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Baptist & Reflector

ntewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 27; July 26, 2006

Baptist workers safe in Middle East; all for prayer

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — International Mission Board personnel in the Middle East urged Southern Baptists to pray for peace in Lebanon, Israel, and the entire region as it plunges closer to full-scale warfare.

"We're not here to take sides," said John Brady, who leads Southern Baptist work in Northern Africa and the Middle East. "Our tasks are to pray and minister in the name of Jesus Christ, so one day the people of these troubled lands will know the Prince of Peace."

Currently, all Southern Baptist workers in the region are accounted for and safe, he said.

Cross-border attacks continue to escalate between Israel and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. Israeli warplanes have launched numerous attacks on Lebanon's eastern and northern areas. Hezbollah has fired more than 1,000 rockets into northern Israel. Meanwhile, Israeli forces continue to battle Hamas-led Palestinian fighters in Gaza on Israel's southwestern coast.

The news gets worse each day as conflict deepens," Brady said. "We're asking Southern Baptists to take a moment to pray after each news update. Please pray for the people of this region ... Each bit of news should be a nudge to a personal prayer."

Southern Baptists have a long-standing relationship with Baptists in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East. Workers in the region are called for prayer for the safety and evangelizing ministry of Lebanese Baptists and other believers affected by fighting in the region.

"We've had personnel in this part of the world for a long time," Brady said. "No one ever gets used to the violence here, but we have learned to be wise and be careful about where we go and what we do each day. Our folks are praying and staying in close contact with regional leaders," Brady said of Southern Baptist workers in the region.

These are difficult days. Yet our presence here, to quote the Apostle Paul, is to be a fragrance of life. In this part of the world where death is such a constant thing, the fragrance of life in Christ is essential to bringing hope to these nations. Please pray that this fragrance will be real in all lives and many will be drawn to the Prince of Peace." □

Special Friends Camp

Camp draws friends year after year

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — Special Friends Camp draws campers and counselors back year

after year. It is an unusual blessing, reported counselors and leaders attending the camp at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center here last week.

This year about 250 campers and 75

staff members attended that camp and the Special Friends Camp held this week at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden, reported Mark Anderson of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Brentwood. He oversees the camps which are for people with physical problems including mental challenges.

The campers return year after year because it helps their families, said Anderson. Each year he meets parents who are leaving a child for the first time, he noted. For many, it is stressful to leave a child at camp, but when it is over, they are glad they did.

The campers range in age from their teens to their 70s. They come from homes and institutions. Every person who has a disability is accepted if facilities and staff are available, said Anderson.

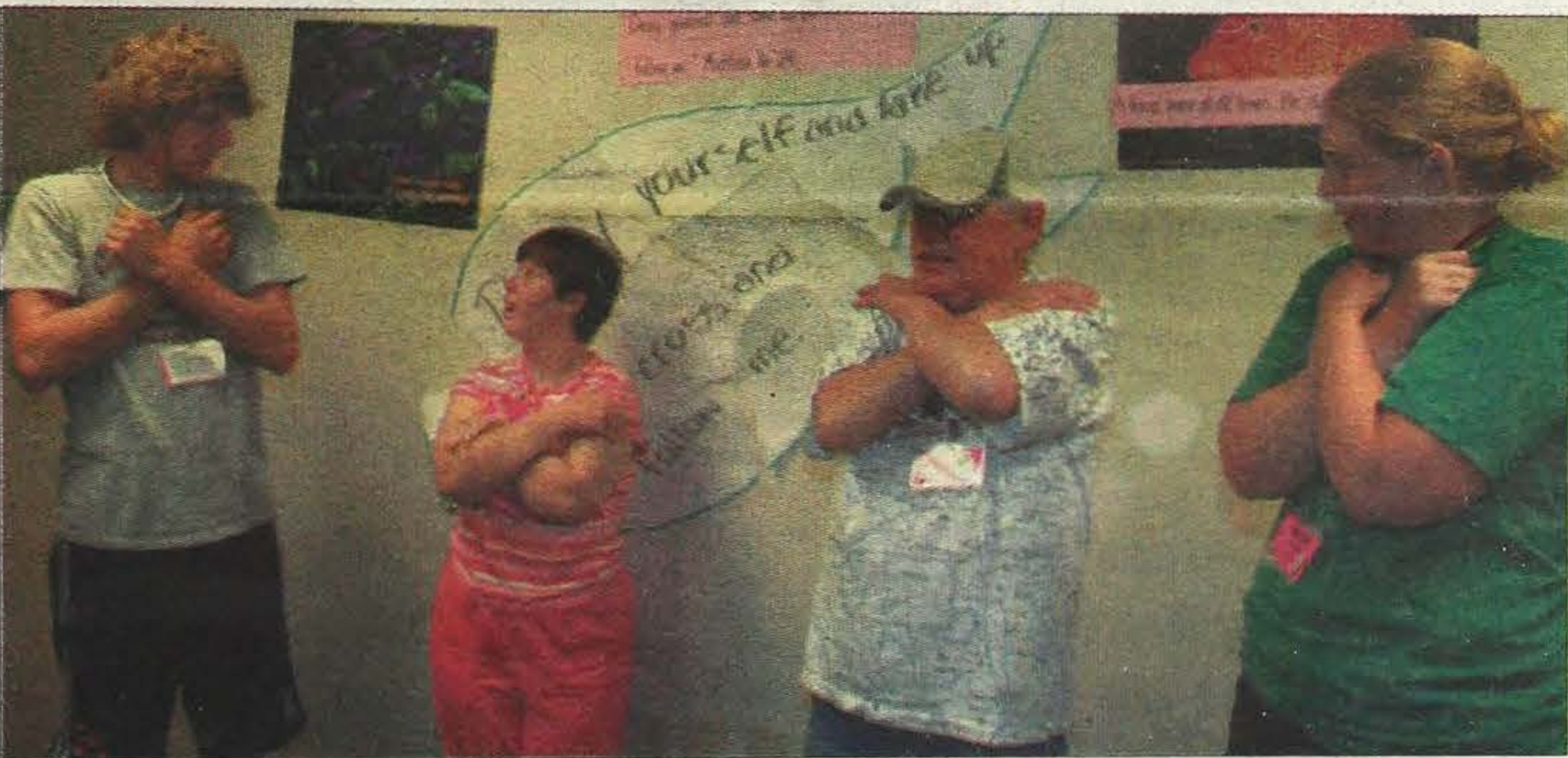
Amazingly, with the exception of a few wheelchair-bound campers, enough staff has always been available to accept all applicants for camp.

He and Joy Schleifer, director of the camps, know why. The campers make the difference. They are so full of happiness and joy, workers said. The campers often tell others at camp they love them several times a day. Hugs are very common here.

Campers are also amazing, said leaders. Despite their limitations, they constantly — See Camp, page 4



ENJOYING AN
ACTIVITY with a
parachute during
recreation
time is Gail
Kennedy. —
Photos by Connie
Davis
Bushey



SINGING A SONG WITH motions during small group Bible study are, from left, Zach Woods, counselor of Crieveview Baptist Church, Nashville; Brittany Begley, camper; Carl Sands, camper; and Kristen Wilkerson, counselor of Westwood Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

Says LifeWay president

SS is alive and well, but needs wakeup call

By Andrea Higgins
Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Sunday School is alive and well. It just needs a wakeup call, LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom S. Rainer said.

"God is not done with Sunday School," Rainer told attendees at the 2006 Sunday School conference at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C. "The rumors of its death are greatly exaggerated," he quipped.

"It's not that Sunday School is not working — it's that most churches are not working Sunday School,"

Rainer said, citing research he has led which found that Sunday School is the number one outreach and evangelism tool and the most effective assimilation arm of the church.

Rainer, quoting from Zechariah, said God's one instruction to the remnant that had returned to Jerusalem was to rebuild the house of God.

"This text speaks to us today because, quite frankly, across America, it's time to rebuild the house of God," Rainer said.

"Do you know that over half of Southern Baptist pastors have not talked to anyone about Jesus in the last

six months ... that the majority of Southern Baptists will go to glory without ever having shared their faith one time?" Rainer asked. "Across America it takes 86 Christians a year to reach one person for Christ ... and 94 percent of churches are reaching less than their community is growing. In other words they're losing ground."

"Sunday School began to grow across America when God's people began to be burdened about lost people and began inviting people to Sunday School," Rainer said. "It's easy to play church instead of having a passion for those who are out there."

The June 30-July 3 "Sun-

day School in 3-D" conference underscored a three-dimensional approach of "Invite, Discover, Connect" — three crucial aspects of the Sunday School mission outlined by LifeWay's director of Sunday School, David Francis.

"It's about helping church members as well as leaders ... understand their class can be a safe place to come and discover Bible truths, share faith stories, and connect," Francis said.

Although Sunday School numbers hit a plateau over the past 10 years, Francis said the Sunday School movement is being rediscovered across all denominations. □

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Harrison church hosts anniversary celebration

Baptist and Reflector

HARRISON — Bayside Baptist Church here will host a Tennessee Baptist Convention 25th anniversary partnership missions celebration Saturday, Aug. 5, here from 6:30-8 p.m.

Featured speakers include Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The celebration includes recognition of partnership volunteers, missionaries, parade of flags, videos, a missions neighborhood, exhibits on partnerships, and other activities. In addition, TBC staff member Willie McLaurin's report on his recent mission trip to Burkina Faso will be highlighted. Following the celebration, all participants are invited to a reception in the multi-purpose building.

For more information on the celebration, contact TBC staff member Kim Margrave at (800) 558-2090 or e-mail her at kmargrave@tnbaptist.org. □



PORCH



RANKIN

IMB trustees elect new vp; honor emeritus workers

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Trustees of the International Mission Board unanimously elected a vice president for mobilization, learned projects aiding victims of the 2004 South Asia tsunami will be completed within 12 months, and heard appeals from leaders for Southern Baptists to ramp up efforts to spread the gospel around the world.

The IMB also honored 54 retiring Southern Baptist missionaries July 16 in its annual emeritus recognition service as part of the trustee meeting, held July 16-19, at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

In board action, trustees unanimously approved the selection of Ken Winter as vice president of the Office of Mobilization. In his new role, Winter will provide vision and leadership to the IMB in communicating with and mobilizing Southern Baptists and partners to be strategically involved in overseas missions. Wendy Norvelle,

mobilization's associate vice president, served as interim vice president during the 18-month period since Larry Cox resigned in January 2005 to become director of WinShape International in Rome, Ga.

Winter served on the staff of First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., for nearly 12 years, 1992-2003, before resigning following a missions trip to Cuba.

In early 2004, he joined the IMB staff as director and lead strategist for work among strategically mobilized Southern Baptist churches. In that assignment, he worked directly with churches to help them find their role in overseas missions. In November 2005, he was tapped to work with IMB president Jerry Rankin as his executive assistant.

Trustees learned that of the \$16.8 million Southern Baptists have given to relief efforts in southern Asia following the December 2004 tsunami, more than \$12 million has been used in relief projects in that region. The remainder of those funds would be expended over the next 12 months, according to an IMB official.

The IMB held its annual emeritus recognition service July 16, honoring 54 retiring Southern Baptist missionaries — many of whom spent 30 years or more on the mission field — for their commitment to spreading the gospel. Together, their combined experience totals 1,476 years of service.

"This is a very elite group," Rankin told the audience, pointing out many others with the same call and passion for missions would like to have served until retirement but were unable to do so. "We may make the presumption that you made it all the way to retirement because you had it easier than they did — no, that would be a misperception.

"I suspect you're here because you learned a long time ago that the key to victory is praising the Lord and thanking Him. Yes, you've experienced hardship and adversity," he added.

In other matters, board chairman John Floyd announced in the plenary session July 18 that he would "take no part in discussions, express no opinions, make no requests, and relinquish the chair" during board action on policies that may impact financial benefits he and his wife may receive from the IMB. The Floyds served as missionaries in the Philippines, and later he directed the board's work in Europe.

Floyd said the benefits he and his wife currently receive from the IMB in their "emeritus" missionary status include a \$10,000 life insurance policy and a \$127 monthly cash allowance each to help cover health insurance costs not covered by Medicare.

He said the IMB's legal counsel confirmed that receipt of

those benefits does not disqualify a former missionary, who receives benefits on the basis of prior service, from serving as a trustee under SBC Bylaw 15(f). Some press reports raised that conflict-of-interest issue after Floyd was elected chairman during the May meeting in Albuquerque, N.M.

In a report from the Mission Personnel Committee, chairman Paul Chitwood reported an ad hoc committee charged with revisiting the new policy on private prayer language and baptism guidelines had been divided into two subcommittees to deal with each of the measures approved by trustees last November.

Chitwood said the two subcommittees will come together after their studies and will formulate a report for the personnel committee. He said IMB staff from the Office of Missions Personnel, as well as Rankin, will be involved in the process to provide input to both subcommittees. □

Baptist volunteers flee from Beirut

Baptist Press

LARNACA, Cyprus — After being trapped for more than a week in Beirut as Israeli-Hezbollah fighting raged, 19 tired and relieved Southern Baptist volunteers arrived in Cyprus from Lebanon early July 21 aboard the Navy transport USS Nashville.

The volunteers from two churches in Georgia and Texas were transported by bus with hundreds of other U.S. evacuees from the Cypriot port of Larnaca to Nicosia, where U.S. embassy officials have set up a receiving area equipped with cots, food, and beverages in a city convention center. From there, the volunteers were expected to board one of the charter flights U.S. officials have arranged to take Americans exiting Lebanon home to the United States.

The two volunteer groups include 10 members from First Baptist Church of Forney, Texas, and nine from Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in Henry County, Ga. They had been participating in various summer ministries with Lebanese Baptists through churches in Beirut when cross-border bombing and rocket attacks broke out between Hezbollah guerrillas based in southern Lebanon and Israeli forces.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers are providing assistance to the volunteers in Cyprus. They are scheduled to leave Cyprus for Baltimore and several other U.S. cities. Once back in the United States, the Forney group will fly on to Dallas/Fort Worth. The Eagle's Landing volunteers will fly to Atlanta.

John Brady, IMB regional leader for Northern Africa and

the Middle East, met with volunteers after they arrived in Nicosia, Cyprus.

"They were elated to be in Lebanon and praising the Lord for His protection," Brady said. "They also had some very words about how the Lebanese brothers and sisters helped them every step of the way, as well as the way the government responded to Americans."

"They're heartbroken for the people in the Middle East, they're praying God will end this tragic situation soon."

SBTS professor witnesses rocket attack in Israel

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Dr. Betts went to Israel searching for ancient artifacts. Little did he know what he would find.

Betts was part of an archaeological team that had to be evacuated from Tel Hazor, Israel, the morning of July 13 during a Lebanese Hezbollah rocket attack on the region.

Betts, assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, said he was standing on top of a hill when he saw one of the rockets explode. "It was really bizarre. I was so close we could hear the explosion around us," he said. "All the cities are built on hills. I could see for miles. I was on a hill and I saw a huge explosion. At first, the Israelis were with us said, 'Oh, that's just an artillery practice.' They want us to know that it's not an attack. But the smoke was so thick it was like a 10-story building long after that, they said we need to evacuate you."

Betts and his group moved to Tiberias, a resort on the Sea of Galilee, where he saw news of the attack for the first time.

"The Israelis didn't panic because they didn't expect it," Betts said. "I saw the news in Tiberias and saw that the attacks had been around where we were."

"To be honest, it is hard to describe. It was so different from anything I had experienced before. I can honestly say the whole group that no one was frightened until we saw the news. Then we realized we had been in a somewhat dangerous situation and had realized it."

"I had never seen anything except for fun. Having experienced anything like this, my reaction was 'Wow, look at that.' It didn't hit me until later how serious the situation was."

Betts was part of a team led by Amnon Ben-tor, a renowned archaeologist at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Where they served for 38 years

Retired missionaries go with family, friends to Paraguay

Marcia Knox
Artist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Why would a retired missionary family return to medical mission trips to a country where they served? "We went back to Paraguay as a mission trip for the same reason we went there in the first place," said Bill Skinner, an International Mission Board emeritus missionary who along with his wife Frances, their children, in-laws, and four grandchildren recently participated in a 4-member medical volunteer mission. They served June 21-July



WESLEY SKINNER, left, of Paducah, Ky., and his grandmother **Frances Skinner** of Nashville witness to children during a medical clinic at a Maka Indian village in Paraguay.

A lot of people in Paraguay not have medical attention, they didn't know the Lord. Now that we are both over 70 we find that medical missions of 10 days are about all we can take," said Frances Skinner, an IMB emeritus missionary who along with her husband members of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville. "We go, work hard, and then come without the emotional excitement of returning to see results."

Medical clinics are routine for the Skinners, who served for 38 years in Paraguay from 1951-1989. He was a family practice physician and she was a church and home missionary in Asunción, Paraguay. This was their second family mission trip to Asunción where they served medical clinics and also in a Maka Indian village. Joining the Skinners on this mission trip were: their pediatric daughter and her general practice physician husband from Millington, Janice Bill Algea, who are members of Crosspointe Baptist Church, Millington; and their youngest son and his wife, and Laura Skinner, and

four of their five musical grandchildren — Michelle, Nathan, Wesley, and Carey Frances, all of Paducah, Ky.

The children are gifted string instrumentalists who have played in symphonies and formed string ensembles.

Besides the Skinner clan, also included in the team were other medical volunteers from Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma, Connecticut, and Maine. At least 16 volunteers were from Tennessee who represented seven churches including West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson; Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory; Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville; Grassland Baptist Church, Franklin; and Westwood Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

The large medical team was led by Al Hethcock of Arlington, Texas, who is executive director of the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation. The foundation raises money for the medical center in Asunción, which in addition to being a hospital is also a college nursing school.

"There are seven doctors to every one nurse in Paraguay so more nurses are needed," said

Bill Skinner. The mission team held community clinics at the hospital for the underprivileged. They also held clinics in area churches including Villa Mora Baptist Church in Asunción and also in villages surrounding Asunción within 100 miles.

"We were able to work with pastors, churches, and interpreters in Paraguay, which resulted in treating over 4,500 patients and seeing 475 decisions for Christ," said Bill. "We also witnessed to the medical professionals and veterinary doctors in Paraguay."

"Our grandchildren wanted to go with us," said Frances. "Everyone who volunteered including the teenage grandchildren were required to write out their testimonies to give to the people in English and Spanish."

In addition to serving in triage and the eye clinics, the grandchildren played their instruments and entertained with concerts while 600 people waited in line outside the Baptist Medical Center in Asunción. They performed musical pieces ranging from classical, religious, to South American styles, their grandmother noted.



BILL SKINNER, left, retired physician and missionary talks with a patient at a clinic in Asunción, Paraguay.

"I am thankful for the privilege to have had another opportunity to return to my childhood home in Paraguay to help minister physically and spiritually along with my husband to many needy Paraguayan people," said Janice Algea.

She observed that the outreach clinics were well organized and coordinated by the Baptist Medical Center staff, the churches in Asunción, and the foundation.

"The hospital there and staff need our continued monetary and prayer support." The Baptist Medical Center "continues as a beacon of light and hope in a dark world for over 55 years," she said.

The Skinners enjoy returning on family medical mission trips to the area where they lived and served the Lord, and where their four children were raised.

They have a passion for the hospital where Bill worked for years as a physician and Frances worked as a dietitian and in other capacities.

On their most recent flight to Paraguay and also on their return trip home to the United States, the Nashville Skinners witnessed to individuals who sat next to them on planes since they were unable to sit together.



THE SKINNERS

As a result, two people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Frances witnessed to a native of Paraguay who was traveling from New York back home. He had visited a Baptist church as a child with his Christian mother, but he had left the church as a teenager. He accepted Christ as Savior on the plane, and later called his mother to rejoice.

Bill shared Christ with a professor of veterinary medicine from the college in Paraguay on her way to a seminar in China. She accepted Christ on the plane and Skinner referred her to a church in San Lorenzo, Paraguay, near the veterinary college.

When they are at home in Nashville, the Skinners continue their mission work by serving as volunteers at their church and at local medical clinics. □

2006 Pastors Retreat to be held Aug. 7-10 at Carson Springs

Artist and Reflector

REPORT — The 2006 Pastors Retreat will be held Aug. 7-10 at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center here. The theme of the retreat will be "Staying the Course." Ministry can at times be difficult, said Larry Gilmore, evangelism director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. This retreat provides pastors and other ministers opportunities for spiritual and physical renewal and interaction with one another to discuss potential challenges that are making a difference in their churches," he noted.

Speakers and topics include: Don D. Hensley, pastor, Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Bluff City, and president of the Pastors Conference; "Staying the Course as a Pastor," James Stephens, senior pas-



HENSLEY



JACKSON



MC LAURIN



NEWCOMB



NICHOLS



PEACOCK



PIERSON



PORCH

tor, Faith Promise Church, Knoxville, "Staying the Course in a Changing Culture;" Ray Newcomb, pastor, First Baptist Church, Millington, "Staying the Course as a Soul-Winning Pastor;" Sid Nichols, director of missions, Calhoun Baptist Association, Anniston, Ala., "Staying the Course in My Home" and "Staying the Course in My Preaching;"

Don Pierson, TBC prayer strategist, "Staying the Course in Personal Holiness;" James Porch, TBC executive director,

"Staying the Course When Your Heart is Broken;" Willie McLaurin, TBC leadership development strategist, "Staying the Course as a Leader;" Benny Jackson, evangelist, Germantown, "Staying the Course in Preparing for Revival;" and Kevin Peacock, professor, Canadian Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Cochrane, Alberta, Canada, "Staying the Course in a Secular Society" and "Staying the Course in Kingdom Relationships."

Music for the week will be

provided by Jim Murray, a music evangelist and formerly of the Imperials and the Gaither Vocal Band, and Terry Weeks.

Leighann McCoy of Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station, will lead sessions for ministers' wives.



STEPHENS



MURRAY, WEEKS



MC COY

For more information on the meeting, call the evangelism office at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 2058. For lodging reservations, contact Susan Mason at Carson Springs at 1-877-704-6336. □

Camp draws friends year after ...

— Continued from page 1

surprise their leaders. Some campers have savant gifts for music or memorizing numbers. Many have deep spiritual lives, counselors reported. They like to sing Christian songs as they walk together at camp, said



ANDERSON

Frankie Beech, counselor from Stonebrook Church, Murfreesboro. Some also sing solos at camp talent events. One young woman who sang a solo sang "straight to Jesus, straight from the heart," he described.

Beech, a high school senior who is serving his second year as a counselor, said he learned that some of the campers don't have the best situations with their caretakers. So when he sees those campers smiling he is so blessed. He said he is glad to "help them make the most out of their life and have fun. It's amazing."

Larry Williams, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga., has served at the camp for about 15 years. His wife, Linda, has served many years too. Williams, former pastor, Ooltewah Baptist Church, Ooltewah, said he and Linda



HENRY HENDERSON, left, of Newport who has attended Special Friends Camp for 19 years, stands with his counselor, Charlie Freeman of Stonebrook Church, Murfreesboro.

didn't serve a couple of years but missed it so much they returned though they had left the state. They are not the only Georgians to participate. Campers and counselors from Georgia were a part of the Newport camp.

Joy Schleifer, camp director, has served at the camp for about 20 years. A member of First Baptist Church, Donelson, Schleifer is house manager of the TBAH Brooks Home in Hermitage for ladies who have special needs.



LARRY WILLIAMS, center, camp pastor from Savannah, Ga., and Joy Schleifer, camp director of First Baptist Church, Donelson, visit with Artie Blount, a camper, at mealtime.



LAUREN FLANDERS, center, counselor of Crieewood Baptist Church, Nashville, helps campers decorate a satchel during craft time.

She said most leaders of Special Friends Camp develop "a passion" for the ministry. She is especially proud of the young people who serve as counselors of the camp. They have the opportunity to practice parenthood, said Schleifer, because they are in charge of the campers in their group 24/7.

Anderson thanked Tennessee Baptists for funding the camps through the **Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions** which pays for much of the

camp expenses.

He reported the camp at Carson Springs has room for more campers so he hopes more will attend next year. The Linden Valley camp is at capacity at 142.

"I wouldn't take anything for my involvement in Special Friends Camp," said Anderson, adding his family also has been blessed by it. His son, Bryan, has served as a counselor for six years and met his fiancée, Lauren Flanders, at the camp. His daughter, Jenni, has served as a counselor for four years. Anderson hopes his youngest child, Kelli, will serve too. □



HEATHER SOTELO, counselor of Crieewood Baptist Church, Nashville, adjusts a visor on camper. Mull which Mull just decorated.



CAMPER PHILIP DAVIS, left, vocalizes as a way to express himself. Frankie Beech, counselor of Stonebrook Church, Murfreesboro, joins him.



THROWING FRISBEES at a netted goal are campers, Robert Barbee, Bud Bohanan, and Roy Pittman as Christian bell, counselor of Crieewood Baptist Church, Nashville, looks on.



CAMPERS AND THEIR counselors move from Bible study at Stokley Chapel to crafts, nature activities, recreation, and swimming.



NURSES WHO served at Carson Springs are, from left, Nancy Pilgrim Baptist Church, Maryville; Luella Mitchell, Notchey Creek Church, Madisonville; Joyce Duncan, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Madisonville; and Tina Wilkerson, Westwood Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. Mitchell has served four years, Duncan — three years, and Wilkerson two years. Mitchell and Wilkerson also served at Linden Valley.

Baptist debate over alcohol consumption continues

Editor's Note: In lieu of an editorial or column this week, I present the following article as food for thought. I invite our readers to share their opinions on this subject. A box on this page. — Lonnie Key

Hannah Elliott
Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS — Two prominent voices in the Southern Baptist Convention's debate over alcohol consumption have taken it to a new forum — a major secular newspaper.

On July 15, the *Dallas Morning News* ran an essay by Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, supporting a SBC resolution that urged total abstinence from alcohol. The paper also ran a rebuttal — opposing the resolution and supporting temperance — by Benjamin Cole, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas.

Cole told Associated Baptist Press July 18 he was pleased with the articles, although "the medium of newspapers" is not necessarily the ideal forum for "rigorous debate" needed when it comes to Baptists and alcohol.

That many Southern Baptists fail to understand how a notion of moderation and temperance falls securely under the umbrella of [a belief in biblical] inerrancy goes to show that inerrancy was never the goal at all in the conservative resurgence, or that those who articulated the inerrantist position never fully understood some of us would believe Cole said.

Cole was referring to the denomination's 25-year-old struggle between fundamentalists who asserted a belief in inerrancy, and moderates who argued for more liberty. The fundamentalists won, and now control the denomination's power and institutions.

Cole told ABP he believes the denomination's centers not on alcohol, but that the qualifications for ministerial service are ever tightened by the addition of doctrines and traditions that are irrelevant to the gospel of Jesus Christ, or, in some instances, contrary to our Baptist distinctives of freedom of conscience.

Furthermore, Akin wrote that Baptists should remember the "historical precedents for affirming abstinence." Southern Baptists issued their first resolution on alcohol in 1886 and have added 61 statements endorsing the wisdom of abstinence. Baptist forebears, Akin said, understood the "issue of Christian liberty" and established a solid tradition for modern-day Baptists.

"This is not legalism but love," he wrote. "This is not being anti-biblical but pro-brother and sister. This is not

Reader survey:

Should Christians abstain from alcohol?

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

A resolution passed by messengers at the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., has sparked debate over alcohol abstinence.

The article on this page presents opinions on both sides of the issue. As a way to involve our readership, I pose this question for your consideration.

"Should Christians abstain from alcohol?"

If you would like to respond to this reader survey, please answer this question either "yes" or "no." Then in 100 words or less, state your reason as to why you feel the way you do.

We will print as many responses as we can in a future issue. For the first time, on-line readers of the *Baptist and Reflector* will be able to respond via an e-mail on the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site: www.tnbaptist.org. Just go to this week's news and click on the story, "Baptist debate over alcohol consumption continues."

For those who do not have computer access, send your response to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024; or fax to (615) 371-2080.

Preference will be given to shorter, concise answers. Be sure to include your name, city, zip code, and phone number (phone numbers will not be published). □

indirectly attributed to alcohol; and (4) The use of alcohol can lead "down a path of addiction and toward the use of other kinds of drugs."

The document also maintained that "some religious leaders are now advocating the consumption of alcoholic beverages based on a misinterpretation of the doctrine of our freedom in Christ." Delegates approved the measure by a lopsided vote June 14, during the denomination's annual meeting.

In their essays, both Akin and Cole addressed the measure's key points and even acknowledged family members who died from alcohol-related health problems. The difference in their opinions, however, involved what caused that pain. For Akin, alcohol itself was to blame for his father- and mother-in-law's alcoholism. Cole, on the other hand, blamed "abuse" for his own father's liver disease and untimely death.

Akin, in his essay called "Baptists and drinking: Abstinence policy offers loving safeguard," said he would avoid alcohol entirely even if he wasn't a Christian — just because of the destruction it causes. For him, the potential for harm is not worth the risk of drinking.

"Some respond [to alcohol use] by saying the issue is not abstinence but moderation, arguing that the equivalent would be to abstain from eating and from marital sex to eliminate gluttony and sexual abuse," Akin wrote. "There is a significant difference. We must eat to live. We must engage in sex to procreate. Alcohol is not a necessity."

Furthermore, Akin wrote that Baptists should remember the "historical precedents for affirming abstinence." Southern Baptists issued their first resolution on alcohol in 1886 and have added 61 statements endorsing the wisdom of abstinence. Baptist forebears, Akin said, understood the "issue of Christian liberty" and established a solid tradition for modern-day Baptists.

"This is not legalism but love," he wrote. "This is not being anti-biblical but pro-brother and sister. This is not

working for evil but for good. Given the world in which we live, I believe such a lifestyle honors Jesus and is the wise thing to do."

Cole, on the other hand, disagreed with Akin's premise that alcohol is necessarily evil. His essay was titled "Baptists and drinking: Drunkenness, not alcohol, is the real problem."

"One is hard-pressed to understand how all the biblical patriarchs, the apostles and most major figures of biblical literature drank wine as a staple of their diet without suffering the concomitant brain damage alleged in the resolution," Cole wrote. "To blame the contents of a bottle for climbing divorce rates and highway deaths makes as much sense as blaming a bullet for a homicide."

Cole also went on to question "how many of the resolution's supporters are card-carrying members of the National Rifle Association and would cry foul at the slightest threat to the 'manufacturing, advertising, distributing, or using' of firearms, to follow the wording of the abstinence resolution."

Perhaps the most significant difference between Akin and Cole's respective arguments emerged in their interpretation of Scripture, since both men argued that Bible passages support their belief. As Cole told ABP July 17, "either the Bible is inerrant, or it isn't. Either the Scriptures teach that drinking is sin, or it doesn't. I really believe that this issue rests on whether Southern Baptists believe the Bible for what it actually says, or if they believe what their denominational heroes tell them it says."

Akin was not available for comment on this story, but in his essay, he used verses endorsing love and edification as proof to support his position.

"[Abstinence from alcohol] is consistent with the ethic of love for believers and unbelievers alike (1 Corinthians 8:13; 9:19-22; 10:32-33)," he wrote. "Because I am an example to others, I will make certain no one ever walks the road of sorrow because they saw me take a drink and assumed, 'If it is all

right for Danny Akin, it is all right for me.'"

Based on 1 Corinthians 6:12, Akin said, Christians should "refuse what enslaves."

"Alcohol is a drug that can impair the senses and has a potential addictive element. Like addictive pornography, it should be avoided at all cost," he wrote, noting later that joy should come from God and not alcohol, according to Ephesians 5:18.

For his part, Cole said Scripture supports his position, especially regarding blessings and freedom through salvation. He listed how, in the book of Numbers, God received wine offerings as "a soothing aroma." He also noted Deuteronomy 14 and Isaiah 55, which explicitly allowed God's people to spend money on "wine or strong drink."

"Not only do resolution supporters refuse to acknowledge the entire biblical teaching on the matter, they even read selectively from texts that they do cite," Cole wrote. "For instance, most arguments for teetotaling reference the Nazarite vow of the Old Testament or the example of John the Baptist in the New Testament as evidence that those who abstain from alcohol achieve a greater level of holiness. What is missing from their argument is that the Nazarite abstained from vinegar and raisins, too, and never cut his hair. Moreover, John the Baptist chose locusts as his dietary supplement. I have yet to find a teetotaler who wears a ponytail or prefers bugs and honey with his morning coffee." In the end, attitude determines a lot when trying to be wise with alcohol, according to Akin.

"A smug, prideful abstainer without Jesus is just as lost as the poor drunkard," he wrote. "Those who believe in abstinence should be gracious and humble, kind and caring, loving and patient."

Akin's essay was intended for print in Baptist Press. The *Dallas Morning News* reprinted it and requested a rebuttal from Cole, who had spoken against the resolution at the SBC meeting. □

helping churches



By Paul Clark Jr.

Lost worship

Recently in the midst of a web search I ended up on a web site presenting an article entitled "How to Plan a Worship Service." Downloadable pdf files included a "planning process, series outline, and a postcard" for promotion. Also viewable through the site were video clips of "senior management team (aka ministerial staff) brainstorming, art team brainstorming, sample teaser, stage design, and final product." Interested in what this all might look like I perused on. I opened the video clips of the planning process and began to watch.

After considerable discussion concerning usage of everything from the Brady Bunch to the Simpsons, the laptop laden "senior management team" decided upon the tv series "Lost" as their allegorical theme of choice. Later the art team took the not-so-heavy discussion from the first group and began to determine how to carry out the thematic thrust of the coming series by visual aids; video clips, scattered debris, and other means of experiencing some part of a crash, etc. — kind of an "artists gone wild" scenario.

Items missing from the conversation were things like "Scripture, faith community, spiritual disciplines, lament, fellowship, awe, wonder, God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit." In the captured segment there was no prayer, reading of Scripture, perusal through historic worship material or contemporary musical or poetic options for usage. There was no apparent wrestling with the theology of any passages, or brokenness over congregation members or others in the world who might be suffering.

The decided theme of the worship series was "Lost." My initial response was "how appropriate." My eventual response was "how very, very sad."

Working to facilitate worship in a way that will help worshipers relate to the truth of God is important for the worship planner. I am amazed at some of the creativity I see expressed through so many different gifts in churches of all stripes and colors. However, looking for "relevance" in the things that mesmerize people will lead us to a never-ending search for what's hot, and lead us to exercises in futility.

Helping worshipers open themselves up to the revelation of their Father, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer will end up with people changed by the most powerful thing in the world, the Gospel. Better to end up there than lost. □ — Clark is worship specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Church Health Matters

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

Missions Matters

This issue highlights healthy volunteer missions in the local church. 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 of missions.

Volunteer Missions

Kim Margrave.....(615) 371-2021

Volunteer Construction

David Acres.....(615) 371-7927

Women's Missions

Candy Phillips(615) 371-2039

Denise Bronaugh(615) 371-7920

Vickie Anderson(615) 371-7918

Men's Missions

Gene Williams(615) 371-2064

Children/Youth Missions

Andrea Knight -- Girl's missions(615) 371-7919

Frank Green -- Boy's missions(615) 371-2025

Preschool Missions

Andrea Knight(615) 371-7919

Cooperative Program Missions

Gary Rickman(615) 371-2020



Do Missions Contribute to a Healthy Church?

by Kim Margrave

What do missions mean to your church? What do missions look like in your church? How do missions contribute to the health of a church?

Missions mean different things to different churches, but we can all agree that missions are important to the health of the church.

Volunteer missions can affect every facet of church life. We pray for missions; give to missions, and go on missions. But it is what happens during the preparations, the missions trip itself, and the return home that transform churches. We fellowship with other believers, we discover and learn to share our gifts and talents, and we come home and see our communities as our mission field.

Tennessee Baptists have been involved in volunteer missions for over 25 years helping send volunteers to almost every continent on the globe and probably every state in the country.

Acts 1:8 says, "And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

What is your church's Acts 1:8 strategy? We can help you discover missions opportunities to meet your Acts 1:8 strategy and help with training team leaders as well as cross-cultural training.

The following accounts from churches testify how volunteer missions impact the health of your church.



Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

August 5	25th Anniversary Celebration of Partnership Missions, Bayside Baptist Church, Har
August 7	3D Sunday School Training, First Baptist Church, Portland
August 7-10	Pastor's Retreat, Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport
August 8	3D Sunday School Training, Caney Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Rogersville
August 8	3D Sunday School Training, First Baptist Church, Athens
August 10	3D Sunday School Training, Beech Park Baptist Church, Oliver Springs
August 12	Equipping Missions Leaders, First Baptist Church, Greenville
August 12	Equipping Missions Leaders, First Baptist Church, Cookeville

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

Keep the leaders in your church informed.

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

How Missions Impacts the Church

Mark Drake

In June we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the existence of Cherry Road Baptist Church, Memphis. Over these many years the congregation has been blessed with a wide and varied missions experience.

We have career missionaries serving in Japan, England, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Australia who have close ties with our congregation, because of family members or through previous involvement in our church.

Our people love and pray for these folks since we feature a different missionary family each Wednesday evening in our prayer service and by hearing the missionaries speak when they come home on furlough. The missionary family helps raise our missions awareness culturally and spiritually.

Over the years our people have been on mission trips to Venezuela, Portugal, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, India, Canada, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic. The age ranges of these missions has been from teens to senior adults, and they always return with a fresh vision of God's powerful work in another part of the world. Their enthusiasm has been infectious as they communicate their missions experience. One of our men even came to know Christ personally while attempting to minister to others in another country!

As a pastor it is obvious to me that missions have greatly impacted our church. But who could measure such an impact?

Only heaven will reveal the extent to which the mission field were changed as well as the people who went. One thing I do know is that our church is closer to the New Testament model of evangelism and discipleship, because of its rich history of missions involvement.

Our people have also participated in a number of missions here in the states as well serving alongside believers in places like Nevada, Michigan, and Montana. They have seen first-hand the need for a strong gospel witness in areas far removed from the Bible belt.

At the present time our church is helping to support one of our couples hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine as a part of the North American Mission Board Service Corps. Our volunteers always return home from mission opportunities with fresh enthusiasm and resolve to faithfully serve in the ministries God has opened for them here.

I am thankful to be the pastor of Cherry Road Baptist Church which not only supports the mission efforts through the Cooperative Program and other missions offerings, but it also encourages and supports teams of lay people in local, national, and international missions involvement.

I have seen the impact of missions on our people in the following ways:

- Missions involvement deepens our own devotion to Christ. As our devotion increases for Him so does our desire to make Him known.
- Mission volunteers witness first-hand what God is doing in other countries to bring people unto Himself.
- The volunteer's prayer life is increased as he or she learns about the needs of the world.
- Hands-on missions work develops within the volunteer a heart for people of other cultures.
- Folks return from mission trips with a new enthusiasm for kingdom work, and they share their experience with others encouraging them to be involved in missions.

Because of numerous mission experiences, our church has an on-going motivation to pray and give so that people the world over might come to Christ.

Volunteers return to their own communities with a new perspective on the needs of people and a desire to give them the life-changing message of the gospel.

It is a joy beyond description to consider the doors God has opened around our world.

What Is a Church with a World on Its Heart?

By Jim Clayton

Dixie Lee Baptist Church sits on the eastern edge of Loudon County, 6 miles northeast of Lenoir City, and 20 miles west of downtown Knoxville. But Dixie Lee Church is a church with the world on its heart.

During the 2005-2006 church year, with a total resident membership of just over 500 people, an average Sunday School attendance of approximately 225, and an annual budget of \$532,000, Dixie Lee Church said, "We want to be a 'Kingdom-Focused, Acts 1:8 Church.'"

To reach that place, some decisions had to be made, goals set, and each one has been exceeded. To date, the church has given \$118,693 to Southern Baptist mission causes, including 10 percent through the Cooperative Program, 3 percent to associational missions, and record amounts of \$21,488 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, \$8,700 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and \$4,322 to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. All of this was given while the church is involved in a major building program and a capital stewardship campaign.

For many years the church has had strong Woman's Missionary Union and Baptist Men's Ministries, been involved in local mission causes, assisted with local building projects, took an active role in supporting the work of the Loudon County Baptist Association, assisted with World Changers, and sent mission construction and youth evangelism teams to Colorado, South Dakota, Michigan, West Virginia, Virginia, Missouri, Alabama, Iowa, Prince Edward Island, Canada, and other places.

This year the vision and scope of the missions ministry has expanded even further. By the end of the summer of 2006, this rural church will send around 50 members to work at Camp Carson; Edgerton, Mo.; Boston, Mass.; Biloxi, Miss.; Charleston, S.C.; Corumba, Brazil, and Paris, France.

These men, women, college students, and teenagers will be involved in building renovation, church construction, home repair and clean-up following Hurricane Katrina, church planting, prayer walking, and several evangelism projects alongside our missionaries in Brazil and France.

When I was called as the senior pastor of Dixie Lee Church in March 1999, I knew that I was coming to a church with a solid history of local, state, and North American missions involvement.

What we have done now is to begin to get a "global vision" and to see that we can do more than just give and pray as vital as that is. We can also go all the way to the ends of the earth.

I believe the church has been changed for eternity, because of this global vision. Our goal is simple. Each year, we want to send teams of volunteers to assist in at least one "missions adventure" in Loudon County, in East Tennessee, somewhere in North America, and one international country. We see that it is an attainable goal.

Our people are committed to it. Our leadership and staff are committed to it. At the same time, we will challenge ourselves to give more than we have ever given so that all the peoples of the world may know Him. In the process of doing that God is changing us.

How One Church Reaches Missions

Keith Wilson

Many times when we think of missionaries, we tend to think of those men and women who are serving in our land very far away.

The truth is that if all of us as God's children are doing what we are commissioned to do according to Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8, then it is not only those who are going abroad who are missionaries. It is also that person sitting next to you every Sunday in the pew and even that person that you get up every morning and look at in the mirror.

According to the *Holman Bible Dictionary*, missions are, "the work on which God sends a person He has called, especially a mission to introduce another group of people to the Christian faith." I believe this definition reinforces the idea that we are all to a great extent missionaries.

The former pastor of the church where I now serve at a Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, Jeff Walters, accepted the call to the mission field and his family serves the Lord

faithfully in France. It is because of Walters' great heart for missions and his influence on our people that our church has accepted the challenge to be on mission for Christ.

What does missions look like here at Smyrna Church? The face of missions here stays the same in the Spirit that missions are a vital part of our ministry. We understand that to be a New Testament church missions are not options; they are imperatives. However, the places we serve change from time to time.

We have served in many different places such as Brazil and France on the international mission field as well as Alaska, Alabama, Appalachia, and Iowa here on the home front. We look at our own backyard as a mission field too. Chapel Hill is a growing and vibrant community located just south of Nashville.

I have only been here a year as pastor yet our church has been involved in several different activities like last summer's Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Crossover event. Our event drew over 500 people. As a result of our involvement the church has been blessed with the addition of new families. We participated in several ministry opportunities in our local schools too. In the month of June, we held our Vacation Bible School. There are several community projects that afford us an opportunity to minister. We use each as a tool to be on mission for Christ.

The way missions is coordinated in our church is through a missions committee. Under their leadership, our church coordinates its many different missions projects. This committee works to find the funding needed to get people where they need to go through many different types of fundraisers such as craft sales, special suppers, and even yard sales. Many of our people pay their way and help others to afford to go on mission trips. We also have our Global Impact fund which is used as needed to help in financing missions projects.

It takes a lot of work to plan and coordinate mission's activities. Our church has risen to the challenge, because we understand that every life we can touch with the gospel of Christ is worth it. That thought is: what is the motivating force in our church's desire to serve Christ as missionaries here and abroad. As a church, the people of Smyrna Church realize we have the responsibility to make the missions of reaching the lost a reality.

We know it is not the responsibility of someone else. We accept the challenge that says it is our calling to make Christ known to all no matter where they are. They may be in any of the places I have mentioned or in our own backyard, but no matter where they may be Smyrna Church will do its part to reach them for Jesus.

New housing opens at MABTS

Mid-America news office

CORDOVA — Students at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Germantown moved into the newly constructed Student Village here on Saturday, July 22.

The Student Village is part of the 50-acre campus nearing completion on Appling Road in Cordova.

The move was the first for new students as well as students relocating from the seminary's former Olive Branch, Miss., student housing complex. The Olive Branch facility was sold to help finance the

new facilities in Cordova.

Sixteen apartment units are currently ready for occupancy with anticipated completion of all 144 units by Oct. 30.

The Cordova facility was the first one designed and built specifically for Mid-America. The school was founded in 1971, moved to the Memphis area in 1975 when it moved into the Reform Jewish Temple and Hebrew School. The school moved to its current campus, previously the home of Germantown Baptist Church in 1996. □

Bush vetoes stem cell bill; Congress fails to override

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush used his veto power for the first time July 19, rejecting a bill that would have funded stem cell research that destroys embryos.

The president vetoed, as promised, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which

would have weakened his policy barring federal grants for experiments that result in the destruction of human embryos. Bush's rule allows funds for research only on embryonic stem cell lines already in existence when his policy was announced in 2001.

Congress has virtually no chance of overriding Bush's veto, which came halfway through his sixth year in the White House.

In action July 18, the Senate approved the measure 63-37, four votes short of the two-thirds majority needed for an override.

After the Bush veto, the House of Representatives failed to overturn the veto.

The House voted 235-193 for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, leaving it 51 votes short of the two-thirds majority required to override a presidential veto. The vote total was nearly the same as that recorded when the House voted 238-194 for passage of the bill,

H.R. 810, in May 2005.

The president announced his veto of the embryonic stem cell funding bill by saying it crossed a "moral boundary that our decent society needs to respect."

"If this bill would become law, American taxpayers would, for the first time in history, be compelled to fund deliberate destruction of human embryos. And I'm not going to allow it," Bush said. □



2006-07 Acteens Panelists chosen

Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union has selected the 2006-07 Tennessee Acteens Advisory Panel. They will help plan Connect 2007, a missions event for girls in grades 7-12, volunteer at statewide WMU events, and more. Panelists also are available to speak about their involvement in missions and Acteens to churches, associations, and student groups. Pictured from left are Juliana Robb, Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro; Lauren Messer and Lauren Gilbert, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville; Sydney Yochim, Baptist Church, Lebanon; and Lauren Word, Bluegrass Baptist Church, Hendersonville. For more information about the panel, invite a panelist to speak, call Andrea Knight at 1-800-558-4791 ext. 7919.

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Kim Margrave at 1.800.558.2090 or kmargrave@tnbaptist.org



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For more information, go to www.tnbeautifulfeet.org or call Diana Cox at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2058.

Featured Guests



Rebecca Pippert is founder of Salt Shaker Ministries, a teaching/training ministry for evangelism. Her book, *Out of the Salt Shaker*, has sold more than 500,000 copies and has been translated in more than 25 languages.



Evidence is made up of two couples. Their mission is "to encourage and challenge the body of Christ to be 'evidence' of God's grace to the world."

Conference Leaders and Conference Titles



Iris Adams, Vay Christian Resources, *Women Reaching Women in Crisis*



Vickie Arruda, Pure Joy International Retreat Ministry, *"Homosexuality and the Church"*



Sharon Beougher, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, *"Evangelism to a New Age Culture"*



Joan Cook, Women On the Go Ministries, *"Your Family Can Share"*



Christina Crawley, LifeWay Christian Resources, *"Single, Married, Separated, and Life After Divorce"*



Paula Hemphill, International Mission Board, *"Behind the Veil - Reaching Muslim Women"*



Janice Holcomb, Conference leader, *"Marching Into Tomorrow - Oh, Yeah!"*



Linda Leathers, Next Door Ministry, *Ministering to Released from Prison*



Marge Lenow, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, *"Parties With a Purpose"*



Lorie Looney, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, *"Being Christ in the Workplace"*



Sarah Maddox, Conference leader and author, *"Praying for Your Husband"*



Carolyn Outland & Ann Davenport, Volunteer Consultants in Women's Evangelism, *"Heartcall: Evangelism for Women"*



Don and Trish Pierson, Tennessee Baptist Convention staff member and wife, *"Praying Toward a Harvest"*



Rebekah Sumrall, Christian Women's Job Corps - Nashville, *"These Boots Are Made for Talking"*

Hotels — prices for double rooms

Country Inn & Suites, \$72, 277-1099
Courtyard, \$95, 883-9500

• Double Tree Guest Suites, \$79, (615) 889-8889
• Drury Inn Suites, \$69, (615) 902-0400, Group #536937

• Hampton Inn, \$60, (615) 871-0222
• Hampton Inn & Suites, \$84, (615) 885-4242, Group Code: BFC

• Hilton Garden Inn, \$79, (615) 884-0088, Group Code: BFCHE
• Quality Inn, \$60, (615) 773-3600, Group #100050



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Evangelist dies during 'Walk Across America'

Baptist Press

HENDERSONVILLE — Ted Stone, a champion of God's grace, died of undetermined causes July 16 at the end of the fourth week of his fourth "Walk across America" to spread awareness of the hope that substance abusers can find in Christ. He was 72.

Stone, an evangelist from Durham, N.C., spent 29 years proclaiming freedom in Christ through the grace of God after serving four years in prison in the 1970s as the result of drug addictions.

The founder of Ted Stone Ministries, he often repeated the mantra, "I used to be a drug addict, but I am no longer a drug addict. I am recovered forever by the grace of God, and that same hope can belong to you or anyone you love."

Though a battle with colon cancer in 2002 took a toll on his body, Stone so fervently believed in the cause of ministering to substance abusers that he pressed on to start a fourth walk across the nation, starting in Chicago June 19 with an expected end in Pensacola, Fla.

During his trek, Stone spoke at various churches along the route. He and his ministry partner, collegian Sean Reece, were driving to speak at the evening service at College Heights Baptist Church in Gallatin, just north of Nashville, July 16 when Stone became unconscious and later was pronounced dead.

Stone co-wrote a regular

column for Baptist Press on reaching out to the millions of Americans suffering from substance addictions.

He also co-authored *Hope for the One Who Hurts* and *Hope for the One Who Cares*, one to provide direction for those battling drug addictions and the other to give help to abusers' loved ones.

Stone is survived by his wife, Anne Fuller Stone, three daughters, Ellen Sichi-na of Shelby, N.C.; Carole Doll and Lisa Hilliard, both of Apex, N.C.; and five grandchildren. □

House defeats FMA

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — A constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman did not receive the two-thirds majority needed for passage in the U.S. House of Representatives July 18, but conservatives did pick up about 10 additional votes since the matter was addressed by the

chamber in 2004.

The 236-187 vote in favor of the Federal Marriage Amendment was 47 votes short of the number needed to pass.

Though the proposal failed in the Senate six weeks earlier, House supporters said a vote was important so that citizens can know where their congressional leaders stand on the issue of "gay marriage" as the November elections loom.

"Polls show that the overwhelming majority of the American people support traditional marriage, marriage between a man and a woman," Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., said during floor debate. "People have a right to know whether their elected representatives agree with them about protecting traditional marriage."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission,

was pleased that House conservatives have gained a bit of ground on the issue of protecting marriage.

"I'm disappointed that we didn't get more votes in the House, but I'm encouraged that we got more votes this time than in 2004."

"In politics, you don't eat an apple in one gulp," Land said. □

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CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

The Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Tenn. is accepting resumes for the position of worship minister. To be considered, applicant must be well grounded in doctrine, love the Word of God more than music, have a passion for the expository preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God, and be willing to fill out a lengthy questionnaire and undergo thorough questioning, credit, and background check. If interested e-mail or write to jonosmbc@bellsouth.net, 900 Union Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160, Attn: Jonathan Sims.

Lincoln Park Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn. is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please contact the church office for more information, (865) 687-5451.

Glenwood Baptist Church needs a part-time music minister. Please send resume to Glenwood Baptist Church, 308 E. Thompson Lane, Nashville, TN 37211 or call (615) 361-8051.

Ninth Street Baptist Church, Erwin, Tenn. is now accepting resumes for a part-time bi-vocational music director/worship leader. Interested parties please send resume to: Ninth Street Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 310 Ninth Street, Erwin, TN 37650 or e-mail ninthstbaptist@earthlink.net.

Western North Carolina church seeks a full-time minister of music with a unique opportunity. For further details and information go to www.hazelwoodbaptistchurch.org and click on "Job Opening."

MINISTRY — DOM

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

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Lyons Creek Baptist Church accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Please send resumes to Lyons Creek Baptist Church c/o Search Committee, 9235 Berry Plains Pike, Strawberry Plains, TN 37871. If you like to learn more about our church, please visit us at screekbaptist.org.

First Baptist Church, Atwood, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 100, Atwood, TN 38220, Attn: Search Committee.

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

SEEKING? I Peter 5:1-3, 1 Timothy 3:1-7: Is it you? Trust in the Lord and send your resume to Search Committee, 1726 Unionville Rd., Halls, TN 37332.

Zion Baptist Church in North Carolina, is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please submit no later than August 31, 2006 to Search Committee at tist-psc@carolina.rr.com or to Zion Baptist Church, Search Committee, 52 Zion Church Road, Shefferson, NC 28150.

Wilkesboro Baptist Church, Wilkesboro, North Carolina, is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. We are a mission church supporting the Southern Baptist Convention of North Carolina and Cooperative Fellowship. We are a plus member congregation with a full-time staff of six and a part-time staff of fourteen. Applicants must have a degree from an accredited seminary and a minimum of five years experience as pastor responsible for a church staff. Excellent Biblical knowledge with strong leadership, preaching, interpersonal skills, and a strong commitment to discipleship, evangelism, outreach, and church growth is essential. Compensation commensurate with experience. Please send cover letter and resume to: Search Committee, Aug. 31, 2006 to: Church Pastor Search Committee, Wilkesboro Baptist Church, P.O. Box 61, Wilkesboro, NC 28696. More information about our church is available at www.wilkesborobaptist.org.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Ninth Street Baptist Church, Erwin, Tenn. is now accepting resumes for a full-time student minister (K-College). Please send resume to Ninth Street Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 310 Ninth Street, Erwin, TN 37650 or e-mail ninthstbaptist@earthlink.net.

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.

CLASSIFIED

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

A Spanish mission church "Jesus Christ King of Glory" Baptist Church, in Nashville is looking for a church van. The mission has one group of 20 people that come to our church every Sunday but do not have any transportation. The mission can transport them if it has a van. If you know of a church that could donate or sell (not very expensive) a church van, please call Pastor Andres Vargas, (615) 586-9299, office (615) 391-2550, avargas@southwestern.com.

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book review

Dawn Ferguson

Jesus Mean and Wild

by Mark Galli

Baker Books, 2006

Chances are Mark Galli's book *Jesus Mean and Wild* won't make it to the top of today's feel good, prosperity religion book list. The sheer title alone is enough to keep people from reading the book. After all, who ever thought of Jesus as mean and wild? He's meek, compassionate, loving. At least the Sunday School Jesus we all know and have come to love is. But what about the Jesus of the Gospel of Mark?

Galli, who is the managing editor of the magazine *Christianity Today*, examines Mark's gospel and finds it to be anything but the Jesus he learned about as a child. Mark's Jesus rebuked demons — sternly warned the healed not to tell — expressed his indignation and anger — asked his disciples how long shall I put up with you — drove out the money changers from the temple — rebuked the wind and the sea — ignored the call of his mother and siblings — was asked to leave an area after driving demons out of a possessed man — and more than one occasion, instilled fear in his own disciples.

But the Jesus Galli discovers in the gospel of Mark is not the bejeebers out of me," he writes. Why? Because Jesus is a demanding Jesus. He doesn't want us to be nice — he wants us to do the right thing. He doesn't want just some of us, he wants all of us — "every ounce of energy, every interest, every passion, every thought, every action, every love."

But we want some theological and moral demands on us, but not too many. Especially not the ones the demanding Jesus puts on us. "I don't know about you, but I'd much rather tithe, pray daily, serve on a couple of church committees, lead a men's Bible study, serve on the church board, and attend weekly worship. As satisfying as it is to be a good churchman, it's infinitely less than the demands Jesus would make on my life." Hands like cutting off your hand if it gets in the way of following him. Or abandoning spouses, parents, siblings, friends and putting our lives on the line to follow

any of today's bestselling "Christian" books portray a grandfatherly god, one who is always there — who does nothing more than to make us happy. But that is not the God of the Bible. God is more interested in our hearts than our comfort. He's more interested in our hearts than our riches. And He is way more interested in our hearts than our body.

But then the kindness and severity of God," writes Paul in Romans 11:22. God's love is "a grace that brings repentance, a balm that can hurt, an impact that has a merciful end, a suffering that redeems. In other words, this book has been an attempt to return to the Bible and discover that these are not two contradictory aspects of God's character but one and the same."

You're not afraid to encounter a mean and wild Jesus — to perhaps change your way of looking at Him, read this book. It could change your life! □ — Dawn Ferguson, of Gallatin, is a correspondent for the *Baptist and Christian*.

I will follow God's commandments

By Matt Cannon

Focal Passage: Exodus 19:4-6, 20:3-17

What is your worldview? Whose standard of morality do you follow? What makes you think that your standard is any better than anyone else's is? What does it really matter, anyway?

Every living person has a basic, fundamental philosophy on how to conduct him or herself. This philosophy may never be verbally articulated or even thought about, but it is there nonetheless. It is shown in how we live our lives and in what we give the most importance.

There are many ideas out there, each with adherents who claim that their way is best. Christians must use spiritual discernment and hold fast to the Truth. We must all have our minds made up to faithfully obey God's commandments.

Exodus 19:4-6: The Israelites had made it to the wilderness of Sinai and made their camp in front of the mountain. Also called Mount Horeb, Mount Sinai was the place where God had called Moses to the task of leading His people out of Egypt. God had also promised Moses to bring him and the people back to that same mountain (3:12). As He continues to do, God kept His promise.

In this passage, God reminded the people of their special place in His heart and in His plan. He explained to them that He had delivered them from bondage and had safely delivered them to

their present location.

God had previously established His covenant with them via Abraham, but here he sets guidelines for their active participation in the covenant. Similarly, when we accept Christ as our Savior we are saved by His grace, but we must willingly follow Him in order to receive the full blessing of our relationship with Him.

Exodus 20:3-11: This section deals with the first four commandments that God gave the Israelites. These commandments dealt with how sinful humanity should respond toward their holy God.

These commandments can be summarized with what Jesus told the lawyer was the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:37: *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

When God told them to have no other Gods, to refrain from making idols, to not take His name in vain, and to set aside a day for resting and worshipping, He was delineating for them the kind of behavior that people who love Him should exhibit. Because Jesus fulfilled the Law, we are saved by grace through faith. This means that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and we should follow God's commandments not out of compulsion, but out of love.

Exodus 20:12-17: The remaining commandments that fill this section of scripture deal with the right relationship that we should have with others. Again, Christ gave

Sunday School Lesson Family Bible Series July 30

us the summary of this in Matthew chapter 22: *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

These commandments spell out the kinds of actions that people should not commit to promote peace and unity in our lives. There is still agreement, even among many non-believers, that these practices are wrong. What is interesting, however, is that we will sit down and watch television shows and movies that are full of adultery, murder, and disrespect toward parental authority and not bat an eye.

God's commandments reveal to us how He feels about the things that go on in our culture. Christians need to be aware that as we condone and sometimes practice this behavior, we are behaving in absolute contradiction to God's Word.

While it is true that Jesus has fulfilled these commandments fully, we should still be mindful of them and allow the Holy Spirit to have free reign in our lives to convict us when we approach and/or step over the line into sinful behavior. I have heard the saying that "knowledge is power." We should take our knowledge of God's expectations and strive to live up to them with His strength, not our own. □ — Cannon is bivocational pastor, Cardiff Baptist Church, Rockwood.

What's wrong with wanting wealth?

By Randall Adkisson

Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12

Solomon's leisure seemed to be a blessing and a curse. He had time to explore and ponder the world as few men have, but such deep consideration led him to despair. He experienced God's material blessings and lived in wonder at His creation, but the contrast between his own blessings and the plight of others left him with many unanswered questions.

Much as Job led the reader to trust in God even when God's ways were unfathomable, Ecclesiastes leads the reader to live out a simple faith when the experiences of life are anything but simply understood.

Simply living in fellowship. Two are better than one and three are better still (4:9-12). It's not the addition of wealth that brings satisfaction (4:8), but the addition of friends. Trustworthy friends who offer emotional, physical, and spiritual support are the true riches of life. When such friendship is bound by a mutual relationship with God, then the riches are eternal.

Simply living in humility. A poor and wise lad is better than an old and foolish king (4:13). Why? Because the younger is teachable, willing to learn, and receive instruction. The old king is stubborn and unbendable. The difference is not in the age but the attitude of each.

Successful living leaves room for

lifelong growth. Maturity is not a goal but a process. Mature believers are ever learning and ever submitting to the Lord's instruction.

A teachable disposition is essential in one's relationship to the Lord and the House of the God (5:1). Service, even sacrifice will not suffice. Instead God is seeking those who will listen for His voice and follow His word.

Solomon's thoughts may be mirrored in James words: "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well" (James 3:1-2).

Simply living in integrity. Though you may witness dishonesty around you (5:8-9), successful and enjoyable living comes from keeping to your word and living with integrity. Solomon says, "Pay your vows" (5:4), echoing the New Testament words, "Let your yes mean yes and your no mean no" (James 5:12).

Christians are to live in contrast to the world. Such contrast means living in integrity even when those around you do not. In fact, the greater the contrast between the believer's integrity and the common actions of others, the greater the witness for the Lord.

Living a standard of integrity is fulfilling the Lord's call to be salt and light in the world

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(Matthew 5:13-16).

Simply living in land of plenty. Solomon gives most of his attention in these passages to the unbalanced pursuit of wealth (4:4-8; 5:10-20; 6:1-9). He does not condemn wealth or hard work. Indeed both are commendable when they come as part of a balanced life. But Solomon has seen the foolishness of pursuing wealth as one's primary goal.

Wealth does not satisfy nor is the pursuit of wealth ever appeased. As one gains more "stuff" then he must work harder to keep the "stuff" up. The pursuit of wealth, often undertaken to provide for spouse and families, ends up destroying them.

Society has not changed. The blind pursuit of wealth still destroys the very things it pretends to protect. "The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10).

Simply living in the blessings of God. God desires that we live simply in the blessings of His grace each day.

We are to enjoy the labor of our hands and the fellowship of our friends. In such simple living there is genuine joy (5:18-20). □ — Adkisson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville.



Funding missions in Tennessee
and around the world

Leaders

◆ Ivy Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville, recently called **Marvin P. Nail** as interim pastor.

◆ **Mark Nelson**, pastor of Brace Baptist Church, Summertown, resigned effective July 9.

◆ Gum Springs Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, called **Chad Clanton** as interim pastor effective June 11.

Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church, Bluegrass, Knoxville**, will hold its 100th homecoming anniversary celebration Aug. 20. Following the morning worship service and lunch, an afternoon praise and celebration service will be held. For information, contact Louise Woodby at (865) 675-3396 or (865) 690-6573.

◆ The combined women's ministry of **First Baptist Church, Dyersburg**, and **First Baptist Church, Newbern**, is hosting a Women of Wonder Conference Aug. 12 at First Church, Dyersburg. Charlene Ann Baumbich, speaker and author, will present "On Being a Wild Child of God." Lunch will be included. For information, call (731) 286-1420.

◆ **Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Aug. 6. The Mike Speck Trio will be featured along with the Hillcrest Church choir and band. Glenn Denton, senior pastor of the church, will speak. The celebration begins with Sunday

School and continues during the morning worship service. Following the service, an outdoor meal will be held with fun and games for adults and children in the afternoon. For information call the church at (615) 444-5923.

◆ **Point Pleasant Baptist Church, Buchanan**, will host a Back to School Bash July 29 for all youth. Nathan Wilkerson, pastor of Parkers Creek Baptist Church, Burns, will speak. "Between the Lines," a praise band from Tennessee Valley Community Church, Paris, will perform along with the Parkers Creek Church youth praise team who will present a drama and dance interpretation. For information, contact Craig England, Point Pleasant Church youth minister, at (731) 363-3090.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Middleton**, observed its annual homecoming services July 23. Bill Whitman, former pastor of the church, spoke. Following a luncheon, an afternoon music service was held.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Henderson**, sponsored a Happy Feet Missions International effort July 8-16 involving 24 church members. They served in Ecuador where they washed over 750 children's feet, and put on lotion and new pairs of socks and shoes. The team also gave Spanish Bibles to a church in Ambato, Ecuador, and purchased chairs for a small village church in the Andes Mountains. Several hundred people made decisions for Christ. Funds for

the effort came partially from participants of the Vacation Bible School of First Church, who gave over \$4,000. The June 5-9 VBS had a high attendance record of 263 children and over 80 workers. As a result of the VBS, 17 children accepted Christ as their Savior.

◆ **Dry Creek Baptist Church, Dowelltown**, will hold homecoming activities Aug. 6 and a revival Aug. 6-10. A homecoming worship service will be held at 11 a.m. Donald Owens, pastor, will speak and Mercy Road Quartet will sing. A lunch and afternoon concert will be held. The revival speaker is Jason Lohorn and Bill Cox will lead the music.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will hold a Composer Weekend Aug. 12-13 featuring Carolyn Hamlin, composer and organist. Hamlin is music associate of First Baptist Church, Easley, S.C. Reservations are required. The weekend includes a Church Organist Workshop from 9 a.m. - noon followed by lunch on Aug. 12, special music during the church's morning worship service on Aug. 13, followed by an afternoon recital at 3 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 893-2514 or www.fbcm-boro.org.

Associations

◆ **Stone Baptist Association, Cookeville**, sent a mission team of 14 volunteers to Brazil July 13-23. Frank Hickman, director of missions, led the team.



FAITH BAPTIST Church, Bartlett, sent this team and two others to Cuiaba, Brazil, this year as part of a continuing effort there since 2000. The church has seen 11 churches start in Cuiaba as a result of its efforts. **IN PHOTO ABOVE** is a 41-member evangelism team, working with church planters, witnessed to people on the streets, spoke in schools, and helped lead revivals. They saw 11 people make commitments to Jesus. Then a 42-member team served in villages near Cuiaba. **IN PHOTO BELOW** is Pastor Sinquefield, pastor, checks a child's teeth in a clinic. During a four-day clinic, 1,800 people were treated and 965 people made professions of faith. The third team which served built an addition to the church.



A GROUP OF 17 members of churches of Loudon County Baptist Association, Lenoir City, served in Boston, Mass., June 2-4. The group worked with the Greater Boston First Brazilian Baptist Church to offer Vacation Bible School at a mission congregation in Dorchester, Mass., an inner-city community, reported Ed Atwell, director of missions, and leader of the effort. More than 40 children registered and an average of 28 attended each day. At the end of the week, 15 children had prayed to receive Christ as their Savior. **IN PHOTO ABOVE** are children who made professions of faith. **PHOTO BELOW** are group members, from left, Roger H. Atwell, Moriah Johnson, Zack Blackwell, Hannah Hale, Chris Tidwell, Gary Shubert, Pam Snow, Thomas Linginfelter, Sylvia Atwell, Ed Atwell, Ana Lea Atwell, Danny Bledsoe, Ben Ward, Mike Arp. Also pictured are Arlene Lewis and Michelle Ridenour. The group stood in front of a mural on the church building where they served.



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.

To help more people become aware of their Baptist paper, we offer your church free copies to distribute on *B&R* Day to every member in your church.

Complete this form and mail to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. You can also fax it to (615) 371-2080 or call Susie Edwards at (615) 371-2003 or Mary Nimmo at (615) 371-7929 to request free copies. Send form by Friday, Aug. 11.

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