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**December 5, 1985**

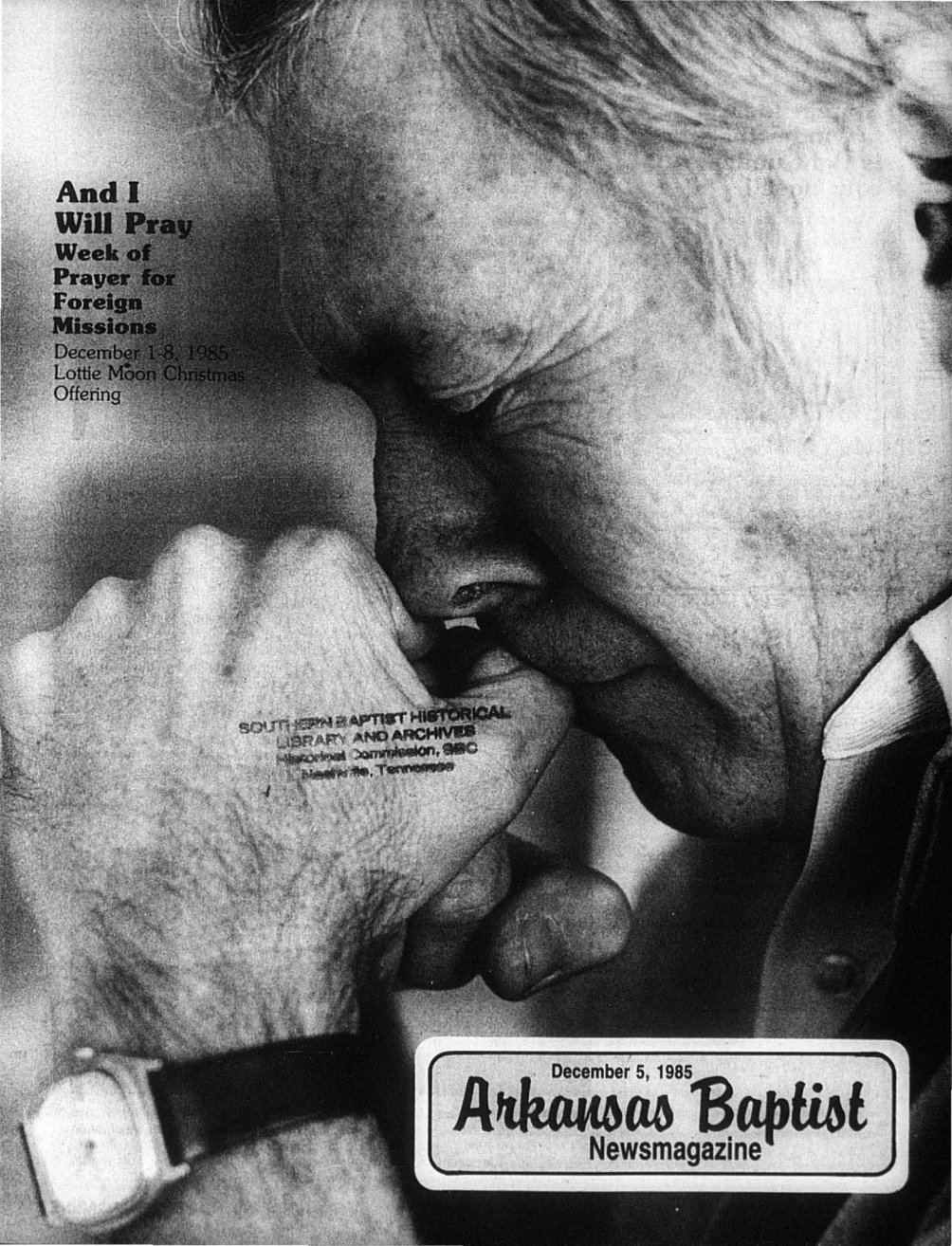
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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**And I  
Will Pray  
Week of  
Prayer for  
Foreign  
Missions**

December 1-8, 1985  
Lottie Moon Christmas  
Offering

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

December 5, 1985

**Arkansas Baptist**  
Newsmagazine



FMB photo by Joanna Pinneo

Don Madaris, Southern Baptist representative in Guadalajara, Mexico, and his 3,600 Southern Baptist missionary co-workers, take prayer seriously. They are among the first to say, "We need it. We depend on it." A special feature on pp. 12-13 focuses on the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Dec. 1-8.

## In this issue

### 7 reactions to the lawsuit

Southern Baptist leaders from across the nation reflect a range of reactions to last week's announcement a lawsuit will be pressed against a controversial bylaw interpretation from the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas.

### 8-9 state convention wrap-up

A word from the new state convention president, the election of auxiliary officers and the names of those elected to positions on the Executive Board and convention committees and trustee boards comprise a final perspective on the 1985 annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Retiring missionaries honored by board

Two Southern Baptist missionaries who have made their retirement home in Benton were honored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 7.

Ed and Lois Berry, career missionaries in southern Brazil, were among 36 recently-retired missionaries whose service was recognized.

Berry, a Southern Baptist missionary in Brazil for 32 years, was head of the men's division of the Brazilian Brotherhood organization. He also was administrator of the Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Rio de Janeiro. Mrs. Berry, who served in Brazil for 37 years, was the treasurer, historian and a teacher at the training school.

Berry, the son of missionaries to Brazil, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (now University) and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The Berrys have three grown children. They reside at 614 Swannee Dr., Benton, AR 72015.



Ed and Lois Berry

## Make plans to observe Witness Commitment Day

ATLANTA, Ga. — The annual observance of Witness Commitment Day, Jan. 12, 1986, gives Southern Baptist church members the opportunity to make a commitment to witness and witness training for the new year.

The day will focus on the church's primary task of evangelism and provide a list of potential soul winners, an increased concern for the lost, prayer for unsaved persons and a list of evangelistic prospects, according to Jack R. Smith, associate director of the personal evangelism department, Home Mission Board, of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Most pastors want their members involved in personal evangelism to strengthen and enhance the work of the church. A vital ingredient to that end is enlisting them in witnessing training and motivating them in witness activities.

The Home Mission Board has prepared a packet of materials for each church giving preparation suggestions, witness training processes and promotional materials. For more information, contact the Personal Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30367 or call (404)873-4041.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



**Pastor honored**—Cary Heard, pastor of North Little Rock's Park Hill Church, was honored Sunday, Nov. 24, for 10 years of service to the church. The presentation of a new car—a 1986 Toyota—was made during an afternoon reception for the Heards. Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, spoke during the morning worship services.



"Bold Mission Thrust" is but another name for the Great Commission. Since 1977, Southern Baptists have had a goal of sharing the gospel with every living person by the year 2000. Long ago, Christ told us "to disciple all nations." If we are to obey our Master, there must be bold commitment by everyone who bears his name. As Southern Baptists, there are only two ways we can carry the gospel to every nation, and that is through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Sharing the gospel requires boldness in three areas: going, giving, and praying. Currently, the Foreign Mission Board has more than 3,500 missionaries under appointment. This number is far too small to accomplish the task of sharing the gospel with every person on earth by the year 2000. If we are to reach our goal, we must send many more missionaries.

The \$70 million Lottie Moon Christmas offering will represent approximately one-half of the operating budget of the Foreign Mission Board for next year. The money already has been earmarked for needs on various mission fields around the world, in anticipation of reaching the goal. In the event the Foreign Mission Board fails to receive either the Cooperative Program allocations or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal, mission work must be reduced around the world.

The Foreign Mission Board is trying to make every dollar count to its maximum. They also are developing indigenous leadership as fast as possible in the countries where they are serving. But even more is necessary, if we are to provide opportunity for every person to hear the gospel by the year 2000.

Support of the Lottie Moon Christmas offering is essential, not only to fulfill the Great Commission, but also because of our Lord's command to give. Christ taught giving is a vital part of the worship experience. The wise men, as they came to worship the new King, brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Certainly, some of the harshest words of Jesus dealt with the matter of self-gratification and self-exaltation in giving, for he cautioned, "When thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward" (Matt. 6:2).

We especially would note that Jesus did command the age-old principle of tithing. Men of many races were giving a tithe far back in antiquity. Abraham (see Heb. 7) and Jacob both gave 10 percent as a minimum to the Lord, and God admonished Moses, "The tithe is the Lord's." Jesus approved of sacrificial giving, for

he commended the woman who brought the alabaster box and broke it over him, as well as the widow who gave her mite.

Perhaps of greatest importance is the stress Jesus placed on the motive, as he said, "Freely have ye received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). Paul enlarged upon this same thought with the statement, "Not greedily, or of necessity; for the Lord loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). The Greek word "cheerful" is *hilaron* from which our English word "hilarious" is derived. The idea is that we are to give from a heart overflowing with enthusiasm. When our motive is love, we can give of time, talent and substance with great joy.

A second important factor in helping our missionaries is prayer. There have been a number of answered prayers around the world in the last year. For example, rain has begun to fall in parts of drought-plagued Africa. Ten Baptist churches were born last year in Grand Exdedeh County, Liberia. A new Southern Baptist evangelist has begun spreading the words of Christ in Thailand. In every instance, Southern Baptists were praying for these events to take place.

Our missionaries are eager for the prayers of individuals at home. While money is essential in financing their work, it is the prayers of the people at home that sustain them.

New Jeeps or church buildings or hospitals funded by Lottie Moon Christmas offering are physical evidence of the support of those at home. But these things are merely the means by which missionaries minister. Missionaries repeatedly assure us their strength flows from the prayers of individuals at home.

The theme of this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, "And I Will Pray," reminds us just how important prayer support is to our missionaries. Today, our resources are vast. Southern Baptists have the people, the money and the resources to accomplish anything God wants us to do. Certainly, it is our Lord's desire that we carry out his marching command of sharing the gospel around the world. The timing of the Lottie Moon Christmas offering is excellent because it comes at the season set aside to commemorate the birth of our Lord. It reminds us of the greatest gift ever given. The offering has done much to stimulate joy in giving.

How much should you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering? This is a question each family must answer under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As Christian families earnestly seek God's will and respond to it, our Bold Mission Thrust will take a giant step forward.

## Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Arkansas' third largest publication,  
meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 47

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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

### Learning from the "boat people"

An astonishing statistic captured my attention recently concerning the 650,000 Southeast Asian refugees in the United States. These "boat people," and others who fled to the U.S. from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos after our withdrawal from that part of the world in 1975, have been found to have an unemployment rate of nine percent, only slightly above the entire national average. When we consider much higher unemployment rates of other minority groups, this is some kind of super-achievement.

The University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research has just published their findings from a three-year study of the "boat people." These were not the business, political and military officials who fled from Vietnam in the first wave of U.S.-bound immigrants; they studied the farmers, fishers, craftspeople, students and laborers in the second wave that came when the communist atrocities became unbearable. Many

of them had harrowing escapes by boat and arrived in this country during the deep recession at the beginning of this decade.

The study reveals that, while the refugees spent their initial months in the U.S. in bleak poverty, they are now emerging as an economically self-sufficient group. Nathan Caplan, one of the report's authors, gave credit to their strong emphasis on preserving the family as a cohesive unit, working to achieve shared goals, a strong respect for education and an emphasis on the family's cultural traditions and history. Refugee children scored high in national standardized tests, though still weak in language skills.

All the more remarkable is the finding there was very little relationship between government employment services (vocational training and on-the-job assistance) and the economic progress of the refugees. More than 60 percent had found their jobs exclusively through the help of friends or relatives.

Perhaps we can learn from the "boat people." Is it possible that the family—and I would add the Christian churches—are still far better resources to help improve the economic and physical well-being of troubled people, than the all-too-often impersonal and distant government programs? I still believe Christian people should support compassionate government programs when they are the best way to meet human needs, but sometimes the "political way" raises up a generation of young people who believe that the world owes them a living.

Congratulations to the "boat people" for their tenacious commitment to freedom and hard work. It is a good time to remember our American ancestors were also "boat people," in search of religious liberty and economic opportunity.

**Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.**

### History and Heritage celebrates 20th anniversary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A review of significant events in the Southern Baptist Convention from 1965 to 1985 is the focus of one of the articles in the 20th anniversary issue of *Baptist History and Heritage*, a quarterly journal published by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission.

The article, written by Albert McClellan, retired associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the SBC Executive Committee, highlights the conventions' growth, turbulence and victories during this period. The issue contains 20-year histories of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Historical Commission and the journal. A comprehensive index of the first 20 years of the journal is included.

Copies of this special 20th anniversary issue are available by writing the Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400; Nashville, TN 37203. Information on other thematic issues is also available.

**Employment**—Resident houseparents/relief staff for Children's Receiving Homes in Sherwood and Paragould. We need Christian couples who want to minister to abused children, ages birth - 12 years. Husband may be employed or in school. Cook/housekeeper provided, plus salary, benefits, and supervision. For details about our ministry, call 376-4791, ext. 5119, or write:

**Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.**



## Woman's viewpoint

Martha Dewbre

### Christmas — keep it simple

It is almost Christmas, 1985! This year, as every year, I pray, "Lord, please help me to find you in new ways, to make Christmas a more joyful adventure, a time filled with childlike faith as we prepare for the time to celebrate the birth of your son."

For me, Christmas always begins by remembering. There is a quick return home. It seems no matter where we live now, the heart always goes home for Christmas, even if just for a quick look down Memory Lane.

Home for me growing up was Tyrnza, Ark., with Mother and Daddy and my two sisters. Christmas was a happy time, but not the commercialized events of the 80's. Our family celebrated Christmas with the exchange of one gift, and always the biggest and most important gift was our family's gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Daddy always made it clear our gift to Lottie was to be more than the combination spent on all other gifts.

As I recall all the food and flowers my parents delivered to friends and needy people, I know now they were teaching us the meaning of Christmas: always be sincere, keep it simple, it's not for self, but others.

Those early teachings have caused an insatiable desire to be at home and, as much as possible, to be with our family at Christmas. This comes as I remember the times around the table with as many members of our extended family as possible, gathered for the warmth of food, fellowship, family and friends, remembering and sharing about the real reason for Christmas, Christ's birth.

It's really no wonder Christmas draws us home. When we think of birth and new life, it has its beginning at home, where we first knew people who loved us. Is it any wonder that, in celebrating Christ's birth, we remember how he taught us many things. The most lasting and important is one of great hope and comfort: we all have a home to go to. Someday, there will be an everlasting homecoming, a place where we will be reunited forever with those we love. Praise God, what a day that will be!

**Martha Moreland Dewbre is a member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, where she is active in mission programs and Sunday School work.**

Don Moore

## You'll be glad to know...

### ...Pure religion is still being found!

According to James 1:27, it is to be found in those who "visit orphans and widows in their distress and keep themselves unstained by the world" (NAS). Many of you have shown it in your Thanksgiving offerings for the Family and Child Care ministry. Others of you will do it on Mother's Day. But what about the widows?



Moore

A few ideas are being followed to do this. The Deacon Family Ministry plan really makes possible a strong ministry to widows. First Church at Smackover has a monthly night out for widows and widowers. They are taken on the church bus to nice places to eat or to other activities. Some senior adult ministries will provide excellent activities for the widows. A "Helping Hand Ministry" was started several years ago to allow the church family an avenue of helping widows.

How about this? Had you ever thought about "widows in distress" as being one unable to reach her feet to clip her toenails? That is right! An aunt of mine, who has declined in health to where she cannot physically hold up to regular shifts of caring for the afflicted, still finds real joy in going periodically to the homes of shut-ins to clip their toenails. Sounds humorous at first, and to some even silly, but it fits in the scriptural definition of true religion.

Performance of leadership tasks can be done with little "pure religion." But these quiet, unsung heroes, who without fanfare or recognition go on ministering out of deep humility and joy, have found the key to losing their life to find it again, pure religion.

When Jesus stooped to wash the feet of those too proud to wash his, he gave us a tremendous picture of what it really takes to minister to individuals. With all of our official, formal "religious" activity, let us not fail to be the servant-ministers he showed us we should be to individuals, particularly to those who cannot repay the deed (Luke 14:12).

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Letters to the editor

### Serious implications

I commend the Bylaws Workgroup of the Executive Committee for proposing an amendment to Bylaw 16.1 to clarify that there may be "further nominations... from the floor" when the Committee on Committees nominates persons to serve on the Committee on Boards. This is consistent with our parliamentary authority, *Robert's Rule of Order* (Bylaw 11), which requires, as I read it, an opportunity for nominations from the assembly whenever any nominating committee brings its report (1981 ed., pp. 365, 424).

However, another proposal from the Workgroup — "No messenger shall be allowed to nominate more than one person for election to the committee on boards" — raises serious questions.

Does this proposal imply that a messenger is entitled to be concerned about only one position on the 52-member Committee on Boards?

Inasmuch as a messenger is entitled to vote for persons to fill all positions on the Com-

mittee on Boards, why should Bylaws permit the messenger to nominate someone to fill only one position? On what theory can the Convention justify a bylaw provision which makes the power to nominate more narrow than the power to vote for nominees to all positions?

No other provision of the current Constitution and Bylaws, as I read them, restricts the rights of messengers who constitute the Convention (Const. III, Bylaw 8.1). If we adopt this second proposal, what precedential effect will it have in restricting other rights of messengers?

If the purpose of the proposal is to permit nominations on a position-by-position basis only, it is possible to achieve this purpose without limiting messengers' rights. The proposed wording, in my opinion, is infelicitous at best and, when literally interpreted, contains serious complications. — Hugh Wamble, Kansas City, Mo.



**Building dedicated**—Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock dedicated a 40,402 square foot educational building Nov. 17 that houses 24 adult departments, six nursery departments, a fellowship hall and kitchen. The building opens a new avenue of ministry for the church by providing adequate space for continued growth in all age levels for the first time in its history. The 1985 Sunday School enrollment has reached over 3,000 with an average attendance of 1,400. Paul Sanders serves as pastor. Irby Watson served as building committee chairman, and Doyle Moore is serving as director of the Together We Build committee.

## Nine Governor's Scholars enroll at OBU

ARKADELPHIA—Nine recipients of the 1985 Governor's Scholar awards are enrolled for the fall semester at Ouachita Baptist University.

The 100 Arkansas high school students designated as 1985 Governor's Scholars received \$2,000 a year for four years of undergraduate study in the state.

The nine enrolled at OBU are Lanell Ayers, Ashdown; Jeff Power, Morrilton; Sandra Shull, Hughes; Michael Ball, Danville; Kecia Stewart, Conway; Martha Jo Leonard, Star City; Carrie Cowling, Arkadelphia; Chris Lawson, El Dorado; and Michelle Duncan, Prescott. Ayers and Cowling also are National Merit Scholar finalists.



by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Matt Harness** is serving as pastor of Plumerville Church, coming there from Texas.

**Billy Harwell** is serving as pastor of Casa Church, moving there from Waldron.

**Bob Ahlers and Janenne McDonald** have joined the staff of Blytheville Trinity Church. Ahlers, a native of York Springs, Penn., is serving as minister of education. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute of Graceville, Fla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. McDonald is serving as minister of music. She is a graduate of Arkansas State University and teaches music education and choral music at Gosnell High School.

**Jack Porter** is serving as pastor of Charles Church near Fort Smith, moving there from Luxora First Church.

**Mike Keen** has joined the staff of Gosnell Church as minister of youth. A native of Arkansas, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

**Frankie Anderson** has joined the staff of Blytheville Calvary Church as minister of music and youth. A native of Poughkeepsie, he is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

**Clay Courson** is serving as pastor of Old Union Church at Benton. He is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University and previously served as minister of youth at Mount Olive Church, North Crossett. His wife, Melissa, attends Henderson State University.

**Shafer Parker** is serving as pastor of First Southern Church, Holly Grove. He is a native of Lufkin, Texas, and his wife, Jeanne, is a native of Kingsport, Tenn. They are both graduates of Carson-Newman College. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is now attending Mid-America Baptist Seminary.

**Ronald D. Daves** is serving as pastor of Lambrook Church. He is a graduate of Columbia Bible College and is a student at Mid-America Baptist Seminary. Daves and his wife, Karen, have two children, Sandi, age nine, and Ronnie, age six.

**Les Frazer** began serving Nov. 17 as pastor of Lamar Church, moving there from Everton Church near Harrison. He is a 1982 graduate of Southwestern Bap-

tist Theological Seminary and Southwest Baptist College. He is married to the former Kathy Estep of Harrison.

**Searcy Erod** of Rison died Nov. 18 at age 80. He was a deacon and member for more than 50 years of Rison Church. A prominent businessman, he was founder and senior partner of Erod Company at Rison; chairman of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas Agricultural and Mechanical College; was on the Rison City Council and was chairman of the original board of Cleveland County Memorial Hospital. Survivors include his wife, Frances Sadler Erod; two sons, John W. Erod of Rosston and Ben M. Erod of North Little Rock; a sister; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Bryant Moxley** is serving as interim music and youth director at Hope Calvary Church. He is a senior music major at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Ron Deal** is serving as interim minister of music at El Dorado Second Church.

**Paul Ginn** has resigned as minister of music at West Memphis Calvary Church.

**Milton Edmonson** has resigned as pastor of Spadra Church at Clarksville.

**Joe Potts** has resigned as pastor of Alma Trinity Church.

**A.V. Smith** is serving as pastor of Mount Zion Church at Doddridge.

## briefly

**Pulaski Heights Church** in Little Rock observed W. Harold Hicks Day Dec. 1 in recognition of his 80th birthday. Hicks, a member of the church for more than 40 years and a pastor for 29 years, was honored at a reception at which John Halbert of Nashville, Tenn., a former member, served as master of ceremonies. Members of the Hicks' family, including a son, Joe Hicks, of London, England, were present for the special occasion. Pastor Bill Elder was coordinator for the surprise service, assisted by Janie Howell and Rosie Dunham.

**Solgochachia Church** recently ordained James Harold Gist to the deacon ministry.

**Cross Roads Church** near Blytheville has organized a Brotherhood to enlarge its missions education program.

**Immanuel Church** in Little Rock will launch a new program of outreach in January with a businessmen's luncheon every Thursday, according to pastor Brian Harbour.

**Mount Olive Church** in North Crossett ordained Clay Courson to the deacon ministry Nov. 24.

**Midway Church** at Palestine observed homecoming Nov. 3. Wayne Moore, a former pastor, was speaker.

**Hot Springs Second Church** has launched a new prayer ministry that allows members to dial for the latest prayer requests.

**Shady Grove Church** at Van Buren ordained Bobby Wilson and Warren Caudle to the deacon ministry Oct. 27. Those participating included George W. Domeser, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, Raymond Harris, Gene Caswell, John Neilhouse, James Simons, Anita Gipson and Melton Benoit.

**Stamps Church** recently honored three workers in the Children 1 Sunday School Department, recognizing Ruth Smith for 32 years of service; Lucille Smith, 45 years and Marie Davis, 35 years.

**Mountain Home Eastside Church** ordained Glenn Thompson to the deacon ministry Nov. 24. Pastor Byron Allen reported the congregation will launch the Foreign Mission Season of Prayer Dec. 8 with a service that will include a parade of flags made by members.

**South Highland Church** in Little Rock broke ground Nov. 24 for a 14,000 square foot educational building that will house 18 classrooms for children and adults. The building program, estimated to cost \$500,000, will include expansion of the auditorium and parking lot. Building committee members are Galen Johnson, chairman, George Sims, Doug Coney, Sandy Pilkington, Bill Rich, Bernard Sharp, Cindy Rogers, Wanda Linsley, Emma Lee Creelman and James Hays, pastor.

**Clinton First Church** is sponsoring Macedonia Mission as a new work. Bill Moran is serving as pastor.

**Friendship Church** at Clinton recently held a revival with Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, Fort Smith, as evangelist. There were two professions of faith.

# Baptist leaders react to pending bylaws suit

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist leaders from the left and the right generally have responded with "regret" that a Birmingham, Ala., layman has instructed his attorney to proceed with a lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention.

Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, told Baptist Press Nov. 19, 1985, that he has instructed his attorney, Emmet J. Bondurant of Atlanta, to "proceed with the filing of a suit to enforce the existing bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Crowder, who said he is spokesman for a group calling itself "Baptists Committed to Fairness", said he expects the suit to be filed either in federal or state court in Georgia in late November or early December.

Crowder's complaint focuses on Bylaw 16 of the SBC, which concerns the nomination and election of the powerful Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, and the interpretation of the committee could only be named by the Committee on Committees.

The interpretation occurred during the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC in Dallas, when President Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta, on the advice of parliamentary Wayne Allen of Memphis, Tenn., ruled efforts to amend the report were out of order during a day-long parliamentary wrangle that featured two ballot votes.

Crowder and Bondurant appeared at the September meeting of the SBC in Nashville, seeking relief. The Executive Committee, however, "affirmed" the actions of the SBC. Later, the committee adopted a list of 15 "findings and recommendations... in the event of litigation."

The Executive Committee's Bylaws workgroup, during conference telephone calls in late October and early November, adopted a recommendation which would allow nominations from the floor, but would prohibit the proposal of alternate slates.

Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta, told Baptist Press: "My feeling is Mr. Crowder has expressed his views and others have expressed their views and it seems at this point there is no agreement. We would prefer it not to go to court for the sake of the whole Southern Baptist Convention and our image before the nation, but if he insists on doing so, then that is the course we will have to take."

Winford Moore, pastor of First Church of Amarillo, Texas, and first vice-president of the SBC, said: "I understand his (Crowder's) concern, but I am just sorry to see us go to court about it. I had hoped that the Executive Committee or one of their subcommittees could come up with something that will satisfy the people."

Former SBC President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, said: "The Executive Committee looked at it and felt—even with the wide disagreement—that

the best way was to let it proceed through regular convention channels. Many times over the years, I have been disappointed in things the Executive Committee did and things the convention has done, but I don't think it is scriptural for one Christian to sue another."

Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Church in Memphis, and the parliamentarian during the 1985 meeting, said: "It grieves my heart and I think it grieves God's heart. This is an unscriptural way to handle matters between brothers... and is a bad expenditure of missions money, both from the Crowder's side and from our side."

Former SBC Second Vice-President Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church of Oklahoma City, said he "understands" Bob Crowder's frustration. I feel the abuse of parliamentary procedure and the totalitarian tyranny of the presidential chair (at the SBC) is probably the most frustrating thing I have ever experienced at any meeting, of any kind."

However, Garrison added he does not believe a lawsuit "is the way to handle this. I am afraid the reaction to the suit would be even more negative than was the reaction to the way the president ignored parliamentary procedure."

Walker L. Knight, editor of the "autonomous" *SBC Today*, said there are "no easy answers when Christians are fighting among themselves," and added the Crowders had followed the limited appeals process in the SBC by appealing to the Executive Committee.

He said a strong effort at reconciliation was made by the Crowders, and added: "If the principle of love is to be involved, we should see some concession by those in power toward their brothers who have been treated unjustly."

The veteran Southern Baptist journalist said tarnishing the Southern Baptist image is not the issue because "we have already aired our differences before the world in convention after convention. More than 650 national media persons were in Dallas to witness the fight."

Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, said Crowder's lawsuit is in "direct contradiction to the clear and lucid instructions of 1 Corinthians 6:1-8," which he said is "completely predicated on the doctrine of the Providence of God."

He added if "a brother... does not get the reparation he desires, he still has to deal with the rest of the passage (of Scripture). Once he has exhausted his appeal, he simply has to let himself be wronged with the view that the ultimate judge is God, whose judgment we can absolutely rely on. It is that admonition that has prevented many of us from filing suit (against the convention) in these days."

Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, said: "I wish it weren't necessary, but somehow, some way, we have to get it to where we can have a meeting that will be moderated in a fair way. If this is the only way we can get it, then I suppose Bob Crowder is doing us a service."

Executive Committee member Richard Patton, pastor of First Church of Portland, Tenn., who said he voted against the two actions of the Executive Committee to "affirm" the SBC actions, said: "I have felt along with me (Crowder) has no alternative but to sue in the light of the original action and the Executive Committee action. When the Executive Committee doesn't act responsibly, people have no alternative. But the grave error of the whole thing was the ruling of Charles Stanley (at the SBC)."

David Sapp, pastor of First Church of Chamblee, Ga., said he agrees with the biblical injunction not to sue another Christian, but added: "But, we should not allow our objections to the lawsuit obscure the wrong that was done in Dallas. Every Baptist should ask what has driven a fine Christian like Bob Crowder to such an action."

Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, said he is "disappointed" by the lawsuit and "would regret to see a court of law make decisions on the internal operations," of the SBC. "It is my prayer that if this suit is filed, it will not do irreparable damage to the cause of Christ through the Southern Baptist Convention and our churches."

SBC attorney James P. Guenther of Nashville, said he believes the "real controversy" in the SBC is deeper than arguments over Robert's Rules of Order and that "every event... is placed, or shoved, into the context of the current theological debate."

"Mr. Crowder's complaints about parliamentary procedure are merely symptoms of fundamental differences within the Southern Baptist Convention," Guenther added. "At a time when the convention awaits with hope reports from its own peace table, I regret we must divert energy and resources to meet the predilections of one messenger who wants to move the forum into a secular court."

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

## FMB schedules conference on China projects at OBU

The Foreign Mission Board has scheduled a conference Dec. 9 at Ouachita Baptist University for persons interested in opportunities in China ranging from nutrition training to engineering. For more information, contact Roy Nix at (501) 376-4791.



## The president speaks

The meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University was one unforgettable experience. Absolutely unforgettable.

It was unforgettable because this was the first time ever for the convention to meet on the campus. Almost 1,200 messengers registered, a number far beyond all expectations. Accommodations were excellent, hospitality warm and the spirit high.

It was unforgettable because Jon Stublefield did a splendid job of presiding. Don Moore, as always, brought a timely and powerful message. Too, one of the most refreshing and moving speakers I have ever heard was Calvin Miller of Omaha, Nebr. Unforgettable.



Hatfield

Another unforgettable experience was hearing the inspirational testimonies of some who have taken part in the Amazon-Arkansas linkup in Bold Mission Thrust.

An unforgettable highlight were the brilliant sermons preached by Nilson Fanini. This pastor from Brazil left one theme beating in my head and heart: the theme of togetherness. Togetherness, or cooperation, is a distinctive of what makes us Southern and Arkansas Baptists.

One of the most unforgettable actions in the convention were the noble accolades passed on from Southern Baptist College, our younger educational institution, to our century-old Ouachita Baptist University. Unforgettable, too, was the giant-size birthday cake OBU served those in attendance.

And it is unforgettable that I should have been elected president of the state convention. Do not forget to pray for me. — **Lawson Hatfield, president, Arkansas Baptist State Convention**



**Executive Board officers**—Gerald Taylor (above, left) of Life Line Church, Little Rock, and Ferrell Morgan of Concord Association, Fort Smith, were elected vice-president and president, respectively, of the ABSC Executive Board Nov. 20.

## State convention auxiliaries elect 1986 officers



Elected as 1986 officers for the Arkansas Baptist Pastors Conference during pre-convention activities on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University were (left to right) Clyde Glazener, Calvary Church, Little Rock, first vice-president; Rex Holt Jr., Central Church, Jonesboro, second vice-president; and Mike Huckabee, Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff, president.



Serving as officers for the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association during the coming year will be (left to right) Garey Scott, Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff, president; Nancy Burke, First Church, Jonesboro, secretary-treasurer; and Eddie Reed, First Church, DeQueen, first vice-president. Not pictured is Snookie Dixon, First Church, Arkadelphia, second vice-president.



Members of the Arkansas Baptist Convention Wives elected (left to right) Sherry Thrasher of First Church, Booneville, vice-president; Norma Kirkpatrick of First Church, Heber Springs, president; and Jenine Garland of Second Church, Hot Springs, secretary, when they gathered for their annual pre-convention fellowship meeting Nov. 19 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University.

ABN photos / Millie Gill

# ABSC board and committee members elected

## Executive Board

### Terms to expire 1988

Arkansas Valley	Billy Hammonds, Helena
Bartholomew	Bill Hargis, Warren
Benton	George O'Neal, Bella Vista
Big Creek	Mary Ellen Puckett, Bexar
Calvary	Ray Meador, Judsonia
Carey	James Vineyard, Fordyce
Central	Randel Everett, Benton
Central	Ronnie Bracken, Hot Springs
Concord	Ferrell Morgan, Fort Smith
Conway-Perry	Horace Gray, Perryville
Harmony	Nelson Eubank, Pine Bluff
Harmony	Rick Erwin, Pine Bluff
Liberty	Jerry Wilson, El Dorado
Little Red River	Jerry Kirkpatrick, Heber Springs
Mississippi	Joe A. Thompson, Blytheville
Mt. Zion	Emil Williams, Jonesboro

### Terms to expire 1987

Current-Gains	Jerry Muse, Piggott
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## Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care

### Terms to expire 1988

Jeff Cheatham, England
Charles O'Neal, Warren
Joe Hogan, Harrison
Judge Watson Bell, Searcy
Rodney Landes, El Dorado
William Daniels, Booneville

## Arkansas Baptist Foundation

### Terms to expire 1988

Joe Sullivan, Little Rock
Byron Eiseman Jr., Little Rock
Clarence Jordan, Hot Springs
Bert Hensley, Mena
Jimmie Sheffield, North Little Rock

### Terms to expire 1987

Barry Crow, Pine Bluff
------------------------

## Historical Commission

### Terms to expire 1988

District 2 - Charles Treadway, Heber Springs
District 3 - Jimmy Anderson, Leachville
District 8 - Mark Coppenger, El Dorado

### Terms to expire 1986

Member at Large - Tim Reddin, Hot Springs Village
--

## Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

### Terms to expire 1988

District 5 - Lyndon Finney, Little Rock
District 7 - Mrs. J.W.L. Adams, Texarkana
District 3 - Henry West, Blytheville

## Baptist Memorial Health Care Systems, Memphis

### Terms to expire 1988

C.A. Johnson, Jonesboro
Tommy Hargrove, Holly Grove
John B. Dickey, Paragould

North Arkansas	Rich Kincl, Berryville
North Pulaski	Ron Raines, Jacksonville
Pulaski	Clyde Glazener, Little Rock
Pulaski	Sid Carswell, Little Rock
Red River	Carl Kluck, Arkadelphia
Red River	Russell Burbank, Arkadelphia
Rocky Bayou	Noble Wiles, Oxford
Southwest	Bill Gunter, Hope
Tri-County	Bryan Mooney, Wynne
Trinity	Bob Dailey, Lepanto
Washington-Madison	Jere D. Mitchell, Fayetteville
White River	Paul Seal, Mt. Home
DISTRICT 2	Bonnie Margason, Mt. Home
DISTRICT 3	Melva Deen Friday, Blytheville
DISTRICT 4	Peggy Jeffries, Fort Smith

### Terms to expire 1986

Faulkner	Delbert W. Stone, Conway
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## Baptist Student Union Advisory Committee

### Terms to expire 1988

District 1 - George O'Neal, Bella Vista
District 3 - Winfred Bridges, Paragould
District 4 - Ruth Daniels, Boonesville
District 6 - Charles Chesser, Carlisle
District 8 - Robert McDaniel, Smackover
Member at Large - Jerry W. Hodge, Little Rock

### Terms to expire 1987

District 7 - Pat Baugh, Arkadelphia
-------------------------------------

## Christian Civic Foundation

### Terms to expire 1988

David Parker, Batesville
Clyde Glazener, Little Rock
Ronald Kincade, Mountain Home
Jim Gattis, Little Rock
Ima Jean Denton, Little Rock

### Terms to expire 1987

Ralph Clow, Little Rock
Ed McDonald, Little Rock

### Terms to expire 1986

Hunter Douglas, Little Rock
-----------------------------

## Ministry of Crisis Support Advisory Committee

### Terms to expire 1988

James Strait, Jonesboro
Bob Klutts, North Little Rock

## Ouachita Baptist University

### Terms to expire 1988

Martha Hurst, Van Buren
Mrs. Chesley E. Pruet, El Dorado
Elmer Ferguson, De Witt
R. Wendell Ross, Fort Smith
Roy Allen Fowler, Mountain Home
William H. Sutton, Little Rock
Thomas Ashcraft, Pine Bluff
Judge Edward Maddox, Harrisburg

## Southern Baptist College

### Terms to expire 1988

Gerald Bounds, Walnut Ridge
Kenneth Sulcer, Osceola
Bob Mathis, Mountain Home
Steve Glenn, Little Rock
Jim Shirley, Sherwood
Norman Kelly, Paragould
Ray Stewart, Fort Smith
David Miller, Heber Springs

### Terms to expire 1987

Frank Shell, Clinton
----------------------

## Constitution and Bylaws Committee

### Terms to expire 1988

Carl Overton, Benton
Richard Johnson, El Dorado

## World Hunger Committee

### Terms to expire 1988

Danny L. Franke, Alexander
Mrs. John McAlister, El Dorado

## Convention Program Committee

### Terms to expire 1988

John R. Maddox, Wynne
-----------------------

## 1986 Convention

Date: November 18-19, 1986
Place: Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

## 1990 Convention

Date: October 29-30, 1990
Place: Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock

# Your state convention at work

## Evangelism

### GNA prospects

I challenge you to make a personal survey by using the concentric circles of concern. You will be amazed to find how many lost people you really know. The center of the circle begins with you and your personal relationship with Christ.



Shell

The third circle reaches out to relatives. What about your cousins, uncles, aunts and other relatives? Are they Christians?

You then proceed to your friends. Who do you share a friendship with that has never met the Savior?

The next circle will be your associates. These are people you work with, that you do business with. Then comes the circle that includes your neighbors, those people who live in front of you, behind you and on either side, those people who live in the community who don't know the Jesus of Jesus.

The circle then reaches out to all acquaintances, people you just see occasionally. Many of these have never known about Jesus.

The ultimate circle reaches on out to that person X. You may never have met him, and he may come across your path. To be soul conscious means that we will be aware of each person God brings into contact with us. God may just give us a divine appointment to introduce someone to our Jesus. — Clarence Shell, director

## Family and Child Care

### Ministries available

What ministries are available through our agency? Arkansas Baptist Home for Children; Group Home for Boys; foster homes; counseling services to children, families and individuals; emergency receiving homes for children and battered mothers and referral services.

Where are we located? Baptist Home for Children, Monticello (367-5358); placements can be arranged through our area or satellite offices; Group Home for Boys, Jonesboro.

Area offices and directors: Little Rock, David Perry (376-4791); Jonesboro, Tom Stafford (935-5134); Fayetteville, Gary Gray (521-1295); Harrison, Clint Morrison (741-3806); Hope, Earlene Clearman (777-1896).

Emergency receiving homes: Little Rock, Sherwood, Camden, Searcy and Paragould (under construction). Placements are arranged through our offices.

Satellite offices (counseling services one day per week): Blytheville, Tuesday (762-2432); Pine Bluff, Tuesday (534-1021); Camden, Tuesday (777-1896); Fort Smith, Wednesday (782-5041); and Bentonville, Tuesday (273-5442). Appointments can be made in advance at these numbers.

You may call 376-4791 if you need assistance or information about any phase of our child care ministry. Call us if we can assist you. — Johnny G. Biggs, executive director

## Missions

### New starts up

The reports on new mission starts are very encouraging for this year. We are up from an average of six per year to 11 this year.



Tidsworth

It appears to me that the Lord is encouraging and inspiring many people, churches and associations to be involved in new work. I am grateful for the open and cooperative attitude of directors of missions toward finding where new churches are needed and getting them going.

Many pastors whose churches can sponsor missions are leading their churches to consider sponsoring a mission in Arkansas. Lay people are very excited about new work.

Solid plans born out of prayer and a deep concern for people are being laid for new congregations across Arkansas. As these plans materialize, we should see a doubling of the number of new missions next year.

The increased momentum is very encouraging to me. As we start more new churches we will accelerate the rate at which we are reaching the lost and unchurched in Arkansas. It is good to be on the way! — Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director

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Rick Lineberger  
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## Foreign mission briefs

### Twenty-six accept Christ in Kenya meeting

EMBU, Kenya — Twenty-six Kenyan women made professions of faith in Jesus Christ after Southern Baptist missionary Jo Scales spoke to an area meeting of Baptist women at Kiangondu Church in Kenya. Scales said 75 women responded to her invitation to make decisions about their relationship with Christ, most testifying that they had "problems of Satan working" in their lives.

### Baptist supplements Augsburg's history

AUGSBURG, West Germany — On the 2,000th anniversary of Augsburg's founding, Baptist pastor Hans Guderian has written a book on *The Anabaptists in Augsburg: Their History and Legacy*. The illustrated 156-page book makes note of such historic Anabaptist leaders as Hans Denck, Balthasar Hubmaier and Pilgram Marbeck and of various Augsburg congregations in the Free Church tradition.

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- ★ July 30 - Arrive Fairbanks - Tour Fairbanks
- ★ July 31 - Alaska Railroad to Denali
- ★ Aug. 2 - Flight to Nome/Kotzebue
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J.B. Fowler, Jr., is editor of The Baptist New Mexican and director of public relations for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico. He resides in Albuquerque.

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Missionary nurse **Frances Crawford** reaches with a healing touch to the people of Honduras, Central America's poorest country. Pray that her health education programs will enable Hondurans to live healthier lives and eliminate the malnutrition and disease that claim almost one in ten Honduran babies before their first birthday.



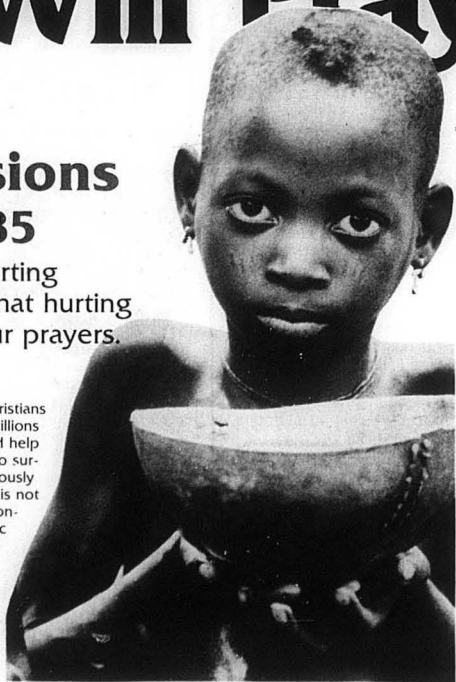
# And I Will Pray

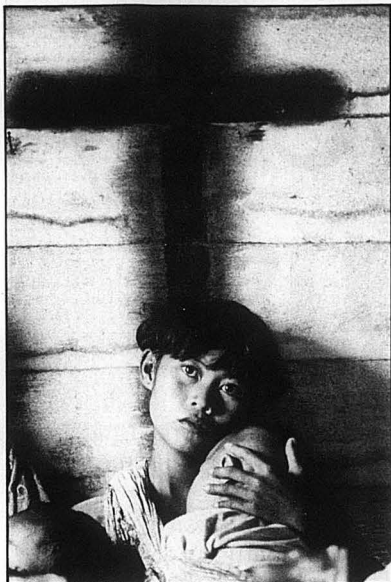
1 Corinthians 14:15b

## Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions December 1-8, 1985

Jesus still feels the pain of a hurting world. You can help Him touch that hurting world this Christmas through your prayers.

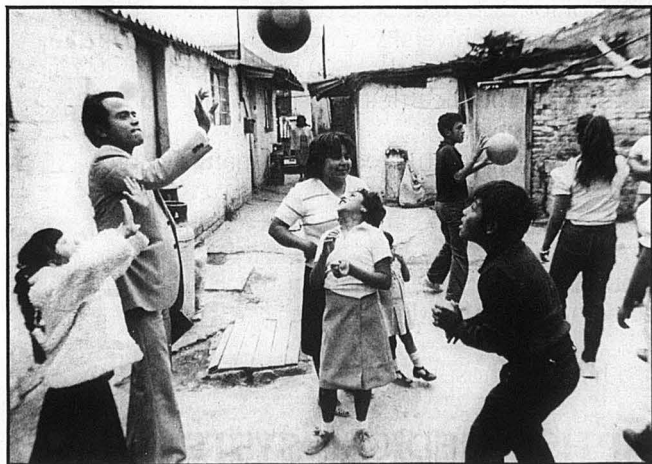
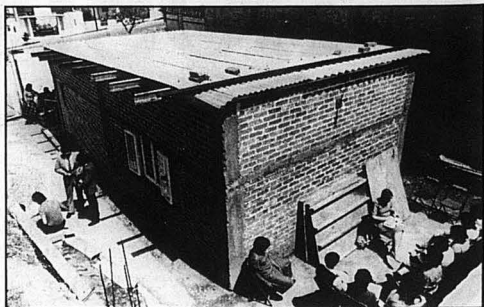
God has answered the prayers of Christians around the world for rain in Africa. But millions of Africans, like this girl in Togo, still need help securing the food and water they need to survive. Southern Baptists have given generously to help the starving in Africa, but money is not enough. Pray that God will call out missionaries with developmental and evangelistic skills to help feed the physically and spiritually hungry in Africa.





## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal: \$70,000,000

**Left:** This young mother was one of three adults who professed faith in Christ during a worship service in an Indonesian home led by missionary **Wendell Smith**. Smith says quite frankly, "I want everyone to be a Christian." Pray that his prayer will be answered not just in Indonesia but around the world.



**Alfredo Lopez**, although still a seminary student, has made a commitment to start a church in this poor neighborhood of Mexico City. Pray that God will call out more national Baptist leaders like Lopez who are committed to reaching their countries for Christ. Pray also with Lopez that he will find land so that his congregation can move from the house where they now meet.

**Above:** The **Eliaclm Baptist Church** in Mexico City adds to its building on a pay-as-you-go basis. But the church is growing faster than the building and the children's and youth classes spill outside. Pray that Mexican Baptist churches will be able to find ways to provide church space in spite of land ownership restrictions and a tight economy. Pray also that Southern Baptists will continue to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering so that people around the world may hear of Christ and His salvation.

*(FMB photos by Joanna Pinneo)*



# A heavenly hosting.



Baptist Medical System salutes Ouachita Baptist University for its splendid performance in hosting the recent Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The conference was part of OBU's centennial celebration which will culminate next year with a special event featuring former President Jimmy Carter.

It was quite an honor for OBU to be selected as the site of this important convention—and University officials responded in spectacular fashion. Among the nearly 1,500 messengers in attendance there was nothing but heartfelt praise for OBU's job of warmly accommodating everyone.

Ouachita should also be congratulated for the many campus improvements made during the past few years. Today it is clearly one of the loveliest, most modern campuses for a private school in America.

All of us at Baptist Medical System share in the enthusiasm directed at OBU's handling of the convention.

It was, indeed, a heavenly hosting.



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## International

### *The birth of Jesus*

by James McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley  
**Basic passage:** Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 5:2;  
 Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

**Focal passage:** Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

**Central truth:** Jesus was born as, and still is, God with us and Savior of his people.

In Micah 5:2, it was prophesied that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. The Jewish religious leaders were looking for the Savior to be born in Bethlehem. This is evidenced by the fact that it is the answer they gave Herod in Matthew 2:4-6 when he inquired of them about the birthplace of the Savior.

In order that we might know of his miraculous power to intervene in the affairs of men, God went outside of religious sources to arrange the birth of Jesus. He inspired a decree from a pagan Roman to cause Joseph to leave the northern city of Nazareth with an expectant wife and make the journey to the southern city of Bethlehem. There isn't any way Joseph would have made this trip at this time under his own discretion. It was only by the intervention of God in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

In Isaiah 7:14, it was prophesied the Savior would be born of a virgin. This fact is attested to by both the physician Luke (1:27,34,35-37) and Matthew (1:23).

In addition to Old Testament prophecies regarding Jesus' birth, there also were many regarding his death and resurrection, as Isaiah 53, Zechariah 13:7, Isaiah 50:6, Psalm 22. We can be sure as God fulfilled his promises regarding the first coming of Jesus, he also will fulfill his promises regarding his Second Coming.

The name "Jesus" means "God's salvation." He is the Savior of the world. There isn't any other name by which we may be saved, but through Jesus. At his birth, he was placed in a manger, in a stable to indicate his identification with the poor. In his death, he was placed in the tomb of a wealthy man to indicate his identification with the wealthy. His grace is available to all, rich or poor. The invitation of the gospel is to "whosoever will."

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

## Life and Work

### *Relating works and worship*

by Bradley A. Rogge, Brookwood First / Church, Little Rock  
**Basic passage:** Jeremiah 7:1-28

**Focal passage:** Jeremiah 7:3-12,14

**Central truth:** Faith in God must be expressed in right acts of worship if it is to be acceptable.

The book of Judges gives us ample proof Shiloh was the central place of worship during the settlement of the Promised Land. Corrupt worship practices began to take place, and, by the time of the prophet Samuel's call, there was no real worship at all. The only existing form of worship held little meaning for God or for the worshipper. In this lesson, Jeremiah reminds his people that empty worship will lead to the destruction of Jerusalem as it did Shiloh.

The church today is under attack. Rightly or wrongly, the image of the modern church is we do not practice what we preach. We might consider, at least on a personal level, to do what God says in verse three of our text. The word "amend" literally means "cause to be good." Our relationship with God depends on our trust and obedience to him. Worship procedures and rituals do not guarantee God's presence in our lives or his blessing.

Our lesson points out one way we can make our faith real. We can seek out those less fortunate and minister to them. In verses five and six, God says our amended ways will be exhibited in our relationship to others. If we meet the needs of others and stay faithful to God's laws, this is evidence of our trusting him.

Jeremiah even points out that our dependence on worship services and other religious activities can hinder us. We get so busy going and doing we forget we need to listen to God and reach out to others.

The basic morality God established at Mt. Sinai is still the same morality of today. As we look at our lives, we might discover we have been guilty of the same sin Jeremiah was trying to point out to the worshippers at Jerusalem. We have a mere form of faith, but no real substance.

Are there oppressed people around us that need our help? Though great advances have been made in recognizing needs, there are still elderly people who have needs. How about needs created by racial or educational barriers?

Let us begin to look around us with open eyes and truly put our faith into practice.

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## Bible Book

### *Daniel's faithfulness*

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott  
**Basic passage:** Daniel 4:1 to 6:28

**Focal passage:** Daniel 6:3-7,10-11,19-22

**Central truth:** God answers prayer.

Daniel was a man of prayer.

Daniel had an appointed time of prayer. He began every day on his knees before the Lord. What a wonderful way to start the day! At noon, he came again before the Lord, and in the evening he closed the day on his knees.

Daniel had a special, private place of prayer. A person can pray anywhere. He can pray while he drives down the road, sits at his desk or lies in bed; and he should pray during these times. He also needs a special, private place of prayer. Jesus had Gethsemane; Lydia had the riverbank; George W. Truett's mother had an apple orchard; and Daniel had a prayer room on the roof.

Daniel had learned the secret to answered prayer.

(1) Agreement with God is necessary. Daniel sought the will of God throughout his life. He stayed on his knees seeking the mind of God until God revealed his will; he prayed until his heart came into agreement with God's will; and then he asked God to accomplish that will in him.

(2) Visible union with God is necessary. Daniel prayed with the window open so that his enemies could see him. He could have said, "God can hear my prayers with the window closed as well as with it open." Ample reasons existed for him to pray behind the closed window, but he did not. He prayed openly before the world.

Following Jesus demands an open display of our union with him. There are no places for secret disciples of Jesus. If we are to be powerful in prayer, the world must know that we belong to Jesus. Jesus said, "If you are ashamed to confess me before men, I will be ashamed to confess you before my Father which is in heaven."

(3) Much prayer is necessary. Heaven waits for our petitions. God knows our needs before we ask, but he waits for us to ask. We do not receive because we do not ask.

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## Kirby Clark elected Seminary Studies director

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Kirby L. Clark has been elected director of the Seminary Studies Department of the Seminary External Education Division, effective Jan. 1.

Clark, a doctoral candidate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will oversee six off-campus theological education programs on behalf of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. Master's level courses are offered in Baltimore; Chicago; Jackson, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark.; New York City and Orlando, Fla.

Raymond M. Rigdon, executive director of the Seminary External Education Division, announced Clark's election by the division's governing board, made up of the six

seminary presidents. The seminary studies division was established in 1982, along with the Seminary Extension Department.

Clark has been a teaching assistant in adult education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is scheduled to receive the Ed.D. degree there in December. He also is minister of education in the Birdville Church in Fort Worth. His previous work experience includes service as a church administrator and as an officer in the United States Army.

Clark succeeds Michael D. Johnson, who resigned in May to become minister of education and outreach at First Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.

## Ingram to resign as Oklahoma executive

BETHANY, Okla. (BP)—Joe L. Ingram, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma since 1971, will step aside June 30, 1986, to become fulltime president of the Baptist Health Care Corporation.

In making that announcement at the

annual state convention, Ingram emphasized he is merely "completing the task" set before him 15 years ago. Ingram, who will be 66 in January, already is president of the Health Care Corporation, which operates nine hospitals and four retirement villages but will now devote fulltime to that job.

## Halsell announces retirement from post

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (BP)—Immediately after the opening gavel of the 14th annual session of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Thomas E. Halsell announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1986.

Halsell, who came to the position from Indiana in October 1979, will reach his 65th birthday in June 1986. West Virginia convention employment policy requires mandatory retirement at the end of the calendar year of the 65th birthday.

## Military congregation seeks pastor

ANSBACH, West Germany—A Baptist congregation in Ansbach, West Germany, is seeking a pastor.

Ansbach Church, pastorless since September 1985, is "in need of a spiritual leader who is capable of coping with an ever-changing congregation due to military commitments," writes James S. Day of the church's pastor search committee.

According to Day, the church is affiliated

with the European Baptist Convention and is founded on "the principles and doctrine" of the Southern Baptist Convention. He characterizes Ansbach as "a small church with a good growth potential" and says the congregation, a mission of the Nurnburg Church, is "fairly financially stable."

Persons interested in communicating with the search committee may address Day at: HHC, 1st Bn, 6th Inf; APO New York 09140.

## Baptist World Alliance dedicates new building

WASHINGTON (BP)—The president of the Baptist World Alliance has challenged the worldwide organization of 34 million Baptists to view its new building as a "means, not an end" in its service.

BWA President G. Noel Vose asked those attending the Nov. 24 dedication to think of the facility "not as a clerical clearing house dispensing an interminable ticker-tape of memos and letters, but as a place where a group of international Christians exercise a deeply biblical prophetic role in a world convulsed with the agony of its self-inflicted wounds." Vose is principle of Baptist Theological College of Western Australia.

Following an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at the BWA building, located in McLean, Va., participants—including

representatives from Yugoslavia, Romania, Nigeria, Australia, Mexico and Canada—moved to a local church for the dedication.

Gerhard Claas, BWA general secretary-treasurer, described the dedication as "a coming true of many dreams and an answer to many prayers." He pledged the building would be used to further "work for the sake of the Kingdom of God."

The dedication ceremony program included two longtime BWA leaders: Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary emeritus, and Duke K. McCall, BWA immediate past president.

The BWA formerly occupied a building jointly owned with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. Expansion of BWA ministries necessitated additional space.

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