



Webster's Dictionary defines a lackey as a "servant of low rank, a footman, a servile follower." A secondary meaning for lackey is one who blindly follows orders — one who goes along to get along.

A lackey says, "My personal position is such and such, but I will not impose my view on anyone else." Boy, does that sound familiar in recent days. There is a big difference between a lackey and a leader. A lackey "follows before." A leader leads. If you are not going to lead, get out of the way.

A lackey grows weary in the way and of the way. A leader does not cop out — tap out — because he's weary. If you're tired, go home. We don't need leaders

who say, "No Mas." Galatians 6:9 says, "Be not weary in well doing."

Lackeys throw in the towel; leaders throw down the gauntlet.

I had a lackey tell me recently that he had to vote a certain way, because "everyone" in his district wanted it. I told him that if serving in public office forced him to violate his Bible convictions, he should have never run for public office.

Pilate was a lackey. He blamed the mob for allowing the crucifixion of Jesus. "It's their fault" was his defense. The lackey wishes he had a basin of water today, but not to wash his hands.

Aaron was a lackey. He blamed the molten calf on the people and even blamed the fire that spit out the idol (Exodus 32:22-24).

Adam was a lackey. He blamed God for his sin: "the woman YOU gave me,"

made me do it. Some are still blaming God for our failures.

You can find lackeys in every avenue of life. There is no lack of lackeys. What we need are leaders in our homes, churches, communities, and our state.

The answer is not for us to be lackadaisical. A lackey is lackadaisical. Easy come, easy go. Live and let live. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we need some leaders — not more lackeys.

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

No Lack of Lackeys

So. Baptist recognized for good deeds in special way

NASHVILLE (BP) — Somewhere between exercising, working tirelessly in his yard, rebuilding classic cars, cutting hair, and serving multiple roles as a lay leader at his church, 82-year-old Neal Buchanan still finds time to volunteer as a reading tutor at the elementary school near his home.

Buchanan, a member of Lincoya Hills Church in Nashville's Donelson community, has been passionate about childhood literacy for his entire adult life. He was recently honored for his devotion to the cause by being featured on two brands of Kellogg's cereal boxes: Frosted Flakes and Fruit Loops.

"I am not sure why they selected me. I guess it's because I have been doing it longer than anyone else," said Buchanan in his typical humble manner.

"I think they chose him because he is the oldest one on the list," joked his wife Gail.

Buchanan, a former school principal, has been volunteering at Pennington Elementary School on a weekly basis since 1999. He visits the school once a week, working with three or four students for 30 minutes each.

It's unlikely he ever envisioned he'd one day end up sharing the spotlight with Tony the Tiger and Toucan Sam, but that's exactly what happened.

This past spring Buchanan was contacted by Dollar General Stores, which has a partnership with Kellogg's, and was told that the cereal giant wanted to recognize him for his commitment to literacy.

He landed on the cover of the cereal boxes several weeks later, and his friends and family members began seeing his pic-



LONG TERM TUTORING — Neal Buchanan (right), a member of Lincoya Hills Church in Nashville's Donelson community, works with Jonah, age eight, a second-grade student at Pennington Elementary School. Buchanan has been serving as a volunteer tutor at the school for almost 20 years. (BP photo)

ture on the boxes at supermarkets around the nation.

Kellogg's is a sponsor of Dollar General's Literacy Foundation, which awards grants to support literacy. As a DG Literacy Foundation grant recipient, the FiftyForward initiative — a volunteer tutoring program — pairs older adults with children who need help strengthening their reading skills.

Buchanan has been a part of FiftyForward for 17 years. "They notified me that I had been selected, and then they sent a photographer from Denver, and he came and took pictures at Pennington," he said.

Although Buchanan was surprised by the recognition, those who know him best probably

were not. In fact, anyone who is familiar with "Mr. B" probably assumed it was just a matter of time before he ended up on the cover of a cereal box, although "Wheaties" might have been the more likely choice.

Buchanan continuously uses his talents to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Whether it's repairing the roof on a church member's house, visiting an ailing neighbor in the hospital, serving on church committees, or simply offering the use of his truck to haul supplies and other items, Buchanan embodies the concept of having a "servant's heart."

His love for Jesus is evident to all those who know him and yet, despite having so many



THEEEY'RE GREAT! — Retired school principal Neal Buchanan of the Donelson community in metro Nashville displays the cereal boxes that nationally recognized his tutoring efforts over the past two decades. (BP photo)

irons in the fire, Buchanan makes sure that his volunteer work at the school remains a top priority.

He was pictured on the cereal boxes with one of his tutoring students, Noah DeJesus, who attends Pennington and has made great strides in his reading in recent months.

Buchanan said he was allowed to suggest a student for the picture. "It was a big deal for Noah," he said. "He was a celebrity at school."

Buchanan worked as an editor, including editing children's

literature, at the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) for 23 years. During this time he co-authored a book and developed the ABCs of Salvation, a teaching tool that is still in circulation today. It is used to tell children, and adults, too, about Jesus.

He also was the principal of a program for emotionally disturbed children in North Carolina and for a psychiatric school in Memphis. "I have been involved in teaching, in some form or another, all my life," he said.