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## Final SBC meeting statistics released

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Official registration figures for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio were released July 12 by SBC registration secretary Jim Wells.

Texas Baptists sent the largest number of messengers, 1,605, of the 8,630 who registered for the June 12-13 sessions at San Antonio's Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Texans comprised 18.52 percent of the registration.

Other leading states were Tennessee with 653 messengers (7.58 percent of the total); North Carolina, 627 (7.28 percent); Georgia, 602 (6.99 percent); and Florida, 525 (6.09 percent).

Messengers were sent by 3,567 churches from 49 states in addition to the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

By gender, according to data from 642 messengers who provided additional information during the registration process, 58.71 percent were male; 41.29 percent female.

By age, 18-29-year-olds accounted for 3.12 percent of the 642 messengers; 30-34, 4.67 percent; 35-39, 5.30 percent; 40-44, 5.92 percent; 45-49, 11.06 percent; 50-54, 15.73 percent; 55-59, 18.85 percent; 60 and over, 35.36 percent.

By vocation, 36.92 percent of the 642 messengers were senior pastors; 9.66 percent were other church staff; 4.05 percent worked in associational missions; 3.12 percent were state convention staff members; 2.34 percent were involved in North American or international missions; 1.71 percent in evangelism; 1.25 percent were other denominational employees; 1.56 percent were seminary students; 17.91 percent were homemakers; and 21.50 percent listed "other."

For 95 of the 642 messengers, the convention in San Antonio was their first SBC annual meeting, or 14.80 percent of the 642 total; 162 had attended an SBC meeting five times or less, or 25.23 percent; 124 had attended six to 10 times, 19.31 percent; and 261 had attended 11 or more times, 40.65 percent.

In traveling to San Antonio, 48.91 percent of the 642 messengers came by plane; 48.13 percent by car; and 2.96 percent listed "other." In terms of expenditures to attend the annual meeting, 179 of the 642 messengers estimated they would be spending \$600-999, or 27.88 percent; 154 estimated \$1,000-1,499, 25.55 percent; 133 estimated \$1,500-1,999, 20.72 percent; 57 estimated \$2,000 or more, 8.88 percent; 76 estimated \$300-599, 11.84 percent; 23 estimated \$100-299, 3.58 percent; and 10 estimated under \$100, 1.56 percent.

Of the 642 messengers who provided the additional information at registration, 139 said no

other family members were with them in San Antonio, or 21.65 percent; 417 brought one family member, 64.95 percent; 76 brought two to four family members, 11.84 percent; and 10 brought five or more family members, 1.56 percent.

Last year's SBC registration total in Greensboro, N.C., was 11,639. □

## Former TBC president J. Ralph McIntyre dies

Baptist Press

TULLAHOMA — J. Ralph McIntyre, who served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1977, died July 12. He was 82.

A native of Galveston, Texas, McIntyre served as pastor of Brainerd Baptist Church, Chattanooga, for 19 years and was an associate pastor at Bellevue Baptist, under Robert G. Lee. He also was pastor emeritus of King's Cross Church, Tullahoma, where he was a founding charter member.

McIntyre served on the staffs of the former Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) and Baptist World Alliance.

In addition he was a trustee of the BSSB, Baptist Memorial Health Care System, in Memphis (for 40 years), and on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He is survived by three children and 10 grandchildren. □

## As floodwaters recede, relief efforts mount

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — With floodwaters finally receding, 28 Southern Baptist mud-out, feeding, shower, and laundry disaster relief units are on site or en route to help people impacted in flood-ravaged Kansas and Oklahoma.

In addition, the North American Mission Board's disaster operations center here is helping volunteers in the field manage and coordinate requests for assistance in the two hard-hit states.

"We're continuing to provide support and some manpower for Oklahoma and Kansas in the work they're doing locally," said Mickey Caison, NAMB's director for adult volunteer mobilization. "We're in Coffeyville, Neodesha and Osawatomie, Kan., and in Miami, Okla., and Bartlesville, Okla."

"The rain has backed off significantly in the last few days. The water is dropping and we can finally get into the affected areas," Caison said.

In response to requests from local Southern Baptists in Kansas and Oklahoma, the

## DR teams sent to Kan.

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief has sent a laundry unit, mud-out teams, and other volunteers to help victims of recent floods in Kansas.

A laundry unit from First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, with four volunteers was activated July 8 to work at First Southern Baptist Church, Coffeyville, Kan., to assist flood victims and emergency responders. The laundry unit which went into operation July 10 is located in the parking lot of the Kansas church where it is used by the National Guard and other responders, and disaster relief volunteers. It is expected to be in operation for several weeks.

A 10-member mud-out team, composed of four from Cumberland Baptist Association, Clarksville; three from William Carey Baptist Association, Fayetteville; and three from Duck River Baptist Association,

Tullahoma, 12 for Coffeyville mentioned out of First Baptist. A nine-member out team from Bee Baptist Association, Dayton, also left July 11 for Coffeyville.

In addition, Mike Shiloh Baptist Association, Adamsville, was activated July 13 to work for relief incident system operations based in Osawatomie. Stricklin will serve NAMB incident commander.

Tennessee Baptist relief director, Dave Holmer, has also requested a mud-out team volunteer response and for British Columbia. Holmer, contact information, off-site address, contact officer, at 1-800-479-7926, or e-mail: dholmes@tnbaptist.org

NAMB center is coordinating and mobilizing mud-out teams, along with laundry and shower units.

Kansas is still in need of mud-out units, with up to 400 homes in Coffeyville alone putting in requests for cleanup assistance. Another 200 homes in Neodesha are now ready for mud-out crews, while as many as 625 living units are affected in Osawatomie, Kan. See story on Tennessee disaster relief involvement on this page. □

## Exchange student accepts Christ; loses family

Baptist Press

SCOTT, Ark. — Sherzod Odilov, an exchange student from Uzbekistan, did not anticipate the high price he would pay for his decision to follow Christ, but knowing the price Christ paid for him, he stands firm.

When Sherzod, who recently graduated from Jackson (Ark.) High School, telephoned his Muslim parents in Uzbekistan to tell them of his newfound faith, his father disowned him, making it clear he was no longer welcome in his home and was never again to speak to his mother or his siblings. He withdrew all funds from Sherzod's U.S. bank account, arranged to cancel his son's U.S. sponsorship and college scholarship and even drew up legal papers declaring Sherzod is no longer his son.

As devastating as that must be for an 18-year-old, Sherzod remains strong in his commitment to Christ.

"I am not sorry I accepted Christ," he said. "I am not sorry for getting baptized. Even

though my parents are not sorry for any of what happened."

He faces his uncertainty with confidence that Christ will lead him.

Sherzod was led to Christ by Kari Han, who befriended him and led him to the Savior.

"I was strictly Muslim for five times a day, prayed the Koran and loved my heart. I kept it with me," Sherzod said. "I was Islam, and I believed."

Then he met Kari Han at a basketball game.

"After that, when she came to her, she always talked about Christianity and her faith about Grace Baptist Church, Scott, Ark.," Sherzod said. "When she talked about Christianity, I used to get mad. I didn't tell her that I didn't want her to follow the time, she spoke about Christianity and about the Bible. She gave me some books about Christianity, too. I was strange because I had heard Christian things didn't believe in Christ. I used to get mad at her when she spoke about Christianity."

As time passed, money and witness reached him. Then he read the Bible and the difference between Christianity. He rethought Islam and his mind to Christianity. He decided to attend her church and made a profession of faith.

Odilov plans to return to U.S. and attend college. Baptist is helping him with paperwork needed to secure living expenses for his family.

# Robinson Road Baptist once again showing signs of life

## Retired pastor emphasizes evangelism amid construction

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

GULFPORT, Miss. — Unlike oil and water, evangelism and construction can mix.

Just ask Champ Thomas Jr., a retired Baptist pastor and member of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

Thomas began serving May 22 as coordinator of spiritual emphases for the Gulf Coast Baptist Association and the Tennessee Baptist Convention partnership here.

Thomas first came to Robinson Road Baptist Church in April with a team from Bellevue. "I couldn't to construction, but I could witness on the job site," he said.

Thomas and two ladies from Bellevue began knocking on doors in the neighborhood. They were joined the next day by a man who had been injured slightly and was unable to continue construction. By week's end they saw 21 people pray to accept Christ as Savior.

A few weeks later the need arose for someone to be employed who would continue to stress evangelism on the Coast while working with volunteers who stay at Robinson Road.

Although hesitant at first to take on the role, Thomas did so after much prayer. "Evangelism ought to be the number one priority of anything Southern Baptists do," he stressed.

"We had space in the church. It made sense to open it up and let volunteers stay here," he said.

Thus, a partnership with Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief and the Tennessee Baptist Convention was formed.

Volunteers have been vital to the overall recovery of the area and the region, Everett stressed.

How long it will take to recover is known only by God, the pastor observed. "But up to this point the volunteers have

played and will continue to play a vital role in the recovery," he said.

And though it has been slow going at the church, it too is beginning to show signs of new life.

Until just a few weeks ago the church was still operating at about 50 percent of where it was prior to Katrina.

As of June 24 the church had seen 13 new additions.

"Seeds that were planted earlier are starting to bear fruit," Everett said.

Everett

He acknowledged, however, that the construction work is desperately needed.

"After two years (following Hurricane Katrina), there is still a genuine need. We need to re-emphasize the construction," said Thomas, a former pastor at Ashport Baptist Church, Ripley.

But at the same time, he continued, "we need to be evangelizing."

Thomas encouraged Tennessee Baptist churches to not only send construction crews, but also teams that can do evangelistic outreach, either through Vacation Bible Schools or door-to-door evangelism.

If both evangelism and construction is emphasized, there can be something for every volunteer to do, he noted.

The retired pastor also provides a soul-winning class for volunteers early in the week to enable them to witness on the job site and in the community.



CHAMP THOMAS, right, a retired pastor and member of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, visited recently with pastor Jeff Bennett of First Baptist Church, Taft. Thomas helps coordinate spiritual emphases at Robinson Road Baptist Church while Bennett led a team from his church to do construction and evangelism projects in the area in late June.

Thomas also coordinates morning devotional for volunteers who stay at Robinson Road Baptist Church.

Thomas observed that the construction teams are "having a tremendous impact on the people."

After seeing a "godly witness through the construction volunteers," residents of the area are open to the gospel, Thomas said. □

is pleased that more volunteers are coming to assist with evangelization.

"We need both — evangelism and construction," he said.

"It is important to meet the physical needs, but we have to meet spiritual needs as well," the pastor continued.

"We need volunteers who can witness door to door — people who can take someone whose life has been touched by the sweat of another and lead him or her to a relationship with Christ."

Everett is appreciative for the help given by retired Tennessee Baptist pastor Champ Thomas (see story above).

He (Thomas) has helped focus on the spiritual needs, Everett observed.

Thomas is encouraged by what he has seen happen at Robinson Road in recent weeks. In early June, 25 children made professions of faith at a camp led by volunteers from several Tennessee Baptist churches. During follow up visits, two parents and a sibling also prayed to accept Christ," Thomas said. "All appear to be genuine decisions."

"God is moving at Robinson Road Baptist Church," Thomas affirmed. "The church is being revived."

Everett also is concerned about the larger picture as well.

"I am pastor of Robinson Road Baptist Church but if what is taking place inside our doors can help a sister church, that is fine.

"I am interested in kingdom growth," Everett stressed. □

Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

GULFPORT, Miss. — Pastor Rocky Everett of Robinson Baptist Church here admits that his congregation has had its share of ups and downs over the years.

"We have fought discouragement many different ways," said Everett who has been pastor of the church for 10 years.

When Hurricane Katrina hit late August of 2005.

Within a few months, a church of about 60 in attendance on Sundays was cut in half.

Everett recalls the storm vividly. He noted that the day Hurricane Katrina hit he had to vacate his family home in the area.

They went first to Montgomery, Ala., then on to Columbus, Ga. As the hurricane rolled through, Everett and his wife were trying "to figure out what to expect," he said.

He noted that they committed themselves to return to Gulfport and help people rebuild. Two years later, his church, which received extensive damage is not fully repaired.

Volunteers who have come to Gulfport have offered on numerous occasions to repair homes, but Everett has always found someone in more need.

Months after Katrina, Everett spent countless hours helping members of his church and the community do their own repairs.

Everett is grateful for the many wonderful people who come to help re-establish a sort of sanity on the Coast. He noted that immediately after Katrina so many volunteers were coming to rebuild and they needed a place to stay.



ROCKY EVERETT, right, pastor of Robinson Road Baptist Church, Gulfport, enjoys a visit in his office with Robert Lutz, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dayton. Lutz and a team of volunteers from his church recently spent a week at Robinson Road Baptist Church helping repair homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina.



JOHN MCCLURKAN, left, a volunteer from Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, talks with pastor Rocky Everett of Robinson Road Baptist Church in Gulfport, Miss., where he and other Tennessee volunteers are being housed. They were at a new construction site for a resident of nearby Pass Christian, Miss.

# Doing missions is a guiding principle at FBC, Taft

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Baptist and Reflector

GULFPORT, Miss. — Members of all ages, whether they can swing a hammer or not, are involved in missions at First Baptist Church, Taft.

This church which sits near the Alabama border in southern Middle Tennessee may be relatively small (about 100-125 in Sunday morning worship), but there is nothing small about its commitment to hands-on missions.

"Missions is who we are," says pastor Jeff Bennett, who has been with the congregation for 23 years.

"We feel like church is the place where we assemble to prepare to go outside and actually do the work," he observed.

Twenty-eight members (nearly a quarter of the church's Sunday morning worship attendance) recently spent a week on the Gulf Coast.

Some team members worked on homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina while a large segment, primarily youth, shared the good news of Jesus Christ through a puppet team and other means of evangelization.

Bennett estimated the team handed out about 500 programs of where the puppets would perform. Each program included a printed plan of salvation, he added.

The percentage of members who went to Gulfport is not unusual, Bennett said. The church has sent out numerous mission teams in recent years to places like Las Vegas, Nev., and Mexico, and a large percentage of the membership goes on the trip, he said.

Bennett stressed that the actual trip is just a part of the overall plan. "I constantly stress that the preparation for



**YOUTH AND ADULTS** from First Baptist Church, Taft, recently spent a week doing evangelism work, along with construction work, at Robinson Road Baptist Church in Gulfport, Miss. The youth performed a puppet play "God's Katrina Kitchen" in Gulfport. From left, front row, are Becky Rose, Bennett Self, Jake McKearin, Pam Bennett, Hicks, Amber Knight, Victoria Self, Crystal Atchley, Halie Pitts, and Beth Anna Self; back row, Josh McKearin, Joseph Paul Weeks, Kristy Reeves, Jeff Bennett, pastor, Eric Lohmeyer, Colyn Self, Andrew Quaiife, and Casey Knight.

any trip we do for the Lord is as important as the mission itself," he said.

"Using that theory, we constantly try to please the Lord in our planning and preparation."

Bennett observed that FBC prefers to be "a sending church rather than a sitting church. We believe in going out."

Bennett said the church has been doing these kinds of trips for about 10 years. He acknowledged that a lot of what they do is "planting seeds."

It's not necessary that "we see the harvest," he noted.

His wife, Pam, agreed. Often someone else will come along and water and then someone else will actually do the harvesting, she said.

"In the end, Jesus Christ gets the glory."

An important element of the mission trips, Bennett said, is the involvement of the youth in the missions at an early age. He noted the youth trains for mis-

sion trips on Wednesday nights during the year and even do local projects.

"It plants seeds in their minds of the importance of doing missions," Bennett said.

And, many of the youth

continue that involvement as they become young adults. This year's team in Gulfport included adults who participated in the mission trips sponsored by the church when they were teenagers.

In addition, Pam Bennett noted that several of the youth from their church have gone on to become



**YOUTH FROM** First Baptist Church, Taft, recently shared the message of Christ in areas near Gulfport, Miss., using puppets

ministers and pastors.

Bennett offers a theory on why Baptist has sent out so many on projects over the years.

"If you love the Lord with heart and you love your neighbor, it will get you beyond yourself and outside the walls of church," he affirmed. □

# Gibson County volunteers share Christ in 'the Big Easy'

By Marilyn Stewart  
For Baptist and Reflector

NEW ORLEANS — As pioneers for Gibson Baptist Association in New Orleans working with Operation NOAH Rebuild and New Orleans Baptists, First Baptist, Rutherford, and First Baptist, Trenton, found The Big Easy an easy place to share the gospel.

After a full work day with Operation NOAH, the partnership of Louisiana Baptists and the North American Mission Board to reach New Orleans for Christ while rebuilding flooded homes, Rutherford and Trenton teams passed out tracts and shared the gospel around the city.

Thirteen-year old Andrew Peevyhouse, one of Trenton's youngest team members, shared the gospel with tourists and businessmen along the Riverwalk in downtown New Orleans, adjacent to NOAH's housing facility, "Volunteer Village." Peevyhouse called the trip, "a great experience."

Operated by NAMB to house and feed volunteers, Volunteer Village occupies three floors of the World Trade Center, located along the Mississippi River just blocks from the French Quarter.

"I came because the Lord asked me to come," said Peevyhouse. "I will always remember how nice the people were when we helped them."

The teams totaling 30 members were the first representatives from Gibson Baptist Association since the formalization of its commitment to NOAH and the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans last fall. Miles Powell, Trenton's missions coordinator and an associational missions committee member involved in forming the alliance, said he woke up one night with New Orleans on his mind.

"I had prayed a long time about this year's mission trip and had not thought of New Orleans until then," said Powell. "I really believe God led us here."

Rather than their typical international mission trip, Powell said he wanted a shorter term, less expensive trip that didn't require a passport so more church members would get involved. "NOAH made it easy," said Powell.

Trenton's team worked on the home of an elderly couple who were confined to their FEMA trailer due to health issues. But the gentleman came out to greet the team "with a twinkle in his eye," said Powell. "We are making a difference in lives here."

The minor frustration of getting lost in a busy city became an opportunity for witness as team members handed out tracts while asking directions. Trenton pastor Ronnie Coleman shared the gospel with one woman who had assisted them.

"She was so appreciative of us being here, she hugged me," said Coleman. Team members were also thanked by another resident who recognized their NOAH badges as they came out of a fast-food restaurant.

Rutherford's seven-man team worked during the day reframing walls and putting up ceiling joists in a home that had housed a family for two generations. In the evenings, the team passed out hundreds of tracts, including the remainder of the tracts placed at a converted ammunition plant in their area that had sheltered New Orleans evacuees.

"It's fitting that we handed out the last of the tracts from the evacuee shelter in Louisiana," said Scott Jewell, who as the mayor of Dyer has experienced first-hand a natural disaster's affect on a community.

Jewell said the Rutherford team postponed a trip last year to New Orleans due to the tornado that tore

through their communities in Louisiana.

"The Lord has burdened our hearts for missions," said Rutherford leader Danny Dunn, who with brother, Stewart, put their res contracting business on hold for a time to come to New Orleans. "The great need here."

A lunch conversation at restaurant turned from the Louisiana crawfish to the go Rutherford team member, Moody, nicknamed "D.L.," shared two young men about the Lord.

"Terry loves to share his faith," Dunn in explanation of Moody name after the nineteenth century American evangelist, D.L. Moody. "Hours of walking the streets and passing out tracts, Dunn said, "We're not here for sowing the seed. God has the rest."

"There is a window of opportunity for witness here because the people are appreciative of people who come and help," said Moody. "The people are getting back in their homes and the window is slowly closing. Fields are white here, but the harvest are few." □ — Stewart is a correspondent for the Louisiana Baptist Association's communications team.

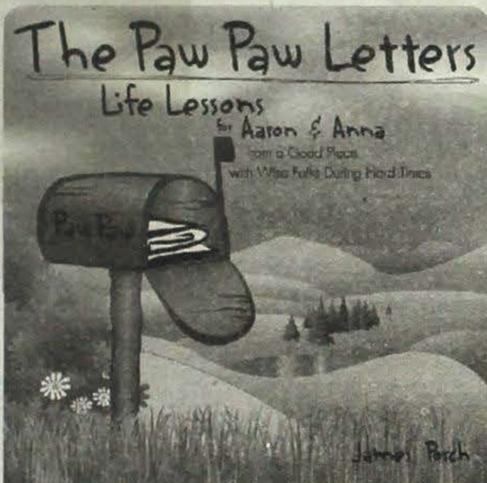
# Lesson from mother — leave revenge to God

es Porch  
aron and Anna:  
mother, your great  
Mom," seldom missed a  
to teach me a big lesson,  
her curriculum required  
ag extreme and painful  
res.  
idly recall the afternoon  
lightness set her off on a  
ple moment about con-  
An urge, inner voice,  
feeling — all have been  
identify the indefinable  
conscience. My best  
n describing con-  
cludes "recog-  
I have the chance  
right over against  
while still leaning  
the right act." Pos-  
the inadequacy of  
ords can be helped  
n a story. As you  
Paw Paw's disdain  
nition makes room  
stories. The follow-  
ent, verified in the  
les of Pelahatchie,  
my young illustri-  
tation, but I sur-

to a six year old as a dressed  
up, very serious old fellow who  
cared little for children.

Our family home sat beside  
a gravel road apart from other  
houses, so much of my outside  
playtime included the constant  
companionship of my little dog,  
Bobo.

One hot July noontime, Mr.  
John came down the road  
going home to dinner (he lived  
with his sister). Nearing the  
porch of our house, Bobo, who  
never knew a stranger, ran out,  
tail wagging to greet Bro. Cau-



John Cauthen, a  
togenarian in my home  
eisurely strolled past my  
d home four times each  
days a week (on Sun-  
made one trip to the  
list church). Daily, only  
ted by extreme  
ent weather, he made his  
essed in a seasonal suit,  
ite shirt and tie, bright-  
ed shoes, and carrying a  
g stick. In the 1940s, he  
the distinction as a  
." A retired single fellow  
n nobody knew his earli-  
ation), he appeared even

then. Immediately, the elderly  
gentleman hit Bobo on the  
head and across the back with  
his walking stick and uttered  
some words I had never heard  
before. Bobo cowered down,  
cried and squealed and ran  
back to me shaking and whim-  
pering. I picked up my little  
abused dog and ran into the  
house. Mama came to my res-  
cue, offering comfort to both  
her son and his devoted friend.  
She knew my hurt and anger,  
and lovingly and patiently  
rationalized, "Everyone does

not like dogs, or maybe Bobo  
scared Mr. John, or possibly  
our elderly friend has been  
attacked at some time earlier  
by a dog and he did not mean  
to hurt Bobo." Her final coun-  
sel must have really pushed  
my button, "James, it is over.  
Let's tell God we forgive Mr.  
John and then you go back and  
play."

Mama's wise parental  
rationale did not work. While I  
could not label my intentions or  
all of my feelings, I was already  
bent on revenge. Putting Bobo  
in his back yard pen, I  
watched for Mr. John to  
return to town after "dinner."  
As he slowly climbed  
the hill leading to our  
house, I went outside and  
began to uncoil 50 feet of  
water hose attached to  
the yard faucet. (Some of  
these details were relat-  
ed to me years later by  
my Mother.) According to  
Mama, I began watering  
her flower beds with the  
hose nozzle on full force.  
Once the dog abuser  
reached a spot just in  
front of our house, I ran  
out and wet that old man from  
head to toe. Once again I heard  
new words, this time in a very  
high pitched voice.

Mama, alerted by Mr. John's  
cussing, ran out this time to  
rescue my enemy. She picked  
up his hat, retrieved his walk-  
ing stick, helped him to a chair  
on the front porch and brought  
out towels to dry off the old fel-  
low, all the time apologizing for  
my behavior amidst Mr. John's  
silence. Once he calmed down  
and dried out a bit, Mama car-  
ried the dog-beater home after

giving me a stern command to  
sit still on the porch "until I  
come back." I knew I was in big  
trouble.

After driving back into the  
driveway, Mama hastily  
walked up onto the front  
porch, pointed to a nearby  
peach tree and commanded,  
"Go get me a long switch." My  
fear jumped a notch as I  
remembered I was wearing  
short pants. I got a whopping  
that left welts on my legs for  
days. Child abuse? Oh, no!  
Child discipline? Yes! Then  
Mama began the dreaded talk  
with a question, "Did you feel  
better after you wet Mr. John?"  
Honestly, at that moment all I  
felt was the stinging, burning  
welts on my precious little  
legs. She continued, "James,  
you decided to hurt Mr. John  
because he hurt Bobo, didn't  
you?" Painfully, I answered,  
"Yes ma'am." Then she made  
her big point, "Son, you never  
feel better hurting someone  
because they hurt you."

Years later, I learned the  
label for that episode —  
revenge, and understood  
Mama's counsel. Revenge is  
never sweet, or in the words of  
our Living Lord Jesus Christ,  
"Vengeance is mine, I will  
repay."

Now a final confession, I  
cannot plead consistency in  
practicing the old teaching or  
claim innocence from tempta-  
tions to get back at someone  
who brings hurt on my life or  
family. However, by His grace, I  
keep trying to let go and abide  
by my Savior's expectation. □  
— Porch is executive director-  
treasurer of the Tennessee Bap-  
tist Convention.



reflections

By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

## One person's weed could be another's flower

In late June I traveled to  
Gulfport, Miss., to report on the  
efforts Tennessee Baptists are  
making to help residents on the  
Gulf Coast who lost their homes  
to Hurricane Katrina almost two  
years ago. See stories throughout  
this issue.

But I also did "double duty" as  
a volunteer with 24 other people  
from Tulip Grove Baptist Church  
where I am a member.

We had the opportunity to  
help build a home from the  
"ground up" for Mrs. Spencer, an  
81-year-old lady who had lost  
everything she owned during  
Katrina and was living in a small  
(actually tiny is a better word)  
trailer on her property.

Some of us went to the job site  
on Sunday to check it out before  
beginning work on Monday. Mrs.  
Spencer was so excited that peo-  
ple had arrived to begin work on  
her new home.

As we surveyed the site we  
noticed it was overgrown with  
high grass and weeds. We  
thought how much better it  
would be if the area could be cut  
before beginning work.

One of our volunteers, J.P.  
Kirkham, seemed to have brought  
every tool he owned with him,  
including a weedeater. He imme-  
diately volunteered to go to the  
house and clear out the area  
where we would be working.

As he worked several of the  
team members talked with Mrs.  
Spencer who was keeping an eye  
on J.P. As he neared her trailer  
she asked the ladies to make  
sure he didn't cut her "flowers."

All I saw was weeds. Now, I  
know most men are not that  
knowledgeable about flowers, but  
the ladies in the group, including  
my wife Joyce, who used to be a  
florist, agreed with my assess-  
ment.

But we honored her wishes  
and kept the "flowers" around  
her trailer intact.

For someone who had "noth-  
ing," those weeds/flowers repre-  
sented something special to her.

We should never forget that  
what may be insignificant or  
meaningless to us may be impor-  
tant to someone else.

We need to continue to pray for  
the people of the Gulf Coast who  
lost everything they own and con-  
tinue to help them rebuild. And  
while doing so, we must share the  
gospel of Jesus Christ.

People are starting to accept  
Christ from seeds that have been  
planted on the Gulf Coast by  
Christians who care. Let's keep  
spreading the truth that one who  
has nothing is indeed rich if he or  
she knows Jesus Christ as Lord  
and Savior. □

## Public speaking can be an asset when God calls



parent  
asks

By Carolyn Tomlin

he book of Exodus, God  
Moses to lead the children  
Israel into the Promised  
land. But Moses says "O Lord,  
I have never been eloquent,  
neither in the past nor since  
I have spoken to your ser-  
vants. I am slow of speech and  
tongue." (Exodus 4:10, NIV).  
God does not allow excus-  
es. Instead he tells Moses he  
will help him, be with him, and  
send his brother Aaron to help him.

Bible does not reveal  
why Moses felt unprepared to  
lead or why he lacked these  
skills. Only that he felt uncom-  
fortable addressing a crowd of  
people, encouraging them to  
leave the slavery of Egypt, and  
lead them into a land flowing

with milk and honey.

If Moses had been efficient  
in public speaking, perhaps he  
would have been more eager to  
become a leader when God  
called.

Parents who involve their  
children in a church program  
find opportunities to develop  
leadership and public speaking  
skills. Whenever a young per-  
son stands before a group, the  
anxiety and tension lessens  
each time. Youth choir, mission  
projects that require speaking,  
Bible drills, participating in a  
small group discussion — all  
these prepare youth for public  
speaking. Any new experience  
produces stress. Soon, you real-  
ize this is fun and the stress  
has disappeared. But due to  
individual differences and few  
opportunities to speak, not  
everyone develops this skill at  
the same time.

Why is public speaking  
important? If a youth says that  
developing the skill of public  
speaking is not important, how  
would a church leader respond?

Just like learning algebra or  
American history, learning to  
stand before others is a skill —  
and a skill can be learned. We  
are often judged on communica-  
tion skills, both written and  
spoken. Being an effective  
public speaker can make the  
difference between success and  
failure in your life and commu-  
nity. Youth who plan a career in  
Christian education will be  
expected to give reports, pres-  
ent curriculum workshops,  
preach, teach Sunday School  
classes, guide staff and person-  
nel, and address region, state,  
and national conventions in  
their denomination.

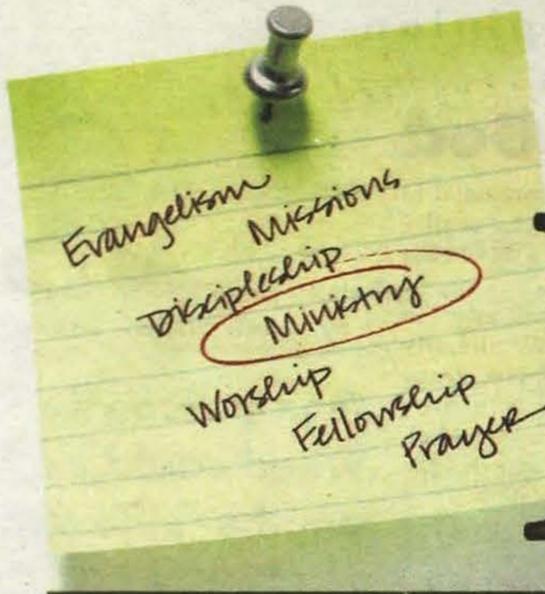
Start training a child early  
for public speaking.

The fear of public speaking  
rates above the fear of killer  
bees, automobile accidents, or a  
terrorist attack in some people.  
The church that offers a loving,  
caring attitude toward children  
and youth has an opportunity  
to help develop these skills  
without the fear that may  
accompany them. Start early in

the life of a child. Use these  
suggestions to help your child  
or youth get started:

- Promote confidence and charisma.
- Offer praise for accomplishment.
- Learn as you go.
- Explain how to develop a speech. Break it down into an introduction, quotes, data, approximately 3 main parts, and conclusion.
- Provide instruction on using the World Wide Web to find data, illustrations, quotes, and research.
- Pray for guidance.

These young people are the  
leaders for the future of the  
church. The burden is heavy  
upon their shoulders — they  
must be prepared to lead. And  
as parents, we must have our  
children regular in attendance  
so they have the opportunities  
to learn. □ — Tomlin writes for  
numerous publications. She lives  
in Jackson where her husband,  
Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove  
Baptist Church.



# Church Health Matters

"Building healthy churches empowered by the presence of God"



## MINISTRY Matters

Exciting growth is being experienced in Men's Ministry groups at various locations all across Tennessee. This growth is produced by a spiritual maturing process that is leading men into better stewardship, lower divorce rates, and more ministry fruit for the church.

Most churches are familiar with the structured monthly program for men that has been popular over the years. Today's Men's Ministry is not restrained by time, place, or program. Current thinking for a ministry to men will more nearly resemble a smorgasbord of opportunities rather than a structured program.

In fact just like hunters, many successful ministries change with the seasons. Part of the secret of building a successful Men's Ministry is just letting your community know that your church is significantly interested in men.

This issue of "Church Health Matters" is devoted to two very different testimonies of pastors who have experienced growth in their church through their own unique men's ministry. In one instance, a church near death is now on the verge of bursting at the seams through a mentoring ministry begun by the pastor.

The second church is experiencing rapid growth, because the pastor has encouraged and empowered the men to start and carry out their own ministries. Hundreds of baptisms are being recorded every year at the church where he serves, because the men are doing ministry.

The common thread to these two stories is the transforming power that Christ brings into a man's life as he discovers his God-given purpose in life and his reason for being.

No, we are not restricted to a program any more. In fact, I have a document I'd be glad to send you that lists about 125 different ways that men are gathering in groups and doing ministry.

Just send your request to [gwilliams@tnbaptist.org](mailto:gwilliams@tnbaptist.org) or call the number listed, and I will send it to you.

Included below is the contact information for members of your state missionary staff that are available to help you and your church with Men's Ministry.

- Men's Ministry and Restorative Justice, Gene Williams .....(615) 371-2064
- Royal Ambassadors, Frank Green.....(931) 935-8201
- Deacons, Steve Holt.....(615) 371-2019
- Leadership Greatness, Willie McLaurin.....(615) 371-2011
- Disaster Relief and Construction, David Acres .....(615) 371-7927
- Faith Riders Motorcycle Ministry, Larry Gilmore .....(615) 371-7915
- Prayer, Don Pierson .....(615) 371-7909

## How to Give the Ministry to the Men and Hold Them Accountable

By Brian Holloway



God has a purpose, a plan for all believers. When a believer realizes that plan, he gets excited and will often come to a church staff member and share his idea.

The conversation will usually go something like this, "Pastor I would love to see us have a \_\_\_\_\_ event." At which time the pastor might say, "That's a great idea, I WILL GET RIGHT ON THAT!" with every good intention of doing the event, yet it fails.

Why? Because God did not give this vision or plan for that event to the pastor, he gave it to the parishioner. What should have taken place was when the parishioner came to the pastor with the idea, the pastor should have told him he would support him anyway he could, but God had given him the idea so run with it. By supporting and empowering the parishioner, the event will be a success.

Why? Because God gave the idea to that individual, and He will also give them the resources that's needed to pull the idea together.

This does four things for the church body and for the pastor. They are:

1. Pastors will get more people involved in ministry. Ministry comes in many shapes and sizes. As pastors we all want more ministry opportunities don't we? Jesus called 12 men to help Him; all of them had a different personality, talents, and ideas, with a common goal in mind, to glorify Christ! Pastor, God has given you men with ministry ideas; free them, let them try an idea. What will happen when you do this is? They will get excited and will pull more men into their ministry thus getting more and more men involved in your church. How many of you pastors would like to have more men involved in your church?
2. Pastors, by equipping and empowering the men of the church to run with the ideas God has given them concerning ministry opportunity, a wonderful thing will take place. The men will get excited about what God is doing through them and in the church, and they will start telling other men about it. They will tell neighbors, friends, and co-workers about these ministry opportunities, and you will start seeing more and

more visiting families walk the doors of your church wanting to their friends are so excited about many of you pastors would like to visitors come to your church each

3. You will see souls saved! At e or activity make sure you hold accountable that there will be an i moment when the gospel and plan tion is presented. You will see G this and save souls.

4. When you free your men up no you have some very creative minis tunities, you will notice your me desiring a deeper relationship Why? I believe for the first time their lives they have first hand e God moving and working thro This creates a hunger to study G so they will be better equipped fo ministry opportunity. You will see start attending Bible studies and faithful to the church.

You might be surprised at how G your men and what creative ministr nities will arise in the church, when and empower your men to try the ideas. As the senior pastor of Moul Baptist Church, Johnson City, last y 660 people saved.

How? The men of our church h hunting, basketball, softball an events, car shows, hay rides, all included an intentional moment. organized and led local, national, at tional mission trips, disaster relief ed Tuesday night Bible study groupl lowship breakfasts, etc. Do you many of the events I personally f None, it was all by our men.

Take Jesus' example to equip an your men as He did His disciples i your ministry to grow. Our churc faith goal this year of 1,000 souls sav are off to a great start.

(Brian Holloway is also a former p archer and the founder of N Ministries.)

## What Is a Church Renewal Journey?

One of the best kept secrets in the Southern Baptist Convention is a process of awakening, equipping, and discipling today's church through a process that has become known as Church Renewal Journey.

Church Renewal Journey (CRJ) is a ministry of the Southern Baptist American Mission Board and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which has been available for over 25 years. It is a ministry of laymen to laymen under the overview of the local church pastor and coordinated by a visiting team of Baptist laymen that are invited by the local church.

Space does not permit an in depth description of the preparation process, but further information is available by visiting [www.churchrenewaljourney.net](http://www.churchrenewaljourney.net). About everything that you need to know about the process can be found there.

If you would prefer to speak to someone about the process, contact Don Hanle, Tennessee coordinator of the CRJ, by mail at: 1013 Sandy Court, Maryville, TN 37803-7533, by phone at (865) 681-1465 or (865) 250-1547, or by e-mail at [donalddhanle1@aol.com](mailto:donalddhanle1@aol.com).

## How to Train Faithful Men

By Tony Trunnell

I began meeting with men individually with the desire to see the Lord transform their lives, their marriages, homes, and children through His Word as they were challenged to go to a deeper level with Him.

I did this as an act of obedience to what the Lord had placed on my heart and that which was very clear in the Scriptures to do which is make disciples.

In addition to using the Bible and some of my own materials and ideas, I have through these past 12 years called our mentoring ministry, "Training Faithful Men," and used the book by that same title from the Institute in Basic Life Principles during our times together each week.

I recently came from an early morning prayer time being so blessed from hearing the men praying the Word back to their Heavenly Father; verses they had memorized in Training Faithful Men. I didn't set out for this to happen, it's just part of the over-flow of getting the Word of God into the hearts of men. Challenging them to pray with their wives and children has been another blessing.

Recently a young college student with overwhelming excitement told me his dad was going to disciple him in Training Faithful Men. I said, "You are going to be blessed." He said, "I have already been blessed, hearing my dad quoting the Bible verses he has memorized."

Our mentoring style is biblical, practical, personal, and holds both the pastor/mentor and learner/trainee accountable to each other and to the Lord. It is changing hearts one-on-one for the glory of God.

Biblical, practical, enjoyable, personable, accountable, reproducible, transferable, unpredictable, transformable, and sacrificial are all words that come to mind as a result of training the faithful men that I have met with over the years. Each man's personality is different and getting to see many of them approach a subject in a totally different manner has been a blessing as well.

Mentoring men is the model the Lord used in training His leadership. He called those 12 men to be with Him. What a blessing it is to me to see those I spend time with go on to mentor others. How rewarding it is to each of us.

Mentoring men has become a lifestyle for me. I am committed to discipling men, one-on-one, until Jesus calls me home either through the air or through the grave. It's part of what He has called me to do. By God's grace and mercy I want to be able to say, like Paul, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ," I Corinthians 11:1.

(Tony Trunnell is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bristol.)

## Coming Up! Coming Up! Coming Up!

- August 24-27 Christian Women's / Christian Men's Job Corps National Certification Training, Baptist Center, Brentwood
- August 30 Extreme Makeover Sunday School Training Conference, First Baptist Church, Millington
- August 4 Church Weekday Early Education Conference, New Vision Baptist Church, Murfreesboro
- August 6 Extreme Makeover Sunday School Training Conference, First Baptist Church, Clarksville
- August 7 Extreme Makeover Sunday School Training Conference, First Baptist Church, Crossville
- August 7 Extreme Makeover Sunday School Training Conference, First Baptist Church, LaFollette
- August 9-10 Associational Secretaries Celebration, Baptist Center, Brentwood
- August 9 Sunday School Conference, First Baptist Church, Morristown
- August 10-11 Music Ministry Leadership Conference, Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood

For information on upcoming events, see the TBC website at [www.tnbaptist.org](http://www.tnbaptist.org).

### Keep the leaders in your church informed.

Subscribing to the *Baptist and Reflector* for your church leadership will ensure they receive not only state and national news each week, but pertinent information provided in the Church Health pages. The *Baptist and Reflector* provides a Church Leadership Plan at a reduced rate for two or more members. Contact Susie Edwards for circulation information at (615) 371-2003 or e-mail her at [sedwards@tnbaptist.org](mailto:sedwards@tnbaptist.org).

# Tennesseans battle heat, insects to aid Katrina victims ...

— Continued from page 1  
 "It has been a great thing," he said.

Most volunteers, especially those on their first trip to the Gulf Coast, are amazed that the devastation of Katrina is still so apparent after two years.

Many of those who make that first trip are eager to return.

"After coming down last year, I looked forward to coming back and helping the people again," said Lynn Pitt of First Baptist Church, Baileyton.

Not only did he return, but Pitt led the 16-member team from his church this year. "There is still so much to do. It will take several years to get it all built back," he said, acknowledging that last year's trip "changed" his life.

Robert Lutz, pastor at First Baptist Church, noted that you can only imagine what a missions trip will be like if you have never been on one.

"When you go, it is fascinating to see how God uses you." And, he continued, "when you go and help people, it can't help but change you."

Kay Dender of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory, and her husband, Johnny, also were on their first mission trip.

"It was a growing experience for both of us," she said.

She was especially touched by the reception the group received from not only the homeowner they helped, but people in the community.

She recalled the joy expressed by the 81-year-old woman for whom the Tulip Grove group was building a home. "She was so grateful. It reminded me of a child on Christmas morning."

The trip reminded her that people on the Gulf Coast are still "in desperate need of help" even though it has been two years since



**MARY HOLLAND** of Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, drives a nail, assisted by John Cox, left, and Chris Rhodes. They were working on a home for a family in Pass Christian, Miss., who lost their home during Hurricane Katrina almost two years ago.

Hurricane Katrina.

The experience "touched both of our hearts to see the needs and being able in a small way to return her life (the homeowner) to normalcy," she said.

Lynn McBride of Central Baptist, Bearden, has been on four trips to the Gulf Coast to help Katrina victims.

"It has been a blessing to meet the homeowners and hear their stories. They have a wonderful testimony to give," she observed.

Sellers has been impressed with the volunteer teams that have come to Gulfport.

They have been able to do

all kinds of work, from building homes from the ground up to providing plumbing and electrical work, he observed.

"That has to be driven by the Lord. He is sending the people to do what has to be done," Sellers aid.

He noted that since January Tennessee Baptists have helped begin between 12-14 homes from the ground up and refurbish about 80 other homes. That does not include all the other homes that were helped by Tennessee Baptists in 2005-06.

Acres observed that many people on the Gulf Coast are in



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, Baileyton, recently purchased a new trailer and used it for the first time in Gulfport, Miss., in late June. Members from the church included, from left, kneeling, Joyce Pierce, Tr Tucker, Andrew Tucker, Brett Roberts, Kenni Carter, Stewart Weems; standing, Tucker, Robert Lutz (pastor), Janice Justis, Barbie Mullendore, Lynn bie Pitt, Brenda Hensley, Todd Pierce, Mark Gaby, and Don Hensley.

homes today who would have been struggling to still find help had it not been for Tennessee Baptist volunteers.

Yet, there is much work to be done. "We need volunteers in the months to come," Acres stressed.

Acres said the arrangement with Robinson Road Baptist Church is set through January of 2008, but negotiations are underway for an extension.

"We have the hope and prayer of going through October of 2008, but to keep the facility open we need volunteers to continue to come and help the residents of the

Gulf Coast," he said.

For more information, send a team to Robinson Road Baptist Church, call Jim Sellers at (615) 427-1413 or Both can also be reached by calling the church at 328-0534. □



**DARRELL HANEY**, left, and **JOSH MCKEARIN** of First Baptist Church, Taft, put siding on a house in Pass Christian, Miss.

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

*Looking Up*  
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Dr. Alan Stewart  
Rehoboth Baptist Church  
Soddy Daisy, TN

"God used Jackie Kay in a powerful way. He delivered God's Word in a manner that was clear, concise, and challenging to believers and unbelievers alike. We praise the Lord for the many professions of faith and the many believers who responded. Additionally, many relinquished burdens, doubts, and fears that have plagued them for years. I look forward to having Jackie with us again at FBC."

Dr. Clay Hallmark  
First Baptist Church  
Marion, AR

"Jackie Kay is one of the finest expositors of God's Word I know. His integrity is beyond reproach. I have used Jackie four times and my people always want to know when he can come back. I will definitely have him again."

John White, PhD  
First Baptist Church,  
Lake Charles, LA (4)



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**CLASSIFIED**

**MINISTRY — ST**  
Smyrna Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, Tenn., is sponsoring a youth group. Please send your resume to Smyrna Baptist Church, Box 456, Chapel Hill, TN 37024. ♦♦♦♦

Vinton Baptist Church, Va., is looking for a youth minister who is capable of leading a youth group to help them in their personal relationship with Christ through Bible study, prayer, and service. The minister should be able to work with the youth with discovering their gifts, and using their spiritual gifts. Please respond by July 15 to P.O. Box 306, Vinton, VA 22601. ♦♦♦♦

**MINISTRY — O**  
Organist needed. 8:30 AM service only, First Baptist Church, Tullahoma. Call Debra at 455-5461. ♦♦♦♦

First Baptist Church, Bloomfield, NM, is seeking to hire a licensed mental health counselor to provide Christian counseling for San Juan County. Monthly stipend, office space, secretarial support, and travel provided. Anticipate a heavy caseload within three months. For more information about the position, please send resumes to LaDonna Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, 200 W. Bloomfield, NM 87411. Call or email lmorin@qwest.net. ♦♦♦♦

# Tennessee children help provide farm animals in Croatia

Forlini & Dana Garcia  
News office

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Do you jump rope for a goat's honor? If you say "yes," you're not alone. Recently, Project MOST, a ministry of WMU's International Initiatives, partnered with WMU children's missions organizations, making it one of the best of WMU ministries in

Through Project MOST, people make donations to provide goats, sheep, pigs, or cows for struggling families in war-torn Croatia. The family in need then receive immediate benefits of the animal (milk and meat from the offspring) and learning to farm and

raise livestock.

The initial goal was \$5,000, and donations were steadily coming in. But it was after Project MOST was featured in the February 2007 materials for WMU's Girls in Action® (GA) and Children in Action® (CiA) organizations that things dramatically took off. Through these materials, girls and boys learned not only about missionary Robert Jordan (name changed for security reasons), and his ministry, but also how they could make a difference through Project MOST.

The response was extraordinary — individual children, as well as those involved in these GA, CiA, and Sunday School groups, raised more than \$250,000 in just five months (February – June, 2007).

### Children from missions

organizations in 55 Tennessee Baptist churches collected \$17,751.41 for the effort.

However, Project MOST is about more than raising money; the children learned about another culture, as well as ways to share the gospel. On several occasions, the children themselves accepted Christ as a result of the ministry experience. They did more than learn about the ministry — they became a part of it. They mobilized to faithfully answer the need they saw in Croatia, believing the ministry could make a lasting difference in Croatians' lives.

"Missions education really does propel children to make a difference in the world, and Project MOST exemplifies this," said Jean Cullen, ministry consultant for national WMU who oversees International Initiatives.

Girls and boys of all ages responded in creative ways to raise money for Project MOST. One child decided to raise funds through a jump-a-thon. He and his Children in Action group called the project "Jumping Rope for a Goat" and asked for pledges from members of their church and community to buy a goat for \$139. Another child in a GA group made a scrapbook with a picture of a goat in it and divided the goat into 139 parts. She took the scrapbook with her everywhere and colored in a different part of the goat every

time someone gave her \$1. She raised enough for the entire goat. Other children made banks, sold baked goods, did chores, cleaned Sunday School rooms, and went class-to-class in the church, involving the entire congregation. Some even showed their support by tasting goat milk.

WMU Foundation President David George said, "I learned a lot from these kids. They worked hard, involved everyone in their church, and they believed God is who He says He is."

### Creating a Bridge to Hope

Project MOST is living up to its name. Croatians know "most" as the word for "bridge." Bridges are lasting structures that move people from one location or situation to another. Today, Project MOST serves as a bridge to move Croatians from poverty to self-sufficiency and economic stability, from bitterness to hope, and from cultural dogma to a thriving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Project MOST began in 2004 as a response to poverty in the tiny and little-known region of Dalmatia, Croatia. Civil war during the 1990s ravaged Croatia's already tenuous economy, rendering many of its citizens jobless, homeless, and hopeless. The aftermath continues today, and Croatia's history is marked by events "before the war" and "after the war." Croatia remained off the radar for most people in the United States. WMU's International Initiatives

ministry, however, saw the need.

International Initiatives partnered with Robert Jordan, a missionary in Croatia, to assess the needs of the people. Jean Cullen made a simple proposal — for WMU to establish a partnership with Jordan that would channel monetary support through a fund held by the WMU Foundation.

Jordan explained, "My original thoughts about how Project MOST would turn out were a lot more humble than the way it is going right now. I expected we would have a few families that we'd work with — primarily people that we could not include in our larger development projects."

"We met a lot of people, so many people, that we could just not help them out. This was a way, we thought originally, to reach some of those people, but it has grown to include more people than I ever imagined."

Jordan believes that spiritual change will happen for people in Croatia, though it will take time to see the results.

"I believe the real results of Project MOST will come in the next three to four years. Things move slowly here, and there's a lot of baggage to get rid of before they can understand the beautiful simplicity of grace. But God is at work, and I am convinced that He is working in Croatia, and that Project MOST has been part of His plan." □

Rick White, Senior Pastor of The People's Church, invites you to attend The Leadership Summit.



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Hermitage, TN 37076

For more information on workshops and to register on-line go to [www.tnbeautifulfeet.org](http://www.tnbeautifulfeet.org) or contact Diana Cox at 1-800-558-2090 ext. 2058.

## NAMB appoints missionaries with Tennessee ties

NAMB news office

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Four missionaries with ties to Tennessee have been appointed by the North American Mission Board.

Ronald "Ron" and Joy Barker are serving in Columbia, S.C., where Ron has been appointed as a church planting missionary. Prior to his new post, he worked in the personal evangelism training and spiritual awakening areas for the Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.

A native of Kingsport, he earned a B.S. degree in speech at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, and an M. Div. degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Joy, also a Tennessee native, earned a B.S. degree in mathematics at East Tennessee State University. The Barkers have one daughter, Jenny, 21.

Jeffrey "Jeff" and Julie Calloway are serving in Cleveland, Ohio, where Jeff has been named as a core church planting missionary pastor. Prior to his new position, he served as church planter/pastor at Bridge



THE BARKERS



THE CALLOWAYS

Church, Perry, Ohio.

A Knoxville native, Jeff earned an associate's degree in business administration at Roane State Community College, Harriman, and bachelor and master's degrees in pastoral ministry at Trinity Theological

Seminary and College, Newburgh, Ind. He also attended Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Julie, a Michigan native, earned an A.S. degree in computer science at Roane State Community College. The Calloways have two daughters, Sarah, 20, and Emily, 16. □

## Teen birth rate at historic low

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — In a culture replete with dismal statistics, one positive report is that the number of teenage mothers is at a record low, continuing a 14-year downward trend.

Using data from the National Center for Health Statistics, the nonprofit Child Trends research center reported in June that the 2005 birth rate for teens ages 15 to 19 was 40.4 births for every 1,000 female teens, which is 35 percent lower than the peak of 61.8 percent in 1991.

Though birth rates varied

across racial and ethnic groups, numbers were down across the board, Child Trends said. For white teen females, 26 out of every 1,000 gave birth in 2005. The same year, the birth rate for black teen females was 60.9, and for-Hispanics it was 81.5.

"The trend lines on teen births are generally moving in the right direction, and we should pause and savor that fact," Jennifer Manlove, who helped prepare the report, said in a news release. "But it is far too early to declare this problem solved since the U.S. teen birth rate is still higher than that of any other developed nation."

Texas had the highest teen birth rate for 2005 with 63

births for every 1,000 ages 15 to 19 with Hampshire had the lowest — 18 births for every 1,000 females. □

## CLASSIFIED

**MINISTRY — CHILDREN**  
Oak Street Baptist Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., is seeking a person/couple to lead to children. Male or female students, or older. Contact Pastor at brojtm@comcast.net. Resume to 11340 N. Soddy-Daisy, TN 37373. Website www.oakstreet.net.

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Position available for Sunday trained children's preschool - 5th grade. Previous successful experience. Send resume, photo and photo to Hixson First Baptist Church, Attn: Preschool Search, 5800 G Hixson, TN 37343, (423) 246-7.

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First Baptist Church of Mo., is seeking a direct children's ministry to coordinate nine-member ministry. The position includes the educational and activities for children through grade five. The candidate should have an education background in childhood and have a minimum three years experience in a multi-staff church. A master's degree is a plus. Will be accepted from Aug. 1. Please send resume to Children's Minister Search Committee, Attn: Missy Vest, 1001 Main Ave., Bolivar, MO 64608.

## MINISTRY — ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Bon Air Baptist Church, Bon Air, Va., seeks an associate pastor for diverse ministries. The church has 1,800. The discipleship is developed, organized as part of an overall strategy for both spiritual and numerical growth of the church and surrounding community. The associate pastor should think creatively; positively motivate members and leaders; and utilize traditional and innovative means to reach, disciple, and train all age groups. Candidates should have experience consistent with the mission of the church. The church includes multi-ethnic members, missions, and multi-site ministries. A master's degree is preferred and a seminary degree at least five years relevant experience is preferred. Visit bonairbaptist.org for details. Send resume and letter to apdmsearch@bonairbaptist.org.

## CLASSIFIED

### MINISTRY — PASTOR

First Baptist Church, Bells, Tenn., is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested persons should send a resume to First Baptist Church, 55 West Main St., Bells, TN 38006, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

### MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: 1992 Ford Chassis 29-passenger church bus (no name on the bus), V-8 engine, very clean. Price: \$10,000. Contact church office at (615) 893-7221 or (615) 604-9812. You may e-mail also if interested to bro\_dave@comcast.net. Picture available upon request.

### MINISTRY — MUSIC

Providence Baptist Church, a mid-sized traditional church in Seymour, Tenn., is seeking God's man to lead our bivocational music ministry. If interested please send resume, cover letter, and sample DVD to Providence Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, P. O. Box 127, Seymour, TN 37865.

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Monterey First Baptist Church, a growing congregation, 10 miles east of Cookeville, Tenn., is seeking a dynamic, creative, and spirit-led worship leader. The position, at present, is part-time, but as the church grows it will become full-time. Will work with all age choirs. Send resumes to 106 N. Chestnut St., Monterey, TN 38574, Attn: Search Committee or to dgarrett@charterinternet.com.

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First Baptist Church, Bloomfield, NM is actively seeking a full-time associate pastor/worship minister. Must oversee all worship/music ministries including three weekend worship services, each a unique worship style. More information about the church at www.fbcblomfield.org. Please send resumes to Lamar Morin, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, 200 W. Sycamore, Bloomfield, NM 87413 or e-mail lmorin@qwest.net.

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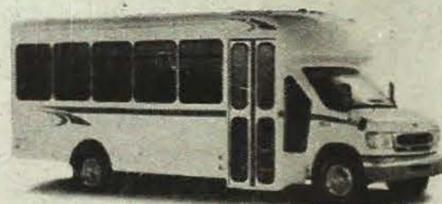
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## minister's corner

## Why revival tarries

Harry Blackaby

Ezekiel 18:31b-32 is the heart cry of God to His people, Israel: "... why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who turns to the Lord God. 'Therefore, turn and live!' " God has reminded His people that if "a righteous man turns away from his righteousness ... and dies ... it is because of the iniquity that he has done that he dies" (Ezekiel 18:24-26).

But the "house of Israel," God's people continue to sin against God in our day and live without any awareness of the consequences.

They seem to be totally indifferent to any judgment whatsoever as if that only happened in the Old Testament. But, that's just not true. It was to the people of God in the New Testament that Paul wrote: "... the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." For anyone who continues to sin without repentance — that is, God's people — it leads to "death."

Did Jesus not warn God's people that they must repent or perish? Read the accounts in Matthew 4:17, 23:1-9, and Luke 17:20-36. Repentance among God's people requires an immediate turning that changes our hearts, our will, and our actions. Repentance requires a changed heart. Therefore, we too must heed Christ's warning for our generation.

We must possess a wholehearted desire to return to God.

Many of us today are aware that America is in desperate need of revival, but we haven't made the connection. We see the spiritual darkness around us, we do not realize that the greater problem is with the light! Darkness dispels darkness! Jesus said that His disciples are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16). When the light is dimmed by our sin, the darkness flourishes. When we repent, His light shines in us and through us, watching world; people "see" and God is glorified! However, America continues to move steadily toward God's judgment. And there remains a prevailing darkness among God's people concerning this activity.

Revival tarries because God's people will not repent, we see no reason to do so. So, even if we recognize the times are urgent and the spiritual climate is dire and even if we cry unto God for a mighty revival, He will refuse to hear us because of our iniquity in our hearts.

Therefore, heed His call: "... Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:7). We must repent and return to Him in holiness, love, obedience, or the nation will surely perish under the weight of our sin! (II Peter 3:9). □ — Blackaby is the founder and president emeritus of Blackaby Ministries International, based in Atlanta.

## a way with words

## police officer

Hugh X. Lewis

Uniform, a badge, a gun,  
Give a halo on their heads —  
The wisdom of a Solomon  
They should always be well read.

Or in an accident,  
A leader against all booze,  
Or in an argument,  
A minister when there's bad news.

For their livelihood they make  
They're qualified to give.  
Could they ever have to take  
A bad job so they can live?

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

## Sharing Christ in all places

By Trent Bullock

**Focal Passage: Acts 13:1-3;  
14:1-7, 21-23**

**Introduction:** The church at Antioch started when persecution against the church at Jerusalem caused believers to scatter throughout Judea and Samaria. In Antioch, the church began sharing the good news of Jesus with Gentiles in the area. Luke records, "The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord" (Luke 11:21). The church at Jerusalem heard about what was happening in Antioch and sent Barnabas to investigate. "When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with a firm resolve of the heart" (Luke 11:23). Barnabas then brought Paul to Antioch and the two of them met with the church for a year. Luke 11:26 notes, "the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Our focal passages draw attention to the commitment of the church at Antioch to share Christ in all places.

**Go! (13:1-3):** God blessed the church at Antioch with several gifted leaders and Luke mentions five of them, each from diverse backgrounds, in verse 1. In verse 2, Luke recalls an occasion when the Holy Spirit clearly spoke to the church. They were "ministering to the Lord and fasting." In other words, they were intently seeking the Lord through prayer and fasting. The church was quite likely seeking

God's guidance for reaching more people with the good news of Jesus Christ. The Lord responded through the Holy Spirit who instructed them to, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work that I have called them to." The next phase of sharing Christ in all places was about to begin. The church responded by once again fasting and praying, and then encouraged Barnabas and Saul with their support before sending them on their mission.

As churches and as individual believers, we must follow the example of the church at Antioch by seeking God's guidance about how He wants us to take the gospel to all places. He may be calling us to participate in a short-term missions experience or He may even be calling us to career missions. Our part is to respond to His call with obedience as well as support and encourage those individuals He calls to go.

**Evangelize! (14:1-7):** On their first missionary journey, Barnabas and Paul followed a simple strategy. They first went to the Jewish synagogue in each city and shared the gospel with the Jews. Many Jews and Greeks would often respond favorably to their message. However, Barnabas and Paul also encountered opposition from Jews who were unwilling to accept the gospel message. They resolved to continue boldly proclaiming the message of the gospel to the Gentiles with the Lord's help. The Lord affirmed their ministry by performing signs and wonders to authenticate their message. However, when the Gentiles,

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Bible Studies for Life  
July 22**

the Jews, and their rulers in Iconium attempted to stone Barnabas and Paul, they moved to other places and "kept evangelizing."

When we follow the Lord's guidance to go and share the gospel, we can know without a doubt that He goes with us. When we encounter opposition, we can know that the Lord will uphold us. Even if one door of opportunity closes, God will open another door of opportunity for us.

**Strengthen! (vv. 21-23):** After Barnabas and Paul had evangelized and made disciples of many people, they began to retrace the steps of their journey. They even went back to the places where they were "run out of town." Their purpose in returning to these places was to "strengthen" and "encourage" the many new disciples they had made along the way. They also identified mature leaders in each church who would continue the important task of discipleship.

Leading people to Christ is not the end. Christ calls us to make disciples. We must commit ourselves to helping new believers become rooted and grounded in the faith. We must also challenge all believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** Consider how God is calling you to go, evangelize, and strengthen others. — Bullock is pastor of First Baptist Church, Halls.

## Dependence

By Billie Friel

**Focal Passage: Zechariah 4:1-14**

**Introduction:** God's people today employ many methods, programs, and promotions in seeking to carry out their mission to make disciples of all nations. Many churches organize for outreach through the Sunday School and provide training in personal evangelism and follow-through. Others have taken the marketing approach of business, using mass mailings, and designing radio and television ads to attract particular groups of people. The prophet Zechariah would have us remember that only God's Spirit produces spiritual and eternal results.

**A vision to ponder (vv. 1-5).** We remember Zechariah's ministry was during the rebuilding of the Temple (see 4:9). Modern man will have difficulty picturing what Zechariah saw in his vision. The Bible student is helped as he recalls the golden lampstand (Hebrew, menorah) in the original Tabernacle and Temple (Exodus 25:31-40). In providing light for the priests ministering in the Holy Place, care was taken for the lampstand to keep it well supplied with oil. The primary differences between the original lampstand and the lampstand in Zechariah's vision were: a bowl for storing oil was suspended over the lampstand; the oil was transported from the bowl through seven channels (conduits) to each of the seven lamps; and the lampstand was flanked by two olive

trees whose oil flowed constantly into the bowl (v. 12). This was a vision to ponder because the angel refused to explain what the prophet saw. The Lord reveals His truth to us today primarily through His Word; therefore, He expects us to read it and ponder its meaning so we can live according to its truth.

**A message to heed (vv. 6-10a).** Have you ever been through a church building program? Then you know the various forms of concerns, obstacles, and problems. After many years of frustrating effort, the governor/builder, Zerubbabel, received this message for comfort and encouragement. He was told that God's building would be completed, not by military might or human effort, but through the abundant supply of God's Spirit. Zechariah 4:6 should be on each Christian's "most quoted verse list!" Before the mighty Spirit, problems ("mountains") would not block them but would fall flat, like a "plain." The completion of the Temple would be an occasion of great joy. When Zerubbabel finishes the building, the critics will be put to silence. All will know that God's hand was on His people and that He sent Zechariah the prophet. Don't scorn the "day of small things" — it pleases and glorifies God to work through seemingly insignificant ways and means. Remember Moses' rod, David's sling, the little boy's lunch, and the disciples.

**A master to serve (vv. 10b-14).** Finally, Zechariah's questions are

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answered concerning the details of the vision. He was told that the two olive trees are the "two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth." As such the two olive trees represented the kingly and priestly offices through which the blessing of God was to flow. God was strengthening the two men who occupied these supreme positions in those offices at that particular time: Zerubbabel, a descendent of David, and Joshua, the High Priest. As the olive trees served the lamp, so the two persons are portrayed as the Lord's servants. Through them the Spirit of God will accomplish the work of God in the nation and in the world. Together, Zerubbabel and Joshua foreshadow the Messiah, in whom these two offices are combined (6:13).

**Conclusion:** Ho, Tennessee churches! Do not attempt to work, worship, or witness without being totally dependent upon the Spirit of God! This vision indicated that Israel would be a blessing to all nations of the world through an abundant supply of the Spirit of God as the result of the coming of the Messiah. — Friel is pastor emeritus and staff evangelist at First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, and interim director of missions for Wilson County Baptist Association, based in Lebanon.

## Leaders

◆ Eastwood Baptist Church, McKenzie, has called **Warren Darden** as pastor effective June 17.

◆ Grace Baptist, Elizabethton, has called **Jamie Peters** as minister of music. A native of Carter County, he is a student at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City. He will assume the position of minister of music and adult education when he graduates in December 2007.

◆ Rock Springs Baptist Church of Maury County in Columbia has called **Richard VanCleave** as pastor. VanCleave formerly served as pastor of Lynwood Baptist Church of Oswego, Ill., for 16 years.



VANCLEAVE

◆ First Baptist Church, Rutherford, held an ordination service into the gospel ministry for its pastor **Jason Bogardus** on July 15.

◆ **Richard Minton** recently resigned as pastor of Dogwood Heights Baptist Church, Tazewell, to become a director of missions in Virginia.

◆ **Kenny Williams** has resigned as pastor of Wolfenbarger Chapel Baptist Church, Tazewell, effective June 17.

◆ Vine Ridge Baptist

Church, Crawford, has called **Richie Farley** as its pastor. He was ordained June 10.

◆ First Baptist Church, Lexington, recently called **Bob Hull** as its minister of music.

◆ Waldens Creek Baptist Church, Sevierville, recently called **Thomas Clay** as its pastor.

◆ First Baptist Church, Dyer, has called **Steven Littleton** as minister of youth and children.

◆ **Bob Dennison** has resigned as pastor of Latham's Chapel Baptist Church, Medina.

◆ Northside Baptist Church, Milan, has called **Johnny McCartney** as associate minister/minister of students.

◆ Central Baptist Church, Erwin has called **Larry Wiley** as music minister. He previously served at First Baptist Church, Greeneville.

◆ Pinecrest Baptist Church, Johnson City, has called **Junior Martin** as minister of youth.

◆ Clear Branch Baptist Church, Erwin, has called **Frank Proffitt** as pastor. He previously served the church as its interim pastor.

## Events

◆ **A Missional Leadership Retreat**, sponsored by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will be held Aug. 6-8 at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport. For more information, or to register, call Willie McLaurin at the TBC at



**LYNNWOOD LYNNRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Elizabethton, held a dedication service for its new building and an open house for the community. More than 77 people attended including members of area churches and its sponsors — Willow Springs Baptist Church, Elizabethton; and the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood. The church now meets in a small house where the church now meets sits on eight acres of property. "This makes it the church in the Watauga Association with the largest amount of property," said Jack Greer, pastor. The purchase of the site was given by the 66 churches of the Watauga Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and other donors. The new church was meeting in an apartment complex, which grew out of a laundry ministry and Bible study church moved Mother's Day, May 13, to its new building located at the entrance of the complex. Renovations are continuing on the building. — Photo by Ray

(615) 371-2011 or David Thompson at (615) 944-3679.

## Churches

◆ **First Baptist Church, Middleton**, will hold an annual homecoming service July 22. Herbert Higdon will speak. A noon meal and afternoon song service will follow the morning

worship. For information, call Eric L. Taylor, pastor, at (731) 376-8373.

◆ **North Etowah Baptist**

**Church, Etowah**, revival service July 15. **Anderson**, evangelist Maryville, spoke.



## Baptist and Reflector Day Sunday, Aug. 19

Your church is invited to join hundreds of other churches across the Tennessee Baptist Convention in observing Sunday, Aug. 19, as *Baptist and Reflector Day*.

Inform friends and family about the *Baptist and Reflector* as the staff "tells the story of Tennessee Baptists." The *B&R* brings you news, features, inspirational columns, editorials, Sunday School commentaries, and more each week.

To help more people become aware of their Baptist paper, we offer your church free copies of the Aug. 15 issue to distribute on *B&R Day* to every member in your church.

Complete this form and mail to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024. You can also fax it to (615) 371-2080 or call Susie Edwards at (615) 371-2003 or Mary Nimmo at (615) 371-7929 to request free copies. The deadline is noon, Friday, Aug. 10.

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**BANGHAM HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**, Cookeville, collected an **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** in April. The church had a goal of \$1,550 but collected \$1,771.46. Honoring a promise if the church met the goal, Pastor Keith Tosh, right, wore an "Easter bonnet" during the offering on May 6, homecoming day. The bonnet contained a flower and \$50 collected. If the church surpassed the goal, a "surprise leader" also would wear a bonnet. Deacon Jeff Null earned the



**SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH**, Trenton, celebrated July 4th with an ice cream social July 1 using its old church bell on the grounds. With 100 percent attendance, the congregation recited the Ten Commandments and rang the bell on each commandment. Pastor Joel Pigg said, "Our nation celebrated the freedom of our country and remember those who made our freedom possible, Salem Baptist celebrates the freedom that we have in Jesus Christ. Our desire is to ring the truth of God's Word with love and fellowship." Pigg who is standing by a stone bench led the congregation as church member SFC Terrence rang the bell.