

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.

Voters deal with moral, social issues on Election Day

Compiled from Baptist Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat Barack Obama made history Nov. 4 by becoming the first African American elected to the U.S. presidency, but the victory left many evangelical Christians and other social conservatives concerned his administration will undermine pro-life and pro-family policies.

Southern Baptist ethics leader Richard Land applauded the meaning of Obama's election while acknowledging his opposition to the president-elect's policies.

"There are tens of millions of Americans who did not vote for President-elect Obama, as well as those who did, who are very, very pleased that an African American has been elected president of the United States," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"The fact that this could happen in a country with as tragic a racial past as America's says something noble and fine about the American experiment and the glorious 'opportunity democracy' struggle, we as a nation have chosen to live up to the promises of our founding documents: We believe 'that all men are created equal.'"

Voters across the nation dealt with a variety of social and moral concerns. A summary follows.

Marriage amendments

California voters Tuesday overruled the state Supreme Court's ruling legalizing "gay marriage," and in the process handed the nationwide pro-family movement one of its most significant victories ever.

With 95 percent of results tabulated, Proposition 8 — a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman — led by 52-48 percent and a margin of 400,000 votes out of nearly 10 million cast.

The amendment reverses the high court's landmark May decision and serves as the biggest setback yet for homosexual activists in their goal of legalizing "gay marriage" nationwide.

It is the first time that voters in a state have overturned a court's decision on the issue. The amendment reads, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

"When one looks at the demographics of California, if traditional marriage can win in California, it can win in any of the 50 states when it's put to a vote of the people," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, told Baptist Press.

Meanwhile, a ballot initiative in Arkansas prohibiting adoptions by cohabiting heterosexual and homosexual couples passed, 57-43 percent. The only loss of the night for conservatives pertaining to "gay rights"

came in Connecticut, where voters by a margin of 59-41 percent rejected a once-every-two-decades question whether a constitutional convention should be held. Conservatives had hoped to use the convention to legalize direct initiative in the state and then to gather enough signatures to place a marriage amendment on the ballot.

Florida's marriage amendment passed despite being outspent by an estimated margin of 3-to-1 and despite a campaign by opponents to make the debate about anything but "gay marriage." The victory ended a three-plus-year effort that began with the collecting of signatures to place it on the ballot.

"Once again the people of Florida have spoken," said John Stemberger, chairman of Florida's Yes2Marriage.org. "They have voted for the common sense of marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

The victory in Arizona means that every state that has placed a marriage amendment on the ballot eventually has passed it. The 2006 amendment failed, 52-48 percent, mainly because opponents successfully changed the debate away from "gay marriage." That was not the case this time, because supporters tweaked the amendment so that it banned "gay marriage" only and left the issue of same-sex civil unions for another day.

Pro-lifers fall short

Voters in five states cast their ballots Tuesday on measures dealing with life issues, but pro-lifers came up short in all five cases.

California and South Dakota voted down ballot initiatives concerning abortion while Colorado defeated a constitutional amendment granting legal protections to "any human being from the moment of conception."

Michigan voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing embryonic stem cell research. In Washington state, voters passed an assisted suicide initiative permitting doctors to prescribe lethal doses of medication for terminally ill patients.

South Dakota's Measure 11 would have criminalized abortion unless done in cases of rape or incest or to save the life of the mother. It also contained a health exception as long as it pertained to a "substantial and irreversible" physical impairment to a major organ. The defeat marks the second election in a row where South Dakota voters rejected an abortion ban. A 2006 ban did not include rape, incest, or health exceptions.

California Proposition 4 would have required doctors to notify parents or family members before performing abortions on unwed minors. Wednesday morning the proposition was trailing 52-48 with nearly 96 percent of precincts reporting.

The defeat marks the third time Californians have voted down parental notification proposals.

Ban on unmarried adoptions

Voters in Arkansas approved a measure preventing adoptive or foster care children from being placed in homes with couples who live together out of wedlock, whether those adults are heterosexual or homosexual. Nearly 57 percent of voters supported the ban.

The Arkansas Family Council Action Committee gathered about 90,000 signatures to put Proposed Initiative Act No. 1 on the ballot, hoping to replicate their successful effort at passing a marriage amendment in the state four years ago.

"We are obviously elated and surprised ourselves at the margin of victory. Going into it, the most recent poll had shown 55 percent opposition to the act. So we obviously went into it with some trepidation," John Thomas, vice president of the family organization, told Baptist Press Nov. 5.

"Much money had been poured in to defeat the act from out-of-state, pro-gay individuals — millionaires," Thomas said. "They had bought a lot of media, a lot of television, and just flooded the markets. Lo and behold, when it was all said and done, we came out victorious by a wide margin. We are just thrilled today."

Gambling

The Nov. 4 election brought mixed results for anti-gambling activists, with three statewide gambling initiatives turned down but three others adopted.

Victories for anti-gambling forces included rejections of casinos in Ohio and Maine and outlawing of greyhound racing in Massachusetts.

However, voters approved a lottery in Arkansas, repealed gambling restrictions in Missouri, and OK'd the return of slot machines to Maryland.

The gambling industry prevailed in states where they outspent their opposition by margins of 10-1, said Les Bernal, executive director of StopPredatoryGambling.org.

Where anti-gambling forces had a more level playing field to spread their message, they carried the day, Bernal said.

"When you tell people the truth about this and you have the ability to go on TV and get the message out ... people will respond to that," Bernal said. "But when you're dominated by a 10-1 margin, it's hard. You're constantly barraged by this deceptive and misleading advertising."

"The game plan for us is clear. We need to grow our fundraising operations across the country as well as the number of citizens who are involved in this effort. When we do that, it's clear from [Nov. 4's] results we're going to win."

Arkansas became the 43rd state to adopt a lottery.

Four groups had organized to fight the lottery, including the largely Southern Baptist-backed Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council.

Director Larry Page said he was disappointed but not surprised because of recent polls that showed the lottery was likely to pass. "We had won five statewide initiatives since 1990 but we fell by the wayside like so many states have done," said Page, who estimated the anti-gambling groups were outspent by nearly 4-1.

Though saying it was difficult to pinpoint what made the difference, Page said as gambling proliferates nationwide people are becoming desensitized and more accepting of it. "The thing that worked against us is the proponents made a lot of headway in their argument ... by saying, 'We have people crossing the border to other states around us, buying lottery tickets ... let's keep the money here,'" Page said.

Marijuana makes inroads

Marijuana was embraced in two states in Nov. 4's balloting.

In Massachusetts, voters approved a ballot initiative for a \$100 civil fine to possession of an ounce or less of marijuana to replace criminal penalties.

In Michigan, voters approved the use of marijuana for medical conditions, making it the 13th state in the nation to open a door for marijuana via the disputed medicinal rationale.

Barrett Duke, vice president of public policy and research for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said in a statement to Baptist Press Nov. 5:

"The continued push to relax marijuana laws is certain to be disastrous for many thousands of our fellow citizens. Decriminalization of marijuana sends the wrong message to our young people, especially. Rather than helping communicate the dangers associated with drug abuse, this latest round of vote to relax restrictions on its use will cause young people to think more favorably about marijuana use, which will certainly result in more young people experimenting with the drug and ultimately sinking into the despair of drug addiction.

"Everyone whose lives have been deeply impacted by the destructive power of marijuana and the life of drug dependence to which it too often leads understands just how dangerous this drug is," Duke continued. "It is tragic that supposed adults in this country are so oblivious to the obvious and are so willing to create an environment that will encourage more of our young people to engage in a behavior that is already destroying millions of lives. Our nation is already struggling with a drug abuse problem. Relaxing law against marijuana will only make things worse." □

Carson-Newman's O'Brien hits the ground running

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — For a man who was not supposed to even be on campus full time until January, Randall O'Brien has hit the ground running.

Elected in July as the 22nd president of Carson-Newman College, the original plan was for O'Brien to ease into his duties at C-N during the fall while finishing his responsibilities at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he served as provost.

While it sounded like a good idea at the time, the reality is O'Brien is spending most of his time in Jefferson City — and loving every minute.

Besides his day-to-day duties with the college, O'Brien is spending a lot of time learning the college's constituencies.

"Kay (his wife) and I have tried to be at every major event on campus this fall," O'Brien said. Those events include fall convocations, student showcases, trustee meetings, football games, faculty meetings, homecoming events, etc.

In addition, O'Brien has

accepted as many speaking engagements as possible in area churches and associational meetings. "It has been exciting to meet so many good Baptists and friends of the college," O'Brien said.

Because of his background as a pastor, O'Brien sees the opportunity to preach as a labor of love and he is committed to speaking in as many Tennessee churches, regardless of size, as possible.

What's more, O'Brien said he will "not take a nickel to come and preach in any Tennessee Baptist church. "They are already helping to pay my salary through the Cooperative Program," he observed.

He said if churches insist on giving a love offering he will put it into a special scholarship fund for students.

"If I am available and someone wants me to come preach, I will come."

And O'Brien is careful to stress that the size of the church does not matter.

"I'm from small churches," he said, citing Bluff Springs Baptist Church in Magnolia, Miss., where he was licensed to preach; Roundway Baptist Church in Sunflower County,



CARSON-NEWMAN COLLEGE President Randall O'Brien takes a minute to visit with C-N students, from left, Jessica Fitzgerald, Denise Ocanas, and Jessica Yankee.

Miss., where he was ordained; and Red Bluff Baptist Church, his first pastorate located on the Mississippi/Louisiana state line.

"If you're talking small churches, you're talking my people," he said.

O'Brien sees his availability to preach in Tennessee church-

es as an avenue to accomplish his desire to build relationships and trust in the state.

"It's really important to win the trust of Tennessee Baptists. If we're faithful to do what God calls us to do, Tennessee Baptists will trust us," O'Brien is convinced.

O'Brien is well aware the

college has its share of critics.

One of his goals is to quiet the criticism of the college by "building this college on Christian excellence."

While noting that excellence in all phases is expected, Christian excellence is imperative, O'Brien said.

— See Carson-Newman, p. 16

From Memphis To Kingsport The Mission Stays The Same



"...Mending Hearts, Changing Lives"

Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes
P.O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024
Phone: (615) 376-3140
www.TBCH4Kids.org



Coaching approach to ministry puts knowledge into action

guest columnist



By Jerry Essary

The phone rang as I settled into my office for the morning. When I answered, the voice at the other end said, "Hey, Coach!" It was a man who I had been coaching around some new ministry ideas. We talked for about 30 minutes, and by the time we said goodbye, he had come up with a priority list, two action steps to complete before our next session, and a sense of excitement that he was well on his way to reaching his goals.

After scheduling our next call, I hung up the phone and smiled at his accomplishment. He had really made great progress in a relatively short time.

The interesting thing about that conversation and others like it is that this young pastor had come up with his own plan as he drew from what he already knew to discover new ways to achieve his goals. How did he get there? By answering questions posed to him by his coach — questions that helped him to identify his values and prioritize important areas in his life and ministry.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul admonished the church to "live up to what we have already attained" (3:16). In other words, if we would accomplish what we already know to do, we would have enough to keep us purposefully busy for a lifetime. The problem for many of us is that we aren't really sure about what we "have already attained." Many things have gotten in the way and muddled our vision. Coaching helps us to see more clearly, to make discoveries, and to take steps forward in life and in ministry.

What are the benefits of being coached? Speaking as one who has been at both ends of the phone, I can say that coaching helps me to clarify my spiritual journey, moves me from dialogue to action, stimulates vision, takes me from frustration to fulfillment, aids me in team building, and helps me to achieve more in less time — all this with greater satisfaction in both life and ministry. Coaching also helps me to define my values, to create trusting relationships, and to develop support for moving through times of transition.

It has been an awesome and life-altering journey!

Who is a coach? Let me begin by telling you who a coach is not. He or she is not a counselor, consultant, mentor, or expert. A coach does not diagnose emotional problems and many times does not even give advice. A coach helps the person being coached (PBC) to discover things he already knows to do and to find ways to put this knowledge into action.

A coach is a good listener, an encourager, an asker of powerful questions, and a motivator. He or she is the PBC's number one cheerleader and a positive place to articulate life's challenges.

In the four years since first being introduced to it, coaching has become a passion for me. I was recently creden-

tialed by the International Coach Federation and coach not only church leaders but organizations, congregations, and lay leaders as well. I continue to be amazed by coaching's effectiveness in the lives of those who are willing to invest in the process and am excited by the headway coaching is making into our denomination.

Church leaders across the state of Tennessee and the Southern Baptist Convention are discovering coaching as a

valuable tool for ministry. In fact, Golden Gate Theological Seminary now offers a D.Min. in Leadership and Coaching.

For the past three years, your state staff has been working to move our organization toward a coaching culture. We now have six Ministry Specialists who are trained or certified coaches, and we are available and willing to coach pastors, staff, or ministry leaders.

To learn more about how coaching has helped others,

watch the B&R for future articles written by PBCs and coaches. If you would like to find out more about coaching or are interested in scheduling a coaching session, contact me at jessary@tnbaptist.org or call (615) 351-8355. □ — Essary is ministry strategist/associational partnerships/coach with the Executive Board Ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



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.

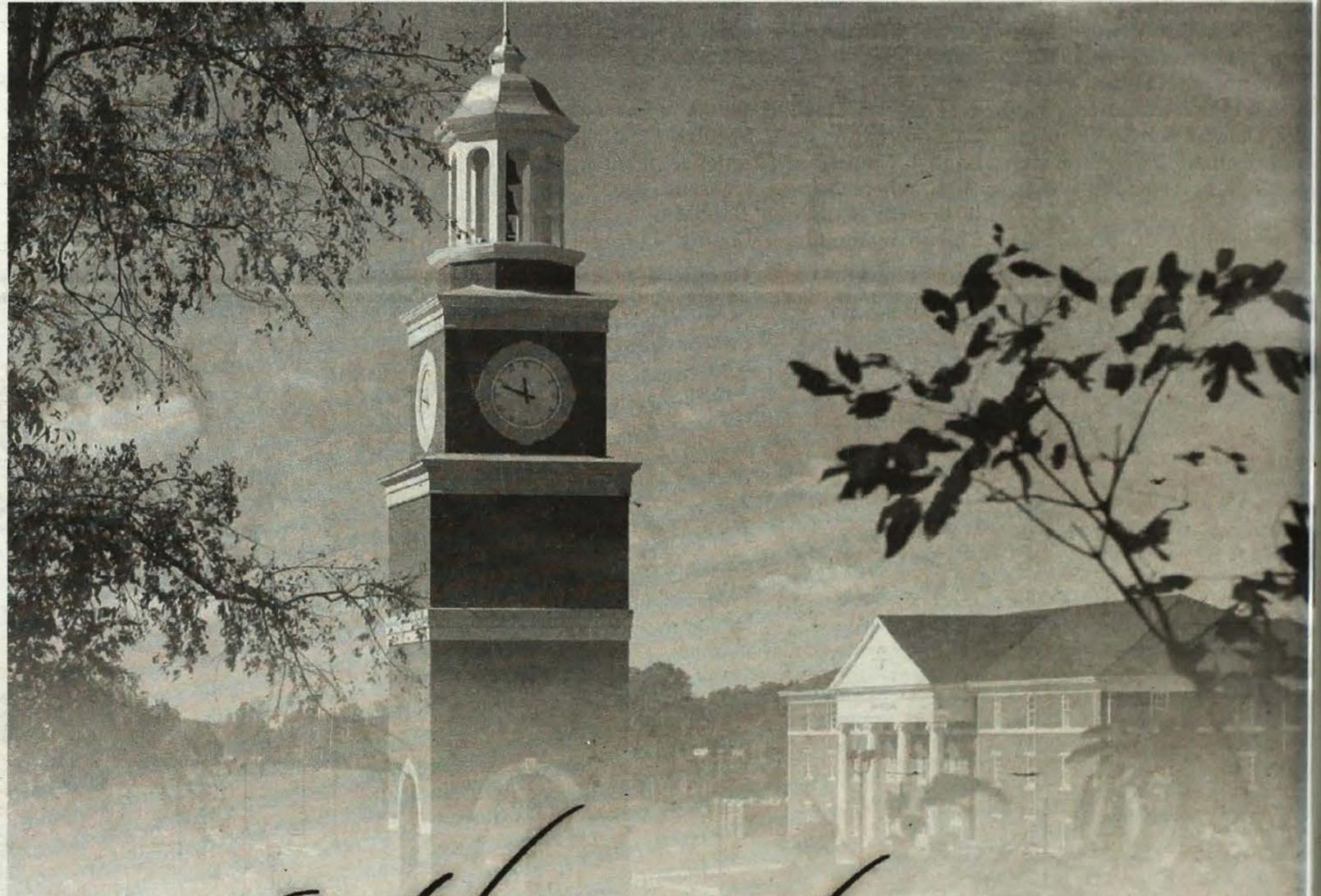
Exclusive provider for
LifeWay Church Bus Sales
1.800.370.6180 • carpenterbus.com

We Help You Lead Your Church

Capital Stewardship Campaign

- Simple Plan
- Spiritual Process
- Materials Provided
- Proven Successful

Master Resources ~ Murfreesboro
Contact mripjh@aol.com



Thank you

The Union University faculty, staff, and students express our deepest appreciation to Tennessee Baptists for your generous support in our time of need. May God's blessings rest upon you.

David S. Dockery, President



UNION UNIVERSITY

Five East Tennessee churches demonstrate cooperation

reflections



By Lonnie Wilkey, editor

Last month I had the opportunity to travel in East Tennessee for associational annual meetings and to conduct interviews for feature stories for the paper.

One of my features occurred in the McDonald community near Mohawk (see story on page 1). One thing that caught my eye as I passed through this small community in Greene County was the sign displayed on this page.

All five churches are within a few miles of each other — and four of the five (the first four listed) are Tennessee

Baptist. The other is a Methodist congregation.

That in itself is not unusual. Many communities across the state have multiple Baptist churches within a close proximity.

What is unusual is the message at the top of the sign: "The Community Churches Welcome You." Not a mention of come to one church over another.

After talking with pastor Sammy Stockman at Fairview Baptist Church I get the feeling the sign is for real — as are the churches.

He told me, "There is complete unity among us. We all work together and help each other."

Wow! If we could bottle up that spirit of cooperation and unity and sell it, the Tennessee Baptist Convention would never have a budget problem.

Unfortunately, I hear and

witness stories from the other extreme — of churches that see neighboring congregations as "competition."

Some churches think they have to be "just like the church down the street." If that church gets a new building, we need one too. If that church begins a program to meet a particular need, we need one even better. One church does not necessarily meet the needs of everyone.

Church A might be good for my friend or neighbor, but I may prefer Church B. That doesn't mean that either one is better than the other. People

today like choices. As long as Church A and Church B are both Bible-believing congregations where the gospel message is presented and both teach that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, the other things are secondary. Some people go to churches with large music programs complete with orchestra. Other believers prefer a church with a piano and organ. Some people like large churches; others prefer smaller congregations.

The point is that churches of all kinds and sizes are needed to reach a community. They do not need to view each other as competitors.

Sometimes churches forget that we all have the same ultimate goal — to seek and save the lost for Jesus Christ.

With more than 50 percent of our state considered to have no relationship with Christ or church home, there is no need to compete. There are plenty of "lost souls" to go around.

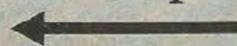
Hopefully, more and more churches will view each other as joint partners in the greater cause of building God's kingdom, rather than simply building a church membership roll. That is what is ultimately important.

As the Tennessee Baptist Convention meets this week, pray for that spirit of unity and cooperation seen in those five small rural churches in Greene County to permeate across our state. If it does, then God's kingdom will grow and He will be glorified. □

The Community CHURCHES

Welcome You!

- Beulah
- Bibles Chapel
- Concord
- Fairview
- Mt. Hope



Home churches provide wonderful memories in years to come

By James Porch

Dear Aaron and Anna:

Pardon me, kids, only now has Paw Paw's consciousness gotten around to amusing you by reminiscing and narrating some quite unique and personal happenings through the ministry of my church family in our small Baptist church. Oh, I know, the local church belongs to Jesus. But please, for this letter, grant me the honor to refer to my church — a most endearing term then, and now.

As best I remember, I was four or five years old. One summer afternoon, an older teenager accepted the responsibility to take care of the children during the weekly Woman's Missionary Union meeting. Probably, this new venture had not been carefully considered for our age or maximum safety. She began, "Boys and girls, our game today will be spin the bottle. First let's find a bottle." The diligent search around the church resulted only in a discarded, nasty, glass Double Cola bottle with a broken lip and sharp edge. She pronounced the find "perfect" for the game. So each child, wearing shorts, gathered in a circle and crossed his or her legs. The object of the game focused on each person spinning the bottle and eliminating someone according to the way the bottle pointed at the end of the rotation. Upon my turn, I gave the glass weapon a hearty spin, and the bottle spun toward me and cut a two inch gash across my knee. Blood, real red blood spurting out, kids crying, squalling, big-time medical alert, mamas running out of the WMU meeting, neighbors hollering, frantic searching for the pastor, cars driving by screeching to a stop, everyone deserting me sitting bleeding and waiting for the pain to set in. Wow, what attention! I wish now I had thought up a good faint. Oh, well, in minutes tragedy averted and Rev. George Washington Smith carried me next door to Dr. Johnson's house

clinic, all the way listening to my nurse mama's diagnosis and treatment plan. Today a faint scar remains as a constant bodily effective warning, daring me to never spin the bottle again.

During his pastoral tenure, the Rev. J. F. S. caught a vision for a Royal Ambassador softball team. Three of us gathered too early for practice the first day and quickly grew tired of waiting on the steps near the pastor's study. Unwisely, we began batting practice between the church sanctuary and parsonage, a narrow area about 30 feet wide. Intending to be very careful, I pitched slowly and S. tried to just tap the ball. He did — right through a large opaque sanctuary window, shattering the entire sash. Immediate awareness! Big-time church trouble.

Later that beautiful summer afternoon, S.'s mama visited my mother for a sisters of the church mature Christian discussion regarding just and equitable distribution of cost to replace the window so desecrated by their sons. One of their major issues centered around blame and fault. The two gracious mothers held strongly to different opinions. S.'s mama built a case for equal sin by both boys. My mama adequately defended me as having no intention of breaking a church window. According to mama, S. had three options, "Miss the ball, swing not at the ball, or hit the ball." His choice to hit the ball, in mama's opinion, exonerated her precious boy. Following that episode, I became a careful student of my mother's logic. Oh, yes, the two old girls finally settled on sharing the cost. My father's narration would not be appropriate in this fine, upstanding Baptist paper.

The next story, credible to a mass of witnesses, will require

extra tact to survive the Wilkey censorship.

Once again, the WMU brought upon me great misery. A committee of five ladies, my mama, her two sisters, and two other protected ladies accepted the awesome challenge to present a theme interpretation on The Fruits of the Spirit during the summer Rankin County associational WMU convave. By summer, I mean big-time July hot summer in the non-air conditioned Briar Hill Baptist Church. The committee arrived upon the conclusion to creatively involve the Sunbeams (forerunner of Mission Friends) in the presentation.

For several weeks each Monday afternoon, each Sunbeam practiced his or her lines or memory verse, all related to the biblical teaching of the Fruits of the Spirit.

Unknown to any of us, clandestinely the big five mamas also included sewn crepe paper costumes of various colors to resemble fruits — red apple, pink grapefruit, purple grape, yellow banana, green pear, orange orange, and so forth. A different color for each child.

The big day arrived. Our Sunbeam caravan traveled all the way to the Briar Hill Baptist Church. We arrived just in time for lunch — pimento cheese sandwiches, fried chicken, and gallons of cold sweet tea. After the hurried lunch and refills on tea, the boys and two mamas went down one path, and the girls and three mamas took a path in the opposite direction, each path leading to the "facility."

Once back in the church house, boys and girls went again in opposite directions to selected rooms. Now, here's where this story really gets tricky. We boys were told to strip down to our underwear. Remember, the mid 1940s offered little resemblance to the world of

2008. Each boy assumed the same instructions were given to the girls. At that time, the mama matrons brought out the costumes.

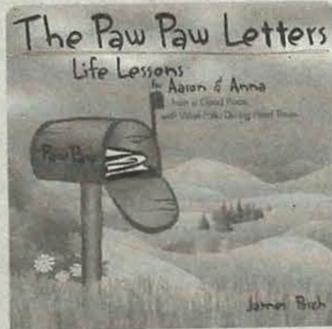
Surprise! As each boy realized what was in the making, pure frustration, shame, and only the good Lord knows what began to take over. Nevertheless, our male resistance gradually melted into obedience by way of maternal threats, in Christian guilt terms. Once suited up, legs and arms sticking out of the gaudy, shapeless apparel, we filed out to meet the equally embarrassed girls.

Now remember, July heat inside a Baptist church in the South rises through the day. By now, after 1:00 p.m., our Sunbeam perspiration had turned to Baptist sweat. Crepe paper, like puckered nylon, does not breathe like cotton cloth. Crepe paper holds in heat. Heat in crepe paper on a body produces more sweat. The sweat and crepe paper began rubbing together. Moisture, once in contact with crepe paper, washed out the color. Now colored sweat dripped off each precious body, every drop puddling around the tightly sewn seams gathered around both legs. Apparently, any moisture over maybe a half pint exceeded the costumes capacity. So we marched out on the podium of the Briar Hill Baptist Church just as each costume began leaking. Very soon, rivulets of color began traveling down each leg. Some of the congregation applauded the feature as planned creative effects. Worst of all, one boy with mixed anxiety and embarrassment forgot his lines and proved his consumption of tea exceeded the production of his trip to the facility. Overall, my Sunbeam companions and I that day came face-to-face with disaster at an early age.

Once I became 13, I qualified for the older boys Sunday School class. The previous summer, a young seminary student from our church returned home awaiting a call to a pastorate. In the meantime, he accepted the opportunity

to teach the boys class. Intending to begin with a "get to know you" fellowship for each member of the class, he announced his first Sunday that the following Friday night he would host a peanut boiling. For those of you unaccustomed to Southern tradition, let me explain. Green peanuts, freshly dug out of the ground, are carefully washed off and then boiled until they are tender in a rolling salt brine. These delicacies are best eaten when they are hot. The group traveled out to a nearby lake, built a roaring fire, and placed the pot of green peanuts filled with salt water on the fire. Sometime later, once the peanuts were tender, we began the process of gluttony. Later that evening, all peanuts having been consumed, our teacher announced he would take us to Morton eight miles away for chocolate milkshakes. He owned a fairly new automobile. Nine boys and their teacher, tummies bulging with green peanuts, consumed a large chocolate milkshake from Gunn's Dairy Bar. Approximately half way between Morton and our home town, the highway passes through a large chicken farm. The combination of fresh boiled peanuts, over-chocolated milkshake, and the ambiance of the chicken houses touched off a disaster similar to that affliction Jonas suffered following his days and nights in the fish. Each boy contributed to the mess. The following Sabbath, we assembled for Sunday School and met a new teacher. Apparently the seminary student deserted youth ministry. Within a few months, he became an Air Force chaplain.

I do not know for sure, but I don't believe kids today can have such momentous experiences as those afforded in my home church. To say ministry is to stretch the term quite far. Looking back a long, long way, I am thankful for memories that can be enjoyed at a time distance. □ — Copyright by James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Life of Lottie Moon still instructs my life today

along the way



By Connie Davis Bushey

Editor's Note: This is the first of several columns on Lottie Moon.

I began thinking recently about the namesake for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Southern Baptist international missions.

My interest peaked, I began reading *The New Lottie Moon Story* by Catherine Allen.

Why consider someone who lived and served so long ago? Many of our 5,521 current international missionaries still sacrifice in the same ways. Many of these Southern Baptist missionaries have based their ministries on hers.

Many Southern Baptists who are not full-time missionaries but just church members follow her example by making sacrifices for missions and evangelism. Finally, Moon was one of the early Southern Baptist missionaries and one of the first single woman missionaries to serve.

Moon was amazing. Let me share several incidents from her life to illustrate.

Moon was 56 years old in 1897. She had served as a Southern Baptist missionary in North China for 23 years.

She was still involved in country evangelism and had been for all of her service. The following story is told in *The New Lottie Moon Story*.

On a typical day she would visit at least two villages. Chair-bearers would take her into the country immediately after breakfast. After a morning of teaching under a shade tree or in a friendly home, she would eat (what she had brought in her pocket). If she were in a familiar home she might venture to ask a few minutes of privacy on the kang (a bed of bricks which was heated and covered with matting) for rest after lunch.

On one such day she could hardly drag herself up after the noontime rest. But she had an appointment in another village and the chair was waiting.

Emerging into the yard, she was crushed to find many women and children standing expectantly. "They wanted to hear you kiang (proclaim the gospel)," the hostess explained. Miss Moon berated herself for resting while people were eager to hear the good news, but tried to excuse herself by thinking, "I'm only human."

At one home she found her hostess working at the threshing floor and followed her to a rude

and messy house of poverty.

"Don't despise," the poor woman said apologetically.

"I despise no one's surroundings," Miss Moon assured her.

The hostess cleared off a place on the cluttered kang, where the missionary settled herself. Women and girls crushed around her, while curious men were forced to wait in the stable yard (because Moon generally didn't proclaim the gospel to men).

"Do you know why I came here today? I came to see the venerable aunt, and also to bring you a message from the true God," began Miss Moon.

"Aah, yes. Tell us. See — she has brought the book to kiang to us."

Holding up a New Testament, she continued, "This is God's own book. I have come to tell you His words. I dare not bring you my own words."

"What is your name?" the women wanted to know.

"My name is Mu."

"How old are you?"

"I am 56 years old." ...

"Ah. She has never committed any sins, obviously."

"No, none are without sin," Miss Moon said.

"Is it possible that there can be a heaven for such as we?" the women asked.

Gladly Lottie described the way to heaven for suffering women who had never had hope cross their minds.

During her early years Moon served in rural areas while operating a school for girls for 10 years. For years she traveled and worked with another woman missionary, traveling by donkeys and ponies. Later she traveled in a chair borne by a carrier and by basket or shentze which was carried by donkeys or ponies.

She endured curious onlookers who would crowd near her to look at her or to watch her eat. She slept in homes with insects. The travel was difficult. Moon learned to wear many layers of clothing for warmth and to protect from bumpy rides. Stable areas often were just outside the houses or inns. She also risked exposure to small pox and other contagious diseases.

Moon, who had taught and even helped start and operate a high school in the United States, started a boarding school in Tengchow soon after she arrived in China. The school was for girls of upper class families. Another school for girls already was being operated by Sallie Holmes, another Baptist missionary.

The missionaries confronted the culture with their schools. Families expected females, considered the lowest form of humanity, to work and to accept the tradition of foot-binding.

The only way to enlist female students was to provide all expenses of their schooling and care.

Many of the school's students did not have their feet bound, but some did. And once a bound-foot girl was a student, Miss Moon launched a diplomatic battle to free her.

Students enrolled in her school could recite the entire book of Matthew or Mark, Miss Moon reported.

Miss Moon closed her school partly because of a disagreement between two missionaries she worked with. The disagreement spanned all of her missionary career of 39 years.

She was able to work with both men, though, and try to be a peacemaker between them and the Foreign Mission Board.

Moon also had been re-evaluating the use of her time and decided evangelism should be the focus though students became Christians as a result of their involvement in her school.

In 1885 at the age of 44, Moon bravely traveled 120 miles with only Chinese helpers to visit P'ingtu City. She had never been more than 50 miles inland before. Never before had a Southern Baptist woman opened a new outpost in missions. She eventually moved to P'ingtu City and lived by herself. She described in letters her loneliness and desire to hear the English language spoken.

Moon only visited the United

States three times during her missionary tenure of 39 years. In 1876, she accompanied her sister, Edmonia or Eddie, back home. Eddie had served about a year as a missionary before Lottie arrived. Eddie became ill and was forced to return home. She suffered some very difficult experiences in China. Eddie was stoned by boys during a walk. She and Lottie lived with other missionaries. Yet Lottie wished to return to China to serve with the missionaries there without Eddie.

Returning wasn't that easy for Lottie. Baptists had noticed that three other missionaries — a sizable cut of the China force — had left the field because of illness. This created a breach of confidence with many Baptists who wondered why these missionaries were not dedicated enough to die on the field. The family members who accompanied them home, such as Lottie, were utterly without excuse (excerpt from *The New Lottie Moon Story*).

To return, Moon convinced contributors to a Moon House Fund, made up of women of Richmond, Va., to let her use



MISSIONARY LOTTIE MOON at age 61 in 1901 after 28 years of service as a missionary in China.

that for travel and future support.

Lottie Moon took furloughs after 16 years of service and after 11 years of service in China though the Foreign Mission Board policy which she helped develop was to provide a furlough every 10 years. Moon delayed her first furlough mainly waiting for missionaries to come to assume her work. When she requested her first furlough, she explained that she had worked without a co-worker except for a few months for five years.

Yes, she was an amazing woman. Thanks, Lottie Moon for your example of love for God. □

Years from NOW,

She may remember cellular respiration, quadratic equations, or even the battlefield strategies at Gettysburg...but the dorm camping trip, assisting with the game winning goal, or hearing an alumna's testimony in chapel which changed her life eternally... these moments will be treasured for a lifetime. Your generosity has provided our students with opportunities and experiences beyond the classroom. Thank you, Tennessee Baptists for your support!



202 SMOTHERS RD. SEYMOUR, TN 37865
865.573.8321 FAX: 865.573.8323
www.the kings academy.net

Churches unite to build community mission ...

— Continued from page 1
Community Mission Center in Greene County.

The center is on land given to Wisecarver specifically for the purpose of establishing the mission center.

Wisecarver said the idea for the mission center came when he went to speak at a Freewill Baptist Church and saw how they were bringing in kids, providing them a meal, and presenting the gospel to them.

Wisecarver said he felt the Lord speaking to him, leading him to open a facility where needy families not in church could come.

The young man, who has since been licensed into the ministry, shared his vision and six churches responded — Fairview, Bible's Chapel, Concord, Beulah, Warrensburg (all Tennessee Baptist churches)



THE McDONALD COMMUNITY MISSION CENTER is a reality thanks to the effort of six local churches.

and Mt. Hope Methodist Church.

Seventy-five people from those churches came together to construct the building, Wisecarver said. In addition, several businesses discounted materials for the building which took about a year to complete, he said.

"There have been a lot of people instrumental in pulling the mission center together," he stressed.

The mission center officially opened on June 28.

Since then, about 120 different families, representing 480 people, have received free groceries and a hot meal once a month, Wisecarver said. On Oct. 21, the last food giveaway, 66 boxes of food were distributed. In addition to the food, the center also has distributed school supplies, backpacks, and clothing since it opened.



KAY ARMSTRONG, right, a member of Fairview Baptist Church, Mohawk, visits with a guest at the McDonald Community Mission Center, a ministry supported by six area churches.

At least two of the churches held special food drives to help provide food. Most of the food

is purchased from donations.

Following the meal the gospel is presented. Wisecarver noted there have been at least 10 professions of faith as a result of the ministry. In addition, each church is given a list of people who attend to use for visitation and follow up.

"Many people who would never attend a church are hearing a clear presentation of God's plan of salvation," agreed Fairview pastor Sammy Stockman.

Wisecarver said the mission center has opened up doors for the churches that might have not been open otherwise.

"We have got to meet physical needs to get to them spiritually," he stressed.

Dan Armstrong, a layman at Fairview, observed "this is a tangible outreach to show people we understand and care about their every day existence."

"It also shows that God is concerned about that too. We want to reach people with the gospel, and we also want to meet their needs."

Armstrong observed that there are many people in the area who have lost jobs in recent months. "The center has met needs and we are tickled and feel blessed to do it," he said.

At each event volunteers from many of the local churches are there to serve the families who attend, Stockman said.

"No church or personality is exalted, only Jesus Christ. This ministry is a testament of the love the local churches have for their community," he said.

A.K. Killion, a layman at Warrensburg Baptist Church, agreed. Helping others is what it is all about, he observed. "We never know when we might need help ourselves."

— See Churches, page 8

UNION UNIVERSITY HENDERSONVILLE FALL INFORMATION SESSION



November 18, 6:00-7:30PM

First Baptist Church Hendersonville:
Weekley Building 106 Bluegrass Commons Blvd.

Learn more about educational programs and opportunities

- Master of Christian Studies
- Education Specialist Degree
- Nursing Education both graduate and undergraduate

Learn more about Union's highly recognized educational programs.



For more information go to www.uu.edu/hendersonville or call 615.447.1342

October SBC CP gifts start strong

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — October contributions of \$17,795,253.26 million through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program were 20.40 percent above CP gifts received in October 2007, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman.

As of Oct. 31, 2008, Cooperative Program gifts were \$3,015,366.50 above the \$14,779,886.76 received in October 2007. Meanwhile, designated giving of \$3,906,280.89 during October was 27.56 percent, or \$843,943.91, above gifts of \$3,062,336.98 received last October.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the October total of \$17,795,253.26 is 103.80 percent of the \$17,143,069.50 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America.

During the last fiscal year, Southern Baptists topped the \$200-million mark for the third year in a row and overall giving to national causes surpassed the \$400-million benchmark for a second straight year. □

Pastor free, but hospitalized after kidnapping

Baptist Press

SAN DIEGO — Southern Baptist pastor Manuel Jesus Tec is free after 11 days of torture at the hands of unknown kidnapers who abducted him in Tijuana, Mexico, on Oct. 21. Tec currently is recuperating at an undisclosed San Diego hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

Tec, 59, was released around 6 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, following extensive negotiations, according to Johnny Tec, the pastor's 30-year-old son.

"Dad was hurt," Johnny Tec said, adding that his father endured significant physical and psychological trauma during the ordeal.

Tec was whipped with barbed wire whenever he started praying or talking to his captors

about God, Johnny Tec said.

"They became angry whenever he tried to pray," Tec said. "He was kept in a cage on what he thinks was a ranch someplace. He had no food or water. His whole head was covered in duct tape the whole time except for his nose and mouth. Most of the time, his eyes were also covered with duct tape and on one occasion, they threw acid in his eyes."

Tec said the family was instructed to meet one of the kidnapers under a Tijuana bridge around 3:30 a.m. last Friday morning. Complying with the instructions, one of the pastor's sons arrived at the bridge and was told his father would be delivered in five minutes. After two hours passed and the kidnapers had not produced his father, the son returned home alone.

Johnny Tec said the kidnapers had loosely buried his father under gravel and sand and shot at him with "some kind of machine gun," according to what the pastor later recounted to his family. Fortunately, none of the bullets pierced the half-buried pastor and the kidnapers departed.

Tijuana policemen — possibly hearing the gunshots — found Tec, pulled him from the sand and gravel and carried him to a local community hospital in Tijuana.

Around 8 a.m. on Friday, the Tijuana hospital called the family and told them Tec had been admitted. The family arranged for Manuel to be transferred by ambulance to an undisclosed hospital across the U.S. border in San Diego.

The strange 11-day ordeal began around 5 a.m. on Oct. 21, when armed kidnapers abducted Tec as he was crossing over the border from San Diego to Tijuana. His wife and son Giovanni were with him but not taken or hurt. Tec is pastor of a new Hispanic church plant in San Diego, Iglesia Familiar y Vida. □

'Fireproof' still in top 10

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Bolstered by its opening in more than 100 new theaters, "Fireproof" finished in the top 10 again on a per-theater average gross over

the first weekend in November, according to studio estimates — an unusual feat considering it has been in theaters now for six weekends.

The latest release from the makers of "Facing the Giants," Fireproof grossed an average of \$1,979 per theater, placing it at No. 9 in that category. It ended up No. 13 in weekend gross with \$1.75 million, helping it pass

\$26 million in total gross.

Perhaps most impressive, it lost only 18.5 percent from the previous weekend — the second smallest drop among all movies in the top 20 that have been out more than one weekend.

It played in 887 theaters over the weekend, and movie officials said it was still playing in 80 percent of the theaters in which it opened.

Fireproof tells the story of how a firefighting captain played by Kirk Cameron works to save his failing marriage. "The Love Dare," a book featured in the movie, was No. 1 for three straight weeks on The New York Times' paperback advice bestseller list before dropping to No. 2 in the Oct. 31 list. It is published by B&H Publishing Group. □



NEW!
APPLY ONLINE
at GuideStone.org

Good work deserves great health protection.

GuideStone has you covered.

Because GuideStone knows the ministry, they also know what ministers need from their insurance plans. For more value for your health care dollars, you can trust GuideStone.

GuideStone offers seven PPO plans and an HSA-eligible High Deductible Health Plan. With a wide range of costs and benefits, these plans offer the choice and selection you need. You'll find:

- ✦ Deductibles ranging from \$0 to \$5,000
- ✦ Access to the nationwide network of health care providers
- ✦ Exclusive discounted prescription drug pricing
- ✦ Generous preventive care benefits

And because GuideStone's mission is to "serve those who serve the Lord," you'll be working with industry experts who care about your needs.

GuideStone
Insurance Plans
Do well. Do right.

Call **1-888-98-GUIDE** (1-888-984-8433) to speak to a Customer Relations specialist — or visit www.GuideStone.org/FreeQuote to Get A Quote and Apply Online.

Churches unite to build ...

— Continued from page 7

Pastor John Rogers of Beulah Baptist Church agreed there "is a big need" for the ministry center in the community, but noted he is not that surprised by the willingness of the churches to come together and get the work done.

It's an extension of the community as a whole, Rogers observed. "The community has always been that way (willing to help each other) even before I became pastor," he said.

He noted the churches have occasional joint services and have gone on mission trips together. "This is a close knit community."

Wisecarver again stressed that the mission center is a joint effort of all the churches involved. "God has truly blessed us. I am glad to be just a little part of it."

"God provided the people and the resources. I give Him the credit for it all." □

Ministers, church staff and denominational employees are eligible to apply for coverage through GuideStone. Underwriting is required.

© 2008 GuideStone Financial Resources 14205 10/08

Church's 'willing vessels' meet local hunger needs

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

DANDRIDGE — A local rural church ministry that began four years ago by providing food to about 38 families is now reaching nearly 300 families each month.

Swannsylvania Baptist Church here began the ministry after many months of prayer, according to Diane Adkins and Mistle O'Neil, who serve as co-directors of the God's Willing Vessels Food Pantry, along with Beth Whaley.

The ministry did not happen overnight, Adkins and O'Neil stressed.

O'Neil had worked with a similar ministry at another church and shared the idea with Adkins and Whaley, who thought it would be a great

ministry for their church.

"We prayed for one and a half years," O'Neil said. "Diane and Beth would keep asking, 'Is it time?' and I would say, 'Keep praying,'" she laughed.

Finally one Sunday after their pastor (Mike Hensley) preached, "we knew it was time."

Just as its beginning was bathed in prayer, so has everything else involved with the ministry as it has evolved over the years. Among those items has been the addition of a blanket and coat ministry and the recent construction of a warehouse exclusive for the food ministry.

"We never do anything without praying about it," O'Neil stressed.

Hensley agreed, noting that he was in favor of the ministry

from its beginning.

"I knew they would pray it through and let the Lord lead them. I trusted their judgment and relationship with the Lord."

Hensley said the ministry has improved each year. "Doing the Lord's will and trying to honor Christ has kept the ministry vibrant," he affirmed.

Hensley recalled that he told the ladies interested in the ministry: "This is too big for us, but it is not too big for the Lord."

That has proven to be very true, everyone involved in the ministry agrees.

The ministry, which requires approximately \$1,000 each month for the food, is not funded directly by the church but rather by individual members and others in the community.

Both Adkins and O'Neil can share story after story how God has provided specific items for the food pantry at just the right time. They also can share "miracles" of how the food pantry met a major need in the lives of families at the appropriate time.

Adkins told of a time when bread was desperately needed for the food giveaway, which is held the third Thursday of each month. A man drove a large truck with the words "Jesus Saves" on the side to the church and dropped off 50 cases of bagels for the food pantry, she said.

— See Church's, page 18



ABOVE, Marie Thomas, left, and Georgia Hall greet people who come to the God's Willing Vessels Food Pantry with cookies and coffee. BELOW, Drew Douglas, left, and Tim McGaha put food in boxes to be distributed to those in need. McGaha's father, John, now deceased, was active when the ministry began four years ago. at Swannsylvania Baptist Church, Dandridge. The food pantry now gives away approximately 300 boxes of food each month.



SAVE THE DATE

Tennessee



Music Ministry



Leadership Conference

Brentwood Baptist Church
August 14-15, 2009

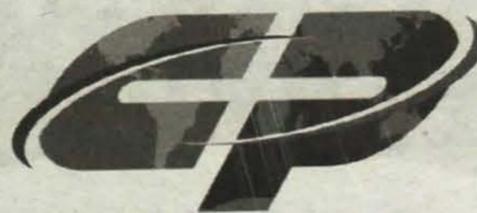
www.tnworshipandmusic.org

For all music leaders—Ministers of Music, Worship Leaders, Adult Choir Members & Leaders, Youth Choir Leaders, Preschool & Children's Choir Leaders, Praise Band Leaders and Members, Instrumental Leaders, Handbell Ringers and Leaders, Pianists, Organists, Keyboard players, Small Church Music Leaders

TEN X TEN

IN TENNESSEE

GOAL: BY THE END OF 2010, CHURCH MEMBERS GIVING AT LEAST A TITHE TO THE CHURCH, AND TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHURCHES GIVING AT LEAST 10% THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TO REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

For more information, contact Gary Rickman, Tennessee Baptist Convention
1-800-558-2090, ext. 2020 or grickman@tnbaptist.org
www.tnbaptist.org

TBC churches send 'buckets of love' to the terminally ill

By Mark Kelly
For Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE — At least four Southern Baptist congregations in Tennessee have reached out to families in Sub-Saharan Africa that are caring for terminally ill loved ones.

First Baptist Church, Camden; Trace Creek Baptist Church, New Johnsonville; First Baptist Church, Waverly; and Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Columbia, were among churches in three states that helped pack 1,378 five-gallon plastic buckets with a wide range of everyday supplies needed by a caregiver — from lotions, ointments, and vitamins to bedding, bandages, and thermometers.

The buckets, which cost each congregation between \$100 and \$125, were delivered to the Baptist Fellowship of Zambia's human needs program and to Tabitha Ministries, an outreach that provides care to more than 1,300 HIV-positive children in a district of South Africa that has the highest per capita rate of HIV-positive individuals in the world. Earlier this year, workers at Tabitha Ministries reported they were seeing 85 to 105 people die each week.

The items in the buckets will be a tremendous blessing to families that must care for terminally ill relatives at home because access to health care is so limited, said Mark Hatfield, who

directs work in Sub-Saharan Africa for Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization.

"Although there are more than 22.5 million adults and children in Sub-Saharan Africa who are living with the HIV virus, the need extends beyond even those families," Hatfield said.

"Thousands of people in the region die at home each year from sicknesses like cancer, tuberculosis, malaria, and other life-ending diseases. In-home care is all the care they will receive."

In a thank you note to churches that helped with the project, Tabitha Ministries' director Gail Trollip said it is hard to describe the joy the kits are bringing to patients, caregivers — even the workers who are distributing them.

"Words would never be able to express the joy and the gratitude of the folk who are being blessed with the Home Care Kits," Trollip said. "These buckets are an absolute blessing."

"Tabitha Ministries reaches out to adults and children who are very often overlooked and neglected. They are usually the poorest of the poor and children from Child Headed Households who have been infected or affected by HIV/AIDS," Trollip added.

"Very often these folks are only cared for by Tabitha Ministries and have no other means of support. Their emotional and spiritual state will be greatly enhanced due to the fact that



THIS "BUCKET OF LOVE" is filled with supplies needed to care for a terminally ill patient in Zambia. The effort is coordinated under the auspices of Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist international relief and development organization.

they will know there are people that care for them and they are not abandoned."

The workers who are distributing the buckets were deeply moved when they saw the contents, Trollip added.

"When I went through the contents, the ladies were overcome with the generosity," she said. "The exclamations of joy as each item was revealed was incredibly moving. These dear ladies

are in a state of poverty themselves but their first thought was how beautiful, clean and warm the patient was going to sleep.

"On behalf of Tabitha Ministries, would just like to express my deepest gratitude for your wonderful support," Trollip added. "As we have been blessed with your carefully and lovingly packed buckets, we in turn pray God's richest blessing on you all." □

It's time to *Get Away...*

for your next church retreat,
camp, or outing!

Linden Valley:

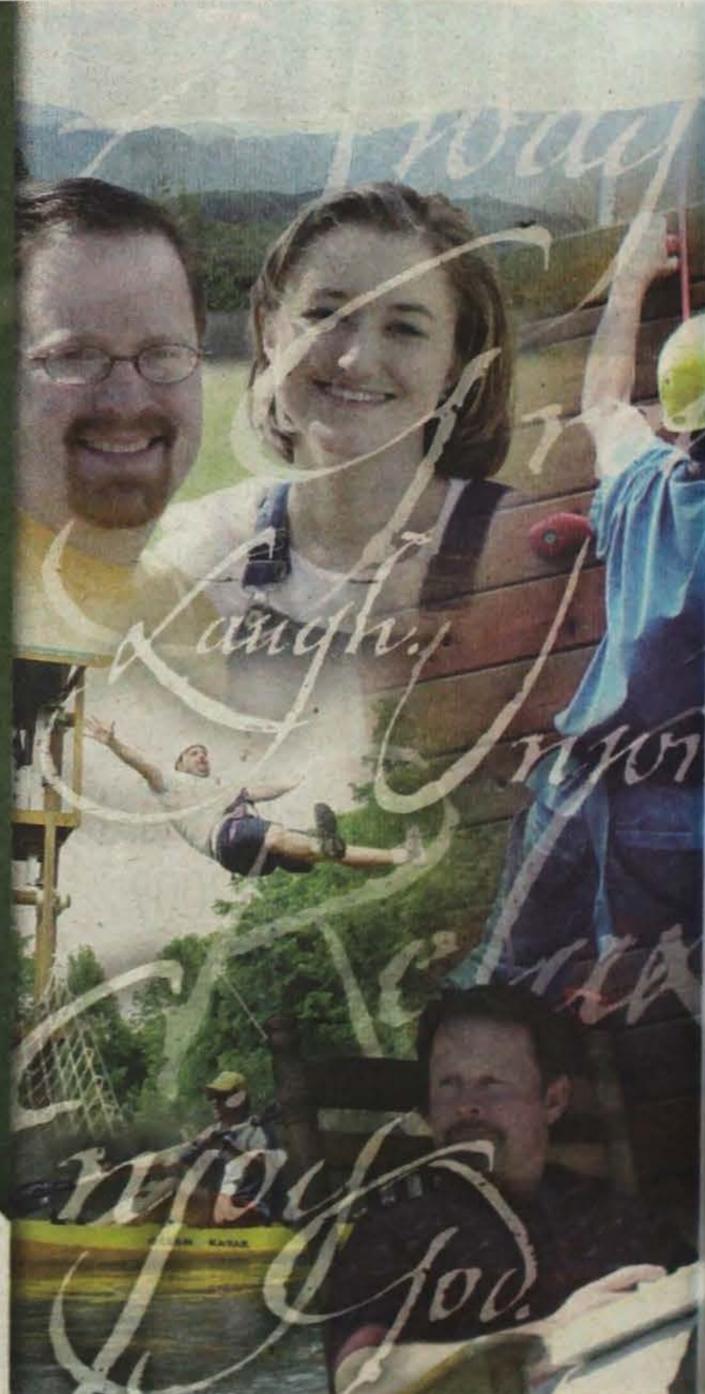
Call 877-354-6336
www.lindenvalley.org

Carson Springs:

Call 877-704-6336
www.carsonsprings.org



**Carson Springs
and Linden Valley**
BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTERS



Tennessee Baptist Foundation

Service Integrity Trust

Foundation celebrates 70 years of ministry, 1938-2008

The Board of Trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Foundation at its December 2008 meeting. The Foundation was established by the Tennessee Baptist Convention during its annual meeting in 1938.

At its inception in 1938 the Foundation was responsible for managing (investing) some \$6,000 for the benefit of Baptist ministries and missions. Those funds had been given in vari-

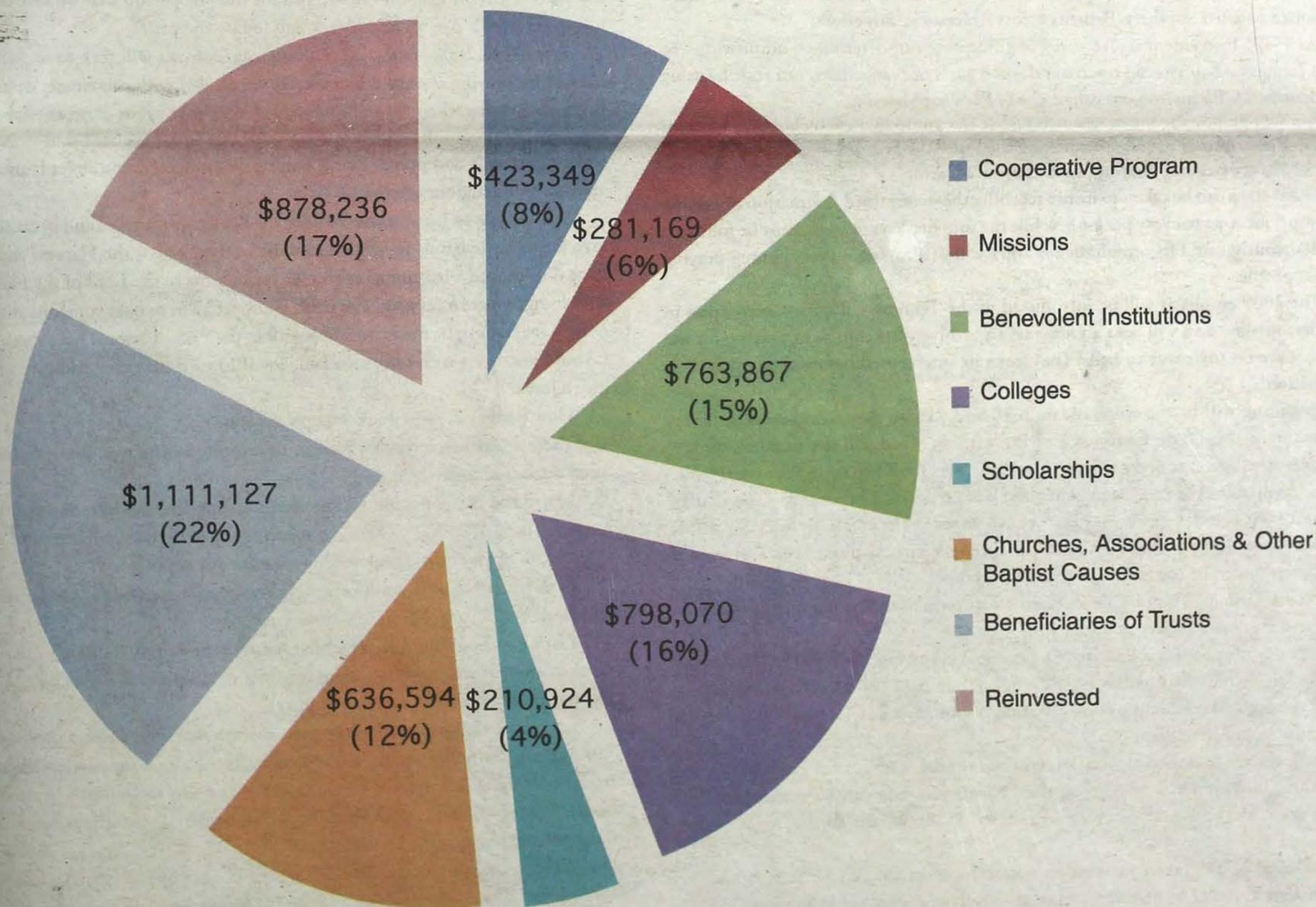
ous ways by Tennessee Baptists, with instructions that the income earned from them be used in support of Baptist causes.

In 70 years the Foundation has assisted thousands of Tennessee Baptists in formulating their Christian Estate Plan. These plans will provide for their families and leave hundreds of thousands of dollars to undergird Baptist causes. To God Be the Glory!

The mission of the Foundation was and con-

tinues to be "assisting Tennessee Baptists, churches and the Convention to lay a strong financial foundation under those institutions, causes and agencies supported by the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention" by "encouraging and promoting the establishment of living trusts, testamentary trusts, gifts and bequests, and by acting as a funds manager for the Tennessee Baptist Institutions."

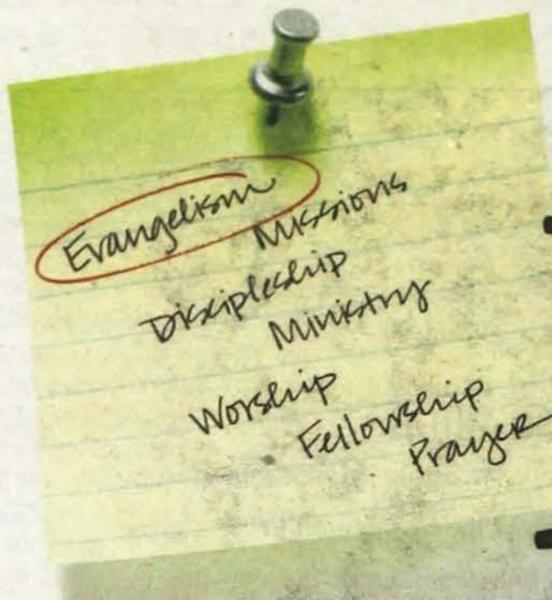
Income distributed Nov. 1, 2007 – Oct. 31, 2008 — \$5,103,336



Serving Tennessee Baptists Since 1938

Building a Strong Financial Foundation for Ministry and Missions

1-800-552-4644, (615) 371-2029, www.tbfoundation.org



Church Health Matters

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

? Evangelism Matters

The last word of Jesus to His disciples was to make more disciples as we go along life's journey. All serious followers of Christ want to do this.

Tennessee Baptists across our great state have stated again and again the desire to fulfill the Great Commission. Working together is essential in seeking to fulfill our task.

Southern Baptists are coming together in a unified effort to fulfill the Great Commission in North America. Your Tennessee Baptist Convention missionary team has been a partner in this process. A National Evangelism Initiative has been developed to assist Southern Baptists across America in this effort.

As a GPS instrument is often used to guide us to our determined destinations, so we as Tennessee Baptists can reach our desired goals of evangelizing our state by using the identified GPS instrument called **God's Plan for Sharing**.

You will be hearing much about GPS. It is a guide that each church can use to develop a customized process to reaching the lost. The bottom line is this: The goal must be "Every Believer Sharing; Every Person Hearing."

What steps can be taken to insure reaching the determined destination of getting the gospel message to every person? While the four markers or steps must be followed simultaneously, our TBC emphasis for 2009 will be **Praying** – every church praying for lost people.

The 2009 emphasis will be introduced at the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Hendersonville. You will hear about ways to involve your church in praying for the lost that are on their way to hell. They must be intercepted before they reach their destination!

Engaging will be the emphasis in 2010 and will be the second marker. Every believer trained to share Christ as a caring witness. God will use us when we give ourselves as willing, trained witnesses.

What process will you use in your church to equip each believer to share Christ? Each of us has a circle of influence that we can impact. The emphasis for 2011 will be **Sowing**. Every lost person in our state can receive a witness about Jesus Christ as all of us determine to be sowers of the seed of the gospel.

Across Tennessee will be a concerted effort to take the gospel message to every home and every person in our state.

When God's people are **Praying, Engaging, and Sowing**, there will be **Harvesting**. We hope to see harvesting all along the journey, but 2012 promises to be a great year of **Harvesting** and celebrating every salvation response. We as Tennessee Baptists will be faithful in our Jerusalem.

Each church and each association will be faithful. Other state conventions will be faithful in their Jerusalems. Together, North America can be evangelized, and every person will hear, because every believer will share. We are laborers together with Christ.

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

– Larry Gilmore

- Larry Gilmore.....(615) 371-7915
- Don Pierson.....(615) 371-7909
- Kent Shingleton.....(615) 371-2077
- Steve Pearson.....(615) 371-2012
- Bernie Baker.....(615) 371-7925
- Jennie Bowling.....(615) 371-7933

How Hungry Are You for Prayer?

By Don Pierson

Hungry people will do desperate things. While a missionary in Central America, I saw grown men search through garbage cans for food for themselves and for their families.

Hungry people do things that they would never consider doing if they weren't hungry.

How hungry are Tennessee Baptists for seeing the lost of Tennessee reached? How hungry am I or are you for the one person that we love that is lost to be saved? Are we hungry enough to fast and pray?

From Nov. 2008 – Oct. 2009, Tennessee Baptists will seek to impact the harvest by praying toward a harvest. If we do this with our hearts detached from our praying, then we will have achieved in once again drawing near unto Him with our mouths and honoring with our lips. We will find ourselves offering sacrifice and prayer that is empty, disconnected, indifferent, and just another vain religious activity.

We must do so because our love for the Lord constrains us and because our love for them demands it. We must come to the Lord of the Harvest the way Jesus did: moved with compassion. We must come to the Lord of the Harvest with hunger, a great hunger. The truth is almost all of us have someone that we hunger for Jesus to be the Lord and Savior in their life. I know I have some that I would just weep with uncontrollable joy if I heard that they had given their life to Jesus.

How hungry are we? How hungry are you?

There are many ways that hunger is expressed in prayer, but one that is often neglected today is "fasting."

I have had many people ask me about fasting and the question that they normally have is "Why?" There is not enough space in this article to deal with all of the Scriptures that speak to this spiritual discipline.

I ask you what I often ask others, "How hungry are you for God to move and work in a person's life or in a situation?"

Fasting is about hunger. It is about being more hungry for God's will to be done in a life or in a situation, than for food or whatever it is that a person is fasting. Most people are not that hungry.

In Psalm 107:9 and in Matthew 5:6, we learn that God satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul. In the Lord's Prayer, we are instructed to ask for fresh bread daily, but most of us are perfectly content on living on yesterday's bread. We move in and out of God's house, and most come without ever asking God to feed them.

We have taken an incredible challenge from our Lord and made it a request for physical needs. We come in and out of church week after week, and many are content with good music and good preaching. We have failed to come before Him asking for fresh bread, hot out of His oven. We are content on living off of yesterday's bread.

I wonder could it be that we have not because we ask not, and we ask not because we are not hungry.

As we pray for the lost in the next year, let's do it with hunger. A hunger that does not hesitate to plead and anticipate God to give us and the ones we are praying for fresh bread.

What Compels You When You Pray: Desire or Duty?

By Don Pierson

I was in East Tennessee doing a prayer revival. God's people had heard His call to pray for the lost, and many did with great desperateness and fervor. While we were praying, it was as though God said, "Don, Look!"

That night I began to ask, "Lord, what is the difference between a people who pray out of desire and those who pray out of duty?" These are some of the characteristics that I have noticed. Which ones are found in the prayer life of your church? What compels you when you pray for the lost: desire or duty?

When you pray do you do so from ...?

<u>Desire</u>	or	<u>Duty</u>
Weeping and pleading for others		Weeping and pleading for self
Sacrifice (freely given)-death		Surrender (forced/partial)
Love driven		Task driven
More of the heart		More of the mind
No reminders needed to pray		Needs reminders to pray
Eyes on the Lord as Savior		Eyes on the Lord as Master
Sees people		Sees tasks
Joy/hope		Numbness/doubt
Fire		Lukewarm
Fervor/persistence		Repetition
The power of God		The power of man
Hurts for others		Hurts for self
Energized		Weary
Faithful		Faints

I believe that both desire and duty are necessary, but I am not sure that duty in praying was ever to be void of desire. We can be a people that draw near unto Him with our mouth and honor Him with our lips; but our hearts must always be near unto Him as well.

If not then we find ourselves like the people of Isaiah's and Jesus' day, a people of religious duty with a form of godliness. But they are void of the power and of the passion.

May we be a people that never need to be reminded to pray for even one lost person. May we be a people that always need plenty of tissues at the altar, not because we weep for ourselves, but because we are a people that weep for others. May our altars be places where pleas are offered and intercessions are given on behalf of those who do not know Him.

Make a commitment to pray for some one that you know that needs Jesus. Pray. Let the love of Christ and your love for them compel you to intercede for them.



2009 "Praying Toward The Harvest" Emphasis: Prayer Options for the Local Church and Association

- Guided mid-week prayer services that focus on the needs of the laborers and the lost
- Concerts of Prayer/Simultaneous Guided prayer services for the laborers and the lost
- Cottage Prayer Meetings/Home Prayer Meetings for lost friends and family
- Prayer and Vacation Bible School/Calling VBS leaders and participants to intentional focused prayer for the harvest
- Family altars
- 5-On-The-Way Prayer Commitment Sundays
- Prayerwalking that aims to saturate the community with intercession in both prayer and proclamation

Free Prayer Guides for Church Members

A prayer guide for 2009 "Praying Toward The Harvest" is available that provides ideas and training in each of these prayer options.

The following Prayer Bookmarks are also available free of charge.

- Praying Evangelistically in the Family
- Praying for the Lost
- Praying for Revival and Spiritual Awakening
- Praying for Your Pastor
- Praying for Those who Teach
- Praying for Your Deacons

To obtain the above items, contact Prayer Strategies team of the Tennessee Baptist Convention at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7925, or e-mail Don Pierson, State Prayer director, at dpierson@tnbaptist.org.

"Praying Toward The Harvest" Upcoming Prayer Events for 2008-2009

Nov. 14-15, 2008 Great Commission Prayer Conference,
Belle Aire Baptist Church, Murfreesboro

Dec. 6, 2008 Prayer First Student Ministry Conference,
First Baptist Church, Columbia

Jan. 16-17, 2009 Great Commission Prayer Conference,
TBA, Beulah Baptist Association, Union City

Jan. 23-24, 2009 Great Commission Prayer Conference,
First Baptist Church, Blountville

Feb. 20-21, 2009 Great Commission Prayer Conference,
First Baptist Church, Bolivar

Feb. 27-28, 2009 Great Commission Prayer Conference,
Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga

March 27-28, 2009 Great Commission Prayer Conference,
First Baptist Church, Columbia

For information, contact Bernie Baker, TBC Evangelism/Prayer Ministry assistant, at 1-800-558-2090, ext. 7925, or bbaker@tnbaptist.org. Or visit TBC website at www.tnbaptist.org.



A Stewardship and Cooperative Program Campaign

Humboldt teenager seeks to provide freshwater well in Sudan

By Tim Ellsworth
Union University news office

NASHVILLE — Joshua Guthrie has a message for teenagers: they can do something to make the world a better place.

Guthrie, 16, is leading by example. The high school sophomore who's also dually enrolled at Union University has launched an initiative to raise money for a freshwater well in Sudan, Africa.

Called "Dollar for a Drink," the campaign also is intended to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Sudanese people through this opportunity.

"The concept is extremely simple," Guthrie said.

"Give up one drink, and instead, give that \$1 to the organization to help build a well in Sudan. Our objective is for one well, which is \$8,000, by Christmas 2008."

The son of George Guthrie, the Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible at Union, Joshua Guthrie said more than 12 million people in Sudan lack adequate access to clean water. Digging wells is also expensive, because the dry climate requires deep digging to get to the water.

In addition, Guthrie said the lack of water leads to tribal conflicts.

"So, in a way, putting in more wells not only eliminates the thirst, but also wars as well," he said.

Guthrie is working with Baptist Global Response, for his project. BGR is a Southern Baptist relief and development

organization and has set aside a specific well for which Guthrie is raising money. Once the money is collected, BGR will send in a team to dig the well, and the workers will use their time in Sudan as an opportunity to talk about their faith in Jesus Christ.

The project launched in September. Though larger donations are welcomed, Guthrie is asking people to donate \$1 — what it would cost them to purchase a soft drink — to the effort. Though some may think their small donation doesn't matter, Guthrie disagrees.

"I like to think of every dollar as a droplet of water," he said.

"By itself, that droplet can't do a whole lot of good. But, if you combine them all, you really have this large power source that really can make a large dent in the situation in Sudan."

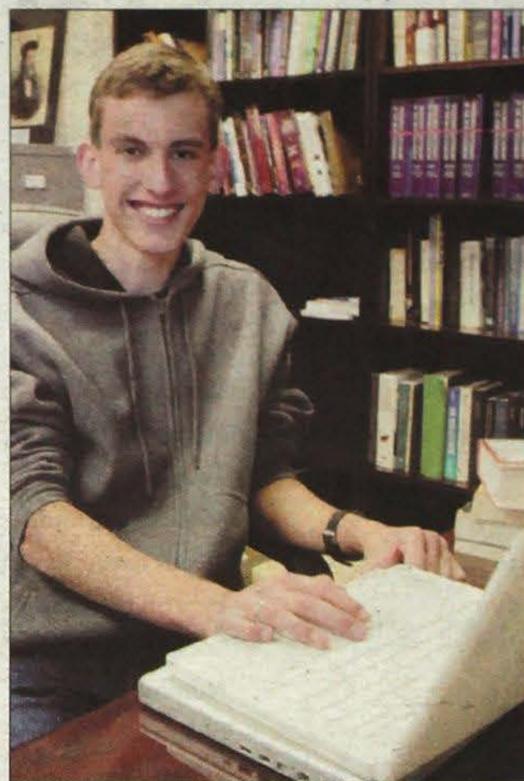
He has collected about \$1,500 so far.

"This is a way that all of us can be doers of the Word," Guthrie said.

"Right now, we can act on Jesus words' where he said, 'When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink.' Our Sudanese brothers and sisters are the least of these, so we hope that people will not delay giving, but act now if the Spirit is prompting them."

He especially hopes that teenagers will get involved in the effort, perhaps adopting it as a project for their church youth groups. Guthrie is a member of Northbrook Church in Humboldt.

"I really hope to be a motivation to other teenagers that it really doesn't matter what your age is, you can make a difference in the world and overcome the low expectations of the culture," he said. □



JOSHUA GUTHRIE, a high school sophomore who is dually enrolled at Union University in Jackson, has launched an effort to raise money for a freshwater well in Sudan, Africa. He is a member of Northbrook Church, Humboldt. — Photo by Morris Abernathy

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.

Be on Mission with
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

Mending Hearts
Changing Lives

www.TBCH4Kids.org

SPEAKER • TEACHER • AUTHOR

Marolyn
Ford

Here is a blind woman
who sees.

A crippled woman
who walks.

A woman who could not eat or drink, yet lives!

Marolyn is a dynamic internationally known, Spirit-filled speaker.

Marolyn Ford has been used to strengthen my own life and the lives of the people at Bellevue Baptist Church. I must confess my own eyes at birth were as I heard of her blinded eyes so wonderfully healed!

The late Dr. Adrian Rogers, Pastor
Bellevue Baptist Church — Memphis, TN

Marolyn is available to speak in your area.

CONTACT:

6083 Surrey Hollow Cove • Memphis, TN 38134
Home Phone: 901-372-7647 • Fax: 901-385-1775
marolynford@bellsouth.net

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — COMBINATION

First Baptist Church, Linden, is seeking a youth and family minister. Job description includes planning activities for youth and children, Bible teaching, and encouraging families to study the Bible with their children. Music background a plus. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 54, Linden, TN 37096.

◆◆◆◆

Nolensville First Baptist Church, Nolensville, Tenn., is seeking a Bible-believing, teaching, and preaching minister to work with youth and children for a small church in a fast growing community. This position is part-time joining three other part-time ministers. Resumes are to be sent to Nolensville First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, P. O. Box 635, Nolensville, TN 37135.

MINISTRY — CHILDREN

Children's pastor: Large growing family-focused church in Clearwater, Fla. Seminary education preferred, but not required. Experience is necessary. Resume to dbennett@calvarybaptist.org.

Baptist400

CELEBRATING CHRIST SINCE 1609

The origin of Baptists dates back to 1609, when English Separatists fled to Amsterdam seeking religious freedom. Their belief in the Bible as the authoritative Word of God; salvation as a personal, individual conversion; and baptism of believers led to years of persecution and struggle to survive. Today more than 43 million people around the world call themselves Baptists.

Over the next year Baylor will recognize and celebrate our Baptist heritage through a variety of conferences, lectures, exhibits and performances including:

- ◆ The Parchman Endowed Lectures featuring Dr. Bill Leonard
AUDIO DOWNLOAD AVAILABLE ONLINE
- ◆ George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Baptist Distinctives Sermon Series
AUDIO DOWNLOAD AVAILABLE ONLINE
- ◆ Four Centuries of Baptist Commentaries on Acts
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY PRESS — SUMMER 2009
- ◆ Alleluia! Church Music Conference
JULY 21-24, 2009
- ◆ Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture
OCTOBER 8-9, 2009

For recent updates or to access conference content online, visit www.baylor.edu/baptist400



In the Baptist 400 mark, the symbol of the cross is illustrated in four parts — noting 400 years. Three of smaller diamond shapes appear to be growing out of the larger representing the growth of Baptists through time. Since 1609, Baptists have celebrated the love of God through Jesus Christ His son.

Come Meet
**DR. RANDALL
O'BRIEN**

Carson-Newman
College's
22nd President

Dr. O'Brien will be at the
Carson-Newman booth
during the Tennessee Baptist
Convention Tuesday,
November 11 at 2 p.m. and
5 p.m., and Wednesday,
November 12 at 8:30 a.m.



Carson-Newman's O'Brien hits the ground ...

— Continued from page 3

"We want to build a great college under the Lordship of Jesus Christ," the new president said.

And, from what he has gathered so far as he has made his way across East Tennessee, "I think people are willing to give me a chance to do that."



O'BRIEN

O'Brien said his goal is for Carson-Newman to be the number one Christian college in America. He then laughed and amended it to say — "I am happy to share co-number one with Union University."

The dream and goal for Carson-Newman "should be as big as the kingdom of God," O'Brien continued.

"We are a Tennessee Baptist college. We are proud to be a church-related college, but we intend to be a Christ-centered college," he stressed.

"We want to be known as a place where academic rigor and open intellectual inquiry meet the deeper spiritual life."

After just a few months on campus, O'Brien said he has been most impressed by the "incredible love, dedication, and commitment of the faculty and staff."

Many colleges and universi-

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — PASTOR

Wilsonville Baptist Church of Newport is accepting resumes for a bivocational or full-time pastor. Please send resume along with any recordings to Search Committee, 120 New Cave Church Rd., Newport, TN 37821.

◆◆◆◆

First Baptist Church, Rockwood, Tenn., is prayerfully seeking and accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Pastor must have degree from a Southern Baptist seminary or another seminary that works within the parameters of the Baptist Faith and Message and have a divine calling of God to this ministry. Please send resume and video or DVD to First Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 54, Rockwood, TN 37854.

MINISTRY — MUSIC

Hillcrest Baptist Church, SBC congregation in Dyersburg, Tenn., is seeking a full-time director of music to lead the adult, youth, and children's choirs and to coordinate the worship services. Mail resume to Hillcrest Baptist Church, 825 Hillcrest Ave., Dyersburg, TN 38024, fax to (731) 285-1717, or e-mail to LKing251@bellsouth.net.

ties may have greater financial resources, but "I don't know of any place that is wealthier from the standpoint of human resources," O'Brien observed.

"These faculty and staff have come here and invested their lives here," he said, noting that it is not uncommon on the C-N campus for faculty and staff to have tenures of 25 years or more.

As he looks to the challenges facing the college in the months and years ahead, O'Brien said the college must focus on four primary areas: visionary leadership, accountable management, fund raising, and relationship building.

"If we do these four things student enrollment and endowment should take care of them-

CLASSIFIED

MINISTRY — STUDENT

Youth pastor position — part-time youth pastor for Lakewood Baptist Church, 400 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN 37214. Fax or e-mail resume to (615) 883-3295 or Lakewoodbc@aol.com.

◆◆◆◆

First Baptist Sevierville is looking for a full-time youth ministry assistant with middle school emphasis. Please send resumes to hofscott@fbcsev.org attention Scott Carter or call (865) 453-9001 for further information.

◆◆◆◆

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

MINISTRY — OTHER

Miracle Baptist Church is seeking an experienced (3-5 years minimum) office administrator to work 26-30 hours per week. Office hours are 8 a.m. — 2 p.m. Mon-Fri. Must have a thorough working knowledge of general office functions working under minimal supervision. Must have accounting background, AR & AP, ACS, MS Office experience. Able to multi-task and deal with people in a professional, courteous manner. Answer phone, assist pastor, make reports, and bulletins, data entry. Please send resume to Miracle Baptist Church, Attn: Bob Adkins, P.O. Box 10, LaVergne, TN 37086 or e-mail bobkadkins@comcast.net.

MISCELLANEOUS

ACCOMPANIMENT — Need a pianist? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by! Just what you need if you don't have a pianist or if your pianist is not always available! Call Worship Service Resources at 1-877- 977-6802 or visit www.hymncds.org for info and a FREE sample CD. Hymns, praise songs, blended, power-point, special church pricing!

selves," he observed.

He stressed again that his goal is not for Carson-Newman to "just be a Christian college in Tennessee, but to be a Christian college for Tennessee Baptists.

"With that said, our mission field should be as big as the

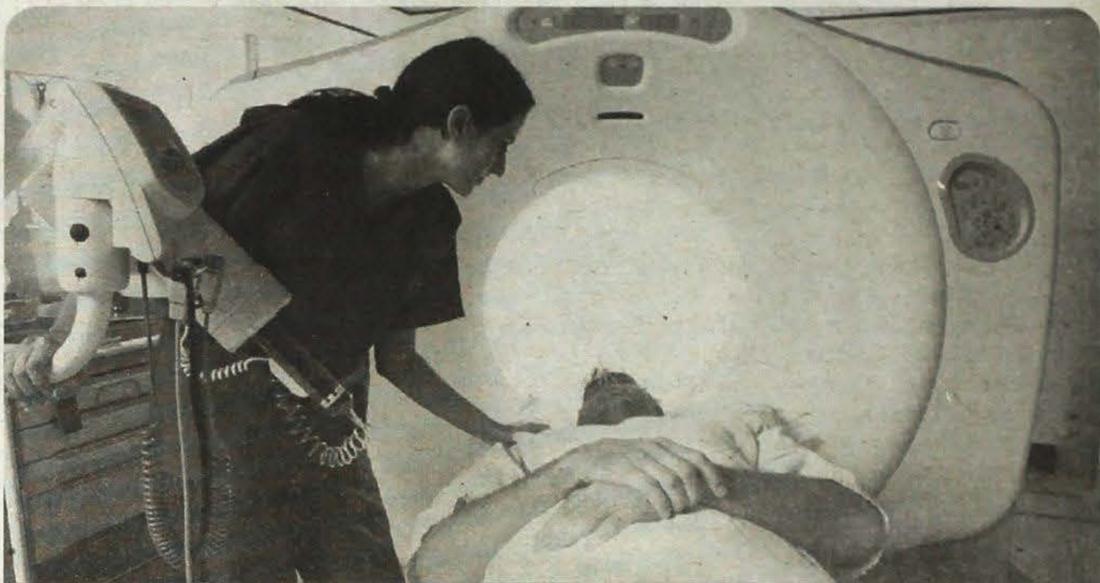
kingdom of God," O'Brien said, noting the college will seek to meet the academic and spiritual needs of students not only from Tennessee but from across the nation and even the world.

"In addition, we want C-N students to leave here ready to

make a difference for Christ worldwide," O'Brien said.

He stressed that he and his wife are happy to be a part of C-N and the larger Tennessee Baptist family as well.

"We are excited to be here and to be a part of the team."



The technology you need. The service you want. Right here in Tennessee.

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE — operates nine Tennessee hospitals that combine advanced technology with convenience. Complete cancer and heart care, the region's only Center for Comprehensive Women's Care*, extensive rehabilitation services, sleep disorders centers, and behavioral health care — the benefits of Baptist are available to you wherever you live in the Mid-South.

*As designated by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

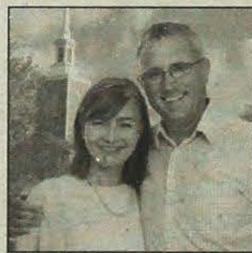
THE BENEFIT OF



www.BaptistOnline.org

800-4-BAPTIST

With you every step



Over the last 40 years, GuideOne Insurance has helped thousands of Southern Baptist churches protect their ministries. You can trust GuideOne, just as those congregations have, to provide you with:

- Local, professional agents who understand your church's unique needs
- Free safety and risk management resources that help protect your church, including access to the new www.safechurch.com Web site
- Claims adjusters strategically located throughout the country who provide superior service, expertise, and personal attention to customers
- Competitive rates that can save your church thousands of dollars each year

PLACE YOUR FAITH IN THE EXPERT.

Contact your local GuideOne agent today or call 1-888-218-8561 and see what we can do for your congregation.

www.guideone.com



Whiteville youth minister models Christ on football field

By Bill Sorrell
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — He has yet to collect. Dared he wouldn't, Jonathan Abel dove head first into a frigid puddle during a Lambuth University football practice here last fall.

His former teammate said he would give him \$5. "He still has not paid up," said Abel, a senior wide receiver and captain.

What has paid dividends for the rejuvenated Eagles is Abel's leadership.

Selected one of two captains by Lambuth's new coaching staff, when Abel speaks players listen, said head coach Hugh Freeze, who was an assistant at Ole Miss before being hired in January.

"He has a good rapport with everyone on the team. Everyone will listen to him," said Freeze, a former youth minister in a Mississippi Baptist church and former state president of Mississippi's Baptist Student Union.

Along with being a "solid football player," Abel is the type of foundational player Freeze is building his program on.

"You don't have to worry about his attitude. He gets it. He is in the boat with us. He is a sound, disciplined young man.

"His personal walk with Jesus Christ is very visible. He is a great example of a kid trying to

reach others for Christ. He is a young believer with a great testimony."

Abel, 21, is co-president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has been minister of youth at First Baptist Church in Whiteville since January 2007.

In Whiteville, he serves in an associate pastor role. He assists with baptisms and the Lord's Supper, leads in outreach and evangelism, organizes church-wide events, and teaches Vacation Bible School. He also preaches throughout the year.

He was licensed to preach in January.

With a 3.88 GPA, Abel is one of the top three students academically in his class and was a marshal at Lambuth's 2008 graduation. He has been academic All-Mid-South Conference twice.

Vic Wallace, former head coach at Lambuth and now an athletic department administrator, called Abel the smartest player on the team.

He received the Hyde Scholarship, the United Methodist Church school's highest academic scholarship, worth more than \$100,000 over four years.

After graduation in May, he plans to pursue his psychology major in graduate school.

Along with brains, Abel (5-11, 195 pounds) has brawn.

He benchpressed 330 pounds

during summer workouts before his junior season at Lambuth.

His intelligence allows him to know "every position we have" said Freeze. "He may not be our best athlete but he is going to play because he is so responsible. Number one is his dependability."

Lambuth offensive lineman Josh Omura, who shares an apartment with him, said he is respected on campus.

"Whenever you are in a trying situation, Jonathan always stays level-headed. He tries to keep things in perspective. He relies on his faith and that reminds us to keep our faith and trust in God. I feel comfortable talking to him about any problem I have."

Sophomore linebacker Vinnie Mazzurco said, "Every thing he does is for the Lord and others. He is not selfish. He never puts anybody down."

While Abel made key catches in 2007 and continues to impact, he is not "obsessed" with football said Wallace. "He is very serious and conscientious but at the same time, he is a down-to-earth person."

Abel's goal is to model Christ by his actions, by the way he car-

ries himself and by how he treats people.

Abel, who was a member of Young Life and Germantown Baptist Church's youth group during high school, began to strengthen his relationship with Christ in the eighth grade.

"I was looking for what was going to make me happy. I was searching for something to bring more fulfillment in my life. It was endless searching," he said.

He found it the summer before his ninth grade year at a camp where people began to "take a real interest in me. These people were examples of Christ."

One of the biggest influences was his grandmother, Mary Jean Bray, who helped raise him. She died the day after Christmas in 1997. "She was always there when I needed her. She was always very loving and caring. She held our family together with a strength and will power that is still amazing to me. My grandmother had a positive influence in my life. She was my strongest influence (of faith)," said Abel.

Turning to Christ to cope with the loss, Abel found peace that still sustains him.

"No matter what I am going through, I know things will work out," he said.

He also has been inspired by his parents Shawn and Laura Abel.

His faith is evident through

his favorite Bible verse, Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

His relationship with Christ has given him an opportunity to encourage others. Being a youth minister makes him accountable he said.

"When you want someone to grow spiritually, you want to be spiritually strong yourself."

He reads the Bible daily and is bolstered by time spent with "like-minded" friends. "I understand their struggles and what they go through."

This season, the Eagles are ranked 13th in the NAIA Coaches Poll for the first time since 2003.

With a 7-2 record, they are competing for the conference's western division title. Lambuth's last championship and playoff appearance was in 2003. "I want to show younger guys no matter what you go through or how successful your team is, through hard work and perseverance, you can accomplish great things."

As Abel finishes his football career, he said he would want others to say this about him:

"His life was never easy but he never made excuses. No matter what obstacles he faced, he overcame them and that his focus was always on Christ." □



ABEL

After two years of giving back to the Gulf Coast,

- Over 7,000 volunteers have served
- Over 60 new homes have been constructed
- Numerous homes repaired
- Untold numbers of lives that were changed
- One new church was constructed
- Over 35,000 work days
- Over 280,000 man hours
- Over a \$3,000,000 impact to the Gulf Coast rebuilding effort

to Baptist Builders
in Tennessee

THANK YOU
to Tennessee Baptist
Disaster Relief Volunteers



Six responses in 2008

Hurricane Gustav

Over 238,270 meals were served;
Over 1,828 showers were taken
Over 708 laundry loads were done
Over 2,040 volunteer days were served
Over 106 jobs were completed

Hurricane Ike

Over 29,100 meals were served;
Over 658 showers were taken
Over 610 laundry loads were done
Over 1,449 volunteer days were served
Over 159 jobs were completed

Iowa Flooding

Over 56,005 meals were served;
Over 99 showers were taken
Over 29 laundry loads were done
Over 817 volunteer days were served

Wisconsin Flooding

Over 8,590 meals were served;
Over 52 showers were taken
Over 72 laundry loads were done
Over 548 volunteer days were served
Over 56 jobs were completed

TN Tornado Damage

Over 12,636 meals were served;
Over 167 volunteer days were served
Oklahoma Ice Storms
Over 474 volunteer days were served

Church's 'willing vessels' meet local hunger ...

— Continued from page 9

"We have never found out to this day who the bagel man was."

Food for the pantry originally came primarily from donations and still does on occasion, but most of the food is now purchased from Second Harvest Food Bank with the help of contributions.

Everyone who comes to the pantry receives a box of food with about \$30 worth of groceries along with tracts and information about the church. Some months, especially around Thanksgiving and Christmas, the boxes also contain "extras" such as a ham or 10-pound bag of potatoes.

In addition, many of the recipients come early for a worship time, complete with music and preaching by Hensley.

He observed that people have heard the gospel and been ministered to that would not have received it anywhere else.

"We draw people from all walks of life and all denominations," he observed, adding that people have visited the church as a result of the food pantry.

"There is a lot of love in our church," Hensley said. "Love draws people."

The pastor noted that his involvement with the ministry basically is to pray and bring a message. "The Lord and the volunteers do the rest."

And the ministry does have its share of volunteers.

Adkins and O'Neil estimated that about 22-26 volunteers work regularly in the monthly ministry. And there are always new people volunteering to help, they added. The church averages about 200 for Sunday morning worship.

"People want to see what's going on here and how God is blessing," Adkins said.

Charlie Roberts is one of the volunteers. He admitted he had doubts when he first learned about it. "I thought it would be people who really didn't need help. But if you go one time to help, you will completely change your mind," he said.



Roberts is now convinced that the ministry is "one of the best things the church has going."

"We reach more people with this than anything else," he observed.

Roberts has overseen the construction of the new warehouse. "It is needed. We don't have enough space to store the food. He anticipates the facility will

cost about \$40,000 but noted that half of the amount has already been raised.

Volunteers have also come from outside the church.

A group of boys, ages 13-18, from the nearby Mountain View Development Center are regular volunteers, Adkins noted.

Roxann Bowen, a counselor at the facility, said the experience has been good for the boys.

"Most of our kids have taken from people. They've never given back," she observed.

"When they come here (to the food pantry), it's a new experience and it gives them that good feeling."

Bowen noted that some of the boys have accepted Christ as a direct result of the food pantry.

"This ministry helps our kids as much as it is helping the church," Bowen said.

Adkins and O'Neil feel blessed to be a part of the ministry "We don't know where the ministry is going, but we're open to where God leads us," Adkins said.

"As our shirts say, we are 'God's willing vessels.'"

O'Neil agreed. "For God to allow me to work in this ministry is a tremendous blessing."

While they may never know how many lives were touched spiritually by the ministry, the leaders are confident that everyone who has come through the doors has heard the gospel through the spoken word or tracts.

"So many seeds have been sown," O'Neil noted. □



COUNSELORS from the Mountain View Development Center assist in loading food boxes at the God's Willing Vessels Food Pantry of Swannsylvania Baptist Church, Dandridge. Boys from the facility, along with their counselors, assist at the food pantry each month.

Join Other Baptists and Pastor Roy Myers!

Canadian Rockies Tour Offers 'Cool' Vacation

14 Days - Depart June 21, 2009 - from \$999*

Join other Baptists on the first day of summer, visiting both the United States and Canadian Rocky Mountains. Start in Sioux Falls, SD for a scenic three-day drive to Calgary, Alberta. In route, on your comfortable motor coach, visit Fargo and Bismarck, ND; then north to Saskatchewan to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. Canadian highlights include Calgary; Lake Louise; Banff National Park; ride a SnoCoach over the Columbia Ice Fields; visit Canmore, Alberta; Waterton Lakes National Park; Kananaskis Country; Helena and Billings MT; Custer's battlefield at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorial; legendary Badlands National Park; and more! Includes 13 nights hotels, baggage handling, and lots of motor coach sightseeing. *Per person, double occupancy plus \$149 tax, service, gov't fees. Add \$700 airfare from Chattanooga or Nashville, TN; Knoxville, KY; or Huntsville, AL. Add \$800 airfare from Memphis, TN. This will be Pastor Myers' fifth trip as a Baptist Chaplain on a YMT Vacation. Currently he is interim pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Columbus, Mississippi.

For brochure, information, and letter from Rev. Myers call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations

1-800-736-7300

Providing Affordable Vacations Since 1967!

PACK OUT YOUR CHURCH!



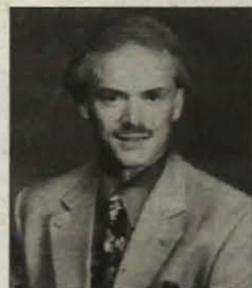
www.chalkartist.com

Stunning Chalk Artistry ... Visual Bible Teaching ... Inspirational Music

Randy Davis and "Drawing Closer Ministries." For six services our people were carried into the depths of solid, sound, and inspiring Bible teaching. It was as if Paul himself were sitting down and opening up the Scriptures unto our people. The content, presentation, and illustrations of Scripture came alive before our eyes and hearing. Then, you add to this, Randy's amazing gift of skillfully illustrating the message through his chalk presentations ... It is all so worshipful, thrilling and encouraging.

After the meeting, people came up to me and personally thanked me for having someone so unique. On another note, you will not find a more cooperative person to work with and when it comes to finances one who completely trusts the Lord and does not parade his needs before the congregation.

We are a church that averages a little over 500 in Sunday School, but regardless of the size of the church, Randy and his teaching will be very much at home and will lead your people to the place of understanding God's Holy Word. He presents the clearest plan of salvation you would ever want your people to hear. I know our people drew closer and so will yours — **Jerry Massey, retired Pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris, Tennessee.**



Free info packet available. Contact ...

DRAWING CLOSER MINISTRIES

1935 Greenwood Drive

Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Phone ... (641) 680-2997

E-mail ... chalkart@netins.net

It is my special privilege to recommend to you and your church family the ministry of

- REVIVALS
- EVANGELISM
- SUNDAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL EVENTS

Family's Thanksgiving tradition becomes family business

By Drew Nichter
Western Recorder (Kentucky)

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Like most Americans, the Stotz family will sit down to a Thanksgiving meal in a couple of weeks. And everyone at the table knows to save some room for a little fun between the turkey and pumpkin pie.

For the 31st straight year, the Stotzes will grab pen and paper to play The Thanksgiving Game. This year, however, other families around the country will be joining them.

Patriarch Louie Stotz is celebrating the national release of The Thanksgiving Game, a board game without the board" he invented in 1977 while waiting for family members to arrive for dinner at his Lexington home.

Stotz and son-in-law Tim Lester formed The Thanksgiving Game, Inc. in late 2006 and

began working on a prototype. The game works like this: Each player writes on a card those things for which he or she is thankful. Players then guess who wrote down what. Points are awarded for each correct guess.

"It's always the highlight of the Thanksgiving gathering," Lester said.

Today, the game is available nationwide at Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores and at select Kroger stores in Kentucky, central Tennessee, southern Indiana and southern Illinois.

The game is available on the Web at Amazon.com and through STL Distribution, which also distributes the game to several Christian retailers.

Included in the game — which sells for \$19.99 — is a set of entry cards to write down what each player is thankful for, guessing sheets and guessing sheet covers — all to get fami-

lies "ThanksGiving, Thanks-Sharing, and ThanksGuessing."

Lester said The Thanksgiving Game has received rave reviews. That is part of the reason Cracker Barrel officials agreed to sell it, he added.

"They played the game at their department meeting and they enjoyed it so much that ... it's in all the stores nationwide," he noted.

According to a written history of the game, bad weather played a part in the game's creation. Stotz's wife's parents were late arriving for Thanksgiving dinner and "I could sense the restlessness," said the longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

The family was "hungry and ready to eat — but you just don't start Thanksgiving until your mother-in-law arrives," he said. "So I passed out small pieces of paper and pencils and declared, 'We're going to play a game.'"

"That was the beginning of The Thanksgiving Game."

Fifteen years later, Stotz and his family set out to produce the game for distribution. Several variations were developed, but the project never got off the ground.

In 2006, Lester, a member of Versailles Baptist Church where his wife, Maria, serves as music minister, encouraged his father-in-law to give the idea one more

shot. Stotz agreed and hired Lester as director of marketing.

The project got off to a disappointing start when a Wisconsin company failed to deliver on its promise to develop the game, Stotz recalled. "Miraculously, Tim found a new company in Chicago, and through much prayer, hard work, and God's help, put the necessary pieces together to manufacture the game," Stotz said.



After months of work on the game's design, artwork, copyrights, and patents, the first several models of The Thanksgiving Game were delivered. Stotz and Lester have been on the road ever since promoting their product.

Stotz said he is "completely convinced that this is not our game, but God's." Confirmation of that came during a mission trip last spring, he recalled.

Agreeing to travel to Texas with a college missions team from Calvary Baptist, Stotz instead found his mind focused on all of the work he needed to do for his new business venture. The team was serving at Mission Arlington, a large ministry center in the heart of Arlington, Texas, that Stotz had visited before.

During orientation, a ministry worker told the story of how God had provided extra turkeys to feed 17,000 people at

Thanksgiving dinner. Stotz said he then realized why he was there.

He met with Mission Arlington founder Tillie Burgin the next day and told her God wanted him to donate a portion of The Thanksgiving Game proceeds to the ministry.

Stotz has since returned to Arlington, making the company's first donation to the ministry.

Lester pointed out that the purpose of The Thanksgiving Game is not to make money, but to bring families together.

"Most families, I don't care how normal — whatever a normal family is — you have some times where you may only see those folks once or twice a year," he explained. "But to really get into learning things about their lives, ... this provides a format to do that in a fun way that may not happen if you didn't play this game," Lester added.

And the Stotz family has realized the game's many blessings over the last 30 years. Stotz said his wife, Jo-Ellen, has saved every card that has ever been written on.

"We laugh and cry and remember how God has blessed us through the years," Stotz noted.

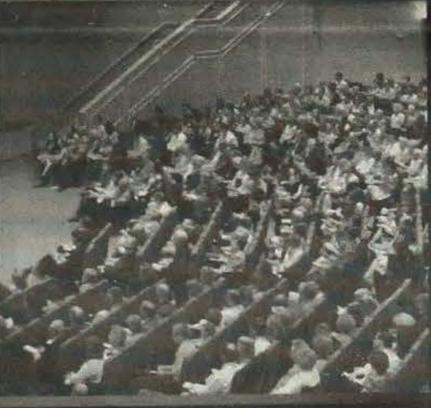
He hopes other families can experience the same blessings in the coming years.

"All of these games, once used, will add up to over 5 million expressions of gratitude to God and others," he said. "That's a lot of thanksgiving." □



MID-SOUTH MEN'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

...teaching every man with all wisdom so that we may present every man complete in Christ" Colossians 1:28



February 27 - 28, 2009

Faith Baptist Church ■ Bartlett, TN



Bobby Welch Junior Hill Brett Pitman Michael Combs



Online Registration Is Now Available At:
www.myfaithbaptist.org

Registration Information FEBRUARY 27-28 BARTLETT, TN
The conference cost is \$30 per person. This fee includes the conference and lunch. Special conference rates are available at area hotels. The deadline for conference registration is February 18, 2009.
Please register _____ persons at \$30 per person. (Please attach a list of the names of men who will be attending.)
Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____ for the non-refundable registration fees. (Make checks payable to Faith Baptist Church.)
Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____
Please mail registration form to: Faith Baptist Church, 3755 N. Germantown Rd., Bartlett, TN 38133

2007 GOLDEN OFFERING FOR TENNESSEE MISSIONS

TENNESSEE

My Mission Field

Thank you, Tennessee Baptists, for giving a record \$1,730,525 to the 2007 Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions as of August 31, 2008.

Union gives back to Jackson as part of 'Campus and Community' day

By Tim Ellsworth
Union University news office

JACKSON — Jasmine Pearman's voice rang out across the room.

"O-62."

"B-2."

"G-59."

The Union sophomore called out the letters and the numbers, and the residents of the Mission Convalescent Home placed the chips on their bingo cards. Interspersed with the home's residents were members of the Union University group Mosaic, which offers a community for minority students and those from different cultures and backgrounds.

They talked and laughed with those living at the home, and gave out candy to the bingo winners.

"We've been cleaning wheelchairs, windows, doors and things like that," said Union senior and Mosaic president Matthew Marshall. "And also just playing games with them and hanging out with the people."

The Mosaic group was just one of 60 such teams that fanned out over the Jackson community on Nov. 5 for the sixth annual "Campus and Community: A Day of Remembrance and Service." More than 800 students, faculty and staff participated.

Campus and Community day is an opportunity for Union to show its appreciation to the community for its assistance after tornadoes hit the campus Nov. 10, 2002, and Feb. 5, 2008.

Following the storms the Jackson community stepped in and brought food and supplies to the campus, while local residents gave of their time and talents.

Union cancels most classes on this day each year to allow the university community to participate in projects at such places as local schools, nursing homes, and social organizations.

"It's a way to be able to get out and give back in a way that God wants us to," said Emily Davis, a junior from Hendersonville, where she is a member at First Baptist Church.

"We don't always have the opportunity when we're busy with classes and other things. I think it's a good way to serve our community and say thanks for all the help that they've done."

Davis and her team spent the day at Tigrett Middle School in Jackson, painting the front doors and the school's sign.

Janice Epperson, the principal at Tigrett Middle School, said the work of the Union students was helpful not only for the physical appearance of the school, but also for the impact it has on the middle school students. The school has a Beta

Club that stresses community service, and Epperson said the Union volunteers gave the club members an example to follow.

"No matter how old you are or what level of education you have, you can still give back to the community," she said.

In downtown Jackson, more than 30 Union students spent the day working on a building that will be used as a day shelter for the homeless, as well as the offices of Area Relief Ministries. They painted, scraped and cleaned the building that had fallen into serious disrepair.

"The community gave back to us so much after Feb. 5, and I've heard the tornadoes before that," said Katrina Parker, a senior from Nolensville.

"So this is just an opportunity to come out to the community and do what they did for us, and serve them with no expectation of getting anything back. I think the Lord calls us to serve in many ways, and this is an opportunity to do that."

The day began with a 30-minute chapel service, in which Union President David S. Dockery reminded the students of what God had done for the university over the years — most significantly on the night of Feb. 5 and the days following.

"We remember not only the event, but we remember God's providential care," Dockery said. "We remember God's strength to us, His grace, His mercy, His amazing provision in allowing us to be here today, recognizing all that has taken place to bring about rebuilding and recovery and restoration on this campus."

Dockery said the annual event was established six years ago so that the university could tell those who were not at Union when the tornadoes hit what God had done.

"Today we gather together to remind one another of God's goodness in days gone by," he said. "He has indeed brought renewal out of rubble across this campus." □



UNION UNIVERSITY student Kimberly Bentley serves lunch at the RIFA Soup Kitchen as part of Wednesday's Campus and Community day. — Photo by Morris Abernathy

Soulforce targets Union University campus

Union University news office

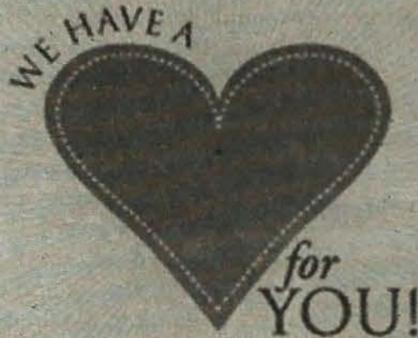
JACKSON — Some Union University administrators will be delayed from attending this year's Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting because of an uninvited visit to the campus by Soulforce, a gay and lesbian activist group, Nov. 10-11.

Soulforce has visited Union in the past to protest the university's policies regarding sexuality. The group's annual Equality Ride schedules protest stops at several Christian colleges with similar policies.

"While we will seek to be kind and courte-

ous in every way, it would be irresponsible of us to offer any public forum on such serious issues to a group of individuals that we do not know and who do not know us," Union President David S. Dockery said. "We must recognize that this group has not been invited to Union and has no investment in or accountability to our academic community or campus life."

"We do not intend to present Soulforce with the legitimacy of any kind of official forum and will limit their presence to a portion of the campus away from residential life and the academic buildings," he continued. □



Tennessee Baptists meeting needs and sharing Christ's love in our cities, towns and neighborhoods.

Saturday, February 14, 2009

We Have a Heart for You is a community service day promoted by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Churches, associations, families, small groups, and missions organizations are encouraged to meet physical needs and to share Christ with the lost in their community through simultaneous ministry evangelism projects on February 14, 2009 or anytime in February.

For more information or to get more ideas go to www.heartforyou.org.

Looking Up MINISTRIES

"Jackie Kay ... An Evangelist With A Pastor's Heart"

"Our people were blessed, uplifted, and encouraged in our wonderful "One Day Revival" with Jackie Kay. He has been with us three times and has always left our church stronger." Mickey Dalrymple, Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus, MS, (3), July 2008. Note ... Mickey is the President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention this year.

"Jackie is a man of humility, conviction, and integrity as well as being a great expositor of the Word. The altar was full as God did a work in many people's lives. The spirit of revival touched our church."

Ron Horton, New Prospect Baptist Church, Haleyville, AL, July 2008

"We had a glorious meeting with Jackie Kay. We had a packed house in every service and I was overjoyed by the response of our people. Jackie's warm style of preaching and his infectious joy deeply moved our people. This was my third time to have Jackie in revival and I will have him back"

Bob Brown, First Baptist Church, Dandridge, TN (3), September 2008

"The Lord used Jackie Kay like a fresh breath of wind. He ministered to our people from a pastor's heart. He fed our people as he handled the Word faithfully and fruitfully. Our church is stronger because of the Lord's hand on Jackie Kay."

Alan Stewart, Rechoboth Baptist Church, Soddy Daisy, TN (2), October 2008

"The spirit of revival is still going strong after the meeting with Jackie concluded. God uses Bro. Jackie to stir revival fires wherever he goes."

Tony Wilson, Pine Eden Baptist Church, Crossville, TN, (2), October 2008



"Jackie" Kay

Proclaiming "Good News" In ...

- Reaching the Lost
- Reconciling Broken Relationships
- Renewing Vision for Leadership
- Restoring Families
- Reviving the Church

Call (901) 873-1986
www.jackiekay.org
jkay1986@aol.com

Excellent Dates Available For 2009

book review

Key Christian duties

By Ray Newcomb

Focal Passage: Romans 13:1-14

We are subject to the government (vv. 1-7). Paul changes from our responsibility to present our bodies to God to being subject to human government. The Jewish Christian needs this instruction because they were reacting against the authority of the Roman government. They didn't think it was right for a Gentile government to rule over a Jewish people. Their resentment was seditious — proud of their independence — defiled the authorities — and questioned the payment of taxes.

Paul tells them, "Let every person be subject to the higher powers." The higher powers here are the powers of civil government. "Be subject" is a military term indicating soldiers who are under orders of their leaders. Citizens are under the authority of their government.

Paul lists about the citizen and human government: (1) God has all power and authority over all other powers and authorities. "There is no power but of God" (v. 1); (2) All powers and authority of human government are ordained of God (v. 1). Human government has its origin in God; (3) To resist the authority is to resist that which God instituted (v. 21). In the conflict between the law of man and law of God "we must obey God rather than man;" (4) They that resist the authority will receive to themselves damnation. You break the law and you have to

pay the price; (5) Rules of law are not a terror to good works, but to the evil workers (v. 3). Obey the law and you have nothing to fear; (6) Rulers are ministers of God for your good (v. 4). The rulers are God's servants to execute the affairs of civil government; (7) The citizen is to obey the law of the land to be a good conscientious citizen (v. 5); (8) The citizen is to pay taxes, tribute, honor, and respect where it is due (vv. 6-7).

We are to fill society with the law of love (vv. 8-14). The Lord's commandments are to be kept by Christians not because they are law, but because they are commanded of the Lord. Our love for the Lord should cause us to have a greater respect for the law.

The Christian has a love obligation to "owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law" (v. 8). We are to pay our debts and especially the debt of love.

The Christian's objective is fulfilled in the law. This part of the Ten Commandments teaches us our relationship with others. The moral code built into the law is the highest standard of conduct ever given to mankind (v. 9).

The Christian's outcome is to live each day in the light of Jesus' coming again. The anticipation of Christ's return should cause one to be moved to action.

Three words of action are "watch," "was," and "walk." The New Testament repeatedly tells us to watch for the Lord's coming. Our

When tangled in sin

By Brad Shockley

Focal Passage: II Samuel 12:1-7a, 9-14

Everyone has heard of the Titanic's tragic sinking in open water in 1912. But few know the story of an excursion ship called the Eastland that sank just three years later. She was docked on the river in downtown Chicago when the unthinkable happened. Thousands watched in horror as the huge ship capsized and plunged to the depths; 812 of the 2,500 aboard died. All probably thought they were safe, being tied to the pier (Virgil Hurley, *Speaker's Sourcebook of New Illustrations*, electronic ed., Dallas: Word Publishers, 2000, c1995, 47). There is a great danger in our spiritual lives of getting so comfortable, feeling so safe that we neglect to watch out for the schemes of the devil. That's when temptation strikes us unawares.

You know the story. It was the spring of the year — the time for battle. But instead of donning armor, David slipped on a leisure suit and sat on the couch. Late one afternoon, he decided to take a stroll on the palace roof. As he looked down on the house of Uriah, a bathing beauty caught his eye.

I can't help but wonder if it was normal for a gal to bathe out in the open like that. Some think it wasn't and hold Bathsheba partly responsible for the adulterous affair that followed. Others think it was and say the king forced his will on an innocent woman. Regardless, Satan took

advantage of the indiscretion and nearly destroyed a man known as the apple of God's eye (Psalm 17:8).

C.H. Spurgeon, that great preacher of another era, made an interesting observation: "Is it possible that the king had mounted his housetop for retirement and devotion? If so, what a caution is given us to count no place, however secret, a sanctuary from sin ... Satan can climb housetops, and enter closets, and even if we could shut out that foul fiend, our own corruptions are enough to work our ruin unless grace prevent" (Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*, Complete and unabridged; New modern edition, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006, January 17 p.m.).

In a way, David's mournful dirge lamenting the loss of Saul and Jonathan was prophetic, "How the mighty have fallen!" (II Samuel 1:19b). The mighty warrior-king fell morally, killing his witness and bringing shame on the nation of Israel (James 1:15). But when confronted with his sin, David repented and confessed (read his song of contrition in Psalm 51).

I am so glad that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9) and that "... where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20). David experienced God's infinite love and mercy, which equals infinite grace: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will

Sunday School Lesson
Bible Studies for Life
Nov. 16

salvation is nearer than when we believed (v. 11). It is time for us to be awake and watching for Jesus.

We are instructed that we are to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light (v. 12). This tells us we are in a war.

We are to walk in the right way; walk honestly in the day (v. 13a). The wrong way of walking is listed in verse 13b: Rioting — this is revelry and wild parties; Drunkenness — drinking parties were common in Paul's day as well as ours; Wantonness — excess and uncontrolled lust; Strife — godless efforts to get first place; Envy — jealous rivalries; Lust — uncontrolled desire.

Paul gives us the way to victory with what is provided for us and what is prohibited to us. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make Him a part of your daily life. We are not to make provision for the flesh because it fulfills the lust (v. 14).

Since the Christian is saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Christ, "putting on Christ" does not refer to salvation. It is an outward display of an inward reality.

Good citizens will live to be faithful to the Lord and fulfill the law of love in this life. They also will live in the exhortation of verses 11-14 of expecting Jesus to come. □ — Newcomb is pastor of First Baptist Church, Millington.

Sunday School Lesson
Explore the Bible
Nov. 16

not despise" (Psalm 51:17). Many times, though, the consequences of our indiscretions linger on.

David Jeremiah noted three painful results of David's fall: "In the closing days of his reign, when he should have been enjoying the fruits of prosperity and God's blessing, he was in the midst of a domestic battle in his own house, the result of his relationship with Bathsheba. His own son, Solomon, who succeeded him on the throne, also yielded to the temptation to immorality which weakened his own rule. Solomon's many concubines and wives turned his heart away from the Lord and to the worship of other gods (I Kings 11:1, 3-4)" (David Jeremiah, *Powerful Principles from Proverbs: Study Guide*, Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2002, 21).

However, even after an adulterous affair, the cold blooded murder of an innocent man, and the death of a newborn baby, God worked it all together for good (Romans 8:28): "Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him ..." (II Samuel 12:24-25). That's my heavenly Father! □ — Shockley recently resigned as pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, to accept the pastorate of Lancaster (Ky.) Baptist Church.

The God Conversation

by J. P. Moreland & Tim Muehlhoff
IVP Books, 2007

Research shows that people immediately forget about half of what was said after a conversation. In fact, eight hours after a conversation only about 20 percent of what was discussed is remembered.

What enables people to remember? Good stories and good illustrations.

That's what *The God Conversation* is all about — how to respond to questions about faith in tangible, memorable ways. How to tell stories or give good examples that illustrate the intangible in order to make doubters think and remember. That's how Jesus spread the gospel — through parables about every day life and people.

The authors center the book around five of the most common issues believers are asked to address in today's world:

- In a world filled with suffering, why doesn't God do more?
- Christianity can't be the only way to God.
- The accounts of Jesus rising from the dead can't be true.
- You can't judge another person, because there's no ultimate sense of right and wrong.
- Arguing that God made each of us in His image can't be true because of the fact of evolution.

The examples and illustrations come to life in this book as you read of ways to gently and logically help non-believers see another point of view. For example, using the example of the Mr. Wonderful doll — a doll that is marketed as the perfect man, one who is handsome, sensitive, and always says the right thing — the authors work to explain why there's so much suffering in our world.

Using the illustration of the doll — which is programmed to say things women want to hear men say to them, they suggest you then ask your friend what would be the drawbacks of this kind of "love." Would this be a satisfying relationship?

They explain that God did not "program" us to be robots, but, instead, we have free will.

After presenting the Mr. Wonderful doll and telling your friend that God could have programmed us just like this, but didn't, you can explain how we've created our own world of pain and evil through the choices we've made.

There are many memorable illustrations in the book. In fact, this is a book worthy of picking up at least once a year and re-reading to make sure you're ready to explain the reason for the hope that is in you.

Being able to explain our hope shouldn't be a big deal. But so many of us are reluctant to pursue these types of conversations for fear of not knowing enough about the Bible or science or history or whatever other excuse we conveniently use. Taking the time and making the effort to understand what we believe and why we believe it should be one of our chief pursuits since this enables us to be called friends of God. This book is a good, easy to read and understand resource for being able to have God conversations.

Both authors have their doctorates and teach in universities. Moreland also serves as director of Eidos Christian Center and Muehlhoff has served on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ since 1986. □ — Ferguson, of Goodlettsville, is a correspondent for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Successful adult ministries will require churches to change

By Polly House
LifeWay news office

NASHVILLE — Ministry to boomers and young adults must change if these generational groups are going to be reached for Christ, according to information learned from studies conducted by LifeWay Research and shared at the Oct. 20-22 Adult Ministry Institute.

Attendees of the conference — ministers and young adult leaders from across the country — gathered at the home office of LifeWay Christian Resources here to find out ways their churches can address the impending crisis.

Boomers

Bill Craig, director of LifeWay's business and ministry development area said that boomers — the generation of Americans born between 1946 and 1964 which make up about 26 percent of the U.S. population — want their lives to matter and want to make networks and connections that will meet their needs. Churches can't just offer a bus trip to this group and expect them to come.

Churches will have to help boomers find meaning in their relationships to the church and to each other if they want the boomers to become and stay engaged. In addition, churches

must find ways to help this generation invest their lives in significant ministries.

Emerging seniors

Dan Allen, minister to Legacy Adults 55-plus at McGregor Baptist Church, Fort Myers, Fla., said that when he went on staff at the church, he discovered how complex the transition from median adult to older adults was for his people.

"At McGregor, it was so that at 55, I was suddenly in the same group as my 78-year-old mother-in-law," he said. "Now, I love my mother-in-law and we have a great relationship, but we don't share the same interests or want to do the same things."

In ministering to this group of emerging seniors, he said there are a few things to note. They are not ready to be called "senior" adults, thinking about retirement or ready to move into 55-plus communities. They are willing to commit to short-term projects, want to be involved in significant ministry and engage in celebrative worship.

Many adults in this age groups are the "sandwich generation," dealing with children still at home and aged parents who also need their care.

Young adults

Jason Hayes, LifeWay's young adult ministry specialist, said ministry solutions to reach

young adults need to be found sooner than later.

"You think about the impact [young adults] are making in our world in every realm and it is increasingly great," he said. "But it isn't so much happening in the church. The number of baptized younger adults in the Southern Baptist Convention is down from about 100,000 to 35,000 in a decade. The trend holds true in other denominations as well."

Hayes said there are four key distinctions that are core issues to younger adults: community, depth, responsibility, and connection.

Belief that church is nonessential

LifeWay President and CEO Thom S. Rainer followed Hayes' presentation by explaining research that shows most young adult church dropouts simply do not believe the church holds an essential place in their lives. Rainer revealed the top 10 reasons young adults drop out.

"These [reasons] are not surprising by any stretch but they do show overarching theme," he said. "The theme is that young adults are saying 'church is not essential to my life.' The local church is more important than any other institution, yet we've communicated over the last several years that church is a choice and they are choosing to

drop out of church."

Rainer said it is important for churches to simplify the discipleship process by simplifying what they do, deepening the Bible study experience, raising expectations of church involvement and focusing outward through service and evangelism.

"I am pessimistic about the current state of the local church but optimistic about the future state," Rainer said. "God is waiting on us to raise the bar. As we do we will keep this younger generation instead of losing it."

Unchurched young adults

According to Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research and author of the soon-to-be-released *Lost and Found: The Younger Unchurched and the Churches that Reach Them* (coauthored with Hayes and Rick Stanley), the challenge for churches is not to change what they believe in order to make Christianity more palatable to those with pluralistic viewpoints, but to more effectively communicate those beliefs with this generation of unchurched young adults.

"Too many churches choose their traditions over their children and grandchildren," he said. "I just don't believe that the standard pick-up evangelism lines we've used for all these years will work with this gener-

ation. I think it's going to require long-term conversations and relationships."

Stetzer added that the young unchurched have no problem believing that Christ arose. But they also believe that Buddha walked on water and Mohammed healed people. They believe almost anything, but it doesn't lead to salvation through Christ.

"Don't leave this conference thinking if you make your church and yourself cool, you'll attract young adults," Stetzer said. "The answer is to make your church more godly and true to the Word of God. That is what will draw young adults."

Plan of action

Alan Raughton, LifeWay's lead adult ministry specialist and coordinator of the AMI conference, said the event was developed by applying to the church information learned from LifeWay Research. By the end of the conference, participants were able to develop a plan to take back to their churches and use to improve their adult ministries.

"If they didn't get to do those practical steps here, when they got home the tyranny of the urgent would take over and they might not get to plan," Raughton said. "We want them to have a plan for reaching these adults."

Take my life and let it be...

Consecrated,
Lord, to Thee;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise;
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

2 a: to make or declare sacred, especially: to devote irrevocably to the worship of God by a solemn ceremony

For twenty years now, Beeson Divinity School has been in the business of shaping the ministry of consecrated men and women for the glory of God and the good of people.

BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
800-888-8266 + BeesonDivinity.com

Record amount given to '08 Father's Day Offering

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — The 2008 Father's Day Offering for Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes reached two milestones this year.

The Father's Day Offering, which provides resources for residential care for developmentally disabled adults and senior adults throughout Tennessee, surpassed its 2008 goal of \$250,000 with receipts of \$250,233.81, according to Kenny Cooper, president of TBAH.

The amount is 18 percent above last year's record offering.

Also, Cooper noted, this year's offering brings the eight-year total to \$1,220,440.66, surpassing the one million dollar mark.

"This offering has been a major source of support for the ministry of developmentally disabled adults," Cooper said.

He observed that the policy of TBAH has always been to welcome residents to the six group homes regardless of their ability to pay.

There are 55 residents in the six group homes with the average annual cost for each resident's care estimated at \$19,500, he noted.

"The resident's income and family donations averages \$9,500 and the remainder of the approximately \$10,000 per resident is raised from individuals and churches," Cooper shared.

"The Father's Day Offering has for the past eight years been a major source of those needed funds," Cooper said.

In making the announcement of the record offering, Cooper said that "reaching the challenging goal of \$250,000 is an indication of the faith Tennessee Baptists have in this ministry.

"The residents, more than 350 very special persons, their families, and staff offer our collective gratitude for the generous gifts of Tennessee Baptists through the Father's Day Offering," Cooper said. □



COOPER



Polish Baptist leader presents gift to Tennessee Baptists

Gustaw Cieslar, second from right, president of the Polish Baptist Union, visited the Tennessee Baptist Convention Baptist Center last week to make a special presentation to TBC Executive Director James Porch, right, in front of the flag of Poland which is displayed in the Baptist Center, along with flags from each TBC partnership. The gift recognizes 150 years of Baptist work in Poland. Tennessee Baptists have played a role in that history in part to a partnership with the Polish Baptist Union from 1995-97. Porch thanked Cieslar for the gift, noting "it is extremely precious to us. To be involved with Baptists in Poland is a big chapter in the life of Tennessee Baptist missions." Hosting Cieslar during his trip to Tennessee were Pete Deere, left, and Albert Wardin, second from left, both members of First Baptist Church, Nashville, who both have been involved in the Baptist work in Poland. One of Wardin's ancestors helped begin the Baptist work in Poland 150 years ago. Wardin recently traveled to Poland to participate in the anniversary celebration. — Photo by Lonnie Wilkey

fourteen 40

Authentic Worship

Relevant Training

Honest Conversation

Personal Encouragement

Every minute counts.

CONCLAVE 2009

Date: January 29-31, 2009

Location: Gwinnett Center, Atlanta, GA

Special breakout conferences for youth ministers, adult youth leaders, spouses of youth ministers, and core student leaders (grades 9-12). Visit with 100 plus exhibitors equipped with the latest in cutting-edge youth resources. Over 60 hours of quality training from some of the best youth ministry leaders around.

New for 2009

New location: Gwinnett Center, Atlanta GA

New earlybird session: Offered on Wednesday January 28th from 10:00am- 3:00pm, featuring Gabe Lyons.

Visit www.southeastconclave.org to register and to get more information about Conclave 2009 or contact Bruce Edwards or Kent Shingleton at 800.558.2090, ext. 7906

CONCLAVE

A WORSHIP AND TRAINING EVENT FOR YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM



Leaders

◆ Malesus Baptist Church, Jackson, has called **Mark Cagle** of Mississippi as pastor effective Nov. 16. He previously served as pastor of the Oak Hill Baptist Church, Booneville, Miss.

◆ Nolachucky Baptist Association, Morristown, recently recognized **Bill Sartain**, a member of Omega Baptist Church, White Pine, as 2008 Disaster Relief/Baptist Builders volunteer of the year.

◆ **James Smith**, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Waynesboro, recently resigned.

◆ Boanerges Baptist Church, Cleveland, recently ordained **Steve Ross** to the ministry. He is the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Delano.

◆ East Rogersville Baptist Church, Rogersville, recently licensed **Doug Seymore** to the ministry. He serves as the pastor's assistant and music director for the church.

◆ **Cindy Odom-Higgins** has recently resigned as minister of music at Shallow Ford Baptist Church, Erin.

◆ **First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg**, recently called **Mike Dawson** as transitional pastor. He is pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Columbia. In addition, the church's music ministry and adult choir will present "One Quiet Night," a musical/drama, Dec. 13-14. For information, call the



THIS TEAM FROM MOUNT OLIVE Baptist Church, Knoxville, pauses during their work to help victims of Hurricane Katrina the end of September through the Gulf Coast Rebuild Project of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The team stands at Robinson church at (931) 762-9296.

Road Baptist Church, Gulfport, Miss., where they stayed. They also worked out of the church's disaster relief trailer. The team members helped homeowners. The church has sent 14 teams to do this ministry over a three-year period.

Churches

◆ **Brush Creek Baptist Church, Brush Creek**, will present Dec. 6-7 the "Life of Christ," a Christmas drive-thru with 14 scenes including live animals and people. For information, call (615) 683-6311 or (615) 444-7972.

◆ **New Harmony Baptist Church, Paris**, will present its 11th annual Live Nativity with eight drive-thru scenes Dec. 5-7. It is free to the public. For information, call the church at (731) 593-5276.

◆ **Apison Baptist Church, Apison**, was recently recognized among 135 Tennessee Baptist churches which met the "Tengchow Challenge" of the 2007 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International

Missions of the International Mission Board. The award recognized churches who gave \$50-74.99 per capita to the offering based on their average Sunday morning worship attendance. Apison Church gave \$10,625 to the offering and had an average worship attendance of 120 people, reported IMB staff.

◆ **Shiloh Baptist Church, Ocoee**, will prepare and deliver Thanksgiving dinners to the community. Volunteers available to help Nov. 26-27 are asked to call the church at (423) 338-4292.

◆ **Liberty Baptist Church, Bristol**, recently celebrated 20 years of service.

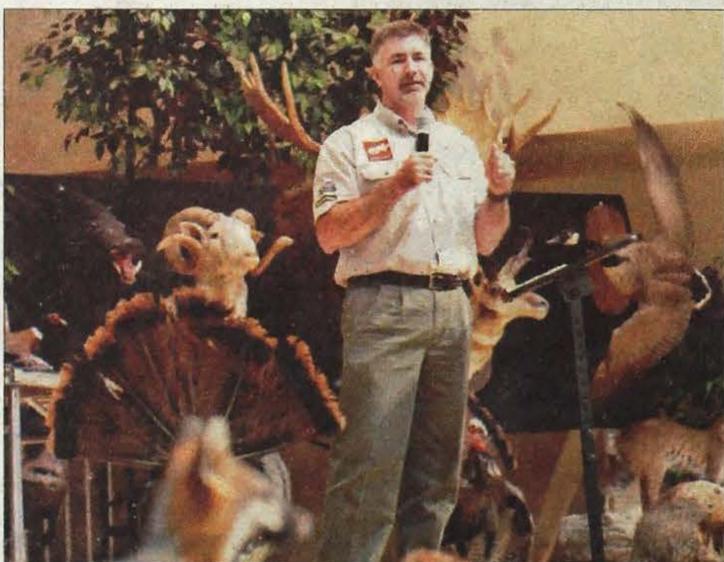
◆ **Riverside Baptist Church, Harrogate**, celebrated 100 years of service recently. The Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, presented the church a plaque, which was accepted by deacon Virgil Langworth.

◆ **Oak Street Baptist Church, Elizabethton**, recently celebrated its 70th anniversary as a church.

◆ **Dotsonville Baptist Church, Woodlawn**, recently celebrated its 104th anniversary with a homecoming.



ANNA BELL HOUSER, center, pauses on her 100th birthday celebration held Oct. 26 at Valley Grove Baptist Church, South Knoxville. She is pictured with her daughter and son-in-law, Joel and Bill Karnes, and William Sims III, pastor. Houser has been member of the church for 84 years and is the oldest member of the church.



ABOUT 300 MEN attended the recent Wild Game Dinner of Higher Ground Baptist Church, Kingsport. A meal of various game was served and door prizes were distributed. **IN PHOTO ABOVE, Gary Miller of Outdoor Truths speaks to the crowd.**



FRANCES SLOVER, clerk of Big Hatchie Baptist Association, Covington, for 22 continuous years, receives a plaque from Stan Smith, director of missions, on Oct. 28 during the association's annual meeting for her service. She is retiring from this role.



ELECTED AS OFFICERS OF Western District Baptist Association, Paris, during its recent annual meeting were Mike Burne, pastor, Temple Baptist Church, vice moderator; and Bobby Campbell, pastor, Central Point Baptist Church, moderator.



NEW OFFICERS OF Beech River Baptist Association, Lexington, pause during its annual held Oct. 20-21. They are, from left, first row Michael Crandall, pastor, Bear Creek Baptist Church, vice moderator; Frances Thrower, association ministry assistant, clerk; back row Greg Stanford, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, moderator; and Dr. Martin, First Baptist Church, Lexington, treasurer.