



The Connection

From the Office of Church Relations at Union University

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Special points of interest:

- Tennessee Baptist Convention Recap
- Union Constructs new Pharmacy Building
- Search for IMB President Underway
- Union's Spring Chapel Schedule

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135th Annual TN Baptist Convention

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention met at West Jackson Baptist Church November 10-11. Dr. Danny Siquefield, President of the TBC and Senior Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, TN, led the celebration of the past year's ministry successes throughout the state. At the end of the first day, 469 churches and 1,111 messengers had been registered.

A portion of the worship was led by the TN Baptist Men's Chorale. This group is comprised of Ministers of Music from across the state. Scott Andrews, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church Sevierville acts as President of the group.

A special presentation recognized Dr. James Porch who will soon retire as Executive Director/Treasurer of the TBC. During his years of service, he has played a vital role in organizations such as Disaster Relief. He was presented with a shadow box with the flags of thirteen countries he has partnered with surrounding the state of TN in the middle. Dr. Porch responded, "Thank you. To God be the glory. He knows the plan but it's not yet time for me to know. But I will minister somewhere."

Dr. Siquefield affirmed the meetings as a time "to come together to share the joy of Jesus Christ, not to fuss." A special

video highlighted the past sixty years of Linden Valley and Camp Carson. An update was given about GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) and a reminder was given to "Live with Urgency."

Seventeen TBC ministries were represented by those who had been impacted by them. New ministers were recognized and given the opportunity to introduce themselves.



Dr. Danny Siquefield, Senior Pastor Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, TN and 2009 President, TBC

The election of the TBC President for 2010 ran unopposed. Dr. Randy Davis, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Sevierville was elected.

Dr. Danny Siquefield concluded Tuesday's session with a message from Matthew 28:16-20 entitled "Understanding the Great Commission in our Generation." He shared that six million people reside in Tennessee; three thousand Baptist churches hold ser-

vices; and there are still three million people who do not know Jesus. In other words, every other person that we come in contact with is not saved. He asserted that "we cannot keep doing business like usual ... we need to mobilize." He would like to see one thousand new Southern Baptist churches started in TN over the next decade. He reprimanded "friendly fire" and encouraged partnership and leadership among local churches.

Numerous ministry organizations from the state as well as foreign missionaries gathered in the gym of West Jackson Baptist Church to represent their groups. Those in attendance were invited to talk with various seminaries, ministries, and undergrad institutions.

The Union University report was given by Dr. Dockery Wednesday afternoon. Along with giving an update on the progress of the school, he reaffirmed Union's loyalty to the TBC. Although Union is less financially dependent on the TBC than in years past, Dr. Dockery emphasized "a greater unity than ever before" between the two institutions. He also announced that one of the rooms in the new Bowld Student Commons Building will be named the "Tennessee Baptist Convention Room" in recognition of the appreciation Union University has for its connection to and support from the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Dr. Jerry N. Tidwell,
Senior Vice President
for Church Relations

Message from Dr. Tidwell

Greetings from Union University and the Office of Church Relations! I want to take a moment to say “thank you” for making our 2009 Tennessee Baptist Convention a wonderful success. I always enjoy seeing the convention come to Jackson. I was reminded often during the convention how blessed we are to have the kind of fellowship and cooperation we share among pastors and churches here in West Tennessee. It’s no surprise that pastors in other parts of the country are somewhat envious of what we enjoy.

I spoke recently to our ministry students here at Union and shared some rather discouraging statistics from Barna Re-

search and Focus on the Family regarding the challenges faced by pastors. They indicate that 1500 pastors leave the ministry each month due primarily to three things: moral failure, spiritual burnout, or contention in churches. Another survey shows that 40% of pastors admitted to having a serious conflict with a church member at least once a month. I have had more than my share of conflicts, but I’m not sure it’s possible to survive under the stress resulting from serious conflict with a church member every month!

If you or some other pastor you know is dealing with a constant stream of conflict, there is no doubt that this has its root in

spiritual warfare. Pastors should never be embarrassed to seek help and counsel from fellow pastors when dealing with church conflict. According to Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his brother; but woe to him that is alone when he falls, for he has not another to help him up.”

You may be the one in need of encouragement or the one God will use to pick your brother up. Either way, God has given us the gift of fellow pastors. Please take advantage of this wonderful blessing of laboring together for our Lord.

Pharmacy Building



Current Progress of
Pharmacy Building

The development of the School of Pharmacy is well under way at Union University and those involved continue to look ahead to a promising future.

The School of Pharmacy currently holds “candidate status” from the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education and anticipates full accreditation with the graduation of the first class of students in 2012.

This year’s class of 47 students is the second class in the four-year program of Pharmacy. Once accreditation is granted, it will apply the classes already in the process of completion and retroactively to those that have finished the program.



Artistic Rendering of
Pharmacy Building

One of the most significant advances in this process is the construction of the new building for the School of Pharmacy that will be completed Summer 2010. Located immediately west of Jennings Hall, the three-story, 54,000-square-foot facility will house the School of Pharmacy’s classrooms, labs, faculty offices and dean’s office.

Sheila Mitchell, dean of Union’s School of Pharmacy stated, “This is the culmination of so many plans and dreams. We are so excited to have a wonderful building to house the program that God is creating here. There are no words to talk about every detail and every step of the way where God has led us.”

In addition to the pharmacy program, the building will include additional space for healthcare simulation education.

Union University first began considering the possibility of launching a School of Pharmacy during the summer of 2006 in response to requests from the local Health Care community. This community included West Tennessee Healthcare, a generous donor to the school’s program.

Union’s President David S. Dockery stated, “The pharmacy program is one of the most exciting steps ever taken at Union University. The opportunities for service and providing care for growing needs in the Health Care community are significant.”

IMB Search for a new President

Article by: Rachel Ware

Jerry Rankin, current President of the International Mission Board, recently announced his plan to retire in July 2010, which will complete seventeen years of service with the Board. Rankin made public his retirement plan to the IMB Trustees at their meeting in Jacksonville, Florida this past September.

While encouraging them with the unique and powerful mission of the International Mission Board, he also addressed the specific calling that will be placed upon the new President. Rankin stated, "The next President must deal with economic realities that will not permit us to presume upon unlimited financial resources as we have in the past. Southern Baptists are at a point of crisis in deciding whether to continue a bureaucratic legacy, supporting a comprehensive

plethora of ministries and programs, or focus resources on fulfilling the Great Commission."

A fifteen-member search committee was appointed to find the replacement for Rankin, chaired by Jimmy Pritchard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Forney, Texas. Charles Fowler, Senior Vice President for University Relations at Union University, also serves on the committee. Fowler expressed the significance of this position and the weight of responsibility that has been given to him and the other members of the search committee. "I don't believe there's a more strategic position in Southern Baptist Life," Fowler stated. "We have drawn our identity and motivation for living out the Great Commission through responding to and sup-

porting the work of the International Mission Board. The next president will have a significant influence on shaping the Convention."

The IMB currently has a \$300 million plus budget and over 6,000 employees, so it has been noted that the next president must have both administrative and missions experience.

On a personal note, Dr. Fowler expressed his burden for the lost nature of the world and said that he prays that God will lead their committee to a person who is "captivated by a burden for the lost around the world and who will be a strategic thinker and gifted communicator to help position the resources and relationships of the IMB to impact the lost world for the glory of God."



Jerry Rankin, retiring President of the International Mission Board

"The next President will have a significant influence on shaping the Southern Baptist Convention."

Student Spotlight: Robyn Kyzar

Article by: Renae Matz

"His grace is sufficient. In my weakness, He is my strength. I don't have to be good at or know what I'm doing; I have to learn to give it to God because that's when His power is going to be most evident." Robyn Kyzar, Junior Nursing major, shares that 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 found new importance in her life this past semester. She was raised as a missionary's kid for seven years in Costa Rica and eight years in Russia.

But this past semester, since she was ahead in her classes, she embarked on her own foreign mission field and spent

January through June in Quito, Ecuador. The International Mission Board provided an opportunity for her to join a "Hands On" team. She mainly worked with a preschool for underprivileged kids and a children's hospital. Through this ministry, her team gained access to the parents and were presented with opportunities to share the Gospel.

She says that she has come to a new appreciation for short term mission teams. On arrival, one team told them that God had called their church to go to Quito five years ago but circum-

stances continually prevented them from coming. They faithfully prayed for the people of Quito during their period of waiting. It was rewarding for Robyn and her team to "see the passion for a place they had never been and a love for a people they had never met."

Robyn came to Union because she knew she wanted to do nursing. At Union, she is learning how to be a nurse and tend to patients' spiritual needs by first tending to their physical needs. After graduation, she plans to use nursing as an entry-way to the foreign mission field.



Robyn (Right) presents Rosa with a "mother of the year" award at the hospital

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The Connection



Committed to keeping pastors linked together in Christ, the Word, and Fellow Believers

Linking Pastors Together Toward Christ

Dennis Swanberg to Perform at Union University

Christian comedian Dennis Swanberg, known as "America's Minister of Encouragement," is scheduled to speak at Union University on February 9 at 6:30 pm.

Swanberg graduated from Baylor University in 1976 and received both a master's and doctorate degree from Southwestern

Baptist Theological Seminary. After serving as a Southern Baptist pastor for 21 years, he now hosts the nationally broadcast television shows, "The Dennis Swanberg Show" and "Swan's Place," and brings people to laughter at gatherings throughout the United States.

Swanberg will bring his special brand of Christian humor with a message at Union University's Grant Event Center. For more information contact the Office of Church Relations at 731-661-5160 or check out the website at <http://www.uu.edu/churchrelations/news/>.

UU Chapel Schedule



January

Mon, 18th: *Preview Day*; David Carothers, Asst. Dir. Of Student Mobilization

February

Fri, 5th: *Founders Day*; Carla Sanderson, Provost & Vice President for Academic Administration, Union University

Wed, 10th: Jerry N. Tidwell, Senior Vice President for Church Relations, Union University

Fri, 12th: K. Edward Copeland, Senior Pastor, New Zion Baptist Church—Rockford, IL

Mon, 15th: *Preview Day*; Richard Wells, Dean of the Chapel, Union University

Wed, 17th: Josh Moody, Senior Pastor, College Church—Wheaton, IL

Fri, 19th: Buddy Gray, Senior Pastor, Hunter Street Baptist Church—Hoover, AL

Wed, 24th: Richard Wells, Dean of the Chapel, Union University

Fri, 26th: Kelvin Moore, Professor of Christian Studies, Union University

March

Wed, 3rd: *The Crabtree Lectures*; Andrew Davis, Senior Pastor, FBC—Durham, NC

Thurs, 4th: 7:00 p.m. *The Crabtree Lectures* with Andrew Davis continued

Fri, 5th: *The Crabtree Lectures* with Andrew Davis continued

Wed, 10th: C. Ben Mitchell, Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy, Union University

Fri, 12th: *Preview day*; Mark Dever, Senior Pastor, Capitol Heights Baptist Church—Washington, D.C.

Wed, 17th: Wendell Lang, Senior Pastor, West Jackson Baptist Church—Jackson, TN

Fri, 19th: Eric Metaxas, Founder, Socrates in the City—New York, NY

Wed, 24th: James Romaine, Asst. Professor of Art, NY Center for Art & Media Studies—New York, NY

Fri, 26th: Paul Kim, Founding Pastor, Berkland Baptist Church—Cambridge, MS

April

Wed, 7th: David Naugle, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Dallas Baptist University—Dallas, TX

Thurs, 8th: *Prayer Seminar*; Don Whitney, Associate Professor of Biblical Spirituality, Senior Associate Dean of the School of Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—Louisville, KY

Fri, 9th: Don Whitney, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—Louisville, KY

Wed, 14th: GO Trip Report Chapel

Fri, 16th: GO Trip Report Chapel

Wed, 21st: James Huggins, Professor of Biology; Director, Center for Scientific Studies, Union University

Fri, 23rd: Paul N. Jackson, Professor of Christian Studies, Union University

Wed, 28th: Children's Theatre Chapel

Fri, 30th: Stephen Dervan, Associate Pastor of Students, Faith Baptist Church—Bartlett, TN

May

Wed, 5th: Ben Mandrell, Senior Pastor, Englewood Baptist Church—Jackson, TN

Fri, 7th: *Preview Day*; Awards Day and Who's Who Chapel