The Psalmist included words attributed to Moses in Psalm 90 where the patriarch said, “we spend our years as a tale that is told” (Psalm 90:9). How true that is with life. Even when those who live long and fruitful lives pass in death, it’s just a tale that is told of one who lived and is now gone. Soon, even the tale itself is no longer told (Ecc. 2:16) as the world marches on without us.

So what is most important? To live our lives building the Kingdom while we can, and to train future builders who will train future builders and so on. That’s what Tennessee Bible College is about. It is not about building some individual’s legacy, name, or a monument, it is about training men, women, and children to continue to build the kingdom of God giving praise to a wonderful Savior and King, Jesus Christ our Lord.

As the calendar goes the old year is passing, and a new one is just ahead. A time of reflection usually goes with this
time of year for most folks. Reflecting on the College, it would be considered another good year, but as the academic year goes, we’re just now halfway through. As of our last reporting, we have 99 students involved in programs of the College, 34 of those served from the Cookeville campus. We’re thankful for every one and are actively looking for more good students. With technology the opportunities seem endless to reach individual students around the world. We have more students now than ever before, but we see less of them. TBC has enjoyed great help from many.

Many have volunteered their time to help advance Christian education at TBC both on campus and off. I’m thankful for each individual and their labor of love.

What is the outlook for the year 2014-2015? It’s a good outlook with the need for further development both on-campus and on-line. There’s no shortage of work to be done, there’s plenty to do with limited time to get it all done. Courses continue to be developed especially for the online campus. A new on-campus schedule is continuing to develop with a new emphasis on night classes and special study programs both on-campus and off campus. It is an interesting and exciting time to be alive and working in Christian higher education.

Continued on p. 4
A tribute to one who has made a lot of things possible for Tennessee Bible College: Bessie Graham. When Bessie moved to Cookeville she was retired with tremendous talent and experience in bookkeeping. We needed a bookkeeper to help us at TBC, and I asked Bessie to consider helping us. To my pleasant surprise, she accepted and has been doing a great job for us ever since. She has assisted with her talent and has kept everything balanced and in order for years. I often say in jest, but really mean it too, her job is to keep an eye on me and she has and does! She can answer whether there is hope for me or not, but she’s trying to keep me straight.

Through Bessie’s help a lot of mission work has been made possible. She has allowed me to travel and do my work without a fear or worry whether things were being taken care of financially. She is giving her labor not to me, not to TBC, but to the Lord as she will quickly tell you. She does her work quietly (except when she catches me in a mistake or I mess up her good work!); she does it without fanfare. Bessie has contributed much to TBC. I have told her in recent years, I couldn’t have done it without her! I mean it. She has been a tremendous help and a wonderful blessing to TBC.

Bessie made our recent trip to Israel possible. This one was a personal trip, but one that was made worry free because of Bessie. Thank you to Bessie for all done to help advance the work of the Lord here in this place.

David Hill
One challenge that continues is the challenge of secularism, a love of the world and worldly things which is all about us. Sure secularism in the culture is a problem, but specifically, secularism that has made its way into the church is a long-term problem for Christian education. It brings an apathetic attitude of “I don’t know and I don’t care” in spiritual matters. When morality is discussed God’s word gets little attention. God can’t seem to get a word in edgewise these days. The discussion usually goes to “I”, “me”, and “my” for the standard. That’s nothing new, it was happening way back in the time of the judges (Judg. 21:25). How does this affect us? It affects the interest or lack of interest of potential students. It affects the willingness of one to commit to dedicated study of God’s word over two to four years. And, it affects the willingness of elders to commit to proper support for an institution like Tennessee Bible College. So, we confront the challenges on a daily basis (Phil. 4:13).

We need you! To pray for us, to help us in any way that you can, and to financially support and encourage the training of Gospel preachers, Bible teachers, and Christian workers. There is a need for Christian workers. More and more congregations are confronting the reality of the shortage of Gospel preachers. As it appears today that shortage is going to get worse before it gets better. Parents need to encourage their children to preach the gospel of Christ. Church leaders need to cultivate a culture of training and nurturing our young folks with an emphasis on being Bible preachers and teachers. Other professions can be honorable, but when we encourage our best and brightest to be doctors, lawyers, astronauts, etc. and imply that if you can’t make it in one of these professions, then you can always preach, we have a problem. It comes down to a spiritual problem which will affect the Lord’s church for many years. Encourage Christian education. Our life’s tale is being developed now, and will soon be told by those who survive us. What will that tale be?

The very best to you and yours for the holidays and may the Lord bless you with a very happy prosperous New Year in His kingdom.

—David Hill
Elements of a Depraved Culture

by Kerry Duke

• **No God.** People have many gods, but not God. They have the god of pleasure. They worship the god of money. Their “god is their belly” (Phil. 3:19). Though the creation plainly declares God (Psa. 19:1), they still refuse to acknowledge Him.

• **No Fear.** When men turn to themselves, they become presumptuous, selfwilled, and “are not afraid to speak evil of dignities” (II Pet. 2:10). “There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:18), and they are capable of just about anything.

• **No Respect.** Because they have no fear of God, they have no regard for others. Respect for authority, respect for parents, and respect for elders disappear. We should not be surprised when “a child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient” (Isa. 3:5).

• **No Love.** In a godless society, people have love, but they are “lovers of their own selves” (II Tim. 3:2). They even lose the love for their own flesh and blood and are “without natural affection” (Rom. 1:31). Human kindness vanishes and the law of the jungle prevails.

• **No Restraint.** Men who turn from God become like animals, and animals don’t have self-control. All that matters to a beast is satisfying its desires. It is no wonder that the Bible describes some men as “dogs” and “swine” (Deut. 23:18; Matt. 7:6). Some people act like them.

• **No Limits.** The very idea of God means that we are accountable to Him, and that accountability means there are limits to our behavior. Take away the thought of God and in the mind of man there are no real limits. Read the description of the Canaanites in Leviticus 18-20. Read the book of Judges. If a godless mind conceives a thing, it is likely to happen.

• **No Conscience.** Men without God become so hardened by sin that they are “past feeling” (Eph. 4:19). Their conscience is “seared with a hot iron” (I Tim. 4:2). They develop a reprobate or worthless mind utterly incapable of remorse for sin (Rom. 1:28).
The Continuing Need for Preachers

by Paul M. Wilmoth

When Paul told Timothy, “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:1-2), he was clearly showing the need for training men to preach the precious Gospel of Christ. In every generation, the Gospel must be preached. It takes only one generation to fail in this for the church to start falling into the same thing that happened hundreds of years ago leading to the need for a restoring of New Testament Christianity according to the pattern laid down in the Scriptures.

For the first time in my lifetime we have churches of Christ in the Upper Cumberland area that cannot find preachers. This is true for a number of reasons, but nevertheless it is a fact. From the very beginning of Tennessee Bible College, it has been our aim to train men to be able to preach and teach the word of God, and to train both men and women to be effective workers in the kingdom. That remains our goal today.

With that said, it is also the fact that education is changing. With the invention of the internet and colleges making on-line study available, more and more folks are opting for this method of study. Thus, today, we are having to change to meet these needs. Most of our classes are now offered on-line as well as on campus.

In order to meet this critical need in our brotherhood for more preachers, may I urge you (moms, dads, grandparents, friends) to get back to encouraging our capable young men to become preachers. There is no greater or rewarding work on earth in which they can become involved.

Let us help fill this gap. Send your young men our way. We will do our best to teach them the Scriptures and prepare them to fill this gap at this crucial time.

Can we count on you?
Remembered

Donnie L. Smith of Port St. Joe, Florida, passed from this life November 24, 2014 at the age of 67. A memorial service was held for him December 2 at the Church of Christ at Overstreet, Florida, where he was a member.

Donnie is survived by his wife of 48 years, a daughter, three grandsons, and a great-granddaughter.

He and his wife, Shaleen, have been long-time supporters of Christian education at Tennessee Bible College. When they lived in Cookeville they gave many hours to work on campus to help the College. No job was too dirty or too hard for Donnie. He was retired from his heavy construction company, and “he was always ready to help,” said TBC President David Hill.

Donnie was a Vietnam veteran with a love for the water and fishing as a pastime.

Continued from p. 7—“Elements of a Depraved Culture”

• No Shame. Because they have no conscience, they are not embarrassed over their sins. Like the people of Judah, they are neither ashamed nor able to blush because of their abominations (Jer. 6:15). “They declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not” ( Isa. 3:9).

• No Meaning. What is the meaning of life? Why are we here? Is there any purpose for all this? Is there any reason for being born or dying and for all the sorrows, pains, and tears? A godless view of life is a meaningless world. Is it any wonder that so many people are restless and depressed?

• No Hope. Before they were baptized, the Gentiles in the church at Ephesus had “no hope” and were “without God in the world” ( Eph. 2:12). How tragic! What hope do people without God have? “Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die” (I Cor. 15:32)!

Christian higher education is just a click away!

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<td>T331 I &amp; II Corinthians</td>
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<td>2:30-3:55 p.m.</td>
<td>T136 James &amp; Galatians</td>
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<td>4:00-5:25 p.m.</td>
<td>M405 Minister in the 21st Century</td>
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<td>6:00-7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>T332 I, II Timothy &amp; Titus*</td>
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**Tuesday**

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*Blended Class*

*Online course offerings and graduate course offerings are available at tn-biblecollege.edu.*