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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 95, Number 2

January 25, 1996

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY

JANUARY 28

LIVING
GOD'S
WORD



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Nashville, Tennessee

JAN 29 1996



CELEBRATE
CHRIST...
THE LORD
WHO CARES

BAPTIST
WORLD
ALLIANCE
FEBRUARY 4

DAY

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

Arkansas Baptist CP gifts for 1995 exceed \$16 million

Arkansas Baptists contributed a record \$16 million through the Cooperative Program during 1995, exceeding the previous year's CP gifts of \$15.6 million. Despite the record-setting total, however, 1995 gifts fell short of the state's CP goal of \$16.6 million by almost \$580,000.

Combined with contributions that were designated specifically for Arkansas Baptist ministries, total gifts for the year reached \$16,225,496. That compares to a 1994 total of \$15,829,049 for an increase of 2.5 percent.

Designated gifts continued to grow in 1995, with more than \$204,000 earmarked for ministry within the state, a 5 percent increase over the previous year. Gifts designated for Southern Baptist Convention ministries increased from \$17,778 in 1994 to \$21,311 last year, a 19.9 percent jump.

In addition to Cooperative Program gifts and convention-related designations, other contributions were designated for such needs as the Oklahoma City bombing victims (\$1,437) and Baptist World Alliance (\$1,050).

Special offering receipts

Among special offerings received throughout the year, Arkansas Baptists increased their giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and world hunger relief funds experienced financial decline among Arkansas Baptists during the past year.

1995 Annie Armstrong gifts totaled \$1,074,754, an increase of more than \$3,000 over the previous year. The home missions gifts exceeded the state convention's '95 goal of \$1,025,000 by almost \$50,000. On the national level, Annie Armstrong gifts reached a record \$38.9 million, a 4.66 percent increase over the previous year's offering.

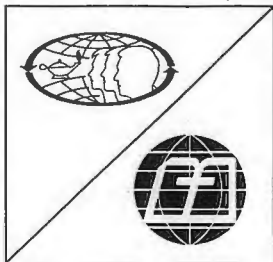
The Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering recorded the largest gain among last year's special offerings. The 1995 total of \$742,277 is a 5 percent growth over the previous year's offering. The offering also exceeded the 1995 goal of \$725,000 by more than \$17,000. Combined with the previous year's financial growth, gifts to the state missions offering have grown by more than 17 percent in the past two years.

Gifts to the Lottie Moon foreign missions offering dropped significantly during 1995. The year's total gifts of \$2,825,235 fell almost \$175,000 short of the state convention's \$3 million goal. Arkansas Baptists' foreign missions gifts were approximately 10 percent below the previous year's contributions of \$3.1 million.

Arkansas Baptist gifts to world hunger relief continued to drop. The 1995 total of \$132,110 was 17 percent below the 1994 total and 23 percent below 1993 world hunger gifts.

A complete listing of 1995 Cooperative Program gifts from Arkansas Baptist churches is scheduled to be published in the next issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

Cover Story



Missions vision 5

Baptist Men's Day on Jan. 28 and Baptist World Alliance Day on Feb. 4 offer local churches the opportunity to highlight missions efforts at home and around the world.

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Next issue: Feb. 8



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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Faith amid famine

Arkansas Baptist couple make a difference in Malawi for 25 years

By Kim Davis
SBC Foreign Mission Board

Helping families survive the drought which has plagued the small central African country of Malawi is a primary focus of Southern Baptist agricultural missionaries Darrel and Judy Garner. The Garners, who are from Hunstville and Fayetteville respectively, are teaching how to raise crops that will grow despite dry conditions.

The former Arkansas couple have been serving as Southern Baptist missionaries for 25 years. They are the only agricultural missionaries in the country of more than 10 million people.

Corn crops have been down to a third of normal yields, according to production estimates. The impact of the drought is multiplied by the fact that more than 85 percent of the rural population of Malawi derive their livelihood from agriculture.

The Garners are seeking to find alternatives to corn crops for the farmers while sharing a witness for Christ. At the Baptist Agricultural Center in Balaka, they instruct about 450 farmers how to save moisture that falls and how to grow drought-resistant and drought-escaping crops.

"By having an agri-forestry plot, farmers

learn to contour the land so that any rainfall that comes is slowed down and allowed to soak into the ground," explained Garner. "The decay from the plants serves as fertilizer and holds moisture and helps to control erosion."

"Some of the people we have known for years have died because of the drought."

—Darrel Garner
SBC missionary to Malawi

Garner teaches Malawians to grow crops such as sweet potatoes and cassava which are drought-resistant. Other crops with good response are grain sorghum, pearl millet and pigeon peas.

Garner emphasized that the drought has been disastrous year after year. "Some of the people we have known for years have died because of the drought or because of a weakened condition due to the lack of food which allowed for disease to set in," he said. "We have known a lot of

people who eat only once in three days."

The rainy season normally runs only from November to April, but recently the rains have started late and ended early.

"When Christ ministered to people, He ministered to their physical and spiritual needs," pointed out Rendall Day, human needs coordinator of the Malawi Baptist mission. "When you live in a country such as Malawi, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, you have to have a balanced approach to ministry where church starts are as important as ministering to physical needs."

The Garners choose to help meet both of these needs. In addition to their agricultural projects, they started a new congregation that meets on their carport. They also have been instrumental in starting other Baptist churches, and recently have been involved with leading "Heart Preparation for Revival" seminars in local Baptist churches.

Mrs. Garner teaches literacy to a group of women with new material in Chichewa, the local language, written by a Baptist missionary. In this material, opportunities to share Christ are inevitable since the lessons teach about Jesus Christ and following Him.

'Children in Crisis' conference a convention priority

Arkansas Baptists will learn to minister through a critical social issue by attending the "Hope for Tomorrow: Ministering to Children in Crisis" conference March 29-30 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. The conference is one of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention priority projects for the 1996 "Arkansas Awakening: Live the Word" emphasis.

The need for the conference is "critical," according to conference chairman Bob Holley, director of the ABCS discipleship and family ministry department. "Every day on the television, radio or in the paper there is something that confirms that children are at great risk - and it impacts churches, communities and families.

"We've got to help churches not only address the needs of children but also to be advocates for children in their communities," Holley emphasized.

He said the conference will "heighten awareness of the critical issues impacting children in our society, focus on the biblical mission of the church to minister to children and present resources and approaches that will enable the participants and their churches to address these issues in their churches and communities."

Holley noted that seven ABCS departments joined in planning and sponsoring the event, including Brotherhood, church music ministries, discipleship and family ministry, evangelism, missions, Sunday School and Woman's Missionary Union. "This is a joint effort because all of our church programs have a vital concern for children and the issues that impact children in our churches and communities today," he explained.

Keynote speaker for the Friday evening session will be nationally-recognized author, lecturer and children's advocate Bill Young of Nashville, Tenn.

Holley said that conference workshops will "address specific areas of concern with practical helps and resources." Topics include grief recovery, divorce recovery, conversion and faith development, "Making Wise Choices," child advocacy, self-esteem, poverty, legal issues, discipline, reaching the unchurched, safety, and "Ministry to the Abused Child."

Workshop leaders will include: Sylvia Deloach, Girls in Action specialist, with national WMU; Cindy Pitts, children's minister for First Baptist Church in Houston, Texas; Dixie Ruth Crase, of the University of Memphis; and Bill Young.

Sessions are scheduled for 1-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:20 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday. "Two workshops sessions will be offered during each of the three sessions, offering a number of workshop options during each session," said Holley. The Saturday morning session will close with a special feature, "Celebrating the Childhood Years."

The conference, said Holley, is designed "for pastors, church staff members, weekday early education staff and other teachers and leaders and parents of children birth through age 11."

The cost for the workshop is \$20 per person. Registration should be addressed to Children in Crisis Conference, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. For more information, call any of the sponsoring departments toll-free at 1-800-838-ABSC.



YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

We will be gathering for the 1996 State Evangelism Conference Jan. 29-30 at Geyer Springs First Church. Would you pause and breathe a prayer for all who will participate? As I see it, bringing people to salvation in Jesus is a No. 1 priority in the mind of God. Bringing the lost to Christ appears to be somewhere below No. 1 on our scale of priorities. Only God knows, of course, but if this is true we are under the discipline of God. We should be. Why should He bless the expenditure of money, time and labors that are not geared to reaching His chief objective — "to save that which is lost"?

By your prayers and God's grace, He might visit us again in mighty power at the Evangelism Conference. The pastors, staff and lay leaders who attend could come back home transformed in their commitment to reach the lost. We tend to have a passion about our image, our reputation, our ambition. Evangelism born of such self-serving goals will not have the blessing of God on it. There is a passion for souls birthed by the Holy Spirit that is very different. It will be marked by travelling prayer and consistent witnessing.

Such a passion comes from intimate association with our Savior, close association with the unsaved, and constant awareness of the brevity of time. We are responsible. We must give an account.

Christ censured the religious people of His day more for their deficiencies in prayer than any other thing. Would you say your church is a "House of Prayer"? I can't tell you how to make your church a "House of Prayer" but if one or two people, along with the pastor and staff, give themselves to praying for this, I believe God will show you what to do.

At the Baptist Building, we have a Spiritual Awakening Prayer Band that meets at 7:15 each morning. I did not start this. God did. He did because He wants to bless us in ways beyond anything we have known. All cannot participate in the prayer band, but we will all be praying earnestly for God to send a spiritual awakening. He might do it this year! Amen!

REX HORNE

President's Perspective

Welcome, Dr. Turner!



Thank you for the many opportunities you have afforded me already in serving alongside Arkansas Baptists this year. I have been blessed in getting to know more of you, and more about our varied ministries.

You are aware that a very important transition is under way in our convention. In just a few days our new executive director, Dr. Emil Turner, will be on the field. He will serve through February with Dr. Don Moore, then will be charged with giving our convention family leadership for years to come.

Here are some facts that interest at least one of this column's readers...me! Dr. Turner was born in Bastrop, La. So was I. Dr. Turner attended Cherry Ridge Baptist Church. So did I. Dr. Turner earned his doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I did as well.

If that is not enough, Dr. Turner pastored the Mount Olive Baptist Church, Crossett. I didn't, but my uncle, Kenneth Everett, did! (I don't have space to write of Dr. Don Moore, who was my wife's pastor at Elliott just a "few" years ago.)

With all that said, I am looking forward to getting to know Dr. Turner.

Our paths have taken us down some of the same paths, but we have not had the opportunity to walk together until now.

My knowledge of his place of birth, worship and education is secondary. There are more important reasons to support our new executive director with our prayers, trust and best efforts.

Dr. Turner has trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord. He is a Southern Baptist by conviction and a servant of Christ by the sovereign choice and grace of God. He desires to reach people for Christ, disciple the saved and minister to all people. So do I and about one half million other Arkansas Baptists.

A new era will dawn for our Arkansas convention family this year. We all have common ground with Dr. Turner. We have common ground with each other. We can all celebrate a new era and a new beginning with Dr. Turner and each other.

Dr. Turner, we welcome you, your wife, Mary, and sons, Joel and Jonathan, to Arkansas. We are already praying for you and pledge to you our support. We're glad you are here...and, as you know, Bastrop is just over the state line.

Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"We've got to help churches not only address the needs of children but also to be advocates for children in their communities."

—Bob Holley, director,
ABCS discipleship and family ministry department

"If you don't use the knowledge God's given you, it's sinful. If He gives us the opportunity and we quit doing it, it's a waste."

—Jim Messick,
who helps recycle Sunday School literature for use in Africa

Expand your missions vision

Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation have the opportunity to celebrate "Living God's Word" during the 1996 Baptist Men's Day on Jan. 28. One week later, those same congregations can join more than 38 million Baptists around the world in a call to "Celebrate Christ...The Lord Who Cares," during Baptist World Alliance Day on Feb. 4.

With more than a dozen special Sundays highlighted on Baptist calendars every year, what's so significant about these two observances? Together, the two events reflect the scope and strength of Baptist ministry at home and around the world. While Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong efforts for foreign and home missions are the most prominent missions emphases in Southern Baptist life, it is essential to remember that missions begins at the local level — and stretches into international settings even beyond traditional Southern Baptist mission fields.

Baptist Men's Day, which recognizes the ministry contributions of laymen in local churches, is a reminder that every act of ministry in Christ's name is an essential part of God's kingdom work. Baptist Men's Ministries currently focus on such areas as prayer, evangelism, encouragement and

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

mission action. Disaster relief, church construction and other hands-on missions projects involve thousands of Baptist volunteers each year.

On the local church level, Baptist Men's projects may range from maintenance projects for elderly members to hospital visits and prospect visitation. "Living God's Word" is a worthy goal for any successful Baptist Men's group. More than an annual fish fry or other social event, effective Baptist Men's ministries involve meeting needs in joyful obedience to Christ's commands. Jan. 28 is an excellent time for churches to affirm what Baptist Men have accomplished during the past year and to

encourage even greater faithfulness in the year ahead.

Baptist World Alliance Day is not as widely known in many U.S. congregations. BWA is the international fellowship of Baptist believers in more than 150,000 churches around the globe. The organization promotes efforts, worldwide evangelism, relief efforts and human rights. According to BWA leaders, "The Baptist World Alliance is Baptists holding hands together so that men and women will not die without knowing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ." The ministry of BWA extends into numerous Third World countries and other regions where people desperately need to hear the gospel.

As Baptists around the world join together to "Celebrate Christ...The Lord Who Cares," Southern Baptist churches have a wonderful opportunity to expand the missions vision of their members. Make a point to encourage your congregation to "Celebrate Christ" by "Living God's Word" during the next two Sundays — and beyond.

To learn more about either ministry emphasis, contact the Brotherhood Commission at 901-272-2461 or the Baptist World Alliance at 703-790-8980.

Ministering to ministers

I read in the paper recently about the tragic death of the pastor of First Church in El Dorado. I did not know him personally nor did I know any member of his family. My heart aches for the tragic circumstances which ended his life and ministry.

I know that we have an office in Little Rock which ministers to hurting pastors who come to them. My letter offers no criticism of this work. My observation is that most of the preachers who hurt do not travel to town to find help. This is not a criticism of any work which people in counseling do, it is rather an observation of a system which seems to allow for only those who are doing well and living up to everyone's expectation to be recognized.

There are many of our preachers who hurt who do not feel they can open themselves to others for help. I found this true as a chaplain at Baptist Medical Center when I saw pastors who were patients in the hospital.

I am sure the fellowship of that fine church in El Dorado will minister to the needs of the family and give all the help they can. I would hope that the heart of each of us who are Baptist preachers would be toward our fellow pastors who many times pay a great price personally to be in the Lord's work.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I know that most of the preachers would say they are doing what God has called them to do. Our love needs to reach out to each other as we face all of the onslaughts of Satan on our ministry. Many times that onslaught is personal and against our families. We need to pray for each other and stand with each other in the work we have of proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ.

Someone has said, "The captain eats alone." It is too bad that so many of our pastors have to fight so many battles alone. We all need the Lord and each other for the work which God has called us to do.

Jerre R. Hassell
North Little Rock, AR

All gambling is sin

I was extremely disappointed by a recent children's movie on the Family Channel. "To Grandmother's House We Go," starring the Olsen twins, was a very entertaining story centering around

Christmas. The climax was the most outrageous, for the salvation of the situation was winning a large lottery.

The Family Channel is supposed to be clean entertainment with Christian values. Recently I've noticed worldly entertainment, music, movies, etc., that just doesn't fit the biblical definition or description. We see raffles, lotteries and chance solicitation on the increase. Last summer, the civic club which sponsors our summer ball program here in Heber Springs began using our children to sell raffle tickets. Those who object and speak out against it are castigated as some obsolete religious killjoy.

It saddens me to see the effort we have to put forth every election to defeat some gambling legislation. Wouldn't it be great if Arkansas Baptists could address this matter in our churches by teaching our people the sin of all chance gaming, be it in the public school, civic clubs or wherever?

Wouldn't it be great if all these conservatives who try to out shout each other about the inerrancy of the Scriptures began to practice it as if they believed it? Abortion and homosexuality are the only sins recorded in the Bible, according to the preaching of many so-called conservatives.

Jim Glover
Heber Springs, AR

Another world

Missionary kids find challenges, blessings in coming to America

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—Philip Bedsole remembers being astounded at being able to choose from 10 brands of peanut butter in an American supermarket. In Ethiopia, where he was born to missionary parents, the grocery choices were limited.

"It shocked me the hundreds of different products (in American stores)," said Bedsole, a fourth-year student at Auburn University in Alabama. "It was strange just the different things — the many, many things — that they had here."

Like Bedsole, most "missionary kids," or MKs, have stories about adjusting to life in America. Even though MKs live mostly "on the mission field" while growing up, they do come to the United States during their parents' furloughs every few years and often when they finish high school to attend an American university or college.

Forming relationships in America with new friends can be a new and difficult experience.

Bedsole, who attended high school at a boarding school in Kenya, said MKs often form friendships quickly.

"It's a totally different approach to making friends. In high school, we were thrown together in the same situation, and we made friends really fast. Here they take it really slow, and it takes a long time to make friends. Over there, you make bonds really fast," said Bedsole, who is majoring in international business.

Rebecca Mann, 21, a senior at Samford University in Alabama, remembers coming to the United States from Mexico during her seventh-grade year for her parents' furlough. She feared moving to America

and "making friends and then knowing that in less than a year I was going to leave them. It was really hard to leave because we did have a very good youth group. I hated the fact that I had to break away from that."

Ben Carothers is a sophomore at Ouachita Baptist University, which has more MKs enrolled than any other Southern Baptist-related college. OBU currently has 57 MKs on campus from 22 countries.

Positive cultural differences

Carothers noted that many of the cultural differences between the U.S. and Guatemala, where his parents, Ron and Margie Carothers, are Southern Baptist missionaries, are positive.

"The driving down there is the biggest culture shock," he said. "Down there, they don't even paint the lane lines. They might have one that divides the street in two, but it's chaotic. People don't understand till you get there. They say, 'That would be fun.' But it's no fun when you're trying to pull into a lane and no one will let you."

Carothers said another cultural difference in Guatemala involves corrupt government practices and the lack of "justice."

"A lot of people complain about the American justice system, but they have no idea what it's like for things not to be fair."

For example, he said, "If you are in an accident and the other person is hurt, regardless of whether it's your fault or not you are taken to jail until the other person is all right."

"People can bring all kinds of lawsuits

against you," he added. "One time the car of one of the national pastors was hit by a motorcyclist. He helped the guy and took him to the hospital. Three years down the road, the motorcyclist had him arrested and taken to jail."

He said even with a lack of justice in Guatemala, he doesn't feel in danger, despite his mother being robbed of money, jewelry and a car at gunpoint in the family's fourth week in the country.

Although he prefers American justice and driving, Carothers said he misses the Guatemalan "landscape" the most. "The natural beauty that it has: I miss getting up in the mornings and looking out and seeing the three or four volcanoes surrounding Guatemala City. It's green everywhere."

Roxanna Eaton, a former MK who is now 32, remembers visits to American restaurants as sometimes troubling.

"Ordering in a fast-food restaurant is very stressful to an MK. You need someone to hold your hand through it. I used to not like to go to McDonald's until I learned how to order," said Eaton, who is a professional counselor in Richmond, Va., and a volunteer in the family ministries section of the Foreign Mission Board.

Eaton's department routinely works with MKs in counseling and other types of support. Her work with the FMB brings her into contact with MKs by telephone and in person.

Some issues facing MKs, Eaton said, are the same as "any college kid or high school kid is struggling with...family issues, drugs and alcohol. Most of those things are just the symptoms."

New book addresses issues faced by missionary kids

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Charlene Gray remembers coming to America and feeling irritated by some people's questions about her life as a "missionary kid," or MK.

"As an east African MK, the standard question people asked me...was, 'Did you ever see Tarzan?' At first it was amusing, but it began to wear thin on me," writes Gray in her new book, *Children of the Call: Issues Missionaries' Kids Face* (Birmingham: New Hope, 1995).

Gray, born in Tanzania to missionaries Earl and Jane Martin, says she wrote the book to help churches better understand and minister to missionary families — and especially MKs.

American Christians sometimes overlook the cultural challenges faced by MKs who come to the United States to attend college, noted Gray, who lives in Nashville, Tenn., with her husband, Brad, who also grew up an MK.

During the past two decades, Gray has spoken at numerous events and retreats for MKs and she tells some of their stories in her book.

For most MKs, the American preoccupation with possessions is a major adjustment, Gray suggested. "The focus

in America is so much more on materialism. You're gauged on who you are and what you have."

MKs often see American churches as affected by materialism. "It's still the number one issue for MKs," Gray states. "How do you fit into a church when you've seen church without all the trappings?"

An MK's departure from the mission field and arrival in the States is a time when churches can help MKs as they adjust to the change, Gray says. Her book has numerous suggestions on how churches can minister effectively to MKs who come to America, such as:

- Encourage MKs to talk about their experiences.
- Sponsor MKs to attend youth camps such as Youth Jericho, Centrifuge, Crosspoint, state GA/Acteens camps or youth camps.
- Offer to transport an MK to church.
- Invite MKs into your home.
- Provide college MKs with a long-distance telephone gift certificate.
- Offer MKs a home away from home during holidays.

Other counseling issues are peculiar to MKs, Eaton noted, such as their often-negative responses to American materialism. "Still to this day, I struggle with that, and I've been back in the States 14 years," she said. "Americans tend to want to live with the most they can have, but you see others (in other countries) living with even less."

"That's an area where God changed my attitude," said Mann, who finds it easier now to cope with and appreciate American church life.

When she first arrived, Mann said, "I was most shocked by American churches and how I felt they were very superficial and hypocritical. I just couldn't understand why people who had so much and had so many opportunities to praise God in worship — and just take advantage of all that — couldn't have as great a faith on fire like the church I'd been to in Mexico where they'd had nothing (materially)."

But Mann noted her reaction wasn't much different from other MKs. "Some of them target the churches as being very different and see that the churches are more materialistic," she said, "but I do want to stress that the experience an MK has with a church is what the MK makes of it."

"My relationship to my church has been one of the biggest blessings in my life during my time here," said Mann, who is a member of Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham Baptist Association. "All I've had are good experiences with churches in America."

Still, Mann does have concerns about churches that build too many buildings. Church recreation buildings, for example, "do have a ministry, but how many of those buildings are actually being used?" Mann asked. "I've been to so many churches where nobody goes to work out. It seems like it's just sitting there, but they'll have fellowships in it, but could've had a fellowship in some other room."

Another trouble spot for some MKs is language. Virtually all of them speak English but often find it challenging to understand American expressions and idioms. "I sometimes don't understand the American humor," said Mann. "People will crack a joke, and I won't get it. Sometimes that puts me in an uncomfortable position. I've just learned to ask what it means and not to worry about what other people think."

Bedsole remembers being puzzled by Southern ways of speaking. "Everybody would say, 'Hi, how y'all doing?'" he said. "I was always asking them what they were saying. That was when I first came back from high school and people would ask me, 'Where are you from? You talk funny.'"

But Bedsole was thinking the same thing about them.

Williams plans to construct, renovate student housing

Plans for construction and renovation projects at Williams Baptist College will provide new living facilities for many students on campus. College officials have announced plans to build new apartments for married students and to renovate a wing of a residence hall for single male students.

The trustee board's executive committee, acting on behalf of the full board, vote Jan. 11 to begin construction on both projects. Committee members also discussed initial fund-raising needs for the two projects.

Williams president Jerol Swaim said part of the needed funds already have been donated, including an anonymous \$75,000 gift designated for construction

of the married student apartments. He said construction is expected to begin in the next few weeks and is scheduled to be completed this summer.

Swaim said the apartments will include eight units, to be built on the south side of campus. The projected cost of construction is \$257,000. The renovation of a currently vacant wing of Southern Hall will cost approximately \$150,000. The remodeled wing will provide housing for 30 male students.

"This is an exciting and greatly needed move for our campus," Swaim noted. "We have been at capacity in our residence facilities, especially the men's facility, for the past several years, so we have to take this step if we expect to grow."



Group announces plans to distribute Jesus film in Arkansas

A multi-denominational group of laymen and ministers held a press conference at downtown Little Rock's Metrocentre Mall Jan. 16 to announce their plans to distribute the Jesus film free in homes in Arkansas. Group spokesman Reg Hamman (with video), a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, made the announcement. Hamman and chairman Bob Richardson, a member of Parkway Place Church in Little Rock, held the conference in front of a projector and bed sheet, demonstrating how the film is typically shown on street corners and open areas in third world and underdeveloped countries. According to Hamman, the film has been seen by more than 730 million people in 330 countries, making it the most-watched movie in history. The group, whose goal is to distribute the film in every home in Arkansas, is seeking volunteers to help in distribution. For more information or to volunteer, contact Hamman at 501-221-1102.

OBU to host training for music ministers

Music ministers will build their professional and relational skills at the OBU/CMM Church Music Workshop Feb. 15-16 at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. The workshop is sponsored by OBU and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department.

The workshop will feature conference topics including: "Teaching Through the Choral Rehearsal," led by Wes Forbis, retired director of the Baptist Sunday School Board church music department; "Rapid Planner-The Complete Worship Planning Program," led by Jim Faul of Shreveport, La.; "Building Relationships Through Listening Skills," led by J.D. Stake, director of the ABSC ministry of crisis support; and "Hymnindex Software," led by Louis Oswalt, assistant professor of music at Mississippi College.

Steve Garner, chairman of the OBU church music department, said the workshop will focus on teaching. "Wes Forbis is going to approach the choir rehearsal from a teacher's standpoint, teaching through the choral rehearsal. His underlying theme will be teaching music rather than learning notes," he said.

Garner said Stake's session would let music ministers "develop their listening skills and relationships with other staff, choir and members" and that Faul and Oswalt were invited "because they represent what we think are the two leading music ministry softwares. We wanted to introduce these kinds of things to people who have not made a selection."

Additional features will include a review of new music and a Baptist Book Store display.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday and conclude at noon on Friday. The cost schedule for the retreat is: \$45

per music minister; \$10 per spouse; \$7.50 per student; a \$30 cost for Thursday only and \$15 for Friday only.

For more information or to request a brochure, contact Steve Garner at 501-245-5146 or Rob Hewell at the ABSC church music ministries department toll-free at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5121.

Tax seminar a 'benefit' to pastors, treasurers

Should a minister receive a W-2 form? What amount should I count for a housing allowance? How can our church set up a reimbursement account?

These are some of the most common questions plaguing Arkansas Baptist churches, said James Walker, and they are also questions that can receive answers at the 1996 Tax Seminar Jan. 31 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

Walker, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention stewardship and annuity department, said pastors, church treasurers, finance committee members and tax preparers who work with churches will benefit from the seminar, which features church tax and law expert Richard Hammar.

"Richard will provide participants with reliable information to comply with IRS regulations," Walker said.

Hammar, an attorney, CPA and author, is the editor of *Church Law & Tax Report* and *Church Treasurer Alert!* as well as the author of *Church and Clergy Tax Guide* and 26 other books.

There is no cost for the seminar. The program, which is the day following the Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference, will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at noon.

For more information, contact Walker toll-free at the ABSC stewardship and annuity department; phone 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5114.

Single adult workshop targets church staff

A free conference designed to help church staff develop a strategy for reaching single adults - representing an estimated 50 percent of unchurched adults - will be held prior to the Arkansas Baptist Single Adult Conference.

Rollin DeLap will lead the "Single Adult Evangelism Strategy in the Local Church" conference Feb. 16 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. DeLap serves in the HMB's evangelism church growth department and works with single adults, students and young adults.

Gerald Jackson, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department, said that the conference "is designed to help pastors, church staff and other local church leaders understand and develop a strategy for churches to reach single adults."

He said it is crucial for church staff to know the needs of single adults, because, "at the present time, single adults represent almost 50 percent of unchurched adults."

It is estimated that in urban settings, added Jackson, "single adults represent almost 50 percent of the total unchurched population."

DeLap, a former campus minister and Sunday School Board consultant, has served the HMB since 1986. A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he also will be the keynote speaker at the Single Adult Conference Feb. 16-17.

The single adult church staff conference will begin at 2 p.m. Friday and conclude at 5 p.m.

There is no cost for the staff conference. For more information on the conference or other ministry opportunities with single adults, contact Gerald Jackson toll-free at the ABSC discipleship and family ministry office; phone 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5160.

Retreat to focus on training for volunteer, part-time musicians

The Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Retreat returns to Camp Paron Feb. 23-24 as volunteer and part-time musicians gather for training and fellowship. The retreat is sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department.

"This will make the 25th season for the conference," said Glen Ennes, an associate in the ABSC church music ministries department. "The conference tries to meet many of the levels of needs of the smaller membership church music leader, from song leading to worship planning to choir directing."

Conference leaders will include James Alcock, minister of music for First Church, Hope, leading the music directors sessions; Peggy Pearson, an associate in the church music ministries department, leading sessions for pianists; Kathy Cooper, organist for Second Church in Little Rock, leading sessions for organists; Cyndy Hewell, children's choir specialist from Benton, leading children's choir leaders' sessions; and Ennes.

Participants will have the opportunity to select from several additional conference topics, including music selection, worship planning, choir and congregational directing, and music program growth.

The program will begin at 4 p.m. Friday and conclude at 2:15 p.m. Saturday.

The cost for the retreat is \$5 per person, for one music director, pianist, organist and children's choir leader per church. The cost for second participants per area is \$25 per person. The cost includes all meals and lodging.

Lodging is dormitory style and Ennes said participants must provide their own bedding and toiletries for the retreat.

To make reservation by the Feb. 12 deadline, send \$5 per person to Church Music Ministries, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. The balance will be due at the retreat.

For more information, contact Ennes at the church music ministries department toll-free at 1-800-838-ABSC, ext. 5121.

RTVC trustees revise budget, affirm staff

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—A budget revision and a resolution affirming staff were approved by trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission during their Jan. 15-16 meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

The operating budget was revised from \$8,020,000 to \$9,007,000, an increase of \$987,000. The major increase was an additional \$401,000 for television program acquisition, from \$912,000 to \$1,313,000. Some programs will be produced by the RTVC staff and others will be acquired from other sources, trustees were told.

Funding also was provided for a church consulting office to be directed by Stan Grubb and a multimedia emphasis to be directed by John McGlothlin. Both men were already on the RTVC staff in different positions.

Trustees last September approved an austerity budget for the 1995-96 fiscal year to compensate for a possible lack of revenue from ACTS, the RTVC's cable program service. Since that time, ACTS reached an agreement with the "Faith and Values" (F&V) channel enabling the commission to forecast revenue for its cable program service.

"The staff affirmation resolution was prepared at the request of trustees who wanted to pledge support for the staff during the transition to the North American Mission Board," explained RTVC president Jack Johnson. "A copy has been given to each RTVC staff member, along with a list of trustee prayer requests developed to identify specific concerns board members want to express."

The restructuring, approved by messengers to the 1995 SBC annual meeting, will reduce the number of convention agencies from 19 to 12. Messengers are scheduled to vote on a bylaws change at this year's annual meeting in New Orleans.

The RTVC staff appreciation resolution expressed "profound appreciation for each member of the staff and administration for his or her devotion to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ through electronic media."

WMU expands responsibility for ethnic language work

By Teresa Dickens
Woman's Missionary Union

TALLADEGA, AL (BP)—Woman's Missionary Union will assume the financial responsibility for its work with language groups, relinquishing approximately \$195,000 in revenue from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

WMU's executive board, meeting Jan. 13-17 at Shooco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala., approved the recommendation from its finance committee that WMU fulfill a 1993 agreement with the HMB which called for WMU to reduce the funding it received from the HMB by the year 2000.

In 1993, WMU received approximately \$378,000 from the HMB for its work among black and ethnic congregations. WMU has reduced that amount annually since. The WMU board's latest action assimilates all costs related to the two areas of work.

During his report to the WMU executive board Jan. 15, HMB president Larry Lewis expressed appreciation for the board's action, saying the move would "free up additional money for work on the field."

WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien described the board's decision as a "step forward" in WMU's language work, saying it was an acknowledgement of "our responsibility to develop quality programming and materials that meet the needs of Southern Baptists' language congregations."

"We are grateful for the partnership we have had with the Home Mission Board in the establishment of WMU work among the various language groups," O'Brien said. "While finances no longer dictate our working together, it is our desire that we continue to cooperate in these efforts. Joint planning and mutual support between WMU and the Home Mission Board will ensure our ongoing cooperation for the cause of missions."

The funding decision ends a financial

relationship that began between the two Southern Baptist entities in 1971. That was the year the HMB transferred its WMU work with Hispanics to the SBC auxiliary. The transfer included one employee and the publication, *Nuestra Tarea*.

Today, WMU's work among language groups is facilitated by six employees and includes the publication of magazines in Spanish, Korean, Chinese and basic English, as well as numerous WMU products in those languages and several other languages. WMU also has ongoing work with the deaf.

In addition, WMU organized the National WMU Ethnic Advisory Council in 1994 to ensure its efforts met actual needs. The council, made up of WMU leaders within the respective language groups, helps identify needs and develop curriculum and products to meet those needs.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the creation of a consultation committee. The body, made up of state WMU executive directors and WMU executive board members (state WMU presidents), will serve in an advisory role to the WMU executive director and WMU national president on matters affecting WMU as a whole.

- Approved the guidelines for the Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship Fund for Acteens. The endowed fund was established in 1994 to support Acteens projects and scholarships.

- Approved the issue of violence as WMU's national social issue for 1998-99.

- Received an update on "Project HELP: Child Advocacy," WMU's 1996-97 social issue. The board learned that the international aspect of the project will focus on a children's ministry in Taiwan coordinated by missionaries serving with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The stateside aspect of the project encourages identifying needs and volunteerism.

WMU awards \$66,000 in missions grants

TALLADEGA, AL (BP)—Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's executive board awarded \$66,000 in Second Century Fund grants during its annual meeting Jan. 13-17 at Shooco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala.

The grants, assigned to both home and foreign fields, will fund a variety of projects designed to educate and involve women in missions.

The Second Century Fund is a permanent endowment created by WMU during its 1988 centennial year as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently, along with 10 percent of each year's earnings on the principal, which stands at over \$1.17 million. The remaining interest is given each year in grants. Since 1988, WMU has awarded \$481,523 in grants.

'Unbelievable Love'

Harris uses music ministry to emphasize gospel of Christ

By Ken Walker

Kentucky Western Recorder

More than four years have passed, yet to Larnelle Harris the memory remains as fresh as yesterday.

The contemporary Christian singer was performing in Estonia, one of the former Soviet republics that gained independence after the fall of communism. As he belted out the song, "Mighty Spirit," an old man walked up to the front of the church. Grabbing the surprised Harris around the neck, he said, "Thank you for coming. Thank you."

"That was special because I realized who was the blessing and who was the blessed, and I was the latter," Harris reflected. "That really meant something. We had done a concert in the Kremlin, too, but whenever I think of being in that area, that's the story that pops out."

"He wasn't just welcoming me, he was welcoming all of us to share a freedom that couldn't be banned, stolen or taken away. It made me feel that what was happening at that moment in history was worthwhile, that the miles I had traveled were worth it. That's a nugget I'll use throughout my ministry and my life."

Harris, who released his 16th album last fall, has performed his award-winning music in the White House and around the world. His first 15 albums also sparked 15 Grammy or Dove Awards, including six Doves in various "Album of the Year" categories.

But it's not appearing on national television, at Billy Graham crusades or acting as a national spokesman for World Vision that thrills Harris the most. He primarily looks forward to the opportunities to share about the inspiration behind his music: Jesus Christ.

Harris still talks with excitement about becoming a Christian, an event which took place more than 25 years ago. He made the decision to follow Christ while touring with a Christian-based music group after his graduation from Western Kentucky University.

When one of the members asked if he could remember inviting Jesus to come into his heart, Harris replied, "I can't say that I have. I joined the church when I was 12 and was baptized, but I don't know if I really understood what that all meant. I want to be sure."

That set him on a new path in more ways than one, including a recording contract with Word Records.

His faith also helped him deal with two



***"My prayer is,
Lord when
you put
something in
my heart,
teach me how
to give it
away."***

— Larnelle Harris
Christian musician

harsh realities. One was the racism he experienced in the church, the other a stinging setback that nearly ended his budding career.

When nodules formed on his vocal cords, Harris visited medical specialists around the country for a year. The crisis made him wonder why God would give him a gift and then take it away.

Now, he said, he understands how God used the problem to teach him many things, especially the lesson that he is God's servant.

Today, Harris continues to mature in his faith. He couldn't have made his latest

album "Unbelievable Love," when he started out, he said, because he didn't fully grasp God's nature and God's desire to see His nature lived out through His children.

"We haven't gone out looking for dollars, we've gone out to say what the Lord has placed in our hearts. My prayer now is, 'Lord, when you put something in my heart, teach me how to give it away, not to put more money in our pockets.' I couldn't have said that 25 years ago."

Two major themes run through his new album.

The first is God's love. The older Harris gets, the more he knows about God's love and the more unbelievable it becomes, he remarked.

"No matter what happens, there's always restoration," he noted. "As long as you know you've disappointed the Lord and you know it in your heart, there's still hope for you."

The second theme is to stand up for God and be counted.

This stems from his many appearances at national Promise Keepers rallies. He poses the idea in question form: "Who's going to dare to live a life pleasing in God's sight? Who's going to stand up and say it's all right to be faithful to your wife? What young man is going to stand up and say it's all right to be a virgin?"

When it comes to giving credit for his successful career, Harris is quick to cite his wife of 24 years, Mitzy. She is a computer resource teacher at a middle school in the Louisville, Ky., area. During his travels she has been the mainstay at home for their children, Larnelle Jr., 21, and Teresa, 16.

She also is his No. 1 fan and is not threatened by his fame.

"I'm just very proud of him," she explained. "When he's on stage, I want to make sure his tie is straight and everything is fixed just right. I feel in my heart that he's doing what God wants him to do and he does it very well."

One practical contribution she makes to his music is the ear of an "average listener." When her husband tries out new compositions, she's usually the first to hear them, although she laughed, "I'm not one who can tell much about it from the rough. I have to hear the finished product."

"What she doesn't know is she's the greatest critic because she's the average person who listens," Harris remarked. "They don't know the aesthetics of what's happening and the mechanics of what's going on. But they certainly know what moves them."

'Annie' gifts reach record \$38.9 million

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP) — Southern Baptists gave an unprecedented \$38.9 million for home missions through the 1995 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, according to Home Mission Board officials.

The year-end total came to \$38,908,339, said Ernest Kelley, the HMB's chief financial officer. The total represents a 4.66 percent increase compared to the 1994 offering of \$37,177,516.

"I'm delighted that we have again this year set an all-time record in Annie Armstrong income," said HMB president Larry L. Lewis. "In addition to being grateful for financial support, of course, we're also grateful for the prayer support that Southern Baptists give us for our work."

Woman's Missionary Union president Dellanna W. O'Brien also affirmed Southern Baptists for the increase.

"Because we Southern Baptists have been faithful in our missions giving in 1995 through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, men, women, boys and girls in our homeland will have the opportunity to hear the gospel in fresh new ways," she said. "I am grateful to be a part of a denomination that keeps its mission vision clearly before us."

The 1995 total surpassed the previous record offering of \$37.6 million in 1992. Woman's Missionary Union set an ambitious 1995 goal of \$50 million to coincide with the SBC's 150th anniversary. The 1996 goal is \$42 million.

Retired missionary Thelma Bagby dies at 89

GADSDEN, AL (FMB)—Thelma Frith Bagby, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died Jan. 3, in Gadsden, Ala., at age 89. Born Dec. 20, 1906, in North Little Rock, Mrs. Bagby was appointed a Southern Baptist missionary as a single in 1938 and then married her late husband, Albert, who was appointed in 1939. Together they served 30 years in Brazil, where they directed and taught at American Baptist College in Porto Alegre. Bagby's parents established Southern Baptists' first permanent work in Brazil after arriving in the country in 1881.

Mrs. Bagby graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and attended John Brown University in Siloam Springs, and the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. She is survived by three sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Brotherhood names Wells volunteer leader

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—Herschel Wells, a 24-year veteran of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has been named associate director of the agency's Adults in Missions department.

Wells will focus on matching requests for volunteers with contacts in state convention Brotherhood departments, local churches and the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions, with its 15 groups centering on members' vocational skills and interests.

"Herschel Wells' selection for this post is another example of our agency's intention to continue our work in helping Southern Baptists be personally involved in missions, regardless of how we are structured in the future," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president. "The long-term goal, also unchanged, is to have more than 500,000 Southern Baptist volunteers involved annually in at least one missions project by the year 2000."

The most recent figures available, from 1994, show more than 70,000 volunteers recruited through state convention Brotherhood departments taking part in more than 9,000 projects at home and abroad during 1994. In 1995, the Brotherhood Commission also coordinated the involvement of more than 10,000 disaster relief volunteers to serve in California, Florida, Oklahoma City, Texas, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

Wells' role during disasters will be that of off-site coordinator,

normally operating from the agency's Memphis, Tenn., headquarters. He will work in tandem with Mickey Calsen serving as on-site coordinator. Calsen is Brotherhood's national director for disaster relief and assistant director for Adults in Missions.

Cashion to lead FMB human needs program

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Missionary Bill Cashion, a church planter known for his innovative baseball ministry in Venezuela, has been selected to lead the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's human needs program.



Bill Cashion

Cashion succeeds Jimmy Foster, a former missionary who left the board this past summer to work as a civil engineer in Texas. Cashion, 47, begins his new role Feb. 7. He currently is pastor of First Baptist Church, Marietta, S.C., while on leave from his assignment in Venezuela.

Cashion brings to his new position "a practical insight of where human needs fits into the big picture of planting and developing churches overseas," said his former missionary supervisor, John Murphy, who now leads the FMB's furlough and study program for missionaries.

During their 10 years in Venezuela, Cashion and his wife, Kathy, started churches through sports and medical projects. During language school in Costa Rica, they worked in human needs ministries among Nicaraguans living in refugee camps there. He also helped establish a Venezuelan Baptist church-starting plan that doubled the number of churches in the capital city of Caracas from 1992-95.

Cashion is a graduate of Baptist College at Charleston (S.C.) and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is working toward a doctor of ministry degree from Mid-America Seminary. The Cashions have two grown daughters, a 6-year-old daughter adopted in Venezuela and one granddaughter.

WMU creates Christian Women's Job Corps

COLUMBIA, SC (BP)—A program to help women break the poverty cycle through one-to-one mentoring has been launched by Woman's Missionary Union in South Carolina.

The "Christian Women's Job Corps" was officially launched Jan. 6 in Columbia as about 60 people from across the state learned how they can help economically disadvantaged women improve themselves spiritually, psychologically, emotionally and educationally.

It is the first of nine such pilot projects sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union to be launched in the Southern Baptist Convention. The others are expected to start later this year.

"In all of the projects, our goal is to have the woman at risk partnered with a mentor who can help her discover her goals in life and then help her meet those goals," said Trudy Johnson, director of special projects for national WMU.

The job corps program also will provide avenues of ministry and witness for church members who are looking for new and innovative ways to do missions. "We see this as another entry point for people who have not been involved in missions," Johnson said.

Another pilot project begun last fall is the Handcraft Pilot. It is a way to market goods made by underprivileged women trained by missionaries both abroad and in the United States. The first catalog was published last fall and another is due out in the spring, featuring the crafts of women in Jordan, Ethiopia and Thailand as well as Native Americans in Bismarck, N.D.

Staff changes

John Maddox of Maumelle is serving as pastor of Green Memorial Church in Little Rock where he has been interim pastor. He previously served for more than 11 years as pastor of Wynne Church and for more than 13 years as pastor of First Church of Camden. Maddox is a graduate of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Sarah, is serving as church pianist. They are parents of two children, John Maddox Jr., and Nancy Combs. They have five grandchildren.

Jerry W. Creek will begin serving Jan. 29 as director of missions for Southwest Association with offices in Texarkana, coming there from First Church of Wake Village, Texas, where he has been pastor since 1987. He previously was pastor of Central Church of Hot Springs and Luella First Church of Sherman, Texas, as well as an associate pastor in Illinois. Creek is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He is married to the former Judy Tate who is also a graduate of Southern Illinois University and Southwestern Seminary. They have two children, Jasen and Janey.



Immanuel West Church, located at 18020 Cantrell Road and a ministry of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, recently broke ground for a worship center. Program participants included pastor John Gerlach; Russ Harrington, sponsoring church chairman; and Rex M. Horne Jr., sponsoring church pastor.



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Barry King of Hot Springs has accepted the call to begin serving Feb. 4 as pastor of Tumbling Shoals Church. He previously was pastor of Grand Avenue Church of Hot Springs and First Church of Social Hill. King, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, and currently serving as the gambling campaign coordinator for the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation, will continue to serve in that position until the 1996 election is completed. He and his wife, Frances, are parents of twins, Regan and Ryan.

Mark Hicks is pastor of James Fork Church in Buckner Association. He moved there from Central City where he served First Southern Church as children's director. Hicks, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, was ordained to the ministry by the Central City church Jan. 7. He and his wife, Dana, have three children, Elizabeth, Benjamin and Jessica.

Charles Colbert is serving as pastor of Calvary Church of Corning. He formerly was pastor of First Church of Fisher and First Church of Reno.

Frank Pfenenger is serving as pastor of Enon Church near Monticello. He and his wife, Connie, moved there from St. Charles where he was pastor for more than five years.

Dwayne Monk has been called as full-time pastor of Fairdale Church in Hot Springs where he has served for four years as divocational pastor.

Jonathan Greeley is serving as minister of youth at South Highland Church in Little Rock. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University. He and his wife, Kirsten, have one daughter, Andrea.

David Ramsey is serving as minister of music for Trinity Church of Benton. He is an employe of Alcoa. Ramsey's wife, Margaret, serves as Benton city clerk.

Dennis Wills is serving as part-time youth minister for Trinity Church of Benton. Wills and his wife, Susan, have two children, Dustin and Daniel.

Mike Lanius has joined the staff of Riverside Church of Donaldson as part-time music and youth director. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Charlie Fuller is serving as interim minister of music for Second Church of

Little Rock. He is associate professor of music and coordinator of choral music studies at Ouachita Baptist University. His wife, Cindy, is organist for First Church of Arkadelphia. They have three daughters, Becky, Rachel and Sarah.

Barry Goff recently resigned as pastor of Gulon Church. He and his wife, Joyce, and their two children, Jacob and Dusty, are living near Sidney.

Kay Tibbs has resigned as director of childhood ministries for Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff, following more than two years of service.

People

Dewayne Tanton was recognized Jan. 7 by Watson Chapel Church of Pine Bluff for 15 years of service as minister of music. He and his wife, Bonita, were honored with a reception and presented a love offering.

Sarah Lee observed 20 years of service Jan. 1 as administrative secretary for Second Church in Little Rock.

Louis Criswell will observe his 20th anniversary as a staff member of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock when the church celebrates "Louis Criswell Day" Feb. 11. Criswell, who currently serves as associate pastor and minister of senior adults and family life, joined the staff in 1976 as minister of music. He previously has served other Arkansas churches, including Earle Church and Immanuel Church of El Dorado, as well as churches in Mississippi and Tennessee. He and his wife, Georgia, have two sons who are students at Ouachita Baptist University. Church anniversary activities will include a 7 p.m. reception and meal. A love offering will be presented to the Criswell family.

Obituaries

Thelma Louise Robertson Upchurch of Pine Bluff died Jan. 4 at age 83. She was a member of Shannon Road Church of Pine Bluff. She is survived by her husband, A. W. Upchurch, who had served as pastor of First Church of Bearden, Second Church and Marshall Road Church, both of Jacksonville, First Church of Kensett and First Church of Gould, as well as churches in Central Association.

Sarah Dew of Magnolia recently died at age 74, following a lengthy illness. Her funeral services were held at Central Church of Magnolia where she was a member and actively involved in Woman's Missionary Union. Survivors include a

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

sister, Catherine Dew Cheatham of Magnolia; two nephews; two great-nieces; and two great-nephews.

P. Weldon Taylor, 73, of Little Rock died January 16 following a lengthy illness. His funeral services were held Jan. 19 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock where he was a member and had been a member of the sanctuary choir. Survivors are his wife, Ann, a former accountant for the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine; a son, Robert Taylor of Little Rock; and a sister, Jessie Rowe of Monroe, La. Memorials may be made to the Immanuel Church music ministry grand piano fund.

Addine Maynard, 103, recently died at Lynwood Nursing Home in Mobile, Ala. A retired Southern Baptist home missionary, she was the widow of L.F. Maynard, a former pastor of Second Church of Hot Springs.

Emmanuel Church of Harrison recently ordained **George Campbell** as a deacon.

Graves Memorial Church in North Little Rock ordained **Rick Shirley** to the deacon ministry Jan. 7.

Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro ordained **Wade Cothran** to the deacon ministry Jan. 14.

Hot Springs First Church ordained **Carl Crow**, **Ray DeLece**, **Gene Sunderland** and **Tommy White** as deacons Jan. 14.

Riverside Church of Donaldson recently licensed **Bobby George** to the ministry.

Ordinations

New London Church of Strong ordained **Johnny Phelps** and **Rod Fien** as deacons Dec. 17.

Blytheville First Church ordained **Alvis Harris Jr.**, **Brad Hawks** and **Bruce Young** to the deacon ministry Jan. 7.

Nineteen Arkansans earn seminary degrees



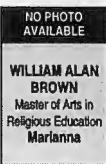
PHILIP WAYNE ATTEBERY
Doctor of Ministry
Magnolia



STEVEN LANE BASS
Master of Divinity with
Biblical Languages
Fayetteville



BOB THORNTON BIGGERS JR.
Master of Divinity
Crosssett



WILLIAM ALAN BROWN
Master of Arts in
Religious Education
Marianna



GLADYS ANN CHILDS
Master of Arts in
Religious Education
Amity



WILLIAM COLBERT
Master of Arts in
Religious Education
Texarkana



ALLAN ELLISON
Master of Divinity with
Biblical Languages
Fort Smith



ROBERT CARL GREEN
Master of Music
Jonesboro



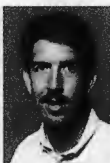
ROBERT KEVIN INMAN
Master of Divinity
Blytheville



PETER MERRILL MARSHALL
Master of Divinity with
Biblical Languages
Cabot



CHARLEY ANDREW PITCHFORD
Master of Divinity
Texarkana



DARREL GLENN RAY
Master of Divinity
Fort Smith



TOBY NEAL TALLEY
Master of Divinity with
Biblical Languages
Gurdon



DAVID A. WARD
Master of Arts in
Religious Education
Calico Rock



DAWN MICHELLE WILDER
Graduate Diploma in
Theology
Springdale



PAUL WILLIAMS
Masters of Arts in
Family Counseling/
Religious Education
White Hall



JAMES E. WILSON
Diplome in Theology
Conway



WALLACE EARL YAMAUCHI
Master of Arts in
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Private gift pushes Henderson BSU construction ahead

A \$50,000 gift from a south Arkansas family has allowed the construction of a proposed Baptist Student Union to begin a year ahead of schedule. The A.O. Smith family of Stamps recently gave the gift for the construction of a new BSU building at the campus of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.

George Sims, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministries department, said that without the gift, "we would have had to delay the building of the structure for a year. This allows it to be started in April."

BSU campus minister Mark Robinson said the gift from the Smith family "is the largest gift for the project," which has a projected total cost of \$425,000.

The new building, said Sims, will replace a 3,000-square-foot BSU building already at the Henderson campus. "The existing facility is smaller and less functional and will only seat about 75 people comfortably."

"We will demolish the old building and build the new facility on the same location," he noted. "It's slated to begin the 15th of April and to be completed Aug. 1."

Sims said the new structure will be a 5,000-square-foot facility with a multi-function worship area that is expandable to seat as many as 250, office space and a library/conference room.

Sims said that as of Jan. 15, the project still lacked \$80,000 to be fully funded and that "gifts are still being sought to fill construction needs."

Robinson, who said he was "surprised" by the gift, said it was "a result of a long-term relationship that Mr. Smith has had with the Henderson BSU. The Smith family has a burden for Henderson and a heart for Henderson. They are supportive of ministries that produce salvation and that have an evangelical emphasis on a consistent basis."

A.O. Smith, a member of First Church in Stamps, and who helped pave the way for the original BSU facility at Henderson, said that the family funded the project because, "to me, the missionary work on a state campus is one of the best places to do missions work."

"You have intellectual, ambitious kids going to school there," he said, "and if they haven't been raised in Christian homes, then this is the place to teach them."

While admitting reluctance in making the gift public, since "the Man who needs to know knows," he said that he hoped the family's gift would "inspire others to help" on the project.

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Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarship deadline - New students planning to attend OBU during the 1996-97 academic year have until Feb. 15 to submit academic scholarship applications forms, according to Susan Hurst, OBU's director of student financial aid. For more information about the scholarship program or to obtain forms for applying for aid, individuals should contact Hurst at OBU, P.O. Box 3774, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; phone 501-245-5570.

Model UN conference - Thirteen OBU students will have the opportunity to discover the importance of international dialogue in seeking solutions to world problems. The group will attend the 35th annual Midwest Model United Nation convocation to be held in St. Louis Feb. 28 - March 2. They will represent the Republic of Russia. More than 50 college and university team will meet in St. Louis to discuss global issues in a simulation of the United Nations.

Music scholarship auditions - The division of music of the Jones School of Fine Arts at OBU will hold scholarship auditions for the 1996-97 year Feb. 1 at the Mabee Fine Arts Center. Other times for auditions can be made by appointment, according to dean Charles Wright. Scholarships are available in voice, piano, organ, strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion.

Williams Baptist College

Homecoming concert - Christian recording artist Wayne Watson will perform at WBC Feb. 16 during homecoming festivities. Watson has won five Dove Awards, including Male Vocalist of the Year in 1989. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Southerland-Mabee Center at WBC. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. For ticket information, contact WBC's office of student affairs at 501-886-6741, ext. 115.

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Schedule

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10:15 p.m. His Place
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Saturday, February 17
8:30 a.m. General Session
9:00 a.m. Conferences
10:30 a.m. Conferences
11:45 a.m. Lunch
(area restaurants)
1:30 p.m. General Session
3:00 p.m. Adjourn

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- TOUR SP #6** Australia/New Zealand (both islands). 15 Days. Depart Oct. 2 (Springtime down under).
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Abortion alternatives office shares resource

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP)—Established eight years ago, the Home Mission Board's alternatives to abortion office offers resources and training to Southern Baptists interested in offering crisis pregnancy counseling.

Director Sylvia Boothe said the office has gained recognition, and work, as more people learn her office is available to help churches and associations respond to crisis pregnancies. "I think there's more awareness as we go along that there's something positive that we can do for these young women," she said.

"It's one thing to say no, that abortion's not the answer to an unplanned pregnancy," she added. "But we as Christians, I feel, are very strongly challenged to provide the resources needed by a young woman facing a crisis pregnancy. That's what a crisis pregnancy center does."

The Alternatives to Abortion office offers 18-hour training sessions for churches and Baptist associations starting crisis pregnancy centers. Boothe also leads 12-hour conferences on other forms of ministries for crisis pregnancies. "The cry of people wanting to do something is coming from the pew and the local pastors," she said.

Nationally, about 1.5 million babies — or one in every 2.8 conceived — are aborted each year in America, Boothe explained. Southern Baptists observed Jan. 21 as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

The Alternatives to Abortion office offers two books and two videos as resources:

■ "Help, I'm Pregnant" is a 14-minute video introducing the concept of crisis pregnancy centers.

■ "Heart of the Matter" is a 24-minute video presenting ultra-sound pictures of a developing baby and explanations of abortion procedures and post-abortion trauma. Hosted by TV actress Lisa Wheelchel, the video also includes interviews with women who have chosen abortion, adoption and single parenting.

■ *No Easy Choices* is a book written by Boothe, offering advice on how to minister to women in crisis pregnancies.

■ *Not An Easy Time*, is another book written by Boothe. It is intended for young women who are pregnant. It includes information about personal care and where to find help. It also includes a message about God's love and forgiveness.

Additional information is available from Booth's office at 1-800-962-0851.

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Recycling ministry provides Christian literature for Africa

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—It used to bother I.C. McLendon that Southern Baptists dumped their used Sunday School quarterlies in the trash at the end of each quarter.

"The Word of God is the Word of God," the Oklahoma City physician reasoned. There must be individuals and churches in other parts of the world in need of Bible study helps who wouldn't care what date was on the lesson.

In the fall of 1992, McLendon joined forces with Jim Messick, his Sunday School teacher at Village Baptist Church, to begin a ministry sending recycled Sunday School literature, Bibles, tracts and magazines to Christians in Africa. At the end of each quarter, boxes are placed in the halls of the church where Sunday School members can place their old quarterlies.

In addition to recycling used literature, "Project Africa — a Ministry with a Heart," is recycling senior adults who are finding new meaning in life by collecting literature, soliciting funds for postage and packing boxes for the foreign mission field.

By the end of 1995, about 1 million pieces of literature had been shipped to several African countries through the three-year-old project. More than 300 churches in 18 states — Southern Baptists, United Methodists, Presbyterians and other denominations — are providing used literature along with money for postage.

"The only cost we have is shipping," McLendon said.

While some churches send their recycled literature directly to churches in Africa, others collect and send it to Village Baptist for distribution.

At Village, six to eight senior adults, mostly members of Messick's Gleaners Sunday School class or the married adult 5 department, gather each Tuesday and Thursday mornings to pack parcels of 11 to 66 pounds. Postage is 79 cents per pound. Packages take 10 to 14 weeks by surface mail to arrive in Africa.

Begun as a project of one Sunday School class, McLendon said "this ministry has grown beyond our wildest dreams. We struggle to keep up with the requests."

"We have never been able to get caught up," Messick noted. "We are probably behind 150 requests right now. If we had more postage money, we could send more."

"If you don't use the knowledge God's given you, it's sinful," McLendon said. "If He gives us the opportunity and we quit doing it, it's a waste."

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

Professor urges Christians to 'lay claim' to Internet

By Bob Allen

Associated Baptist Press

MUSKEGON, MI (ABP) — A professor at a religious college is urging Christians to view the Internet as a new mission field.

Publicity about so-called "cyber smut" and the attempted luring of children online has caused many Christians to be suspicious of the Internet; noted author Quentin Schultze in a new book, *Internet for Christians*. However, there are many

Christian ministries with sites on the Internet, which Schultze says he hopes will entice believers to "be salt and light in the new medium."

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that grows by hundreds of thousands of users every month. It includes both electronic mail, by which computers can communicate from almost anywhere in the world, and the World Wide Web, a vast network of information on almost any topic imaginable.

Schultze's book offers tips on how to "surf" the Internet, or find information, and highlights current services of interest to Christian users.

Schultze said Christians should seek to develop Internet sites that "truly serve people." Most churches should not rush onto the Internet "unless it enhances their ministry," he added.

He does recommend, however, that if churches have enough members on-line, they may use electronic mail for prayer chains, church news for former members who have moved away, reminders for those who have been asked to perform special tasks and for feedback and discussion about sermons.

Benefits for missionaries are obvious, he said, including faster and more frequent transmission of prayer requests from the field, more contact with loved ones back home and quicker response to requests for emergency funding. Less obvious is the possibility that easy and frequent communication between missionaries in similar cultures can enhance their work, he said.

He suggested that "perhaps the most fruitful direction" for denominations on the Internet is for seminaries to use the technology in addition to or in place of continuing education courses.

Schultze edits a free "Internet for Christians" newsletter, published twice a week, available by both electronic mail and on the Internet's World Wide Web. Internet users may access "Internet for Christians" newsletter at <http://www.gospelcom.net/ifc>.

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CHURCH RECREATION

Church recreators launch new professional organization

LAKE YALE, FL (BP)—A diverse group of Christian recreators has taken the first steps in establishing a new professional organization, thought to be the first independent organization of its kind.

Proposed Jan. 5-11 during the 31st anniversary meeting of Rec Lab, an annual weeklong event sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation program, the interdenominational group would be separate from the Rec Lab event and the board.

To be named the National Association of Church Recreators, the organization is planned as a Christ-centered, biblically based, national ecumenical group committed to Christian ministry through sports and recreation.

A nine-member board of directors has selected Bob Sessoms, minister of recreation at First Baptist Church of Concord, in Knoxville, Tenn., as the association's first president and has outlined 10 goals "to provide both the platform and opportunity for church sports and recreational professionals to call people into a personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

The goals call for sharing of ideas, developing professionalism, developing a personal support system, developing and enhancing conferences and seminars within the field and developing a sports and recreation certification program. Other goals include promoting and encouraging development of sports and recreation ministry in local churches, encouraging related curricula and degrees in Christian colleges and seminaries,

partnering with others sports and recreation ministry groups, developing and disseminating sports and recreation ministry resources as needed and providing credibility to sports and recreation professionals and their field of ministry.

Professional Christian recreators who are interested in obtaining additional information concerning the proposed association may contact Sessoms at 423-675-1194.

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Summer worker — Church will employ summer youth worker for full program for youth and children. Send resume with references to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 450, Calico Rock, AR 72519-0450.

Wanted — Part-time youth minister. Send resume to Cross Point Baptist Church, 5301 Summitree Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118-6626.

Accepting applications — for full-time minister of music and youth and/or education. Please send resumes to: Search Committee, Bingham Road Baptist Church, 923 W. Bingham Road, Little Rock, AR 72206.

Needed — Part-time music leader for small Southern Baptist church in SW Arkansas. Send resumes to Memorial Baptist Church, P.O. Box 280, Waldo, AR 71770.

Seeking resumes — for full-time minister of music and youth. Send resumes to: Music/Youth Search, c/o First Baptist Church, 201 E. Haywood, England, AR 72046.

Bivocational youth director — Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 2201 South Dallas, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Seeking resumes — Concord Baptist Church is seeking a minister of music and education. Send resumes to: Concord Baptist Church, 6105 Alma Hwy., Van Buren, AR 72956; or call 501-474-9336 for more information.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included.

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CHURCH RECREATION

Sports can attract youth to church; quality, challenge will keep them

By Charles Willis

Baptist Sunday School Board

LAKE YALE, FL (BP)—Offering the opportunity to play sports can attract unchurched youth to a local congregation, but quality programs and continuing challenge to youth interests will keep them, a youth and sports minister told participants in Rec Lab '96.

Speaking at Lake Yale (Fla.) Baptist Assembly, Todd Larson said church leaders need to go beyond attracting youth to evangelizing, discipling and keeping them.

Larson is minister of youth sports and junior high youth at First Friends Church, an Evangelical Friends (Quaker) congregation in Canton, Ohio. Rec Lab is an annual training event sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation program.

In both sports and youth programs, quality and challenging variety are the elements that will keep youth interested, Larson insisted, adding, "It's youth ministry that will actually keep the kids."

"We use sports to attract young people

to come to our church, and the program has to be quality. We do everything first class, because we are looking at attracting a non-churched individual. If we run a poor quality youth program, it says something about the church and it says something about Jesus Christ."

And as for evangelizing and discipling youth, Larson said his church provides coaches with devotional materials to use.

"To communicate Christian values and principles is sometimes difficult for persons whose background is in sports," he said, "so we provide material that helps coaches tell youth who God is, what sin is, who Jesus is, how to know Him personally and how to make a decision."

Another set of materials on ethics outlines how to deal with teammates, how to relate to opponents and how to reach one's fullest potential in life.

Sports ministry encompasses persons at all levels of readiness to deal with the gospel, Larson said. "We want a quick fix, but it takes time for us to make an impact on the non-believer. If we give them points of contact," he explained, "when they are ready, they will come back to us."

"In keeping youth involved in our program, the important thing is keeping them challenged and involved so they multiply themselves. Always have something for them to look forward to and to grow on."

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Running from God

By Steven Mullen, assistant professor, Williams Baptist College
Basic passage: Jonah 1:1-2
Focal passage: Jonah 1:1, 3, 5
Central truth: When God calls us to perform a task, we must ultimately respond.

Today we look at one of the most beloved passages of the Old Testament. Most who have enjoyed consistent Bible study have been exposed to the experiences of Jonah. The question is this: What principles can (and should) we extract from Jonah's life and incorporate in our life?

■ *Jonah heard God's voice* (v. 1:1). Sometimes we have the propensity to be harsh with Jonah's response to God's call, but at least he was close enough to God to hear His voice. Many people today are living so far from the voice of God that even the faintest sound is unrecognizable.

■ *Not only did Jonah hear God's call, but he responded* (v. 1:3). When we hear the voice of God, we make one of three responses: we respond positively, we respond negatively or we do not respond at all. Anything other than an immediate response to God's call is disobedience.

■ *Jonah's disobedience to God affected the lives of other people* (v. 1:5). Because of the disobedience of one man, the life of each person on the vessel was placed in turmoil. Some things never change!

It is possible that our disobedience to God is directly affecting the peace of other people, usually those to whom we are closest and love most. Each of us should inventory our personal lives and ask ourselves how our disobedience is affecting other people.

Jonah came to the place in his life where doing God's will was most important. Notice, though, that God was willing to exercise whatever measure it took to bring Jonah to that place.

Is there a mandate that God has given you, only to receive your disobedience? If so, what measures are you willing to endure while running from God?

Finally, how long will you allow your disobedience to affect those you love most? Each of us should work diligently to fulfill whatever task God directs us to perform.

Life and Work

Our evil heart

By Ben J. Rowell, pastor, First Church, Rogers
Basic passage: Matthew 5:27-37
Focal passage: Matthew 5:27-28
Central truth: Hold our standards high.

Many people think the only way to commit adultery is through the physical act. The Pharisees also believed this and would correctly quote the commandment, but miss its point. Adultery begins within the heart and mind. I have counseled with many people who have said to me, "I did not mean to commit adultery. It all started with a look, a lustful look."

Jesus carried His teachings to the extreme length when He said, in so many words, that lasciviousness secretly harbored and indulged shows that the person has already committed adultery in one's heart. The evil lies in harboring and in dwelling upon the evil and impure thing. We are run even from the appearance of evil. Someone has said, "If you want to avoid suspicion, don't tie your shoes in a watermelon patch." To avoid such tragedy as adultery, some simple things can be done in our lives to help: *Don't counsel alone with someone who is having marital problems. Don't go out to eat with the opposite sex alone. Don't talk to the opposite sex about intimate things.*

The body, in which sex is one of the strongest instincts, has been given to us by God in order to exercise the divine purpose of fatherhood and motherhood. It should never be referred to as evil.

Verses 31-32 are about divorce and Christ's teaching is as absolute here as it is elsewhere. Marriage is so sacred that its indissolubility ought to be taken for granted by every Christian. To take marriage lightly is utterly and entirely unchristian. We should think of marriage as an unbreakable bond.

The Pharisees were always giving oaths, yet would often break them. If they wanted to be released from an oath they had made by heaven, earth, Jerusalem or one's own hand, they would argue that since God Himself had not been involved in their oath, it was not binding. Jesus said oaths should not be necessary. The Lord was saying one's life should be sufficient to back up our words. A "yes" should mean "yes," and a "no" should mean "no." There is an old saying that I have heard many times: "A man's word should be his bond." This should be our high standard also.

Bible Book

The glorious gospel

By Don Moseley, pastor, Sylvan Hills First Church, Sherwood
Basic passage: I Timothy 1:1-20
Focal passage: I Timothy 1:15-16
Central truth: The clear declaration of the gospel of Christ has the power to change lives and stabilize the church.

Paul addressed Timothy as his "true son in the faith" (v. 2). The phrase "in the faith" qualified their relationship as spiritual. Their relationship had been so close that Timothy had been included in the introduction of six of Paul's letters besides the two addressed to Timothy.

Paul reminded Timothy that he was to remain in Ephesus and challenge false teachers who were misleading the church with false doctrines. These false teachers had little understanding of the real purpose of the law (v. 7). They were using the law to keep the people in bondage to legalism rather than allowing them to experience the full liberty of grace. Paul added, "We know that the law is good if one uses it properly" (v. 8). Paul had reminded the Galatians of the proper place of the law. He pointed to the fact that law could not impart life, for only faith in Christ could do that (Gal. 3:21-22). The law was to lead us to Christ and once faith comes we are no longer under the supervision of the law (Gal. 4:23-25). Thus, the law is needed to point men to the "glorious gospel" (v. 11).

Paul then shared his personal testimony of what the "glorious gospel" had done for him. He praised Christ, "who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service" (v. 12). Even though he had been a "blasphemer," "persecutor" and "a violent man," God had shown him "mercy" and had poured out His "grace" upon him. But there was a reason: "I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life" (v. 16). Paul saw himself as "exhibit A" in proof of the saving power of the gospel. He spoke of this gospel to the Romans when he said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Rom. 1:16).

Paul closed by admonishing Timothy to "fight the good fight, holding on to the faith and a good conscience" (vv. 18-19). It would be dangerous to do otherwise.

Convention Uniform

Extending mercy

By Steven Mullen, assistant professor, Williams Baptist College
 Basic passage: Jonah 3-4
 Focal passage: Jonah 1:1; 3:1-2
 Central truth: God, in His mercy, often allows a second chance to be obedient.

Have you ever asked someone to perform a task that was so personal no one else could be substituted? Perhaps as a church member you have joined in asking a specific person to serve a staff position, or as an adult you asked a special person to commit their life to you. Upon asking someone to fill that specific role, how would you feel if that person rejected you?

You will recall from our last lesson that the word of the Lord had visited Jonah (v. 1:1). You might also recall Jonah's response was to reject that mandate and run from God. Notice that Jonah's response did not seal his eternal fate with God.

■ *God, in His mercy, allowed Jonah a second chance to follow His commandment (v. 3:1).* It is interesting to me that God did not change the mandate even though Jonah knew the consequences of disobedience (v. 3:2). Notice that neither God nor Jonah mentioned Jonah's previous unfaithfulness. This is in contrast with human nature which says we should strengthen our mandate when we have the leverage to do so.

■ *It is equally important to examine Jonah's heart.* With the exception that Jonah was willing to proceed to Nineveh there is no indication that he had a repentant heart. Because there is no recorded acknowledgment of disobedience or expression of repentance, it is assumed that Jonah was motivated (at least in part) by the desire to preclude another outpouring of God's judgment.

There are at least two truths from Jonah 2 and 3 that we need to incorporate into our lives. First, God is merciful in both His initial and subsequent extensions of grace. He often will allow us more than one opportunity to be faithful. Second, it is not uncommon for individuals to serve God because they fear His judgment. God wants us to serve out of a genuine desire to praise, worship and honor Him; not out of a sense of fear.

Life and Work

Love even your enemies

By Ben J. Rowell, pastor,
 First Church, Rogers
 Basic passage: Matthew 5:38-48
 Focal passage: Matthew 5:43-48
 Central truth: You can only love your enemies with the Lord's help.

A great mark of Christian conduct is not to insist on what the law allows. The law is based on equity, not on grace. Under the term of the law, we are entitled to demand "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But, dear friends, there is a more excellent way than requiring "our pound of flesh." The way of love leads to nonresistance, to return good for evil, to go the second mile and to deal generously with the needy. This is our Lord's recipe for turning enemies into friends, when we read the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus said in verse 44, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you and pray for them that spitefully use you and persecute you." When we read this, we seem to pass into an entirely different world. The law of love which Jesus brings forth in this chapter implies eagerness to overwhelm the wrongdoer with such true generosity that they may feel shame for the wrong done. Then, of his own accord, wish to make amends for it. The appeal is to that which is best in him against that which is worst. The weapons of the Kingdom of Heaven are refusal to retaliate and going the second mile. These are more likely to win one of our enemies than insistence on our privilege under the law.

In verses 43-48, we see that there must be a burning love so vital and so contagious that every barrier raised up by evil will be broken down and the hardest heart will be won. This kind of love will really make an impact on this sinful world. Only our Lord can help us achieve this.

By refusing to accept His standard, we nullify any claim to sonship with God, whose overflowing bounty sets the pattern for us. It is the extra effort that really counts. The world of sinners knows how to give love for love, but the Christian is to give love for hate. That is the perfection of God to which we must aspire. As God's love is complete, not omitting any groups, so must the child of God strive for maturity in this regard. This cannot mean sinlessness, for verses 6-7 shows that the blessed ones still hunger for righteousness and need mercy.

Bible Book

Prayer, godly behavior

By Don Moseley, pastor, Sylvan Hills
 First Church, Sherwood
 Basic passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-15
 Focal passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-6, 8, 9-12
 Central truth: Paul gives practical instructions to men and women on worship that pleases God.

In this passage, Paul appealed to men to lead their congregation in praying. He realized how easy it is for prayer to become secondary or nonexistent in worship. He said, "I urge, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone; for kings and all those in authority..." (vv. 1-2a). This list of prayers was not meant to be exhaustive, but Paul wanted the church to know how essential prayer is to the life of our worship.

They were to pray for leaders in government so that the church might be able to live "peaceful and quiet lives" due to stability in government. You need also to pray for the salvation of those in authority as well as others (v. 4). We can pray for all who are lost. It's God's desire that all should come to repentance (II Pet. 3:9).

Paul then gave the basis on which salvation has been made available (vv. 5-6). Jesus Christ "gave Himself as a ransom," becoming the "one mediator between God and man." Therefore, men should "lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing" (v. 8). Posture in prayer is not the thrust here, but "holy hands" represent a holy life not characterized by dissension.

Women had come to know a new freedom in Christ and some were obviously abusing their freedom and Paul dealt with attitude in worship. Women should not overdress in a way to call attention to themselves. He was not forbidding fixing one's hair or the wearing of jewelry. God is more interested in the spirit in which we approach Him. Paul cautioned the women to "full submission" and learning in "quietness." Paul says, "I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man; she must be silent (v. 12). "Be silent" is in reference to teaching men. The New Testament clearly teaches equality of the sexes, but differing roles. God has given the leadership role in the church and home to men. Women may teach other women and children (Titus 2:4-5). Men are to teach both men and women (Titus 2:1-2). We must be careful that we do not allow our culture to influence us toward disobedience in these directives for worship.

