

Baptist & Reflector

Wide Edition

Telling the Story of Tennessee Baptists

Vol. 172 / No. 44; Nov. 29, 2006

People of W. Africa need encounter with Jesus: missionaries

Editor's Note: West Africa is the focus of the 2006 Week of Prayer for International Missions to be Dec. 3-10 in churches across Tennessee and around the South Baptist Convention. This story describes work in Burkina Faso, a country, which in 1980 was then known as Upper Volta. This was the first country that partnered with the Tennessee Baptist Convention to share the good news of Jesus Christ overseas. Be in prayer for the work of our South Baptist missionaries, not only in Burkina Faso, but around the world.

Shawn Hendricks
news office

BURKINA FASO, West Africa — Southern Baptist missionaries David and Tami Wood traveled down a deserted dirt road somewhere in the southern corner of Burkina Faso. They can see from their truck hills and high grass. With a map and Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment in hand, they're searching for the Senufo people group. At now, any signs of life would be good. In this part of Africa, a good sense of direction and four-wheel drive are needed only so far. But with a different language and culture around nearly every hut, there is one thing that

links most of the people they encounter — a need for faith in Jesus Christ.

"(Some groups) live every day in fear of spirits and forces that are beyond their control," says David Wood, who has served with his wife in West Africa for more than 12 years. "They sacrifice chickens and goats, and they (waste) the little bit of money they've got ... on charlatans."

31 different people groups

As members of the "engagement team," the Woods are researching 81 different people groups throughout Burkina Faso and several other West African countries. They, and other Southern Baptist missionaries in West Africa, determine which ones have the greatest need for evangelical work. The plan is for Baptist churches in the United States to adopt groups with populations less than 100,000 and take the gospel to them.

On this journey, the Woods compile every scrap of information they can about the Senufo to determine if they already have an evangelical presence in the area. Of all 81 peoples the Woods are studying, five of them fall under the Senufo grouping.

The Senufo divide into 15 smaller groups that scatter across Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, and Mali. Five of the smaller groups are found in Burkina Faso alone.



That all peoples may know Him

**Week of Prayer
for International Missions and
International Mission Study**

Dec. 3-10, 2006

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$150 million

Some of these Senufo groups have significant evangelical work among them. Others have no pastors, no churches, no believers, and no Bibles in their language. Most of them also vary in language, history, and culture, making a cohesive approach unlikely.

"Saying you are Senufo is like saying you are from America," says Wood. "You go from one extreme to the other. ... The same thing holds for all the people groups — all thousand plus in West Africa."

Group with greatest need

One of the Senufo groups in Burkina Faso with the greatest need for the gospel is the Western Karaboro — a people of about 16,000.

— See People, page 3



SOUTHERN BAPTIST missionaries David and Tami Wood stop to talk with a group of Senufo children on the outskirts of a village in Burkina Faso. — IMB photo

Living Life's Challenges

Hornsby congregation cares for pastor, family during long illness

Donnie Wilkey
Reflector

HORNSBY — In May of 2005, West was a robust, 203-pound pastor ministering to his

congregation at Hornsby Baptist Church here.

Twelve months later he lay in bed, weight down to 93 pounds, praying that God would call him home to heaven.

Yet, a determined wife, a supportive congregation that refused to give up on their pastor and his family, and untold numbers of prayer warriors refused to give up.

Six months after praying that he could die, West is back in the pulpit, weight slowly but surely climbing back, now at about 145 pounds.

"I am a walking miracle of God," West affirmed.

West was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in May of 2005. He began intense treatments of radiation and chemotherapy and then had surgery on Aug. 23 of that year to remove four inches of his esophagus.

West began to recover and even started preaching again in December of that year. But he soon developed pneumonia and just could not get well," said his wife, Doris.

He informed the deacons that he would be unable to continue and that he needed rest. In February of this year a spot was found on his lung.

West was diagnosed with lung cancer although doctors never found sufficient evidence.

After taking more chemotherapy West continued to lose weight, dropping to 93 pounds. His doctor suggested the family might want to consider Hospice.

West readily admits that several times during those bleak days he thought he was nearing the end of his earthly life.

"I not only felt it was near the end, but to be honest, I wanted it to be over," he recalled.

His wife, however, was not ready to let go.

"One day at my lowest point when I wanted it to be over, she grabbed me by my shirt, lifted me off the bed, and said, 'I am

not ready to let you go yet.'"

He noted her courage gave him a desire and drive to continue fighting.

"After seeing all that Doris had gone through (during his illness) and seeing that she was still willing to fight, I decided I would too," West said.

While in the hospital that last time in May, doctors still could not clearly say he had cancer. After doing every test possible, the doctor came in and said he could not find any evidence of cancer in his lung.

"That was the start of my come back," West said.

After deciding Hospice was not an option, the doctors took West off most of his medication, which became his next major hurdle. After several months, West no longer takes prescription pain medicine although he still experiences a great deal of pain.

— See Hornsby, page 4



PASTOR TIM WEST, left center, and his wife, Doris, left, are grateful to the congregation of Hornsby Baptist Church for their support during his extended illness. With them are Raymond Cox, chairman of deacons at Hornsby Baptist and his wife, Mary Jane.

about your newsjournal

Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 47 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$12; Church Leadership Plan, \$8.75 per subscription; other plans available

Lonnie Wilkey, editor
(615) 371-2046,
lwilkey@tnbaptist.org

Connie Davis Bushey, news editor
(615) 371-7928,
cbushey@tnbaptist.org

Susie Edwards, financial/circulation coordinator
(615) 371-2003,
sedwards@tnbaptist.org

Mary Nimmo, advertising/church pages coordinator
(615) 371-7929,
mnimmo@tnbaptist.org

Marcia Knox, special features assistant
(615) 371-2089,
mknox@tnbaptist.org

Office — Baptist and Reflector,
5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027

Mailing address — P.O. Box
728, Brentwood, TN 37024

Phone — (615) 371-2003

FAX — (615) 371-2080

Web Site — www.tnbaptist.org

Publisher — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

Shared Ministries Committee —

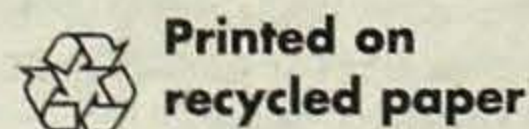
Wendell Boertje chairman; Tim Frank, vice chairman; Tom Bigham, Orvind Dangeau, Mary Beth Duke, Nina Fletcher, David Green, Doug Jennings, Joey Johnson, Bert Jones, Tommy Lemmonds, Greg Long, William Oakley, Ed Porter, Mildred Thompson, Larry Triplett, Wes Turner

Postmaster —

Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

Frequency of issue —

Published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.



Printed on
recycled paper

Ga. Baptists adopt record CP, finalize split with Mercer

Baptist Press

DULUTH, Ga. — Georgia Baptists meeting here Nov. 13-14 dedicated a new multi-million-dollar ministry center, adopted a record Cooperative Program budget, and finalized a separation with Mercer University.

It was the 185th annual meeting for messengers, who capped the first day's events by taking part in the dedication of the new Georgia Baptist Missions and Ministry Center.

The budget for the land and construction of the new mission and ministry center was \$43,500,000, GBC Executive Director J. Robert White said, adding that the total cost of the completed facility was going to be less than the budgeted amount. It was announced that the amount to be financed is \$19,540,314 and that the loan should be paid in full within 10 years.

Georgia Baptists adopted a record Cooperative Program budget of \$52,000,000, including a challenge budget of \$1,472,000 for 2007.

The convention also voted to enter into partnerships with the Yucatan Peninsula on the east coast of Mexico and the western regions of Canada including Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Yukon Territory. In Mexico, the emphasis will be on strengthening existing Baptist churches, planting churches, developing a seminary extension as well as a Bible institute, and training indigenous church planters. In Canada the focus will be on evangelism and church planting. These two partnerships will begin in January and continue through December of 2012.

In other matters, messengers finalized a split with Mercer.

Wayne Robertson, pastor of Morningside Baptist Church in Valdosta, told the convention that all of the constitutional requirements had been met to facilitate the discontinuation of the relationship, and he made a motion that a final vote be taken to finalize the discontinuation; the motion was approved by an overwhelming majority of messengers. It was the second consecutive year that such a motion passed.

According to the memorandum of agreement established by the executive director of the convention and former Mercer President Kirby Godsey, the convention's capital improvement and endowment program (CIEP) funds designated for Mercer and accumulated since 1955 will be transferred to the university. The funds for Mercer totaled \$25,500,000 (including individual trusts).

Because of the convention's obligation to the students at

Mercer, the 2007 CP budget formula support and allocations will be paid to Mercer in the approximate amount of \$3,412,000. This will be paid in accordance with normal distribution of Cooperative Program amounts. After 2007 there will be no more CIEP or CP allocations to Mercer University. □

Land, Mohler among national online panelists

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, and Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission are two of more than 60 panelists who will post responses to religious questions posed at least once a week.

The online dialogue about faith was sponsored by *The Washington Post* and *Newsweek* magazine.

The forum, known as "On Faith," is hosted by *Newsweek* managing editor Jon Meacham and *Washington Post* writer Sally Quinn. Along with Mohler, On Faith also features another prominent Southern Baptist — Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

"At the *Washington Post* and *Newsweek*, we believe the first step is conversation — intelligent, informed, eclectic, respectful conversation — among specialists and generalists who devote a good part of their lives to understanding and delineating religion's influence on the life of the world," according to Meacham. The point of the new online feature is to "provide a forum for such sane and spirited talk," he added.

In addition the panel includes personalities from a wide spectrum of religious viewpoints. Readers can post comments and questions in response to all panel comments.

The forum's first question was posted in mid-November. □

Founding dean of Carver School of Social Work dies

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Anne Davis, founding dean of the Carver School of Social Work, which originated at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Nov. 16 in Waco, Texas.

"Anne Davis gave generously of herself to an entire generation of students at Southern Seminary, and her influence will live on through them," said seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr. "She was deeply loved and respected by her students and colleagues."

In addition to being a scholar, administrator, and teacher, Davis was known for her compassion, according to former students and colleagues.

"There are many social workers in this world that Anne Davis really had an impact on," former student Judith Lambert told the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

"She was a tenacious teacher, mentor, and witness to the possibilities of Christ's love and care in society," said Andy Rawls, director of media services at Southern.

At Southern, Davis served as professor of social work, director of social work, and director of professional studies in the School of Religious Education. She served as founding dean of the Carver School, leading it to become the first non-university program to gain accreditation for the master of social work degree.

Davis retired from the faculty in 1995. The Carver School completed a move from Southern Seminary to Campbellsville (Ky.) University in 1998. □

Israel to recognize 'gay marriage'

Baptist Press

JERUSALEM — The land where Jesus once walked soon will recognize "gay marriage."

In a landmark 6-1 decision, Israel's Supreme Court Nov. 21 ordered the government to begin recognizing "gay marriages" from other countries, such as Canada. Although the decision doesn't give homosexual couples the ability to "marry" within Israel's borders, it nonetheless puts Israel at odds with countries such as Great Britain and the United States, neither of which recognizes foreign "gay marriages."

In fact, the U.S. government doesn't even recognize "gay marriages" that occur within its borders in Massachusetts, the lone state where it is legal.

Four countries — Canada, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands — have legalized "gay marriage," and a fifth one, South Africa, is expected to do so within days.

The ruling by the High Court of Justice — the name for Israel's highest court — gives homosexual couples the same legal benefits as traditional couples, including tax breaks and the ability to adopt, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. The decision forces the government to register the "marriages" like it does any other marriages.

"We don't have a Jewish state here. We have Sodom and Gomorrah here," lawmaker Moshe Gafni told Israel's Army Radio, according to the Associated Press.

"I assume that every sane person in the state of Israel, possibly the entire Jewish world, is shocked, because the signifi-

cance is ... the destruction of family unit in the state of Israel."

The lawsuit was brought by five homosexual couples who were "married" in other countries and wanted to have licenses recognized in Israel. One of the couples was Sefi Lev, 40, and Yaron Lahav, 28, *Toronto Star* reported.

"This is a great step forward. But we are still at the beginning," Bar-Lev told the *Star*.

GuideStone sees third positive year for insurance rates

Baptist Press

DALLAS — GuideStone Financial Resources has experienced a third year of positive trends in its medical insurance rates, President O.S. Hawkins told trustees of the Southern Baptist entity during November meeting here.

"For the third year in a row," Hawkins said, "we will have medical inflation increase rates for participants in our personal medical plans."

"This year we were able to give 57 percent of our personal plan participants a decrease. For 2007, 40 percent of our personal plan participants will receive a rate decrease," Hawkins said.

"In an environment where national medical costs are trending upwards at 8-12 percent per year," he noted, "we have effectively stabilized while improving benefits for participants."

The transition to a single work provider, Highmark Cross Blue Shield, has resulted in deeper discounts for medical services and, consequently, lower claims. Many participants have chosen higher deductibles, which also has contributed to GuideStone's ability to stabilize rates.

GuideStone's pharmacy transition agreement with McKesson Health Solutions also has contributed to containing costs, Hawkins reported.

While the national trend in pharmacy increases is running at approximately 12 percent, said pharmacy costs for GuideStone's plans have only increased by 6 percent.

Hawkins also informed trustees that the staff launched a feasibility study in response to a motion referred to GuideStone from the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting asking GuideStone to study the feasibility of making its products and services available to members of the Southern Baptist church. GuideStone trustees will report on the study during the next meeting, in Feb. 26-28, Dallas.

Trustees also learned that assets under management for GuideStone totaled \$8.98 billion at the end of September.

tors, laity surveyed on culture

LifeWay poll asks, 'Is the church out of touch'

ny news office

all churchgoers feel very informed about politics, and another 47 percent feel somewhat informed about it.

Pastors and laity feel about equally informed about sports. Twenty-four percent of clergy feel very informed about sports in today's culture, and another 44 percent are somewhat informed about this topic, with laity providing answers that are very similar.

On each of the other 10 topics, laity feel significantly more informed about the culture surrounding them than do ministers. Twenty percent of ministers feel very informed about the Internet, compared to 43 percent of laity. Nineteen percent of ministers feel very informed about what's on television today, compared to 31 percent of laity. Eighteen percent are very informed about books, compared to 27 percent of laity, and 16 percent are very informed about movies today, compared to 24 percent of laity.

Feeling out of touch

Pastors rarely feel very informed about the other culture topics on the list: radio and TV talk shows (12 percent, compared to 20 percent among laity), music (11 percent, versus 28 percent among laity), magazines (11 percent, compared to 17 percent among laity), clothing and fashion (7 percent, compared to 16 percent among laity), video and computer games (5 percent, compared to 16 percent among laity), and celebrities (4 percent, versus 10 percent among laity).

The areas where the greatest gaps exist between pastors and laity are in video and computer games, fashion, and celebrities. Fifty-nine percent of ministers are uninformed about fashion, compared to 37 percent of the people in the pews. Sixty-nine percent know next to nothing about celebrities, while this is true of 49 percent of their congregants. And 71 percent are uninformed about video and computer

games, while 49 percent of their congregants know next to nothing on this subject.

Among ministers, there are not dramatic differences in the findings by theology or denominational group. Most differences among denominational groups (Methodists, Baptists, etc.) are minor. In general, mainline ministers tend to feel slightly more informed about books and movies than do evangelical pastors, but other areas are quite similar.

Informed generations

There are some differences according to age, however. Younger ministers (under age 45) feel more informed about sports, the Internet, music, clothing and fashion, celebrities, and video and computer games than do older pastors. However, this is also true among the people attending their churches — younger people feel much more informed about these areas and others in today's culture than do older laypeople.

Among the laity, how informed they are about the culture around them does not vary significantly according to how long people have attended their current church, whether they are involved in a mainline or evangelical church, how often they attend it, or whether they are in a volunteer leadership position within the church.

Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, pointed out that this research raises the question of whether churches are having an impact on how people interact with culture.

"There's a long-term debate within Christendom about what is an appropriate level of involvement in popular culture. Some Christians believe separation from the world is part of godly behavior, while others believe involvement in the world is necessary in order to reach out to the world," Sellers observed.

"Either way, one might logically expect church involvement to change how a person looks at culture — either becoming more

How informed are you about popular culture? Clergy compared to laity by topic:

	CLERGY	LAITY		CLERGY	LAITY
Politics			Talk Shows (radio & TV)		
Very informed	36%	29%	Very informed	12%	20%
Somewhat informed	55%	47%	Somewhat informed	46%	46%
Not very informed	7%	18%	Not very informed	34%	28%
Actively avoid	2%	6%	Actively avoid	8%	7%
Sports			Music		
Very informed	24%	24%	Very informed	11%	28%
Somewhat informed	44%	39%	Somewhat informed	46%	51%
Not very informed	26%	28%	Not very informed	39%	18%
Actively avoid	6%	10%	Actively avoid	4%	3%
Internet			Magazines		
Very informed	20%	43%	Very informed	11%	17%
Somewhat informed	51%	46%	Somewhat informed	43%	47%
Not very informed	22%	9%	Not very informed	41%	31%
Actively avoid	7%	2%	Actively avoid	4%	5%
Television			Clothing & Fashion		
Very informed	19%	31%	Very informed	7%	16%
Somewhat informed	56%	50%	Somewhat informed	34%	48%
Not very informed	20%	17%	Not very informed	52%	30%
Actively avoid	5%	3%	Actively avoid	7%	7%
Books			Video & Computer Games		
Very informed	18%	27%	Very informed	5%	16%
Somewhat informed	60%	52%	Somewhat informed	24%	34%
Not very informed	21%	18%	Not very informed	54%	35%
Actively avoid	1%	3%	Actively avoid	17%	14%
Movies			Celebrities		
Very informed	16%	24%	Very informed	4%	10%
Somewhat informed	51%	46%	Somewhat informed	28%	41%
Not very informed	27%	23%	Not very informed	54%	36%
Actively avoid	6%	7%	Actively avoid	15%	13%

involved in order to have more effective outreach, or becoming less involved as they seek to lead a less worldly lifestyle.

"But the data shows no difference in cultural awareness according to how frequently people attend church, how long they've been there, or whether they are in a leadership position," he said. "This raises the question of how much churches actually impact how people live their daily lives."

Sellers also noted that one criticism people often have about churches is that they are out of touch with the world around them.

"The data shows ministers are, generally speaking, not all that informed about the culture in which they seek to minister. The people in the pews feel much more informed about the Internet, movies, videogames, and other expressions of popular culture than do their pastors.

"People are definitely impacted by the culture they consume — the web sites they visit or the music they listen to, for instance.

"Pastors need to be informed about what's out there in order to understand how the culture is influencing the people they are trying to reach," Sellers said. □

People of West Africa need encounter with Jesus ...

continued from page 1

the Woods hope churches will become energized and begin a committed effort to take the gospel to them.

"There are no churches," Wood says. "There's little evangelical presence, and where we suggest a church gets started in now ... so they can know Jesus Christ."

Wood says it could be months, years, before the gospel reaches the northern Karaboro.

"I don't know that some of these villages will ever have a Christian presence," Wood says. "I hope we'll see Christ respond to the need and get into areas. ... We know it will take committed people to bring the gospel to

vital to the task — key to reaching those people who have little to no access to the gospel.

"A (church) would have to look at the evangelical resources already available," he said. "You wouldn't want to bring a new person on the field to say, 'Look, you're going to do church-planting work' ... without at least touching base with those evangelical groups already working."

Putting together a puzzle

Wood describes his work as putting together a puzzle. To research one people group, they often talk to dozens of people, navigate around dilapidated bridges, hike through millet and cotton fields, camp in tents, grab food from roadside stands, or wherever they can along the way.

"You drive for three or four hours, and you find one person who has a little piece

of the information," he says. "You get those couple of pieces from him. ... And the next day or two you go to those places and get more pieces of the puzzle, until you fit it all in and have a good picture of a people group."

A "clear picture," however, is rarely as clear as the Woods would like. Though some Senufo groups have an evangelical church near their villages, often few show up. One church of 12 members meets in an area with 400 people, but only a couple of Senufo attend.

"The problem is that most of these people who attend these churches are outsiders," Tami Wood says. "They are business people in the area or people there for some other reason."

Many Senufo are afraid their friends and family will abandon them if they turn their lives over to Christ. Others are

too afraid to put all their faith in something other than spirits and sacrifices. Some Muslims fear no one will bury them if they convert to Christianity.

But there are signs of life among the Senufo.

Albert finds Christ

Albert (name changed for security reasons), one Senufo, shared how his relationship with Christ helped him turn away from worshipping spirits. His family eventually embraced Christ, too.

For Albert, there's only one true God.

"I've given myself to God," Albert says. "I will not do (sacrifices). I have a living desire to worship God. ... Because I trust Him, I want to serve Him."

More lives in Burkina Faso — and throughout West Africa — can turn to Christ, but they will need help from Southern Baptists, Wood says. □

Volunteers are vital

Wood emphasizes that volunteers are

'Healthy churches' share ministries with TBC messenger

By Marcia Knox
Baptist and Reflector

CORDOVA — As part of an attempt to change the usual Tuesday night session of this year's Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting, churches were invited to exhibit their "Healthy Church" ideas.

Around 35 churches participated in the exhibit, which featured ideas from churches that were inspired from the seven areas of church health, which are: ministry, missions, prayer, discipleship, worship, evangelism, and fellowship. The seven church health areas are reinforced weekly in the "Church Health Matters" newsletter in the *Baptist & Reflector*.

New Bethlehem Baptist Church, Dyer, featured its disaster relief ministry, which began in 2003. "We felt the desire and passion to get involved 'hands on' in Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief," said John Coleman, pastor of New Bethlehem Baptist. "We began with a chain saw ministry. The team has 25 volunteers, and it has grown into local construction and rebuild, which includes roofing and building handicap ramps."

According to Coleman, the church has responded numerous times to areas of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and to recent tornados in their community.

"We are blessed by doing disaster relief," he added. "It opened a door for us. We don't just do chain saw, it opens the doors to share the gospel, to preach, to teach, and to take the love of Christ to where the people are."

"Our church is healthier, because we have more people involved. We have had an impact on our community, because the community saw what we do with disaster relief. When we are there, their houses generally open up to us. There is an awareness now which is not just confined to preaching and teaching. We run chain saws because we love the Lord."

Korean Baptist Church, Collierville, featured in its exhibit its Korean Community Center to reach people. "We are a mission-driven church to reach people in Memphis," said Richard Gary, a deacon second class at Korean Baptist, who works with the youth. "Around 80 percent of Koreans in Memphis don't go to church at all. Our community center offers a gym open to all and a Korean language school for students. We see communications as necessary."

The Korean language school has Saturday classes for students whose parents speak Korean at home. The school also offers classes in writing the Korean language. There are around 50 students enrolled in weekly classes.

Besides the school, the church offers a medical clinic, a library of Korean literature, and access to police, judges, lawyers, and translators.

First Baptist Church, Martin, offers two intergenerational blended worship services every Sunday morning which features 75 percent hymns and 25 percent choruses, according to John Whittaker, youth and children's pastor.

"Both services are the same service, and people can wear the same clothes to each service," added Whittaker. "The advantage of these services is it doesn't divide the congregation. When services are cut up, it divides us generational and time wise."

"It is out of the ordinary how we are connecting on the same footing with 80- to 25-year-olds in the services." The church disagrees with the trend of targeting services to specific ages. Instead, it targets all ages. "Our senior adults love to sing choruses and our youth love to sing hymns," Whittaker said.

"When we talk about blended worship, it's not about the music," said David Stephan, minister of music. "In our corporate worship we blend drama, instruments, and other elements. It allows all ages to relate to each other very well, provides good fellowship, and the pastor, 'Sing' Oldham, has been here for 20 years."

First Baptist Church, Strawberry Plains, holds a House of Prayer every Wednesday night in which they pray for the ministries of the church and the kingdom values, according to Mike Boatfield, pastor of First Baptist.

Not only are the adults praying, but there are separate groups praying such as children and high school students all praying together at the same time.

"The average church spends more time praying saved people out of heaven than we do praying lost people out of hell," said Boatfield. "We pray for lost people and backsliders by name."

Boatfield noted that the church has become healthier citing a written testimony that was posted on its House of Prayer display. Church member Teresa Morgan wrote, "It's hard to be angry with someone that you pray with each week."

"Prayer is the work," Boatfield added. "When we pray, God goes to work."

Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, was asked to focus on the missions area by Tim Holcomb, TBC staff member, according to Todd Pendergrass, Faith Baptist associate pastor.

"We shared what we do in missions to show smaller churches how to go with us," said Pendergrass.

"We give ourselves away and God blesses us in turn. Our vision statement is to start new churches to do missions. We

2,000 volunteers from Baptist go on mission trips during 2005-6. We want people participate with us. We want to send the biblical mandate, Great Commission."

Kirby Woods Baptist Church, Memphis, chose the discipline area and featured its "Disciple Men Who Will Disciple," a training strategy to build others. The program has grown from day School to men meeting weekly in small group homes. The groups have study materials such as "Master and books written by Henry Hobbs."

"It's all about men faithful through the first generation (II Timothy 2:2) four levels down in discipleship," said Casey Pearson, director of education at Kirby Woods. "We are building men and giving them a vision for reaching the world."

"We are also having a wide impact through our recent mission teams. We are training indigenous leaders and world pastors in several countries including Nicaragua, Guyana, Liberia, Nigeria, Philippines, and Peru."

Church health in Tennessee Baptist churches has shifted focus for healthy church to enlarge their kingdom instead of concentrating on themselves. □

Hornsby congregation cares for pastor, family during long ...

— Continued from page 1

"I still hurt every day but it is getting better," he said.

Despite the pain West and his wife, Doris, along with his three daughters and his church family, are convinced he is alive today only through God answering prayers.

"God performed a miracle on Timmy," said Doris West.

"It is a miracle that he is alive and doing as well as he is," agreed Raymond Cox, chairman of the deacons at Hornsby Baptist Church.

West will forever be grateful

to the congregation for their support during his extended illness.

Despite the fact he basically was unable to serve for 18 months, the church kept him on salary and provided for other needs of his family during that time. In addition to his salary the church also collected several love offerings for the family.

At no time during the ordeal did anyone from the church suggest they begin "to move on," West said.

"If I had to deal with financial pressures during that time I

don't know that I could have made it. The pressure would have been unbearable," West said.

"We never felt any pressure financially," Doris agreed. "They just gave us time to concentrate on getting Timmy well," she added.

West summed it up best. "They just love us."

He noted that while the church looks at him as a miracle, he sees his congregation as a miracle as well. "They went far beyond what anybody could have hoped for," he said.

Cox said that from the very beginning of his pastor's illness the church wanted to "support Tim and do all we could for him and his family."

It was never discussed "that we should cut his salary off," Cox added.

Cox noted that during the time West was sick the church not only was able to pay his salary, but continued to meet all of its financial obligations. "Nothing was ever cut," Cox said.

The deacon chairman said the church has been strengthened through this process. "It has taught us not to give up. God still works miracles."

Cox's wife, Mary Jane, noted that when the church first called West as pastor almost 16 years

ago, they had to wait for him to complete seminary.

"We weren't ready to give up on him. We have waited on him from the beginning," she said.

The church had some supply pastors during West's first bout with cancer in 2005. After he had to leave for the second time in January, Bob Campbell, retired director of missions for Fayette Baptist Association, based in Somerville, served as supply pastor.

He was amazed at the love shown by the small congregation which averages between 80-90 in Sunday School.

"The membership of Hornsby Baptist Church is a caring, loving group of people," Campbell said, noting he saw them reach out in love not only to the West family but to both members and non-members of the church during his tenure with them.

"When I look at why they wanted to support their pastor during the 18 months of illness, when he could not fill the role of pastor, it came across in a very strong way. It was their love for the Lord and His kingdom."

Campbell noted that many times the congregation wondered if their pastor would be alive the next morning. "But they waited and prayed and trusted the Lord to work it out," Campbell said. "There were

some things they were hesitant to do, but because of their love for the pastor and his family they at least could keep salary and benefits in place."

West is also appreciative of Campbell, who he had not met until recently.

"My illness is just a part of the story," West reflected.

"The people around me — my wife, my family, my church family, other churches — were the big story," West said.

He noted Campbell "had a heart for the church" and for his family. "He prayed for us, encouraged us, loved us, kept us before the church as a God-send."

West is confident his experience will make him a better pastor. "I have more love for the Lord and His Word than I did before. I also have a greater anticipation of what is going to do in my life," said.

He noted that even before his illness he felt he had been complacent and even had a bad attitude.

"God has renewed my spirit. I would not want to go back the way I was (before the illness). I could go back and not be the way I am now. I would not want to do it stressed. "God deserves all the glory," West affirmed. □



TIM WEST, right, pastor of Hornsby Baptist Church, Hornsby, visits with **Bob Campbell**, retired director of missions, Fayette Baptist Association. Campbell served as the church's supply pastor during West's extended illness.

Time always disappears while we decide what to do with it

Words from
Word



Johnnie C. Godwin

My sister Marylyn teaches management and has done it for many years. She is an expert on the subject. She herself has trouble being on time for most anything. When I arrive late to teach a time-management seminar, she laughs and uses herself as a negative example of time management. She may have started late, taken the wrong road, gotten the time mixed up, or had some other problem. Nevertheless, she is on time to stay pressed and to be on time for each of the calendar of events. Now, you might wonder if it's an on-sibling time. No. I respect my sister's use of time and will tell you why in a minute. But, for now, I'll add that Marylyn often laughs about her possession to be early and on time. I quote to her, "Better an early than a minute late." She knows I was always two minutes early for domestic flights before 9/11 — and even earlier now. Recently, Marylyn and I were at a reunion and I was embarrassed to tell her how much too-early I planned to be at the airport for a flight. She didn't chide me but chuckled. Well, Johnnie, somebody in my family has to take up the slack for my being late." We both have reasons for our time problems, and they're good reasons that relate to biblical truths about time.

Two words for time

English we just say "time,"

and that's it. But the Greeks had two words for time: namely, "chronos" (KRONN-os) and "kairos" (KY-ros). Both Greek words have become English words and are in Merriam-Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (3rd ed.). But you should never need a dictionary to understand words in this column. "Chronos" is just time in general, and we see it in English words such as chronometer, chronology, chronological, chronic, etc. "Kairos" means opportune time, decision-making time, ripe-fruit time. Think of the difference 24 hours makes in the life of a banana, and you'll have the idea: ripe or rotten.

Back to Marylyn: She is a kairos-time expert. She ministers at every opportunity and feels bad if she ever misses an opportunity to minister. She is a wife, mother, and grandmother. She teaches Bible studies and helps lead and train others in organizing monumental Bible study efforts across generational lines. She and husband Dave go on mission trips to the Amazon and elsewhere. But their strongest missions may well be right in their own metropolitan region that reaches out to so many others in practical ways of hands-on ministry. Marylyn is a good speaker; but more important than that, she's a good listener. She has what we call her "lunch ministry." It's her almost daily meeting with one person who needs to talk to another who will listen — without looking at the clock or fidgeting or butting in or finishing sentences. Marylyn uses kairos time as well as anyone I know. And that's part of the reason she's late for chronos times.

Two biblical words for time

Both "chronos" and "kairos" are biblical words. "Kairos" espe-

cially jumps out at us from Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:5: "Redeem the time!" The word for "redeem" meant to seize an opportunity and buy it out all the way to the wall. I use Fisherman's Friend [Registered] cough drops that are imported from England. A mega-chain store quit carrying them, and I found myself almost without a Fisherman's Friend. When I discovered 19 packages on a shelf in another store, I gathered up every last one of them and went to the cashier. She said, "These must really work." I said, "They do." I took full advantage of my opportunity.

God created "chronos" time as an island within eternity. It is limited to a beginning and an end. The eternal divide of chronos time is the Christ Event. When chronos time was brim-full, God sent Christ at that ripe-kairos moment to be the atoning gift of salvation for all who would receive him in their own kairos-moment of time.

Time and eternity

We need to focus on time on the context of eternity. Eternity is beyond human understanding. Nevertheless, eternity was before time; it is now during time; and it will continue when time is no more. Jesus said, "We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work" (John 5:4, Holman Christian Standard Bible). In plain English, everyone's time is limited — whether it's 33 years or 969 or another number. God calls us to seize each opportunity to do His will. When we work God's work, He etches into all eternity what we do in time. Our works for Him both go ahead of us and follow us (Revelation 14:13). But we have decisions to make.

Decision-making time

A friend of mine wrote a book and envisioned what would happen if everyone we prayed for got well and just kept on living on this earth without dying. The scenario wasn't pretty. But, not to worry: it hasn't happened, and it's not going to happen this side of heaven. The question I ask in my mind when we pray for longer life for someone is what they will do with longer life if they get it. When Isaiah told seriously ill Hezekiah his number was up, it wasn't. Death was coming, but Hezekiah wept bitterly and asked God for more years. God gave Hezekiah 15 more years and miraculously delivered Jerusalem (Isaiah 38:1-21). Hezekiah used the years for the Lord.

As long as we live, we are entrusted with time and life and are stewards answerable to God. In an era when we hear wickedness rightly defined as terrorism, we may fail to remember that Jesus identified wickedness as also doing nothing with what He entrusts to us (Matthew 25:14-30). We are to identify opportunities, God's will, and decisions needed to seize them. Jesus was never chronologically rushed, but He modeled kairos decision-making and the work to follow.

Dad raised me to live all life in a decision-making mode. He would say, "Do something even if it's wrong." Usually, the only decision we can't remake is the one we never make in the first place. Time has a way of disappearing while we're trying to decide what to do with it. My new \$4 hat's lettering reads "Git-R-Done" [Trademark]. I choose to wear that hat each day I'm determined to redeem the time. When I decide to work, I

tend to get more done.

Deadline

The word "deadline" came into our language to describe a line drawn on dirt in a prison area. Death was the penalty for a prisoner who dared go beyond that line. I began to be deadline-conscious and even obsessed with time when I was just seven years old. It was when I started selling newspapers on the streets of Midland, Texas. Boys who were first in line when the presses rolled were the first ones to get newspapers to sell. They got a head start. I made it a point to be first in line, and I won the award for selling the most newspapers for two years in a row. I don't mean to brag; I do mean to point out life is filled with deadlines. When the kairos time of opportunity is gone, there is penalty. When one misses the deadline of receiving Christ as Lord and Savior, eternal separation and the second death are the penalty. The Bible describes it as hell.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we give thanks for the gift of salvation and all of God's blessings. As we celebrate Christmas, we thank God for dividing time and eternity with the gift of Jesus as our atoning Lord and Savior.

As we look forward to the New Year, we make plans and anticipate the New Year. Such planning is folly except for those who receive Christ before their personal deadline and plan within His will. Otherwise, a person plans a future he may not have and heads to an unholy destination. "Behold now is the accepted time [kairos]; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2, KJV). While it is day, "Git-R-Done" [Trademark] in Him! □ — Copyright 2006 by Johnnie C. Godwin: johnniegodwin@comcast.net

Lord, please energize the evangelistic efforts of Southern Baptists

Best
columnist



By Frank Page

There are several areas in which the Southern Baptist Convention needs God's Holy Spirit to visit, confront, strengthen, and encourage us. One of those crucial areas is the area of evangelism. Bobby Welch, our previous Southern Baptist Convention president, literally has crisscrossed this nation encouraging us to win the lost and baptize increasing numbers of people. We praise God for his heart for evangelism. Southern Baptist evangelists have been calling for people to be more seriously involved in the work of soul winning and baptisms. We thank them for their diligence. Their efforts are directed at

correcting years of lackluster numbers of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches. Is there any hope that we can turn our baptism rates around? The answer is an unqualified yes! I believe that passion can be renewed and effectiveness in evangelism can be restored. We have seen a dramatic increase in baptisms in my church, First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C. While it is still much too low, we have seen some changes in how people perceive their role as believers.

Some time back I preached a sermon entitled, "Fishers of Men or Keepers of the Aquarium?" I challenged our people to understand that God wants us to do both. Acts 2:42 tells the story of a church that has devoted itself to discipling one another, as well as to fellowship for building up a sense of oneness and friendship within the congregation. Obviously, this is of extreme importance.

A church must take care of those whom God has given them. However, many churches stop at this point. Many church-

es have become very inwardly focused and have become a hospital for the saints rather than an outreach to the lost.

God's mandate is also that we be fishers of men. This particular phrase is found in Mark 1:17. There Jesus called Simon and Andrew from their chosen profession to a new ministry. We must do the same.

But let me caution you that we must make sure that our evangelism is an evangelism with integrity. There are persons who attempt to raise baptism numbers through gimmicks, emotional manipulation, and unworthy methods. We should be very serious and clear in our presentation of the gospel message. We should be complete in telling the whole truth and allowing people the ability to consider honestly this call for a life-changing transformation. Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount that many will say no. However, we must share this passionate, loving message through methods which are

clearly methods of integrity.

Let us pray that God, through His Holy Spirit, will energize our evangelistic efforts. □ — Page is

president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Taylors, S.C. Reprinted from Baptist Press.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Evangelism

Missions

Discipleship

Ministry

Worship

Fellowship

Prayer

Church Health Matters

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

Missions Matters

Missions is a mandate of Jesus Christ, and every Christian is to be on mission for Him. As Southern Baptists, our heart for missions has always set us apart from other denominations. This issue highlights Healthy Missions with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Included below is the contact information for members of your state missionary staff that are available to help you and your church in any area related to missions.

Your state missionary staff is committed to the vision of "Making Christ Known By Serving Churches." Visit www.tnbaptist.org for information about how the Tennessee Baptist Convention can serve your church.

Cooperative Program/Information

Speakers

Gary Rickman (615) 371-2020

Church Missions Education/Prayer

Candy Phillips (615) 371-2039

Church Prayer

Don Pierson (615) 371-7909

Men's Missions Education/Prayer

Gene Williams (615) 371-2064

Women's Missions Education/Prayer

Denise Bronaugh (865) 805-7920

Preschool/Children/

Youth Missions Education/Prayer

Andrea Knight (615) 371-7919

One Week Out Of 52 Focuses on International Missions

By Candy Phillips

Almost 26 years ago when I started my journey into Southern Baptist missions education, I attended a Baptist Women's prayer meeting every weekday during the Week of Prayer. In 2006 few, if any churches meet every day to pray during the weeks of prayer.

Even though I do not go to a group prayer meeting, I use the prayer guide and use it during my morning devotion time.

Prayer is a powerful force. I have learned from practice and from missionary testimonies that prayer works. Missionaries depend on our prayers. For them to be effective, prayer is necessary.

What can one person accomplish through prayer? What can one church that takes prayer seriously accomplish through prayer? The Bible tells us that prayer is powerful enough to move mountains. Wow! The greatest contribution we can make as believers is to spend time in praying for the lost around the world and for those who have been called to reach them with the gospel.

For God to reach the 6,438 unreached people groups in the most remote locations of the world, prayer is the best option for breaking down barriers.

One devoted missionary cannot reach those people with the gospel. But a faithful intercessor can pray for the power of heaven to open closed doors and shine the light of Jesus in dark places.

The Week of Prayer for International Missions is suggested to take place Dec. 3-10. Will you lead your church to pray for international missions every day for one week? Will you at least take a plan focused prayer on Sundays, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10, and Wednesday, Dec. 6?

During the Week of Prayer, Southern Baptists are challenged to focus attention on missions. We will be asked to consider:

- What do missionaries sacrifice to take the message to the lost?
- What dangers do missionaries face everyday?
- What obstacles do they have to overcome in a different culture?

What resources do they need to accomplish the Great Commission?

Prayer guides are free by contacting the Tennessee Baptist Missionary Union at 1-800-558-2090.

Order enough prayer guides so that every family in your church can take them home. Encourage every member to use the prayer guide during devotion time. If prayer is wasted, prayer counts.

Will you lead your church to pray "Thy Peoples May Know Thee, O God, and Praise Thee?" It's only one week out of 52.



What Is the "Lottie Moon" Post Office?

By Candy Phillips



Do you want to include the children of the church in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? This idea has worked in my church, First Baptist Church, Nashville, for years.

It accomplishes several tasks at once: produces money for the special offering, distributes the Christmas cards shared among the congregation, involves the children, and provides a church wide missions project.

How does the Lottie Moon post office work? It's a process for distributing the Christmas cards of church members among other church members. It is an alternative to sending greetings to each other through the mail.

For example if my husband, Bill, and I want to send a Christmas card to our Sunday School teacher, I take it to church and put it in the Lottie Moon mail box. This works well instead of putting a stamp on the envelope and dropping it in an overstuffed U.S. Post Office mail box. I then put the 39 cents that I would have spent for the

postage stamp into the collection box nearby.

The next step in the process is that Girls in Action (GA) or Royal Ambassadors (RA) sort the envelopes. They alphabetize them by the last name of the recipient and place them in a box that has been divided for sorting alphabetically.

When I return to the church, I go to the Lottie Moon post office and check the "P" slot in the mail sorter. If anyone has sent a card to "Bill and Candy Phillips," I take it with me. Remind church members to check the slots and pick up their mail.

If there is mail that has not been picked up the week after Christmas, the GAs or RAs can hand deliver them to Sunday School classes.

All the funds that have been placed in the post office collection box are donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Everyone can celebrate being a part of a missions-giving church!

Do You Know These Mission Facts?

- That 6,438 people groups with an estimated total population of 3.7 billion people around the world have never heard the name of Jesus.
- That many people are seeking God and when they hear the gospel, they respond.
- That in 2004 there were over 400,000 baptisms overseas.



**That all peoples
may know Him**

- That more than 5,000 Southern Baptist international missionaries are supported by the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.
- That you and your church can have a part in sharing the gospel around the world when you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.
- Week of Prayer for International Missions is Dec. 3-10.
- National goal for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering = \$150 million.
- Theme: "That All Peoples May Know Him."
- International mission study focus is on Nigeria.



Five Ways To Show That the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Matters

1. Some people in your church may not know who Lottie Moon is. Perhaps they did not grow up in a Southern Baptist church and/or are new Christians. It never hurts to remind the whole church who Lottie Moon is. *The Story of Lottie Moon*, by Cathy Butler, is a biography, available from the Woman's Missionary Union Store at www.wmustore.com.
2. Place Lottie Moon Christmas Offering envelopes in pew racks.
3. Set a challenging yet achievable goal for your church. Create a display that shows progress toward reaching the goal. Celebrate giving each Sunday in December.
4. Invite a different person each Sunday in December to give a testimony of how they give sacrificially to support international missions.
5. The best promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a message from the pastor.

Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

Dec. 3-10
Jan. 11
Jan. 26-28
Jan. 26-27
Feb. 1-3

Week of Prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Statewide emphasis
Tennessee Men's Chorale Concert, Middle Tennessee, TBA
International Student Retreat, Montgomery Bell State Park, Dickson
Youth Project, West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson
Youth Ministry Conclave, Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga

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

Through BHEP over 20 years

Nabis developed homes for adults with special need

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

FRANKLIN — As Gene and Joy Nabi look back at their ministry of providing Baptist homes for adults with special needs, they are surprised at what a group of Baptists can do with God's help.

"If we had known what it was going to take, we would have said forget it," said Gene with a smile.

"People just had a heart for the work" said Joy. At times she felt like a "professional beggar," she described. Then checks, a few each week, would arrive in response to a newsletter she had produced. "The little people supported us. That's it."

"We didn't know any better," added Gene. "We're parents and we know how parents are desperate for this."

It all began about 20 years ago. Their son, Scott, who was 26 years old at the time, had mental disabilities. He had lived in three secular group homes and the Nabis weren't satisfied with the care he was receiving. Joy talked to parents of children working with Scott at a government job site to see if they would be interested in a Christian home for their children.

The responses were very positive so the Nabis contacted different Baptist groups to see if they could help develop the homes. Unfortunately, the Nabis didn't receive any encouragement. The money just wasn't available, they were told.

Gene worked for the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), Nashville, as special education consultant from 1983-97. He is former executive director of the Tennessee Association for Retarded Citizens. Gene also

served as consultant for special education for the Tennessee Baptist Convention from 1997-2005. They are members of Harpeth Heights Baptist Church, Nashville.

The Nabis talked to other Baptists and other groups, especially parents and siblings of adult children with special needs, and were encouraged. In 1986 they founded Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons. Since then BHEP has raised about \$750,000 which has bought and paid for three Nashville-area houses. The houses were then given to Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes, Brentwood, to manage.

Two of the houses are home to eight men each and a third is home to eight women. A married couple live with the men or women serving as houseparents. Relief houseparents also serve each house.

The Nabis and TBAH are so glad the homes have been developed. A law change about six years ago only allows group homes to have four residents and such a home is very expensive to operate.

"It's been a journey," said Joy. That journey will end soon as the Nabis are going to retire and BHEP will be dissolved. The annual BHEP banquet, which was held Oct. 26 in Nashville, honored the Nabis. Joy was president of BHEP for 20 years and Gene was secretary, although they tried to find other leaders through the years, they assured.

Early on they learned they were doing something "really different" described Gene, as they developed Christian homes which were "not only Christian in principle and concept but in practicality," said Gene. When



GENE AND JOY NABI stand with Carolyn Dowlen of Baptist Homes for Exceptional Persons who honored the Nabis at the annual banquet of BHEP held Oct. 26 in Nashville. They were honored on their retirement as officers of BHEP after 20 years of service. — Photo by Kenny Cooper

they placed an ad in *The Tennessean* for houseparents they learned they couldn't advertise for Christian houseparents.

They also learned a few residents, particularly those who had lived in secular homes, weren't used to having their rights curtailed.

"We have beat up on the word 'rights,'" observed Gene. The Nabis and BHEP remained committed to their concept and it has worked wonderfully, they said.

They faced many other obstacles, the couple recalled.

Though it seemed God provided the first location in Lebanon, BHEP took a great risk in borrowing \$200,000 to buy the property. It included six and a half acres so it had room for a second home. Thankfully, the debt was paid off in three years.

BHEP received help from Jimmie and Pat White of First Baptist Church, Nashville. Sam Brooks, a Presbyterian of Nashville, also helped a great

deal. Grants and large gifts were received from the Cal Turner Foundation and Memorial Foundation, both in Nashville.

Each of the three homes were paid for within three years.

Each home also was renovated because of BHEP's commitment to first-class homes. The Nabis explained that so many group homes and other housing for people with special needs is second class because the people are thought of as second class citizens.

Groups from Baptist churches worked on the renovation as well as the Tennessee Campers on Mission. The TBAH staff helped also.

Another obstacle was the initial negative reaction of neighbors in both locations to the group homes. In one neighborhood a petition against the home signed by about 35 neighbors was delivered to the home as it was being renovated, recalled Gene.

In response, Joy wrote and

delivered a letter to family. Then they were led to a first class residence in the home where could meet the new residents. In both Lebanon Hermitage, no neighbor made any further complaints.

Other obstacles for were codes inspection the locating of houseparents who were called by G the work and skilled for

One great help was beginning of the Fall Day Offering of Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes in Tennessee Baptist Convention in 2001, reported Nabis. That offering provided regular funding to the and thus, the group including the three

TBAH group homes for with special needs located the state.

BHEP is aware of all the TBAH staff does because staffed, managed, and paid bills of the first home for years before the arrangement with TBAH was completed. It requires a lot of work, said

The couple is also grateful BHEP Endowment Fund been developed. It is available for contributions and was offered by the Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood, folks preparing wills with to Baptist causes.

The endowment not only help care for the maintenance of the homes, but for cost expected by the TBAH for some residents who have both parents and don't have funds to pay for their care.

Of the experience, Joy "We knew that we couldn't But I always turned to the that says if God begins a in you, He'll be faithful to plete it." □

Gene Nabi helps people with special needs in Belarus, Russia

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

FRANKLIN — Gene Nabi was working for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, as a consultant for special education when he served on his second overseas missions effort. His first was in Barbados, the Caribbean, for LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, while he worked for LifeWay.

Nabi, now 75, has served four times in Belarus and two times in Russia, helping with special needs work in churches, with parent groups, and in public schools.

He has recruited other volunteers to accompany him, including a team of 46 which included staff members of the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Hearing Center in Nashville. The staff of the center tested people with hearing disabilities and fitted them with new hearing aids.

Nabi learned about the need from Bob Hartman, also a former employee of LifeWay who started Bob Hartman International Ministries of Nashville.

"I didn't even know how to spell Belarus," said Nabi.

He has met with school administrators and university professors in the two countries. Team members have interacted with students with special needs.

"Their problems were the same as ours," said Nabi.

"They asked for our help."

The Russian people are "warm, generous, giving people and I like them," he continued. The parents of children with special needs are just like the parents here. "They are con-



GENE NABI stands with the principal of a school in Russia where Nabi and his team served.



MATT SWAFFORD, center, of ClearView Baptist Church, pauses during an activity with some hearing impaired students in Russia.

cerned for their children.

The Christians in Belarus can't talk about their faith outside the church building. Compared to Christians here they have more joy, he observed.

He also has learned how blessed he is as he sees how people in the

two countries live.

"Every time I go over I come back different," he observed.

Nabi plans to return with team to Belarus and Russia in March and April of 2007. For more information contact him at (615) 662-0327. □ •

**More views of the
TBC annual meeting
held Nov. 14-15 at
Bellevue Baptist Church,
Cordova**



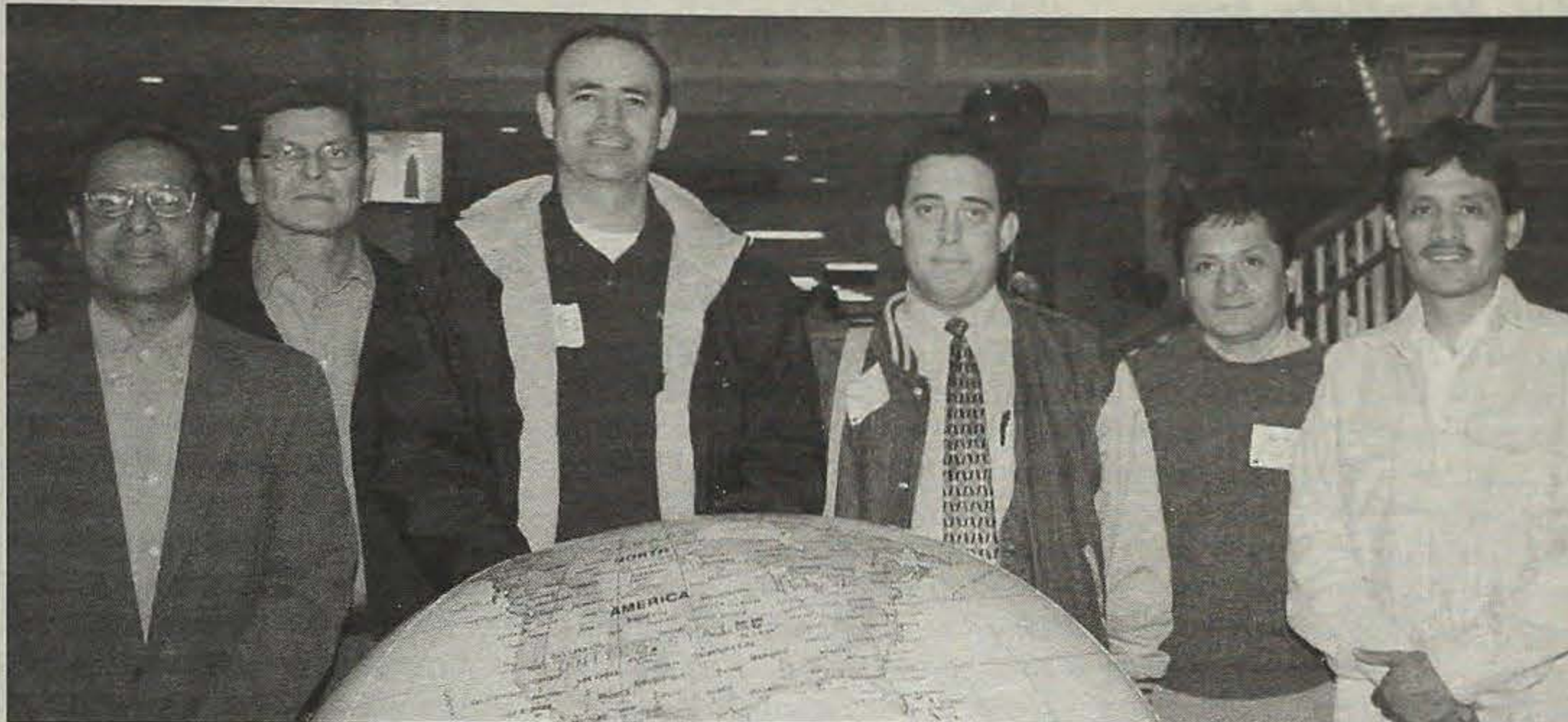
PARTICIPATING in the Call to Prayer held Monday prior to the annual meeting are men and women praying in the chapel of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.



PORTER, left, of Greenback visits with Jim Taulman at the meeting of the Tennessee Baptist History and Heritage Society. Porter has long-time registration secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Taulman is with the society.



CLARK, leads music during a session of the TBC annual meeting. Behind him are the Tennessee Mens Chorus and Tennessee Ladies Chorus.



NEW LEADERS AND MEMBERS of the Tennessee Hispanic Baptist Fellowship pause after its meeting on Nov. 13. They are, from left, Gilberto Perez of Belize now serving in Brownsville, new president; Hector Oliva of Honduras now serving in Bells; Jaime Velazco of Ecuador now of Jackson, family ministry coordinator; Melvin Lopez of Puerto Rico now of Memphis; Jaime Betancourt of Ecuador now of Red Bank, treasurer; and Carlos Betancourt of Ecuador now of Chattanooga, camp director.



JAMES PORCH, left, TBC executive director, pauses during applause for Jim Freedman, who has just accepted a plaque recognizing his retirement as director of missions of Nashville Baptist Association during the past year.



BUDDY STRICKLAND, left, is thanked by James Porch, TBC executive director, for his service as director of missions, Sequatchie Valley Baptist Association, Whitwell. Strickland retired this past year.



MUSIC AND WORSHIP leaders of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, lead worship during the Wednesday morning session of the TBC annual meeting at their church.



ROBERT SPEIGHTS, pastor, First Baptist Church, Benton, has a medical test done by Yvette Cooper of the Baptist Healthcare System in the exhibit hall.

Ky. Baptists tap younger leaders

Baptist Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Continuing a recent trend of electing younger leaders, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's top three officers elected Nov. 14 are under 40 years of age.

Darren Gaddis, 37, was elected president; Kevin Smith, 39, was elected first vice president; and Chad Fugitt, 27, was elected second vice president.

All three officers also have current ties to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Gaddis and Fugitt both are pursuing doctor of ministry degrees from Southern and Smith is an assistant professor of church history at the Louisville-based seminary.

A total of 1,428 messengers registered for the Nov. 14-15 annual meeting at First Baptist Church in Bowling Green. That was a decline from last year's total of 1,814 messengers.

Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, was elected by a vote of 792-403 over Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

State convention messengers also approved a CP-related recommendation adopted in June by SBC messengers. The nine-point proposal includes calling for the election of convention officers "whose churches systematically and enthusiastically lead by example in giving sacrificially and proportionally through the Cooperative Program."

"The bottom line is the Cooperative Program does matter," Mathis said while nominating Gaddis. "You just can't spell convention president without 'CP.'"

In other business, Kentucky Baptists adopted a \$24 million Cooperative Program goal for the 2007-08 budget year. The goal, a 1.86 percent increase over the current budget year, includes 63.3 percent for Kentucky Baptist ministries and 36.7 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes. The SBC portion is an increase from the current budget allocation of 36.35 percent.

The budget proposal also includes a \$1.3 million challenge goal for a total CP goal of \$25.3 million.

Kentucky Baptists also focused on the Cooperative Program during a Tuesday evening session featuring a special "Celebrating Cooperation" emphasis. □

Fla. Baptists refuse to act on proposed 'exit strategy'

Baptist Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — William Rice, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater since 2004, was elected unanimously as the 2007 Florida Baptist State Convention president

during the Nov. 13-14 annual meeting at McGregor Baptist Church in Fort Myers.

More than 1,600 Florida Baptists, including 1,241 messengers, attended the meeting, which was convened in a church facility for only the second time in recent history.

The convention's committee on order of business refused to act on a resolution presented by Don Roberts, a messenger from Leisure Lakes Baptist Church in Lake Placid, on developing an "exit strategy" from the public schools. Convention officials cited previous adopted resolutions opposing homosexuality and action taken during the 2004 state convention meeting that authorized the convention to work through the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools. That motion also affirmed Christians who are employed in the public school system as teachers and administrators.

Addressing the decision not to consider the resolution, John Sullivan said while he serves as executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, "I would never lead our staff or the state board of missions to develop an exit strategy from the public schools."

Messengers approved a record \$41 million 2007 Cooperative Program budget, representing a 6.69 percent increase, or \$2,572,485, above the 2006 budget of \$38,462,531. The 2007 budget will be allocated in a manner similar to the 2006 distribution: Southern Baptist Convention mission causes, 40 percent or \$16.4 million; Florida Baptist Convention mission causes, 51.50 percent or \$21 million; and priority items — church pastoral assistance, 4 percent, and church annuity program, 4.5 percent. □

BGCO holds 100th annual meeting

Baptist Press

DEL CITY, Okla. — The 100th annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma was attended by 1,009 messengers Nov. 13-14 at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Messengers adopted a record budget, endorsed partnership agreements for Bangladesh and Utah-Idaho and passed 11 resolutions.

They also heard a report of a \$1 million gift given to the capital campaign for the Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center.

Before leaving to celebrate the convention's centennial at First Southern Baptist Church in Del City Tuesday night, messengers adopted a \$23.5 million budget for 2007, the largest in the convention's history, up from the current \$22.7 million budget.

The 2007 budget will continue to allocate 60 percent of Cooperative Program receipts received for Oklahoma missions causes and 40 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes after 1 percent is allocated for statewide stewardship and CP education.

In a three-way race for BGCO president, Alton Fannin, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ardmore, was elected over Buddy Hunt, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Duncan, and Walter Mullican, pastor of Portland Avenue Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

BGCO Executive Director-Treasurer Anthony Jordan joined leaders from Bangladesh and Utah-Idaho who signed mission partnership agreements for the next three years. Bangladesh is a country with 150 million people in an area the size of Arkansas. In some counties in Utah and Idaho, meanwhile, there is no evangelical work and not a single church, messengers were told.

Resolutions ranged from support of the U.S. military to encouraging parental involvement in education in the God-initiated choice of public, private, or home schooling to ensure the child's physical, moral, emotional, and spiritual well-being. All 11 resolutions passed without discussion or opposition. □

Poes explore legacy of C.S. Lewis

Union University news office

JACKSON — A new book about C.S. Lewis as a teacher, edited by the father-daughter

New SS lesson writers selecte

Baptist Press

both North America and G Britain.

BRENTWOOD — An East Tennessee pastor and a current director of missions will write the Sunday School commentaries for the December-February quarter.

Reggie Weems, senior pastor of Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City, for the past 15 years, will write the Bible Studies for Life series.

A native of Granite City, Ill., Weems was reared primarily in Europe. He holds degrees from Graham Bible College, Bristol, Va., and Andersonville Seminary, Camilla, Ga. Since entering the ministry, Weems has participated or led 15 foreign missions endeavors. He also has had articles published in

He and his wife, Teana, have three adult children.

Thurman Seber, director of missions for Salem Baptist Association, based in Lib, will write the Explore the Bible series.

Seber has announced resignation from Salem Association, effective Dec. 31, to pursue full-time evangelism.

Seber's most recent torate was Upper Helton Baptist Church, Alexandria.

He is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and he attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Seber and his wife, La, have four adult children. □

combination of Harry Lee "Hal" Poe and Rebecca Whitten Poe, is now in its second printing.

C.S. Lewis Remembered, published by Zondervan, is a collection of essays written by 17 of Lewis' students, friends, and colleagues. It was first published in August.

Hal Poe is the Charles Colson Professor of Faith and Culture at Union University and has written, edited, or contributed to more than 25 books. His daughter Rebecca is a junior at Union, majoring in English. This is her first book.

"We know him as an apolo-

gist and a writer of children's stories and science fiction that's not what he did for living," Hal Poe said.

The book seeks to answer that question by including insights from those whose lives were changed by having him as a teacher.

"This is just a small pling," Hal Poe said. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Cardiff Baptist Church, local Rockwood, Tenn., seeks a national youth minister. resume to 150 Delozier Rockwood, TN 37854.

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Small, rural congregation near Jackson, Tenn., seeks full-time bivocational pastor. E-mail resume to tsprice@bellsouth.net or mail to Tommy Price, 425 Rocky Springs Rd., Beech Bluff, TN 38313.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Sharon Baptist Church is accepting resumes for senior pastor. Growing community, excellent facilities, new ministry center, 820 members. Mail to Sharon Baptist Church, Senior Pastor Search Committee, 7916 Pedigo Rd., Knoxville, TN 37938.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The congregation of First Baptist Church of Philadelphia is seeking a full-time pastor. Inquires and resumes may be sent to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 45, Philadelphia, TN 37846 or by e-mail to hillm@loudoncounty.org.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

French Broad Baptist Church in Dandridge, Tenn., is seeking a bivocational pastor. We are a small congregation of approximately 70 in AM worship. Interested parties should send resumes to the following address, French Broad Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1577, Dandridge, TN 37725. Our web site is www.frenchbroadbaptistchurch.org.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Exciting, established children's ministry seeking person to preschool/children's ministry. Bachelor's degree required. Master's degree from a Southern Baptist Seminary preferred. Resumes may be e-mailed to searchcommittee@fbcjoe.org or mailed to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, Whites Creek Pk., Joelton, TN 37080.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

LaBelle Haven Baptist Church accepting resumes for a part-time children's minister. Interested applicants may submit resumes to 6825 E. Holmes Rd., Meridian, TN 38141, fax (901) 547-1616, labellehaven@bellsouth.net or Winford Baker.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

Seeking associate pastor & minister to students. Full-time position. Please submit resumes to Meridian Baptist Church, Search Committee, 6513 Chapman, Knoxville, TN 37918, webmaster@meridianbaptist.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Church van wanted at reasonable price or someone willing to donate one for work in ministry. Contact Calvary Baptist Church, 1302 N.E. Poplar, Leon, Ga. 30144. E-mail: mdc2@grm.org.

Join **Christian Life Tours** and for an **ALASKA CRUISE & LAND TOUR** June 2-13. Space is also available for our **Hawaiian Paradise Cruise & Tour in February** and for our **Mediterranean & Greek Isles** cruise in September. Round trip air arranged from your closest major airport. For brochures, or to make a reservation, call **877-557-0073** (toll free) or e-mail **ddale1950@aol.com**.



LifeWay
CHURCH BUS SALES

Buses provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter Bus Sales
Franklin, TN • Since 1953
1-615-376-2287

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

book review

wn Ferguson

Heaven

by Randy Alcorn

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2004

Randy Alcorn thinks we do Christianity a huge disservice by not studying about Heaven and having an idea about what to expect there. He further believes that since we don't study God's Word and use our imagination and "think on the things above," we get caught up in belief that Heaven is some ethereal place where we float around all day and have an unending work-service. A belief that doesn't hold a lot of appeal for people.

Instead, Alcorn believes we should look at all Scripture has to say and offer us about Heaven and form our understanding of what the "new heavens and new earth" will be like.

While Alcorn admits that some of what he says is speculation, he also believes that based on God's Word we could have a better idea of what Heaven is than we do.

Alcorn believes that "God never gave up on His original plan for human beings to dwell on earth. In fact, the rest of history will be the creation of new heavens and new Earth, a resurrected universe inhabited by resurrected people living with the resurrected Jesus" (Revelation 21:1-4).

In his book, Alcorn makes the case for the New Earth recreated right here where we are. "When Christ returns, God's agenda is not to destroy everything and start over, but to restore everything" (Acts 3:21). Alcorn argues that since Jesus came back in a body and ate, drank and continued to teach, our lives will be similar to His. While we'll be doing lots of things, "all that will be an act of worship."

Alcorn was a pastor for 14 years before he founded Eternal Perspective Ministries, a nonprofit ministry dedicated to promoting an eternal viewpoint and drawing attention to people in special need of advocacy and help. He has dedicated many years to the study of Heaven and eternity. And his almost 500 page book shows that. Carefully footnoted and documented and many reputable authorities in theology are quoted throughout. Among Alcorn's other beliefs are that animals will be part of heaven - we'll continue to learn and we'll build the foundation of knowledge we formed during our life on earth - literature, music, and art will all be part of heaven - we will know our families and friends there and will have dwelling places - we will have work to do, and will never be a drudgery - we will continue to be loved just like our Father - and so much more. And finally, of all, we will no longer be capable of sinning.

Alcorn's book is a refreshing look at an often misunderstood subject. While you may not agree with all he believes, the book merits your time. After all, if you're supposed to think on things above and our heavenly knowledge will be built on what we learned and what we spent our time here, isn't reading this book a lot more beneficial than watching another "reality television show?"

It can also bring hope to any reader who may currently be walking through the valley of death.

In the preface, Alcorn quotes the apostle Paul who wrote, "Test everything. Hold on to the good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). "It's up to you to test by God's Word. I say, hold on to the good and reject the bad," says Alcorn. And this book is worth the time to test! □ — *John W. Seber* lives in Gallatin and is a correspondent for the *Standard and Reflector*.

Faith that works

By Reggie Weems

Focal Passage: Hebrews 11:1-2, 5-7, 32-38; 12:1

Moby Dick's creator, Herman Melville observed, "To produce a mighty book you must choose a mighty theme." The Bible's mighty theme may very well be the Reformation's rallying cry, "the just shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 3:10-11, and Hebrews 10:36-39). Faith is fundamental and essential to genuine Christianity. Christians are justified by faith (Romans 5:1) and are encouraged to add to their faith (II Peter 1:5). Without faith, no one can please God (Hebrews 11:6). We are encouraged to possess a faith that preserves our souls (10:39b) so that we do not "shrink back and are destroyed" (10:39a). How does faith work?

Understand the true object of our faith (11:1-2; 12:2). Everyone has faith. People have faith that chairs will hold them up and so they sit in them. Muslims have faith to sacrifice their lives in Allah's cause. If everyone has faith, why isn't everyone saved? The answer is in Hebrews 11:1-2, which defines faith as possessing a definite object. It is "the assurance" (ESV) of something hoped for. It is "the conviction" of something "not seen" but real. The object of our assurance and conviction is actually a person, Jesus Christ.

What makes Christian faith different from any other faith is the

object of our faith. Other religions may have faith equal to or that even exceeds our faith but the object of their faith is not equal to the object of our faith, who is Christ Jesus the Lord. Even prayer works because of the person we pray to and not because of the number of our words, repetitions, or eloquence. This is why we can have mustard seed or mountain sized faith with the same consequence (Matthew 17:20). We must be careful to understand the true object of our faith is not our faith but Jesus Christ Himself. It is Christ who makes the difference. Understanding the true nature of faith is not simply a passive acknowledgment but a constant and active look toward Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) who saves! He is the true object of genuine, biblical faith. He alone makes faith work!

Endure in the true nature of faith (11:5-7, 32-38; 12:2). Since real faith is in Jesus, it naturally and continually looks to Jesus (12:1-2). Believing faith is alive, vigorous, actively looking to Christ and obeying Him. Abel offered the appropriate sacrifice (11:4); Enoch walked with God (11:5) and Noah prepared an ark (11:5) by faith. The same is said of a multitude of named heroes of faith (11:32f). Hebrews 11 illustrates that real faith's true nature is active. It is not a "once saved, always saved" excuse for carnality but "once saved, ever saved" through a living, vibrant, working faith that gives us every

Sunday School Lesson
Bible Studies for Life
Dec. 3

reason to know we are Christians.

Every believer would do well to heed John Calvin's famous thought based on James 2:26 that "faith alone saves but faith that saves is not alone." Simply put, if faith does not work, it is not biblical faith. A working faith offers us assurance and matures us into Christ-likeness. We endure like those behind us (Hebrews 11) because we, like them, possess a perfect Savior (Hebrews 12:1-2) before us. He is not only our pattern in suffering and sanctification but also in exaltation. Saving faith is an enduring faith because the Savior eternally endures.

How do we know we have biblical faith? It is in Christ alone! How do we know we have genuine faith? It endures! "Through their faith" (11:39). Old Testament saints remained faithful by looking unto Jesus (12:2). Faith in Christ does not fail because He cannot fail! "Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He ... and He must win the battle." □ — Weems is senior pastor of Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City.



WEEMS

Seizing new opportunities

By Thurman Seber

Focal Passage: Ezra 1:1-6; 3:1-3, 10-11

Introduction. God was still in control, and was bringing things to pass just as the prophets of old had foretold. The captivity of God's people in Babylon was for a season and a reason, but the Lord had not forgotten His promise. He would bring them home again.

Although the method of deliverance would be very different from the ancient exodus from Egypt, the same God would bring both to pass by His strong hand.

Respond to God-given opportunities (1:1-6). A goodly number of godly people began to sense the moving of Almighty God. Things started to unfold in a very different way than they had long ago in the days of Moses. In Moses' day, God hardened the heart of wicked Pharaoh, pushing him even further in the direction he was inclined to go. God demonstrated, for all to see, His great sovereignty by breaking the will and power of mighty Pharaoh.

In this deliverance, King Cyrus of Persia also felt the stirring of God's Spirit in his heart. Although he may not have been a true believer in our God, he was used as an instrument for the good of God's people.

In the first exodus, it seemed that only Moses really understood what God was doing. This great deliverance was done almost by committee. Many people rose up in

response to the call of God (v. 5).

The time had come. Would they leave the relative comfort and security of Babylon for the return to the land of promise? Many began to seize the God-given opportunity.

Some would gather their loved ones around them and make the long journey home. Many of those who stayed behind, would become a part of the work through sacrificial giving (v. 6). There were probably others who were too old or sick to go, and too poor to give very much gold or silver. These could be involved through faithful prayer on behalf of those who went.

There are many God-given opportunities in our day as well. Some can go, some can give, and others can best help by faithful praying.

Recognize the priority of worship (3:1-3). Early in the process of

reclaiming of the land, the people of God recognized the need for worship, and it became a great priority. They were surrounded by enemies and living in fear (v. 3). How could they do this great work without God? How could they dare ask God for help if they were unwilling or negligent in worshiping Him?

While many today are well aware of the need to worship God, others seem blinded to this need. Most are

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Dec. 3

willing to cry out to the Almighty when surrounded by strong enemies such as sickness or death. Many of these same people do not find the time, or see the need, for worship in the good times.

Rejoice in the Lord's help (3:10-11). They sang together, praised God, gave thanks, and shouted as they saw the foundation of the temple laid (v. 11). God was indeed working through them.

If I have prayerfully and faithfully sought the guidance of God, I must believe and assume that His unseen hand is guiding my life. (Hebrews 10:38, Now the just shall live by faith.)

God will help me according to His blessed promise. He will help you as well.

Conclusion. God does not always work the same way He did with us before, nor the same way He does with other people. Nevertheless, we must keep both our physical and spiritual eyes wide open. God provides us with open doors of service. (I Corinthians 16:9, For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.) □ — Seber, currently director of missions at Salem Baptist Association, Liberty, will enter full-time evangelism in January.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world

Leaders

◆ Sharon Baptist Church, Knoxville, recently named **James E. Robertson** as pastor emeritus. Robertson served the church for 35 years as pastor.

◆ First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, called **Eugene Leamon** as its intentional interim pastor effective Nov. 16.

◆ Joy Fenner, interim executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union from 2001-2003, was elected first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, Nov. 20.

Associations

◆ Newly elected officers of the **Riverside Baptist Association**, Livingston, were not completely listed in a recent issue of the *Baptist & Reflector*. There are Chris Ward, director of missions; Angie Anderson, Fellowship Baptist Church, clerk; Jeff Amonett, pastor, Moodyville Baptist Church, moderator; Jeff Monday, pastor, Rickman Baptist Church, former moderator; Don Cobb, pastor, First Baptist Church, Livingston, treasurer;



LEADERS OF THE Women's Conference of Salem Baptist Association, Liberty, stand by a missionary's display during the Oct. 21 meeting. They are, from left, Patty Hale; Vickie Puckett, associational Woman's Missionary Union director; Tina Hutchison, worship leader; Annie Green; and Lisa Vickers. The women heard missionaries from Asia speak. The meeting was hosted by Whorton Springs Baptist Church, Smithville.

and Morris McMaster, pastor, Hilham Baptist Mission, vice moderator.

◆ **Central Baptist Association**, McMinnville, held its annual meeting Oct. 23. Elected as officers were Jerry Smith, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, vice moderator; and Willard Ralph Jr., pastor, Mount Elim Baptist Church, moderator.

◆ **Nashville Baptist Association**, will hold its annual Toy Store Dec. 11-15 at Shelby Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville. The Toy Store is an inner city ministry for needy families living in

the 37206 zip code.

Churches

◆ **Norwood Baptist Church**, Knoxville, recently held revival services which resulted in 24 people accepting Christ as their Savior. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Knoxville, was the speaker.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Waverly**, held its 7th annual fall festival on Oct. 31. With the largest crowd ever in attendance, the church served over 1,800 hot dogs, gave out 40,000 pieces of candy, and



ELECTED AS OFFICERS of Indian Creek Baptist Association, Waynesboro, during its recent annual meeting were, from left, David Miller, director of missions; Lawrence Steiner, pastor, Baptist Church and former DOM, moderator; Linda Griggs, Chapel Baptist Church, clerk; Mike McDaniel, minister of Green River Baptist Church, vice moderator; Gary Anderson, Philadelphia Baptist Church, treasurer.

provided a wide variety of games. Church members also distributed candy to children during its "trunk or treat." A carved pumpkin contest was held with pastors of area churches serving as judges. Members of First Baptist also distributed salvation bracelets and religious tracts.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Knoxville**, recently raised over \$1,500 to combat hunger in Malawi. A project of the young people in the church,

the "Watering Malawi" series, will help build wells providing irrigation to crops.

◆ **Central Baptist Church, Johnson City** present "The Living Tree" 15-17 with afternoon evening performances. Admission is free, but tickets may be picked up in the church. In addition, "The Puppet" will be held Dec. 16 with morning performances.



ROYAL AMBASSADORS and Girls in Action of Ellendale Baptist Church, Memphis, pause with the groceries they collected Oct. 29 for the Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat project. Many churches participate in the project, which was held for the 13th year. The RAs and GAs of Ellendale went door-to-door in their area around the church and collected cans of food. It was given to the Memphis Food Bank. The children also distributed flyers about the church as they visited the homes.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE largest Acteens Coronation Service of Liberty Baptist Church, Wartburg, stand together at the church during the recent service. Acteens who earned their crowns were, from left, back row, Molly Beth Griffith, Julie Ann Phillips, Crystal Brooke Fountain, Danielle LeighAnn Greene; Elizabeth Annette Chapman; Jessica Amber Whaley, Lauren Rae Byrd, Christy Marie Burgess, and Erica Suzanne Sill. Not pictured is Erika Gabriella Ward. The late Josephine Phillips started several missions organizations at Liberty and worked with Mission Friends, GAs, and Acteens there for more than 50 years. Acteens leader of the church is Carol L. Bunch.



NEW OFFICERS OF Watauga Baptist Association, Elizabethton, pause during its Oct. 19 annual meeting. They are, from left, Sorrells, director of missions; Ken Jordan, pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, moderator; Dwight Hobbs, pastor, Roan Park Baptist Church, vice moderator; Jim Norman, pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, outgoing moderator; Kathy Wilson, associational secretary, clerk; Shirley Taylor, associational financial secretary, assistant clerk; Will Andrews, Oak Street Baptist Church, treasurer; Richard Tester, Union Baptist Church, assistant treasurer. The association also approved a loan to buy the house and property for the new Lynnwood/Lynnridge Mission Church. The association also burned a note on the building loan, which was paid off years early.



NEWLY ELECTED officers of Hardeman County Baptist Association, Bolivar, stand together following the recent annual meeting. They are, from left, Mary Louise Craft, associational secretary-treasurer; Carolyn Grantham, Hornsby Baptist Church, clerk; Koonce, director of missions; Eric Taylor, pastor, Middleton Baptist Church, moderator; and Tim West, pastor, Hornsby Baptist Church, vice moderator.