

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

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Formerly churched indicate openness to return, says survey

Way news office

NASHVILLE — More than two-thirds of formerly churched adults are open to the idea of attending church regularly again, according to LifeWay research.

In the summer of 2006, the new research arm of LifeWay Christian sources conducted a survey of 469 formerly churched adults to better understand why they stopped attending church and what it would take to get them back. The "formerly churched" are defined as those who regularly attended a Protestant church in adult in the past but no longer do.

We were delighted to see such a large percentage of the formerly churched willing to consider church in the future," said Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay research. "This was particularly surprising because the average formerly churched adult has not attended regularly for 14 years."

Four percent of formerly churched adults are actively looking for a church to attend regularly (other than their previous church). Six percent would prefer to resume attending regularly in the church they had attended. The

largest group, 62 percent, is not actively looking but is open to the idea of attending church regularly again.

McConnell noted that such openness may reflect a cultural Christianity rather than genuine interest, but the fact remains that the majority are not closed to the idea. "The small portion

who are 'unlikely to consider' returning [28 percent] should be encouraging when you think about the three out of four who are willing to give it another try," McConnell said.

For some, the openness to returning is a real yearning for what they once had at church. More than a third are motivated to consider returning in order "to fill a gap felt since stopping regular church attendance" (34 percent). Despite multiple reasons for leaving that often include their own life changes as well as disappointing action or inaction of the

Attitude toward resuming regular church attendance

LifeWay RESEARCH

Open to the idea of attending church regularly but not actively looking	62
Unlikely to consider regularly attending any church in the foreseeable future	28
Prefer to resume regularly attending the same church	6
Actively looking for a different church to regularly attend	4

Percentage of formerly churched

www.lifewayresearch.com

church, a number of the formerly churched miss the benefits of attending church.

The most common motivation of those who would consider returning comes straight from the soul: "to bring me closer to God" (46 percent). Not surprisingly, this desire for an improved relationship with God is expressed primarily by those who still consider themselves Christian.

"Many members are vulnerable to attrition because of either a nonexistent or immature faith," said Brad Waggoner,

director of LifeWay Research. "When individuals begin to seek out membership, they should be guided through a process whereby they are clearly taught the gospel and then, following salvation, grounded in strong biblical truth. Far fewer people would drop out of church if their spiritual foundation was deep and strong. The church also must be sensitive to this combination of a less developed but genuine desire for faith as they approach the formerly churched about returning."

— See Formerly, page 3

te "yes" for TMA on Nov. 7

TBC leader cites positive role models for Christian marriages

James Porch
Executive Director
Tennessee Baptist Convention

their unique surname, primarily by just being "the Porches." Those pictures also tell me of a lifestyle that reflected contentment with the necessities in a marriage exceeding one-half of a century.

James Young Barnes and Bessie Walker

Our family story includes a chapter depicting the wedding day of my mother's parents. Late one Sunday afternoon, friends gathered with them before the evening worship service at the Barefoot Springs Baptist Church for the simple wedding. Following the ceremony, the couple attended the evening service with the church congregation. One person in attendance later noted that following the service, Jim and Bessie walked hand in hand through the woods past Barefoot Springs to a log cabin with dirt floors that Jim had built for his Bessie. I recall as a child playing in their first home, then occupied by bushels of corn and big black diamond watermelons. This couple also

lived to celebrate over half a century of wedded life. They were blessed by 11 children, nine girls and two boys. All of the children graduated from high school, quite an accomplishment for a couple living in a farming environment in Mississippi during a period extend-



ing from World War I and through the Depression. The focal point of the home community was the Barefoot Springs Baptist Church. Deacon Jim and Sister Bessie carried those children to church. Each of them, at some point in their early life, professed faith in Christ and walked through the baptismal waters in the springs

to celebrate their conversion.

James Milton Porch Sr. and Lillian Olivia Barnes

When they married on Easter Sunday in 1935, Dad was 47 years of age, and Mom 25. She had graduated from high school and began nurses training, and he struggled to make the letters of his name. They had married a year following the death of his parents who had lived with him. Following the wedding, Dad brought Mom to a house and two acres of land, and there she worked to make a home in the house at the end of Munsterman Street, my growing up place. Dad personified the idea of a common man, and Miss Lillian, my mother, had a tendency sometime to put on as he said, "airs."

My freshman year in college encompassed the last 10 months of Dad's life. War injuries, work accidents, and high cholesterol caught up with him and limited his life to bed care. I never knew how much they loved each other until that final year. Mom, by nature a

caretaker, and Dad, an "I'll do for myself man," found a new comfortable range of life. She retreated from smothering him, and he accepted hers as the best of care. She a nurse by profession, did for him until he died as a Christian wife who took "till death do us part" lovingly and seriously. Earlier in their lives, she did the couple's praying, and praying for him. Through her witness, he made a public profession of faith and was baptized in the fellowship of the Pelahatchie Baptist Church. She would later tell me that this was one of the happiest moments of their marriage.

James L. Sullivan and Velma Scott

She knew she married a preacher/pastor and he had never dated another girl. They made homes in Mississippi, Texas, and Tennessee. Three children blessed their marriage, each being allowed and encouraged to be the person God intended him or her to become.

— See TBC, page 5

As Tennesseans consider an amendment to the state constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, I want to share how my life has been both influenced and enhanced by Christian marriages, especially through my family.

John Jackson Porch and Martha Eleanor Renfro

My father's parent's marriage spanned an era encompassing reconstruction in the South and into the Great Depression of the 1930s. I knew him primarily through conversations with my father, and two pictures I guard very carefully. The photographs reveal by their body language and facial expressions a couple born into poverty and survivors of hard times who learned resiliency day at a time. John and Martha Eleanor raised up Milton, Charlie, Ed, John, Henry, and Letha. They each protected

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Va. man loses job due to support of amendment

Baptist Press

TIMBERVILLE, Va. — A Virginia man says he was fired from his job because he refused to remove statements on his truck supportive of a proposed constitutional marriage amendment.

Luis Padilla had placed signs on his black Dodge truck backing Amendment 1, which will appear on the Nov. 7 ballot and would amend the Virginia constitution to protect the natural definition of marriage. According to a video shown on WHSV-TV in Harrisonburg, Va., Padilla had hand-painted white lettering on his back window reading, "Please vote for marriage on Nov. 7." He also had a bumper sticker stating, "Vote Yes 4 Marriage."

Padilla says he was fired because of the sign. The company, Cargill — which produces agricultural products — says he was fired because of insubordination.

According to the *Daily News Record* newspaper, the company,

following complaints, told Padilla to remove the sign. He did, but came back to work the next day with the hand-painted sign back on his truck. However, he parked his truck outside company gates, believing he was off the property, the newspaper reported. The company, though, said he was still on its property. After he tried covering up the sign with cardboard, the company fired him, the newspaper said.

"I tried to accommodate them," Padilla told the *Daily News Record*.

The company's attorney said Padilla's actions violated Cargill's policies on intolerance, and that the sign could have been "reasonably construed as a show of hostility and intolerance toward homosexuals." □

N.J. ruling shows need for marriage amendments

Baptist Press

TRENTON, N.J. — A long-awaited "gay marriage" ruling by the New Jersey Supreme Court

left neither side happy Oct. 25, but it may have given a boost to supporters of proposed constitutional marriage amendments nationwide. See story on page 10.

Citizens in eight states, including Tennessee, will vote on marriage amendments Nov. 7, and supporters already are pointing to the New Jersey decision as proof that constitutional protection is needed to defend marriage.

In its 4-3 decision the New Jersey Supreme Court ordered the state legislature to legalize either "gay marriage" or Vermont-style civil unions. Conservatives are quick to note that unlike 20 other states, New Jersey had no constitutional marriage amendment that would have prevented such a decision.

The ruling adds to a growing body of decisions that could lead other state courts to rule similarly. In 1998, Vermont's highest court issued a decision ordering the legislature to grant homosexual couples the legal benefits of marriage. (The legislature legalized civil unions.) In 2003, Massachusetts' highest court issued its landmark decision legalizing "gay marriage." Those

two decisions, combined with one out of New Jersey, impact states that don't have marriage amendments, conservatives say.

In fact, lawyers pushing "gay marriage" in other states already are pledging to use New Jersey ruling in future suits and legal briefs. The majority opinion said same-sex couples must receive "on equal terms rights and benefits" of marriage.

Supporters of Wisconsin amendment, which would prohibit both "gay marriage" and civil unions, say the New Jersey ruling underscores arguments they've made all along.

"I think this serves as a wake up call," Rocco DeFilippo, spokesman for the Vote Yes Marriage campaign in Wisconsin, told Baptist Press. "... It's about the definition of marriage and it's about who gets to decide it. Is it the people of Wisconsin or is it going to be a judge?"

Pro-family leaders nationwide had become concerned in recent months that conservative voters had grown complacent following a string of significant legal marriage victories. □

SBC's second vp not satisfied with obscurity of position

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

BUENA PARK, Calif. — The Southern Baptist Convention expects very little from its vice presidents — nothing, in fact — unless the SBC president becomes incapacitated. Traditionally, those elected each year to the mostly honorary vp positions are seen but not heard.

But when Southern Baptists elected Wiley Drake second vice president in June, they should not have expected Drake to be quiet about it.

The irrepressible Drake — a Los Angeles-area pastor, radio crusader, SBC gadfly, and self-proclaimed "champion of the little guy" — is making the most of his new title. And that's causing more than a little consternation in the SBC's Nashville headquarters.

When Drake recently created his own makeshift letterhead proclaiming "Southern Baptist Convention, Office of the 2nd Vice President" — and used it to endorse Republican Dick Moutjoy of California in his bid for the U.S. Senate — he got a stern warning from the SBC's top lawyer.

"If there has been political activity using letterhead, it should immediately cease, due (among other reasons) to its potential to place the convention at the wrong end of an IRS investigation," wrote attorney August Boto in an Oct. 4 letter, alluding to laws that make political activity by non-profit groups like the SBC illegal.

"Looking back, I shouldn't have done it," Drake told Associated Baptist Press Oct. 26. "But no one told me what I should or shouldn't do."

So Drake is asking the convention to spell out the responsibilities of the SBC's two vice presidents, and he is making a suggestion for his own role. How about "SBC Interfaith Ambassador?"

"I already function as an interfaith ambassador," Drake said by telephone from his church office at First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park. "I was only asking for it to be official."

Drake burst on the Southern Baptist scene about a decade ago when he led the charge for a boycott of entertainment giant the Disney Co., even though his church lies almost in the shadow of Disneyland.

His success in that initiative initiated his steady stream of speeches from the floor of recent SBC conventions for this or that cause, introducing more failed resolutions than probably anyone in recent SBC history.

The pesky Drake's love for attention irritates many Southern Baptists — "I'm as egotistical as the next guy," he concedes. But he's a hero to others, particularly the small-church pastors who seldom get a voice in the 16 million member denomination, which has been led by a parade of megachurch pastors for almost three decades.

It was for those "little guys," Drake said, that he agreed to be nominated to the previously obscure role of second vice president, which is almost an afterthought in the SBC's power structure.

Drake said he has ceased using his makeshift SBC letter-



WILEY DRAKE, second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, broadcasts his daily radio show from his cell phone in Buena Park, Calif.

head. But he has added the title of "2nd Vice President" to his church letterhead — and he will keep using it, whether or not SBC officials like it. "If they have a problem with that, they're going to have to sue me."

SBC attorney August Boto, in a letter Oct. 4, instructed Drake not to use his title in correspondence, and he suggested Drake drop his quest for a job description too.

Two days later, Drake wrote an open letter to all Southern Baptists urging them to define the role of the vice presidents.

"So without any job description to direct me, I'm left with no option but to create one on my own," he wrote.

"The second vice president should be a servant role to the convention, not an honorary title. He should be a prayer warrior for convention causes, and the most faithful advocate of our missionaries. He should encourage pastors and reach souls. He

should lead his church before he tries to lead the convention and the hungry before he feeds his ego, and listen before he speaks."

Most Baptists haven't read the letter, however. Baptist Press, the SBC's news and public-relations service, said Oct. 26 it would not publish it.

Drake said that while he takes his job as second vice president seriously, the SBC Executive Committee does not. He told in September that the committee did not have money to pay his expenses to come to their September meeting.

"If the Southern Baptist Convention can't afford to send me to the Executive Committee meeting, something is wrong," he said.

His only official duty is to succeed the first vice president and president if both are incapacitated, he said, but "he'd take over if I don't know what's going on? That's why I think I need to be at the meeting."

The unspoken message from SBC leaders was clear, he said. "You don't need to know anything, because the president doesn't need to know anything either. We're doing everything."

While some SBC leaders may be counting the days of his term of office expiring in June 2007, Drake has no intention of leaving them.

"I'm absolutely going to be nominated for vice president again next year," he told Baptist Press.

And if and when SBC president Frank Page completes his traditional second one-year term in 2008, Drake said, "then I'm going to be nominated for president." □

Living Life's Challenges

Obstacles teach perseverance to engaged couple

inda Lawson
ist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — "My name is Tara. What's yours?" After being greeted for a moment by a handsome young man at the door of Kairos, the Friday night worship service for young adults at Brentwood Baptist Church here, Tara McFadden decided in 2005 she would introduce herself. She learned the greeter's name was Paul Owens.

They continued to see one another on Tuesday nights and Sundays in the Single Adults class. They rode together to lunch with friends after church on Jan. 15, 2006, and were dating soon after. They became engaged on April 29 and are making plans for a wedding to be held May 19, 2007.

While an engagement and an approaching marriage is common for young adults their age, Tara and Paul have met and overcome more challenges than most to reach this fulfillment in their lives.

Wreck changes everything
At 16, Paul was an outstanding baseball player who ranked 13th in his high school class.

"I grew up playing sports. I was smart and had good grades. Then I had a car wreck and it all went away," he recalled.

The wreck happened along Country Road in April 1994 in Killeen, Texas, just before Paul's 17th birthday. He was driving into the sun and never saw the car that broadsided him.

He spent the next six months in a coma as a result of massive head injuries. One doctor told his parents he

would never recover. They demanded another doctor. After regaining consciousness he spent two more months in the hospital and months after that in therapy.

As Paul recovered, he learned he could never play baseball again. Returning to school, he discovered learning no longer came easily. Due to the time he had been hospitalized, he was a year behind his class in high school. When his class graduated Paul faced the challenge of making new friends. A hole drilled into his head to relieve potential pressure left him with a speech impediment.

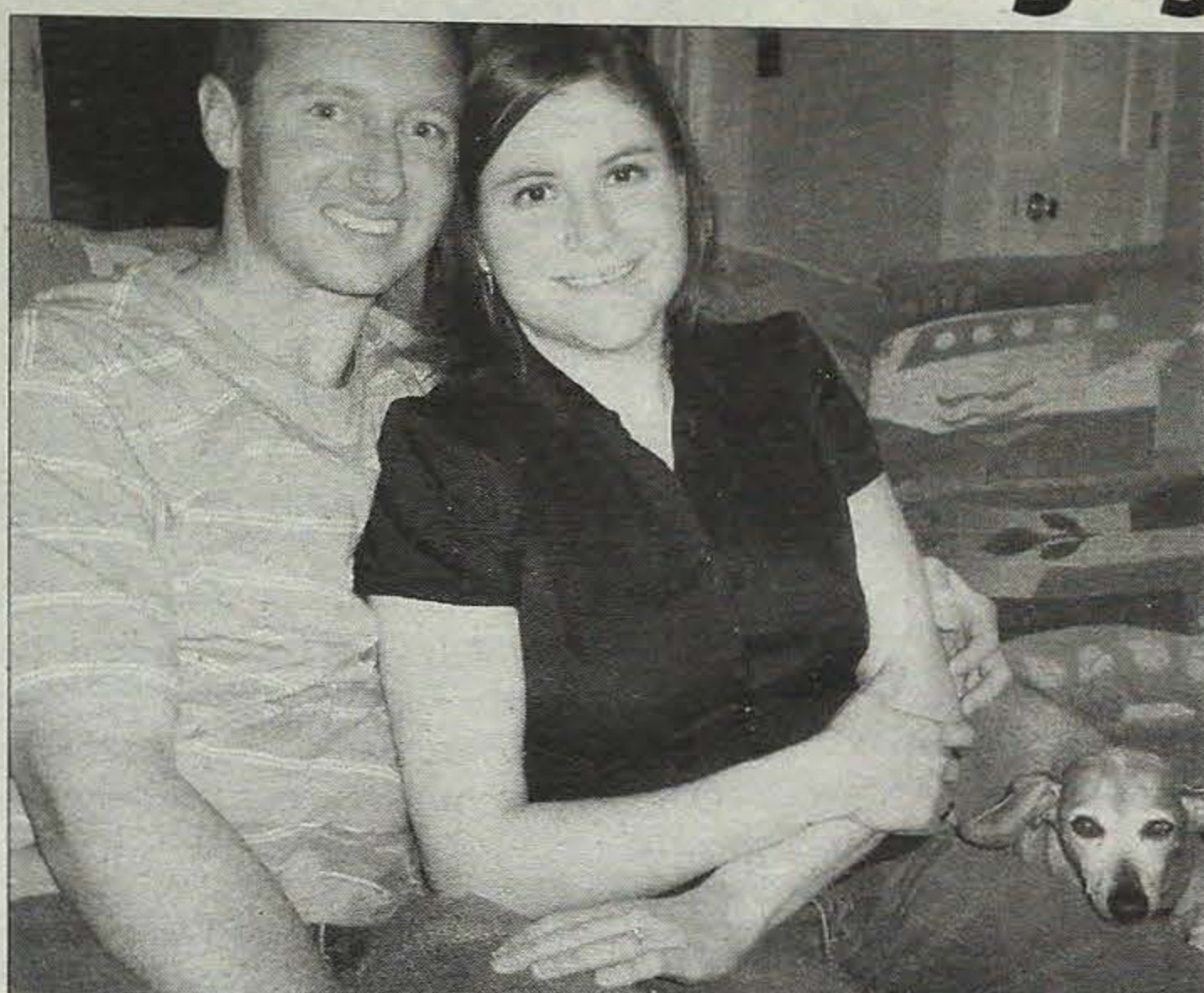
After graduating from high school, Tarrant County Junior College, and attending Texas Wesleyan University, Paul accepted the offer of a job in January 2000 from his sister and brother-in-law to move to Franklin and become payments processor at Source One Automotive.

Despite his fears of moving so far from home, Paul made the move, found a church home and leadership roles at Brentwood Baptist, and was baptized there in 2005. He enjoys his work and has purchased a home in Franklin. "I've had a lot of help from the Lord and His strength. To do it on my own was impossible," he said.

Born with CP

Tara was born almost three months early by emergency C-section in January 1977, weighing only a bit more than three pounds. When she began trying to crawl, her parents noticed something wasn't quite right and took her to a doctor who diagnosed her with cerebral palsy.

"Basically it's a lack of oxygen during your birth that



PAUL OWENS and Tara McFadden overcame challenges in their lives and now anticipate their wedding on May 19, 2007. Also pictured is Casper, Tara's dog.

causes it. It just affected the part of my brain that controls the muscles of my legs," she said. "I've been around people who have this condition much worse than me. I'm very lucky and I know that. I have no complaints. It's all I've ever known."

Growing up in a Christian family that nurtured and encouraged her, Tara "can only remember a very few times when somebody made me feel bad about myself. I don't really feel different."

Driving became a major challenge for Tara. As a cum laude graduate of Houston Baptist University, she became frustrated when she couldn't master driver's education. She finally attended a driving school for persons with disabilities.

With a college degree, a driver's license, a love for music, and a need for independence, Tara moved to Nashville in the summer of 2001.

"It was a terrifying feeling like I was alone in the world, even though I knew God was with me," she said. "I still had to reaffirm that to myself all the time."

Tara now works as copyright administrator with Integrated Copyright Group of Nashville, attends Brentwood Baptist, and enjoys a wide circle of friends.

Growing relationship

Paul acknowledges Tara's looks initially attracted him to her.

Tara, who had decided she "was not going to church to find a man," remembers being intrigued by what she had heard of Paul's story of rebuilding his life after the accident.

After riding with him to that Sunday lunch, they went in separate cars one snowy night to Starbucks. "He literally ran to the door to open it for me. He started pursuing me the old-fashioned way. I had

never had that before," she said.

"I remember saying in one of our first conversations, 'If you are looking to meet and marry in six months I am not the girl for you,'" Tara continued. "He didn't take 'no' for an answer. At the same time he seemed so genuine and that's what made me finally give in."

Tara and Paul believe the challenges they have faced have given them a common life perspective.

"I sometimes felt like I didn't fit with my age group," Tara said. "I was seeing life in a different way because of my experiences. I knew he must be seeing something very similar because of what he went through."

"You never know when you meet somebody what they have gone through in their life," she said. "What you see on the outside is not always what matters."

Live in gratitude

To others facing challenges, Paul urges, "Get involved in church and be around other Christians. Do good. I shouldn't be walking or talking, but I'm here. It's all thanks to God."

"There's always somebody worse off than you," Tara said. "I'm thankful I can walk. I'm thankful I can talk."

As they anticipate their marriage, Paul and Tara want a relationship that lasts.

"I want to be one of the couples at church who has a 50th anniversary," said Tara.

As for the place of God in their home, Paul emphasized, "We want to rely on His strength."

Added Tara: "When we have pitfalls we don't want to quit." □

Formerly unchurched indicate openness to return, ...

Continued from page 1

building relationships in a Christian community is another strong motivator to return to church. Thirty-two percent of the surveyed want to "be around those with similar values" and 31 percent would consider returning "to make friends." A similar number would return "to make a difference/help others" (30 percent) in the community.

Too often churches wait for people to be spiritually mature before they engage them in service when projects or tasks are ideal for re-entry points for people on their faith journey," McConnell said.

Waggoner, reflecting on steps for bringing back the unchurched, said, "One of the biblical metaphors of

church leadership is that of the shepherd. Throughout Scripture we see that the shepherd was to protect, guide, and care for the flock and to go after those who have strayed from the fold. These findings indicate that churches should seek out those who have lapsed as well as take steps to reduce further departures by meeting members' needs for a welcoming and spiritually fulfilling church environment."

Prompting the formerly unchurched to visit a church with an eye toward attending regularly requires some work, Waggoner said. Most of these individuals had multiple reasons for leaving, thus the work of the Holy Spirit along with the efforts of church members, friends, and family

members is needed to light a fire under them, Waggoner said.

Some of the statements of those surveyed were very subjective related to why and when they would return to church. More than half would be inspired to regularly attend church "if I simply felt it was time to return to church" (58 percent) and nearly a third said "if I felt God was calling me to visit a church" (31 percent).

"Clearly we can encourage Christians to pray that the unchurched would sense God calling them back, but God works through His people," McConnell said. "The survey showed that many would respond to an invitation from a friend or acquaintance [41 per-

cent], their children [25 percent], or an adult family member [25 percent]."

The issue of affinity also surfaced in the responses. Thirty-five percent indicated that they would be inspired to attend church "if I knew there were people like me there."

"Affinity will never happen at a significant level without the church fostering a culture of concern, fellowship, and involvement," Waggoner said. "The openness of the majority of the formerly unchurched to rejoin the flock is reason enough for the church to seek them out. That means having an effective outreach strategy for identifying, praying for, and contacting formerly unchurched adults to shepherd them back to the fold." □

Chorale concert moved to Humboldt

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The Tennessee Men's Chorale concert scheduled to take place Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Huntingdon, has been moved to Humboldt, according to Paul Clark, chorale director.

The concert will be held on the same day and time at First Baptist Church, 3400 Mitchell Street, Humboldt, 38343. □

After prayer, decision to give to CP

Church opens doors to Presbyterian church, is blessed

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

EAST RIDGE — Mission Oaks Baptist Church located near Chattanooga recently opened its doors to Zion Korean Presbyterian Church, East Ridge, which needed a place to worship, according to Mission Oaks pastor Dwight E. Millsaps.

"God continues to bless and encourage us as we can now grow together on the same campus," said Millsaps. The Korean church, which has around 70 members, needed a facility to meet in. They also needed a Sunday School program and "asked us to teach their children and young people," he explained. The request added an additional 19 children in the Sunday School program of Mission Oaks.

Mission Oaks is growing in other ways. As of Oct. 12, the church now has 13 members with two people being baptized recently and one person to be baptized soon.

About a year ago the church only had seven members. Millsaps was elected pastor in May 2005. Prior to that the church

also was a seminary extension center of Covington Theological Seminary, Rossville, Ga.

Millsaps credits the Baptist church's refocus to God's encouragement through Henry Blackaby's book, *Spiritual Leadership*. "During this time God told me to just follow Him," Millsaps noted. "That was the theme of the book, and God made it clear and evident to me. I set out to not give up, and I couldn't give up."

The Mission Oaks pastor contacted his "godparents," spiritual mentors Don and Lucille Loft of Westwood Baptist Church, Cleveland. They came and visited the church in March 2006. The Loftys observed that the church's facilities needed repair, but they also recommended that prayer was needed.

East Ridge church members and the Loftys began meeting on Thursday nights to pray for the church. The church's Wednesday night prayer meetings continued as usual.

Besides the sanctuary building which seats almost 600, the church has an educational building. It was espe-



DWIGHT MILLSAPS, right, pastor, Mission Oaks Baptist Church, East Ridge, Chattanooga, stands with Daewang Kim, pastor of the Zion Korean Presbyterian Church, which meets at Mission Oaks. The two churches are helping each other in many ways.

cially in need of repairs including plumbing and air conditioning work, because it had not been used in years.

The church began to pray for a construction team. God "did not send a mission team, but a whole new church, Zion Church," reported Millsaps.

The Presbyterian Church was sharing a church facility with another church in East Ridge, but needed a new place of worship due to schedule constraints. The Korean pastor contacted Millsaps in August 2006 about sharing

the Mission Oaks building.

Both churches met and prayed about the opportunity and felt in agreement. Then Zion Church furnished most of the labor and money to repair the building.

Millsaps credits a decision to tithe to the Cooperative Program and the Hamilton County Baptist Association, Chattanooga, as a turning point for the Baptist church.

The decision was made before the Korean pastor contacted him. It was made by Mission Oaks at the suggestion of Phil Taylor, director of

missions, Bradley County Baptist Association, Cleveland, during a revival at the church he led.

Millsaps believes Mission Oaks has seen a return of their gifts to the Cooperative Program though the gift to be made sacrificial because of the small size congregation. The return comes through God's marvelous gift of blessing, explained.

"Every cent that we invested with the Cooperative Program and the local association has been returned through the repair of the rear building," Millsaps noted.

Another good thing has happened to the Baptist and Presbyterian churches that they have agreed to combine worship services every fifth Sunday, which the pastors will alternate speaking with the other as an interpreter. The first service will be Nov. 4.

"I see our church's progress as an answer to prayer," Millsaps said. "The Lord told us to give, and God is faithful. We are going to keep on doing what He tells us to do."

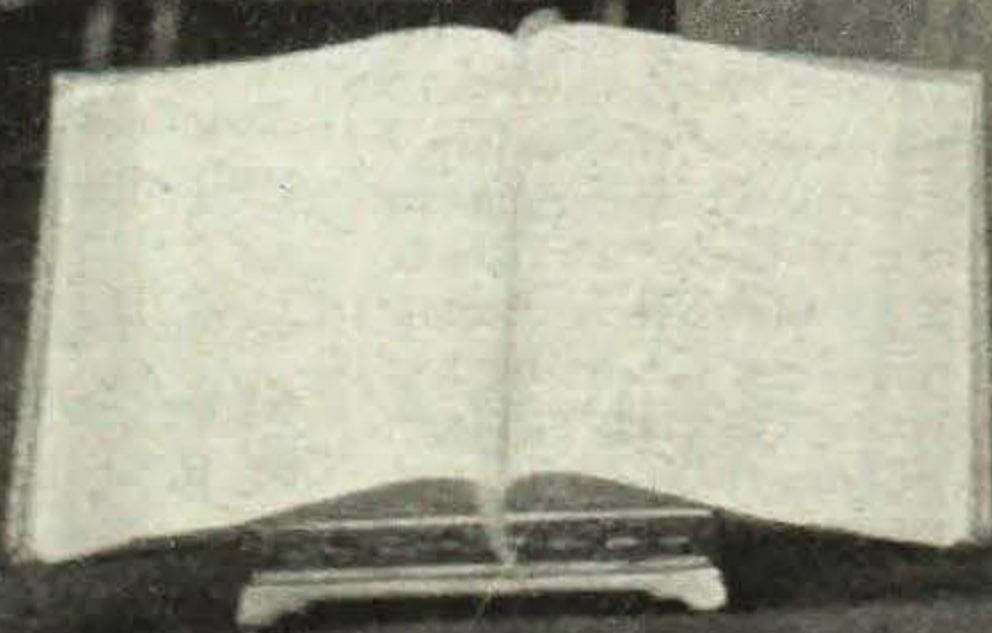
Leonard Markham knows Carson-Newman by heart.

Sitting in chapel as a C-N freshman in 1966, he felt the spirit of the Lord move across the sanctuary and lift his burdened soul. The experience rekindled his faith and confirmed his call to the pastorate. An opportunity that he could not turn down led him to a small church while he completed his undergraduate education at a school in Kentucky. But ask him, and the pastor of Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church will tell you that Carson-Newman is his alma mater.

"The emphasis that Carson-Newman College gives to missions is unparalleled. I have seen it as a pastor who has gone on many missions trips. I've seen the life-changing effect it has had during two trips to Venezuela, as well as in Chile, Japan and in six countries in West Africa. In every one of them I met Carson-Newman graduates who were sowing gospel seeds through medical work, seminary teaching and service to humanity. They are living what it means to be a Christian in the finest sense of the word."



CARSON
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2005-2006

Carson-Newman 360

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Southern Baptist Convention needs the three 'Rs'

uest
columnist



By Frank Page

transformation and revitalization of our convention. With equal passion, we must seek a revival from God and also, relevancy for this world and for future generations.

One of the areas that desperately needs to be understood in regards to relevancy is our methodology of dealing with our world. I believe God's Word is abidingly relevant. I believe His Word helps us to know how to relate to our world.

One great passage that gives us direction is Ephesians 4:15. In this great passage, Paul, under the leadership of God's Holy Spirit, tells us that we need to speak the truth in love. This is a very interesting passage. It is a difficult passage to translate — literally, it means "truthing in love." The problem in translating this is that we have no verb for "truth" in English, while the Greek does. The basic concept is that our manner of life is to be sincere and true, thinking truly, speaking truly, dealing truly — and all in a spirit of genuine, agape love, without diversions to divide our allegiance, without hypocrisy to deny our witness, without divisions to hinder our purpose in

They must see the legitimacy of the cause.

Let us join together in speaking God's truth. But let us speak it in love. Speaking truth without love leads to a coldhearted legalism which drives people away from Christ. Speaking love without truth leads to a shallow liberalism that leaves people bereft of direction.

Let us be an authentic, relevant people who share the good news of Christ without compromising truth. However, let us make sure that everything we do, say, and share is done with such authentic love that people cannot help but sense the love of Christ in our lives and message.

□ — Page is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Taylors, S.C.

Let us be an authentic, relevant people who share the good news of Christ without compromising the truth.

Him. Truthing in love is what we are called to do. The need could not be greater!

Our world desperately needs to see authenticity and relevancy. Baby boomers, busters, and bridgers are neither denominationally nor institutionally loyal by nature.

BC leader cites positive role models for Christian ...

— Continued from page 1

Their daughter Lynn, my first wife, only later in her life knew how her parents protected the children from the daily stresses directed upon a Baptist denominational leader. The Sullivans, Jimmy and Alma, bore witness to their devotion to each other. They took time to know each other's needs and made marriage a healthy mutual blessing.

The children caught from their parents an unconditional love grounded in obedience to Christ and concern for the genuine welfare of each other. As a son-in-law, I saw for over 25 years a couple who really loved each other and enjoyed living each other.

James M. Porch Jr. and Martha Lynn Sullivan

As seniors in college, we dated six full weeks before deciding to marry. Our backgrounds, culture exposure, and growing up lifestyle lent little to the potential of harmony in marriage. However, God gave us sense enough to respect and honor each other's uniqueness in order to become one. Vocational governed much of our life as each of us never owed the other to just have "a job." As I recall, we lifted dependency into a good meaning, and yet blessed each other's decisions, sometimes when they were a bit short of consensus.

We believed and bore witness to equality in marriage. Our personalities demanded a relationship. Yet in a parallel fashion to mutual respect, we intentionally injected grace into our

covenant, the essential ingredient for intimacy. We lived hoping our children understood our closeness. Following their mother's death, I have discovered they understood the quality of our relationship better than we even knew ourselves.

We pursued joint decisions in our marriage. One though, ultimately tested our maturity. By October 1999, Lynn's cancer had exhausted her both physically and emotionally. Still her gracious spirit and resilient will prevailed as she struggled to live out the course of her God-given life. Ultimately, she asked me to honor her decision, her choice the answer to her prayer to turn loose of days of tortuous pain for the joys and healing of Heaven. I loved her enough to honor that decision. In her death, I entered the lostness that would only begin to change through being joined to another strong and very alive lady.

Kelly's parents

Kelly, an only child, responded to the maladies of age and illness and provided extended loving care to her parents. I know them only through her life and therefore, this couple of the Cumberland Plateau assuredly bequeathed to their only daughter genuine life values accentuated by a healthy work ethic.

James M. Porch Jr. and Kelly Louise Thompson

The old adage "like father, like son" kicked in again on December 15, 2001 as Kelly and I, in the presence of immediate family and the extended

TBC family, pledged our lives to each other. Our age difference greatly resembled that of my parents and her parents. Relationships often begin with the assistance of well-meaning folks. Paul Durham's urgency that I call Kelly and ask "could I call you sometime" started our courtship. He and Nadene met and wed as teens and shared 50 years as husband and wife. Their longevity continues to encourage us and assuredly bears an example to marriage for their four boys. Even as our relationship continued, I prayed and struggled with the age difference. A dear friend, Dr. J. Ralph McIntyre, sensing my wonder posed a reasonable choice, "James, you must decide whether you want to smell liniment or perfume." This no-choice matter enhanced my growing love and belief of a new beginning with a beautiful lady.

Kelly and I laugh a lot. Our menagerie of four dogs and two cats offer numerous occasions of amusement, as well as other things. More and more we savor each hour at Rehoboth, our home-place, an abode of 5 acres always in need of improvement or repair. Each of us brought a combination of differences and similarities to the marriage. She began life as I prepared for final exams my senior year in college. Each grew up in a home environment dominated by care for life needs that rarely surrendered to mere satisfaction of wants.

I'm prone to over analyze an event, issue, or even a relationship while she accepts the

same at face value and savors the situation. I expect meat at each meal, but I married a highly possible vegetarian.

Each of us teaches a senior adult Sunday School class at Radnor Baptist Church. Saturday nights often spark theological debates characterized by candor and the affirmation of marital recognition of the priesthood of the believers.

Now, nearly five years into our marriage, each still discovers the other's quirks, ideologies, as well as big blessings in an active marriage. I'm thankful for a wife who allows me to be me. She knows I honor her God-given right to be just herself. Such respect affords us a daily foundation to grow in oneness, cognizant that the real blending of a man and a woman comes through the presence of the Living Christ.

We welcome our years ahead to experiencing growing closeness while focusing on God's expectation that becoming one is a process meriting intentional effort, always in His abiding presence. Mimi, her grandchildren's name for her, and I met in a surprise moment. Such a beginning sensitizes us to expect good surprises ahead.

All of this has been a sampling of the windows into my life that offer testimony to one conclusion — God intends for one man and one woman to be wedded! That's all I've got to say. Actually, more important — that's what God said.

Please vote yes for the Tennessee Marriage Amendment on Nov. 7. □

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Vote 'yes' on Nov. 7

Next week (Nov. 7) voters across Tennessee will head to the polls to vote for candidates of their choice. Voters also will have an opportunity to change the state constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman.

It is my prayer that voters will take this issue seriously and will vote yes on "Constitution Amendment #1."

As the election draws nearer I am becoming increasingly aware that not all Christians are in favor of this amendment.

I received an e-mail last week from a Baptist who is adamant in his opposition to the amendment. Lack of space in this issue prohibited letters this week, so I refer to his letter in this column.

He contends that state government has no right to regulate religious marriages and that the church has no right in "messing with civil marriage."

The writer also argues that it is "discrimination" to not allow a man to marry a man or a woman to marry a woman.

First, let's be perfectly clear. The church is not defining anything. The "church" has no vote in this election. People vote.

Christians, however, can have a major impact on this vote and they should. Do they have a "right" to do so? Of course. As voters they are entitled to vote their convictions. As Christian voters, they not only have the right to do so, they have a responsibility to do so.

And to clarify further, this is not a Christian versus non-Christian issue. There will be many people who vote for this amendment who never attend church or claim to be Christians. On the other hand, it is evident there will be Christians who vote against the amendment.

The issue is simply this. Without even getting into the homosexuality or discrimination debates, God intended marriage to be a union between one man and one woman. Scripture is clear and adamant on this issue (just as it is on homosexuality). How can Christians vote for anything contrary to God's will and His law?

It is so sad that we live in a day when this even has to come to a vote. That in itself has shown how far our nation has drifted from God.

At least in our state, Christians can have a voice in establishing a legal marriage as the union between one man and one woman. Please vote. We cannot afford to "drop the ball" on this issue. God will be our ultimate judge. □

Evangelism
Discipleship
Worship
Missions
Ministry
Fellowship
Prayer

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Fellowship Matters

Your state missionary staff wants to help your church discover what it means to practice fellowship as Christ intended for His body of believers.

For Fellowship ideas and resources, contact the following members of your state missionary staff.

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Andrea Knight,

Childhood Missions Education (615) 371-7919

Vicki Hulsey, Childhood Ministry (615) 371-2081

Youth

Bruce Edwards, Youth Ministry (615) 371-2094

Kent Shingleton, Youth Evangelism (615) 371-2077

Nancy Hamilton,

Youth Camp/Retreat (615) 371-2085

Adult

Mark Miller,

State Sunday School Director (615) 371-2048

Family

Tony Rankin, Family Ministry (615) 371-8136

you're invited!

Tuesday, Nov. 14th

What: FREE Barbecue Dinner and Celebration of Churches

Where: West Foyer, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

Who: Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting
Messengers

When: Barbecue 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.

Church Fellowship Is More Than Potluck

By Bruce Edwards

As I think of the church function of "fellowship," I am reminded of a story.

A second grade teacher gave an assignment to her class for the students to bring an item from home that represented their religious background. She wanted to teach the kids about the diversity in the world about worshipping God.

At the class show and tell time, they began to share what their particular item meant to their faith. A Catholic child brought some rosary beads and shared with the class how they used the beads in prayer. There was a Native American child who brought a dreamcatcher. He told the class how to place dreamcatchers above their head to capture their dreams that they had in the night. The dreamcatcher would filter out the bad ones and hold only the good dreams in their memory. A Jewish child brought a candle and how it was used to celebrate Hanukkah.

The last child to share was a Baptist

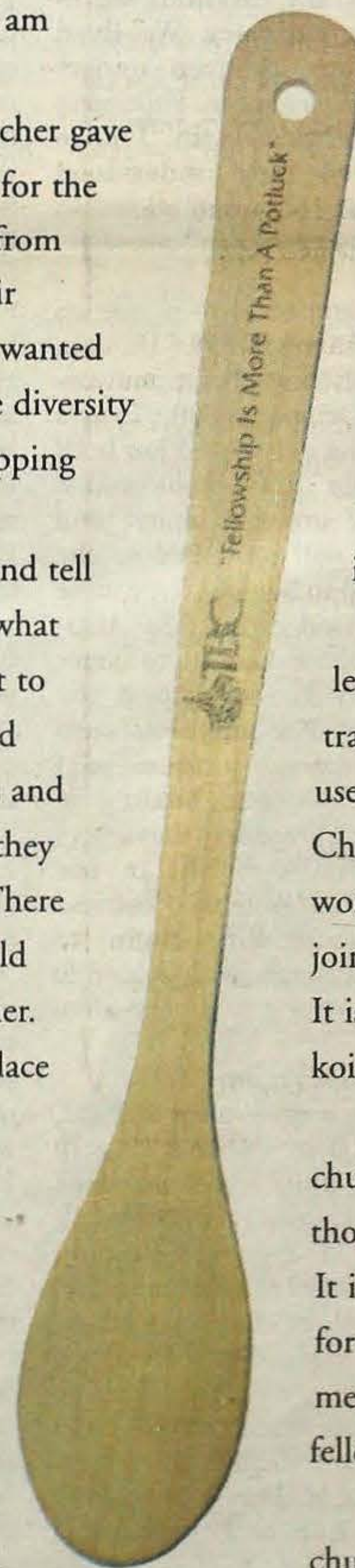
kid! He had a bag and pulled some food out of it. He said, "I'm Southern Baptist, and I brought a chicken casserole."

We laugh at this story, but this misconception is out there. When we think about fellowship, we think of an event which usually includes food, because we are Baptists. To think of fellowship as just an event is to miss the true nature of what fellowship really is.

In the New Testament, there are at least three different Greek words that are translated fellowship in English. The word used most often, a word which many Christians are familiar, is *koinonia*. The word *koinonia* means sharing in common, joint participation, and even communion. It is derived from another Greek word, *koinos*, which at its root means common.

The body of Christ in each local church needs to fellowship and "to share those things they have in common: Jesus!" It is amazing how much time we schedule for worship, Bible study, committee meetings, and how little we allow for fellowship and relationship building.

Improving the fellowship in your church will take time, skill, and patience. Why don't you start right now and plan a special time with your church family as you enjoy each other?



Creative Ideas for Fellowship

Nancy Milton

Spring Fellowship Ideas

Back-in for the Adults - How about a night filled with board games, bowling, roller skating, and worship? Try a 9 p.m.-6 a.m. schedule. End your night or morning with donuts and coffee.

Church Play Day - Schedule a Spring Saturday Church Play Day. Encourage church members and families to meet at a local park, bring some Frisbees, organize some group games, and grill some burgers. It's sure to be a day of fun.

Summer Fellowship Ideas

Neighborhood Grill Out - Organize a neighborhood-wide block party by inviting folks to bring their grills to their front yards and enjoy hours of conversation and fun.

Adult Sunday Nights - Instead of a "traditional" church fellowship experience inside during the summer months, consider various age groups of the church family such as senior adults, students, singles to lead the entire church one Sunday night a month in various activities for the Sunday night worship time. A talent show, concert, or watermelon eating contest could begin the wonderful relationship building time.

Men's Fellowship Ideas

Food Scavenger Hunt - Now is the time when many church ministries in your area are in need of non-perishable food goods to be used in the upcoming holiday seasons. Organize hunts by age group, family, or neighborhoods. Each group receives several bags to fill within a specific time frame. The group who fills the most, or whose bags are the heaviest wins a prize.

Chili Cook-Off - This fellowship idea could serve as a Sunday afternoon or Sunday evening event. Encourage men from various age groups within the church to provide chili for this event. Prizes for best, hottest, most likely to get indigestion, etc.

Winter Fellowship Ideas

Christmas Dinner - Enlist families from your church to host the appetizer, main entrée, and dessert course. Encourage students to invite their friends. Play trivia games at the table about that specific family and share interesting facts about each person in that family.

Neighborhood Christmas Carnival - Involve every age group and family from the church to host a Christmas carnival for the community. Sunday School classes, women's groups, Bible study groups can provide a booth area of some kind of children's games and crafts that center around Christmas. Publicize the carnival in the newspaper, through e-mail, and local schools.

Coming Up! Coming Up!

- 8-11 Preschool/Children's Fall Getaway, Baptist Center, Brentwood
- 12 Tennessee Men's Chorale Concert, First Baptist Church, Huntingdon
- 13 Missions Extravaganza, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova
- 13 Tennessee Baptist Pastors Conference, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova
- 13 Tennessee Men's Chorale & Tennessee Ladies Chorus Rehearsal & Dinner, First Baptist Church, Collierville
- 14-15 Tennessee Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova

For more information see the TBC web site at www.tnbaptist.org.

8 Steps to Become a Family Friendly Church

By Vicki Hulsey



1. Give high priority to preschool, children, and youth ministry in your church budget. This includes:
 - Curriculum
 - Age-appropriate space and furnishings that are inviting and clean
 - Resources
 - Age-group staffing
2. Develop appropriate ministry teams or committees to establish policies and guidelines for all activities involving preschoolers, children, and youth.
3. Determine the most effective ways to communicate policies, guidelines, and ministry information to parents and the total church family.
4. Enlist and equip qualified volunteers to understand the needs of each age-group and to commit to regularly plan, prepare, and teach.
5. Provide attractive signage for ease in locating classrooms.
6. Designate parking near appropriate entrances for expectant parents, parents of infants, parents with more than one child, single parents, senior adults, and handicapped.
7. Involve families in worship services through:
 - Greeting
 - Distributing worship guides
 - Taking offering
 - Reading Scripture
 - Making announcements
8. Affirm and assist parents as they include preschoolers and children in corporate worship by providing:
 - Children's worship bulletins
 - Small bag of quiet activities including a Bible, crayons, drawing paper, and stickers

Guidelines for Fantastic Family Fun Nights

By Vicki Hulsey

Churches need to discover ways to reconnect families by helping them to grow closer together and closer to God. One way to do that is by offering family-friendly events in which family members learn, worship, serve, and laugh together.

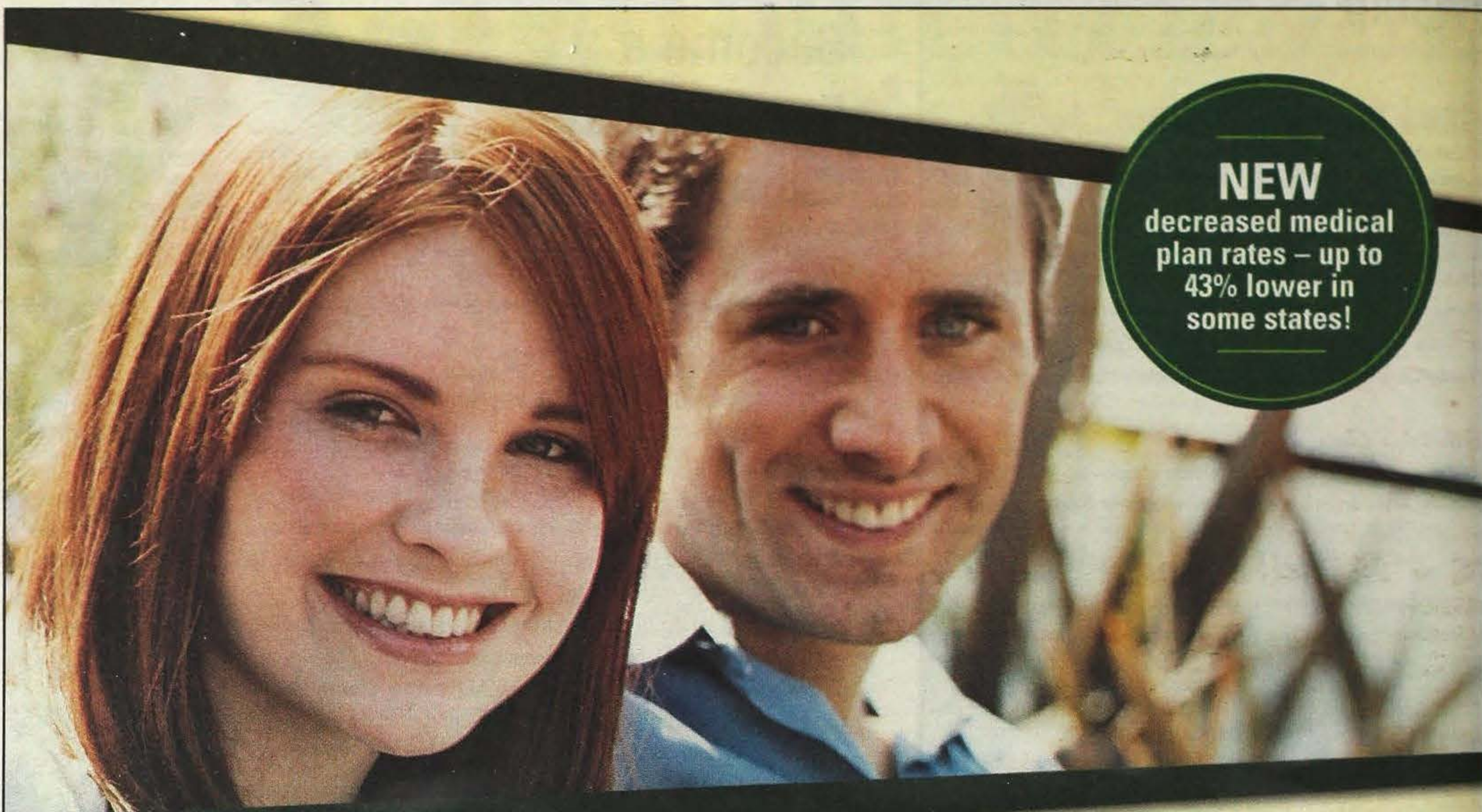
Let's look at some guidelines for fantastic family fun nights.

1. Be intentional. Decide on a purpose and stick to it.
2. Place dates on the church calendar. Choose the same night of the month, i.e. First Friday, Fifth Sunday. Having a consistent time helps families avoid allowing other activities to creep in.
3. Choose a theme. Choose a theme that allows families to participate together.

Theme Ideas for Family Fun Nights

Bonfire/Hayride	Cookie Decorating	Game Night
Indoor Picnic	Tailgate Party	Indoor Scavenger Hunt
Indoor Hide-and-Seek	Fast Food Progressive Dinner	Craft Night
Crazy Olympics	Drama Night	Winter Beach Party

4. Budget wisely. Plan activities that can be done for less than five dollars per family, or better yet, free.
5. Spread the fun. Allow families to lead families by recruiting families to take the lead in planning a Family Fun Night.
6. Include all families. Make room for all types of families including singles, empty nesters, and senior adults.
7. Be creative. Be creative with your theme and your budget. Excellent resources are available from LifeWay Church Resources.
8. Communicate, communicate, communicate. Communicate your purpose, theme, date, and time.
9. Plan a family devotional. Provide learning activities to help family members read and talk about God's Word together.
10. Evaluate. Use evaluation tools with families and those responsible for planning the event.



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Digging wells paved way for gospel in Burkina Faso

By Jesse Lyautey
Staff Press

BURKINA FASO, West Africa — After a long day of digging, just the promise of drinking water from the old, hand-cranked well was worth the effort. Atisha Reeves, of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Knoxville, turned the wheel and out came cool, clean water from more than 100 feet below the ground. The water came flowing out onto the ground.

International Mission Board missionary Phillip Lyons touched at the faucet and drank to drink and wash his face. One by one, other members

of the group from Tennessee followed his lead.

This was one of more than 100 wells, almost all of them still in use, dug by Tennessee Baptists in a partnership that started 25 years ago with IMB missionaries to provide water to the people of Sanwabo, Burkina Faso in Africa. During those years they also built three "bar-rages," or dams.

Because of the partnership, more than 70 churches have been built in the area surrounding Sanwabo. This area now has the highest population of Baptists in all of Burkina Faso.

"I am encouraged by the progress made in previous ministry efforts," said Rhonda

Mayo of First Baptist Church in Greenbrier. "I am challenged by what still remains to be done."

"The goal ... in digging wells is that God would plant a church on every site where a well was dug," said Willie McLaurin, leadership specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "Our assignment for Sanwabo was to revisit the mission field to let our brothers in Africa know that we are still supporting them through prayer."

"We also had a goal of providing encouragement to the pastors, churches, and association of Sanwabo and surrounding areas."

Reeves, who is the missions

coordinator for her church, said she is looking to engage the congregation to work globally in missions.

"I now have an understanding and heartfelt need to make disciples of all nations," Reeves said. "I saw the fruit of that from 25 years ago. I saw the challenge of today and the hope for work in the future for tomorrow."

More than 15 pastors from the Sanwabo area's Baptist association met with the group to discuss the work they are continuing to do to reach their people for Christ.

The pastors also shared the many challenges they face, but they continue to labor to reach their people and have even sent

out a missionary to start a church with another people group.

"This trip gave the local pastors of [the] Sanwabo area the opportunity to hear that Tennessee Baptists had not forgotten them; that these Burkina Faso Baptists were still in their prayers; and that Tennessee Baptists would continue to remember them and pray for them," Lyons said.

Reeves is determined to return.

"We were there for a reason and we all walked away knowing that God desires to use the experience," Reeves said. "We are sharing and praying with our churches now." □

NJC - Middle Tennessee receives national recognition, gift

By Dawn Ferguson
Staff and Reflector

NASHVILLE — Christian Men's Job Corps, based here, the recipient of the 2006 Samaritan Award.

The recognition from the Acton Institute, an organization based in Grand Rapids, Mich.,

included a check for \$10,000. The award was presented during the recent 2006 volunteer recognition and reception for CWJC at Forest Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

Knox County CWJC was also one of the 10 national finalists for the Samaritan Award and Eva Pierce, executive director,

was in attendance representing that organization.

"I get so excited about what you're doing," said Karen Woods, director of effective compassion initiatives for the Acton Institute, in presenting the award.

"Check writing is easy. You write your check and go about your business. It's hard to take time out and learn about other people. It's especially difficult in our culture to reach out to someone who is different and to say we are all created in God's image and you have value."

Woods stated that Acton focuses on privately funded charities that serve individuals in the community — especially those that focus on building relationships like CWJC.

In accepting the award,

Rebekah Sumrall, CWJC director, stated that it would be used to help the organization establish two satellite sites — one in Madison and one

in Williamson County.

Those in attendance at the ceremony also heard a testimony from CWJC participant Geraldine Planter. □



KAREN WOODS, right, director of effective compassion initiatives of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Society in Grand Rapids, Mich., presented a check for \$10,000 and the 2006 Samaritan Award to CWJC director **Rebekah Sumrall**, left, and board chair **Nancy Becker**. — Photo by Linda Lawson

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N.J. court orders legislature to change state law

Baptist Press

TRENTON, N.J. — In a decision that will fully please neither side, the New Jersey Supreme Court Oct. 25 refused to legalize "gay marriage" but ordered the legislature to amend state law to give homosexual couples the legal benefits of marriage.

Such a law, the court said, could include either civil unions — which are legal in Connecticut and Vermont — or "gay marriage." The court gave the legislature six months to change the law.

Nevertheless, it was a major defeat for homosexual activists, who were optimistic the court would do what Massachusetts' court did and order "gay marriage" legalized. Now, they must lobby the legislature, which is controlled by Democrats.

The New Jersey court split 4-3, with the three justices in the

minority arguing that "gay marriage" should be legalized with no option for civil unions. In her final opinion before retirement, Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz wrote the dissenting opinion, which was signed by two other justices.

New Jersey already had a domestic partner law that gave homosexual couples some of the legal benefits of marriage. The new law, though, must grant them all the benefits. The ruling likely is a boost to supporters of constitutional marriage amendments, particularly those that ban both "gay marriage" and civil unions. Eight states, including Tennessee, are scheduled to vote on marriage amendments Election Day.

It is the third state supreme court this year to refuse to legalize "gay marriage," joining New York and Washington state. Conservatives note that all three courts are considered liberal. □

NBC cuts offensive scene from concert

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Following pressure from Christian groups accusing NBC of a double standard, NBC has decided to cut the crucifixion scene from a November broadcast of a concert from Madonna's "Confessions" tour, according to the Associated Press in an article also picked up by *Billboard* magazine Oct. 20.

NBC did not say why they decided to cut the scene, but a spokesperson said they will use images from other cameras while Madonna is mounted on a mirrored cross during the first part of the song "Live to Tell," AP reported. The network only said in a statement that the song has been revised for the broadcast special.

Several Christian groups had threatened to boycott one of the concert's sponsors if the cross

scene aired on NBC, especially in light of the network's decision to censor biblical messages from its Saturday morning broadcasts of the popular Christian-themed children's cartoon "VeggieTales."

"NBC did the right thing, but the fact that it did not say why the offensive part of Madonna's concert was cut shows cowardice," Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League, said in an Oct. 19 news release. "What NBC should have done is to admit that since it refused to air the Danish cartoons that Muslims objected to earlier this year, it felt obliged not to treat Christians in a discriminatory manner."

Don Wildmon, president of the American Family Association,

said more than 100 AFA supporters e-mailed asking for the crucifixion to be deleted from the special, and others called local NBC stations to complain.

"Those stations called NBC and the network lied," Wildmon said Oct. 19 in a mail to supporters. "The game!" □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Ford, Tenn., is seeking a pastor. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, Mr. Larry Belew, 113 W. Cove, Rutherford, TN 38073.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., is seeking a bivocational minister of music. The position requires the music for Sunday morning and evening worship services and Wednesday evening meeting and an adult choir. Please send resumes to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Music Committee, 2200 Midway, Knoxville, TN 37914 or church office at (865) 937-7373 for information.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Indian Springs Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time children's minister or part-time preschool minister. Submit resumes to ISB Hill Road, Kingsport, TN 37629.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

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MINISTRY — OTHER

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., is seeking full-time church financial secretary/accountant. Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, 4930 Nolensville Rd., Nashville, TN 37211.

Mississippi Pastor to Host

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d any good labels lately?

ara Quintana

If you're trying to plan healthy meals and snacks for you and your family, you already have all the information you need. Since 1994, the Food and Drug Administration has required "nutrition facts" labels to be on most food packaging.

At first glance the label might look confusing, but it is a valuable resource when trying to make healthy food choices. Labels tell us the:

• Serving size and servings per container.

• It's important to know exactly what "one serving" is. All other information is based on it. For example, you might think a pre-packaged muffin would be one serving if the label lists the serving size as half a muffin, but 100 calories per serving you'd be eating a whopping 200 calories if you ate a whole muffin.

• Nutrients.

Nutrition facts labels list certain key nutrients that have an effect on your health. They are separated into two groups: those you should limit and those you should get enough of. Americans generally get enough or too much fat, cholesterol, sugar, and sodium, so you should try to limit the amount you get in a particular food. Since we generally don't get enough fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, or potassium, you should choose foods higher in these.

• Percentage of daily value.

• The number tells you how much of a specific nutrient you get from eating one serving. You can use the numbers to determine if a food has a little or a lot of the nutrients. Here's a quick rule of thumb:

• If a food has 5 percent or less of a nutrient, it is low in that nutrient. If it has 10 to 19 percent of it, it is a good source of the nutrient. And, if it has 20 percent or more of the nutrient, it is high in the nutrient. When you choose a food that is high in nutrients you should limit (such as fat or sodium), balance that by choosing other foods that day that are low in these nutrients.

• Use nutrition facts labels to:

• Control your portion sizes.

• Limit fats, cholesterol, sugar, and sodium.

• Choose foods higher in fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, and iron.

• Make healthier food choices.

• Compare similar foods.

Labels may seem complicated at first, but with a little practice you'll be able to see quickly how to make good nutrition choices for yourself and your family from the nutrition information right at your fingertips. □ — Quintana is a graduate of the Saint's Episcopal Hospital School of Vocational Nursing and is the director of the employee wellness program for the Stone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

a way with words

senior citizen

gh X. Lewis

As so much wisdom gone for good; as the further the faster. Empty space where they once stood, drive them out to pasture.

Things just can't be replaced. Computer chips and youth. The generation can't be erased, time will tell the truth.

Citizens are our greatest wealth. We pledge they leave behind. It's not restore their physical health. We can recycle their mind. □

Copyright by Hugh X. Lewis. Lewis, a Baptist layman, is the creator 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.

Live in relationship, not rebellion

By Craig Christina

Focal Passage: Isaiah 1:2-4, 10-20

As human beings, we are all rebels. It begins at the age of two years old and continues throughout life. At two, we begin to assert our independence by dissociating ourselves from our parents. We learn that we have a will. We comprehend that we can say, "No."

We also begin to understand that rules are made to be broken. When mommy says, "Don't eat the cookies," we can still pull the chair over to the counter and eat as many cookies as our tummies will hold so long as mommy doesn't catch us. So the goal in life naturally devolves into doing what I want to do even if that means breaking the rules.

This same concept applies to our relationship with God. God loves us and wants to have an eternal love relationship with Him. Yet, we can (and do) tell Him, "No." We don't want to follow His rules. We would rather do our own thing. That is rebellion.

As God confronts the rebellion of the people of Judah, He reveals to us three ways to restore our broken relationship with Him.

Recognize the predicament (vv. 2-4). God uses a very simple analogy to illustrate a very serious principle: everyone has a master. "The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's feeding trough, [but] Israel does not know" (v. 3). Whether or not we want a master is not the issue. Being our own master doesn't really matter.

We are the created, not the Creator. We are here to serve God's purposes at God's pleasure. The Lord has given us life, and He can take it away at any moment. So we must recognize the predicament caused by our rebellion.

We have "rebelled against [God]" (v. 2), "abandoned the Lord" (v. 4), and "despised the Holy One" (v. 4). Restoring our broken relationship with God is more than walking an aisle, being dunked in water, or praying a half-hearted prayer. We must first understand that we have hurt the Master who desires to lavish His love on us.

Restore the passion (vv. 10-15). God was sick and tired of watching His people go through the motions of worship. It didn't matter how many animals they slaughtered on the altar or hymns they sung, the people were not repentant. They were not turning away from their sin and allowing God to use them to reach the nations. They were focused on repetition instead of relationship.

Have you ever heard the expression, "That church is dead as a door nail?" They are usually talking about their worship. The type of song is not the issue. The heart of worship relates to the way the song is sung. Do we offer passionate praise or petrified piety? Too many worship services resemble funeral services. Who died? I thought we were gathering to celebrate that Jesus is alive!

Whether you sing hymns or praise choruses, sing passionately to

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God. Give offerings joyfully with glad and sincere hearts. Come to church to serve and encourage rather than to be served and to discourage. Restore your passion, and God will refresh your relationship with Him.

Renew the person (vv. 16-20). To be forgiven for our rebellion and live in a right relationship with God, we must be purified. God wanted the people of Judah to repent. Instead, they were pretending to honor God while continuing to live in sin.

The only way to be renewed is to turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus Christ as Lord. Believe He died on the cross in your place for your sin, and that He rose the third day and is alive. Ask Jesus to be your Master by giving Him control of your life, your family, your finances, your all.

We all rebel. But we are not given life primarily to follow the rules. We are given abundant life when we live in a right relationship with our Master. Then, we will want to obey Him and follow Him because we love Him. □ — Christina is pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson



CHRISTINA

Exercise confidence

By Bob Orgeron

Focal Passage: Hebrews 10:29-39

In the opening of the commentary for this week's lesson Kendal Easley writes, "just over 489 years ago this Oct. 31, 1517, an unknown teacher of theology acted boldly because of the confidence he had reached in his relationship with Christ."

This week the Bible student is called upon to "Exercise Confidence." Each of us like Peter, John, and Luther have working in and through us that One who was working in them. I pray that we as they will confidently reveal to others that "... we have been with Jesus."

Boldness in Christ (vv. 19-25). The first division of our study asserts the believer's confidence and how the believers came to possess it. We are able to confidently approach God into the inner most holy place. As one reads verses 19 through 21 one is confronted with the position of the believer, the confidence of the believer, as well as a rationale for such confidence and position.

Verse 22 exhorts "Let us, draw near to God. Let us pray with a sincere heart, with a full assurance of faith, having a heart sprinkled clean, having a guilt free conscience, having our bodies washed with pure water." Since we have open access to the most holy place "let us continue to enter into His presence with a right heart," on a daily basis.

Verse 23, says "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess for He who promised is faithful."

Punishment for sin (vv. 26-31).

This second section is the third warning passage in the epistle to the Hebrews. The writer is warning his readers regarding "sin." He is either warning believers about the danger of missed blessings and missed heavenly rewards, or he is challenging those who do not yet know Christ to trust Him before it is too late.

There are important observations in this passage.

Verses 28 and 29 present a hypothetical comparison: Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses dies without mercy based on the testimony of two or three witnesses. The question is asked in verse 29 in contrast, How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has:

(1) trampled the Son of God under foot, (2) treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and (3) insulted the Spirit of grace? This is indeed a severe sin with severe consequences.

Notice the end of verse 29, "insulted the Spirit of grace." If the first two parts of this verse were not bad enough one commentary suggested that this phrase adds "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit," to the charge. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 12:31-32, that this sin would not be forgiven in this age or in eternity.



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In verse 30 we read that, "God will avenge this sin in His time." The writer ends the section on a somber note. "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Confidence from the past (vv. 32-39). In this final section, the writer outlines the mistreatment the believers had endured up until this point. We know from Hebrews 12:4, that none of their number had suffered martyrdom up to this point. However the passage clearly points out five areas they had suffered together.

The writer encourages his readers "not to throw away their confidence," reminding them that such confidence "will be rightly rewarded." He challenges them in verse 36 "to persevere."

He gives them the purpose for their perseverance, "... so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised" and "For in just a short time, He who is coming will come and will not delay."

Be bold, exercise confidence, draw near to God, hold firm to your profession, encourage one another, stay in church, continue to stand your ground, shoulder to shoulder, keeping the faith. □ — Orgeron is pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville.

Leaders

◆ **Charles W. Kelley** recently was honored on his 39th anniversary as pastor of Clymersville Baptist Church, Rockwood. The church held Preacher Kelley Day, also recognizing his 80th birthday and 57



KELLEY

years of ministry. Mayor of Rockwood, Mike Miller was present and presented him a certificate of appreciation. Kelley also has served three other churches as pastor, all of them in Big Emory Baptist Association, Harriman.

Churches

◆ **Riva Lake Baptist Church, Winchester**, will host a Crusade for Christ Nov. 12-15. Braxton Hunter, an evangelist of Jacksonville, Fla., will speak. He previously served as senior pastor for Cornerstone Baptist Church, McMinnville. For information, contact Larry R. Sanders, pastor of Riva Lake Baptist, at (931) 967-0194.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Oliver Springs**, will host Cele-



TODD DELANEY, left, pastor, Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Ripley, receives a certificate from Ray Jones, director of missions, Big Hatchie Baptist Association, Covington, at the 25th anniversary celebration of the church held recently.



ELECTED AS OFFICERS of Cumberland Gap Baptist Association, Harrogate, during its Oct. 21 annual meeting were, from left, first row, Mike Alexander, pastor, Tazewell Baptist Church, assistant moderator; M. C. McCarter, Gap Creek Baptist Church, assistant treasurer; Bonnie Manning, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, assistant clerk; Bob Lloyd, Gap Creek Baptist, clerk; back row, Clayton Dunsmore, director of missions; Robert H. Owens, former pastor, Haynes Flat Baptist Church, moderator; and Robert Ziegler, First Baptist Church, Harrogate, treasurer.

bration Camp Meeting 2006 nightly Nov. 12-15. Ronnie Owens will speak. For information, call Jill Jenkins at (865) 435-2946.

◆ **El Bethel Baptist Church, Shelbyville**, will host a Nov. 5-8 revival. Alan Payne of Forrest City, Ark., will speak. Stephen Flippo will present the music along with "Two His Glory," a musical group. For information, contact Evelyn Friedman at (931) 684-0691.

◆ Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief chain saw teams responded to Amherst Baptist Church, Amherst, N.Y. to help local homeowners recover from recent severe snow storms. A team from **First Baptist Church, Kingston**, served Oct. 23-Oct. 28. A combined team from **First Baptist Church, Jackson**, and **Beech River Baptist Association**, Lexington, served Oct. 28 - Nov. 3.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Tullahoma**, will present "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" Nov. 5-7. For information, contact the church at (931) 455-5461.

◆ **Meridian Baptist**

Church, Knoxville, held a Fall Harvest Festival and Mission Fair Oct. 29. The festival featured the fall mission projects for the month of October of Sunday School departments and classes.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Knoxville**, held a multi-church service day Oct. 28 called "Operation Inasmuch" which included several community projects. Some of the projects were: construction on Samaritan Place, a Catholic Charities emergency shelter service; construction on the building of Tribe One, an African American anti-gang mentoring service; and home repairs for Operation Backyard, a free service for low income homeowners.

Schools

◆ The 2009 10th national gathering of United Methodist Men will be held July 9-12 at **Belmont University**, Nashville. The decision to hold the quadrennial event in Nashville will end a 56-year tradition of meeting at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. It is expected to draw 5,000 men. "We are



BRANDON WOLLETT, center, a sergeant in the U.S. Army, a flag from Paul H. Eaves, pastor, Northeast Baptist Church, Clarksville, during a recent worship service as his wife, Val, children watch. Eaves is Plans and Operations Officer at Fort Bell, a civilian role. The church is honoring each soldier, sailor, and marine who is attending the church. They are released after their deployment. The church is located near Fort Clark. To date, the church has presented nine flags.

excited to welcome the United Methodist Men to the Belmont campus," Belmont president Bob Fisher said. "Their rich tradition of faith, fellowship, and community fits perfectly at Belmont, which has been the site of higher education since 1890. Anytime we can welcome esteemed groups to campus with values similar to Belmont's, we are honored to do so."

Events

◆ **The West Tennessee Pastors' Conference** will meet at Union University, Jackson, on Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. Harold Hunter, president of Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Ind., will speak. The wives will meet separately. Lunch is included. For more information, contact Charles Pratt, president of the conference, at (731) 749-5780 or cpmpratt@juno.com.



ALBERT GADDIS, recognized by Tim Mullins, pastor, Grace Church, Tullahoma, for 15 years of perfect Sunday School attendance. He was unable to travel to church, his SS class at his home or the church. The church gave him a 50-year pin and a media presentation to him.



STANLEY MULLINS, right, receives a plaque from Tom Mullins, pastor, Oak Hill Baptist Church, Fayetteville, on his retirement from the role of minister of music. He served in the role for 45 years. Nancy, looks on. Mullins also received the Bible he held honored on Oct. 22.

First, Lexington, benefits from harvest emphasis

For Baptist and Reflector

LEXINGTON — First Baptist Church, Lexington, recently completed a four-week emphasis here on "The Harvest," which raised Sunday School attendance and with pledges will retire almost 60 percent of its debt, according to pastor Michael Adams.

"We had a three point harvest emphasis that the church put together," said Adams. "We centered on Sunday School growth, church outreach, and monetary pledges to retire the debt."

"We used our church leadership to pull together the emphasis including the Sunday School teachers and the church stewardship commit-

tee," he explained. Each Sunday School class set an attendance goal for the emphasis, a picnic fellowship was held on the new property which adjoins the church, and the sermons featured harvest references in the Bible.

Last year the church averaged 660 in Sunday School. During the harvest emphasis the average Sunday School attendance rose to 673.

This was over 50 percent of resident members in attendance in Sunday School, added Adams, and it continued during the emphasis.

The new property which actually doubles the church campus to two acres is significant for the downtown church, which plans to build

a family life center. Besides the \$350,000 property debt being reduced by over \$201,300 raised in pledges, the church witnessed "a singular kind of high point for the church with the pledging," said Adams.

In addition to the Sunday School outreach, the church had around 40 for each Monday night visitation during the emphasis.

The church also was ranked in the top 50 Tennessee Baptist churches in two categories measuring giving to the Cooperative Program for 2004-2005 reported in the *Baptist and Reflector*. It ranked 23rd in state per capital giving to CP and 24th in the state in total dollars given to the CP. □