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Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 28; Aug. 2, 2006

Named poet laureate of Christian country music

Tennessee Baptist honored by state legislature

Lonnie Wilkey
Artist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Colonel Hugh X. Lewis has been an advocate for Christian country music for most of his 50-plus years in the entertainment business.

Now, he's official.

Earlier this year the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives passed a resolution designating Lewis as the state's poet laureate of Christian country music. He is the first person to hold that designation.

While humbled by the honor, Lewis is excited about the platform the designation provides.

"I can sing and share my Christian message all over the world," he said.

The Kentucky native is no stranger to success or recognition.

He has written more than 250 songs recorded by legends such as Charlie Pride, Lynn Anderson, Jim Ed Brown, Del Reeves, Kitty Wells, and more.

He penned the words to Stonewall Jackson's "B.J. the D.J." which soared to number one on country charts in 1993.

He has appeared on the Grand Ole Opry, had his own syndicated television show which aired in more than 90 markets nationwide, made three movies, and a country music great Del Reeves, recorded numerous albums of his.

But, in recent years it is his love for sharing the message of Jesus through songs and poems that has brought him his greatest satisfaction.

Lewis provides the "Thought of the Week" which is aired on the "Gregg

Hutchins Morning Show" daily on about 110 Southern Gospel stations across the country through the Solid Gospel Radio Network.

"I try to put Christian connotations in everything I write," said Lewis, a member of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory.

Lewis retired from the country music business in 1984. "Traditional country music as I had known it was fading away," Lewis said. "It was the saddest situation I had ever been involved with."

Over the years Lewis had written a great deal of poetry in addition to his songs, so his wife, Ann, suggested they begin a craft business to sell his poetry.

With the help of his wife and daughter, Sandra Taylor, the Lewis clan began making fabric picture frames for his poems.

He developed the concepts of writing a poem in the shape of a state. He eventually did 10 Southern states in all and they have been very successful, Lewis noted. All the state poems were written with Christian connotations, he added. He also has written poems for fans of college athletic teams, different professions such as teachers, nurses, etc., and numerous other categories.



HUGH X. LEWIS, left, the new poet laureate of Christian country music in Tennessee, shows the resolution passed by the Tennessee Senate and House of Representatives and signed by Gov. Phil Bredesen to Ken Clayton, his pastor at Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory.

His poem, "The Preacher" (see page 9) has been extremely popular and is read often during funerals of pastors.

Among his many fans is former Georgia governor and United States senator Zell Miller. Miller wrote Lewis a handwritten note after Lewis sent him a copy of "The Preacher."

Miller described the poem as "a blessing," noting it "brought tears to my eyes and made my heart leap up."

In all, Lewis has written more than 250 frameable greeting card poems.

Though successful in his new endeavor, he sorely missed the music field and entertainment.

Lewis began to focus more on Christian country music which he feels is

'I Just Held The Pen'

Editor's Note: The following poem was recently penned by Colonel Hugh X. Lewis, poet laureate for Christian country music in Tennessee. It sums up why he writes poems and music with a Christian message.

"Some say I have a way with words;
Words have a way with me.
God's message must be seen and heard,
As it was meant to be.

What God dictates I hope and pray
To fully understand;
He uses me in no small way
To carry out His plan.

So if my life somehow is blest
By words through me God sends
On my laurels I shall never rest
'Cause I just held the pen."

"more encompassing." Christian country music includes songs such as "Why Me Lord?," "Wings of a Dove," "Peace in the Valley," "One Day at a Time," and "It Is No Secret." All of these songs, as well as many others, achieved success on country music charts.

Lewis' interest in pursuing Christian country music actually was stoked while attending his last "Fanfare" (a longtime country music event in Nashville which drew fans from around the world) in 1984 Lewis had recorded one Christian country music album during his career and he met a woman from England who shared with him how that album was such a blessing to her life.

— See, Tennessee, page 9

TBC ranks first among web sites

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention web site is the most popular web site among Baptist state conventions, according to Alexa Internet, which is known for providing statistics on web site traffic.

According to the ranking popularity on the Alexa last week, the TBC was ranked first, followed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Associations hold outreach, baptism in state park

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

MAYNARDVILLE — About 350 people gathered at Lake Norris and Big Ridge State Park here on a Saturday afternoon to baptize folks and worship. Earlier in the day about 25 volunteers participated in an outreach to park visitors.

The day was a blessing in several ways, said Mike Viles, director of missions, Northern and Midland Baptist Associations, which held the effort — Impact the Park. It was a spiritual experience for those who participated and it was a witness, including through the media, said Viles.

The volunteers who gathered in the morning distributed fishing lures and bottled water

to park visitors and witnessed of their faith when possible.

At the later baptism, 22 people from the 23 churches which participated were baptized. The two associations have 53 churches.

The crowd was the largest to attend an event held by both associations, reported Viles.

The baptism "was a sweet time," he described.

"It was a way for us to illustrate the risen Savior" and the good things going on in our churches. Churches receive "so much bad press," he said. The service illustrated that the "church is alive and vibrant."

He added that because it was held outside and in a public place, everyone felt welcome and it was a witness to lots of people.

— See Associations, page 3



TWO PASTORS baptize new Christians at Big Ridge State Park, Maynardville, as a part of Impact the Park of Northern and Midland Baptist Associations. The pastors are Ralph Wagner, left, New Hope Baptist Church, Knoxville, and Jerry Vittatoo, Clear Springs Baptist Church, Corryton.

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State feeding unit sent to St. Louis

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief units served last week in St. Louis, Mo., and in Granite City, Ill., helping victims of a recent series of tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and damaging winds, according to David Acres, state disaster relief director.

The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Feeding Unit was activated July 24 by the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga., to help with the feeding of people who were displaced by two tornadoes in the St. Louis area which also resulted in over 300,000 people being without electrical power, Acres added.



ACRES

"We had 57 volunteers from across the state that worked on the state feeding unit from July 25-29, said Acres. The team provided 10,000 meals per day, he added. The state unit returned to Tennessee on July 30.

In addition, to the state feeding unit, two chain saw teams from Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville, worked July 27-30 in Granite City, Ill., cleaning up from the storms, Acres reported.

"The Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers gave their time and effort to these responses," Acres said.

"Tennessee Baptists are good about going and volunteering. It was a very hot time for them in St. Louis where temperatures rose over 95 degrees and in Illinois. However, all returned home safely." □

TLW credited for reducing AIDS rate in Uganda

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — While True Love Waits was holding its first national event in July 1994, a second smaller but perhaps even more powerful TLW observance was taking place half a world away.

On the same day that more than 210,000 covenant cards were being displayed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., International Mission Board missionaries Larry and Sharon Pumpelly organized a parade in downtown Kampala, Uganda, to introduce the True Love Waits abstinence-until-marriage message to a continent that was being devastated by AIDS.

Twelve years later, True

Love Waits has been credited by government leaders in Uganda for a remarkable decrease in the HIV/AIDS infection rate from 30 percent of the population to about 6 percent.

As True Love Waits makes plans to expand its work in Africa through LifeWay's "A Defining Moment" capital campaign, a small team of TLW representatives journeyed to Kenya and Uganda in June to learn more about how the abstinence message is saving lives and bringing hope to millions.

Jimmy Hester, co-founder of True Love Waits, and James T. Draper Jr., president emeritus of LifeWay Christian Resources, were guided by the Pumpellys, who previously spent 21 years as missionaries in both countries. Also joining the trip were Jack Tompkins, a businessman and president's cabinet member of A Defining Moment, and Gary McCauley, director of LifeWay's capital resource development department.

During their seven days in Africa, the group visited churches with HIV/AIDS support groups, including one in the heart of a Nairobi slum; observed TLW presentations in schools; toured HIV/AIDS testing centers operated by the Baptist AIDS Response Agency (BARA); and met with the president of Uganda's wife, Janet Museveni, who serves as national spokesperson for True Love Waits.

At one stop in Uganda, the group met with several young adults from Kampala Baptist Church who had signed TLW cards years earlier.

"To talk with young people who made TLW commitments years ago and today are the role models who are challenging others to make commitments to abstinence was an emotional and rewarding experience," Hester said.

A key highlight for the group was a visit with Janet Museveni, the first lady of Uganda, who has championed the True Love Waits movement since its introduction in that country. Her children took the TLW pledge in 1994, and when they married they presented their commitment cards to their spouses at their weddings.

Several African countries have sent representatives to

Uganda to learn how it radically decreased HIV/AIDS rate. The first told the group she believed Love Waits could be done where and be effective.

"The impact of True Waits in Uganda is seen only in statistics," S. Pumpelly said, "but in that all Christian-based nence groups use TLW commitment cards as part of they do, even the first group."

"The fingers of AIDS far and TLW is only a part whole issue, but a part certainly affects the future of AIDS," Pumpelly added.

Hester said the group experiences in Africa underscored "the need for this work enhanced and continued in countries with a history using True Love Waits."

"The future existence of a generation, as well as the quality of life, depends on decisions made by young people," Hester said.

"We could not have had a better look at True Love Waits ministry in east Africa," Acres added.

"What is happening in Uganda and Kenya is duplicated all over Africa."

For use of music in worship

Pastor suggests '10 commandments'

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — With correct theology as a key theme at this summer's LifeWay Worship Conference, Denver pastor Jim Shaddix challenged participants with his "top 10 commandments" for setting a theology of music in worship.

Shaddix, pastor of Denver's Riverside Baptist Church, noted the "commandments" during sessions at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center:

(1) **Thou shalt worship God, not worship worship.** "We are a people of extremes and we have a hard time maintaining a biblical balance," Shaddix said. "A long time ago, people were nervous about the charismatic movement, so worship services became like funeral services. Now the pendulum has swung all the way to other side and we have hand raising and clapping but lyrics without correct theology. In the revival of worship and the reaction of what we've seen, our focus is on the style rather than the object of our worship — God."

(2) **Thou shalt worship as a lifestyle and not as a music style.** "If there is a disconnect in what happens at the church event and what is happening in people's daily lives, there is a problem," Shaddix said. "That needs to be more important than if people are singing on the right key."

(3) **Thou shalt make the Divine Seeker comfortable first and foremost.** Shaddix warned about trying to make seekers comfortable first and foremost rather than God who seeks after non-Christians. Citing I Corinthians 14:23-25, Shaddix noted, "If the presence of God is thick in a place and His Word is communicated clearly, seekers will be transformed."

(4) **Thou shalt use music as a sacrifice of praise, not as synonym for worship.** Shaddix challenged today's definition of worship as music only. Worship should include preaching and not be limited to music alone.

(5) **Thou shalt be theologically equipped.**

As a former professor at New Orleans Theological Seminary, Shaddix shared his conviction that seminaries tend to give the impression that the study of theology is less important for those serving as ministers of music than senior pastors. "We've compartmentalized theological education and raised worship leaders to believe it isn't important to know theology. Therefore they aren't able to filter out songs that don't accurately represent God." He encouraged worship leaders to pursue the study of theology in addition to technical skills.

(6) **Thou shalt reflect a holistic theology in worship content.** "Celebration is the only kind of worship," Shaddix said. "The Bible speaks of worship involving all seasons of life. There is a place in our worship for saying 'God, don't understand'?"

(7) **Thou shalt worship in a rhythm of revelation and response.** "There is no worship without revelation," Shaddix said. "God Himself most clearly through His Word. We separate the music from the preaching and have nothing to worship if God doesn't reveal who He is."

(8) **Thou shalt employ lyrics that reflect communal identity.** Shaddix encouraged the use of songs that represent worship on the entire church body rather than only individuals by incorporating songs that include the lyrics rather than "me."

(9) **Thou shalt use technology with theological and pastoral sensitivity.** Shaddix agreed that the Bible speaks of worship including clashing cymbals and loud music. "Hearing others sing encourages worship. Amplification is so much that you can hear the sound on stage rather than the person singing beside you, that isn't good."

(10) **Thou shalt foster worship that reflects the diversity and unity of the church.** Shaddix encouraged worship leaders to keep in mind. "God is honored in worship when we strive to accomplish ethnic diversity and congregational unity." □

Conference speakers call for renewal of true discipleship

Andrea Higgins
Way news service

RIDGECREST, N.C. — It's enough for the church to grow if church members do not grow in their relationship with Christ, said leaders at the 2006 National Discipleship Conference, held July 3-7 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

"We are in desperate need of discipleship in our churches," said Ergun Caner, president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., a speaker at the conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources.

The problem today, particularly for young people, is that Christianity is "trendy," and they are spiritually passionate and biblically illiterate," said Caner, whose presentation ranged from cutting comedy to telling commentary drawn from his expertise in church history, world religions, and apologetics. "They love Jesus. They can't spell Jesus."

People today have a sound doctrinal foundation and are attracted to "touchy, feely, catch and sniff" teaching, Caner said; but the church can do them better.

"I think we've made a serious mistake in Christian discipleship in that we are assuming the stupidity of the members in our churches," he said. "We assume that the kids can't study theology. If they can sing the theology, they can learn theology. If they can memorize the words to 7000 songs on their CDs then certainly they can

understand concepts that are far deeper than what we challenge them with."

Start a revolution

A "radical revolution" in discipleship training is needed, said Avery Willis, creator of LifeWay's widely used MasterLife discipleship materials. Willis retired in 2004 from the International Mission Board as senior vice president for overseas operations.

Discipleship, Willis said, is a relationship with God through Christ and a relationship with other people.

"If you just see it as a program or a course, then you don't have real discipleship," said Willis. "No wonder our churches, being led by undisciplined people, become stagnated and dead — because they've never been introduced to discipleship, where the walk and the talk would match up."

Willis said if the church were a factory, the product it makes should be disciples. Otherwise, he proposed, churches should question whether they should stay in business.

Discipleship is on the decline, and many churches have just given up on a generation that doesn't want to hear the "revolutionary message of Jesus Christ," Willis said.

Willis cited research that indicates 85-95 percent of Christians are "babes in Christ."

There is an encouraging side to that statistic, said Claude King, editor in chief of leadership and adult publishing at LifeWay Christian Resources.

"Babes in Christ can be the most effective witnesses," said



THREE LONGTIME Southern Baptist leaders take questions during a panel discussion from attendees at Discipleship Week at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center. From left are Roy Edgemon, Avery Willis, and T.W. Hunt.

King, who authored LifeWay's newest discipleship resource, *The Call to Follow Christ*, a seven-week study that outlines the six disciplines for new and growing believers. It is the first in the Growing Disciples Series at LifeWay.

In Matthew 28, Jesus commissioned all disciples to reproduce themselves, said Jay Johnston, LifeWay director of FAITH/evangelism and discipleship.

It is important to remember that Jesus never separated evangelism and discipleship, Johnston said, and the training materials from LifeWay are available because, "We need to equip the people."

"I think the greatest failure we have in our churches is that we do not begin discipling when a person is saved," said former missionary and director of discipleship training for LifeWay, Roy Edgemon.

"They live without knowing their birthright. And their birthright is what they are in Christ," Edgemon said.

"I believe when they begin to know Him and love Him ... everything else changes in their lives. But it begins with that new Christian."

Noted Bible scholar T.W. Hunt, author of *The Mind of Christ*, acknowledged that there is nothing easy about discipleship.

"Discipleship takes time," Hunt said. "It's not an easy road. It takes humility, self sacrifice, placing the other person first. You will not become a disciple in one week."

Sharon Guy, a member of One Faith Fellowship in Memphis, chose the discipleship conference for training over her church's traditional Black Church Week because of the lineup of speakers.

"I was really in awe. But

what I learned is they are just real humble men, and God used them. It made me understand more why their studies are so life changing," said Guy, whose pastor surprised her the previous week by asking her to take over discipleship training.

"I thought I was the least person who could do it," Guy said.

Don't fuel the fire

Conference instructors Diana and Steve Davis gave the "challenge of the buckets" in one of their seminars geared toward deacons. Deacons were required to carry two empty buckets — one symbolizing inflammatory gasoline and the other soothing, fire-quenching water — as a tangible reminder of their role in the church.

"Their role is to preserve harmony and free the pastor up for problem solving, not to add fuel to the fire," said Steve Davis, executive director of the Indiana Baptist State Convention.

Walter Wold, chairman of the deacons at Shoal Creek Baptist Church in Burnsville, N.C., said the exercise, though it first seemed amusing, turned out to be right on target for church life today.

"There's a lot of turmoil because we're building a new church. People don't like change," said Wold.

"The gas has always been what is prevalent everywhere I've been. That's why I'm taking water back to my church. But I've also got firepower to take back with me — lots of information," he said, hoping to ignite a passion for the Lord and discipleship. □

Associations hold outreach, baptism in state ...

Continued from page 1

The service and following baptism were held near state cabins, fishing areas, and swimming area.

People from other denominations attended. Media attended, probably because it was unusual to find people at the park could hear the events. Some even attended the service.

The outreach effort also was ongoing, Viles said. The bottle water bore a label which Revelation 22:17, "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." The label explained the water was a gift of Northern Midland Baptist Association. Viles said the association provided the water and lures. Lures were distributed to the man.

He said he was asked several times by people who wanted the gifts why he was giving this. That gave him the opportunity to say that they were given "in the name of the Jesus Christ," said Viles. Everyone seemed glad to get the gifts, he reported.



MANY OF THE PASTORS participating in Impact the Park pray before the service.

After the outreach effort, the volunteers ate lunch together. It was provided by the churches in attendance.

The service which followed included time for a message and music. Speaking was Mark Large, pastor, Hines Creek Baptist Church, Maynardville.

The baptism was moved earlier than planned because of the weather. Rain was develop-

ing. So at about 2:15 p.m. the baptism service began. Two pastors baptized at the same time in Lake Norris. All ages of people were baptized, including children who had made professions of faith at Vacation Bible Schools, and a handicapped lady in her 50s. It did begin raining about half way through the baptism, but everyone stayed until everyone was bap-



THE FOSTER FAMILY from the Maynardville area leads a song during the service.

tized, said Viles.

Media covering the event, included WBIR Channel 10 — a TV station, a newspaper based in Halls, and several radio stations. The coverage was good and was an unexpected blessing, said Viles.

The outdoor baptism service was recommended by Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, in 2005, said Viles. Several Ten-

nessee associations are holding similar services.

Northern and Midland received a DVD from the SBC explaining it. The association signed up on the internet to respond to the challenge. Viles said he is thankful for Welch's idea and that the association followed through, he added.

Northern and Midland associations plan to make Impact the Park an annual event. □

GOTM success

God is using new church plants to change lives. Just look at the story of Crow Clark whose life has changed ... dramatically. Twenty-one months ago, Crow was very sick. His blood pressure consistently ran at stroke level, he had an ulcer. His doctor discovered that he had adult onset diabetes. He was addicted to alcohol and drugs.

The medical assistant at his doctor's office had been witnessing to him for some time, and she kept telling him about a church called The Rock Community Church, where she was a member. He decided to check it out, and soon began regularly attending The Rock in Sparta, where he was welcomed into a family of believers. "They accepted me as I was, and they didn't ask me for anything in return," says Crow, who still sounds surprised by the fact that the congregation loves him outright, no strings attached.

Pastor Duane Graves of The Rock, baptized Crow shortly after his salvation. Since then, Crow is a new man. The love of Jesus is written all over his face when you spot him in the crowd of worshippers on Sunday morning. His heartfelt prayers are moving in their sincerity and unwavering faith. Crow is now an usher at the church, and, as a gifted artist, he even painted the sign when the congregation moved to a new worship location.

When asked how The Rock Community Church has made a difference in Crow's life, he explained, "The Rock has been my foundation. It's been my family. They have taught me not just about the Bible, but how to feel and love again. I want to be there every time the doors are open."

He now feels led to missions work and is prayerfully considering God's call on his life.

This story of a life transformed was made possible because Tennessee Baptist churches gave to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

Kristin Fleming
Sparta 38583

Disgraceful

It is disgraceful that any Christian would refer to the elderly as "blue hairs" (see "Elder rule" letter in the June 28 issue), and I for one am both saddened and ashamed that it has happened in a Baptist church. It is no more accurate to call old people "blue hairs" than it is to call young people "peroxide blondes with dark roots." Not all of either age group fit in either of those categories.

My church's constitution states as follows: "Every member of the church shall have a right to a voice in matters of church government, plans, and discipline." That pretty much takes in the "blue hairs" as well as the "flip-flops and T-shirt crowd." Shame on any church that does not want old people, young people, or anyone in between, as long as they've been born again, washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. I can't even imagine wanting to be a part of any church that refers to old people as "blue hairs."

And, while I am on a roll, let

me say this: I love to hear Billy Graham preach. He has preached the same humble, salvation by grace message over and over. I have the utmost respect for him. However, I tend to agree in part with the writer of "Appalled" (also in the June 28 issue) about the statute. I think it's a bit much.

Kathleen Pendergrass
Fairview 37062

Disingenuous

Thank you for your coverage of the SBC for those who could not attend. Your article about the election of the president is informative, but somewhat disingenuous. You listed the Cooperative Program giving of the churches whose pastor was nominated for president. According to your article, Frank Page's church gave 12.4 percent of its undesignated gifts through the CP in 2005 and Ronnie Floyd's church gave 0.27 percent. You did not list the percentage for Jerry Sutton's church. According to the TBC Book of Reports, the percentage is zero.

The Cooperative Program has been the lifeblood of the SBC since 1925. Surely those who serve the SBC should demonstrate their cooperation. Cooperation means that we support a lot of causes, some dear to our heart and some not so dear.

Designated giving is good for Lottie, Annie, Golden Offering, Children's Homes, and Adult Homes. Most churches could not survive if all the members designated their offerings around the budget. What kind of message would it send if the pastor designated all of his offerings? Designated giving sometimes means control, not cooperation.

CP giving is not a requirement for denominational service, but it does demonstrate a cooperative spirit.

James Robertson
Knoxville 37938

Unlike the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention counts designated Cooperative Program gifts as Cooperative Program. — Editor

Faithful servants

Intolerant, gay-basher, homophobe, right-wing radical, divisive, and now power broker. It seems those of us who attempt to adhere strictly to God's Word have been called just about everything under the sun by those that are more "tolerant" than we are.

Unfortunately, much of the name calling has been done by those that claim to be on our side. I can certainly understand those that do not know the Lord or those who blatantly follow Satan engaging in such rhetoric. But why do those who claim to be with us treat us this way? Are we mean-spirited because we accept God's definition of sin? Do we deserve to be criticized because we follow the parameters that God has set forth in His Word concerning the workings of the church, including what He says about the roles of men and women? Are we divisive because we strive to be true to the Bible? Perhaps I should learn to accept the verbal persecution. Jesus told His disciples to expect it, (John

15:18-23). I just didn't think to expect it from those that claim to be on our side.

It seems though, that we may be in good company. Many years ago, a man named Joshua stood before the nation of Israel and challenged them to choose whom they would serve. That same challenge still confronts us today. Will we serve the god of this age or will we serve the Lord? Those of us that have been on the receiving end of the name calling have been dedicated to serving the Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Is it because of our dedication to Him that we are held in such disdain by others?

In my very brief piloting experience, I learned that without proper control and guidance, the plane crashes. That is also true of any organization. These "Power Brokers," that Leonard Riley refers to in the June 28 letters section of B&R, were elected by the vast majority of Southern Baptists to keep our plane in the air. They are dedicated to following God's Word not man's whim. In fact, the two primary tasks we are all charged with, according to the Scriptures, are these, preach the gospel and endure sound doctrine.

Instead of inventing more inflammatory terms for our leaders, we ought to be praying for them that they will continue to stay on track. However, I do believe that one more term will be added to that long list one day, the phrase, "Faithful Servant," will be uttered, not by the usual crowd, but by the Lord Himself.

W.A. Taylor, pastor
Mt. Tirzah Baptist Church
Newbern 38059

Other extreme

I was at this year's Pastors Conference to hear the brilliant and cordial discussions of Paige Patterson and Albert Mohler on the topic of different views of election. I was at the Southern Baptist Convention to hear a dear brother ask the Executive Board to study the results of Calvinism on evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention. And I have read Roger Freeman's article encouraging us to leave behind the "Calvinism controversy" (July 12, B&R) and move on to evangelism. But what has struck me is that no one seems to be asking the key questions of evangelism from the other extreme.

For myself, I am an "empowered evangelist." Due to my reformed theological views, I can walk in to the midst of an unreached people group, numbering into the millions with less than one percent Christian, and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ boldly, broadly, and confidently knowing that "His" children will be found. With my high view of the sovereignty of God and my confidence in the doctrines of grace, I find it most aberrant that anyone with such a view would use them as an excuse for laziness in proclamation. So if "Calvinism" is defined as a lack of evangelism, I must agree whole heartedly with Bro. Freeman that we need to leave behind the "Calvinism controversy" and get on with evangelism.

But what of the other extreme? Is there not another question that we need to be asking within the walls of who we are as Southern Baptists? Could it be that our Arminianistic methods of proclamation have lead to the reality, as stated by many well known evangelists, that 50 percent plus of those sitting on our membership roles are not truly believers?

Could it be that there is a correlation between an extreme view that holds that God has done His part and now it is up to me as the "salesman" to do all I can to convince, coerce, and cajole so that the "buyer" accepts my product and "signs" the contract by the reading of my printed prayer "unto salvation" and this unregenerate membership? Could it be that our "evangelistic" training classes, that are more akin to Rainbow vacuum cleaners sales meetings than anything spiritual, has led to a membership being convinced and dunked but not converted and baptized?

I agree that we need to leave behind the debate of Calvinism and get on to evangelism. But I also think we need to leave behind the Arminianistic methods and move on to "real" evangelism. Let us stand together for the gospel and be clear as to what we mean by the term when we use it.

Jim Cross, pastor
First Baptist Church
Donelson 37214

Enjoyed dialogue

I enjoyed the healthy dialogue between Al Mohler and Paige Patterson as presented in the June 28 *Baptist and Reflector*. I tend to agree with Mohler that a healthy debate is good for the mind and the spirit.

In the article, it became apparent both men were articulate in their beliefs and each one was striving for a theological thread in a common fabric. Yet, philosophically speaking, that thread seemed somewhat elusive. It is on this point I would like to discuss.

From my perspective, the thread is how we might differentiate between free choice and free will. These two terms may not be synonymous. When one speaks of the will, does he mean voluntary or involuntary thoughts. For example, how many of our thoughts, like hunger or thirst, are mechanical, involuntary impulses that stimulate our minds and pre-determine our thoughts to eat or drink? We have no control over these impulses. Either we are hungry or we are not.

Yet, we can control whether or not we consciously respond to these impulses.

Certain individuals, much stronger than I, choose not to eat even when hunger is increasingly on their mind. This simple fact leads time to believe two theological points.

(1) God's personal call for salvation may not be avoided, but like hunger or thirst, it can be resisted.

(2) Redemption, meaning the combination of repentance and divine grace, is simply a two-sided coin.

Andy Brasher
Como, MS 38619

guest
columnist

By Todd Brady

Do 'things' control you?

A while back, B&R E told us about having to get a new cell phone and about complexities that such technological gadgets often bring. I appreciate him challenging toward simplicity as we seek to live for Christ in the midst of our ever encroaching modernity.

His words hit home when wife Amy gave me a birthday present this summer — my first cell phone. After hearing never can get in touch with me during the day," and after seeing this technological necessity (or so some think) for the last several years, I resigned myself to the fact that I am now a member of the cellular community.

It's old news to most, but cell phones are about so much more than making and receiving calls.

I am scared to think about how much time I wasted during that first week staring at the device, punching away at the numbers, and figuring out all the features.

During the course of conversation on my new cell phone, a friend told me, "Look at your phone." I pulled it away from my ear, took one look at it, and there he was! He had taken a picture of himself talking to me and how sent it.

When friends find out I have just started using a cell phone, the responses are the same. There is the quick "WHAT?" which is always followed by "You didn't have a phone? How could you survive? I might as well have told them that I rob banks or eat turkeys for breakfast. I am amazed by the shock and awe when people find out I had never owned a cell phone.

I do not want my cell phone to change me. It is a tool and I use it for what it is, but I don't want it to skew my vision of what is important and what I never want to be one of those persons who is always telling friends to "hold on" while quickly pulling out their cell phone as if the President of the United States were calling to seek advice about something I want to think of myself more highly than I ought.

Jesus said "Take care and watch on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15). I now have one more pressure to add to my already long list of stuff, but I must put it in its right place.

There is nothing wrong with having things. There is nothing wrong when our things bring us joy. — Brady is minister at Union University at Union, Tenn. Jackson.

If people are church members, why don't they attend?

Reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

If people are church members, why don't they attend? If I could answer that question and give solutions, I could make a book and make millions of dollars. And while I may speculate as to why they don't attend, I have no ready-made formula to get them back. On any given Sunday more than half of any given church's resident or total membership do not attend church. It is as if they have fallen off the face of the earth. But in reality they are probably at home within a five-mile radius of the church.

Over the course of a year I get numerous unsolicited manuscripts. I try to read, or at least skim through them, to see if they might be of general interest to our readers. Some make the "cut," many do not for a variety of reasons, with the number one being they are much too long.

But I recently received a faxed article, written very concisely, from a church secretary. I have reprinted her story below because it is an excellent example of what a church tried to do to combat the growing problem of non-attendance.

One sentence in her article especially caught my eye: "How can we save the lost if we lose the saved?" Now, I probably have heard that said in one way or another many times over the course of my ministry as a Baptist journalist, but it really hit home this time.

Just think of the thousands

upon thousands of Baptists on church rolls in Tennessee and across the Southern Baptist Convention who never darken the door of any church.

The 2005 TBC Journal recently was released which provides statistics from last year for Tennessee Baptist churches.

According to information, which was taken from the Annual Church Profile completed by the churches, there are 1,102,416 Tennessee Baptists. In 2005, the average Sunday School attendance was 286,154. That means on any given Sunday, about 25 percent of the people on a church roll attend.

Remember, that's just the average. There are no doubt many churches in our state where the percentage of those attending is higher.

If you compare the attendance to "resident members," the percentage is higher. In Tennessee churches reported

785,278 resident members, increasing the percentage of those who attend to 36 percent.

Even if you factor in the people who attend worship but not Sunday School I doubt the numbers increase dramatically.

Why do people not attend?

For some it may be apathy. They were active at one time but "got out of the habit" of going for awhile and never returned to church. For others it might be they "got mad" at someone years ago and stopped going.

For others, it may be they were not disciplined properly after they accepted Christ. Churches need to do a better job of disciplining new members. New Christians who are disciplined will more than likely attend regularly and begin to witness themselves. Those who are not disciplined will "fall through the cracks."

There also are valid reasons

some people do not attend such as health. In my grandfather's later years he stopped attending regularly because he simply could not hear, even with a sound system and a hearing aid.

The question those who attend must address is, "Are we trying to let those who do not attend know they are missed?"

I am afraid that in many churches the answer is no. I encourage people to read what Maple Springs did to address the problem. No, they did not have overwhelming results, but they did reclaim some of their "lost" members.

The fact is some people on church rolls are satisfied with just being on a roll and may never attend again. But there are some who just might return to church if nudged or prodded.

Our task is to let them know they are loved and missed and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. □

How can we save the lost if we lose the saved?

Guest Columnist

By Janice Edmonds

Numbers count because each represents a soul.

Bill Whitman, pastor of Maple Springs Baptist Church in Medon, has dedicated his life to this profound belief. He was by the spirit of God recently began a Church on Mission project at our church.

Our resident church members who were not attending the lost in our community came our mission field.

Bro. Bill asked our church to

agree to place all resident members on the Sunday School roll.

His reasoning was that when you put a person on the Sunday School roll, you maintain contact with them.

We took our church roll and divided the members into the classes they would belong to by age. Our community was then divided into visitation areas.

Before our revival services began, all of these member prospects were visited. We then placed all of our church members, those attending and those who did not, in groups of five on the back of our church bulletin. Members were asked to contact those listed on the individual bulletin. Their mission was to either tell how much they appre-

ciated those on their list who attend regularly, or to tell those who did not attend how much they were missed. To accomplish the mission they could call, write, or visit. All were to be earnestly prayed for. A plan for a High Attendance Day in Sunday School was also launched and this met with great results.

Our attendance increased by 51 people from the previous week — from 95 to 146. The average monthly attendance for April was 98. It climbed to 107 in May. I know of at least seven people who are now attending regularly each week. To some, I know this seems like a small number, but remember the story told in Luke 15:3-7. The shepherd had 100 sheep, but he went

after the one that was lost.

Numbers count because each one represents a soul.

Our focus has been to make sure that all of the members of our church, plus the lost in our community know that we care about them, that we love them, and that God loves them. We still have a great deal of work to do.

This effort has made our church closer in mind and spirit. We truly care about each other.

Do you know how many of your resident members who do not attend live in your very own community? Have you closed them up in a record book?

I know God will open His book some day. I think that the day is here when our churches need to open up their record

books and seek the sheep. How can we save the lost if we lose the saved?

We thank God at Maple Springs for a pastor who loves God, witnesses for Him, and leads us to reach out to others. Since Nov. 13, 2005, 15 souls have been saved and another five have transferred their membership to Maple Springs. If you are a person who has to see numbers to believe in a project, these speak for themselves.

Pray and ask God if something like we did is what your church needs to do. Remember, numbers really do count because each represents a soul!

□ — Edmonds is the church secretary at Maple Springs Baptist Church.

You never feel better hurting someone because they hurt you'

Heart Talk



By James Porch

Mr. John, a late octogenarian in my hometown, leisurely led past my boyhood home times each day, six days a week (on Sunday he made one to the Methodist church). Only prevented by inclement weather, he came dressed in a sea-l suit, hat, white shirt and brightly shined shoes, and carrying a walking stick. In the past, he held the distinction as "Andy." A retired single fellow, though nobody knew his earlier name, he appeared even to a young man as a dressed up, very old fellow who cared little for children.

Our family home sat beside a road apart from other

houses, so much of my outside playtime included the constant companionship of my little dog, Bobo.

One hot July noontime, Mr. John came down the road going home to dinner (he lived with his sister). Nearing the porch of our house, Bobo, who never knew a stranger, ran out, tail wagging to greet Mr. John.

Immediately, the elderly gentleman hit Bobo on the head and across the back with his walking stick and uttered some words I had never heard before. Bobo cowered down, cried and squealed, and ran back to me shaking and whimpering. I picked up my little abused dog and ran into the house. Mama came to my rescue, offering comfort to both her son and his devoted friend. She knew my hurt and anger, and lovingly and patiently rationalized, "Everyone does not like dogs, or maybe Bobo scared Mr. John, or possibly our elderly friend has been attacked at some time earlier by

a dog and he did not mean to hurt Bobo." Her final counsel must have really pushed my button, "James, it is over. Let's tell God we forgive Mr. John and then you go back and play."

Mama's wise parental rationale did not work. While I could not label my intentions or all of my feelings, I was already bent on revenge. Putting Bobo in his back yard pen, I watched for Mr. John to return to town after "dinner." As he slowly climbed the hill leading to our house, I went outside and began to uncoil 50 feet of water hose attached to the yard faucet. (Some of these details were related to me years later by my Mother.) According to Mama, I began watering her flower beds with the hose nozzle on full force. Once the dog abuser reached a spot just in front of our house, I ran out and wet that old man from head to toe. Once again I heard new words, this time in a very high pitched voice.

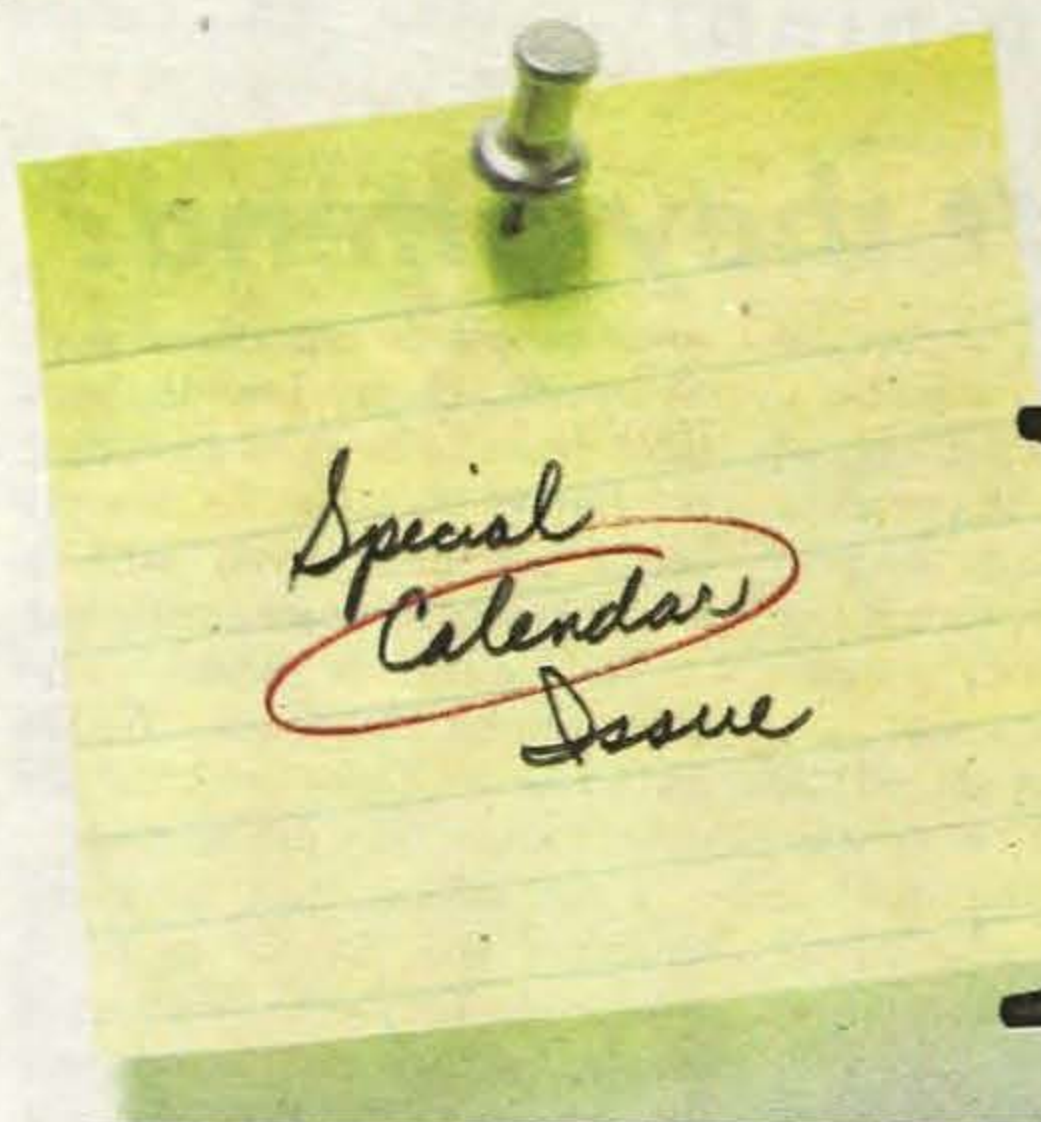
Mama, alerted by Mr. John's cussing, ran out this time to rescue my enemy. She picked up his hat, retrieved his walking stick, helped him to a chair on the front porch and brought out towels to dry off the old fellow, all the time apologizing for my behavior amidst Mr. John's silence. Once he calmed down and dried out a bit, Mama carried the dog-beater home after giving me a stern command to sit still on the porch "until I come back." I knew I was in big trouble.

After driving back into the driveway, Mama hastily walked up onto the front porch, pointed to a nearby peach tree and commanded, "Go get me a long switch." My fear jumped a notch as I remembered I was wearing short pants. I got a whopping that left welts on my legs for days. Child abuse? Oh, no! Child discipline? Yes! Then Mama began the dreaded talk with a question, "Did you feel better after you wet Mr. John?" Honest-

ly, at that moment all I felt was the stinging, burning welts on my precious little legs. She continued, "James, you decided to hurt Mr. John because he hurt Bobo, didn't you?" Painfully, I answered, "Yes ma'am." Then she made her big point, "Son, you never feel better hurting someone because they hurt you."

Years later, I learned the label for that episode — revenge, and understood Mama's counsel. Revenge is never sweet, or in the words of our Living Lord Jesus Christ, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."

Now a final confession. Another lesson, but I cannot plead consistency in practicing the old teaching or claim innocence from temptations to get back at someone who brings hurt on my life or family. However, by His grace, I keep trying to let go and abide by my Savior's expectation. □ — Porch is executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



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Beautiful Feet

September 9, 2006

Hermitage Hills Baptist Church
Hermitage, TN

Conference fee is \$35 until Aug. 25, 2006.
Late registration fee is \$40 on or after Aug. 26, 2006

Beautiful Feet

FEATURED GUESTS:

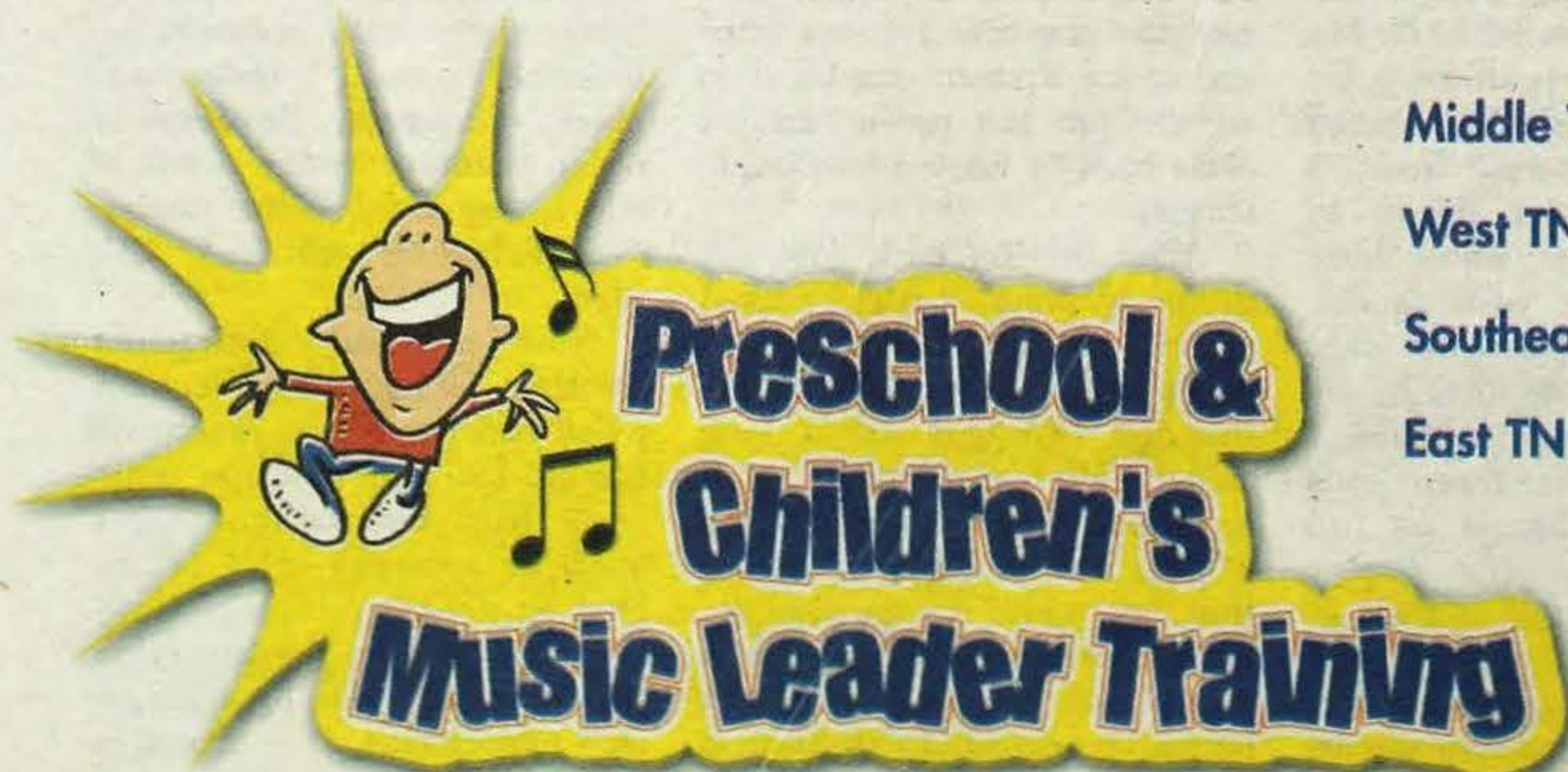


Rebecca Pippert is founder of Salt Shaker Ministries: a teaching/training ministry in evangelism. Her book, *Of the Salt Shaker*, considered a modern classic on evangelism, has sold more than a half million copies and has been translated in more than 25 languages. She is described by Chuck Colson as one of the "liveliest and most effective communicators of the gospel in the world today," and is recognized nationally and internationally as a prominent authority in the area of evangelism.



Evidence – The mission of these two young couples is twofold; "We want to encourage and challenge the Body of Christ to be EVIDENCE of God's grace to the world that they might achieve the second goal of showing the lost how to have a personal relationship with living, loving God, through His son, Jesus.

For more information call Diana Cox at 800-558-2090 Ext. 2058.



Middle TN August 5 – Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage
West TN August 12 – Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson
Southeast TN August 12 – Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga
East TN August 19 – Monte Vista Baptist Church, Maryville

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Conference Fee: \$20 per person, includes lunch and conference materials.

To register, visit www.tnworshipandmusic.org or call (800) 558-2090, ext. 7908.



Keyboard Training Workshop

August 5 Central Baptist Church
of Fountain City, Knoxville
August 19 West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson

Registration: 8:45 a.m.
Conference: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person

Register by e-mail to chanson@tnbaptist.org or online at www.tnworshipandmusic.org. For more information, contact Paul Mark or Charlotte Hanson at (800) 558-2090, ext. 7908.



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- Aug. 19 Bellevue Baptist Church, Nashville
- Aug. 19 First Baptist Church, Knoxville
- Aug. 26 Ridgedale Baptist Church, Chattanooga
- Aug. 26 West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson

Cost is \$5 per person if pre-registered or \$7 per person at the door. For more information, contact Rickie Anderson at (800) 558-2090, ext. 7918 or Gene Williams at (800) 558-2090, ext. 2064.



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2006 CONNECT DATES:

- Aug. 20-21 McMinnville Civic Center, McMinnville
with Craig Tackett, Enlightened Ministries
Contact: Eddie Ware (931)668-9495
- Aug. 27 First Baptist Church, Cookeville
with Tony Nolan, Dave Hunt
Contact: Bill Stone (931)526-7108
- Aug. 30 Macon Co. Fairgrounds, Lafayette
Macon Co. Back-to-School Blast
with Real Encounter Ministries
Contact: Don Jones (615)666-3127
- Sept. 2 Decatur Co. Fairgrounds, Parsons
with Tony Nolan, Spur 58
Contact: Mark Driver (731)967-5757
- Sept. 17-18 First Baptist Church, Clarksville
with Ed Newton, Chris White Band
Contact: Joel Reynolds (931)645-2431
- Sept. 17-18 South Doyle High School, Knoxville
with Tony Nolan, Garrison Band
Contact: Mike Parker (865)577-6617
- Oct. 1-2 Obion Co. Fairgrounds, Union City
with Eric Hixon, Jonathan and Lisa
Contact: David Hagan (731)885-2961
- Oct. 1-4 Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hendersonville
with Tony Nolan, Chris White Band
Contact: Jeff Lovingood (615)824-4006
- Oct. 15 Calsonic Arena, Shelbyville
with BJ Harris
Contact: Kenny Jamison (931)684-1634
- Oct. 22 Inglewood Baptist Church, Nashville
with Mike Satterfield, Chris Orr
Contact: Dale Braswell (615)228-2546

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

- 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 Interfaith Evangelism Associate Training, Wilson County Baptist Association, Lebanon
- August 14 3D Sunday School Training, Pomona Baptist Church, Dickson
- August 15 3D Sunday School Training, Long Heights Baptist Church, McKenzie
- August 15 3D Sunday School Training, Bayside Baptist Church, Chattanooga

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

Retreat planned for bivo ministers

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — A Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat for West Tennessee will be held Sept. 8-9 at Old English Inn in Jackson.

The theme for the event is "Standing Strong in an Evil Day."

"People today are under extreme pressures," said Ray Gilder, bivocational ministries specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"This conference is designed for bivocational pastors and their wives as an encouragement to stand strong in an evil day," Gilder said.

Speakers include Willie McLaurin of the TBC staff and Andre Dugger, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Nashville.

Breakout conferences on a variety of topics also will be offered.

The cost is \$100 and includes hotel and meals. Deadline for reservations is Aug. 28. For more information, contact Ray Gilder at (615) 371-7907. □

FAITH Summit to be held in Alabama

For Baptist and Reflector

CULLMAN, Ala. — A National FAITH Summit will be held Oct. 2-3 at First Baptist Church here.

The event is sponsored by the church and LifeWay Christian Resources.

The event is geared to senior pastors, ministers of education, and FAITH directors who have been conducting a FAITH evangelistic ministry at their church for three consecutive years or more, according to Jim O'Dillon, minister of education and outreach at First Baptist.

Dean Abernathy of LifeWay will lead the training. There will also be group discussions on FAITH-related issues.

For more information about the event, including costs and hotel information, contact O'Dil-

lon at (256) 734-5632. □

Wash. high court upholds DOMA

Baptist Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington's high court is the third court in July to block efforts by homosexual activists to force recognition of "same-sex marriage." In a 5-4 ruling July 26, the court upheld the state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), overturning two lower court rulings that declared the legislation unconstitutional.

Consideration of the case began when 19 homosexual couples filed two cases to have the state's DOMA overturned. Lower court rulings sided with the plaintiffs, but the supreme court's ruling explicitly states that the court has not been given the role of deciding who may be married in the state. That role belongs to the state's legislators, the ruling stated.

Legislators in the state's government, the court's majority opinion said, are "entitled to believe that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples furthers procreation, essential to the survival of the human race, and furthers the well-being of children by encouraging families where children are reared in homes headed by children's biological parents. Allowing same-sex couples to marry does not, in

the legislature's view, further these purposes."

Justice Barbara Madsen wrote in the court's opinion that, "In reaching this conclusion, we have engaged in an exhaustive constitutional inquiry and have deferred to the legislative branch as required by our tri-partite form of government."

Justice Bobbe Bridge, siding with the homosexual couples suing the state, wrote in his dissent that the high court would be maligned someday for not having overturned the state's traditional marriage laws. Madsen, however, noted that should such laws be passed in the state, "it will be because the people declare it to be, not because five members of this court have dictated it."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the decision was surprising, given the court's reputation as "one of the most liberal" in the country.

"Nevertheless, a 5-4 win is better than a 5-4 loss," Land said. □

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RIDGECREST - SINGLES SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2006

"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.

Aug. 17
First Baptist Church,
Donelson
2526 Lebanon Pike
Nashville 37214

For registration and lunch reservations call the Nashville Baptist Association Office at (615) 259-3034.

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The New Senior Adult

If you are wondering how to engage, lead, or inspire the "New Senior Adult," then this meeting is for you!

Baptist college presidents leave

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Two Southern Baptist college presidents have announced plans to leave their positions.

Doug Hodo, the second president of Houston (Texas) Baptist University, retired June 30. Jack D. Carlson, a

college trustee and retired businessman will become interim president, effective Aug. 1.

Dan MacMillan, the interim president of Bluefield (Va.) College, will resign effective 16 to become director of Ed.D. program for Dallas Theological Seminary's Gary R. Mauck Graduate School of Leadership and special assistant to president. □

APOLOGETIC EVANGELISM WORKSHOP, ISLAM

There will be an Apologetic Evangelism Workshop held at 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 Association 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 breakfast 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) 615-444-8820. Information on this workshop can also be found on the TBC website at www.tnbaptist.org/events.



September 29-30, 2006
Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Columbia

KID'S CHORAL CONNECTION—WHAT IS IT?

This is an opportunity for your older children's choir singers* to grow with many other children from across Tennessee in a mass camp. There will be times of age-appropriate recreation and fun celebration planned for the KIDS. There will be devotional times geared to help children think about the gift of music God has given, and their responsibility to give the gift of music-making back to Him.



Jane Burdeshaw - Director
As a music specialist, "Miss" Jane has worked with children in private schools, church choirs, and state/national/international camps. For the past seven years she has directed the 150 Alabama Baptist All-State Children's Honor Choir. She has a teaching materials for Lifeway and Creator magazine as well as a Strong Character for a Lifetime, a curriculum used in schools and churches across Alabama. She retired from teaching after twenty-five years in public schools.

Carla Nichols
Preschool/Children's Choir Consultant
Tennessee Baptist Worship & Music Ministry
Music Assistant at West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson

"What a privilege it is to bring children from all over our state to connect with one another. As the children prepare and rehearse under the leadership of one of our nation's greatest children's choral directors, it is our desire that kids would realize their divine design. We are created for His pleasure and to make our lives count for Him! Let's sing His praise together!"

REGISTRATION

Registration available online at www.tnworshipandmusic.org

Cost is \$30 per child/sponsor. Checks should be made payable to Tennessee Baptist Worship and Music Ministry. Mail to Tennessee Baptist Convention, ATTN: Charlotte Hanson, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

QUESTIONS? CALL US AT 1.800.558.2090, EXT. 790 or e-mail chanson@tnbaptist.org.
Paul Clark, Worship & Music Specialist
Charlotte Hanson, Worship & Music Ministry Assistant

pastor

Robertson retires from church after 35 years of service

Donnie Davis Bushey
Pastor and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Jim Robertson retired July 16 after serving 35 years as pastor of Sharon Baptist Church here and 40 years as pastor of churches in Tennessee.

He thought he was prepared to leave the congregation and work here but he realizes in many ways he isn't.

He did not know the depth of the bonds that you form," he said. For example, he and Janice Hensmith, secretary of Sharon Church for 28 years, are inseparable. "I can read my mind," he said. During his last weeks, he preached four sermons which were reminiscences, said Robertson. One thing he spoke of was the fracture of society through divorce which has "decimated the church and society," he said. "Such heartache."

He has counseled families, as he tried to minister to the church and husband but always to be an advocate for the church, he said. He noted most of the time the church lost at least one member of the divorced family.

Sharon does use divorced members as leaders, he noted.

Robertson said he has seen changes in his community over the years of his ministry. Sharon, which sits between Powell and Powell north of Knoxville, "used to be out in the country," he recalled. Now houses are being built by which are worth

\$200,000-\$300,000.

The church has regularly renovated its educational facilities. Sharon built a Ministry Center several years ago. The center includes a new state-of-the-art kitchen and gymnasium with walking track.

When Robertson came to Sharon in 1971, the congregation was meeting in a sanctuary built in the late 1800s. He challenged the church to build a new sanctuary, which it did in 1975. That meant the old sanctuary was torn down. It was the first thing Robertson did, but not the last, to shake things up at the church, he admitted.

Robertson said he has the three attributes needed by a Baptist pastor — a hard head, thick skin, and a soft heart. More seriously, he said he hopes he also has integrity. Hershel Chevalier, retired pastor, Cumberland Baptist Church, Knoxville, cited that characteristic when he spoke of Robertson at his retirement service.

Robertson said Chevalier might be referring to the times he was the lone vote against the rest of the 99-member Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Robertson served twelve years on the board.

Just as in those situations when the board vote prevailed, the congregation's vote prevailed at Sharon, said Robertson. "I believe in congregational government."

He also believes in trusting the church members who serve on church committees to do

the church work.

"I believe people rise to your level of trust in them."

He is very proud of the Sharon congregation. During his ministry, the church has doubled in membership and added two full-time ministers to the staff. Jim Clark, a member, helped the church develop a Tennessee Baptist Convention Disaster Relief ministry and trailer. Sharon's Ministry Center is an approved Red Cross shelter. The church recently sent a youth team to New Orleans through the World Changers program. Last year Sharon gave \$20,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and a record \$5,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

"They are people who love Jesus and are hard workers," he said of the congregation. Sharon is "a very mission-minded church in terms of support."

Sharon also is caring, he said. The church once hosted a baby shower for a pregnant lady who wasn't married. A member questioned him about it. His response was if he was going to be wrong, he wanted to be wrong on the side of grace.

He was glad to serve on the TBC Executive Board, he noted. He helped begin the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes ministry and encouraged the convention to publish its news, at that time appearing in the "Green Light," in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Robertson is concerned about the country, which is divided



JIM ROBERTSON, recently retired pastor, Sharon Baptist Church, Knoxville, stands in the church's new gymnasium, which includes a walking track. The gymnasium is a part of the church's Ministry Center, which is about two years old.

between conservatives and moderates. The political climate has affected Christians, he said. "We have lost our focus. Are we working to reach people?" He believes one answer is to adopt the view that the church and state should be separate.

He is concerned about Southern Baptists who are divided like the country between conservatives and moderates. But he also sees other divisions, like church starts which aren't cooperative with the association or convention.

He hopes churches will find new ways of partnering.

He and Judy, his wife of 44 years, will live in the area. They will enjoy more time with their two daughters and two grandchildren. The Robertsons will leave Sharon, which will be difficult but is the best thing to do,

said Robertson. Judy will leave a ladies class she has taught for 22 years.

Personally, he is glad to say he has received grace after being concerned with "the oughts" for many years. He thinks he has become an acceptable preacher though he never thought he would. He compared his style to the styles of Ramsey Pollard and Lewis Rhodes, pastors of Broadway Baptist Church, Knoxville, where Robertson attended as a student. Their styles were different. Then Robertson studied chemical engineering at the University of Tennessee before surrendering to the ministry call.

Over the years he also has learned that God "is not impressed by ministerial credentials," said Robertson. Instead He is interested in "how we minister." □

Tennessee Baptist honored by ...

Continued from page 1

For comments serve as a reminder to Lewis of the mission people have for the classic Christian songs and that it is not confined to one geographical region of the world.

He would think that Christian country music would have a stronghold in the South, the opposite is true, Lewis said.

Christian country music is actually much more popular in the North, while Southern Gospel is more popular in the South, he said.

'The Preacher'

He says he's still a Country Preacher
The Call was loud and clear:
To preach the Gospel to every creature,
He knows the Lord wants him here.

In the world he could be preaching,
Early years his dreams were grand.
His ministry could be more far-reaching,
That's not part of God's own plan.

Though his church continues growing,
He has needs that he must fill.
He takes comfort just in knowing
That here he does God's will.

When his soul is called to glory
His body to the sod,
It's not the nightly news story,
It's no less a Man of God."

Hugh X. Lewis

Upon returning to the music industry in 1998 Lewis began putting music to many of his poems. He approached Southern Gospel stations and began to get "his foot in the door."

His songs, along with other Christian country artists, now receive much better play on Southern Gospel stations, which traditionally preferred music by quartets or groups.

Lewis credits the reason for the increased exposure to the fact the songs "have a message" that people want to hear.

Though 75 years old and battling macular degeneration, Lewis has no plans to slow down.

He still travels and performs his music in a variety of settings, including churches.

Lewis, who accepted Christ at the age of 17, acknowledged he made "many mistakes" during his younger years, but believes God "has a reason for my longevity."

"I don't know what the Lord has in store for me," he said, but Lewis plans to use his gift with words to honor and bring glory to Jesus Christ as long as he is able.

And, as to how and why he received the recent honor from Tennessee legislators, Lewis just laughs and notes, "God works in mysterious ways."

Regardless of the reason, however, Lewis pledges to use his new position "to the utmost."

For more information about Lewis' frameable poems or CDs, contact him at (615) 883-0086. □



LEWIS



Church constitutes in Ripley

Forerunner Baptist Church, an African-American congregation which began four years ago as a Bible study with five people, constituted as a church on Sunday, July 9. The church was the vision of pastor/church planter Thomas Bester who was convinced God wanted him to plant an African-American church in the West Tennessee town. After beginning in March of 2002, the church purchased in July a building formerly occupied by East-side Baptist Church, an Anglo congregation which re-located. Victory Baptist Church, Henning, was the sponsoring congregation. At the time of the constitution service, Forerunner's membership had reached 151 and the church has started a Bible study in Covington which is reaching 30-35 people each week. Participating in the service were, from left, Bill George, West Tennessee church starter strategist; Bester; Ray Jones, director of missions, Big Hatchie Baptist Association; Shirley Bester; Dan Holland, pastor, Victory Baptist; and Mike Owens, associational mission council leader.

Ariz. foundation exes guilty of fraudulent schemes

Baptist Press

PHOENIX — A jury found the former president and the former legal counsel of the Baptist Foundation of Arizona guilty of three counts of fraudulent schemes and one count of knowingly conducting an illegal enterprise July 24, seven years after the collapse of the organization.

"Many in our Arizona Southern Baptist family are ready to close this chapter of our life together and move on," Steve Bass, executive director-treasurer of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, said in a statement to Baptist Press after the verdict.

"As I visit our churches and hear our people, the BFA issue is no longer the 'hot topic,'" Bass said. "Our churches and people have moved on to our greatest passion: sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with our world."

"Justice from a secular court of law is only a beginning to the healing that must take place," Bass, the ASBC director, said.

"My prayer is that the first

emotions we felt on hearing the news of the bankruptcy and the charges against eight persons — emotions like shock, disbelief, anger, and helplessness — can now be turned to forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing. May we spend as much energy in forgiveness and healing as we did when we were shocked that such a thing could happen. It is now time for the healing to begin."

The jury, which had deliberated for a month following a nine-month trial, found the executives, William Crotts and Thomas Grabinski, innocent of 23 counts of theft, concluding that the two did not intentionally steal from investors but got into trouble and tried to cover their tracks, *The Arizona Republic* reported.

Facing obligations of more than \$550 million to more than 11,000 investors, the foundation filed for bankruptcy in 1999, the largest Chapter 11 filing by a nonprofit organization in U.S. history. A new corporation was formed as part of the bankruptcy proceedings to sell off all assets, repay debts, and cease operations.

Crotts, 61, and Grabinski, 46, were taken into custody after the verdict was read, with sen-

tencing scheduled for September. *The Republic* said the two men could face six to 23 years in prison for each count.

The case had been called the largest "affinity fraud" ever, meaning it targeted a specific group — many elderly churchgoers who had invested their money in building Baptist churches and retirement homes — *The Republic* noted.

Also, the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen completed a \$217 million payment as part of its settlement with former BFA investors in May 2002. It was the second-largest settlement ever paid by a "Big Five" accounting firm to settle litigation not associated with the sav-

ings and loan crisis.

Five other BFA employees or associates pleaded not guilty to felony charges in exchange for their testimonies against Crotts and Grabinski during the trial.

The Arizona foundation had no ties whatsoever to the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — OTHER

The Human Resources Office of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention announces that applications are being accepted for the positions of Senior Graphic Designer and Graphic Designer in the Shared Ministries Group. General information about these positions is available on the web site: www.tnbaptist.org. Please contact the Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, (615) 371-2013 for further information. Interested persons must submit an application to be considered for a position.

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.

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 — STUDENT

New Hope Baptist Church of Dyer, Tenn., is searching for a bivocational minister of students. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact Pastor John Fields at (731) 414-4566 or Chm. Joey Hays at (731) 643-7427 or you may send resume to New Hope Baptist Church, 876 North Main St., Dyer, TN 38330.

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 Pastor Search Committee, 9235 Strawberry Plains Pike, Strawberry Plains, TN 37871. If you would like to learn more about church, please visit us at LyonsCreekBaptist.org.

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

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Coalfield, Tenn., seeks a pastor. Church parsonage is available if needed. Send resume and tape to Pastor Search Committee, 1306 Fairview Road, Coalfield, TN 37719. For information, see www.pleasantgrovebaptist.net/s_pastor.html.

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

ATTENTION! Timothy Phillips. Are you as dedicated to the flock God has for you as we are to finding the herd God has for us to pray & see if it is you! Write your resume to Search Committee, Unionville Rd., Halls, TN 37080.

Zion Baptist Church in N.C., is seeking resume full-time pastor. Please no later than August 31, send resume to Pastor Search Committee, 3101 West Zion Church Road, NC 28150.

Delaney Street Baptist Church in search of a senior pastor. Please send resume to Delaney Street Baptist Church, 1919 Delaney Ave, Orlando, FL 32806, Attn: Chairman Pastor Search Committee, mail.office@dsbc.org. For all church information, web page www.delaney.com.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Minister to Children - Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR. Send resume to jstatton@gsfbc.org or 31510, Little Rock, AR. Information at www.gsfbc.org. Previous children's experience required.

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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. Web site, www.ourchurch.com/member/f/friendshipTN.

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

Central Baptist Church of Spring City, Tenn., is looking for a Youth Minister and a Music Minister. We are willing to combine the positions or keep them individual depending upon the preference of those who are interested. Send resume to Central Baptist Church, P.O. Box 192, Spring City, TN 37381.

First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, Tenn., is searching for a full-time pastor to students/associate pastor. Some music background helpful but not required. Resumes will be received until September 1st. Send resume with cover letter to newtazewellfbc@centurytel.net or to Student Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 248, New Tazewell, TN 37824.

book review

Confessions of a Reformation Rev
by Mark Driscoll
Zondervan Books, 2006

Imagine feeling called to start a church in an area where only two percent of the population worships on any given Sunday. Then imagine that once you reach average attendance of 120 to 150 you decide to start "leading out" those who are not committed to your faith and your beliefs by beginning a class that is required for all new members. That's exactly what Mark Driscoll did in the early beginnings of his now mega church Mars Hill in Seattle, Wash. Driscoll taught the first required class focusing on the essential doctrines and mission of the church. After a participant finishes class, he's required to sign a covenant agreement with the elders that requires him to be committed to the church with high active participation. He would not accept a church filled with Christians who did not give, serve, or reach lost people, because he invariably makes themselves and their selfishness the mission of a church and kill innovation and momentum," he writes. Driscoll writes freely of the mistakes he made in his attempts to get his church started and what he learned along the way. As he grew through his mistakes he began to study church structure through the Bible, through books written by others and by attending services at other churches. His initial goal was to start a church for Generation X. But what he discovered in attracting Generation X was that they also needed other generations to look to for wisdom and leadership. Above all, Driscoll's desire was to be a mission-oriented church. In the early stages of church growth, he found there were three kinds of people attending church. Observers — those who were happy to do and watch, but just came and watched. Consumers — those who also gave and did nothing but were always wanting more. Participants — those who came seeking a way to live. Today, Mars Hill is approaching 10,000 people. The first class for new members is still required and half of the people who attend the class decide to join the church. The others leave or continue to be observers and attend worship services. Worship services — which always include singing, participation of communion, praying, and preaching — begin with the sermon and generally run about two hours in length. According to research cited by Driscoll, between 60 and 80 percent of all churches in America have declined or declined in membership and/or attendance. Driscoll believes that most churches tend to "decline" and accept their size and slip into a mode of maintenance. "At some point, people will move away or the church will get bored, and slowly the church will enter a cycle of decline unless it intentionally reinvents itself missionally to continue to grow by taking an effort to reach lost people for Jesus." Before, Driscoll is always working to reinvent. While you may not agree with all his methodology, I have to admire Driscoll for his strategy. His provocative book is filled with biblically-based reasons for his methods and his beliefs. It's a good read for any pastor or church leader who desires to start a mission-based church. □ — Ferguson, of Dallas, is a correspondent for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Set apart by God

By Matt Cannon

Focal Passage: John 17:9-23

There are financial advisors who say that every household should set aside an emergency fund equal to 3-6 months of expenses. This money is not to be used unless an emergency arises; it is set aside for special use. While it is important to have money set aside like this, Christians need to realize that we are set apart by God for a special purpose as well. We are not in this world for our own pleasure; we are in it to please God and to show forth His glory. He has set us apart for His purpose and it is in following His purpose that we will find true joy. **John 17:9-13:** Throughout my church-going life, I have heard an untold number of preachers preach about the evils of "the world." While I understand that the intent was to remind us that Christians are called to a higher standard than the unbelieving world, the effect that this type of preaching has on some causes them to hate the world. However, Jesus said that *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* Because of this fact, we should have love for the world as we work to lead unbelievers to Christ. In this prayer of Jesus, we see that He knows that His followers are in the world and that it is a

good thing. Jesus was no longer going to be in the world, but those who believed in Him would be taking up His ministry. He asks the Father to protect them just as they had been protected while with Jesus. Christians must not be afraid to engage our culture by showing everyone everywhere the love of Christ. We long for the blessings of Heaven, but we must remember that we are presently in the world to make a difference. **John 17:14-19:** While we are making a difference in the world, it is our responsibility, by the power of God, to remain different from the world. Jesus prays that His followers will be sanctified, or set apart/made different, by the truth found in God's Word. In engaging the culture, we must guard our hearts so that we are not sucked into the godlessness of the culture. Continually being exposed to the truths of Scripture will help to prevent us from giving in to the temptations that we will inevitably face. We must be transformed into the likeness of Christ as we try to reach out to unbelievers. We must also understand that we will be hated by some just as Jesus was. However, we can face these obstacles knowing that we have divine protection. Even if we are killed, we are safe in God's arms.

Sunday School Lesson
Family Bible Series
Aug. 6

John 17:20-23: As we strive to share the gospel, we must understand the truth that we are not in competition with other God honoring, Bible believing churches. Some of the church advertising I have witnessed seems to pit church against church trying to increase their attendance. Jesus prayed that we would all be one just as He and God the Father are one. It is interesting that Jesus said that as we have this type of unity, the world will know that God the Father has sent Jesus. I take this to mean that as Christians and churches have unity and work together to accomplish God's objectives, Christ is glorified. Conversely, if we squabble over petty differences instead of uniting with a common purpose, the cause of Christ is hindered. Every Christian is in the world to make a difference while being different from the world. However, we must learn to show love and forgiveness to our fellow believers as we humbly serve our master. Our effectiveness as witnesses depends on our willingness to take seriously God's desires. □ — Cannon is bivocational pastor, Cardiff Baptist Church, Rockwood.

How can I stay on course?

By Randall Adkisson

Focal Passage: Ecclesiastes 7:1-8:17

Look at life backwards. It has been said, "Every important decision should be made in a graveyard." Certainly in a cemetery the perspective of lives brings clarity. Planning life from the grave backwards is a wise discipline. Solomon writes from that perspective in chapters seven and eight. One cannot read Ecclesiastes without perceiving the melancholy mood of its author. Solomon writes as a man who has lived life — physically, educationally, economically — in as prosperous a position possible. He inherited David's kingdom at its zenith. His wealth and wisdom were proverbial. There was little (perhaps nothing) that he could wish for that he did not have. Solomon's life was like the one dreamed of when young boys and girls play as kings and queens. His was a life of luxury and leisure. He could command his desires and order his days without any thought of contradiction. He had the time to study, play, hunt, and party without end. And, at least during Ecclesiastes' writing, he was miserable! The wisdom that Solomon possessed served him well as a ruler, but practical wisdom for his personal life seems to have escaped him. He married poorly but often. They were political relationships, international alliances sealed with marriages. These relationships

devalued marriage as God had designed it. He married outside his "faith" and found his faith polluted with idolatry (vv. 26-28). He soothed the boredom of his days with unending pleasure seeking, finding that pleasure was fleeting: in his words, "vanity!" Even his continual pursuit of knowledge had left him unfulfilled (v. 23). As Solomon reflected upon his life and his mistakes, he wrote warning others of his own missteps. His words echo through the graveyard. "Make decisions today that you won't regret tomorrow. Go to a funeral and realize the shortness of life and its fleeting nature. Stand at your own grave and look backwards into your life. Decide what you want your legacy to be, then live each day aimed at that legacy." *The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,* he writes (v7:4). **Living life backwards.** Solomon delineates several key principles to living successfully as he looks back upon his life. Live justly and pursue justice. Solomon's reign had been marked by wisdom as he brought discernment to the court system (I Kings 3:16-28). Yet he also had forcibly conscripted labor for his own projects and lived with the knowledge that others in his court used their positions for selfish gain. Solomon calls for doing justice so that you will live without regret (7:7). Unproductive anger is eschewed and patience is implored (7:8-9). Throughout the Proverbs one may

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Aug. 6

find the themes of level headedness and patience. Looking back at life from its end, Solomon recognized that impatience and anger had been counterproductive. Life is wasted as we spend time looking at the past instead of living productively in the present (7:10). On the one hand, memory is selective and we tend to forget the trouble of past days magnifying our successes and remembering only the good moments. On the other, we must recognize the limited perspective of our early years and realize that former times may seem better merely because we did not know more. Whatever the reason for our estimation of the former days, living in the past only secures an unproductive present and a failing future. Much of chapters seven and eight is an exhortation to exercise genuine wisdom for everyday circumstances. Perspective upon the day must not be bound by the constraints of the present life. Justice and righteousness will be revealed and rewarded fully only in eternity. Life must be lived with this knowledge (8:12-13). Life is lived best by those who fear the Lord and live daily attentive to His word. □ — Adkisson is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cookeville.

Deaths

◆ **Elaine Legg**, 64, of Rutherford, died July 21 after an extended illness. She was the wife of Jerry Legg, retired pastor, First Baptist Church, Dyer. He has served as interim pastor of several churches since his retirement. Mrs. Legg is also survived by two daughters and five grandchildren.

Leaders

◆ **Chad Clanton** has been called as pastor of Gum Springs Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, effective June 11. He was not called as interim pastor, as reported in the July 26 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*. Clanton formerly has served the church as interim pastor.

◆ **West View Baptist Church**, Kingsport, recently honored its pastor, **Mike Stout**, for 25 years of service to the church.

◆ **James Smith** is retiring as pastor of Central Baptist Church, Selmer. His last Sunday was July 30. Smith has served the church for 12 years and been in the ministry for 51 years.

Churches

◆ **Trinity Baptist Church**, Jonesborough, will hold revival Aug. 13-16. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **Friendship Baptist Church**, Delano, will hold revival Aug. 6-9. The church holds revival each year in August. Ron Sorah, pastor,

Stuart Park Baptist Church, Cleveland, will speak and Buddy Galyon of Sweetwater will lead the music. For more information, contact Lee Paul, pastor, at (423) 506-6424 or (423) 745-8530.

◆ **Colonial Heights Baptist Church**, Kingsport, recently celebrated 50 years of ministry on two Sundays. Guest speaker was Charles Lowery of Plano, Texas, author and corporate motivational speaker.

◆ **Henard's Chapel Baptist Church**, Rogersville, recently purchased 67 acres for a future church site.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Lawrenceburg, celebrated its 110th anniversary recently. Former pastor Bill Oakley was the guest speaker.

◆ **Benton Station Baptist**

Church, Benton, has begun construction on a new fellowship hall.

Schools

◆ About 50 members of several Memphis-area churches helped 13 student families of **Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary**, Cordova, move into newly constructed apartments at the school recently. Among those helping were volunteers from **Bellevue Baptist Church**, Kirby Woods Baptist Church, and Ridge-way Baptist Church. Also **Faith Baptist Church** made their childcare facility available and provided lunch for student families and the volunteers. The seminary's new student housing includes 144 apartment units to be completed by Nov. 4.



PARTICIPANTS OF A PARADE to promote the Vacation Bible School of Parkway Baptist Church, Smyrna, stand with their pastor Dan Parker, center. The parade was led and followed by the Smyrna Police Department. It included a fire truck, a Rescue Squad Unit, bicycles, motorcycles, and other vehicles. The vehicles were decorated. Also banners were carried announcing the VBS.

Events

◆ The **2006 Appalachian Regional Ministry Summit** will be held Sept. 7-8 at Central Baptist Church, Johnson City. The summit is a forum for Southern Baptist ministries from Appalachia to share information about short-term mis-

sion opportunities. It also is people seeking short-term mission opportunities in the area. One of the sponsors of the meeting is the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Deadline to register is Aug. 11. For more information, contact www.armi.org or Heather Wilson, T staff, at 1-800-558-2090 or 2061.



MEMBERS OF ROCKY POINT Baptist Church, Russellville, S.C., in front of a sign welcoming them to LeMoyne Boulevard Baptist Church, Biloxi, Miss. They served there June 17-23 helping hurricane victims. The volunteers served with Pleasant View Baptist Church, Talbot. They worked on homes installing sheetrock, sanding the sheetrock, and sanding it. They also distributed care bags and Bibles to families living in FEMA trailers. Helping them prepare the care bags were two other congregations. Those pictured from left, Dorothy Haun, Donna Smyth, Tom Haun, S. Buchanan, Robert Wilkerson, Kim Click, Terry Click, Erin Andrew Henry, Ruble Henry, Lillie Henry, Ronnie Bales, Eddie Anna Helton, Noah Click, and Irene Bales.



BREAKING GROUND for the Church at Antioch near Nashville recently are, from left, Kenny Stephens; Phil Saindon, Bryan Howard; Keith Paul; and Curt McLaughlin. The congregation begun by Saindon, has met in a home and in a retail building was begun in 1999.



LEONARD MARKHAM, left, new pastor of First Baptist Fairfield Glade, and his wife, Debra, visit with Tom and Barron, retired International Mission Board missionaries with Crossville, at a Summer Missions Emphasis Meeting Woman's Missionary Union of Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association, Crossville. It was held at Fredonia Baptist Crossville. The Markhams spoke about their recent mission in West Africa.



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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