and a World Changers team of young people.

Two retired Baptist men agreed to take over the kitchen cabinet work. Jim Miller of Southwestern Baptist Church, Johnson City, builds cabinets. He completed the plans and Dale Whittaker of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, Bristol, located and ordered them.

Sid Allen, a Johnson City businessman and member of Boone Trail Church, donated the carpet and tile and traveled to

the Miskell home to lay the tile. Jim Chatman, bivocational pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Johnson City, and a painter donated some of the paint and arranged for other supplies.

One of the final teams will serve July 23-29 and include Tal Thompson, director of missions; Bill Ponder, pastor, Community Baptist Church, Jonesborough; Mike Pope, pastor, First Baptist Church, Bluff City; Craig Ponder, pastor, New Salem Baptist Church, Limestone; and a team from New Salem Church. Several teams are still needed, said Proffitt.

His former work with the Tennessee Department of Family Services in family crisis intervention helped him with the project, said Proffitt. He learned to seek at least one more lead before ending a phone call.

But Proffitt gives all of the credit to God.

"It's been sweet to see the churches all pull together in this thing," he said, referring to the 106 churches and missions of Holston. He said many teams included members of several churches.

"It's been great to see God provide. We didn't know which way to turn at times."

Holston Baptists "rose to the occasion," he said. He has had the privilege of seeing their goodness, unselfishness, readiness, and giftedness, he concluded. □



HANDING THE keys to the RV of the association to Mrs. Miskell is Ben Proffitt, right, of the association as Clay Austin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Blountville, looks on.

Weekley sees God's goodness through health challenges

— Continued from page 1

Second transplant

Doctors told Weekley he could expect approximately 8-15 years' use of the donated kidney before his disease began to cause its deterioration. After 12 years, he was told he would need a second transplant.

He put off the surgery as long as possible, hoping again for a cadaver kidney. But he finally agreed to accept one from his 33-year-old daughter, Amy Cooper. She is the wife of Brady Cooper, pastor of New Vision Baptist Church,

Murfreesboro, and mother of two young sons, Will and Clay. The surgery took place Oct. 25, 2005, at Centennial Medical Center, Nashville.

"My biggest concern was for her. She did really well. She's back to jogging and all the things she does," Weekley said.

Counting the blessings

Weekley counts himself truly blessed and changed as a result of his experiences. "Some people never get to have the one transplant they need, and here I am fortunate and blessed to be able to have two. It's an

extraordinary thing."

Learning to accept the ministry of others instead of giving it has been humbling. "I've just learned to say thank you and accept whatever they offer," he said.

A ministry to others facing transplants has been a blessing as Glenn, Marvin, and Amy have been called on to talk with others approaching similar circumstances.

Also, Weekley has seen changes in himself and his preaching. "I think I'm more compassionate. I think I'm

more patient. I wanted everything to happen real quickly. That's not always God's way."

The biggest blessing has come in learning to trust God even more than before. "I found out I'm not indispensable. I can be replaced. I've learned how much people's love and concern mean."

Future in God's hands

Weekley returned from October surgery to preach the New Year's sermon and launch a \$16 million fund-raising campaign for a family life center. He feels good and able to lead the growing church. At 58, he sees the future in God's hands.

"I've been here 19 years in July. I'll just leave the future up to God," he said.

With improvements in transplantation and medications, Weekley hopes he will not need a third transplant.

To others facing life's challenges, he offers the reminder that "God never promised we wouldn't have troubles. What we need to do is not get discouraged, just trust God. I believe



GLENN WEEKLEY, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, pauses in his office during a recent interview.

Feature series focuses on 'Facing Life's Challenges'

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — On July 5, 1977, I flew from Columbia, S.C., to St. Louis, Mo., after the two worst things that had ever happened to me had taken place within the previous 24 hours.

Late in the afternoon of July 4, my husband and sister-in-law had been seriously injured in a car accident in South Carolina from which I had escaped unhurt. Early the next morning, my father was killed in a car accident in Missouri.

I left my husband and sister-in-law in the capable hands of doctors and family members to fly to Missouri to be with my mother and sister. On the plane, even as I started to comprehend the magnitude of all that had happened, I began to feel like I was in some kind of protective cocoon. I felt a unique closeness to God that persisted through the next few days. I have not experienced it since.

When I interviewed Glenn Weekley for the

story that follows, he put a name to my experience — sustaining grace. He said God gives this form of grace to His children only when they need it. It's another of His blessings given at the point of our need and in His perfect timing.



LAWSON

Through the years I have developed a curiosity about Christians and crises — the courage I see manifested in the lives of so many, their ability to exude peace in the midst of chaos, their faith to trust God no matter what. From time to time, the Baptist & Reflector has graciously agreed to carry stories about Christians meeting life's challenges. I hope you have been encouraged by them and will discover nuggets of truth in these and future stories that will help you on your journey. □ — Lawson, a member of ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin, is a regular correspondent for the Baptist and Reflector.

Long Hollow Church baptizes 130 people on one ...

— Continued from page 1

Church, Concord, Knoxville. Lovingood also has been chaplain for the University of Tennessee football team.

But the camps are an important factor in the amazing response of students, said Lovingood. At the camps the students must leave behind phones, TV, computers, and computer-related technology and games, explained Lovingood.

They quickly learn they must "depend on themselves, each other, and the Lord. Their focus is centralized."

This year the youth responded to themes by coming up with handmade decorations and silly games. They also enjoyed obstacle courses which resulted in students being covered with muddy water, a climbing wall, ropes activity, and water activities.

Finally, the camps are characterized by an unusual unity. Lovingood said he had students of several races, economic groups, and social groups. They were enjoying activities without regard to those identities, he reported.

Pretty early in each week Lovingood said he came across

people like Terry Porch, a counselor from Long Hollow. Porch, who works for the Tennessee Titans football team, was in tears. When Lovingood asked him why he was crying, he said that five of the boys he was working with had made professions of faith in small groups.

Small group activities are led by the 120 laypeople from Long Hollow who served as leaders. In these and many

other situations, students became "open to evaluating their heart," described Lovingood. About 200 made professions of faith and 36 made commitments to the ministry.

Church members also support the students at camp by accepting a bracelet bearing the name of a camper and committing to pray for that student. That has been done several years.

To conduct the baptismal

service, two baptistries were used, Lovingood described. A portable baptismal was used as well as the permanent baptismal. Two baptisms were conducted at a time in the permanent baptismal and then one in the portable baptismal. All was viewed by the large congregation via video on hanging projection screens. The church uses high-tech, contemporary methods but is conservative theologically, he noted.

Afterwards, Lovingood spoke, saying he felt the congregation needed to make a decision to accept the gift of salvation and be baptized. That's when about 200 people made the decision.

All of this may have about, suggested Lovingood, the congruence of the Lord's hand" being a church, a "great pastor with a heart for students," an ideal location.

It also might be because of the "great expectancy" church, which he believed led to great things happening. Ironically, the response of students is occurring the understanding many that "student ministry is in decline," he said.

"The reality is we still have a great God who wants great things in our lives. We have young people who want to be a part of something greater than themselves," observed Lovingood.

He thinks this response to God will continue to affirm students and the church community.

For more information, visit www.longhollow.org.



JEFF LOVINGOOD, left, minister of students, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville; visits with Chris Hollomon, center, minister of students and parents, First Baptist Church, Smyrna; and David McCaman, minister of high school students, First Church, Smyrna, in his office. Hollomon and McCaman came to meet with Lovingood and hear about the recent occurrences at the church.

The task belongs to God — to Him be the glory



By Frank Page

I firmly am convinced that Southern Baptists need to grow their understanding of who is in charge, of who has power, and who sets the agenda. I call on all Southern Baptists to reaffirm that we belong to the Lord, that we follow His marching orders, that His great Book, the Bible, gives us that which we need for life.

Let this Scripture verse be one to give us clarity and understanding. Ephesians 2:10 says, *Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond what we ask or think — according to the power that is in you — to Him be glory in the church and in Christ through all generations, now and ever. Amen* (Eph. 2:10).

Let us confess that He is able. Isn't it exciting to know that He is able to do even more than we ask or think or imagine?

Is He truly able to transform our churches? Is He truly able to bring revival to the Southern Baptist Convention? Is He truly able to encourage the Cooperative Program and mission work?

- Is He able to involve a record number of persons from every age group and every size church?

- Is He able to bring health and dialogue back to our convention?

- Is He able to help us win more souls to Christ than ever before?

Let us correct our errant thinking. The Scripture is very clear — it is His power that is at work. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:10, *Be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength.*

Let us confirm that God is at work among us. Even in my limited time as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, I am already seeing examples of God's power and work in the lives of people. Immediately after the Southern Baptist Convention, my wife and I left for a preplanned trip to Yellowstone National Park. Our church, First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., had given us this gift in recognition of five years of service.

While on this getaway, we passed by a small SBC congregation, First Baptist Church of West Yellowstone, Mont. Wanting to encourage that church, I stopped in to see if I might find someone there. It was a Sunday evening and it was getting late. However, in the parking lot I found several people who were part of a North America Mission Board resort outreach called the Innovators Ministry.

While there, I did not get to meet pastor Benny McCracken, but I did get to meet Mission Service Corps missionary Butch Riek and North American Mission Board resort missionary Bradford Lartigue. These men were helping to oversee a group of college students from around the Southern Baptist Convention who minister to workers in Yellowstone National Park. What an encouragement it was to see God at work in this way! That work, of course, is made possible largely because of the Cooperative Program.

Throughout the year, I am going to be emphasizing that God's power is at work through our cooperative ministries funded by the Cooperative Program. In fact, I just received my first letter from a fellow Southern Baptist who is committed to bringing his church back up to a 10 percent level of Cooperative Program giving. Isn't that exciting?

Let us give credit where credit is due. The Bible says it well, "to Him be glory!"

Let us repent of taking credit from the Lord. Let us repent of thinking that we have actually done anything good as a result of our own power and strength. Let us seek forgiveness from God for our selfishness and our lack of cooperation. Let us ask Him to cleanse us for actually thinking that we have done a great job when, in reality, we have

failed in so many crucial ways. In other words, let us see things more clearly and in more honest light than ever before!

Let us join in God's concern that this glory be given to Him perpetually. The Scripture is clear that He wishes for glory to be ascribed unto Him throughout all generations. If that were not strong enough, in Ephesians 3:21 the Apostle Paul adds the phrase, "forever and ever."

We recognize that we have done a poor job of passing the Gospel down to succeeding generations. We must realize that there are powerful societal and cultural forces at work. However, rather than being discouraged because of the difficulty of living in a post-Christian nation, let us remember that our God is able, and that He is able to do more than we ask or think.

It is to this great God that we must give glory and teach our children and grandchildren to give Him the glory as well! Let's be honest where we have failed. Let us admit that we have often taken the credit.

Let us also be encouraged that the task belongs to God and that the power is God's power. To Him be the glory! □ — Page, pastor of First Baptist Church, Taylors, S.C., is the new president of the Southern Baptist Convention. This column is reprinted from Baptist Press.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Pray for schools

As I was flipping through some associational Baptist newsletters last week a brief article in the Wilson County Baptist Association newsletter caught my attention.

A Day of Prayer is being planned for Wilson County schools on July 30. Though churches are being asked to embrace the concept and to pray for children and schools in the county, the event evidently was planned by the Kiwanis Clubs of Lebanon and Mt. Juliet.

It doesn't matter who initiated the effort. What matters is that they are doing it.

I would encourage Tennessee Baptists in every county of the state to initiate a similar movement, or to even expand it.

For some years my Sunday School class has written down the names of all the kids affiliated with the class and the schools they attend. When possible, members would go to the respective schools and pray outside the schools.

I know of some schools where Christian principals have invited Christians to come in and pray in every classroom of the school.

Just imagine what could happen if every public and private school in Tennessee was bathed in prayer. Don't be fooled. Bad things can and do occur on campuses of private (even church-related) schools.

Our children and teenagers today are confronted with temptations and evil of all sorts on our school campuses. This should not be a surprise or unexpected. Why wouldn't Satan target school campuses? Statistics have shown that people who do not accept Christ before they leave their teenage years are less likely to profess faith in Christ as adults.

As we pray at — and for — our schools, pray for the safety and well-being of our children. Pray that they can resist the evil influences they will encounter.

Pray for the faculty and staff of these schools. In Tennessee we have large pockets of Christians who work in our schools. These men and women are on a wide-open mission field. True, they can't openly share the gospel, but they can be beacons of light, and they can share what Christ has done for them in private conversations. This is life-style evangelism at its best.

As schools begin across the state in August, pray for our children and all those who work and serve on school campuses.

Our schools are truly a mission field. □

Let summer vacation can help create family memories



Carolyn R. Tomlin

If you like many families wait until later in the summer to take a vacation? The busiest travel time is between Memorial Day and the end of July — which means crowded airports, "no vacancy" signs on motels, and congested highways. For those who plan ahead and go in the summer, there are opportunities to save and avoid the crowds.

Could these suggestions help your family store up summer memories that will last after the sand is nothing but memory?

As you vacation, find a place for Sunday services. Things you forget about vacation — but church attendance is not one. Think of the temple you set as parents when you worship together in your community you visit?

Ask about services, read the local paper, or check the web site for that area. Dress in traveling clothes, yet those appropriate for a casual worship service.

- Check for coupons on lodging, restaurant meals and entertainment. Look for booklets in visitor's centers throughout the state where you're traveling. Negotiate price — avoid paying full price. Can children stay or eat for free or half-price with a paying adult? Are mid-week prices cheaper than weekends? Do you qualify for a business or corporate discount?

- Make lunch your main meal of the day. Most restaurants offer a large discount on the noon meal compared to the evening meal. And it's often the same menu.

- Camp at a state park near your home. Your only expense will be gas and a small fee for hookups. Grill out and prepare your own meals as if you were home. Children enjoy the freedom to ride bicycles, swim, and ride horses. Expect to meet other campers. Exchange addresses and keep in touch.

Share a potluck meal together and invite other "neighbors" to join your site.

- Build a campfire at your site. Roast marshmallows on a stick and ask each family member to tell one thing they enjoy about being together. What will they remember about this vacation? What would they like to change next year?

- Realize it's the journey and not the destination that makes memories. Therefore, allow each family member to choose activities they enjoy — and everyone participates. Are historical sites a favorite? What about a children's science museum? Take opportunities to teach about earlier lifestyles while visiting antique malls where there is no admission fee.

- Search for natural souvenirs to

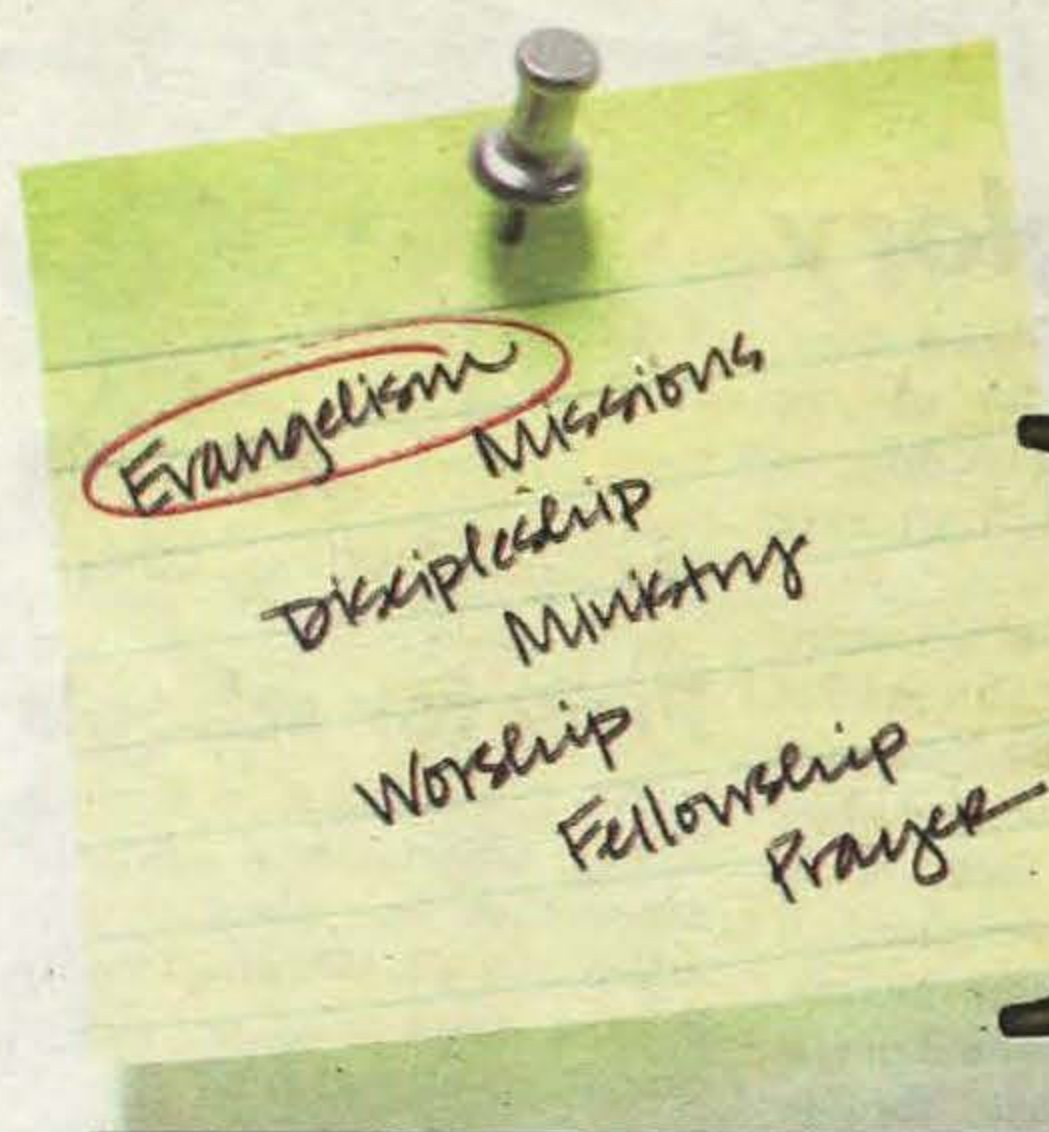
remember your trip. Sea shells, pine cones, rocks, and other natural objects are usually OK to pick up. If in doubt, check with a park ranger in your area.

Family vacations bond parents and children together. Although summer is almost over, it's never too late to share good times together. □ — Tomlin writes from Jackson where her husband, Matt, serves as pastor or Ward's Grove Baptist Church.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Brother Eli thinks back on all the lofty reasons why he entered the ministry ...



Church Health Matters

"Building healthy churches empowered by the presence of God"

EVANGELISM Matters

This edition of *Church Health Matters* highlights the church health function of evangelism. 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 evangelism.

Your state missionary staff is committed to the vision of "Making Christ Known By Serving Churches." Visit www.tnbaptist.org for information about how the Tennessee Baptist Convention can serve your church.

State Evangelism Director

Larry Gilmore(615) 371-7915

Church Planting

Bill George, West Tennessee.....(615) 371-2043

Wayne Terry, Middle Tennessee.....(615) 355-7905

Fred Davis, East Tennessee.....(865) 988-7783

Tim Hill, Ethnic Church Planting(615) 371-2032

Chuy Avila, Hispanic Church Planting(615) 371-7913

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Local Church Evangelism Strategies

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Vacation Bible School

Kathy Trundle.....(865) 805-9946

Barbara Owens.....(615) 371-7905

Ministry Evangelism

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

Is Baptism Important Today?

by Larry Gilmore

Last year many Southern Baptist and Tennessee Baptist churches experienced a decline in baptisms. No doubt, there are many reasons that may be given. God's Word must be the source of our understanding of this New Testament practice and the church today must address its importance.

Consider the Following:

Why Should Believers Be Baptized?

1. Baptism is the first step of obedience for the believer (Acts 2:41).

2. Baptism is a public declaration to others of the change that has taken place in one's life through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. It pictures death to an old life and resurrection to a new life (Romans 6:4).

3. The practice of the early New Testament Christians was to be baptized when they believed. (Note the 3,000 at Pentecost in Acts 2, Cornelius, the Ethiopian eunuch, new believers in Samaria, Lydia, the Philippian jailor, and Paul.)

4. Baptism is a witness to others, and encourages others to follow Christ in obedience. Baptism is usually practiced in community as we are members of one another (Romans 12:5; I Corinthians 12:27).

5. Baptism is the answer of a good conscience towards God (I Peter 3:21).

What Can a Church Do to Highlight the Importance of Baptism?

1. The pastor can preach a message on



believer's baptism from the beginning. Demonstrate baptism and explain the meaning of every aspect of it.

2. Have Sunday School or church leaders teach on baptism on the Sunday the pastor preaches on the subject.

3. Invite those who would like to be biblically baptized as believers to meet with the pastor early on that Sunday evening to be baptized in the evening service. Have prepared counselors present.)

4. Celebrate baptism by having baptismal candidates send invitations to their family and friends to be present at their baptism.

5. Have a reception after the baptism in honor of those baptized. Recognize family and friends who are present.

6. Have a month of testimony where one person shares in each service where they found Christ and their memory of baptism.

7. Have someone take a picture of the person as they are baptized and display it at a later service the picture with a certificate.

8. Celebrate baptism with others in the association by having a joint baptism at a lake. Each pastor can invite those under his ministry who have professed their faith in Christ.

Ministry Evangelism Changes Churches

By Larry Gilmore

What does ministry evangelism accomplish? It creates new opportunities of service for your people, not within the walls of the church building, but in the community where your greatest ministry is most needed.

It allows believers to grow in discipleship as they understand how God can and will use them in the lives of others. It connects your church with its community as you serve those around you. It builds witnessing relationships with people. It increases the visibility of your church in the community as a caring place.

We often admire and envy those churches that are ministry oriented and thriving through making a difference in people's lives. Their ministry had to begin with a dream in someone's heart. Someone was willing to get involved, not just in status quo activity, but in compassionate caring and investment in meeting people's felt needs. And it caught on!

Christ followers began to believe God wanted to and would use them in ministering to others. Where this happens, the church comes alive!

When we begin to minister to those no one wants, we begin to attract those everyone wants as church members. Deep in the heart of each child of God, there is a desire to be like Jesus in service! When people see a church loving and caring for the needs of the hurting, they see Christ at work and want to be close to that work.

Your church can make a difference in your community! But the greatest impact will come when the community sees Christ living His life in and through your members as they involve themselves in multiple ministries that touch the hurting in our community.

The church comes alive and no longer has to say, "Come and see!" They will see, and they will be interested in your Jesus!

Excerpts from "God Came Down, An Interview with Rebecca Manley Pippert"

By Linda Lowry

"Understanding and sharing the divinity and humanity of Jesus are the most powerful evangelism tools the church has today," says evangelist Rebecca Manley of Salt Shaker Ministries, who will be the featured speaker Sept. 9 at the Beautiful Feet Women's Conference, a lifestyle evangelism training conference.

For more information on the conference, visit www.tnbeautifulfeet.org.

In this interview with *Outreach Magazine*, Pippert tells why looking at the person of Jesus is "one of our greatest shortcuts to evangelism."

In the past year, you've led evangelism training conferences not only in the United States, but overseas as well. What one commonality surfaces everywhere you go?

Pippert: That everyone has the same sense of inadequacy and the same fears about sharing Christ. They think they're required to answer every question, never reveal a flaw, and have perfect communication skills. They fear everything is up to them.

So how do you deal with these very real fears and insecurities?

Pippert: The first thing we do is look at the incarnation of Christ. By exploring how God related to us through Christ, we learn what it means to be human. The biggest reason people give for not witnessing is their sense of inadequacy. But the incarnation reveals that our inadequacy isn't the problem. Jesus depended on His father without embarrassment or shame. I tell people, "Facing our inadequacy is critical, because it leads us to depend on the Spirit's power." I've been amazed to see how understanding the incarnation frees believers from their fears of sharing Christ. They finally understand that God doesn't require perfection to be able to use us. In fact, His power is glorified through our weakness.

What are some of the biggest mistakes churches make when they approach evangelism training?

Pippert: We've made methods primary. It's not techniques that set people free. John 8:32 says it's the truth that sets us free. We first have to understand what we believe then we'll be able to explore how our beliefs impact what we say and do. It's our message that impacts our methodology. There's a place for methods, but they're secondary. That's why in evangelism training, I focus first on understanding the nature and character of God. From there, I work on building and strengthening their spiritual communication skills....

I believe our effectiveness in evangelism doesn't come from learning new or different techniques. It comes from knowing God, being transformed by His love and having confidence that God's Word and His spirit are powerful, life-changing resources. If our churches are going to produce effective witnesses, I really think that we have to train people to display Christ's love, to depend on God's spirit, and to declare God's truth.

For pastors who are leading ingrown congregations, what can they do to ignite that fire for seeing others meet Christ and begin to make outreach part of their church's DNA?

Pippert: Begin in the pulpit. If I had just one chance to preach an evangelistic series, I'd focus on the person of Jesus. The deepest motivation for witnessing comes from understanding the heart of God. What reveals God's heart more than looking at Jesus? Embracing our Christology and revealing the ways in which Jesus reached out to the lonely and the forgotten, the rich and the poor, the seeking and the defiant, is one of the greatest shortcuts to evangelism. Then, make sure you're actively engaged in personal evangelism and you're sharing that vision from the pulpit.

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Suggested Reading on Evangelism

The Art of Personal Evangelism
Will McRaney Jr.
(Broadman & Holman, 2003)

Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples
Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger
(Broadman & Holman, 2006)

Fresh Encounter: Seeking God Together for Revival in the Land
Henry Blackaby and Claude King
(Broadman & Holman, 2006)

Transformation: How Global Churches Transform Lives and the World
Bob Roberts
(Zondervan, 2006)

The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church
Reggie McNeal
(Jossey-Bass, 2003)

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

August 24	3D Sunday School Training, Dogwood Heights Baptist Church, Tazewell
August 4-5	Church Weekday Education Conference, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville
August 4-5	Hispanic Family Camp, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer
August 5	3D Sunday School Training, First Baptist Church, Selmer
August 5	Equipping Missions Leaders, First Baptist Church, Martin
August 5	Equipping Missions Leaders, First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg
August 5-6	25th Anniversary Celebration of Partnership Missions, Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison
August 7	3D Sunday School Training, First Baptist Church, Portland

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

SBC CP gifts ahead of 2005

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are 4.31 percent above the same time-frame in 2005, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of June 30, 2006, the year-to-date total of \$151,274,474.46 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$6,257,350.56 above the \$145,017,123.90 received at the same point in 2005. For the month, CP receipts of \$17,182,506.07 were 36.86 percent, or \$4,627,305.54 above the \$12,555,200.53 received in June 2005.

The 4.31 percent year-to-date increase is the largest growth trend seen at this point in the year during this decade.

A push to increase support for the Cooperative Program has been a recurring issue in 2006. Messengers at the annual meeting adopted a report calling for churches "to give an increasing percentage of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program" and for Southern Baptists to elect leaders whose churches "systematically and enthusiastically lead by example in giving sacrificially and proportionally through the Cooperative Program." Leadership in CP support was a much-discussed topic in the SBC presidential race.

Southern Baptists' designated giving of \$172,936,738.13 for year-to-date is 1.19 percent, or \$2,038,720.70, above gifts of \$170,898,017.43 received at this point last year. The \$25,155,142.47 in designated gifts received last month is \$11,615,755.58 above the \$13,539,386.89 received in June 2005, an increase of 85.79 percent.

Contributions to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering fueled the upsurge in designated gifts, with receipts of

\$21,760,758.73 for the month, compared to the \$11,698,464.18 received in May. Year-to-date giving to the offering reached \$45,007,315.83, exceeding by \$1,305,514.18, or 2.99 percent, the \$43,701,801.65 received at the same point last year. □

Sermon to large crowd may have been last: B. Graham

Baptist Press

BALTIMORE — Though frail and ailing, 87-year-old Billy Graham delivered a strong message of hope to more than 33,000 people gathered in Baltimore's Camden Yards during the last night of a July 7-9 Metro Maryland Festival.

"Unfortunately, I'm getting too old to do this, and I thought on my way out, this may be the last opportunity to preach to an audience like this," said the elder Graham, who was driven to the platform in a golf cart.

In a historic moment for Marylanders, the evangelist shared the stage with longtime crusade associates Cliff Barrows, now 83, and George Beverly Shea, now 97, in vintage crusade fashion, offering a clear grasp of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through messages and songs.

The trio has ministered twice before in Baltimore, most recently in 1981 and in 1949, the year that Graham's signature crusade ministry first garnered national attention.

It was then that Graham's famous Los Angeles tent meetings catapulted him and his associates into an internationally recognized crusade ministry. From there, the team went on to share the Gospel with more than 210 million people in live audiences at hundreds of cru-



B. GRAHAM

sades and rallies in North America and around the world.

"It's been 60 years of ministry. We have an amazing relationship that only the Holy Spirit could have made," Graham said. The ministry team members each expressed thanksgiving for the transformation in Baltimore since their last visit, commending the city's leadership for their hard work in building the Inner Harbor and otherwise beautifying the once-decaying area.

Graham also directed his attention to his 53-year old son, Franklin, noting, "I am happy to have a son preaching the Gospel like he is."

Now president and CEO of both the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, an international humanitarian ministry, the younger Graham has continued the tradition of stadium-sized evangelism events.

Over three years in the making, the Metro Maryland Festival, held in the Camden Yards home to baseball's Baltimore Orioles, represents the combined efforts of 655 area churches — 125 of which are churches associated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware — working with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

All together, more than 80,000 people attended the three-day festival, which also featured Christian rock band the Newsboys, gospel legend Andrae Crouch, former American Idol contestant George Huff, country western superstar Randy Travis, and a 1,500-voice choir from area churches. □

BWA expands involvement

Associated Baptist Press

MEXICO CITY — Leaders of the Baptist World Alliance ushered in its second century by unveiling plans to expand participation in the international organization.

For starters, BWA's annual General Council meeting was renamed the BWA Annual Gathering, signaling a desire to expand participation beyond BWA's leadership circle.

Approximately 420 people from 50 countries attended the July 3-7 gathering in Mexico City. By contrast, the group's Baptist World Congress, held once every five years, attracts thousands of participants from around the globe.

Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, said the annual meeting is an opportunity "to show the essential unity of Baptists in Jesus Christ — that's what Baptist World Alliance is all about."

That unity was severely tested two years ago when the Southern Baptist Convention, the BWA's largest member body, withdrew. SBC leaders cited concerns about a drift toward theological liberalism — charges BWA leaders insisted were unfounded.

Since that time, BWA has continued to attract new member bodies, including the moderate Baptist General Convention of Missouri, which was voted into BWA membership last week.

The Missouri convention, which has 125 member churches, joins the Baptist General

Convention of Texas and Baptist General Association of Virginia as state Baptist conventions that have joined BWA since the SBC's departure.

Participants also approved membership for the Ethiopian Addis Kidan Baptist Church, the India Baptist Convention, which includes 65 congregations. BWA now has 214 member churches from approximately 150 nations.

Format changes at the Annual Gathering included reducing number of business sessions from four to one and adding a dozen forum sessions on such topics as AIDS, pastoral leadership, understanding youth culture.

Wanda Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, is co-chairing implementation task force seeking to flesh out BWA's ministry strategy for the 21st century.

"There's a new generation coming along in BWA," explained. "We want to help younger generation learn what the BWA is all about. As Christians, we share a common desire to make a difference in the world."

She said BWA will see focus on several major "clusters of commitment" including ship and fellowship, mission and evangelism, human rights and religious freedom, and theological reflection and education.

During the Friday morning business session, participants adopted resolutions addressing concerns about violence against women and children, the international HIV/AIDS crisis, human-rights abuses in Myanmar and Sudan. □

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We all experience times of doubt and discouragement. It's during these times we need a retreat—a time of rest to reassess where we are in the course of our ministry and where God might be leading us.

If you are experiencing these feelings or asking these questions, let us encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity for a rest. Join us at the Pastors' and Wives Retreat where we will lay aside the weights and glean from our peers encouragement and a refreshing to Stay the Course.

For registration and reservations call Susan Mason at (877) 704-6336.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Team of the TE

known for his visitation ministry

Paul Broyles serves as pastor of church for 49 years

Donnie Davis Bushey
Staff and Reflector

LIMESTONE — Paul Broyles is known by many people here in Holston Baptist Association, Johnson City. He is known as pastor of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church here. He served the church for 49 years, retiring in April due to health problems. He was honored by the church June

Broyles is known as a leader in the association and Tennessee Baptist Convention of national ministry. He was a national minister from 1983 when he retired from Eastman Kodak Company (now Tennessee Eastman) to transport to care for his ill wife, Ruth. Broyles was moderator of the Holston Association and led revivals in the area.

Broyles, 82, may be best known for his visitation ministry. Until a few months ago, he stopped driving, and he visited folks daily who were ill or older. He visited residents of the Veterans Administration Nursing Home in Johnson City and nursing homes in Johnson City and Jonesborough. For many years he led a visitation for those gathered at the citizens center in Jonesborough.

Broyles met with folks in homes in Johnson City, Knoxville and Nashville. He visited

shut-ins in their homes. He even conducted visits on Sunday afternoons if he wasn't leading a funeral, reported Tony Broyles, Paul's son who lives part-time with Paul. Tony lives nearby. He also is his father's chauffeur, Tony added with a smile.

Broyles was especially committed to visiting veterans at the VA because he was one of them. Broyles fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, serving with the 87th Infantry Division. He also served in France and Germany.

Broyles recalled he wasn't scared much of the time in World War II. He thinks it was because he was so young that he didn't think any harm would come to him. He also was tired much of the time, Broyles said. He would go to sleep and learn later he had been fired at while sleeping.

He made a lot of friends at the VA Nursing Home, said Broyles. He recalled being able to help an "Army buddy" there. He was an alcoholic who was burdened by the fact that he had killed 16 men in the war. Thankfully the man was able to leave and begin a better life, recalled Broyles.

Leading bivocational ministers

Broyles pulled out a notebook when asked about bivocational ministry. He attended the first organizational meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention for bivocational ministers in

1977 in Memphis. And he helped start the Holston Association organization in 1980 with help from Paul Hall, director of missions of Holston at that time.

Broyles was the first president of the organization and continued to serve as president until recently. The bivocational ministers have met four times a year. About 50 percent of the association's pastors are bivocational, he noted.

They would meet to learn from each other and from full-time ministers, explained Broyles. One of his goals was to develop "a better relationship between" the two kinds of ministers, he said.

"It's against the Bible not to be able to cooperate and not to love each other.

"It's wonderful to know Christian people who are ... encouraging you in your Christian life," he added.

"Hard places"

Broyles said he "fought" against entering the ministry, making excuses. "I told the Lord He had the wrong man."

When he preached for Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, and was called, the vote was 90 percent to accept him. A few days later the treasurer told Broyles the vote was 100 percent. The church included the votes of members who were unable to attend.

"So I had to take the church. The Lord answered my prayer," said Broyles. The unanimous



PAUL BROYLES, right, stands with his son, Tony, outside of his home. From it one can see Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Limestone, where Paul Broyles served as pastor for 49 years. He retired in April due to health problems.

call also gave him "more confidence in it, to keep going with it," he added.

He accepted the pastorate without knowing his salary. It was \$15 a month. The year was 1956.

He is proud of the fact that Pleasant Grove gives to the denomination, including the association, Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program, and TBC children's homes and adult homes.

Small churches may have to give a small amount, but that is "better than nothing," he said.

He has faced obstacles, he said.

About 40 years ago he over-

came a challenge from the deacons who wanted him to leave. With support of the rest of the members, he stayed.

At another time a deacon told Broyles the Holy Spirit had told him Broyles should leave. Broyles responded by telling the deacon the Holy Spirit hadn't told him that.

"The Lord's brought me through it all," said Broyles.

He also struggled with the illness and death of Ruth. She began fighting cancer in 1968. It returned in 1983 and she died in 1988. He is thankful he left his job at Eastman Kodak so he could spend time with her though he suffered financially.

"It's wonderful that the Lord could use me this long." □

Franklin minister leads 'contagious' worship for Beth Moore events

Chris Rankin
News Office

KNOXVILLE — On a Monday morning in 1998, after the never-ending Beth Moore Living Proof Live event, the women's department at LifeWay Christian Resources received a handwritten letter, which had written: "It's a

"match" was Travis Cottrell who had taken the stage as a leader for Moore's event, after well over 100 Living Proof Live events, Cottrell's worship is synonymous with the events.

Cottrell remembers having about leading worship as a popular Bible teacher. "Why don't you get a job?" he asked Faith Whatley, who was then coordinator of Living Proof Live. "I had an idea that the personalities would be nailed it."

First event with Moore, in Dothan, Ala., drew more than 100 women after estimates were made that 400 in attendance. "I loved it," he said, noting that he missed a LPL event

since. "I wouldn't have ever dreamed this up for myself. In the beginning, I felt like at any moment they were going to thank me graciously and give the gig to some very capable woman."

Called to worship

Cottrell, a native of Boone, N.C., attended Appalachian State University for two years before transferring to Belmont University in Nashville to study music and embark on the road to fame and fortune. As he tells it, God had another plan.

Following graduation, Cottrell worked at a music production company and began to write songs. His first, "It's Only Thunder," was featured on Larnelle Harris' "I Choose Joy" album. He then published "Waiters," a youth musical about waiting on the Lord, which became the year's best-selling youth musical.

Leading worship for youth at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, Cottrell began to understand God's story for his ministry. "Watching them fall in love with Jesus helped me realize that I was called to lead people to that place of intimacy with Christ," he said.

When Two Rivers needed a full-time worship minister, Cottrell stepped into the role of

leading the 6,000 member church in worship. A short time later, he found himself leading stadiums full of women in worship for Moore's Living Proof conferences.

Regardless of venue size, location or event, worship must always begin with an authentic heart before God, Cottrell said.

"Beth's heart ... her true love for Jesus is so contagious," he said. "She loves those women; it's what her events are all about — loving the women and pointing them towards the Cross. Because of that, there's always warfare when we put

ourselves on the front lines. It's not like we're frontline missionaries in dangerous locations, but look at what's happening in society today — the wounded hearts, broken relationships.

"Leading groups to experience Jesus through worship is just incredible. Because of that, we always have to have our hearts right before God because we can't waste that time that we've been given to minister to them."

Worshipping a creative God

Cottrell believes God ordained his partnership with Moore to maximize the multi-

generational reach of the ministry. Cottrell's ability to bridge the music of different generations is just one reason his worship style is popular. At events and on his worship albums, he regularly blends contemporary worship with traditional hymns.

"God is creative and likes to be worshiped in creative ways and He calls us to grow in our worship," Cottrell said. "He did not stop being creative when Handel, or Bach, or Fanny Crosby died. He continues to shape music and shape how music expresses our worship differently in each generation.

Cottrell, his wife Angela, and their three children — Jack (9), Lily Kate (6), and Levi (3) — live in Franklin. "They are my place of rest," he said. On weekends that he is not traveling, Cottrell can be found singing in the choir of Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station.

Cottrell has produced nine Living Proof worship albums with LifeWay. Known also as an arranger and producer for various Christian publishers including LifeWay Music Group, Cottrell was nominated in 2006 for a CMA Dove Award for his Eastern musical "Redemption: The Power of the Cross," his second nomination. □



TRAVIS COTTRELL performs with the Thompson Station Baptist Church choir during LifeWay's national sales meeting held at LifeWay April 9-13. He is a member of Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station.

Leaders

◆ Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Kingsport, recently called **Adam Wright** as youth minister. He previously served as a youth pastor at Ridgeview Baptist Church, Church Hill, and interim pastor at Dungan Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Elizabethton.

◆ Imani African Fellowship Church, Knoxville, recently called **Peter W. Kinuthia** as pastor. The church is an ethnic congregation of Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville.

◆ West Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville, has called **Heather Mills Long** as minister to children and youth. She is a graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

◆ Arlington Baptist Church, Knoxville, called **Tim Guthrie** of Plano, Texas, as pastor, effective June 18.

◆ Centenary Baptist Church, Maryville, has called **Todd Huffstetler** as pastor.

◆ Clifton Hearon is the new pastor at Kagle's Chapel Baptist Church, Maryville. He formerly served as interim pastor.

◆ Charles Parker has been called as pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Maryville, effective June 4.

◆ Boone Trail Baptist Church, Gray, has called **Ryan**

Epps as youth director. He previously served at a church in North Carolina.

◆ David Haga has resigned as music director at First Baptist Church, Erwin.

◆ Central Baptist Church, Martin, has called **Roger Lipe** as pastor.

◆ Tollie Cunningham, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Rutherford, has retired.

◆ Smyrna Baptist Church, Humboldt, has called **Jason Hartig** as pastor.

◆ Lick Creek Baptist Church, Linden, has called **Ken Sparkman** as pastor.

◆ Hillview Baptist Church,

Goodlettsville, recently called **Stephen Ramsey** as pastor. He is formerly of Harrodsburg, Ky.

◆ Mark Stinnett, New Salem Baptist Association director of missions, recently resigned as pastor of New Middleton Baptist Church, Gordonsville.

◆ First Baptist Church, Fall Branch, has called **Carl Strickler** as pastor effective July 9. He previously served the church as the transitional interim pastor. Strickler also served the church earlier for three years after his retirement following 28 years of

service at Lynn Garden Baptist Church, Kingsport. Falls Branch is the home church of the Stricklers.

◆ Landon Cole has resigned as children's director at Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, this fall.

◆ White Hall Baptist

Church, Trenton, hosted a mission July 16 honoring **Kemper** and his wife, for seven years of service. son Baptist Association he served as director of mission. The Kempers recently appointed as Southern missionaries to Costa Rica the International Board. They formerly served missionaries in Romania.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — DO

Gibson County Baptist Church is accepting resumes for the position of association sionary. Please send resumes to Search Committee, Dennison, 95 Latham Road, Milan, TN 38358.

MINISTRY — PAS

Lyons Creek Baptist Church is accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Please send resumes to Lyons Creek Baptist Church c/o Search Committee, 92 Strawberry Plains Pike, Strawberry Plains, TN 37871. If you like to learn more about our church, please visit us at creekbaptist.org.

Wilsonville Baptist Church, Newport, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for pastores. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, Wilsonville Baptist Church, 120 New Cav Road, Newport, TN 37137.

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

Allen Baptist Church, Brownsville, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a part-time pastor position. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, Allen Baptist Church, 5533 Highway 58, Brownsville, TN 38012.

MINISTRY — M

Lincoln Park Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., is seeking a part-time minister. Please contact the church for more information, 5451.

Glenwood Baptist Church, a part-time music minister. Please send resumes to Glenwood Baptist Church, Thompson Lane, Nashville, TN 37211 or call (615) 330-3000.

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MINISTRY — COMBINATION Washington Avenue Baptist Church in Cookeville, Tenn., is in need of a full-time youth and children's minister. Our web site is www.wabconline.com. Resumes may be sent to our e-mail address wabc@charter.net or mailed to Washington Avenue Baptist Church, 1621 N. Washington Avenue, Cookeville, TN 38501, Attention Youth and Children's Search Committee.

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.

Friendship Baptist Church of Friendship, Tenn., seeking bivocational music/youth minister. Housing and utilities provided with base salary. 35 minutes from Union University. Please e-mail resume to wforop@bellsouth.net or mail to Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 68, Friendship, TN 38034. Website, www.ourchurch.com/member/f/friendshipTN.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

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.

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"Go Light Your World" is the theme for the 2006 Singles Labor Day Weekend retreat at Ridgecrest Conference Center. For more information call 1-800-588-7222 or visit www.life-way.com/singleslaborday.

APOLOGETIC EVANGELISM WORKSHOP, ISLAM

There will be an Apologetic Evangelism Workshop held at the Wilson County Baptist Association on Saturday August 12, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The topic of this workshop will focus on "THE TRUTH ABOUT ISLAM, A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE." This workshop will be led by Robert Ndonga, Apologetic Associate, North American Mission Board, SBC. There is a \$15.00 registration fee for this workshop. The deadline for registration is August 8, 2006. Materials will be provided during the workshop as well as breaks and lunch on Saturday. Those who attend all the sessions and complete the assignments, will be certified by the North American Mission Board to lead awareness conferences in local churches. To register, please contact the Wilson County Association at 615-444-8820. Information on this workshop can also be found on the TBC website at www.tnabaptist.org/events.



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trends

the church in 2011 — catching the age wave

Thom S. Rainer

When I see the number 2011, I think of some distant future that is too far away to generate much concern. But 2011 is less than five years away, and significant demographic trends are taking place. These trends are profound, but I fear that the American church is not ready or even aware of the changing landscape.

Nearly one-third of all Americans living today were born between 1946 and 1964. This baby boom is sandwiched between the small generations of the Depression and the Vietnam eras. The boomer generation has repeatedly shaped much of American life, including church life. Concurrent with the aging of the baby boomers is a longevity boom. In 1900, life expectancy was 47 years. By 2011 the life expectancy of adults will approach 80 years. Huge and long-living older generation will be residing in our communities. How will the church respond?

In just five short years, the oldest boomer will be 65 years old, and the midpoint boomer will be 56. These are your typical mature adults, and churches that respond as they always have will miss a great evangelistic opportunity.

What are some emerging thoughts and facts about this generation? Look at the following pertinent issues:

- Two-thirds of the 76 million boomers are church members, which means they attend church no more than twice a year.

- Early research indicates that many of these boomers are becoming profoundly nostalgic. Among the unchurched boomers, we found that a significant number would return to church if it resembled the church of their childhood.

- Typically, gospel receptivity wanes as a person ages. But the boomers may defy this trend. Indeed, early indicators tell us that gospel receptivity may actually be on the rise among the members of this huge generation.

- The senior boomers will have the largest accumulated wealth of any group in America's history.

- This age wave will include tens of millions of men and women who want to make a difference in their older years. They have pursued many paths to happiness, and unchurched boomers tell us that none have proved satisfactory.

- These older adults will respond poorly to most forms of senior adult ministries in churches today. They will move away from churches that focus on travel and entertainment as the primary "ministries" to senior adults.

The age wave adults will desire more than an occasional mission trip as a means to make a difference. They want to invest themselves in something that is meaningful and longer-term.

These new senior adults will not perceive themselves as older adults, and any organization that communicates to them that they are old will quickly lose the allegiance of this generation.

The age wave generation is increasingly desirous of hearing deep biblical truths, even among the unchurched boomers.

In my travels to churches and in my discussions with church leaders, I often ask what their churches are doing to prepare for this age wave, especially since the impact will be felt in as few as five years. Most leaders admit they have not even thought about the issue, much less strategically planned to reach this older generation.

We estimate that this older generation could shape the future of the nation and the world for the next 25 to 30 years. Most secular groups are giving serious thought and expending millions of dollars to reach a new type of senior adult. But it seems that the American church is one of the least prepared for this age wave of any of the organizations today.

Most cutting-edge ministries in the church for the past 50 years have been aimed at reaching the younger generation. Indeed, churches should continue to reach young people with the gospel. But few churches have given serious thought or resources to reaching older generations. If something does not change in our churches, this age wave will pass by with millions never connecting with the church or responding to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is your church doing to prepare to catch the age wave? The answer to that question may very well impact the eternity of millions of aging boomer Americans. □ — Thom S. Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

I will remain loyal to God

By Matt Cannon

Focal Passage: Exodus 15:22-26; 16:2-4, 31-35

Loyalty is a quality that is in limited supply. People seem to have no qualms about changing spouses, job, churches, and just about anything else that people used to remain loyal to. Not only do many people change these things in their lives, but also the reasons can often be quite trivial and shortsighted.

It is possible that the reason so many people fail to persevere is that they tend to waiver in their loyalty to God. One of the reasons for going astray is that we do not respond in the right manner to the tests that we face in life. We must come to the realization that the tests that we face can and will transform us more and more into the likeness of Christ.

Exodus 15:22-26: The Children of Israel were in dire need to grow in their faith in God. This is not different than the situation that the Church is in today. We claim to place our trust in God and His promises, however we tend to shrink back when faced with the challenges of life.

The best way to grow in our faith is to face tests that force us to rely on God for help. When the Israelites went into the wilderness, it wasn't long before they were in need of something to drink. Surely they thought that their prayers had been answered when they saw the waters of Marah. That was until they tasted the bitter waters and grumbled to Moses about it.

What's life all about?

By Randall Adkisson

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22

The more that changes.

Philosophers have pondered the meaning of life since the dawn of mankind: "Why are we here? What is life's meaning?" Each generation is convinced that it is different from those preceding and its experiences unique. So we continue — each generation after the next — to search in our own experience for "the" meaning of life.

Yet, the unchanging mantra, "Mom, you just don't get it," passed down from one daughter to the next is itself proof that the perceived differences of the generations are not different at all.

Today, men and women struggle with the same emotions, patterns of behavior, questions, and dilemmas as the generations before. We convince ourselves that advances in technology mean real advances in humanity. But the news of wars, family upheaval, interpersonal triumphs and pains, reveal the same patterns that we witness in scripture recorded thousands of years ago.

"Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!" pens Solomon in Ecclesiastes. He is no nihilistic pessimist, but an experienced realist. He is not writing that life is worthless, but that life's experiences are common to all and that we can learn (should learn) genuine truth and wisdom from the experience of others, rather than facing tragic conse-

We often feel distraught when we do not get what we want and when our hopes are bitterly dashed. Instead of grumbling, we should do what the Israelites did next: they cried out to God. When they did this, God showed Moses a tree that Moses then threw into the water and made it drinkable.

No matter what we face, we should strive to consider what God is trying to show us about Himself. If we do this, we may find out what the Israelites did: that our Lord is "the Lord who heals."

Exodus 16:2-4: True, honest loyalty is only seen when things go wrong. There are sports fans that jump on a certain team's bandwagon because they win and then jump back off once the losses start piling up.

This phenomenon is also seen in the lives of the people professing to follow God. The Israelites had experienced God's provision and protection, but complained once again as they faced the prospect of going hungry. They longed to go back to Egypt where they had all the food that they needed.

We must embrace the truth that God is willing and able to greatly provide for those who put their trust in Him. God awesomely provided for the Israelites by giving them their "daily bread." The God that was at work then has not changed. He still cares and responds to our needs.

Even as He was providing for them, He also gave instruction on how to gather the food to see if they would trust Him. Trusting God is

quences ourselves.

Solomon was the richest king of Israel's history. Inheriting the international peace, Solomon had leisure, wealth, and prestige. Heralded for his wisdom and wealth, others came from across the globe to sit in his presence and bask in his knowledge.

Yet, he found emptiness instead of pleasure. Wealth and education did not bring satisfaction. They became burdens to his soul. The more he knew, the more he knew he did not know. "For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" (1:18).

Today, wealth, education, popularity and fame are desired just as they were by Solomon. Still, we read of the rich, the famous, the educated, and the popular losing their families, their wealth, and their sanity.

Pleasures of the flesh, the mind, and the eye will not satisfy the soul. Solomon had the leisure and resources to experience them all. He writes to warn us away from his failures.

The wise do not learn from their own mistakes. The truly wise learn from the mistakes of others!

Simple pleasures. Having tried everything assumed to bring pleasure and dull pain, Solomon reflected upon his experiences (1:10). He writes, "So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly" (2:12). What did he conclude?

Satisfaction is found in the simple daily pleasure of living and

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series July 23

not an every-now-and-then proposition. It is a constant affair as we daily walk with our Master.

Exodus 16:31-35: The bread that the Israelites were blessed with became known as manna. This manna was given to them in response to a test that they faced. God commanded Moses to keep two quarts of it as a testimony so that they would remember that they follow a God who provides.

There are many people who try to forget the hard times that they have faced. Some will even go so far as to totally destroy all evidence of a bad life situation. However, if we are able to remember these times and the way that God brought us through, we would have greater faith in trusting Him to provide now.

Not only can we be encouraged by our own experiences, but we can also be encouraged by the experiences of others.

We need to make sure that we communicate our testimonies to those who are going through the same trials that we have faced. All Christians should be on the same team, working toward the same goal. Our ways are made much easier as we encourage each other and learn from each other. □ — Cannon is bivocational pastor, Cardiff Baptist Church, Rockwood.

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible July 23

serving the Lord. "There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This is the hand of God" (2:24).

Do not mistake this statement for the disastrous "eat, drink, and be merry" philosophy. Instead, Solomon is pleading for us to find the simple blessings of a daily life lived unto God. Paul would write, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve" (Colossians 3:23-24).

Wiser Than Solomon. Solomon gained wisdom from experience: good and bad. Believers can be wiser still. Solomon knew little of eternity, and little or nothing of God's written revelation. Though he recognized that God had put eternity into our hearts, he had no real knowledge or assurance of eternal life (3:11 & 21).

In Christ, we know of eternity and the entrance to eternal life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me" (John 14:6).

Indeed, those who know Jesus and study His word can be wiser than Solomon. □ — Adkisson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville.

Leaders

◆ Sharon Baptist Church, Knoxville, honored its pastor and his wife, **James E. and Judy Robertson**, with a retirement recognition for 35 years of service at the church July 16 during the morning worship service. The recognition continued into the afternoon with speakers followed by a reception in the ministry center.

◆ Springdale Missionary Baptist Church, Kingsport, will celebrate 20 years of service of their pastor, **Al Buckles**. Buckles and his wife, Deborah, have served the church since 1986.

◆ First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, has called **Naomi Brown** as family life minister, effective June 12. Prior to coming to Oak Ridge she was ministry intern for a church in Decatur, Ga. Brown is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Mercer University where she earned a master of divinity degree.



BROWN

Churches

◆ Mt. Tirzah Baptist Church, Newbern, will hold revival services July 30 - Aug. 4. Charles Halliburton, pastor of Finley Baptist Church, Finley, for over 20 years, will speak. Musicians from Mt. Tirzah Church and other local musicians will provide the music. For

information, call (731) 627-3763.

◆ **Hulen Baptist Church, Erwin**, recently held a note burning on its new family life center to celebrate that they are debt free after paying off the loan in five years.

◆ **Central Baptist Church, Oak Ridge**, will hold revival services July 29-31. The speaker will be Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis.

◆ **Broadmoor Baptist Church, Nashville**, will send a rebuild team July 23-29 to help hurricane victims in the areas near Robinson Road Baptist Church, Gulfport, Miss. This disaster relief response is being conducted through five Baptist associations of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

◆ **Maple Springs Baptist Church, Medon**, will hold a Mission Fest July 29 from 4-7 p.m. Visiting missionaries are Clara Williams, Paul Routon and Randy Poole. Gospel music, food, and activities also will be offered. For more information, contact the church at (731) 936-7033.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Cookeville**, will host "Men the Church Leader" training Aug. 12. Conferences will cover Baptist Men, Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, and special interests. Conferences also will be offered for all phases of Woman's Missionary Union work including age groups.

Associations

◆ **Sweetwater Baptist Association, Madisonville**,



presents Josh Bates in concert July 21 at the Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga. For information, visit sweetwaterbaptistassociation.com.

◆ **Royal Ambassador University** will be held Aug. 11-12 at Camp Cordova Retreat and Conference Center, Cordova. RA University is an overnight leadership training for RA leadership. It is hosted by the Mid-South RAs of the Mid-South Baptist Association, Cordova. For information or to register on-line contact rau@midsouthras.org or call Mike Freeman, Mid-South RA

director/lead trainer, at (901) 849-0867.

◆ **Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, Harrogate**, is sending a team of 14 to the

Ukraine Aug. 21-31. The gelism and strength churches team will be led by Clayton Dunsmore, director of missions of the association.

A TOTAL OF 425 STUDENTS participated in one of two weeks of mission work in Letcher County, Ky., led by Chilhowee Baptist Association, Maryville, and Mission of Hope, Knoxville. The students were from 20 different churches. They led day camps, a block party, did home repair, garbage pick-up, nursing home visits, adult daycare, storm clean up, and other projects. The camps drew 80 children and teenagers. The block party drew 300 residents to the town center. As a result, at least 10 people made professions of faith, reported Rogers, associate pastor to students.

Baptist Church in Alcoa. This is the fourth year of this effort. **IN PHOTO ABOVE**, students stand on a porch they built for a resident. **IN PHOTO BELOW**, some of the 200 students participating in a week of ministry.



MEMBERS OF Pleasant View Baptist Church, Talbott, served 18-23 in D'Iberville, Miss., along with members of Rocky Point Baptist Church, Russellville, to help hurricane victims. The Tennesseans worked with LeMoyne Boulevard Baptist Church, D'Iberville, leading a Vacation Bible School, renovating five trailers and distributing care packages to people in FEMA trailers. Members of Pleasant View pictured are, from left, Troy Roach; Conard; Larry Parrott, pastor; Allen Maples; Lisa Marcum; E. Nick, pastor, LeMoyne Boulevard Church; Morgan Cupp; Mike Cupp; Braden Cupp; and Rodney Kinder.



MEMBERS OF Alpha Baptist Church, Morristown, worked on the damaged roof of a resident of Slidell, La. They are, Carolyn Steele, Joe Southern, Andrew Odom, and Jeff H. ladder). The Tennesseans were part of a 10-member team that helped a 63-year-old widow who lived in the damaged home was living in a FEMA trailer. The church was assisted by the Nolachucky Baptist Association in paying for the materials. The widow had no insurance and very little FEMA money. Only requested \$8,000 to replace the roof.



Baptist and Reflector Day Sunday, Aug. 20

Your church is invited to join hundreds of other churches across the Tennessee Baptist Convention in observing Sunday, Aug. 20, as *Baptist and Reflector Day*.

Inform friends and family about the *Baptist and Reflector* as the staff "tells the story of Tennessee Baptists." The *B&R* brings you news, features, inspirational columns, editorials, Sunday School commentaries, and more each week.

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