

**about
your
newsjournal**

Subscribe to the *Baptist and Reflector* for one year and receive 47 copies. Individual subscriptions, \$12.00; Church Leadership Plan, \$9.00 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

Website — www.tnbaptist.org

Publisher – Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board

Shared Ministries Committee —

Wes Turner, chairman; William Oakley, vice chairman; Tom Bigham, Mark Conway, Nina Fletcher, Tim Frank, David Green, Doug Jennings, Joey Johnson, Bert Jones, Tommy Lemmonds, Greg Long, Ed Porter, Linda Still, Edna Tidwell, Larry Triplett

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.

Americans split on if homosexuality is a sin: poll

By Mark Kelly
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Americans hold differing opinions on the issue of homosexuality, including whether homosexual behavior is sinful. A similar percentage of Americans consider homosexual behavior sinful to those who do not, and neither view gains a majority, according to a new study by LifeWay Research. The study also found that Americans' views of homosexuality affects their openness to participation in a church.

A telephone survey of 1,201 American adults conducted in April revealed that 48 percent of all Americans believe homosexual behavior is sinful, while 45 percent believe it is not sinful, almost a statistical tie when considering the margin of error.

The percentage is slightly different when the respondent indicates he or she knows someone with same-sex attraction, with 49 percent indicating it is not sinful. Among those who have a religious affiliation, 55 percent of Catholics and 31 percent of Protestants said they do not believe homosexual behavior is sinful. That number dropped to 17 percent among born-again,

evangelical or fundamentalist Protestants.

Holding opposing views, 39 percent of Catholics, 61 percent of Protestants and 79 percent of born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Protestants said they do believe homosexual behavior is sinful.

Twenty-nine percent of Americans said their decision to visit or join a church would be positively affected if that congregation taught homosexual behavior is a sin. Among Catholics, that number dropped to 23 percent. Thirty-eight percent of Protestants and 50 percent of born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Protestants said they would be more likely to visit or join a church if it taught homosexual behavior is sinful.

Thirty-two percent of Americans — almost one in three — said their decision to visit or join a church would be negatively affected if that congregation taught homosexual behavior is sinful. Among Catholics and Protestants, that number is 27 percent. It dropped further to 21 percent among born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Protestants. Among those who never attend any place of wor-

ship, 49 percent said this teaching would negatively affect their decision to visit or join a church.

Those statistics should give church leaders pause and lead them to strike an important but delicate balance between demonstrating Christ's love for all people while still presenting a biblical teaching about homosexual behavior, LifeWay Research director Ed Stetzer said.

"It's surprising to see how many Catholics disagree with the clear teaching of their church or, for that matter, the percentage of Protestants who consider themselves born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist who do not believe homosexuality is a sin," Stetzer said.

"Seventeen percent in that latter category may seem low compared to the others, but considering these people consider themselves born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist, it reminds us of the need for clear biblical teaching on the issue in our community."

The trajectory in Western culture is toward greater acceptance of homosexuality, Stetzer noted, but evangelical Christians cannot base their convictions about homosexuality on

what polls say or the values portrayed in the media.

"We did not develop our views of sexuality because we flipped a coin or took a poll," he said. "We believe the teaching of Scripture is clear that monogamous, heterosexual marriage is God's best for people, culture, and society."

Stetzer also pointed to the challenge in the data. "Almost a third of Americans and almost half of those who do not attend a place of worship — the people we are trying to reach — say our view of sexual morality would negatively impact their decision to visit our churches," Stetzer said.

"It's clear we have a challenging but essential task. We need to strive to show the love of Christ, while upholding the standard of Scripture, to those who struggle with same-sex attraction."

The size of the survey sample provided a 95 percent confidence that the sampling error did not exceed 2.9 percent for questions asked of the entire sample. More detailed breakdowns of the data, as well as responses to questions not included in this report, may be found at lifewayresearch.com. □

LMCO sets record; falls short of goal

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Despite difficult economic conditions, Southern Baptists gave \$150.4 million to the 2007 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions to support the work of more than 5,300 missionaries worldwide.

After financial books closed at the end of May, the annual offering totaled \$150,409,653.86 — more than \$231,000 above the record 2006 offering of \$150.1 million, but falling short of the \$165 million goal.

"We are grateful for the strong commitment to the Great Commission exhibited by the generous giving of Southern Baptists to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin said. "Although we're disappointed by the failure to meet the goal of \$165 million, we think it is significant in the context of financial challenges in today's economy that we received the same impressive level of giving as last year."

"Many families are struggling with mortgages, foreclosures, and the rising price of gasoline. Many churches are struggling to meet budgets. Yet missions continues to be the priority of Southern Baptists as reflected in their giving," Rankin said.

The 2007 total also brings the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to a historic mark: Cumulative gifts from Southern Baptists to

the offering, which has been promoted by Woman's Missionary Union since 1888, have topped \$3 billion. The 2007 offering brings the cumulative total to \$3,034,234,033.84.

"We are grateful that Southern Baptists continue to make missions a priority as evidenced by this record amount given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions," said Wanda Lee, executive director-treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union.

"Since WMU first initiated this offering in 1888, more than \$3 billion has been sacrificially given by Southern Baptists so that the name of Jesus may be heard around the world in every nation. We praise God for these resources and pray that He will continue to bless our efforts to fulfill the Great Commission."

The entire 2007 offering goal of \$165 million was anticipated to fund more than half of this year's International Mission Board budget of \$304.8 million, which calls for nearly \$16 million more than the 2007 budget. Much of the increase is needed to support new missionaries. The budget counts on an additional \$106 million coming from Southern Baptist mission giving through the Cooperative Program, with remaining receipts from investments, hunger and relief giving (reserved exclusively for those ministries), and other income.

The lower Lottie Moon offering total "will result in a shortfall in our budget that will have to be made up from other sources, but even more critical is

the declining value of the dollar overseas," Rankin noted. "I trust this double crisis will encourage Southern Baptists to give even more sacrificially to the 2008 Lottie Moon goal of \$170 million. Nevertheless, we will continue to do whatever it takes to get the gospel to the millions of lost people around the world who are desperately waiting to hear the Good News of God's love." □

World Changers to serve in Tennessee

Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — More than 23,000 Southern Baptist students — from teenage to college-age — will tackle roofing, drywall repairs, painting, and landscaping in 96 World Changers projects this summer in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

By the time World Changers winds down operations in early August, the North American Mission Board's initiative to renovate substandard housing expects to have donated \$16.4 million in free labor in 80 American cities and reached 1,000 people for Christ.

Now in its 19th year, World Changers is a pre-packaged mission experience sponsored and managed by NAMB, enabling students to donate a week (Saturday to Saturday) of their summer to rehabilitate some of the poorer neighborhoods of America — at no charge to the homeowner.

The 96 projects kicked off May 30-June 7 in Indianapolis,

a first-time World Changers site, where rehab work on 15 homes preceded the Southern Baptist Convention's June 10-11 annual meeting at the Indiana Convention Center.

World Changers will serve in four locations in Tennessee — Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga (twice), and Lenoir City. □

IMB provides \$600,000 for Asian relief

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — Southern Baptists continue to provide relief in Myanmar and China following catastrophic disasters in the two Asian countries in May. Contributions to the Southern Baptist World Hunger and General Relief funds have made these efforts possible.

More than 130,000 people died or are missing in Myanmar after a cyclone ripped through the country May 2. An earthquake shook China's Sichuan province a few days later, killing more than 70,000. Millions in both countries have been left homeless.

Despite restrictions in both countries, the International Mission Board has provided \$600,000 in relief funds. These funds supplied food, water filters and purification systems, sanitation systems, building materials, and health care. More gifts to these funds are needed to continue this work around the world. □

SBC pastors, average Americans view issues differently

By David Roach
LifeWay news office

NASHVILLE — A majority of Southern Baptist Convention pastors believe the media has overstated the threat of global warming and that SBC resolutions have not been "too timid" when they addressed global warming, according to a recent study on global issues by LifeWay Research.

The study also found that there is a contrast between the opinions of SBC pastors and average Americans on several national issues including global warming, physician-assisted suicide, and embryonic stem cell research.

Global warming

Regarding SBC resolutions on global warming, the study revealed only 17 percent of the denomination's pastors agree that the convention has been too timid in its stances on climate change. Sixty-five percent of pastors either somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed that the convention has been too timid in its resolutions on climate change.

"The majority of Southern Baptists are comfortable with the stand of the convention from past resolutions," said Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. They do not think the convention resolutions have been too timid."

A resolution adopted by the SBC in 2007 urged Southern Baptists to "proceed cautiously in the human-induced global warming debate in light of conflicting scientific research." The

resolution additionally said that Southern Baptists "consider proposals to regulate CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions based on a maximum acceptable global temperature goal to be very dangerous, since attempts to meet the goal could lead to a succession of mandates of deeper cuts in emissions, which may have no appreciable effect if humans are not the principal cause of global warming, and could lead to major economic hardships on a worldwide scale."

As a solution to global warming, the resolution said Southern Baptists "strongly request that all public policy decision makers ensure an appropriate balance between care for the environment, effects on economies, and impacts on the poor when considering programs to reduce CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions."

Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, said Southern Baptist pastors generally feel comfortable with the language of the resolutions to date.

"Clearly the majority of Southern Baptist pastors feel the SBC has been bold enough in wording past resolutions related to climate change," he said, adding, "Skepticism of the media's coverage of global warming is pervasive among SBC pastors."

When asked whether they "believe that the media has overstated the threat of global warming," 86 percent of SBC pastors responded in the affirmative. Seventy-five percent of SBC pastors disagreed with the idea that "the government should take significant action to

reduce carbon emissions to combat global warming, even if the action causes serious, negative economic impact on average Americans' living standards."

An additional study of 1,201 Americans showed divergent views with Southern Baptist pastors. A phone survey of a representative sample of Americans appeared more convinced than Southern Baptist pastors that humans play a role in global warming, with 77 percent agreeing that the earth is warming and that humans contribute to that warming to some degree. Thirty-six percent of SBC pastors agreed with the same statement.

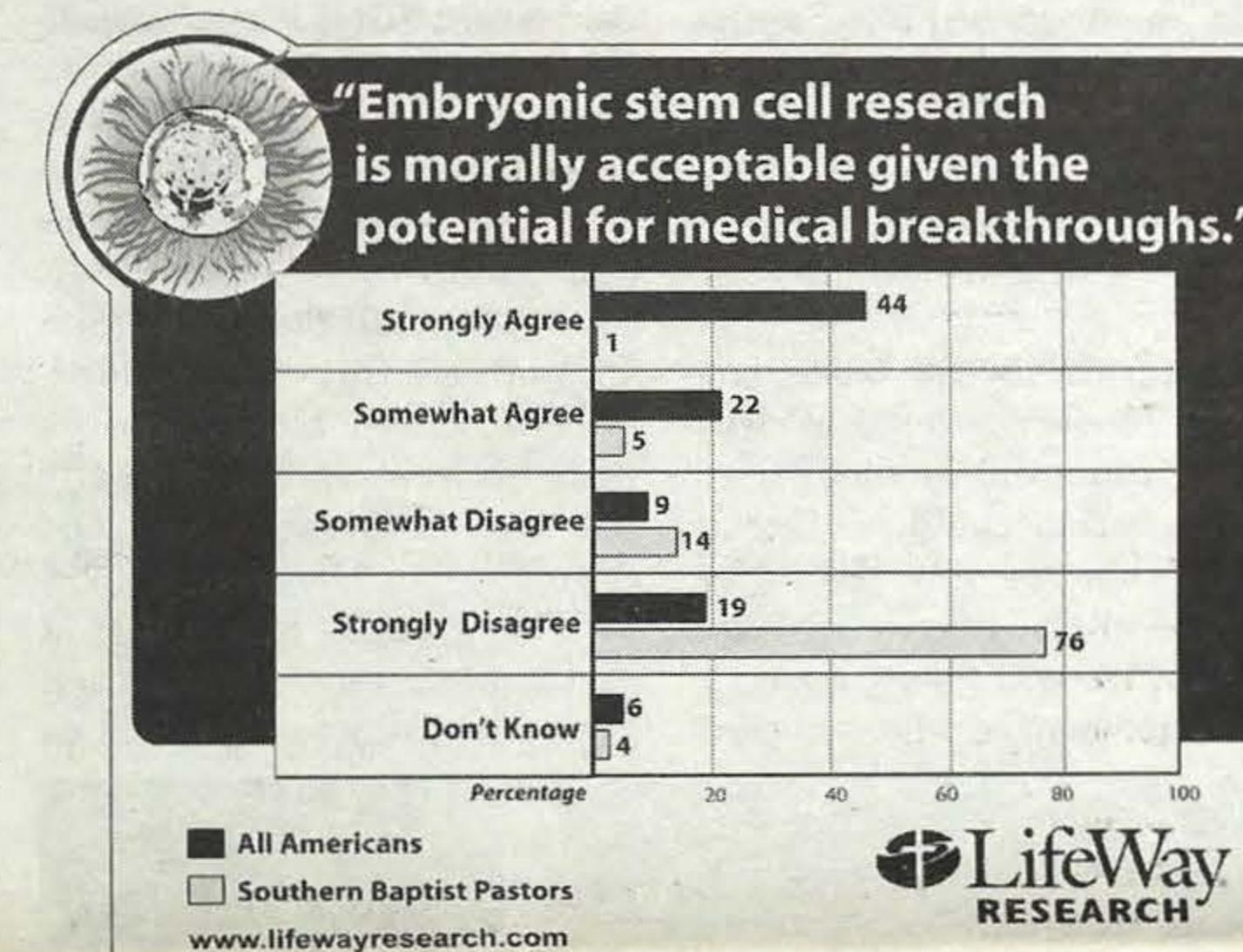
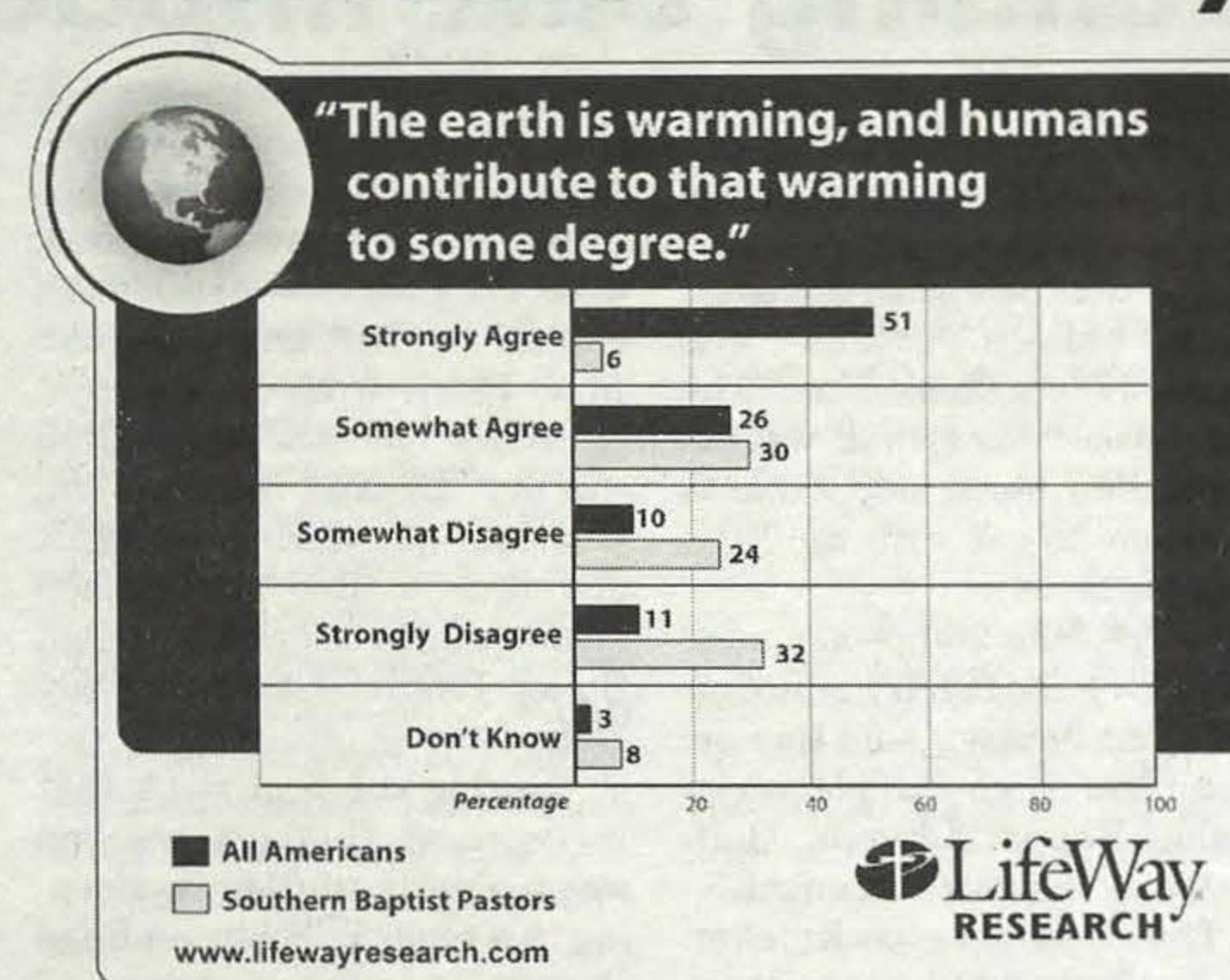
Physician-assisted suicide

The study also noted a sharp contrast between Southern Baptist pastors and average Americans on physician-assisted suicide. Half of Americans agreed that it is morally acceptable for a person facing a painful terminal disease to ask for a physician's aid in taking his life. Eighty-eight percent of SBC pastors strongly disagreed with that position.

Stem cell research

Southern Baptist pastors again broke with average Americans on embryonic stem cell research. Though 66 percent of Americans said embryonic stem cell research is morally acceptable given the potential for medical breakthroughs, only 6 percent of pastors agreed. Seventy-six percent of pastors strongly disagreed with embryonic stem cell research. An additional 14 percent of pastors said they somewhat disagree with embryonic stem cell research.

McConnell noted that amidst a variety of topics covered in the



study, questions on what is morally acceptable triggered the strongest opinions among pastors.

"Americans are clearly looking at a different moral compass in terms of stem cell research and physician-assisted suicide. In both of these moral questions

more than three-quarters of SBC pastors strongly advocated the embryo and the life, while many Americans gravitated toward medical breakthroughs and ending pain."

The study findings are based on surveys conducted by LifeWay Research in spring 2008. □

RAs, GAs from FBC, Kingsport, help raise funds for Union

Baptist and Reflector

KINGSPORT — When Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls in Action (GAs) from First Baptist Church here heard about what

happened at Union University recently with the tornado damages, they decided they wanted to help.

They were especially interested in the project because

Union is the alma mater of their pastor, Marvin Cameron.

Choosing mission projects for each month, they decided raising funds for Union would be the goal of their March project.

The boys and girls began collecting change with a \$400 goal to reach.

To make the project even more fun, the RA and GA leaders promised that if they reached their goal, they would trade places for one of their reg-

ular Wednesday meeting nights.

Not only did the boys and girls reach their goal — they raised \$760.79 — almost doubling their efforts.

True to their word, all leaders switched places April 23, with RA leaders making beaded hair bows and painting finger nails for the GA girls, and GA leaders playing kickball in the gym with the RA boys!

Cameron noted the RA and GA programs at First Baptist

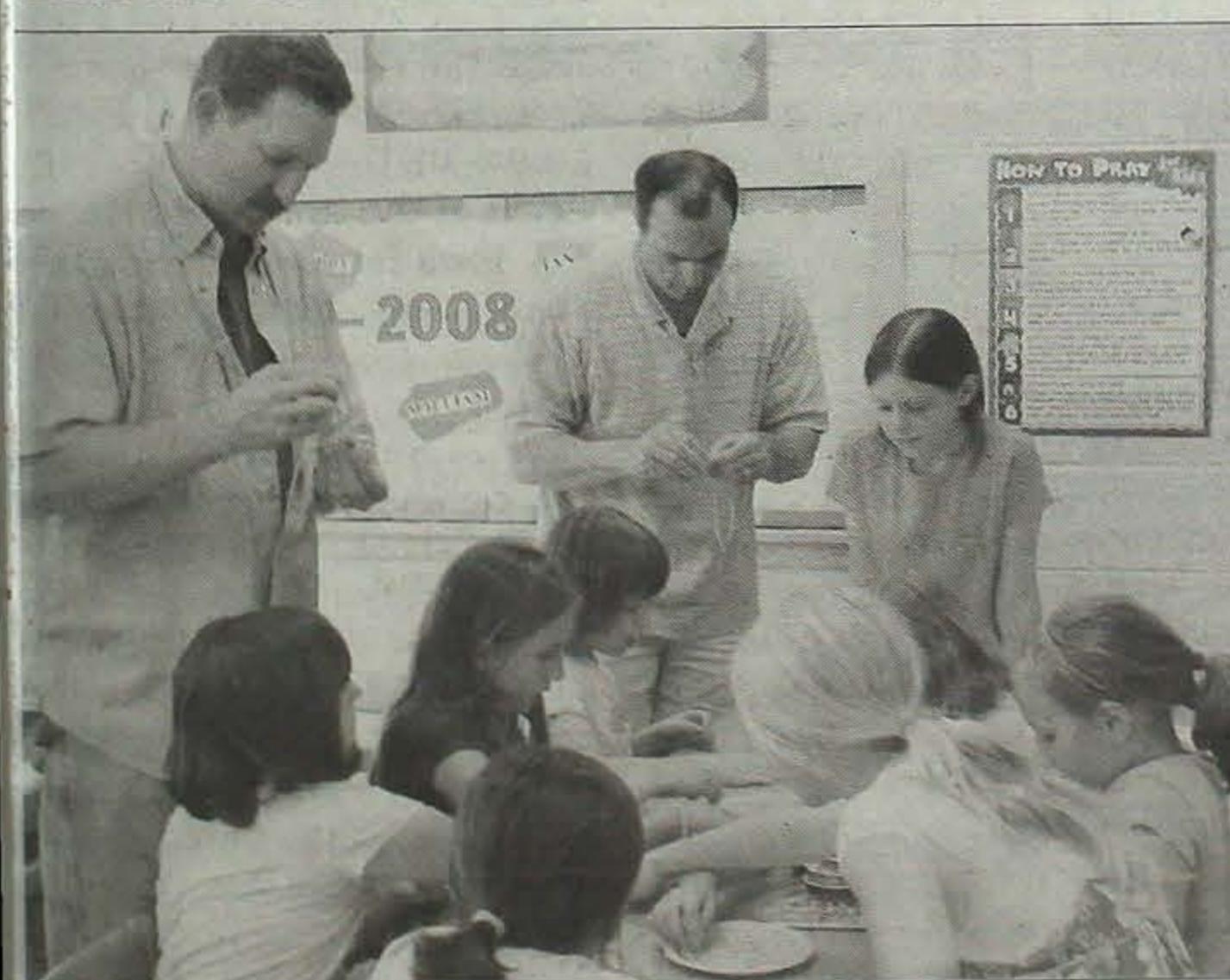
"are blessed with outstanding leaders and great kids."

"The response to the tornado at Union is just one more example of the way our missions leaders are helping our children understand the need to be on mission every month," Cameron said.

"I am delighted that our young people could play a small part in helping my alma mater build toward its great future," he added. □



ROYAL AMBASSADORS and Girls in Action from First Baptist Church, Kingsport, recently raised \$760.79, more than double their goal, to help Union University.



RA LEADERS Tom Patton, left, and Tim Hall from First Baptist Church, Kingsport, fulfill a pledge they would swap places with the GA leaders if the RAs and GAs met their goal of raising \$400 for tornado-relief efforts at Union University in Jackson. The group raised \$760.79. While these RA leaders were making hair bows, the GA leaders played kick ball with the RAs in the gym.

Building blitz impacts hurricane ...

—Continued from page 1

families were shown their pictures with a specific color attached. Then they were told to find the table with the same color balloon, which was anchored to a house plant. The Tennessee team that was to build their home next came to the table to eat with the Vietnamese family.

"More than 260 people were fed during the fish fry at Robinson Road Baptist," said Bonnie. "John Morris, church planter at Stable Baptist Church, Gulfport, was the entertainment."

The Tennessee cook team, led by Cindy and Lannie Benefield, members of First Baptist Church, Summertown, brought with them to Mississippi hand caught fish, which the Tennessee coordinators supplemented with more fish, Bonnie added.

"Later during the week, one of the Tennessee team leaders noted that the homeowners said that they could see Christ in us from the way that they worked in the homes," Bonnie added. "We will follow up with the homeowners who accepted

Christ as a result of the project. We also made some wonderful friends with the volunteers."

As the project continued, over 56 people worked week three, May 4-10, and week four, May 11-17, from 11 different churches in the Hamilton County Baptist Association, Chattanooga, during the blitz, according to Bob Neely, team leader and a member of Oak Street Baptist Church, Soddy Daisy.

"During the first week that we were at Gulfport, we had seven elderly gentlemen sleeping in a room at Robinson Road Baptist, and none of us snored," said Neely. "That was a miracle from God. The next week another guy came in who snored."

While the Hamilton Association group was in Gulfport, they attended Stable Church on Mother's Day, Neely added. "Morris was a blessing to us with his preaching. We really felt the Holy Spirit in the church."

The parents of Duc Le, a Vietnamese new homeowner, came every day to visit with us

on the job site. They brought us spring rolls and rice dishes and kept an ice chest on site with fresh water and soft drinks. They also gave us shrimp, because they are a family of shrimpers.

"I met so many people and other mission team members. I appreciated the hospitality and the community at Robinson Road Church."

Of the five homes constructed by the rebuild teams from Nolachucky Baptist Association, Morristown; Holston Baptist Association, Johnson City;

and Holston Valley Baptist Association, Rogersville, earlier in the spring, there is one completed, according to Sellers.

In addition, Morris reported to Sellers that several more people made salvation decisions in the area of the Stable Baptist church plant where the East Tennessee teams conducted Backyard Bible Clubs.

Sellers added that a construction team from Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, is scheduled for June 16-20 to begin construction on the building for Stable Baptist. □



NEW HOMEOWNERS thanks to the Building Blitz stand on the porch of neighbor's new home. They are, from left, Miac Van Le, Teryet Mai Nguyen, baby, and Narm Phan. They are visiting the home of Trong Van Phan, which was built by Jefferson County Baptist Association, Jefferson City. The 60-member team was led by Kevin Welker. — Photo by Jim Sellers



PLACING A SIGN on the staircase of the porch of a finished house is Rick Taylor, team leader of Beech River Baptist Association, Lexington, as another member of the association team looks on. — Photo by Jim Sellers



LOOKING OFF THE porch of their new house which was provided by Tennessee Baptists are Randolph and Mabel Dedaux. — Photo by Jim Sellers



TENNESSEANS PARTICIPATING in the Building Blitz of Tennessee Baptist Builders work on one of seven houses which were

built April 21 - May 19 in Pass Christian, Miss., to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. — Photo by David Acres

Sullivan Baptist DR team to serve in Iowa

Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Sullivan Baptist Association's disaster relief feeding unit, based in Kingsport, was serving residents of Parkerburg, Iowa, at press time on June 9. The Tennessee unit was the only Southern Baptist feeding unit in operation there. The town was struck by a May 25 tornado and flooding recently.

The unit left Tennessee June 7.

Jim Ramey, Sullivan Association disaster relief director, said that 13 volunteers accompanied the feeding unit, which was set up on the parking lot of a grocery store in Cedar Falls, Iowa. They were relocated from Parkersburg because of flooding.

The Tennessee volunteers are expected to work through June 13. Ramey, a member of Sullivan Baptist Church, Kingsport, is serving as the white cap on the unit or director and will be assisted by Paul Strong, a member of Westview Baptist Church, Kingsport, as blue cap.

"The Sullivan Association unit is the largest association feeding unit in the Tennessee Baptist disaster relief fleet," said Ramey. "It is able to serve 35,000 meals a day and has several ovens, tilt skillets, and tilt steam kettles."

The Red Cross is delivering the meals prepared by the units to four feeding sites in the region. The largest site is at the Veteran's Memorial Center in Parkersburg, which is located just outside the damage zone in the southeast portion of the town of 1,900.

Iowa Baptists were operating the Illinois Baptist Convention feeding unit in Parkersburg beginning May 27. The feeding unit has left. Also serving were Iowa and Illinois disaster relief chaplains who ministered in the affected communities. The chaplains delivered water, Bibles, and blankets to the victims.

Community officials and residents have expressed great appreciation to Southern Baptists for the disaster relief efforts. □ — Marcia Knox & Connie Bushey

Remembering Southern summer delicacies, treats

By James Porch

Dear Aaron and Anna:

Hey Kids!

My summer time at your age officially arrived when the day time temperature hit a hot muggy 80 degrees or more. Such conditions signaled the coming of a variety of southern summer delicacies, special eating treats, all best prepared and eaten during the hot months of June, July, and August, each one defying weight loss while raising cholesterol and blood sugar.

"Art is in the eye of the beholder." If so, a southern eating delicacy is in the mouth, across the teeth and gums, and down to the tummy. Each anatomical portion of the digestive system celebrates the good taste and nourishment. My priority belongs to scratch banana pudding. Such a concoction holds an aversion to boxed custard mix or Cool Whip topping. The traditional recipe for scratch banana pudding originally appeared on the Nabisco Vanilla Wafer box. No substitute would be honored. In recent years, because of cultural shifts, the makers of the cookie have chosen to substitute other seasonal recipes replacing the standard for banana pudding. There is no other way to confess this sin against the future southern cooks. I wonder who will truly fall victim to perpetrating this affliction on banana pudding out of ignorance of the recipe. I am talking specifically about the stuff put in the pudding in addition to bananas and cookies. The actual pudding essence is indemnified through a mixture of eggs, milk, sugar, flour, and rapid progressive stirring in a pot immersed in a large vessel of hot water over an eye on top of a stove. The true texture and consistency for appropriate southern banana pudding cannot be prepared if this step is omitted. The great southern

cooks spread the green tinged banana all over the bottom of a container. Then adding a layer of Nabisco Wafers and more bananas and finally a generous topping of homemade pudding. The next step separated the cooks from ordinary to extraordinary. This came in the preparation of the meringue that would top the pudding. The egg white meringue beaten well and piled high will survive a few minutes in the oven for browning and produce ample drops of sweet sweat all over the delicious dessert.

Truly, scratch banana pudding now is not a seasonal dessert as in my childhood days. I vividly remember during the summer time when announcement would spread across town that Goodman's Grocery Store had a fresh stalk of bananas. Some would laugh at this fact; however, in the environment of my early years such an arrival of fresh tropical food in our town was an occasion for excitement.

Almost everybody raised tomatoes. Church talk, street talk, post office talk, and loafer bench talk during the month of June usually extended to the point, "How is yo tomatoes doing?" The arrival of the first red ripe tomatoes meant the beginning of the tomato sandwich season. This is serious stuff. An improper manufactured tomato sandwich is not worth putting in hog slop. Therefore, I shall describe the proper procedure for the development of the southern delicacy, a tomato sandwich. Initially, select fresh store bought bread. Next apply real mayonnaise! None of that Mrs. Miracle Whip junk. Off brand salad dressing should never grace a tomato sandwich. Real mayonnaise con-

tains Wesson oil and hen eggs. You hold a slice of bread in the extended palm of your hand. Next spread a copious amount of mayonnaise or mynaise. The nerd term "Mayo" had never even been invented or thought of during my childhood. Real mayonnaise must be thick enough to lump up on the bread. Precede then to peel and cut thick slices of red, juicy tomatoes large enough to cover the bread with plenty of lap over. Some folk prefer their tomato sandwiches with the peeling left on. Whatever! Salt and pepper the tomatoes and cover the exposed salted and peppered tomato

with the remaining slice of bread. Leave the crust on! Crust trimmers reveal an aversion to their upbringing. Allow the delicacy to age for at least 15 minutes. Some of us, "good ole boys" on right occasions will be led to add bologna or liver cheese (goose liver). Eat with your mouth closed to savor the taste, and also to prevent air pressure from pushing mayonnaise slick tomatoes down your throat in chunks excessive to proper swallowing. Chew slowly, savoring each bite. Please remember a tomato sandwich is a seasonal delicacy denied from October through May. No southern boy or girl in their right mind would concoct a tomato sandwich using store bought, hot house tomatoes. Only on rare occasion can one tomato sandwich be adequate for a meal.

The appearance in our home of an ice cream freezer meant the coming of a special occasion. Only a few of the elect in a small southern community owned a Cold Mountain wood tub ice cream freezer. The item when not in use received careful protection from dust, salt corrosion,

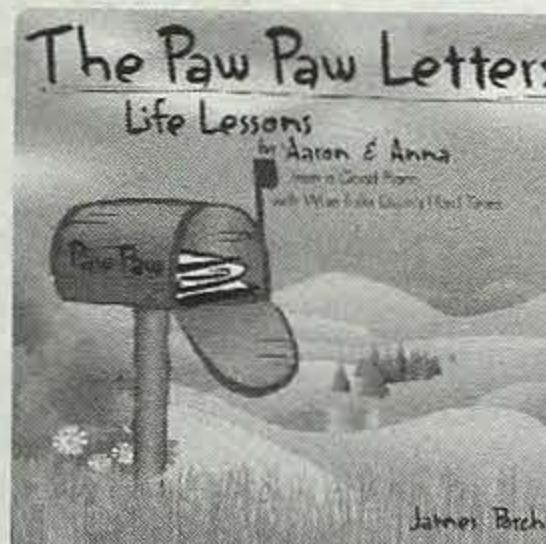
or rot to the wooden container. No appliance held the reputation of being worthy of being borrowed more than a hand turned freezer. Our family never owned one, but we knew who did and maintained close friendship with those folks. A wide variety of recipes for homemade vanilla ice cream evolved over the years. Recipes provided the topic for discussion during Sunday School class meetings, Eastern Star gatherings, family reunions, and especially Baptist ice cream suppers. I never knew if ice cream recipe made the agenda during the monthly bridge club meetings. Baptists in my town considered the bridge club folk as uppity, and besides, all of them went to the Methodist church. Whatever the proportion mixture, southern homemade ice cream contained eggs, cream rising (unhomogenized) milk, sugar, and vanilla extract. Proper care in the amount of the vanilla used in the recipe would determine the frozen consistency of the dessert. Vanilla extract contains alcohol, and too much of the flavoring would result in vanilla milkshake antifreeze. The genius of making homemade ice cream really depended on the right combination of ice and salt. At this delicate point in the process many freezers of cream suffered from ignorance and/or inattention to details. Standard procedure for the best ice cream demanded alternate layers of ice and salt from bottom to top of freezer. Once frozen, the dasher had to be removed. There is nothing absolutely more exciting than for a child to stand watching the dasher being pulled out of an ice cream can knowing that ice cream hanging on the blades would be his or hers to enjoy. That's real living!

Kids, space will only allow me to comment on one additional essential southern delicacy — southern 40-weight sweet tea.

Simply stated, loose ground up tea leaves are added to boiling water and sugar. The concoction has to simmer for a time. Once cool and strained into a glass jug, the tea should be deep red in color. A batch of light red or amber color tea should be disregarded and the process begun again. Most southern ladies knew that the recipe on the Tetley or Lipton tea box should be doubled as to the amount of tea used in the process. I can well remember the appearance of 40-weight ice tea at revival meetings and dinner on the ground during rural church meetings. Usually someone in the neighborhood would buy a new galvanized wash tub and put a 50 pound block of ice in the tub. Then the tea would be poured over the ice and everyone had the privilege to dip from the tub during lunch. Only on extreme rare occasions would lemon or lime slices be available.

Kids, once again thanks for traveling back with me through valuable memory and points of nostalgia. As I have indicated before, once upon a time in my childhood years things were a lot different than they are today. My prayer is that your recognition of those times will be a part of your legacy even as children of God.

These remembrances do not celebrate merely my nostalgia. Rather, the anecdotal approach to remembering life as it was a long time ago is really part of my God-given heritage. Our Heavenly Father intends that the seasons of life be connected and further expects us to learn from the previous to bless the present. I commend to you then my belief that even in matters that may sound trivial such as delicacies of eating there is the presence of God in caring for His people. □ — Copyright by James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Diminishing glory: Stay out of The Shack, says Colson

guest columnist
By Charles Colson

When the prophet Isaiah and the apostle John caught glimpses of God, they were overcome with despair at their own unworthiness in the light of His glory. The same could be said of Daniel or Paul, or any number of figures from Scripture.

But when the protagonist of a new book called *The Shack* is introduced to the Father of heaven, he is greeted by a "large, beaming, African-American woman" who goes by the name of Papa.

When he arrives, the shack and the winter scene around it transform, Narnia-like, into a

mystical mountain paradise, perhaps meant to be heaven itself. Now dwelling in the shack are three mysterious figures — the African-American woman, a Middle Eastern workman, and an Asian girl — who reveal themselves as God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The rest of the book is basically a discussion between Mack and the three persons of the Trinity. While the discussion is mostly on the deep topics of creation, the fall, freedom, and forgiveness, too often the author slips in silly lines that, frankly, seem ridiculous in the mouth of the Godhead. Jesus, looking at Papa, says, "Isn't she great?" At one point, Papa warns Mack that eating too many of the greens in front of him will "give him the trots." And when Jesus spills batter on the floor and on

Papa, Jesus then washes Her — or is it His? — feet. Papa coos, "Oh, that feels sooooo good." Ugh.

Okay, it is only an allegory. But like *Pilgrim's Progress*, allegories contain deep truths. That is my problem. It is the author's low view of Scripture. For example, Mack is tied to a tree by his drunken, abusive father, who "beats Mack with a belt and Bible verses." The author reflects derisively in another spot that "nobody wanted God in a box, just in a book. Especially an expensive one bound in leather with gilt edges, or was that 'guilt' edges."

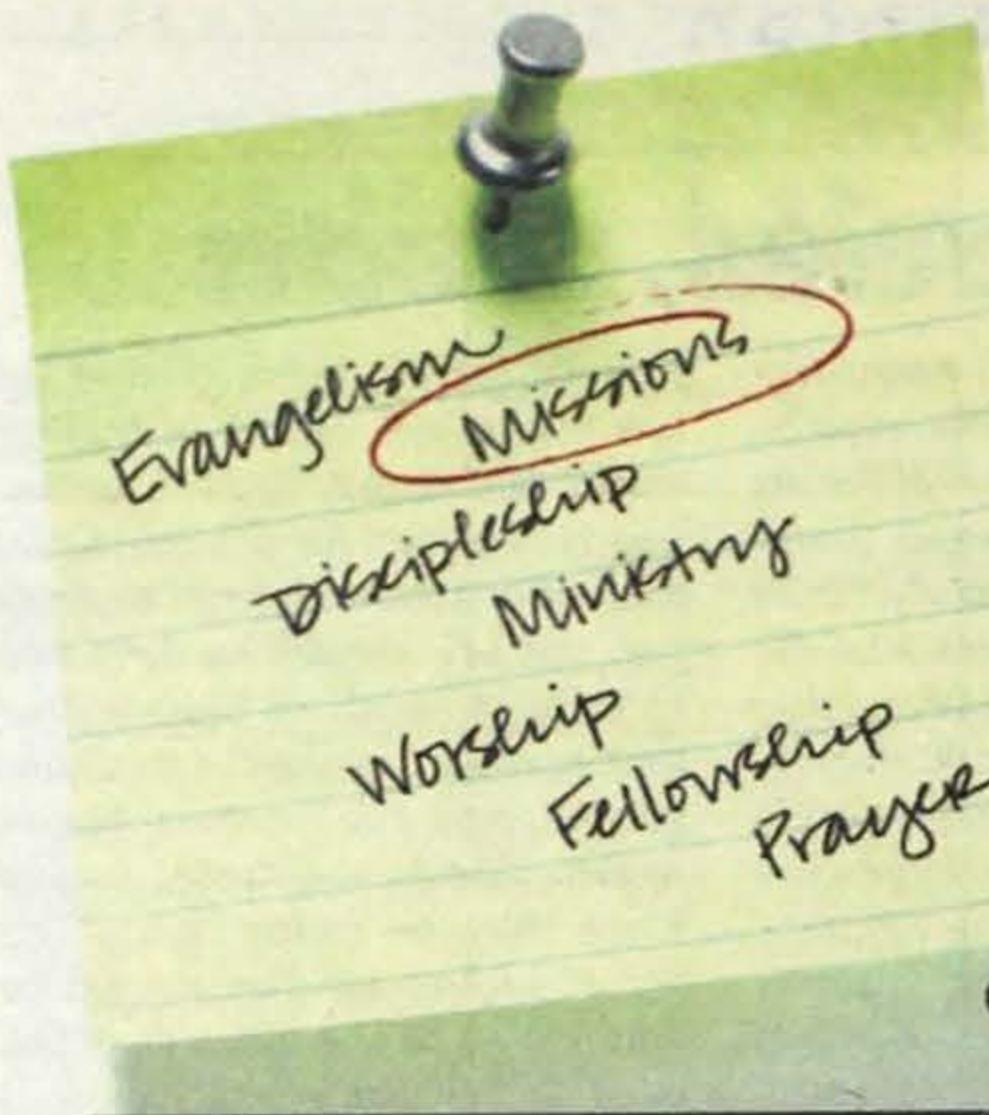
The Bible, it seems, is just one among many equally valid ways in which God reveals Himself. And, we are told, the Bible is not about rules and principles; it is about relationship.

Sadly, the author fails to show that the relationship with God must be built on the truth of who He really is, not on our reaction to a sunset or a painting.

That is not to say *The Shack* is without merit. The centrality of Christ and God's breathtaking, costly love come through loud and clear. But these truths are available everywhere in Scripture, everywhere in Christian literature. You do not have to visit *The Shack* to find them.

As Papa warns Mack, God is not who Mack expects He is. But He is also not what our creative imaginations make Him to be, either.

He is, after all, Who He is. □ — From BreakPoint, May 6, 2008, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, www.breakpoint.org.



Church Health Matters

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

Thank You!

Thank you for your faithful support of missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program. In this week's issue, you find the second quarter Treasurer's Report of Cooperative Program giving from Tennessee Baptist Convention churches.

To view your church's individual giving report, go to the TBC website at www.tnbaptist.org. Click on the CP logo, and then click on the "Click Here for Detailed Treasurer's Report by Associations." Next click on your association; look for your church's report.



Update!

The TEN X TEN in Tennessee Stewardship and Cooperative Program campaign is off and running. Pay attention to your associational newsletter for when the campaign will be conducted in your area.



Cooperative Program Materials

Remember that Cooperative Program promotional materials are available free of charge from your state convention. Contact Tammy Harris, Church Health Administrative assistant, at (615) 371-7912 or e-mail her at tharris@tnbaptist.org to order these materials.

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Location	Project ID	Project Name	Project	Dates	Number Needed
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Rio-08-17	Medical Evangelism	Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, eye doctors, helpers, and evangelism people are needed to work in medical/evangelism clinic.	Oct.17-26	Up to 30
Libby, Montana	MT-08-09	Camp	Need host family for church camp to do light maintenance and check campers in and out.	June-Aug.	2
Missoula, Montana	MT-08-11	Construction	Teams to do electrical, concrete, sheet rock, painting, remodeling, carpet installation, baptistry work, etc. Summer block party or sports camps can also be done.	June-Sept.	500
Elizabethton, TN	TN-08-02	Day Camp	Provide day camps-M-Th (9-11:30) for grades K-6. Would do music, Bible story, crafts, recreation & snacks. Concludes when lunch truck arrives. Team will supervise lunch. Larger teams can split and serve in other locations. Afternoon will be ministry projects.	June 9-July 25	15 or more each week
Elizabethton, TN	TN-08-04	BYBC	Provide morning Backyard Bible Club (BYBC) activities outside in local public housing setting M-Th. Prayerwalking & door-to-door publicity needs to be completed prior to first day of BYBC.	June 9-July 25	4-6 each week
Elizabethton, TN	TN-08-06	Block Party	Provide block party at local public housing community. Can be done anytime in the evening. Would include food, face painting, games, clowning, music, etc.	June 9-July 25	Open
Elizabethton, TN	TN-08-07	Sports Camp	Provide sports camp targeting teens in public housing communities. Dates/times flexible but does need to be at least 3 days. Community outreach and recruitment provided by the team.	June 9-July 25	Open
Maryville, TN	TN-08-08	Day Camp	Assist Camp Tipton staff with day camp activities for 50-125 grade school campers sharing faith through sports, team building, group games, nature and challenge course activities, and wacky games. Teams needed each week. Cost: \$195 per person. Cost includes lodging, meals, t-shirt, paintball, and camp-based recreation.	June 1-July 11	15-20 each week
Maryville, TN	TN-08-09	Home Repair	Provide home repairs to low income home owners in Blount County. Cost: \$195 per person. Cost includes lodging, meals, t-shirt, paintball, and camp-based recreation.	June 11-Aug.1 and spring/fall breaks.	Open

Location	Project ID	Project Name	Project	Dates	Number Needed
Maryville, TN	TN-08-10	Community Outreach	Provide roadside hospitality ministry to bikers riding "The Dragon" on U.S. Hwy. 129 corridor between Maryville and the N.C. state line. Cost: \$195 per person. Cost includes lodging, meals, t-shirt, paintball, and camp-based recreation.	June 11-Aug. 1 and spring/fall breaks.	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-12	Toy Store	New toys are needed for Toy Store ministry. They will be distributed to needy families at Christmas. Basketballs, dolls, puzzles, coloring books, games, etc.	Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-13	Clothing Ministry	Clothing ministry in need of children's coats and clothing (sizes 6-12), small men's clothing, men and boy's underwear.	Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-14	Food Ministry	Food ministry in need of food in pop-top cans (for homeless), canned fruit, canned meat, rice, peanut butter, and powdered milk.	Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-15	Ministry Center	Ministry center in need of office supplies (copy paper, pens, staples, paper clips, file folders, etc.) or cash donations for ministry center daily operation.	Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-16	Ministry Center	Ministry center in need of personal hygiene products (soap, deodorant, shampoo, lotion, toothbrushes, diapers, etc.) for distribution to needy families.	Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-17	Tutorial Ministry	Tutorial ministry in need of school supplies, new backpacks, and money for software and books.	Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-18	Youth Mentoring Ministry	School supplies and money for ministry supplies for one-on-one youth mentoring program. Mission center in need of men's jeans, children's jeans, men's shoes, ladies plus-size clothing, new underwear, socks (children and adults), infant clothes, blankets, coats, school uniform type shirts (white w/collar), khaki, navy or black pants/skirts, disposable diapers, soy formula, baby wipes, etc.	Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-20	Mission Center		Open	
Memphis, TN	TN-08-21	Community Work Projects	Teams to clean up vacant lots, paint/repair low-income housing, distribute meals, Backyard Bible Clubs.	Open	No more than 50 per team
Memphis, TN	TN-08-22	Community Work Projects	Youth and/or adult teams to help with construction, painting, framing, and cleaning in an inner city storefront church.	Open	No more than 10 per team
Memphis, TN	TN-08-23	Roofing	Experienced roofers (for flat sloping roof) for inner-city storefront building which houses church activities.	Open	Team of 5-10
Memphis, TN	TN-08-24	Brick Masons	Experienced brick masons to do tuck-pointing on inner city storefront building which houses church activities during the summer.	Open	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-25	Construction	Church repair and/or remodeling in inner city areas. Youth can paint. Adults are needed for construction.	Open	Teams of 12-30
Memphis, TN	TN-08-26	BYBC	Conduct BYBCs in low-income housing area. Teams will also help in community clean-up, housing rehab, sports camp, and meal distribution provided by the city to low-income children. There are 8-10 BYBCs every day requiring 10-60 people at each site.	June-Aug.	Teams of 10-15
Memphis, TN	TN-08-28	VBS/BYBC	Team to assist in Vacation Bible School or BYBC.	Summer 2008	Teams of 5-15
Memphis, TN	TN-08-29	BYBC	Teams to conduct BYBC in mostly inner-city locations and trailer parks.	Open	Team of 12-30
Memphis, TN	TN-08-31	Clothing Ministry	Individuals or teams to work in clothing ministry at Brinkley Heights Baptist Church and assist persons with emergency clothing needs.	Year round for 1-2 days per month (2 hours per day)	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-32	Counseling Ministry	Individual or team to talk and pray with families coming through the food and clothing ministry.	Year round for 2-3 days per week (2 hours per day)	Individual or team of 6
Memphis, TN	TN-08-33	Tutorial Ministry	Individuals (high school youth or adults) to tutor 2nd to 5th grade children. Volunteer will work one-on-one with the children.	Mondays for 2 hours from Sept.-April	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-34	Church without Doors	Groups to sing, witness, do puppets, and feed the homeless. Services are on Sunday afternoons from 1-3pm. Lunches and clothing are distributed to the homeless after the service.	Year round (Sunday Afternoons)	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-36	Athletic Outreach	Coaches with a willing spirit and ability to teach basics for boys and girls sports (basketball, baseball, softball, etc.) in inner city setting.	Year round	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-37	Youth Mentoring Ministry	Adults with willing spirit and Christian maturity to enter a one-on-one mentoring relationship with youth boys and girls, grades 6-9.	Year round	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-38	Food Pantry	Volunteers are needed to serve in food pantry serving individuals in need of emergency food assistance. Some lifting of food bags required.	Year round. One day per month to three days per week.	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-39	Medical	Medical volunteer who can organize health clinic supplies and records. Short term or ongoing volunteer service can be used.	Short term or ongoing	Open
Memphis, TN	TN-08-40	Data Base	Need volunteer with data-processing skills to help develop a data-base on the computer for ministry surveys. Flexible working time needed to complete entering data.	Open	Open
Mountain City, TN	TN-08-03	BYBC	Provide morning BYBC activities outside in local public housing setting M-Th. Afternoon will be spent doing ministry projects.	June 11-July 25	15 or more each week
			Provide resort ministry at local campground. Prayerwalking and BYBC for children in morning. Family		
Iowa City, Iowa	IA-08-19	Church Start	Adopt a new work site in Iowa for 3-5 years.	Open	Open
Iowa City, Iowa	IA-08-18	Construction	Repair roof of church building.	ASAP	Open
Iowa City, Iowa	IA-08-53	Construction	Team to do repair work: kitchen floor, possible carpeting, tree-trimming, and some yard work.	ASAP	Open
Buena, Iowa	IA-08-52	VBS	Help with Vacation Bible School.	Open	2 or more
Buena, Iowa	IA-08-17	Construction	Need at least one trained, experienced person (plus helpers) to lay ceramic tile in 2 bathrooms and kitchen, and lay carpet in rest of church building.	Open	Open
Waverly, Iowa	IA-08-01	Community Outreach	Team to do fun family games, food stand, lawn mower races, garden tractor pulls, etc., at local July 4th Celebration.	July 3-5	Up to 10
Waverly, Iowa	IA-08-03	Youth Camp	Youth camp for teens. Campers will be mostly troubled teens. Help lead daytime Bible studies, food cooking, and serving. Also need night watchman and team leaders.	July 27-Aug. 1 or Aug. 5-8	10+
Wilton, Iowa	IA-08-27	VBS/Construction	VBS along with small home repairs to needy families in the area.	Open	Open

Treasurer's Report Second Quarter

November 1, 2007 - April 30, 2008

	Cooperative Program	Designated SBC	Designated TBC	Total
GIFTS AND OTHER INCOME				
Cooperative Program:	18,803,677			18,803,677
Designated to SBC/TBC Institutions		914,676	755,389	1,670,065
Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions		10,072,978		10,072,978
Annie Armstrong Offering for N. American Missions		2,667,240		2,667,240
Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions			711,208	711,208
CP/Designated gifts received from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation	189,545	38,346	53,374	281,265
Other Special Gifts			501,509	501,509
Total Gifts	18,993,222	13,693,240	2,021,481	34,707,944
Other Income (GuideStone, NAMB, LifeWay, Conference Centers, interest, refunds, B&R ads./subscriptions)			4,333,573	4,333,573
Total Receipts	18,993,222	13,693,240	6,355,054	39,041,517

ALLOCATIONS**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

International Missions	3,798,644	10,444,031	14,242,675	
North American Missions	1,732,182	2,710,436	4,442,618	
Six Seminaries	1,641,014	100	1,641,114	
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	113,959	0	113,959	
GuideStone	60,778	0	60,778	
Other SBC Gifts	250,711	538,673	789,384	
Total SBC Gifts	7,597,289	13,693,240	0	21,290,529

TENNESSEE MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

Evangelism	1,147,377	399,489	1,546,866	
Missions	905,011	130,099	1,035,110	
Discipleship	1,020,033	42,640	1,062,673	
Ministry	827,361	117,624	944,985	
Worship	297,824	6,093	303,916	
Prayer	241,231	4,935	246,166	
Fellowship	234,384	4,795	239,179	
Associational Support	620,663	12,698	633,361	
Administration	321,461	6,576	328,037	
TBC Conference Centers	86,163	59,355	145,518	
<i>Baptist & Reflector</i>	233,876	4,785	238,660	
Total TN Missions and Ministries	5,935,382	0	789,090	6,724,472

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Carson-Newman College	1,329,526	101,481	1,431,006	
Union University	1,329,526	25,667	1,355,192	
Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy	284,898	20,132	305,030	
Total Christian Education	2,943,949	0	147,279	3,091,229

CHRISTIAN SERVICES

TN Baptist Adult Homes	174,738	69,632	244,370	
TN Baptist Childrens Homes	759,729	489,260	1,248,989	
TN Baptist Foundation	142,449	2,209	144,658	
Total Christian Services	1,076,916	0	561,101	1,638,016

CONVENTION OPERATIONS

Belmont Study Committee	369,998	5,783	375,781	
Church Retirement Plan	720,086	11,255	731,341	
Cooperative Program Promotion	119,368	1,866	121,234	
TBC Audits	57,424	898	58,321	
TBC Meetings & Committees	172,811	2,701	175,512	
Total Convention Operations	1,439,686	0	22,502	1,462,189

OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS

Tenn. Drug Awareness Council		27,485	27,485
Disaster Relief		429,864	429,864
Other Special Gifts		44,160	44,160
Total Other Special Gifts	0	501,509	501,509

Total Allocations

Total Allocations	18,993,222	13,693,240	2,021,481	34,707,944
Other Income (GuideStone, NAMB, LifeWay, Conference Centers, interest, refunds, B&R advertisement/subscription income)			4,333,573	4,333,573

To access the detailed Treasurer's Report by association, go to the Tennessee Baptist Convention website, www.tnbaptist.org. There will be a link on the home page directly to the detailed Treasurer's Report page.

Or click the Cooperative Program logo in the right column and follow the instructions to access the detailed Treasurer's Report by association. Click on an association to see the detail by church for that association.

TBC website approaches 1 million visits ...

—Continued from page 1

"The home page essentially would go on without being changed for months at a time," Salva continued.

"Now the site is data-base driven. Old events disappear from the calendar database after they have taken place. The home page changes every day," he noted.

The original site was developed under the leadership of former TBC communications specialists Denise Scott and Eleanor Yarborough.

Improved site

William Maxwell, administrative director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, noted that communication with Tennessee Baptists has improved drastically due to the website.

"We can put information or news on the website and it is instantly available to everyone," he observed.

"Regular users have learned to go to the website for detailed information on events and other activities. We are also able to put resources up and then direct callers to the website rather than having to send them information through the mail," he said.

Maxwell also noted that the convention is beginning to "bet-

ter utilize the interactiveness of the website for feedback from Tennessee Baptists.

"This improves both sides of the communication equation," he observed.

Maxwell and Salva agreed that the website, because of advanced technology that was not available 10 years ago, is more user-friendly.

"The site is much easier to navigate," Salva said, noting that "we are constantly being told that we have an easy-to-navigate site."

The site is more directed to the user, Maxwell agreed.

"The menus are designed for the user coming to the website to find information that relates to them rather than having to understand our organization to get their information."

Maxwell observed that the amount of information now con-

tained on the website "has increased exponentially. It has resources, calendars, event information, registration capabilities, and a whole lot more."

He noted that when the site started "we talked in terms of 100 pages of content."

"Now I don't think we can even count the number of pages because of all the links, secondary URLs, and other means of moving through the pages."

B&R on web

Over the past decade, the *Baptist and Reflector* has proven to rank consistently in the top two most viewed sections on the

site, Salva said.

The *Baptist and Reflector* primarily posts its major Tennessee news and feature stories on the site each week, along with select columns and editorials.

The Sunday School commen-

taries also are posted along with the Church Health Matters section.

"The website has proved to be an additional tool for us to reach more Tennessee Baptists," said Lonnie Wilkey, who became editor of the paper just a few months before the site was introduced.

Wilkey noted the website has allowed the paper to get the news out on important "breaking news stories" in between publication dates. "The Internet allows us to stay current. We can't always do that with a weekly issue," he said.

"While the print issue remains our current focus, we recognize that the future of the B&R, along with other state newspapers, will depend heavily on the Internet as more and more people turn to this medium for their information needs."

"We are committed to doing what it takes to tell the Tennessee Baptist story. The website will continue to be a priority for us," he stressed.

New features

Salva noted the website has a number of features that were not available a few years ago.

Among them:

- a database of the TBC

events calendars that users can download;

- a database of TBC churches and associations with links to those that have websites;

- online registration for events, which can be paid for with a debit or credit card;

- online registration for the TBC annual meeting which allows users to print out their messenger cards;

- streaming flash videos, including Cooperative Program promotional videos.

Maxwell noted that for the website to be successful it "must continue to be a living breathing organism, changing, and growing everyday."

"As we continue to grow, we are going to have to become more interactive, provide more resources, and step out into broader mediums than text," he said.

TBC Executive Director James Porch noted that a comparison of the TBC websites from 1998 and today "denotes the rapid rate of progress in the communication provided by this Executive Board ministry."

"Much attention is continually given to focus on our Tennessee Baptist Convention story through color, design, and commentary," Porch said. □

October 21-24, 2008 • Sevierville, Tennessee

THE POWER OF ONE SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

**POWER
OF
ONE**
ONE BODY, ONE MESSAGE, ONE LORD

Scott Dawson
Evangelistic Association

As low as
\$169
per person*



Pat Boone



Babbie Mason



Mike Speck Trio



Scott Dawson



John Ed Mathison



Doug Sager

1-800-869-8738

www.thepowerofoneconference.com

SBC CP slightly ahead of '07 pace

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are 0.97 percent ahead of the same time frame in May 2007, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of May 31, the year-to-date total of \$138,401,793.62 for Cooperative Program (CP) missions is \$1,333,919.25 ahead of \$137,067,874.37 received at the same point in 2007.

For the month, receipts of \$18,123,282.75 were 10.31 percent, or \$1,694,174.44, ahead of the \$16,429,108.31 received in May 2007.

Designated giving of \$170,581,420.82 for the same year-to-date period is 5.68 percent, or \$9,164,600.36, ahead of gifts of \$161,416,820.46 received at this point last year. The \$28,204,584.33 in designated gifts received last month is \$9,902,388.62 ahead of the \$18,302,195.71 received in May 2007, an increase of 54.10 percent.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$138,401,793.62 is 103.49 percent of the \$133,734,357.53 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year.

During the last fiscal year Southern Baptists surpassed for the first time the \$400 million mark in combined Cooperative Program and designated giving. Gifts through the Cooperative Program by SBC churches reached \$205.7 million during the fiscal year spanning Oct. 1, 2006, to Sept. 30, 2007, while designated gifts, including the SBC's missions offerings, topped \$204.9 million. CP gifts increased 2.55 percent during the year while

DO YOU LOVE JEWELRY?

Check out

www.teatimecreations.com
for a great selection
and great prices

Affordable Beachfront & Beachside Vacation Condos Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama

Best Value on the Beach!
* Lowest Prices! *

Over 50 Top Quality condos!
* Your satisfaction is our Top Priority * Owned & Operated by Christian Family Since 1988!

(205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524

www.gulfshorescondos.com

designated gifts increased 7.09 percent.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. □

SBC Life special report tackles child sexual abuse

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — The June/July issue of *SBC Life* features an eight-page pull-out special report on child sexual abuse aimed at urging churches — and assisting them in doing so — to take steps in protecting children from sexual predators.

The section consists of seven stories, including a heartbreaking testimony from a woman who was sexually abused as a child, a testimony from a former social worker who worked on child abuse cases and an article from the co-founder of a ministry that seeks to educate churches about the problem.

In addition, the special report — titled "Protecting Our Children: Accepting the Responsibility, Embracing the Privilege" — includes practical advice for churches and church members on how to prevent sexual abuse within their congregations — and what to do if it does occur. The special report amplifies resources already available, including one that includes a list of ways to prevent child sexual abuse.

Studies show that between 25 and 33 percent of girls and 5 to 15 percent of boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18 — the majority of them being abused by family members or trusted family friends, the special report says.

The Lighthouse Christian Beach Retreat And Conference Center
Orange Beach, Alabama.
Directly on the Gulf of Mexico.
Ideal for church beach retreats.
From 10 to 84 people. \$30 per night per person donation. A ministry of Romar Beach Baptist Church
Call Don @ (251) 752-2366.

Help Preserve the Future of the B&R

An endowment fund for the *Baptist and Reflector* has been established at the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. TBF staff can help you in securing the future of the official newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. For more information about leaving the *B&R* in your will or making a contribution to the endowment fund, contact William L. "Bo" Childs or Gary Coltharp at the TBF at (615) 371-2029.

The special report can be viewed online at www.SBCLife.net or www.SBC.net, and ordered by calling (866) 722-5433. Also, copies of the special report are included as a pull-out section in the June/July issue of *SBC Life* mailed to every Southern Baptist church.

"The Apostle Paul reminded us that followers of Jesus are to cast off deeds of darkness (Romans 13:12), to put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12), and to walk as children of light

(Ephesians 5:8)," said Roger S. "Sing" Oldham, executive editor of *SBC Life* and vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

"It is our hope and prayer that this issue of *SBC Life* will assist our churches in shining the light so that countless numbers of children will be

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PRESCHOOL

First Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tenn., seeks a full-time minister to preschool to plan and coordinate a comprehensive ministry to preschool children and their families. Please send resumes to Ron Moore, 435 Madison Street, Clarksville, TN 37040.

MINISTRY — OTHER

Bookkeeper — 30 hrs/wk. Send resumes to New Hope Church, 6010 S. New Hope Rd., Hermitage, TN 37076 or susan@newhopeforyou.com. Computer knowledge of Microsoft Office and ACS financial suite helpful.

MISCELLANEOUS

Living Waters Church, a church plant partnering with Central Baptist Association and First Baptist Church, Morrison near McMinnville, Tenn., needs chairs ASAP! If your church is looking to get rid of some please call Chris Sparkman (931) 409-4500.

Carpenter Bus Sales

Franklin, TN • Since 1953

1.615.376.2287

2007 Clearance Sale!
Save up to \$14,000 on a New 2007 model bus.

Exclusive provider for
LifeWay Church Bus Sales

1.800.370.6180 • carpenterbus.com

spared the horror of abuse at the hands of a trusted spiritual leader," added Oldham, former pastor of **First Baptist Church, Martin**.

Through the special section, Oldham said, "We wanted the issue to do five things:

(1) demonstrate that child sexual abuse is a real problem that faces our churches through testimonies from a victim and a social worker;

(2) remind our readers of the biblical commands to promote justice;

(3) protect the vulnerable and guard our churches from sinful practices;

(4) underscore that we have legal duties to protect the innocent and report the guilty; and

(5) provide practical steps churches can take to make their ministries as safe as possible for children; and point readers to resources provided by Southern Baptist Convention entities and state conventions." □

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Caryville FBC, located 20 miles north of Knoxville on I-75, seeking a part-time worship leader. We are a church around 80 attending with a full-time pastor and a part-time youth minister. We seek someone who is comfortable in a blended worship style and has a heart for growth. If interested, please contact us at caryvillefbc@bellsouth.net or (423) 276-0668.

♦ ♦ ♦

Zion Hill Baptist Church, Friendship is looking for God's man to lead our blended worship on Sundays only. Great fellowship and a talented choir. (731) 672-2109 or (731) 677-2098.

♦ ♦ ♦

McMinnville, FBC is seeking music/worship leader. See SBC.net for more information. Send resume to jolunsford@blomand.net or 834 Indian Mound Dr., McMinnville, TN 37110.

♦ ♦ ♦

Part-time music director. Traditional services. Berclair Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. Contact t offices at (901) 683-3585.

MINISTRY — EDUCATION

Covenant Baptist Church in Collierville, Tenn., a traditional conservative Southern Baptist church is now accepting resumes for a full-time minister of education. For further information, see www.covenantontheweb.org. mail resume to office covenantontheweb.org or mail Dr. Sam Brassell, Covenant Baptist Church, P.O. Box 111, Collierville, TN 38027 by July 16.

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Crievewood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., is seeking a minister of youth/young adults. Please send a resume to Marsha Minardi (e-mail raymartha@yahoo.com) or to Crievewood Baptist Church, 480 Hogan Farm, Nashville, TN 37220, Attn: Martha Minardi.

♦ ♦ ♦

West Tenn. SBC seeking youth minister. Rural area with great growth potential. Current membership at 188. Please send resume to Middlefork Road Baptist Church, 3955 Middlefork Rd., Luray, TN 38352, Attn: Youth Committee.

a parent speaks**Characteristics of a good father**

By Carolyn Tomlin

The third Sunday of June is a day set aside to pay tribute to our fathers. Sons and daughters purchase gifts, make or buy a card and tell their dads how much they are loved.

On this special occasion, my mind goes to a neighbor, Henry Bannister, the father of three adult children and several grandchildren. But in addition to these biological offspring, Henry has the admiration and respect of many people who called him "Mr. Henry."

In 1950 Henry married Nonna Lisowskaja, a Russian survivor of the Nazi prison camps. "My late wife was the only one of 35 family members to survive the horrors of the war. Deeply religious, she praised God for saving her life and giving her a home and children. Wanting to spare her children the pain of her past, she created a home where happiness and love prevailed.

"If I could give one word of advice to young fathers today it is this: teach your children to love God," says Henry. As a Baptist deacon, Henry and Nonna knew the importance of keeping their children in church. "We did not drop our children off; we stayed and worshiped as a family. Our children were 'church-raised'."

Another moral characteristic is to teach your children to be honest. Always, always — be honest in everything you do. That is the only way to run a business or a family. Integrity is so important in life. Character counts. It is what a person does when he or she thinks no one is looking. American writer, Mark Twain (1835-1910) said, "If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything."

Never promise a child something unless you believe you can do it. Fathers must set an example of being a responsible person if they want their child to develop this trait. Of course, situations develop where every promise can not be honored. Explain to the child the circumstances. Talk about a change of plans. Reschedule only if absolutely necessary.

"When a person follows the law of God and of man, they can hold their head up high," says Henry. "We must remember that actions speak louder than words. Children watch their parents. Are you a positive or negative influence?"

All families have times when they disagree. Mothers and fathers should talk about the situation. Stand together in decisions that affect the family unit. Seeing the strong bond between parents, children learn how families solve problems within the home structure. In doing so, parents provide a positive role model when their child becomes an adult. It's all about Proverbs 22:6, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (NIV). □ — Tomlin writes for the Christian market. Her husband, Matt, is pastor of Ward's Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

a way with words**Father's Day**

By Hugh X. Lewis

Somehow I could always tell
When pressures got to you.
My father I remember well
Your tender moments too.

Kids don't know what life's about
When times are hard to bear.
Yet even then I had no doubt
Your love was always there.

I hide tears sweet memories bring —
How time has slipped away.
My love and thanks for everything
To you on Father's Day. □

Copyright by Hugh X. Lewis. He can be contacted at (615) 883-0086.

How to stormproof your home

By Lloyd Jones

Focal Passage: Proverbs 23:22-24:4

Many of us were raised in homes where Jesus was honored and followed. Some were not. But all of us can seek out the wisdom from God with which to build such a home.

Here are five of the 30 sayings called words of the wise in Proverbs 22:17-24:22. They will help us build our homes on foundations of honor, faithfulness, sobriety, and honesty.

Stay true (ch. 23:22-25). Make your parents proud by the way you live, honoring them as you follow the right and true ways they taught you. Wisdom comes into homes through dads and moms, but ultimately from the Lord Himself. Truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding are of great value. If you can buy them, they're worth the price. Above all, never give them up for temporary profit.

Each time I left our home as a teenager, my parents' parting words were, "Don't forget you're a Jones." It was their way to remind me to behave in a way that gave them joy and added honor to our family name. It is still good advice, and God gave it to us long before my parents used it to remind me.

Stay pure (vv. 26-28). A son is urged to follow his father's example, and to avoid the trap of sexual impurity. The warning is stated in a way to highly elevate the value of the good example a dad should provide for his children.

Prostitution leads to moral

decline for prostitutes and for those who buy their services. For a current illustration of the value of this warning to avoid them, Google: "sex and US presidents and governors." Many have paid high prices for unfaithfulness.

Foolish choices to be unfaithful to marital vows also cause great losses to families. Even pre-marital sex is a leading cause of divorce. Yet we praise the Lord for giving such a wonderful gift to a married couple, a man and a woman who are committed to be loving and faithful to each other as they build their home, often including raising children to know and love Christ.

Stay clear (vv. 29-35). In my opinion all social drinking is anti-social. Here is a vivid picture of the sorry estate of a drunkard. Some of us have seen these things because our parents showed them to us up close and personal. Many of us have ignored the dangers and tried drugs or alcohol ourselves, experiencing these sorry things first-hand. Hopefully we have learned. Still, some say moderation is okay.

Stephen M. Reynolds has published expositions of Proverbs 23:31, justifying his translation, "Do not look upon the grape juice when it makes itself alcoholic." Fermentation doesn't change the color of the juice. It is a process in which yeast devours sugar and excretes alcohol, changing grape juice into an alcoholic beverage.

We Southern Baptists are consistent in teaching total abstinence

Sunday School Lesson
Bible Studies for Life
June 15

from alcohol and other drugs. But some are falling for the worldly plea: moderation, not abstinence. Statistics still show abstinence is the better choice. And a proper understanding of verse 31 is a strong biblical foundation. Even translators like Martin Luther, who liked his wine, could not explain away this verse.

Stay wise (ch. 24:1-4). These verses first warn us not to envy evildoers. The warning is not the usual one — evil deeds



JONES

bring disaster. It is more simply put — what they are planning is wrong. Finally we're reminded that wisdom builds a strong home, filled with precious treasure. This treasure is not mere wealth. It is like those "priceless" ads we've all seen. It is the treasure of a precious family, a harmonious and loving family, a family living in the light of a loving Savior.

Storms may still come. But a home built on His wisdom will stand! — Jones, a retired Southern Baptist pastor, is a member of Tulip Grove Baptist Church, Old Hickory. He is available for supply preaching and interim pastorates.

Stephen: boldness

By Mike Womack

Focal Passage: Acts 6-7

"Thousands were saved!" That may sound like a crusade brochure from an evangelist just back from Kenya, but it is the accurate account of the phenomenal growth of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14). And yet, the story of just one of those multiplied thousands captures our hearts and minds this week.

Prior to Acts 6, Stephen was an unknown Jew from an unknown place. His only known heritage is that his name comes from Hellenistic (Greek) culture. He is introduced as a man "full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (6:5) who had just been selected to serve the church as one of the first seven deacons. While some argue that the text of chapter six never calls these men deacons, and others call them prototypical-deacons, it seems best to allow that the purpose behind their selection is that of deacon service.

Stephen did not content himself with the care of the Grecian widows (v. 1) and is found in public ministry among all the people (v. 8). But as his reputation grew so did his opposition. A group of men from an international, Greek language synagogue in Jerusalem developed a

plot to silence Stephen (vv. 9-14).

Plots and threats were a standard method of attack against the Good News. At one point the leaders agreed to excommunicate anyone who confessed that Jesus was the Messiah (John 9:22). Later, they plotted to execute the resurrected Lazarus (John 12:10, 11). Judas' plot to betray Jesus is well known (Luke 22:1-6). The ploy of purchasing the silence of the tomb guards backfired miserably (Matthew 28:12-15). So too, will the stoning of Stephen.

After Stephen's arrest (6:12), various false witnesses charged him with blasphemy (v. 13), and the High Priest asked him whether the charges were true (7:1). Stephen's lengthy reply is an excellent survey of the Old Testament, covering the key men and events from Abraham to Isaiah (vv. 2-50). At verse 51 the drama intensified when Stephen turned his message directly toward the council members. If they didn't understand that he was referring to them in verse 51, they surely got it in verse 52, when he accused them of murdering the "Just One" (a clear reference to Jesus).

They were so outraged that some of them gnashed their teeth at him (v. 54). The rationale is that they were "cut to the heart" (also v. 52), a phrase used to describe their reaction in last week's text (5:33) after hearing Peter suggest that they had no part with the Holy Spirit because they were disobedient to God (5:32). In that case their out-

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
June 15

rage led to a desire to execute all of Jesus' apostles, and had it not been for the wise counsel of Gamaliel they may have succeeded.

A similar phrase is found in Acts 2:37. There, in response to Peter's sermon many people were "pricked in the heart" and asked how to be saved. The contrast could not be more clear: those in whom God is working a work of conviction are moved in their hearts to believe, while others, hearing that same gospel are moved to strike back in outrage.

After the teeth gnashing, the Bible says that Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit and continued to proclaim Jesus, telling them that he had just seen a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God (7:55-56). That was the last straw and they stoned him to death, with Saul famously standing by and watching the whole thing (vv. 57-58). A great persecution ensued and many believers fled Jerusalem (8:1-3). End of story? Absolutely not! That scattering of those believers will be used of God in the next-stage fulfillment of Acts 1:8, which is why the evil plot failed. — Womack has served as pastor of two Tennessee Baptist churches. He lives in Athens and is available for ministry opportunities.

Leaders

◆ New Salem Baptist Church, Soddy Daisy, has called **Fred Steelman** as interim pastor. Steelman is retired senior pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga, where he served for 32 years.

◆ Station Camp Baptist Church, Cottontown, ordained **Carey Binson** as a deacon June 1.

◆ Eastland Baptist Church, Nashville, has called **Andy Smith** as youth minister.

◆ Central Baptist Church of Bearden, Knoxville, recently honored **Robert Bowman**, minister of missions and single adults, for his 20 years of service to the church.

◆ Head of Richland Baptist Church, Rutledge, recently ordained **Max Valdez** as a deacon.

◆ **Keith Bunch**, pastor of Hickory Cove Baptist Church, Rogersville, has resigned.

◆ **Harold Shoemaker**, pastor of Lyons Park Baptist Church, Church Hill, has resigned.

◆ **Chuck Lowe**, pastor of Fishers Creek Baptist Church, Rogersville, has resigned.

◆ **David Logsdon** was recently called as pastor of First Baptist Church, Sneedville. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., he was ordained to the ministry by the church on April 27.

◆ Second Baptist Church, Memphis, honored **Wayne H. Randolph**, associate minister for music and worship, on April 27. He has served the church for 30 years.

◆ **Stanley Mearse**, minister to children at Central Baptist Church, Bearden, Knoxville, resigned effective April 27. He will become minister to

children and families at First Baptist Church, Zachary, La.

Churches

◆ **Sunrise Baptist Church, Rutledge**, held a homecoming and Memorial Day service on May 25. Former pastor Raymond Long spoke.

◆ **Barnard's Grove Baptist Church, Bean Station**, held a centennial celebration for the community and a Vacation Bible School kickoff on May 24.

◆ **Belmont Baptist Church, Mount Carmel**, has begun an autism outreach program to reach families who are raising children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). For information on the ministry, call pastor James Adams at (423) 357-5159.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Atwood**, will hold its annual homecoming June 22 during the morning worship service. A meal will follow the service.

Schools

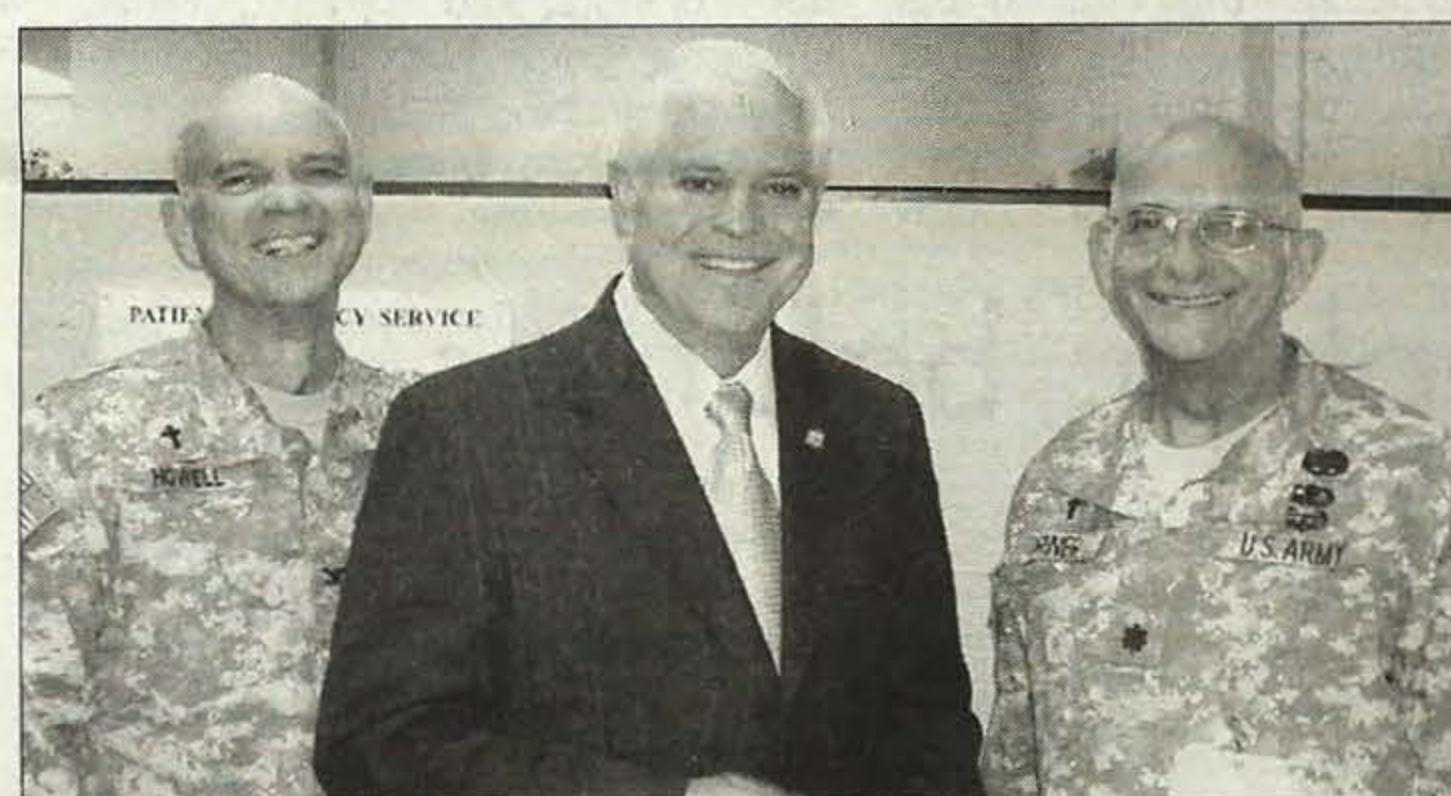
◆ The Department of Music of **Carson-Newman College**, Jefferson City, will hold its annual Summer



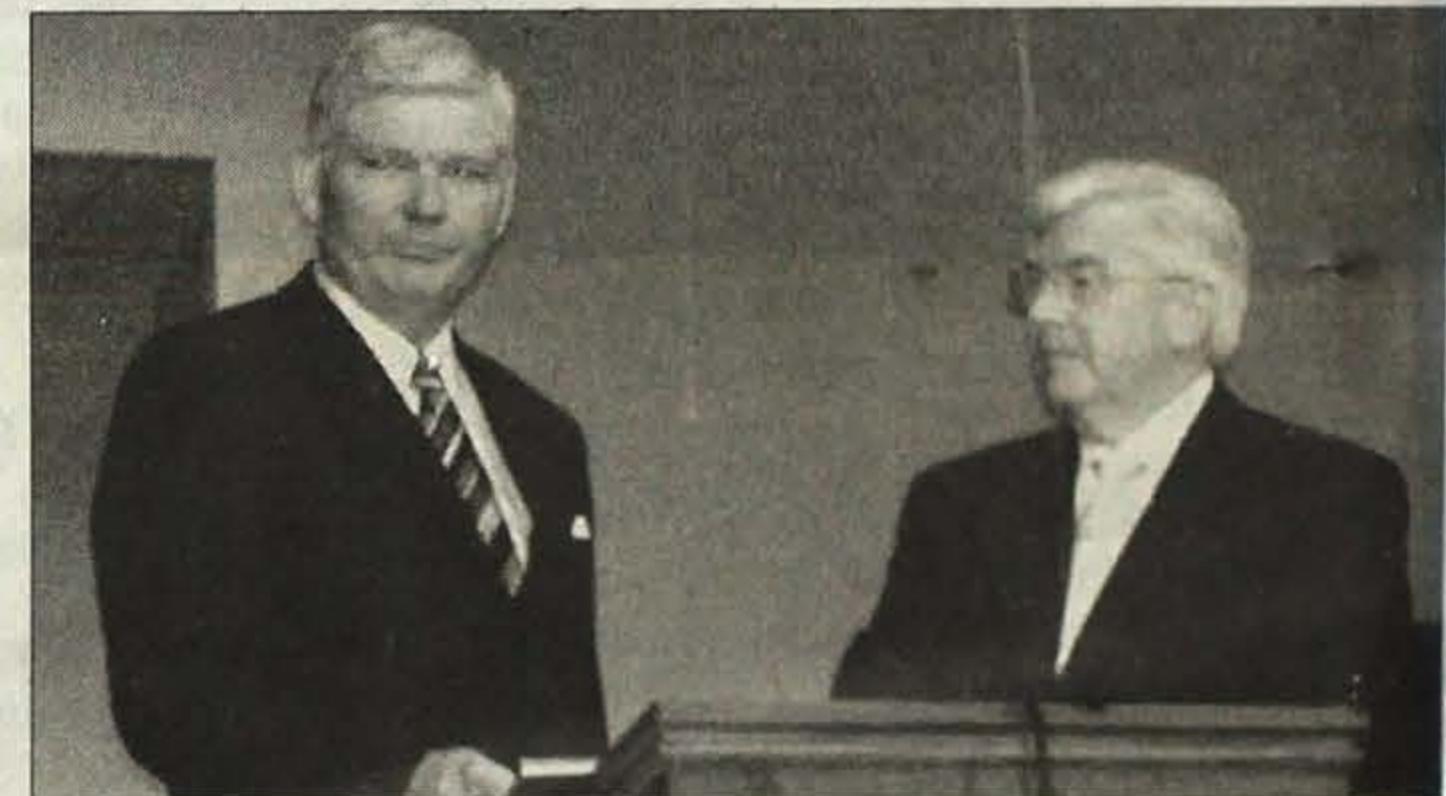
MEMBERS OF FIRST Baptist Church, Adamsville, work on the grounds of Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Linden, May 24. Eight members of the church served. Pictured are George Stewart, left, and Phil Mitchell, pastor.

Music Camp June 16-21. Designed for students from fourth grade through high school seniors, the camp has slots still open. The camp includes senior honors band, junior band, beginner band, senior honors chorus, junior chorus, and piano/ organ

camp. Campers also have the option of receiving private lessons of 30 minutes or one hour. Campers need to furnish their own instruments and bring a folding metal music stand. The only instruments provided by the music department are pianos and concert percussion pieces. Participants will perform Saturday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. For more information, call Marshall Foster at (865) 471-3331.



TENNESSEANS visit wounded Tennessee soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington D.C. May 20. They are, from left, Chaplain (Colonel) Charles Howell, Cleveland; Congressman Lincoln Davis; and Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Roger Criner of Ripley. Criner now is serving at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. His home church is Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Ripley.



JERRY MASSEY, right, Cooperative Program consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, presented a certificate to Mickey Basham, pastor, Eastanollee Baptist Church, Riceville, on June 10 honoring the church for giving through the CP the highest budgeted percentage of undesignated funds of any TBC church. Eastanollee Church budgets 30 percent for the CP and has for 2 years. Massey also recognized the church for being in the top 2 for Sunday School growth for mid-sized churches.



THIS GROUP PARTICIPATED IN the National Certification Training for Christian Women's Job Corps and Christian Men's Job Corps Site Coordinators held May 28-31 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood. Other training was provided for current site coordinators of CWJC/CMJC. The training was provided by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and hosted by Tennessee WMU. The participants represented several states. They are, from left, first row, Eva Pierce, trainer, Knoxville; Con-

stance James, Alabama; Gloria Ortiz, Illinois; Angela Good, Nashville; Frances Hayes, Clarksville; second row, Jim Neubert, Knoxville; Chrystal Behzad, Camden; Elaine Dickson, trainer, Alabama; Hope Mackey, Alabama; Brittnee Kennedy, Nashville; Alynn LeBerte, Alabama; back row, Tamara Eskridge, Lewisburg; Nancy Cavness, Wildersville; Heather Chambers, Alabama; Kirk McDermott, Whitwell; Jerry Mowdy, Mississippi; and Kim Hartley, Camden.