

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

NAMB nears end of search for new president

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — The North American Mission Board's presidential search committee hopes to have a recommendation by late March or early April, by committee chairman Greg Fauls reported to NAMB's trustees during their Feb. 7 meeting at the mission board's offices here.

"We are working now with a narrowed, select list of candidates," said Fauls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky. "We have been working hard and taking our time. We are committed to seek the Lord and are looking for God's man. We are not allowing the committee to be hijacked by outside political influence."

The search committee probably will call a special meeting of the board of trustees to announce its recommendation, Fauls said.

"We are looking for someone who has a heart for God and who not only will have integrity and be able to collaborate with the trustees, but will be chosen by God to be a catalyst for spiritual awakening in this nation," Fauls said.

In a financial report, NAMB trustees were advised that because of a 3 percent increase in revenues and gains, 2006 total revenues were up to \$127.8 million — \$3 million more than in 2005.

The increase was due to a record Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of \$58.5 million, plus a substantial decrease in total expenses resulting from budget under-runs in several NAMB divisions.

Trustees voted to apply the \$3 million overage to strategic ministry needs.

In other business, trustees heard the results of two recently completed church planting studies. One study involved Southern Baptist church planters as well as planters from 10 other denominations. The other examined church planting awareness at SBC seminaries.

According to the studies:

- On average, 68 percent of Southern Baptist church plants survived beyond their fourth year. The SBC survivability was the same as the sample as a whole.

- Awareness of church planting at Southern Baptist seminaries is on the rise, reflected in an increase over a six-year period from 33 percent to 55 percent of graduates who agreed strongly that they heard frequently about church planting at seminary.

Trustees were told that while new NAMB-sponsored church plants were down in 2006 from 1,724 to 1,457, new church plants have averaged 1,602 over the past four years. In 2006, 55.3

percent of all new church starts were ethnic or African American churches.

According to NAMB committee reports, 2007-08 will mark several anniversaries in the Southern Baptist Convention and other evangelicals. Among the key milestones to be celebrated by NAMB during the next year will be the 100th anniversary of the Royal Ambassadors missions education program for boys and the 40th anniversary of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. □

Hands-on ministry key to shaping teen faith: study

Associated Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Serving meals to homeless people at a church-sponsored shelter can have a greater impact than sitting in a pew every Sunday morning on how a teenager's faith develops, a new study has concluded.

Involvement in community service is far more significant to the faith development of teens than involvement in worship, said Michael Sherr, assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Baylor University.

But volunteer service in faith-motivated ministries to meet human needs has a direct impact on how involved teenagers become in a variety of religious practices — including worship, Bible study, and prayer, he noted.

The best scenario is involvement in worship and prayer, living out faith through service, followed by time committed to study and reflection, he said. The ideal is preaching the gospel and doing the gospel together.

Sherr worked with two colleagues in the School of Social Work — Dean Diana Garland and Associate Dean Dennis Myers — and Terry Wolfer from the University of South Carolina on a study that examined how community service is related to the faith maturity and faith practices of adolescents in churches.

As part of a larger study funded by the Lilly Endowment, the researchers surveyed 631 adolescents from 35 Protestant churches in six states. They found an indisputable link between community service, faith maturity, and faith practices.

The fact is that service that gives kids a sense of meaning and purpose in their lives has a profound impact on their faith, Garland said. Faith is deepened when they feel called out to do something. Far more than recreational activities or retreats — or even Bible study and worship — it really matures their faith.

That realization should make a difference in the way churches seek to reach teens and help them develop as Christians, she noted.

Churches have tended to see service as an add-on. This study suggests they might think of it at the heart of ministry — as a way of engaging young people who are looking for their lives to have meaning and purpose and who find it pouring themselves out in response to the needs of others, she said.

It also offers a way for churches to influence the lives of young people who may be reluctant to attend worship services or Sunday School classes but who are willing to join their friends in volunteer service, Sherr added.

If mature Christian adults work alongside teenagers and help them process what they learn through service, those teachable moments can make a profound impact on teens, he noted. Their faith is developing, and they don't have to be in pews to do it, Sherr said.

In their report, the researchers concluded: Involvement in authentic service to real needs, alongside parents or other adults whenever possible, accompanied by reflection on the connections between service experiences and religious teachings and other practices — perhaps with some pizza and fun mixed in — can serve as a fruit-bearing path for ministry to teenagers.

Moreover, this approach to ministry treats teenagers as partners in ministry rather than objects of ministry, an important and empowering distinction for developing new generations of spiritual leaders for today as well as tomorrow. □

Prayer 'greatest gift' to politicians, says president

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — The "greatest gift" an American can give public officeholders is to pray for them, President George W. Bush said Feb. 1 at the National Prayer Breakfast.

The president thanked all those "who lift all of us up in prayer" in an eight-minute speech to legislators, adminis-

TBC churches respond in ...

— Continued from page 1

Lewis said the church is "saddened that it has become necessary for Belmont to prepare for a lawsuit from her own family when so many good things are happening on campus," he continued.

"We are complying with the request with a glad heart, because we still support the mission of Belmont along with her leadership. We hope and pray for an 11th hour miracle of reconciliation," Lewis said.

Several churches simply turned the subpoena over to an attorney.

David Leavell, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, said his congrega-

tion officials, foreign diplomats, religious leaders, and others who gathered in a Washington hotel ballroom for the 55th annual event.

The National Prayer Breakfast began in 1953 during President Dwight D. Eisenhower's first administration. □

Miss. Senate oks ban on abortions

Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi's Senate easily passed bill Feb. 7 banning most abortions, becoming the first legislative body this year to adopt a measure challenging Roe v. Wade.

Other states, including South Dakota and Utah, also are considering abortion bans.

Mississippi's bill, which would ban abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and to save the mother's life, passed with a bipartisan vote of 35-4. It now goes to the state House, which passed an abortion ban last year but may not view the bill favorably this year. According to *The Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, House Public Health and Human Services Chairman Steve Holland said he had no intention of considering the bill.

Last year the abortion bill failed to make it out of a House-Senate conference. With Holland's opposition, the bill may die again. □

First Indiana state exec dies

Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS — E. Harmon Moore, 90, the first executive secretary-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and the founding editor of the *Indiana Baptist* died in Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 1.

From 1959 until his retirement in 1981 Moore led the growth of the Indiana convention from 111 churches with 20,000 members to 275 churches with 73,000-plus members.

He is survived by his wife, Betsy, and a son. □

tion did just that. The response is in process, Leavell said.

Mike Boyd, pastor of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, said his church provided records to their attorney who will craft a response.

"While we don't have much in terms of records in regard to cooperative giving to Belmont, we will give them what we have," Boyd said.

Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson also turned the matter over to an attorney, said pastor Phil Jett.

"It is a very difficult response to cover all the areas they want. We are just leaving it in the hands of our attorney." □

Friel reflects on 34 years as pastor of FBC, Mt. Juliet

By Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

MT. JULIET — Billie Friel has accomplished a lot as pastor of First Baptist Church here for 34 years. He recently began serving the church as pastor emeritus/staff evangelist.

But he doesn't take his accomplishments too seriously. Friel recently earned his doctor of ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. His comment — "If you add another curl on a pig's tail, that doesn't make the pig any more of a pig."

His down-to-earth philosophy may have come from his upbringing around a trailer park his grandparents owned. But his background may have helped him in ministry — which included a lot of visiting door-to-door and a bus ministry. He and other leaders of First Baptist began the bus ministry of First Baptist 33 years ago. It is still operating.

The bus ministry "reaches everybody's doorstep" said Friel. It's a way to "cover the community."

The other form of "intentional outreach," as Friel called it, he has practiced as visiting people in their homes. For years the church held visitation on Monday nights. In addition, Friel visited people in their homes on Saturdays for many years.

"Those were fun times," he recalled. "You know the saying," Friel said. "If you visit all day Saturday you know by sundown what will happen down the aisle on Sunday."

His efforts resulted in growth at the church from 400 to 2,500 members. In 1978 the church relocated and built on a campus which now includes 67 acres. Since then the church has added the Mt. Juliet Christian Academy.



FRIEL

The accredited school has about 600 students in pre-Kindergarten (for 4-year-olds) to grade 12.

"If we had more room we'd have more students," said Friel.

First Baptist also plans to build Rutland Place, an independent

living housing complex for senior adults. It will have 112 apartments.

Friel's vision is that the church will provide for all age groups and that they will benefit as they interact through activities. According to reports, senior adults live eight years longer if they have a good diet, fellowship, and a purpose to live, said Friel.

He also is proud of the fact that the church facility is used seven days a week because of the school's use of

the church facilities.

He has watched Mt. Juliet, which borders Davidson County, home to metropolitan Nashville, change from a rural community to a Nashville suburb.

Subdivisions have been added and added, said Friel. But as he has seen stakes posted in the ground to mark new property lines, to him they meant homes with people in them.

Friel really began to discover his community when he took up walking for exercise. He began prayerwalking before it was a program of Southern Baptists, he noted. He would walk every day but a couple times a week Friel would prayerwalk, sometimes so far he would ask his wife to pick him up.

During his prayerwalks, recalled Friel who has been sidelined by a knee injury, he often was offered a ride. He is pretty well known by folks here, he said. When people learned what he was doing, they would ask him to pray for something specific.

One year he walked about 1,500 miles.

As he looks back on his ministry, his best memories are of "seeing God work in people's lives, seeing God change people," said Friel, and "seeing the church lead a community spirit."

He has regrets and often feels like he has failed because there are "so

many things you want to do for the Lord."

Friel is looking forward to this new phase of his life and ministry. He will continue ministry at the church but will have time to pursue other callings. He has many goals, just like he did while pastor.

Friel came to First Baptist from Port Sulphur Baptist Church, Port Sulphur, La. He served this church while a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also served as pastor of a church while a college student in Florida.

He hopes to work with the families of the students of Mt. Juliet Christian Academy. Many of them aren't involved in a church, he said.

He may try to implement his doctoral dissertation on planting churches in multi-housing communities, which are apartment complexes and trailer parks.

Friel hopes he can preach in other churches which may call on him. He also plans to write. He has written Sunday School curriculum for LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville.

He also has authored four books and hopes to write others. He is author of *High Hopes for the Church*, *What Should I Do When*, *Citizens of the Kingdom*, and *Manna From Mark*.

"I just want God to find me and use me," said Friel. □

Tennessee Acteen receives top honor

WMU news office

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Woman's Missionary Union has selected Juliana Robbins of West Point to be one of seven 2007 National Acteens Panelists nationwide based on her strong commitment to missions and Acteens and exemplary leadership and involvement in her community and church.

Acteens is the WMU missions organization for teenage girls in grades 7-12.

Robbins, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro, was highly recommended by her associational director of missions and church leaders who said they have witnessed the impact she has made through her missions lifestyle. She was named as a National Top Teen in 2006 by WMU.

Acteens leader Aileen Hollis recommended Robbins, describing her as someone who always has an optimistic outlook, strives for improvement in all she does, and has a love for both young and old.

During the past 12 months, Robbins has been involved in many outreach projects through Acteens. She has also been a Tennessee Acteens Panelist, assisting in various state retreats and conventions. She has been on mission trips in five states and Mexico.

She said she also enjoys participating in backyard Bible clubs, block parties, door-to-door witnessing, and nursing home ministries with her church. □



ROBBINS

Marketplace ministry

Layman keeps his cool when others around him don't

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

MADISON — In more than 30 years as a youth, high school, and college basketball official, Gene Menees has seen both the best and worst in people.

"When a ball is involved good people can go crazy," said Menees, a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Neely's Bend Baptist Church here.

He laughed that he has refereed many high school basketball games where he has been "blistered" verbally by fans, many of whom would be sitting in church the following Sunday morning.

Menees has learned to take it all in stride.

"No matter what level of officiating, fans will holler at the officials," he said.

"You learn to cope with it," he added, noting that experience teaches an official that his or her "emotions must go down" when the emotions of players, coaches, and fans are on the rise. "Being a Christian gives me a different temperament and helps me go into difficult situations."

Experience has taught Menees to treat coaches and players with respect and to be honest. "We as officials should never say anything to fans, players, and coaches that we wouldn't expect them to say to us, without penalty," he noted.

"If I miss a call, I admit it. By the same token, if I know I got a call right, you have to draw the line and let the coaches and players know you're not going to listen to their complaints."

He noted with a grin that an official has to "have a little bulldog" in him on occasion.

Menees, who says a prayer each time before stepping onto the court, credits his Christian faith in helping him to



GENE MENEES, a layman at Neely's Bend Baptist Church, Madison, has officiated basketball for more than 30 years. His Christian faith has helped him keep his composure in many difficult situations.

cope. He believes, however, that it is not just what happens on the court during a 40-minute college basketball game that matters in the long run.

What really matters is how he acts before and after the games, Menees stressed.

"On the court everyone (officials) is about the same. It's how you live off the court that matters," said the Madison native who officiates both NAIA and NCAA college games for the Trans South Conference, the Big 12, Conference USA, Sunbelt Conference, Southland Conference, and the

Ohio Valley Conference.

Menees says he has developed numerous relationships through the years as an official and in his role as assistant executive director of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) which oversees high school sports in Tennessee.

"What you hope is that people in the relationships you have built see something different in your life — and for me, that difference is Christ."

Menees, who played minor league baseball for seven years, is still a member at Neely's Bend where he was reared and where his 84-year-old mother, a charter member, still attends.

He credits his parents for instilling Christian values in him at an early age — values that he still holds dear and that he shares whenever possible.

When he leads TSSAA rules meetings for officials and coaches, he almost always goes over the definition of "profanity." He noted that in his home "we didn't struggle with what profanity was. It was defined for us."

Sadly, he acknowledged that has changed in society today. So, he tells officials, "If you ever have a question of what profanity is, call your mother."

He also likes to remind basketball coaches that if their mothers were sitting with them on the bench, they wouldn't act as badly as they do on occasion.

Family has always been an important element of his life and that indirectly led him to become an official.

"After my wife, Patsy, and I married, we agreed that she would stay home if we had children," he recalled. Officiating provided the extra income we needed so she could do that after our two daughters were born," he said.

"She has been very supportive," Menees said. □

When all is said and done, there is only one 'love'

words from
the Word



By Johnnie C. Godwin

February brings Valentine cards and candy, sweetheart banquets, date with mate, and the color red in abundance. The month got its name from "Februaria," the love goddess. Pagan or religious, February is known as the love month; and my focus is on love. And what I have to say about love isn't trite.

One love

I believe in one love. More importantly, the Bible seems to teach that God gave us the gift of one love. It may sound like heresy to speak of only one love against the backdrop of books on "Four Loves" and sermons galore on "agape," "philia," "storge," and "eros" (Greek words for love). But the claim of one love is not heresy.

Defining love with words

So what is that one love? How is it defined? I once listened to a chapel speaker challenge his audience, "I bet you can't define love." He was about to do it for us. Immediately — but silently — a memorized definition from my teenage years came to mind: "Love is an earnest and anxious desire for and an active and beneficent interest in the well-being of the one loved." This love definition

may lack pizzazz, passion, warmth, and huggability; but it's still a very good overall definition of one love — God's kind of love. I can't do any better.

Defining love by actions

Love seems best defined by actions and attitudes rather than by words. We know real love when we see it expressed. Personally, I've never known what it was to be unloved. Loving parents welcomed me as a love gift from God early on the morning of Feb. 20, 1937 in Midland, Texas.

Besides being firstborn, I was also the first maternal grandchild and the first nephew of my mother's seven other siblings. Loving Christians almost immediately enrolled me in the cradle roll of First Baptist Church. As early as I remember anything, I remember learning that God loves all the little children and that God is love. When I reached an age and stage of accountability for my sin, I received God's loving gift of salvation (John 3:16).

Family loved me. Phyllis came into my teenage life and loved me forever. Children, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren came into my life and loved me. Friends have loved me. Although some folks haven't cared for me and may not like me, I don't know what it's like to be unloved. God's grace-love is greater than all my sin and came despite how unlovely I was in sin. Others

need that one love.

I've seen love defined by actions all my life. Once I came home from college at Christmas and didn't find my mother at home. I learned she was at the hospital loving a 13-year-old cancer patient through his last hours on earth and into the fullness of eternal life. I've seen two members of my pastor's family love him with the gift of one of their kidneys in life-giving transplants (over a decade). I've seen pictures of dead soldiers who laid down their lives to save others in Iraq and earlier wars.

Dying as a sacrifice to spare others may express one love supremely. On the other hand, a living sacrifice that lays one's life down in service for another also expresses one love (see Romans 1:1-2). One love has the essential element of serving others whether they can love back or not (Matthew 25:14-30).

Defining love by the Bible

The apostle Paul wrote what love is and what it isn't in I Corinthians 13. In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul headed the fruit of the Spirit with love — which seems to be a part of the other fruit. In Ephesians, he told us to put up with one another in love; to speak the truth in love; to walk in love; and much more.

John wrote that God is love (I John 4:8). The Bible also tells us that God is good — all the time. In my total life experience, though, the faith that God is love all the time has sus-

tained me. It has embraced me in my salvation, through my sins and failures, in anguished griefs, and in every turn of life. Knowing that my Father is good comforts me, but knowing that He loves me counts most of all.

The Father's love models the love we should have. God the Father loved us in a way that sent His only Son to die for our sins. God the Son came in flesh to demonstrate that love by living His life and giving it for our sins that we might have eternal life and joy.

When we love

God loves us for all His reasons, and it glorifies Him. However we express love — if it fits the definition I memorized as a teen — that love is for others and isn't selfish or for self. Ironically, when we love others in this way, it does something for us too. Although love given may not be reciprocated by the one loved, there is still a reciprocal effect. If we keep on loving others regardless of how they respond, we still are blessed; we get a return. We are blessed by loving and following God's design for love. It's this quality of loving that pastors, teachers, and other Christians try to give insight to when they talk about the Greek words for love.

What about the

Greek words for love

You may be tired of hearing about "eros," "philia," "agape," and sometimes "storge." I don't blame you. However, the motivation of those who teach about these words is good. They want to take you up the pyramid of love's expressions to the pinnacle of God's kind of love, which

most everyone recognizes as "agape."

No problem — unless the other words for love get short shrift as not being God's kind of love and being lesser loves. You see, God gave us love and designed every expression of it regardless of the word used in Greek or English or any other language.

God did not give us our emotions to be stamped out like weeds but to be cultivated like seeds. Love is the one seed the God gave us to express in all the ways He designed love to be expressed. "Eros?" Whoever teaches that eros means sensual love and doesn't say a good word for the sexual expression of love in marriage misses identifying one of God's best gifts — that Adam and Eve receive before they sinned. Marriage love is in the NT though eros isn't used.

"Philia" and "storge" are lesser loves than "agape." The first two words express friendship love and family love and other expressions too. The verb for "philia" is used of God loving the Son (John 5:20); of Jesus loving Lazarus (John 11:3, 36) of God loving the disciples because they loved Jesus (John 16:27; also see John 20:2; Corinthians 16:22; Titus 3:2; Revelation 3:19). Since God the Father and God the Son have "philia-love," "philia" certainly isn't a lesser love.* But, admittedly, "agape" then and now has become the word most distinctively identified as love like God loves and like we are love. God gave us one love and designed it for sinless expression in all the ways the Bible identifies it.

Love knows no season

Although we celebrate February as the month of love, Christian love knows no season and is always available. It takes initiative for others and does so on behalf of our Lord Himself who is love and has given it to us.

(*On John 21:15-17, see Frederick Danker's *Greek-English Lexicon* and study of other scholars who debate the matter.) □ — Copyright 2007 Johnnie C. Godwin; johniegw@comcast.net

Looking Up

MINISTRIES

"Jackie Kay ... An Evangelist For The Church"

As I begin my twelfth (12th) year in evangelism I wish to say a very sincere and heartfelt thank you to the many Tennessee Baptist pastors who have honored me with the joy of being with them and their churches in revival, often for repeat invitations. The following are just a few testimonies of some of those pastors I have been with.



**Evangelist
"Jackie" Kay**

Jackie Kay is a dear friend and a powerful preacher of the Gospel. Both times we have had Jackie with us we witnessed numerous decisions for Christ.

Jim Chatham, First Baptist Church, Dickson

Jackie's exposition of the Word and wonderful sense of humor are used to minister truths that will impact a church for a long time. We look forward to having him back again.

Herb Hester, First Baptist Church, Tullahoma

God greatly used Jackie to restore broken relationships and renew commitments to Christ and His Church.

Ken Duggan, Dallas Bay Baptist Church, Hixson

Excellent Dates Still Available For 2007

Call (901) 873-1986 or please visit our web site at www.jackiekay.org

Affordable Beachside & Beachfront Vacation Condos Spring Specials Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama
www.gulfshorescondos.com
 (over 50 units to choose from) |
 2 nights efficiency sleeps 4 beachside \$256.00; 4 nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachside \$605.00; 2 nights 1 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$383.00; 4 nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$650.00 Prices include everything (rent-tax-cleanup-parking) (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524 (expires 5/25/07)

SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
 Wilmington Baptist Association
 Hispanic, Inner City, Light Construction
 Visit our web site: www.yourwba.org
 or call David Brissón at (910) 799-1160.

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

Cuban Christians an inspiration to 'spoiled' Americans

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

After I went to Cuba in 2005, really never planned to go back. Now in 2007, I recently returned from my third mission trip to this Communist country located only 90 miles or so from Miami, Fla.

I could list many reasons why I have kept going back. First and foremost, I believe God led me to do so. But in addition, I have come to appreciate the Cuban Christians who have so little, but do so much for the Lord they serve. I get inspired every time I have the privilege to spend time with them.

On our trip to Cuba, we had to fly to Houston, then to Cancun, Mexico, and then on to Havana before embarking on our final destination to Santiago.

We missed our connection in Houston by about five minutes on the first day and had to wait about five hours before moving on. Needless to say we missed other connections and by the time we arrived at our hotel in

Havana it was about 1:30 a.m. and we had to get up two hours later to return to the airport to fly to Santiago.

Needless to say I complained and bemoaned the fact we were delayed. How dare we be inconvenienced.

But upon arriving in Cuba and seeing what they deal with on a daily basis, it made me ashamed.

The vast majority of Cubans have very little. In Santiago we visited homes that, if they were in America, would have been torn down years ago and ruled unsafe to live in. We saw kids playing with bike frames because they have no bikes. We saw youngsters playing "baseball" with whatever they could find to throw with a stick as their bat.

We visited homes where the main meal of the day is rice, rice, and more rice. Some homes are lit by a solitary light bulb hanging from the ceiling. I don't believe that would pass codes in our country.

I admit it. I am a spoiled American. And, the truth be known, most of us are. We have it so good and don't even know it.

Also, on this trip I was probably more concerned than I was on the previous two because of the uncertainty of the health of



THIS ELDERLY Cuban was first presented the gospel two years ago by a team from Tulip Grove Baptist Church, but failed to accept Christ. He was visited again this year by a TGBC team in January and made a decision to invite Jesus into his heart as Lord and Savior.



CUBAN CHILDREN play with whatever is available, even bicycles with no tires.

Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. I could just envision him dying while we were in the country and for some reason we would be unable to leave.

Again those fears were unfounded. We made it in and out just fine. Castro, to our knowledge, is still alive. My fears were pointless. God was in control then and He is in control now.

Miracles still happen

For people who might doubt that God is no longer in the miracle business think again.

Our team from Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Old Hickory witnessed one miracle after another during our week-long stay in Cuba.

We divided into teams of two and canvassed an area of Santiago known as the hole. On the second day Randy McIntosh and I visited a man who seemed strangely familiar. As Randy shared the gospel with him, I could not help but feel I had done this before. After he was

asked if he would like to invite Jesus into his life as Lord and Savior, the elderly man excused himself and went to another room. He returned with a old, weathered-looking Bible and proceeded to tell us how he read his Bible every day, prayed, and helped anyone who needed it.

As soon as he did that I knew that in 2005 Stacy Bell and I had visited this same man and Stacy shared the gospel and plan of salvation with him, but he had refused.

After reminding him we had met before, Randy and I talked with him further and before we left, he professed Jesus Christ as his Savior.

A seed Stacy had planted two years before bore fruit. Only God could have softened that hardened heart. It was nothing we did.

Every team that went out returned with similar stories of how God had worked miracles in the hearts of people in one of the poorest areas of Santiago.

One team member, J. P. Kirkham, had the opportunity to share Christ with the 65-

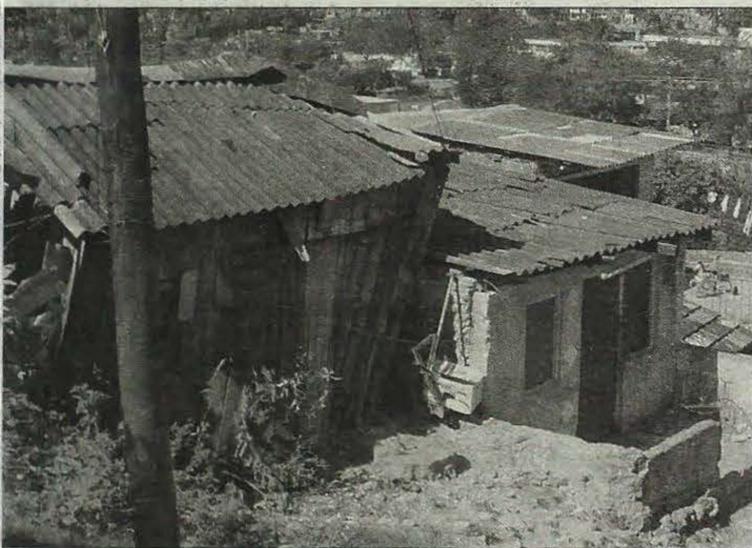
year-old father of a pastor in Santiago with whom we worked with for three days. This son had tried to reach his father for Christ for years, but to no avail.

J. P., who is the same age as the man, related to him and talked with him for some time and eventually led him to Christ. J. P. is the first to admit it was all God, not himself.

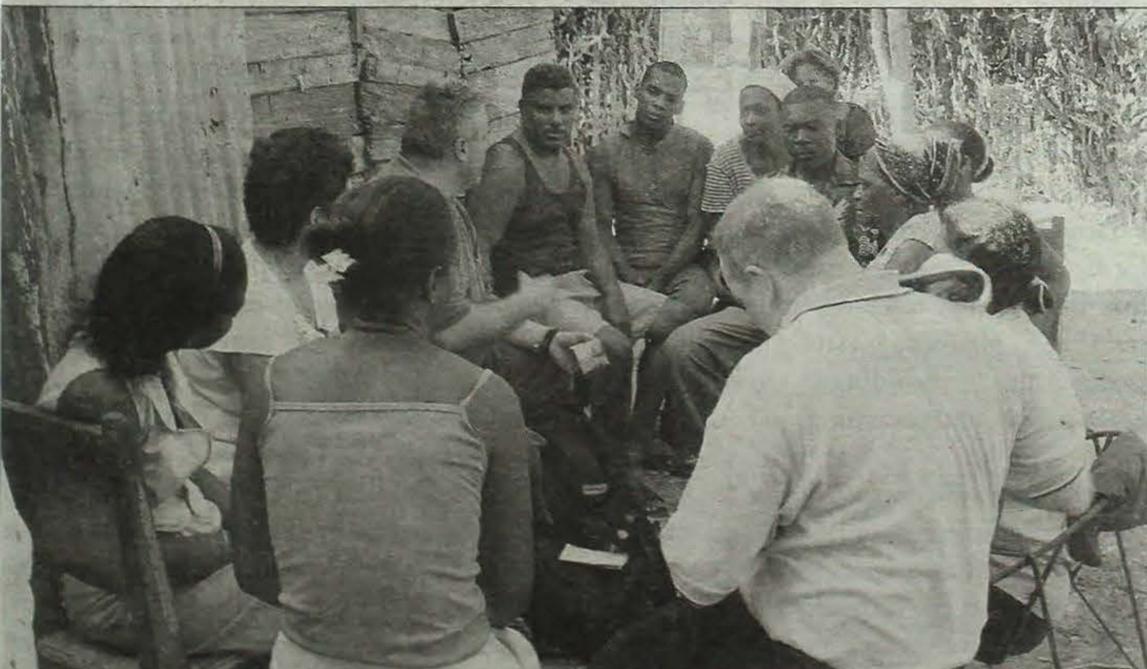
That is the very essence of missions. We can't save anybody, but if we allow ourselves to be vessels of God, miracles can and will take place. When all was said and done in Cuba that week, we had seen 579 people accept Christ.

And, while it is great to have the opportunity to go to places like Cuba, the truth is we have people just as lost and just as destined for hell here in the United States, including Tennessee in general and our own neighborhoods in particular.

All of us need to be ready to tell others about Jesus whenever opportunities permit. Then we need to entrust it to Jesus. He has never gotten out of the miracle business. □



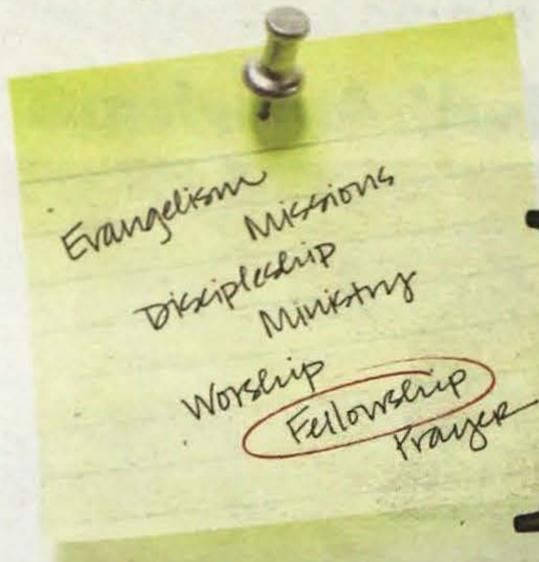
THESE HOUSES in the "hole" in Santiago, Cuba, reflect the poor living conditions faced by the vast majority of Cubans.



RANDY MCINTOSH, center, and Scott Dender, front right, share the gospel with several people who were invited to this home.

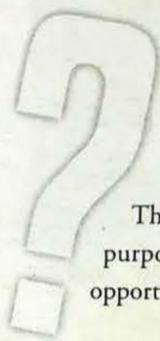


J. P. KIRKHAM, center, shares the gospel with a 65-year-old man whose son is pastor of a local church in Santiago. The man who had previously rejected the gospel, accepted Christ. Assisting in the presentation was Kirkham's translator, Mirna.



Church Health Matters

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



The Tennessee Baptist Conference Centers are multi-purpose facilities that offer a wide range of fellowship opportunities for churches and ministry groups.

Have you thought about having a:

- Camp for children, middle school, high school, or youth.
- Retreat for choir, deacons, church staff, prayer, women, men, college, couples, marriage renewal, singles, senior adults, personal prayer, or Sunday School classes.
- Planning meeting for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, church staff, deacons, church council, missions team, or worship team.
- Personal retreat for pastor and family or church staff.

Your state missionary staff who works at the Tennessee Baptist Conference Centers are here to help your church do the things listed above along with other ideas. To schedule a retreat or camp contact us at:

Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center

1225 Baptist Camp Road
Linden, TN 37096
Local (931) 589-2622
Toll Free 1-877-354-6336
Fax (931) 589-2712
Email: jbailey@tnbaptist.org
www.lindenvalley.org

Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center

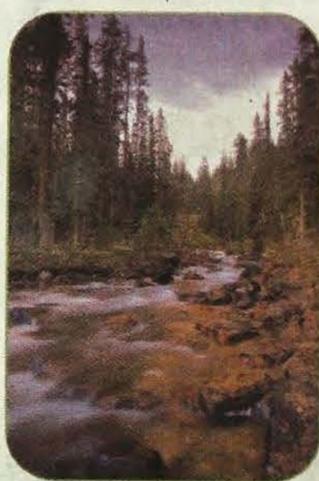
1120 Carson Springs Road
Newport, TN 37821
Local (423) 623-2764
Toll Free 1-877-706-6336
Fax (423) 623-7880
Email: smason@tnbaptist.org
www.carsonsprings.org

What's Your Story?

We have heard about many experiences at one of our Baptist conference centers. What was your experience? Write us about your favorite memory at Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center (Camp Linden) or Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center (Camp Carson).

Send your comments to: Tim Bearden, 1225 Baptist Camp Road, Linden, TN, 37096, or tbearden@tnbaptist.org.

How to Plan a Retreat



What is a retreat?

A retreat has been described as going to a place apart from the normal to seek spiritual refreshment. It is a strategic withdrawal for a specific purpose. Among the reasons for having a retreat

are: spiritual renewal usually tops the list, but one might use the time to get acquainted, to have fun, or to work. Jesus modeled the use of retreats for rest, teaching, and prayer.

What are the benefits of a retreat?

Retreats provide opportunity for spiritual renewal and refreshment, but in setting away from the normal day-to-day activities of life other things can happen. Genuine community/fellowship is experienced. Ministry to the whole person takes place. Relationships are built with God and others. Memories are made. Major commitments are made. Retreats provide time to focus on God.

What is the purpose of a retreat?

The purpose helps to determine the program, location, and even length of a retreat. Here is a starter list for discovering purpose: decisions for Christ; fellowship, relaxation, counseling, fun, discipleship, teaching, spiritual growth, training, planning, study, evaluation, evangelism, building relationships, organization, and preaching.

How to determine the purpose for the retreat

When determining purpose, ask yourself questions such as:

- For whom is the retreat?
- Why do you think a retreat is needed?
- What do you want to accomplish?
- What type of program is needed?
- When do you want to conduct a retreat?

- How far away do you want travel?
 - How long do you want the retreat to last?
- It has been said that a good retreat consists of two primary elements: 25 percent go to speaker or program and 75 percent to fellowship times and fellowship.

What is purposeful programming?

Plan so that you don't waste participant time. Gather a group to brainstorm a program that will accomplish your purpose. As you plan the program consider: the age of the target retreat group; familiarity of group to each other; music style of group; need for small group or large group times; church community, family calendar; and time of retreat (weekday or weekend).

What about the retreat site and service?

The retreat location and amenities should match the purpose of the retreat. One day retreats might take place at the church or similar location. Locations for longer retreats require more consideration.

- Would the group be happiest with rustic, semi-rustic, comfortable, or luxurious setting?
- What is the group's expectation for meals?
- What types of activities are you planning?

How do retreat sites differ?

Retreat centers or camps are different than motels. Retreat centers and camps usually offer quieter more relaxed setting away from the rush of crowds and noise. Select a facility that compliments purpose, goals, and expectation of your retreat audience. The site should create a "retreat feel." Visiting a retreat site before making reservations is highly recommended. Your first impression will usually be the same as the group. Facilities should be clean, comfortable, and in good repair. Staff should be friendly, and accessible. During site visits view and ask questions about food service, lodging, meeting areas, restrooms, recreation, and audio visual equipment.

(continued on following page)

How to Plan a Retreat (continued from previous page)

What about budget and costs?

When considering your budget and costs, remember the statement "You pay for what you get." Quality and price are not always compatible words. When figuring costs make sure all fees are added up in the budget. Include honorariums, travel expenses, promotion costs, lodging facilities rental and meals. There might be charges for use of equipment or services. Make a complete list of projected expenses. You might even allow for some surprises. For example, should it happen by accident or on purpose, groups might be held responsible for damages.

What about caring for the speaker?

If you are using a speaker in your retreat, match your needs with your speaker. Recognize what you are getting from your speaker. They must not only make preparation to speak, must travel, and must be away from their family. Include all details of the event with your invitation. Provide some comfort in traveling and housing. Protect your speaker from pranks and criticism. Honor the time you have allowed them in your program. Pay them properly and promptly.

What is planning an effective retreat?

A properly planned retreat will take from six months to a year, perhaps even longer to prepare. The earlier you contact a potential retreat site, the better the chances of securing the dates you would like to conduct the retreat.

For information about planning and conducting retreats, including a time line for planning, contact Tom Bearden, Tennessee Baptist Conference Centers Center manager, at tbearden@tnbaptist.org or toll free 1-877-354-6336.

Meet the Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center Manager: Keith McKinney



Like many in denominational work, I was born into a family that placed a high priority on attending and participating in the local church. My grandfather served as a deacon for over 50 years, and my parents taught Sunday School.

When I was eight, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior during a revival meeting and was baptized the following Sunday.

Growing up in the church, spending Wednesday afternoons in Royal Ambassadors, weeks at church camp in the summer, and attending Sunday School gave my life direction and purpose. Although the road was filled with many twists and turns, I always knew that God was patiently guiding me through life.

I attended a Christian college where I met the love of my life. We have been married for 26 years. The Lord has blessed Dori and me with three wonderful children, who have now grown to be adults.

My professional career has taken many directions over the years from school teacher, counselor to emotionally troubled teens, business owner, plant manager, and truck driver. In each of these, God taught me the many skills that I need to serve Him at Carson Springs.

While we were living in Arkansas, Dori's family made it a priority every year at Thanksgiving to come to Gatlinburg and spend the holiday weekend together. I loved the mountains and hoped someday, that we would be able to live there.

On our way home from one of these trips in 1993, I remarked that if God did indeed love us then He would move us to east Tennessee. Less than five months later, we were living and working at Camp Carson.

Since that time, we have expanded with a conference center, renovated Stokely Chapel, added a ropes course and climbing wall, and constructed a rustic camping village. Much of this work was done with volunteers.

Since 1949, many hundreds of thousands of lives, both adult and children, have been impacted at camp. People have been drawn closer to God through a closer walk with Jesus Christ at Camp Carson and Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center, Newport. We have been blessed to be a part of this ministry and look forward to continuing to serve Christ by serving churches.

For information, contact me at: toll free 1-877-704-6336; fax (423) 623-7880; kmckinney@tnbaptist.org; or www.carsonsprings.org.

How to Promote a Retreat

So you have determined that you are going to have a retreat. You have set the date, the location, and have confirmed the program. Now comes the hard part, convincing people to participate. Here are some simple concepts.

1. Get their attention. Do something out of the ordinary, something not expected, so that your audience will pay attention to what it is you are trying to get across to them.
2. Increase their interest. Make them want to take the next step and talk to you about what it is you are planning.
3. Stimulate their desire to attend. Let them know how this event will benefit them, what they will gain from going and participating.
4. Motivate them to take action. Determine what it will take to persuade them to commit to attending this event.
5. Don't forget "word of mouth." Word of mouth is one of the best tools for recruiting people for an event. Encourage people who have committed to attend to invite others.

Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

Feb. 22-24	Bi-vocational Ministers and Wives Retreat, Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge
Feb. 23-24	Handbell Festival - Middle Tennessee, Mt. Juliet Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet
Feb. 23-24	Youth Evangelism Conference, Municipal Auditorium, Nashville
Feb. 27	Helping Heal the Heartache of Grief: Minister Support Training Conference, Baptist Center, Brentwood
Feb. 27	Financial Issues/Investing In Retirement, Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett
Feb. 27	Financial Issues/Investing In Retirement, Hamilton County Baptist Association, Chattanooga
Feb. 28	Financial Issues/Investing In Retirement, Englewood Baptist Church, Jackson
Feb. 28	Financial Issues/Investing In Retirement, Knox County Baptist Association, Knoxville
Mar. 1	Financial Issues/Investing In Retirement, Riverdale Baptist Church, Murfreesboro
Mar. 1	Financial Issues/Investing In Retirement, Holston Baptist Association, Johnson City

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

Curbs on churches showing Super Bowl unchanged: NFL spokesman

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In an e-mail to Baptist Press Feb. 4, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello emphasized that the NFL had not altered its policy about mass out-of-home viewing of the league's championship game.

"Nothing has changed. We have no issue with churches holding Super Bowl parties under our longstanding guidelines that hundreds of churches adhere to every year," Aiello wrote hours before the game. He was responding to a question about a report on WorldNetDaily.com that the NFL apparently had eased curbs on churches planning festivities related to the championship.

Unknown is the impact the restrictions had on churches on game day nor what the eventual fallout will be for the NFL and its advertisers because of the NFL's inflexibility toward churches and favoritism toward sports bars.

According to an e-mail NFL attorney Rachel Margolies sent to Indianapolis' Fall Creek Baptist Church Jan. 31, the NFL restricts showing of the game only on televisions not larger than 55 inches and allows only one television per audience. Also prohibited, according to her e-mail, are "events that promote a message" in connection to the game, as well as entrance fees. The TV curbs essentially rule out churchwide events except for the smallest of congregations.

TBC president challenges Union students to reach their potential

Union University news office

JACKSON — Too many Christians are sinning by not living up to their potential, Tennessee Baptist Convention President Ron Stewart told Union University students Feb. 7.

"Failing to reach your potential in life is not a tragedy," Stewart said. "It's a sin."

Stewart, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Knoxville, addressed the Union community in a chapel service and said Samson is the greatest biblical example of someone not fulfilling their potential.

"He had it all," Stewart said. "He had everything going for him. Everybody looked up to him."

And yet, Stewart said, despite all of the advantages in life Samson enjoyed, his life ended needlessly and in failure because he didn't accomplish everything he could have.

Stewart told the Union students they all had the potential for evil or the potential to be something for God. He challenged them to stop making excuses for failure and to look in the mirror.

"You could graduate, you

The NFL exempts some drinking establishments, except for the prohibition against charging for admission, waiving the restrictions for sports bars because their "normal, everyday business operations ... are to show televised sports events. They do not bring in televisions to create a special event around our games," Aiello wrote Feb. 2. "That is the difference."

The confusion about whether the NFL is sticking by its "message" rule or by its strict 55-inch policy arose from a WorldNetDaily story that ran two days before the Super Bowl based on an e-mail from an NFL spokesman. The e-mail said, "The National Football League has absolutely no objection to churches and others hosting Super Bowl viewing parties as long as they do not charge admission and show the game on a television of the type commonly used at home." The supposed prohibition on promoting a message and the 55-inch restriction weren't mentioned.

Fall Creek, a Southern Baptist congregation, was ordered by the NFL to change its plans or cancel the event.

According to Aiello, the NFL objected to the church's "charging admission, using large, theatre-style screens, and advertising it," calling the violations a "misappropriation of our event."

The church planned to project the game onto a 12-foot screen and announced the event on its web site, viewed mainly

by members, asking for a fee, explained by Fall Creek's pastor John Newland as an offset for the costs of snacks. SBC records show Fall Creek has about 400 members.

In materials obtained Feb. 1 by Baptist Press, the NFL notified the church that the use of the "Super Bowl" name and its plan on charging admission to

show the game "on a big screen" violated the NFL's copyrights. Newland responded to the NFL by saying the church would drop the admission charge and would not use the "Super Bowl" name. The NFL replied that the church still would be in violation of copyright law because it was using the large screen.

The league also said church — if it held a Super Bowl party conforming with the — would not be able to promote the church or Christianity. The church had planned to show a video highlighting the Christian testimonies of Indianapolis Colts head coach Dungy and counterpart, Lovie Smith of Chicago Bears. □



"Well done..." MATTHEW 25:21

GuideStone offers a simple, one-choice retirement path.

Looking for a new direction in retirement planning? If so, GuideStone has a new option — MyDestination Funds. With the launch of the five MyDestination Funds, GuideStone Financial Resources is making available a single fund retirement solution.

The path is easy. Decide when you want to retire and pick the fund closest to your target retirement date. Then, make consistent and appropriate retirement contributions throughout your career with the goal of arriving at retirement prepared to start the next phase of your journey.

Call 1-888-98-GUIDE today to learn more about MyDestination Funds.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Visit our Web site, www.GuideStone.org/MyDestination, and discover how GuideStone can help you determine your route to retirement.

By investing in MyDestination Funds, you will incur the expenses of the funds in addition to the underlying Select Funds. You may invest in the Select Funds directly, except the Global Bond Fund.

You should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of GuideStone Funds before investing. For a copy of the prospectus with this and other information about the funds, please call 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or visit www.GuideStone.org to view or download a prospectus. You should read the prospectus carefully before investing.


GuideStone
 Financial Resources
 of the Southern Baptist Convention
Do well. Do right.

11189

12/06

PFFC Distributors, Inc., King of Prussia, PA.

© 2006 GuideStone Financial Resources

ENDURING INSTITUTION • SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR CHALLENGES
 SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD • INVESTMENTS GUIDED BY VALUES

State churches report extraordinary LMCO responses

Connie Davis Bushey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Several Tennessee Baptist Convention churches responded to the quest of the *Baptist and Reflector* to provide praise reports on their congregation's response to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (LMCO).

Mouth of Richland

Members of Mouth of Richland Baptist Church, Blaine, gave \$5,980 to the Lottie Moon Offering. The total included one gift of \$3,000 by an anonymous donor given in honor of the church's oldest member, Thelma Collins.

Collins, at 91 years old, was a long-time member. She joined Mouth of Richland Baptist after she married as a young woman. She was a "very staunch supporter of missions," reported Margaret Keith, assistant clerk and reporter of Mouth of Richland. "She was a 'very active member of WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) and related mission activities," said Keith.

Sadly, Collins died Jan. 4 at her home in a care facility in Jefferson City.

The previous year church members gave about \$3,000 to the LMCO, noted Ben Kenny, pastor, which was the goal for this year's offering. Mouth of Richland draws about 55 to Sunday School each week.

To raise money for the offering, members sold poinsettias which could be given in honor or memory of friends or family. The church also had a Christmas card mailbox with postage going to the Lottie Moon Offering.

Brentwood

Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, members gave more than \$1.12 million to the church's "Hope for the World" missions offering during the Christmas season, Mike Glenn, pastor, announced.

The church draws about 1,065 to Sunday School each week. Each of those people gave about \$542 to the Hope for the World offering.

Of the \$1.12 million, \$20,000 was allocated to international missions including the church's international missions work in seven countries and the LMCO. That is about \$155 per active Sunday School participant to international missions work. The church has active partnerships in the Sudan, Brazil, Guatemala, Southeast Asia, Moldova, and South Africa.

Or if considering the LMCO gifts separately, which was 100,000, each Brentwood active member gave \$48 to the LMCO.

In addition to international missions, the church gave \$300,000 to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for

North American Missions, church planting activities, and disaster relief work.

Also Brentwood gave \$480,000 to local community partners, which include the Christian Women's Job Corps of Middle Tennessee; Graceworks Ministries, Franklin; Tennessee Baptist Children's Home, Brentwood; First Priority of America, Nashville; ReConstruct, Nashville; CEO Fellowship, Brentwood; and Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County, Franklin.

To raise money for the Hope for the World offering, the church's worship choir produced and sold a CD featuring Christmas music and Steve Green, recording artist.

The annual offering is up slightly from 2005 when \$1,030,000 was given but up substantially from 2004. That year church members gave \$300,000 to the offering. Then Glenn challenged the congregation to give a million dollars for missions, which they did, now two years in a row.

FBC, Andersonville

Active members of First Baptist Church, Andersonville, gave about \$148 a person if active members are defined as those who attend Sunday School regularly. The church draws about 135 to Sunday School.

Amazingly, gifts of \$9,600 in 2005 were more than doubled in 2006 by members who gave \$20,000.

Tom Jacobs, minister of worship and administration, said one of the reasons for the response was the use of several representatives of the International Mission Board who spoke to members. The church also used the video resources distributed by the IMB.

"Being an MK (missionary kid), I have been active in the LMCO effort while on staff in previous churches, but have never seen this kind of result," said Jacob.

FBC, Athens

First Baptist Church, Athens, members gave about \$139 per active Sunday School member to the LMCO. The church draws about 382 to Sunday School and gave \$53,255. In 2005, members gave even more, \$187 per active Sunday School participant to the offering.

Amazingly, in 1993 at a high point in the church's history, the church only gave \$44,662 to the LMCO though it had an average Sunday School attendance of 839. Those members gave \$53 per person.

Commitment to giving to "Southern Baptist Convention/Tennessee Baptist Convention cooperative missions" has really helped the church, said Mike Womack, pastor. Several years ago the church experienced a decline in membership and giving.

One reason for the great giving to missions the past several

years, according to Womack, is a "renewed and personalized emphasis on Southern Baptist missions from the pulpit, during prayer meeting, on the Missions Committee, and through pastor-initiated and WMU-sponsored missions events."

The other reason, he continued, is the Four Dollar Plan. The plan calls for every member to take four dollars out of every 100 of take-home pay and set it aside for the entire year in order to give two weeks of take-home pay to missions during December.

"Do the math, it works," said Womack.

Then the missions gifts are distributed to the LMCO, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions, Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, world hunger, and Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. The percentages given are set by the church.

Another indirect result of the Four Dollar Plan has been that the church's regular giving throughout the year through the Cooperative Program increased by two full percentage points, Womack reported.

The lower gifts in 2006 to the LMCO compared to 2005 "may be due to a focus in '06 on balancing the church budget and thus a lesser emphasis on the missions plan," explained Womack. "With the budget now balanced we believe 2007 will be an even greater year for Lottie Moon giving," he predicted.

Wallace Memorial

Members of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, Knoxville, gave \$123,633 to the LMCO, which was a substantial increase in several ways, reported Mike Boyd, pastor.

Church members gave \$17,459 more than last year and \$15,633 more than the goal this year.

Members didn't draw from budget gifts to give to the LMCO, stated Boyd. The church also received an overage to its general budget of about 12 percent. The church is made up of members in the upper middle class economically, noted Boyd.

If considering active members as those who attend Sunday School on an average Sunday, active members of the church gave about \$131 a person to the LMCO. The church draws about 944 to Sunday School each week.

Wallace Memorial Baptist would be expected to have "a heart for international missions" since it is named for Bill Wallace, Southern Baptist missionary physician to China who was a martyr, noted Boyd.

The church promotes the offering through a letter to members, a visual in a lobby, and an emphasis during Sunday morning worship early in December.

"I've never had a time in my ministry when giving has been so strong," said Boyd. He has been in the ministry for 30 years.

Holston

Holston Baptist Church, Strawberry Plains, gave \$10,867

to the LMCO, which was the largest LMCO offering ever given by the church, reported Larry Young, pastor. The gifts were more than double last year's offering, he added. The total offering also was double the LMCO goal for 2006, which was \$5,000.

Active members gave \$54 per person if considering active members as those who attend Sunday School regularly. Holston draws about 200 each week to Sunday School.

The response "came about as a result of prayer and challenging our people to give," said Young. "I thought the goal would be able to be reached barely, but was thrilled to see how I underestimated our people and our God."

Stones River

Active members of Stones River Baptist Church, Smyrna, gave about \$49 per person if active members are defined as those who attend Sunday School regularly. Stones River draws about 175 to Sunday School each week.

The church set a goal of \$3,800 for the LMCO, but members gave \$8,558, reported Dorothy Epps, publicity director of the church. That is up from \$3,437 given last year.

Epps attributed the increased giving to new members who are particularly "mission-minded" and better giving by other members for reasons of which she is unaware. □ — Additional LMCO reports will be printed as space permits in the Tennessee section of the *B&R*.



Protecting churches and what's inside them

GuideOne Insurance is a leader in **protecting churches** — more than 43,000 of them, including many Southern Baptist Churches.

And now we're **protecting the congregation** with FaithGuard™, the only auto and home insurance products with special benefits and discounts for churchgoers.



Chuck Smith
615-591-2794
chsmith@guideone.com

Find out how we can benefit you and your congregation. Contact your State Sales Director to be connected with your local GuideOne agent.



GuideOne
Insurance
PLACE YOUR FAITH IN THE EXPERT

www.guideone.com

Baptist mission workers killed in crash in Honduras

Baptist Press

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. — Two members of Tabernacle Baptist Church here died Feb. 6 in a remote area of Honduras after the truck they were riding in flipped over.

Ric Mason, 58, and Perry Goad, 46, were part of a group of 28 volunteers working through Honduras Outreach International, a nonprofit organization based in Decatur, Ga. Martha Fuller, a member of First United Methodist Church in Newnan, Ga., also died when the open-roof vehicle, generally associated with transporting soldiers, rolled over in rugged terrain.

Two other members of Tabernacle Baptist, David Apple, 52, and Cary Roth, 33, were injured in the accident. Apple suffered a separated shoulder and Roth sustained knee injuries.

Church members gathered late Tuesday night at Tabernacle to pray after hearing news of the accident.

Approximately 10 other people were injured when the truck flipped over. Among the injured were Michael Emeott, minister of

missions, First Baptist Church, Newnan, Ga. He is the brother of Bill Emeott, an employee of Life-Way Christian Resources, Nashville, and member of First Baptist Church, Nashville. □

Ark. volunteer dies in accident

Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — While disaster relief work continued in Oklahoma and Missouri following the recent ice storm, an Arkansas disaster relief volunteer was killed in a

car accident while returning to his home in Osceola, Ark.

Roger Glenn Loyd, 47, died Feb. 3 from injuries sustained in an accident that occurred near Ravenden, Ark. The driver of the vehicle and another passenger were slightly injured in the acci-

dent. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Osceola.

A "blue cap" on a chain saw team from the Mississippi County Baptist Association in Blytheville, Ark., Loyd had spent the week volunteering in southwest Missouri. He had

been based at First Baptist Church in Sarcoxie, Mo.

"Glenn was a dynamic and a real valuable member of the team," said Bill Cantr, disaster relief coordinator of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

First Baptist Church seeking full-time pastor. Send resume to Search Committee, P.O. Box 310, Strawberry Plains, TN 37871.

◆◆◆◆

Haynes Flat Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Please send resumes to 1405 Old Hwy. 63, Speedwell, TN 37870, e-mail to haynesflat@netzero.net or call (423) 869-8142.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Forest Hill Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to Tommy Snyder, 3645 Forest Hill Irene, Germantown, TN 38138 or tommy.snyder@foresthillbc.com.

◆◆◆◆

Southern Baptist church in Northeast Tenn. seeking full-time minister of music. Individual must be able to work with wide range of age groups and with handbells. Prefer person with seminary training and 3 years church experience. Blended style of worship. Send resume to Search Committee, Southwestern Baptist Church, 1112 Cherokee Rd., Johnson City, TN 37604; fax: (423) 928-5509; e-mail: swbcjc@earthlink.net.

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

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

MINISTRY — POSITIONS

Liberty Baptist Church of Wartburg, Tenn., is seeking a part-time youth minister as well as a part-time music minister. The search committees are also receiving resumes from persons wishing to serve in an interim capacity. If interested, please e-mail a resume to libertybapt@highland.net. For more information please call the church at (423) 346-3158.

Holston Baptist Association
23rd Annual Spring Student Conference
March 30-April 1
Ridgecrest
www.hbastudentconference.com

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

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

◆◆◆◆

Erin Baptist Church seeks part-time youth minister, (931) 289-3439, P. O. Box 410, Erin, TN 37061.

◆◆◆◆

Stonebrook Baptist Church in Nolensville is searching for a part-time youth minister. Interested applicants may send their resume to Stonebrook Baptist Church, 7198 Nolensville Rd., Nolensville, TN 37135 or e-mail dennisking52@comcast.net.

◆◆◆◆

First Baptist Blountville, Tenn., is searching for a full-time minister of students. Please send resume with references to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 587, Blountville, TN 37617.

ADRIAN ROGERS PASTOR TRAINING INSTITUTE

WHAT EVERY PASTOR OUGHT TO KNOW CONFERENCE

MATURITY, MINISTRY & MANAGEMENT



In a relay race, there comes a time when the runner has the baton in his hand and he's about to place it in the hand of the next runner. And for a time, they are running side-by-side. I call that the transfer zone. That's where I am right now. And I want to leave what God has taught me in the hearts and minds of so many young preachers.

— ADRIAN ROGERS

Spring 2007 Conference Schedule

February 22	Pelham, AL (South Birmingham)
February 27	Lebanon, TN
March 6	Jacksonville, FL
March 13	Duluth, GA (Northeast Atlanta)
March 20	Rocky Mt., NC
March 27	West Palm Beach, FL
April 24	Chattanooga, TN
May 1	Tampa, FL
May 1	Charleston, WV
May 8	Ridgecrest, NC
May 15	Mobile, AL

Registration Fees:

"Early Bird Date"	\$65.00
Normal	\$85.00
At the door	\$99.00

To Register or for more information call **1.800.499.0433** or go online at www.pastortraining.com

EAST COAST MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE



Hosted and Sponsored by
 Englewood Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, NC
 Contact us at www.Englewoodbaptist.com
 or call 252.937.8254

MARCH 16-17, 2007

REGISTER NOW!

Cost is \$30 per person.

minister's corner

Tony Rutherford

Picking out the right Valentine took hours of consideration. Mom had purchased a box of Valentine cards which were designed for students. There were sporty ones for boys and frilly ones for girls. There was always one included for teachers. At school careful planning and handiwork created Valentine Card holders for each student. The card holders were made with construction paper and a heart-shaped white lace which was placed on the front. The students printed their names on the top with a black marker. On the heart-shaped heart were the words, "I love you."

A few years later, signature candy hearts were added to the "special" Valentines. The messages were short and to the point: "I love you. Be my Valentine, I love yours." These items and others were added in hopes that a new relationship would be shaped.

Who of us has not sat on the hillside gazing up into the blue sky with a fresh picked daisy in our hand? With our fingers we slowly pluck each pedal as we whisper the words: "She loves me, she loves me not. She loves me, she loves me not." We continue this routine with a desire that the last pedal plucked reveals that "she loves me."

We go to great lengths to demonstrate the shape of love. As an adult we often purchase a bouquet of flowers, a large box of candy, a special gift, or make love-inner arrangements to demonstrate our love.

God chose the most unusual way to reveal His love. Who would have thought that love came in the shape of a cross? Not a smooth shiny cross, but a rugged old cross, "the emblem of suffering and shame."

It is a cross so despised by the world, that only those who trust and believe know the true shape of love. □ — Rutherford is pastor of First Baptist Church, Johnson City.

a way with words

It's your move, child

Hugh X. Lewis

Love you life but cannot live it for you, child. I can teach you things, but I can't make you learn. I can show you the right path, but you must walk the path yourself.

I have done my part, but now, child, it's your turn.

It's your move, child; let's see what you can do. I have my tough love that hurts me more than you. I have done my best so what more must I prove? The time has come now, my child, it's your move.

I cannot share my faith, but I cannot make you believe. I cannot give advice that I can't make you take. The Master's hands reach out if you will just receive. Your choice, my child, is only yours to make.

Copyright by Hugh X. Lewis. Lewis, a Baptist layman, poet laureate of Christian country music in Tennessee, has written more than 250 songs and is featured daily on 110 Southern gospel radio stations throughout the country. He is available to speak to church and senior center groups. For more information, call (615) 883-0086.



Funding missions in Tennessee and around the world

Like Father, like Son

By Reggie Weems

Focal Passage: John 5:17-23, 36-42, 46-47

In the fiction novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, Ron Brown made the false claim that the Council of Nicea established the divinity of Jesus by a narrow margin. Actually, the New Testament authors made exclusive claims about Christ long before the first century ended. More than 200 years after the New Testament canon was completed, Constantine convened the First Council of Nicaea (325) to resolve disagreements in the Church of Alexandria over the nature of Jesus in relationship to the Father; in particular, whether Jesus was of the same substance as God the Father or merely of similar substance.

Athanasius championed the New Testament's claim of Jesus' eternal divinity on behalf of orthodox Christianity. Of the 318 attendees, only two voted against the definitive statement that declared, "we believe ... in one Lord Jesus Christ ... that is of the essence of the Father ... God of God ... true God of true God, begotten and not made; of the very same nature of the Father" Historic Christianity has always believed that ...

(1) **God the Father and God the Son are one and inseparable (vv. 17-23).** The Jews defied Jesus' authority to do good works on the Sabbath and He defended His work by claiming oneness with "my Father" (v. 17). We understand His claim to divinity because of the

Jews' reaction in verse 18. They sought "all the more to kill him, because ... He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God." If Jesus understood the Jews' animosity toward Him was based on a misinterpretation of His claim, He would certainly have corrected their understanding of His comments but He did not. He meant what He said and they understood what He meant.

John Phillips writes, "That murder was three times attempted ... and was finally accomplished ... solely on the grounds that Jesus claimed to be God ... something John in his gospel is determined to demonstrate."

(2) **God the Father and God the Son work in perfect harmony (vv. 36-38).** Because they are inseparable Jesus only did what the Father did, just as the Holy Spirit will only say what Jesus has said (John 16:13). In fact, the Son's earthly incarnation was intended to fulfill a Trinitarian covenant and work begun "before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Revelation 13:8). God Himself sent the Son and everything the Son did was intended to glorify the Father who rejoiced and bore "witness" (v. 36) that Jesus was His Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). This is because ...

(3) **God the Father loves God the Son with a perfect, unequalled love (v. 20).** How much does the Father love the Son? He has centered all creation in Him (Colossians 1:17). How much does the Father love the

Sunday School Lesson Bible Studies for Life Feb. 18

Son? He has centered all redemption in Him (Acts 4:12). How much does the Father love the Son? People go to heaven by faith in Jesus and merit hell by trying to dismiss Him (John 5:22-23). The Father loves the Son so much that He has made Christ the centerpiece of everything that ever was, is, or will be. He has given everything to His Son (Hebrews 1:1-13). Even heaven is centered on Jesus (Revelation 21:1-5). Indeed, God has given Jesus a "name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). To that end ...

(4) **God the Father, by the Spirit, wrote the Bible all about the Son (vv. 39-42; 46-47).** In the Old Testament, "Moses ... wrote about me" (v. 46) and all the Scriptures "testify about me" (v. 39) Jesus said. This is because "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" (I John 5:12).

In Christ, God fully dwelt (Colossians 2:9). In Jesus we behold the Father's glory (John 1:14). To see Jesus is to see God (John 6:46). Like Father, like Son!

Jonathan Edwards wrote, "The infinite happiness of the Father consists in the enjoyment of His Son." What more can be said? □ — Weems is senior pastor of Heritage Baptist Church, Johnson City.

How courage triumphs

By Thurman Seber

Focal Passage: Esther 5:1-3; 7:1-6, 9-10

Introduction: Every day that we live is important and should be regarded as a special day made by the Lord (Psalm 118:24). This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Some days are especially important, critical, and filled with both danger and opportunity. Such a day had come for Esther. Her life, and the lives of her people, depended on what happened in the next few hours.

The time had come for her to make her move, take her stand, do whatever she could do to prevent the destruction of the Jews in the land. After a time of fasting and seeking the help of God, she was prepared to act.

Step out on faith (5:1-3). By faith, Esther entered the inner court of the king's house. She was well aware that such a bold move could mean instant death for her. Not even the queen was allowed to go barging into the king's room uninvited. This was probably a safety precaution. Unless the king raised his golden scepter, Esther's doom was sealed.

Perhaps it was because of the king's love for Esther, or maybe it was because the Spirit of God was

at work in the king's heart, or possibly it was both these things that caused the king to immediately extend his golden scepter toward Esther.

If we have prayerfully sought the presence and power of God in our daily life, we must rightfully assume that God walks with us when we step out in faith. Was it good luck or coincidence that led to Esther being welcomed into the king's room? We think not.

State the facts (7:1-6). The Scripture reveals the God given wisdom displayed by Esther that day. She waited for the king's permission to speak and then weighed her words carefully, with the help of God's Spirit. After inviting the king, as well as evil Haman, to two evenings of feasting, Esther pleaded her case before the king. She stated the exact facts. The truth is powerful and the king was greatly moved when he learned of Haman's wicked plans.

In giving witness to the truths of God, we need not embellish our testimony, or change the gospel to fit the circumstance. Truth will stand, and the truth of God's Word will accomplish the purpose of the Almighty. (Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and

Sunday School Lesson Explore the Bible Feb. 18

of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.)

See justice served (7:9-10). Was it not fitting that evil, wicked, Haman was hanged on the very gallows he had prepared for the murder of righteous Mordecai? Little could Haman have known that God would awaken the king from his sleep, and cause the righteous deed of Mordecai to be read in his presence, just the night before. God was watching things unfold, and directing the results exactly as He chose. He watches over us as well. We may not understand how God is leading, but He will never make a mistake with us.

Conclusion. All our problems will not work out so smoothly. Sometimes God answers our prayers in ways we don't understand. Real faith asks God for specific results but quickly and readily accepts the answer God gives. The Apostle Paul asked God to remove a thorn but God answered by leaving the thorn and revealing sufficient grace (II Corinthians 12:6-9). □ — Seber is a full-time evangelist, based in Liberty.

Leaders

◆ Edgemoor Baptist Church, Clinton, has called **Tom Byrge** as interim pastor. He was pastor of Clinch River Baptist Church, Lake City, for more than 21 years before retiring in September 2006. Byrge served as moderator of Clinton Baptist Association, Clinton, and has served on numerous committees. He also is active in World Changers, Habitat for Humanity, and has participated in many mission trips.

◆ **Tom Gabbard**, a member of East Commerce Baptist Church, Lewisburg, is available for pulpit supply. He currently teaches a Sunday School class and has preached at East Commerce Baptist. Contact him at (931) 359-8241.

◆ Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, has called **Charles Foster Johnson** as interim pastor effective Feb. 4. He currently serves as visiting instructor in preaching at McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Macon, Ga. Johnson previously served as senior pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas. He also served as pastor of Second Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas; First Baptist Church, Albany, Ky.; and West Point Baptist Church, Centertown, Ky.

◆ China Grove Baptist Church, Rutherford, has called **Randy Potts** as interim pastor.

◆ First Baptist Church, Clarksville, honored its retiring minister of education, **Jim Phillips**, Jan. 28 during and following the evening worship service.

◆ Buffat Heights Baptist Church, Knoxville, has called **Dave Thomas** as pastor.

◆ Round Lick Baptist Church, Watertown, ordained **Brian Bayse** Jan. 28 as deacon during the evening worship service. Also elected as deacons were Patrick Crook and Randy Crook who have previously served as deacons.

◆ Center Hill Baptist Church, Counce, celebrated the 10th anniversary of **Keith Driskell Sr.**, as its pastor on Jan. 27.

◆ Dickerson Road Baptist Church, Nashville, has called **S. D. Broome** as minister of music.

◆ **Mike Huggins** has resigned as minister of music/youth, First Baptist Church, Dyer. In addition, First Baptist ordained **Bob Hill** to the ministry on Jan. 21. Hill was recently appointed as a missionary of the International Mission Board to Central and Eastern Europe.

◆ **Adam Hodges** has



LEADERS OF LAKEWOOD Baptist Church, Beech Grove, broke ground for an educational on Jan. 7. From left are Phillip Coppinger; Mark Gipson; Colin Lewis; Glen Reed; Wade Campbell pastor; Gid Bailiff; Allan Pack; Jerry Young; Ray Wilburn; Phillip Boyd; and Linda Harpe. They used a shovel painted gold for the occasion.

resigned as minister of youth at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Bradford, to attend Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

◆ Fruitland Baptist Church, Humboldt, has called **Max Walker** as interim pastor.

◆ **Union Baptist Church, Knoxville**, will hold revival Feb. 25. Morris Anderson, evangelist of Maryville, will speak.

Associations

◆ **Duck River Baptist Association, Tullahoma**, will

hold a free tax seminar for ministers and church financial personnel on Feb. 15 from 10:30 to noon. It will be held at association office. Barry Hilliard, director of missions for the association, will lead it. For more information, contact association at (931) 455-5070.

Churches

◆ **Macedonia Baptist Church, Ripley**, will hold revival March 4-7. Braxton Hunter will speak. For more information contact ANBLindsay@wmconnect.com.



LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF Spring Creek Baptist Church, Clarksville, broke ground recently for a Family Life Center. From left are Derick Pindroh, associate pastor; Will Tucker; Wyatt Tucker; Earl Mummaw; Eli Mayers; Bill Belew; Paul Bungler, pastor; Tim Morgan; David Sayle; Mike Kennedy; and Nathan Bailey. The Family Life Center will cost \$1.5 million and house a full-size gymnasium, industrial kitchen, youth worship area, and nine additional classrooms.



DISASTER RELIEF volunteers of Jefferson County Baptist Association, Jefferson City, stand in front of the house they worked on Dec. 10-16 in Gulfport, Miss., to help hurricane victims. They from left, front row, Ken Latham; Jerry DeZearn, director of missions of the association; and Danny Newman; second row, Garrison; Tommi Lindsey; Samantha Street; Wilson Welker; Ken Welker; and Kenneth Welker; back row, Larry Lindsey and Ha Street. The team installed all of the sheetrock and applied coats of finish to walls and the ceiling of the 2,000-square house. This is the third team from the association to do rework.

DR continues to help storm victims

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — More than 211 Tennessee Baptist disaster relief volunteers from 27 teams have served thus far in Missouri and Oklahoma as part of a response to the heavy winter storm that swept through several states in January.

Tennessee Baptist chain saw teams are continuing to serve this week in Nixa, Mo. "More teams left the weekend of Feb. 9-11," said David Acres, Tennessee disaster relief director. "We expect to be supplying teams into the storm areas for the next two months."

Serving Jan. 29 - Feb. 1 were First Baptist Church, White House; Nashville Baptist Association, Nashville; and First Baptist Church, Millington. Leaving Feb. 6 were Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville; Madison-Chester Baptist Association, Jackson; First Southern Baptist Church, Pikeville; and Duck River Baptist Association, Tullahoma.

Bradley Baptist Association, Cleveland, served Feb. 7-11. Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association, Cravensville, served Feb. 10-16.

Additional teams will be enlisted as needed. □

Roger Stacy to serve Gibson Association

Baptist and Reflector

TRENTON — Gibson Baptist Association has called Roger Stacy as associational missionary (director of missions) here effective March 1. Stacy is director of missions of Central Baptist Association, McMinnville.

A native of Pontotoc, Miss., he is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, La., and Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Ind. He has served as director of missions of Central Association since 1997.

He and his wife, Penny, served 1995-97 and 1986-93 as International Mission

Board missionaries in Brazil and 1993-95 in the Ukraine. Stacy also has served as

pastor of churches in Mississippi, South Dakota, and Utah. He most recently served as pastor at Bassfield Baptist Church, Bassfield, Miss.

A North American Mission Board disaster relief endorsed chaplain, he works as a chaplain with Tennessee

Baptist disaster relief. He also has served as a team leader on mission projects for the Tennessee/Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Baptist partnership. □



STACY