

**Wide Edition**

**Vol. 172 / No. 39; Oct. 25, 2006**

## Convention annual meeting to begin with Call to Prayer

## Online TBC registration underway

Every messenger must have a signed messenger card regardless of how they register, he added.

**BRENTWOOD** — Online registration for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is now underway at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).

Church messengers who register online still must check in at the registration area at the convention with their messenger cards, (either provided by the church or printed online) stressed Dan Ferrell, TBC registration secretary.

The Belmont Study Committee will present its report on Tuesday morning, Nov. 14, and discussion

the *Concerned Tennessee Baptists Newsletter* that he will be a nominee. He told the *Baptist and Reflector* that others had also approached him about being a candidate.

Concerned Tennessee Baptists is described on their web site as "a group of individuals who are committed to the interdependent historical relationship of Concerned Tennessee Baptists with the Southern Baptist Convention." CTB also announced two other candidates: Thomas McCoy, pastor, Thompson Station Baptist Church, Thompson Station, vice president; and Tim McGehee, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Tullahoma, second vice president.

## LifeWay survey asks: Can the church close the back door?

percent of formerly church-  
adults left their church because  
of "changes in life situation."  
While this may suggest that  
most losses are outside of the  
church's control, the research  
indicates that is not necessarily  
the case, said Brad Waggoner,  
director of LifeWay Research.

The results indicate that, while some losses may be inevitable, opportunities abound for churches to hold on to members who are headed for the door.

## Why are people leaving?

According to the study, 59

Waggoner noted that the formerly churched provided more detailed reasons behind this more generic "changes in life situation" description. "It is interesting that the most prevalent reasons come down to personal priorities rather than an external change in the person's life," said Waggoner.

In looking at the top two specific life-situation reasons adults stop attending — “simply got too busy to attend church” (19 percent) and “family/home responsibilities prevented church attendance” (17 percent) — it is clear to see these areas are more preventable than some

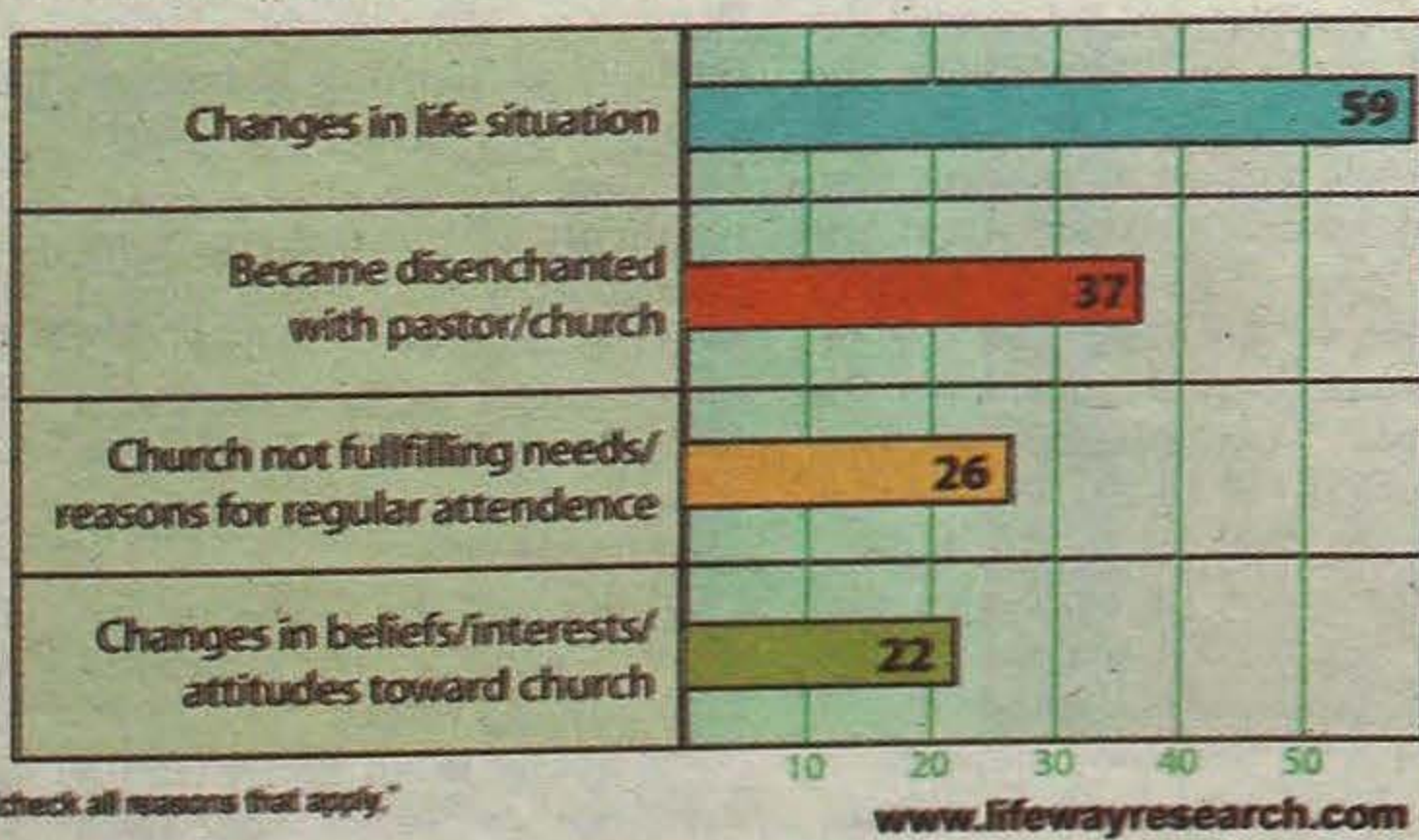
of the lower-ranking reasons such as "moved too far from church" (17 percent), "work situation" (15 percent), or "got divorced/separated" (12 percent).

The second most common category of reasons adults leave the church is "disenchantment with pastor/church," accounting for withdrawal of 37 percent of the formerly churched. Three specific sources of disenchantment are sandwiched among the life-change reasons. The formerly churched say church members "seemed hypocritical" (17 percent), "were judgmental of others" (17 percent) or "the church was run by a clique that discouraged involvement" (12 percent). These adults felt like outsiders looking in, revealing that the leadership and relational dynamics of a church can prove to be obstacles that prevent involvement.

— See LifeWay, page 4



**LifeWay**  
RESEARCH



Because survey respondents could "check all reasons that apply," total answers sum more than 100%.



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## Hawaii Baptists thankful after earthquakes

Baptist Press

KAILUA KONA, Hawaii — Hawaii Baptists are expressing thanks that no deaths or serious injuries were reported when a 6.7-magnitude earthquake shook the island chain around 7 a.m. local time Sunday, Oct. 15.

The quake was the strongest to hit Hawaii in more than two decades, and it was followed by several aftershocks, including one measuring 6.0.

Bob Duffer, director of missions for the Neighbor Islands Baptist Associations of Hawaii, told Baptist Press that First Baptist Church of Waimea in Kamuela on the Big Island sustained some water damage from broken pipes and some broken windows. At the parsonage there, a chimney fell and caused some structural damage.

Waikoloa Baptist Church, also on the Big Island, was closest to the epicenter of the earthquake, and the church's pastor, Emerson Wiles, said people were grateful to be recovering material possessions rather than lost lives.

**Wiles is former Tennessee Baptist pastor, having served at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville.**

"Surprisingly, there's very little damage in our entire village," Wiles told BP. "I know there are a few houses that had some of their foundations messed up, and several rock walls have fallen."

Most residents were dealing with cleaning up personal items that had fallen off walls and shelves in their homes, such as broken dishes, pictures and mirrors, Wiles said. He mentioned the challenge of cleaning up messes like molasses, cooking oil, flour and sugar mixed together on a kitchen floor.

"The hot water heater for the church is in my office, and it shook a pipe loose," Wiles said. "It was an hour before I went down to the church. My office has some water damage, but other than that, everything looks good. I think everybody is just happy nobody was hurt, and they're cleaning up on the inside of their houses, basically."

"We feel fortunate," he added. "When something that strong can move your house, you're just fortunate nobody's hurt." □

## SWBTS trustees oppose charismatic practices/doctrine

Compiled from Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Fixing its focus on historic New Testament and Baptist doctrine to guide students in the tasks of world missions and evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will not knowingly

## Carson-Newman trustees consider faculty vote

Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — Trustees of Carson-Newman College met in executive session on Oct. 19 to consider a recent vote of no confidence in college president James Netherton by the school's faculty.

According to David Nowell, senior vice president for advancement and administration at Carson-Newman, the trustees considered the matter without Netherton or faculty representatives in the meeting. Nowell is serving as spokesman for the trustees.

Nowell told the *Baptist and Reflector* that the trustees unanimously voted to begin a process to study the concerns of the faculty who, by a vote of 129-71 on Oct. 5, expressed a lack of confidence in Netherton's leadership.

Nowell said he was told by trustee chairman C.T. Cozart of Chattanooga trustees bathed the session in prayer and gave the matter careful consideration.

The full text of the statement released by the trustees follows:

"The Carson-Newman College board of

trustees met yesterday (Oct. 19) in executive session to consider the matter of recent votes of confidence in its president. The meeting, with an extended time of prayer, and then much sharing among trustees as they deliberated the challenges before us.

"By unanimous resolution, the Board has initiated a process to appropriately address issues of concern. A great unity of purpose and commitment to working with all the constituencies in addressing the issues was evident throughout the meeting, and the trustees resolved to proceed immediately with plans to begin the process.

"The trustees represent the entire college and are responsible to all. They are supportive of all constituents, students, faculty, staff, and the administration, and the whole of the college community.

"They wish to convey their indebtedness to the many faculty, staff, alumni, student friends of the college who have been, and will continue to pray, and to do their part in working through this important opportunity to strengthen the college." □

endorse contemporary charismatic practices such as a private prayer language nor hire professors who advocate the practice, according to a statement issued by trustees Oct. 17.

Earlier this semester one of the seminary's new trustees preached a chapel message in which he defended the practice of a private prayer language. In an Aug. 29 sermon, Texas pastor Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, took issue with the International Mission Board policy refusing to appoint missionary candidates who engage in the contemporary neo-charismatic practice.

SWBTS President Paige Patterson, in the midst of what he told the Southern Baptist TEXAN would be a report on "exciting evidence of the blessings of the hand of God" on the seminary, expressed as "unfortunate" the need to address an action that was "ill-timed, inappropriate, unhelpful, unnecessarily divisive, and contrary to the generally accepted understandings and practices of Southern Baptists."

Consequently, at the president's encouragement in a closed-session forum Oct. 16, trustees adopted a statement unanimously recommended by the board's executive committee clarifying the seminary's perspective on private prayer language with only one member, McKissic, voting in opposition.

The statement referenced the seminary's affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention for the sole purpose of "training men and women to understand the Bible in all its ramifications in order to facilitate the assignment of Christ as provided in the Great Commission," citing Matthew 28:18-20. "We wish to remain faithful to the biblical witness and its emphases, taking into careful account the historic positions of Baptists in general and Southern Baptists in particular," the trustees stated.

"As it concerns private practices of devotion, these practices, if genuinely private, remain unknown to the general public and are, therefore, beyond the purview of Southwestern Seminary." The trustees pledged, "Southwestern will not knowingly endorse in any way, advertise, or commend the conclusions of the contemporary charismatic movement including 'private prayer language.' Neither will Southwestern knowingly employ professors or administrators who promote such practices."

In a related matter, McKissic said he would remain as a trustee of the seminary.

While acknowledging that he had been discouraged to the point of sometimes considering resigning as a trustee after that first meeting, McKissic said, "I'm not gonna let my flesh do that. It's not about what I want." He found encouragement from the many Southern Baptists who called or e-mailed praising his stand.

"For those people I will continue to act," he said. □

## WMU re-elects national officers

Baptist Press

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Kaye Miller of Little Rock, Ark., and Kathy Hillman of Waco, Texas, were elected to serve another year as national officers of Woman's Missionary Union Sept. 29 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

About 750 members were present at WMU's 118th annual meeting to re-elect Miller to a second term as president and Hillman to a third term as recording secretary, both by unanimous vote.

Miller said she is looking forward to another year of prayerfully guiding WMU.

"It really is an honor and a privilege to serve the Lord

through this organization," Miller said. "It's been in our hearts to see God using WMU at all levels — national, state associations, and in our churches." □

## Church giving decline continues

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — A report released by Empty Tomb Oct. 13 examined the trends of church membership in the United States in 2005 and determined that financial contributions to churches were down as a percent of income for a second consecutive year compared with previous years. Church members gave 3.11 percent of their income, down from 3.11 percent in 1968.

The Illinois-based research organization found that giving to benevolent activities focused outside the congregation — as a percent of income increased slightly in 2004 from the 2003 level, rounded to 0.38 percent, the lowest in the 37-year history. Empty Tomb has tracked church giving numbers.

For each dollar donated to a congregation, donors spent 2 cents on overseas missions in 2004, down from 3 cents in the 1920s. The authors, John and Susan Ronsvalle, said even if Christians could complete the task of global evangelism, it would cost 7 cents per member per year.

"Had giving been at the rate of 10 percent in 2004, it would have been at least an additional \$164 billion available for overseas and domestic missions of churches," the authors said.

Additional data is available through the Empty Tomb website, [www.emptytomb.org](http://www.emptytomb.org). The entire report is available as a book called *The Church Giving through*



## Tuesday evening of convention will be different: planners

and Reflector

ENTWOOD — On Tuesday evening of the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention new ministries will be offered. This year evening will focus on church health fellowship.

Idea developed by the convention Arrangements Committee combines the work of Bellevue Baptist Church, area churches, and the TBC Assistance from the TBC staff led by Tim Holcomb and Bill Northcott.

Evening will begin at 5 p.m. and opportunity for a free "Memphis-style" barbecue dinner in the Fellowship Hall and Church Health Breakout Session in the Praise Building off the sanctuary. The messengers who have blue name tags can eat at that time and the messengers with ivory name tags can attend a breakout session.

At 5 p.m. dinner will be served for the messengers with ivory name tags while the messengers with blue name tags can attend a Church Health Breakout Session.

From 5-7 p.m. a "Celebration of our Churches" will be held featuring displays from about 36 Tennessee churches on their church ministries. The celebration will be held in the West Foyer. Additionally at this time can tour the new preschool and men's area of Bellevue Baptist Church.

Then from 7-8:30 p.m. in the West Foyer Upstairs above the Fellowship Hall a "Dessert Party" will be provided by the TBC institutions and organizations. Several institutions/agencies will have designated rooms for fellowship.

Holcomb said the idea for the Tuesday evening activities started with James Porch, TBC executive director. The Arrangements Committee developed the idea in consideration of the spacious facilities of Bellevue Baptist Church.

Northcott said he believes the activities will benefit folks by allowing fellowship and interaction and by providing new ideas through the breakout sessions.

The breakouts are an outgrowth of four meetings held across the state by the TBC this year to dialog with ministers about the spiritual, physical, sociological, and emotional needs of pastors and staff. About 100 ministers attended the meetings. Northcott noted one breakout session is for laypeople and one for ministers wives.

"These conferences grow out of what was shared at the four focus meetings and are a first step in a process that seeks to increase health among the ministers of our Tennessee Baptist Convention," said Northcott.

He also said it is good to have different opportunities at times and he hopes folks will enjoy it.

Holcomb said the evening will be different but he thinks enjoyable. □

### Church Health Breakout Sessions

- **Hey Church Member — You Make the Difference!** — Room W154, Led by Andre Dugger. Discover how to strengthen your church and make it healthier than you ever dreamed (laypersons only).
- **Spiritual Growth for the Overwhelmed Minister** — Room W156, Led by Bill Choate. While today's local church ministry is a blessing, it can also make caring for personal spiritual growth a real challenge. Ancient and fresh ways to grow spiritually while living the busy life of church ministry will be offered.
- **Balancing the Life of the Minister** — Room W150, Led by Ray Gilder. Help for the minister and his wife who are seeking ways to balance life in the ministry and finish well.
- **Doing Excellence with the Minister's Family** — Room W145, Led by Tony Rankin. While there is nothing wrong with a minister striving for excellence at the church, remember: You can and will be replaced. At home you will never be forgotten. Work to leave a legacy, especially at home.
- **Coming Apart so that You Don't Come Apart: How to Keep Your Balance on the Tightrope of Ministry** — Room W143, Led by Paul Barkley. Jesus invited the apostles to a retreat saying, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." Today's minister finds himself pulled in so many directions that it is easy for him to be overcome by the stress and strain. We will explore physical and emotional methods of self-care to help the minister cope more effectively.
- **Remember the Titans** — Room W143, Led by Willie McLaurin and Steve Pearson. Ways to move your staff from acceptable results to exceptional results.
- **Is God Really Enough?** — Room W152, Led by Leighann McCoy. Discover how the truths Jesus taught His disciples to embrace when they found themselves worn out and weary relate to your unique role as ministers' wives.

## Pastors Conference dedicated to memory of Adrian Rogers

and Reflector

ENTWOOD — The Tennessee Baptist Convention Pastors Conference is held on Monday, Nov. 13 at Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

The theme of the meeting is "Glorify Jesus."

The meeting will be dedicated to the memory of Adrian Rogers, said Steve Hensley, president of the Pastors Conference.

Rogers was the long-time pastor at the host church and time president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Just prior to last year's annual meeting which was held in Clarksville.

They pay tribute to him as one of Tennessee's greatest

preachers," Hensley said.

"For 32 years he led Tennessee's largest church. He was a consistent example of a great soul winner, committed pastor, and a friend to pastors of churches large and small," Hensley added.

The conference will feature two sessions. The first session begins at 1 p.m. and adjourns at 4:10 p.m.

Speakers during the first session include Joseph Hensley, pastor, Hunter Memorial Baptist Church, Elizabethton (1:25 p.m.); Randy Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church,



BALLEW



DAVIS



DEESE



GAINES



HENSLEY



HILL



MORRIS

Sevierville (2:05 p.m.); Niki Ballew, pastor, Locust Hill Baptist Church, Travelers Rest, S.C. (3:05 p.m.); and Todd Morris, pastor, Abney Baptist Church, Abney, S.C. (3:40 p.m.).

The election of officers for the Pastors Conference will take place during the first session at 2:45 p.m.

The evening session is slated for 6:15-8:55 p.m.

Speakers during the

evening session are Cody Deese, evangelist for Fan the Flame Ministries in Marietta, Ga. (6:35 p.m.); Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala. (7:20 p.m.); and Steve Gaines, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova (8:15 p.m.).

Special music during the sessions will be provided by Scott Andrews, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Sevierville, the Reggie Saddler

family; and the Bellevue choir and orchestra.

"May God manifest His power and Jesus bless us with His presence so that when the last song has been sung, the last sermon has been preached, and the last prayer has been prayed, we will leave this conference with a steadfast desire that our lives and ministries will magnify Jesus," Hensley said. □

## Missions Extravaganza to be held on Nov. 13 by Tennessee WMU

and Reflector

ENTWOOD — Meeting "real live missionaries" and seeing displays is the annual Missions Extravaganza about. It will be held on Monday, Nov. 13, from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, just prior to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The 2007 Missions Extravaganza will feature missionaries from states and countries which have Baptist partnerships with the TBC. Each missionary is invited to bring a display that represents their area of work. Messengers

and visitors will have an opportunity to visit with international, North American, and Tennessee missionaries as well as volunteers. International missionaries who will be in attendance are currently on stateside assignment.

Tennessee Baptists currently maintain partnerships with Baptists in Iowa; Montana; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and the Canadian Baptist Seminary. The state convention also actively participates in multi-state consortiums which include Mississippi River Ministry, Appalachian Regional Ministries, and Impact North-east.

Parents and leaders of preschool,

children, and youth missions organizations are encouraged to bring them to meet the missionaries. Adults will enjoy the fellowship opportunities. Everyone will have the chance to ask the missionaries questions about their ministries, experiences, and challenges.

This informal missions fair will be located in the West Foyer outside the book store area. Missions Extravaganza is hosted by Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union. It is made possible through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions allocation titled "Nurturing Tennessee Missionaries."

In addition to the missionaries' dis-

plays, Tennessee WMU will display WorldCrafts items. WorldCrafts, a non-profit ministry of WMU, imports over 300 handcrafts from over 2,000 artisans in 31 countries. In partnership with International Mission Board missionaries, WMU markets the products.

Missionaries build relationships with the crafters. The wages earned provide an income to feed and educate the crafters and their families who often live in the most impoverished regions of the world.

For more information, contact Tennessee WMU, (615) 371-7918, 1-800-558-2090 ext. 7918, or vanderson@tn-baptist.org. □



## Be sure to vote

God's Word tells us that "righteousness exalts a nation; sin is a reproach to many people."

In just a few days we will have the opportunity to do what many people in this world cannot do. God has given us the privilege to vote for our public officials. We have been granted by our Creator the right to elect our leaders.

As we go to the polls, let's remember that God will not bless a nation that turns its back on Him. When we cast our ballot, our concern should not be whether the candidate belongs to a certain party or whether or not he or she will pad our wallets.

Our main concern should be which of the candidates will most likely honor God while in office and which candidates have a record of supporting

principles found in God's Holy Word.

I strongly urge you, before you punch that card, pull that lever, or connect the dots, spend time in prayer and ask God to lead you to vote for His choice.

I'm Bill Taylor and God and I both approve this message.

Bill Taylor, pastor  
Mt. Tirzah Baptist Church  
Newbern 38059

## Study John 17

Regarding the discussion on Calvinism I offer these observations and exhortations. Of my 81 years, I have been a Christian for 65 years. I have several degrees in a variety of majors, one from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. I have served the Lord in numerous Southern Baptist churches in a wide variety of capacities.

I first suggest that my fellow

Baptists and Christians study John 17 (Christ's exhortation for unity). We are losing the battle in once Christian America against the devil and his kingdom of evil and destruction. The study of Titus, II Timothy 2, and other Scriptures, on the topic of propagating other persons' interpretations of Scriptures, will be most helpful. Christ, Paul, and others spoke against wrangling over trivial, foolish, controversial topics.

In this 21st century of literacy and knowledge we should not have division over something that was developed hundreds of years ago. We need to study, teach, and preach the whole, and Holy, counsel of God (study to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not be ashamed, accurately living and teaching the Word of Truth).

A loving, all-knowing, wise God-Creator would not have cre-

ated the universe and mankind (as a spirit-being, like Himself) if he had predestined (planned in the future) for most of these billions to spend eternity in hell. Some of the angels, Lucifer and his followers, disappointed God in their rebellion. Our all-wise, loving, merciful God had a back-up plan for saving and reconciling man to believe in and obey Him — Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Jack Hughes  
Ooltewah 37363

## Evangelists

As a former pastor of 25 years, it took me 10 years to realize I needed to support God-called evangelists. Ephesians 4: 10-11 reminds us that "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; ..."

I recently talked to an evangelist who said he preached in a

Tennessee church and no offering. He was told it would be in the mail, never received it.

Another time he preached a week at a large church received \$300. He had to pay his own expenses. He was told the church was raising for a building. May God bless churches that do not have evangelists.

Churches can get good results by being flexible.

In my last church retirement, we scheduled revivals a year with a for each. We also took nightly offering which directly to the evangelist.

I appeal to churches and pastors to plan revivals and God-called evangelists. God's way of reviving a church.

Adam S. ...  
Newport ...

## Part one

# LifeWay survey asks: Can the church close the back ...

— Continued from page 1

"While some may use disenchantment issues as a smoke-screen to hide behind, the large percent of the formerly church who struggle with disenchantment deserve some honest attention," Waggoner said.

Notably, Waggoner pointed out that only two of the top 10 reasons are instances in which the formerly church admit to spiritual causes, citing "church was not helping me to develop spiritually" (14 percent) and "stopped believing in organized religion" (14 percent).

The latter reflects creeping secularism and is underscored by the number of respondents who consider themselves "spiri-

tual, but not religious" (24 percent) and "Christian, but not particularly devout" (42 percent). Less than 1 in 5 formerly church adults confess to being "a devout Christian with a strong belief in God" (19 percent) and a somewhat smaller number are wavering on Christianity (10 percent) or belief in God at all (6 percent).

### Start thinking prevention

Clearly, many of the reasons people no longer regularly attend church are interrelated. More than 80 percent of the formerly church do not have a strong belief in God, explaining why work and family are a higher priority than church. But would they be "too busy" to

attend if they felt more welcome at church?

Although many formerly church adults stay away from their former church for the same reasons they initially left, some indicate that the church did not notice or care. Sixteen percent said "nobody contacted me after I left" and another 16 percent said "nobody seemed to care that I left."

According to Waggoner, "the responsibility and influence of the church varies across the different reasons for withdrawal. One clear influence is the expectations that churches have of attendees as they come into the life of the church," he said. Quoting the book *Transforming Dis-*

*cipleship* by Greg Ogden, Waggoner said some church practices might be contributing to low levels of church commitment and limited biblical knowledge.

"Christian leaders seem to be reluctant to [proclaim] the terms of discipleship that Jesus laid out," Ogden writes. "What are the reasons for our reluctance? We are afraid that if we ask too much, people will stop coming to our churches. Our operating assumption is that people will flee to the nearby entertainment church if we ask them to give too much of themselves. So we start with a low bar and try to entice people by increments of commitment, hop-

ing that we can raise imperceptibly to the ultimate destination of discipleship."

Waggoner said it is true that some of the formerly church left because the "nation" was so slow to respond. "In the end, it's important for church leaders to not only assume responsibility for those who seek to join their churches but also for those who leave. Be vigilant at the front door and the back of the church." □

## Nashville church hosts family rally

Baptist Press  
NASHVILLE — Approximately 2,700 people attended "Stand for the Family" rally at Two Rivers Baptist Church here.

The rally was sponsored by Focus on the Family and held three weeks before the election in Tennessee and several other states will go to the polls on constitutional amendments. Previous rallies have taken place in Pittsburgh and Minneapolis.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers, said the stakes of the upcoming election are high.

"We're in a great crisis again today. It's not a war of words and arguments," Sutton said.

"And it's every bit as important as the Civil War. The nation fought almost 150 years ago. For us, it's a war of secularists ... who would take us back to the image of the days of ancient Rome."

"Our goal is to motivate every single believer — every name the name of Jesus — to be involved in the process. We will not be silent," Sutton said.

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, also

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(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		0	0
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f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d (1) and (2))		1,628	1,063
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		47,085	46,113
h. Copies Not Distributed		1,536	2,951
i. Total (Sum of 15g and h)		48,621	49,064
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g times 100)		100	97
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the _____ issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <b>Lorrie H. Wilkey, Editor, Baptist and Reflector</b> <b>9/26/06</b>			
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			
Instructions to Publishers			
1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.			
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.			
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.			
4. Item 15h. Copies not distributed must include (1) newspaper copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher; (2) estimated returns from news agents; and (3) copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.			
5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.			
6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.			
7. Item 17 must be signed.			
Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.			



# Vote yes for the marriage amendment

est  
umnist



By David P. Gushee

Tennessee voters in November will have the choice of whether to ratify an amendment to the state constitution that reads as follows: "The historical institution and legal act solemnizing the relationship of one man and one woman shall be the only legal-recognized marital contract in this state." I support this amendment as one part of an overall approach to strengthening marriage.

Here's the way I look at it. Western culture and law, deeply shaped by biblical teachings, has for centuries protected marriage with a rich set of expectations and understandings that include but go beyond heterosexuality. Every single one of these expectations has now either been lost or is on the way to being lost. Each part of the culture has damaged both marriage and children.

At the core of the western understanding of marriage has been the belief that it is a God-given institution. The Bible's account of the giving of Eve to Adam, among other passages, is the foundation for believing that the God who designed and created men and women

designed and created marriage as the bridge between them.

It was believed that God intended marriage to accomplish certain very specific goals, and church and state cooperated to make sure these were protected.

For example, marriage was to be the one and only place in which sexual intercourse occurred. All forms of non-marital sex were rejected and often sanctioned severely. This is one key reason why cohabitation between unmarried adults of the opposite sex often was forbidden by law. Numerous other social norms were established intended to prevent occasions for sex outside of marriage.

This does not mean that non-marital sex never occurred, just that society was clear about its expectations for sexual behavior.

Marriage likewise was to be the context in which conception and childrearing were socially blessed. Children were to be brought into the world in the protective cocoon of the marital relationship.

Marriage was to be monogamous — it involved just one man and one woman. The perceived importance of this belief in western culture has been illustrated by the rejection of

polygamy both here and in missionary settings.

Marriage likewise was to be sexually exclusive. The biblical command against adultery was taken with utmost seriousness. Even after the state gave up on punishing adultery the churches continued to proclaim the sexual exclusivity of marriage.

Marriage also had internal behavioral expectations. It was to be characterized by mutual love and selfless service to one another. The moral challenges and expectations of marriage

were directly addressed in both society and the church.

Marriage was for life. Deeply shaped by New Testament teachings against

divorce, western culture made it impossible or nearly impossible to obtain a divorce. Even as laws against divorce began to loosen, opinion leaders almost universally decried divorce as an assault on the institution of marriage.

And, yes, marriage was for heterosexuals. This particular dimension of marriage received far less attention because it was almost never challenged. But until recently the concept of anything other than heterosexual marriage was inconceivable.

Do you see what has hap-

pened? Every dimension of the historic meaning of marriage in western culture has been in decline for some time. This decline began to occur long before the "gay rights" movement got to it. It has been going on for at least a century.

Let's go back through the list: Many believe there is no God or that God has nothing to do with human coupling. Sex outside of marriage is routine. Cohabitation rates are skyrocketing. One-third of all children are born out of wedlock. Adultery rates are distressingly high. Serious tensions and even abuse characterize many marriages, and overall relationships between men and women are fraying. Divorce claims just about half of all marriages, leaving a devastating impact on children. Many divorced couples end up locked in hatred which sometimes erupts in violence. And now homosexuality has gained widespread social acceptance, with activists hoping to gain access to the status of marriage — ironically, at a time when confidence in marriage as an institution is fading badly.

I oppose "gay marriage" (and polygamy, and polyandry, and every other alternative). Thus I support the proposed Tennessee marriage amendment, which is known as Constitutional Amendment 1. □ — Gushee is the Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy at Union University in Jackson. Article reprinted from Baptist Press.



reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

## A lost day

I like to claim that I never lose things. Most of the time I can find whatever I am looking for — with a little effort. It may be piled under a stack of papers on my desk or in one of various places I put things so I won't lose them.

My wife will tell you otherwise because she is usually the one that has to find whatever it is that I misplaced.

But even Joyce couldn't help me a few weeks ago. I lost a day, or at least eight hours.

In late September I had the privilege of joining nine other Baptist state paper editors on a tour of the Holy Land in Jordan. We all met in New York where we flew together to Jordan.

Our flight from New York left at 10 p.m. Central Standard Time. Needless to say, we spent much of the 12-13 hour flight sleeping. Jordan is eight hours ahead of us. So, when we landed, instead of it being Saturday morning as our bodies told us it was, it was about 5 p.m. Saturday evening.

Just a few hours before we landed we ate breakfast. About an hour after we landed we ate dinner. No lunch that day.

Shortly after dinner we were encouraged to go to bed in order to adjust to the new time. Never mind that it was mid-day back home. I spent most of that week and then the week I returned home, adjusting to the change in time.

I reflected on the day I "lost" while I was in Jordan and since my return.

Sad to say, that day is not the only day I have lost in my life. How many days have all of us "lost" because we didn't take advantage of the time God has given us?

How many hours have we lost doing nothing when we could have spent them with family and loved ones?

How many people have we failed to witness or minister to because we filled our time with trivial matters?

If the truth was known, all of us have "lost" too many days during our lives.

As I get older each passing year I realize I have fewer and fewer days that I can afford to lose.

Time is a precious gift. May all of us learn to take advantage of the time He has allowed us to have. □

# Have good manners and gratitude gone out of style?

parent  
peaks



By Carolyn R. Tomlin

A friend tells of mailing her 10-year-old grandson who lives in a distant state a birthday card only to wonder if weeks later he actually received the card. "I didn't expect a long time," she said, "but letting me know it arrived would have been nice."

Is learning good manners and knowing how to say "thank-you" gone out of style? If receiving any gift, cash or special favor requires time from the giver. Showing thanks is part of the gift, but children who do so are learning a lesson in becoming a gracious person.

Parents who teach showing appreciation know it's easier to get a teenager to show gratitude. As in other parenting tasks, start early and understand the developmental

level of your child.

Parents ask, "What if my child is not yet writing? Should I do this for her? Certainly not. Provide the non-writer with drawing paper, colored markers, stamps, or stickers. Ask the child to draw a picture of the gift and perhaps an illustration of how they will enjoy the present. For a close family friend or grandparent, this drawing will probably become a keepsake and be treasured for years to come.

A rule at one family's home is that before the gift is used, the child must draw a simple picture or write a brief thank-you note. Enclose a photo of the child with the gift. If it's a garment of clothing or a game, show the child using the present. Started early in the child's life, this has become a practice and also a way to stay in touch. Children need encouragement to develop a habit of gratitude.

As children develop, they need opportunities to practice writing. Both written and oral communication is necessary to be successful in school and in life. Thank you notes are

another way to promote reading and writing skills.

Provide a choice of children's stationery, pens, and markers. Keep all the materials in one place and easily accessible for writing. Help the child make a personal box, decorated with stickers or drawings for corresponding with others. Purchase stamps or help your child make his own from using an ink pad and cutting a design in a wooden block.

Help your child get started, if they need your help. Otherwise, allow them to put their own thoughts on paper. Refer to how the gift will be used, or in case of money, how the funds will be spent.

Like other parenting skills, children need to see mom and dad

writing thank you notes. Talk about why this custom is part of your family. Mention the time and resources to purchase, wrap a gift, and present it to someone.

In this day of instant messages, teach children that there are other ways of saying "thank you" are better than e-mail. □ — Tomlin writes for numerous Christian publications. Her husband, Matt, pastors Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Mr Brown has changed his mind about your visit last night, and he says he will be happy to visit the church if you won't press charges."



# Convention Related Activities and Information

• **Agency/Institution Leadership Breakfast** — By invitation only, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, 7:00 a.m., Room F227, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova. Update meeting sponsored by GuideStone Financial Resources, hosted by Joey Biggerstaff.

• **Annuitants Luncheon** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, Noon, Rooms F245/247, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Cost: \$3.00, Speaker: Bruce Sides, GuideStone Financial Resources. Tickets and information available at GuideStone Booth in Exhibit Area or at the door.

• **Bellevue Preschool and Children's Area Tours** — Tours of the new state-of-the-art Preschool and Children's areas will be offered at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006. Meet at the Registration Desk in the West Foyer, First Floor, Fellowship Building.

• **Book of Reports** — Registered messengers receive a free copy with their registration material. Non-messengers may purchase a copy for \$1.00 each in the Registration Area located in the Grand Foyer, First Floor, Praise Building.

• **Book Stores** — Messengers will have the opportunity to visit two bookstores. The Memphis East LifeWay Christian Bookstore, located in Exhibit Area, and the Bellevue Baptist Church Bookstore, located in the West Foyer, are working together to provide you a large variety of materials from which to choose.

• **Breakout Conferences** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, 5:00 p.m. and repeated at 6:00 p.m. See story on Tuesday evening activities and chart on page 3. Classrooms off Sanctuary Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

• **CDs/DVDs** — of sermons from the Pastors Conference and convention will be available for \$4.00 each for CDs, and \$10.00 each for DVDs. Recordings will be available in the West Lobby.

• **Call to Prayer** — Monday, Nov. 13, 2006, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **Carson-Newman College Alumni and Friends Dessert Fellowship** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Room F245, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova. Additional information is available at the Carson-Newman booth in the Exhibit Area.

• **Childcare** — Monday Afternoon – Wednesday Afternoon, Nov. 13-15, Ages: Birth to 5 years of age, Location: Preschool Reception Desk outside Rm. E-189, First Floor, Praise Building, Hours: Provided during and 30 minutes before and after each session.

• **Committee on Arrangements Meeting** — Monday, Nov. 13, 10:00 a.m., Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **Committee on Boards Meeting** — Monday, Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m., Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **Committee on Committees Meeting** — Monday, Nov. 13, 11:00 a.m., Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **Committee on Credentials Meeting** — Mon-

day, Nov. 13, 9:00 a.m., Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova (A Committee on Credentials member will be available in the Registration Area located in the Grand Foyer, First Floor, Praise Building).

• **Committee on Resolutions Meetings** — Monday, Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m., Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 5:30 p.m., Bellevue Baptist

• **Constitution and Bylaws Committee Meeting** — Monday, Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m., Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **Convention Office** — Location: Room W125, Phone Number: (901) 347-5526, (901) 347-5527

• **Director of Missions Association Banquet** — Monday, Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m., Rooms F241-243, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Cost: \$5.00, payable at the door, Speaker: Mike Day, Mid-South Baptist Association

• **Emergency Messages** — Displayed on projection screen in the Sanctuary during sessions. See staff in Convention Office if a need arises.

• **Executive Board Meetings** — Monday, Nov. 13, 3:30 p.m., Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 4:35 p.m., Bellevue Baptist Church

• **Exhibits and Displays** — Location: Gymnasiums, Grace Family Life Center, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova. Schedule is as follows: Monday, 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

• **Exhibitors** —  
Appalachian Regional Ministry  
Baptist & Reflector  
Baptist Archives, Carson-Newman  
\*Baptist College of Health Sciences  
Baptist Health System of East Tennessee  
Baptist Nursing Fellowship of Tennessee  
Carl F. H. Henry Center for Christian Leadership (UU)  
Carson-Newman Baptist College  
Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center  
Christian Men's/Women's Job Corps  
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Inc.  
Cooperative Program, TBC  
Cumberland Regional Ministry  
Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions  
GuideStone Financial Resources of the SBC  
GuideStone Financial Resources Wellness Booth  
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy  
International Mission Board  
LifeWay Christian Bookstores  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
LifeWay Church Directory Services  
LifeWay Direct Sales  
Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center  
Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary  
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Mississippi River Ministry  
Moench Center (BU)  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
North American Mission Board  
R. C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies (UU)  
Seminary Extension  
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes  
Tennessee Baptist Chaplains  
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc.  
Tennessee Baptist Foundation  
Tennessee Baptist Historical Society  
Tennessee Baptist Ministers Wives Fellowship

Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Association

Tennessee Baptist Secretaries Association  
Tennessee Baptist Woman's Missionary Union  
Tennessee Drug Awareness Council  
Union University

\*On Wednesday, a Baptist Health Sciences Van will be located at the West Entrance and open for tours.

• **First Aid Room** — Location: Main Hallway off Grand Foyer, Praise Building. Church provided attendant will be available during the Pastors Conference and Convention sessions.

• **Food** — Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 14-15, Bellevue will be serving meals in the Fellowship Hall:

**Messengers and Guests Hot Buffet Lunches** — Tickets required, Cost: \$8.00 each or two lunches for \$15.00, Location: Fellowship Hall, First Floor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tickets: 600 per day available in Grand Lobby and West Lobby. Menu: Tuesday, Nov. 14, Roast Beef, Au gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Pineapple upside-down Cake, Beverage; Wednesday, Nov. 15, Bellevue's Famous Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Italian Green Beans, Rolls, Salad, Peach Cobbler, Beverage.

**BBQ Dinner for Messengers and Guests on Tuesday Night (Free)**, Location: Fellowship Hall, Time: 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

• **Internet Access** — Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 13-15, Location: Room W151, First Floor, Praise Building. Wireless internet access will be available for use with your laptop computer.

• **Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary State Alumni Luncheon and Meeting** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, Noon, Dining Hall, Mid-America Seminary, 2095 Appling Road, Cordova, Speaker: Dr. Mike Spradlin, President, Cost: \$7.00, payable at the door.

• **Minister of Missions Dessert Fellowship** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m., Room F252, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, 2000 Appling Road, Cordova, Cost: Compliments of Tennessee Baptist Convention Minister of Missions Affinity Team. A time for Ministers of Missions from across the state to fellowship with one another. This is a drop-in fellowship so no reservations are required.

• **Missions Extravaganza** — Monday, Nov. 13, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m., Location: West Foyer, Praise Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Dessert Fellowship** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m., Room F247, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Cost: \$3.50, Tickets available at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary booth in the Display Area.

• **Newsroom (Baptist & Reflector)** — Location: Room W140, Praise Building

• **Photography** — Location: Gymnasium C, Grace Family Life Center, Hours: Monday, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, not available. Convention attendees are invited to have a free photograph taken by Directory Innovations. There is no obligation. All Directors of Missions, Executive Board Members, TBC Staff, and Collegiate Ministers present are urged to have a photo taken for use in TBC

directories and other publications.

• **Prayer Room** — Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Location: Room W144, Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **Registration** — Location: Grand Foyer, First Floor, Praise Building, Hours: Monday, 12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

• **Restrooms** — facilities are located in Main Hallways.

• **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, 12:30 p.m., Coletta's Italian Restaurant, 2850 Appling Road, Cordova, Cost: including tax and tip, pay at restaurant. For additional information, visit the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary booth in the Exhibit Area.

• **Tennessee Baptist Men's Chorale Concert** — Sunday, Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m. An evening of inspirational music at First Baptist Church, 1086 Church Street, Huntingdon

• **Tennessee Baptist Men's Chorale and Tennessee Ladies Chorus Rehearsal and Dinner** — Monday, Nov. 13, TMC Rehearsal: 2:00 p.m., Dinner: 5:00 p.m., Joint Rehearsal with TLC: 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 830 N. Byhalia Rd., Collierville

• **Tennessee Baptist Convention Presidents Breakfast** — By invitation only, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7:00 a.m., Fireside Room, Fellowship Hall, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• **Tennessee Baptist Ministers Wives Luncheon** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, Noon, Room F-241/243, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Theme: "Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman? Her Price is Far Above Rubies." Speaker: Donna Gaines, Cost: \$15. For additional information, visit the Tennessee Baptist Ministers Wives booth in the Exhibit Area.

• **Tennessee Baptist Religious Education Banquet** — Monday, Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m., Mid-America Theological Seminary, 2095 Appling Road, Cordova, Cost: \$15. Additional information is available at the TBREA Booth in the Display Area

• **Union University Alumni and Friends Dessert Fellowship** — Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m., Rooms F241/243, Second Floor, Fellowship Building, Bellevue Baptist Church, Speaker: President David Dockery, Cost: Compliments of Union University. Additional information available at the Union University booth in the Exhibit Area.

• **Visitors** — We invite all convention attendees to pick up your name tag and visit in the Registration Area located in the Grand Foyer, First Floor, Praise Building

• **Youth Ministry Free Luncheon** — Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., On the Border Mexican Restaurant, 8101 Giacosa Place (across from Vicksburg Mall), Memphis. This lunch gathering is for youth ministers and youth leaders by the Tennessee Baptist Youth Team. Contact: Bruce Edwards or Kent Shingleton, Executive Board Ministries Display Booth. Free ticket.



# Convention Annual Meeting Schedule

## Convention Officers

President — <b>Philip Jett</b>	Vice President — <b>Ronald Stewart</b>	Second Vice President — <b>Larry Reagan</b>	Recording and Statistical Secretary — <b>Dan Ferrell</b>	Registration Secretary — <b>Dan Ferrell</b>	Treasurer — <b>James Porch</b>
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Theme: "Tennessee Baptists Boldly Teaching" —  
Matthew 28:19-20

### TUESDAY MORNING November 14

#### THE CONVENTION GATHERS

Music — Tennessee Ladies Chorus  
Order — Philip Jett, Presiding  
Prayer and Praise — Teresa Wood  
Message — Steve Gaines  
Election of Recording Secretary and Statistical Secretary — Philip Jett, Presiding

#### THE CONVENTION ORGANIZES

Election on Credentials — Bob Blankenship, Chairman  
Election on Arrangements — Paul Frick, Vice Chairman  
THE CONVENTION GATHERS TO WORSHIP  
Order of Worship — Tennessee Ladies Chorus, Tennessee Men's Chorus

Interpretation — Lyle Larson

#### THE CONVENTION MINISTERS

Prayer and Praise for Veterans — Chief Master Sergeant Larry Ross, United States Air Force

Program Items: — Philip Jett, Presiding

#### Announcements

New Rules of Order

Recognition of SBC Representatives — Mike Weeks

#### TENNESSEE BAPTIST CONVENTION REPORTS:

Belmont Study Committee (Discussion at 3:20 p.m. Wednesday)

Clay Austin, Chairman

Financial Report — James M. Porch

Committee on Audits — Larry Simmons, Chairman

Executive Board Report

Board Actions — Clay Austin, Executive Board President

Budget — James M. Porch

#### THE CONVENTION ACTS

Election on Boards Report — Randall Adkisson, Chairman

Election on Committees Report — Paul Barkley, Chairman

Election on Constitution and Bylaws Report — Susan Fendley, Chairman

Miscellaneous Business — Ronald Stewart, Presiding

#### THE CONVENTION WORSHIPS

Congregational Singing — Bradley Gray

Prayer Presentation to President — Ben Garner

Music — Worship Choir and Orchestra of Englewood Baptist Church

President's Message — Philip Jett

BENEDICTION — Larry Murphy

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON November 14

#### THE CONVENTION GATHERS

Music — Tennessee Baptist Men's Chorale

Congregational Singing — Jonathan Nelms

Prayer and Praise — Mike Day

THEME INTERPRETATION — Todd Stewart

#### THE CONVENTION MINISTERS

Music — Tennessee Baptist Men's Chorale

Executive Director's Message — James M. Porch

Executive Board Ministries — One Servant Family  
Union University — David Dockery, President  
Relational Strategic Study Committee Report — Reed Dixon, Chairman

3:55 — THE CONVENTION AFFIRMS

Recognition of Bivocational and Small Church Pastor of the Year and  
Recognition of Staff Minister and Bivocational Staff Minister of the Year

4:05 — THE CONVENTION ELECTS

Election of President — Philip Jett, Presiding

4:20 — THE CONVENTION ACTS

Miscellaneous Business — Philip Jett, Presiding

Election of President (Second Ballot if needed) — Philip Jett, Presiding

Election of Vice President — Philip Jett, Presiding

Information for Tuesday Evening

5:00 — BENEDICTION — Eddie Mallonee

### TUESDAY EVENING November 14

5:00/6:00 — FREE MESSENGER BARBECUE DINNER (Dinner served at 5:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m.)

5:00/6:00 — CELEBRATION OF HEALTHY CHURCHES (Church Ministry Displays highlighting Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Missions, Prayer, Ministry, Fellowship, along with tours of Bellevue's new Preschool and Children's Areas, and Breakout Conferences)

5:00/6:00 — CHURCH HEALTH BREAKOUT CONFERENCES. The following conferences will begin at 5:00 p.m. and be repeated at 6:00 p.m. See page 3 for description of conferences.

• Hey Church Member — You Make the Difference! — Room W154, Led by André Dugger.

• Spiritual Growth for the Overwhelmed Minister — Room W156, Led by Bill Choate.

• Balancing the Life of the Minister — Room W150, Led by Ray Gilder.

• Doing Excellence with the Minister's Family — Room W145, Led by Tony Rankin.

• Coming Apart So That You Don't Come Apart: How to Keep Your Balance on the Tightrope of Ministry — Room W143, Led by Paul Barkley.

• Remember the Titans — Room W143, Led by Willie McLaurin and Steve Pearson.

• Is God Really Enough? — Room W152, Led by Leighann McCoy.

7:00 — DESSERT FELLOWSHIPS SPONSORED BY TBC INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### WEDNESDAY MORNING November 15

8:00 — THE CONVENTION GATHERS

Praise Music — Kirby

Congregational Singing — Johnny Coggin

Scripture and Prayer — Artie Rivers

8:25 — THEME INTERPRETATION — David Leavell

8:35 — THE CONVENTION MINISTERS

Carson-Newman College — James Netherton, President

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions — Shelby Lord, Chairman

Benevolent Institutions Reports:

• Randall Adkisson, Chairman, Committee on Boards

• Pastor, First Baptist Church, Cookeville

• Clay Austin, President, Executive Board

• Tennessee Baptist Convention; Belmont Study Committee;

• First Baptist Church, Blountville

• Paul Barkley, Chairman, Committee on Audits; Faith Baptist Church,

• Nashville

• Bob Blankenship, Chairman, Committee on Credentials; Minister of Music,

• First Grandview Baptist Church,

• Nashville

• Fred Campbell, Pastor, Holly Grove Church, Bells

• Kenny Childs, Jr., President-Treasurer

• Tennessee Baptist Foundation,

• Nashville

• Eddie Choate, Collegiate Ministries

• Director, Tennessee Baptist

• Convention, Brentwood

• Mark Jr., Worship/Music Special-

• Tennessee Baptist Convention,

• Nashville

• Johnny Coggin, Minister of Music,

• Woods Baptist Church, Memphis

• Kenny Cooper, President-Treasurer,

• Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Inc.,

• Nashville

• Mike Day, Director of Missions, Mid-

• South Baptist Association, Bartlett

• Reed Dixon, Chairman, Relational Strategic Study Committee; First Baptist

• Church, Sweetwater

• David Dockery, President, Union

• University, Jackson

• André Dugger, Pastor, Grace Baptist

• Church, Nashville

• Susan Fendley, Chairman, Committee

• on Constitution and Bylaws; Central

• Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville

• Robert Fisher, President, Belmont

• University, Nashville

• Paul Frick, Vice Chairman, Arrange-

• ments Committee; Pastor, Liberty Baptist

• Church, Wartburg

• Steve Gaines, Convention Sermon; Pas-

• tor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• Ben Garner, Editor-in-Chief, Church

• Resources Division, LifeWay Christian

• Resources, Nashville

• Ray Gilder, Bivocational Ministries,

• Tennessee Baptist Convention,

• Brentwood

• Bradley Gray, Worship Pastor,

• Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson

• Walter Grubb, President/Headmaster,

• Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy,

• Seymour

• Allen Guyer, Minister of Music, Sharon

• Baptist Church, Savannah

## Program Personalities

• Philip Jett, President, Tennessee Baptist

• Convention; Pastor, Englewood Baptist

• Church, Jackson

• Dan Johnson, Chairman, Historical

• Committee; Rosedale Baptist Church,

• Nashville

• Kirby Quartet, Kirby Woods Baptist

• Church, Memphis

• Lyle Larson, Pastor, First Baptist

• Church, Ripley

• David Leavell, Pastor, Springfield

• Baptist Church, Springfield

• Shelby Lord, Chairman, Golden Offer-

• ing for Tennessee Missions Allocations

• Committee; First Baptist Church, Lenoir

• City

• Joe Lusby, Chairman, Resolutions

• Committee; Pastor, First Baptist Church,

• Greenfield

• Eddie Mallonee, Pastor, Second Baptist

• Church, Union City

• Leighann McCoy, Prayer and Women's

• Minister, Thompson Station Baptist

• Church, Thompson Station

• Don McCulley, Pastor, First Baptist

• Church, Dresden

• Mary McDonald, Pianist, Tennessee

• Baptist Men's Chorale; Central Baptist

• Church of Fountain City, Knoxville

• Willie McLaurin, Leadership Develop-

• ment, Tennessee Baptist Convention,

Brentwood

• Bryant Millsaps, President-Treasurer,

• Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes,

• Inc., Brentwood

• Larry Murphy, Director of Missions,

• Madison-Chester and Crockett County

• Associations, Jackson

• Jonathan Nelms, Minister of Music,

• First Baptist Church, Cookeville

• James Netherton, President, Carson-

• Newman College, Jefferson City

• Jamie Parker, Minister of Worship &

• Music, Bellevue Baptist Church,

• Cordova

• Luke Parker, Minister of Music,

• Calvary Baptist Church, Union City

• Steve Pearson, Evangelism Ministries,

• Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brent-

• wood

• Candy Phillips, Executive Director-

• Treasurer, Tennessee Woman's Mission-

• ary Union, Brentwood

• Terry Poindexter, Minister of Music,

• Chief Cornerstone Baptist Church,

• Memphis

• James M. Porch, Executive Director-

• Treasurer, Tennessee Baptist Convention,

• Brentwood

• Tony Rankin, Counseling and Family

• Ministries, Tennessee Baptist Conven-

• tion, Brentwood

• Larry Reagan, Second Vice President,

• Tennessee Baptist Convention; Pastor,

• Adams Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden

• Stephen Reynolds, President and CEO,

• Baptist Memorial Health Care System,

• Inc., Memphis

• Artie Rivers, Pastor, Mount Herman

• Baptist Church, Savannah

• Larry Ross, Chief Master Sergeant,

• United States Air Force; Englewood

• Baptist Church, Jackson

• Larry Simmons, Chairman, Committee

• on Audits; Associate Pastor/Administra-

• tion, First Baptist Church, Paris

• John Simmons, Pianist, Sharon Baptist

• Church, Savannah

• Ron Stewart, Vice President, Tennessee

• Baptist Convention; Pastor, Grace Baptist

• Church, Knoxville

• Todd Stewart, Pastor, Mosaic Commu-

• nity Baptist Church, Knoxville

• Chuck Taylor, Chairman of Deacons,

• Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

• Mike Weeks, President, Southern

• Baptist Foundation, Southern Baptist

• Convention, Nashville

• Lonnie Wilkey, Editor, *Baptist &*

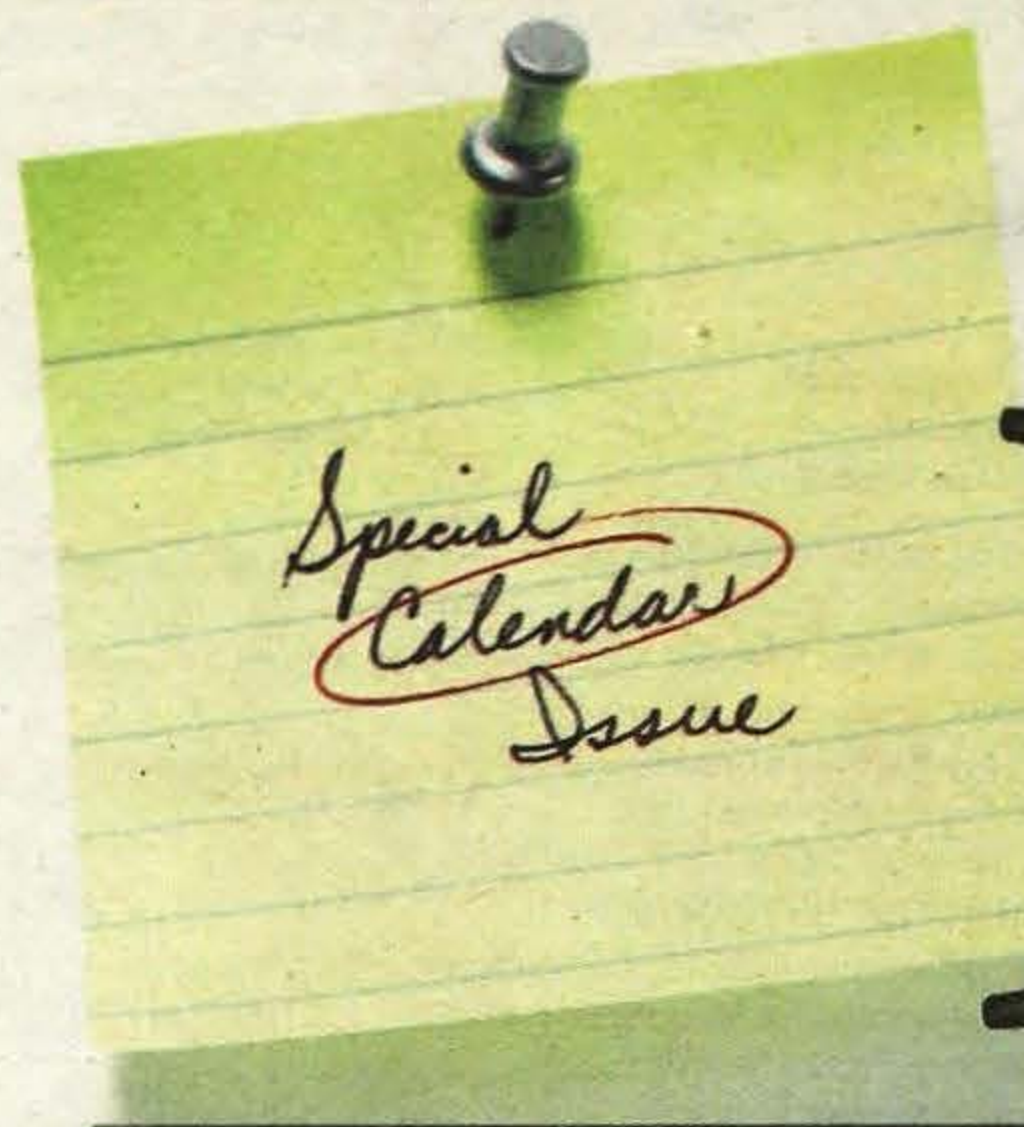
• *Reflector*, Tennessee Baptist Convention,

• Brentwood

• Teresa Wood, Member, First Baptist

• Church, Covington





# Church Health Matters

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

## November



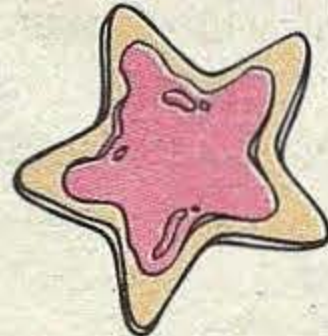

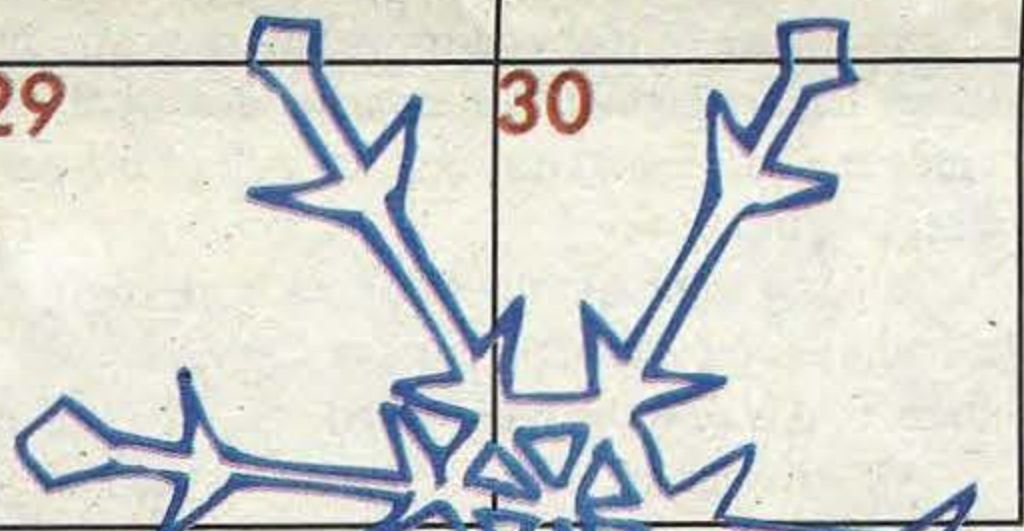
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Hispanic Family Con Third Baptist Church Murfreesboro
5	6 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer Worldwide	7 Election Day 	8 Preschool/Children's Fall Getaway Baptist Center, Brentwood	9	10	11 Veterans' Day  Preschool/Children's Getaway Baptist Center, Brent
12 Tennessee Mens Chorale Concert First Baptist Church, Huntingdon	13	14 Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving 	24	25
<b>November 13th</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova</li><li>• Missions Extravaganza Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova</li><li>• Tennessee Mens Chorale &amp; Tennessee Ladies Chorus Rehearsal &amp; Dinner First Baptist Church, Collierville</li><li>• Tennessee Baptist Religious Educators Fall Banquet Mid-America Theological Seminary, Cordova</li></ul>		28	29	30		
		<b>November 14th</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministers Wives Luncheon Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova</li><li>• Annuitants Luncheon Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova</li><li>• Youth Ministry Luncheon On the Border Mexican Café, Memphis</li><li>• BBQ Dinner and Celebration of Churches Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova</li></ul>				

For more information on any of these events or to learn more about how your state missionary staff can help your church, visit [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org). Click on the *News & Events Tab* at the top of the page, and select *Calendar of Events*.

More details are included throughout this week's edition of the *Baptist & Reflector* about the Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting event.



# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
Sunday of Advent Prayer for International Missions/ Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	4 	5	6	7	8	9 Week of Prayer for International Missions/ Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
	11	12	13	14 	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25 Christmas! 	26	27	28	29	30 
31						

*You're invited!*

**Tuesday, Nov. 14th**

**What:** Free BBQ Dinner and Celebration of Churches

**Where:** West Foyer, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

**Who:** Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Messengers

**When:** BBQ Dinner 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Celebration of Churches Displays from over 30 churches 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Dessert fellowship 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



# Report from the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, jointly with the institutions, recommends for adoption the following amendments to the Bylaws of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

## Recommendation 1

### Current reading:

#### Bylaw 4. BOARDS AND INSTITUTIONS

##### (3) Nominations

A. Trustees and directors shall be nominated by the Committee on Boards of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The names presented to the Convention for election shall be mutually agreed upon by the heads of Tennessee Baptist Convention institutions (other than the Executive Board) and the Committee on Boards.

### Proposed Reading:

#### Bylaw 4. BOARDS AND INSTITUTIONS

##### (3) Nominations

A. Trustees and directors shall be nominated by the Committee on Boards of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The names of potential nominees shall be presented to the Convention for election shall be mutually agreed upon by the heads of to the Committee on Boards by each institution of the Tennessee Baptist Convention institutions (other than the Executive Board) and the Committee on Boards. In the event a potential nominee is not acceptable to the Committee, then the institution shall be notified and such process repeated with a different potential nominee until a mutually agreeable candidate for nomination is confirmed or an other arrangement mutually agreeable to the institution and the Committee is determined. If an institution

declines to participate in the nominating process or fails to submit an acceptable explanation for any vacancy, then the Committee on Boards has the sole authority to submit nominations to the Convention for trustees or directors of said institution.

## Recommendation 2

### Current Reading:

#### Bylaw 4. BOARDS AND INSTITUTIONS

##### (4) Vacancies

C. Upon the request of an institution and upon recommendation of the Convention's Committee on Boards, the Convention's Executive Board may fill an unexpired term when vacancies occur during the year caused by death, resignation, moving from the state, or by procedures showing just cause and involving due process.

### Proposed Reading:

#### Bylaw 4. BOARDS AND INSTITUTIONS

##### (4) Vacancies

C. Upon the request of an institution and upon recommendation of the Committee on Boards and in accordance with Bylaw 4 (3) A., the Convention's Executive Board may fill an unexpired term when vacancies occur during the year caused by death, resignation, moving from the state, or by procedures showing just cause and involving due process.

## Recommendation 3

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws recommends for adoption the following amendment to the Bylaws of the Tennessee Baptist Convention submitted

by Carl Creasman, First Baptist Church, Athens, Seale, First Baptist Church, Morristown, and Norm Templeton, Concord, First Baptist Church, Knoxville

### Current Reading:

#### Bylaw 1. PROCEDURE OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION

##### (2) Parliamentary Authority

##### B. Standing Rules:

b. In order to obtain the floor, each messenger shall address the chair, give his or her name and church and wait to be recognized.

### Proposed Reading:

#### Bylaw 1. PROCEDURE OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION

##### (2) Parliamentary Authority

##### B. Standing Rules:

b. In order to obtain the floor, each messenger shall approach a microphone and, when acknowledged by the chair, shall address the chair, give his or her name and church, and state the general nature of his or her reason for wishing to be recognized - example, stating whether he or she wishes to speak or against the pending item, asking a question, raising procedural issues or introducing an item of business. The messenger shall then wait to be recognized by the chair.\*

Strike-through = delete

Bold and Italics = new

\*This is current practice.

## Rules of Order

a. All motions and resolutions shall be submitted to the presiding officer and recording secretary in writing, legibly signed by the maker and shall include the name, address, and church of the person submitting the same.

b. In order to obtain the floor, each messenger shall address the chair, give his or her name and church, and wait to be recognized.

c. All messengers who participate in the business sessions of the Convention shall conduct themselves in keeping with the stated purposes in the Constitution of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

d. Discussion, debate, and nominating speeches shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

e. No messenger shall speak more than once on the same question until all have spoken who wish to do so.

f. The chair shall recognize messengers wishing to speak to each side of the question alternately.

## Resolutions

a. Resolutions, including those sent to the Committee on Resolutions prior to the Convention, must be submitted during a business session only by registered messengers.

b. Resolutions must be submitted no later than the last miscellaneous business session of the first day of the Convention.

c. Only titles of proposed resolutions shall be read into the record when presented, but the full resolution must be in writing and submitted to the presiding officer, recording secretary, and the Committee on Resolutions.

Individuals wishing to submit resolutions are encouraged to submit them prior to the TBC meeting by sending them to Committee on Resolutions, TBC Executive Board Ministries, P. O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

## Tennessee Baptist Convention

### 2006 - 2007 Cooperative Program Budget - Executive Board Recommendation

Area	2005 - 2006 Approved	Remove 2005-2006 Belmont Reallocation	Adjusted 2005 2006	Budget Committee Recomm.	Reallocate Belmont Allocation	Total CP Budget	Actual Dollar Increase	% Inc.	% of
<b>*Southern Baptist Convention</b>									
International Mission Bd.	7,341,686	412,970		6,933,940	466,061	7,400,000	58,314	0.8%	
N. American Mission Bd.	3,346,341	188,232		3,160,490	212,430	3,372,920	26,579	0.8%	
Seminaries	3,177,482	178,733		3,001,009	201,711	3,202,720	25,238	0.8%	
Ethics & Rel. Lib. Comm.	218,782	12,307		206,631	13,889	220,520	1,738	0.8%	
Guidestone Fin. Res.	111,594	6,277		105,396	7,084	112,480	886	0.8%	
SBC Operating	487,488	27,421		460,414	30,946	491,360	3,872	0.8%	
Sub-total	14,683,372	825,940	13,857,432	13,867,879	932,121	14,800,000	116,628	0.8%	
<b>TN Missions and Ministries</b>									
Evangelism	2,198,911								
Missions	1,980,189								
Discipleship	2,031,300								
Ministry	1,385,171								
Worship	601,811								
Prayer	506,571								
Fellowship	560,895								
Association Support	1,305,954								
Administration	586,599								
Sub-total	11,157,401	300,000	10,857,401	10,986,159	270,000	11,256,159	98,758	0.9%	
<b>Convention Operations</b>									
Baptist and Reflector	416,035	-	416,035	416,035		416,035	-	0.0%	
TBC Meeting & Comms.	386,441	-	386,441	360,511		360,511	(25,930)	-6.7%	
Church Annuity Plan	1,458,824	-	1,458,824	1,564,378		1,564,378	105,554	7.2%	
TBC Conference Centers	167,233	-	167,233	169,904		169,904	2,671	1.6%	
Coop. Program Promo.	91,860	-	91,860	92,949		92,949	1,089	1.2%	
TBC Audits	125,000	-	125,000	110,755		110,755	(14,245)	-11.4%	
Sub-total	2,645,393	-	2,645,393	2,714,532		2,714,532	69,139	2.6%	
<b>Christian Education</b>									
Carson-Newman College	2,830,304	500,000	2,330,304	2,357,939	125,000	2,482,939	(347,365)	-12.3%	
Union University	2,830,304	500,000	2,330,304	2,357,939	125,000	2,482,939	(347,365)	-12.3%	
Harrison Chilhowee Acad.	504,341	47,044	457,297	462,720	50,000	512,720	8,379	1.7%	
Historical Archives	13,956		13,956	14,122		14,122	166	1.2%	
CRV Scholarships	69,778		69,778	70,605		70,605	827	1.2%	
Sub-total	6,248,683	1,047,044	5,201,639	5,263,325	300,000	5,563,325	(685,358)	-11.0%	
<b>Christian Services</b>									
TN Baptist Adult Homes	278,932	26,028	252,904	255,903	26,028	281,931	2,999	1.1%	
TN Baptist Child. Homes	1,354,024	126,292	1,227,732	1,242,292	47,155	1,289,447	(64,577)	-4.8%	
TN Baptist Foundation	340,626	5,000	335,626	339,606	5,000	344,606	3,980	1.2%	
Sub-total	1,973,582	157,320	1,816,262	1,837,801	78,183	1,915,984	(57,598)	-2.9%	
<b>Belmont Study Committee</b>					750,000	750,000	750,000		
<b>Cooperative Program Total</b>	<b>36,708,431</b>	<b>2,330,304</b>	<b>34,378,127</b>	<b>34,669,696</b>	<b>2,330,304</b>	<b>37,000,000</b>	<b>291,569</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	

Any amount received in excess of the total approved budget will be allocated on the percentage basis budget as shown.

\* The distribution of the SBC allocation is determined by the Southern Baptist Convention. The amounts shown represent percentages approved in the 2005-2006 SBC Budget.

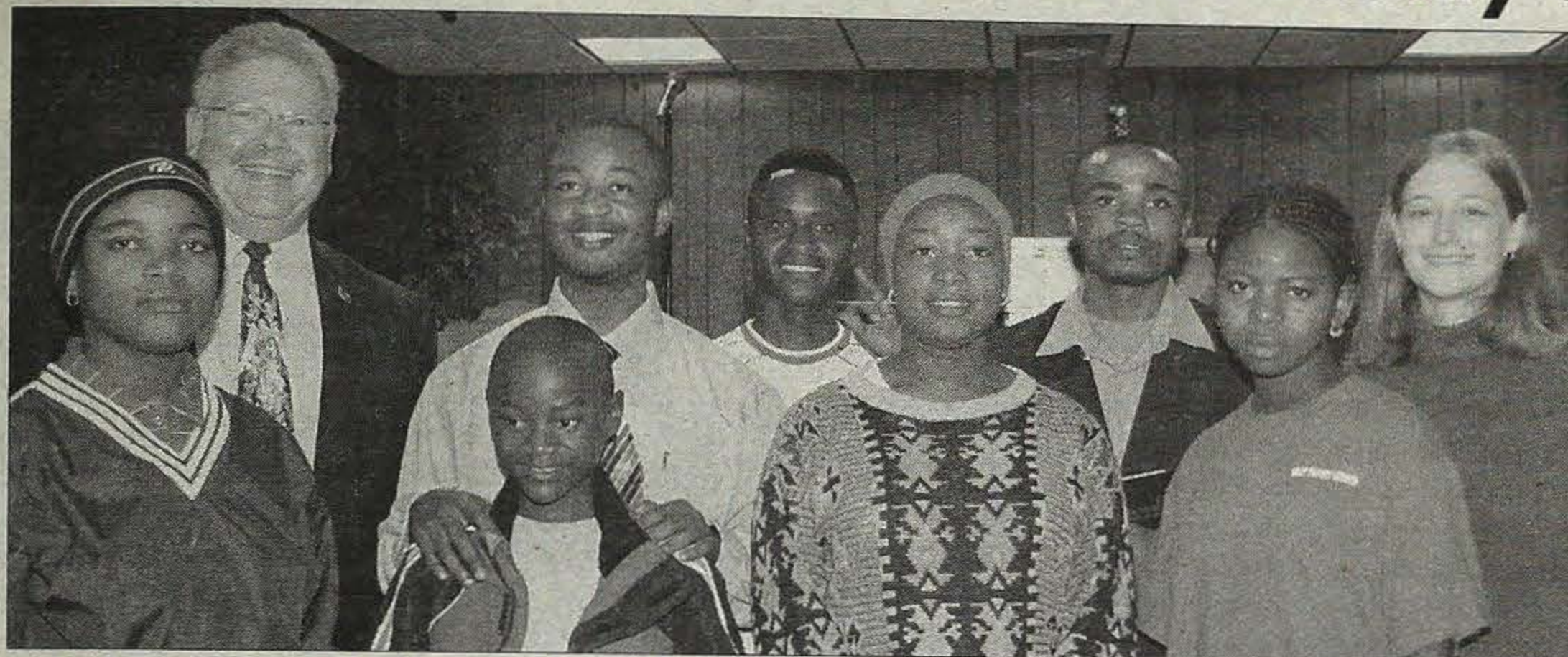


# Refugees who lost parents, one sibling

## Small church sponsors seven members of family from Burundi

By Baptist and Reflector

MURFREESBORO — Taking on the risk of ministry is a lot, according to members of Grace Baptist Church here. It all began when the church sponsored a family of refugees from Burundi, Africa, needed help and the church had an empty house, former parsonage, explained Russell Richardson, pastor. Seeing the possibilities, Richardson and the deacons "got the idea and rapidly moved out by faith," said Richardson though the church draws about 80 people to Sunday School each week. During the last week of August a team of church members and others "who had caught the vision," described Richardson, gathered in the house which had sat empty for many months except for a short period for Adult Vacation Bible School in June. The group began cleaning the house and planning. Much needed to be done, especially since the house was unfurnished, said Richardson. Personal items were needed for the three teenage girls, one teenage boy, young men in their twenties and one ten-year-old boy. The seven siblings had lost their parents and a fellow sibling in an ethnic conflict in cen-



**MEMBERS OF the Ndaizeye family** who recently were sponsored by Grace Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, stand with Russell Richardson, second from left, pastor; and Katie Richardson, member who works for World Relief of Nashville, a refugee resettlement organization. The family includes siblings, from left, first row, Kitumaini, Clement, Mwamini, and Johari; back row, Christopher, Bruno, and Mbongo.

tral Africa. They were being brought to the country by World Relief, a non-profit organization which has an office in Nashville. The church learned about the family through Katie Richardson, an employee of World Relief who is a member of Grace. She also is the daughter-in-law of Russell Richardson.

But soon others joined them to help the family, reported Richardson. Members of local churches started giving clothing and furniture.

The house needed repairs. A church of another denomination heard of the project and sent a

"generous donation" which helped with the bills, said Richardson.

Just a week later most of the Ndaizeye family arrived. Bruno, 20, would arrive later.

Christopher, Clement, Mbongo, Mwamini, Kitumaini, and Johari were welcomed late on a Tuesday night in September and brought to their new temporary home. The next night, being the Wednesday service designated as Missions Night at Grace, gave the church the opportunity to hold a supper in their honor and to get to know them. Christopher, the oldest, speaks

fairly good English and much better French, but their native language is Swahili.

The church members are learning a few words of their language "but the kids learn English much faster than we learn their language," said Richardson.

Clement, 10, got involved immediately in a soccer league and in his first game scored the only two goals for his team, which were the winning goals. This has made him very popular with his teammates. The girls, Mwamini, Kitumaini, and Johari, and another boy, Mbongo

are now also engaged in soccer leagues. The family often practices on the church lawn. The church is located next to the parsonage.

The Ndaizeye family has a Roman Catholic background but "they haven't failed to attend our worship services and Sunday School, picking up what they can of what is said but following closely the Scripture texts as they are read," said Richardson. "The Sunday School classes have embraced them with open arms," he added. One class recently gave them a pounding of food items.

On Oct. 8 the family, now complete with Bruno, sang as a family in their own language for the worship service of Grace. "Everyone was able to worship with them even though the only word of the song which we could understand was hallelujah," said Richardson.

On Monday, Oct. 9, the school-age children started school in Murfreesboro and the young men in their twenties are studying for their driving tests and attending English as a Second Language classes.

The family and Grace need help in repaying the family's airfare to the U.S. For more information, contact Grace Baptist at (615) 890-2600 or Richardson at broruss@bellsouth.net. □

## BC, Morristown, helps ship container to former members in Bulgaria

By Connie D. Bushey  
First Baptist and Reflector

MORRISTOWN — First Baptist Church here has helped Paul and Judy Ridgway, missionaries in Bulgaria over the years. The couple and their sons left the church to serve through the International Mission Board of the South-



**PACKERS of First Baptist Church, Morristown,** work inside and outside the 40-foot container as they prepare it for shipping to Sophia, Bulgaria.

Baptist Convention in 1994. Recently the Ridgways are independent missionaries. The church has sent a couple to help them, including Paul and Judy Ridgway, missionaries in Bulgaria over the years. The couple and their sons left the church to serve through the International Mission Board of the South-Baptist Convention in 1994. Recently the Ridgways are independent missionaries. The church has sent a couple to help them, including Paul and Judy Ridgway, missionaries in Bulgaria over the years. The couple and their sons left the church to serve through the International Mission Board of the South-

the Ridgways and were planning to ship a container to them of needed items.

When Owen called the Georgia church he learned the church had decided it couldn't send the container because it didn't have the facility for storage, but it did want to fund the effort.

Owen, who had helped First Baptist members send the containers to Belize, prayed about it and talked to church leaders. Soon he had agreed to lead the effort to ship a 40-foot container to the Ridgways.

Not long afterward Owen received a check for \$17,245 from Johnson Ferry Baptist for the effort. About \$6,000 was allocated for shipping costs, said Owen.

Besides medical equipment donated by Morristown area hospitals, the Ridgways request-

ed various items, especially things needed by orphans living in orphanages. Church member Kathy Anderson became the shopper for the project. Using the funds provided by Johnson Ferry she bought 200 winter coats, about 10 bicycles, underwear, socks, ping-pong tables, and basketball goals.

Building supplies for chicken coups also were bought. The funds were provided by a church in Cabot, Ark., who developed the project for orphanages while serving in Bulgaria with the Ridgways.

A church in Texas who knew of the work of the family also sent funds for the project.

Many other gifts were received for Bulgaria, said Owen. Through word of mouth about the project, a food canning company in East Tennessee provided more than



**MEMBERS OF the church,** from left, Ruby Johnson, Evelyn Rucker, and Wayne Rucker pack boxes for the container to be shipped to Paul and Judy Ridgway, missionaries to Bulgaria.

3,000 lbs. of canned goods.

Members of the church packed all of the items. Thankfully the church has a retreat facility on Cherokee Lake which is used mainly in the summer and could be used for storage and packing. About 30 volunteers of the church helped.

After about six weeks of work, a container bearing 17,000 lbs. of goods was picked up and transported by truck to Charleston, S.C. On Sept. 22 it began its ocean journey. It should have arrived in Bulgaria on Oct. 21.

A team of six from First Baptist will travel to Bulgaria to help with the distribution of the items in the container, especial-

ly with the installation of medical equipment and training of operators. The church is paying all of the expenses of team members.

Included on the team are Mark Harmeling, an orthopedic surgeon of First Baptist; Pete Anderson, Marvin Owen, and Don Owen, all of First. Also on the team is Clyde Helton, an electrical engineer of Calvue Baptist Church, Morristown; and Paul Chinery, an X-ray technician of a Baptist church in Church Hill.

The experience has been filled with "God-things," said Owen.

"It's just been an amazing experience already," he said. □



## Deaths

◆ **Kenneth K. Mattox**, 79, of Springfield, a dentist, died Oct. 17 following a heart attack. He participated in 30 medical mission trips to 17 different countries and led a jail ministry. Mattox was a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Springfield, and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He practiced dentistry in Springfield for over 50 years and was a member of Gideon's International.

## Leaders

◆ **Thurman Seber**, director of missions for Salem Baptist Association, Liberty, resigned during the annual session of the association Oct. 17. Seber resigned effective Dec. 31 to go into full-time evangelism. A graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, he also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He



SEBER

has previously served as pastor of four churches in Tennessee, most recently Upper Helton Baptist Church, Alexandria, and one church in Kentucky. He is married to the former Anna Laura Bowers, and they have four children. His wife, Laura, will continue as office secretary of the association.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro**, will honor **Paul Peak**, minister of education and administration, Nov. 5, with an afternoon retirement reception. Serving since 1972, he and his wife, Suzie, have been actively involved not only in the church but also in the community. Peak is a graduate of Belmont University, Nashville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Prior to joining the staff of First Baptist, he served churches in East Ridge, Nashville, and Louisville. An active member and officer of the National Association of Church Business Administrators, Peak was the charter president of the Murfreesboro Noon Exchange Club, and a board member for Murfreesboro Crime Stoppers and the

American Red Cross. For information, contact Ircel Harrison at (615) 423-8223 or ircel@earthlink.net.

◆ **North Pointe Community Church, Johnson City**, has called **Nick Adams** as interim pastor.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Greeneville**, has called **Chad Scarbro** as minister to students and director of the Christian activities center.

◆ **Wayne Gautney**, minister of children at Boone Trail Baptist Church, Gray, has been called to a church in Mobile, Ala., his home town.

◆ **Vernon Heights Baptist Church, Kingsport**, recently called **Billy T. Riner** as pastor. He is a graduate of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va. Prior to coming to Vernon Heights Baptist, Riner served as senior pastor of a church in Roanoke, Va.

## Churches

◆ **Mack's Grove Baptist Church, Dresden**, will hold a Young Sportsmen's Breakfast Oct. 28, prior to the Weakley County deer hunt for juveniles. Door prizes will be given away to all youth. For more information, call Charles Mitchell at (731) 822-3079 or Darrell Pittman at (731) 364-6052.

## Schools

◆ **Carson-Newman Col-**



**THIS GROUP OF 54 WOMEN** pause during a Joy Conference held Sept. 29-30 at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center. The women are from Sylvia Baptist Church, Dickson; Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Waverly. Speakers were Tammy fel, therapist for Truett Baptist Association, Dover, and Wo; Missionary Union director; Kim Ledbetter, wife of Dale Ledbetter, director of missions, Maury Baptist Association, Columbia, and former missionary to the Ukraine; Ida Westerman, psychologist; grief counselor for a Dickson funeral home; and Marjee Lee, Sylvia Baptist.

lege, Jefferson City, through its Norton Institute for Congregational Health will present "Preaching and Teaching the Letters of John" Oct. 31 to help pastors prepare for the January Bible Study. The seminar will feature C-N faculty members David Crutchley and Harold Bryson. Crutchley is professor of religion, and Bryson is a visiting senior professor of religion. The conference will be held in the Tarr Music Center. Registration includes all conference materials and lunch. For information, contact C-N's Church Relations Office at (865) 471-3218 or e-mail klawson@cn.edu.

◆ **Union University**, Jackson, will host its Homecoming Oct. 30-Nov. 1. For the first time in years, homecoming will be held in the fall, rather than the spring. Among the homecoming events are the induction of the first class into Union University's Sports Hall of Fame, annual alumni awards ceremony, an "Arts in the Park" exhibit, a tailgate party, the class of 1957's 50-year reunion, and the Lady Bulldogs basketball team playing two games. For information about any homecoming event, contact the Office of Alumni Services at 800-338-6644.



**ELECTED TO LEAD** Weakley County Baptist Association, Dresden, at its Oct. 16-17 annual meeting were, from left, Jerry Powell, pastor, Gearins Chapel Baptist Church, Greenfield, moderator; Jerry Seamans, Adams Chapel Baptist Church, Dresden, treasurer; Wayne Perkins, director of missions; Gertie Sheffield, First Baptist Church, Dresden, clerk; and Scott Penick, pastor, Ralston Baptist Church, Martin, vice moderator.

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# C-N stages first college Operation Inasmuch project

Mark Brown  
Carson-Newman news office

JEFFERSON CITY — Carson-Newman became the first college or university to stage an Operation Inasmuch (OI) community service project on Saturday, Sept. 23, when 231 volunteers took on projects in Jefferson and Hamblen Counties.

Despite a steady rain throughout the morning, 25 C-N students contributed some 750 service hours in a variety of set-team projects. Projects included beautification work at Jefferson Elementary School and Senior Centers, visiting residents at nursing homes, and a trail cleanup at Panther Creek State Park.

David Crocker, Operation Inasmuch founder, and Carrie Stevens, of C-N's Community Connections, agree that the

institutional pilot programs were a major success.

"I think this has been very good, especially considering the weather," said Crocker, a Carson-Newman trustee who established the concept as a North Carolina pastor 11 years ago. "I am really impressed with the number of college kids who came out to do this and with the way it was put together. It has been very organized."

"It was definitely a success," said Stevens, who serves as faculty/staff liaison for Community Connections. "The day went smoothly and we are really looking forward to the response that is sure to grow with each year this project is done."

While the inclement weather thwarted the work some teams had initially planned, including grounds work at the Mountain View Youth facility and a home repair project in Witt, teams

returned for lunch with stories to share.

"It made me proud to be part of Carson-Newman College," said Amber Burke, a junior communication major from Hernando, Miss., whose 757 ministry team went to Jefferson City Rehabilitation Center. "What made the time and effort worth it was when we were leaving and saw smiles on the faces of the residents."

"As I walked out the door, a little old lady grabbed my hand, kissed it, and with tears in her eyes thanked us for coming. At that moment I realized I could not have spent my Saturday doing anything more worth while."

The morning service blitz was actually the culmination of several months of planning undertaken by a host of C-N groups, including Community Connections, Bonner Scholars Program, Campus Ministries, Student Activities, and the Ernest Boyer Lab for Learning. Morristown's Chick-Fil-A helped sponsor the event.

Crocker, who was on hand



**OPERATION INASMUCH** volunteers sorting clothes at a community facility included, from left, Stephanie Seal of Morristown, Whitney Lamb of Greeneville (in background), and Tiffany Henry of Dandridge.

with a film crew, expects to use footage from the day's activities as a promotional tool for other colleges and universities around the country.

While some 400 churches in nine states, as well as England and Canada, have employed the concept, taken from Matthew 25:40, the founder says he is

excited by the prospect of campus involvement.

"We hope to make a good video out of today's effort and show it at a conference for campus ministers," he said. "We'll ask them to take a look at what happened here and then ask them to take it to their communities." □

## Why Tennessee Baptists Have Confidence in UNION UNIVERSITY



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## Union alum sees fruits from urban ministry

By Heidi Steinrock  
Union news office

JACKSON — Urban youth need mentors and leaders who can teach and love them, Julie Boyer told a group of Union University students Sept. 20.

Boyer, a 2001 Union University graduate, spoke to Union students during the university's annual Global Opportunities Week, which promotes missions nationally and internationally. Boyer spoke to Union students about her job as coordinator of the urban ministry program of Jackson's Evangelical Community Church.

She called urban work an "incarnational ministry in the community." One of the long-term goals of the ministry is for the youth being mentored to become mentors themselves.

"If we're doing incarnational ministry in the community, like it should be done, then those kids should be able to take it over and pour back into their own community someday as adults," Boyer said.

She coordinates six different programs offered by the church. Currently she oversees 128 Jackson urban youth in first through 12th grades. She began as a volunteer, then was offered an internship, and now works full time putting in 60-80 hours a week. Boyer has a Christian studies degree from Union, and has been working for ECC since before graduating.

Boyer told students that urban ministry will not bring an immediate transformation in the youth.

"This is a long-term ministry," Boyer said. "When volunteers start, I say, 'Look, you have to rejoice over the little things, because you may not see

a change overnight.'"

Boyer said national statistics show it takes seven years for someone in the urban community to become a Christian, and 12 years for them to become a leader.

This is Boyer's 10th year working with urban youth and she is already seeing the fruits of her labor. One of the church's urban ministry programs focuses on mentoring middle and high school students. A recent high school graduate and participant in the program will become one of the leaders this fall.

"It's really neat to start to see it come full-circle," Boyer said.

Boyer said her intercultural studies classes at Union helped prepare her for her ministry, and she pointed specifically to helpful classes taught by Greg Thornbury, dean of Union's School of Christian Studies.

For now, Boyer is content with her position, but she hopes an urban youth with whom she has worked will one day take her job. □

### Searching For Former Members

First Baptist LaPlace, La., searching for former members to attend 50th Anniversary and Homecoming, Jan. 27-28, 2007. Please contact us for further info and reservations at (985) 652-6219 or visit [www.fbclaplace.org](http://www.fbclaplace.org). Reservation deadline Nov. 15.

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## Bellevue conflict reaches Internet, public square

Baptist Press

CORDOVA — Several members of the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church have begun to air disagreements with the church's pastor on the Internet and on local television and print media outlets. The actions, according to some, have opened up a needed avenue of dissent in the church but, according to others, have served only to distract the congregation from its mission.

Controversy at the 30,000-member church began less than a year after the arrival of Steve Gaines as successor to longtime pastor Adrian Rogers, who retired in poor health and later died of complications from cancer. Opponents are dissatisfied with Gaines' leadership along with several other issues, including financial.

One of the chief opponents, former Bellevue deacon Mark Sharpe, publicly called for Gaines' resignation in the Oct. 5 issue of the *Commercial Appeal*.

Gaines previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Gardendale, Ala., and was president of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual Pastors Conference in 2005.

Several articles in the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper in Memphis have drawn attention to two web sites on which opponents of the church's leadership have waged their complaints. Both web sites have guest counters and combined they have tallied more than 200,000 visitors since the con-

troversy became heated in August.

The newspaper itself also has become a forum for dissent.

At a churchwide meeting Sept. 24 Gaines said he believes that Bellevue's time of trial will make the church stronger, and that in such times the congregation will focus on prayer and reconciliation. In his address to the church, he said he wanted the church to pray that "God will not let us get distracted from the main thing."

"We're more focused on what really matters, and what really matters is not all of these little accusations, fault-finders, and all that stuff," Gaines said. "What really matters is there are people going to hell right out there, and it's our job to love each other and to win people to Jesus."

"I want you to pray that God will put a hedge of protection around everybody, even those who have some differences. I want you to pray that all of us will walk in wisdom, that we'll walk in forgiveness, that we'll walk in Christ."

"As far as I am concerned, let's move on," Gaines said.

The entire story, which appeared in the Oct. 18 BP release, can be accessed at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net). □

### LMCO resources for 2006 available

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has helped support missionaries since 1888 in taking the gospel around the world. The 2006 goal is \$150 million, with 100 percent of Southern Baptists'

gifts undergirding more than 5,100 missionaries working in almost every nation.

West Africa — home to 287 million people and 355 people groups with virtually no access to the gospel — is the International Mission Board's focus for the 2006 Lottie Moon offering.

Heading into the Christmas season, the International Mission Board is offering an array of resources free of charge to help churches gain a vision for reaching the people of West Africa — and people all over the world — by supporting the 2006 Lottie Moon offering.

Two tools strategically designed to help church leaders spread the Lottie Moon message are the Pastor's Guide and the Missions Leader's Guide, available in English and Spanish and featuring an interactive CD-ROM and DVD of resources and ideas for promoting the offering. These two tools can be

ordered at no cost from [resources.imb.org](http://resources.imb.org).

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering poster is available through Woman's Missionary Union, with a new perforated banner so that the dated information can be removed once the Christmas season has ended, leaving churches with a constant reminder of the importance of giving to missions. The removable strip also accommodates churches that collect their Lottie Moon offering year-round or at times other than Christmas.

The Week of Prayer brochure, also available through WMU and available in six different languages, highlights eight missionary couples



serving in West Africa shows how churches can specifically for those missions.

The Lottie Moon poster Week of Prayer brochure distributed by WMU offices. Churches should receive their supplies by 1. □

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — PASTOR

Gap Creek Baptist Church, Arthur, Tenn., is now accepting resumes for a full-time position. Applicants must have biblical qualifications. GCB church located in East Tennessee near Cumberland. Please send resumes to Goins, 160 Yorkshire Dr., Gate, TN 37752.

### MINISTRY — MUSIC

First Baptist Church in McKenzie, Tenn., is currently accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music. Send resumes to the attention of the Personnel Committee Chairman, Robert Barker, 220 Robbie, McKenzie, TN 38201.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Lenoir City, Tenn., is seeking a bivocational/part-time minister of music. For more information contact Tyson Brewster at 567-6900 or e-mail [blphbclife.org](mailto:blphbclife.org).

### MINISTRY — CHILDREN

New Union Baptist Church, Dayton, Tenn., is seeking a time preschool/children's pastor. If interested, contact church at (423) 775-0515.

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss., seeks a director of childhood education. Prefer seminary-trained. Large church Sunday school and children's worship service. Send resumes to Waters, 506 Lake Park, Tupelo, MS 38801.

### MINISTRY — STUDENT

New Hope Baptist Church, Dyer, Tenn., is searching for a bivocational minister students. If you are interested, know of someone who please contact Pastor Joe Fields at (731) 414-4353. Chm. Joey Hays at (731) 7427 or you may send to New Hope Baptist, 876 North Main St., Dyer, TN 38330.

### MINISTRY — OTHER

A part-time administrative assistant is needed in the office. Responsibilities include office reception, event planning and scheduling, support for missions ministry. The church office at (615) 8074 for an application or a resume to [angie@fbb](mailto:angie@fbb).

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# Take hold of endurance

By Craig Christina

**Focal Passage:** II Timothy 3:1,10-17; 4:5-8

Endurance seems to be something that most people want, but few have. We need endurance to complete our education, to succeed in our careers, to remain married till death do us part, to raise our children, to get out of debt, to save enough for retirement, and to loose those extra pounds.

My grandparents were pros at enduring. They endured the Great Depression, World War II, and the rise and fall of Soviet communism. They learned to survive with few resources, but many friends.

Though I'm grateful to have missed those challenges, the result is that my generation is ill-equipped to endure. We lack the patience to wait. We want immediate gratification. According to recent statistics, those of us in our thirties spend 115% of our income each year. Where does the other 15% come from? It comes from all those plastic cards we keep receiving in the mail.

Perhaps a lack of endurance has always been a problem with the younger generation. So Paul writes his final letter to Timothy to remind him of three ways to take hold of endurance.

**Look out!** First, Paul reminds us to look out for trouble because it is going to come. No matter what we do or don't do, "difficult times will come" (3:1). Over and over again, Jesus

tried to warn the disciples that troubles, trials, and tribulations would plague His people. Why? For one thing, Satan is alive and well.

The story has been told that Satan was having a garage sale. He was selling some old tools. They were a fiendish lot: greed, envy, and malice were all marked with reasonable prices. But over to one side was a tool more worn and more expensive than all the others combined. It was labeled "discouragement." When asked why it was so worn, Satan replied, "Discouragement is my most effective weapon because so few realize it belongs to me."

No matter how we try to avoid it, trouble is going to come. Anticipating challenges should help us to prepare for them. After all, we have some armor and weapons of our own (Ephesians 6:11-17).

**Look up!** God doesn't expect us to endure hardship on our own. He desires to equip us with the knowledge of the truth so that we may become mature or "complete" (3:17). The only way you can grow stronger into maturity is to "continue in what you have learned and firmly believed" from your study of "the sacred Scriptures" (3:14,15).

With all of the great self-help books and exciting Eastern philosophies flooding our culture, why study the Bible? Only the Bible is "inspired" or God-breathed (3:16). Though other writings might be inspirational to man, only the Bible is inspired by God in that it commu-

## Sunday School Lesson Bible Studies for Life Oct. 29

nicates the very words of God.

By learning and applying the truth of God's Word to our lives, we will be taught, rebuked, corrected, and trained in right living (3:16) so that we can endure life's trials.

**Look beyond!** Paul was able to "keep a clear head about everything" because he could look beyond the immediate problem to see the big picture (4:5). What's the big picture? We each have a ministry in the kingdom of God as we work together to share the good news about Jesus.

The goal in life is not to be happy, comfortable, or fulfilled. It is to *fulfill your ministry* (4:5). Paul could honestly say that he *fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith* (4:7). He did not simply look forward to his "crown of righteousness," but the fact that it would be given to him by Jesus (4:8).

Jesus is with us now, but we must keep our eyes on the prize. Instead of becoming discouraged by life's trials, we need to look out, look up, and look beyond. It certainly worked for my grandparents. They were able to take hold of endurance because they walked with Jesus, and He empowered them to persevere until they finished their race. □ — Christina is pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson.

# Show gratitude

By Bob Orgeron

**Focal Passage:** Hebrews 10:1-18

**The need for Christ's sacrifice** (vv. 1-4). In this week's lesson the writer contrasts the substance and the shadow. He sees the ancient system that meant so much to the Jews as no more than a shadow. One writer has said, "to leave Christ in favor of Judaism would be to forsake the substance for the shadow."

"The Law," as it is used in verse 1, stands for the whole Old Testament, with particular reference to the sacrificial system. The word "shadow," refers to the sketch used by an artist leading up to the completed portrait. So then the law is no more than a preliminary sketch. It shows the shape of things to come, but the substance of reality is not present. Consequently the law is incapable of perfecting the souls of those who offer their annual Day of Atonement sacrifices.

Verse 3 points out that the annual sacrifices served as an annual reminder that there remained a need for an adequate sacrifice to atone for man's sin. Verse 4 clearly states that the blood of bulls and goats, which were the required sacrifices offered on the Great Day of Atonement, were just unable to take away sin. From these verses the careful reader will come to the conclusion that the need for Christ's sacrifice as the only suitable substitute for man's need is indeed great.

**The prophecy of Christ's sacrifice** (vv. 5-7). This middle section of our study, consist of three verses and reveal an important Old Testament quotation outlining the

prophecies of Christ's sacrifice.

In verses 5 through 7, the writer uses a transitional word to introduce this prophetic passage. "Therefore," in view of the powerlessness of the Levitical sacrifices to deal with sin, another provision had to be made. The writer quotes from Psalm 40, verses 6 through 8, and in doing so introduces his reader to Christ. In the center of this quotation one finds an interesting picture. The psalmist writes "... mine ears hast thou opened."

So then in this second section one is confronted by not only the prophecy of Christ's sacrifice, but by His willingness to bear the mantle of such a sacrifice on behalf of each one of us.

**The results of Christ's sacrifice** (vv. 8-18). In this third section of the lesson this week one finds an outline of the results of Christ's sacrifice. The careful reader will find two narrators in the passage. The first is our Lord Jesus in verses 8 through 14 and the second is the Holy Spirit giving witness to the reader about all that is being said in regards to "the once and for all sacrifice." In verse 9, there is a clear statement about the Old and the New Covenant; referred to as "the first" and "the second." The Lord repeats in verse 9, that which He said in verse 7, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." Which points the reader to understand that the will of God is the setting aside of the first, (that which is inadequate), to establish the second, (that which is adequate and effectual), that which would be offered "once for all." Verse 10, gives attention that it is "by the

## Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible Oct. 29

will of God," that "we have been made holy." "Through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Verse 14 points out an important result of the sacrifice of Christ, by *one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy*. The result of our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ is our appearing perfect in the gaze of our God and our becoming like Him in His holiness.

To this the Holy Spirit gives testimony. He testifies about a new covenant each believer is called into. Notice verses 16 through 18. *He will make a covenant with us; He will put His laws in our heart; He will write them on our minds; He will remember no more our sins and lawless acts*. It is under this new covenant that the child of God is enabled to do what no one under the old covenant system could ever do. The child of God can look to one event. One sacrifice and stare out into eternity knowing that Jesus Christ satisfied the righteousness demands of all of the Law and the Prophets. Notice that the writer concludes by reminding his readers, "where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin." The child of God is forgiven, cleansed, and free. Look at the title of your lesson this week, "Show Gratitude." Seems fitting doesn't it? □ — Orgeron is pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville.



Following are some questions and answers regarding the Tennessee Marriage Amendment which will be on the state ballot Nov. 7.

Tennessee Baptists are encouraged to use the information provided in the *Baptist and Reflector* to inform their members of the importance of voting for the amendment.

The Tennessee Baptist Convention also provides resources including art work that is available for download from [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).

### What is the Tennessee Marriage Amendment?

The Tennessee Marriage Amendment is a proposed amendment to the state Constitution specifying that marriage in Tennessee is recognized as a legal contract between one man and one woman. If adopted, marriage between one man and one woman would be the only marital contract recognized in Tennessee. If another state or foreign country were to issue a license to marry that is prohibited by the Tennessee Marriage Amendment, that marriage would not be recognized in Tennessee. Therefore, this amendment, if adopted, would prohibit marriage between homosexuals in Tennessee.

### Why should I support the Tennessee Marriage Amendment?

Marriage between one man and one woman is God's plan. Jesus said, *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh* (Matthew 19:5). We believe marriage between a man and a woman is biblical and leads to the healthiest families and societies. "Marriage is not a short-term option. It is a contract for life; it is ordered by God," Billy Graham wrote in the May 2004 issue of *Decision* magazine.

### How can I support the Tennessee Marriage Amendment?

The amendment will be on the ballot statewide on Tuesday, November 7. Vote for the amendment and encourage others to do the same. To be adopted as law, the amendment must receive at least one more vote than percent of all votes cast in the Governor's race. A person who votes for a gubernatorial candidate but leaves the ballot blank regarding the marriage amendment in effect is voting "no." □

## a way with words

### The church musician

by Hugh X. Lewis

Gentle hands caress the keys  
They play their Godly gift,  
When falling on our ears to please,  
We feel our spirits lift.

Sweet music helps tune up the heart  
To offer praise in song;  
This way our faith we do impart,  
And thus say, "We belong."

Rich talent given unto those  
Who would have brought rich reward.  
Instead, the church musician chose  
To use it for the Lord. □

Copyright by Hugh X. Lewis. Lewis, a Baptist layman, is a laureate of Christian country music in Tennessee. He has written more than 250 songs and is featured daily on Southern Gospel radio stations throughout the country. He is available to speak to church and senior adult groups. For more information, call (615) 883-0086.



## Leaders

◆ **New Salem Baptist Church, Soddy Daisy**, will observe pastor **Ted Painter's** 36th anniversary at the church in November.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Nashville**, called **Tom Crow** as executive pastor effective Oct. 1. He comes to the church from First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, has called **Chris Stokes** as pastor of students and education.

◆ **John Crawford**, pastor of Walker's Folk Missionary Baptist Church, Kingsport, and his wife Callie recently celebrated his 25th anniversary at the church. The pastor recently led the church in constructing a new fellowship hall and has served on several mission projects.

◆ **Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown**, has called **John Shearron** as minister of education effective Oct. 22. He previously served on the staff of Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro.

◆ **Valley View Baptist Church, Athens**, called **Hoyt Melton** as pastor effective Sept. 3.

◆ **Rogers Creek Baptist Church, Athens**, called **Shane Bryson** as pastor effective Sept. 10.

◆ **Oliver Wolfenbarger**, pastor of Loveland Baptist Church, Knoxville, is leading a construction team to Dubuque, Iowa, Oct. 22-28, to repair the parsonage and church building of Grandview Heights Baptist Church. This effort is to support the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership.

## Churches

◆ **Calvary Baptist Church, Lenoir City**, will be the Loudon County Collection Center for Operation Christmas Child the week of Nov. 13-19. For information, contact the church at (865) 986-3567 or (865) 986-1015.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Livingston**, will host "The Telestials" of Hendersonville, a gospel singing group, the night

of Oct. 28. For information, contact Don Cobb, pastor, at dlcobb@fbcLivingston.com.

◆ **Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church, Knoxville**, recently celebrated a record Sunday School attendance of more than 950 people.

◆ **Buffat Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will send a construction team to First Baptist Church, Winterset, Iowa, the week of Nov. 5-11 to frame a new wing on the church building. The project supports the Tennessee/Iowa Baptist Partnership.

◆ **West Hills Baptist Church, Lebanon**, will hold a Family Fall Festival Oct. 28 from 3-8 p.m.

◆ **Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood**, will host the Pure in Heart Conference for Tweens and Teens, Nov. 4. For information and registration, call the church at (615) 373-2992.

◆ **Concord Grandview Baptist Church, Brentwood**, will hold its 3rd annual "Trunk n Treat" the night of Oct. 28. For information, contact Michelle Wilhoite, church activity director at dmw2006@comcast.net.

◆ **Fairview Baptist Church, Corryton**, dedicated its new sanctuary Oct. 22. Bryan Wright has served as pastor for the past 17 years.

◆ A Woman's Missionary Union Conference was held Oct. 21 at **Whorton Springs Baptist Church, Smithville**. Tina Hutchison led worship. The Pattersons, International Mission Board missionaries, also spoke.

◆ **Second Baptist Church, Knoxville**, is hosting a Judgment House Oct. 21-29 and Nov. 1. This year's theme is "Where There's Smoke, There is Fire." For reservations or information, call (865) 689-3311.

◆ **Russellville Baptist Church, Russellville**, celebrated its 100th anniversary of ministry Sept. 10. James Williams, director of missions, Nolachucky Baptist Association, Morristown, presented pastor Steve Smith a plaque from the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

◆ **Trinity Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival



**MEMBERS OF** First Baptist Church, Nashville, watch two members, Susan Owens, right, and Frank Lewis, left, use sign language to interpret a song during a service marking the beginning of a four-week missions challenge to reach downtown Nashville. To symbolize the Building Bridges campaign, the church held part of its Sunday morning worship on the Shelby Street pedestrian bridge over the Cumberland River. Frank Lewis, right, pastor, prepares to speak. The campaign is in response to downtown growth, including the recent completion of two high-rise residential properties near the Gaylord Entertainment Center and that evening the church's 150-voice choir sang at the new Schermerhorn Symphony Center as part of the first Christian concert in the center.

Nov. 5-8. Phil Glisson, evangelist of Memphis, will speak.

◆ **Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville**, will hold a Harvest Street Fair Nov. 4 from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (615) 227-2961 or [www.shelbyavebaptist.com](http://www.shelbyavebaptist.com).

◆ **Etter Baptist Church, Byrdstown**, will hold its annual carnival for the community Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at (931) 864-6455.

◆ **Rittertown Baptist Church, Hampton**, celebrated its 75th anniversary Sept. 17.

## Associations

◆ **Jefferson County Baptist Association, Jefferson City**, is holding a Men's Revival Oct. 23-26 at Buffalo Grove Baptist Church, Jefferson City. Jerry Vittatone, pastor of Clear Springs Baptist Church, Corryton, is speaking. For information, contact the Jefferson County Association office at (865) 475-1453.

◆ **Maury Baptist Association, Columbia**, which includes 38 churches, held its annual meeting Oct. 17 at Crossbridges Baptist Church, Columbia. The messengers passed the following resolution, "Whereas our state and nation are facing anti-Christian organizations and agendas, Be it resolved that we affirm the authority of the Bible and its teachings concerning life and morality, especially as it concerns marriage and family life in our society." Dale Ledbetter, director of missions, said the resolution was in response to the upcoming Nov. 7 election in Tennessee on the Tennessee Marriage Amendment and other related issues in our nation.

◆ The Royal Ambassadors of



**JERRY SMITH**, left, pianist/organist of Sullivan Baptist Church, Kingsport, for 25 years, was honored Oct. 1 by the church service. Jeff Strong, pastor, presents a plaque to Smith.

**Mid-South Baptist Association, Memphis**, and other church groups will participate in "Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat" to collect canned food and funds for the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association of Memphis. MIFA is a non-denominational organization that provides help for the needy. For information, go to [www.mid-southras.org](http://www.mid-southras.org) or contact Ken Cole at [kcole@ilsmart.com](mailto:kcole@ilsmart.com) or (901) 604-6055.

## Events

◆ **Royal Ambassador Night with the Grizzlies** will be



**NOLACHUCKY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, Morristown**, officers at its Oct. 18 meeting at Macedonia Baptist Church, Morristown. From left are Susie DuBois, associational secretary; James Williams, director of missions; Hartselle McCurry, Fairfield Baptist Church, Morristown, moderator; and Stockman, pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, Mohawk, moderator.



**PHIL BYRD**, left, deacon, Battle Creek Baptist Church, Cooperstown, presents a plaque to O. Jewell Barrett, pastor, and his wife, Loretta, for 56 years of ministry, 14 of which have been as pastor of the church. The presentation was made at the 161st homecoming of Battle Creek held Oct. 1.