

Baptist & Reflector

Statewide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 33; Sept. 13, 2006

Tennessee Baptists recall helping victims of 9/11

By Bonnie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — On Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, 2001, Bearden of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff was preparing for a regular day of work. By that evening, the TBC Disaster Relief feeding unit had been activated by the North American Mission Board, Marietta, Ga., to respond to the NYC disaster. It was in operation on Sept. 14 a mile from

Ground Zero, recalled Bearden, who oversaw Tennessee DR work.

Tennessee DR was the first of the state ministries to send a feeding unit for several reasons, said Bearden, who is now conference centers senior manager for the TBC. He is based at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden.

The TBC had one of the largest feeding units, including volunteers and a transportation group. It was more mobile and closer in location than other Baptist units.

"It all happened so fast," he remembered. "Every piece of state equipment went." That included mobile kitchens, refrigerated trailers which can transport and store perishable food, and a mobile shower and laundry trailer.

The TBC response to 9/11 was its third to a man-made disaster. The TBC had responded to the explosion of a tractor trailer in Waverly in 1979 and the war in Kosovo in 1999, reported Bearden.

TBC response to 9/11 also was the first continuous 24-hour

operation and the first time it was not supported by a local church. It was the first state response to have state DR chaplains on site. Finally, it was the first to be in a large metropolitan area.

Tennessee DR workers provided meals for about 16 days and continued to serve in NYC for about nine months working in Baptist feeding operations, other feeding operations, dust-out of residences, and as chap-

lains. One final gesture was a gift of funds given by Tennessee DR to Metro New York Baptist Association, noted Bearden.

Tennessee Baptists sent the funds to fellow Tennessean David Dean who was director of missions of the association. Since then Dean has returned to Tennessee in retirement. He is a member of Orlinda Baptist Church, Orlinda.

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VIRGINIA COLE of First Baptist Church, Huntingdon, was given a thank you note by a child on New York City sidewalk.



NEW YORKERS delivered deli trays of "New York food" to Tennesseans. Bill Curington of Mascot thanked them. The New Yorkers were employees of UPS which was located near the feeding operation. From left are Al Harmen, Donald Chin, and Harold Rampaul.



DON DAVIS, left, of Nashville, and Warren Farrar of Falmouth, Ky., prepared food in New York City. In the sky was a cloud of dust and smoke emanating from Ground Zero.

Women urged to witness at first statewide event

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

HERMITAGE — "Why in the world aren't we racing to share the good news (of Jesus Christ) when it's the best news on the planet?" asked Rebecca Pippert Sept. 9 in the opening session of the first statewide evangelism conference for women at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church here.

Pippert, author, speaker, and founder of Salt Shaker Ministries of Louisville, Ky., spoke three times during the Saturday conference focused on the theme, "Beautiful Feet."

"Let's pray that what we do today will change this state," said Pippert. Rather than focusing on evangelism methods, she said she believes the greatest effectiveness in evangelism "comes from learning more about the message. It's knowing Christ well to make Him well known."

Pippert, the first person in her family to become a Christian, said she was drawn to Christ by coming to understand that He gave up His power to become human and die for the sins of all who would believe.

As Christ came to earth as a baby, "We

must learn to celebrate our weakness and celebrate God's power," she said. "Where did we get this idea that we're supposed to be the bionic Bible woman? Our weakness is a gift because it causes us to depend upon God."

Noting that everyone in her family later became Christians, Pippert said, "If God could use someone like me He can use you."

Relationships of love

"The kingdom of God is not about religious activities. It is about relationships of love," Pippert said. "How you treat people is going to be the clearest indication to others of what you think God is like. If the kingdom of God is about relationships of love, then that is what evangelism is about."

She emphasized Christians must look at nonbelievers through Christ's eyes and not "simply as an evangelism project. Everybody is somebody to Jesus and we must show this same behavior."

"Are you involved in authentic friendships with unbelievers?" she asked. "No matter how difficult the situation or impossible the person, we must show them Jesus."

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TBC CP giving rises

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Gifts through the Cooperative program from Tennessee Baptist Convention churches rebounded significantly in August.

August gifts totaled \$3,481,617, up more than \$1 million over July gifts.

For the year-to-date, Tennessee Baptists have given \$30,016,267 through the Cooperative Program, an increase of \$376,676, or 1.25 percent over the same time last year.

After 10 months of the current fiscal year CP gifts are \$197,417 or 0.65 percent below budget needs.

"We are grateful for Tennessee Baptists' commitment to meeting missions and ministry needs in our state and around the world," said James Porch, TBC executive director/treasurer. □

TBC reports in this issue

This issue of the Baptist and Reflector contains reports from the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees. Bylaws require the reports to be printed at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. See page 11. □



REBECCA PIPPERT, right, author and founder of Salt Shaker Ministries in Louisville, Ky., autographs a book for Jan Scruggs of First Baptist Church, Danville, who was attending the first statewide women's evangelism conference last weekend at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Hermitage.

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Five years after 9/11, Baptists still minister in NY

Baptist Press

NEW YORK — It has been five years since two jets slammed into the World Trade Center, leaving thousands dead and hundreds injured in the deadliest terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil.

But five years haven't been enough time for the effects of the attack to wear off for New Yorkers. Just ask Gary Frost, who became executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association in 2004. As he walks through New York train stations, Frost eyes backpacks and luggage with a constant awareness that one bag filled with explosives could throw the city into crisis once again.

"As I've traveled through, I've seen people with large backpacks and all sorts of luggage that's not being inspected," Frost said. "I realize that God has just been gracious to us. We've not been protected by Homeland Security. We've been protected by a heaven-land security system. God's angels are on patrol in New York City because there's no other way we can account for not having some kind of major terrorist strike over the past five years."

Just as the effects of 9/11 haven't worn off, five years also haven't been enough time for Southern Baptists' compassion for New Yorkers to wear off.

God's protection of New York has underscored for Frost the need to bring the message of Christ to New Yorkers while there is still time. Since 2001, the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and its churches have conducted a three-pronged ministry of grief support, financial assistance for 9/11 victims, and job development for those who lost steady employment due to the attack.

These ministries have touched thousands and made Southern Baptists one of the few groups still conducting organized recovery ministry five years later.

"When there is a traumatic experience such as 9/11, not only are the first responders and caregivers and the family of the deceased impacted, but there's a ripple effect that sometimes doesn't manifest itself until maybe a year or two later," Frost said. "I think pastors are [now] more appreciative of the need to minister beyond initial crisis intervention."

Taylor Field is one New York City pastor attuned to the need for long-term recovery ministry. As pastor and director of East Seventh Baptist Church-Graffiti, the church nearest Ground Zero at the time of the attack, Field launched an aggressive five-year plan to minister to the "affected but

Macon County churches cooperate for crusade; see more than 165 decisions

For Baptist and Reflector

LAFAYETTE — Do you ever wonder what might happen if a local ministerial alliance caught the vision to strategically work together on an evangelistic outreach in their county?

That's a question posed by Kent Shingleton, youth evangelism specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. And, Shingleton had that question answered by a small group of pastors in Macon County who had such a vision.

The network of pastors in Bledsoe Baptist Association partnered last month with the TBC youth evangelism office to host a Real Encounter crusade. Real Encounter is a unique ministry led by Brad Bennett, a former professional motocross racer.

"As a team, we use our skills in the areas of motorcycle stunt riding, freestyle motocross, skateboarding, music, drama, and multi-media simply as a means of connection with the culture," Bennett says of his ministry. "These elements are our platform, but make no mistake, Jesus Christ has center stage in our lives as individuals and in our message as a ministry," he stresses.

The Real Encounter team led character building assemblies at four high schools and three middle schools on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning preceding the harvest night.

"The Real Encounter crusade was a God thing," said Leroy Crouch Jr., pastor of Jubilee Worship Center in Westmoreland. "It enabled nine different churches to come together and see the Lord cross denominational barriers and reach people from four different counties for the Lord," he said.

"Other than witnessing the Billy Graham crusade, I've never been a part of anything of this magnitude. Who would have thought that the largest high school gym in our county could not hold all the people who attended the harvest night on Wednesday?" he added.

More than 2,500 people showed up at the harvest event at Macon County High School and 165 decisions of individuals choosing to follow

Christ were recorded.

The local planning team for the crusade was led by Don Jones, pastor at First Baptist Church, Lafayette.

"We are still excited about how God used the Real Encounter team to reach so many young people for Christ that had no previous church affiliation," Jones said.

"We had great expectations for this event, but when we saw so many young people respond to the gospel invitation our hopes were greatly exceeded. I am thankful to the TBC for helping make this type of an event available to us that live and serve in rural counties."

"The Real Encounter crusade gave us the opportunity to really function like the body of Christ. It was a glimpse of what the body of Christ in heaven will look like," observed Barry Crowson, pastor at West Lafayette Baptist Church.

"For our county, there was no other way to pull this off. It took every church to make Real Encounter happen. When the gospel is shared and you are prayed up and prepared and have been faithful to do what God calls you to do, the reality is that simply presenting the gospel will be honored by God," Crowson said.

"The entire Real Encounter event was indescribable," Shingleton observed. "I have never seen an evangelistic team be so effective in engaging the lost community."

"After seeing this ministry, God confirmed in my heart that the youth evangelism office should partner with Real Encounter in the fall of 2007 for a statewide Real Encounter tour," he added.

Crouch observed that "for some time now my personal prayer has been that the Lord would allow me for just once to be a part of a real revival before my ministry ends."

"God answered that prayer and we all got to walk away from something saying, we made difference." □



SHINGLETON

neglected" victims of 9/11.

Field, a missionary appointed by Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board, hired a full-time 9/11 recovery director, Kareem Goubran, who leads support groups, financial assistance efforts, and job skill development classes. From those ministries have come dozens of stories about changed lives.

One man, who lost his job as a hotel worker after 9/11, sent his children to an after-school program at Graffiti. He discovered that Graffiti was hiring 9/11 victims to help build a new facility, applied for a job, and eventually came to faith in Christ during construction through Field's witness.

Field sees 9/11 as a turning point for ministry in New York; it made New Yorkers more open to cooperation and conversation, which translates into increased openness to the gospel.

An illustration of the change in New York came during the massive power outages of 2003, Field said. During similar power outages in the 1970s, New Yorkers looted stores, vandalized property, and destroyed sections of the city, but during the 2003

outages city residents cooperated and helped one another.

"I remember being in a group Bible study with people that were in difficult circumstances," Field said. "... I said, 'Why do you think it was different this time?' And they, to a person, said, 'Because of 9/11. We've learned that in tough times we can stick together rather than fighting each other.'" □

Tennessee DR not needed after Hurricane Ernesto

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist disaster relief state feeding unit received stand down orders early Sept. 1 from the North American Mission Board, as disaster relief directors from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia determined that Hurricane Ernesto response from other state units was not needed.

The Tennessee Baptist State Feeding Unit was placed on stand by Aug. 30 when Hurricane Ernesto began tracking

toward the Florida Keys.

Although Ernesto strength in Florida, the Tennessee Baptist State Feeding Unit remained on stand awaiting possible requests response as the storm moved the East Coast. □

LifeWay Research to study Calvinism

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — LifeWay Research, a department of LifeWay Christian Resources, announced that Calvinism the Southern Baptist Convention, will be its initial study.

LifeWay Research announced in February by LifeWay President Thom R. R.

Other research projects include the formerly church — why they left the church and what would bring them back; churches that are effective in evangelism over a year period and why; and which sources Southern Baptist churches draw ministry help. □

Tennessee Baptists recall helping victims of ...

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Bearden said the response to 9/11 changed Tennessee Baptist DR in other ways. For the first time Tennessee DR caught the wrong attention of the local news media. Also, as the months passed, the number of volunteers grew dramatically, almost at times, requiring increased training opportunities.

The need for background checks of volunteers and prior training became a requirement. Training was upgraded. More detailed credentials and an ID were required for volunteers after 9/11.

Bearden explained the changes were required because the terrorists "broke a trust" that had existed in the United States before 9/11. "We couldn't trust everybody anymore."

Many other things changed after 9/11, suggested Bearden. "It was the day that changed New Yorkers. It was the day that North and the South came together. We as Americans realized we really are brothers and sisters and boy what an opportunity to let the love of Jesus shine." He described the outpouring of help from New Yorkers received by the Tennesseans. "It was a unique time for everybody," stated Bearden.

Larry Triplett, DR volunteer in First Baptist Church, Concord, Knoxville, agreed that 9/11 have brought out the best in New Yorkers.

He noted the use of the UPS parking lot located just a mile from Ground Zero for the feed-



LARRY TRIPLETT, Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer in NYC, covered his ears to communicate despite the noise of the area.



VID DEAN, center, then director of missions, Metro New York Baptist Association, visited the Tennessee feeding operation with Bill Carney, left, of the North American Mission Board. They met with Bill Curington of Mascot. Dean is from Tennessee.

ing unit. Triplett, who has served as a DR volunteer for 14 years, noted it was surrounded with an eight-foot chain link fence and a gate which was guarded. UPS also let volunteers sleep in their offices.

"God took care of us," he stated.

Triplett was surprised at the "overwhelming" thankfulness of New Yorkers. The volunteers couldn't walk down the street without being approached many times by residents thanking them. Many said, "God bless you," he recalled.

Triplett, who was in charge of communications, noted he used a ham radio and a local radio system loaned to the group which worked fine. He is a retired research biologist with the Department of Energy, Oak Ridge.

He will never forget the glowing sky at night which reflected the cloud of dust remaining from the World Trade Center. And he will never forget the fear he felt before arriving. However, "we had to go," said Triplett. Thankfully, he didn't experience fear while there, he remembered.

Bearden recalled that ambulances with sirens wailing would pass by the feeding operation 24/7. It was a reminder that another body had been found, he said.

As Triplett looks back, the experience generally increased his urgency concerning evangelism, he said.

In the midst of the stress, Bearden recalled some funny experiences. One was that some Baptist volunteers were sleeping in a UPS tractor trailer on the UPS parking lot. They were nearly transported that night by a UPS employee.

He also heard that some New Yorkers thought that black-eyed peas fed to them by Tennesseans were burned. They hadn't eaten chicken and dumplings but liked them.

Veteran Tennessee Baptist disaster relief worker Connie Stricklin of Adamsville worked in the feeding operation along with other DR volunteers from Shiloh Baptist Association, based in Adamsville.

Their sleeping quarters were

an unexpected blessing, said Stricklin. They slept in a warehouse donated by Michael Bloomberg, now mayor of NYC. Beds were set up and changed daily. Food, showers, and free telephone service also were provided, recalled Stricklin, who has served in Baptist DR for 14 years. She is state DR childcare coordinator. Her husband, Mike, is a DR chaplain who served in NYC, is West Tennessee coordinator for state DR, and is DR director for Shiloh Association. The couple are members of Hopewell Baptist Church, Savannah.

She also was blessed by the notes left on her bed by other volunteers who used it. They were careful to remove her belongings such as her sleeping bag, said Stricklin.

It was a time when New Yorkers "came together and were very appreciative of the help," she said.

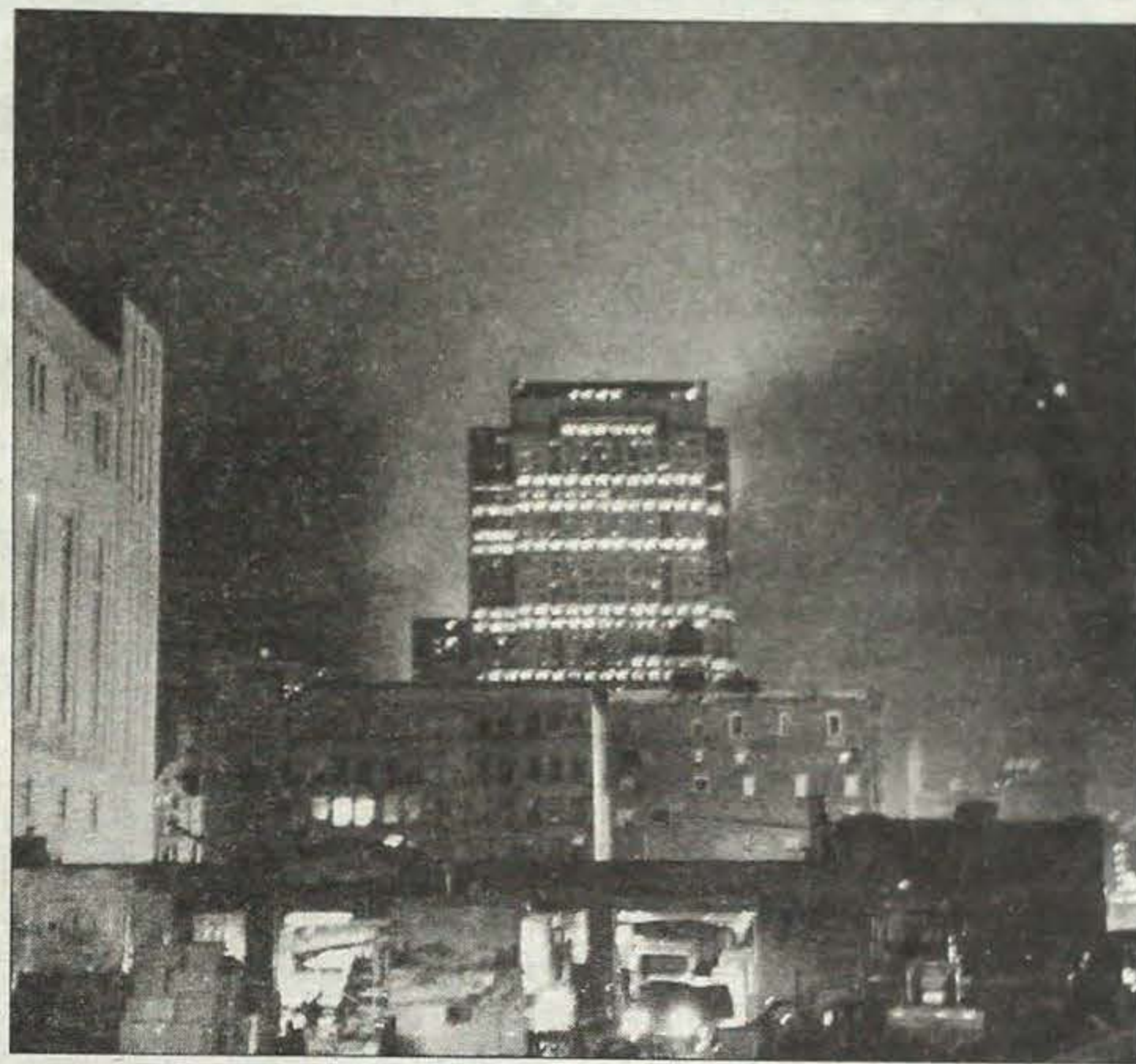
She returned in October for 10 days to coordinate Baptists on a national scale at the Emergency Operations Center. She worked with other emergency personnel, both employees and volunteers.

In that role she got to know the representative of the New York Police Department. At his desk was a poster displaying photos of policemen who were missing. One day Stricklin asked him about the poster and whether he knew any of the men or women pictured. He said he knew all of them. She also recalled the photos of missing people and information about them displayed on the sidewalks of the city.

One uplifting experience she had was when a couple was married by Mayor Rudy Giuliani at the operations center. They both worked there. Their wedding had been planned for 9/11 but, of course, was canceled.

"I still ache for the people that were there," said Stricklin.

As she coordinated volunteers to dust out or clean apartments, Stricklin felt for the apartment dwellers who had to think about what was in that dust. She also feels for the New Yorkers who are having physical problems because of the disaster. Clean up volunteers were



THE CLOUD OF DUST which remained from the World Trade Center as seen from the Tennessee DR feeding operation site after 9/11.

protected by high tech suits and breath filtering equipment, she said.

The volunteers met with apartment owners one on one, she added, and ministered to them. She recalled that New Yorkers "were dumbfounded and most appreciative" that anyone would do such work for free.

Stricklin also coordinated Baptists to work in Baptist feeding operations and other feeding operations, in the Baptist teddy bear distribution, and as Baptist DR chaplains.

Another long-time DR worker, Vivian Lyle of Central Baptist Church, Johnson City, reported that in addition to preparing food for distribution to workers at Ground Zero, "We were able to minister to a lot of policemen," Vivian Lyle said. "They would come by and eat meals with us."

One day, an NYPD police sergeant told the volunteers about a group of people working 12-hour shifts in a nearby building, notifying family members of the dead. He asked if these people could take a break from their grim responsibilities and visit the feeding unit for a meal.

"They came and we were there to offer food and a listening ear," she said.

In the aftermath of 9/11, disaster relief volunteers received numerous expressions of thanks for their efforts.

The New York Police Department sent the following message:

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your servant hearts and outreach ministry to the citizenry of New York City in the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center. You have warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits during our time of need. May God Our Heavenly Father bless you in all that you do for His kingdom. May the peace that surpasses all understanding keep you all of your days."

American Red Cross volunteer Pat Miller, who had served on about 40 disasters when she was kitchen coordinator in New York City after 9/11, told the *Baptist and Reflector*: "Your organization is so organized. You make sure the food is fixed and gotten on the ERVs (emergency response vehicles) and gotten out. You've certainly prepared your hearts and your souls are certainly in it."

"Every volunteer says they don't do this to respond to a disaster. It is to respond to people in the name of Jesus Christ," said Bearden. □ — Linda Lawson contributed to this article.

Crisis intervention ministry begun after 9/11

By Connie Davis Bushey and Linda Lawson

BRENTWOOD — While Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief leaders had considered launching a crisis intervention ministry for some time, the needs after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center highlighted the need.

Don Pierson, disaster relief crisis intervention coordinator for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 2003, said a 9/11 request from the North American Mission Board called for volunteers trained in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) or the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). Pierson is now prayer coordinator for the TBC.

"We were not prepared to respond at that

time," said Pierson. However, NOVA training was scheduled quickly and teams of chaplains from Tennessee were sent in the following weeks and months to NYC.

Bearden said the chaplains were important to the ministry of the effort. They served at the feeding operations and with workers at Ground Zero.

Connie Stricklin, long-time DR volunteer from Savannah who coordinated Baptist volunteers in NYC for 10 days, agreed, noting the chaplains reported great ministry opportunities as they met with workers at Ground Zero sifting through the debris.

Now approximately 441 Tennessee Baptists have been trained in crisis intervention and volunteers have worked in the U.S. and internationally. □

Women urged to witness at first statewide ...

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Sin problem

Instead of imitating Jesus, Pippert said churches today sometimes seem to "be imitating the world at its worst point. To experience the mystery and the miracle of the change that Jesus makes, you have to face the mess that Jesus came to solve. The mess is us. It's the problem of sin."

She warned that too many Christians adopt a harsh, judgmental attitude toward nonbelievers and then go to church and act as if they have never done anything wrong.

"We've got a God complex," Pippert said. "We keep getting ourselves and God mixed up. We were created to be God centered, but we're hopelessly self centered."

To get their lives in proper perspective, she said Christian women must confess their sins daily. "We can't overcome what we don't admit."

When women understand the significance of Jesus' death on the cross, they become "free to love the unlovely. What I love about the cross is its level ground," Pippert said.

"We worship a God who never gives up, who loves us with unceasing love, and calls us to love others," she concluded.

Larry Gilmore, Tennessee Baptist Convention director of evangelism, said of the 5.7 million people living in the state, 4.6 million did not attend any

Speaker urges prayer, action to reach Muslim women

By Linda Lawson
Baptist and Reflector

HERMITAGE — After undergoing a radiation treatment Sept. 8 in her battle against breast cancer, Paula Hemphill traveled from South Carolina to Nashville with a friend to lead conferences the next day on a 30-plus-year passion of her life, reaching Muslims for Christ.

Hemphill, who serves with the International Mission Board's office of mobilization, led sessions titled "Behind the Veil" during the first Tennessee Baptist statewide women's evangelism conference Sept. 9 at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church here.

"I've prayed for Muslims for 36 years," Hemphill said. "It's so important for you to mobilize your churches to pray for Muslim families."

She began her conference wearing a Muslim head covering and speaking as a Shiite Muslim woman who had moved to the United States with her family and had heard about Jesus.

Hemphill noted that more than 2,400 Nashville families speak Arabic and more than 800 speak Persian. "God has brought Muslims to us."

She emphasized the "first step" in reaching Muslims is "having compassion. I often hear Americans express fear and even hatred for Muslims."



PAULA HEMPHILL shares her passion for praying for Muslim women at a TBC conference last weekend in the Nashville area.

From her many trips to Muslim countries as well as working with them in the United States, Hemphill said, "I love the people. I love the food. I love the clothes."

Reaching Muslim women represents a special challenge, she said, noting that only 10 percent of Muslim background believers are women. Muslim women are kept "behind walls and behind veils. If you're working with Muslim women you must be respectful to Muslim men. Pray for that door to open."

"Pray for these Muslim background believers overseas. If a woman is known to be a follower of Jesus, she faces tremen-

dous persecution," she said.

Hemphill described Muslim women as "pious and committed, hospitable and warm." At the same time, she said many are superstitious, protecting themselves and their families with amulets and by actions such as placing a Koran at the highest place in a room.

"We have believed Satan's lie that it's too hard to go to Muslims," she said. "It's not too hard. We've got to believe it's possible. My passion is that there be spiritual mothers and grandmothers in every people group to disciple the women of the next generation."

While she has been an active witness of her faith for many years, Hemphill said cancer has increased her boldness.

"I have nothing to lose," she said. "I have a hope that doesn't disappoint. These women don't have that."

Emphasizing "God has a strategy" for reaching Muslims, Hemphill suggested women hold prayer teas at home or at church, conduct prayer walking projects and vision trips, and participate in the Global Day of Prayer and Fasting.

"The veil of unbelief is over the minds of Muslim women. We're looking for the bridges to reach the Muslim heart," she said.

The conference was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □

church last Sunday and at least 3 million "have no relationship with Christ. We're called to be witnesses. We're here today to learn how to do that more effectively."

In a related matter, two volunteer TBC consultants in women's evangelism led sessions during the conference and are available to speak in churches throughout the state

to equip women to witness. Learn more about Carolyn Outland and Ann Davenport by visiting www.careministrieschristian.com.

Several other conferences

addressing a variety of topics were covered during the sessions.

The conference was sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. □

Murfreesboro couple stays in N.Y. longer than they planned

Baptist Press

NEW YORK CITY — The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks may have scared some people away from New York City. But it seems to have had the opposite effect on many Southern Baptists.

More than 24,000 Southern Baptist volunteers have flocked to New York since 2001 — and some have felt God's call to plant their lives in the city permanently.

One such volunteer-turned-missionary is Tim Simpson. When 9/11 occurred, Simpson and his wife Brigitte were living in Murfreesboro, where he was working for an insurance company. In response to the tragedy, Belle Aire Baptist Church where Simpson attended began to think of ways to minister in New York.

By early 2002 Belle Aire's efforts had kindled Simpson's interest in New York and he began to plan a vacation in the city. Though the vacation never materialized, Simpson's research meshed with his church's vision and a friend's ministry in New York to captivate his heart. In 2003 the Simpsons moved to New York to coordinate collegiate

ministry efforts for New Hope New York, a Southern Baptist initiative to reach the city.

"It just kind of fit," Simpson told Baptist Press. "My wife and I sat down and started talking about it ... and we started taking into account the influence of the city. I believe New York is the center of the world. Everything comes out of here. Everybody cares about it."

Simpson originally expected to be in New York for three years. But when his service with New Hope New York ended, an opportunity opened for Simpson to head up a training initiative for college students, The Leadership Journey. Based at The Gallery Church where Simpson is an associate pastor, the program pairs college students from across America with churches in New York for a year of ministry.

Simpson took the position with The Leadership Journey and says he plans to remain in New York indefinitely.

"I have no idea when I'm going to leave New York, and I don't plan to leave New York," he said.

"God's got us here now, and we're here until He decides to move us on," he said. □

Tennesseans serve at center of outreach

Baptist Press

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — It's just another nondescript red-brick building in Brooklyn dating back to the 1920s. It has been a furniture store, a funeral home, a dentist's office and, during World War II, it housed a draft board that sent troops to defend the country.

Today, with its green door facing the corner of 5th Avenue and 21st Street in Brooklyn's Park Slope community, the David Dean Mission House is a launching pad for Southern Baptists' post-9/11 mission work across the New York City's five boroughs.

In 1991, David Dean, then-executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, had a dream.

"I envision MNYBA purchasing a mission house ... a residence with 5-6 bedrooms, easily accessible to the city and public transportation for the purpose of providing housing for mission volunteers, like Mission Service Corps, US-2, student workers, and others who cannot afford to come to New York because of the high cost of housing," Dean wrote 15 years ago.

Accelerated by the jolt of Sept. 11, 2001, Dean's vision became reality in August 2002 when the North American Mission Board bought the building from the Park Slope Community Church. Donations for the project had begun rolling in right after 9/11.

More than 700 people have stayed at the center since the first of this year, reported Jack and Becky Snyder, the center's resident hosts since 2004 and Mission Service Corps missionaries for the

North American Mission Board.

Sixty-three-year-old Jack and Beck 55 — married for 28 years — left the relatively quiet solitude of Cleveland (pop. 37,000), to relocate to Brooklyn (pop. 2 million). Jack, who has had two major heart operations, was a retired millwright for Duracell.

"This is the final run for us," Snyder said. "This thing is about to wind down. I'm not getting any younger. So we have to go all out and do what we can. We want to make a difference. People need to get on board for missions."

"After I had already been coming up here on mission trips, I told Becky that I felt like the Lord was leading me to go on mission New York," Snyder said. "She told me that was crazy, that neither God nor anybody else was leading us to New York. I told her just to pray about it. She later came up [New York] with me and the Lord touched her during a church service."

Becky, who attributes her peace about living in Brooklyn to God, feeds up to 10 mission volunteers two meals each day while Jack handles office administration and maintenance. Her southern cooking is legendary — especially the biscuits and gravy for breakfast.

While summer is the prime season for volunteer trips to New York, the Snyders are busy year-round — not only running the center but also conducting a variety of ministries on their own, including a high rise apartment ministry, Bible studies and worship services twice a month at the famous Bowery Mission, a shelter for New York City's homeless. □

There is no doubt — Tennessee is a mission field

Making
Christ
Known



By Candy Phillips

Did you know that you can have a part in providing a Christian camping experience for persons with developmental disabilities? The state missions offering supports Special Friends Camp at Carson Springs and Linden Valley every summer.

Did you know that for every dollar you give to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions at 50 cents goes to help start new churches to reach the lost in our state? There are more than three million lost and unchurched people living in Tennessee. New churches are more likely to reach them.

Did you know that when you give to the Golden Offering it helps strengthen existing language churches and develop new unique work in our state? The world has come to Tennessee, and we have an opportunity to spread the gospel by starting new language churches in our communities.

Did you know that Tennessee Baptists have one of the best trained and equipped disaster relief teams in the nation? For over 25 years the state missions offering has been the source of funds to buy equipment used in times of disaster and emergency. It also provides funds to train volunteers who are prepared to go at a moment's notice.

Did you know that your gifts to the Golden Offering provide an annual Christmas check of \$50 to retired International Mission Board missionaries who are Tennessee natives? Your gift also nurtures missionary kids whose parents are native Tennesseans and who are attending Tennessee colleges.

The list goes on and on. There are more than 20 different ministries supported entirely or partially by the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions. The allocations vary from \$5,000 mobilizing student summer missionaries to \$810,000 for planting new churches. But if you give to the state missions offering, you give to every single ministry. Each allocation is considered new each year and is scrutinized by a diligent committee.

The essence of the state missions offering is that it supports missions and ministries in our own state. Tennessee is a mission field. It is our mission field. We are responsible for sharing Jesus with Tennesseans just as much as we are responsible for sharing Jesus with Iowa, Montana, or Brazil.

The central question in my mind is how does my Golden dollar help bring Jesus to people in Tennessee? Each year as the applications arrive for allocations that question is foremost in my mind. I want to be able to assure all

Tennessee Baptists that they can confidently expect the offering to be used with integrity and accountability.

Yes, giving to the state missions offering makes it possible for your church to support missions and ministry throughout the state.

The Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions is a beautiful picture of cooperation and trust among Tennessee Baptists. No single church could accomplish what we as a group of cooperating churches can do together.

Thank you for supporting the Golden Offering in the past. The

2005 offering closed Aug. 31 and totaled \$1,501,811. The 2006 goal is the same as it was in 2005, \$1,630,000. Tennessee was the first state to begin taking an offering in 1902. It was started by Mildred and W.C. Golden. In 1943 the offering was named the Golden State Mission Offering. In 2002 during the centennial year, the offering name was changed to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions.

The suggested week of prayer for state missions is Sept. 10-17. The theme is "Who? Me? Beyond My Door...". The focus Scripture is Colossians 4:2-6. Open your front door. What do you see? A state in need of a Savior. What part will you have in bringing Jesus to Tennessee?

Promotion materials were mailed to churches and missions leaders in July. Prayer guides, video in DVD format, posters, and envelopes are available by calling Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union at 800-558-2090, extension 2038 or (615) 371-2038.

Supplemental helps are available on the Tennessee Baptist Convention web site: www.tnbaptist.org or www.goldenoffering.com. — Phillips is executive director of Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Honesty really is the best policy

The Palm Beach Post in Palm Beach County, Florida, recently reported the sad events leading to the resignation of a Florida pastor who falsified his resume.

According to the report, the pastor's resume indicated he had received earned degrees from respected educational institutions. In reality, the pastor had received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees through correspondence courses from a non-accredited school in Georgia.

According to *The Post*, the pastor wrote in his resignation letter that he did not expect his deceptions to surface. Imagine that. I wouldn't expect anyone who commits sin to do so with the intention of getting caught.

This is not the first time someone has falsified a resume and I am sure it will not be the last. And, if the truth be known, there are church leaders who have gladly given glowing recommendations for staff members so they can move on and become "someone else's problem." That is just as bad.

Twisting the truth (no one likes to use the "lie" word) has been around since the creation of man (see the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4).

Evidently it was such a problem in Old Testament days that God made sure it was covered by its own commandment (thou shalt not bear false witness).

Unfortunately, people haven't taken that to heart. Dishonesty is still commonplace in all areas of our life. See related column on this page and the book review on page 15.

The Bible is pretty clear that we are to strive to be honest and truthful in all we do. Zechariah 8:16 says it well: *These are the things that ye shall do; speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates.*

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all." And Dwight L. Moody observed, "Lying covers a multitude of sins — temporarily."

But perhaps Mark Twain summed it up best: "When in doubt, tell the truth."

I feel sorry for this pastor. His dishonesty has tainted his ministry, hurt his family, and probably damaged many other relationships in his life.

The good thing is that God will forgive this pastor, just as He will forgive us of our sins, no matter what they are — if we truly repent and ask for His forgiveness. That's a wonderful promise that is very, very true. □

pastors must be messengers of God, not 'talking heads'

Guest
columnist



By Ray Van Neste

Not long ago a fellow West Tennessee pastor sent me a link to an article entitled "Don't be original — be effective!" by Steve Sjogren, a Cincinnati pastor and author.

After reading the article I simply sat there dumbfounded, perplexed. I felt like imitating him when he said, "When I read about this matter I tore my garment and my robe, and I led some of the hair from my head and my beard, and I sat down appalled" (Ezra 9:3).

What produced this reaction? This article is a brazen argument for pastors to quit trying to produce their own sermons

and instead simply preach the material of others — even word for word! Sjogren argues that laboring to prepare a sermon yourself is silly, stating: "stop all of this nonsense of spending 25 or 30 hours a week preparing to speak on the weekend." As a positive example he cites Paul Cho, pastor of supposedly the largest church in the world in South Korea, who said:

"Honestly, I have never given an original message in all my years of ministry here at Yoido Church. Each week, I preach word-for-word messages from either Billy Graham or W.A. Criswell (former pastor from First Baptist Church, Dallas, who is now deceased). I can't afford to not have a home run each weekend when we gather. I don't trust my own ability to give completely original messages."

Sjogren argues that the desire to prepare your own sermons is the result of pride that we need to get over. In fact he ridicules those who think they are preparing good sermons themselves by asking them if they are preaching such good sermons why are their churches still small. Sjogren's call is simply to copy the sermons of big church pastors — they're just plagiarizing others, Sjogren says.

This is sad and disturbing. I remember hear-

ing Adrian Rogers about 15 years ago at a Bellevue Pastor's Conference firmly condemn this practice. Sure, it is fitting to listen and learn from people. But skipping the hard work of study and preaching other men's labors is unacceptable. Then, to label the effort to prepare for oneself as the result of pride is seriously misguided and offensive.

Is it not arrogant to say, "My service is so important I can't afford not to hit a home run each weekend?" Is this not man-centered and performance driven? This is the real problem. The assumption in the argument is that the primary goal in preaching is a great performance. So, if you can't give a great performance borrow someone else's. But, this is not what our people need. Performance is available in abundance. The Word of God is not so available.

This all reminds me of a favorite passage of mine, Jeremiah 23. Here God sternly rebukes prophets who claim to come to God's people with God's message, but in actuality come with their own imaginations (v. 16). God contrasts their vain talk to the power of His Word (vv. 25-32). God even says:

"Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other" (v. 30).

Even with differences in context, I think this is clear. Our people do not need a performance. They need to gather with

their brothers and sisters to hear their own pastor, who knows and loves them, and to hear the overflow of his heart resulting from his own wrestling with the text that week. We are not to be talking heads with fine points, but messengers who, having sat in the counsel of God, can come with His Word. Again God speaks through Jeremiah:

"But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened? I did not send these prophets, but they ran. I did not speak to them, but they prophesied."

"But if they had stood in my council, then they would have announced my words to my people, And would have turned them back from their evil way. And from the evil of their deeds (v. 18, 21-22).

Let us give up on the sham allure of performance, stop up our ears from the siren calls even from fellow pastors, resist the enticements of Vanity Fair, and simply give God's Word to God's people.

Then we will have the pleasure of seeing people turned from their sin (one of the true goals rather than crowd gathering). Some will be greater speakers than we are, but that is okay.

Let us trust in the power of the gospel and preach it in simplicity and purity (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). □ — Van Neste is assistant professor of Christian studies at Union University, Jackson.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



try about your visit last night pastor, but Hank is a bit sensitive on the subject of sin."

Found in Genesis 1:29

Former music minister advocates return to biblical diet

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Turn on any radio or television station and at some point you will hear a commercial on the latest fad diet or the “guaranteed” way to lose weight.

The same goes for print publications. Losing weight has become a major, multi-million dollar industry.

Doug and Marilyn Polk are also advocates for losing weight and living a healthy lifestyle.

The Jackson couple, however, do not see the need for the latest fad.

In their minds, the best and most healthy diet has been around since the Garden of Eden.

The Polks are strong advocates of the diet described in Genesis 1:29 (KJV): *And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*

Doug Polk has recently written *Winning the Battle for the Body: A Biblical Strategy for Nutrition and Health*.

“I believe God has called us back to a plant-based diet,” said Polk, who served as minister of music at two Tennessee Baptist churches — Whitehaven in Memphis and Englewood in Jackson.

Polk and his wife are now full-time health ministers.

“God has called me to revive Southern Baptists, not so much

their spiritual condition as much as their physical condition,” Polk noted.

Polk cites numerous scientific studies which support the validity of a plant-based diet and also notes that Southern Baptist agency executive O.S. Hawkins exhorts messengers every year at the denomination’s annual meeting to lose weight and to live a more healthy lifestyle.

The Polks advocate The Hallelujah Diet, a plant-based diet started by George Malkmus.

The Hallelujah Diet is very close to the Genesis diet, Polk said, adding that they do take a vitamin B12 supplement.

The diet consists solely of fruits and vegetables, nuts, and seeds, just like Genesis 1:29 says, Polk said. The Polks are sold on its benefits. In fact, Marilyn Polk has written a book with simple meal plans based on the diet.

“This diet has given us great health for seven years,” Polk said, adding that his wife, who battled fibromyalgia for four years, no longer has any symptoms of the disease.

“It is amazing what the body can overcome and prevent from happening when you give it God’s original fuels,” Polk observed.

Polk is saddened that members of his denomination refuse, for the most part, to see the validity of a biblical, plant-based diet. “We worship barbecue, fried chicken, and medicines rather than going back to His Word,” Polk said.

The Jackson minister believes Southern Baptists’ eating habits

will deter them from accomplishing what God has in store for them.

“If we keep digging our graves with our forks we will die prematurely and before God’s perfect plan for our life will be realized,” he said.

“His perfect will is for us to be disciplined in our daily lives so that we don’t take anything in our body that will harm it,” Polk added.

He acknowledged that he and his wife are in a “tough ministry” now because it involves pointing out the harmful effects of food that people enjoy.

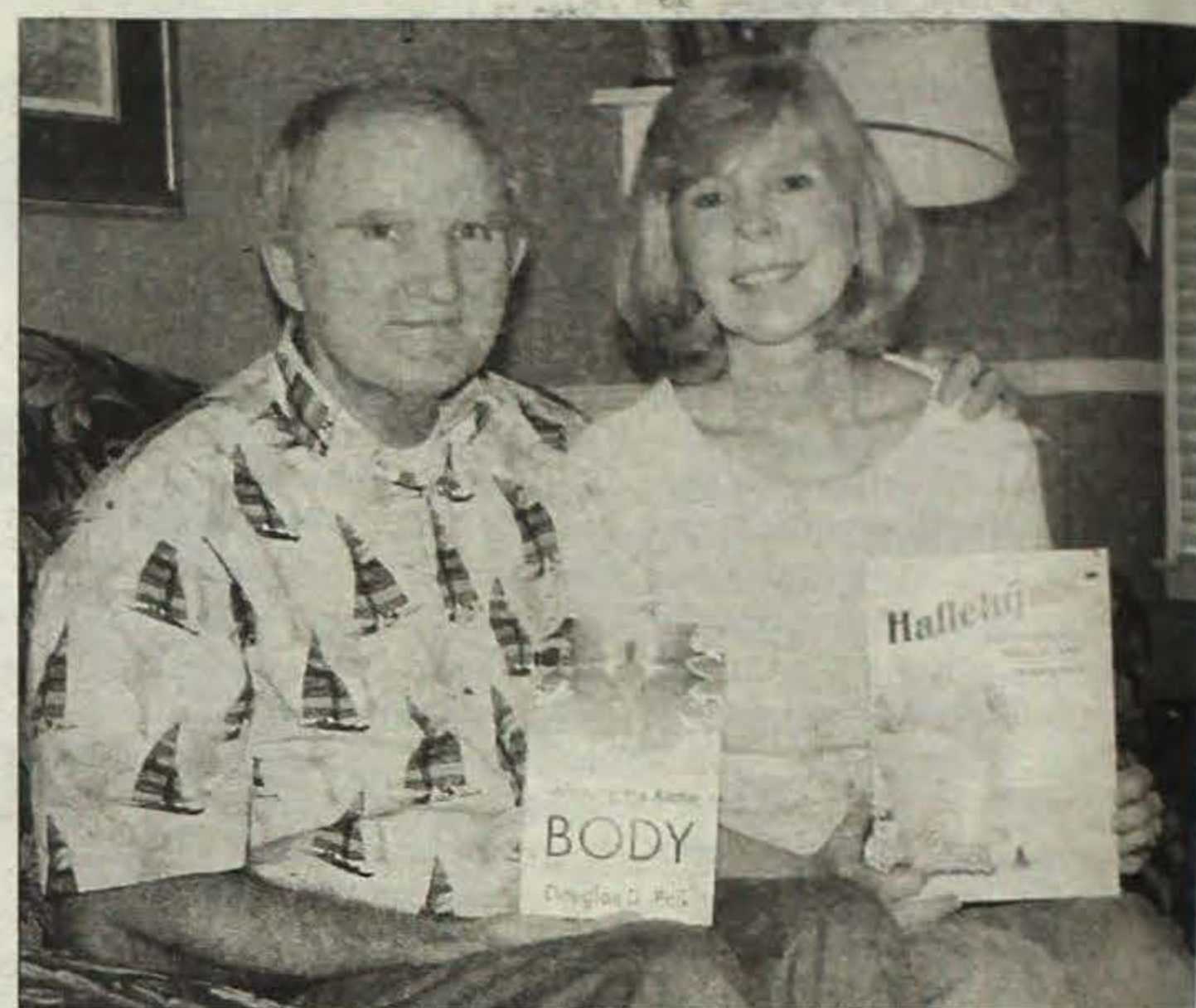
“People today just don’t realize that when they eat fried chicken or barbecue that they’re destroying their temples and are weakening their lives.”

Polk often is reminded that “Jesus ate meat.” In his book, Polk acknowledges that Jesus did eat meat and that it is not a sin. “But to say that the Lord was a meat eater like Americans are meat eaters is a big stretch. ...

“The occasions where Jesus ate flesh are also occasions where He wanted to identify with mortal men and to relate to them as physical beings.”

Despite resistance from Christians to embrace the dietary plan, Polk will not be deterred. “I feel the Lord wants me to be a part of a movement to lead the denomination back to good health by returning to His original diet.”

For more information about the Polks’ ministry or the book, go to www.afood.com. □



DOUG AND MARILYN Polk display copies of their respective books which advocate a return to the biblical diet found in Genesis 1:29.

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Church Health Matters

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

Worship Matters

By Gary Rickman

When I was a child, I used to hear the expression, "Are you staying for preaching?" This meant, "Are you going to be in the worship service?" But worship was seen primarily as preaching.

Over the past several years I have heard this expression, "Let's worship before the preacher comes." Translated: Preaching is not a part of worship.

Both of these are wrong views of worship. Preaching has always been a part of the corporate worship of the church and should be seen as essential to worship. The pastor/preacher must see himself as a worship leader and key to the overall worship experience of the church gathered to worship.

This issue of "Church Health Matters" is highlighting the role of preaching in worship. Included below is the contact information for members of your state missionary staff that are available to help you and your church in any area related to worship.

Preaching Seminars

James Porch (615) 371-2090
Ray Gilder (615) 371-7907

Evangelistic Preaching

Larry Gilmore (615) 371-7915
Steve Pearson (615) 371-2012

Worship and Music Ministry

Paul Clark (615) 371-2041
Charlotte Hanson (615) 371-7908

Handbells

Dan Arterburn darterburn@hhbc.org

Technology in Worship

Eddie Hodges ehodges@wmhc.org

Preschool/Children's Music

Carla Nichols cnichols@wjbc.org

Keyboard

Martha Robinson robinson.martha@comcast.net

Lessons I Learned about Preaching

By Bill Northcott

The first years following seminary were painful both for me and for the good people at First Baptist Church, Bradford. It was mostly manifested in my feeble attempts to preach God's Word. Oh, not that a single member ever expressed harsh criticism to my face. They were much too kind for that.

After all, the members knew I was a green horn, and they were willing to cut me some slack, at least in style, if not in biblical fidelity. As I reflect on those early years of ministry, I fully believe that I was faithful to the truthful proclamation of God's Word; but I was short on drama and rhetorical effectiveness. My anxiety on Sunday mornings often expressed itself in my restroom patterns!

The point is I took preaching seriously and aspired to do it with greater effectiveness. Over the years I have learned some things that have made me a more effective preacher and therefore a better worship leader.

The most important lesson I learned was that the preaching of God's Word is solidly rooted in the exposition of the written Word of God. The Bible and biblical preaching are inextricably bound together. The Bible is God's self-disclosure and exists to be read, taught, and preached.

If as a preacher I fail to hear God's message to me through the study of the Bible and prayer, then I am impotent to share God's Word with my people. That is not to say that other resources are unimportant. On the contrary, there are a multitude of excellent resources for preaching.

With the emergence of the internet, sermons and sermon helps are only a click of the mouse away (See the list on page 2). I have benefited greatly from sermon resources. However, it simply amazes me how much light the Bible can shed on commentaries and sermon resources. Sermon helps must never become an excuse to be lazy or shortcut the process of sermon preparation.

I learned also that I cannot share what I do not possess. If I do not meet God on a regular basis, I cannot expect to be an effective priest (bridge builder) between God and others. I like the way one writer put it, "The proclaimer of the Word ... begins as a man who is himself being addressed — called into being, wounded,

and healed by the living God" (Dwight Stevenson, *In the Biblical Preacher's Workshop*, Abingdon Press, 1967). When our preaching becomes "incarnational," the Word really does become flesh and connects with people where they live. The preacher's passionate love for God, and God's Word become contagious. It really is true to a large extent that the Christian faith is "caught" more than "taught."

Another important lesson that I learned early on and this through trial and error was that God called me to preach. I betray the perfect judgment of the most Holy God when I try to be some other preacher. I am not Bill Graham, John Maxwell, Johnnie Hunt, etc. These people have been and are being used mightily by God. And, in fact, I have "gone to school" on outstanding preachers of the Word. I have benefited from watching others do it.

But the good news is that God doesn't expect me to be any of these men. He does expect me to be the best preacher I can be. The amazing thing is that God wants to disclose Himself through my personality in preaching His Word, and the same can be said about every God-called preacher.

I learned also the beautiful correlation between preaching and the other elements of worship. I read a book several years ago entitled *The Preaching Event* by John Clapp (Word Books, 1980). Preaching is an event certainly. However, I believe it might better be called an experience. We can call worship an event. Again, however, I prefer the term "experience." I believe we are talking about more than just semantics. At least in my mind, the idea of experience takes one deeper into the "moment of meeting" God.

Preaching is worship. Music is worship. Public and private prayers are worship. Baptism is worship. The Lord's Supper is worship. Receiving the offering is worship.

Each of these has tremendous value in ushering us into the presence of God, when we segment or segregate them, we do so at our own loss. On Sunday morning, when the church is gathered, it all comes together and takes us more deeply into the "moment of meeting" God. And like those in both the Old and New Testaments to meet God is to meet Him in worship.

It's Monday and Sunday Is Coming Again

by Gary Rickman

Sunday has ended. It is Monday morning, and as much as you as the preacher would like to take a few days off, you can not, because Sunday will be here before you know it. These Sundays come 2 times a year, year in and year out.

So the question comes for many preachers, "How do I find something to preach about?"

The Bible is a good place to start. While serving as interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Pleasant View, a phrase as used in the order of service to describe the preaching moment: "Message from the Bible." What a great way to describe the preaching event.

However, an assumption is being made for the congregation that carries a great responsibility with it for the one who comes to the pulpit to preach.

With the Bible as a good place to start finding something to preach, let me make a few suggestions for you to follow when studying the Bible as a preaching source.

Study the Bible in many translations. Whatever translation we use most, and for any it is the King James translation, we do not see the freshness that comes with reading from different translations.

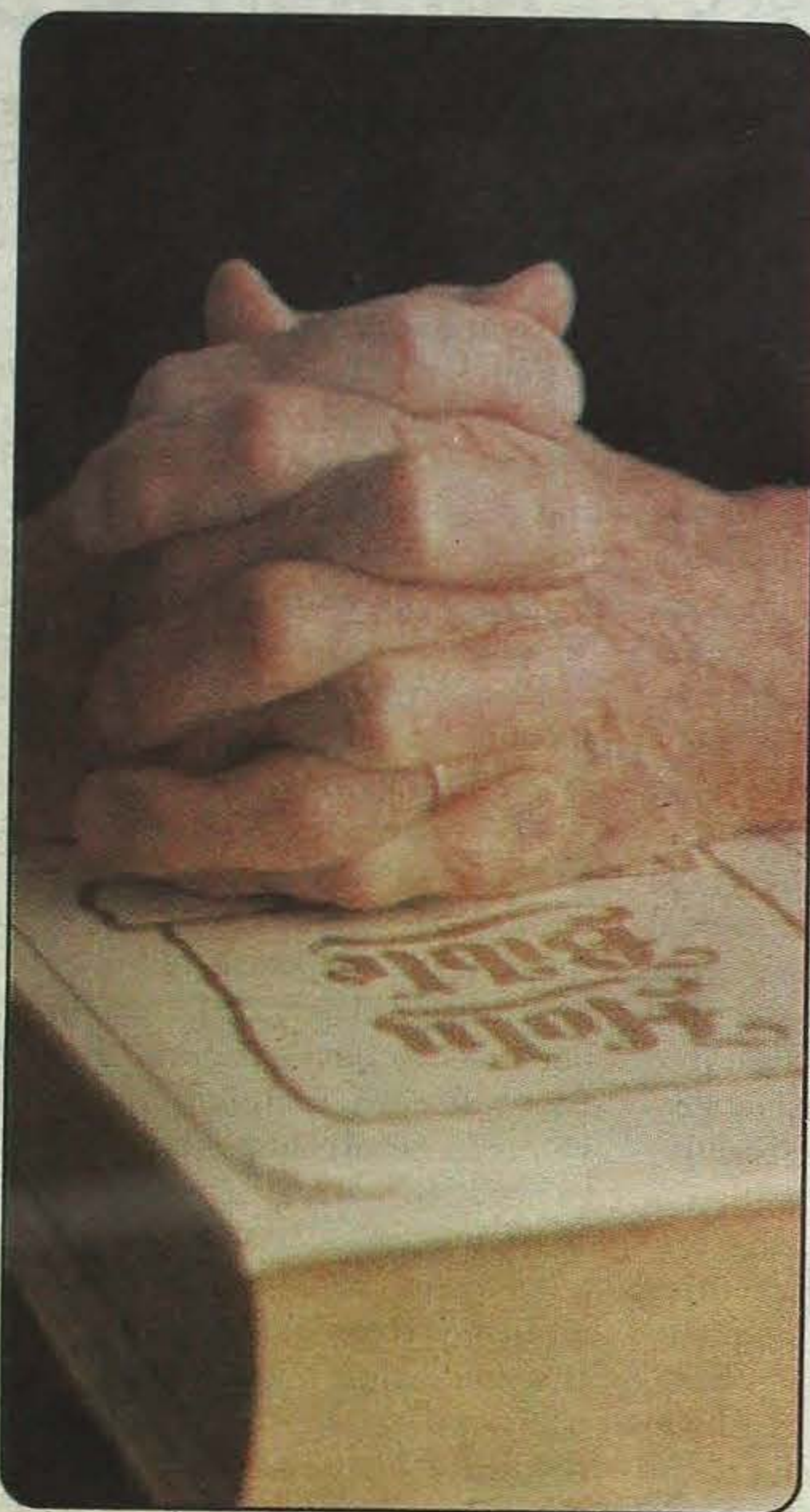
Make notations in your Bible of things that catch your eye while reading. Come back to them for further study, and listen for what God is trying to say to you through His Word. Too many sermons have not been effective, because the preacher has rushed this step in order to meet the Sunday deadline. Hold on to these ideas until they have ripened and are ready to be picked.

Being a student of your congregation is another way to discover what to preach. The people in the pew each Sunday have needs. Many of them have the same need why not preach to these needs?

Some preachers may think that topical preaching is out of style, but we who preach must believe that the Word of God speaks to needs and rightly relating the text to the need for instruction or correction is biblical preaching.

Did not Jesus practice this kind of preaching as He observed what was opening around him?

Another help in answering "what do I preach," is to pay attention to the



calendar. I am not just referring to big events like Easter and Christmas; I assume you are speaking to these occasions.

However, there are other days on the calendar that can be addressed by God's Word, and don't forget the denominational calendar as you consider, "What do I preach?" this Sunday.

Evaluate what you have been preaching over the past several months or even years. You may discover that you have your hobby horses that you have been riding and are guilty of not preaching the "whole council of God." As you realize the need for balance in your preaching, God will give to you all kinds of new ideas about what to be preaching.

A final word which would help on this subject is to remember that planning your preaching schedule helps you accomplish some of the things. The other worship leaders would really appreciate this, and they would find it very helpful in making the entire worship experience speak to the "message from the Bible" that God has for the day.

Worship and the Word

By Ray Gilder

Our worship of almighty God is based on our comprehension of His "worth-ship." The more we comprehend the truth that He is worthy, the more we are inclined to worship Him.

Jesus said that our worship of God must be in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). The Word of God is our basic source of truth about our Father in heaven. Through the singing, speaking, or preaching the Word of God people are moved in their spirits to worship Him.

A powerful picture of the connection between the preaching of the Word of God and worship is found in Nehemiah 8:1-12. All the people gathered in the town square as Ezra the scribe stood on a platform and read from the book of God from daybreak until noon. As Ezra opened the book the people bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

The Levites who stood next to Ezra translated and gave the meaning so that the people could understand what was read. The people were greatly moved by this worship experience and were sent home to rejoice and celebrate, because they had understood the Word of God.

Maybe we need to rediscover the Word of God in our worship services.

Sermons and Sermon Helps Web Sites

www.preachingtoday.com/sermons/sermonnotes.html

www.pastors.com

www.preachingtodaysermons.com

www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu

www.pbc.org/ray

www.desiringgod.org

www.generousgiving.org

www.searchgodsword.org

www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies

www.lifeway.com/lwc

www.soniclight.com

www.wacriswell.com

www.cornerstonebc.com

www.ministryhealthsermons.net

www.growthtrac.com/artman/topics

www.northpoint.org/messages

www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermon.html

Disclaimer: These sermons and sermon helps web sites were suggested by author Bill Northcott. The Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention does not endorse or recommend any of these web sites. Pastors should use wisdom and discernment to determine which are the most appropriate for your church.

Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Sept. 17-18 | Connect, First Baptist Church, Clarksville |
| Sept. 17-18 | Connect, South Doyle High School, Knoxville |
| Sept. 21-23 | Hispanic Building Powerful Teams Training, Baptist Center, Brentwood |
| Sept. 22-23 | Appalachian Bivocational Celebration, Holiday Inn, Bristol, Va. |
| Sept. 22-23 | Men's Ministry Leadership Training, Fall Creek Falls, Pikeville |
| Sept. 23 | Tennessee Church Library Fall Clinic, Bartlett Baptist Church, Bartlett |
| Sept. 28 | 3D Sunday School Training, Northside Baptist Church, McMinnville |

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

Report of the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees to the 2006 Tennessee Baptist Convention

Randall Adkisson, Chairman, Committee on Boards

Paul Barkley, Chairman, Committee on Committees

The following nominations represent the results of the year long effort by the Convention-elected Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees. These committees have approached their Convention-assigned task with a commitment to recommend to the Tennessee Baptist Convention a slate of dedicated people who are committed to serve our Lord, and are willing to fulfill the responsibilities of the specific board or committee to which they are to be elected. The committee has honored the Convention-adopted and proven process. Nominees presented in this report represent the diligent effort that the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees honored in approved guidelines and intentions. A desire for both integrity and fairness has prevailed throughout the committees' discussions and decision-making.

We believe that a review of the committee processes and an analysis of this report are helpful as messengers to the Convention approach action on the report.

Both committees met in December 2005 for orientation. The meetings provided opportunity to review and refine the process as dictated by the Convention's Constitution and Committee Guidelines. (Committee Guidelines are printed following this article). Recommendation Forms were studied and reviewed to enable the committee to receive adequate and specific information on each person nominated for their consideration. Next, Recommendation Forms were sent to each church and association. In addition, an Electronic Recommendation Form was available on the TBC web site. Tennessee Baptists were encouraged through the *Baptist & Reflector* to provide nominations to the committees.

Recommendations from Tennessee

Baptists were received in the Executive Leadership office. The staff compiled these recommendations and provided a copy to each committee member prior to their next meeting. In addition to the recommendations, each committee member received a data sheet on each person recommended. This sheet included the recommended person's history of prior service on other committees and boards, a list of other people serving on committees and boards from the same church, and statistical data on the individual's church. This statistical data includes the church's prior year Cooperative Program giving, designated giving, percentage of undesignated receipts given to the Cooperative Program, baptisms, and average Sunday School attendance. On April 18, the Committee on Boards selected the preliminary nominees to the Executive Board. Later that day, the committee heard recommendations from the institutional presidents. These recommendations were submitted according to the Constitution guidelines. That afternoon, the committee began making its initial recommendations for the Boards of Trust for each institution. Later that week, on April 21, the Committee on Committees followed a similar process as outlined in their guidelines.

Following these meetings, committee members were assigned the responsibility to personally contact every preliminary nominee to a Board or Committee. This contact was to verify the individual's willingness to serve and their commitment to the Tennessee Baptist Convention. These reports were then individually submitted to the full committee at their next meeting.

After all contacts for the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees had been made, the committees reviewed their initial primary nomina-

tions in preparation for the final nomination list. This stage in the process required an additional meeting.

Altogether, the Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees have met for many hours in a total of six meetings in addition to the hours of telephone, study, and follow-up work.

Please consider the following analysis of the committees' work as it relates to the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

- A total of 33 positions on the Executive Board rotated this year. Fifteen (15) of the persons occupying these positions were eligible to serve an additional term. Three (3) of these declined to serve again. In addition, there were 4 resignations during the year. In total, there were 37 positions to be filled with 25 open positions. For these positions, the committee received a total of 70 recommendations. In addition, the committee was bound by the constitution to spread these open positions among the grand divisions of the state with 12 from the east, 8 from the middle, and 4 from the west. Five (5) of the new positions remain open at press time. This is due to individuals resigning and nominees declining to serve since the last meeting of the committee.

- Only 3 of the 20 on this report have previously served on the Executive Board. Only 10 of these 20 have ever served on any Board or Committee. Four (4) of the people newly nominated to the Executive Board have someone else from their church serving in the coming year on another board or committee. The 20 new nominees to the Executive Board are members of churches that gave \$1,187,762 through the Cooperative Program during 2004-05. These churches averaged 9.74 % of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. These churches also

gave \$612,118 to designated Tennessee Baptist and Southern Baptist mission educational, and benevolent ministries.

- Vacancies on the Executive Board, institutional boards, and the Committee on Committees constituted a total of positions to be filled this year. Fifty-seven (57) people in these positions were eligible to serve another term. Ten (10) of those eligible declined to serve again. In addition, there were 9 positions in which the incumbent had resigned. Thus, there was a grand total of 56 positions to be filled by the Committee on Boards. Nineteen (19) of these positions are yet to be filled due to resignations and individuals declining to be nominated since the last committee meeting. The committee received a total of 188 recommendations for these positions. Only 13 of the 37 newly nominated persons have someone else serving from their respective church in the coming year on another board or committee.

- As indicated, the Committee on Committees followed virtually the same process as the Committee on Boards throughout the year. All Convention committees had a total of 35 positions to be filled this year. Three (3) of these positions were completing unexpired terms and therefore eligible to serve another term. Also during the year, 3 persons resigned their position, creating a total of 35 positions to be filled by new people by the Committee on Committees. The committee received a total of 95 recommendations for these positions. More than one-third of these were for the 5 positions on the Committee on Boards.

The Committee on Boards and Committee on Committees present this report with prayer for these nominees as they assume their Convention-assigned responsibilities. □

Committee Guidelines

A. Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards (See report on page 6):

1. Members of these committees should not nominate themselves to fill any vacancies existing on any Convention standing committee or Convention board.

2. Individuals over the state should be encouraged to send suggestions for nominees to these two committees, including supporting data as to their qualifications and availability.

3. A form should be printed in the Baptist state paper by which suggestions could be made to these committees, the form bearing the signature of the person making the suggestion.

4. The initial meeting of these committees each year should be announced as an "open" meeting when individuals or heads of institutions or *Baptist & Reflector* could appear before the committees to offer suggestions of

and about possible nominees.

5. The head of each institution (other than the Executive Board) shall be asked to submit the name of one person for each vacancy to be filled on the board, with supporting data on why such person would make a suitable board member, a practice that is now being followed.

6. If the Committee on Boards considers someone else, other than a person suggested by the head of an institution (other than the Executive Board), for any vacancy on a board, the committee shall confer with that official concerning the qualifications of the person being considered, it being understood that the final decision on the nomination rests with the committee. The Committee on Boards shall nominate those persons who are mutually agreeable to the Committee on Boards and the heads of institutions (other than the Executive Board) of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

7. The Committee on Boards should be aware of any requirements of the accrediting agencies which are related to our hospitals, colleges, academy, or children's homes as requirements affect the work of the committee, keeping in mind the requirements of the Tennessee Convention Constitution and Bylaws. If and when conflicts develop in this area, the committee shall so advise the Convention and the Convention shall consider ways of reconciling the conflicts.

8. These two committees should keep in mind the desirability of the following principles in making nominations: a broader representation from churches in geographical areas, differing sizes and types of churches, a variety of professional and educational backgrounds, different age groups, with both lay men/women and ministers included.

9. These committees should not nominate a person to a Convention

board or standing committee who receives a part or all of his salary from the Tennessee Baptist Convention or one of its subsidiary units.

10. The Committee on Boards should no longer feel that all of its nominations should be confined to the geographical area where an institution of *Baptist & Reflector* is located, but nominees should be residents of Tennessee and members of churches affiliated with The Tennessee Baptist Convention.

11. In implementing Bylaw Section 2, of the Convention's Bylaws, reference to board members for the Memorial Health Care System in Memphis, the hospital should be required to show to the Committee on Boards that there is a demonstrated need for a board member proposed to serve on the board while also serving on another board as permitted by Bylaw IV, Section 2. □

Report of Committee on Boards

Please refer to the footnotes at the conclusion of the report for information on the sources of the Cooperative Program data. Because of differences in accounting years and other timing issues, the Cooperative Program percentage may not match the percentage used in the individual church budgets.

| # | Nominee | O/L* | Term | Church | Association | 2005 CP** | CP%*** |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|------|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| <u>Executive Board, Tennessee Baptist Convention</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2007, East Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Glenn Sullivan | (O) 0 | South Knoxville, Knoxville | | Knox County | 13,278 | 7.85% | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2008, East Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Jack Roddy | (O) 0 | Siam, Elizabethton | | Watauga | 14,208 | 11.33% | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009, East Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Greg Long | (O) 1 | Pleasant Grove, Maryville | | Chilhowee | 26,738 | 13.18% | |
| Jamison Work | (O) 1 | Candies Creek, Charleston | | Bradley County | 49,700 | 6.44% | |
| Randall Pressnell | (O) 1 | First Baptist, New Tazewell | | Cumberland Gap | 25,412 | 10.11% | |
| Bert Jones | (O) 1 | Red Bank, Chattanooga | | Hamilton County | 282,540 | 12.06% | |
| Tom Bigham | (L) 1 | Westwood, Cleveland | | Bradley County | 213,008 | 9.96% | |
| Jack Anderson | (O) 1 | Bells Camp Ground, Powell | | Midland | 27,000 | 14.76% | |
| David Green | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Greeneville | | Holston | 130,968 | 12.99% | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009, Middle Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Alison Shores | (L) 1 | Mount Hermon, Clarksville | | Cumberland | 5,920 | 4.06% | |
| Leonard Rader | (O) 1 | Green Hill, Murfreesboro | | Concord | 11,135 | 6.87% | |
| Steve Durham | (O) 1 | Radnor, Nashville | | Nashville | 4,400 | 1.42% | |
| Gordon Donahoe | (O) 1 | Donelson View, Nashville | | Nashville | 18,519 | 10.08% | |
| Tammy Saffel | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Waverly | | Truett | 57,752 | 15.08% | |
| Steve Hutson | (O) 1 | Third Baptist, Murfreesboro | | Concord | 133,912 | 10.00% | |
| David Landrith | (O) 1 | Long Hollow, Hendersonville | | Bledsoe | 168,681 | 3.95% | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009, West Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Betty Summers | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Camden | | Carroll-Benton | 72,944 | 14.54% | |
| Wendell Lang | (O) 1 | West Jackson, Jackson | | Madison-Chester | 301,577 | 7.88% | |
| William Oakley | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Trimble | | Dyer | 7,044 | 4.11% | |
| Ken Story | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Counce | | Shiloh | 51,773 | 14.19% | |
| Joey Johnson | (O) 1 | White Hall, Trenton | | Gibson County | 30,798 | 20.13% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009, East Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Mildred Thompson | (L) 2 | First Baptist, Dayton | | Tennessee Valley | 68,631 | 14.20% | |
| Richard Lloyd | (O) 2 | First Baptist, Newport | | East Tennessee | 20,521 | 5.97% | |
| T. Roy Jones | (L) 2 | First Baptist, Cleveland | | Bradley County | 247,509 | 8.22% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009, Middle Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Nelson Forrester | (L) 2 | First Baptist, Cookeville | | Stone | 201,874 | 14.31% | |
| Barbara Hardiman | (L) 2 | Immanuel, Lawrenceburg | | Lawrence County | 30,330 | 9.95% | |
| Ed Porter | (L) 1 | First Baptist, McMinnville | | Central | 56,022 | 9.11% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009, West Grand Division | | | | | | | |
| Dennis Trull | (O) 1 | First Baptist, McKenzie | | Carroll-Benton | 51,730 | 10.05% | |
| Tom Lewis | (O) 2 | First Baptist, Jackson | | Madison-Chester | 149,822 | 9.62% | |
| Marshall Anderson | (L) 2 | First Baptist, Dresden | | Weakley County | 33,530 | 10.70% | |
| Ronnie Batchelor | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Greenfield | | Weakley County | 30,459 | 12.48% | |
| Bill Robbins | (O) 1 | Cairo, Alamo | | Crockett County | 5,608 | 7.83% | |
| <u>Tennessee Baptist Foundation</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| Sandra Howard | (L) 1 | Oak Grove, Covington | | Big Hatchie | 29,260 | 12.82% | |
| Roger Ziegler | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Humboldt | | Gibson County | 179,098 | 18.88% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| Lowell Anderson | (L) 1 | Ridgedale, Chattanooga | | Hamilton County | 205,767 | 7.74% | |
| Glen McGuire | (L) 2 | West La Follette, La Follette | | Campbell County | 3,800 | 4.71% | |
| Jimmy Burroughs | (O) 2 | Pine Grove, Lexington | | Beech River | 12,141 | 5.92% | |
| <u>Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2008 | | | | | | | |
| Ronald Stallings | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Bolivar | | Hardeman County | 50,724 | 8.10% | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| Mike Nolen | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Hohenwald | | Alpha | 42,807 | 13.06% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| Robert McCray | (O) 3 | First Baptist, Dandridge | | Jefferson County | 65,250 | 9.80% | |
| Doug Plumlee | (O) 3 | First Baptist, Pulaski | | Giles County | 51,250 | 6.98% | |
| Jean Hester | (L) 3 | Brentwood Baptist, Brentwood | | Nashville | 110,500 | 1.75% | |
| Charles Pratt | (O) 3 | First Baptist, Kenton | | Gibson County | 38,980 | 12.08% | |

| Pos # | Nominee | O/L* | Term | Church | Association | 2005 CP** | CP%*** |
|---|---------------------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| <u>Carson-Newman College</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 192 | Leonard Markham | (O) 1 | Fairfield Glade | Cumberland Plateau | 9,442 | 3.44% | |
| 194 | F. Clark Denton | (L) 1 | New Sevier Home Baptist, Knoxville | Knox County | 3,184 | 6.08% | |
| 196 | Mike Boyd | (O) 1 | Wallace Memorial, Knoxville | Knox County | 207,564 | 9.31% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 186 | T. Maxfield Bahner | (L) 2 | Signal Mountain | Hamilton County | 9,145 | 1.65% | |
| 188 | David Ogle | (L) 3 | First Baptist, Gatlinburg | Sevier County | 11,956 | 2.78% | |
| 189 | Howard Jewell | (L) 3 | Forest Hills, Nashville | Nashville | 198,948 | 7.34% | |
| 190 | Michael Ducker | (L) 3 | Bellevue, Cordova | Mid-South | 338,940 | 1.54% | |
| 195 | Ted Russell | (L) 3 | Concord, First | Knox County | 58,333 | 0.85% | |
| 197 | Edwin Davis | (L) 3 | Wallace Memorial, Knoxville | Knox County | 207,564 | 9.31% | |
| <u>Union University</u> | | | | | | | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 231 | Gil Fletcher | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Humboldt | Gibson County | 179,098 | 18.88% | |
| 234 | Morris Chapman | (O) 1 | Thompson Station | Nashville | 169,605 | 7.33% | |
| 222 | Mike Weeks | (L) 3 | Judson, Nashville | Nashville | 157,269 | 8.21% | |
| 225 | Charles Perkins | (L) 3 | Forest Hill, Germantown | Mid-South | 3,000 | 0.72% | |
| 226 | Harry Smith | (L) 3 | Bellevue, Cordova | Mid-South | 338,940 | 1.54% | |
| 227 | Robert Campbell | (L) 3 | West Jackson, Jackson | Madison-Chester | 301,577 | 7.88% | |
| 230 | Rod Parker | (L) 2 | Englewood, Jackson | Madison-Chester | 149,625 | 5.96% | |
| 235 | Jerry Tidwell | (O) 3 | Ellendale Baptist, Ellendale | Mid-South | 70,760 | 4.65% | |
| 238 | Gary Watkins | (O) 3 | First Baptist, Collierville | Mid-South | 128,454 | 4.99% | |
| 259 | Kevin Shrum | (O) 2 | Inglewood, Nashville | Nashville | 58,765 | 8.07% | |
| 262 | James Ayers | (L) 2 | First Baptist, Parsons | Beech River | 30,500 | 10.15% | |
| <u>Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 272 | Christopher Harding | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Lenoir City | Loudon County | 178,150 | 10.07% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 273 | Dallas Gibson | (O) 3 | Providence Missionary, Sevierville | Chilhowee | 20,738 | 8.04% | |
| 274 | Christy Wood | (L) 3 | First Baptist, Kingston | Big Emory | 124,979 | 12.62% | |
| 275 | Harry Wampler | (L) 3 | First Baptist, Lenoir City | Loudon County | 178,150 | 10.07% | |
| 276 | Marilyn Jones | (L) 3 | First Baptist, Friendsville | Chilhowee | 2,342 | 0.44% | |
| 278 | Wayne McDaniel | (L) 2 | First Baptist, Strawberry Plains | Jefferson County | 8,981 | 3.03% | |
| <u>Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc.</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 297 | Spence Wilson | (L) 1 | Second Baptist, Memphis | Mid-South | 3,091 | 0.30% | |
| 298 | Warren Nunn | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Halls | Dyer | 27,596 | 10.74% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 296 | James Glasgow | (L) 3 | First Baptist, Union City | Beulah | 52,756 | 8.73% | |
| <u>Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc.</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 360 | David Drumel | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Memphis | Mid-South | 3,227 | 0.20% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 359 | Don Hill | (L) 3 | Calvary, Kingsport | Sullivan | 41,450 | 10.43% | |
| 361 | Jerry Adams | (L) 3 | Brainerd, Chattanooga | Hamilton County | 122,545 | 5.40% | |
| 362 | Betty Langley | (L) 2 | First Baptist, Humboldt | Gibson County | 179,098 | 18.88% | |
| 363 | Hinton Climer | (L) 3 | First Baptist, Bells | Crockett County | 37,939 | 12.08% | |
| 364 | Ken Clayton | (O) 3 | Tulip Grove, Old Hickory | Nashville | 57,604 | 3.67% | |
| <u>Committee on Committees</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2007 | | | | | | | |
| 427 | Russ Dunham | (L) 0 | First Baptist, La Follette | Campbell County | 25,488 | 7.27% | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 422 | Jim Viar | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Cookeville | Stone | 201,874 | 14.31% | |
| 423 | Rhonda Wax | (L) 1 | Northside, Murfreesboro | Concord | 121,236 | 9.01% | |
| 424 | Donald Mitchell | (O) 1 | French Broad, Dandridge | Jefferson County | 9,177 | 10.49% | |
| 426 | Tony Crossnoe | (O) 1 | Bowmantown, Jonesborough | Holston | 14,145 | 9.98% | |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 425 | Jeff Gilliam | (L) 1 | Sand Ridge, Lexington | Beech River | 41,012 | 10.52% | |

* Ordained, (L) - Layperson

** 2005 CP - Actual amount of Cooperative Program dollars received from church in Accounting Office of TBC during the period of November 1, 2004

through October 31, 2005. Out-of-state Churches' 2005 CP comes from Annual Church Profile Information provided by Church.

*** CP % - Calculated by dividing the 2005 CP number by the Undesignated

Receipts for that Church as provided by the Church on the Annual Church Profile in 2005.

Report of Committee on Committees

Please refer to the footnotes at the conclusion of the report for information on the sources of the Cooperative Program data. Because of differences in accounting years and other timing issues, the Cooperative Program percentage may not match the percentage used in the individual church budgets.

| Nominee | O/L* | Term | Church | Association | 2005 CP** | CP%*** |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|--------|------------------|-----------|--------|
| Committee on Arrangements | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | |
| Jim Sutton | (L) 1 | New Union, Dayton | | Tennessee Valley | 28,627 | 12.13% |
| Annette Johnson | (L) 1 | East Athens, Athens | | McMinn-Meigs | 63,664 | 10.69% |
| Greg Stanford | (O) 1 | Calvary, Parsons | | Beech River | 12,567 | 9.86% |
| David Freeman | (O) 1 | Pleasant Hill #1, Martin | | Beulah | 8,899 | 6.52% |
| Henry Simpson | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Huntingdon | | Carroll-Benton | 44,547 | 7.57% |
| Committee on Audits | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2007 | | | | | | |
| Danny Keaton | (L) 0 | Sylvia, Dickson | | Truett | 36,013 | 12.65% |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | |
| Clay Stewart | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Morristown | | Nolachucky | 238,179 | 11.39% |
| Jeff Payne | (L) 1 | Springfield Baptist, Springfield | | Robertson County | 92,468 | 6.90% |
| Rodney Henry | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Dyersburg | | Dyer | 62,250 | 6.21% |
| Bonnie Bullock | (L) 1 | Broadway, Martin | | Beulah | 1,200 | 3.22% |
| Committee on Boards | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | |
| Gary Gerhardt | (O) 1 | Church Hill | | Holston Valley | 54,167 | 10.16% |
| J. Milton Knox | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Dayton | | Tennessee Valley | 68,631 | 14.20% |
| Earl Wilson | (O) 1 | Wallace Memorial, Knoxville | | Knox County | 207,564 | 9.31% |
| Harold Allen | (O) 1 | Harpheth Heights, Nashville | | Nashville | 123,111 | 10.97% |
| Jerry Legg | (O) 1 | First Baptist, Dyer | | Gibson County | 41,981 | 13.50% |
| Committee on Credentials | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | |
| Brad Smith | (L) 1 | First Baptist, Surgoinsville | | Holston Valley | 10,733 | 6.96% |
| Mike Shelton | (O) 1 | Bellevue, Nashville | | Nashville | 45,475 | 6.38% |

| Pos # | Nominee | O/L* | Term | Church | Association | 2005 CP** | CP%*** |
|---|-------------------|------|------|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|--------|
| 439 | Dewey Jones | (L) | 1 | Holly Grove, Bells | Haywood | 12,976 | 7.58% |
| Nominated for Additional Term, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 440 | Timothy Underwood | (L) | 1 | Buffalo Grove, Jefferson City | Jefferson County | 2,993 | 4.90% |
| 437 | Gerald Wood | (O) | 1 | First Baptist, Covington | Big Hatchie | 106,347 | 16.00% |
| <u>Committee on Constitution and Bylaws</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 452 | Douglas Jenkins | (L) | 1 | Choptack, Rogersville | Holston Valley | 3,559 | 6.08% |
| 455 | C. Kenneth Still | (L) | 1 | Brainerd, Chattanooga | Hamilton County | 122,545 | 5.40% |
| 456 | Gerald Atkins | (O) | 1 | North Etowah, Etowah | McMinn-Meigs | 84,645 | 15.95% |
| 453 | Raymond Langlois | (O) | 1 | Judson, Nashville | Nashville | 157,269 | 8.21% |
| 454 | George Siler | (L) | 1 | Faith, Bartlett | Mid-South | 186,481 | 8.51% |
| <u>Historical Committee</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2008 | | | | | | | |
| 477 | Glenda Roach | (L) | 0 | Blue Springs, Rutledge | Grainger County | 25,703 | 12.12% |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 467 | Robert Ziegler | (L) | 1 | First Baptist, Harrogate | Cumberland Gap | 7,678 | 10.00% |
| 469 | Tommy Allen | (L) | 1 | First Baptist, Tullahoma | Duck River | 138,318 | 12.00% |
| 471 | John Rushing | (O) | 1 | Northside, Columbia | Maury | 24,500 | 10.07% |
| 468 | Paul Williams | (O) | 1 | Englewood, Jackson | Madison-Chester | 149,625 | 5.96% |
| <u>Committee on Resolutions</u> | | | | | | | |
| New Nominations, Term Ending 2009 | | | | | | | |
| 483 | Krissy Tallent | (L) | 1 | Wolf Creek, Spring City | Tennessee Valley | 18,019 | 6.77% |
| 484 | Omer Painter | (O) | 1 | First Baptist, Rockwood | Big Emory | 80,550 | 15.47% |
| 486 | John Barber | (L) | 1 | Brainerd Hills, Chattanooga | Hamilton County | 117,219 | 10.49% |
| 482 | James Barnhouse | (O) | 1 | Macks Grove, Dresden | Weakley County | 4,114 | 3.75% |
| 485 | Chad Hollis | (L) | 1 | Sand Ridge, Lexington | Beech River | 41,012 | 10.52% |

SWBTS trustee endorses private prayer language

Compiled from BP, ABP reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — A trustee at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary endorsed the concept of a private prayer language in an Aug. 29 chapel sermon at the institution, setting off a wave of discussion in the Southern Baptist blogosphere and triggering the seminary's leaders to ban free distribution of the sermon through the school's web site.

Dwight McKissic, a Southwestern trustee and pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, delivered the sermon in which he recounted how, while a Southwestern student in 1981, he had an experience of speaking in a "private prayer language" and that the experience has repeated itself.

McKissic, a former president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, also offered criticism of a policy, recently established by trustees at a sister Southern Baptist Convention institution, that would ban the appointment of missionaries who practice the private version of glossolalia, or speaking in tongues. He was referring to the International Mission Board,

but did not call it by name, according to Baptist Press.

While a recording of the sermon was not immediately available, McKissic repeated his criticism of the IMB's policy in a telephone interview the afternoon of Aug. 29.

"I couldn't figure out how a policy that contradicts the teaching of many of our believing theologians could be enacted like that. That was amazing to me," McKissic told Associated Baptist Press. "I was so disappointed by the policy that I gave serious consideration to leading my church out of the Southern Baptist Convention."

He said he believed the policy — which disqualifies candidates for appointment as international missionaries if they practice private glossolalia — "is an intrusion of privacy, an invasion of privacy, totally unnecessary, and would exclude a great number of Baptists who would make excellent missionaries."

Following McKissic's sermon

the seminary issued a statement, saying it is "honored" to have him serve as a trustee and to visit campus as a chapel speaker. But the statement said that many on campus would disagree with him.

"[T]hough most of Rev. McKissic's message represented a position with which most people at Southwestern would be comfortable, Rev. McKissic's interpretation of tongues as 'ecstatic utterance' is not a position that we suspect would be advocated by most faculty or trustees," the statement read. "In keeping with Baptist convictions regarding religious liberty, we affirm Rev. McKissic's right to believe and advocate his position. Equally in keeping with our emphasis of religious liberty we reserve the right not to disseminate openly views which we fear may be harmful to the churches."

The seminary said McKissic's sermon, unlike other sermons, won't be posted in the archives

on the seminary web site, although it can be purchased by calling the school's audio-visual learning center. The statement said it wouldn't be wise to post "materials online which could place us in a position of appearing to be critical of actions of the board of trustees of a sister agency."

McKissic later wrote a letter to seminary president Paige Patterson, amplifying his view of speaking in tongues, but affirming the seminary's right to disagree with him.

McKissic, in his letter to Patterson, strongly defended his view of a private prayer language and, at the same time, expressed graciousness toward the seminary's position.

"Because I said nothing during my message that contradicted the Bible or the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message, I fail to see how my comments are viewed as outside of the Baptist mainstream," McKissic wrote. He said "banning the free distribu-

tion of my message on the school web site is a form of unnecessary censorship that is unusual" because "many Baptist scholars and leaders ... have expressed views similar to mine." McKissic did not specify, however, the extent to which others in the SBC practice a private prayer language or are inclined to call it unbiblical.

McKissic stated that "leading evangelical African American churches in America, including Black Southern Baptists, would affirm the practice of a private prayer language for those who are so gifted by the Holy Spirit."

Patterson, asked by Baptist Press for any reaction to McKissic's letter, noted in a statement, "All that the seminary feels is necessary say we have said in our previous release. We continue to affirm our love and appreciation for Dwight McKissic and pray heaven's blessing upon him." □

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September 24-26, 2006

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- Phil Hoskins; Kingsport TN
- Ashley Ray; Indianapolis, IN
- William Dodson; Murray KY
- Fred Morris; McKenzie, TN
- Pat Kough; Jackson, TN
- Larry Tapp; Ocean Springs, MS
- John Adams; Jackson, TN
- Dave Clark; Southaven, MS
- Roy Auvenshine; Greenfield, TN
- Gary Frizzell; Benton, KY
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New RA program sees decisions for Christ within a year

Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

NEWPORT — A Royal Ambassador program here at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church is experiencing growth and most importantly has seen that RAs saved during the past year, according to Frank Green, C RA/Challenger contract worker.

"RAs is an evangelistic program, which teaches boys how to be Christians," said Green. The Lincoln Avenue Church program is barely a year old and it is continuing to grow to the commitment of its leaders."

We started with two chapters and four counselors and around 19 boys," said Alvin Watts, Lincoln Avenue Church director, who recently reported back to Green follow-

ing a training session. "It was not very long until we had over 30 boys."

Soon the church had to separate the first graders from the second and third graders and start their second Lad chapter. The Crusaders named their chapter the Robert Walker Chapter after the church's pastor emeritus, who still attends church when able. In addition, the church has a Youth with a Missions missionary that it supports, and the Lad chapter was named after Joel Carpenter, who serves in Tanzania as a medical doctor.

"When we formed the new Lad chapter, a man in the church had recently died of cancer," noted Watts, retired pastor of Riverview Baptist Church, Newport. "The church thought a lot of him so they named it the Duke Albaugh Lad chapter."

Watts has served as the catalyst for the group, said Green. "He always went with the RAs from his former church to Congress, and he has a commitment to the program."

"When Watts joined the church about a year ago, he asked to work with the RAs, and he really does RAs by the book," said Lincoln Avenue

Church senior pastor Craig Ward. "He has turned our RA program around through his excitement and drive, and he really does love the boys. He started three RA chapters and currently we are running around 50 boys in the program."

The group's first activity was World Walk for Missions with seven boys and five adults going

to Big Creek in Watersville, N.C., and hiking up the mountain. The RAs collected over \$100 for the missions walk in pledges.

The group has continued to hold monthly activities. The RAs along with GAs (Girls in Action) recently hosted a dinner honoring the senior citizens of the church. □

Mid-South men hold cooking demonstration

Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — A team of Royal Ambassadors and Baptist Men leaders from the Mid-South Baptist Association recently held a "Dutch oven" cooking demonstration at Sportsman's Warehouse here and promoted the RA program at the same time.

The Mid-South Association cooking team was invited to conduct the Dutch oven demonstration Aug. 26 by Dwayne Leonard, store manager.

On a Saturday morning the team cooked and served cherry "crisp" cobbler, peach cobbler, monkey bread, and stew to around 70 Sportsman's Warehouse customers. Besides the Dutch oven cooking, there was a display of RA materials and a RA flag that prompted questions about who are RAs.

"This provided an opportunity to not only share the RA story but also Jesus Christ," said Herschel Wells, a member of Second Baptist Church, Memphis. "Several customers shared that as a child they were RAs, which gave the opportunity to inquire on their current church affiliation."

According to Wells, the RA cooking demonstration was a result of a meeting with Leonard to inquire if Sportsman's Warehouse would participate in the 2006 Tri-State Camp-O-Ree.

Leonard shared with RA officials that he was a Baptist and in his youth had served as a Mis-

issippi Baptist Convention camp staffer and knew a great deal about RAs. As a result of this meeting with Leonard, the Sportsman's Warehouse team will participate for the first time at the Oct. 6-7 Tri-State Camp-O-Ree at Camp Cordova.



LEADERS FROM Whitten Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis, checked out the cherry cobbler at a recent cooking demonstration in Memphis. From left are Charles Alton, Mike Freeman, and James Liston.

Current plans call for Sportsman's Warehouse to manage and provide prizes in the fishing rodeo, camping equipment display, canoeing, and wildlife "effects" for the "flashlight night-hike."

"The Dutch oven exhibit was our way of meeting Dwayne's need and saying thanks," added Wells.

"This opportunity gave the cooking team a chance to meet men focused on a specific personal interest, outdoor sports, in hope they would also recognize

the creator of that beautiful environment and a few of His followers." □ — Marcia Knox

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SBC gifts up 2.05 percent

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are 2.05 percent above the same time frame in 2005, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of Aug. 31, 2006, the year-to-date total of \$183,123,620.15 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$3,680,070.04 above the \$179,443,550.11 received at the same point in 2005. For the month, receipts of \$15,521,035.75 were 1.65 percent, or \$260,632.53, below the \$15,781,668.28 received in August 2005.

Designated giving of \$187,552,214.05 for the same year-to-date period is 2.32 percent, or \$4,260,985.56 above gifts of \$183,291,228.49 received at this point last year. The \$4,771,868.23 in designated

gifts received last month is \$206,427.63 above the \$4,565,440.60 received in August 2005, an increase of 4.52 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$183,123,620.15 is 105.22 percent of the \$174,043,150.38 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. □

Retired KBC exec. director dies

Baptist Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Franklin Owen, executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention from 1972-83, died Aug. 30 in Lexington. He was 93.

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

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Owen was state convention president in 1964-65 and preached the KBC annual sermon in 1967. He also served as a trustee of Georgetown College, the *Western Recorder*, the former Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was the brother of Carroll Owen of Brentwood, longtime Tennessee Baptist pastor and retired member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention staff.

The KBC Mission Board named the chapel in the current Baptist Building in Owen's honor last year and honored him in 2004 for "lifetime achievement in supporting the Cooperative Program."

He is survived by three sons and nine grandchildren. □

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MINISTRY — STUDENT

Conservative, growing church in booming community near Cookeville, Tenn. is accepting applications for a bivocational youth director. Send application and resume to Hamptons Crossroads Baptist Church, 109 Stallion Road, Cookeville, TN 38506.

Minister of youth, part-time, 20+ hours. Bellevue Baptist Church in Nashville. Minister to students, 7th-12 grades. Associate degree required, seminary degree preferred. E-mail resume to youth@bellevuebaptist.com or mail to Lisa Willoughby, c/o Bellevue Baptist Church, 7400 Highway 70 South, Nashville, TN 37221.

Fairfield Baptist Church's growing youth group is in need of a full-time youth pastor. We offer a competitive salary and are looking for someone with a heart for God, a passion for ministering to and with youth, and a willingness to relocate. Good leadership, communication, and team building skills are a must. Please mail your resume to Fairfield Baptist Church at 1863 Hwy. 100, Centerville, TN 37033 or e-mail us at fairfieldbapt812@bell.south.net.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

First Baptist Cookeville is accepting resumes for the position of director preschool and children's ministries. This part-time position oversees all areas of preschool and children's ministries including Sunday School, MDO, and summer Day Camps. Interested applicants may request more information and/or submit resumes to FBC Cookeville, 18 S. Walnut Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501, Attn: Personnel Committee.

BP launches Spanish product

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — BP en Espanol, a Spanish-language product published by Baptist Press, debuted Sept. 1.

The weekly edition will be posted on www.BPNews.net and will include news and features.

"The theme for all of our materials in BP en Espanol will be evangelistic, edifying, and informative," said Will Hall, executive editor of Baptist Press and vice president for news services with the

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MINISTRY — PASTOR

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 more info see www.pleasantgrovebaptist.net/seek_pastor.html.

Holston Baptist Association of Johnson City, Tenn., is accepting resumes for a bivocational hearing impaired pastor. Send resumes to Holston Baptist Association, 207 University Parkway, Johnson City, TN 37604. Fax to (423) 929-8240 or e-mail to hba@holstonbaptist.org. Please send to the attention of the Deaf Pastor Search Committee Chairman.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Oakland First Baptist Church in Oakland, Tenn., is currently seeking a part-time worship leader. The applicant must be comfortable with both traditional and contemporary music, and be able to provide planning, leadership, and direction for all worship services of OFBC and related music programming. Some college and/or seminary education preferred; two years of successful experience in the music ministry also preferred. Please mail your resume to Oakland First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 268, Oakland, TN 38060. You may also e-mail your resume to oakland1stbapt@bellsouth.net or fax it to (901) 465-8186.

Bivocational minister needed to lead the church music program for congregation size approximately 275. Minimum of 3 to 5 years leading a church music program required. Blended music style preferred. Please send resume to Miracle Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 10, LaVergne, TN 37086.

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

He added that BP en Espanol will seek "to serve Hispanic evangelicals looking for equipping resources and to attract Hispanic seekers wanting know more about the Christian faith." □

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MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Central Baptist Church in C Ridge, Tenn., (www.orcbc.org) accepting resumes for the position of minister of music/sermons. The church has a live television broadcast of its Sunday morning worship service on local cable TV and a 30-minute edited broadcast (see www.intimlikethese.org) which airs over entire Greater Knoxville/ Ga. burg area twice a week in prime time. We are looking for a minister who will direct us in blended music worship service. Please send resumes to brotby@orc.org or Dr. Bo Mullins, 130 Providence Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

First Baptist Church, Troy, Tenn., is seeking a full-time pastoral minister for spiritual growth for adults and children. This person would be responsible for the direction and development of an adult group ministry that meets on and off campus. He will also oversee the children's ministry for grades 1-6. We are a growing church with 450-500 worshipers. Interested applicants should send their resume to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 286, Troy, TN 38260.

Farley Community Church, growing SBC church, Huntsville, Ala., is seeking a time minister of music and youth. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Farley Community Church, 12302 Bell Road, Huntsville, AL 35803, personnel@farleycc.org.

MINISTRY — POSITION

Bird's Creek Baptist Church seeking a bivocational minister/director and a minister to students. Please send resume to Bird's Creek Baptist Church, 2245 Whitlock Road, Paris, TN 38242, Attn: Ray Anderson, Chairman.

We're hiring a full-time administrative assistant and a part-time weekday preschool director. For more information, call (615) 7000. Please send resume to Walker Memorial Baptist Church, 1350 West Main Street, Franklin, TN 37064.

MISCELLANEOUS

Scenic Hills Baptist Church of New Beginnings has a set of handbells for sale. The cost is \$6,000. For more information, contact Sister Lavelle at (901) 626-5464.

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book review

Dawn Ferguson

Pinocchio Parenting

by Chuck Borsellino

Howard Books, 2006

Is it ever okay to lie? Especially to our children?

"We live in a culture where lying is commonplace – just fish live in a culture where wet is the norm," writes author Chuck Borsellino.

According to the book *The Day America Told the Truth*, percent of Americans surveyed admitted to lying routinely: 86 percent lie to parents, 75 percent lie to friends, percent lie to siblings, and 69 percent lie to spouses. On average, we lie about twice a day.

Borsellino, who is also a licensed clinical psychologist, trained minister, and host of the television program "At Home Live with Chuck & Jenni," addresses the 21 most common lies we tell our children in his latest book *Pinocchio Parenting*.

The first lie Borsellino addresses is the "You can be anything you want to be" lie. He believes that when you tell a child this, you are suggesting that we are all made the same and with hard work and determination can be whatever we want. "God has packed our kids' bags with specific talents, gifts, interests, and desires – all for a purpose. Part of our role as parents is to help them identify and pursue that purpose, not teach them to duplicate someone else's."

While it may be easy to see how some of the lies we tell harm children, others are not so obvious. For example, "It doesn't matter – it's what's on the inside that counts." While it is what's on the inside that counts in the long run, it's what's on the outside that leads others to make their initial impression of us.

It takes people an average of four minutes to form a first impression, and 65 percent of that is based on looks. Borsellino advises parents to be attentive to those areas where changes can be made – braces, contact lenses, etc. – to enhance a child's self-esteem, but in the process maintain balance.

Remember that nothing speaks louder than your example. . . . Model the behaviors you want them to follow: be right; exercise often; dress smart. . . . Suggesting that appearance doesn't matter is untrue; suggesting that appearance matters most is unhealthy. As parents we need to help our kids do the best they can with what we've got."

As Borsellino deals with the truth and consequences of telling these lies to children, he provides real life stories. Some humorous. Some poignant. And nowhere in the book is the evidence stacked more against lying than in the chapter on Santa Claus.

In a real life example, Borsellino shares a letter from an adult detailing an experience someone in her family had with the myth of Santa. At nine, he was still defending Santa. He was taking abuse for his belief at school, so finally asked his parents to tell him the truth. When they did, he was devastated. He cried out to his parents, "You told me Jesus was real, and I ain't seen him neither. Is he real?"

Borsellino believes the lies we tell our children shape their lives. His book offers a more truthful, biblically-based manner in which to raise your kids. It's well worth a read to see how seemingly innocent statements can be capable of causing children a lifetime of failure and frustration. □ — Ferguson is a correspondent for the *Baptist Reflector*.

The agony of defeat

By Craig Christina

Focal Passage: Joshua 7:6-7, 10-13, 16-21, 24-26

Israel had just experienced tremendous victories. They had crossed the flooded Jordan River on dry ground. The Lord had given them the fortified city of Jericho as the walls came tumbling down. But just as everything was going so well, up jumped the devil. Temptation got the better of man named Achan, and the entire nation of Israel paid the price.

All of Jericho's gold, silver, bronze, and iron were to be set apart for the Lord's treasury (and one day, for the Lord's house). Unfortunately, Achan kept some of the loot for himself, and the entire nation of Israel paid the price with their defeat at Ai.

Isn't it true that God's people experience defeat from time to time because we fail to follow God's specific instructions? *Go and make disciples* (Matthew 28:19). *Bring the full 10 percent into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house* (Malachi 3:10). *First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye* (Matthew 7:5). When God's people disobey His instructions in order to do things "my way," the entire congregation suffers.

Fortunately, we find in Joshua's leadership the steps necessary to lead God's people out of the agony of defeat.

Be willing to repent. One of the

many things I like about Joshua is that he led by example. Joshua didn't run from the situation. He didn't reminisce about the glory days of crossing the Jordan on dry ground. He didn't try to blame his congregation for the defeat. He first took personal responsibility and repented before the Lord, and the elders followed his example by repenting, too (v. 6).

When God's leaders and God's people become too proud to humble themselves before the Lord, His glory will depart. If we can sincerely confess to the Lord that something is wrong and that the church body is not as healthy as it should be, then we will have the proper heart attitude to hear God speak.

Be willing to recommit. God honored Joshua's and the elders' repentant spirit by calling for Israel to "consecrate" themselves to the Lord (v. 13). In other words, God was asking them to recommit themselves to be set apart for God's purposes.

Is it possible that churches can become set apart for their own purposes? Is it possible that we move away from worship to entertainment? To move away from discipleship to dabbling in the Scriptures? To move away from true fellowship to shallow relationships? To move away from ministry to "serve me?" To move away from evangelism to sheep stealing?

The size of a church's building or budget is not necessarily an indication of consecration. God has called us to be in the world, not of the world.

Remain true

By Bob Orgeron

Focal Passage: Hebrews 3:1-15

The writer of Hebrews has so far demonstrated the superiority of Jesus to the prophets, and the superiority of Jesus to angels. He has issued the first of five warnings to the Hebrew believers, warning them that they will one day be judged for their having carelessly wasted their spiritual growth opportunities and remained static in their spiritual progress.

Faithfulness of Jesus and Moses, vv. 1-6. In this section, the writer demonstrates the superiority of Jesus to God's great servant, Moses. The writer in no way speaks disparagingly of Moses. His audience of Jewish Christians held Moses in high regard and any disparaging remarks would not have been received well and would have been counter to what he wanted to accomplish with this group of believers. So he continues to point them to Christ in comparison to all that they were most familiar with in Judaism, reminding them that Christ is superior.

In verse one he refers to Jesus, as "the Apostle and High Priest," herein is the only New Testament reference to Jesus as an apostle. William Barclay writes "An apostle was invested with the power of and authority of the country and king whom he represented, as well as being the voice of such king or country." Both Jesus and Moses are described as being faithful to the One who has appointed them. Please notice the contrast between Jesus and Moses is made in two ways: First, Jesus is the builder of the house; Moses is a servant in the house. A. T. Robertson points out that "the Architect who designs and builds the house is greater than the house

which he designs and builds." Second, Jesus is the Son in the household; Moses is the servant in the household. Therefore, as great as Moses was, as a servant in the house, even greater is Jesus, the architect and builder of the house, and a son in the house.

Unfaithfulness of Moses' generation, vv. 7-11. In this middle section of the passage, we find a second warning. Dr. Philip Allison calls this warning a "Spiritual Kadesh." This reference obviously finds its application in these contemporary times as a spiritual crossing over, or moving forward in our spiritual growth. The warning is based on the experience of the generation of those Jews in the wilderness 20 years of age and older who took part in the Exodus from Egypt but never entered the Promised Land. Dr. Kendal Easley, who wrote the LifeWay commentary for this lesson, points out that the section implies a fourfold application: the application to Moses' generation found in Exodus 17 and Numbers 14, from Psalm 95, the application to the Israelites of David's generation, the application to the addressees of the epistle and the application to you and me in this present generation. The recipients of this letter were threatening in response to their circumstances to return to Judaism as their forefathers had contemplated returning to Egypt at Kadesh Barnea. The writer admonishes his readers to follow through and enter into their spiritual promised land. This is an excellent point for our contemporary Sunday school audiences. What are we facing that is stalling our forward spiritual progress?

Faithfulness required of Christians, vv. 12-15. The writer is encouraging his readers that they should be careful, that they should

Sunday School Lesson
Bible Studies for Life
Sept. 17

When we recommit ourselves to passionately pursue His purposes, God will once again be glorified and His church will be on the way to health.

Be willing to rebuke. This is the straw that breaks the camel's back in most churches. Many of us are absolutely unwilling to rebuke brothers or sisters in Christ. We want to avoid confrontation at all costs. The end result is that the entire body suffers because one or more individuals "calls the shots" to have his or her own way.

Joshua was willing to confront the sin and call out the sinner. But Joshua did not stand alone. "All Israel" stood with Joshua as they corporately stoned Achan and burned the bodies of his entire family (vv. 24-25).

Jesus gives us specific guidelines for church discipline (Matthew 18:15-20). The purpose of discipline is not to be punitive but restorative; to help the individual see his error, repent, and be restored in good standing with the body. We can repent and recommit, but that is not enough. Those leaders and congregations who repent, recommit, and lovingly and honestly rebuke the root cause will restore the body and rise out of the agony of defeat. □ — Christina is pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Sept. 17

avoid developing an unbelieving heart refusing to trust the Lord. He encourages each one to stand firm in the faith every day. He impresses his reader that they should guard against allowing themselves to become so pressed out, and disoriented under the stresses of persecution that they become careless and that their spiritual reflexes become dull.

Notice the comparison between verse one, in which the believers are referred to as "partakers in a heavenly calling," with verse 14 where they are identified as "partakers, of the Christ, the Messiah." They were part of God's family. The writer is calling on them to hold firmly to their commitment and demonstrate the reality of their faith.

In verse 14 you will notice a reference to time, "the beginning and the end." One is a reference to the starting point when a person accepts Christ as Savior. The other refers either to the end of one's physical life in death or to the return of Christ. The writer again encourages his reader to hold on to their profession until the end. Dr. Easley closes the commentary chapter on page 39 with this challenge.

"Reflection on Hebrews 3:12-15 shows that the writer was appealing to the Hebrew believers to rededicate themselves to serve God faithfully, calling for them to encourage others to faithfulness, to persevere themselves, and to be open to God's leadership. What are you doing to show that you are dedicated to serving God faithfully?" □ — Orgeron is pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville.



Funding missions in Tennessee

Deaths

◆ **James Lee Harney II**, 84, of Huntland, a Tennessee Baptist pastor, died Sept. 3 in Winchester. He was a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. He served as a pastor of First Baptist Church, Wartrace; First Baptist Church, Huntland; Maxwell Baptist Church, Belvidere; First Baptist Church, Waverly; Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg; and Union Hill Baptist Church, Goodlettsville. He also served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention from 1981-1986 and 1995-2000, and on the Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes board from 1987-1993. In retirement he served as pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church. He is survived by two daughters and two sons; grandchildren; and great grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be given to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board through the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027.

◆ **Margaret Farmer**, 83, of Clarksville, widow of Emery Farmer, a retired director of missions for New Salem Baptist Association, Carthage, and

mother of Tennessee Baptist Convention employee Elizabeth Holmes, died Aug. 20. Mrs. Farmer supported her husband for almost 35 years in his ministry as director of missions and pastor. Other survivors include another daughter, Martha Repsel of Clarksville, and one grandchild.

◆ **Richard Castle**, 77, of Gray, a retired Tennessee Baptist pastor, died July 13. He served as a pastor for 50 years of churches including Flat Gap Baptist Church, Jefferson City; Calvary Baptist Church, Johnson City; Happy Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethton; and West View Baptist Church, Rogersville; and also of churches in Virginia. In retirement he served as choir director for Greenvale Baptist Church, Church Hill, and Reservoir Road Baptist Church, Kingsport, where he was a member. He is survived by his wife, Thelma Castle of Gray; two sons and three daughters; grandchildren; and great grandchildren.

Leaders

◆ **Forest Hills Baptist Church**, Nashville, has called **Charles L. Roesel** of Florida as its interim pastor effective Sept.

17. He is the pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla., where he served as pastor for 29 years. As the recipient of the Southern Baptist Distinguished Service Award for the Year 2000, Roesel is currently an ambassador for the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

◆ **Sullivan Baptist Association**, Kingsport, has called **Dallas Bivins** of Anchorage, Alaska, as director of missions effective Oct. 1. Bivins has served as director of missions for Chugach Baptist Association in Anchorage since 2001. Prior to going to Alaska, he served as teaching and senior pastor of churches in Texas and Wisconsin. He also was a Baptist Student Union director in California and Texas, a chaplain for corporate ministries in Texas and Ariz., and a coach in Ariz., Texas, and at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour. Bivins is a graduate of Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Ariz.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

◆ **Randy Pressnell**, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, recently was called to a similar position at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel, effective Oct. 1. Pressnell has served as a bivocational pastor, interim pastor, and pastor of churches in Tennessee and Kentucky. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City; Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Churches

◆ **White Oak Baptist Church**, Red Bank, Chattanooga, will again host and lodge over 100 members of the Christian Motorcyclist Association (CMA). They are there to minister to over 100,000 motorcycle riders attending the 13th annual Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride leaving Sept. 16. White Oak Church will also host several events Sept. 15. For information, contact Harry T. Stone, president of the Chattanooga CMA, at (423) 313-1663 or visit www.cmachattanooga.com.

◆ **Oak Street Baptist Church**, Soddy Daisy, will hold a homecoming celebration Oct. 1. Darrell Winters, pastor of South Whitwell Baptist Church, Whitwell, will speak. "Rhyme & Reason," a trio from Chattanooga, will present the music. For information, call the church office at (423) 332-2300.

◆ **First Baptist Church**, Old Hickory, will hold a fall revival Oct. 15-18. Tommy Shelton will speak. For information, contact the church at



MEMBERS OF TENNESSEE Campers on Mission, IN PHOTO ABOVE, Karen Hackworth, left, of Maryville, and Faye Risner Ethridge, prepare to paint part of Stokely Chapel at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport. The team which worked August, IN PHOTO BELOW, stand in front of the chapel, which is being renovated. They are, from left, seated, David Mahon, Phyllis Ingram, and Joel O'Brien; standing, Flo Woodside, Bob Woods, Ann Mahon, Doug Hayes, Geraldine Hayes, Rose O'Brien, Mike Green, Jim Green, Irene Guest, Karen Hackworth, and Jack Hackworth.



(615) 847-3447.

◆ **Living Springs Baptist Church**, Mt. Juliet, will hold a revival Sept. 24-28. Jeff Myers of Athens will speak. Tony Hicks of Smyrna will direct the music. For information, contact Milton L. Hicks, pastor, at (615) 355-0079.

◆ **Fosterville Baptist Church**, Bell Buckle, will host a revival Sept. 17-20. Mike Ruffin, former professor of Old Tes-

tament at Belmont University, Nashville, will speak. For information, call (615) 233-5470.

◆ **Southside Baptist Church**, Shelbyville, will hold a revival Sept. 17-20. Mike Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

◆ **Concord-Grandview Baptist Church**, Brentwood, will hold revival Sept. 17-20. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.



TALKING TO A HOMEOWNER in the New Orleans, La., area is Clay Dyer of Third Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, during work with hurricane victims by a church team recently. The church is working with First Baptist Church, New Orleans. Five mud-out teams involving 25 volunteers have served there since December 2005. Third Church will send two more teams this year — Oct. 3-7 and Nov. 7-14. They plan to rebuild a home.



PRACTICING KNOT TYING at the Mid-South Royal Ambassador University are, from left, Timothy Moncieo and Charles Alton of Whitten Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis, with help from Billy Cox, Trinity Baptist Church, Cordova. The event was held Aug. 11-12 at Cordova Baptist Conference Center and drew 23 people from nine churches. Activities included a camp experience, training, and lesson planning exercise.



MEMBERS OF THIS team from Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, pause in Canada where they served on Prince Edward Island recently. They worked with pastor and church planter Puckett, who is from Tennessee, for the third year. The team Vacation Bible School at two churches, led an adult VBS class, conducted two community carnivals, and did some evangelizing work. Five children made professions of faith as a result of VBS's. Team members were, from left, kneeling, Bethany second row, Tim Hulon, Pam Dyer, and Susan Cope; third row, Jeremy Sledge, Kathlena Hodges, Ernie Forsythe, Len Dye, Andy Whisenant; fourth row, Whitney Smyser, Teresa Smyser, Frank Lee; back row, Keith Smyser, Dan Privott, and Martha