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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

news magazine

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Memphis, Tennessee
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Pastor Joe Todd (right) of Ephesians Missionary Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wis., is leading his church through a building program that will result in more Sunday School classrooms and a larger sanctuary. In Arkansas, church planter David Mitchell (below) continues to develop Congo Road Church, a new work near Benton where he is pastor. Both are starting something new as Southern Baptist home missionaries whose work is partially funded by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.



Start Something New

...through home missions
supported by the

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

1997 Week of Prayer for Home Missions ♦ March 2-9

Super outreach

Super Bowl parties score big when it comes to fellowship and ministry

Super Bowl Sunday usually presents a dilemma for churches: whether to ignore it or use it as a ministry opportunity. Many churches around Arkansas used the time successfully to attract young people in a fellowship setting.

Three Jonesboro area churches participated in an area-wide Super Bowl Bash '97. Highland Drive, Central and Walnut Street churches cooperated in an interdenominational effort by the Northeast Arkansas Youth Ministry Network to attract 7th through 12th graders to the Nettleton High School auditorium and gym for the event. Patrick Male, youth minister at Highland Drive Church, is chairman of the network.

"We brought in a 10-foot screen and projected the game in the auditorium," Magel explained. "We had give-aways and live bands during the commercials."

Also during the Super Bowl, the gym was open and featured games, a velcro wall and moonwalking for those not all that interested in football. During halftime, the youth were fed pizza and sodas, but also were served the gospel.

Youth evangelist Rick Caldwell brought a halftime message that resulted in 82 professions of faith and 250 total decisions.

Springdale First Church also threw a large Super Bowl Fellowship under the leadership of youth minister John Cope that was open to all area youth. In their youth center, a room was set up with a big screen television and the cafe was open, with free popcorn, munchies and hot dogs. There were three huge "super bowls" filled with prizes: CDs, soft drinks, candy and even a digital radio.

In addition to the usual activities available at the center such as pool and ping-pong, youth could win prizes at the Springdale Bulldogs football throw.

During halftime, football All-American Robert Ferrell, a former Razorback who was on the team when Arkansas went to the Cotton Bowl, shared his testimony.

Video testimonies

However, a Super Bowl bash doesn't have to be huge for young people to enjoy good fellowship. The youth from Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock gathered in the clubhouse in a nearby apartment complex where they could watch the game on a big screen TV and have sub sandwiches and snacks. Youth minister Roger Littleton had the youth make their own commercials on video. "They were really goofy, but fun," he noted.

During halftime, the youth watched a video detailing the testimony of Philadelphia Eagle Irving Fryer. "He had a tough life, got into trouble with drugs and the law, and his marriage was on the rocks," Littleton explained. "Then Christ changed his heart." The video also portrayed the testimonies of other football players. Littleton asked the youth to fill out a response card about what they thought about the video.

Markham Street Church hosted in-home gatherings for different age groups with the philosophy of opening members' homes on Super Bowl Sunday and inviting someone who is unchurched to attend. Minister to students Billy Borré had his own home open to college and career young adults and another home open for the youth, both well-attended. "We did them both with the same philosophy," he commented. "We had the Super Bowl on, served refreshments and had a testimony during halftime. The casual atmosphere really promoted sharing."

With those kind of efforts duplicated in churches throughout the state, the Green Bay Packers weren't the only big winners on Super Bowl Sunday.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

news magazine



Cover Story

Home missions.....6-7

Church planter David Mitchell, pastor of Congo Road Church in Benton, is among thousands of Southern Baptist home missionaries committed to "Start Something New." This year's annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions is set for March 2-9.

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Available on CompuServe through the Publications Library of SBCNet.

Next issue: March 6

One score, one setback

Legislature opposes gay marriages; partial-birth abortion ban stalls

A bill outlawing same-sex marriages was passed by the Arkansas Legislature earlier this month, signifying a victory for moral concern groups across the state that had been monitoring its progress. Many of those same groups were dealt a blow the same week when a bill that called for the ban of late-term, partial-birth abortions was killed in a Senate committee.

Senate Bill 5, which sought "to clarify that Arkansas does not issue marriage licenses to persons of the same sex nor recognize marriages between members of the same sex," passed the Senate Feb. 10. A similar bill, HB1004, was passed and enrolled by the House of Representatives three days earlier. The legislation was awaiting Gov. Mike Huckabee's signature at press time.

A pleased Larry Page, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation, said that the bills were "a moderate attempt" by sponsors to outlaw gay marriages.

"For a long time we've considered marriage to be a sacred institution between a male and female," he added. "This whole thing is a reaction to Hawaii, which is on the threshold, it appears, of... allowing same-sex marriages."

"There is a clause in the United States Constitution, called a 'full faith and credit' clause, that says that each state must honor one another's decrees and orders," he explained. "Other states were thinking, 'If Hawaii does in fact legalize same-sex marriages, homosexual couples could go there, be married, come back to their resident state and demand all of the privileges that attend a heterosexual marriage.'"

Page said that many states, therefore, have begun to enact legislation to counter Hawaii's possible move. "Congress passed a law last year that says that each state does not have to honor another's same-sex marriage. Under that national legislation, states all across the country are passing laws that say, 'We will not honor marriages from other jurisdictions.'"

The Arkansas lawmakers also excluded a proposed amendment by Sen. Mike Everett, who sought to prevent employers from discriminating against workers, based on their sexual orientation.

"It was defeated fairly handily," Page observed, adding that the debate "is not about homophobia and it's not about hatred or discrimination against homosexuals."

"We don't give special group status lightly," he noted. "We do it based on things like race and ethnicity and gender and age, but we've not done that based on behavior. I think that's the key."

"I would very quickly add that homosexuals enjoy the same individual liberties and rights that you and I do and they should," he said. "They're entitled to the same kind of protection that the Bill of Rights grants to all of us. What they're not entitled to is the privilege of special group status based on behavior."

Page also noted that the death of HB1351, which sought to ban partial-birth abortions, "is

not a defeat yet. It's just a setback. We're still alive and we still have a pulse on that."

Sponsors of the bill sought to ban a controversial late-term abortion process commonly known as "dilation and extraction," in which a fetus is delivered with the exception of its head. The doctor performing the procedure then removes the infant's brain matter from its skull with the use of a suction catheter.

The Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee returned the bill to the full Senate with a "do not pass" recommendation.

"It is important to note that it passed the House by a vote of 59 affirmative votes, which was a good sign," said Page. "What it says about its fate on the Senate side is that a small committee composed primarily of those that I think would identify with the pro-choice side simply killed the bill. I don't think it's a representative kind of thing, so there's an effort under way to allow the Senate as a whole to pull that bill from the committee and consider it by the full Senate. Sen. Faye Boozman, who carried the bill in that committee, is seeking to do that."

"We think it can be done," Page predicted. "What we endeavor for people to understand is that the partial-birth abortion ban is not a radical pro-life measure. This is a bill that passed the Congress quite comfortably and only a presidential veto...that barely was upheld prevented the law from going into effect nationally."

"Many pro-choice advocates...saw the partial-birth abortion as being clearly across the line that a civilized society ought to go," he commented. "It's a moderate attempt actually. Since it has so much support, it shouldn't die in a committee of only eight people."

He said that a "coalition of groups" are now working on a telephone and letter-writing campaign and to sponsor a rally on the Capitol steps Feb. 26, "the day on which the attempt will be made to pull this bill out of committee and let the full Senate consider it."

The purpose of the rally, called the "Great Cloud of Witnesses," is "to provide a presence so that the senators can see that there is popular support for this," Page said.

The coalition includes the CCF, Right to Life, Concerned Women for America and the Family Council. Page invited Southern Baptists to participate in the rally, which will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

Homosexuals enjoy the same individual liberties and rights that you and I do and they should....What they're not entitled to is the privilege of special group status based on behavior.

LARRY PAGE
CCF executive director

HB1004: A closer look

Included below are excerpts from HB1004, which calls for the ban of same-sex marriages:

Subtitle: "An act to provide that marriage shall only be between a man and a woman; and to refuse to recognize foreign marriages between persons of the same sex."

"Marriage shall only be between a man and a woman. A marriage between persons of the same sex is void."

"All marriages contracted outside this state which would be valid by the laws of the state or country in which the marriages were consummated and in which the parties then actually resided shall be valid in all the courts in this state. This section shall not apply to marriage between persons of the same sex."

A Pastor's Heart



Emil Turner

ABCs Executive Director

They were two of the saddest people I had ever seen. They were explaining why divorce would be "better" than their marriage. I'd heard the same explanation hundreds of times. Every pastor has heard them. The "bottom line" was that they had two different sets of priorities.

Whenever a husband and wife prize highly two unrelated things, the marriage will be troubled. Sometimes the trouble culminates in divorce, other times in cold co-existence, and at other times separation. Now, I am not a marriage counselor, so what is my point?

The church is the "Bride of Christ." If the "wife" does not share the "husband's" priorities, the marriage will be troubled. Christ's priorities are clear. To seek and to save lost people is why Christ came. The less interest and involvement a church has

in seeing lost people saved, the more trouble, conflict and struggle the church will experience. The stony silence of some churches is testimony that the church has lost the purpose of her Bridegroom. The legalistic bickering of some churches is a proclamation that the passion for the Friend of sinners has grown cold.

When the Bride of Christ loves Christ, then she will love the ones for whom He died.

■ Have you read *Win-Win Relationships* by H. Newton Maloney? (Broadman and Holman, 1996). This book presents nine strategies for managing conflict. It deals with conflict from how we respond to it more than from how we control it. Chapter seven on preventing conflict is the best. An excellent pastoral resource.

Executive director's schedule:

- Feb. 23 (a.m.) Runyan FBC, North Little Rock (p.m.) Pleasant Hill, Cabot
- Feb. 24 (p.m.) Men's Rally, Central, NLR
- Feb. 26-28 DOM Retreat, Lake DeGray
- Feb. 28 (p.m.) Music Leaders Retreat, Camp Paron
- March 2 (a.m.) Immanuel, Warren (p.m.) Associational Evangelism Conference, Bastrop, La.
- March 8 Mandeville Baptist

successful healing. The doctor said this is how young bones work. After a while, the mass will lighten up and the break will most likely not be seen any longer. We know, of course, that the older we get, our bodies do not heal as quickly.

Fractures do not only occur in physical bodies. They happen in relationships, in homes, schools, the workplace and even in churches. Some of the truths taught by Truett's good physician are compatible with those of the Great Physician.

God can take fractured relationships, apply healing balm to willing parties and cause the relationship to be healed and stronger than ever.

The work of healing requires cooperation on our part. My son had to do without some things for a while, like playing basketball. When we are out of fellowship with each other, God can bring us back together, if we are willing to ask Him and follow His word. This can happen in old bodies if our hearts are constantly renewed.

Injuries will come to a boy's body. Truett has learned that accidents happen, but experience can teach us how to handle tough situations. The same can be said about most relationships. Let us never become too brittle to be healed and made strong. God can bring health to any body.

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

quotes

"The U.S. is Southern Baptists' base. If a strong base is not maintained... the next generation will experience a reduced commitment to foreign missions and theological education as well as home missions."

—Ernest Kelley
Home Mission Board interim president

"Retirement should not terminate Christian service and ministry... Churches and associations can be blessed by the active involvement of senior adults."

—Harrison Johns, president,
Arkansas Fellowship of Baptist Senior Partners

"We're not trying to build a big church; we're trying to build big people."

—Cliff Jenkins, pastor,
New Hope Fellowship, Springdale

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

newsmagazine

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE

President's Perspective



ABCs President

Rex Horne

My son accidentally broke his wrist a couple of months ago while playing with friends. His favorite sport is basketball, so this untimely break "fouled" up his season. You and I know seasons fly by, but an 11-year-old still is under the impression that time moves slow.

I took Truett to the doctor to have his cast removed. This fine doctor, Dr. Martin, had met us at his office (after hours), to cast my son's arm. Now, five weeks later, we were there to have the cast removed. An x-ray of the arm was taken.

After a brief visit he showed the x-ray. He said everything looked great, in fact, the wrist would likely be stronger than before. He said that while pointing to a place on the x-ray where the break had occurred. Now, instead of a fracture, we saw a white mass. This was the place Truett's body, by God's design, had worked hard these last weeks in bringing about a

'The possibilities are endless...'

As Southern Baptists highlight their annual home missions emphasis March 29, this year's theme calls for congregations and church members throughout the convention to "Start Something New." The primary goal is to encourage churches to start new missions and Bible studies but there also are numerous other ways to start something new.

According to Charles Chaney, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's vice president for church extension, new growth structures can range from a new Sunday School class, youth choir or missions organization to a ministry effort in a multihousing unit or mobile home park.

"The possibilities are endless. Every congregation, no matter how large or small, no matter how young or old, no matter where it might be located, can start at least one new growth unit," Chaney said. "When a local church reproduces itself in another community of people...it has established a new base for evangelism and ministry."

Although starting at least one new ministry unit in the coming year should be an attainable goal for any local church, recent statistics indicate that two-thirds of all Southern Baptist churches are either plateaued or declining. While there are many factors that contribute to a lack of local church growth, it is essential that churches continually seek ways to reverse that trend by reaching out to their

Straight from the Editor



Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

communities with commitment, compassion and creativity.

One starting point is to avoid the pitfall of "selective evangelism." During a recent meeting of state Baptist executive directors and editors, Fermin Whittaker, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention, warned that selective evangelism hinders the growth of God's kingdom in churches across the nation.

Noting that many Southern Baptists enthusiastically support mission efforts in Africa but refuse to minister in our nation's ghettos while others take part in mission trips to Mexico but never offer assistance to Hispanics in their own communities, Whittaker urged Baptists to take the lead in reaching out to language groups here at home as well as around the world.

Here in Arkansas, there are numerous opportunities to share the gospel with Hispanics, Koreans, the deaf and other language groups. There also are unmet

spiritual needs in every socio-economic setting throughout the state. Ways that Arkansas Baptists can help start something new vary from starting a deaf Sunday School class or a Bible study for international students to a ministry project geared toward low-income families.

One way to move beyond selective evangelism is to support the 1997 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The week of prayer, set for March 29, is designed to focus concentrated prayer on home missions efforts throughout the nation. Individuals can call the HMB Intercessory Prayerline toll-free at 1-800-554-PRAY to hear current prayer requests from missions personnel.

In addition to the prayer emphasis, this year's offering goal of \$50 million will be used to start new Anglo, black and language churches as well as fund evangelism projects, student missions, resort ministries and other efforts. Nearly 5,000 Southern Baptists currently serve as home missionaries, including nearly 30 couples serving in various ministry settings in Arkansas.

Along with supporting the work of home missionaries through prayer and financial gifts, personal involvement in mission projects is also a key to helping Southern Baptists succeed in their effort to start something new. As Charles Chaney pointed out, "The possibilities are endless..."

'The Station'

Editor's note: Robert J. Hastings, longtime editor of the *Illinois Baptist* prior to his retirement in 1984, died Jan. 17 at age 72. A noted author and storyteller, he described the following column, "The Station," as his all-time favorite.

Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision in which we see ourselves on a long journey that spans an entire continent. We're traveling by train and, from the windows, we drink in the passing scenes of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at crossings, of cattle grazing in distant pastures, of smoke pouring from power plants, or row upon row of cotton and corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our minds is our final destination — for at a certain hour and on a given day, our train will finally pull into the station with bells ringing, flags waving and bands playing. And once that day comes, so many wonderful dreams will come true. So restlessly, we pace the aisles and count the miles, peering ahead, waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

"Yes, when we reach the station, that will be it!" we promise ourselves. "When we're eighteen...win that promotion...put the last kid through college...buy that \$50 SL Mercedes Benz...pay off

the mortgage...have a nest egg for retirement."

From that day on we will all live happily ever after.

Sooner or later, however, we must realize there is no station in this life, no one earthly place to arrive at once and for all. The journey is the joy. The station is an illusion — it constantly outdistances us. Yesterday's a memory, tomorrow's a dream. Yesterday belongs to history, tomorrow belongs to God. Yesterday's a fading sunset, tomorrow's a faint sunrise. Only today is there light enough to love and live.

So, gently close the door on yesterday and then throw the key away. It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad, but rather the regret over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow.

"Relish the moment" is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, swim more rivers, climb more mountains, kiss more babies, count more stars. Laugh more and cry less. Go barefoot often. Eat more ice cream. Ride more merry-go-rounds. Watch more sunsets. Life must be lived as we go along.

Reprinted from *A Penny's Worth of Mined Ham*. (© 1986 by Southern Illinois University Press.)

guest editorial

Missions offering reaches as close as Benton



Church planter and home missionary David Mitchell preaches during a Sunday morning worship service at Congo Road Church in Benton, where he serves the mission congregation as pastor.

is supported, in part, by the Home Mission Board and funds from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Southern Baptists' annual gift for domestic missions efforts.

This year's Annie Armstrong theme is "Start Something New," an idea Charles Chaney said involves "growth."

"It's a very simple concept," said Chaney, HMB vice president for church extension. "Each church and church-type mission will start one new growth structure in the next year."

He explained that a "growth structure is any organization or ministry that seeks to reach those outside the church, leading them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and assimilating them into the fellowship of the church."

Chaney added that "something new" does not necessarily mean a new congregation. He listed new Sunday School classes, Royal Ambassador or Girls in Action groups, youth choirs, softball teams or off-campus worship or Bible study. "The possibilities are endless," he noted.

One of those possibilities was helping David Mitchell grow a new work that had been started in a growing suburban area north of Benton several years ago. The church is still in mission status.

A church cultivator

Serving as pastor of the work for almost four years, Mitchell said he doesn't "feel like a church planter. I feel more like a church cultivator."

Mitchell, a former farmer, is as comfortable talking about Congo Road's church field in farming terms as he is working with a hoe. "The work had already been started, but the numbers were way down. There was even some consideration that if they had trouble finding a pastor, they would have to close the doors.

"The potential was still there and the ground was still fertile, it just needed someone to come in and replow it and reworking," he recalled.

And, much like a farmer uses his tools to cultivate a field, home missionary Mitchell also

brought with him a number of tools to aid in his farming efforts. According to his members, those tools include:

■ **Sound doctrine.** "I'm very proud of David," said Chuck Graber, Congo Road's Sunday School superintendent. "When the church first decided to interview him in search of a pastor, I made up a list of doctrinal questions.

"Bible doctrine is something that is very important to me," Graber noted. "I gave him a pretty tough questioning and he passed with flying colors."

■ **Vision.** "What is so important about him is that he has a vision to try new things and different things," said member George Shipman. "I had never been in a church this small that had a full-time or even a part-time youth minister.

"But, right away, when we were running 20 in Sunday School, they decided to bring on a youth minister and that worked," he explained.

■ **Flexibility.** "That's one of the key elements in his leadership," added Shipman. "It's the fact that he's flexible and he doesn't have an ego problem. He's open to suggestions and he's willing to make those changes that need to be made."

■ **Love.** Graber said Mitchell brings "love and compassion and patience with people. He's a good preacher, but he is an even better pastor, ministering to their needs, staying in touch with people and being there during their time of sorrow, sickness or trial."

While Mitchell brought the tools to be a pastor and missionary, he said it feels "odd" to be called a home missionary. "It's kind of an oddity. I don't feel like one. I don't have someone breathing over my shoulder. It's been a wonderful relationship with our missions department. They've let me be a pastor."

While his members point to their pastor's distinctives, he said the congregation is just as distinctive. "We are the church with two hearts: A heart for God and a heart for man. We've tried to live that out.

"The most exciting thing about a new work is seeing people getting excited about it," he noted, "seeing them come in and putting their hands to the work and taking ownership of it and saying, 'This is something that God is doing with us and through us.'"

Much of that excitement has translated into growth for the mission church. "Our community is continuing to grow," said Mitchell. "Although our community has a good representation of church people, we do have a need for a congregation here. There are still a lot of unchurched people here and our location is real ideal."

The growth, though, is not without its problems. "We're barely hanging on, as far as getting more space and needed facilities, of staying ahead of the situation," explained Mitchell. "We have four classes meeting in the sanctuary and we need more classrooms and we'll be needing some fellowship space

Start Something New

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

1997 SEASON OF
HOME MISSIONS
March 2-8

STATE GOAL:
\$1.1 million

NATIONAL GOAL:
\$50 million

and an additional three adult classes."

Answering the need for space will be a two-story multi-purpose building scheduled for completion this summer, which Mitchell said will help the church reach its attendance goals to "average 77 for our first quarter, 87 for the second, 97 for the third and 107 for the fourth quarter."

Mitchell is one of 61 Arkansans designated as home missionaries by the HMB and supported by Annie Armstrong funds.

Most, like Mitchell, are church planters in Anglo, black and language works. Others serve as consultants and strategists, assisting in the starting of new works and ministries.

Last year, for the fourth in a row, Southern Baptists gave a record amount to their annual home missions offering. The year-end total for the 1996 offering was \$39,508,440, according to Ernest J. Kelley, HMB interim president.

HMB records show that Arkansas Baptists contributed \$1,115,138, or 2.8 percent, of the Annie Armstrong total. Arkansas Baptists' 1997 Annie Armstrong Offering goal is \$1.1 million.

According to Kelley, the annual home missions offering has grown 214 percent since 1978 in the SBC, more than any other aspect of Southern Baptist financial life including local church income.

'Reflection of commitment'

"I believe the continued record mission offerings are a reflection of Southern Baptists' commitment to reach our nation for Jesus Christ," Kelley said. "The United States is Southern Baptists' base. If a strong base is not maintained and even strengthened, the next generation will experience a reduced commitment to foreign missions and theological education as well as home missions."

Southern Baptists' current home missions commitment areas can be seen in this year's proposed distribution of funds.

Each dollar raised as part of this year's \$50 million Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal will be used to support home mission personnel and ministries.

Baptists will spend more on starting new works, using 20.1 percent of Annie receipts on language church extension efforts, 18.8 percent on developing new Anglo works and 3.4 percent on starting new black churches.

Ministries such as Baptist centers, resort work and student missions will claim 13.7 of the goal and 10.1 percent has been allotted for work with associational missions. Another 12.9 percent is to be split between evangelism efforts and special projects.

The remaining 21 percent of the Annie Armstrong Offering will be used in a special Challenge Budget.

Although the 1997 Annie Armstrong Offering is \$50 million, only \$39.5 million is allotted for current ministries. The remaining \$10.5 million, if the goal is met, will be used for advance funds to begin new Anglo, language and black congregations, establish ministry centers and fund home missionaries.

Home missions portraits show diversity of Southern Baptist ministry efforts



The ministry of home missionary Ignarius Melmaris (right), director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association, is cross-cultural and language-oriented. The association covers one-third of Massachusetts and includes 81 universities.



Dean Blankenship (left, on stairs) talks with pastor Tom Nunley outside Coffin Cove Baptist Church, Alaska. Blankenship, a home missionary, is director of Southeast Island Ministries in Thorne Bay and a bivocational pastor who supports his family by running a cedar mill.



Home missionary Lois Smith (left), church and community ministries director for the Greater Cleveland Baptist Association, works with Mission Service Corps volunteer Jackie Miller (right) at an apartment complex.



Missionary Fred Loper assists a client at the Good Shepherd Building, a ministry which provides a clothes distribution and health care ministry. Loper and his wife, Lavada, are the only appointed medical home missionaries.

Caraway pastor updates worship, gets pie in face

Just ask any member: Rowe's Chapel near Caraway is growing as fast as the cotton in the fields that surrounded the smaller-membership church last summer. During the past year and a half, its numbers have more than quadrupled.

Jim Whaley, who accepted the call as bivocational pastor of the congregation in 1995, came to a church that consistently ran a dozen in Sunday School. Burdened to make growth, Sunday School and worship priorities, he issued members a challenge in his first month as pastor.

"I'm into visual aids," Whaley said. "During the sermon I told the 12 members in attendance that if they could get 50 people or more in Sunday School, they could put a pie in my face."

Finally, on Oct. 6, "we had 52," reported Whaley. "I got 12 pies in the face from the original 12."

Whaley was quick to point out, however, that the key to the church's growth didn't come in lime, chocolate or pecan flavors. In addition to holding a VBS, "which hadn't been done in 15 years, I had a 15-minute radio program on Saturday afternoon and an ongoing article in the local shopper paper from Rowe's Chapel."

Continuing to reach out in the area, where the population is spread thinly among miles of farmland, Whaley also played a guitar and piano at a local senior center and recently began leading a multiracial Bible study in Monette.

A former sales manager for a radio

station and music company salesman, Whaley surrendered to preach only two years ago. Rowe's Chapel is his first pastorate.

He stressed that it is the church's worship services and Sunday School that make the difference in its ministry. "Sunday morning is praise and worship. We use the Baptist Hymnal on Sunday morning but the Heavenly Highway book on Sunday night."

It's no mistake that the church majors on music in worship. Whaley began serving at age 12 as the pianist and music leader for the church where his father was pastor.

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"Church is fun and a lot of churches don't realize that," he said. "Why should church be something humdrum, where you sit in a padded pew and there's no activity, no excitement? Worship services have got to be uplifting."

Also crucial to the church's worship is a friendly attitude, he said. "If we have 50 people in Sunday School, we have 50 greeters. If you don't want to be hugged,



"Worship services have to be uplifting," said Jim Whaley, pastor of Rowe's Chapel Church near Caraway. He has focused on music and worship to renew attendance.

you may want to find another church.

"The church has the greatest medicine that money can't buy," he added. "We have that here. It's shared or it's shown or given away in hope that it will return.

When you walk in the door you can feel it. Everyone's looking around for love and it's there."

Member Laurie Froman agreed. "It had what I needed. We all play music. There's a song that I wrote about the church, 'It's Where God's Love Is.'"

Although Whaley said he is "not into numbers," in challenging his congregation to grow, "those numbers represent souls coming to hear the Word of God and some of those are unsaved."

He also noted that the church's quest for growth isn't over. "For the new goal of 75 I will be preaching from the top of the church roof. I hope it's not in February."

New Hope Fellowship carries word to 'renegades'

Pastor Cliff Jenkins tells his congregation that "We're not trying to build a big church. We're trying to build big people." It is an attention to evangelism and personal discipleship as well as a contemporary style of worship and administration that has helped New Hope Fellowship in Springdale, a Southern Baptist congregation, grow from a core group of 10 a year-and-a-half ago to a Feb. 9 attendance of 270.

But, if you look for a church building when you visit New Hope, you may be disappointed. "We meet at the Holiday Inn Conference Center," Jenkins noted. "The congregation meets in the center's ballroom, moving its sound equipment and other weekly worship needs in by trailer. Baptisms are held in the hotel's indoor swimming pool."

Many potential members are drawn by the extensive newspaper advertising the church uses to attract the unchurched. Once inside the door, visitors and members experience worship that Jenkins said includes "contemporary music, we have a praise band, we use drama every fourth week, we have four praise teams that rotate weekly, with our youth every fifth week."

In addition to Sunday morning worship and Sunday School classes, said Jenkins, "we meet one Sunday afternoon a month, in

BASE (Becoming A Servant Equipped) classes," using a five-area training emphasis, based on worship, evangelism, ministry, fellowship and discipleship. "You have to go through the first one to join our church. You're not a full-fledged member until you go through it and sign the covenant."

"We do Life Builder cell groups on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday," he added, "and, once a month, we do a Body Builder: the church is involved in one thing one Sunday evening a month. It may be a picnic, it may be skating, it may be bowling, it could be going to see 'The Promise' at Branson."

Jenkins, a nationally-known church growth consultant, said after starting the church as a part-time pastor, he went full-time in January "because I felt like God wanted me to fish again."

But why do church differently? "People who are unchurched out there are tired of the tried and true," he answered. "They've tried it all.

"We operate in the realm of grace," he explained. "We have a whole lot of renegades in our church. They may have fallen. Some churches seem to turn their backs on people who don't do so well in their marriages or on the job or in their personal lives. We choose not to turn our backs on them."

Searching for answers

American men among 'most pagan' on earth, national survey shows

Harv Knox

Associated Baptist Press

American men "represent one of the most pagan subcultures on earth today," according to the Barna Research Group, a leading surveyor of religion in American life.

"There are 94 million adult males in America. Unfortunately, the church does not have much influence in the lives of most of them," notes the organization's president, George Barna, in the latest edition of its newsletter, *The Barna Report*.

One third of adult males claim to be born-again Christians, the Barna Research Group discovered in a 1996 nationwide survey. That means non-Christian American males outnumber Christian men by a 2-to-1 margin. Barely one in four adult males (28 percent) attends church services on a typical weekend. And just 29 percent of American men read the Bible other than at church each week.

"The trend lines show that there has been little positive change recently within the male population," Barna reported. "Since 1991, church attendance, Bible reading, Sunday School attendance, volunteering at church and donating to a church have all declined among men. The proportion of born-again men has remained unchanged."

Reversing those trends "would represent a major step forward for men, families, the church and our society," Barna said. It would require a change in American men's religious beliefs and expectations of church, the survey results showed.

Fewer than half (47 percent) of Christian men say they believe "there are moral truths which are unchanging," Barna said. Among non-Christians, one man in four (26 percent) professes to believe in absolute moral truth. The Bible and religious beliefs are the primary influences on moral thinking for only about 40 percent of men, the survey found.

Similarly, heaven and hell do not figure prominently in the religious thinking of men nationwide.

Just 21 percent of non-Christian men believe "hell is a place of physical torment." That compares to 56 percent of Christian men who believe in hell. On the other end of the spectrum, 39 percent of Christian men and 58 percent of non-Christians believe "a good person can earn their way into heaven."

The closest the two groups come to agreeing is about life after death. Fifty-five percent of Christians and 50 percent of non-Christians said they believe "all people experience the same outcome after death, regardless of their beliefs."

Doctrinal confusion among non-Christians may be perpetuated by unorthodox beliefs held by many Christians, Barna said. Of Christian men surveyed, 27 percent said they believe "Jesus Christ committed sins," 28 percent denied the physical resurrection of Jesus and 48 percent said

Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil."

Apart from their religious beliefs, many men apparently avoid church because it does not live up to their expectations, the newsletter reported.

Eighty-five percent of men who do not now attend church have been active in a church before, the survey found.

"Their rejection of the church is a deliberate and substantive, rather than casual and uninformed, choice," Barna insisted. "Why have so many men rejected Christ or His church at the same time they are searching for meaning, purpose, significance, influence and inner peace?"

"The bottom line is that men tend to be bottom-line oriented. Most men contend that churches and Christian ministries do not provide them with sufficient value....Most men perceive the costs of church involvement too far outweigh the benefits."

The Barna survey uncovered "five elements that most unchurched men look for" — and thus far are not finding in Christian churches.

They include: "Gaining a practical understanding of the Bible"; "Getting to truly know God personally and meaningfully"; "Developing lasting friendships with other men"; "Gaining competent and comfortable religious instruction for their kids"; and "Having exposure to pragmatic solutions to the complex personal issues they struggle with every day."



Most men contend that churches and Christian ministries do not provide them with sufficient value....Most men perceive the costs of church involvement too far outweigh the benefits.

GEORGE BARNA
Religious pollster



Barna: Be practical to reach men

OKNARD, CALIF. — Churches must be practical if they expect to reach men, pollster George Barna says. His Barna Research Group recently surveyed U.S. adult males to determine their religious beliefs and attitudes toward the church.

The survey responses point to four steps churches can take to "challenge men to grow in the faith," Barna said, they are:

■ **Address their needs.** "Men automatically search for value," he noted. "When you deal with the unique needs, interests and desires of men, they perceive benefits to be delivered. If you can relate Christianity to the issues they are battling, then they have 'ears to hear.'"

■ **Design a male-friendly ministry.** Church-sponsored events other than weekend worship — such as Christian concerts, social gatherings, community service projects or seminars on topics of personal interest — would attract numerous men, survey respondents claimed.

Men respond best to church leaders who are accessible, respectable, experienced and practical, the survey found. It also showed that men expect information about the church to be "communicated relevant to the real world in which men operate."

■ **Pray for men.** "The power of prayer cannot be overestimated," Barna stressed. "The ministries which attract men and which show evidence of transformation among men are led by individuals who specifically pray for the men to whom they will minister."

■ **Get men new roles in the church.** Men are wary of guilt and manipulation used as tools to involve them in the church, they told pollsters. "Already overcommitted with responsibilities, they are not looking for more things to do," Barna explained.

Effective ministry to men, he said, produces a way of life that reduces their burden, lights their spirit and enhances their quality of life. ■

people & places

COMPILED BY MILLIE GILL

TRANSITIONS

Gordon J. Toppling, who has been serving as associate pastor, administrator and minister of education of First Church of Pine Bluff since 1992 and most recently as interim pastor, has accepted a call to serve as pastor. He previously was pastor of Second Church of Pine Bluff. A native of Glasgow, Scotland, he is a graduate of WEC International Missionary Training College in Glasgow and Alliance Française, Paris, France. He has served as a missionary to Senegal, West Africa, and was pastor of Cowdenbeath Church in Scotland. He and his wife, Ann, have four children, Carolyn Ann, Jacqueline, Jonathan Paul and Stephen.

Peter Wurtler is pastor of Hilldale Church, Alexander, where he had been serving as interim pastor. He previously was pastor of churches in Louisiana and Michigan. Wurtler is a graduate of Moody Bible College in Chicago; Baptist Christian University in Shreveport, La.; Sacramento Baptist College; and the College of Ministerial Arts in Kano, Nigeria.

Craig Friedl began his ministry Feb. 2 as pastor of Keo Church. Friedl, also a North Little Rock police chaplain, previously was pastor of Union Valley Church of Perryville. He is a graduate of Park College of Little Rock, and is completing studies with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension programs. Friedl and his wife, Melinda, reside in North Little Rock.

Edy Howell is pastor of Easterwood Mission in Conway. A graduate of the

University of Central Arkansas, he currently is enrolled in the doctor of ministry program at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Debbie, have two sons, Matthew and Phillip.

Ron Sanders resigned Feb. 2 as pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock where he had served for more than two years. Sanders and his wife, Kathy, are moving to Winnsboro, Texas, where he will serve as pastor of First Church.

Al Ray Taylor has joined the staff of Second Church of Russellville as music and college student minister. Taylor began his music ministry in 1976 as music director for Gardner Church in Hamburg. A graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, he is married to the former Carrie Ann Kirchman. They have two children, Margaret Ellen and Mollie Ann.

Bryan Moore has joined the staff of Indian Springs Church of Bryant as minister to students. He is a recent graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

CHURCH LIFE

Blytheville First Church opened its new family life center with a ribbon-cutting and open house Jan. 19. The 30,000-square-foot, two-story structure, constructed at a cost of approximately \$2 million, houses a fellowship hall with a seating capacity of 600, Sunday School rooms, a gymnasium, walking track, exercise room and craft room. Participating in the service were

Dick Trout, chairman of the church's building finance committee; contractors Sheldon Griffin and Doug Henson; architect Matt Pearson; Gary Perkins of the Blytheville Chamber of Commerce; Pat Sullivan, chairman of the church's building committee; Mississippi County judge Steve McGuire; Steven Kyle, minister of family life; pastor Bill Fuller; Bill Sullivan, chairman of deacons; and mayor Joe Gude.

Hope First Church honored Betty Moore Feb. 2 in recognition of her retirement as church pianist, following 42 years of ministry under 13 ministers of music. Moore, who was honored at the morning worship service, also serves the church as Woman's Missionary Union director and is a visitor/teacher in the homebound and nursing home ministries.

Immanuel Church of Rogers celebrated the 25th anniversary of its bus ministry Feb. 15-16 with activities which included a children's workers appreciation banquet and a special musical performance by a 400-plus member choir from the children's church and a bus ministry homecoming. Betty Coffee and Arnold Lemke, 25-year workers, received special recognition for their ministry roles. Speakers for the anniversary celebrations included Les Reed, a Christian comedian, and former pastor Bobby Boyles, now pastor of Eagle Heights Church in Moore, Okla.

Immanuel Church of Paragould honored pastor Dan Minton Feb. 2 in recognition of seven years of service. He and his wife, Shirley, were presented a vacation to Branson. They also were honored in the evening services with a special musical program, followed by a fellowship hour.



UPDATE

Arkansas/European Baptist Partnership

Partnership Needs:

- ★ Food preparation team for meal service duties for 250 teens at Euroventure at Grindelwald, Switzerland, during the EBC summer assembly July 5-10.
 - ★ Pastors to serve churches in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.
 - ★ Churches to become partners with European English-speaking churches in Paris, France; Bielefeld, Germany and Munich, Germany.
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1997 'Top Teen'

Benton Acteen earns national honor

Misty Rosinbaum says she "was brought into this world a very special person." Although struggling with cancer, her grandmother made baby blankets in anticipation of the birth of Rosinbaum, her first granddaughter.

"On the day I came home from the hospital, she held me and kissed me. With her dream fulfilled, she went home that day to be with the Lord," noted the Benton High School senior, adding that the blankets made by her grandmother "are a constant reminder that no matter what struggles I may face in life, I am still loved."

Others also have noticed that Rosinbaum is "a very special person." She was recently named one of 20 Acteen Top Teens by the national Woman's Missionary Union. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by WMU for girls in grades seven through 12. The top teens will appear in the June/July issue of the Acteen publication, *Accent*.

Rosinbaum, a member of First Church in Benton, was the only Arkansan named to the list. WMU national staff members who work with Acteens selected the top teens and announced the slate during the WMU executive board meeting Jan. 7-11.

Selection of national Acteen panelists and top teens is based on accomplishments in StudAct, the achievement plan for Acteens; involvement in Acteens and other church activities; and achievements in school, scholastically and socially.

"Each application was a portrait of a young woman with a deep faith, a bold testimony and a strong missions commitment," noted Becky Nelson, a design editor at WMU, based in Birmingham, Ala. "I am impressed by these young women who have chosen to use their time serving others and sharing their faith."

In addition to applications testimonies, candidates had to be recommended by their pastor and Acteens leader.

"Misty really has a heart for doing what God wants her to do," said Angela Lowe, Acteens associate for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "She's very energetic and she has a feel for sharing Christ with people. She loves Acteens and wanting other girls involved."

Rosinbaum, who has been a state Acteen panelist, is active in Science Club and Fellowship of Christian Students at school and in the Pure Energy church youth choir. She also has volunteered at a local care center and participated in mission trips to Michigan and Germany.

She said that her missions experiences "have given me a brighter outlook on life and let me know how I should reach out to others instead of taking lives for granted



National Acteen Top Teen Misty Rosinbaum (right) reviews an Acteens publication with Katherine Dawson, her Acteens leader at First Church in Benton.

and sitting around doing nothing."

She noted that her personal view of missions "is reaching out to help others in need. Not necessarily overseas, but also next door, reaching out to your neighbors and sharing Christ with them is a mission. I have a love for people and I always want to reach to help others."

Rosinbaum plans to attend Ouachita Baptist University in the fall, "get a degree in elementary education and someday become a children's director."

She said as she continues with her education and career, she will continue to focus "on a verse in James that says, 'Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master. It's the only way you'll get on your feet.' That's getting serious about spreading the gospel."

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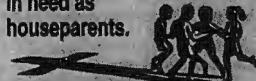


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Newsmagazine board debates trustee proposal

A report from the chairman of the state convention's structure study committee sparked debate among *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* board members concerning the convention nominating process during a Feb. 4 meeting in Little Rock.

Tim Reddin, chairman of the Arkansas Baptist structure study committee, previewed six recommendations for the Newsmagazine that have been approved by the full study committee.

Reddin, director of missions for Central Association, reported that the committee will recommend: continued funding for the Newsmagazine based on the convention budget process; that the Newsmagazine develop a mission statement; a marketing study to increase subscriptions; an increase in frequency of inter-agency council meetings; a feasibility study by state convention agencies to explore relocation; and a call "to maintain an evangelistic heartbeat in the stewardship of our state Baptist paper."

A seventh subcommittee recommendation, to be considered next month by the full committee, concerns a proposed trustee nominating process for all state convention agencies and institutions. Reddin said the proposal calls for members of the state convention nominating committee to "meet with a group from your board to jointly nominate those who will be presented to the state convention," adding that the process "will preserve the right of nomination from the floor."

Newsmagazine board member Mike Petty, pastor of Park Place Church in Hot Springs, was among members who voiced concern about the proposed process. "I think the recommendation concerning the trustee selection is a recommendation that a model of thievery be followed," he said. "There is a tremendous discouragement in my heart about what happened over Ouachita. And, for that then to be listed as a model, to be recommended to other agencies, smells of rotten fruit....I won't be a part of supporting that model."

Responding to board members, Reddin noted, "We believe the nominating process should be open to a variety of input from Baptists throughout the state as well as those who deal most specifically with the function of each agency and institution. We would like to avoid, as much as possible, the kind of response that pits our agencies and institutions against our Baptist people."

Board president Lyndon Finney affirmed the subcommittee's proposal, noting that "I am for sitting down and having a meeting of minds...to look at the nominations."


While no vote was taken on Reddin's report, board members unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that "the editor, staff and board of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* reaffirm our historic commitment to serve as a cooperative agency of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention." Board members also adopted an amendment stating that "we express our desire to maintain a trustee selection process that fosters the strongest

of ties to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention."

The board also voted on two major budget items: approving funds to purchase land for possible office relocation and for updated computer equipment. The Newsmagazine, Arkansas Baptist Foundation and Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries currently are studying the feasibility of jointly purchasing land to house a facility for all three agencies.

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Van needed — Small Baptist church with a growing children's ministry needs a 15-passenger van. Call 501-384-5575 or 501-246-8309.

Childhood ed position — Full-time childhood education position. Seminary degree preferred. Send resume to Sylvan Hills FBC, 9008 Sylvan Hills Hwy, Sherwood, AR 72120 or fax 501-835-8732. Also seeking resumes for part-time receptionist/secretary (20 hours). Phone and computer skills.

Seeking — FBC Ozark is seeking full-time minister of preschool/children responsible for organizing activities of infant through sixth grade. Requirements include personal and organizational skills, college/seminary or equivalent, relocation required. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attention: Personnel Committee, 1400 W. Jackson St., Ozark, MO 65721 by March 3.

Full-time church pastor — for Gordonsville Baptist Church, Virginia. Requirements: M.Div. degree from accredited Baptist ministry, training in counseling, full-time church pastor experience. Call 540-832-2075 or fax 540-832-5597 for application. Deadline March 7, 1997.

Seeking — full-time minister of youth, education and associate pastor. Dover First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 397, Dover, AR 72837.

Accepting applications — Dallas Avenue Baptist Church of Mena is prayerfully seeking God's choice of a youth minister for a dynamic and growing youth program. Please send resumes (including a cover letter and list of references) to 300 Dallas Ave., Mena, AR 71953, Attn: Search Committee; 501-394-2697.

Seeking — Full-time pastor. Send resumes to Charlie Cleaver, Bethany Baptist Church, 209 Main St., Georgetown, AR 72143.

Full-time music/youth minister — needs to be experienced. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 1601 Chickasawba, Blytheville, AR 72315. Attention: Pastor.

Needed — Full-time secretary. Send resume to: Second Baptist Church, Attn: Tim Moore, 1117 N. James, Jacksonville, AR 72076.

Accepting resumes — Central Baptist Church of Eureka, Missouri, is prayerfully accepting resumes until March 15, 1997, for a dynamic, full-time youth/music minister to serve in a rapidly growing community. Send resumes to Central Baptist Church, P.O. Box 66, Eureka, MO 63025, Attn: Search Committee.

Growing church seeks — full-time youth/education minister. Send resume to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 1791 Lake Lowndes Road, Columbus, MS 39702.

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Christian couple — needed to manage association camp. Send resume to Search Committee, Canfield Baptist Assembly, P.O. Box 1566, Texarkana, AR 71854.

Position available — Full-time youth and music minister. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 324, Clarendon, AR 72029.

Youth groups needed — for summer missions. For information, cities, dates, costs, call 800-299-0385, Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC 27802.

For sale — Wurflizer piano, \$400. Call 501-753-5108.

Seeking — Part-time bivocational pastor. Send resume to Oakwood Baptist Church, 18506 MacArthur Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118.

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Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired.

Senior missions group elects Johns president

The Arkansas Fellowship of Baptist Senior Partners elected a new president and adopted a constitution and bylaws during a Jan. 27 meeting at the Baptist Building in Little Rock.

Harrison Johns of Harrisburg, retired director of missions for Centennial Association, was elected president for a two-year term. He succeeds outgoing president Raymond Coppenger of Arkadelphia.

Also elected as officers were vice president Jim Swedenburg of Benton, secretary Barbara Johns of Harrisburg and treasurer Clayburn Bratton of Fort Smith.

Members also adopted the constitution and bylaws of the National Fellowship of Baptist Senior Partners organization. Johns said the national document was adopted by the Arkansas group "with the understanding it will be modified to be an Arkansas document."

Among the adopted bylaws is the group's purpose, which is to "enlist, orient and involve senior partners and others in carrying out the Great Commission by the planting of new congregations."

Among objectives included in the adopted bylaws are: "to encourage involvement in church planting"; "to disseminate information on new work needs"; "to cooperate and network with mission agencies in enlisting volunteers and in addressing new work needs"; and "to assist in preparation/orientation toward new work target fields."

Johns explained that the group basically "is a fellowship of Southern Baptist senior adults in Arkansas interested and involved in planting new churches."

He noted that the organization will respond to ministry requests through the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department. "Some fellowship members have already participated in ministries in Arkansas, Iowa and elsewhere. Some are going to North Dakota for four weeks in the summer of 1997."

Johns noted that "volunteers like Senior Partners have made significant contributions for missions at home and abroad. Senior Partners in Arkansas encourages churches and associations to invite senior adults to serve."

"Retirement should not terminate Christian service and ministry," he added. "Retirees, churches and associations can be blessed by the active involvement of senior adults."

He said that the group will promote missions opportunities through publications, correspondence and word-of-mouth. For more information about the group, contact Harrison Johns at 501-578-9295.



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MISSIONS

God's protection saves missionary from rioting mob

TRIANA, ALBANIA (BP)—A Southern Baptist foreign missionary escaped injury when 20 to 30 men attacked his car during violence that erupted in late January. Albanians rioted for several days after the government shut down illegal investment schemes and much of the population lost money.

Missionary Lawrence Duhon of Euless, Texas, was driving alone through Zhamc, a village between the capital city, Tirana, and his home in Fier when a mob surrounded his car and began beating it with steel rods. The windshield was shattered, a side window was broken out and a door handle was ripped off by attackers who tried to forcibly enter the car. But the car window beside Duhon somehow withstood the heavy blows by men swinging steel rods against it.

Duhon was unhurt. "I was personally untouched, thanks to God's hand of protection," he said. "It was amazing for me to watch them beat the driver's side window hard with big rods without it breaking!" After several long seconds, the road cleared on the other side and Duhon was able to drive his battered car free.

Duhon works with a new Baptist church in Fier attended by 20 to 30 people on most Sundays. He plans to begin other new churches later this year. He said he believes his car was not targeted because of who he is, but because it was mistaken for a government official's vehicle.

Many Albanians sold their homes to invest in fraudulent, pyramid-type investment schemes. The schemes went bankrupt, and the government froze all the assets and shut down operations, Duhon explained.

Albania President Sali Berisha announced in late January that investors would be paid back. Later he said only the poorest investors would receive compensation. Two state banks were to begin making payments to those people. "This is a major national crisis that may even rival the last days of communism here in scope and importance," Duhon noted.

Albania's communist government once bragged that Albania was the most atheistic country on earth. But since communism fell in 1990, Albanians have been very responsive to the gospel. Scores of new believers have been baptized at a time and churches and Bible studies have been springing up across the country. Foreign Mission Board workers have sponsored outreach efforts in many outlying villages.

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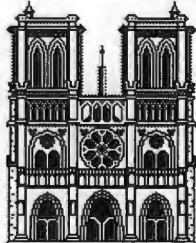
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The cost is \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple. If you bring a friend, the cost is \$10.00 per person. This is to pay for the materials. The total time of the conference is approximately 6 hours.

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children will be taking resumé's for the position of **Director of Development** through the month of February.



Please send resumé to OBHC, 3800 North May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506 Attention: V.K. Curtis

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CAMPS

Siloam to feature 'fun' sessions, director says

The director of Arkansas Baptist Assembly told Baptists in the state to "bring your strong guys and girls...your high jumpin' guys and girls and your straight-shootin' guys and girls" because camp sessions at Siloam will include added recreation features this summer.

Pat Batchelor, an associate for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Sunday School department, noted that added recreational features such as slam-dunk, softball and water balloon slingshot team contests will provide "more fun" at camp this year.

He also stressed that the camp's main emphasis "is still to get lost kids there." He noted that in 1996 "God blessed us with 403 professions of faith and 746 other commitments. Siloam is truly a place where God chooses to meet us."

Batchelor said the eight-week session this summer will include:

■ Week 1, June 16-20, and Week 2, June 23-27, featuring youth communicator Tierce Green. "It really doesn't get any better than Tierce," he said.

■ Week 3, June 30-July 4, is a special week, according to Batchelor, featuring Mark Evans, pastor of The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock, a "mystery guest speaker," Wednesday night pizza feast and unbelievable games.

■ Week 4, July 7-11, will feature national conference speaker Rick Caldwell, who Batchelor said is a "longtime friend of Siloam" who "always has a fresh word."

■ Week 5, July 14-18, will feature speaker Lonnie Latham, "one of the most creative speakers ever." He is executive director of Tulsa (Okla.) Metro Baptist Association.

■ During Week 6, July 21-25, Alabama youth evangelist David Nasser, a member of the Franklin Graham Evangelistic Association, will speak.

■ Week 7, July 28-Aug. 1, is a youth-only week for youth who have completed grades 6 through 12, featuring California pastor Ray Jones, a noted youth speaker.

■ Week 8, Aug. 4-8, a children-only week for children in grades 3 through 6, will feature Mike Seabaugh, pastor of Crosspoint Church in North Little Rock.

Children's camps also will be held during Weeks 1 through 6.

Batchelor said Arkansas Baptist churches have been sent registration information for Siloam camps and that registration opens March 1.

For more information or answers to registration questions, contact the ABCS Sunday School department toll-free in state at 1-800-838-ABSC, or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791, ext. 5129.



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The National Secretaries Conference will be held at Ridgecrest Conference Center April 23-26 with special travel arrangements available for Arkansas Baptists. Round-trip transportation by charter bus and lodging en route have been arranged for the group, which will leave from the Baptist Building in Little Rock April 22 and return April 27. Round-trip transportation, two nights' lodging and continental breakfast are included. Cost is \$198.70 per person for single occupancy and \$149.40 per person for double occupancy. Make reservations for travel by April 1 by calling the ABSC discipleship and family ministry department at ext. 5160.

Whateveritakes 61 will offer more than 40 conferences on a variety of ministries, including adventure recreation, puppets, camping, missions, games, clowning, drama, sports and resort ministry and worship. The conference, to be held March 7-8 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, will begin Friday at 7 p.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday. Planner Wanda Pearce said the program will offer Baptists "the tools

and ideas to creatively minister in a variety of ministries such as camps, mission trips, Vacation Bible Schools and worship." The program will feature leaders Mike Pearce, recreation minister for First Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala.; Everett Robertson, a drama specialist with the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Bill Lee, director of special ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The \$17 per person cost includes Friday supper, Saturday pizza lunch and any four of the offered conferences. For more information, contact the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, ext. 5249.

TRAINING UPDATE

Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments will involve approximately 500 children and youth at the church, association and state levels, said Robert Holley, director of the ABSC discipleship and family ministry department. Following church and associational events, district tournaments will be conducted during the week of March 10. For additional information on schedule and locations, contact ext. 5160.

For more information, call toll-free in state at 1-800-838-ABSC or locally in Little Rock at 376-4791

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April 8, 1997

7:00 PM

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Little Rock, Arkansas

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		Macedonia, Mountain Pine	1,237.27	North Side, Charleston	103.91
		Maple Cove First Southern	0.00	Northwest Baptist Fort Smith	4,000.00
Totals	17,783.41	Malvern Third Baptist	1,123.09	Oak Cliff Baptist Church	3,638.80
		Malvern First	238.00	Palmetto, Greenwood	287.20
Caray Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Headview	261.48	Paris First Baptist Church	400.00
		Memorial, Hot Springs	110.00	Parvlew, Booneville	0.00
Beardon First Baptist Church	1,900.00	Mount Vernon, Benton	0.00	Phoenix Village	68.00
Bethesda Baptist Church	765.30	New Life, Alexander	5.00	Pine Log Baptist	8.00
Calvary Baptist Camden	1,000.00	New Life Baptist Fellowship	0.00	Raccoon First Baptist	400.00
Maple Mills	250.00	North Main, Sheridan	29.76	Roseville	289.50
Faith, Camden	122.00	Old Union, Donohoe	200.00	Eye Hill Baptist	216.45
Fordyce First	40.00	Oceanview Baptist Church	1,350.00	North Dale Baptist Church	0.00
Draze, Hampton	40.00	Piney Baptist Church Hot Spring	213.64	Northdale, Paris	352.30
Grant County First Southern	0.00	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	113.68	Spreading Baptist	704.33
Hampton First	379.50	Ridgecrest, Benton	0.00	Sumnerville, South Side	13.00
Harmony, Thornton	170.52	Riverdale, Donaldson	666.78	Temple, Fort Smith	270.07
Holly Springs Baptist, Sparks	397.30	Royal First	36.05	Trinity, Fort Smith	185.00
Manning Baptist	367.72	Salem Baptist Church, Benton	111.61	Union Baptist	120.00
New Hope, Sparkman	0.00	Shorewood Hills Baptist	1.79	Vesta Baptist	473.00
Ouchita Baptist	208.00	Social Hill	113.67	Victory Baptist Church Booneville	473.00
Property Baptist	485.00	Temple, Benton	0.00	Vietnamese Baptist, Fort Smith	166.00
Shady Grove, Sparkman	166.00	Trinity, Benton	350.00	Windsor Park, Fort Smith	0.00
South Side, Fordyce	620.07	Trinity, Malvern	1,534.95		
Sparkman Baptist	3,727.00	Walnut Valley	571.94		
Thornton Baptist	121.00			Totals	30,407.20
Tinsman Baptist	100.00				
Tulip Memorial	0.00				
		Totals	19,865.39	Conway Perry Assoc	Total \$ Amount
Totals	10,084.91			Asa Baptist	75.50
		Clear Creek Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Center Ridge	125.00
Caroline Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Allen First Baptist Church	879.23	Cornerstone Greenbrier	0.00
		Alton First Baptist Church	1,121.80	Cove Chapel Baptist	60.00
Austin Station Baptist Church	111.68	Baton Baptist Church	195.00	Harmon, Phillips	100.00
Baugh Chapel Baptist Church	307.50	Cabin Creek Baptist	397.53	Houston Baptist	175.00
Bierco First Baptist Church	230.00	Casa Baptist	0.00	Morrison Baptist Church	413.00
Briarwood Baptist Church	0.00	Cedarville	126.00	Musrod	0.00
Brownville Baptist Church	1,050.00	Clarkville Second	69.00	Oppelo	600.00
Cabot First Baptist	0.00	Coal Hill	751.00	Perry Baptist Church	300.00
Cabot Second Baptist	0.00	Concord Baptist, Van Buren	196.52	Riverville First Baptist	400.00
Calvary, Ward	0.00	Dyer Baptist Church	186.52	Royal Mountain First	126.76
Carroll Creek	482.00	East Mount Zion Baptist	253.26	Selwag Grove, Perryville	75.00
Carlisle First Baptist	461.50	Easton Heights Baptist	0.00	Shumaker's First	408.48
Cocklebur	2,276.88	Graphic Northern Baptist Church	0.00	Slophachia	168.00
Coy Baptist	140.00	Hagerville First	1,256.00	Stony Point	1,003.00
Cross Roads, Carlisle	300.00	Harmon First	399.53	Sumner Hill Baptist	0.00
Des Arc	608.25	Kibler	0.00	Thorburg Baptist	263.29
Dixie Bluff	0.00	Lamar Baptist Church	1,394.43	Union Valley, Perryville	287.79
England First Baptist Church	2,415.00	Mountainburg First	230.40	Wye Mountain So Baptist Church	69.85
Hazen First Baptist Church	443.00	Mulberry, First	397.25		
Immanuel, Carlisle	166.00	North Park Baptist	662.00	Totals	6,241.31
Isac Baptist	44.00	Oak Grove, Van Buren	134.04		
Lonoke	1,128.00	Oark Baptist	0.00	Current Gaines Assoc	Total \$ Amount
Mount Carmel	661.55	Orark First	751.53	Biggers Baptist Church	0.00
Mountain Springs	20.32	Palmetto Baptist	160.00	Calvary-Corning	417.89
New Hope, Lonoke	820.00	Rudy Baptist	134.00	Columbia's Jarrett	0.00
Oak Grove, Austin	777.13	Shady Grove, Rudy	0.00	Corning First Baptist	106.00
Oakridge Baptist Chapel	0.00	Shiloh First Baptist Church	891.23	East Side Holly Island	0.00
Old Austin	272.06	Southside, Alma	212.04	Emmanuel, Piggott	1,500.00
Pleasant Hill, Cabot	47.00	Spectra Baptist	135.00	Greenway	408.00
Rebasson Chapel	120.00	Trinity, Alma	0.00	Hornsey, Pollard	0.00
South Bend	262.94	Union Grove, Clarksville	333.58	Imperial, Corning	25.00
Steel Bridge	355.00	Uniontown	0.00	Knobel	0.00
Talbot Baptist	120.00	Van Buren First Baptist Church	233.50	Mount Pleasant, Maynard	236.73
Ward, First	156.00	Van Buren, Second	15.00	Moark	0.00
Watsonson	406.27	Vine Prairie	337.33	Mount Pleasant, Maynard	236.73
		Webb City Baptist	745.00	New Hope, Pollard	630.00
Totals	13,870.58	Woodland Baptist Church	200.00	Nimmons Baptist	18.00
				Oak Grove, Pochontas	603.00
Centennial Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Totals	13,789.78	Peach Orchard	0.00
		Concord Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Piggott First	324.06
Aberdeen First Baptist Church	0.00	Bluff First Baptist Church	300.54	Pine Grove, Pochontas	38.05
Alvira First Baptist Church	1,220.93	Barling Beebe Baptist Church	62.00	Pochontas	251.33
Delta First Baptist Church	1,121.35	Blosser Baptist Church	100.86	Ravenden Springs First	34.78
Eastside Baptist, DeWitt	449.39	Bluff Avenue Baptist Church	333.08	Rector First	879.33
Faith, DeWitt	0.00	Booneville First Baptist Ch	71.00	Reynolds Baptist Church	0.00
Faith, DeWitt	51.86	Branch Baptist Church	214.73	Shannon Baptist Church	-1,904.56
Maglar Baptist Church	285.00	Burville Baptist Church	200.00	Shiloh, Corning	94.15
North Maple Baptist	19.00	Calvary, Fort Smith	121.00	St. Francis Baptist Church	4.50
Rebball Baptist	347.45	Central First Southern, Lavaca	0.00	Success Baptist	1,328.25
Southside, Stuttgart	0.00	Charleston, First	689.65	Witt's Chapel	0.00
Saint Charles Baptist	33.30	Community Church of Fort Smith	119.00		
Stuttgart First Baptist Church	3,921.66	Crestview	119.00	Totals	8,472.10
Tichnor	70.00	East Side, Fort Smith	120.00		
		East Side, Fort Smith	283.48	Delta Assoc	Total \$ Amount
Totals	8,342.84	Faith, Fort Smith	2,062.05	Anderson Chapel Baptist Church	211.00
		Faith, Fort Smith	0.00	Arkansas City Baptist	417.03
Central Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Flanna Hills Baptist	3,622.00	Beville Baptist Church	1,227.15
		Fort Smith First Baptist	448.00	Bayou Mason Baptist Church	400.00
Balboa Baptist Church	907.30	South Side Baptist-Fort Smith	3,341.10	Chickasaw	318.00
Barcelona Road Baptist Church	860.00	Fort Smith Westside	514.96	Coaling	0.00
Benton First Baptist Church	3,400.00	Glendale	745.00	Daniels Chapel	6.00
Bulle Baptist Church	23.30	Grange Avenue, Fort Smith	0.00	Dermott Baptist Church	1,131.93
Calvary, Benton	400.00	Greenwood First Baptist	4,191.40	Eudora Baptist Church	847.00
Calvary, Malvern	284.53	Hackett	197.00	Halley	0.00
Central, Hot Springs	0.00	Haven Heights	2,828.43	Jennie Baptist	795.55
Congo Road	57.00	Highway 98 First Baptist	290.71	Jonas Baptist	0.00
Oleand	29.30	Immanuel Baptist, Fort Smith	71.00	Leleto	0.00
Gravel Hill	0.00	Jenny Lind Baptist	73.61	Lake Village Baptist Church	213.60
Highland Heights Baptist-Bento	628.00	Korean, Fort Smith	0.00	McDeben First Baptist Church	289.00
Hildale Baptist	0.00	Megazine First	403.73	McDowell Baptist Church	70.00
Hot Springs First Baptist	3,121.88	Memorial, Hackett	428.00	New Hope, Eudora	13.54
Hot Springs Second	10.00	Midway Baptist	287.93	North Side, Eudora	33.09
Hot Springs Baptist	25.00	Mixon Baptist	0.00	Oeag's Baptist Church	0.00
Hurricane Lake	3,121.88	Mount Harmony	0.00	Parkdale Baptist	208.00
Lake Hamilton	368.00	North Mount Zion, Greenwood	50.80	Parvay Baptist, Lake Village	0.00
Lakeshore Heights	519.31	New Hope, Greenwood	387.31	Portland Baptist Church	190.00
Lighthouse Baptist	0.00			Shiloh, Lake Village	75.00

Leachville, Second	1,497.50	Osage Baptist	174.79	Bentonville First Baptist Ch	1,972.00
Luxora	100.00	Parthenon	639.17	Calvary, Bentonville	0.00
Maria First	225.75	Pindall Baptist Church	0.00	Centerton First Baptist Church	1,207.75
Marys Chapel	113.65	Rock Springs, Bureks Springs	689.47	Charley Baptist Mission	0.00
Memorial, Blytheville	369.01	Wade Baptist	25.87	Corinth Baptist Mission	0.00
New Harmony Baptist	0.00	Searcy County Baptist	169.07	Decatur First Baptist Church	330.93
New Liberty, Blytheville	65.00	Shoebill Baptist Church	0.00	Edwards, Finville	0.00
New Life Korean Baptist Misio	50.00	South Side, Lead Hill	0.00	Faith, Cove	79.02
New Providence, Leachville	0.00	St. Joe First Baptist	0.00	Garfield Baptist	2,129.24
Woods	544.46	Trinity Baptist Church Harris	0.00	Genesis First Baptist Church	3,461.72
North Tenth Street	141.00	Union Baptist Harrison	329.20	Grady	0.00
Rumor Mine Baptist Church	62.87	Valley Springs	4,799.69	Gravette	0.00
Osceola First Baptist	721.00	Valley View Baptist	390.00	Gum Springs	46.26
Pleasant View, Blytheville	0.00	Western Grove First Baptist	35.00	Harvard Avenue	2,944.94
Ridgecrest, Blytheville	246.00	Woodland Heights Harrison	500.59	Hickory Creek Baptist Mission	36.40
Rosa Baptist	50.00	Wills Light	374.36	Higdon Hill First	85.00
Trinity, Blytheville	0.00			Kiwanis First Baptist	400.28
Wardell Baptist	250.00			Immanuel, Rogers	473.00
Manilla Westside	1,489.00	Totals	21,391.58	Lakeside, Rogers	329.88
Whitson Baptist Church	62.45			Lakewick, Cave Springs	62.00
Wilson First Baptist Church	787.23			Lowell	100.00
Woodland Corner Baptist Church	60.89	North Central Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Lowell Spanish Mission	30.00
Yercho Baptist Church	1,970.94	Angora Baptist Church	95.00	Mason Valley	396.72
Totals	12,355.72	See Branch Baptist Church	160.00	Monte Me	651.62
		Rockinburg Baptist Church	1.88	Mountain Springs, Rogers	0.00
		Burnt Ridge Baptist Church	0.00	Open Door, Rogers	0.00
		Clinton First Baptist Church	1,002.00	Park Street	100.00
		Corbh, Clifton	200.00	Pea Ridge First Baptist	364.43
		Fairfield Bay Baptist Church	795.11	Pine Point	0.00
		Formosa	805.00	Pleasant Hill, Rogers	153.73
		Friendship, Conway	2,496.57	Robinson Baptist Church	50.00
		Halfmoon	0.00	Rogers First Baptist Church	283.00
		Highland	0.00	Siloam Springs First	2,345.17
		Immanuel, Clinton	247.24	Spanish Baptist-Bentonville	0.00
		Leslie First	1,173.43	Sulphur Springs First, Sulphur	0.00
		Laxington	100.00	Sunny Side, Rogers	1,000.00
		Marshall First	615.45	Trinity, Rogers	15.00
		Morning Star Baptist	0.00	Twelve Corners	190.00
		New Hopewell	20.00	Totals	21,184.69
		Pea De Baptist Church	519.59		
		Plant Baptist Church	50.00		
		Pleasant Valley, Shirley	1,222.50		
		Rupert	293.44		
		Scotland	1,901.44		
		Shady Grove, Shirley	748.26		
		Shiloh Baptist Church	157.00		
		Shyland Southern Baptist	65.67		
		Sugar Loaf First Baptist	300.00		
		Totals	12,468.12		
		North Pulaski Assoc	Total \$ Amount		
		Abby Baptist Church	240.00	Coachita Assoc	Total \$ Amount
		Baring Cross Baptist Church	1,007.35	Acorn Baptist Church	0.00
		Bayoico Baptist Church	2,770.96	Anna Baptist Baptist Church	187.06
		Baras Baptist Baptist Church	57.91	Board Camp	819.68
		Jacksonville Bethel Baptist Ch	286.44	Calvary, Mens	191.00
		North Little Rock Bethany Bapt	1,450.89	Chapel Hill Springdale	902.00
		Cabot Zion Hill Baptist	920.00	Charry Hill	0.00
		Calvary Baptist Church-NLR	320.00	Concord, Mens	166.76
		Cedar Bend Baptist Church	700.00	Cove First	357.58
		Central, North Little Rock	200.00	Dallas Avenue	1,197.25
		Chapel Hill, Jacksonville	25.00	De Queen First Baptist Church	1,820.00
		Chrystal Valley	700.00	Elgin	1,114.14
		Crosspoint	178.00	Grannis Baptist	101.52
		Faith, Caboc	0.00	Hatfield First	0.00
		Forty-Seventh Street	128.00	Hickman Baptist Church	500.00
		Friendship, North Little Rock	0.00	Mena First	1,604.85
		Good	0.00	New Hope, Mens	0.00
		Grace, North Little Rock	107.70	North Little Rock	289.04
		Grawel Ridge	58.00	Saint Johns Baptist Chapel	0.00
		Highway Baptist	3,082.39	Two Miles	54.00
		Indian Hills Baptist	0.00	Vandercook First	765.00
		Indianland Baptist	0.00	Wickses First Baptist Church	240.25
		Jacksonville First	1,925.00	Yocana Baptist Church	150.00
		Jacksonville Second Baptist	513.00	Totals	9,263.05
		Korean, Caboc	0.00		
		Korean Baptist of Arkansas NLR	0.00		
		Lavy Baptist	830.04		
		Maddon Road	0.00		
		Marshall Road	386.25		
		Maumelle Baptist	480.00		
		Military Road	0.00		
		Morrison Chapel	1,952.60		
		North Little Rock, First	245.15		
		Oakwood	530.00		
		Reck Mill North Little Rock	4,669.40		
		Remont Baptist	118.00		
		Riverside, North Little Rock	217.14		
		Ryunyan First	0.00		
		Saintville Baptist	0.00		
		Shoewood First Baptist Church	1,808.23		
		Sixteenth Street	0.00		
		Sylvan Hill NLR	143.55		
		Trinity, NLR	350.00		
		Victory, Jacksonville	3,030.02		
		Totals	29,109.35		
		Northwest Assoc	Total \$ Amount		
		Amazing Grace Baptist Church	0.00		
		Avon First Baptist Church	0.00		
		Bella Vista Baptist Church	6,942.93		
		Northwest Assoc	Total \$ Amount		
		Amman Baptist	0.00		
		Archie Baptist Church	1,177.13		
		Alexander First Baptist Church	504.88		
		Barnett Memorial Baptist Ch	81.12		
		Birghead Baptist Church	460.80		
		Comfort Blessings Baptist Ch	293.00		
		Crookwood First Baptist Church	2,439.66		
		Calvary, Little Rock	300.00		
		Chicot Road Baptist Church	0.00		
		Community Church of Little Roc	0.00		
		Cross Road, Little Rock	0.00		
		Crystal Hill	0.00		
		Doughlassville Baptist	0.00		
		East End Baptist	727.49		
		First Southern Baptist Bryant	1,168.80		
		Forest, Towson	601.69		
		Geyer Springs First Baptist	5,421.37		
		Greater Grace	0.00		
		Greene Memorial	22.00		
		Greater Mount Carmel Baptist C	601.69		
		Hebron First	109.00		
		Hispanic Baptist	0.00		
		Hispanic Baptist Mission	0.00		
		Holly Springs Baptist	402.00		
		Immanuel Baptist, Little Rock	2,023.00		
		Immanuel West Baptist Church	175.00		
		Indian Springs Baptist Church	30.00		
		Ironout	559.90		
		Lakesboro Drive Little Rock	676.25		
		Lancaster	33.80		
		Life Line Baptist Church LR	70.95		
		Life Line, Auxite	300.00		
		Little Rock First Baptist Church	985.00		
		Little Rock Second Baptist Church	461.69		
		Markham Street	0.00		
		Marland	30.00		
		Natural Steps	628.00		
		New Beginnings Baptist Church	0.00		
		North Point Baptist	160.00		
		Northwest Assoc	Total \$ Amount		
		Amazing Grace Baptist Church	0.00		
		Avon First Baptist Church	0.00		
		Bella Vista Baptist Church	6,942.93		

Olivet Baptist Church	145.00	Calvary, Hope	0.00	Greenfield	0.00
Orcer Creek Baptist	0.00	Canfield Baptist	5.27	Harrisburg First	328.00
Pine Grove, Little Rock	327.17	Central, Magnolia	2,213.86	Lebanon	245.00
Parkway Place Little Rock	179.70	Comerations Baptist Church	215.00	Lepanto First	20.00
Plainview Baptist	970.00	Faith, Texarkana	73.46	Hopple Grove	394.00
Pleasant Grove, Little Rock	250.43	Fellowship, Texarkana	128.00	Marked Tree First Baptist	400.00
Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	1,100.00	Foukes First Baptist	0.00	McCormick	525.00
Raynolds Memorial	138.00	Fontwell	0.00	Neal's Chapel	124.65
Roland	295.21	Garland Baptist	173.00	Nevendon Baptist	400.00
Rosedale	689.00	Genoa Baptist Church	542.29	Pleasant Grove, Harrisburg	643.35
Shannon Hills First Baptist	235.41	Grace Community Baptist	0.00	Pleasant Valley	1,000.98
Shedden First Baptist Church	680.00	Guernsey	0.00	Providence, Truman	419.00
South Highland	382.00	Hickory Street	0.00	Red Oak Baptist Church	172.95
Sunset Lane	0.00	Highland Hills	58.00	Riverville	102.95
The Church at the Rock	0.00	Hope First Baptist Church	1,936.75	Shiloh, Harrisburg	200.00
Thors Church	630.00	Immanuel, Magnolia	Trinity 0.00	Trinity, Marked Tree	11.00
Trinity, Mabyleva	158.51	Leviellville Baptist	0.00	Trumann	111.00
Tyler Street	285.00	Line Ferry	0.00	Tyronna	295.00
Union Baptist	1,193.43	Macedonia, Doddridge	1,000.00	Valley View, Harrisburg	11.00
Little Rock West Side	650.00	Macedonia First, Foukes	0.00	Waldenburg	25.00
West Palaski Baptist	0.00	Mandeville	0.00	Weiner First Baptist	110.00
West Rock	20.25	McNell Second	20.00	West Ridge Baptist	0.00
Whispering Hills Baptist Church	0.00	Memorial, Waldo	0.00		
Woodlawn Baptist Church	0.00	Mount Zion, Doddridge	174.50		
Woodson Baptist Church	604.63	Phillips Chapel	0.00	Totals	7,396.66
		Piney Grove Baptist	43		
		Pinson Park Baptist	0.00		
Totals	29,173.64	Plagah Baptist	231.00	Washington-Madison Assoc	Total \$ Amount
		Red River Baptist	125.00		
Red River Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Rocky Mount	155.00	Berry Street Baptist Church	518.75
		Shiloh Memorial, Texarkana	100.00	Fayetteville Black Oak Bapt Ch	900.00
Anchor Baptist Church	0.00	Shiloh, Texarkana Baptist Church	0.00	Strick Creek Baptist Church	233.78
Antioch Baptist Church	262.00	Springhill	360.00	Calvary, Fayetteville	753.98
Arkadelphia Second Baptist Ch	200.00	Stamps First Baptist Church	250.00	Caudle Avenue	0.00
Arkadelphia First Baptist Ch	20.00	Sylvan	165.00	Colleges, First Baptist	0.00
Beach Street Baptist Church	1,686.83	Tennessee Baptist	1,028.98	Elkins, First Baptist	0.00
Beirns First Baptist Church	0.00	Trinity, Texarkana	1,167.24	Elkins Baptist Church	0.00
Bethlehem Baptist Church	75.00	Magnolia Westside	1,167.24	Eldorado	888.56
Brookwood Baptist Church	0.00			Farrington First	44.51
Bismarck First Baptist Church	171.00	Totals	14,116.83	Farrington	36.67
Southton Baptist	0.00			Faith Southern Baptist-Muntevi	50.00
Caddo Valley	270.00	Tri-County Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Fayetteville First	693.70
Cedar Grove	0.00			First Southern, Kingston	0.00
Center Point	200.00			Friendship, Springdale	58.00
Curtis First	127.00	Wynne Baptist Baptist Church	125.00	Geuben First	0.00
Dalark Baptist	434.32	Barton Baptist Chapel	259.55	Greenland First	189.00
DeGray Baptist Church	1,835.00	Beckspur	22.80	Hindsville Baptist	365.43
East Whelen Springs	75.00	Burne Cane Baptist Church	0.00	Huntsville First	103.00
Eastwood Baptist Church	238.48	Calvary, West Memphis	1,348.29	Immanuel, Fayetteville	0.00
Harmony Hill	190.00	Cherry Valley	700.24	Johnson Baptist Church	0.00
Hollywood Baptist	0.00	Colt	250.00	Lake Hill Baptist	0.00
Immanuel, Arkadelphia	251.41	Crawfordsville First	90.00	Liberty Baptist Church-Lincoln	345.95
Marlbrook	0.00	Sarie	1,812.53	Lincoln First Baptist Church	115.00
Mountain Bethel Baptist	0.00	East Baptist	0.00	New Hope Fellowship	258.40
Mount Olive, Arkadelphia	127.00	Emmanuel, Forrest City	533.25	Northwest Southern	0.00
Mount Zion, Arkadelphia	90.00	Faith, Forrest City	0.00	Oak Grove, Springdale	0.00
New Hope Baptist Mission	0.00	Fair Oaks	245.42	Old Missouri Road Baptist	659.12
Oklona	0.00	Fitzgerald Baptist Church	747.35	Pratic Grove First Church	1,879.19
Park Hill, Arkadelphia	668.00	Forrest City First Baptist	3,048.29	Providence, Fayetteville	637.56
Prescott, First	62.73	Forrest City Second Baptist	337.87	Ridgeview, Fayetteville	0.00
Primera Iglesia Bautista Hisp	0.00	Gilmore	95.00	Santon	339.49
Richwood Baptist Church	121.00	Gladden	200.00	Silent Grove	306.76
Shady Grove	0.00	Good Hope, Forrest City	200.00	Sonora	320.20
Shiloh, Arkadelphia	105.00	Goodwin	0.00	Southside, West Fork	16.34
Sylmore Baptist	100.00	Harris Baptist Church	637.16	Springdale First Baptist	205.00
Southern Baptist	0.00	Hughes First	1,125.00	Spring Valley	303.05
Third Street Baptist	0.00	Hydrick Baptist	0.00	Sulphur City	300.00
Unity, Arkadelphia	625.00	Immanuel Baptist, West Memphis	178.00	The Worship Center	0.00
Whelen Springs Baptist Church	40.00	Ingram Boulevard	0.00	University, Fayetteville	839.38
		Lakeshores Estates Baptist Miss	0.00	Washington Woods Baptist	0.00
		Lakeshores Baptist	40.00	West Fork First Baptist	157.00
		Madison First	0.00	Western Hills Southern Baptist	9.77
		Marion First Baptist Church	540.00	Winslow First Baptist Church	70.64
		Midway, Palestine	0.00		
		Morton Baptist Church	0.00	Totals	11,596.31
		New Life, Wynne	0.00		
		One Accord Fellowship	0.00		
		Palatine Baptist Church	175.00	White River Assoc	Total \$ Amount
		Parkin First Baptist	477.00		
		Pine Tree Baptist	0.00	Flippin Antioch Baptist Church	299.46
		Pleasant Hill, Wynne	369.78	Arkana Baptist Church	16.70
		Richardson	94.00	Big Flat Baptist Mission	0.00
		Ridgeview Baptist, Wynne	393.30	Bruno Baptist Church	0.00
		Shell Lake	0.00	Burb Shoals Baptist Church	278.64
		Turrell	212.86	Clarkridge Baptist Mission	0.00
		Union Avenue, Wynne	993.98	Cotter First	331.66
		Vanderbilt	0.00	East Oakland	112.00
		Vandalia Baptist	0.00	Eastside, Mountain Home	56.00
		Victory, Patterson	60.00	Flippin First Baptist	1,519.50
		West Memphis Second Baptist	4,016.66	Gasmalia	42.30
		West Memphis First	835.70	Gasville First Baptist	380.00
		Wheatley Baptist Church	0.00	Henderson First	100.00
		Wynne Baptist Church	1,675.00	Hill Top	0.00
				Hopewell, Mountain Home	210.00
		Totals	19,584.45	Lone Rock	300.00
		Trinity Assoc	Total \$ Amount	Lodge, Midway	346.50
				Mountain Home First Baptist	3,025.00
		Anderson Tully Baptist Church	163.30	Mountain Home Baptist	5.00
		Trayona Black Oak Baptist Chur	523.33	New Hope, Yellville	989.62
		Calvary, Harrisburg	89.60	Northfork First	100.00
		Central, Marked Tree	588.71	Peah Baptist	16.00
		Corner Chapel	59.24	Pilgrims Rest, Gasville	700.00
		Eastside, Truman	0.00	Pyatt Baptist Church	224.62
		Faith, Truman	100.00	Rea Valley Baptist	1.00
		Fellowship, Tyronna	0.00	Summit Baptist	0.00
		Fisher First	38.50	Tomehawk	329.35
		Free	0.00	Whiteville Baptist Church	194.28
				Yellville First Baptist	628.00
				Totals	10,104.67

Family Bible Leadership Is Influence

By Grant Ethridge, pastor,
First Church, Lavaca

Basic passage:
I Thessalonians 2:1-13

Focal passage:
I Thessalonians 2:1, 2, 4, 11-13

Central truth:

Christians should inspire others to be focused and faithful.

Leadership summed up in one word is influence. Everyone has a sphere of influence. There are good leaders and bad leaders. We are either a good influence or a bad influence. What lessons can we learn from the apostle Paul's leadership?

■ *He was a man of purpose* (v. 1). He never planned to be unfruitful or unproductive. His coming to Thessalonica was not in "vain." God's men and women are people of purpose.

■ *He was a man of persistence* (v. 2). Paul suffered beatings and imprisonment. The average person would have given up. Not Paul! He was a leader, not a quitter. Someone has said that an oak tree is nothing more than a little nut who refused to give ground. To some degree every Christian has suffered. If we want to have an influence for Christ at home, work or church, we must not let difficulties distract us. Great leaders excel in adversity. We can not control much of what happens to us, but we can control our response to what happens to us. Anyone can make it through the

good times, but it takes a leader to pull out of the tough times. How much does it take to discourage you? Do you let your problems hinder you or help you in becoming a better Christian?

■ *He was a man of purity* (vv. 3-13). Paul gives us four "do's" and four "don't's." Paul was not a man of deceit. He did not seek to please men. Paul was not guilty of covetousness. He did not put unreasonable demands on people. Then the positives are listed. He was sensitive to others' needs, affectionate toward believers, blameless in his behavior and encouraging, as a father to his own child. The key to living a pure life is applying the Word of God to our lives. The Thessalonians not only heard the Word, but received it "not as the word of man." It is tragic that some people get so mad at the messenger that they miss the message. The Word of God is like a two-edged sword. God performs spiritual surgery on our hearts every time we read it. In your daily devotions you will gain purpose, persistence and purity.

Life and Work Serving the least of these

By Tim Reddin,
director of missions,
Central Association

Basic passage:
Matthew 25:31-46

Focal passage:
Matthew 25:31-46

Central truth:

True faith is expressed by deeds of love and kindness.

Among those who profess to be Christians are two distinct groups. There are those whose hearts are true and those whose faith is more pretense than reality. (See Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.) How does God distinguish between the two?

If Matthew 25 were the only divine Word spoken to us, one might say, "Our treatment of the poor, the sick, the weak, the hungry and the outcast will determine whether or not we are admitted to God's eternal kingdom." However, the totality of Scripture shows that salvation is purely by faith, not by works.

So what is Jesus saying in today's passage? Exactly the same thing James points out in James 2:14-16—the kind of faith that saves will produce evidences of faith in one's life!

Through the heat of the day, the ancient herdsman would mingle the sheep and goats together. But as the cool evening approached, he would separate them. The sheep's wool enabled them to withstand the cold night air, but the goats had to be herded together and sheltered for warmth.

That familiar scene provided Jesus the word portrait employed in our text. At the end of the age He will make a separation—the sheep on His right (a place of honor), the goats on His left.

Three great lessons for life are presented in Jesus' words:

■ Deeds of love and kindness prove the genuineness of one's faith. One is not saved by his good works, but he cannot be saved by so weak a faith that it will not produce good works.

■ Such deeds done in Jesus' name touch the very heart of God. Doing it for "one of the least of these" is as if it were done unto Jesus Himself. You want to serve God? You cannot serve Him apart from loving service to the people around you!

■ Sometimes the gravest sins are not evil things we have done but good things we have neglected. The "goats" were trusting in their religious profession and practices, yet their selfish lifestyles revealed the uncleanness of their hearts.

Sheep and goats. Which are you? To find out, look not only at your words; examine your deeds!

Explore the Bible An attitude of sacrifice

By Bill Bowen, pastor,
First Church, Mena

Basic passage:
Matthew 26:1-30

Focal passage:
Matthew 26:1-13

Central truth:

Knowing Christ produces love and worship of Him.

Two characters in this passage provide two views of man's attitude toward Jesus. Caiaphas, the high priest, and the woman who anointed Jesus show how people love Jesus or reject Him.

Caiaphas is mentioned nine times in the Bible. Each time he is mentioned, he stands in opposition to Jesus. According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, Caiaphas was a conniving, treacherous and deceitful person. He seemed to have a hatred for Jesus based not on theological differences but because of political fear. He felt Jesus represented a threat to his position of high priest over Israel.

Verse 4 indicates that the hatred of Caiaphas had grown so deep that he had moved from trying to embarrass Jesus to trying to kill Him. Caiaphas did not care what method would be used to get rid of Jesus. Caiaphas, who represented the holiness of God before the people of God, was willing to use whatever means he could to get rid of Jesus.

In stark contrast to the attitude of Caiaphas, verses 7-13 describe a woman who worshipped the Lord Jesus. John identifies her in John 12:3 as

Mary, the sister of Lazarus. Mary took some costly perfume and poured it on the head of Jesus. John tells us that she also poured it on the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair.

No one around her comprehended what she did. Mary always seemed to have a deeper understanding of the things Jesus taught. Earlier, in Luke 10:39, Martha, Mary's sister, was upset with Mary because she spent so much time listening to Jesus' teachings. Mary seemed to understand that Jesus was about to die. Therefore, this action she took demonstrated symbolically that she was ready to prepare Him for His death and burial.

Mary's act demonstrated supreme worship and sacrifice. As she placed this costly ointment on the body of Jesus, she was showing her love for Him.

As Jesus' crucifixion loomed, the actions of these two reflect the hopefulness or hopelessness of humanity. Like Caiaphas, without Christ an individual's heart can be filled with bitterness and fear. Like Mary, with Christ our hearts are full of love and peace.

LESSONS FOR LIVING

The two most important relationships in life are with others and God. These verses instruct us concerning both.

■ **Our relationship with others** (vv. 3:6-13). Paul wanted to see the new believers at Thessalonica, but was unable to travel there. He sent Timothy instead, prayed and wrote to encourage them (vv. 9-10). We should pray joyfully, continually, exceedingly and specifically. Paul prayed that they would mature and grow through their suffering. Faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted. He prayed for unity and love. He prayed for purity and holiness. Christians are not sinless, but Christians should sin less! We must not live carelessly in light of our Lord's return.

■ **Our relationship with God** (vv. 4:1-12). "More and more" it should be our desire to please God. The body of a Christian does not belong to him but to God. We never have to wonder what God's will is concerning immorality. God's people are not to have sexual relationships outside of

marriage. This means polygamy, homosexuality, sodomy, pre-marital sex and extramarital sex is wrong. In a day of deteriorating morals, Christians are called to "possess our bodies with honor."

Love for God and His people is one sure sign of salvation. It is clear that you cannot be in God's will and not love a believer. God's love is inclusive and increasing.

God wants His children to live a "quiet" life. We should have a calm spirit. Do you get upset easily? The Lord also calls us to mind our own business. Are you an obnoxious busybody?

Be a winsome, positive, hard working believer who earns the respect of the unbelieving world. Pay your bills, and keep your word. May our testimony be one of holiness, harmony and honesty.

Worship is a vital part of our response to the Lordship of Christ. However, there is often a vast difference between what we call worship and the real thing.

The account of the woman in today's text helps us to evaluate the genuineness of our worship experiences:

■ **True worship will cost you something** (v. 7). The ointment which Mary poured upon Jesus' head and feet was precious and costly. The act of worship always exacts a price from the worshipper — and many believers (vv. 8-9) are not willing to pay the price.

■ **True worship is often misunderstood** (vv. 8-9). The disciples' response reflected the low priority of worship in their own lives. Such people will always misinterpret the real thing when they see it in others. Just ask David, who "danced before the Lord" (II Sam. 6:12-22) and got criticized for it!

■ **True worship is a thing of beauty** (v. 10). The NIV text reads, "She has done a beautiful thing

to me." The disciples may have misunderstood, but a worshipful heart is beautiful in the eyes of God. And if our praise is truly directed toward Him, that is what really matters.

■ **True worship precedes and prepares one for service** (v. 11). Is Jesus' saying that we should be unconcerned about the poor? Not at all! (Remember His words in last week's lesson about "the least of these.") He is simply reminding us that worship is the ultimate priority. It prepares us for service and motivates us to obey.

■ **True worship focuses on the person and work of Christ** (v. 12). No doubt Mary perceived the truth of the approaching agony and death of Jesus more than any other disciple. So focused was she upon Jesus that ministering to Him became far more important than any earthly reality or relationship.

Is that not the essence of true worship? When God has been so extravagant in pouring out His grace upon us, the proper response is to be extravagant in our worship of Him!

This passage gives a very sacred glimpse between this earth and eternity. Jesus prays about midnight, the evening before His crucifixion. In this intimate moment, we and the disciples are allowed to capture the relationship between the Father and Son in one of the most critical moments of His earthly ministry — the preparation for the crucifixion.

This relationship serves as an example of our utter dependency upon the Heavenly Father in our need.

All through the earthly ministry of Jesus, the disciples witnessed Him in moments of levity and happiness. However, this time was different. In verse 38, Jesus told the disciples about the depths of His despair.

The weight of the crucifixion, the sacrifice He would make for our sins and the rebellion of the disciples bore heavily upon our Lord.

A few moments earlier, Jesus told the disciples in verse 31 that they would fall away from Him. However, the true seriousness of the moment

apparently did not weigh heavy on the hearts of the disciples. The lateness of the hour and the sleepiness it brought became more important than the needs of our Lord.

Jesus demonstrates the utter dependency we must have on the Heavenly Father. A part of the nature Jesus assumed upon this earth included the inherent weakness of human nature.

Weaknesses of hunger, thirst, pain and temptation often attacked the Lord. Jesus shows the disciples that if He must depend on the Heavenly Father at all times, especially in time of need, then they must as well.

In verses 39 and 42 Jesus addressed the Father as "My Father." Jesus often referred to the Father in heaven. However, this is the only time in Scripture where Jesus called Him "My Father."

Jesus demonstrates that we must have a deep intimacy with the Father. When the trials of life challenge our human weakness, our intimate relationship with the Father gives us grace in time of need (Heb. 4:15-16).

Family Bible Important Relationships

By Grant Ethridge, pastor,
First Church, Lavaca

Basic passage:

I Thessalonians 3:6-4:12

Focal passage:

I Thessalonians 3:9-10, 12-13;

4:1-5, 9, 11-12

Central truth:

Christian families should live to please God.

Life and Work Extravagant worship

By Tim Reddin,
director of missions,
Central Association

Basic passage:

Matthew 26:1-13

Focal passage:

Matthew 26:6-13

Central truth:

The abundance of God's grace demands an extravagance in our worship of Him.

Explore the Bible Grace in time of need

By Bill Bowen, pastor,
First Church, Mena

Basic passage:

Matthew 26:31-56

Focal passage:

Matthew 26:36-46

Central truth:

Intimacy with the Father gives us victory in time of need.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine offers subscription plans at three rates:

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SBC leaders meet with Holiday Inn officials about TV ad

ATLANTA (BP)—Officials of Holiday Inn Worldwide met with Southern Baptist Convention officials, apologized for airing a controversial television commercial and pledged it would not be used again.

The commercial, aired during January's Super Bowl football game, featured a transsexual surprising her former classmates with her sex change. It was designed to introduce the hotel chain's renovation program but generated hundreds of protest calls to local franchises as well as the company's Atlanta headquarters.

"I was favorably impressed with Holiday Inn's willingness to meet with us, their surprise at the negative reaction to the commercial and the apparent sincerity of their apology," said Phil Roberts, interfaith witness director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, who arranged the meeting.

"We did everything we knew to test the commercial with all kinds of audiences but did not have any indication it would generate this negative reaction," said John Chandler, Holiday Inns vice president for marketing. "We apologize to those who were offended by the commercial and have instructed our advertising agency to cancel all future plans to use it."

Brotherhood leaders look to the future

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—State convention Brotherhood leaders paid tribute to the prominent "markers" in almost 90 years of Brotherhood Commission history during the final Brotherhood Leadership Conference Jan. 30-Feb. 1 in Memphis, Tenn.

The leaders, meanwhile, discussed the future of their work in a Southern Baptist Convention that, by the end of June, no longer will have Brotherhood as a separate agency.

Brotherhood president James D. Williams noted, "It's time to complete the 'grief work' over the dissolution of the Brotherhood Commission," exhorting leaders to "let your allegiance to Christ, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, give you a spirit of adaptation and change to the new SBC organization."

The next step, Williams continued, is to "hold the North American Mission Board accountable for being a servant to you and the churches, and to demonstrate the kind of cooperative spirit that enables us to build on the strengths of the past, but claims the potential of a God-sized future."

Volunteerism through HMB marks 5 percent increase in '96

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP)—The number of Southern Baptists serving through Home Mission Board volunteer opportunities increased in 1996. An estimated 85,386 volunteers served last year, a 5 percent hike from 1995.

Youth volunteers comprised the largest category, with 38,351 individuals. College volunteers increased to 5,185 individuals, up 1,440 compared to 1995. Mission Service Corps volunteers grew by 90 to a total 2,283.

More than 28,500 adults served last year in short-term volunteer projects coordinated through the HMB. Volunteers through the agency's evangelism section and language church starting division totaled approximately 11,000.

Volunteers serve in a variety of ways, from resort ministries and language missions to church starting and evangelism. Additional information about volunteer missions opportunities is available from associational missionaries, state volunteer coordinators or the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

Ten Commandments plaque remains focus of legal battle

GADSDEN, AL (BP)—An Alabama circuit court ruled Feb. 10 that the Ten Commandments plaque must come down from the courtroom wall of Etowah County Circuit Judge Roy S. Moore. The ruling from Montgomery County Circuit Judge Charles Price came less than a week after Alabama Gov. Fob James told about 450 Baptists and legislators that only "a force of arms" could remove the plaque.

"Make no mistake," James remarked about his resolve to call on the National Guard if necessary to allow Moore to hang a hand-carved Ten Commandments plaque in his courtroom in Gadsden. His comments came during a Feb. 4 Legislative Prayer Luncheon sponsored by the Alabama State Board of Missions.

Price banned Moore last November from saying an opening prayer before jury selection but allowed the Ten Commandments plaque. Moore has said he will not stop the prayers in his courtroom even if it results in a contempt of court charge. However, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled Feb. 7 that Moore could hold prayers until the Supreme Court makes a final decision.

