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'A Pastor's Perspective'

Arkansas Baptist

February 22, 1990



Annie's
Legacy

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When Don Ledbetter moved to Nevada to help start a mission in 1965, he didn't know the legacy of Annie Armstrong would follow close behind.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

She Heard God's Call

DALLAS (BP)—Although deaf from birth, Yvette Arons never doubted hearing God's call to foreign missions.

When she arrives in Trinidad in early March, Arons will become the first deaf person assigned by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work in a deaf ministry.

"Receiving the assignment, I knew it was God's confirmation of his plan for my life," she said. "It is an exciting—yet humbling—feeling."

Arons, a native of Jamaica and a naturalized U.S. citizen, was commissioned for her two-year special assignment in deaf ministry by Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church in Houston, where she had been a Mission Service Corps volunteer youth minister.

She worked on the church staff for two years after completing Southwestern Bap-

tist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Arons first applied to the Foreign Mission Board as a candidate for missions service in 1985, but her request for consideration was denied because she was handicapped. However, in 1987, the board voted to eliminate deafness as a handicap precluding people for service.

Last October, Arons was notified that she had been approved as a "special assignment" worker to Trinidad, where she will teach sign language, provide religious instruction to the deaf and develop outreach ministries and other programs for deaf people.

After orientation, she is scheduled to arrive in Trinidad in March.

"Often I ask God: 'What is so special about me? Why me?' I am simply delighted to be able to reach other people of like language and experiences. The deaf world is a smaller world, so I already feel a bond with the deaf people of Trinidad," she said.

GOOD NEWS!

Riches of The Redeemed

Romans 5:1-2

One of the richest men in the world died several years ago. He was a millionaire many times over and had the financial resources to provide every luxury and comfort any man could desire. However, he lived the last years of his life as a recluse and died of malnutrition. He was rich in terms of financial assets, but as a person he was a pauper.

The apostle Paul was a pauper by the world's standards. Whatever wealth he may have had, he gave up in order to gain Christ (Ph. 3:7-8). However, Paul was immensely wealthy. He said this is also true of the redeemed. Paul identified three riches of the redeemed.

The wealth of peace (v. 1)—Peace is a greatly desired condition in our world. Someone made a study of thirty-five hundred years of human history and discovered that eight thousand peace treaties had been signed in those years. However, there were only 227 years in which no wars were being fought in the world.

Man has no peace in the world because he has no peace with God. However, through Jesus Christ man comes to be at one with God, and because of that the peace of God can be his experience (Ph. 4:7).

The wealth of position (v. 2)—God's salvation is experienced by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8). However, grace is not a one-time experience. The believer has a position in grace in which God is continually gracing his life.

A mother and her small son went into an old house which had been closed up for a long time. The shutters were closed and the shades were drawn, making the interior dark in spite of the brightness outside. There was a small hole in one of the shades on a parlor window. A sunbeam made a circle of light on the floor in the middle of the room. The little boy stood in the circle and said to his mother, "Look, Mom, I'm standing in the smile of God." The Christian lives each moment of his day in the center of God's grace.

The wealth of persuasion (v. 2)—The Christian has the hope of sharing in the glory of God. This hope is not a desperate longing for what may or may not come to be. Instead, it is a firm and settled persuasion about what will be. No matter how bad a day may be, there is the hope of that better day yet to come when Christ returns.

Few people will ever be multimillionaires. However, the greatest wealth in the world isn't measured in terms of finances but spiritual riches.

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Racial Prejudice

J. EVERETT SNEED



The recent Evangelism Conference sponsored by three National Baptist Conventions and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention was a tremendous success. This conference provided excellent information on how to reach the lost and provided inspiration from the Bible to challenge individuals to carry out the Great Commission. The one element that was different from most conferences was the joint sponsorship by both black and white Baptists. The conference points up the positive results which occur when black and white Baptists work together. There are both biblical and practical reasons for the elimination of racism.

The Bible states clearly that racism is wrong. The Apostle Paul said, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Ga. 3:28).

In the New Testament era, Jews made every effort to limit association with Greeks (Gentiles). Kosher food laws made it impossible for Jews and Gentiles to even eat a meal together. Many of the Jews considered Gentiles "dogs." Conversely many of the Gentiles hated the Jews. This hatred for Jews has been exhibited across the years. Paul is saying that all barriers are to be broken down between Jew and Gentile, between slave and free people, between men and women.

Again, Paul graphically portrayed the necessity of Christians breaking down barriers between races as he said, "For he (Christ) is our peace, who hath made us both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ep. 2:14). In this verse, Paul was using the imagery of the temple. The temple consisted of several sections in which only certain people were allowed to go.

The outer section of the temple called "The Court of the Gentiles" was open to everyone. On the wall at the end of the Court of the Gentiles was a warning stone which said, "any Gentile who goes beyond this point will be guilty of his own death." Under Jewish law any non-Jewish person going beyond the Court of the Gentiles was to be stoned to death.

The second division of the temple was the court or area of the women. Jewish women could enter deeper into the temple than could Gentiles. But, they too were

forbidden from going further into the temple.

The third area of the temple was called "The Court of the Israelites." This section was available to all adult Jewish men. But, they too were restricted from going further into the temple.

The final sections of the temple were the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. In the Holy Place the priests made sacrifices daily for the sins of the people. The Holy of Holies was restricted to the High Priest alone, and he was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies only on the Day of Atonement.

When Christ died on the cross, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. Paul said that this was a dramatic statement from God that all barriers had been eliminated. We are all one in Christ Jesus.

The Jews hated the Samaritans even more than the Gentiles. In 721 B.C., Samaria, the capitol of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, fell. Many of its inhabitants were carried away to Assyria. People from Babylon and other countries were brought to Samaria. As a result, a mixed race of Jews, Babylonians and others was developed. These individuals were called Samaritans.

In one of Christ's most graphic illustrations, he told of a Samaritan who assisted an individual who had been wounded by thieves. In this illustration, Christ was portraying that the value of an individual is not determined by race, but by his actions.

From a practical standpoint, racism is devastating. Money and energy are often expended in the perpetuation of this sin. Often, destruction and even death result from racial hatred.

Why does racial prejudice persist? Often there is misunderstanding of other races, because of lack of contact. In many instances, individuals are afraid of other races. In some instances, a tragic and ungodly myth has been perpetuated which says that "one race is superior to another."

The most important question is, "How can racism be eliminated?" First, a person must have an experience with Christ. Without Christian understanding, little progress will be made.

Finally, it is essential that individuals of various races get to know each other and become acquainted with the gifts that God has given to each individual. It is not enough for people to just sit down together, they must come to know each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Through Christ, racial prejudice can be eliminated. This should be the goal of every individual who knows Christ as his Savior.

Arkansas Baptist

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Letters to the Editor

WILLIAM J. REYNOLDS

Hymns Baptists Sing



O, How He Loves

"O, How He Loves You and Me"

Whenever a new idea comes to Kurt

Kaiser for a tune or a lyric, he jots it down and files it away for later reference. Frequently he refers to this file of bits and pieces for a spark to ignite further creative writing.

One day he ran across the phrase "O, how He loves you and me," and decided to write a melody for it. In 10 minutes he had completed the work—words and music. All this occurred in 1975.

Since 1959, Kaiser has been associated with Word, Inc., in Waco, Texas, and has had a significant role in the development of the international image of this firm. He presently holds the title of vice president, director of music.

Degrees from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and Northwestern University hang on his wall. In 1973, Trinity College awarded him the honorary doctorate in sacred music.

Kurt Kaiser is a deacon in the Seventh and James Baptist Church of Waco, Texas. He and his wife Patricia, parents of four children and grandparents of two, are active participants in the fellowship of this church family.

His compositions, his choral arrangements are familiar to our congregations. Records and cassettes of his own piano artistry and his orchestral scorings have been exceedingly popular in the Christian music market.

"O, How He Loves You and Me," which began as a phrase fragment, now is frequently sung in our churches as a personal testimony of us all.

William J. Reynolds is professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

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Change Our Society

I have gone to a Southern Baptist church all of my life. My parents were in the music ministry of several Southern Baptist churches. I appreciate the fact that Arkansas Southern Baptists have decided to verbally take a stand on certain moral issues.

I was glad to see twice in the Jan. 25 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist* a number to call to protest the homosexual activity in the TV show "thirtysomething." This is a great start. I wonder how many people were "worked up" enough, by reading those articles, to call the number given. Couldn't our Southern Baptist churches make these issues known to their congregations with addresses of people to write and phone numbers to voice our objections? All of the other groups, gay-rights, pro-abortion, etc., bombard TV networks, senators and legislators all the time, but we

as Christians sit back and are reluctant to do anything. It seems as if we don't want to step on anyone's toes. It seems that people tend to become more involved in an issue when there is personal contact rather than just reading about it in a magazine.

When was the last time we heard a sermon or Sunday School lesson on homosexuality, abortion or other moral issues with things we could do to show our disapproval? These are all topics in the Bible, as are love, kindness and salvation. We as Southern Baptists can sit back and not take a stand in our churches and our children and grandchildren will reap the seeds we sow, just as we are reaping the effects of apathy.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if 50 percent of Southern Baptists took an active stand on moral issues? I wonder how we could change our society?—**Bonnie Rountree, Rogers**

RANDALL O'BRIEN

A Pastor's Perspective

Pa Used to Cook on a Boat



My Grandmother and Grandfather O'Brien were "Ma" and "Pa" to us kids. That's what we called 'em, 'cause that's who they were. Ma and Pa. Just Ma and Pa. Ma could cook. Now most all the womenfolk in Pike County, Mississippi could cook. But Ma, she would really cook! Some of my fondest childhood memories seat me at Ma's table at Thanksgiving. With family. The O'Briens, the Dickersons, the Millers. Good kin and good cooking's hard to beat.

Guess my favorite mealtime at Ma and Pa's, though, was suppertime. Suppertime was when Pa would cook.

There was something wonderful about watching those giant hands breaking those little eggs, stirring those grits, flipping that sizzlin' bacon, cooking "breakfast for supper." Gosh, I loved being with Pa! Just me and Pa in that kitchen. Well, just me and Pa and a few stories, that is.

"Pa, how'd you learn to cook so good?" I'd ask. Pa would sniff his nose like he didn't wanna brag and say, "I used to cook on a boat." "Wow, a boat, Pa? Did you really used to cook on a boat?" I'd ask in awe, visions of Tom Sawyer

dancing in my head. "Yeah, back a long time ago I did. I cooked on a boat."

"Pa, why'd you tell that boy you cooked on a boat? You ain't never been on a boat in your life!" Ma scolded, as she came in the kitchen to check on us. "Helen, I did too cook on a boat!" Pa would insist. "That was before you knew me." "Psh-shaw Pa!" Ma would say. Then to me, "Hon', Pa ain't never cooked on no boat!"

In *The Cocktail Party* by T. S. Eliot, one of the characters, who is slightly inebriated, leans over and whispers to a psychiatrist at the party: "Please make me feel important." Eliot is, of course, showing us ourselves. We all want to feel important, don't we? You bet we do.

So did Pa ever really cook on a boat? Some of our kin down in Pike County think Pa was just trying to look important to a little boy who worshipped him.

Wanna know what I think?

Pa used to cook on a boat.

Wanna know what else I think? I think, in Christ, we all used to cook on boats.

Randall O'Brien is pastor of Calvary Church in Little Rock.

HOME MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Annie's Legacy

by Joe Westbury
SBC Home Mission Board

RENO, Nev.—When Don Ledbetter moved to Nevada to help start a mission in 1965, he didn't know the legacy of Annie Armstrong would follow close behind.

Although their ministries are separated by more than 100 years, Ledbetter and Armstrong both took steps of faith in response to what they considered to be God's call.

Armstrong was the first national executive of Woman's Missionary Union, holding that office without pay for 18 years. Because of her influence in missions, Southern Baptists named their annual home missions offering for her.

That offering made a difference for Ledbetter when he made a financial sacrifice to start a Southern Baptist mission in Elko, Nev.

"I went there from Texas with no salary, and I painted houses so I would have an income," Ledbetter said. "It wasn't until a year later that I started receiving a small stipend from the Home Mission Board to help subsidize my expenses."

That \$100-a-month stipend, then called Church Pastoral Assistance, was funded in part by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

In numerous instances across Nevada, the offering has made the difference between whether or not a mission would be started, said Ledbetter, who is now director of evangelism for the Nevada Baptist Convention.

"We couldn't have ever made it without Annie and the Home Mission Board's church loan department," he said as he looked back on the early days of Calvary Baptist Church in Elko.

When he first arrived on the church field, the congregation numbered 10 members—four from his family. When he left almost 18 years later, the church was averaging 125 in Sunday School and had

grown into one of the strongest congregations in Nevada.

Ledbetter baptized 95 percent of the congregation, including John Randolph and his wife, Barbara. Today Randolph is the church's pastor.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is a life-or-death issue for Nevada Baptists because the state remains a new-work area for Southern Baptists, Ledbetter said. Since the state convention is only 12 years old, it continues to receive a majority of its funding from the Home Mission Board.

HMB photo

"Annie Armstrong is our livelihood as far as the state convention is concerned. For every \$12 we budget, the Home Mission Board sends \$88 through Annie Armstrong, Cooperative Program and other funds Southern Baptists have provided."

"When I came to Nevada 24 years ago, we had 40 churches and missions. Now, largely due to the Annie Armstrong offering, we have about 120 throughout the state," he said.

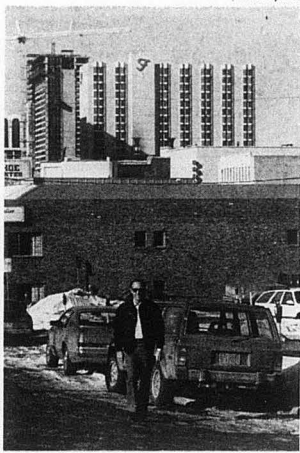
Ledbetter helps churches develop an overall evangelism strategy that motivates congregations to greater missions involvement.

"We now go beyond the regular one or two revivals a year to include a variety of witnessing and discipling programs to equip the laity to share their faith," he said.

As Southern Baptists found during their door-to-door witnessing emphasis at the 1989 annual convention in Las Vegas, "residents of Nevada are very receptive to the gospel — their main concern is to see if you are real or not, if you believe and practice what you preach," Ledbetter said.

"Our history shows that our potential for growth remains solid. We're one of the fastest-growing states by population due to the influx of industry and the mining boom," he said.

"The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the key to the growth of the Nevada convention."



Don Ledbetter walks the streets of Reno.

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Martin Thielen



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Martin Thielen is editor of Proclaim magazine and The Deacon magazine. The Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee. His latest Broadman book is *Getting Ready for Sunday: A Practical Guide for Worship Planning*.

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LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Jeff Bennett will join the staff of First Church in Fayetteville March 4 as minister of music, coming there from Pleasant Terrace Church in Dallas, Texas, where he has been serving as minister of music and education. Bennett is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Sarah Atkinson, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Tommy Mellinger began serving Jan. 14 as pastor of Parkview Church in El Dorado, coming there from Louisiana, where he has been serving as director of the Rolling Hills Resort Ministry, a ministry of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He is married to the former Mary Ann Taylor of El Dorado.

Don Miller will join the staff of First Church in Jacksonville March 1 as minister of education and youth. He will move there from Trumann, where he has been serving on the staff of First Church.

Tracy Megli has joined the staff of Lakeview Church in Cave Springs as minister of music and youth. He is a graduate of John Brown University.

Charles Baskin has joined the staff of Trinity Church in Texarkana as minister of senior adults and homebound.

Jim Laster has joined the staff of Third Street Church in Arkadelphia as minister of counseling and director of the church's new Christian Lifestyle Enrichment Center.

John Holston is serving as interim pastor of Lonoke Church.

R. Kent Jennings has resigned as associate pastor of administration at Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith to join the staff of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga.

Joe Bagwell is serving as pastor of First Church in Leslie.

Cecil O. Smith of Russellville died Jan. 23 at age 78. He was a deacon and trustee at East Point Church in Russellville, where his funeral services were held Jan. 26. Survivors include a daughter, Bonnie Meimerstorff of Russellville; a brother, Earl Smith of London; four sisters, Lillian Bruck of Atkins, Ruby Teeter of Lubbock, Texas,



Bennett

Mellinger

Inez Nordin and Ruth Hogrefe of Russellville; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren

Roy Buckelew is serving as interim pastor of Memorial Church in Hot Springs.

David A. White has joined the staff of First Church in Paragould as minister of music, coming there from First Church in Marmaduke.

Marvin Hill, a member of First Church in Ward, was recently presented a certificate of appreciation from the Jaycees of Tucker Prison, where he serves as volunteer chaplain.

Mitchell Odom, pastor of Ridgeview Church in Fayetteville, has returned from a mission trip to India, where he participated in ministries in Madras, Chochin, and Bangalore, and attended the Karnataka State Pastor's Conference.

Kevin Peterson has joined the staff of First Church in West Fork as youth director.

Steve Smith has joined the staff of First Church in West Fork as part-time music director.

Employment: Sunshine House

Seeking Resident Manager couple for the Sunshine House. This ministry provides emergency short-term care for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, ages birth-12 years. Salary, fringe benefits, supervision. Write David Perry, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; 501-376-4791.

Kent Holt has joined the staff of University Church in Fayetteville as pastor to youth, coming there from First Church in Muskogee, Okla.

Clifford Palmer is serving as interim pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith.

Dwaine Draper has resigned as pastor of Union Hope Church at Booneville.

Briefly

Benton Trinity Church recently hosted a National and Southern Baptist Fellowship that was convened by Jack Kwok, ABSC director of Cooperative Ministries. Those on program were host pastor Harold Stephens, Frank Newburn, Robert McDaniel, L.R. Massey, Mac Gates, W.J. Thomas, and Pat Titsworth. Special music was presented by the Central Pastor's Choir, Roanoke Church Choir, Deloris Massey, and David Pierce.

Mountain Home Church held a Sunday School recognition service Jan. 14, honoring Jim Forshee for 23 years of perfect attendance, and Bodi Forshee for 25 years of perfect attendance. They are the parents of

Guatemala Notes

A team of pastors traveled to Guatemala Feb. 19-22 to survey areas of Guatemala City and some outside the city to determine if and where their association or church might participate in starting new works. They were: Bob Shelton, Branch; Allan Trasher, Booneville; Jeri Mitchell, Fayetteville; George O'Neal, Bella Vista; and Rich Kincl, Magnolia.

A medical team from Immanuel church, El Dorado, went to the western highland region of Guatemala on Feb. 17 and will return on Feb. 24. The team leader is Dr. Jim Weedman, and group members are Ann Weedman, Billy Ponder, Steven Bowen, and Pastor Tommy Kimball.

Shelia Bailey who serves with her husband, Larry Bailey, in Togo, West Africa.

Mt. Olive Church in North Crossett recently voted to allocate \$5,000 to improve acoustics in the fellowship hall and to sponsor the South Crossett Mission.

Harvard Avenue Church in Siloam Springs is sponsoring a Ladies Retreat March 9-10 at New Life Ranch, Linda Currey of DeSoto, Texas, will be speaker.

Trinity Fellowship Church in Pottsville recently hosted Carole Baker, the editor for F.L.A.G. (Family, Life, America, God) Ron Graham is pastor.

Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock will hold its spring revival March 11-15 with Rex Mathie, president of the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa, as speaker. Tom Wideman, minister of music at Second Church in Little Rock, will direct music.

Warren Immanuel Church recently retired a 14-year indebtedness of \$430,000 with a noteburning service. Programs have included construction of a new worship center, remodeling a two-story educational

building and fellowship hall, pavement of the church's parking area, purchase of a new bus and van, and maintenance of an outreach ministry. Frank Worley serves as pastor.

Bryant First Southern Church held a Renewal Weekend Feb. 2-4 that resulted in one profession of faith and the highest Sunday School attendance in five years, according to Don Jones, Sunday School director. Bill Bleedsoe of Hot Springs was renewal coordinator.

University Church in Fayetteville's Arkansas Institute of Theology is serving as a seminary extension center for pastoral and Christian leaders in northwest Arkansas to continue their education through the Southern Baptist Convention seminary extension courses. Dale Head is dean.

Riverside Church at Maumelle will conduct a series of Bible studies Sunday, Feb. 15, and Sunday, March 4, during the regular morning and evening worship services. Rex Graham Mathie, president of the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa, will be guest lecturer.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Immanuel Baptist Church in Fort Smith dedicated a 4,000 square foot, \$185,000 educational building on Feb. 4. According to Pastor Gary Streblov, the new facility houses four classrooms, a library, and a four-room administrative suite. The addition was financed through a Challenge to Build program led by Tim Reddin of Hot Springs Village. Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, delivered the dedicatory message during the morning service, which was followed by dinner on the grounds, a ribbon cutting ceremony, and an afternoon concert by Straightway of Muldrow, Okla. Pictured (l to r) are contractor Eddie Besbeas, building finance committee co-chairmen David Armbruster and Donna Fine, DOM Morgan, Pastor Streblov, church construction supervisor Bob Glidewell, and building committee chairman Dick Boyette. Jennings Bozeman, chairman of the Challenge to Build campaign, wielded the ceremonial scissors.

Classifieds

Organist Wanted—Paid position. Bingham Road Baptist Church, Little Rock. 888-2140. 3/8

Retired?—Seeking Christian people to market computer systems to churches. No prior computer or sales experience. Call or write: CCS, Inc., Box 665, Benton, AR 72015; 1-800-441-4486. 2/22

Position Open—Sylvan Hills FBC of Sherwood is now accepting resumes for Interim Minister of Music. Send resume to: 9008 Sylvan Hills Hwy., Sherwood, AR 72120. 3/1

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Part-time Position—Wanted part-time Music/Youth Director. Send resume to: Personnel Committee, 5300 Green Road, Little Rock, AR 72206 2/22

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The Only Solution

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Victories have been won in the battle against racial bigotry, but Americans must not deceive themselves into thinking that inequality and injustice have been eliminated in their society, a Southern Baptist moral concerns leader told a Little Rock audience in early February.

Racism in America is as alive and vigorous as ever, contended Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, during a race relations conference sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. And because racial prejudice is at heart a spiritual problem, America's churches hold the only solution.

"Racial bigotry is more than a political, educational, judicial or moral problem; it is a sin problem, a consequence of man's fallen nature," Land said. "And if it is to be solved, the leadership of the church must do it."

Land called for the Christian community to lead the way in "redeeming the promise" of the Declaration of Independence that all men possess the "inalienable" rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

"Those words were penned by a slaveholder in a new country in which women could not vote," Land observed. "We have been in the process ever since of redeeming that promise. It is not fully extended yet, and it won't be until the church leads the way."

Land delivered the keynote address at the Feb. 8 conference, which drew participants from three black Baptist denominations, as well as the predominantly white Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The program addressed the question, "How Far Have We Come?" by reviewing, from a Baptist perspective, the progress made in race relations in Arkansas since 1954.

Speakers focused their comments on five arenas: the churches, education, employment, government, and personal experience.

O.C. Jones, president of the Regular Arkansas Baptist Convention, and Robert Ferguson, retired director of Cooperative Ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, addressed the subject of progress in the churches.

Ferguson reviewed a long list of projects which black and white Arkansas Baptists had jointly sponsored, among them leadership conferences, state conventions, evangelism conferences, scholarship funds, and women's fellowships. He told conference participants his goal as Cooperative

ABN photo / J. Everett Need



Richard Land addressed the conference.

Ministries director had always been to move Arkansas Southern Baptists out of their "posture of paternalism" and into "person to person, face to face relationships" with their black brothers and sisters.

"No longer do 'white folks' help the 'poor old black folks,'" Ferguson noted. "Now we stand up together. Now we are all equal. . . . We have moved on" from bigotry and prejudice.

D. Jack Nicholas, chancellor of Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, and W.T. Keaton, president of Arkansas Baptist College, spoke to the matter of education. Nicholas praised black churches for their prophetic role in the advancement of civil rights and chided white congregations for their "dismal" track record on race relations.

All too often, churches have been "mirrors of society" rather than leaders on the race issue, Nicholas said. He lamented the fact that, while much of American society has been integrated by the courts, legislatures, and even the military, the majority of churches in the country remain segregated.

In American education, Nicholas observed that the quest for equal opportunity has lost ground during the last three decades. He pointed to downturns in black and hispanic enrollments which have occurred in spite of government-required plans to increase minority student enrollments.

He criticized the federal government for, on the one hand, requiring colleges and universities to recruit minorities more heavily and, on the other hand, cutting back on the entitlement and financial aid programs which enable the underprivileged to have access to those institutions.

Progress in employment opportunities was addressed by Robert Jenkins, pastor of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock, and Paul Root, dean of the graduate program in education at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Little Rock attorney Wendell Griffen and Daniel Grant, president emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University, spoke to a governmental perspective.

Personal pilgrimage observations were brought by W.W. Walker, chairman of the religion department at Arkansas Baptist College, and Randall O'Brien, pastor of Little Rock's Calvary Baptist Church.

O'Brien recalled for participants the days of his youth in McComb, Miss., during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. In that Deep Southern city, black children were killed when terroristic klansmen bombed their Sunday School classrooms.

"Some of the greatest evil I saw growing up was committed by people who said they were born again," O'Brien solemnly declared. "But it may not be so much a matter of whether you say you have been born again as whether or not you have been born from above."

The elimination of bigotry, he said, is a question of grace, not race. "The racist's business is oppression," he asserted. "The 'gracist's' business is setting people free."

Remembering the times he sat and watched as racist social institutions exacted their toll on human lives, O'Brien called for Christians to abandon their silence and take a stand for justice, equality, and brotherhood.

The conference was jointly sponsored by the ABCS Christian Life Council and Cooperative Ministries. CLC Director Bob Parker presided over the meeting.

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55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

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Kluck Honored

Members of Arkadelphia's Second Baptist Church expressed their love and appreciation for Pastor Carl Kluck and his wife, Margie, during an appreciation banquet Feb. 12.

The recognition, planned under the guise of a church-wide Valentine's banquet and kept secret from the pastor for six months, honored the Klucks for completing 30 years of service to the congregation.

The anniversary makes Kluck the longest-tenured active Baptist pastor in Arkansas.

The occasion was marked with proclamations from Arkadelphia and Clark County officials and from Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton which set aside Monday, Feb. 12, as Carl Kluck Day. During the program, letters of congratulations were read from Ouachita Baptist University President Ben Elrod, Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Mike Huckabee, Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines,



Church members greet Carl and Margie Kluck.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell Dilday, and Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Director Don Moore.

Kluck also was presented with a U.S. flag which had recently been flown over the White House and was sent with the compliments of U.S. President George Bush.

During the evening, Kluck was praised for his devotion and commitment to the congregation, for the integrity of his ministry, for the spirit of cooperation and missions support he has demonstrated, for his commitment to the Scripture in

preaching, for his continuing ministry to students, and for the strength of his family life.

The Klucks also were presented with several gifts: a set of china, a dining room serving table, a privacy fence for their back yard, and a new 16x20 foot workshop.

The event was the second held by the congregation to recognize Kluck's tenure. On Feb. 4, a public reception was held for the couple in the church's fellowship hall. The Feb. 12 surprise was held in Evans Student Center on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. James Guthrie, pastor of Gurdon Beech Street Church and a member of Second Church while a student at Ouachita, brought the salutatory message for the evening, and the OBU Ouachitones provided musical entertainment.

During his tenure, Kluck has led the congregation in three successful building programs. The last one, completed in 1988, was a 10,000 square foot educational building which the congregation named in his honor.

He is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Ouachita Baptist University. He earned both the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for his service during World War II.

Before coming to Second Church in 1960, Kluck pastored Atkins First Church and two congregations in Texas.

The Klucks have two children. Their daughter, Sharon, and her husband, John Townsend, are serving with their two children, Kristen and Shean, as missionaries to Brazil. The Klucks' son, Wesley, is an Arkadelphia pediatrician. He and his wife, Debbie, have a daughter, Jennifer.

HMB

HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

\$7,500,000
Series E Church Loan
Collateralized Bonds

Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Interest on the Bonds will be payable semi-annually. The Bonds will be offered with maturity dates varying from twelve months to fifteen years and the interest rate will vary from 8.5% to 11% depending upon the maturity date as set forth in the Prospectus. Minimum purchase is \$500.

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained by calling or writing the Home Mission Board, Home Mission Board, SBC; Attn: Church Loans Division; 1350 Spring St., NW; Atlanta, GA 30367; 1-800-HMB-BOND

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy any of these securities. The offer is made only by Prospectus.

Please send a copy of the Prospectus for the Series E issue of Home Mission Board Church Loan Collateralized Bonds.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

SBC Seeks New President

WALNUT RIDGE—Southern Baptist College is accepting nominations and applications for the position of SBC president, announced Kenneth Sulcer, president of the SBC Board of Trustees.

"The president's position became available after Dr. D. Jack Nicholas, SBC president for almost 17 years, was promoted to the position of chancellor," Sulcer said.

Interested candidates must submit a letter of application and a current resume to Dr. Jerry Frankum, P.O. Box 606, Newport, AR 72112.

A review of applications will begin March 1 and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. All candidates must have an earned doctorate.

CHURCH	MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE	CHURCH	MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE	CHURCH	MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE
BLACK SPRINGS	325.23	2,347.37	DARWING BAPTIST MISSION		750.40	GLENNIE	440.93	5,235.04
CADDO PAR	240.00		DELANEY BAPTIST CHAPEL			GRANDVIEW, FT SMITH	472,244.17	187,156.19
GLENNARD ISL	1,341.76	76,735.70	ASSOCIATION TOTAL	24,706.37	322,805.42	GRAYSON		
HILL						GREENLEIGH	4,820.79	46,257.99
LAKE QUACHITA	311.60	3,628.21				HACKETT ISL	1,330.20	1,541.89
LIBERTY			ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL			HANDER LAKE	2,547.01	34,005.16
LITTLE HERB	200.00					HIGHWAY 94 ISL		1,500.00
MT GILEAD	16.00	1,300.00				IMMABLE, FT SMITH	1,820.00	32,362.50
NEW HAVEN	1,011.03		CHURCH	MONTH <td>YEAR-TO-DATE</td> <td>IRIS LANE ISL</td> <td>1,400.00</td> <td>4,094.16</td>	YEAR-TO-DATE	IRIS LANE ISL	1,400.00	4,094.16
MURPHY			CENTENNIAL ASSN			JANUARIA ISL	4,387.00	37,177.50
NORFOLK ISL	255.00	1,110.00	ANDREWS ISL	130.45	1,644.36	JENNIFER		1,071.07
ODEN ISL	99.70	2,432.43	ALPHEYS ISL	2,778.00	24,300.00	KENNY	14.25	403.00
FENCIBLE BELFF	2,621.12		AMITY ISL	3,451.00	20,448.41	KEVIN		289.48
FINE RIVER	1,450.00		BEATTI ISL			KEVIN WARDENY		1,345.80
SULPHUR SPRINGS		133.04	BELLEVILLE	50.00	500.00	KEVIN WARDENY		2,781.89
FINE RIVER BAPTIST	174.50		BELLEVILLE 2ND		726.80	KEVIN WARDENY		93.40
FINE RIVER BAPTIST	26.00		BELLEVILLE 3RD		96.31	NORTH SIDE, ELMHIST		4,000.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	772.47		BELLEVILLE 4TH		4,367.99	NORTH SIDE, FT SMITH	1,453.40	26,897.80
ASSOCIATION TOTAL	17,647.00	84,443.00	BETHLEHEM	762.00	2,938.00	PALESTINE		882.47
			BETHLEHEM ISL	5,693.00	88,145.48	PARISH ISL		16,089.45
			BETHLEHEM 2ND		125.82	FRANKIE WILLIAMS	905.68	1,715.18
			BETHLEHEM 3RD		150.04	FINE LANE	78.32	333.12
			BETHLEHEM 4TH		1,762.31	HATFIELD ISL	127.10	2,749.40
			BETHLEHEM 5TH		1,362.33	ROSEVILLE		668.02
			BETHLEHEM 6TH		1,26,324.15	THE HILL	300.71	10,287.77
			BETHLEHEM 7TH			SOUTH SIDE, HORNWELL	509.43	2,679.92
			BETHLEHEM 8TH			SOUTH SIDE, FT SMITH		4,999.27
			BETHLEHEM 9TH			SPRING LAKE		13,566.00
			BETHLEHEM 10TH			TEMPLE, FT. SMITH	1,120.50	10,549.85
			BETHLEHEM 11TH			TEMPLE, FT. SMITH	320.71	12,421.37
			BETHLEHEM 12TH			UNION PARK		
			BETHLEHEM 13TH			UNION PARK	4,500.00	13,000.00
			BETHLEHEM 14TH			UNION PARK		1,420.00
			BETHLEHEM 15TH			UNION PARK	100.00	1,500.00
			BETHLEHEM 16TH			UNION PARK		2,716.66
			BETHLEHEM 17TH			UNION PARK	141.29	2,647.88
			BETHLEHEM 18TH			UNION PARK	83.19	673.84
			BETHLEHEM 19TH			UNION PARK	1,438.01	23,840.00
			BETHLEHEM 20TH			UNION PARK	32.10	752.18
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Historic Month

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

March of 1990 should be a historic month in many churches and in many lives. More concern and more prayer has been evidenced than in a long time. The "Here's Hope" revivals have had the best training and preparation of any simultaneous revivals. We hope to have the best advertising and promotion. We all know these are helpful but not sufficient to bring real revival. The Solemn Assembly at the convention; the Solemn Assemblies being held in associations and churches; the spirit packed Evangelism Conference; these are a few of the reasons I am excited about the next month.



Moore

Most churches will be having their "Here's Hope" revivals between March 18-April 8. We need to pray and witness with a burden and zeal not known before. The perishing seem to be more content than ever to perish. Only God can change their mind and heart. When the meetings are over the revival should still be going. When the meetings are over, we should be at peace that we have done our best! "God help us to do our best!"

Pastors' Retreat Plans are completed. All we need is for the pastors to let us know ahead of time that they plan to come. The program is most promising! The worship and fellowship are always superb! The food is "out of sight." It will begin on March 12 with lunch and close with dinner on March 13. The program for the retreat was given to you at the Evangelism Conference and also by mail. Just return the card or give Joy Faucett a call (376-4791) to tell us to hold you a place and all will be in readiness for you!

WU Annual Meeting—Will this one be the best ever? It seems that each one is the best ever. Having set aside time every year in order to attend this meeting, I can tell you it is well worth your time. The planning and execution of the program is always a blessing. The spirit and content of the program are even more of a blessing. The number of men attending this meeting is growing. While we can't be members of the WU, we surely can be helped. Drive a car or van or do anything else you can to get in on the genuine blessing found at this meeting, March 16-17.

Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock. Missions information and inspiration are more needed today than at any time in recent history. The waiting, hurting world must not be met by an indifferent church!

Home missions are crucial, too! A week has been set aside to emphasize prayer and giving toward home missions. The dates are March 4-11. Pastors are not left without help at this point. A packet of material has been mailed to every pastor. All kinds of helps are included. Most of our churches have WMUs that will help the pastor and church focus on home missions for prayer and giving. The best thing that could happen from this effort would be that the entire church be brought to the place they would feel responsible for working with others in getting the gospel to everyone in the United States. It will take a massive effort. The Annie Armstrong Home Mission offering supports more efforts to do this than any other offering! Give your church the opportunity to join in the effort this year.

The Bi/Polar Seminar—Like discovering your spiritual gift or your temperament, Bi/Polar insights will help you further understand yourself and others. The discoveries will be thrilling. Your skills in leadership and relationships will be improved. We have made it possible for Jimmie Sheffield to receive training in this program so that he can help church leaders. Our first offering, statewide, for pastors and staff, is May 31-June 1. It begins at 1 p.m. on Thursday and closes at noon on Friday. The cost is \$50. This covers the materials and Bi/Polar fees which are required by their national office. Churches would do well to pay the fee and expenses for their pastor and/or staff to attend. Call Jimmie Sheffield (376-4791) to register.

Warning! We feel responsible to let you know that ACT 241 requires drivers of church buses to have a commercial driver's license. Maintenance and road worthiness standards have also been established. Severe penalties have been determined for those who violate these laws. We can only imagine what legal and financial problems will come upon the church whose bus is involved in an accident in which there is serious injury or loss of life when the driver was unqualified and the vehicle not maintained. We urge you to talk with your insurance carrier about these matters immediately.

Interfaith Witness Training—That title may not say much to you. It is the arm of the Home Mission Board that deals with equipping us to witness effectively to other

religious groups. Since religion does not save, only Christ does, we need to know how to witness to Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. March 8-10, a special seminar will be conducted to help us in such areas. It will be held at Ouachita Baptist University. The destiny of souls is the key issue. However, that is not all that is at stake. Space will not allow a discussion, but you need to know how the New Age Movement is sweeping America and how the Muslims plan to have 50 million converts in the United States, (we only have 14 million), and what that means to the American way of life.

Handbells—A delightful addition to the worship in many of our churches! A record number of handbell choirs are expected at the State Handbell Festival, March 9-10, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday and closing at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. This event will take place in the sanctuary of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. Cynthia Dobrinski from Southwestern Seminary will be your leader.

Building Needs—We might be able to help you. March 19-22 we can have building consultants come on-site to provide counsel on your building needs. You may call Ed Hinkson (376-4791) for an appointment. It is necessary for you to make an appointment because a schedule has to be carefully planned in order to visit all the churches requesting this service.

The other opportunity is the State Building Conference. It will be held March 23-24 at Markham Street Church, Little Rock. Information, resources and direction will be presented that will help in your building or remodeling project. Pastors, staff and building committee members should attend.

High School Baptist Young Men will meet in the Basketball State Tournament March 9-10. The games will be played at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, and First Church, Little Rock. The awards banquet will be at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. Exciting mission opportunities are opening to these young athletes.

Church Recreation Conference—March 2-3, Camp Paron. The cost is \$25 per person, including a \$5 reservation fee. Registration deadline is Feb. 26. Contact Bill Falkner (376-4791) for further information.



Quality
Van Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches. 501-268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143. Larry Carson

Stewardship/Annuity Budget Gifts Beat Inflation

Arkansas Baptist church members increased their budget contributions through the churches by 7.13 percent according to figures collected from the 1989 uniform church letters.

Listed as undesignated contributions, Arkansas Baptists gave \$104,883,192 last year, an increase of \$6,976,457 over receipts in 1988.

In the total gifts category, including designated mission offerings, contributions increased by 5.88 percent reaching \$127,881,582.

The 1989 inflation rate was 4.7 percent. Most of the churches increased their budget offerings. Nine Arkansas Baptist churches had budget contributions of more than \$1 million. One church moved into the million dollar budget range last year.

The number of churches with budget receipts under \$35,000 decreased about three percent since 1987. Last year, 604 of our churches reported budget gifts of \$35,000 or less.

Cooperative Program gifts increased 1.39 percent during 1989.—**James A. Walker, director**

Brotherhood Baptist Men's University

The first Baptist Men's University, to be offered May 31-June 3 on the beautiful campus of Rhodes College in Memphis, isn't just another everyday training event.

"BMU" will equip your Baptist Men's and Baptist Young Men's leadership with the tools to start, renew, strengthen, or broaden a program.

Personal development conferences will help you explore and discover the possibilities of effective leadership and mission action skills that foster creative ministry. The event will have intensive training in a number of areas, including prayer, renewal, lay evangelism, discipleship, ministry, and basic Baptist Men's and Baptist Young Men's conferences.

"Hands-on" training will be provided to involve Baptist Men's and Baptist Young Men's advisers in the learning and growth process. Certified trainers will teach courses that follow a number of emphasis tracks, including basic training, church renewal, mission action, evangelism, and

National Fellowship of Baptist Men.

Baptist Men's University is aimed at Baptist Men and Baptist Young Men across the country... so make plans today to attend!

The cost of \$120 per person includes room, meals, materials, and a conference fee. Space is limited, so act now. Contact the state Brotherhood office for an official registration form.

Attend and explore the possibilities of effective leadership and spiritual growth by attending Baptist Men's University!

The Guatemala/Arkansas Partnership will need 11 teams of three to four persons for May Revivals in the central highland region of Guatemala, May 9-13. Church growth is the objective and team members will visit with trained Guatemala Baptist each day. For information contact the Brotherhood Department.—**Glendon Grober, director**

Church Music Tomorrow And Today

Youth... the tomorrow. The hopes and despair, the dreams and failure, the good and bad all have their beginnings today. What we teach today will mold the tomorrow. Thus it becomes our responsibility to encourage, train, and lead young people to develop those areas of life that will provide lasting positive experiences that makes a strong foundation to build their life upon.

The Youth Music Festival, May 12, at Second Church, Little Rock, will provide some building blocks for that strong foundation. Encourage your youth to participate in their Associational Music Festival to qualify for the state event and dream with them about tomorrow.

Senior adults... the today. Opportunities for senior adults to enjoy life has never been greater. Each day brings new opportunities and must be claimed as God gives strength. Senior adults will want to get together with others from across the state for the Sing 'N Share planned by the Church Music and Evangelism Departments at Eureka Springs, on May 3-5. The schedule calls for a time of singing and inspiration on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning and an outing to the Pine Mountain Jamboree, Thursday evening. Your group may choose to stay over Friday evening and attend the Passion Play for three full days of inspiration and enjoyment. It'll be lots of fun for all.—**Glen E. Ennes, associate**

Woman's Missionary Union Guatemala Opportunity

You have heard the expression, "Give a man a fish and he can eat for one day. Teach him to fish and he can eat for a lifetime." A request has come from Guatemala for four teams of two to three women to teach skill classes at the Feminine Academy in Guatemala City. The purpose is to enable people to gain skills with which they can earn a living.

Teachers are needed in the following areas: silk flower making/arranging, cooking, cosmetology, and making puppets and/or crafts. Teams will be gone 7-10 days. The approximate cost of the trip will be \$700. Teams will stay at the Pan American Hotel or a mission residence. All expenses are provided by the team member.

What would a team member need to take? First, she must be ready to share her faith in Jesus Christ. A passport is needed to gain entry into the country. All teaching materials must be taken. Some resources are available in purchasing these. Spanish would be helpful but not necessary as translators will be provided. Expertise in the subject matter is mandatory. The only other qualifications needed are flexibility and a cheerful, Christ-filled heart.

A training/orientation session will be held before teams leave for the field. Attendance is required. Dates will be set to accommodate the teams.

If you have an interest in being part of these teams, please contact Carolyn Porterfield, State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791. A response is needed by March 8. Teams will be filled on a first-response, first-go basis. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity for sharing the gospel in Guatemala City.—**Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/ BYW director**

Church Music Instrumental Workshop

Does your church have band or orchestra players? Are they getting the opportunity to use their instruments in the worship service to glorify God? If you are the music leader and you don't feel you have the understanding needed in this area or if you are well equipped to direct a full instrumental program then we have something for both of you.

On May 17-19, Arkansas, Louisiana,

Mississippi, and the Baptist Sunday School Board are pooling their resources to provide the most comprehensive instrumental workshop ever held in our area for church musicians. This event coincides with our rotating instrumental emphasis and will be our 1990 instrumental training event. It will be far more comprehensive than we could possibly attempt within our state. All levels of training and resources will be available as well as playing opportunities for everyone. Don't miss it. It will be years before we'll have another opportunity like this one. Plan now to meet us at Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, May 17-19.—Glen E. Ennes, associate

Church Music Excellence Conference

Larger churches have unique challenges, particularly in the music ministry. With the purpose of speaking to these unique challenges and networking and support for the full-time minister of music, the Church Music Excellence Conference was begun in 1989.

The second annual conference will be held April 30-May 2 at First Church, Springdale. The conference fee of \$60 includes: two continental breakfasts, one evening banquet, one lunch, three refreshment breaks and the Church Music Excellence Notebook.



McCullough

Those who attend will share printed programs, orders of worship and promotion pieces. Program content will include: Church Design: From Choir Room to Catwalk; Trends of the 90's; The Worship Experience: How I Do It In My Place! (perspectives by four Arkansas ministers of music); special interest sessions on "Computers in the Music Ministry," "Using and Arranging Instrumental Music," and more; and an open forum to discuss subjects of specific interest to participants.

The registration deadline is March 15. Enrollment will be limited to 50 ministers of music. A brochure including a registration form can be obtained from the Church Music Department by calling 376-4791 or writing P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72201.—Lester McCullough, director

Looking Ahead

March

- 2-3 Church Recreation Conference, *Camp Paron (DT/BSSB)*
- 4-11 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 8-10 Interfaith Witness Training, *Ouachita Baptist University (Mn)*
- 9-10 HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, *Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, and Immanuel Church, Little Rock (Bbd)*
- 9-10 State Handbell Festival, *Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock (M)*
- 12-13 Pastors' Retreat, *Camp Paron (Ad)*
- 16-17 WMU Annual Meeting, *Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock (WMU)*
- 18-4/8 "Here Hope: Jesus Cares For You" Revivals (*Ev*)
- 19-22 State Building Tour (*SS*)
- 23-24 State Building Conference, *Markham Street Church, Little Rock (SS)*
- 23-24 Leadership Training Conference, *Camp Paron (BSU)*

April

- 8 Cooperative Program Day (*SBC*)
- 10 PACT Awareness Conference (*Mn*)
- 13 State Youth Convention, *Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (DT)*
- 16 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (DT)*
- 17 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, *Southern Baptist College (DT)*
- 18 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (DT)*
- 17-20 Campers on Mission Spring Rally, *Petit Jean State Park (Mn)*
- 19-20 Youth Ministry Conference, *Excelsior Hotel, Little Rock (DT)*
- 19-20 Minister of Education Retreat, *Excelsior Hotel, Little Rock (DT)*
- 20-21 Ministering to Youth in Crisis Con-

- ference, *Excelsior Hotel, Little Rock (DT)*
- 20-21 BSU Volleyball Tournament, *Ouachita Baptist University (BSU)*
- 21 Young Musicians Festivals, *Little Rock First Church, Hope First Church, Monticello Second Church, Wynne Church, Rogers First Church (M)*
- 22 Life Commitment Sunday (*SBC*)
- 23-24 Key Leader Meeting, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ad)*
- 27-28 State Family Ministry Conference, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (DT)*
- 27-28 Acteens Encounter, *Little Rock Markham Street Church (WMU)*
- 27-28 RA/HSBYM Congress, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (Bbd)*
- 30-5/2 Church Music Excellence Conference, *Springdale First Church (M)*

May

- 1 Get in Touch, Keep in Touch Seminar, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (SS)*
- 4-5 Senior Adult "Sing 'N Share," *Eureka Springs First Church (Ev/M)*
- 4-5 Pastor/Deacon Conference, *Little Rock (DT)*
- 7-8 Chaplaincy Awareness Conference, *DeGray Lodge (Mn)*
- 12 State Youth Music Festival, *Little Rock Second Church (M)*
- 14-15 Church Planting Conference, *Camp Paron (Mn)*
- 14-18 MasterLife Workshop, *Ouachita Baptist University (DT)*
- 17-19 Regional Instrumental Workshop, *Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss. (M/BSSB)*
- 18-19 GA Mother/Daughter Camp, *Camp Paron (WMU)*
- 18-19 DiscipleYouth Worship, *Ouachita Baptist University (DT)*
- 21-23 Senior Adult Celebration, *Ouachita Baptist University (DT)*
- 29-6/1 Student Summer Missionary Orientation, *Mills Valley Retreat Center*
- 31-6/1 Student Summer Missionary Supervisors Orientation, *Mills Valley Retreat Center (Mn)*

Chapman 'Conservative' Pick

by Dan Martin
Baptist Press

HOUSTON (BP)—Texas pastor Morris Chapman apparently will be the "conservative" candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, not Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, emerged as the proposed "conservative" candidate Feb. 8, after Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala., who previously had been announced as the potential candidate, changed his mind and dropped out Feb. 5.

In a five-page announcement released to Baptist Press Feb. 8, John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, said he planned to nominate Chapman for the presidency at the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC, in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, June 12.

Chapman told Baptist Press he has agreed to allow Bisagno to nominate him at the annual meeting.

The Texas pastor, who observed his 11th anniversary as pastor of the 7,776-member church Feb. 11, had been quoted in the *Baptist Standard*, newjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, in early February as saying he had "no word from the Lord that I should be nominated" as president.

He said subsequent to the statement he "was contacted by brethren who began to say they believed I was God's man."

"I went to Washington for a meeting Feb. 5 and 6 thinking it had been settled. In my mind it was already settled. I was confident Fred would be the nominee," he said, adding when he arrived home Feb. 6, he was told Wolfe had described himself as "not God's man for this hour. In fact, Fred called me and told me that."

Chapman related that early Wednesday

afternoon, Feb. 7, Bisagno "called and said he believed I was the man who could bring a unifying spirit to the SBC and asked if he could nominate me for the presidential position."

"I told him events had been moving very rapidly and I was stunned that it was taking this turn but that I was taking that (Bisagno's request) as a word from God that he had opened the door and I must walk through, trusting that this was his leadership in this matter," Chapman said.

A statement regarding his candidacy will be released soon, Chapman said, declining to discuss his plans for the SBC, should he be elected president.

Chapman's candidacy apparently will carry with it the endorsement of the five former presidents of the SBC, who have been leaders in the 11-year effort to turn the denomination to a more conservative direction.

Four of the five past presidents—Vines, Adrian Rogers, Charles Stanley and Smith—apparently discussed the potential candidates to carry the "conservative" standard during a Caribbean cruise Jan. 8-12.

Draper, the only one not to go on the cruise, said Wolfe emerged as "the consensus" of the former presidents and the 40-to-50 pastors who were on the January Bible study cruise, sponsored by Templeton

Tours.

The "moderate" candidate will be Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, who announced in September he would be nominated for office. Vestal also was nominated in the 1989 annual meeting, where he received 8,248 votes, against Vines' 10,754.

Chapman, 49, is a native of Kosciusko, Miss. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and has master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

According to the Uniform Church Letter, First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls recorded 86 baptisms in the 1988-89 church year. It received \$2,606,972 in undesignated offerings, of which it contributed \$389,681 through the denomination's unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program. It also contributed \$335,934 to other missions offerings.

Prior to becoming pastor in Wichita Falls, he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.; First Baptist Church of Woodway in Waco, Texas; and First Baptist Church, Rogers, Texas.

His wife, Jodi, was a member of the SBC Peace Committee and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. They have two children, Chris, a student at Southwestern Seminary, and Stephanie, a senior at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.



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Texas Pastor Announces

DALLAS (BP)—Saying he wants to try "to encourage people like myself in smaller membership churches," Pastor Dan Bates of 155-member Millican Baptist Church in Southeast Texas has announced he will be nominated for president at the Southern Baptist Convention June 12.

He may ask "an old friend from Missouri" to nominate him, Bates said, or he may just nominate himself as did

evangelist Anis Shorosh in San Antonio in 1988. Shorosh got 81 votes out of the 31,291 cast.

Bates told the *Baptist Standard*, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he has no illusions he will be elected, but will be nominated at the annual meeting in New Orleans and at following conventions "until the Lord tells me to quit."

Bates, 45, has been pastor of the Millican congregation since December 1987. When he became pastor, Sunday school attendance was 10, but now is up to 60, he said.

Bates has led the church in some innovative ministries, including collecting old stamps and selling them to stamp collectors and using the money to aid the hungry.

Bates, a native of College Station, Texas, is a graduate of Houston Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Recognize any of these people?



This photograph was taken at the Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs during the mid-to-late twenties. Do you recognize any of these people? If you do, let us know! (Epsy O'Neel has been identified as the young man on the far left.)

The Assembly is made up of memories. Memories of time spent with others, self and God. What memories (exciting, funny, life-changing) do you possess from the encampment?

As the "Siloam A Trusted Friend Needs You" campaign begins, we're asking for your assistance in putting together a scrapbook of photographs and memorable moments. Excerpts from this book will be used in upcoming campaign publications.

If you have any photographs or nostalgic memorabilia that we might use, please contact the campaign office, P.O. Box 14, Little Rock, AR 72203 or (501) 376-4791. All items will be returned.

BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE

Budget Slash Proposed

by Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's budgeted support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs may be reduced by \$341,796 if a new budget proposal is approved.

The Southern Baptist Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee has drafted a 1990-91 Cooperative Program allocation budget that would cut the Washington-based religious liberty organization's SBC allocation by 87.24 percent, from \$391,796 this year to \$50,000.

The allocation budget will be presented to the full Executive Committee in Nashville Feb. 19 and the final decision regarding the budget will be made by messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 12-14 in New Orleans.

The BJC's decrease would mean increases for the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. The PAC's budget allocation would increase 307.53 percent, from \$23,704 to \$96,600. The CLC would gain an additional \$293,728, or 32.73 percent, over its present allocation of \$897,508.

Those actions represent a change in how Southern Baptists will handle religious liberty and church/state matters in the nation's capital.

For more than 50 years, the Baptist Joint Committee, which represents eight other Baptist denominations, has been Southern Baptists' primary voice on such matters.

But in recent years, the BJC has drawn criticism from some "conservative" Southern Baptists who feel the organization has not been sympathetic with their concerns, especially since the SBC provides a major portion of the BJC's funding.

The BJC's budget has been challenged from the floor of several SBC annual meetings, and the BJC has been the subject of three special committees of the Executive Committee.

On the first night of its budget hearings however, the program and budget subcommittee approved two actions that change that approach.

The subcommittee approved a proposed revision in the CLC program statement that would allow the agency to have a voice in religious liberty matters. The proposed revisions were made in response to a request of the SBC Executive Committee last September.

To take effect, the proposed revisions must be approved by the full Executive Committee and messengers to the SBC

annual meeting.

The subcommittee also adopted five guidelines for the Public Affairs Committee. The PAC, which has been operating under the program statement of the Baptist Joint Committee is a standing committee and does not have a program statement, according to SBC bylaws.

The guidelines direct the PAC to:
— "Address matters of religious liberty and church-state issues concerning the Southern Baptist Convention and various state Baptist conventions.

— "Represent the SBC on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs with the understanding that the BJC shall not address issues other than those regarding religious liberty and separation of church and state.

— "Relate to and cooperate with the Christian Life Commission in areas of joint concern and in particular as to matters of religious liberty where there is a possibility of jointness in such ancillary endeavors.

— "Relate to Southern Baptist entities, Baptist state conventions, associations, churches, and Baptist leaders and other interested persons promoting and encouraging religious liberty.

— "Relate to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and be the vehicle through which the BJC makes its budget requests and in regard to which the BJC will account financially and have a review

of their program and personnel for and in behalf of the SBC."

After the proposed program statement revision and guidelines were adopted, the committee began hearing budget requests from executives of SBC agencies and related organizations.

Most of the requests were for increase from 3 percent to 10 percent, although higher requests were made by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the Historical Commission, the Radio and Television Commission, the PAC and the CLC.

After the requests were made, the subcommittee began deliberations on the 1990-91 budget allocations. The new Cooperative Program allocation budget goal of \$137,332,523 is based on receipts of the last fiscal year of record, 1988-89, and represent a 1.89 percent increase over CP receipts for 1987-88.

Each agency except the BJC, CLC and PAC received a 1.89 percent basic increase over the 1989-90 budget.

The two-hour meeting was conducted under background rules, which prevent direct quotation or attribution.

Members finally approved a reduction in the BJC's funding to \$50,000. The PAC is to receive \$96,600, with the remainder going to the CLC.

The PAC was the only organization that received the full amount it requested. In their budget report, PAC officers indicated most of the additional funds would be used for a religious liberty conference and production of a quarterly newsletter.

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1990 Vacation, Recreation & Travel Show

Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, Arkansas
February 23, 24, 25

(Present this coupon for one free admission per family or group)

ADMIT ONE

Convention Uniform

The Spirit Within

by Lawson Hatfield, Malvern

Basic passage: John 14:15-27

Focal passage: John 14:15-27

Central truth: The indwelling Spirit meets our greatest needs.

This is Jesus' last address to his disciples. It is emotionally strong, has spiritual depth, and offers essential knowledge for Christian development.

This passage opens with the instruction for the disciple to be obedient, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15). It closes (Jn. 14:27) with the promise of peace. Between the command to obey and the promise of peace, there are many promises and words to inspire courage. Spiritual discipline, power, and comfort; relief from stress; and the indwelling Spirit depend on obedience to Jesus' commandments. Consider these four ideas:

One, Jesus promises in verse 16 that he will pray to the Father for his disciples. He promises the gift of the ever abiding Holy Spirit. He teaches them in verse 17-20 that the Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Obedience is required because truth is granted. The world does not see or know the Father, but the believer sees and knows both the Father and the Spirit. Why is this so? In answer, Jesus said that the Spirit dwells in the believer.

Two, Jesus reaffirms that he will not leave his own comfortless. When Jesus said, "I will come to you," he meant through the Spirit as on the Day of Pentecost. It can also refer to his second coming. Jesus said that because he lives, his followers shall also live. He also said that I am in the Father, you are in me, and I am in you.

Three, the Lord again speaks of the disciples' obedience to his commandments, verses 21-24. Obedience is evidence that one loves. To love Jesus is to be loved of the Father. His promise that "we" will abide in the obedient disciple, refers to the presence of both Jesus and the Father. The indwelling God-head is a deterrent to willful disobedience and a constant encouragement to loving obedience.

Four, in verses 25-27 the Lord identifies the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. He was present with them, but would come in fullness later. We see this later coming as on the Day of Pentecost.

These truths comforted his followers then and comfort them now. They reinforce courage and grant abiding peace.

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Life and Work

I Do, I Don't

by Frank C. Gantz, Nall's Memorial Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Mark 9:17-29

Focal passage: Mark 9:23-24

Central truth: Faith is a growing process.

The petals of many a flower have been plucked by romantics echoing the lines, "She loves me. She loves me not." We usually view the two possibilities as opposites. Either she loves me or she does not. That may explain how striking the statement of this man is in Mark 9. He cries out with tears to Jesus, "Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief."

How can he claim to believe and pray for his unbelief in the same breath? He almost sounds like the double-minded man of James 1:6-8. The double-minded man is described as being "like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." James assuredly declares, "Let not that man think that he will receive anything of the Lord."

The man in Mark 9 did receive of the Lord. His son had been demonically possessed since his childhood. The demon violently tormented this boy. The disciples of Jesus were not even able to combat such a fierce soldier of hell. Jesus did. He charged the demon to depart from the boy and to never return. The son of this man was dramatically transformed by Jesus. The father of the boy did receive from the Lord.

Since he received from the Lord, we must assume that he was not double-minded. Double-minded means to want to know what God's plan is and then choose whether we will follow it or not. Faith says that no matter what God says, we will do it.

This man's quandary existed because he knew the potential power of the Lord. He was just unsure as to whether he would see it displayed on his behalf. We are often like that. We know that God spoke and creation came into existence. We know that he has control over every element of nature and over every creature. However, this knowledge often seems to abandon us when we have personal needs from the Lord. We wonder if God can really put together broken homes. Can he really lead me through the valley of the shadow of death? We are so prone to try to look to Jesus while keeping one eye squarely fixed on the problem. We need to pray, as did this man, that the Lord would help our unbelief. Oh God, lift our eyes unto you.

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Bible Book

God's Deliverance

by Tommy Cunningham, Life Line Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Judges 2:18-22; 4:1-4, 14-15

Focal passage: Judges 2:18-22; 4:1; 5:18

Central truth: Rebellion toward God brings chastisement, which produces repentance and deliverance.

We now come to a study of the book of Judges. This book covers the history of Israel from Joshua's death to the establishment of the monarchy under Saul. In contrast to Joshua, where the theme is victory through obedience, the theme of Judges is defeat through disobedience. The key verse is repeated twice (17:6; 21:25).

One should be aware of the religious condition of Israel during this period of time. At least four major characteristics are readily observable. Disobedience was widespread, idolatry was prevalent, immorality was a major problem, and lawlessness was the norm of the time.

During the Judges period, a repeated cycle becomes apparent. There are four elements that make up this cycle: backsliding, chastisement, repentance, and forgiveness (2:11-19). This is the same cycle many people discover occurring in the Christian life. When disobedience becomes the way of life, it becomes a reality.

Note the progressive deterioration of the Israelites during the Judges period (2:19). The righteous indignation of God is turned toward the nation. God no longer purposed to drive out the enemy. This action of the Lord is designed to bring the people to a time of chastisement, a time of testing of their faithfulness, and a time of learning what it really means to war against the enemy (2:20-3:4).

The judgeship of Barak and Deborah is discussed in chapters 4 and 5. Note nine aspects of this narrative: (1) the influence of a strong leader (4:1); (2) the strength of the enemy (4:2-3); (3) the hesitancy of Barak (4:8-9); (4) God's military plan (4:6-7); (5) the hesitancy of Barak (4:8-9); the victory of the people of God (4:13-16); (6) the treachery of Jael (4:17-21); (7) the prosperity of God's people (4:23-24); (8) the key to victory (5:2); and (9) the non-commitment of some of God's people (5:15-18). Especially important is the awareness that God gives us victory over our enemies when we willingly offer ourselves to him.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Trustees Affirm Healing

by Linda Lawson

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board affirmed a spirit of reconciliation and healing in their Feb. 5-7 meeting in Nashville and pledged to work with the administration in carrying out the tasks of the denomination's church programs and publishing agency.

A motion of support for President Lloyd Elder and a motion pledging joint efforts by the trustees and administration to "fulfillment of the great tasks entrusted to us by the people called Southern Baptists" were passed without opposition.

The meeting was the first gathering of the full board of trustees since August 1989 when, during a session at Gloriaeta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, a motion for fire Elder was made and debated before being withdrawn.

Robert Cheek, interim pastor of North Hardin Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas, noted six months had passed since the Gloriaeta meeting and said the time is right for trustees to let Elder "know we love him, we will pray for him and give him our heartfelt affirmation."

Rick Forrester, an insurance company officer manager from Norcross, Ga., urged support for Cheek's motion: "Our president does not need to know we are committed to working together. The press needs to hear and see that. Our constituency needs to hear and see that."

Tommy Taylor, pastor of London Bridge Baptist Church of Virginia Beach, Va., presented a statement adopted by trustees describing the meeting as "marked by a spirit of reconciliation and healing." The motion expressed appreciation for an informal discussion session on the role and responsibility of trustees convened by Warren Hultgren, chairman of trustees and pastor of First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla.

The session included a presentation by James P. Guenther, a Nashville attorney and general counsel to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Guenther described the ideal relationship between the president and trustees of a Southern Baptist agency as a partnership in which both are strong. He urged humility, commitment to the mission of the institution and finding proper balance between "being assertive and being restrained."

Elder said the presentation and dialogue "opened lines of communication and strengthened the work of the Sunday

School Board...."

Hultgren said the session made trustees "aware not only of their responsibility to the Southern Baptist Convention but also of their obligations and accountability to the Sunday School Board and its administration."

In reporting on development of an instrument for the annual performance evaluation of the president by the general administration committee, Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, said trustees should turn from discussions about the president to focus on the work of the board.

"We are part of a flat denomination," said Young. "Our challenge is tremendous. We have an excellent president. Let's get off the side tracks and get on with the kingdom."

A motion by Gene Swinson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga., called for the 90-member board of trustees to meet the week after the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June for an informal, non-business session to focus on building relationships and setting goals. The motion was referred to the general administration committee.

In other business, trustees authorized an average price increase of 5.8 percent for church literature, effective April 1991. Sunday school literature will increase an additional 4.4 percent in October 1991 with

the introduction of improvements involving increased pages for Bible content, art and teaching procedures and more color. For an average price increase of 7 percent for the 1991 calendar year.

The pricing recommendation stated the commitment of the board to provide "the finest possible literature for Southern Baptist churches at least 25 percent below the prices of the nearest major competitor." A comparative study showed a quarterly literature order for a church of 200 would cost \$389 if purchased from the Sunday School Board, compared to \$495, \$518, \$603 and \$1,565 from four other publishers.

In a financial report for October-December 1989, E.V. King, vice president for business and finance, said total revenue from operations was \$42 million, 2.3 percent below budget but 4.8 percent above 1988. Church literature sales of \$18.8 million were 1.2 percent above budget and 7.2 percent above 1988. Genevox Music sales of \$320,000 were 8.5 percent above budget and 29 percent above 1988.

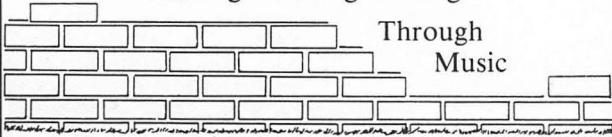
The board operates completely through sales of products and services and does not receive Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funds.

The administration was asked to study the possibility of producing an abstinence-based sex education curriculum for use in schools, churches and homes and report back to trustees at their August 1990 meeting. Materials for use in churches and homes currently are under development by the board's family ministry department.

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Getting Ready

New School to Boost Iranian Evangelism

by Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

LONDON (BP)—A school opening in London in February with partial financing from Southern Baptists will train Iranian Christians to evangelize Iranians all over the world.

The Iranian Bible Training Center received \$25,000 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Further help is under consideration, said Dale Thorne, director of Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa.

Eight Iranian students—six from Iran and two from England—have been accepted into the first class. Four other students, including two from Turkey and one living in Denmark, are awaiting visas to enter England.

A two-year study program will give them a Bible-based education with special evangelism skills tailored to the needs and culture of Iranians. For every two months in class, students will spend a month ministering among Iranians outside Iran, said Samuel Yeghnazar, school director.

Plans call for the students to spend some out-of-class time in places such as Turkey or Pakistan, Yeghnazar said. After completing their studies, they will work in Iran or areas where Iranian refugees live, he said.

Teachers will include some Southern Baptist missionaries, seminary and Bible school professors from the United States, Europe and elsewhere, and other evangelicals experienced in Iranian or Middle Eastern culture. Some teachers will come from Iran. Most will teach three-week sessions at their own expense, living in school apartments alongside the students.

Classes will be held at the Iranian Christian Fellowship building in Chiswick, West London. The congregation meeting there, led by Yeghnazar, was organized in July 1986 and now includes about 100 mostly Iranian members, with many Muslim converts. About one-third of the members are British.

Yeghnazar, 45, a native of Iran, has an Armenian Christian background. His father was an evangelist in Iran. He recalled the night of Dec. 9, 1955, when his father woke him, three sisters, two brothers and their mother with a question, "If Jesus comes now are you ready to meet him?"

Admitting he was not ready, Yeghnazar "had a tremendous time of repenting before the Lord" and accepted Christ as his

savior. Ten years later, he entered full-time Christian ministry. For 18 years he worked with United Bible Societies in England, Iran, the Philippines and Beirut, Lebanon, where he often cooperated with Southern Baptist missionaries.

He left the Bible society work three years ago to minister to Iranians after sensing that "we're living in a tremendously important time for Iran."

An estimated 3 million of Iran's 50 million citizens have fled that country since 1979, when the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his followers took over and established an Islamic state. Now those Iranians are scattered about the globe, Yeghnazar said, "and I've never seen Iranians so open to the gospel in all my life."

Evangelizing Muslims must be done carefully, he said, "but with Iranians you just share the gospel. They'll listen to you. Opportunities are so abundant."

In addition to his pastoral duties and starting the new school, Yeghnazar spends hours communicating by telephone and correspondence with Iranian Christians around the world. He often sends Bibles or Christian literature in Persian—or Farsi—the principal language of Iran.

"Last month I received letters from Iranians in Korea, Bangladesh, Greece, the Dominican Republic and other countries," he said. "These are new believers. I never thought an Iranian would come to the Lord in Moscow, but I have sent Persian-language literature there. I also hear periodically from Iranian believers in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Spain, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Cyprus, Turkey, Pakistan, India, the prisons of Thailand and the Philippines, plus quite a few places in the United States, Canada, Australia and Latin America."

Yeghnazar estimated 300,000 Iranians live in Europe, many of whom have become Christians.

Reaching these Iranians for Christ now is vital, Yeghnazar said, while they are open to the gospel and cut off from their native Iran. If conditions change, many will go back. He wants to see them go back as Christians, ready to spread the gospel.

Despite the image of intolerance Iran has, "Iranian Christians (still have) much more liberty in Iran than in all Arab countries I know, both from the side of government and from the side of families," he said. "It may seem funny, but Iranians are very tolerant people. Islam has brought them intolerance."

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